

DOWN
Memory
Lane

5



FULBRIGHT
Scholar
off to the US

7



COLUMN
The UKZN
Griot

8



UKZN DABA



YOUR MONTHLY CAMPUS NEWSPAPER • VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 6 • JUNE 2010



The sardine run research team Professor Vic Peddemors (2nd from right) and Dr Sean O'Donoghue (left) return following a successful day on the water, along with their skipper, Mr Rod Haestier and photographer Mr Justin Gilligan.

WORLD FIRST For Sardine Research

For scientists from UKZN's School of Biological and Conservation Sciences, the month of June means preparing for another adrenalin-filled research expedition down to the Eastern Cape's 'Wild Coast' to study the annual sardine run.

WORDS & PHOTO: SEAN O'DONOGHUE

The Sardine Run Project, now in its seventh year, has been steadily unraveling the secrets of this mysterious event. In his doctoral thesis, UKZN post-doctoral researcher Dr Sean O'Donoghue outlines the importance of environmental conditions in regulating sardine northward movement towards KwaZulu-Natal coastal waters.

An important recent discovery has been the close association between sardine run predators during their foraging bouts, especially between the Cape gannet, *Morus capensis*, and the common dolphin, *Delphinus capensis*. Video analysis of underwater feeding events has shown that in the majority of cases, Cape gannet feeding dives occur immediately

after an attack by common dolphins targeting shoaling bait fish. Professor Vic Peddemors, leader of the Sardine Run Project, has hypothesised that the birds may be taking advantage of the fishes' escape response, and that individual fleeing fish would be easier to target and capture, than shoaling fish.

To date, the role of sharks as sardine run predators has slipped beneath the UKZN research radar. This year, things are going to change. Using highly sophisticated transmitting devices, which are being specially developed by VEMCO as a world first for this year's sardine run research, Professor Peddemors and his team will be able to track the movements of sharks, to unlock their secrets in

respect of their movements and feeding. Two tiny transmitters will be sewn into each of the abdomens of three sardines which will be fed to bronze whaler sharks (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*, known locally as copper sharks). The transmitters will send information about the shark's location and depth, and changes in its acceleration and stomach temperature. This means that it will be possible to work out where the shark is, both in relation to coastal bathymetry, to remotely sensed environmental conditions and to Cape gannet and common dolphin predation events. This will help with making management decisions in terms of the sardine run as an ecological event, and as a rapidly growing tourism phenomenon.

UKZN CONGRATULATES its Comrades Heroes

Among the 20 000 runners entering the Comrades this year were several UKZN staff and students who completed the 'the ultimate human race'.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA PHOTO: SUPPLIED

The annual Comrades Marathon celebrated its 85th Anniversary on 30 May 2010. UKZN congratulates all the members of the University community who participated in this grueling race.

Final year Bachelor of Education student and Residence Assistant at the Edgewood campus, Mr S'phelele Shangase finished in 07:11:49 hours. He received a silver medal, beating his 2009 record where he received a Bill Rowan Medal for completing the race in 08:49:27 hours.

Asked what kept him going during the race, Mr Shangase said that the thousand of voices and vuvuzelas of the supporters inspired him.

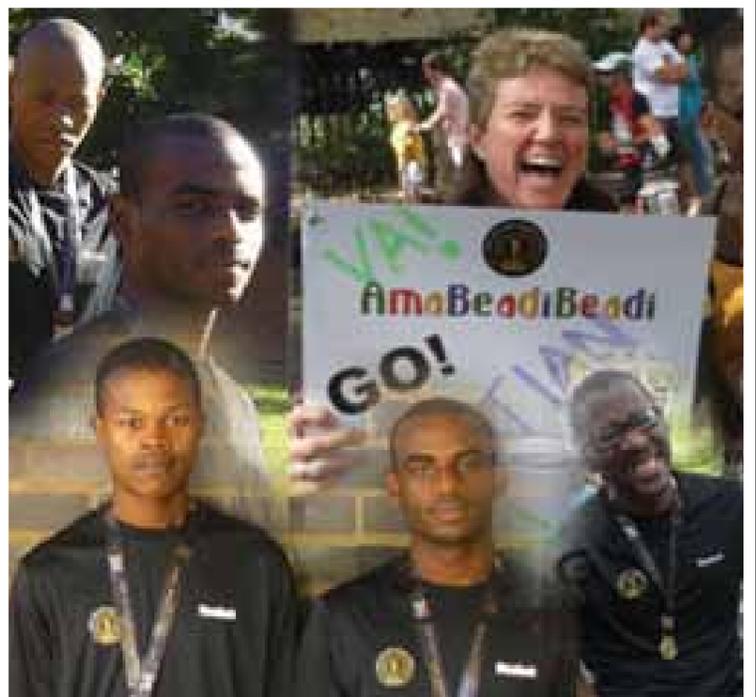
Hailing from Ndwedwe, 22-year old Ms Thembelihle Ngunane is pursuing a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at UKZN following her Honours degree in Chemistry. She received a Vic Clapham medal. "I

can assure you it was not an easy task... I think more and more women should challenge themselves to run the race," she said.

Receiving his Comrades Marathon Double Green Number Club Roll of Honour was 51-year old, Professor Richard Beckett of the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences. The criteria for inclusion in this Roll of Honour are three wins, five golds or 10 plus medals. Professor Beckett has completed 20 Comrades races.

Completing his 6th consecutive race in an amazing 10 hours and 44 minutes was Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine lecturer and Consultant Anaesthesiologist Dr Ebrahim Ahmed Vahed. Dr Vahed received a Bronze Medal and is adamant that he has many more races to conquer.

