



APRIL 2021 ISSUE

# UNIZULU EARMARKS THE OPENING OF A CAMPUS IN ULUNDI

Tribute for King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu

## Recapping on our triumphs in recent months

## HUMAN RIGHTS in the 21st century



UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND



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Editorial Team: Gcina Nhleko, Naledi Hlefane, Precious Shamase and Samkeli Sokhela, Designer: Camille Greyling

# EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Time flies! It has been over a year ago when the whole world was plunged into a national state of disaster and uncertainty. COVID-19 disrupted our way of being, thinking and doing. Tragically, we have lost a number of colleagues and students as a result of COVID-19 or COVID-19 complications.

In honour of these colleagues and students, and the members of our community who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic, and to acknowledge those who have worked tirelessly despite these significant challenges we can play our part by complying with set health rules in order to curb this virus. **We will always remember them as members of this community until their lives were cut abruptly. MABAPHUMULE NGOKUTHULA.**

As we accept the new cohort of 2021 first-year students we are excited. Our vision to be a leading comprehensive university producing

quality education still stands. This is a great vision, one that is important for South Africa and the continent. Our offering is to advance this vision. I am certain that you will care for yourself, study smart and hard, accept the workload of your studies, ask for help when you need it, make your voice heard, and grow into the kind of person you want to be and help make this institution the kind of place you want it to be. Ultimately, create lifelong relations which you will sustain for the future.

We congratulate all new employees who joined the university in 2021. *Kumandi Ongoye*. We herald the appointment of the Dean: Faculty of Education, Professor Sithabile Ntombela as a positive step as it showcases the University's commitment in appointing female leaders in strategic positions for the advancement of the institution.

We are excited about plans which are in the pipeline to open a Campus in Ulundi -City of Heritage as this ensure that as the University of Zululand we have major footprints in the legacy places of our province. Read on and be inspired!



**Gcina Nhleko**  
Director: Communications and Marketing

# TRIBUTE FOR KING GOODWILL ZWELITHINI KABHEKUZULU

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND MOURNS THE SUDDEN PASSING OF KING GOODWILL ZWELITHINI KABHEKUZULU.

The University has twice conferred honorary doctoral degrees on the King as a fitting affirmation of His Royal Majesty's sterling roles as a nation builder, wise leader, philanthropist and visionary leader who invested in changing people, institutions, South Africa and Africa at large.

May the Horn now paw the air howling goodbye  
Yes, may the wounded silence touch the air with  
our tears.

May the Horn, solemn, and its throat filled with  
our sadness  
Shake the air, poke time and the sky from the  
great hill,  
With a sombre shrill – King Goodwill Zwelithini  
kaBhekuzulu is no more.

Tell time to stand still if he or she wants to  
We could not care less for motion –  
King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, the Great  
Zulu King is gone.

May the curtain of the sky open wide  
May the Great Beyond prepare his palace – for a  
King is in passage –  
we weep; we grieve – he must take his place  
among

The great illustrious African kings and queens and  
ancestors.

The eagle of time and the mystery of life has  
robbed us greatly!

And so we weep, and so we stand stupefied –  
tears pouring upon

Your name, son of Bhekuzulu kaSolomon...  
King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu is no more!  
So, tell everyone, across all the Great Rivers of  
our Africa,

That the Great Rhino is on a journey to the land  
unseen.

Cast your voice onto the air, and let it be known  
that South Africa is mourning today  
The great African son's day is done.

Do not forget to begin at the Rift Valley, and let  
your call

Glide, in its mournful mood, upon the back of the  
Nile;

Speak to the pyramids too, the first failed ones  
and the great ones that stand

Tall and ever great, like Pillars of Times – the  
Pyramids know

The power and prowess of our Kings and Queens  
– so, tell them then,

That our Great King is now sleeping forever from  
this earth,

And never to return to the world of the living, the  
way we saw and knew him.

King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu kaSolomon  
is no more.

The Great Rhino that wrestled against social ills  
is gone.

The Warrior King whose pointed spear-like vision  
saw him  
Banish the wild-fire of HIV/AIDS and cut it

drastically.

The custodian of Zulu customs and traditions now  
sleeps.

Our African Prometheus, who gave his people the  
torch of wisdom,  
Vision and staunch god-like work for his own has  
now retired to silence.

And the dark cloud is now upon us, for our light  
bearer now fold his arms

From the works of this world.

Weep not Africa, for the King has not really died,  
For his great works have made him immortal; his  
contribution

To society will stick on the shelves of time to  
forever.

Oh mother earth, comfort us, cradle us as we  
battle to accept.

But King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu looks  
upon us, from the blessed shores  
Of the great, the land of our ancestors – he lives  
in Us!

And his name says to us to unite, for he was a  
man who

Toiled for the unity of his people – oh Great Rhino  
we hear you even now.

Go tell it around the world that the King is on a  
journey.

King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, the Great  
uBhejane whose horn of wisdom  
Was ever pointed – his wisdom still breathes  
among us.

His rhythm has always made the social and  
leadership isiqiwi

A place of great reformation, transformation and  
innovation.

And now Inkonyane kaNdaba, ongangezwe lakhe  
is no more.

He leaves us all weeping and feeling orphaned  
Who will guide us now?

The African sun is stunned; we are stupefied –  
King Goodwill Zwelithini Bhekuzulu is no more.  
What is the nation saying now?

