

DOWN
Memory
Lane



3

LECTURER
empowers
women

6



COLUMN
The UKZN
Griot

8



UKZN DABA



YOUR MONTHLY CAMPUS NEWSPAPER • VOLUME 7 • NUMBER 5 • MAY 2010



Professor Malegapuru Makgoba hands over a framed photo to Professor Bill Bishai of his inspection of the K-RITH Construction site on May 11.

DIRECTOR OF K-RITH Appointed by UKZN and HHMI

UKZN and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) announced the appointment of Professor William R Bishai, as the first permanent director of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) at a special function on 26 May.

WORDS: MARYANN FRANCIS PHOTO: RAJESH JANTILALL

K-RITH is the result of a groundbreaking partnership between UKZN and the HHMI to establish an international centre of scientific research excellence that focuses on making major scientific contributions to the worldwide effort to control the devastating co-epidemic of tuberculosis and HIV.

The appointment of Bishai, a Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland and Co-director of the Center for Tuberculosis Research at Johns Hopkins, takes effect in September 2010.

Professor Bishai, 50, received both his medical degree and doctorate from Harvard University in 1989. He completed his

fellowship training in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and was a Howard Hughes Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the laboratory of Nobel laureate, Dr Hamilton Smith. He is the author of more than 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals, serves on several editorial boards and review panels, and is the Co-Chair of the WHO Stop TB Partnership's Working Group for New TB Drugs.

"As a physician and a scientist, Bill Bishai understands the scale of human suffering caused by tuberculosis and the daunting challenges faced by researchers seeking to identify new strategies for responding to this epidemic. He is just the kind of leader we hoped to recruit," says Dr Robert

Tjian, HHMI president.

Professor Bishai says that K-RITH's resident research staff will grow to more than 110 people including eight senior scientists, 40 pre- and post-doctoral students, and a support staff of 40. The Durban-based team will be complemented by visiting scientists and students from national and international collaborating institutions.

Professor Tahir Pillay, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Elect of the College of Health Sciences said: I am excited by [Professor Bishai's] appointment and am equally confident that his vast experience and expertise in Tuberculosis and Medical Science research will guide the research studies at K-RITH and the College to new heights."

ALUMNI DINNER

Reunites Management Studies Graduates

"Clearly this country is a much, much, much better place than it was in the dark days of apartheid... and yet so much remains to be done".

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA PHOTO: ALBERT HIRASEN

These were the words of Dr Bobby Godsell in his keynote address at the Faculty of Management Studies Alumni Reunion Dinner on the Westville campus on May 14.

The Chairperson of Business Leadership South Africa and Co-Chairperson of the Millennium Labour Council, Dr Godsell's address was titled: *South Africa's Road to Becoming a Developed Country*.

Reuniting alumni from the former Universities of Durban-Westville and Natal as well as Management Studies graduates from UKZN, the dinner was part of UKZN's commemoration of 100 years of academic excellence in KwaZulu-Natal.

Dr Godsell focused on 'renewing the African Dream'. He urged South Africans to revisit South Africa's Constitution and recognise the injustices of the past before collectively moving forward towards a common goal.

"The South African dream was completed by our miraculous

peaceful and negotiated transition to full and non-racial democracy in 1994. It is important that we recognise just how remarkable was that transition. We should return, perhaps every day to the majestic words in the preamble to our Constitution..." Reflecting on the AIDS pandemic, and race and class discrimination that still persists, Dr Godsell highlighted the challenges of inclusive prosperity and real nation building.

He said that his 'African dream' would come true when nine out of 10 job seekers found employment; when delivery of public services functions well and when poverty was no more.

Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation, Mr Bruno van Dyk stressed the importance of alumni giving back to the University. Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Law and Management Studies, Professor John Mubangizi assured alumni that the Institution they left behind is in very good hands.



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

DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS' DINNER Honours Awardees

UKZN's past and present recipients of the UKZN Distinguished Teachers' Award were honoured at an inaugural Distinguished Teachers' Dinner on the Westville campus on May 14.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTO: SARA SERJEANT

Administered through the University Teaching and Learning Office (UTLO), the academics recognised were Professor Deogratius Jaganyi, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture; Dr Suzanne Francis, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Politics, Ms Kerry Frizelle, a Lecturer in the School of Psychology; and Ms Heidi Matisonn, a Lecturer at the School of Philosophy and Ethics. The Distinguished Teachers' Awards acknowledge excellence and innovation.

A keynote address was presented by Professor Josef de Beer, the recipient of the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) Distinguished Teacher's Award 2009/2010. Highlights for the evening were student commentary on the 2009 recipients captured on DVD, the signing of commemorative books dedicated to distinguished teachers and the presentation of prizes to the successful recipients.

Officially welcoming guests UKZN Vice-Chancellor Professor Malegapuru Makgoba said the role of teaching had been recognised and appreciated as one of the pillars of a great university. "The vocation of teaching has a long history. All great universities of the world are characterised by their teaching. A particular type of teaching takes place in universities. Academic teaching has never been based on them (lecturers) having a teaching certificate but based on the knowledge they generate (through research)."

Congratulating UKZN's distinguished teachers, Professor Makgoba said they were important role models for the University. He added that as

the teaching portfolio at the University developed it would be linked to research. "This University must be set alight and be abuzz with scholarly activity," he added.