Head of Information Technology at the Africa Centre, Mr Christian Kyony also ran the race and raised R1 649 for the UKZN Foundation.



Some of UKZN's 2010 Comrades Marathon runners.

SCHOOL CELEBRATES Opening of New Premises

Marking the culmination of years of planning, the School of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology (SBGM) officially opened their new premises in the F Block on the Westville campus.

WORDS & PHOTO: VICKY CROOKES

Approximately R20 million was spent on redesigning and upgrading the building to create modern undergraduate and postgraduate laboratories and lecture venues with state-of-the-art research and teaching equipment.

At the opening, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Professor Deo Jaganyi, said it was a “dream come true.” From 2003, the Faculty had envisioned the creation of a Science Park on the Westville campus, incorporating all the science disciplines in the same area. The SBGM’s new facilities were the last major project in the Faculty’s consolidation of its Durban activities on the Westville campus. Professor Jaganyi credited Professor Jane Meyerowitz and former Dean, Professor John Cooke, for their vision and hard work in bringing the project to fruition. He said that since the School’s total physical space had increased by 20 percent, he hopes to see a 20 percent increase in productivity. The School boasts 14 new academic staff and was recently awarded research equipment funding which enabled them to acquire new and improved instruments including, a fermentation system, a gel documentation system, a preparative gel electrophoresis, a real time PCR, an automated chemical analyser and centrifuge rotors.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, Professor Rob Slotow commented that the School is “pregnant with opportunity” and said it can now focus on the key issues facing our society. He highlighted the importance of creating formalised links with government, industry and research centres.

Guest speaker at the opening, Vice-President of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and ex-student of the former University of Durban-Westville, Professor Gansen Pillay, was suitably impressed with the School’s new developments. In moving forward, he urged the School to look after its most important asset: human capital, and encouraged researchers and lecturers to “maintain excellence with relevance.” His message to the students was to ensure there is always an application for new knowledge and never to compromise on ethical standards, excellence or quality. In closing, Professor Pillay said the School and the University should ensure that they take full advantage of all the programmes offered by the NRF.

The opening ended with a guided tour of the School’s new laboratories which enabled guests to interact with the students and find out about their varied research activities.



(l-r) Mr RH Clarkson; Mr Reggie Gangiah; Mr Selvin Naicker, Manager: Client Services, Alexander Forbes; Ms Nicola Latchiah; Mr Bruno van Dyk; and Mr Jeff Jones, Executive Leader: Risk Services, Alexander Forbes.

BURSARY FUNDING For Management Studies students

Funding made available to the UKZN Foundation by financial services provider, Alexander Forbes will help deserving UKZN students continue their education.

WORDS & PHOTO: NEESHA MAHARAJ

A donation of R68 000 will contribute towards bursaries for students in the Management Studies disciplines.

Representatives from Alexander Forbes presented the Foundation with the funds at a meeting with UKZN Foundation’s Executive Director, Mr Bruno van Dyk; Ms Nicola Latchiah, Manager: Institutional Advancement; and the Chief Finance Officer for UKZN, Mr R H Clarkson on June 8.

“Despite these challenging economic times, UKZN really appreciates Alexander Forbes’

commitment to UKZN and the Foundation would like to thank them for making a difference in the lives of our students and investing in their future. We look forward to their continued support of the University and hope that further partnerships that are aligned with their Corporate Social Investment policies can be developed,” said Ms Latchiah.

According to Ms Latchiah, UKZN had received ongoing financial support from the financial services provider for over 50 years. The company’s dedication to UKZN had seen the fruition of strategic education projects, and

had been an invaluable source of support to students who have maintained good academic records, in completing their Higher Education studies.

Mr Reggie Gangiah, Executive Leader: Commercial for Alexander Forbes in KwaZulu-Natal said offering support to UKZN was his company’s social responsibility. “Universities are a microcosm of society and should benefit from funding opportunities. We hope funding would enhance the education of disadvantaged students, preferably within the finance disciplines,” said Mr Gangiah.

INTERNATIONAL NURSING Day Celebrated

Academic staff within UKZN’s School of Nursing downed chalk on May 12 to offer direct patient care at health care facilities in and around Durban.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTO: SUPPLIED

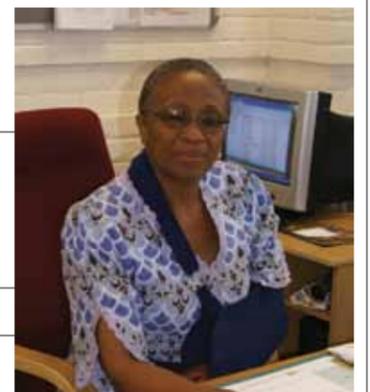
This was part of the School’s commemoration of International Nursing Day which marked 100 years since the death of Florence Nightingale who was renowned for her dedication to the nursing profession.

Nineteen academics at the school volunteered their nursing expertise to four hospitals, an old age home and several community health clinics. *My Nursing Hundred* is a joint initiative of the Forum for University Nursing Deans in South Africa (Fundisa) and the Nursing Education Association (NEA) aimed at encouraging nursing academics within tertiary institutions to commit at least 100 minutes to direct patient care on International Nursing Day.

Head of the School of Nursing, Professor Busi Bhengu said the initiative presented an ideal opportunity for nursing educators, who spent most of their time in the classroom.

