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A PEACEFUL SOCIETY BREEDS A CHILD AND WOMEN ABUSE FREE SOCIETY



Professor Thuli Madonsela giving her keynote address during the Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture, recently held by UNIZULU in partnership with Kagiso Trust.

The key to eradicating abuse against women and children is first tackling all forms of violence in society. This is the stance of Professor Thuli Madonsela, the former SA Public Protector and current Chair in Social Justice at the University of Stellenbosch, who was the keynote speaker during the Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture held at the University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) KwaDlangezwa Campus on Tuesday, 27 March 2018.

The memorial lecture was held in partnership with Kagiso Trust, one of South Africa's leading development agencies co-founded by freedom fighter Dr Beyers Naudé and which works towards a prosperous, peaceful, equitable and just society. The event is the first of a series of three to be held annually at UNIZULU.

"As the University of Zululand, we are proud and honoured to have been bestowed with the privilege and responsibility of being chosen as a partner in hosting such an esteemed event. We thank the Dr Beyers Naudé family, and Kagiso Trust by extension, for their vote of confidence in the University

of Zululand being a worthy partner in hosting this important event. Being the fourth university to pick up the baton of hosting this event from other three prestigious universities, as the University of Zululand, we promise to deliver on the mission and mandate of this Memorial Lecture," said UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose.

This year's topic was titled *The Evil in our midst: Women and child abuse in present day South Africa*. During her address, Prof Madonsela boldly stated that in order to end women and child abuse, humanity needs to first grapple with social issues from a holistic point of view because everything is interlinked. She explained that reducing, among other issues, extreme poverty and extreme inequality would aid in the quest to end violence and promote peace. "Any violence that is allowed breeds a climate that is conducive to violence against women and children. Violence against any person is wrong and violence against women and children poisons society at its source.

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Acting Against Women and Child Abuse



UNIZULU Academic Bags Funding for Binational Research Project



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Children are the source and women nurture families and when women have been violated or are being violated, they poison society. What we get are children who are not confident and they, themselves, perpetuate violence," she said.

To resolve this matter, Prof Madonsela urged attendees to emulate the selfless behaviour of Dr Beyers Naudé who demonstrated that "justice is more important than 'just us'". Child and women abuse is a social problem and not a legal one, she emphasised, adding that the onus is thus upon every member of society to play an active role in ending violence

against humankind by helping to counsel those affected by abuse and rehabilitate the perpetrators of violent acts.

"People abuse people because they are damaged souls. We need to look at what traumas have been experienced by our people and how we can intervene in such situations. A violence-free world is everyone's business. All that I ask is that we connect the lights to ensure that what one community does connects with what another is doing so that we can expand the impact. One candle is great but many candles are invincible against the darkness," Prof Madonsela concluded.

– Naledi Hlepane

ACTING AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILD ABUSE

As part of the University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) community engagement strategic goal, the Creative Arts Department has joined in on the national "Stop Women and Child Abuse" campaign by initiating the *Schools Tour Programme* which entails visiting various high schools to raise awareness about the damning effects of women and child abuse through a poignant play.

Initiated and run by Drama Studies Lecturer Gift Marovatsanga, the programme involves a one-woman play titled *Faces* which depicts the distress of an abused woman. The woman bears the emotional and psychological scars imprinted on her soul due to her father's abuse which is further perpetuated by a society and system that passively promotes inhumane acts against women and children.

"Drama and theatre are forms of literature that are directly linked to and speak to issues concerning human existence. Drama questions, challenges, interrogates, confronts and disrupts the status quo. By so doing, it prompts the audience into reflection and engaging with their reality actively. Getting people to open up about their issues of concern is good enough as a starting point in the fight against anything," Marovatsanga explicated.

According to Marovatsanga, *Faces* thus encourages serious dialogue about issues affecting individuals, families, societies and the world at large.

The heart-rending play has been performed at four high schools so far. The target audience is Creative and Dramatic Arts pupils between grades eight and 12. Apart



UNIZULU alumna Nothando Mabaso during her performance of 'Faces' at Zwelonke High School, Ulundi.

from sparking dialogue about violence against women and children, the play helps pupils understand some of the abstract content they are introduced to in class.

The play was recently performed at Zwelonke High School in Ulundi, where it was very well received.

The school Principal Qhamukile Sebenzile Mncwango thanked UNIZULU for bringing the play to her school and applauded the institution for creatively fighting against women and child abuse.

