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ONLINE

September 2018 | Issue No. 4

RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE

# CONTINUOUSLY PRESS FOR PROGRESS UNIZULU WOMEN URGED



Professor Xoliswa Mtose, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor; Zibu MaSotobe, UNIZULU alumna and businesswoman; Smangele Simelane, Employee Wellness Specialist and Ester Bacela, Financial Aid Officer.

The 2018 University of Zululand Women's Day event was a rude awakening for women in the institution who came face-to-face with issues of gender inequality and over indebtedness, matters which continue to cripple their progress.

Each year, the university holds a special event in honour of the 20 000 fearless women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on 9 August 1956, against the carrying of passes. The function is also UNIZULU's means of paying homage to the hard-working, powerful and beautiful women who contribute to its daily production.

This year's event was held at the iconic King Bhekuzulu Hall on the KwaDlangezwa Campus on Friday (24 August 2018) and was attended by over five hundred female staff members who were beautifully clad in floral ensembles.

Amid the glitz and the glam, the ladies were constantly reminded- through the different segments of the event- of their worth, the importance of taking care of their wellbeing and why they need to constantly "Press for Progress", like the theme indicated.

In her address, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose stressed the need for modern-day women to unite like the women of 1956 in achieving gender parity. Quoting a verse in the bible she reminded women that they were wonderfully and fearfully made by the Lord and urged them never to allow anyone or any situation to let them think otherwise.

"A woman will not allow situations to define who she is. A woman needs to understand her vision for her life... This year's theme is #PressForProgress and it speaks to something deep within me. It means we push against all odds. It means we do not allow anything to stop us but we keep the spirit of our fore sisters of (the)1956 uprising and banning," Prof Mtose said.

In the same breath, she cautioned against women-to-women and women-to-male friction stressing that her message is that women need to "push" the circumstances that threaten to stifle their progress in life.

Zibu MaSotobe, the phenomenal business woman, UNIZULU and Mandela Washington Fellowship alumna who directed the programme and delivered the keynote

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND



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speech, challenged the women to do some introspection on their financial habits. Deeply concerned, she showed the ladies the alarming statistics about the lives professionals in the country lead. She revealed that 77% of professionals were flat broke at the end of every month, 60% couldn't meet their home loan and credit card payments, 75% owed their salaries to creditors while only 23% still had money in their accounts at the end of the month.

"It's not so much how much money you make but it is what you do with the money you make. What you need is not an increase but a better way to manage your income,"

Masotobe stated. According to her, buying on credit is the main source of people's struggles because what one could pay for once-off ends up costing them three times more than the initial price when purchased on credit. The reason for this predicament many citizens find themselves in is that financial management is not included in the curriculum of any schooling phase, Masotobe claimed.

She thus encouraged the ladies to purchase her book titled *The Personal Finance Revolution* which has a detailed guide on how to eliminate debt.

– Naledi Hlefané

## COME DINE AT DOCSHERD RESTAURANT



Staff savouring the palatable food served at the newly opened DOCSHERD restaurant.

The Department of Consumer Science at the University of Zululand recently opened a training restaurant for its students with the aim of equipping them with practical culinary and hospitality skills.

Named DOCSHERD, an abbreviation of Department of Consumer Sciences Hospitality/Extension and Rural Development, the restaurant seeks to impart valuable knowledge to students on how menus are developed, food is prepared and the art of serving food.

The continuously evolving nature of the world of work has led to an increasing demand for tertiary institutions to produce employable graduates who are equipped with a range of knowledge, skills and attributes that can enable them to succeed in the world of work and life in general, Professor Unathi Kolanisi, the Head of the Department of Consumer Science explained. With part of UNIZULU's mission being to produce globally competitive graduates, the institution therefore prioritises ensuring that its students are

thoroughly prepared for the workplace.

The restaurant is starting on a small scale with catering done for 50 staff members per practical session (Tuesdays and Thursdays), on a first-come-first-served basis. For a reasonable cost of R50 per head, staff enjoy a three-course meal incorporating either Italian cuisine, organic foods or traditional foods, among an array of other options. A special R20 discount applies for staff members who bring along two invitees. Though the menu is standard for each practical session, Prof Kolanisi clarified that the menu does take the emergence of new diets, styles of eating and the rise in food allergies into account.

Catering is also provided for special events but a two-week notice is required.

The restaurant does provide a delivery service but staff is encouraged to come and dine so as to fully experience the hospitality of the students.