“Our jobs don’t often allow for direct patient care. Our participation in this activity will allow us to celebrate the life of Florence Nightingale ... and at the same time observe developments in patient care that have taken place in hospitals and community health clinics,” said Professor Bhengu who lent her services to the Intensive Care Unit at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital in Durban.

Offering their services would be beneficial for the School of Nursing in improving its own



Professor Busi Bhengu.

teaching methodology and content. Dr Bhengu hopes the collective reflections of nursing academics who volunteered their services to healthcare facilities would be the basis for a publication on issues facing the nursing profession.

According to Professor Bhengu International Nursing Day should be a reminder to nursing professionals that quality patient care should remain at the fore. “Commitment to quality patient care should be the main goal of any nursing professional irrespective of whether they work at a hospital, clinic, research agency or educational facility.”



Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science Professor Rob Slotow cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new premises.

SYMPOSIUM TRACKS New NSC undergraduates

A recent symposium hosted by UKZN's University Teaching and Learning Office (UTLO) tracked the profile and performance of first year undergraduate students who acquired their matriculation qualification under the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination first written in 2008.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ

UKZN academics; Umalusi, the quality assurance body tasked with protecting the integrity of the National Senior Certificate Examinations; and school educators were among the speakers who presented insights into how the new curriculum has impacted on student enrolment at universities and their academic performance.

The Symposium titled: *The National Senior Certificate and First Year Student Performance: Implications for University Admissions* created a platform for discussions on subjects such as Mathematics, English and Life Sciences since the implementation of the National Curriculum Statement.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning Professor Renuka Vithal, who welcomed delegates, said she was pleased by UKZN academics' participation in the various aspects of the NSC examinations processes and research. She called for further engagement among the University community to avoid a reduction in access for students to the University.

A Data and Management Information (DMI) presentation chaired by Professor Vithal provided a profile of students who were among the cohort of matriculants who after completing their Grade 12 in the NSC

examination implemented in 2008, pursued Higher Education at UKZN; and the number of students who gained admissions to undergraduate academic programmes.

Enrolments in the three and four-year undergraduate degrees at UKZN had increased by 47 percent over the last four years with 5 386 students registered in 2007 rising to 7 922 in 2010. Demographically, there has been a decline in the number of Indian and white students who have been admitted to study at UKZN and an increase among the intake of African students. On average over the 2007 to 2010 period the intake of new students at UKZN constitutes 55 percent Africans, 32 percent Indians and 9 percent whites. Fifty eight percent of the student population is female with 45 percent stating that isiZulu is their home language and a similar percent indicating that English is their home language. In 2009, of the first cohort of students from the new NSC, 38.7 percent of first year students enrolled in undergraduate degrees received financial aid and 27.8 percent lived in residence. Both these figures have shown a decline from the previous year.

Although comparisons between the "old matric" and the new NSC are difficult to make

because of the different curricula and systems (for example Higher Grade and Standard Grade no longer exist), an observation that merited further investigation according to Professor Vithal was that matriculants admitted in 2009 to the University whose new NSC matric performance yielded University point allocations in the region of 34 and higher, appeared to have performed better in terms of pass rates, and may be less likely to dropout or be excluded. Statistics reflect that matriculants who have passed matric and qualify for tertiary education with lower points have generally performed worse. Professor Vithal indicated that this will need to be monitored to identify trends and patterns; and it could have significant implications for admissions to the University and required individual responses from the respective Faculties.

With many education experts questioning the quality of Grade 12 results following the introduction of the NSC examinations, Umalusi reiterated its role as the "custodian of quality" in maintaining high standards. Umalusi representatives informed delegates that only 12 out of 54 National Senior Certificate subjects were adjusted for the purpose of standardisation.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY And Earnings

Dr Daniela Casale and Professor Dorrit Posel of UKZN's School of Development Studies presented their research paper titled *English Language Proficiency and Earnings in a Developing Country: the Case of South Africa*, on May 26.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA



(from left) Dr Daniela Casale and Professor Dorrit Posel.

Their research focuses on the returns accruing from dominant language skills and is informed by a large body of literature on the economics of language. South Africa is a particularly interesting country to study as the dominant language of business, government and education in this country is English. However, not more than one percent of the majority African population speaks English as their home language.

Using new data from the first wave of the National Income Dynamics panel survey of 2008, the research reflects that there is a large earnings premium to reading and writing English very well, in the order of 50 percent. They also found that the benefits of English language proficiency accrue primarily to those with post-secondary education. This may reflect the productivity effects of language proficiency but it might also be the case that English language proficiency acts as a signal to employers of the quality of education obtained by the individual. In contrast, the researchers find little evidence that African home language skills are independently rewarded in the South African labour market.

The large economic returns to being English language-pro-

ficient help explain why many parents choose for their children to be taught in English at schools, from as early as Grade 4. However, much of the language-in-education literature that the authors review in their paper suggests that the early adoption of English may have been counterproductive, adversely affecting the acquisition of both English language and African home language skills, as well as the quality of educational attainment.

The South African education system is not set up for successful teaching in English; some of the problems identified include African learners having little exposure to English outside the classroom, teachers themselves not being English language proficient, and poorly-resourced schools.

The authors argue that their finding that African home language proficiency is one of the largest and most significant determinants of English language proficiency among African adults in South Africa is consistent with the call for additive bilingualism as a language policy in schools. Learners should be taught in their mother tongue until they have acquired some critical level of language competency before being introduced to a second language.