Do we let the gold standard of leadership that the  
King left go into oblivion?

Do we let the customs of the people fade and  
become irrelevant?

Do we fall into a limbo and forget the King's great  
works?

We must stand up now and band together  
And raise the banner of Africa coming into  
greatness  
Higher

We must remember King Goodwill Zwelithini  
kaBhekuzulu now.



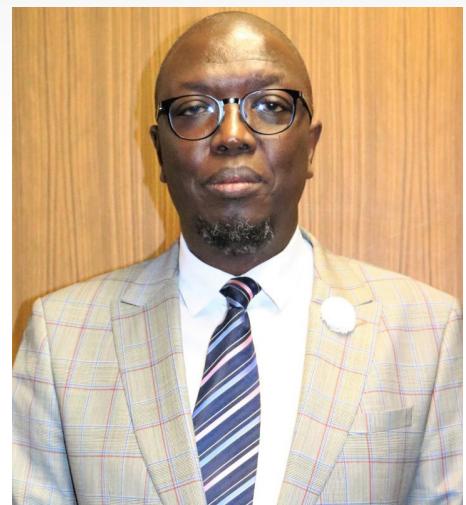
# O TRIBUTE FOR KING GOODWILL ZWELITHINI KABHEKUZULU



We must ask ourselves – What would the King have us do?  
We must be aware that like many kings and queens, his spirit lives.  
His unseen presence is watching us – we must honour the King now.  
The great uBhejane is gone; the King is on a journey.  
King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu usekhotheme...  
Call everyone from the highways and hidden corners of the world  
Call them home to join us as our faces are downcast  
Call everyone, to come and see us, African children,  
The children of Azania, sons and daughters of Abenguni  
We are becoming orphaned bit-by-bit – our father has taken  
His last sleep, and he follows many of our kings and queens  
To the place where no one ever returns from – his journey has begun.  
Come and see oh world, a great tree, a significant embalmer  
Of African wisdom has fallen.  
The great post of African knowledge and power has toppled over.  
There is wailing across the land.  
Even the dogs are whimpering.  
The rivers are still.  
The ocean has taken a solemn sombre lull.  
Son of BhekuZulu kaSolomon has left us – and we weep.  
The custodian of African custom and traditions and  
Pride is now sleeping.  
The Royal Shield, the wise Zulu Spear of Wisdom has left us.  
The warrior King ukhotheme manje.  
uMdlokombane, uBhejane phuma esiqiwini  
Inkonyane ka Ndaba  
Ongangezwe lakhe... the great One of our Kings is no more.  
African child, children of the formidable Abenguni, weep not now.  
Your father is not really gone – for great kings never really die.  
They only sleep, and now he is sleeping, he is going to join his fathers, And wonderful mothers.  
Yes, great Kings like Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu, the African stars of leadership Do not die. They multiply through our difficulties, our troubles,  
Our memories and our holding forth of their names, which carry our histories.  
Weep not then, Africa, the king is now a great invisible lion,

A great star is our sky.  
And he will guard us if we keep him and his great contributions  
Alive in our minds, through and beyond time – live long King Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu!  
Live on in our sights over your great and god-like work whose fruits we now enjoy – You have given us all your heart, you have played your part, Excellently and powerfully.  
Live on and long in our hearts, for we love now ever more, like you are a dream.  
Yes, to keep your legacy alive is our dream of the future. That we live now In our pride and love for who you have been to the African people – visionary.  
We celebrate you now, as we will always.  
We love you now; your memory has begun to flower in our minds  
Oh how great you are and you will forever be, Great Son of Africa.  
King Zwelithini Goodwill, kaBhekuzulu kaSolomon, take your place  
Among the great Africa stars that shine forever in our sky.  
Take your place beside King Shaka - iLembe, King Cetshwayo, King Sekhukhune, King Faku, and many others, even those from across the continent.  
King Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu, rest now, great Son of Africa.  
But his not wasted, the great social worker, an alchemist of African greatness.  
We celebrate you today, we doff our hats to you, Great Rhino!  
Loyal Royal Spear of the Zulu nation.  
Oh sleep now, journey well...  
Sleep, O' sleep well now, sleep well you our beloved eagle of the Mind!  
**ALWEHLANGA OLINGEHLIYO HLANGA LOMHLABATHI**

**- Professor Mogomme Masoga,  
Dean: Faculty of Arts**



# KING ZWELITHINI KABHEKUZULU: HIS LEGACY WILL LIVE FOREVER

The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) is engulfed by a deep sense of sorrow following the sudden passing of His Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu.

A highly revered and socially responsible member of society, His Majesty has been conferred with honorary degrees by the university twice, in 1994 and 2018.

Since his crowning on 3 December 1971, the king has displayed exemplary leadership skills which shone through in the fulfilment of his royal duties and his philanthropic work. Some of his notable achievements include his decision to institutionalise the custom of preserving virginity among Zulu maidens by ensuring that an annual event is celebrated by those maidens who adhere strictly to sexual abstention and thus remain virgins until they are married. In 2009, he reintroduced the custom of male circumcision among Zulu males. Through the King Goodwill Foundation, the king was a champion in the fight against HIV/AIDS, promoted educational initiatives and initiated community development and anti-poverty projects. During His Majesty's 2018 graduation ceremony, wherein he was conferred with the Honorary Doctorate in Social Work (honoris causa), UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose said:

**"UNIZULU acknowledges that the conferment of this honorary degree is a fitting affirmation for His Royal Majesty's sterling role and immense contribution as a nation builder, a philanthropist, a visionary and intuitive leader with deep-rooted values and a wise king investing his wisdom in changing people, institutions, South Africa and Africa."**

The university extends its heartfelt condolences to the royal family and the Zulu nation at large.

