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RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE

## UNIZULU REJOICES AS NEW CHANCELLOR IS INAUGURATED



Celebrations after the Chancellor's inauguration and investiture at the King Bhekuzulu Hall. Pictured are Chancellor Zondo and Prof Mtose with the UNIZULU Choir as the new Chancellor is congratulated on his instillation.

**W**ednesday, 25 April 2018, was a day of mass celebration and ululation at the University of Zululand as it inaugurated and swore in its new Chancellor, Deputy Chief Justice of South Africa, Raymond Mnyamezeli Mlungisi Zondo, at its iconic King Bhekuzulu Hall, KwaDlangezwa Campus.

Chancellor Zondo was appointed by the University of Zululand Council in February 2018. His appointment is valid for a five-year renewable term. As the Chancellor, Justice Zondo will act as the titular head of the University with no executive powers and his formal responsibilities include, amongst other responsibilities as set out in section 6 of the UNIZULU Statute, the conferment of degrees during the University's graduation ceremonies. The Chancellor will also have an important ambassadorial role that will see him working to raise the University's profile and advance its interests nationally and internationally.

A man of honour and great stature, the appointment of Deputy Chief Justice Zondo is one which has been warmly welcomed by the entire University community, the higher education sector and surrounding communities alike. The internal and external messages of congratulations- showered upon the new Chancellor- bear testament to the latter.

On behalf of Senate, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose said the University was pleased to welcome the new Chancellor to the institution. "Your standing as an academic and a person of impeccable character precedes you. "We look forward to a successful and productive working relationship with you and the University on key issues that face the UNIZULU community, allowing us to maximise our potential now and in future," said Prof Mtose.

Professor Ahmed Bawa, Universities South Africa (USAf) CEO, commended UNIZULU on appointing an individual of Justice Zondo's calibre, saying, "Your selection of Justice Zondo as Chancellor recognises in him deeply held values of integrity, people-centredness and service. As Judge Raymond Zondo returns to his alma mater as Chancellor, he returns as the embodiment of all that resides at the very heart of the institution."

In his inaugural speech, the Chancellor expressed deep gratitude to the institution for his appointment, committing to take the new position in his stride. As he has a "deep passion" for education, the Chancellor assured that he would serve his alma mater fully and wholeheartedly, offering advice and guidance whenever it is required of him.

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**UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND**



SAICA Accreditation for UNIZULU BCom Programme



All Set for 2018 Graduations



Seasoned Professor Joins Human Movement Studies Department



NRF-rated Researcher Appointed by Human Movement Studies Department



Department Profile: Department of Zoology

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When looking at the University of Zululand, the Chancellor said he sees an institution with absolute potential, thus his willingness to play a role in changing its current status.

"This university has made a huge contribution in this country in different areas. From November 2009 until 2018, no less than three of the 11 justices in the Constitutional Court obtained their undergraduate degrees at UNIZULU. This means just under 30% of the justices in the highest court have connections with this university. That is a substantial presence by one university. This university is also one of three in South Africa which has managed to produce two chief justices," the Chancellor boasted.

UNIZULU has performed much better than other well-resourced universities yet it is not held in the high regard it deserves, the Chancellor said, adding that the onus now is upon all stakeholders to lift the institution's name to its rightful position.

"I urge us all to work together to make UNIZULU better. If there are challenges, let us face them head-on," he said.

Having said that, the Chancellor closed with a profound recital of former United States President Barack Obama's famous quote: "Yes, we can!", which the crowd boldly reciprocated.

– Naledi Hlefane

## SAICA ACCREDITATION FOR UNIZULU BCOM PROGRAMME

Following a five-month review and consideration process, University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Department of Accounting and Auditing has successfully received accreditation for its BCom in Accounting Science programme from the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

In order for an institution of higher education to offer a professional degree, the programme needs to first be accredited by a professional body. SAICA being the foremost professional accountancy body in South Africa, it was of paramount importance for the Department of Accounting and Auditing to be accredited by this body.

The accreditation process began after SAICA's visit at UNIZULU in October 2017 and its completion means the four-year BCom Accounting Science programme meets the required standards and qualitative criteria to be offered as a course.

"It was quite a journey. We are extremely excited by the news as a department. Last year, they came and assessed all our modules to find out if we are offering them at a right level. We are just thrilled that we are functioning like any other SAICA accredited institution," said Sphelele Khomo, the Head of the Accounting and Auditing Department.

