

A good start to 2008

UKZN looks set for a good start in the New Year as salary negotiations for 2008 have already been concluded. Unions and Management signed a Memorandum of Collective Agreement on 13 November 2007.

Ms Reena Budree Chair of the Joint Bargaining Forum (JBF), points out that right from the outset the parties set themselves a challenge to conclude the negotiations in a minimum number of sittings. Not only was this achieved but the negotiations were characterised by collegiality and co-operation.

Ms Budree congratulated all participants in the process, pointing out that the JBF had developed a common understanding that the salary increases should be realistic but should also not exceed the limits of financial sustainability. She said that the eventual agreement was a reasonable if not generous settlement considering that for most other Higher Edu-

cation Institutions aiming to settle around the 7% mark, their staff were not also privy to an automatic notch. The 'automatic' notch costs UKZN about R20 million each year. She also mentioned that comparative market and sectoral data had influenced the negotiations. UKZN salaries at almost all levels compare very favourably with those in other Higher Education Institutions and even the wider market.

Mr Khetha Mabaso, Chairperson of the University of KwaZulu-Natal Staff Union (UKSU) commented that negotiations went very well, adding that he is looking to improve on this in the future.

COMSA team leader at the negotiations Mr Teddy Naidoo said COMSA would have preferred a settlement for all staff, including those on top of the scale. "We did however, agree on two conditions to be fast tracked, namely harmonisation and the remuneration strategy review," said Mr Naidoo. Generally he feels that the salary settlement was a fair deal.



Striking an early salary deal are from left: Mr Siphosibiya (NEHAWU), Mr Nazim Gani (UKSU-PMB), Dr Chris Wilson (Director - Human Resource Development), Mr Teddy Naidoo (COMSA), Mr Nelson Munsami (COMSA) and Mr Tony Bruton (NTESU).

Picture: Supplied

NEHAWU leader at the JBF Mr Siphosibiya said the salary negotiations went well and it was impressive to reach settlement in a record time. He added that it took only two meetings and common ground was found. He believes the content of the agreement reached is reasonable. He said the most important thing was that all parties

in the negotiations were willing and well prepared.

Mr Tony Bruton, Team Leader, NTESU at the JBF said his union welcomes the early settlement of salary negotiations for 2008. He pointed out that the settlement is without the untidy custom of back-pay which has been characteristic

of recent years. "The settlement allows staff to plan their new year knowing what is coming to them. We are satisfied that the settlement is a reasonable one given prevailing conditions and comparative salary data."

- Bhekani Dlamini

Summa Cum Laude doctors



Dr Izanne Roos and Dr Bhiskar Reddy.

THE Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine has for the first time in its history produced two *Summa Cum Laude* passes with both graduates being the top of their class. Congratulations to Dr Izanne Roos and Dr Bhiskar Reddy who both attained an average of 82% over the five years of study. They are now looking forward to their internships and the practical experience of working on a daily basis in a provincial hospital.

Dr Roos' dad is a paediatrician and she grew up watching him work very hard and often spending a great deal of time away from home.

However, this experience did not discourage her from pursuing a medical career. Her future plans are to successfully complete her internship at King Edward VIII Hospital and then to specialise in the medical field.

Dr Reddy attributes his choice of a medical career to his mum and is thankful to her for encouraging him in this path. He is happy that he will serve his internship in his home town of Durban. Dr Reddy enjoys playing golf and soccer and is looking forward to having more time for these sports during his internship at Addington Hospital next year.

Dr Roos and Dr Reddy are the new generation of medical doctors that the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine has successfully produced. In his yearbook message, Dr Reddy summed up the hopes and dreams of both himself and Dr Roos as a couple, who have been together since their first year at Medical School by saying, "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

- MaryAnn Francis

Inside

2 Launch of HIV-911 Directories

3 UKZN scoops Excellence Awards

6 UKZN achievers

8 Sport Corner

Launch of HIV-911 Directory

SERIES 1, 2007/2008 of the HIV-911 hard copy Directory of HIV-related Support Services was launched on 29 November. This is a staggered series of provincial directories that will see the release and dissemination of comprehensive directories of services for all provinces within the next year. The provincial directories for KwaZulu-Natal and the Northern Cape were launched at the event.

The HIV-911 Programme is run by a dedicated group of staff and students associated with the Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking (HIVAN) at UKZN. It provides members of the public with information about HIV/AIDS organisations, service providers and their support services throughout South Africa. HIV-911 was recently awarded first prize in the Community Development Category at the Unitech Excellence Awards.

In her welcome, Ms Debbie Heustice, Director of the HIV-911 Programme and Director of Ceremonies at the event, said that this was more than just a launch of a directory, "HIV-911 Programme is going to be a tool that will fill the current gap in information about what HIV-related services are available and where they are located in the country. In so doing, this will make HIV-related services more accessible for the South African population." She said that a lot of market research had gone into the development of HIV-911 Programme and the realisation of a service that will enhance the capacity of the AIDS Service Community to support the needs of their clients and also facilitate networking connections between like-minded organisations.