DOCSHERD is looking forward to serving you!

– Precious Shamase

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The month of August was a fast-paced one in the University, marked by a number of highlights and achievements. On 1 August, the MBALI International Conference took place at Umfolozi Casino.

This is a biennial event which was initiated by UNIZULU's Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law. It was launched in 2016 as part of the Faculty's Research Capacity Development Programme. It provides a platform for faculty staff and postgraduate students to present research papers in an interactive international setting which exposes them to the current national and international research practices while also enabling them to network with and learn from a wide-ranging cohort of national and international researchers.

There were over 110 papers that were presented during the three-day conference under the theme "Redefining management, business, finance, administration and legal initiatives for inclusive growth and development in an emerging economy". We saw reputable speakers impacting knowledge to University staff members and postgraduate students in promoting the research culture.

Professor Thwala and Professor Tewari gave their inaugural lectures. This is a new tradition for the University which we will grow until it is part of the academic calendar. This will allow all of our new professors and seasoned professors an opportunity to share their research with a broad audience, including members of the public, in the presence of family, invited friends and colleagues.

A longstanding tradition of the institution is the commemoration of Women's Day through a University-organised and sponsored event. This year was no exception as beautiful ladies- who are the flowers of this university- were celebrated on 24 August under the theme #PressforProgress.

The University continues to be committed to the empowerment and development of all women in all aspects of academia. We honour the sacrifices women have made and celebrate the strides they have taken. We know that women can do anything they set their minds to. They already push at the frontiers of knowledge, educate the next generation and constantly improve the society in which we find ourselves.

On a sombre note, we are saddened that one of our knowledge giants Professor Zobolo passed away on 23 August. He invested over 30 years towards the betterment of the students at the University. He is dearly missed.

The months ahead will be action packed therefore please come aboard the "knowledge train". The Research Week, Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards, SRC Elections are some of the major events that are in the pipeline.

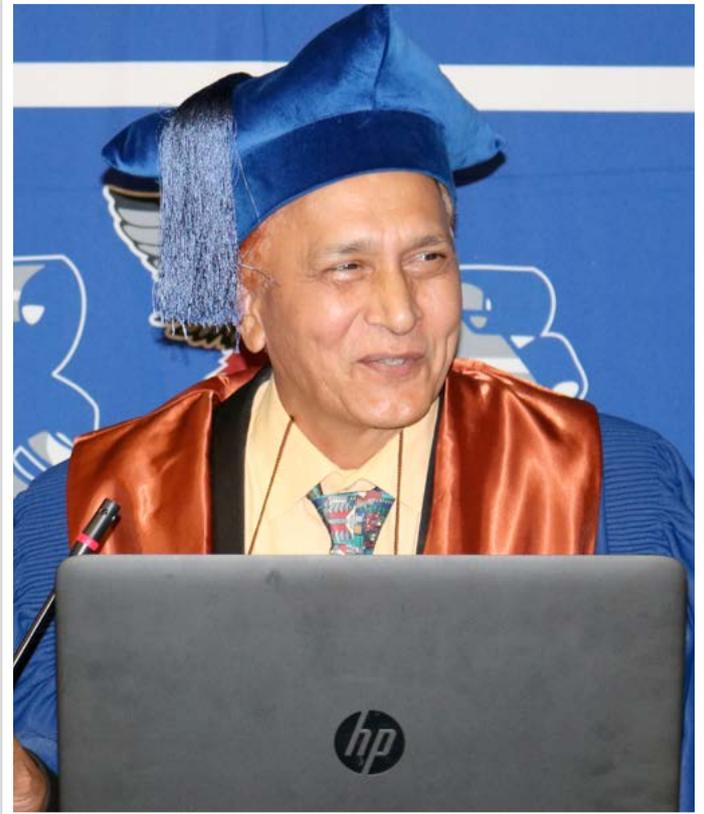
Till next month, #Salute.



**Gcina Nhleko**

Director: Communications and Marketing

# UNIZULU STARTS INAUGURAL LECTURES CULTURE



Professor Jabulani Thwala (left) and Professor Dev Tewari during their inaugural lectures held early in August at the Council Chambers, KwaDlangezwa Campus.

As part of its knowledge sharing and generation goal, the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) has launched the inaugural lecture series which was opened by Professor Jabulani Thwala and Professor Dev Tewari on 14 and 16 August, respectively, at the Council Chambers.