According to Khomo, the accreditation specifically impacts students who, before, had to first enrol for a bridging course for a postgraduate degree called Certificate of Theory in Accountancy (CTA) after completing the UNIZULU BCom programme. Going forward, students will be able to register for a CTA straight after graduating with a BCom in Accounting Science degree.

Professor Irrshad Kaseeram, the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law (FCAL), believes that



UNIZULU staff members during the SAICA Awareness event in October 2017.

the accreditation will play an enormous role in producing more positive outcomes.

"We are overjoyed by this achievement. This has put us on the map as a faculty and University. And already because of this accreditation, the National Research Fund (NRF) is looking to bring a Head of Research in the Accounting Science. I strongly believe that this is going to take us to greater heights and produce more wonderful outcomes," Prof Kaseeram said.

With the SAICA accreditation obtained, Khomo said her department's next move is to maintain a good standard, curriculum wise, and to offer a CTA programme.

She also acknowledged the support that her department has been receiving from UNIZULU Management, Accounting and Auditing Department staff members; FCAL Management and staff; SAICA; University of Cape Town; Bank SETA (which funded the project); UNIZULU's Quality Assurance as well as the Communications and Marketing Division.

– Samkele Sokhela

## EDITOR'S NOTE



Gcina Nhleko  
Director: Communications  
and Marketing

Not to take away from other years, but the year 2018 has thus far been a busy and truly exciting year for the University of Zululand. In March, we hosted the Beyers Naude Memorial Lecture during which we hosted the uncompromising Professor Thuli Madonsela- a brilliant legal mind and giant in her own right- as the issue of women and child abuse, which continues to plague our society, was tackled and unpacked.

On 25 April 2018, we hosted two other South African giants- Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng and Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Nyamezeli Mlungisi Zondo- during which the latter Justice was inaugurated and sworn-in as the new UNIZULU Chancellor which so happens to be his alma mater. As UNIZULU, we are honoured and proud to have an eminent Justice serve in this critical position. Read this story on page 1 of this newsletter.

On Friday, 4 May 2018, we will yet again be in the midst of another giant as we confer an Honorary Doctorate in Social Work (*honoris causa*) to His Royal Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, in recognition of his extensive philanthropic work to alleviate poverty and sufferings amongst South Africans.

All this bears testament to the fact that UNIZULU remains true to its mandate of being a high performing higher education institution and that it is a force to be reckoned within the higher education sector. Great work is being done all around our University and we must boast about these achievements. As such, we have introduced a new feature in this newsletter where various departments will be profiled for the good work that they do. We launched this section by profiling the Zoology Department and can assure you that this was not done in any particular order or preference.

The annual Graduation Ceremonies are also almost upon us. The ceremonies will see a total of 4 034 graduands descend the graduation stage as they, and the University by extension, celebrate the fruit of their labour.

So, in the spirit of all that has been mentioned above, join us as the University of Zululand, as we celebrate our own greatness and accomplishments; keeping in this mind that more is yet to come.

# ALL SET FOR 2018 GRADUATIONS



His Royal Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini who will be honoured with an Honorary Doctorate in Social Work (*honoris causa*) in recognition of his extensive philanthropic work to alleviate poverty and sufferings amongst South Africans on Friday, 4 May 2018.

Monday, 7 May 2018, will see thousands of students from the University of Zululand descend the graduation stage during the University's May Graduation Ceremonies as they finally reap the fruit of their hard work and dedication.

This year, a total of 4034 students will graduate at the University of Zululand during its May Graduation Ceremonies which end on Friday, 11 May 2018. The graduation ceremonies will be held at the University's King Bhekuzulu Hall, KwaDlangezwa main Campus.

An Honorary Doctorate will be conferred to His Royal Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, on Friday, 4 May 2018, leading up to the weeklong graduation ceremonies. His Royal Majesty will be conferred with an Honorary Doctorate Social Work (*honoris causa*) in recognition of his extensive philanthropic work to alleviate poverty and sufferings amongst his subjects.

The graduation ceremonies will enjoy an array of distinguished and established guest speakers from the academic and private sector such as Faisal Mkhize, Absa KZN Managing Executive; Professor Crain Soudien, Human Sciences Research Council CEO; Dr Nathi Ngcobo, Executive Director and co-owner of Dalisu Holdings as well as Justice Mjabiliseni Isaac Madondo, Deputy Judge President of the KwaZulu-Natal High Court to name but a few.

A total of 2441 females and 1593 males will graduate this year. In terms of qualifications, a total of 6 Doctoral students will graduate from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture; 4 from the Faculty of Education and 2 from the Faculty of Commerce Administration and Law.