Each provincial directory provides detailed information about the different HIV services available in South Africa. Information for each province has been divided into district municipalities, and then further subdivided into local municipalities. Service providers and the general public will also have the opportunity of searching HIV-911 online at www.hiv911.org.za

There are approximately 1 900 organisations in the KZN directory and 300 in the Northern Cape directory. Further details on release dates for each province can be obtained by calling 0860 HIV 911. Orders can also be placed with the Data Collection Centre or online at www.hiv911.org.za

Dr Shaidah Asmall, Programme Director, Higher Education HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS), who spoke at the launch, said one in every 10 people between the ages of 16-24 is HIV positive. She posed a very important question to the audience, "Who is going to be responsible for the future economy of South Africa?" This is also the age group of most students and therefore the target community for the Higher Education Sector. HEAIDS is working actively with all tertiary institutions to bolster HIV-related efforts on all campuses that work to change high risk behaviours.

Dr Asmall announced that HEAIDS Programme has given UKZN R3 million as a contribution towards its AIDS Programme on all campuses. These funds would be used, amongst other things, to ensure that student and staff can access treatment on campus and not have to travel long distances and wait in long queues to access support. The HEAIDS Programme is currently finalising an agreement with HIVAN in which HIV-911 will provide referral information to the Higher Education Sector. This is particularly important as it will allow infected and affected students to continue to receive good care and support when they return home from their studies during holiday times.

Dr Fikile Ndlovu, General Manager, Chief Directorate: HIV/AIDS, in the Office of the Premier, KwaZulu-Natal, addressed the audience on behalf of the Premier. Dr Ndlovu, a former UKZN student, expressed her excitement and pride at the work that has been achieved by her *alma mater* through HIV-911 Programme.

- Thembeke Nyaba

Medical School Alumni Excel

UKZN medical school graduates Dr Carol Hlela and Dr Bonga Chiliza, were recently honoured as the first two recipients of the Hamilton Naki Scholarship.

Kamini Padayachee of *The Mercury* writes:

"Two doctors, both raised in Durban townships, have become the first recipients of the Hamilton Naki scholarship which was launched yesterday to mark the 40th anniversary of the world's first heart transplant.

The award sponsored by the Netcare group, aims to honour people who have the capacity to make a difference to academic healthcare. It is named after Hamilton Naki a former gardener who assisted Dr Chris Barnard in his surgical research and who was a key member of the team that carried out the world's first successful heart transplant at Groot Schuur Hospital.

Formerly of Kwa-Mashu, Dr Carol Hlela, 34, a Dermatologist, said she was delighted to receive the award. 'It is a real honour, and I feel this award is not only for me, but for



Dr Bonga Chiliza.

the people of Kwa-Mashu as well. I want to send a message of hope to people in the townships that anyone can achieve as I have done. All you need is to be focused, and hang on to your dreams.' Hlela is based at Oxford University in London and plans to use the money from the award to complete a PhD in immunology at the university.

The other recipient, Dr Bonga Chiliza said it felt good to be recognised for his work. 'This is a prestigious award and many people would have been nominated for it, so I am quite honoured. It is nice to know that I am being recognised for the work that I am doing because I am one of the few black



Dr Carol Hlela.

Psychiatrists in the country involved in research.'

Chiliza is based at the University of Stellenbosch where he is doing research on first episode schizophrenia for his doctorate. The money he received from the scholarship will fund his research.

Professor Bongani Mayosi, chief physician at Groot Schuur Hospital, said the scholarship was important because ordinary people, like Naki, needed to be recognised for their association with great achievements...."

The Mercury, Tuesday December 4, 2007



Send your news to news@ukzn.ac.za

Year ends on a good note

2007 ends on an extremely positive note for UKZN. Next year's salary increases and tuition fee increases have been agreed upon following extensive consultative processes with staff unions and students. Staff and students are able to plan for the New Year with a greater degree of certainty knowing what financial implications confront them.

A further positive development was the good pass rate at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine where our exceptional performers with a bright future were Dr Bhiskar Reddy and Dr Izanne Roos. Our congratulations go to them and to all the new doctors. Not to be outdone, Medical School alumni Dr Bonga Chiliza and Dr Carlo Hlela became the first recipients of the Netcare-sponsored Hamilton Naki Scholarships which will be used to further their research at Oxford and Stellenbosch respectively.

UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba delivered the keynote address at a Health Conference in London and once again UKZN excelled at the Unitech Awards. These are some of the stories covered in this issue reflecting the positive trajectory of UKZN.

I take this opportunity to thank the University community for their contributions to *ukzndaba* during the course of 2007. May you and your families have a blessed, peaceful and prosperous year in 2008.

Professor Dasarath Chetty
Pro-Vice-Chancellor: Corporate Relations

The ukzndaba team



Dasarath Chetty



Deanne Collins



Bhekani Dlamini



Fikisile Mabaso



Vidhya Singh

Augmentative and Alternative Communication

“Please come back next year”; “our learners have really benefited from this”; and “it has been fantastic, we have really had an amazing response from all the learners. It has been very exciting for me to see the different responses from all the age groups and they love the activities!” These are just some of the responses from educators and school principals to the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) awareness events that were held at mainstream and some LSEN schools during the first ever International Awareness Month initiated through the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. They will be pleased to know that it is anticipated that the awareness month will become an annual event.

The first event was held on 1 October at the NPS school in Durban and as co-ordinator of the events in South Africa I would like to thank the 3rd year Speech-Language Pathology students who enthusiastically co-ordinated this and other events at several schools in Durban. The University of KwaZulu-Natal Speech-Language Pathology Department can be proud of their 3rd year students. The students do a module on AAC in their third year of study before applying this clinically in their fourth and final year of study.

