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UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

VC URGES MORE EFFORT THIS YEAR



Photo: Spha Gumede

Vice-Chancellor Prof Xoliswa Mtose has stressed the importance of focusing on teaching and learning as the core business of the university.

Professor Gideon De Wet (left), the DVC: Research and Innovation with Professor Xoliswa Mtose, the UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor at the University's Official Opening.

“Colleagues we are embarking on a year with great expectations therefore it is important to understand that in all that we do at UNIZULU, in all of our celebration and activities, Teaching and Learning is at the centre,” she said.

Prof. Mtose was delivering the keynote address at the University's Official Opening ceremony on 13 February.

The event was held at the packed King Bhokuzulu Hall where hundreds of students had gathered to hear the message from the Vice-Chancellor.

“The future we shape is up to us. We must meet these challenges with the same creativity we bring in our intellectual pursuits, and the same openness to new ways of thinking. This must be a shared commitment, for without the ideas and the input from the community, we will not be successful in improving our financial trajectory,” Prof Mtose added.

UNIZULU Student Representative Council Administrator, Mayenzeke Chiya, called on everyone to unite and work together to restore the institution's integrity.

“We call upon staff, students and management to work out their differences. We may have differences but that doesn't mean we can't work together to take UNIZULU forward,” he said.

Chiya also said attempts to destroy the institution's image and integrity are negatively impacting on the students' future and on the credibility of their qualifications.

He also announced that they will be fundraising for 10 000 sanitary towels for female students.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation Prof Gideon De Wet appealed to students to use this opportunity to expand their horizons. “As we embark on this journey to create a future for you, may this year be a wonderful year filled with love and peace,” said De Wet.

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Gcina Nhleko

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MESSAGE from the Managing Editor

Last week, the Finance Minister, Mr Pravin Gordhan, delivered the 2017/2018 budget speech and unsurprisingly the lion's share of the allocations went to education.

More resources have also been poured into the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) to ensure that the doors of learning at Tertiary level are open even to the

poorest of the poor.

In a country like ours all these moves are not just necessary expenses but they are worthy investments for the future of our country. Ben Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States, succinctly said: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest".

Our future will be much brighter if we improve the level of education and wipe out illiteracy because it is only through education that we can liberate ourselves from the shackles of poverty and inequality.

However, there is no one panacea to the problems besetting our education system. What is needed is a concerted effort

from all of us as South Africans and collaborative efforts between the public and the private sectors. Even much more commitment and hardwork is needed from those of us who work in this important sector.

It does not matter what tasks we perform, as University employees all of us contribute towards the betterment of the lives of students by either imparting knowledge or indirectly by creating an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

As Professor Mtose said in her speech at the Official Opening, the focus for us as a University should be on our core business which is teaching and learning. Let us keep this in mind as we navigate through 2017 which already promises to be a productive academic year.

Let us all play our part.

Meanwhile, it has been encouraging to see that the 2017 academic year started smoothly at UNIZULU.

The registration process was a huge success and gratitude is extended to all to all the staff members and student helpers who worked tirelessly to ensure that the entire process went smoothly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

17 March – VC's Excellence Awards
18 to 25 March – Library week

CAMPUS NEWS

Another feather in the cap for Arts Dean

Dean of Arts at UNIZULU, Professor Gregory Kamwendo has been elected as Treasurer of the South African Humanities Dean's Association (SAHUDA), a prestigious association that brings together all deans of the faculties of Humanities at the country's public Universities.

The election was held on the 9th of February 2017 in Johannesburg where a new executive of SAHUDA, including its President and Deputy President, was elected.

According to its constitution, one of the objectives of SAHUDA is to express the views of its members on matters of concern or interest to Humanities education at public universities in South Africa

Prof Kamwendo explained that all current deans and their deputies at the various faculties of humanities are members of SAHUDA.