A total of 12 students will graduate with their Master's degrees in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture; 9 from the Faculty of



Pictured: A scene from the 2017 graduation ceremonies.

Education; 7 from the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law and 4 from the Faculty of Arts.

In terms of Honours degrees, 101 will be conferred to students within the Faculty of Science and Agriculture; 43 to students within the Faculty of Education; 43 to students within the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law and 77 to students within the Arts Faculty. A total of 440 Postgraduate Diplomas will be conferred to students within the Education Faculty and 11 from the Arts Faculty. A total of 3275 undergraduate students will graduate.

– Sinegugu Ndlovu

# SEASONED PROFESSOR JOINS HUMAN MOVEMENT STUDIES DEPARTMENT



Professor Brandon Shaw, the newly appointed Professor in the Department of Human Movement Studies at UNIZULU.

Professor Brandon S. Shaw has been appointed as Professor in the Department of Human Movement Studies, Faculty of Science and Agriculture at the University of Zululand. Previously, Prof Shaw had a distinguished tenure at the University of Johannesburg as Professor in the Department of Sport and Movement Studies and Vice-Dean: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies in the Faculty of Health Sciences (which is rated in the top 500 Faculty of Health Sciences globally). His national and global network is wide and includes being an Associate Professor at the Tshwane University of Technology- the youngest to do so in the history of the institution and its heritage institutions- and until recently, he held an honorary Research Fellowship at Monash University (which is rated in the top 1% of universities globally) and an honorary Adjunct Full Professorship at the University of Venda.

Prof Shaw's academic qualifications include a BA in Humanities, an Honours degree in Sport Science, an Honours degree in Biokinetics (cum laude) and a Master's degree in Biokinetics all from the Rand Afrikaans University. He also holds a PhD degree in Biokinetics from the University of Johannesburg.

His research interests are multi-disciplinary and include research with the aim of conducting innovative, collaborative biomedical or behavioural/social science research to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In this area of research, Prof Shaw has authored over 150 peer-reviewed national and international journal publications and numerous other publications with researchers from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East as well

as North and South America. He has authored and co-authored over 60 conference presentations and has been invited to deliver presentations in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. His research has won several awards and has, subsequently, been featured in national and international radio programmes and magazines such as Woman's World, Prevention, Runner's World and Muscle and Fitness. In addition to reviewing for more than a dozen national and international journals, he also has experience in working as an Editorial Board Member for international and national journals such as the International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation (formerly British Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation); Acta Kinesiologica; Sport Science; American College of Sport Medicine's (ACSM's) Health and Fitness Journal; Gavin Journal of Orthopaedic Research and Therapy; The Revista Pesquisa em Fisioterapia (RPF); Global Journal, as well as the South African Journal for Research in Sport, Physical Education and Recreation.

Prof Shaw currently serves as the Executive Director: Africa and Vice-President: Publications and Communication for the International Physical Activity Projects (IPAP) as well as Director of the Non-Communicable Disease Intervention Research Unit (NCDIRU). He is also a part of a sixteen-member board appointed by the Minister of Health and is among the 14 board members who have distinguished themselves in a branch of medical or related science to contribute towards further development of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC).

– Precious Shamase

# NRF-RATED RESEARCHER APPOINTED BY HUMAN MOVEMENT STUDIES DEPARTMENT



Professor Ina Shaw, NRF-rated Researcher who has been appointed by the Human Movement Studies Department.

The Department of Human Movement Science at the University of Zululand has recently been joined by National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher Professor Ina Shaw, who assumed her position as Professor at the beginning of April 2018.

Prior to her appointment at UNIZULU, Prof Shaw was in private Biokinetics practice. She held an Associate Professor position at Vaal University of Technology and was also the Research Manager for Monash South Africa until her appointment as a Researcher at MMI Holdings..

In order to curb the expansion of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) in South Africa, Prof Shaw's research focus has addressed the restriction of these diseases in various populations through physical activity. She has attempted to investigate alternative modes of physical activity that have not typically been thought to alter NCD measures such as resistance training and callisthenics, while also investigating the effect of those forms of physical activity that are currently trending globally and in South Africa (i.e. CrossFit, Pilates). Since NCD afflicts all levels of South African society, she has strived to develop prevention and control programmes that are suitable in an array of settings and populations.

