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RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE

10TH ANNUAL HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES CONFERENCE



UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND



The dignitaries at the 10th Humanities and Social Sciences Conference which was held at Meet Mekaar Resort in Mtubatuba.

The 10th Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Conference kicked off with a bang with Advocate Busiswe Mkhwebane, the current public protector, as one of the prolific guest speakers who addressed the delegates. This three-day conference ran from Wednesday, 23 October until Friday, 25 October and took place at the Meet Mekaar Resort in Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal.

Themed “Social Justice and sustainable development in Africa today”, the conference aimed to interrogate the multitude of problems that South Africa currently faces and to find practical solutions that can be adopted.

The conference also brought afore crucial keynote speakers who embark upon a range of topics such as the land reform debate, indigenous knowledge systems and rural development aligned with the conference theme.

The plethora of keynote speakers included Dr Vuyokazi Mahlati, a public policy and development planning specialist and current president of the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA); Professor Oliver Mtapuri, a professor in development studies in the School of Built Environment and Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal; as well as Dr Paul Hebinck, a rural sociologist from the Wageningen University in Netherlands who has

experience in land related issues, agrarian reform and rural development.

Young researchers (students) from across South African universities and neighbouring African countries formed part of these crucial discussions held during the conference. These young bright minds were given a platform to share their scientific information with industry experts who provided them with advice on improving the quality of their research as well as advice in improving their oral presentation skills.

According to conference attendee Nkosinathi Ndlela, a lecturer from UNIZULU’s Department of Philosophy and Applied Ethics, this year’s conference was a huge success. “This year’s HSS Conference has been correctly hailed as a huge success. The conference encouraged robust and vibrant debate. It afforded a number of the postgraduate students an opportunity to present their research papers which will go a long way in improving research quality and capacity. More importantly, we had world renowned keynote speakers on each of the three days of the conference,” said an ecstatic Ntuli.

Ntuli also presented a paper which he hopes to publish. He also wanted to place on record that he believes that his “presentation went well apart from time constraints on the first day”.

– Gcina Nhleko



Opinion: Dissecting the “Rape Culture”



Meet the VC’s Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards Winner



#ShoutOut



#Motivation



OPINION PIECE

DISSECTING THE "RAPE CULTURE"



Dr Caroll Hermann
Lecturer, Department of Psychology

The concept of "rape culture" is used to describe the phenomenon of sexual violence as if it is part and parcel of the collective cultures in South Africa.

Trying to understand rape in the above context, we need to understand, firstly, that rape is seldom about sexual gratification. Rape is often about power play and domination, in many cases the victim is known to the perpetrator and in others, rape is opportunistic, such as during a robbery or high-jacking, even after binging on drugs or alcohol.

It would be difficult to predict or identify who will be more likely to rape, as so many factors can lead to the acting out of anger, frustration, even domination, in a sexual way. *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) does not consider the act of rape a mental disorder, but rather a crime. This often leads to missed diagnosis of mental disorders in sex offenders.

Branded a crime, sex offense carries a long-term sentence and mental health issues are often overlooked and very necessary intervention is neglected. According to the APA, there is no scientifically valid treatment for violent sex offenders and in fact, it is known that sex offender programmes are mostly ineffective.

"No one is born a rapist" is often heard, but frequently a product of the environment they grow up in. Common narratives of rapists include having had a difficult childhood, growing up in dysfunctional families, that included dealing with rejection, abandoned or neglected and very often victims of abuse themselves. Therefore, by "overpowering" the victim can bring about feelings of superiority (through "punishing" another person). It is an expression of power by a person dominating another sexually. Rape often has to do with revenge, on another person (or someone who represents such a person) for the perpetrator. A person who feels that they are not in control of their life, can feel that they "regain" control by overpowering another person. Research has found that many perpetrators do have underlying mental health issues.

Rape can be associated with neurobiological impairments and intellection disabilities; substance abuse/misuse, manic episodes or violent acting out (Intermittent Explosive Disorder). Abnormal sexual behaviour can be related to psychosis or disinhibition. Rapists do not belong to one homogenous population, and the causes are multifaceted.

Treatment is often difficult and is hampered by motivation to change, acceptance of guilt or even denial of offense and prevention at primary level is aimed at educating youth about healthy relationships and providing systems that will promote social change.

