

Winner of the 2008 Institute for Marketing, Advancement & Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Award for Best Internal Publication

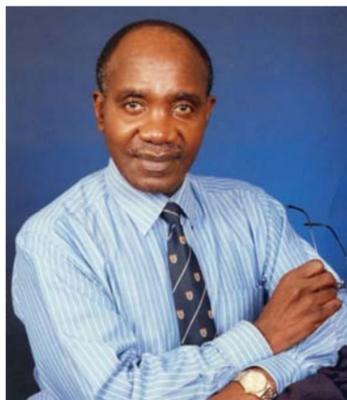
Distinguished Teachers

Four UKZN academics will receive the prestigious Distinguished Teachers' Award at UKZN's graduation ceremonies in April.

Professor TE Madiba, a Professor of Surgery at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine; Dr Francesca Balladon, a Senior Lecturer within the French Programme; Dr Robyn Joubert, Head of the School of Audiology, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology; and Professor Kriben Pillay, a Programme Co-ordinator at the Leadership Centre are the recipients of the Awards for the 2008 academic year.

The Awards reward those who demonstrate innovation and excellence in the areas of curriculum development, teaching methodology and assessment methods.

Deputy Vice Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal said: "The standard of entries was very high and the selection committee had a difficult task of identifying the successful candidates. This year we are very pleased with the diversity of



Professor TE Madiba.

academics and disciplines being recognised and rewarded."

Professor Madiba who said: "It reminds me of my own days as a student and it makes me wish that all my teachers who encouraged me to be what I am today were all still alive to witness the tremendous responsibility and power which they instilled in me."

Teaching success for Professor Madiba has been achieved through building a trustworthy relationship with students, a genuine interest in their welfare and varying presentation methods in order to hold



Dr Francesca Balladon.

students' attention and stimulate a thirst for knowledge.

Professor Madiba who says he loves lecturing as it offers the opportunity to interact, lead and motivate students, has received the Teddy Sarkin Prize for Best Lecturer six times in recent years.

A French lecturer for 28 years, Dr Balladon said a curiosity for French Romantic Poetry sparked her love for the language. She expressed delight at being recognized, more so because her students nominated her for this accolade.



Dr Robyn Joubert.

For Dr Balladon the hallmark of a good teacher is the ability to inspire students.

"To inspire students we need to reach out to them. It is by identifying their needs and expectations and tapping into this that they learn. A good teacher needs to be in tune with their students. He or she also needs to master their subject in order to be able to communicate it appropriately for the group they are teaching."

A Programme Co-ordinator at the Leadership Centre for the past two years, Professor Kriben Pillay said:



Professor Kriben Pillay.

"It's very nice receiving recognition for one's work, but the way I teach is shared by my colleagues as well, and the sharing amongst us makes me see this award as also belonging to the Leadership Centre."

A firm believer in experiential learning contexts, Professor Pillay said good teachers need to engage in intensive research, detailed preparation and learn about creating optimum learning contexts for students.

"Foster the insight that 'not knowing' is a far more creative state for learning than knowing. The chalk and board methods may have been replaced by PowerPoints, but they're still within the 'talk' paradigm," he added.

Receiving the Award is both a "rewarding and humbling" experience for Dr Joubert who has lectured for 33 years. Dr Joubert believes in participatory teaching where students interact with one another and their lecturers.

"Good participatory teaching should be carefully facilitated to ensure that the right questions are asked, ALL students participate and if needs be it should be provocative so that it moves students out of their comfort zones and gets them to think about real life applications to what they are learning," she said.

- Neesha Maharaj

Sharing expertise

THE School of Chemistry on the Pietermaritzburg campus is reaching out to Physical Science high school teachers by offering workshops aimed at improving their content knowledge of the grade 12 syllabus.

The workshops, which run for an afternoon a week over a seven week period, involve approximately 30 teachers from a variety of schools in and around Pietermaritzburg. They comprise interactive lecture and laboratory sessions designed to equip the teachers with relevant knowledge and skills that they can confidently transfer back into their classrooms.



High School teachers with Chemistry lecturer, Dr Joanne Perils (front, right).

Organised and facilitated by Dr Murray Low, Dr Joanne Perils and Masters student, Mr Udhir Chathuri, the workshops are just the beginning of a long-term plan to engage with teachers and

learners. Later in the year, a series of follow-up sessions are envisaged involving the same group of teachers as well as interaction with their grade 12 learners.

The response from the teachers has been overwhelmingly positive. One teacher described the initiative as "the most brilliant idea ever" and said that she now felt as if she had been provided with a safety net. Overall, the teachers said it was amazing that the University has "stuck out its hand" to them.

Dr Murray Low described the teachers as "a tremendously resilient bunch. They remain committed to improving the chances of their students by improving themselves. I feel quite humble in the presence of their energy and drive".

- Vicky Crookes

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MOU with Aalborg University

UKZN is the first South African university to sign a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Aalborg University in Denmark.

The MOU, which was signed on 9 February provides for collaboration between the Centre for TeleInFrastruktur (CTIF) at Aalborg University and the Centre for Radio Access and Rural Technologies Centre (CRART) in the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering at UKZN.

CTIF's vision is to create a new dimension of research, education, innovation and entrepreneurship leading towards emerging communication technologies. The Center aims to distribute research and educational activities, combined with commercialization of the results, providing entrepreneurship at the level of Masters' education, innovation during PhD studies and problem-based learning and research at post doctoral level. CTIF has a tradition of strong ties with national and international

industry partners, and universities and research institutes.

CRART was established with the objective of finding solutions to South Africa's telecommunication challenges and to develop skilled manpower in Telecommunications with Masters and PhD degrees. CRAFT is supported by TELKOM, Alcatel-Lucent and THRIP.

The objectives of the collaboration between CTIF and CRART include the initiation of study courses and joint research programmes in wireless communications and multimedia technology that may include European Union (EU)-commissioned projects. Research activities will include the exchange of Faculty members who may act as Visiting Fellows in the partner institutions, and collaboration of students through an exchange agreement for specific projects or thesis work.