AAC is just what the name says: Augmenting communication where a person’s existing communication is not functional for the communication demands placed on them; or an alternative means of communication where children or adults have developmental or



UKZN Speech-Language Pathology students, wearing their AAC awareness T-shirts with some of the learners from Pitlochry school.

acquired conditions which result in little or no functional speech. Examples of conditions include cerebral palsy, autism, and stroke.

In preparation for the awareness events suitable activities and a ten minute DVD were prepared. Interface would like to extend huge thanks to Dane Maxwell of Dane Maxwell Productions, a talented videographer who filmed and edited the DVD and also sponsored the production costs. The DVD featured Sam Byrne and Matthew Jonck, both young learners from KZN who use AAC, Dan Ngcobo, a young adult who uses AAC as well as a short interview with Ms Felicity Jonck, chairperson of Interface KZN. Sam was filmed in his classroom at Escombe Primary School and we thank Duncan Buckthorpe, the Principal of Escombe Primary School, Mrs Peel, Sam’s teacher, all of his classmates in addition to his facilitator Jackie MacGregor for their

co-operation in filming the DVD. Having watched the intent concentration of learners as they watched the DVD and listened to Dan recounting his school experiences, I am convinced that the DVD really has made a significant impact. Packs of materials to support the activities were prepared and distributed to the volunteers as well as hundreds of laminated colourful bookmarks were sold as a memento of the occasion and to raise funds for Interface. Mr Dan Ngcobo spent long hours preparing speeches for learners at schools and was not phased whether he was ‘speaking’ to an entire school or a smaller group of learners. Dan has a lovely sense of humour and his presentations were very powerful.

Ten activities were designed to give learners a taste of using AAC and it has been fun to see the enthusiasm with which learners at mainstream schools have completed unfinished sentences using

alphabet boards, learnt to finger-spell their own names, learnt the gestures for selected vocabulary for family and other topics, signed and vocalised with enthusiasm during a Noisy Story, used a picture board to “share news” and even designed picture symbols! Materials were also included for additional activities including interactive games a colour cut and paste activity using picture symbols to writing songs using the alphabet board with poems by a young augmented communicator as motivation.

Elaine Byrne, a committee member of Interface KZN used the activities and a story from “Just the Same on the Inside” to raise awareness about Cerebral Palsy and AAC with the Sunday school children at Southside Church on the Bluff. Caroline Payton an educator at Oakhill School completed activities with classes from Grade 0 to Grade 11 in between her full time teaching commitments at the school! Mrs

Mbatha of the Esididini Primary School in Madadeni involved all the learners at her school as well as principals from neighbouring schools and District Managers of the Education Department in the event she organised. The event at the school was described as wonderful and included the use of miming and manual signs from South African Sign Language.

Not all the events took place at schools – Ansie Nortje of Vryheid gave a presentation to a group of educators in Northern KZN who are completing modules on Inclusive education and special needs. Talks were also given at Service Clubs and the CAAC hosted an Open Day.

In South Africa the slogan “Not being able to talk does not mean that I have nothing to say,” has been adopted for the awareness campaign as we felt that the suggestion “Finally, people are listening” was not really applicable to South Africa where there is still so little awareness of AAC amongst the general public. These awareness events have at least changed that for the learners who have taken part and may this initiative grow year by year.

Thanks are also extended to Ms Saira Karrim, a lecturer in the Discipline of Speech-Language Pathology at UKZN, Bev Garner of the KZN Education Department, Sue and Ruth of Pathways Polokwane, Enid Moolman and Ilze Pansegrouw of Pretoria and Sunette Wessels of Mseleni for their involvement in the campaign.

- Margi Lilienfeld

UKZN scoops Unitech Awards

UKZN received six Excellence Awards at the Unitech 2007 Congress held in Durban from 14-16 November. The Congress was organised and hosted by the University for the second year in a row.

Development Brief, the magazine aimed at donors, and HIV-911, the helpline set up by the Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking (HIVAN), were awarded first prize in their categories. The University’s alumni publication, *UKZNTOUCH; Growing a Nursing School*, which commemorates the School of Nursing’s 50th anniversary; the electronic newsletter *UKZN Online*; and the UKZN website were runners-up in their categories.

Unitech is the association of marketing, communications and public relations practitioners at South African Higher Education Institutions and Further Education and Training (FET) Colleges. The theme for this year’s Congress, which brought together 120 delegates from 25 institutions, was “Changing Lanes: Global Best Practices in Marketing, Communications and Advancement.” The Excellence Awards are adjudicated by a panel of independent judges representing the publishing, printing and electronic media.

- Indu Moodley



UKZN’s Corporate Relations staff members at the UNITECH Awards Banquet.

Picture: Kevin Joseph

From UKZN to a White House visit

Dr David Bransby, alumnus and former University of KwaZulu-Natal lecturer, has progressed from humble beginnings on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal to the White House – a journey for which he gives UKZN a great deal of credit.

Raised on a small dairy farm in Umtentweni, Dr Bransby completed his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree on the Pietermaritzburg campus in 1972 and his PhD in 1983. In between, he obtained a Masters degree in Agronomy from the University of Missouri and a Postgraduate Diploma in Market Research and Advertising from UNISA. In 1975 he joined the University staff, serving as a lecturer and senior lecturer in Grassland Science for 12 years.

“The time I spent at UKZN as both a student and member of the academic staff had a major impact on me. I would not have called my father a racist, but he definitely had some prejudices that inevitably rubbed off on his children. Within

weeks of arriving at the Pietermaritzburg campus all those perceptions were changed, and I was made very aware of just how evil apartheid was. This led to my participation, as both a student and lecturer, in public demonstrations against apartheid”, recalls Dr Bransby.