- Naledi Hlefane



*King Goodwill Zwelithini receiving his first honorary graduation at the University of Zululand in 1994.*



*King Goodwill Zwelithini during his second honorary graduation at the University of Zululand in 2018.*

# UNIZULU EARMARKS THE OPENING OF A CAMPUS IN ULUNDI

## The University of Zululand was invited to give a presentation on the Development of Ulundi

**Campus.** This happened when the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Bonginkosi "Blade" Nsimande was conducting the ministerial oversight visit to Zululand District Municipality for District Development Model Programme at Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi Airport, Ulundi on the 13th April 2021.

The District Development Model affords government to have an integrated planning mechanism using institutionalised, integrated, district-based, development approach aimed at fast-tracking service delivery and ensuring that municipalities work together with provincial and national government, and are

adequately supported and resourced to carry out their mandate.

The University of Zululand gave a detailed presentation on the planning work that has already been done in ensuring that this vision is realised. The new campus establishment will be for the purposes of relocating part or all of the Faculty of Education and its complement of staff and students. The estimated number of persons to be accommodated for work, study and living is estimated at 500 staff members and about 5000 students. The University is working hand-in-hand with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and KwaZulu-Natal Public Works who will assist with the land assembly process and are in support of the proposal to develop land and acquisition agreement.

**The Spatial Development Framework** process will unlock funding commitments from DHET which will help with fast-tracking the development of a comprehensive feasibility and a solid master plan

and roadmap for the enactment of the new Ulundi Campus.

Further, the University aims to develop a hybrid of a smart base technology-driven teaching and learning institution at Ulundi which will complement the existing modalities of learning. UNIZULU development vision is underpinned by a strong integration of ICT and physical infrastructure plans.

**Mr Thabani Mncwango, Executive Director:** Infrastructure is at the forefront of this project and is coordinating a technical team which will comprise of UNIZULU team members who will be supported by the DHET technical team and oversee to form a project team from inception until completion.



# MEET THE NEW DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION TRAJECTORY



The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) is delighted to announce the appointment of its alumna, **Professor Sithabile Ntombela Nee Mkhize, as Dean of the Faculty of Education.** She assumed her position on 1 April 2021.

Prof Ntombela holds a Bachelor of Arts and a University Education Diploma (UED) from UNIZULU; Bachelor of Education (Hns) and Diploma in Special Education from the University of Natal (UN); M.Ed from the University of Manchester; and a PhD from UKZN.

UNIZULU being her alma mater, Prof Ntombela believes she has "come full circle" in her academic career and is excited to be returning to the institution that "holds a special place" in her heart as this is where her academic trajectory was propelled.

On her roles and responsibilities, she said: "My role includes, among other things, steering the faculty towards the realisation of institutional strategic goals and facilitating the development of a healthy work culture to enable faculty members and students to thrive in their spaces. (It also entails) managing faculty resources and maintaining relationships with stakeholders."

Expounding on what triggered her to venture into her field of profession, she said: "I have always liked teaching. As a child, I often played the role of teacher when we played school but I was also inspired by Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes' song, 'Wake Up Everybody'. Somewhere the song speaks to the role teachers play in shaping the future and my interest was ignited by these lyrics; 'The world won't get no better if we just let it be'. As such, in my teaching (direct or indirect), I strive to make a difference in young people's lives."

Prof Ntombela has vast experience that spans over three decades. She worked as a high school teacher and a special school principal before joining the University of Natal. After obtaining her PhD in 2007, she went to the

HSRC as a postdoctoral fellow then returned to UKZN. During her stay at UKZN she was a lecturer, senior lecturer, and academic leader (equivalent of deputy dean) of teaching and learning. Thereafter she joined UNISA's College of Education as Associate Professor in Inclusive Education where she later served as Head of the Department. In 2020 she became the Director in the School of Educational Studies.

Prof Ntombela's preferred area of research is diversity in education, particularly sites of exclusion like disabilities, language, and poverty. She explores these within the framework of inclusion and social justice. According to her, such research raises awareness about barriers to learning and participation imposed by lack of diversity awareness. Her new area of interest is children's geographies which focuses on researching places and spaces where children live and how these impact on their development.

Currently she is working on two papers. The first one is focused on how students with disabilities were further disadvantaged when universities were forced to close due to Covid-19 in March 2020. The second one looks at how media (all forms) tends to perpetuate the exclusion of people with disabilities in how they report disability related issues.

One of the improvements that Prof Ntombela thinks the higher education sector needs is providing more funding to support first-year students. Several studies have shown that many first-year students are underprepared for the demands of university and the provision of adequate support during the first-year experience is critical if we are to reduce the number of students who drop out, and produce graduates who are critical thinkers, innovative, confident and competent to enter the world of work.

Prof was born, raised and attended school in Umlazi Township. She is married to Prof Ntombela who works at Mancosa and they have 3 children.