Deputy Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal explained that the idea behind hosting an inaugural dinner for the distinguished teachers was "to create a community around excellence in teaching like we do for research in various ways".

Professor de Beer's address titled: *Confessions of a Closet Theatrical: Teaching, a Performing Art* focused on the principles of good teaching practice in undergraduate education. According to Professor de Beer good teaching involved: the ability to identify scholars with potential and make them exceptional teachers; maintaining good communication between student and lecturer; encouraging active learning; celebrating student diversity; and the need for flexible teaching approaches in response to technological advancements.

Believing that good teaching was also about caring, nurturing and developing student talents, Professor de Beer indicated it was important for lecturers themselves to develop cutting edge expertise and keep in touch with advancements in their fields.

Professor de Beer referred to the 'Generation Y' students, classified as technology-dependent students new to a tertiary environment. He stressed the need for flexibility in teaching methodology and added that it was important for lecturers to engage the unique intelligence that the Generation Y students had acquired due to their dependence on technology.



Recipients of the Distinguished Teachers' Awards, Ms Heidi Matisonn, a Lecturer in the School of Philosophy and Ethics; Professor Deogratius Jaganyi, Dean in the Faculty of Agriculture and Science; Ms Kerry Frizelle, a Lecturer in the School of Psychology with Professor Renuka Vithal, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning at the inaugural dinner.

CAPE TOWN ALUMNI and donors get up-to-date

Corporate Relations' Alumni Affairs Office co-ordinated an alumnus and donor get-together in Cape Town on May 7.

WORDS: FINN CHRISTENSEN
PHOTO: LEN MZIMELA

The annual event took the form of a three-course dinner and a talk at Societi Bistro situated in the lovely suburb of Gardens. The event provided an enjoyable opportunity for 38 alumni, donors and friends of UKZN to renew old acquaintances, meet fellow alumni and be updated on developments at their *alma mater* by Guest Speaker, UKZN's Executive Director: Corporate Relations Ms Nomonde Mbadi.



Staff and guests at the Cape Town Alumnus Dinner.

President and Chair of Convocation, Mr Sandile Ngcobo also addressed the gathering and graciously thanked everyone for supporting the University. Guests were given information packs containing a selection of University publications. The Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation Mr Bruno van Dyk was very grateful for the generosity of the attendees and returned to Dur-

ban with contributions just short of R900 000 for the University.

A similar event taking the form of a Sunday Luncheon will be held in Gauteng on July 18 and alumni living in Johannesburg, Pretoria and surrounds are strongly encouraged to attend to meet long-lost friends and receive an update on the latest developments at their *alma mater*.

DAAD LECTURE Focuses on Soccer and History

The Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) – German Academic Exchange Service – in collaboration with UKZN presented a debate on Soccer and History on the Westville campus on May 7.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA



Professor Johan van Heerden, Professor Peter Alegi, Professor Christiane Eisenberg, Dr Ralf Herman, Professor Philip Bonner, Ms Katharina Lehmann, Mr Sanele Nzimande, and Dr Sedick Isaacs at the DAAD lecture.

DAAD's *Extra Time: A German-South African Lecture On Soccer* links the host countries of 2006 and 2010 - Germany and South Africa – to show how soccer is 'more than just a game' and how it serves as a catalyst for the political and cultural development of a nation.

Professor Christiane Eisenberg of Humboldt University in Berlin pointed out that "In soccer matches complete strangers hug each other spontaneously ... and there is a multicultural co-existence between developed and

developing countries." She said that FIFA's pursuit of development goals through soccer events deserves recognition despite the widespread public criticism of the organisation.

Professor Philip Bonner of the University of Witwatersrand presented a historical perspective on Black football in the Witwatersrand and KwaZulu-Natal.

"I think Roger Milla's famous dance showcased Africa's arriving on the soccer stage," said Professor Peter Alegi from Michigan State University and a researcher at the Pietermaritzburg campus.

An interesting lecture on sports as a means of cultural self-assertion, political resilience and the assertion of human dignity during the apartheid regime was presented by Dr Sedick Isaacs who was imprisoned on Robben Island and was one of the forces behind the prisoners' Makana Football Association on the Island.

The DAAD project includes feature and documentary films on soccer in collaboration with German Departments at UKZN and other universities, and a 'Rainbow Cup' hosted by DAAD with international students.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Lecturer in Information Studies Mrs Fiona Bell's late grandfather Mr Lawrence Forbes Forsyth was among the first group of students to have registered for a BA degree at the Natal University College in 1910 and later a Certificate in Law.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Four generations of the Forsyth family, formerly of Townhill in Pietermaritzburg were educated at UKZN and its predecessor institutions. Mr Forsyth's three children followed in his footsteps: Mr Hugh Forsyth was conferred with a Bachelor of Science degree in the 1940s; Ms Margaret Forsyth obtained her BA degree in Music in 1947 and Mrs Bell's father, Mr Lawrence Forsyth Jnr. achieved his BA LLB degree in 1952.

Mrs Bell took her association with the University a step further. Not only did she obtain undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in Information Studies (Library Sciences) at the University, but she has been a lecturer on the Pietermaritzburg campus since 1984.