Prof Thwala's lecture was titled "The Philophonetics Therapeutic Modality: Its contribution in the diversified cultures of South African Society in the 21st Century and beyond" while Professor Tewari spoke on the "Increasing Human Progress through Education: Need for a Quantum Leap in Education Policy".

Professor Thwala's topic focused on the therapeutic approach of Philophonetics counselling where activities are consciously governed and controlled by the client who is in charge of the session and its length. The beauty of this modality is that all over the world, psychologists and psychotherapists speak of the best possible therapeutic interventions they can use without actively engaging the client and this modality approach is vice-versa.

During his lecture, Professor Tewari focused on evolving education within the changing context. His Lecture examined character building as the main basis for education, which thus alluded to the fact that the root of all human progress is thus the quality of people. It suggested that reformed education should include: the special

education taught in schools, colleges and universities, experiential education (learning by experiences), human value education (learning of subtle qualities of virtue and leadership from family, role models, and religious sources).

Inaugural lectures are a central part of university academic life. These events are held to commemorate the inaugural lecturer's appointment to a full professorship. The inaugural lecture provides a platform for the academic to present the body of research that they have been focusing on during their career while also providing UNIZULU with the opportunity to showcase its academics and share its research with members of the wider university community and the general public in an accessible way. Certainly, appointment to a full professorship, is the formal pinnacle of an academic career, and presents a cause for celebration and reflection on the work that brought the incumbent to this position. It also signals the beginning of yet further and higher intellectual achievement.

The University of Zululand is looking forward to hosting the next lectures in October in order to amplify the importance of University initiatives of this nature as well as intelligent choices that academics and emerging researchers should make about their careers.

– Gcina Nhleko

# UNIZULU ACADEMIC SOARING WITH EAGLES IN THE US



Professor Anass Bayaga, Research Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education, will be representing the University at a colloquium to be held at the Appalachian State University in Boone, United States.

The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) congratulates Professor Anass Bayaga who will be presenting a research paper on Friday, 7 September at a colloquium to be held at the Appalachian State University in Boone, United States (US).

Prof Bayaga is a UNIZULU research professor in mathematics, science and technology and was the beneficiary of the Fullbright Visiting Research Scholar Program at George Washington University, also in the US. Prof Bayaga received his PhD in operations research at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa and has been with UNIZULU since 2014. Previously, he was a professor and the Faculty Research Co-ordinator of the Faculty of Education at the University of Fort Hare.

At the upcoming colloquium, Prof Bayaga will present on the topic "Identifying and Examining the Predictors (Influencers) that Correlate with College/Pre-College Maths Cognition". His abstract argues that for years there has been debate that suggests maths cognition (which may include, but not exclusively so, number/visual processing) largely occurs independent of other disciplines such as linguistics (language). Responding to the ongoing debate, the current research examines maths cognition with particular reference to two subcognitive processes (numerical and spatial cognition) taking into account environmental influences and cultural variation (ethno-maths).

As a transdisciplinary work and drawing from both exploratory data analysis (EDA) and knowledge discovery in databases (KDD), the conceptualisation of the ongoing research is anchored upon sub disciplines in cognitive informatics, neuroscience and cognitive linguistics.

His research thus interrogates the malleability of maths cognition via various sub disciplines and methodologies by identifying and examining the predictors that correlate with college/pre-college mathematical ideas as well as mathematical reasoning.

Professor Bayaga's research interests are in Neuro-mathematics (maths cognition) information systems (mobile computing privacy) and educational technologies. An accomplished scholar, in 2016 he won best paper award for his research on "Computing Transition Intensity: The Case of South African HIV/AIDS Disposition (World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, International Science Index, Mathematical and Computational Sciences, 2(2), 550: Brazil – Rio De Janeiro)". He has published widely both locally and internationally and has managed and coordinated both local and international projects across Africa, Europe, Asia and the US in information systems risk and mathematics.

– Gcina Nhleko

## NEWLY INSTALLED MRI SCAN TO AID IN RESEARCH



The Bruker MRI scan was recently installed on the KwaDlangezwa Campus premises for the micro imaging of scientific specimens with small dimensions.

A new dawn has broken for the research and innovation sector at the University of Zululand following the procurement of a high-tech Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) equipment which will aid in the micro imaging of internal and external morphology of scientific specimens of small dimensions such as mice, fruits, nanoparticles, polymer nanocomposites and complex polymeric blends.

The Bruker MRI scan was purchased using funds received from a National Research Foundation grant awarded to the polymers and nanocomposites unit in the Department of Chemistry in 2016. The state-of-the-art equipment was purchased for R7 200 000 and has been installed on the KwaDlangezwa premises.