**Prof Ntombela's greatest trait is the ability to make a difference, no matter how small. She said her mantra is "In a world where you can be anything, be kind".**

- Precious Shamase

# NEW MUSIC PROFESSOR STARTING TENURE ON HIGH NOTE



The Creative Arts Department has been joined by a seasoned music professor and enthusiast who will contribute towards programme design, the development of programmes in the department and its research outputs.

Professor Zoliswa Fikelepi-Twani assumed her position on 1 April 2021. She brings with her vast knowledge and experience in the arts discipline. She holds a Bachelor of Music (BMus) degree and Higher Diploma in Education (HDE) from Rhodes University, a Master of Music (MMus) in Music Education from the University of Pretoria, a Certificate in Management Practice from Rhodes University and a PhD in Music from the University of the Witwatersrand. Prior to her appointment, she was the director at the University of Fort

Hare's Eastern Cape Audio Visual Centre which is dedicated to the development of artists in the Eastern Cape and the maximisation of their potential in music and film. Previously, she worked in the music departments of Walter Sisulu University, Nelson Mandela University and the University of Fort Hare as a music lecturer, Acting Head of Department and Head of Department, respectively. Being cognisant of the University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) role in producing some of the country's music greats, Prof Fikelepi-Twani said she is excited for the journey ahead. "The University has produced the best music greats of the country in a variety of musical genres, starting with the legacy left by the first black professor of music, Prof Khabi V. Mngoma (who) helped establish the Department of Music and (was) a major promoter of music education in South Africa through

research and (his) teaching and learning philosophy. **Being associated with such an institution is an honour for me," she said.**

Among the avid teacher's key objectives is contributing to the community engagement pillar of the institution through knowledge creation and knowledge production with both undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as the local and national communities. According to her, it is important for the University to lead in growing a cohort of postgraduate students in the field of arts. To achieve this, it can begin with designing short-term arts programmes to increase enrolment numbers and expand the programmes to create access into arts education at universities.

Prof Fikelepi-Twani is unequivocally passionate about her field. This love for teaching dates back to when she was a teenage girl in Mdantsane township in East London, Eastern Cape.

*"I was bothered by the absence of black instrumentalists in the then South African Symphony Orchestras. I wanted to contribute in nurturing and developing talented individuals to their maximum enactment," she said.*

Being an academic has thus inspired the professor to read more, take heed of societal needs and conduct more research to generate new ideas, innovative and ground breaking discoveries and experiments to new approaches and strategies to teaching and learning. Her areas of research are music and identities, music and politics and the latest interest is on gender biasness and African feminism/Motherism in music. Currently, she is working on two collaborations, one of which is a composition project with two other musicians and the other a book chapter with a group of young and older women academics.

Outside of work, the self-professed friendly and motherly professor is a mother of two daughters and a grandmother to four grandchildren. She is a born again Christian whose motivation comes from her faith in God and inspiration from her mentors, peers, colleagues and friends.

- Naledi Hlefane

# MUSIC EXPERT JOINS CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) has recently been joined by a tested academic, Professor Morakeng Edward Kenneth Lebaka, who assumed his duties in the Creative Arts Department in January 2021.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Prof Lebaka is a recipient of numerous scholarships and awards. Over the years he has undertaken a number of research studies within and outside South Africa. He was granted a scholarship for three years (1995-1997) by the former homeland government of Lebowa, Northern Province Department of Education, to study for a Bachelor of Arts degree with specialisation in Music Education at the University of Pretoria. In 2001 he received a postgraduate study abroad bursary from the University of Pretoria to pursue research at the University of Vienna in Austria and spent three months there.

Similarly, he received an award in 2003 and spent three months at the Gurukul College of Theology in Chennai (Madras), India. In 2012, he received a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship grant from the University of Pretoria; from 2013 - 2015 he also received another Postdoctoral Research Fellowship grant from the National Research Foundation (NRF) as well as a postdoctoral mobility grant to pursue his research in Germany for eight months, and from 1 September 2015 - 29 February 2016, he received a postdoctoral mobility grant to pursue his research in Utrecht University, the Netherlands for six months under the mentorship of Prof Eric Ottenheim. He was sponsored by Europe and South Africa Partnership for Human Development (EUROSA).

## ACADEMIC JOURNEY

Prof Lebaka obtained his BA (Music), classical trumpet as principal instrument; BMus (Hons) with distinctions in Music Education and Ethnomusicology; BA (Hons), cum laude; Master of Arts (MA), cum laude and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees from the University of Pretoria. He also has a Secondary Education Diploma (SED) and Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) from Vista University, a Diploma Supplement (DS) - Music Education, Musicology & Ethnomusicology from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland; and a Primary Teachers' Certificate (PTC) from Dr C. N. Phatudi College of Education.

Additionally, he completed Grades 1 - 5 (Theory of music - Trinity College of Music, London, all passed with distinction) as well as a Practical Examination (Trumpet - Grade 3) from the University of South Africa (UNISA) passed with distinction. During his study for the Master of Arts degree, Prof Lebaka integrated music and indigenous African religion in his thesis 'The Ritual use of Music in Indigenous African religion: A Pedi Perspective'. He completed a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree with a thesis on 'Psalm-like Texts in African Culture: A Pedi Perspective'. The professor has also received his second Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Music Education, Musicology & Ethnomusicology from the University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, in Finland, under the mentorship of Prof Jukka Louhivuori (Promoter) and Dr Pekka Toivanen (Co-Promoter), distinguished experts in his field.