CTIF Director and Co-ordinator of CTIF-Global, Professor Ramjee Prasad, signed the agreement on



UKZN executive management and senior professors from the Faculty of Engineering with Professor Ramjee Prasad, (seated second from left), Director of the Center for TeleInFrastruktur (CTIF) and his wife Mrs Prasad at the signing of the MOU between UKZN and Aalborg University.

Picture: Thembeke Dlungwane

behalf of Aalborg University. He stressed the need for research to be innovative: "It must carry out innovative ideas which will then create a dimension to create employment," he said.

Welcoming Professor Prasad, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Dasarath Chetty said internationalisation and international partner-

ships are important strategic thrusts for UKZN and if this partnership results in practical ways of using wireless technology to support the developmental agenda our objectives would be met.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science Professor Pete Zacharias said: "As a College

we strive to develop working partnerships. As communication is so critical to the effective development of any country's potential, we look forward to strengthening our relations with Aalborg and hope these will expand to the other areas where we have complementary expertise."

- Thembeke Dlungwane

Islamic Law graduation

FROM a modest intake of just 14 students in 2004, to a staggering 85 in 2008; the UKZN Certificate in Islamic Law has proved its weight in gold. The course has had wide appeal across cultural, religious and racial lines. It gives non-Muslim students a better understanding of Islamic Law in particular and Islam in general. For Muslim students, a definite draw card has been the comparison of Islamic Law with South African law on issues that affect them in their daily lives, like marriage, divorce, succession, Islamic banking, and medical science.

The course boasts a diverse student profile. 'Ulama (Muslim theologians), lawyers, accountants, businessmen, bankers, medical doctors, social workers, NGO staff, lecturers, ex-teachers, home executives, students, and matriculants have all found it relevant.

So exactly what is *Shari'ah* (or Islamic Law) and how does it differ from western law? Course co-ordinator Advocate Muhammad Vahed explains: "Western law is man-made law; it's changing all the time, depending on circumstances. Whereas Islamic Law is divine law and is applicable to all Muslims for all times, wherever they may be situated."

During the course students are equipped with knowledge on a

wide spectrum of Islamic legal issues in order to create a better understanding of the practicality of Islam in a secular state. Every module commences with an overview of western law followed by a detailed discussion of Islamic law. Contemporary issues such as the Amina Lawal *Zina* (adultery) case, the 'Khatif girl' rape case in Saudi Arabia, the cartoon cases involving the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), including the local Jacob Zuma cartoons in the context of freedom of speech, the Muslim Personal Law Bill, and the global financial turmoil are examined.

UKZN is the only tertiary institution in South Africa that offers this course, which has created a huge demand for it nationally. In 2008 the course was offered as block lectures at three new centres located in Ladysmith, Gauteng and Cape Town. The immediate result was a significant increase in enrolment – 40 more students joined the course outside the Greater Durban area.

The 2009 Certificate in Islamic Law graduation took place on 31 January at the Graduate School of Business on the Westville campus. Fifty four students graduated and 31 received certificates of attendance.

Mrs Munirah Osman (lecturer in the School of Law said: "In a time



(back) Advocate Muhammad Vahed, Course-co-ordinator and Executive: Regulatory and Compliance, Albaraka Bank announces the names of graduands.

(front) Dr Yacoob AK Vahed receives his Award for being the Overall Top Student 2008 from Professor Salman Nadvi, retired Professor of Islamic Studies and Professor Mohseen Ebrahim, Course-co-ordinator and Professor in the School of Religion and Theology.

when social injustices and challenges are facing many countries, this course is especially relevant." Future plans were also unveiled for the certificate course, such as developing it into a postgraduate diploma, and later on an LLM (Masters in Islamic Family Law/ Criminal Justice/ Islamic Banking/ Medical Jurisprudence).

Mr Shabir Chohan, CEO of Albaraka Bank (corporate sponsors of the certificate course) said that in the wake of the current global economic crisis, flaws in the way business was done in the past have surfaced. "Governments bailing out banks show them to be really just

treating the symptom and not the cause. Islam has the solution; based on risk-sharing, interest-free investment. This is evident from Islamic banking in several countries remaining largely unaffected." The reason for this is that Islam prohibits any form of speculation, whereas western banking and finance trade in debt and paper, which have no intrinsic value.

The Address by members of the Class of 2008 was particularly encouraging:

"The benefit of this course lies in its day-to-day practicality; it was fascinating to compare and contrast

South African or western and Islamic Law." (Dr Yacoob AK Vahed – Overall Top Student 2008).

"As a magistrate, I know about crime, theft of property... But it was for the first time in my life that I compared South African law with Islamic law. And it made me realise some aspects of South African law should change. (Ms Fathima Moola).

Separate graduation ceremonies took place in Cape Town and Gauteng on 7 and 8 February respectively.

- Article and picture: Supplied

Student protest

UKZN management has moved swiftly to address the problems that led to student protest on the Westville campus on 4 February. Students from other campuses joined the protest action to show their solidarity.

In a Memorandum handed over to management by the Students Representative Council, students raised concern over the:

- Lack of a proper transport system for students and staff on the Westville campus resulting from the ongoing Taxi Associations dispute. This problem has persisted for two years.

- Failure of the Makhabane Shopping Centre complex located at P-Block to provide adequately for students' needs.
- Lack of proper health services on campus. Students called for a 24-hour clinic service, including weekends. They also demanded that there should be emergency ambulances on all campuses.

At a meeting between SRC members and the Deputy Dean of Students, Mr Themba Khumalo on 4 February it was decided that:

- A tender process for the inter-campus shuttle service must be undertaken with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

participation of all relevant stakeholders.

- The Provincial Department of Transport will be requested to ensure final resolution of the taxi situation on campus.
- Durban Transport authorities will be asked to provide extra buses to service the campus and to look into the possibility of these buses stopping at the Westwood Mall bus stop.
- A Joint Task Team will be set up to look at the maximum utilisation of the Makhabane Complex and to ensure that it meets the needs of the students.

