

RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE



PRAYING FOR THE FUTURE SAFETY OF THE UNIZULU COMMUNITY

Pictured from left: Nhlanhla Cele, Executive Director: Institutional Planning; Raymond Ngcobo, Executive Director: Human Resources; Professor Gideon De Wet, DVC: Research and Innovation as well as Professor Xoliswa Mtose, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor during the prayer service held at the KwaDlangezwa campus.

On Thursday, 2 November, the University of Zululand held a mass prayer service during which the University community- led by its Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose and religious leaders- paid their respects to its fallen students; some of whom met brutally violent ends.

The service, which was ministered by ordained Apostle Collins Dlomo and was attended by students, staff as well as various other spiritual leaders, was also held to pray for the future safety of the UNIZULU community.

Apostle Collins Dlomo is the Senior Pastor and the leader of Covenant Fellowship Church International (CFCI) which consists of 21 churches. He pastors the church at Umhlathuze Durban Esikhawini, Empangeni, Richards Bay and KwaDlangezwa.

In her address, Prof Mtose expressed her heartbreak at the loss of the 17 students who all died this year, urging staff and students to be vigilant when it comes to their safety and to trust in the Almighty. She thanked attendees for joining UNIZULU in worship to combat the negative energy that has prevailed over the University in relation to the deaths of its students.

Apostle Dlomo reiterated Prof Mtose's sentiments and advised attendees to continue developing their spiritual aptitude and be more vigilant in protecting their bodies. "God's work is performed with the use of our bodies, our minds, our souls and our conscious. If we don't develop these parts of ourselves, when God speaks, we won't hear him. This also means that our prayers won't be effective," he said.

According to Statistics South Africa, over 19 000 murders were recorded during the 2016/17 period. The murder rate increased from 36.1% to 36.2 % per 100 000 people. KwaZulu-Natal has the third highest rate of murders: 36.7% per 100 000 people.

Earlier this year in July, the office of the Vice-Chancellor organised the #BlackThursday march to raise awareness to the concerning surge of gender-based violence within our community. This has also paved a way for the formation of the University's Gender Forum.

UNIZULU staff and students are encouraged to immediately alert the University's Protective Services Department (PSD) should they not feel safe or if the lives of their fellow peers are in danger.

by Hlumelo Nyikana

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Gcina Nhleko
Director: Communications
and Marketing

EDITOR'S NOTE

Another busy academic year is fast approaching completion as we reach the end of the summer term. While staff continue to work all the way through, today is of great significance to our students.

They have successfully completed the 2017 academic year and we are positive that they will receive befitting results in line with efforts

and hard work on their studies.

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.

The University held a prayer meeting in order to speak life to every situation as we have been under a dark cloud lately where there has been an increase in student fatalities.

We encourage students to be cautious and vigilant in the upcoming holiday season so that their future goals can be reached in entirety. The death of a student robs South Africa of a rare breed of talent. The youth of today are our future leaders therefore their lives are precious for the future sustainability of our country.

May you have an enriching and rewarding holiday season ahead.

CAMPUS NEWS

Major Boost for UNIZULU's Community Engagement Endeavours

In an effort to engage and positively impact communities surrounding it, the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) recently appointed Mammusa Lekoa as the Community Engagement Manager.

Lekoa's portfolio, which she assumed at the beginning of October (2017), falls under the office of the DVC: Research and Innovation. "I am ecstatic about my new position," said Lekoa. "I believe that universities have a responsibility towards societies surrounding them. This provides scholars with an opportunity to exchange and manufacture new knowledge with communities, learn from their experiences and challenges to inform the scholarship and ultimately influence the curriculum. It is thus my hope that my office will serve this purpose," she said.

Through her position, Lekoa will drive the strategic demands of community engagement for the institution to ensure that they are aligned to the Strategic Plan, as well as provide support and coordinate all community engagement activities undertaken by staff.

Lekoa was born in Germiston, Gauteng, but grew up in Lesotho, where her family had settled. Her passion for public health and community engagement saw her enrolling for a Certificate in Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Lesotho. Upon completion, she served in the public sector for 10 years as an Environmental Health Assistant and subsequently



Pictured: Mammusa Lekoa, the new Community Engagement Manager at UNIZULU.

Environmental Health Practitioner in the three districts in Lesotho. Seeking to "empower" herself, she took a hiatus from the work force to further her studies in South Africa. She obtained her National Diploma and Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Health at Technikon Natal (now Durban University of Technology). She later studied towards a Master's degree in Population Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is currently in the process of beginning her PhD studies.

Lekoa has extensive experience which she gained from both the public and private sectors. In 2007, after being headhunted, she joined

Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies where she worked for over seven years as Press and Policy Liaison Manager before assuming a lecturing position at the Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), Durban, in 2013. During her tenure at MUT, she made great teaching strides by ensuring to integrate all pillars of higher education (that is teaching and learning, research and community engagement) into her modules. Her exceptional teaching practice lead her to win two prestigious awards during the VC's Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards at MUT in 2016.