Prof Shaw's research work with previously disadvantaged South African researchers and postgraduate students, Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs) and African collaborators on NCD restriction through physical activity has resulted in her appointments as President of the International Physical Activity Projects (IPAP), Associate Editor for The Global Journal of Health and Physical Education Pedagogy and International Advisory Panel Member of the MR International Journal of Applied Health Sciences. In addition

to her having been invited to serve as a reviewer for 12 national and international scientific peer-reviewed journals from all continents-including the American Journal of Sports Medicine (AJSM), she has been appointed to serve on six international scientific peer-reviewed journal editorial boards including the Orthopedic Journal of Sports Medicine; Journal of Advances in Health and Medical Sciences; The Revista Pesquisa em Fisioterapia (RPF); Gavin Journal of Orthopedic Research and Therapy; Advances in Physical Education as well as Health Education and Care.

As a result of her specialisation in the area of NCD restriction through physical activity, she is a regularly invited contributor to popular press publications such as Muscle Evolution® (RSA), Fitness® (RSA) and Fitness His® (RSA) and has been profiled by the media both nationally and internationally. Her list of accolades includes her previous honorary appointments as Professor Extraordinaire at the Tshwane University of Technology, Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg and Adjunct Professor at the University of Venda.

Prof Shaw has published over 140 peer-reviewed articles, with more than 100 individual co-authors from all continents, resulting in her research winning several awards and being featured in radio programmes and magazines such as Woman's World® (USA), Prevention® (USA), Runner's World® (USA) and Muscle and Fitness® (USA). Prof Shaw's research has also been presented at over 60 conference presentations nationally and internationally, in addition to her having been invited to deliver keynote presentations worldwide. She has also contributed to the Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (Eols), a publication of UNESCO.

- Precious Shamase

# DEPARTMENT PROFILE: DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY



UNIZULU Zoology Department students during a training session.

The Zoology Department is one of 14 departments in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture and comprises a dynamic group of academics and support staff focused on providing excellence in Zoology undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and learning.

The department is small, comprising five permanent academic staff and eight support staff. The current acting Head is Hendrick M. M. Mzimela, an Ecotoxicologist with a passion for maintaining the integrity of our aquatic ecosystems.

The Zoology Department runs a dedicated fish breeding and research facility where fish are bred and maintained in culture ponds throughout the year for students' research and educational purposes, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as for community outreach projects for aquaculture developments. The UNIZULU Hatchery has housed Tilapia species (*Oreochromis Mossambicus*) for over 20 years. This species is a popular fish for aquaculture as it is versatile and tolerant of a variety of aquaculture environments and can be farmed in ponds or cage systems. Apart from sustaining KwaZulu-Natal's (KZN) growth of Tilapia production, the department works towards ensuring that the rural community benefits from the aquaculture industry by supplying them with fingerlings to start up their projects, while also providing them with the necessary technical support.

Undergraduate programmes provide focused teaching on relevant animal and animal ecology related content. The department offers a Zoology Service course for all Life Sciences first-years as well as Human Anatomy and Physiology. At third-year level, teaching involves a spectrum of ecology modules, such as Marine and Freshwater Ecology, with the primary focus on aquatic ecology. At the moment, third-years take a Freshwater Ecology module, which is relevant for the current dire drought predicament facing the country. With research teaching being an important aspect of the department, students begin research work in third-year level.

"Postgraduate training has always been a strong focus of the Zoology Department and we have a strong and dynamic group of postgraduate students, from Honours through to PhD level. At their own initiative, our postgraduate students arrange seminars, discussion groups and debates, all contributing to a vibrant teaching environment," said Professor Leon Vivier, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Zoology.

In recent years, the Zoology Department has partnered with the South African Aquatic Biodiversity Institute (SAIAB) as part of the NRF funded Phuhlisa Programme which promotes marine and estuarine research as well as postgraduate teaching at higher institutions. All postgraduate students are supported and funded by the programme and this exposes them to research training, while affording them an opportunity interact with marine sciences postgraduates from other institutions. The 2018 postgraduate group recently presented their research proposals to a NRF-funded panel of researchers from various institutions at SAIAB in Grahamstown. As in the past, UNIZULU students excelled, showing the high standard of the research training of the University. Recently, two of the department's Honours students attended a Fish Identification course at SAIAB where they were trained by world-renowned fish biologist Dr Alan Whitfield.

A number of the department's postgraduate students were also elected to become ocean stewards in 2017 as part of the NRF-funded Ocean Stewards initiative to advance excellence in oceanography research and training. The opportunity exposes students to Marine Ecology and Oceanography and includes a week long cruise on the research vessel Angra Pequena where the students receive hands-on training in all aspects of practical oceanography. Six of students will embark on this week-long research training cruise in May 2018.

– Precious Shamase