CORPORATE RELATIONS Celebrates Football Friday

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



BUSINESS OWNERS Receive keys to success

UKZN's Graduate School of Business (GSB) and Business Partners, a specialist risk finance company for formal small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa, held a seminar for business owners at the GSB on June 8.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Attracting a host of business owners and aspirant entrepreneurs, Professors Dilip Garach and Walter Geach, Mr Rohan Persad and Ms Amanda Mhlongo were among the speakers that shed an interesting light on how to access resources available to SMEs and take advantage of the upswing in the South African economy.

"Who said the recession is over? We are not sure yet," said Professor Garach in his presentation on a macro perspective on the global and local economic business landscape. Exploring the vulnerability index of developing countries in relation to the global economic crisis and the climate crisis, he said that the South African economic landscape shows a lot of promise.

"We have the money but we certainly don't have the skills," said Professor Garach. Turning to South Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) surplus, he said that we cannot boast about a surplus when the country is still rife with unemployment, poor housing and poverty. He stressed that South Africa still has to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) by getting big companies to build factories, transfer skills and create local employment.



(l to r): Ms Helet Byron, Professor Anesh Singh, Professor Dilip Garach and Ms Nimo Naidoo at the Graduate School of Business and Business Partners seminar for business owners.

Managing Director at Business Partners, Mr Nazeem Martin gave the assurance that finance for SMEs is readily available. He advised that it is always better to understand the criteria of the financier, have realistic expectations, and do research before seeking finance from investors.

The CEO of iDube Trade Port, Mr Rohan Persad presented an interesting 60-year plan for the port consisting of well-designed passenger and cargo terminals with a warehouse for global trade on South African soil. "International connectivity has been recaptured by King Shaka Airport and iDube Trade

Port," said Mr Persad.

The Department of Trade and Industry's Ms Amanda Mhlongo enlightened the audience on how to access resources and funds from the Department. She stressed the importance of creating a balance between economic growth and economic development.

According to Mr Rajen Govender one of the delegates "The Seminar for Business Owners, was simply outstanding! I must commend [the GSB] on the structure, choice of speakers and topics and an up to date presentation. This just gets better. I am proud to be associated with the Graduate School of Business".

ALUMNI BENEFIT From Workshops

Easing the transition from graduation to the workplace, Corporate Relations' Alumni Affairs Office recently held its annual set of workshops aimed at equipping the most recent graduates of the Institution with effective leadership and project management skills.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA



UKZN Alumni at the Leadership Workshop organised by the Alumni Affairs Office.

A Project Management Training Workshop facilitated by Vani Moodley and Associates was held on June 9-10, followed by a Graduates' Leadership Workshop co-ordinated by Ms Marie Odendaal and Mr Mandlakayise Ndaba of the UKZN Student Leadership Development Programme on June 14-15.

"These workshops assist in building long-lasting relationships between the Alumni Affairs Office (and the University) and the graduates – many of whom are starting out on careers which require such skills as project management and leadership. The workshops are held annually and have included such topics as CV writing, interview skills, entrepreneurship, project management and leadership. The Alumni Affairs Office welcomes suggestions from graduates on other workshop topics and will try to arrange workshops on these suggested topics," said the Manager of Alumni Affairs, Mr Finn Christensen.

Both workshops attracted alumni from various professional

fields and provided a productive platform for learning, interacting and participating in stimulating activities.

Ms Moodley's workshop was said to have exceeded the participants' expectations and left them with the profound saying, "Doves don't fly where eagles soar". Every task that has a beginning and an end was regarded as a project, and valuable lessons were learnt on how to be a good Project Manager.

A creative and inspiring Ms Odendaal and Mr Ndaba tackled issues of good and bad leadership in interesting and innovative ways. Feedback sessions reflected that in the professional world leadership is an essential quality for productivity and staff relations.

Participants who attended both workshops said that they wished the workshops had been a week's length each for there was just so much to learn. Receiving certificates of attendance, the participants were equally grateful to the facilitators and the Alumni Affairs Office.

CALS HOSTS Students from the US

UKZN's Centre for African Literary Studies, (CALs), hosted a US Student Group visit on May 26, which was aimed at building and strengthening relationships between international academic institutions particularly during this period when South Africa is hosting the Fifa 2010 World Cup.

WORDS: ASHNEE PETERS PHOTO: SUPPLIED

It was also an opportunity to expose UKZN's different research and support centres to the international student community.

Thirteen students and two academics out of the 19 who were registered for the visit came from Drake University. The students first visited the Alan Paton Centre which archives not only Alan Paton's literary works and related documents and manuscripts, but also papers

pertaining to institutions and organisations who contributed to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

After that tour they were welcomed at CALs by Professor Mbongeni Malaba from the School of Literary Studies Media and Creative Arts-English division, who presented a paper on the *Role of Literature in the Anti-apartheid Movement*. Thereafter, they were given a tour of CALs and its background, followed by a finger lunch and a chance to

socialise. The students were very impressed with the preparations that South Africa has done for the 2010 World Cup, and they were looking forward to watching the opening ceremony.

All the students received 2010 World Cup items, such as vuvuzelas, the South African flag, and water bottles. These items were sponsored by UKZN's Corporate Relations Division and the Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism in Pietermaritzburg.



Drake University students blowing their vuvuzelas.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Professor Devamonie Bughwan has been a trailblazer all her life, challenging many of Society's expectations.

WORDS: DEANNE COLLINS PHOTO: FINN CHRISTENSEN

She was the first girl in her family and one of the first in the Indian community to achieve a university degree; she managed to combine motherhood with postgraduate studies at a time when this was almost unheard of in her community; and she bridged numerous cultural divides during the darker days of apartheid.

