



## RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE

### FESTIVE GREETINGS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND STAFF MEMBERS

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the staff of the University for the commitment demonstrated throughout the year. The well-deserved December break is fast approaching, we wish you and your families a relaxing and cheerful festive season and a prosperous new year.

– Vice-Chancellor, Professor Xoliswa Mtose, and the University Management



## UNIZULU ACADEMICS BREAK NEW GROUND THROUGH BOOKS

Pictured: Khenani Makhoba and Prof Catherine Addison.

The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) celebrates two of its academics in the Faculty of Arts; Professor Catherine Addison and Khenani Makhoba who have broken new ground as the first individuals to publish books in their chosen genres this year (2017).

Upon receiving this news, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof Gregory Kamwendo, commended the two academics on their hard work and accomplishments, promising to have an official launch of both books early in 2018.

Prof Addison, a Full Professor in the Department of English, published her debut book on 1 September. Although it was the first book on its topic, another book on the same genre was published a month later.

Titled: *A Genealogy of the Verse Novel*, Prof Addison's book is an academic work that covers the theory of verse (poetry) novels and discusses and analyses the chronological historical aspects of this genre. The book was inspired by a talk Prof Addison gave on the verse novel at Hamilton College, New York, in 2004. The writing process began soon afterwards but due to her demanding work schedule, completing the book took more than a decade. She said she found analysing the relationship between the narrative and verse structure most enjoyable. According to her, narratologists (academics who study narrative) tend to focus on prose narratives, neglecting stories in verse.

"When one writes a novel in verse, it isn't just a matter of cutting your discourse into lines. One also provides various other kinds of stylisation, for example metre and rhyme, image and metaphor and this affects the message because when you read a novel written in verse, you hear the 'music' in it. So what I wanted to do in this book was to show how that 'music' affects the story. I feel it is also quite important for narratologists to look at verse structure because a story written in this way actually gives it (the story) a different dynamic," Prof Addison explained.

The most challenging part of writing this book was the editing process as the content was written in different versions of Microsoft Word, Prof Addison said. She is, however, grateful to her colleague, Isabel Rawlins, who assisted her with consolidating all the drafts.

Makhoba, unlike Prof Addison, is a prolific columnist and writer who has a number of IsiZulu books under his name. He has, until recently, only published short stories, poetry and other non-fiction books. His latest work, titled: *Amancoko Okuqala*, studies the genre of jokes.

A self-proclaimed man of humour, the lecturer in the Department of African Languages and Culture said his love for comedy dates back to his childhood when he and his friends used to engage in *ukujoyana* (teasing). This, he recalls, taught him to be

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND



**Gcina Nhleko**

Director: Communications  
and Marketing

## EDITOR'S NOTE

As we approach the end of 2017, it is with a sense of satisfaction that we can look back on a year that has, in many respects, been positive. We celebrate the successful wrapping of the academic schedule which is a cornerstone of our institution.

South Africa's research system has grown substantially in the last 16 years. Between 2000 and 2010, after a period of relative stagnation in the 1980s and 1990s, the research output doubled. And then between 2011 and 2015 we have seen further consolidation of this growth by between 40% and 50%. The research output in 2015 gave rise to more than 16 000 research output units, which translates to more than 20 000 research papers. UNIZULU is one of the contributors in these research pieces therefore the awards that celebrated the formidable strides that are made in research frontiers were a fitting tribute to the Result culture cultivation in the institution.

The common notion that denotes a picture being worth a thousand words was confirmed when UNIZULU's Communications and

Marketing Division (CMD) scooped an award for its excellence in news photography skills on Thursday, 30 November 2017 during the Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards. This is further proof that our services match and surpass national standards.

As we are ready to go on a holiday break let us look after our most valuable assets which is our precious lives as bestowed and entrusted to us by the most high. In all we do, we must be of service to the universe and embrace gratitude as a mantra.