## RESEARCH

Prof Lebaka has vast research experience. He has published five books, twenty-seven academic and professional articles in reputable national and international peer-reviewed journals as well as seven book chapters. His work has significantly influenced the thinking about musical learning and pedagogy, particularly how the learning practices of indigenous musical arts can inform and change formal learning (e.g. music, informal learning and the school, the cultural transmission processes of traditional African music and dance). Although the Bapedi culture remains his primary research base, his academic voice extends to different societies and various ramifications of African music.

His research career has been diverse in focus and influenced by prolific international figures and a diversity of contacts. He has made his mark internationally in the fields of Music Education, choral music, African musical arts and instrumental music, especially Brass during studies and conferences in Finland, the Netherlands, Australia, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Brazil, Austria, India, London, Russia, Nigeria, Ghana, Poland, Turkey, Canada, Malawi, Sweden, Belgium, China,

New Zealand, Mexico and the United States of America. Investigating indigenous music of all South African cultures as co-project leader with Prof Meki Nzewi, he travelled through all the provinces in South Africa and was exposed to a myriad of people and kaleidoscope of thinking.

## FAMILY

On the home front, Prof Lebaka has four children (three girls & one boy). "Their names are musical and they play different instruments. The first born is Canzonetta, the second Rallentando, third Presto, the only son with whom I am well pleased, and the fourth is Allegro," he said.

To unwind, the academic goes for walks, takes a shower and drinks either coffee or tea. He also enjoys listening to either choral, classical or gospel music and writing articles and conference papers for possible publication.

- Precious Shamase



# UNIZULU WELCOMES DIRECTOR OF QUALITY ASSURANCE DR SENOELO NKHASE

It is with great pleasure and pride that UNIZULU announces the appointment of Dr Senoelo Nkhase, the incumbent Director: Quality Assurance.

Dr Nkhase reports directly to the Executive Director: Institutional Planning. Primarily, her role is to lead and support all developments associated with the quality assurance of the academic project with regard to the three core functions of the institution, namely teaching and learning, research and community engagement. In particular, she is to lead and support the Programme Quality Mix (PQM) developments in alignment to the institutional strategic plan and see to the development and implementation of the quality management system (QMS) and the monitoring of consistency in implementation thereof across the institution.

Outlining her short-term goal, Dr Nkhase said: "Our immediate short-term goal is to support the institution to update its quality management system. We will start with the development of the institutional quality assurance framework (QAF), which will clearly establish the strategic intent, approach and actions of UNIZULU in quality guaranteeing its academic project and ensuring that the academic project serves the higher education mandate as established."

Dr Nkhase boasts an impressive CV. She holds a PhD in Education. In terms of her career, she has dedicated fifteen years of her working life within the higher education sector. She started her higher education career in student academic development at the University of Johannesburg in 2006. She progressed to programme coordination and curriculum advisory of the extended

curriculum programmes of the Faculty of the Natural Science and the Faculty of Engineering and then later to lecturing at the Faculty of Education of the same university.

She has since served in a number of roles within the higher education sector, including academic directorship in the private higher education environment and then Education Consultant at the University of Pretoria. Her career further progressed to academic planning and quality assurance, starting at the University of the Free State, ending up here at UNIZULU.

Dr Nkhase does not hesitate to state that she means business. "My research interests evolve with the deliberations of the strategic plan and other priorities of the institution. I am currently exploring philosophies and strategic considerations of the different quality assurance frameworks globally," she said.

When the director is not preoccupied with meeting the demands of the workplace, she enjoys being a mum to the four pieces of her puzzle of joy.

"I have two biological kids, a boy and a girl, and then I received an additional two through alternative God designed ways," she chuckled.

To unwind after a long day at the office, she gives her maximum attention to her dog, Sammy, who is a Border-Collie-German-Shepherd mix. It is Sammy's smarts, very little expectations, and the fact that he can easily receive affection that seem to have won Dr Nkhase over. Juggling her attention between Sammy and channel 117 on DStv is the perfect end to her day.

- Precious Shamase



UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND



Dr Senoelo Nkhase,  
Director: Quality Assurance.

# WHY THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAVE BEEN A GREAT PERIOD

for UNIZULU



## CAPTION

Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology Dr Blade Nzimande, Member of UNIZULU Convocation Sizwe Zwane, Chairperson of Council Nomarashiya Calusa and Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose during the launch of the engineering programmes.

From reaching its 60th anniversary milestone in 2020 to forging international collaborations to receiving donations to launching two new programmes, the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) has displayed a unique ability to triumph during a time of massive trials. In case you missed some of this amazing news, here is a recap of some feats the institution has accomplished in the past 12 months.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

On 12 November 2020, in Umhlanga Rocks, Durban, UNIZULU signed a memorandum of understanding with Russian institution Schelkovo Agrohim and nuclear energy company Rosatom. The MOU will empower graduates with a specialised skillset that is relevant for the science, technology and agricultural sectors.

The University later signed a memorandum of agreement for student exchange, research, conferences and exchange of enterprise with one of the biggest Universities in Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM).



## CAPTION

UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor Xoliswa Mtose and Ryan Collyer (representative from Rosatom Central and Southern Africa) during the signing of MOU



## CAPTION

Malaysian University, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UITM).