Paging through an archive register which lists her grandfather's name as the fifth out of the first 58 students to have enrolled at the University, Mrs Bell said she was privileged to follow family tradition and pursue a tertiary education when



Mrs Fiona Bell (left) with her daughter Ms Caroline Bell who graduated with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree this year.

many others were not able to do so.

"I feel proud to have followed in the early footsteps of both my grandparents, who came to this University in its formative years. Somehow it makes me feel as if my roots are here and that I belong in this community," said Mrs Bell.

As University-wide celebra-

tions mark the 100-year milestone Mrs Bell recalls how her late grandfather's strong views on the importance of Higher Education influenced the people he loved. She recalls that her grandfather had persuaded her grandmother, Ruth Palframan whom he was courting around 1917 to complete her degree before marrying.



Mrs Fiona Bell's late grandfather, Mr Lawrence Forbes Forsyth, one of the first students to be admitted to the Natal University College in 1910.

"My grandfather, aware of the importance of education, persuaded my grandmother to finish her degree first. If she did so, he would import a wedding dress for her from Scotland. This is what happened and they married in 1920," said Mrs Bell.

Some of the fondest memories Mrs Bell has of her grandfather was his knack for recounting ex-

periences of his life as a student and attorney and his vast network of friends across the racial spectrum in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mrs Bell whose two daughters, Heather and Caroline obtained their Bachelor of Science Honours degrees at UKZN said that her association with a University that has contributed to Higher Education for the past 100 years has instilled in her a sense of continuity.

Reflecting on her days as a student at UKZN, Mrs Bell said it had been the most carefree and happiest time of her life. "I was in the residence on campus and there was a greater sense of unity and campus life than there is now. One of my lasting impressions is of our formal dinners once a month when we all flocked into the Petrie dining room in our gowns and our Warden, Mrs Kim McKenzie presided at the top table with other residence staff...I have good memories of the many University Balls I attended in the Student Union Hall," added Mrs Bell.

SCHOOL OF ISIZULU Centenary Celebration

Thunderous drums, cheery whistles and ululations marked the School of isiZulu Studies' Centenary Celebration Cultural Festival on the Howard College campus on April 12.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA



Staff and students enjoy an *indlamu* performance at the School of isiZulu Studies Cultural Centenary Celebration.

The Festival highlighted indigenous performances ranging from praise poetry, Zulu dance, *isicathamiya*, *indlamu*, song and dance, African gospel, opera and a short play. These were

performed by students trained by the lecturers in the School of isiZulu Studies and a remarkable group from KwaMashu performing *indlamu*; *AMABHUBESI* (the lions).

isiZulu Studies staff and

students from Howard College, Pietermaritzburg and the service course for Health Sciences on the Westville campus packed the hall for the Festival, which was organised by the Publicity

FINANCE TEAM Marks Football Friday



Members of staff from the Finance Division in Pietermaritzburg got into the spirit of the Soccer World Cup on Football Friday.

Committee chaired by Dr Gugulethu Mazibuko. Other members of the Committee are Head of School Professor Nhlanhla Mathonsi; Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa, Ms Gugu Mkhize, Mrs Mary Gordon, Mrs Thokozani Khuzwayo and Mr Nelson Ntshangase. School Administrator Mrs Sindi Ndaba provided invaluable assistance.

In his welcome address, Acting Dean of Humanities, Development and Social

Sciences, Professor Julian Kunnie acknowledged the importance of the celebration. He stressed the hardships that faced the University in its foundational phases. Various speakers and performers emphasised the value of education, and the importance of the isiZulu language and culture at UKZN. Song and dance performances were also staged by Swazi students.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN KWAZULU-NATAL

A century of Higher Education in KwaZulu-Natal is being commemorated this year. This article looks at the involvement of universities in opposing apartheid during that time.

WORDS: GREG DARDAGAN PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS

A 35-year-old British subject, Ms Josephine Beall, who is a lecturer in the Department of African Studies at the University of Natal, has been released after more than two months in detention without trial under South Africa's notorious security laws...

"She was held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act, a permanent feature of South African law. This section empowers a policeman of the rank of lieutenant-colonel or above to detain any person indefinitely for interrogation for security reasons..."

"As is usual under Section 29, Ms Beall was held in solitary confinement and denied access to a lawyer, relatives or friends. A police spokesman refused to comment on the reasons for her detention, or even to confirm that she had been detained..."

"A colleague at the Department of African Studies at the University of Natal said Ms Beall was a member of the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid organisation 'but so are half the staff at the university' ..." *Sunday Times* February 18, 1987.

The above extract revives memories of an era when thousands of people – among them university lecturers and students – were detained in terms of security legislation in the old South Africa, often under very harsh conditions.

Many staff and students at the then University of Natal and the University of Durban-Westville (UDW) involved themselves in demonstrations and protests as part of the struggle for freedom and social justice, and in doing so continued the actions of other university role-players before them to remove restrictions which shackled South African society and Higher Education.

As tertiary education in KwaZulu-Natal celebrates its centenary this year it is relevant to remember some of those University "heroes" who fought and suffered for equality in all spheres. In many instances they are the "forgotten heroes".

One needed to be a hero to actively demonstrate against the

Nationalist Government and its apartheid policies because those who did laid themselves open for severe harassment and victimisation at the hands of the security police and also faced being ostracised by society. Many incidents did not make front page headlines in the newspapers but were indicative of how security police harassment of conscientised University staff knew no limits or boundaries.