The meeting was informed that the University is in the process of securing the services of a medical doctor who will be on call to attend to medical emergencies and make necessary referrals to nearby hospitals.

It was also agreed that instead of students studying at the Westville campus having to travel to Howard College Library to access the books they need, the books will be brought to the Westville campus.

- Sabelo Nyuswa

Committed SRC leader

MEETING Westville SRC President Mr Ntuthuko Makhombo, one cannot help feeling that here is an up-and-coming politician.

His office in D-Block is very busy, with students flocking in with a variety of problems ranging from academic exclusion, to financial exclusion and a host of personal problems.

"This is my day-to-day life. I am a leader so I must always be available to help students. I was elected by them, so I am accountable to them. I want to be accessible at all times, that's why I don't have consultation times on the door," he said.

Raised in a family of politicians with his mother, especially, heavily involved in the struggle for liberation, Mr Makhombo said he had no choice but to take up where his family left off.

"I strongly believe that a lot is not right and as young people with a lot of energy we should continue to contribute positively towards the total emancipation of our people. I believe that the struggle is not over yet," he said.

The 21-year old Bcom Marketing student was born and raised in KwaMashu. He attended George Campbell High School. He is a member of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) and the South Africa Students Congress (SASCO) where he serves as Political Commissar.

He stresses the importance of the integration of different racial groups at the University.

"... Being separated won't assist us. We still today witness where different racial groups sit at a particular corner and other groups sit at the other. That must come to an end. As we move forward as a nation, issues of nation building should be prioritised on our national agenda," he said.

Mr Makhombo was at the forefront of the student protest on 4 February.

"The strike was a last resort. It was not part of what we wanted but we were seriously frustrated ... I think the bureaucracy that is within our University must be minimised. There are things that will always need immediate attention and when you are being sent to that person and that person for the same issue without any fruitful result you are bound to become frustrated," he said.

He was one of six students who were arrested and spent a night in custody. He said that being arrested for a good cause is not a problem for him.

"I strongly believe that we were not doing something criminal ... That experience taught me something about being in a struggle. The presence of the police made some of the students angry and the collision was inevitable. But we are happy as student leadership that management has promised to set deadlines for these issues to be resolved," he said.

He points out the need to integrate new students with those who have been on campus for some years. He is also concerned about the needs of students from rural areas.

Mr Makhombo highlighted the importance of an academic support system for students:

"Academic support is a cornerstone for students in any university. For example you have a huge residence that accommodates more than 800 students. In this residence, there is no study room and our library closes at 10 at night. Where do students study after 10? ... These are some of the things that we have raised with management especially the Dean of Students Mr Trevor Wills."

Despite his hectic schedule Mr Makhombo still finds time to relax. "I play soccer with my friends, especially indoor soccer and I also like interacting with friends who are not in politics. I like Facebook as well. I have recently stopped being on Mxit," he laughs.

- Sabelo Nyuswa



Westville SRC President Mr Ntuthuko Makhombo.

Picture: Sabelo Nyuswa



Students protest on the Westville campus.

Picture: Sabelo Nyuswa

Gurus of fun

THEY are not called 'entertainment gurus' for nothing.

Newly-appointed Student Village Campus Manager Mr Terrence Nkule Sibiyi (postgraduate student, Diploma in Supply Chain Management) and his associates at the Westville campus Mr Siyabonga Zulu (BCom Marketing), Mr Mlungisi Gumede (Geology) and Mr Zane Mafereka (BCom Accounting) are full of fun and very energetic.

They are the ones who know where the fun is happening for students.

Known as boys of stature on the Westville campus all are seasoned professionals in entertainment circles and organised a number of parties last year.

"We are here to make sure that students are able to relax after a difficult week. Most of our events happen on weekends and we make sure that students are not disrupted with their primary objective, which is to study," said Mr Mafereka.

Student Village is a hot student community and social networking site, which is available at aca-

demic institutions around South Africa.

On the site, you can meet other students from your campus, your residence, in your area or just others with your interests. You can also view what your friends are up to day-by-day, check out their pictures, and catch up on the latest on and off-campus news and events.

"It's a site where students can network with other students from other universities. Our day-to-day work includes promotions where students can be employed on a part time basis. We prioritize students from disadvantaged families so that they can get extra cash to sustain themselves on campus. So it's not about entertainment alone," said Mr Gumede.

The guys work closely with the Student Employment Office on the Westville campus.

"We created this relationship ... to help students realise their potential. The Office provides us with information on their clients' needs and our role is to get the students to do what the clients want. This has resulted in many students getting permanent employment, especially those who have finished their degrees," said Mr Sibiyi.

- Sabelo Nyuswa



Mr Zane Mafereka, Mr Mlungisi Gumede, Mr Siyabonga Zulu and Mr Terrence Sibiyi.

Picture: Sabelo Nyuswa

Mellon Merit Awards

Eighteen permanent young staff members and members of the designated groups from the Faculty of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences (HDSS) have been awarded the Mellon Merit Award for Younger Scholars in the Humanities. The award, worth R30 000 per year over four years; is given to young scholars in HDSS. The total amount available is US\$100 000 (R650 000).

The aim of the Award is to encourage and incentivise younger researchers who are at the beginning stages of their careers as research scholars. The purpose of the Award is to reward excellence in scholarship as demonstrated by such achievements as an above-average research output in any year, completion of an outstanding doctoral dissertation, or publication of a first book. The Award has a strong research capacity development aspect, which is why eligibility is also extended to younger members of staff who are still completing their PhD degrees.