On the academic front, Dr Bransby considers himself extremely fortunate to have worked under the late Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter De V Booyesen. He regards him as “an exceptional individual who was gifted at opening the minds of young people.” Throughout his career, Dr Bransby has lived by Professor Booyesen’s advice “to be generators, not batteries”. He encouraged young graduates to “go out and generate new ideas, new concepts and new technologies, without the need to be continually recharged.”

By 1987, having spent three to six weeks per year in the army over a 15 year period, Dr Bransby decided he no longer wanted to involuntarily support apartheid. This

promoted him to emigrate to the United States where he accepted an academic position at Auburn University in Alabama. His main task was to conduct research and deliver lectures on livestock production on pastures. However, on his arrival the Dean informed him that the University had received a grant from the United States Department of Energy to evaluate grasses and legumes as sources of energy. Unfortunately the professors who had obtained this grant had left the University and therefore, Dr Bransby was asked to assume responsibility for this work.

Even though he was hesitant to accept this assignment with no prior experience, Dr Bransby immediately set to work on this new emerging field. He soon realised that bioenergy (energy production from plant material such as grasses, crop residues and wood) would become more important than the pasture and livestock work with which he had originally been tasked. “It clearly offered potential solutions to multiple problems, including the finite nature of fossil

fuels, national and global energy security, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and the associated risk of global climate change.” Dr Bransby’s work included research on perennial crops with an emphasis on an indigenous perennial species known as switchgrass. He also focused on the conversion technologies necessary to convert the plant material to useful sources of energy.

It was not long before Dr Bransby’s research gained widespread recognition, attracting the attention of Alabama political representatives in Washington. United States Senator Jeff Sessions was particularly interested and even assisted by funding some of the research. He subsequently contacted Dr Bransby with several questions about his switchgrass research and said that it would be passed on to the White House for possible use in the President’s State of the Union Address.

Dr Bransby watched President Bush’s State of the Union broadcast with intense interest. He was pleasantly surprised by some of his statements in which he claimed that “America is addicted to oil.” Furthermore, he extolled the virtues of bioenergy and the need to pay more attention to developing renewable energy from materials such as wood chips, switchgrass and corn stalks. “This was the first clear sign that bioenergy was supported by both the Republicans and Democrats which has since engendered substantial confidence in private sector investment.”

The following day Dr Bransby was inundated by phone calls from the press, curious to find out more about this ‘switchgrass’ that the President had mentioned in his address. They had come up with Dr Bransby’s name after running a search for it on Google. As a result, he was interviewed on National Public Radio and gained significant

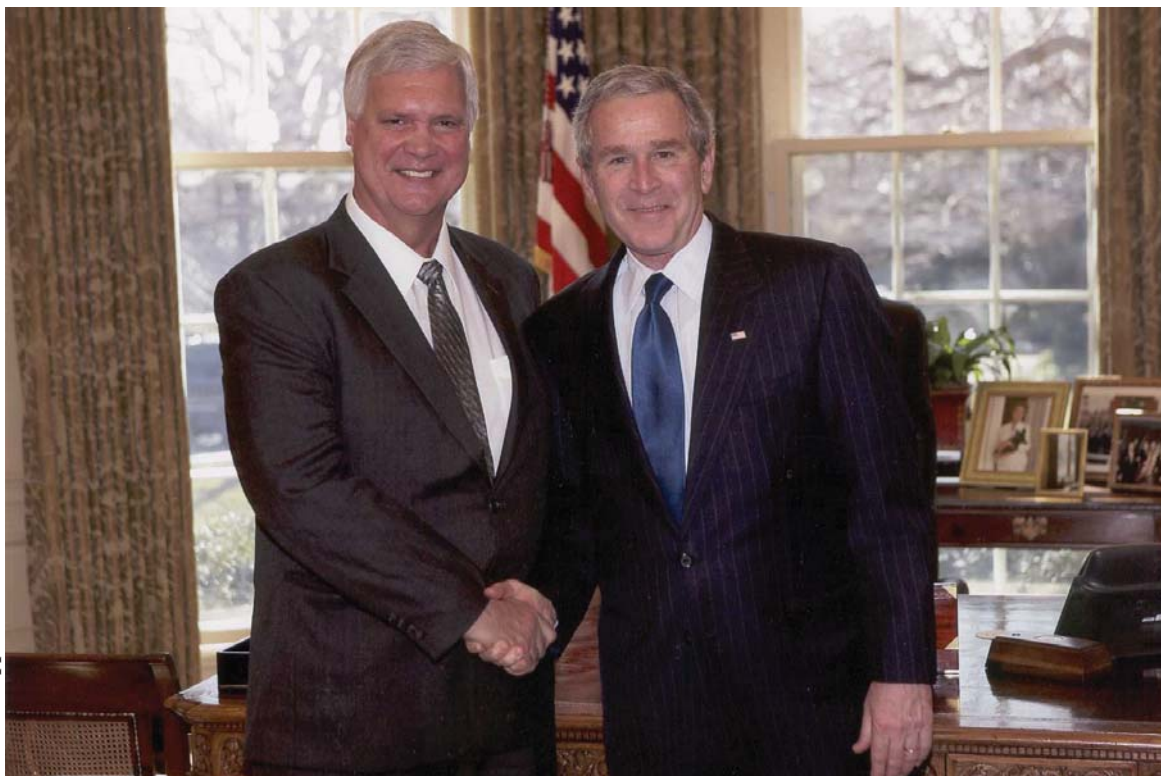
recognition as an expert on bioenergy.