## ESIWC CONFERENCE

Another notable achievement is the successful launch of the Earth and Environmental Sciences International Webinar Conference, which was co-organised by UNIZULU's Department of Hydrology and Chinese University, Chang'an University. The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, David Mahlobo was a guest speaker.



## CAPTION

ESIWS International Webinar Conference Programme Director, Professor Sipho Sepe.

## DONATIONS

Large cellular network service provider MTN donated two fourth-industrial-revolution-influenced multimedia laboratories to the University in 2020.

Huawei, the fastest growing electronic company in the world, recently donated its smart boards to aid UNIZULU in its efforts to improve the quality of education in South Africa.

ABSA, together with Universities South Africa, donated laptops to non-funded students who perform exceptionally in their academics.



## CAPTION

UNIZULU Financial Aid office members congratulating ABSA-USAf laptop recipients.



# WHY THE PAST 12 MONTHS HAVE BEEN A GREAT PERIOD

for UNIZULU



## NEW PROGRAMMES

In the latter part of 2020, the University launched two engineering programmes, namely the Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering. Dr Blade Nsimande, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, was invited to deliver a guest speech during the event and to unveil the plaque at the Richards Bay Campus.



### CAPTION

UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtsoe during the launch of the new Engineering programmes.



### CAPTION

Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering programme launch at the Richards Bay Campus.



### CAPTION

Bachelor of Electrical Engineering programme launch at the Richards Bay Campus.



### GRADUATION

UNIZULU was a true trailblazer in December 2020 when it effectively held weeklong hybrid graduation ceremonies, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Needless to mention, Covid-19 precautions were strictly adhered to during the ceremonies. Halala UNIZULU!  
- Samkelo Sokhela

# ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR UNIZULU

Nanoscience  
Experts



**WHILE 2020 WAS AN UNUSUAL YEAR THAT SLOWED DOWN PRODUCTIVITY IN MANY SECTORS, IT PROVED FRUITFUL FOR PROFESSOR NEERISH REVAPRASADU, A SENIOR PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, WHO SUCCESSFULLY CO-EDITED THE SEVENTH VOLUME OF THE SPECIALIST PERIODICAL REPORTS, NANOSCIENCE.** The book, available in both print and electronic formats from several institutional libraries, is published by the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry in London, United Kingdom. After a yearlong process of compiling the most relevant and informative articles pertaining to functional nanomaterials for energy generation and storage, the main theme for the volume, Prof Revaprasadu said he could not be more elated.

"It always feels good after the book comes together."

The success is always judged by

the actual chapters commissioned.

There is a normal dropout rate of (approximately) 33%. For the latest volume we only had a 15% dropout rate. Most of the authors kept to their word," he said.

The academic has edited and co-edited volumes five to seven of the book series. He has also contributed seven chapters to various volumes. He co-edited the latest volume with Dr Malik Dilshad Khan, a colleague who is a postdoctoral research fellow at UNIZULU. With research in the nanoscience field constantly expanding, Prof Revaprasadu acknowledges that gaining an understanding of the full scope, depth and reach of the area becomes more and more difficult. The book series is therefore integral in helping academics to keep abreast of current research in the field. "Each volume presents a digest of the last twelve months of literature across the field. The editors present

critical and comprehensive reviews of the hottest topics in the field. We chose functional nanomaterials for energy generation and storage as our main theme for volume seven. This covered the latest trends in Li-ion batteries, perovskites and green water splitting applications. These are currently hot topics in nanoscience. Other areas covered are general synthesis, green synthesis and enzyme mimicking nanomaterials," Prof Revaprasadu noted.

On who should invest in this book, the professor counted researchers, postgraduate students and libraries with a keen interest in contemporary research in nanoscience.