He said that during his two year term of office as Treasurer of SAHUDA, he will work towards "ensuring that the relationship between SAHUDA and the National Institute for Humanities and

Social Sciences (NIHSS) continues to grow from strength to strength in the best interest of scholarship in Humanities and Social Sciences in South Africa and beyond". The election of Professor Kamwendo has put UNIZULU on the map.

"My election as treasurer of SAHUDA is not a personal achievement. It is an institutional (UNIZULU) achievement. I am a member of SAHUDA because I am an employee of UNIZULU," he said.

He brings to the position, extensive experience in academia gained from working at various Universities in Malawi (where he worked at the University of Malawi), Botswana (University of Botswana) and South Africa (University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of Zululand).

"I hope to be able to tap into these experiences and use them to the benefit of SAHUDA and its member institutions."

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UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

CAMPUS NEWS

Students respond positively to First Things First Campaign



Students and staff at the University's two campuses have heeded the call to get tested. They came out in their numbers to get tested for HIV and to be screened for the various ailments and conditions. This was part of the

week-long First Things First campaign held at both campuses from 20-24 February. Health and wellness services offered as part of the campaign included Male Medical Circumcision, TB Screening, STI screening, Diabetes Screening, Blood Pressure Screening, Cancer Screening and Reproductive Health Services (all kinds of contraceptives: implanon, oral, injection and more). The campaign kicked off at the King Bhekuzulu Hall on Monday when students were treated to a jam-packed programme of inspirational speakers, plays and performances by top artists at the launch of the campaign...

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House Committee donates to local school

Life has been made a lot easier for teachers and pupils of Mvuzemvuzi Primary School, this after the school received a donation of more than a hundred lever arch files from the UNIZULU Central House Committee (CHC). The donation was part of the outreach programme by the committee. "We donated lever arch files to assist teachers to file learners' work and projects so that they are well kept. The reason why we chose Mvuzemvuzi is because we believe in the old adage that charity begins at home" said Moses Nkhwashu, the Residence coordinator at UNIZULU...



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Call to restore University image

The President of the University of Zululand Convocation, Nhlakanipho Nkwanyana, has called on the alumni and stakeholders of the institution to pull together towards the restoration of the good image of the institution. Fundraising for the University and restoring its image forms part of the Convocation Executive Committee's programme of action, a plan developed by the leadership elected in October last year. Nkwanyana said the image of the University had been dented because "there are culprits who are trying by all means to undermine the integrity of the University. It is worth noting that these challenges were obnoxiously precipitated by the media and those who cooperated with the media stance in this regard..."

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Lecturer to attend course in Netherlands

Lecturer in the Consumer Sciences Department, Mumsy Chibe, will jet off to the Netherlands next month to attend a course on *Learning, action research and outreach*. She said the programme, which runs from 13 to 31 March, is designed for people working in tertiary agricultural and rural education. For Chibe, attending this programme will be beneficial to her department because Consumer Science is a multidisciplinary discipline that draws from fields such as agriculture, rural development, indigenous knowledge systems, food science, nutrition and consumer behaviour...

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Overwhelming response to Library Orientation

The Library Orientation programme got off to a good start earlier this month as dozens of first year students attended various orientation sessions. Library Orientation informs students about library facilities, services and resources and gives them the opportunity to learn the basics on how to use the Library and to find information using the library e-catalogue. This programme is compulsory for all first year students. Postgraduate students and new staff members are also invited (please contact your Information Librarian for more details). The one-hour orientation programme takes place in the Library Computer Lab 1. It includes a short presentation about the library, practical training on the use of e-catalogue (OPAC) and the library tour...

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Prof Mtose urges students to speak out against sexual and gender based abuse



Professor Xoliswa Mtose, the Vice Chancellor at the University of Zululand, has urged students to speak out against all forms of sexual and gender based violence. Speaking at the launch of the dialogue on sexual and gender based violence, Prof Mtose said combating this scourge will be possible only if victims do not suffer in silence. She said many women were afraid to report abuse especially when the perpetrator is a male because they have been socialised into believing that doing so is wrong...

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