Later in the year, Dr Bransby was contacted by the White House with a request to brief President Bush on cellulosic biofuels during one of his political visits to Alabama. “Even though I was very confident about discussing this topic with the President, I was a little on edge about meeting him. However, he turned out to be easy to talk to”, said Dr Bransby. The President was interested to learn that Sasol in South Africa has been producing energy from coal for decades and that several companies in the United States were in the process of adapting this technology.

In his 2007 State of the Union Address, President Bush announced the 20 in 10 plan – an initiative to reduce the use of petrol in the United States by 20 percent in ten years. As a result of questions surrounding the feasibility of this plan, Dr Bransby, along with other scientists and experts, was invited to the White House to advise the President. Nine people, including three immigrants – two of whom were from South Africa – met with the President for 45 minutes in the Roosevelt Room. There was general consensus that with concerted effort, the 20 in 10 plan was an achievable one for the country. The President then entertained the group in the Oval Office, after which they accompanied him to the front of the White House for a brief press conference.

“After two decades of research in the field of biofuels, recognition at this level has been extremely rewarding,” said Dr Bransby. He is currently working closely with two private companies that are involved in building commercial plants with the aim of producing petrol and diesel from biomass at less than a dollar per gallon.

- Vicky Crookes



Picture: Supplied

Dr David Bransby with US President George Bush.

Physics links strengthened

THE School of Physics has signed an agreement with the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory (HMO). The Observatory will fund the full cost of a joint academic appointment in the School of Physics at the Westville campus.

The primary reason for this form of support is to develop and support Space Physics Research at UKZN. Professor Peter Sutcliffe represented the HMO, a National Research Foundation (NRF) facility located in Hermanus, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

Professor Sutcliffe is also Honorary Associate Professor of UKZN Physics, further strengthening the Space Physics research link between the HMO and Physics at UKZN. He signed the formal collaboration agreement with Professors Jane Meyerowitz, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, and Professor Pete Zacharias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science.

Discussing the activities of the formal collaboration agreement, Professor Sutcliffe said the HMO is not a teaching institute but has resources and facilities to support research, in particular.

“We hope this relationship benefits UKZN Physics and the HMO and I wish to see more postgraduate students doing research with us. We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship,” said Professor Sutcliffe. He added that there would be exciting space physics research projects and students would be offered bursaries to attract them to this field.

- Bhekani Dlamini

Medicine graduates of 2007



Picture: MaryAnn Francis

Doctors with a "Licence to cure".

facing our communities today, and to research and develop innovative medicines to treat and prevent diseases and thus improve the quality of life for a sustainable and productive society."

- MaryAnn Francis

On 30 November at 18h30, the examination results of the final year class were released at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine. An anxious crowd of families, colleagues and members of the business community gathered to lend support to the 177 students.

After five years of sacrifice and hard work, 148 students successfully completed their degree and earned their "Licence to Cure," said Mr Tumelo Moyaba (Final Year Class Representative). The improved pass rate is a huge milestone in the history of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine and all accolades go to the students, management and staff who worked relentlessly towards this phenomenal achievement.

Of the 29 students that were not successful, it is important to note that many of these students have only one or two modules to repeat in 2008. Professor Willem Sturm, Dean of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, attributes the excellent pass rate to the strides Departments have been making in teaching, learning and the development of their students. The rich syllabus is taught at various provincial hospitals and the students are exposed to both the urban and rural health care sectors during the five years of their study. This holistic approach, combined with excellent mentoring from the academic staff has given rise to a new generation of medical professionals.

Professor Sturm said, "The spotlight is on this new generation of doctors who have the potential in the future to develop new advances in medical care for the treatment and prevention of life-threatening and debilitating illnesses. It is now up to them to bring forth healthcare solutions to meet the challenges

Intellectual Property Conference

THE Law Faculty in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry hosted a Southern African Regional Conference on Intellectual Property (IP) Enforcement from 20-22 November.

Senior government officials from South Africa and other Southern African countries, academics, lawyers, law enforcement agencies involved in IP enforcement, IP experts from different intellectual property rights organisations as well as some FIFA delegates (who were in Durban for the preliminary 2010 World Cup draw) attended.

The theme for the second day of the conference was "Towards integrated regional IP enforcement: 2010 and beyond". On the third day the participants examined a number of substantive legal issues around

the upcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™, and a number of eminent IP and sports law practitioners contributed to the debates.

Academics of the Law Faculty mooted the initiative in recognition of the fact that intellectual property rights in the international entertainment industries have in recent years faced huge challenges in respect of enforcement (due to eg. technological advances, internet piracy and large scale counterfeiting of goods).

Mr Andre Louw, an academic at the Law Faculty, was one of the organisers who made the event possible (with fellow IP specialist Professor Tanya Woker, and Professors Michael Cowling and Managay Reddi – respectively

Dean of the Law Faculty and Deputy-Dean, Howard College Campus).

"We (UKZN and the DTI) realised the importance of providing a forum for leading practitioners, lawyers and academics as well as government representatives to debate issues regarding such challenges," he said. He added that the conference was seen to be especially imperative in the light of South Africa hosting the world's biggest and richest sporting event in 2010.

Major role players dealing with enforcement of IP rights spoke at the conference, focusing specifically on implementing stringent enforcement measures and policies when dealing with counterfeit goods, eg. CDs, clothing and DVDs.