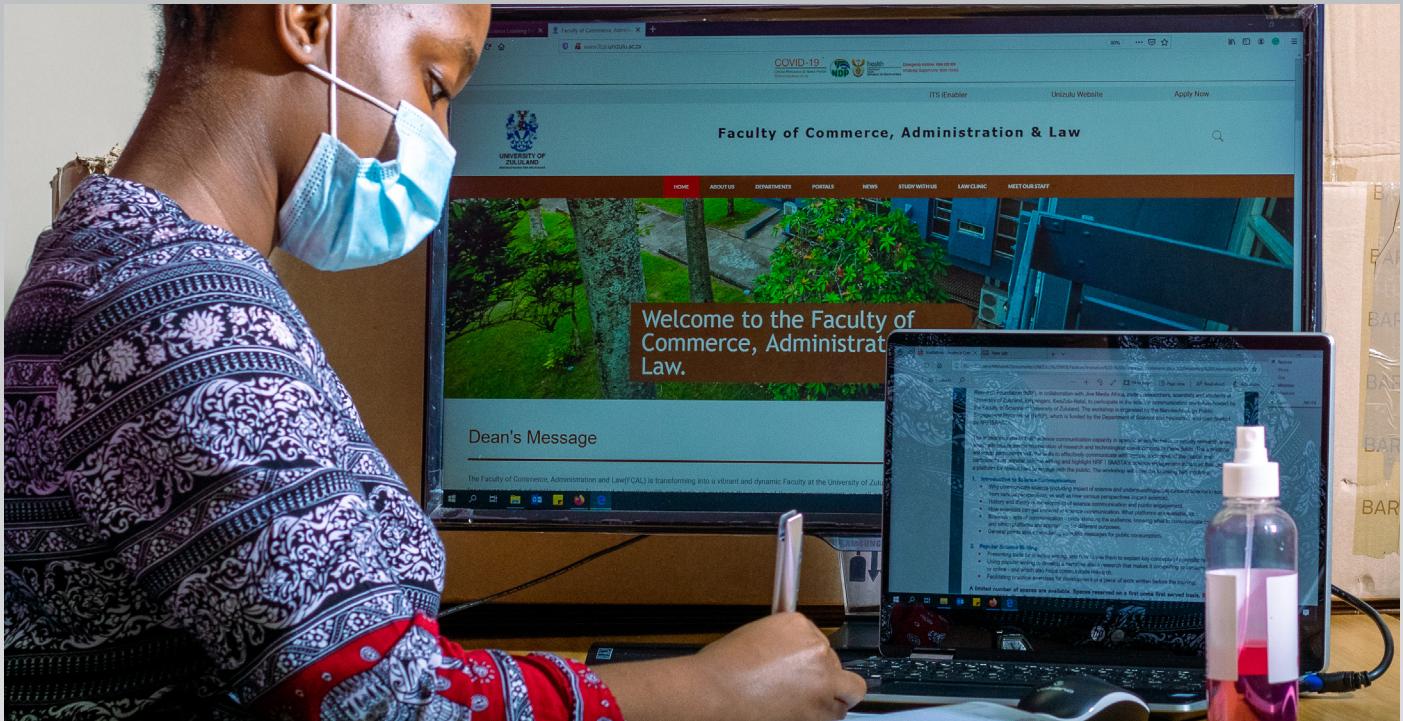
The book is sold on Amazon for approximately 350 GBP. The entire book series can also be purchased on Takealot.com.

- Naledi Hlefane

## CAPTION

Professor Neerish Revaprasadu (left) and Dr Malik Dilshad Khan, co-editors of volume seven of the Specialist Periodical Reports, Nanoscience.

# TEACHING AND LEARNING IN COVID-19 TIMES



Covid-19 has proven to be among the deadliest viruses- if not the most dangerous of them all- to ever affect the world population, considering the ever-rising rate of infections, dramatic loss of lives and vast impact it has had globally within a short span.

The coronavirus outbreak, which emerged in 2019, has not only affected global health systems, but has called for a sudden change of operation in various organisations. There has been a huge transformation in the education sector as well, which has seen the rapid rise of e-learning, a method of teaching and learning which occurs remotely and digitally. Naturally, where there is a change in the status quo, challenges may arise. Ongoye Online spoke to UNIZULU academics regarding their e-learning experiences, perspectives of the teaching and learning method as well as their view on whether e-learning should replace the traditional face-to-face teaching system.

Michael Celumusa Buthelezi, a Bachelor of Laws lecturer in the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law, believes that while migrating to e-learning would be a much-welcomed idea, a hybrid approach to learning is a better option. "With (permanent) e-learning, many students will suffer, especially first-year students. Moreover, ours is the most unequal society, especially in respect of education. Hence, students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds (would) suffer. So, I am in favour of a hybrid approach to learning," he said. He added that the sudden

change to e-learning has proved difficult as it was unforeseen. "The transition was so sudden and unexpected. We had to transition without proper preparations. But we had no choice. There were both personal challenges and students' challenges. As a lecturer, I had had training on Moodle, but as I was not regularly using it, I had to (re) learn using it as a medium of e-learning quickly (and it was difficult because) I, personally, am one of those who enjoy (the) traditional method of teaching.

The challenges most faced by students was pertained to data and connectivity, as some students come from disadvantaged backgrounds and in rural areas. This meant that (we had to find) ways to accommodate inactive students," he said. Amid the trials of the "new normal", Buthelezi said there were a few positives such as saving on the costs of travelling to work, among other things.

Faculty of Arts Lecturer Dr Simangele Cele said that in order to save the academic year, the creativity of academics was put to the test.

"We had to be creative. Personally, I had to compile recordings whereby I had to record myself and then send to students. In some instances, I would use electronic book copies. However, that was a hurdle sometimes as some books were only accessible in hard copies. So, it has been a very difficult journey but we managed to teach," she said.

In addition, she noted that although e-learning

may seem as an easy and convenient method for both academics and students, there were still loopholes. There are indications that students are plagiarising since they are studying remotely, therefore this matter requires urgent attention so as to safeguard the standard, integrity and quality of education.

- Samkele Sokhela



**Michael Celumusa Buthelezi**  
Lecturer in the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law.



**Dr Simangele Cele,**  
Lecturer in the Faculty of Arts.

# TWO CELEBRATIONS FOR HUMAN MOVEMENT SCIENCE DEPT.



**Prof Brandon S. Shaw,**  
Department of Human Movement Science



**Prof Ina Shaw,**  
Department of Human Movement Science

The University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Department of Human Movement Science has recently been awarded the prestigious status of being the official collaborating partner of the Asian Journal of Sports Medicine (AsJSM), with Prof Brandon S. Shaw and Prof Ina Shaw being long-standing members of the editorial board.