There were a host of University activists and organisations during those troubled times but among those who became renowned for their roles are:

* Legal academic Barend van Niekerk who was prosecuted at least three times for his work on human rights violations and the racial bias to capital punishment. Van Niekerk addressed a meeting at the Durban City Hall in 1971 on the death of security police detainee Ahmed Timol and also spoke out strongly during the political trial of Kader Hassim.

* Another University of Natal law lecturer Raymond Suttner suffered torture and solitary confinement during his detention by the security police.

* Rick Turner joined the University staff in 1970 and became a senior lecturer in Political Science. It was in the same year that he met and formed a close friendship with Steve Biko. Turner was banned a year after the publishing of his book: *The Eye of the Needle – Towards Participatory Democracy in South Africa*, with the order preventing him from visiting his two daughters or his mother and requiring him to stay in Durban.

Despite his banning he continued to speak out against injustices of the day. During his banning he remained a member of the University staff but was not allowed to lecture.

Turner was shot through a window of his Bellair home on January 8, 1978 and died in the arms of his 13-year-old daughter, Jann. Police investigations never button-holed his killer/s.

* Sociologist Fatima Meer, who died in Durban recently, was on the staff of the University of Natal from 1956 to 1988 and received two honorary doctorates



Steve Biko.

for her work for human and women's rights. She received a variety of awards throughout her life.

Meer, a prominent anti-apartheid activist, was one of the founding members of the Federation of SA Women who spearheaded the historical women's march on the Union Buildings in 1956. In the 1970s she was banned and detained without trial for trying to organise a political rally with Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) figure Steve Biko. She narrowly survived an assas-

sination attempt after her release from detention in 1976 and was later attacked again.

* Jasa, the University of Natal's academic staff association, voted in 1983 to affiliate to the United Democratic Front (UDF). It was the only body of academics in South Africa to identify so directly with the internal liberation movement. Its secretary Jo Beall was detained in 1987

* John Aitchison and Vaughn John of the University's Centre for Adult Education documented

the State of Emergency in the KwaZulu-Natal's Midlands and the so-called Seven-Day War in 1990. The document was regarded by many people at the time as the most significant piece of grassroots research ever undertaken by a South African university and it was part of the evidence considered by the Truth Commission.

* Social anthropologist Mary de Haas who monitored, analysed and commented in forthright terms – as she still does to-

day – on political violence, and in particular the role of the police and a Third Force in KwaZulu-Natal in the 1990s.

* Judge Zakeria Mohamed Yacoob, known as Zac, suffered blindness at the age of 16 months after contracting meningitis but triumphed in adversity completing a law degree at the University College for Indians which later became UDW. He ran his own legal practice for several years before being appointed a Constitutional Court judge in 1988.

Yacoob involved himself actively in the anti-apartheid movement and was a member of the Natal Indian Congress. He also organised and took part in protests, produced and distributed publicity material and addressed mass meetings.

* Steve Biko, an influential anti-apartheid activist, enrolled at the University of Natal's Medical School where his political activism blossomed. He devoted more of his time to his political activities than his studies and he was deregistered.

As a break away from the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), he established the SA Students Organisation in 1968 which adopted a "pro-black and radical doctrine" that became known as Black Consciousness. He also established the Black People's Convention and the Black Community Programmes.

His activities led to him being banned and confined to the magisterial district of King William's Town. He was detained by the security police in August 1977 and transferred to Pretoria where he died after apparently being severely beaten.

* Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the current National Minister of Home Affairs, attended the University of Natal from 1972 to 1976 where she worked as a research technician and started studying medicine. Zuma identified with the BCM – Biko was one of her classmates – and became deeply involved in student politics being appointed Vice-President of the SA Students Organisation in 1976.

The Soweto uprising in 1976 and the widespread student rioting resulted in the police cracking down even harder on the BCM. Zuma left South Africa going into exile in Botswana, Tanzania and later England where she completed her medical studies at the University of Bristol in 1978. She was among the first group of ANC exiles to return to South Africa in 1991.

Protest and struggle actions lace university history in KwaZulu-Natal with the University of Natal and UDW being significant voices and forces in the struggle against apartheid. Many of the Institutions' students were members of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) which was severely harassed by the Government while the University magazine *Dome* was strongly critical of apartheid

and it was often banned with the printing press being moved around to prevent it from being confiscated by the police.

The University of Natal was one of the first in the country to provide education to black students in the face of strong opposition from the authorities, while UDW – often rocked by political unrest and violence – became an autonomous institution in 1984 defiantly admitting students of all races.

The Natal University College founded in Pietermaritzburg in 1910 and extended to Durban in 1922 started offering university education to black students from 1936 and classes increased in size through the years. A total of 19 black students were registered at the College in 1936 and by 1960 – when the Institution had become the fully established University of Natal – numbers had risen to 896.

But it was not easy going. EH Brookes writes in his book: *A History of the University of Natal*: "By the Extension of the University Education Act... in 1959, Universities were forbidden to register non-European students except with the Minister's special dispensation (given only rarely), and new ethnic University Colleges were set up for them under the University of South Africa. A stubborn fight saved the Medical School (in Durban) but other non-European classes were doomed, despite the most energetic protests of Council, Principal, staff and students."