Professor Ian Blackshaw, international sports lawyer and member of the international Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), presented the keynote address on the relevance of intellectual property rights in sports.

"Delegates all found the event to be of value and we hope that this conference will lead the way to similar events in the next couple of years, to ensure that the necessary foundation is in place in 2010 for our law to deal with issues that may arise around such a huge event as the FIFA World Cup" said Mr Louw.

- Sejal Desai

Engineering Awards banquet

RECOGNITION of Excellence was the order of the day at the Faculty of Engineering's Awards banquet held at the Royal Hotel on 23 November. Leading engineering companies, researchers, University staff and top achieving students attended the event which is an annual highlight on the Faculty's calendar of events.

Guest speaker at the banquet was Professor Timothy Simalenga, Director of the Institute of Agricultural Engineering. Professor Simalenga, who has a wealth of experience in research, technology development, training, academia, economic and rural development and community outreach delivered a light-hearted speech that appealed to the diverse audience.

The banquet provided the perfect opportunity for the Faculty to honor and recognise its industry partners. Three classes of awards, based on the value of companies' contributions, were presented at the event: Platinum – over R1 million; Gold – R500 000 to R1 million; and Silver – R250 000 to R500 000. The Water Research Commission, the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP), Eskom, Sasol and Telkom all received platinum awards. Most of this sponsorship is for student and/or research funding with contributions from several companies exceeding R5 million annually.

The Faculty also paid tribute to those internally who achieved excellently in 2006. The most prolific researchers were recognised as well as the top students in each of the Engineering disciplines. One of the highlights of the evening was the award of the Engineering Council of South Africa Medal to Mr Luke Harrison, best overall final year student for 2006.

- Vicky Crookes



Professor Michael Cowling.



Mr Andre Louw.

Pictures: Supplied

Design excellence

The School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering's Open Day represented the culmination of a period of intense pressure and creativity for its final year students. One hundred and seventeen students displayed their design projects to internal and external examiners, parents, donors and the public. Prizewinners in each of the three Engineering Disciplines were determined and awards were presented to the deserving students by industry representatives.

Within the School considerable emphasis is placed on students' design projects. According to Head of School, Professor Takawira, the design project "is actually the magnum opus of each student and encapsulates the engineering design experience gained during the course of four years of study." Essentially the projects test the students' abilities to survive as design engineers and effectively simulate the situation they will encounter in the workplace.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science, Professor Pete Zacharias, was impressed with the interesting and innovative design projects and said "they describe the students' experiences and define their capabilities." He expressed his gratitude to industry for their continued support, which includes not only prizes, but also cash donations and equipment.

Industry representatives commented on the high quality of the projects and congratulated the School and its staff on their excellent work. AAB South Africa representative, Mr Andrew Williamson, who presented his company's award to the best final year student in Electrical Engineering for the fifth consecutive year said, "there are some brilliant students that come from this University."

In the discipline of Computer Engineering, Mr Jared Wilmans, who set up a video streaming application to allow easy recording of lectures, won the CSIR Defence Technology Prize for the Best Final Year Design Project and was also named the Best Final Year Student. Mr Shekhar Ramphal won the Accenture Prize for the Most Innovative Design Project for his 3D anaglyph imaging software.

Mr Chenal Palhad, whose project involved the design and implementation of accurate drive and motor efficiency instrumentation for offline laboratory test purposes, scooped the majority of prizes in the Electrical Engineering field. He won the ABB South Africa Prize for the Best Control Systems Project, as well as the award for the Best Final Year Student. He also claimed the Siemens Ltd first prize for the Best 4th Year Design Project. Mr Richard Pratt, who devised a PSCAD modelling and simulation of a pilot pumping plant drive system, won the Siemens Ltd

second prize for the Best 4th year Design Project. Miss Virginia Ndlovu impressed with her highly topical project that involved the design and analysis of an automatic load shedding scheme. She won the Rainbow Technologies award for the Best Final Year Student in Power Systems.

Mr Simon Pauck walked away with two prizes in Electronic Engineering: the RDI Communications Prize for the Most Innovative Design Implementation by a Final Year Student and the Accenture Prize for the Best Final Year Design Project. He designed and implemented a control system that balances a frame in an upright position and tracks a desired actuator position or speed. The Altron Group Prize for the Best Final Year Student went to Mr Bhekisizwe Mthethwa for designing a power over Ethernet humidity logger.

The School also acknowledged several outstanding projects and awarded High Commended prizes in addition to the industry awards. The following students received Highly Commended Awards: Mr Vikesh Punwassi, Miss Tyne Manto, Mr Guy Coulson, Mr Prenishlin Chetty, Mr Tomas Ridl, Mr Bruce Speirs, Mr Andrew Dales, Mr Bhekisizwe Mthethwa, Mr Matthew Smythe and Mr Rinell Bhowanath.

- Vicky Crookes

Vice-Chancellor gives keynote address

UKZN Vice-Chancellor Professor Malegapuru Makgoba delivered an opening keynote address at a one-day conference with the theme: "Africa – Health Matters" in London on 13 November. The conference was jointly hosted by Environment and Society Forum, Imperial College London and Royal Geographical Society.

The Conference explored Africa's health and environmental challenges. Professor Makgoba's talk was entitled "Global Challenges and Solutions for Infectious Diseases: a South African perspective".

Professor Makgoba shared a podium with Sir David King, the Chief Scientific Adviser to Her Majesty's Government, originally from Durban. Sir Gordon Conway, President of the Royal Geographical Society and Professor in International Development at



Picture: Supplied

Professor Malegapuru Makgoba.