**The AsJSM is an international peer-reviewed Scopus-listed and Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)-accredited medical journal, presenting worldwide research on sports medicine.**

The Department of Human Movement Science also boasts being host of the international Non-Communicable Disease Intervention Research Unit (NCDIRU) of which Prof Ina and Prof Brandon are two of the international co-directors. This global consortium of scientists from countries across the globe, collaborate across theoretical and experimental biomedical or behavioural/social science research to prevent and control non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as hypertension, obesity and diabetes. The basic, clinical and translational research of this unit focuses on the three primary modifiable, and thus preventable, NCD risk factors of physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and tobacco use. Some of the professors' far-reaching results in the NCDIRU were recently utilised in the development of the United States' National Strength and Conditioning Association's (NCSA) global position statement for resistance training for older adults.

Both professors were invited by the other international directors to become directors in 2017, due to their expertise in the field and to expand the consortium's footprint on the African continent.

Speaking about this collaboration, Prof Ina said: "We believe that this collaboration with scientists across the world and the hosting of a Scopus-listed medical journal, will allow us the unique ability to better take novel NCD intervention management strategies to not only a global audience, but also closer to our rural communities in which we live and work."

*In her congratulatory remarks, Prof Nokuthula Kunene, the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, said:*

"Congratulations to the Human Movement Science Department, the Faculty of Science and Agriculture and mainly the institution for being a collaborator with the Asian Journal of Sports Medicine. It is such an accomplishment of which we are proud of that we are also a host of the prestigious international Non-Communicable Disease Intervention Research Unit. I would like to (extend) my gratitude to Prof Ina Shaw and Prof Brandon Shaw for the impact of their academic leadership in the Department of Human Movement Science."

- Prof Brandon S. Shaw and Prof Ina Shaw

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The recognition of human rights is the bedrock of our constitutional democracy. It embodies the triumph of our freedom over struggles against social, economic and political injustice. As one of the most progressive canon of rights the world over, it is no mean feat to ensure that our constitutionally inherent rights are adequately protected. Indeed, this onus rests with the Human Rights Commission, a watch-dog and protector of our dignity, equality, freedom and sense of security since the dawn of democracy. The celebration of this feat thus cannot go understated.

**Chapter 2 of the Constitution, The Bill of Rights succinctly codifies our listed rights. Beyond the listed rights enshrined in the constitution, certain rights have developed in keeping with an evolving social construct.** The information superhighway is the bloodline of the fourth industrial revolution. We live in an age where simple, mundane to complicated tasks are conducted with ease on online platforms. The exchange of large data streams of information is essential for these platforms to function effectively. Social interactions, business and commercial engagements, research and information sharing are the norm on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Tinder, and even WhatsApp. Such is the attraction of highly successful platforms that we are inexplicably drawn into a perverse sense of self-worth, recognition and value. Perhaps the fickle mind is unable to detach itself from the attractions of social media and the gratification of instant fame it brings. With this progress and attraction comes the responsibility for each person to take the utmost care to protect their own information and that of others. It is disingenuous for one to accuse another of sharing one's personal information on social platforms when oneself has published the very same information on Facebook, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, etc. Every bit (byte) of information cast in the public domain is traceable. There is significant truth to the claim that information posted on social platforms remains in the public domain for eternity, despite being deleted off the relevant account. Certain irate, yet irrational rants on social media of late comes to mind, as a case in point.

The present generation x of the 21st century is blessed with an acumen of the most intellectually and cognitively adept minds coupled with the most advanced technologies that have ever existed. The protection and respect of our human rights is not the exclusive beset of an archaic generation rallying for the freedom of movement, speech or right to life. The duty to protect and respect human rights have squarely extended to the cyber world of Tik-Tok posts, Facebook rants, plagiarism on LinkedIn and the like. Now more than ever must a new generation of "freedom fighters" take the responsibility to protect the progression of our rights. To protect our personal information.

The protection of personal information, as inferred in the Bill of Rights has been promulgated into legislation. The Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) seeks to protect individuals from harm. POPIA focuses on organisations that process large amounts of personal information, particularly special personal information, children's information, and account numbers. It is a fallacy that POPIA requires



**Mr Deochund Mothilall,**  
Acting Registrar

the holder of personal information to obtain the consent of the specific person. The Information Regulator is empowered to grant exemptions to allow people to process personal information without complying with the Act if the public interest outweighs the subject's rights of privacy.

**There are some anomalies. The characteristics of a purchase and sale of immovable property, for example raises questions. How does one not disclose the personal information of a Purchaser or a Seller? Their contact details are recorded for the purposes of the sale of property. The information is retained and shared by key role players including banks, departments and/or companies that attend to the issuing of compliance certificates, mortgages, etc. Extreme care must be taken when handling personal information as the penalty for breach is severe.**

The balance between the public interest and individual rights has manifested in another prevalent debate: the right to refuse a vaccination. No doubt the pursuit of a cure for the COVID-19 virus has raised credible constitutional questions. At present the right not to vaccinate is deeply entrenched in our Bill of Rights as the right not to be subjected to medical procedures without an informed consent. It is often argued and supported that a person's decision to take the vaccine should be voluntary.

Read more online now >  
<http://www.unizulu.ac.za/human-rights-in-the-21st-century/>



# UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

Communications and Marketing Division  
Ground Floor, Administration Building, KwaDlangezwa Campus

Tel:+27 35 902 6668 Email cmd@unizulu.ac.za :Web: [www.unizulu.ac.za](http://www.unizulu.ac.za)

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