Each application for an Award will be considered on its own merits and in relation to the younger scholar's stage of development. It is expected that academics will have established themselves as scholars within three years of having completed their doctoral degrees (this is in accordance with the University's policy on the award of



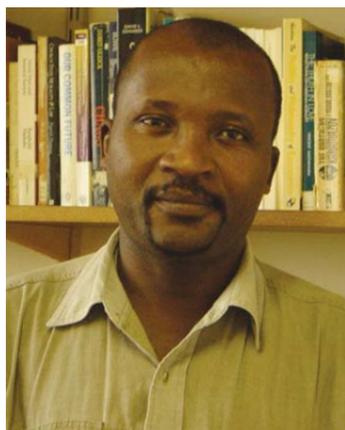
Dr Gugulethu Mazibuko.

postdoctoral fellowships and competitive research grants).

The Mellon Merit Award for Younger Scholars is precisely that: a merit award, and is given regardless of any other awards or bursaries that a younger scholar might have received. No award will be made more than once to any individual.

The intention is that the award money be used to develop the careers of the recipients as scholars, to help fund new research projects, to enable them to attend conferences and specialist training courses, and to contribute towards the costs of their national and international networking.

The funds may be used for any research related expenditure including personnel, running expenses, equipment, conference fees and short course, etc. The funds are



Dr Felix Murove.

spent entirely at the recipient's discretion within the structures of the University Finance and Buying Policy and comply with UKZN's financial policies and procedures.

The Award is made in accordance with University's staff and development and equity plans, strategic goals, research policies that encourage members from designated groups of young scholars in the humanities. To qualify for the Mellon Merit Award for Young Scholars in the Humanities, an applicant must be a permanent member of staff or on two year contract, under the age of 45 in the year of the award and completed the PhD degree.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Humanities, Professor Fikile Mazibuko said, "Younger academics, scholars, researchers, particularly those identified as members of desi-

gnated groups, continue to seize opportunities for postgraduate studies offered by the University, College and other international institutions of higher education. The College leadership, Deans and Deputy Deans (Postgraduate Studies) and senior academics provide mentorship and necessary support to staff pursuing postgraduate studies. The Mellon Merit Awards for Young scholars is one significant initiative to sustain the momentum and advance our goals on research and making UKZN an institution of choice for staff."

The visible number of staff acquiring Masters and Doctoral qualifications is evident during the graduation ceremonies and those who have invested their sabbatical leave in pursuing their postgraduate studies internationally. From 2006-2008 the College graduated 38 PhDs and 16 Masters at UKZN.

Professor Ruth Teer-Tomaselli, Acting Deputy Dean: Postgraduate is monitoring the awards and providing the necessary support infrastructure in HDSS; Professor Deevia Bhana, Deputy Dean Postgraduate & Research does the same in the Faculty of Education.

Professor Teer-Tomaselli pointed out that for many young academics the post-doctoral fellowship provides the bridge to help enter into the world of academia and to have uninterrupted space to write

and develop their ideas into a series of journal articles or even a complete book. She added that getting a PhD only opens doors but to gain prestige one has to get wide exposure through publications. The Merit Award provides that opportunity.

Recipients had this to say:

"I am very grateful and honoured to have been nominated. Without fail, I shall try my very best to fulfill the obligations bestowed upon me as clearly stated in this award," said Dr Felix Murove.

Dr Gugu Mazibuko who was thrilled to receive this golden opportunity said, "With this award I will be able to develop my career as a scholar and add value to the Humanities College and the University at large."

Dr Elke Steinmeyer said she feels very privileged to be one of recipients of the Award. "It gives one a reassuring feeling of recognition and encouragement from the University. It is a wonderful incentive for further research. The award will enable me to attend two international conferences overseas (in Berlin, Germany and Durham, UK) and to pursue my current research on the reception of ancient Greek and Roman drama in African literatures," she said.

- Normah Zondo

Alexander Forbes funds bursaries



Picture: Thembeke Dlungwane

Front (l-r) Mr Gangiah, Ms Latchia, Mr Jones and UKZN Chief Finance Officer Mr Hollie Clarkson. Back (l-r) Mr van Dyk, Mr Naciker and Mr Rudi Kimmie of the UKZN Foundation.

AN AMOUNT of R67 000 has been donated by Financial services provider Alexander Forbes UKZN for bursaries for previously disadvantaged students.

The donation was presented at a function at the UKZN Foundation on 12 February. Representing the company were Mr Reggie Gangiah, Mr Jeff Jones and Mr Selvan Naciker, while Ms Nicky Latchia from the UKZN Foundation accepted the cheque.

Executive Director of the Foundation Mr Bruno van Dyk said that the University's relationship with Alexander Forbes stretches back to the 1960s. He described the company as a "a loyal supporter of UKZN."

"It's great to put something back to the University and to nurture relationships," said Mr Gangiah. "A University is a special place in society... It is a microcosm of society."

The bursaries will be awarded to students, pursuing degrees in BSc Actuarial Science; BCom Risk & Assurance; and Business Administration.

- Thembeke Dlungwane

New Dean of Education

Professor Michael Samuel has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Education.

Professor Samuel began his tertiary education career as a lecturer in Curriculum Studies at the former University of Durban-Westville (UDW) in 1989.

He was later elected Deputy Dean at the Faculty of Education and went on to become the first



Professor Michael Samuel.

Director of the School of Education when it merged within the Faculty of Humanities.

Professor Samuel registered his Doctorate in Education at UDW, but drew on his involvement with the University of Sussex in England. The thesis, titled: "Words, Lives and Music: On becoming a teacher of English", was highly commended by examiners who praised its innovative CD format.

In 2003 he was invited to serve on a three-person Ministerial Committee on Teacher Education (MCTE) which was tasked with developing a National Framework for Teacher Education South Africa.

Professor Samuel serves on numerous advisory bodies including being a member of the Reference Group of the Council for Higher Education (South Africa) which set up the 2005-2007 review of all teacher education professional and academic programmes in South Africa. He has recently been appointed as the chairperson

of the Higher Education South Africa (HESA) Education Deans Forum.

He has delivered conference papers at international and national conferences, written several books and published in a variety of international and national journals

"The way forward is to harness the positive respect for the Faculty and draw on an increasing net of research partners, donors, students and departments of education," said Professor Samuels.