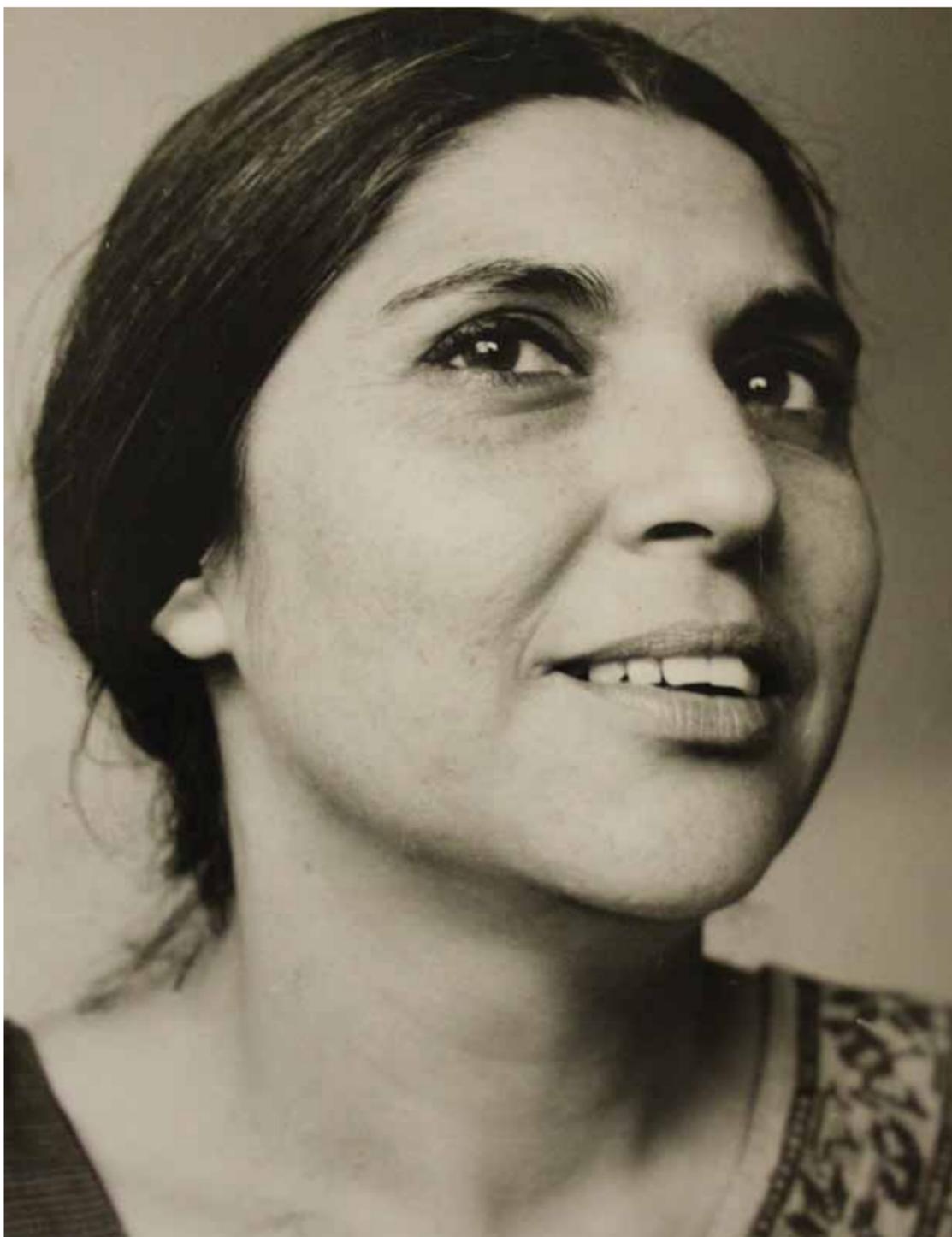
The Medical School was established in 1950 admitting only African, Indian and Coloured students. In 1957 the government made a concerted effort to remove the school from the control of the University but met fierce resistance from role players with full time members of the Medical Faculty stating their intention to resign if the enacting Bill was passed through Parliament.

Brookes writes: "When academic segregation was finally approved by Parliament by Act 45 of 1959... provision was made by sub-section (1) of Section 32 that the restricting provisions shall not apply to non-White persons in respect of their registration and attendance as students of the Medical School.

"This was undoubtedly a great victory... Any university would in similar circumstances have resisted such a Bill, but what made the resistance of the University of Natal effective was its vigour, promptitude and perseverance. In deciding to resign their academic posts and the emoluments which went therewith, the Professors of the Faculty acted with great courage and selflessness for the sake of principle and in defence of medical education."

The Medical School went on to play a major role in the struggle against apartheid with students in that era committed to help bring about justice and dignity in South Africa.

Academics at the University of



Fatima Meer.



Rick Turner and his wife, Fozzia Fisher.

KwaZulu-Natal, formed in 2004 with the merger of the University of Natal, UDW, the Medical School and the Edgewood Teachers' Training College, continue to speak out in a variety of forums – including newspaper columns – on issues and injustices.