When she is not at the office, Lekoa is a proud wife and a mother of three. She also enjoys jogging, cooking, reading and sewing.

by Naledi Hlelane

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CAMPUS NEWS

Become Active Researchers: Science and Agriculture Students Urged



Professor Onesimo Mutanga from the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Science and Professor Nokuthula Kunene, the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at UNIZULU. The two professors are pictured at the annual UNIZULU Faculty of Science and Agriculture Research Symposium 2017.

The recent annual UNIZULU Faculty of Science and Agriculture Research Symposium 2017 saw Honours, Master's and PhD students currently undertaking their studies within this Faculty being urged to continue conducting research in their various fields (of study) as this is important for the country of South Africa.

The Research Symposium is an annual event which provides an interactive space for knowledge sharing between specialised science and agricultural disciplines such as Botany, Bio Kinetics (including Sports Science and Human Movement Science), Chemistry, Biochemistry, Computer Science, Consumer Sciences, Geography, Hydrology, Microbiology, Physics and Zoology.

Professor Nokuthula Kunene, the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at UNIZULU, said apart from providing a platform for presenting papers, this conference was also a way of encouraging students in the Faculty to pursue their postgraduate studies so as to increase their chances of securing employment.

"Research is important for the country so I urge you to take it seriously. At the moment, the world is faced with rapid environmental changes such as increase in population, urbanisation and climate change. We are facing a lot of challenges due to these issues so

we require answers on how we can sustain ourselves. It is therefore crucial that we get more researchers," said Prof Kunene.

Professor Onesimo Mutanga from the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Science, gave the keynote address. Like Prof Kunene, he also emphasised the importance of pursuing postgraduate studies; enlightening students about the personal and societal benefits of doing this.

"Conducting postgraduate research develops the inner self. You gain self-confidence to challenge certain knowledge boundaries. By doing so, you develop society as well. Most research is done to solve current problems so when one conducts research, he or she contributes to the solution of those problems. This (conducting postgraduate research) also has implications on higher salary prospects," said Prof Mutanga.

While he (Prof Mutanga) acknowledged that many students may be under pressure to find employment after completing their undergraduate studies because of dire financial situations, he also encouraged them to persevere as he learnt from his personal experiences as a student that "sacrifice pays off".

by Naledi Hlefané



CAMPUS NEWS

UNIZULU Employee Wellness Day Addresses Depression and HIV/AIDS

Issues around depression and HIV/AIDS took centre stage during the Employee Wellness Day at the University of Zululand which was held in a bid to promote health and wellness among the University's employees.

Directed by Ukhozi FM DJ, Khetha Gwala, the day's programme featured talks by well-known HIV/AIDS activist and gospel artist Nomusa "Musa" Njoko as well as Dr Xolani Molefe, a Psychiatrist in state-employ and private practice.

The annual Employee Wellness Day event is organised by the University's Employee Relations and Wellness unit which also runs the Mpilonhle-Good Health programme aimed at promoting the holistic wellbeing of UNIZULU staff members through counselling, financial and physical wellness, among other initiatives.

Various service providers in the wellness field exhibited during the event as well as health screenings aimed at ensuring that employees are informed about their health statuses. Fun was also had through games such as football, volleyball, tug of war and aerobics.

According to Smangele Simelane, Specialist in the Employee Relations and Wellness unit, the event provides a "one-stop-shop for employees to engage with service providers and acquire knowledge about the physical, financial and emotional aspects of wellness".

During her keynote address, Njoko issued a stern warning, saying, "Living with HIV is possible but also very challenging so I would strongly advise you to take all preventative measures not to acquire the virus". Njoko's talk was mainly based on her real life experience during the 23 years of living with the illness in a bid to give hope to those living with HIV; to show them that life does not end when you are diagnosed with the virus.

"I was diagnosed with HIV in 1994 during a very exciting time in South Africa when freedom and democracy were being celebrated. I could not join in on the celebrations as I had just been told by my doctor that I had only three months left to live," Njoko recalled. Given the lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS at the time, Njoko remembered how she too perceived her HIV status as a death sentence. She then waited for death every single day following her doctor's visit. "Every night I'd go to bed expecting not to wake up the next morning. I kept this up until I decided to go on with what I actually had: life," she said. Since then, Njoko lived her life to the full, defying all odds.



Pictured: HIV/AIDS activist and gospel artist Nomusa "Musa" Njoko during her keynote address at the event. Also pictured are other events at the Wellness Day event.

She was among the first few female South Africans to publicly disclose their HIV status and has since taken an active role in raising awareness about the pandemic. Her status has also not deterred her from fulfilling her dreams. She is a recording artist, a missionary and an entrepreneur who owns a recording label and fashion line. "I am not less of a person or woman because I am HIV positive," she said, adding that she was not glorifying living with HIV but was also reinforcing the essence of abstinence and practising safe sex in pursuit of having an HIV-free generation.