We look forward to a far more stable and productive 2018. Our sincere gratitude goes to all our wonderful staff and loyal clients who have stood by us this year! May you and your families have a joyous and restful Festive Season and a prosperous new year.

*"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."*

Albert Pike



## CAMPUS NEWS

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witty. "With jokes, communication is made easier, accessible and understandable to everyone. I sometimes use jokes as ice-breakers when I lecture my students. I find that jokes are applicable to every aspect of life but the trick is in the interpretation. Some jokes may not be funny to some because of language barriers," Makhoba said.

*Amancoko Okuqala* was published as a result of a Master's degree research project which Makhoba started in 1992 but did not complete as he wound up changing his research topic. He compiled the book strategically to accommodate readers of all age groups, but most especially the elderly and primary school learners. The book covers the theory behind jokes and features a variety of jokes which Makhoba either wrote or borrowed from friends and family members.

"I believe that such books would be essential for primary schools as they would encourage children to be more confident to speak in different spheres. But most importantly, I believe that there is always a lesson to be learnt in jokes. Cartoonists like Jonathan Shapiro for instance are a good example of this," Makhoba said.

For a copy of *Amancoko Okuqala*, kindly email Makhoba at [MakhobaK@unizulu.ac.za](mailto:MakhobaK@unizulu.ac.za).

Prof Addison's book is available for purchase on <http://www.cambridgescholars.com/a-genealogy-of-the-verse-novel> as well as on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

*by Naledi Hlefané*

## UNIZULU's CMD Team Wins at MACE

The University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Communications and Marketing Division (CMD) is relishing its moment of glory following its victory at the annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards which were held on 30 November in Johannesburg.



*Pictured: The winning image named "The Culmination of a Journey".*

The Division scooped an award for its excellence in news photography skills for the second consecutive year; pitted against several practitioners in higher, technical and vocational education and training in the skills photography category.

Named "The Culmination of a Journey", the winning picture features Bongekile Gloria Mashaba, a then UNIZULU student who was being hooded on the graduation stage by the University's Deputy Registrar, Ernest Doeseb. The entry was named "The Culmination of a Journey" as it depicts the emotion of relief that usually engulfs graduands as they descend the graduation stage after years of hard work and dedication. The picture was taken by Sphamandla Gumede, Communications Assistant within CMD during the 2017 May Graduation Ceremonies.

*by Naledi Hlefané*





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## CAMPUS NEWS

### Vox Pop



As the year draws nearer to an end, Ongoye Online shines the spotlight on some of the University's staff members; asking them to share their highlights for 2017 and their aspirations for the year ahead. This is what they had to say:



**Dewald Janse Van Rensburg**  
Registrar

"My highlights for 2017 are new systems developed for certification and registrations such as online registrations which is now in phase four; improved security in terms of our marks; our new electronic records management system and policy in terms of Committees; the appointment of (a number of) new members of Council as well as the successful SRC elections. My outlook for 2018 is a successful registration process as well as ensuring that the University is financially sustainable and compliant with new laws such as the PoPI Act. We also want to create an international student desk so that we can assist international students when they come to the University."



**Sbhongiseni Mahlinza**  
Administration Assistant, Physical Planning and Operations

"The highlight of 2017 was definitely assuming my new position as an Administration Assistant. I am really enjoying the new job as I get to interact with people at different levels within the institution, which has sharpened my interpersonal skills. My goal for next year is to excel at doing my job."



**Professor Vijay Rugbeer**  
Senior Professor, Department of Communication Science

"The biggest highlight for our department this year was getting the Department of Higher Education and Training accreditation for the one-year Advanced Diploma in Communication Science course which will be implemented in 2019. This qualification is equivalent to a degree and will save students who have completed a National Diploma in Communication Science two years as they can now acquire a degree within a year instead of three years. Another big highlight was having the department recognised for its supervision output during the recent University Research Awards. With all our programmes accredited, I look forward to improved research output of both staff and students in 2018."