Communities are greatly impacted by these crimes, even at financial level, as costs include medical services, etc., it also threatens critical societal structures through fear and violence. There is a great need for intervention in communities from preventing it from happening at all through promotion of social norms that protect members against violence, creating protective environments and early intervention for at-risk children and families.

EDITOR'S NOTE



Gcina Nhleko
Director: Communications
and Marketing

Another busy academic year is fast approaching completion as we are nearing the end of the summer term. Our dedicated staff members are working around the clock to ensure that all necessary marks are captured thus successfully wrapping up 2019 as another successful year.

It is a historic moment in our history as a country; our national rugby team became three-time world champions. One die-hard Bok fan said he had never been so nervous but he knew that we were on the road to victory when Makazole Mapimpi and Cheslin Kolbe scored the game-changing tries.

The year 2020 opens an exciting chapter in the history of our University as we will be celebrating our 60th anniversary.

"That which causes us trials shall yield us triumph: and that which make our hearts ache shall fill us with gladness. The only true happiness is to learn, to advance and to improve: which could not happen unless we had commenced with error, ignorance and imperfection. We must pass through the darkness, to reach the light," said Albert Pike.

To the final-year students, I offer my warmest, best wishes for the future. I hope too that our soon-to-be new graduates will keep in touch with us as they make their way into the wider world.



MEET THE VC'S

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING AWARDS WINNER

Each year the UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards highlight the importance of high-quality teaching in relation to the University's vision and mission. Academics whose innovative teaching and learning practices have had a profound impact on students are recognised through being nominated by either their peers or students.

Meet the highflyers of the 2019 awards.

Dr. Neil Evans is currently heads the Department of Information Studies within the Faculty of Arts. He received an award in the Developed Academic category this following his recognition as an Emerging Academic two years ago. Having submitted his teaching portfolio for review once before for these awards, Dr. Evans already strategically used his portfolio to his advantage this year.

He said his competitive portfolio drew from his decade of teaching and learning experience in the fields of chemistry, communication science and information studies and what he had learned from completing an assessment and moderation course through Rhodes University in 2014 and a postgraduate diploma in higher education that he graduated with from the University of Kwazulu-Natal in 2018.

His advice to his academic peers who want to apply for these awards in the future is to enrol in a professional Higher Education programme where both the teaching and learning theory and portfolio development is covered. He added that they should also be diligent in keeping evidence of their teaching and learning strategies or styles developed for effective teaching practices. These digital records can also be used for performance management and promotion purposes and should be regularly updated. He also stressed the importance of also creating a knowledge-sharing environment for sharing teaching styles (portfolios) with other interested academics who want to develop and improve their teaching and learning practices.



Dr. Neil Evans.

As a staunch believer in self-development, Dr. Evans urges academics to continually self-evaluate their teaching strategies, methods and principles so that they can deliver quality education to our students.

According to him, changes must be made in our teaching and learning spaces. These include the utilisation of technological tools and pedagogical methods to teach Generation Y students who are digitally savvy and thus gravitate towards using digital information and communication

[Click here to view Dr Evans' portfolio.](#)

– Hlumelo Nyikana

#SHOUTOUTS



This month, *Ongoye Online* presents to you some remarkable staff members from various departments, whose consistent hard work, dedication and strong work ethic have earned them praises from their managers and colleagues.

"I admire Nothando Zungu, who is a student administrator. She (forever) goes beyond the call of duty. She is the type of colleague who do not need to follow up on or micro-manage when you have tasked with something. She does her work swiftly and perfectly. She always wears a smile and has a pleasant personality, which is perfect so someone who works closely with students. When there are issues and challenges, you can count on her to come up with solutions. I admire that."