The words of Brookes written more than 40 years ago hold true today: "It is of the very essence of

a University to encourage independence of thought. A University which produces a dull conformity to political orthodoxy, any political orthodoxy, has dismally failed in its calling. If, then any (political) party in power sets itself to produce uniformity of opinion, it will in the nature of the case find the University a troublesome institution..."

* Main sources for this article:

1. *A History of the University of Natal* by ER Brookes (University of Natal Press).

2. Background information from Christopher Merrett, a former Director of Administration at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg as well as at UKZN.

BUSARIES

For promising students

Fifty UKZN students received bursaries from the Cecil Renaud Educational and Charitable Trust on May 12.

WORDS & PHOTO: NEESHA MAHARAJ



Mr Richard Morrison (extreme left - back row); Ms Nonhlanhla Nkosi (fifth from the left - back row); and Mr Colin Linnette (sixth from the left - back row) with bursary recipients.

The Student Funding Centre organised the Cecil Renaud Merit Awards Ceremony on the Westville campus to acknowledge 50 new students who qualified for bursaries for the 2010 academic year. Students were selected based on their ability to achieve at least a 70 percent annual average and their financial need profile. The students were presented with merit certificates and addressed by Mr Richard Morrison, the Acting Manager of the Student Funding Centre, Ms Nonhlanhla Nkosi, the Bursary Manager, and Mr Colin Linnette,

a Trustee of the Cecil Renaud Educational and Charitable Trust.

Mr Morrison said that the Student Funding Centre received approximately 8 000 applications annually from UKZN students seeking bursaries or study loans. Mr Linnette pointed out that the Cecil Renaud Educational and Charitable Trust had contributed towards the education of UKZN students for the past 17 years. This year they had made at least R1 million available for their UKZN Undergraduate Bursary Programme. He described the part-

nership between UKZN and the Trust as "enriching."

Miss Nishona Sookraj, a second year BCom Accounting student said she was happy to learn of her success in securing a bursary as funding her education had been a challenge.

Second year BA in Social Work student, Miss Phindile Khumalo said she was honoured to be among the recipients "I really needed financial assistance... This bursary will enable me to finish my studies with honour and dignity," she said.

LECTURER EMPOWERS

Women's cultural group

Canadian students visiting UKZN on May 14 experienced an energetic display of the traditional dance *Isigekle* (women's dance and song) performed by the Zulu women of Zwelibomvu outside Pinetown.

WORDS & PHOTO: NEESHA MAHARAJ

Dr Nompumelelo Zondi, a Senior Lecturer at the School of IsiZulu Studies explained the empowering effect song and dance has on the Zwelibomvu women and the rationale behind names they choose for their children in a lecture presentation titled: *Reclaiming their voices in polygamous Marriages: A case of songs and personal names in Zwelibomvu*. Her presentation to a group of students from the Conrad Grebel University College: University

of Waterloo in Canada, was based on doctoral research she had undertaken two years ago titled: *Bahlabelelani - Why do they sing? Gender and Power in Contemporary Women's Song*. Dr Zondi discovered amongst other things that song, dance and poetry had been used by the Zwelibomvu women to articulate the joys and challenges of their polygamous marriages.

According to Dr Zondi, traditionally women in polygamous

marriages do not question things that make them unhappy. However, she said hearing renditions of *isigekle* performed by *Vivani Bafazi* (the group of women from Mkhangoma District of Zwelibomvu who performed at UKZN) proved that women in polygamous marriages were in fact becoming vocal about matters that concerned them.

Dr Zondi encouraged the women to empower themselves and have their voices heard out-



Ms Bukeka Nzimande and Ms Sonja Gammage received awards for their outstanding performance in Classics.

CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

Recognises student achievers

The Classics Department on the Howard College campus held a prize-giving ceremony on April 22.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

Securing the 2009 Sim Whiteley Prize for the best performing first-year student going into the second year of study was Ms Bukeka Nzimande. Sim Whiteley was the founder of the study of Classics at the old University of Natal in Durban.

Majoring in Latin and Law, Ms Nzimande has set herself high standards.

"I think one of the most beneficial things about studying Language and Linguistics is that it teaches you so much in terms of grammar and the science of language... Latin was first an elective and now I just want to study more and more languages," she said.

Ms Sonja Gammage shared the Alexander Petric Prize for the best Classics student with Dr Susan Haskins, who has since left the University to take up a position at the University of Pretoria. Both Gammage and Haskins studied Classical Greek as a major.

Professor Petric is renowned as an outstanding classical scholar who made countless contributions to Classics and student life generally on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the former University of Natal. His contribution to University life is being commemorated in the centenary celebrations this year.



Dr Nompumelelo Zondi (dressed in black) joins *Vivani Bafazi* in their performance of *Isigekle* during her lecture to Canadian students.

side their immediate communities. Hence the birth of the group *Vivani Bafazi* meaning "women get out and empower yourself".

"Embarking on this research was significant because I learnt a lot about my own culture and it made me realise that culture lives on. I am grateful to the University of KwaZulu-Natal for offering me a Competitive Research Grant which enabled me

to return to this community for the retrospective study," said Dr Zondi.

Dr Carol Ann Weaver, an Associate Professor in Music at the Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo said that the Zwelibomvu women's performance had "opened [her students'] eyes to a new experience and a different kind of music".