"It is a pleasure to lead an organisation with such a positive upturn of spirit and commitment to the enterprise Education. I draw on the effort of the previous leadership under Professor Renuka Vithal who steered the path for the Faculty during early stages of the merger. We have to maintain and exceed our reputation as a leading faculty in the country."

- Article and picture: Supplied

New Deputy Dean

THE new Deputy Dean: Continuing Education and Mixed Mode Delivery is Professor Volker Wedekind



Picture: Supplied

Professor Volker Wedekind.

Professor Wedekind graduated from the Howard College campus and the University of Manchester where he read for a PhD in Sociology.

"Education is a fascinating field, that brings together many disciplines and it allows you to connect the domains of research, theory and practice in ways that can make a real difference," he said.

Continuing Education & Mixed Mode Delivery aims to address and improve the quality of the 350 000 teachers and adult educators in the South African Education system.

"... While there are good quality new graduates coming into the system the large numbers in the system need development opportunities. UKZN has a long history of delivering programmes to these teachers for purposes of upgrading, retraining and ongoing development," said Professor Wedekind.

The programme attracts students from all over KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. To cater for these students who are full time teachers the Faculty has to devise ways of delivering programmes that combine contact and distance, provide support materials and tutors and in some cases on-line support. This is known as 'mixed-mode delivery'.

Almost 4 000 students in the Faculty are full-time teachers. They are funded by various bodies including the provincial government, the National Department of Education, SETAs, individual colleges and donors.

"This makes it very complex to manage and means that we need unusual support systems. Because we don't take teachers out of their classrooms, we teach these students over weekends, during holidays and in the evenings. People working in this sector never get a 'shut down' or even quiet time. Our programmes began on the 5 January this year. It is a challenge to ensure that academics working on these programmes get time to do their research and to recuperate," said Professor Wedekind.

Short courses and professional development activities are a key second strand to the portfolio.

Communication with students is a key challenge. The Faculty uses technology such as bulk sms to communicate with students. They work with Local Agents in the field who ensure the venues function and that tutors are there. A lot of time is spent travelling to delivery sites.

Finance is another major challenge. The normal funding model does not cater for this type of programme so the Faculty has to raise money for the programmes from external funders.

Professor Wedekind was appointed as Head of School prior to the merger, and then reappointed when the new Schools were established. "That was a demanding period establishing the new Faculty and School structures but I learnt a lot about managing people and resources and providing leadership and direction to the new School".

He has been actively involved in national and provincial policy development, including being appointed onto a ministerial committee, developing strategic plans for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education and sitting on the Umalusi Research Advisory Committee.

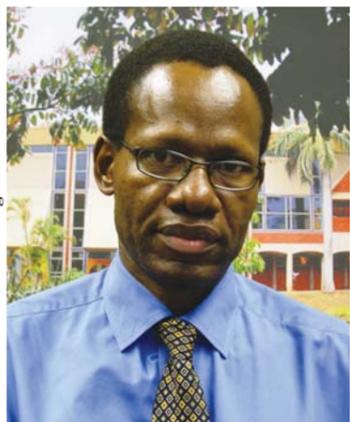
- Thembeka Dlungwane

Getting tough on crime

MR JABULANI Fihlela has been appointed Divisional Director for Risk Management Services (RMS).

RMS is one of the three divisions that fall under the new Physical Planning & Operations portfolio for which the Executive Director is Charles Poole. The other two divisions are Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and Campus Management Services (CMS).

Mr Fihlela is planning to implement new strategies to meet security challenges on campus. He believes that continuous co-operation by staff, students, visitors and contractors is the first essential for effective security at UKZN. "Without co-operation any measures that we put in place are useless ... RMS cannot succeed alone."



Mr Jabulani Fihlela.

He added that RMS has teams of dedicated, qualified and experienced staff who are committed to safeguarding stakeholders, their health, their belongings and the university's property from accidental, planned or deliberate losses.

"We will continue to assess security, health and safety risks (physical, chemical, biological and environmental) and come up with control measures to mitigate these risks. Our people need to keep abreast of the criminals' *modus operandi* and the timing of their criminal activities."

Contrary to popular perception, RMS is not just security. It also offers health and safety, parking and access control, and investigations, and has sections that support specialised information systems.

"Where required, we need to upgrade our people's skills to enable them to perform at their best. I would like to ask all our stakeholders to respect our staff when they go about performing their duties. We will appreciate constructive feedback that will assist us to provide better services," said Mr Fihlela.

Mr Fihlela joins UKZN from KPMG where he was a Senior

Manager in the Forensic division. He has considerable experience in general business management, Information Technology, Project Management, Performance Management, Fraud and Misconduct Investigations and Fraud Risk Management.

He holds a Hons BSc from the University of Zululand and an MA (Mathematics) from the University of California at Berkeley. He has worked in the private security industry as a director of operations and as an owner/manager of a CCTV monitoring company. Mr Fihlela says he is 'not new to higher education', having lectured in Applied Mathematics and Computing Methods earlier in his career.

The Emergency Control Room numbers for the different campuses are:

- Edgewood
031 260 3493
- Howard College
031 260 3777
- Medical School
031 260 3777
- Pietermaritzburg
033 260 5211
- Westville
031 260 7133

- Thembeka Dlungwane

PPS Scholarship

Microbiology student Ms Pervashni Padayachee, has been awarded the R7 500 runner-up award in the PPS Chairman's Scholarship.

Ms Padayachee, a 4th year student in the Science and Agriculture Faculty says she's delighted to receive the Award: "I intend to continue studying for my Masters Degree and doctorate, with research focusing on HIV/AIDS. Its one of the greatest challenges facing our country and I want to make a difference. I work very hard and the PPS Scholarship will go a long way to helping me overcome financial hurdles."

A young Dentist from the University of the Western Cape, 21-year

old Ms Imaan Roomaney was awarded the R30 000 scholarship while physiotherapy student from the University of Pretoria, 24-year old Ms Kirsten Gouws was also a runner-up.