Zinzile Ngcobo, the school's Drama Teacher who is also an alumna of UNIZULU, also expressed deep gratitude to the Creative Arts Department for choosing to visit the school for such a campaign.

Ziyanda Mthlane, a grade 12 pupil said, "The play taught me a lot about what is happening in some households. I personally felt pain from watching the actress' story."

– Samkele Sokhela

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's been a hectic start to the year for the University where strategic events are concerned. Late last month, we held the Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture during which we were graced by the presence of the brave, uncompromising and inspirational Professor Thuli Madonsela who is the former South African Public Protector and now Chair in Social Justice at the University of Stellenbosch during which she delivered her keynote address on women and children abuse; a scourge that continues to impact and compromise the wellbeing of our communities. Other high profile guests, such as Commissioner Mbuyiselo Botha and media personality Masechaba Ndlovu, also graced the event which was a success. The story is contained in this issue.

Currently, the University is gearing up for the inauguration of its Chancellor, the Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Raymond Mnyamezeli Mlungisi Zondo, who will act as the titular head of the University and play a pivotal ambassadorial role in raising the profile of the University and advance its interests nationally and internationally. As the University of Zululand, we are honoured to have appointed a Chancellor of Justice Zondo's stature and look forward to his meaningful contribution to the University.

The annual Graduation Ceremonies are also coming up during which an honorary doctorate will be conferred to a highly distinguished leader. We also look forward to this event.

There are other positive stories contained in this edition and I hope that you will find them both informative and useful in adding to your information needs as a member of the UNIZULU community.

Please remember to tell us (Communications and Marketing) about any positive stories or developments within your respective sections so that we may give them coverage.

Happy reading,

Sinegugu Ndlovu
Acting Director: Communications and Marketing

UNIZULU ACADEMIC BAGS FUNDING FOR BINATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT



Sifiso Xulu and Dr Innocent Moyo, lecturers in the Department of Geography at UNIZULU, will be conducting researching on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in conjunction with researchers in Jamaica under the Jamaica/Republic of South Africa (RSA) Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

An exciting project is underway for Dr Innocent Moyo, a lecturer in the Department of Geography at the University of Zululand, who has received three-year (2018-2020) funding for a research project to be conducted in partnership with researchers from Jamaica.

Titled *Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the Rio Grande Valley, Jamaica and KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa*, the research project is one of three funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) together with the Ministry of Science and Technology in Jamaica under the Jamaica/Republic of South Africa (RSA) Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, which seeks to promote and support collaboration between the countries in the fields of science and technology.

"I am happy to have received this funding. This south-to-south collaboration between South Africa and Jamaica, which are developing countries, will see the two countries learning from each other in order to strengthen their knowledge base," Dr Moyo said, adding that working on this project will assist him to gain in-depth knowledge of IKS as well as positively impact on his teaching.

In this joint project, Dr Moyo is collaborating with Jamaican scientists Dr Susan Otuokon, the Executive Director of the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT), and Dr Donovan Campbell, a lecturer in the Geography Department at the University of West Indies. Ahead of commencing with research work, the three grantees formed task teams which will perpetually liaise and

interchange during the three-year course. Currently, the SA team consists of Dr Moyo, Geography Department Lecturer Sifiso Xulu and master's student Hlengiwe Cele.

Employing the mixed-methods-approach (of qualitative and quantitative research methodology), the teams will investigate the nature, dynamics and application of IKS in the conservation of the environment in the two countries.

In the wake of many environmental issues facing society today, both Dr Moyo and Xulu believe this research could lead to possible solutions. "We need to find a holistic approach or response to these challenges by considering not only Western science as a solution but IKS as well. For instance, in the maroon community in Jamaica, when a child is born, where the umbilical cord is buried, a tree is planted. This practice helps to regulate the proportions between vegetation and the population. This shows the essence of IKS," Dr Moyo explained.

According to Xulu, the integration of modern scientific methodology with indigenous systems will enable effective use of natural resources.

The first phase of the research entails visits to the target communities where the academics will seek permission to conduct their research.

– Naledi Hlefané

VISITING PHYSICISTS SHARE EXPERTISE

WITH UNIZULU STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS



Professor Paul Garrett.

The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) was recently visited by two prominent international Nuclear Physicists, professors Paul Garrett and Magda Zielinska, who held insightful talks on the study of sub-atomic nucleus with particular emphasis on Gamma-ray Spectroscopy and related research topics.

The discussions were held over a period of two days at the Department of Physics on the KwaDlangezwa Campus.