Imperial College London, presented an introduction and welcome address.

The Director of the Wellcome Trust, Dr Mark Walport, which funds the Africa Centre, gave an address on "the Challenge of Capacity Development".

- Bhekani Dlamini

Research grant

A UKZN Masters student in Classics has been granted the Ursula Vogel Trust Award by the Classical Association of South Africa. The grant is valued at R30 000.

Mr Jeffrey Murray will use the grant to visit the Centre for Spartan and Peloponnesian Studies at the University of Nottingham. He will also attend a 'Reception Theory' workshop for postgraduate students at the Institute for Classical Studies in London. He plans to read for his doctorate in a similar field in 2009.

Mr Murray's research, entitled: "The Reception of Thermopylae in Contemporary Popular Culture", is intended to show the relevance of Classics, and especially Reception Studies, in a modern university.

Lecturer in Classics, Ms Elke Steinmeyer, is Mr Murray's supervisor on the Howard College campus.

"This grant is a great opportunity which enables me to undertake some research overseas. I will be able to use resources at Nottingham University and be in contact with leading specialists in this field," said Mr Murray.



Picture: Bhekani Dlamini

Mr Jeffrey Murray.

His research focuses on the Greek struggle and how it has been portrayed in graphic novels and film. He believes it will highlight the importance of Classics as a leading discipline in contemporary research, and show how its relevance can be judged because of the way it continues to have impact on today's culture.

Commenting on the award. Ms Steinmeyer said: "Jeffrey is an exceptional student, whose MA thesis will make an important contribution to the field of Reception Studies, a fairly recent sub-discipline in Classics."

- Bhekani Dlamini



Picture: Vicky Crookes

All the prize-winners pictured with the Head of School, Professor Takawira (front row, second from right).

EMS Awards

The Enriched Management Studies (EMS) Awards Ceremony on November 1 celebrated the achievements of 29 students.

The EMS Programme was launched in 1989 to assist disadvantaged students with the potential to succeed in Information Technology, Accountancy and Finance. Acting Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies Professor Kantilal Bhowan says that “this programme is the one that we are most proud of as the Faculty of Management.” EMS has produced 450 graduates, including 21 Chartered Accountants. More than 150 graduates have gone into the accountancy profession as articulated clerks or post-graduate students.

Ms Alina Mpatsi BCom Accounting student was the overall winner, taking home awards for her first class pass in first year, being the best EMS Student in Quantitative

Methods and Modeling, and achieving 1st position in the class of 2007.

Guest speaker and EMS alumnus Mr Bonginhlanhla Mdluli provided insight into the difficult transition from university life to the ‘real’ world. He also urged students to give back to the community the knowledge that they have gained.

EMS sponsors include Unilever which has been part of the Programme since the beginning and donates R100 000 every year; Shell; Anglo American; Accenture; the Anglo American Chairman’s fund; and the Department of Education.

For more information about the programme contact Mr Jabulani Zikhali Programme Director on 031 260 1527 or visit the website www.mseu.ukzn.ac.za

- Thandeka Mtshali



Picture: Supplied

Seated (l-r): Mr Cyril Madiba, Ms Thando Cele, Ms Sithembile Mdletshe, and Ms Anele Mchunu. Standing (l-r): Ms Susi Keevy (Shanduka Group), Ms Alina Mpantsi, Ms Zama Buthelezi, Mr Jabulani Zikhali (EMS Director), Ms Nelisa Zulu, Mr Enock Mhlongo, Ms Thandazile Hlongwane, Ms Cecil Khawula, Ms Samkelisiwe Mdluli, and Ms Donne Cooney (Shanduka Group).

Prestigious award for crop scientist



Picture: Supplied

Professor Modi.

PROFESSOR Albert Thembinkosi Modi of the School of Agricultural Sciences and Agribusiness on the Pietermaritzburg campus is the winner of the TWAS Young Scientist Award 2007: Life Science Category.

This national prize, administered and managed by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), is awarded annually to a young scientist under the age of 40 working in the different fields of

the natural sciences. Criteria for the award include “the level of excellence of the scientific research carried out, its perceived potential value to society and the success of the candidate in developing students and contributing to the public understanding of science and technology”.

The selection committee, comprising eminent scientists, technologists and engineers, “was particularly impressed by Professor Modi’s self-initiated research, his record of training postgraduate students and the potential contribution of his research to South African society.”

Professor Modi’s most significant achievements have been in community engagement. For several years he worked in the Umbumbulu area in KwaZulu-Natal researching indigenous agricultural systems and advising the community on how to improve seed quality and production outputs. In an effort to encourage farmers to use sustainable methods of production, he founded the Ezemvelo Farmers Organisation.

This community-based organisation was the first group of small-scale subsistence farmers in South Africa to be certified as using organic methodology. It created a historic opportunity for these rural farmers to market their organic produce to mainstream retailers, such as Woolworths and Pick ‘n Pay. A key component of Professor Modi’s work in this area involved improving the self-sustainability of women farmers.

Professor Pete Zacharias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science said that Professor Modi is well deserving of the TWAS Award and that it is a “fitting acknowledgement of a young South African who has taken the opportunities presented to him and used them not only to further his own career but also to develop and improve the lot of others.”

Professor Modi was presented with the Award at the ASSAf Awards Ceremony at the University of Pretoria on 26 November.