It's the 11th year that PPS, the financial services company that provides investments, insurance and healthcare exclusively to graduate professionals, has made the award available.

"The standard of applicants for the PPS Scholarship was extremely high and I am delighted that, once again, our selection panel had such a tough short list from which to choose," said PPS Chairman, Dr David Presbury. "The final three candidates are all outstanding

students, high achievers with distinguished track records, who will go on to grace their professions."

Dr Presbury says the PPS Chairman's Scholarship and Bursary Programme underscores the company's commitment to the education of graduate professionals.

PPS recently granted 20 bursaries of R10 000 each, to students, based on financial need.

"What I find encouraging is the quality of young graduates that we see entering the market. That's good for us in the future, but also of great benefit to the nation served by the graduate professional community," says Dr Presbury.

The PPS Chairman's Scholarship is open to all students registered at South African universities for at least a 4th year of study. PPS will limit application to students of professions that would eventually become eligible for PPS membership, like medicine, law, dentistry, accountancy, engineering and so on.

Full details on the PPS Chairman's Scholarship and Bursary Awards are available at www.pps.co.za.

- Article and picture: Supplied



(l-r) Dr Presbury, scholarship runner-up, Ms Kirsten Gouws; scholarship winner, Ms Imaan Roomaney; Dr Sybil Seoka, PPS; scholarship runner-up, Ms Pervashni Padayachee; and Mr John Marsden, PPS.

NRF Y-rating

ASSOCIATE Professor in Sport Science, Dr Andrew McKune has received the NRF Y2 rating.

This is awarded to people "normally younger than 35 years of age, who have held the doctorate or equivalent qualification for less than five years at the time of application, and who are recognised as having the potential to establish themselves as researchers

within a five-year period after evaluation, based on their performance and productivity as researchers during their doctoral studies and/or early post-doctoral careers."

Dr McKune specializes in Exercise Physiology, Teach Exercise Physiology and Exercise Science. He is Co-ordinator of the coursework Masters Degree in Sport Science, Biokinetics and Exercise Science Streams.

His research interests include the effect of exercise on immune function and inflammatory responses in clinical and healthy populations, methods to prevent or reduce exercise induced skeletal muscle damage, and the use of the micro dialysis technique in exercise and sport science.

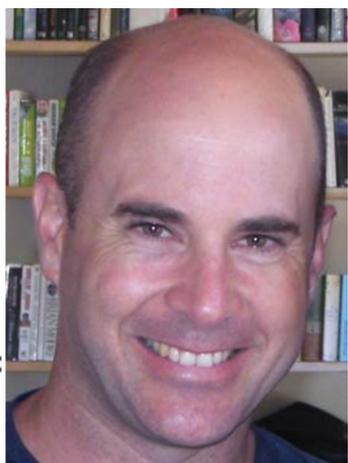
In 2004 – 2005 he received an NRF Thutuka Grants (Young Researchers). In 2006-2007 he was

awarded the Thomas W Rivers Distinguished Professor, East Carolina University, USA, Department of Exercise and Sport Science. In 2007 he was recognised as Junior Researcher of the Year at the Tshwane University of Technology. In 2008 he received the MRC Grant for Self Initiated Research.

"The rating has played an important role in motivating me to continue researching. The feedback that I received from the reviewers highlighted areas where I can improve. This will really help me move forward so that I am better placed to improve my rating in 2014," said Dr McKune.

Dr McKune has presented over 30 papers of which 16 have been published. He is the reviewer for the *South African Journal of Sports Medicine and Brain, Behaviour and Immunity*.

- Thembeke Dlungwane



Dr Andrew McKune.

Triangle Points named after Professor

MATHEMATICS Professor Michael David de Villiers was recently surprised to discover that two special points in a triangle have been named after him at WolframMathWorld and the Encyclopedia of Triangle Centers.



Professor Michael David de Villiers.

He discovered the concurrency of the lines at the special points since he first found them experimentally using Sketchpad (a computer program), but the creative part came in constructing a proof to explain why the result was true.

Professor de Villiers has been working in the area of plane Euclidean geometry, and geometry education for 30 years and sees this as some recognition for his work in the area. "Honestly, I'd completely forgotten about the result, but it was pleasing to receive some recognition and acknowledgment by way of having them named after me. On the other hand, they are not major important points in the triangle, and I have yet to find other interesting properties of these points," he said.

One of his passions is investigating the limited duality between 'sides' and 'angles', inscribed and circumscribed circles and other associated concepts in Euclidean Plane Geometry, as well as generalizing interesting results for triangles to other polygons. Professor de Villiers' research interest is mainly in the use of dynamic mathematical software (e.g. Sketchpad) in improving the teaching and learning

of mathematics at school and undergraduate level.

He has presented in over 55 National Mathematics Conferences and over 35 International Conferences and published in 20-30 different journals. In 2000 he was awarded a World Mathematics Year Gold Medal for contributions to the development and promotion of Mathematical Problem Solving in South Africa, awarded by the Association of Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) & the South African Mathematics Society (SAMS).

Professor de Villiers has served as Vice-Chair of SA Mathematics Olympiad Committee since 1997. He was Co-chair: International Commission for Mathematical Education (ICMI) – 19th Study on Proof and proving in Mathematics (1st study conference in May 2009).

- Thembeke Dlungwane

Funza Lushaka bursaries

THE Faculty of Education has received R30 000 000 worth of Funza Lushaka bursaries to be awarded to 682 Bachelor of Education students this year. The bursary programme is aimed at promoting teaching in public schools with a special interest in the priority areas that have been identified by the Department of Education.

In 2008, the Faculty received R13 560 000 which was allocated to 330 students. Since the launch of Funza Lushaka bursary in 2007, the funding has grown considerably. To date, the Faculty has received R50 760 000 in Funza Lushaka bursaries from the Department of Education.

Aside from academic ability, recipients have to be committed to a teaching career, which includes an interest in working with young people; enthusiasm for a professional career in teaching; readiness to face and surmount difficult challenges and personal integrity.