One of 10 children, Professor Bughwan's extended family did not approve of tertiary education for girls. Fortunately, her father was liberal-minded, and with his support she became the first girl in the family to attend university. Matriculating in 1941 at the age of 15, her next port of call was Fort Hare University.

The two-day journey alone by train to Fort Hare was a daunting experience for the young girl, but Professor Bughwan describes her years at the University as "one of the happiest times". In addition to Xhosa-speaking students, Fort Hare had one of the largest contingents of Indian and Coloured students in those days. The students lived in harmony in mixed hostels.

Professor Bughwan received a bursary of 40 pounds from the Natal Education Department and graduated with her BA CED in 1944. She taught for three years at a primary school and a further three years at Clairwood High – the first co-educational Indian school. Thereafter she lectured part-time at both the Springfield Collegue of Education, and the University of Natal.

Marriage and raising three children did not deter Professor Bughwan from pursuing her passion for knowledge. Despite her father-in-law asking why she was always "sitting with books" Professor Bughwan pursued a Masters Degree in English. Indian students were not permitted to study at Howard College, and she attended lectures at Sastri College, where she was lectured by the late Professors Elizabeth Sneddon and Raymond Sands. Both were to have a profound impact on Professor Bughwan's life, becoming close friends and encouraging her interest in and love for the theatre, which had burgeoned during her school days at St Aidan's Primary and the Durban Indian Girls' High School.

Not wanting their children to suffer the effects of second-class apartheid education, Professor Bughwan and her husband, who owned a very successful photography business, decided to send them overseas to England do their O-levels and A-levels. Professor Bughwan took up a

teaching position at Howard College and later taught English at the University College for Indians on Salisbury Island and at the University of Durban-Westville.

She recalls Salisbury Island with fondness: "Instead of taking the ferry, I used to drive all the way round so as to be able to get home when I needed to. There was a lot of noise from the ships horns and the foghorn ... but there was a great community spirit!"

The move to Durban-Westville was difficult, and Professor Bughwan says that she missed Salisbury Island a lot. Yet there were bonuses in unexpected friendships and bonds were formed across cultural and religious divides that endured for many years to come.

Although she lectured in English for many years and obtained a Doctorate from UNISA for her thesis on the use of English by Indians in South Africa, drama always remained close to Professor Bughwan's heart. When Professor David Horner resigned as Head of the Drama Department at UDW, Professor Bughwan succeeded him. She had worked with Professor Horner and had

collaborated with him on a number of productions.

Professor Bughwan describes her years in the Drama Department as happy and eventful: "These were turbulent times. I always supported the students in their struggles and many a student meeting was held at the Asoka Theatre."

"During her term of office, Professor Bughwan made an immense contribution to South African theatre by supporting productions of works by local South African playwrights, such as Kessie Govender, Muthal Naidoo and Ronnie Govender. In addition, the Asoka Theatre staged epic works which covered diverse genres of theatre from Shakespeare, Ibsen and Chekhov to Narayan's *The Guide* which she directed. South African protest theatre and the African diaspora were explored during her tenure," said ex-student and colleague, Professor Suria Govender of UKZN's School of Languages, Literature and Linguistics.

Professor Bughwan retired in 1986. Her current projects include addressing women's organisations and schools, and travelling overseas to visit her children and grandchildren.



Professor Devamonie Bughwan.



Dr Serban Proches.

BIOGEOGRAPHER CLAIMS Vice-Chancellor's Research Award

The University's most prestigious research accolade, the Vice-Chancellor's Research Award, has been awarded to Dr Serban Proches for 2009.

WORDS: VICKY CROOKES PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Senior Lecturer in the School of Environmental Sciences on the Westville campus, Dr Proches holds a National Research Foundation (NRF) P-rating (young researcher with exceptional leader potential). He is one of only two P-rated researchers in the country and received the NRF President's Award in 2008 for his contribution to knowledge creation and dissemination.

Criteria for the Vice-Chancellor's Research Award include being under the age of 40 and having conducted innovative research that has already received international acclaim.

Dr Proches has published 50 journal articles to date, primarily in the fields of Biogeography and Biodiversity. His current projects address topics such as global regionalisation, alien plant invasions, and the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany region – one of the 34 globally recognised biodiversity hotspots, stretching from the Eastern Cape to Mozambique, with the city of Durban lying at the very heart of it.

In particular, Dr Proches focuses on weevils (*Coleoptera: Curculionidae*) associated with plants endemic to this region – as indicators of plant persistence and climatic stability. With over 10 000 species in South Africa and hundreds of thousands worldwide, weevils are the most diverse group of organisms regionally and globally. They vary enormously in colour and shape but are severely understudied in southern Africa. Most weevil species are specialists associated with one plant type

or a few related varieties, and cannot survive without large populations of their host plants. Several weevil lineages survived over tens of millions of years in this region, some ever since the break-up of Gondwanaland, but currently face threats from insecticide use and unsustainable plant collection. Finding weevils involves the thorough examination of plants, in particular flowers and fruit.

Originally from Romania, where he completed his undergraduate and Masters degrees, Dr Proches received his PhD from the former University of Durban-Westville in 2002. Subsequently, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Universities of Port Elizabeth and Stellenbosch, and UKZN (Pietermaritzburg campus). He has conducted field work across southern Africa, Europe, the Middle East and South-East Asia. He currently serves as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Biogeography* and has handled 35 manuscripts since occupying the position in 2007.