Dr Siyabonga Majola, a Post-Doctoral fellow from the Department of Physics and Engineering, said it was an honour to host these experts and “to learn more on the new scientific developments in Gamma spectroscopy”.

Prof Zielinska is a researcher from the University of Warsaw in Poland. Her presentation, titled *Nuclear shapes studied with low energy Coulomb excitation, demonstrated how Coulomb excitation can be used to investigate nuclear phenomena such as shape co-existence*.

Prof Garrett is a researcher and a chair in the Department of Physics at the University of Guelph, Canada. Titled *Gamma ray spectroscopy at the TRIUMF radioactive beam facility*, his talk provided a general overview of the TRIUMF facility, describing the TIGRESS and GRIFFIN spectrometers in operation, and provided interested researchers with information on physics programmes that have benefitted from the operational spectrometers in addressing nuclear structure.

Gamma rays are a form of penetrating electromagnetic radiation emitted from the atomic nuclei following radioactive decay.



Professor Magda Zielinska.

Electromagnetic radiation is transmitted in light waves similar to X-rays using frequencies and different wavelengths on the electromagnetic spectrum.

Knowledge gained from Gamma-ray spectroscopy is not limited to advancing the techniques of radiation detection from radioactive and excited atomic nuclei but can also be applied in various fields such as medical treatment of cancer, detection of metal objects at security points in airports and in food preservation.

UNIZULU's Department of Physics currently has six active postgraduate students conducting research in the field of nuclear physics. The students are enrolled for a postgraduate programme run by the Physics Department in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and iThemba LABS (Laboratory for Accelerator based Sciences), a national facility situated in the Western Cape and funded by the National Research Foundation. The programme offers academic and practical courses at honours and Master's level in Material Science (MAtSci) and Nuclear Sciences (MANUS). Lectures are hosted at UWC while projects and practicals are carried out at iThemba LABS.

Considering the handful of postgraduate students currently interested in the field of nuclear physics, the Physics Department is intent on raising awareness of the field, positioning it as a research area and career of choice. This will be implemented using a grant that the Physics Department recently received from the United Kingdom in collaboration with York University. Three UNIZULU Master's students will be visiting York University for training through this funding.

– Hlumelo Nyikana

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING ORIENTATION

ENSURES WORK-READINESS OF STUDENTS



Dr Kevin Naidoo, Head of the Department of Communication Science (back row, first from left) and Professor Antonia Nzama, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts with the stakeholders of the Work Integrated Learning orientation.

The University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Department of Communication Science at the Richards Bay Campus held the first ever Work Integrated Learning (WIL) orientation where members of the media and other communication specialists were hosted as part of the University's stakeholder engagement for the WIL programme.

The event was attended by representatives of 1KZN TV, Icora FM, Zululand Observer and uMhlathuze Municipality (stakeholders of the event), who enlightened students on proper conduct in the workplace as well as the vast employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the fields of public relations and media, among other topics.

In her keynote address, Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Arts Professor Antonia Nzama said, "I trust that this is going to be an annual event; this has been very beneficial to the students. This (event) will assist the students to understand the work environment better. They can actually put theory into practice. A big thank you to the stakeholders for coming afore and bringing the industry to life."

One of UNIZULU's core aims is to enhance the employability and soft skills of its students before entering the workplace. The institution strives to strengthen partnerships with industry, private organisations and the community in order to create an environment for the application of knowledge and production of well-grounded and socially responsive graduates. The WIL programme offers a

holistic approach to education by equipping students not only with the necessary theoretical background but also the opportunity to apply the theoretical concepts in practice which ensures that UNIZULU graduates are better equipped for the transition from lecture hall to the workplace.

According to Dr Kevin Naidoo, the Head of the Department of Communication Science, "the need to develop work-ready graduates who can transfer the knowledge and skills from the lecture rooms to the workplace has become a key factor for higher education in South Africa". Through its partnerships with various industries, the Communication Science Department is able to secure placement for unemployed graduates, Dr Naidoo said.

Judith Ngubane, WIL Coordinator and Lecturer, advised students to take experiential learning seriously as the labour market has a high demand for graduates who have obtained practical skills in their field of study. She also encouraged them to follow in the footsteps of graduates of the Communication Science Department who were offered permanent employment in their companies in which they served their internships.

Feedback from students who attended the event was positive. Third-year students Phumelele Dlodlo and Langalakhe Mbambo were thrilled to learn that they can establish their own companies as an alternative to seeking employment.

– Precious Shamase and Dr Kevin Naidoo