**Yvette Canham**

Service Delivery Manager, Information Communications Technology

"There were a number of highlights for me this year. The first was attending the recent Symposium for Students with Disabilities which was sad yet very encouraging because it showed that although the institution still has a long way to go in terms of accommodating people with disabilities, it (the University) is very concerned by this issue. I am excited to be putting together a team which is looking to establish a computer lab specifically focused on students with disabilities. I am also happy about the HDI (historically disadvantaged institutions) grant received by ICT as it will help develop and upskill staff in the department. In 2018, I am looking forward to seeing how our new Minister of Higher Education addresses challenges in this sector."



**Thokozani Malibe**

Senior Technician, Department of Hydrology

"I am celebrating 10 years at UNIZULU this year and I will be receiving a Long Service Award from the institution so that is the biggest highlight of the year for me. It has been a fulfilling period and I look forward to spending another decade here. Our department recently suffered a huge blow when its then acting Head, Professor Jean Simonis, left the University. On the same breadth, his departure opened an opportunity for me to take over one of his modules, Geographical Information System (GIS) which has been both challenging and exciting to teach. I can say teaching GIS was another highlight for me. In 2018, I look forward to having all software for our modules set up in time as this will enable us to efficiently perform our lecturing duties."



**Banikela Mashiyane**

Secretary, Protective Services Department

"My highlight for 2017 was being honoured by the University on Secretaries Day. I felt appreciated and I loved the purse I received on the day. I look forward to career progress next year."





## CAMPUS NEWS

UNIZULU Honours Staff Loyalty and Longevity



*Pictured: Professor Xoliswa Mtose, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor; Dr Sumeshni Govender, one of the awardees; and Human Resources Executive Director, Raynolds Ngcobo, during the UNIZULU annual Long Service Awards.*

"The University of Zululand owes its ongoing success to the commitment and dedication of its employees."

This was the sentiment of Human Resources Executive Director, Raynolds Ngcobo, in his congratulatory remarks during the University's annual Long Service Awards at the King Bhekuzulu Hall, KwaDlangezwa Campus, on Tuesday, 5 December 2017.

Organised by the University's Human Resources Department, the event was held in acknowledgement and appreciation of the contribution and commitment made by staff who had served at the University for 10, 20 and 30 years.

It was attended by the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Xoliswa Mtose; Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning Professor Sandile Songca; faculty deans and heads of departments, among others.

Sizwe Zwane, UNIZULU Convocation Secretary, expressed his pride in the University, saying, "Today I can see further than

others because I have stood on the shoulders of giants. On this day, I wish to congratulate our own giants who have been in the field for many years and having worked to reach this milestone," he said.

One of the recipients, Dr S Govender, a lecturer in the Faculty of Education who was honoured for twenty years of service at the University said, "I joined the university as an undergraduate student and never left. You must be asking yourself 'why would anyone dedicate so many years of their lives to one institution?' The answer is simple. It's because of the people. People make UNIZULU. Choose a job you love and you will never work a day in your life," she said.

In her vote of thanks, Dr Yasmin Rugbeer, the Director in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, said the awardees were a 'rare breed' with a different set of aspirations. She thanked and reminded them that they were very special people who have been loyal and committed to UNIZULU.

*by Precious Shamase*





## CAMPUS NEWS

### World-renowned C1 Rated Scientist Joins UNIZULU

In an effort to develop scarce skills and train students in advanced scientific research, the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) recently appointed world-renowned C1 NRF rated scientist Prof Khajamohiddin Syed as Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology.

Prof Syed, who assumed his position at the beginning of November, said, "I feel enormously privileged to have been selected to serve at UNIZULU and I also thank the staff in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology for their warm welcome and making me feel at home. During my stay here, I will work to make UNIZULU an institution of choice for students and academics everywhere - particularly for scholars from the African continent."

Prof Syed will lecture Biochemistry and train postgraduate students in advanced bioinformatics research. Through his research, the academic is expected to find novel drug targets and drugs against pathogenic diseases such as TB that plagued the African continent.