- Vicky Crookes

NIC Awards

THE University and the UKZN Innovation Company, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology’s Innovation Fund have initiated the National Innovation Competition (NIC) to promote innovation amongst students at Higher Education Institutions.

At a function on 31 October, the UKZN NIC Award winners were announced. The three winners will go through to national finals, where 17 South African universities will participate.

Third-year Computer Science Student Mr Isak Du Preez took the first prize of R50 000 for ‘Light-

Watch’, one of two projects he submitted. LightWatch is an inexpensive technological alternative to the manual monitoring of streetlights.

Second prize of R30 000 went to Mr S C Subramoney and Mr Michael Nelson for their project on the ‘Separation and recovery of a high component from an industrial stream’. Mr M P Jali, Mr Z T Mohlatsane and Mr M Ngidi received the third prize of R 20 000 for ‘Quadcore’, software that will allow consumers to buy prepaid electricity vouchers using cell phones.

- Thembeke Nyaba



UKZN Innovation CEO Mr Reggie Govender, CEO of the National Innovation Fund Mr McLean Sibanda, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Knowledge Production and Partnerships Professor J Jacobs, first prize winner Mr Isak Du Preez and Adjudicator Professor Eduard Eitelberg.

Player of the year Hockey Star

UKZN student Mr Thomas Hammond has been named the 2007 South African Men's Hockey Player of the year. This is a remarkable achievement considering Mr

Hammond was selected to the senior National team only at the beginning of last year.

The award caps a special year for Mr Hammond who excelled throughout the season at provincial and national levels.

He was instrumental in the UKZN Men's Team winning the SASSU tournament, Midlands finishing 2nd at the IPT, PMB Varsity finishing 2nd in National Club Champs of Champs, and South Africa's qualification for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Mr Hammond was the deserving winner of the 2007 UKZN Pietermaritzburg Sportsman of the Year Award.

- Article and picture: Supplied

FORMER UKZN student, Ms Marsha Marescia, who is captain of the South African Women's Hockey team, has been included in the Women's 2007 World Hockey All Star team.

The All Star team comprises 18 players and two coaches with the players being selected by visitors to the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) website: www.worldhockey.org

The Netherlands, Australia, Argentina, Spain, Japan, USA, England, Germany, South Africa, China and Korea are represented in the All Stars' team.

Midfielder Ms Marescia first represented South Africa at the Champions Challenge in Johannesburg in 2002. Since then, she has played in a number of major tournaments such as the World Cup, the Olympic and Commonwealth Games, and the All Africa

and Afro-Asian Games, as well as a number of smaller tournaments. She led South Africa to the World Cup in Spain last year, taking over the captain's armband from Lindsay Wright (nee Carlisle).

Ms Marescia learned about her selection after arriving back from the Netherlands where the South African team have been taking part in a training camp. "It's all a bit overwhelming at this stage. I am just honoured and amazed at being selected and hope that it will inspire my team and other potential national hockey players to keep striving to be the best," said Ms Marescia.

Marsha is a former student and full tuition Sports Scholarship holder at UKZN. Her selection to the All Star team is one of the greatest honours in world hockey.

- Article and picture: Supplied



Mr Tommy Hammond receives the 2007 SA Men's Hockey Player of the Year Award from the President of SA Hockey and Edgewood Sports Officer, Mr Dave Carr.

Long Service Rewarded

A good working environment and innovative colleagues and students made 25 years of service with UKZN highly enjoyable for Mr Paul Forder of the School of Chemistry. Mr Forder made this

clear at the Long Service Awards function held recently at the Pietermaritzburg campus.

He was one of 15 employees who were congratulated for having

worked at the University for 25 years while another 27 were commended for 15 years' service.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Relations), Professor Dasarath Chetty, congratulated the 42 staff members on their loyalty and service to the University saying: "With the corporate world offering a large variety of career opportunities as well as space for upward mobility, employees who have committed themselves to the University for such long periods really need to be commended".

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba thanked the awardees for the sacrifice they have made to shape this University into what it is today and encouraged them by saying that "universities are institutions that are 'value-driven' and not 'material-driven'".

- Thembeke Nyaba



Back (l-r): Professor O Latiff, Mr FE Zulu, Mr Z Shezi. Front (l-r): Mr MJ Mkhize, Mrs W Radcliffe, Ms S Naidoo and Mr AG Bruton.



Ms Marsha Marescia in action during the recent SPAR Challenge test between South Africa and Australia.

Partnership to assist students

TWENTY students from rural communities will benefit from the Linda Sibiya Bursary Foundation.

The Foundation was initiated by Ukhozi FM Radio personality Mr Linda Sibiya. It was launched by UKZN in partnership with Mr Sibiya's Magic Promotions Company and Barloworld in October.

Mr Sibiya hails from rural Eshowe. His family was poor and he did not get a chance to go to university. He approached UKZN and Ukhozi FM to help other young people realise their dreams. An agreement was reached whereby the University will provide funding for 20 students a year for five years. These students will be selected by Mr Sibiya. For its part, Ukhozi FM will provide free radio time to the University for marketing purposes.

Executive Dean of Students, Mr Trevor Wills said "We are pleased to be associated with this Foundation and we hope it goes from strength to strength. ... we appeal to other parties to contribute as well."

- Bhekani Dlamini

Recycle your ukzndaba

Please don't litter ... when you've finished with your ukzndaba, why not pass it on to someone else, or place it in a bin for recycling with other paper-waste.



AIDS HELPLINE
0800-0123-22