According to Professor Tshwafo Motaung, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, the features of the equipment cut across different disciplines including Physics, Botany,

Zoology, Biochemistry / Microbiology, Agriculture, Anthropology / Paleontology, Geography and Environmental Studies, Hydrology, Human Movement Science, Geography and Consumer Science. Academics and postgraduate students in the mentioned disciplines will soon be trained on how to operate the equipment.

“UNIZULU is encapsulated by more than eight industries which are heavily involved in different material processing and water sanitation so the instrument will assist to make industrial partnership stronger and functional,” Prof Motaung explained. “In fact, it falls within our modernised research strategies to advance partnership with both industries and municipality under an incubation programme as advanced by the National Development Plan. This dynamic equipment has already attracted massive attention of researchers across the country,” he added.

– Naledi Hlelane

# UNIVERSITY WATER SAVING STRATEGY AWARDED



UNIZULU Green Campus Initiative (GCI) team.

Within a few months of the launch of the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) Green Campus Initiative (GCI) team, the green-conscious group received the Green Award for Water Saving during the 7th Annual Green Campuses Conference recently held at the Durban University of Technology.

GCI is an initiative of the Association of College and University Housing Officers- International (acuho-i). Apart from organising the annual conference, acuho-i deals with climate change and environmental sustainability challenges through innovative academic research which is then actioned via various projects on university campuses and beyond.

The five-day symposium is aimed at giving universities a platform to present and showcase different programmes that they implement to promote environmental sustainability.

UNIZULU GCI presented on its water saving programme, detailing how it introduced push taps, dual flushing toilets (toilets which gives users the option of choosing the amount of water to use per flush) and a sewage purifying system. The team also installed Jojo tanks to harvest rain water and decided to cut water supply to the student residences on sunny days, thereafter giving out bottled water as a means of raising awareness about the essence of saving water.

Following the team's impressive triumph at the conference, UNIZULU GCI Deputy Chairperson, Nontoko Mdlletshe said the team was thrilled by its achievement and attributed their success to solidarity and dedication. Its project was pitted against three other universities, two of which are from KwaZulu-Natal. Mdlletshe pointed out that the UNIZULU team was unique in that it is comprised of students with a keen interest in environmental issues whereas in other universities, members are restricted to student housing departments.

Head of Student Housing Department Mlethwa Khomo said he never expected the team to receive an award so soon. "I thought maybe we needed three to four years. This is a big certificate because it attests to the fact that UNIZULU cares about the environment; we care about sustainability," he said, adding that he hoped that more students would participate so that GCI projects could spread to external communities.

Khomo concluded by acknowledging the UNIZULU community for its continued support.

– Samkele Sokhela

## UNIZULU HOSTS ASTROLAB WORKSHOP



Dr Michèle Gerbaldi, Associate Researcher at the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris (IAP) in France, facilitated the UNIZULU Astrolab workshop.

The University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Department of Physics and Engineering recently held a week-long Starlight in the university lab (Astrolab) workshop which was attended by a group of educators and professional practitioners in Astrophysics from across the African continent at the KwaDlangezwa Campus.

Astrolab aims to change the negative perception of scientific lab learning amongst students. In an enquiry structured environment, students are motivated to play an active role in analysing and retrieving data, thereafter developing the challenging empirical work, key practical skills and eventually mastering the subject matter.

The workshop is an outreach programme of the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD), the International Astronomy Union (IAU) in partnership with Las Cumbres Observatory (LCO) and the National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme (NASSP) and has been implemented in Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia.

The UNIZULU Astrolab was facilitated by Dr Michèle Gerbaldi, an Associate Researcher at the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris (IAP)

in France. The programme covered, among other topics, the use of free Virtual Observatory, an international community based space which astronomy researchers can use in order to collect a library of astronomical data such as mission-logs, simulations, images and spectra.

Participants also observed the Cepheid and Eclipsing Binary stars. Observations of eclipsing binaries are used to determine the light curve as well as calculate the radius and mass of the stars. Cepheids observations are for the period-luminosity relation which helps in determining the distances of galaxies.

Sarah Roberts, the LCO representative who co-facilitated the workshop, introduced participants to her organisation's network of telescopes which are situated in North and South America, Africa, Australia, Europe and Eastern Asia. The global network of robotic telescopes provides scientists with continuous observations at any given time period over several hours or days.

– Hlumelo Nyikana