Prof Syed was born and raised in India and completed his MSc. in Biochemistry, receiving a gold medal, and a PhD at Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Andhra Pradesh, India. After his doctoral studies he worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein from 2006 to 2009 and then moved to the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA as a visiting faculty member between 2009 and 2013. Upon his return, he joined Central University of Technology and became Associate Professor from 2013 to 2017.

Prof Syed is well-known across the world for his P450 research. He specialises in genomics and proteomics of P450 monooxygenase, enzymes involved in drug toxicity and metabolism. His international recognition in P450 research has seen him invited to give talks across the globe. He has also published in top rated scientific journals. During his tenure at Central University of Technology, he established the Unit for Drug Discovery Research and developed one of the largest postgraduate research groups in South African higher education with 32 master's and 14 doctoral students.

Prof Syed managed to place CUT on the world map by discovering a novel P450 fusion protein



*Prof Khajamohiddin Syed.*

that can be used as drug target against aquatic pathogens. News of this novel protein attracted media coverage in news corporations such as SABC News (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbOdUMTsEyc&feature=youtu.be>). Due to this discovery CUT won the NRF Acceleration award in 2015. He also established the South African Cytochrome P450 Researchers Society and enhanced connectivity among South African P450 researchers and also exposure to world P450 WebMatrix. He established collaborations with high-profile researchers from various countries, including the USA, UK, Canada, Europe, Japan, India and South Korea.

When he is not at the office, Prof Syed is a proud husband to Puleng Rosina and a father of a lovely daughter named Aisha. He also enjoys watching movies, cooking and travel. At present, he is the only C1 rated researcher at University of Zululand.

*by Precious Shamase*





## CAMPUS NEWS

### NRF Rated Researcher Joins UNIZULU

In October, the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Zululand and Microbiology welcomed Professor (Prof) Evelyn Madoroba as Associate Professor.

Passionate about the discipline of Microbiology, Molecular Microbiology as well as teaching and capacity building, Prof Madoroba said she was excited to join the institution and was looking forward to immensely contributing to it, "thus making it a university of choice for students and staff".

Prof Madoroba obtained her academic qualifications at various institutions in South Africa and abroad. She holds a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and a Master's degree in Business Leadership from the University of South Africa (UNISA) and obtained a distinction for her research project on Equity Valuation. Prof Madoroba holds an MSc in Biotechnology from UNISA. She has background qualifications in Medical Laboratory Technology covering the following modules: Microbiology, Immunology, Histology, Hematology, Immunohematology, and Histology. Prof Madoroba also holds a Specialist Diploma in Medical Bacteriology (including Mycology). Furthermore, Prof Madoroba holds a Certificate in Sero-epidemiological Diagnosis in the Laboratory and in Animal Disease Control which she obtained from Freie Universität Berlin (Free University of Berlin), Germany and scored the highest mark in the Epidemiology examination.

Prof Madoroba is a NRF rated researcher (C category). She has numerous peer-reviewed publications and has authored a book entitled *Cholera: Current African perspectives*. Prof Madoroba has presented at both local and international conferences. She has extensive experience in Research and Diagnosis of Bacterial diseases. Prof Madoroba has successfully mentored, supervised/co-supervised many postgraduate students from different universities in South Africa.

Prof Madoroba's research will focus on Antimicrobial Resistance in the Context of One Health Approach (including food and



Prof Evelyn Madoroba.

water safety). Furthermore, Prof Madoroba is passionate about the use of micro-organisms and their metabolites for benefiting mankind (including but not limited to Bioflocculation and Bioenergy). Prof Madoroba's research interests include working with communities through surveillance of zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance from bacteria recovered from animals using both classical Microbiology techniques and genomics (including metagenomics and sequence analysis) and evaluation of different approaches for pathogen reduction among food production animals with the aim of reducing the risk of food contamination. Surveillance information is crucial for policy makers.

by Precious Shamase