– **Thokozani Mvubu, Temporary Manager: Records Management**

"I take my hat off to Dr Thulani Jili. His teaching methods are admirable. The way he treats, teaches and engages with student is remarkable. He treats them with high respect and also advises them. He provides constant positive contribution to the Department of Physics. He is one of the key people who have made sure that they extract the best out of us in the department"



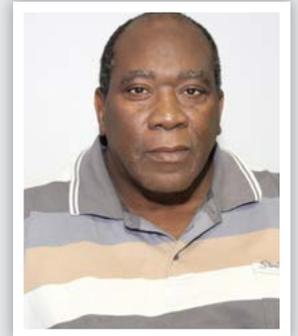
– **Dr Cebo Ndlangamandla, Lecturer in the Physics Department.**

"Nokuthula Ndlovu (a psychologist in the Student Services Department) is an outstanding colleague for me. Her relationship with students is incredible. She is a married woman but one would hardly tell. She is extremely dedicated to her work; she has a strong work ethic. She works, smiles and blends with everyone whom she works with. You know, as the department we usually celebrate each other's birthdays by buying one another some gifts. When it's someone's birthday, she goes out of her way to organise a huge birthday surprise for the colleague whose birthday it is, just so they would feel special on their big day. But now, whenever it's our turn to buy her something, we always feel the (pressure to keep the standard high)."



– **Nosipho Makalima, Head of Department: Guidance and Counselling (Student Services Department)**

"Professor Muzi Ndwandwe is another man to admire in the Department of Physics. He is a straight-talker; he tells (us) the truth. Bitter or sweet, he just never sugar-coats things. He is also such a professional colleague. I'll never forget one instance when he went as far as calling a parent of a student who had not wanted to continue with her studies. After he convinced the parent, (a few years later) the student managed to get her Honours degree and PhD. His actions spoke to me and made me realise that, you know what, this guy has an interest in uplifting the black community through knowledge. That was remarkable for me. I believe that we (as a department and university) can follow on his footsteps."



– **Dr Cebo Ndlangamandla, a Lecturer in the Physics Department**

- Naledi Hlefané

#MOTIVATION



Prof Justice Msomi
Professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering

Prof Msomi's road to success wasn't an easy one. It is the typical from-humble-beginnings-to-success story. He was born and bred in a tiny rural area called uMzinyathi in KwaZulu-Natal. Desolately, it was an accepted norm in his family that after grade seven, one would leave school to look for employment in order to support the family. Prof Msomi managed to secure employment as a gardener, working for an advocate. Poverty-stricken, but determined to further his schooling, he saved a portion of his salary and later registered with Damelin Correspondence College. He had to complete the grade eight to ten syllabi over two years. Upon discovering that his employee was studying, the advocate fired Prof Msomi on the spot, justifying this move by saying his intention was to hire a person whose goal was to support his family and not to study.

For Prof Msomi, completing his high school education would be the key to his success so only part-time employment would do. He succeeded to secure a part-time job where he worked as a petrol attendant on weekends and during school holidays. His focus on his studies would pay off in an unexpected way. His excellent matric results secured him a bursary to further his studies. This was history in the making as Prof Msomi was not only the first to study at university level in his family, but the entire village too. He obtained his degree and worked as an educator for five years. Determined to better his life, he continuously furthered his education and the rest is history.

"Learning has been a journey that I have thoroughly enjoyed. I had my fair share of ups and downs. Today I am proud of where I am. I am grateful to all those who contributed to my development. Above all, I thank God for everything," Prof Msomi reflected.



Professor Maria Sewela Mabusela
Deputy Dean: Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Education

Prof Mabusela's flair is echoed by her meteoric rise in her academic career. Despite the tragic circumstances of her past such as losing her mother at the tender age of thirteen, her journey in the academic field is one to marvel at and certainly admire.

Prof Mabusela completed her schooling at the age of seventeen but, owing to dire financial constraints, went to work in a shoe shop- hence her love for shoes. As soon as her sister successfully enrolled into a nursing school, she offered to pay for Prof Mabusela's studies with the stipend she received. Prof Mabusela then chose the education field, enrolling a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree. She became the first person in her entire family to study at a university.

After obtaining her degree, she struggled to secure a permanent job. To make ends meet, she resorted to working three jobs. She worked at one school part-time from 7h30 to 14h00, from 14h00 until 18h00 at another school and another from 18h00 to 20h00. That is how she was able to pay for her honours degree. She also had to furnish the house her sister had bought but had unfortunately passed away before even moving into.