It is envisaged that this bursary scheme will play a major role in addressing the shortage of teachers and skills in the priority subjects and learning areas such as mathematics, science, technology, indigenous languages and the foundation phase.

- Normah Zondo

New scholarship

The School of Development Studies has welcomed the first beneficiary to take up a new PhD scholarship programme at UKZN. Mr Njabulo Nkomazana's anticipated topic is 'The Dynamics of combating HIV/AIDS in a country in economic and political crisis: a case study of the Midlands province (Zimbabwe)'.

The scholarships have been initiated to attract and train high level research scholars from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Funded by the Health Economics HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) at UKZN, these have been designed to counter the education opportunities provided by non-African universities. The programme objectives are as follows:

- To promote African Scholarship by attracting research oriented senior students trained

at SADC universities who, upon graduation, will form the core of a growing cadre of research leaders committed to remaining on the continent for several years in order to add to the body of social scientific knowledge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

- To train succeeding generations of social scientists (Economists, Sociologists, Social Anthropologists and Public Health Scientists) with the aim of providing a research base for alleviating the impact of HIV/AIDS and a means with which to build their capacity in meeting new health crises.
- To continue to increase the publications on HIV/AIDS in Africa by SADC scholars. Currently publications on the pandemic are dominated by South African authors. In addition, SADC authors are not

collaborating with one another. Co-authored publications are largely written with non-African scholars, a trend the scholarship programme hopes to reverse.

The programme is currently being run in three universities in South Africa by Professor Eleanor Preston-Whyte, who is being assisted by Ms Cailin Hedderwick. Professor Preston-Whyte has over 20 years experience in supervising postgraduate research students and is an Emeritus Professor of UKZN and a research professor in the School of Development Studies.

Startup funding was provided by Irish Aid, SIDA, the Royal Netherlands Embassy and UNAIDS. A rigorous selection process has led to the awarding of the scholarship to two beneficiaries thus far.

- Judith Shier



(l-r) Ms Cailin Hedderwick, Professor Eleanor Preston-Whyte, Professor Vishnu Padayachee, and Mr Njabulo Nkomazana.

Accolade for alumnus

UKZN alumnus, Mr Simon Grest is the joint winner of the Lionel Cooper Prize. He received this accolade, which recognises the best Masters in Mathematics from the University of London.

Mr Grest's selection as a Cecil Renaud Scholar while studying at UKZN in 2006 created the opportunity to pursue his Masters in the Mathematics of Cryptography and Communication at the Royal Holloway University of London in 2007-2008.

The accolade came his way after his professors identified him as an ideal recipient for the award.

Achieving an average of 94 percent for his course work and a dissertation titled: "Prolific Codes with the w-Identifiable Parent Property" which researched collusion-secure codes contributed to his success. His research explored codes that may be used to protect against the piracy of digital content.

Mr Grest who is currently a Graduate Analyst for Absa Capital's IT Division in Gauteng said: "I'm very proud and happy to have won the prize. I'm glad the work I put in was rewarded. I feel that this award is an indication that the education I received from UKZN was of an international standard."

Mr Grest said his year as a Cecil Renaud Scholar allowed him to interact with eminent academics and exposed him to state-of-the-art cryptography.

- Neesha Maharaj



Mr Simon Grest.

Top NRF rating

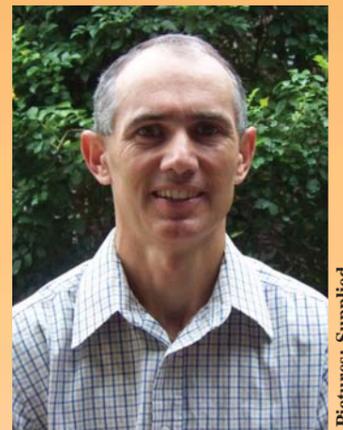
PROFESSORS Steve Johnson and Michael Henning, have been placed in the elite A category of the National Research Foundation (NRF) following the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.



Professor Steve Johnson.

The NRF rating process involves a rigorous evaluation by at least six reviewers or peers who scrutinise an applicant's last seven years of research. The impact of an applicant's work in their field and their standing as a researcher in the South African and international community are also considered. The A-rating is given only to researchers who are considered world leaders in their fields of expertise.

Pietermaritzburg-based Professors Johnson and Henning, whose A ratings are valid from 1 January this year to 31 December 2014, join fellow Faculty of Science and Agriculture A-rated researchers, Professor Pat Berjak and Professor Rob Gous.



Professor Michael Henning.

Professor Johnson of the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences currently holds the South African NRF Research Chair in Evolutionary Biology. His research focus is the pollination biology of plants which looks at interactions between plants and pollinating animals.

At UKZN he leads an internationally active group of researchers, comprising postgraduate and postdoctoral students, which is making an impact on the field globally. In Professor Johnson's view "it is very important in any field to work within a global context, to keep up to date with literature and to know the important questions and latest techniques in science".

Professor Henning, who prides himself on being a pure mathematician, is an expert in the field of graph theory. Professor Henning's favourite topic is domination theory in graphs and his current research focuses on total domination in graphs and transversals in hypergraphs.

Professor Henning has written 254 academic papers, sits on the editorial board of two prominent international scientific journals, acts as a regular referee for nine different journals and is a sought-after keynote speaker at international mathematics conferences. He was commended by the NRF for his "deep breadth in his collaborations" and "for introducing completely new techniques and results in a very accessible way".

- Vicky Crookes

Picture: Supplied

Picture: Supplied

Working for change

South African conservationist, Mr Andrew Muir, outclassed 1500 competitors from 127 countries to win one of five prestigious Rolex awards that “recognise pioneering projects that demonstrate innovative thought and contribute to the betterment of mankind”.

Mr Muir holds a Masters of Environment and Development Degree in Environmental Management from UKZN which he attained in 2000 through the Centre for Agriculture, Environment and Development. Supervised by Professor Rob Fincham, his dissertation focused on environmental awareness amongst South African parliamentarians. “My Env Dev Masters has definitely had a big impact on my work and career to date”, he said.