LECTURE ANALYZES

Link between income and education

Credit constraints and the racial gap in post-secondary education in South Africa was the title of Professor David Lam's research paper at UKZN's School of Development Studies (SDS) on May 11.

WORDS & PHOTO: LUNGA MEMELA

Professor Lam is from the Department of Economics and a Research Professor in the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

Professor Lam's study is based on the Cape Area Panel Study (CAPS), a collaboration between the University of Cape Town and the University of Michigan that has followed the lives of 4 800 young people in Cape Town since 2002. The research presented at SDS analyzed the impact of family income and scholastic ability on the large racial disparities in the proportion of high school graduates who enroll in post-secondary education.

Findings from Professor Lam's study indicate that enrolment in post-secondary education is strongly associated with family income and secondary school scholastic performance. Income and secondary school



Professors David Lam and Francie Lund share research experiences at the SDS seminar.

scholastic ability can statistically account for all of the black-white differences in post-secondary enrolment.

Professor Lam's research also suggests that post-secondary financial aid alone will not be enough to narrow the racial gap in post-secondary education,

since racial differences in the quality of primary and secondary schooling also play an important role. Commenting on the presentation, Senior Researcher for the SDS, Professor Francie Lund said that the presentation was interesting and thought-provoking.

SINGAPORE DELEGATION

Explores partnerships with UKZN

A delegation representing universities and research institutes in Singapore visited UKZN on May 7 to explore the possibility of forging educational partnerships in the areas of science, engineering and biomedical technology.

WORDS & PHOTO: NEESHA MAHARAJ



(Left to Right) Mr Marcus Dass, Head of Industry Workforce: Contact Singapore; Professor Deresh Ramjugernath; Professor Andrew Kindness; Professor Cheryl Potgieter; Dr Lim Kiang Wee; and Mr Nelson Moodley, Research Office.

Facilitated through the International Relations Unit at UKZN, members of the Singaporean government agency, A-STAR (Agency for Science, Technology and Research) met with UKZN's Dean of Research, Professor Cheryl Potgieter, Professor Deresh Ramjugernath of the Faculty of Engineering; and Professor Andrew Kindness, the Acting Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture on the Westville campus to exchange information

on research, teaching and learning; and postgraduate exchange programmes.

UKZN academics were made aware of existing education and research programmes at the National University of Singapore, the Nanyang Technological University and A-STAR by Dr Lim Kiang Wee, the Director of the A-STAR's Graduate Academy.

The Singaporean delegation, in turn were informed of programmes in place at UKZN to

address the South African Government's call to increase the number of graduates with postgraduate qualifications.

UKZN expressed interest in the possibility of its engineering academics benefitting from the SINGA programme offered by A-STAR to universities abroad.

Professor Potgieter indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UKZN and A-STAR was a possibility.

E-LEARNING

Frontiers debated at Symposium

Institutional policy for the advancement of technology-assisted learning and teaching at UKZN was the subject of a symposium on May 7.

WORDS: NEESHA MAHARAJ

The symposium, titled *Exploring the Frontiers of e-learning @ UKZN* was organised by the University Teaching and Learning Office (UTLO), the Open Learning: Centre for Higher Education Studies and the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Division.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning Professor Renuka outlined UKZN's achievements in developing infrastructure for technology-based teaching and learning, examples of which include: upgrading lecture rooms with wireless facilities, the availability of Moodle technology and a pilot project undertaken within the Faculty of Education which highlighted the benefits of using cellphones for teaching and learning. However, Professor Vithal voiced the need to optimise the use of available infrastructure.

Ms Ruth Searle, the Director for the Centre for Higher Education Studies at UKZN gave a

presentation on *Reflections on the Use of Technology in Teaching and Learning*. She advised delegates to consider several key areas when deciding how they would like to see e-learning policy develop at the University. These include: the need to formulate a sustained process in keeping with changing technology; developing plans to keep staff updated of fast changing e-learning technology and creating spaces for staff training in technology-enhanced learning at UKZN.

Dr Dale Peters, Academic Computing Manager at the ICT Division, and one of the co-ordinators of the Symposium said while staff had been responsive to Moodle training courses offered by the University, interest among academic staff to access the learning management software for the purpose of teaching was not good at this stage. Her suggestion to staff in particular was to join the development of supportive environments that encouraged innovative technology driven teaching and learning.

UKZN RESEARCHER

Wins prestigious award

WORDS: VICKY CROOKES

Professor Deresh Ramjugernath, from UKZN's School of Chemical Engineering, featured amongst the winners at the 12th National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Awards gala dinner at Emperors Palace in Gauteng on May 4.



Professor Ramjugernath and Mrs Pandor.

Recognised for his exceptional contribution to Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI), Professor Ramjugernath was the male recipient of the ESKOM-sponsored award: Researcher, for Research Capacity Development over the last 5-10 years'. He was presented with his award by the Minister of Science and Technology, Mrs Naledi Pandor.

The Eskom Research Capacity Development Awards are made to a male and female in South Africa who have, during their careers, "demonstrated outstanding leadership in increasing the participation of Black researchers in their chosen scientific, engineering and technological fields." The recipients receive a research grant to cover research costs.