Despite all her hard work, and even after obtaining her honours degree, Prof Mabusela still could not secure employment and went to study for her master's degree. Only after completing this degree was she able to find a job as a teacher. As the breadwinner in the family, she worked to put her sister's children through school.

For Prof Mabusela, going to the university was an eye-opener. Where before had seemed dull and she had felt no sense of direction, entering the gates of university altered all this. Through hard work, she has managed to climb up the academic ladder right up to deputy dean level. She envisions herself as a senior professor in the near future.

#MOTIVATION



Professor Antonia Thandi Nzama
Faculty of Arts

Born and bred in KwaWosiyane, Ndwedwe in a family of seven, Prof Nzama grew up in a poverty-stricken household where both parents were unemployed. She was raised in an area that had one school, eGweni Primary School, the highest level which was standard two. Through her passion to become a university graduate, Prof Nzama found a way of studying further.

Her father, though uneducated, understood the significance of going to school. He could not support her financially but gave her his blessings. She therefore started self-funding her education from the age of 10, removing weed in people's fields for a 20c pay.

During winter, she would cut dry grass, clean and sell it to people who would use it to thatch their roofs. Her desire to complete her schooling propelled her amid the hardships she faced. With the money she made from her odd jobs, she would pay school fees and buy her uniform. She only owned her first pair of shoes when she was 15 years old. Before that, she used to walk barefoot.

When she completed her primary schooling, she could not afford to fund her high school studies. Her father was also unable to help her in this regard either. Prof Nzama worked as a herd girl for that year. Fed up with her situation at the time, the young lady summoned the courage to seek financial assistance. She pleaded with a German priest, Father DJ Carr, who used to visit the church she attended at the time, to intervene in her situation. She shared her life story with him. The following month when the priest came back, he delivered news that would change the course of Prof Nzama's life. He was going to fund her education. She packed her bags and went to Montebello High School (now called the Lady of the Rosary), where she completed the equivalent of matric in those days.

Father Carr, who could only fund Prof Nzama's studies up to matric, then introduced the young lady to Roman Catholic Church Archbishop Dennis Hurley. The Archbishop was very sympathetic and paid her initial university fees after which she had to apply for bursaries and do various odd jobs during holidays such as cleaning and babysitting to pursue her dream of getting a university degree. Even to this day when Prof Nzama goes to her hometown, people still refer to her as "The girl who went to university" since she was the first person in the entire village to set foot in a university environment.



Dr Kanagie Naidoo
Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law

"Poverty is not a hindrance to success. Therefore, hard work, positive thinking and such will enable one to overcome poverty."

This is the sentiment of Dr Naidoo, Head of the Department Law. Dr Naidoo was born in a close-knit family of six in the rural village of Mandeni, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). She attended a primary school that taught combined classes because it only had five classrooms shared amongst seven grades. She completed her high schooling in Stanger, KZN. At the time, her father, who worked as a driver for Sappi, was the sole breadwinner thus money was incredibly tight.

Due to their financial constraints, there was no money saved for her tertiary education. However, her father decided to sacrifice his life savings so that his daughter could go to university. These funds were not enough to pay for all of Dr Naidoo's needs so she had to work part-time on weekends and holidays to earn money for textbooks and other necessities.

At the time, Dr Naidoo's wardrobe consisted of one pair of jeans and less than eight t-shirts which she would wear repeatedly. A particular pink t-shirt caught the eye of her greatest mentor, a constitutional judge who, till this day, recalls the memory of her wearing the t-shirt in his classroom. Dr Naidoo remembers saving up to buy a luxury item, a pair of new non-hand-me-down sneakers which were her only pair of sneakers that she kept for four years.

In her immediate family, the academic is the only one that went to university. Her two older siblings did not go because they wanted to find work and assist financially at home. The saddest part is that her mom passed away two months before she was admitted as an attorney and her brother had passed away eight months before that. Her brother had been the main financial supporter throughout her university journey.

After completing her degree, she could not get articles immediately. She managed to, however, secure employment as a teacher and taught for about a year. Thereafter, she went to practical school because she had saved some money. She eventually secured six-month employment as a buyer in the accounts department at Sappi. Ultimately, she was able to do her articles with legal aid Empangeni.

Dr Naidoo has been with UNIZULU for the past fourteen years. She loves what she does and gives her best all the time.