Dr Proches joins a proud tradition of previous Vice-Chancellor's Research Award winners from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture including: Professor Orde Munro (Chemistry, 2007), Professor Richard Mace (Physics, 2005), Professor Steve Johnson (Biological and Conservation Sciences, 2002) and Professor Rob Slotow (Biological and Conservation Sciences, 2000). Since its inception, researchers from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture have claimed 12 of the 21 Vice-Chancellor's Research Awards.

DEAN OF HEALTH SCIENCES Selected for Ministerial Council

The National Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has recognised UKZN's Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Sabiha Essack's efforts in advancing health science research.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Professor Essack has been appointed to serve as a member of the National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC).

Professor Essack's priority during her three year appointment will be drawing up an accreditation framework to ensure that ethics committees comply with legislation outlined in the National Health Act of 2003. Her appointment follows her role as Chair of the Committee of Health Sciences Deans, and both University-based and external

activities in health research ethics.

Serving on the NHREC is especially significant for Professor Essack who said: "This is my first Ministerial appointment. I am humbled to have my national standing and service acknowledged in this manner."

The ethical treatment of vulnerable populations who serve as research subjects is a priority for Professor Essack. South Africa, reputed for its wealth of research material, research infrastructure and regulatory framework has been a popular research destina-

tion for many international researchers in recent years.

"A substantial amount of research is conducted on vulnerable populations and it is essential that these very populations are treated with the highest ethical principles, that they participate fully informed of the benefits of participation and that their human rights are protected," said Professor Essack.

Professor Essack who is of the view that the current set of legislation relating to ethics in research, if executed correctly, effectively protects the rights of

research subjects, advised post-graduate students new to research to be aware of and abide by the code of ethics.

"Familiarise yourself with health ethics regulations, ensure that you receive ethical clearance from Ethics Committees compliant with the National Health Act and ensure ethical conduct in all aspects of our research, not just in the protection of subjects or participants but also in terms of intellectual property, research publication and other research output," she said.

In her 18-year career in the



Professor Sabiha Essack.

health sciences, Professor Essack has had substantive research output in peer-reviewed journals. Her achievements to date include: the Minara Chamber of Commerce Recognition Award in Academia, HESA representative on the SAQA Professional Body Reference Group, CHE programme accreditation panel member, participation in the World Innovation Summit for Education and achieving a C-rating by the National Research Foundation.

HONORARY DOCTORATE For Professor Coovadia

Eminent scientist Professor Hoosen Coovadia, an Emeritus Professor at UKZN and current Director of the HIV Management Cluster at the Maternal Adolescent and Child Health Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand in Durban was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate in Science (Medicine) by the University of Cape Town on June 4.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTO: SUPPLIED

This honour was bestowed upon Professor Coovadia in acknowledgement of his high-quality scientific research in HIV and AIDS; his public defence of scientific endeavours aimed at fighting the disease; and his willingness to impart knowledge he had generated on the disease to the next generation.

"I value this honour very highly because of the reasons for which I am being awarded this doctorate, and secondly, the enormous respect I have for the University of Cape Town which is bravely and effectively managing the perilous transition to a more normal society where race will be just one of many defining factors in the life of South Africa's citizens, while at the same time retaining a distinguished record of academic achievement," said Professor Coovadia.

Professor Coovadia made HIV and AIDS research his area of interest after witnessing the magnitude of the disease's impact on patients, especially children at in-patient wards at the King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban since the early 1990s. The frustration of knowing that patients' suffering could be



Professor Hoosen Coovadia.

minimised by making HIV drugs freely available, as is the case in other countries, spurred his scientific and socialist activities against the pandemic.

Accelerating efforts in the prevention of the disease should be the way forward in HIV and AIDS research, believes Professor Coovadia who added that behaviour change to safer sexual intercourse underpins interventions such as the prevention of mother to child transmission (MTCT) of HIV-1, the use of microbicides, and the use of ARVs (Antiretroviral

drugs) before and after risky sexual behaviour to minimise the chances of HIV transmission. "Where the science is already strong, for example in the prevention of MTCT, the next step is to implement the proven interventions as effectively as possible by addressing weaknesses in the health delivery system," he said.

The inspiration to succeed in his chosen discipline was the result of an innate curiosity, ambition and a vow never to succumb to the discrimination based on race evident during the apartheid era. "So I worked doubly hard to equal the oppressors' achievements in medicine," said Professor Coovadia. He added that the excitement of discovery in research and a socialist passion to fight for equity, and care for people, further inspired him.

Professor Coovadia considers among his best achievements: research in malnutrition; infectious diseases of children; and advances in the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, in particular the preservation of breastfeeding among HIV positive mothers, in the face of cynicism from medical colleagues.



Three of the four Merck awardees: from left: Ms Liesl Hendry, Ms Nonobeko Mvubu and Ms Lauren Eyssen.

WOMEN SCOOP Merck Awards

The School of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology recently paid tribute to four of its top women students at its annual Merck Awards ceremony on the Westville campus.

WORDS & PHOTO: VICKY CROOKES

The awards were presented to the best final year students in the disciplines of Microbiology and Biochemistry on both the Westville and Pietermaritzburg campuses.

The recipients of the awards for Microbiology were Ms Nonobeka Mvubu (Westville campus) and Ms Nongcebe Memela (Pietermaritzburg campus) and for Biochemistry, Ms Liesl Hendry (Westville campus) and Ms Lauren Eyssen (Pietermaritzburg). Merck representative, Mr Jason Kuppasamy, presented the

prize winners with cash awards and Merck plaques.