Professor Ramjugernath is the Director of UKZN's Thermodynamics Research Unit, the leading research group in the country in the field of chemical thermodynamics and separation technology. He also holds the DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Fluorine Process Engineering and Separation Technology. Over the past 10 years he has overseen the graduation of 48 Masters and PhD students and is currently supervising or co-supervising 32 postgraduate students. Together with his students, he has produced more than 160 conference and journal papers during this period.

The UKZN Griot Of Traffic and Rankings

"First World War fighter pilots had a longer life-span than do columnists working at UKZN," was one of the responses I got to my first column.



WORDS: KEYAN G TOMASELLI

The other one was from my mum. She wanted to know about the subtext of my argument. Greg Arde, a *Sunday Tribune* columnist, made some point about mug shots of Senate members. Colleagues in my office laughed uproariously. So much for my apprehension. So this month I venture deeper into unknown and contentious territory.

First, was the massive pothole that disrupted traffic in April after exiting Howard College's main gate. It was so wide and deep and there for so long that a family of stray Great Danes made it their hidey-hole. The cops of course ignored the hole, and ticketed cars parked on the islands, while others checked on taxis. Between the pothole, the police sweeps, and inconsiderate drivers blocking both entrances and exits, somehow life (but not work) went on.

Second, *Finweek* in March published an article ranking South African universities. UKZN featured between three and five, but dropped off the scale with regard to permanent staff with a D-level qualification. We came in at number ten in the percentage of NRF rated researchers. A great swishing of gowns was heard from the top executive on the release of these obviously incomprehensible results written by financial journalists who can't count.

My own explanation for this extremely poor showing is that too many staff are wasting too much of their time trying to get into, or out of, Howard College. Further, the endless driving between campuses in two cities on a highway that is constantly clogged with UKZN staff is also adding to road congestion. This is why the heavies use Field's Hill. For them, there are too many educated commuters on the N3 who speak funny, driving cars they can't afford.

My suggestion is that *Finweek* rather develop indicators to explain the relationship between all the time spent by UKZN staff in traffic jams and our lack of higher degrees. The rating matter will need another indicator, the ratio of staff to students in specific Schools. If the stats don't work for us just change the assumptions – we go for reverse indicators. So, instead of the number of rated researchers being a positive indicator of university ranking,

the lack of them should be understood to indicate our contribution to attending to transport matters as we contemplate the excessive amount of time we all spend driving on the N3. Besides, the extraordinary effort and time needed to make sense of the ratings forms would be much better utilised writing up and publishing time and motion studies. So much so, that UKZN staff would fill every journal on the topic.

I am an expert on traffic. My students spend a lot of time driving me all over the Kalahari on lengthy research excursions. They drive and I write. We huddle in the back seat of my huge 4x4 working on my laptop while on tarred roads. (Can't work off road, it's too bumpy.) As my appreciative passengers will reveal, they supply me with an inexhaustible supply of intellectual labour when I am checking their theses, debating with them my articles in-the-making, and discussing field notes. I get far more writing done in the back of my 4x4 than I do in my office. The only interruptions are Shell Quickstops when the students bolt from the vehicles to get their two-hourly fixes of junk food, froth and fizzy drinks. On returning to the car, they all make a bee-line for the single front seat so they don't have to work with me in the back where they get car sick and educated simultaneously. Amongst my research budget line items are lots of packets and deodorant sprays.

Now, I can easily quantify the number of kilometres travelled in relation to the outputs of theses, articles, chapters and books written by both me and my students. So the solution to UKZN's showing on national researcher ratings, university rankings and the lack of Ds is to ensure that all cars driving between cities are equipped with laptops on which the passengers are required to prepare publications.

Thus time + vehicle x kms = SAPSE output = research income = higher ranking. Could anything be simpler? What with hundreds of UKZN staff using the roads so productively every day we'd soon outstrip those pesky one-campus wonders like Wits, UWC, UCT, Pretoria and SU that have pipped us to the rankings post.

QED

Keyan Tomaselli is Director of the Centre for Communication, Media and Society.

COMEDY OF ERRORS Is Quite a Laugh!

Drama and Performance Studies' production of *The Comedy of Errors* gave new meaning to the saying: laughter is the best medicine.

WORDS: LUNGA MEMELA

The production was part of Drama and Performance Studies' annual Shakespeare Festival and the University's Centenary Celebrations.

Directors Ms Tamar Meskin, Mr Rowin Munsamy and Professor Mervyn McMurtry alongside a well rehearsed cast of 55 students located 'Ephesus' in our very own 'eThekwin', with much ado about the anticipated FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup.

Played by Mr Brett Collopy, Mr David Wilson, Ms Silindile Hlengwa and Ms Noxolo Malimba, two sets of twins are tragically separated at birth and set on a farcical trail of mistaken

identities and a series of mind-boggling events. Much to their dismay, unprecedented help is received from their fellow citizens of 'eThekwin' which leads them straight back to each other's arms as brothers and sisters after an eventful night.

Convincing roles were played by Ms Derosha Moodley, Mr Brandon Moulder, Ms Kivithra Naicker and the cast as a whole. Cameo performances by Ms Donna Steel, Ms Megan Nevels, Mr Devin Möller, the prostitutes and the nuns made for a good laugh. *The Comedy of Errors* showed a high standard of commitment and dedication from both students and lecturers.



Cast members pose at the Moses Mabhida Stadium, their adapted setting for their production of William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*.

Sudoku

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

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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