Dr Molefe, who spoke about depression- a common and serious mental but treatable illness that negatively affects how one feels, the way they think and react – said depression is most prevalent among females as they are exposed to more stress such as added responsibilities than their male counterparts. Dr Molefe urged men to be supportive to their female family members such as wives and daughters in order to help prevent the prevalence of this illness.

He however applauded UNIZULU for hosting the Wellness Day event, saying it (the programme) is a step in the right direction towards ensuring the overall wellness of employees. Dr Molefe urged attendees to seek mental health interventions as soon as problems arise instead of at a later stage when they may be difficult to treat. "Mental health illnesses are treatable and preventable. You find that patients come to us (psychiatrists) when their problems are too far gone. We aren't saying that people must not consult other healthcare practitioners; however, we urge you to also consult us as soon as problems arise so that we prevent the progression of mental health illnesses," he said. Dr Molefe also urged attendees to watch what they eat as this can also contribute to the state of their poor mental health. He also encouraged exercise as this can also contribute to good mental health.

by Naledi Hlelane and Sinegugu Ndlovu



CAMPUS NEWS

Languages Bursaries for Students at UNIZULU

The national Department of Arts and Culture is in the process of offering bursaries in Language Studies to undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Zululand.

Therefore, for the University to be selected ahead of the 6 other universities is a commendable progressive step. The bursary was initially rolled out in 2012-2014 and it was a smooth process and the previous bursary conditions were honoured. Other Public Universities who are current awardees for the Bursary are UWC, UNIVEN, Mandela University, Wits and UNIZULU. The proposed second phase at UNIZULU is earmarked to start in 2018-2021 with a financial injection in excess of R3 million.

This initiative has been conceived as a result of the lack of skills in the identified area of language which needs attention for the development of previously marginalised languages. The specific objective of the bursary award is that the successful applicants should acquire skills in any three of the following areas of study: Translation and Editing; Interpreting; Lexicography; Terminology Development and Management; Language Planning; Human Language Technologies; any of the South African official languages with emphasis on indigenous languages and South African Sign Language (SASL). The Department of Arts and Culture grants financial support to the Beneficiary in executing undergraduate and postgraduate up to Masters in language studies.

Prof Songca, DVC: Teaching & Learning, gave a reflective on the importance of language importance as a medium of instruction, communication and business tool. The myth around African languages is that it does not have economic value therefore there is an active need to demystify this stereotype through ongoing educational and awareness programmes.

The renewed MOA is a draft and the Department of Arts and Culture is on a roadshow to unpack the imperatives of the MOA and once that is done, contracting will happen. Therefore, the involvement of various stakeholders from the Faculty, Legal and Head of Department for Linguistics is important in order to consolidate inputs.

Dr Mbulelo Jokweni from DAC said, "As part of advancing languages, the government is on a robust drive since 2012 when it passed the use of Language Act, the act mandated that all government departments, parastatals and entities must have a language policy in place. Preceding that in 2004 the department introduced the Bursary scheme as a method of training and upskilling students in languages in order to show the importance stance and commitment in the advancement of languages".

He congratulated the University Department for applying for this funding especially as it is not guaranteed. The bursary is highly



Pictured (top row from left): UNIZULU Chief Financial Officer, Zenzele Mzimela; UNIZULU Department of General Linguistics HoD, Dr Mthembeni Mncwango; Dr Mbulelo Jokweni, Chief Director: National Language Service in the Department of Arts and Culture; Professor Sandile Songca, DVC: Teaching and Learning at UNIZULU; Zanele Mtshweni, Deputy Director: Language Planning and Development in the Department of Arts and Culture and Dokela Maleke from the Financial Aid Bureau at UNIZULU. Pictured on the bottom row from left is Professor Gregory Kwamwendo, Dean: Faculty of Arts at UNIZULU; Nokuthula Mbokazi, Bursary Administrator at UNIZULU and Siphon Manganyi, Acting Director: Language Planning and Development in the Department of Arts and Culture.

competitive and is contested by various universities countrywide. The other benefit for this bursary he mentioned is that it is not restrictive therefore NSFAS and other funded students can be funded and benefit from this pool.

Dr Mncwango who is the Acting Head of General Linguistics Department reiterated the importance of devices and proper provisioning for such gadgets as an imperative. It will be ideal to include this component in the MOA especially as certain books comes as e-books therefore a need for an appropriate gadget to support this is important.

The Bursary sponsor will engage with students on the 21st & 22nd February 2018 which is earmarked as the mother tongues day in-order to talk and showcase job opportunities available in the languages field. This is part of the mentorship and incubation process which is aimed at developing well refined and rounded graduates.

The Faculty of Arts takes pride in the mother tongue advancement, we need to decolonise the minds of all university stakeholders and bring about diversity benefits that language can bring. The use of language can produce job creation opportunities rather than seeking active employment. The mother tongue day will be stretched and maximised as an all-inclusive university event concluded Prof Kamwendo, Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

by Gcina Nhleko