In addition to excelling in the academic field, several of the awardees were successful in a number of other areas during their undergraduate careers. Ms Eyssen represented the University in hockey and rowing and was also involved in community work with St John's Ambulance Services. Ms Hendry, who graduated *summa cum laude*, also played inter-university and club tennis.

All four recipients of the Merck awards are currently enrolled for Honours degrees at UKZN.

MATHS4STATS

Celebrates Completion

A total of 223 school teachers in KwaZulu-Natal who benefited from a statistics skills training programme facilitated by UKZN's School of Statistics and Actuarial Science received awards after successfully completing the course on May 29.

WORDS & PHOTO: NEESHA MAHARAJ

The KwaZulu-Natal maths4stats Lecture Series, a joint venture between the School, Statistics South Africa and the Department of Education (DoE) was aimed at upgrading teachers' knowledge of statistics. This is essential to enable the teaching of Data Handling, a subject offered to both primary and secondary school learners since the implementation of the NCS in 2008. Five hundred mathematics teachers from schools around the province in both the General Education and Training (GET) and the Senior Education and Training (SET) phases participated in this pilot project which entailed training in basic statistics by academics from the School of Statistics and Actuarial Science on both the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses over the past five months. Classes were given on Saturday mornings.

Though not all teachers were awarded certificates of attendance on Saturday, teachers that missed lessons could complete them next year and thus qualify for their certificate of attendance. Certificates were



Pictured are representatives of the DoE, Statistics South Africa and UKZN academics who contributed to the Maths 4Stats Lecture Series.

signed by the DoE, Stats SA and UKZN officials.

Addressing school teachers at the awards ceremony were Mr P Lehohla, the Statistician-General of Statistics South Africa, Mr L Mkwenkweni, an official of Statistics South Africa; Professor Delia North, Head of the School of Statistics and Actuarial Science who planned the programme, designed the course content and taught the lessons along with the other lecturers from the

School; and Mr P Dikgomo, the Head of Mathematics, Science, Technology and ICT in the DoE.

Mr Lehohla encouraged teachers to move forward in their training and applauded the statistics lecturers from the School of Statistics and Actuarial Science for the leading role that they were playing in promoting statistics literacy at grass roots level in South Africa. He wants this programme to be rolled out at other universities around the country!

GOLD FOR

Royal Show Exhibit

The College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science's Royal Show exhibit contributed another Gold Medallion to the University's collection of Royal Show medals at this year's event in Pietermaritzburg.

WORDS & PHOTO: VICKY CROOKES

The exhibit, which focused on 100 years of academic excellence in the province, achieved an overall score of above 80 percent, placing it in the Gold Medallion category. Judged over a period of three days, the exhibit received top marks for: external attraction, method of communicating benefits, originality, and presentation of personnel and customer care.

The College's professional, interesting and attractive display can be attributed to team work

and a lot of 'behind the scenes' work by key individuals within the College. The enthusiasm of the College's students who worked at the exhibit also contributed to its success. Disciplines and Units that participated in the Royal Show exhibit included: Agriculture, Agrometeorology, Computer Science, Geography, the Golden Key Society, Hydrology, Psychology and the Science and Technology Education Centre.

In its 160th year, the Royal Show is not only the province's

largest audited annual event, but is also one of the most respected mixed exhibitions on the African continent. From an agricultural aspect, it is the largest show of its kind in the country and has an excess of 1 000 livestock on site and attracts approximately 4 000 farmers. It also hosts one of the largest and most professional displays of birds, rabbits, poultry and honey in Africa. Attracting 220 000 people from all walks of life, the Show is an ideal platform to showcase the University and its diverse areas of expertise.



UKZN students at the University's award winning exhibit at the Royal Show from left: Mr Nhlakanipho Kumalo, Ms Linda Luvuno, Ms Angela de Jong and Mr Carl Freese.



Mr Phumlani Myande.

FULBRIGHT

SCHOLARSHIP

Is a Dream Come True

UKZN student Mr Phumlani Myande has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Master of Art in Education Leadership Studies at Columbia University.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Still in a state of disbelief, the School of Education student won the scholarship despite hailing from a disadvantaged school in a rural area near Port Shepstone. His parents made immense sacrifices to enable him to achieve tertiary education.

Mr Myende was encouraged by a lecturer at the School of Education, Mr Thabo Msibi who also obtained the scholarship in 2007. "I sent the application forms which required me to write two essays ... In these essays I had to describe in detail my study objectives and how I felt US universities can contribute positively to the achievement of them," said Mr Myende. This only qualified him for provincial interviews but further help was received from Mr Msibi and Ms Fumane Khanare who also lectures at the School of Social Science Education, Edgewood campus.

Mr Myende said that after ranking in the top 10 out of 25 candidates in the national level, he underwent intensive entrance exams to secure a position at Columbia University. "This is a very powerful and demanding scholarship which makes me even more thrilled," said Mr Myende.

"My research interest is in Gender and educational policy. I

am concerned that South Africa formulated good policies in order to challenge gender imbalances in education but there is no great change in the representation of both male and female in our schools ... My interest is to investigate how this is dealt with in the US and how their policies are formulated to deal with this challenge," he said.

Mr Myende has been an active member of the Community Development Association, the Student Representative Council (SRC), and contributed to the Progress Youth Alliance (PYA) during his studies at UKZN.

Asked about the most valuable lessons he learnt at UKZN, Mr Myende said that through his involvement in different organisations he has learnt that there is a lot that one can do for needy communities without contributing money but by providing voluntary services only. "I have also learnt that one needs to move away from the comfort zones in order to develop mentally," he said.