Mr Andrew Muir (left) with Umzi Wethu graduate, Mr Freddie Van Rayner, at the Kuzuko Game Reserve, where Mr Van Rayner is now employed as a ranger.

A firm believer in using nature as a tool for social change, Mr Muir was judged worthy of a Rolex Award for his pioneering Umzi Wethu programme that involves training and

securing jobs for Aids orphans in the ecotourism industry in the Eastern Cape. His prize money of \$100 000 (over R1 million) will go towards sustaining the programme.

Throughout his career, Mr Muir, who currently serves as Executive Director of the Wilderness Foundation South Africa (WFSA), has been involved in a number of conservation and social development initiatives. “Conservationists today need to be aware of the broader social context within which they operate. Gone are the days when we could simply put a fence around a protected area and ignore what was happening outside”, said Muir.

Conceptualised in 2004, Umzi Wethu which means ‘our home’ in isiXhosa currently comprises two separate academies: one that concentrates on vocational training in the hospitality industry and the other that trains game rangers. The programme targets youths affected but not necessarily infected by Aids

and by those from child-headed households. Formally recognised by the Department of Education, the programme boasts 60 graduates, eighty-five per cent of whom are employed in game reserves and hotels. With a goal to create 10 000 jobs over the next ten years, Umzi Wethu not only provides vocational training but also focuses on transferring life skills, wellness counseling and wilderness experience.

Mr Muir aspires to replicate the Umzi Wethu model throughout the country and would also like to see it adopted by other industries. “My hope is that the Rolex Award will be the catalyst for rolling out this programme more widely, to benefit the millions of orphans living in Southern Africa,” he said.

- Vicky Crookes

HIV incidence unchanged in rural Hlabisa

A STUDY conducted by Dr Till Bärnighausen, senior epidemiologist at The Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies and Associate Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, has found that the HIV incidence in the Hlabisa sub-district, Umkhanyakude remains high. The study is based on data from the Africa Centre HIV surveillance which once per year asks all adults who are residents in the Africa Centre Demographic Surveillance Area for informed consent to participate in population-based HIV testing.

Over a five year period, from 2003 through 2008, 770 seroconversions (converting from HIV negative to HIV positive status) occurred among 9,614 individuals and 23,136 person-years at risk. The overall HIV incidence was 3.3 per 100 person-years. The high HIV incidence occurred despite a range of intervention programmes

offered in the area such as those offered by the non-governmental organization LoveLife as well as Star For Life, a school-based programme in the district, and free voluntary counselling and testing in public-sector primary care clinics. UKZN’s Africa Centre also, as a service with its HIV surveillance, offers voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) in the homesteads of the participants, should they wish.

Dr Bärnighausen reported that 76 percent of the observed 770 seroconverters were women; 64 percent lived in rural areas and 11 percent were migrants. 80 percent of seroconversions occurred in people under the age of 30. The high rate of seroconversions in young people indicated a need to reach youth in HIV prevention. While a large proportion of the recent seroconverters under the age of 25 was still in school (>40

percent), >40 percent did not attend school.

Fifty one percent of seroconverters reported having attended a voluntary counselling and testing service at least once before subsequently seroconverting. The majority of seroconverters who attended VCT used the testing services in public-sector primary care clinics. While this observation does not allow any judgement of whether or not VCT is effective in preventing HIV acquisition, it does suggest that VCT coverage and effectiveness needs to increase in order to reduce the current high level of HIV incidence in the community.

Fifty seven percent of seroconverters lived in a homestead which included at least one other HIV-positive member and 12 percent lived in homestead with one other member who had seroconverted in the past five years. Statistics also

indicated that 32 percent of seroconverters were not aware of Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART). 57 percent of those seroconverters who were aware of ART knew where to obtain treatment, and 32 percent knew somebody personally who was taking ART.

The recommendations of the study are to intensify efforts to prevent HIV infection. While school based interventions would be promising, because they would potentially reach large proportions of seroconverters, they should include a component for out-of-school youth as well. Prevention interventions should reach both rural and urban populations as well as migrants. Finally, service delivery and reach of Voluntary Counselling and Testing needs to expand. The data further suggest that two types of intervention approaches could hold promise, that is, family-based prevention methods as well as the inte-

gration of Anti-Retroviral therapy (ART) and HIV prevention.

The work at the Africa Centre is possible through the excellent working relationship with Traditional Councillors and the community in the area. Ongoing feedback sessions are held between researchers and traditional councillors and the community, for instance through regular roadshows organised by The Africa Centre.

Dr Bärnighausen stated: “We do not believe that intervention methods are not having a profound effect on HIV prevalence in the area, however these methods need to be strengthened and adapted to the current status quo.”

Dr Till Bärnighausen may be contacted on 035-5507617 or via e-mail, tbarnighausen@africacentre.co.za

- MaryAnn Francis

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL MARCH 2009 : JAZZ PROGRAMME

4 March **BURTON NAIDOO**
UNDERCOVER featuring Burton (piano) Thabani Gapara & Martin Sigamoney (saxes) Lenski Alfred (bass) Bruce Baker (drums) & Vishen Kemraj (tabla)

11 March **BABU** featuring Kesivan Naidoo (drums) Reza Khota (guitar) Shane Cooper (bass) & Ronan Skillen (tabla)

18 March **S K O K I A N A** featuring Sazi Dlamini (guitar) Stembiso Ntuli (sax) Njeza Dlamini (bass) & Paki Peloeole (drums)

25 March **SWEET CONCEPT** featuring Thabani Gapara (alto sax) Siyanda Zulu (trumpet) Siya Mthethwa (keyboard) Bheka Mthethwa (bass) and Sbu Zondi (drums)

Admission:
R20 (students R10)

Time:
17h30 – 19h00

Cash Bar:

Tel:
031 260 3385

NB: Programme subject to change.

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AIDS HELPLINE
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