Mr Myende encouraged students to work hard and try to involve themselves in the various organisations available at the University. He will leave for the US on July 31.

The UKZN Griot Of Branding and Corporatisation

WORDS: KEYAN G TOMASELLI

In response to a previous column, *Traffic and Ranking*, a UWC professor sent me the following: "The university authorities have money to beautify buildings, putting the UWC badge on every little door of each building. And yet, they do not have money to fund the research of deserving PhD and Masters' students! So, the DoE should rate the universities whose campuses appear the 'most beautiful' [an additional criterion] as this latest fad of 'branding'. [Remember, they used to do it to slaves and farmers still do it to their animals!]...we live in a 'totally' commodified society/world, where everything has a number, a price tag.... Classical scholars must be turning in their graves!"

How does this apply at UKZN? Well, the easily quantifiable chaos at the front gate of Howard College continues, the confusion defying Corporate Relations' attempts to cleanly brand the campus/University. This got me to thinking about UKZN brands historically. My own relationship with Natal University (NU) started when I was headhunted in early 1984 to take up my present post. My image of NU then was that it was run by the NP mafia of Owen Horwood and Laurence McCrystal, so I had to be dragged to my interview by Chris Ballantine and friends. Here I was met by the hugest selection committee and a whole new bunch of top academic managers who had deposed the terrible two-some. NU was now a cauldron of anti-apartheid liberalism, Marxism, community projects and labour activism, not to mention other forms of subversion driven by Fatima Meer's indefatigable Black Research Centre.

One of my first administrative tasks in 1985 was to publish a lecturer ad in *The Weekly Mail*. The PR Division was run by a ex-paint executive, who told me that the *Rand Daily Mail* had closed – being a media professor didn't I know that? So I went to Adams Bookshop, bought a copy of *The Weekly Mail*, and donated it to the PR Division. The paint man was later succeeded by an executive from the sugar industry who developed a publishing empire par excellence. Communication was top of his agenda, but not branding. By the late 1980s it was becoming clear that NU was lacking a brand and an identity, and that the majority of Durban school children were totally unaware that there was a university in Durban, let alone two.

So, here at CCMS, working with Honours and MA students we derived from first



principles a numerical model for the No Name University (NNU). By now, NU had appointed a new Director to Public Affairs who integrated media, branding, and marketing. He curtailed the publishing industry and contracted expensive private research consultants to develop an NU brand. This was born the very successful Superman, Rolls Royce and Basketball campaign, "The Power to Succeed" which informed Natalians that at least one university in Durban existed. The No Name University recovered its earlier name Natal University which included beautifying campuses and providing branded and coherent signage. Applications increased. Our students who evaluated the campaign were astonished at the crudity of the professional research, but at least this experience taught them that they could hold their own in any forum.

Then along came the **New Name University**. During this period, Corporate Relations lost its way, and antagonistic models of communication proliferated. The publication empire was resurrected. This period witnessed the battle of the brands as different constituencies within the New Name University sought to inject their respective, often opposing, brands, agendas and philosophies. The letterhead crest was indigenized, the new catch phrase is something about African scholarship that fails to easily roll off the tongue, and corporatisation ran riot. Such is the lot of institutions and their hapless employees in the Information Age. (This will be the subject of a column to come, after which *UKZNDABA* may have to find a new columnist to replace this one who will be surely put out to pasture.) The joke in the UK about the Research Assessment Evaluations is that at any one time half the UK academics are evaluating the other half. At least, in the UK, it's the academics who are doing the evaluating, not the bureaucrats!

Here at UKZN, we've now reached a more stable phase. We're no longer embarrassed with our history. We know this because the April UKZNDABA published stories on the topic with black and white photos. History always happened in black and white – remember *African Mirror*, *Pathé News*, *Movietone* and now The History Channel? The former were

FLOPO BOASTS Internet Connection

Students from the UKZN Florence Powell (Flopo) Residence can now enjoy the convenience of wireless internet connection in their own rooms.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

The students are proud of their House Committee representative, Mr Buhle-Bemvelo Dube, who presented the idea early this year to Mr Abdullah Shariff from Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Durban Technical Services and UKZN Student Housing Director, Mr Sifiso Dlodla.



From left: House Committee Secretary, Ms Thandazile Thabethe; Media and Publicity Officer, Ms Zama Phungula; Sports Officer, Mr Dumisani Khumalo; Treasurer, Mr Samukelo Magcaba; Chairperson, Mr Mvelo Dube; and Committee Development, Mr Siyabonga Ngongoma.

Prior to being elected as the residence's House Committee representative, Mr Dube was driven by the student body's 2009 manifesto raising their concerns about working late evenings at the on-campus local area network (LANs). This led him to approach Mr Shariff who was interested in the idea but advised him to involve the Director's Office of UKZN Student Housing and submit a

detailed letter of proposal.

Broadcast from a central hub and run by radio waves, a wireless LAN required quite an expensive budget, but persistence and perseverance clinched the deal after several weeks of negotiations with ICT and

Student Housing.

"A few weeks later with four connection points, students of Flopo can do most of their work from the convenience of their rooms, ensuring their safety when working in the evenings," said Mr Dube.

Sudoku

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the weekly newsreels some of us were allowed to watch in cinemas prior to 1980. Colour pics are always more nuanced – divisive dichotomies disappear behind the inclusive tones.

Revitalizing our institutional history is now being leveraged for brand-building, and is as important as is beautifying campuses and making them livable.

Professor Tomaselli is director of the Centre for Communication, Media and Society

THE UKZNDABA TEAM

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

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