

## UNIZULU SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS SECOND IGU CAS CONFERENCE



The organising team of the 2019 IGU CAS Conference.

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) recently hosted its second International Geographical Union Commission on African Studies (IGU CAS) Conference at the Peermont Umfolozi Casino and Resort.

International academics descended on KwaZulu-Natal from 17- 19 June with an aim to engage and discuss relevant issues ranging from Africa and climate change, natural resources management and governance to environmental justice in Africa and other related issues. The objective was to bring together geographical, multi and interdisciplinary scientific research and thought leadership on issues impacting on Africa. The conference responded to the need for globally competitive research and scientific innovation and seeks to translate it to the international academic community through the IGU CAS initiatives.

Further, the conference was held with an intention to promote internationally competitive research and innovation, which arises out of collaborations and engagements from within South Africa and beyond. The series of events ranged from plenary lectures, as well as oral paper presentations on the conference theme, "Africa in the global imaginary: Towards internationally Competitive Research and Science".

Speaking at the event, the Mayor of the City of uMhlathuze, Mduduzi Mhlongo, sang praises of the University for Zululand as an institution that is a strategic partner in knowledge harvesting and community engagement initiatives. He outlined his hopes that the conference discussions will assist the city to address the challenges that the continent is facing and make sure that Agenda 2063 is achieved.

"This institution has played an important role in the development of the city. Shaping our democratic dispensation, there are many

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### UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND



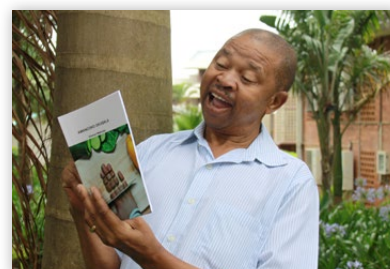
New Dean Eager to Transform Faculty of Arts



Dr Khan Lands Opportunity to attend Prestigious International School



Design of Waterless Toilet Prototype in Progress



Dr Makhoba's Spirit Will Live On



Your Wellness Matters



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leaders who have been produced by this institution. We are proud that almost in every office and employment space in the land there is someone who is a UNIZULU alumnus. Today as the City of uMhlatuze, we want to applaud the university for shaping the future that our children and future generations will be proud of," he said.

The founding Chairperson of the Commission is Dr Innocent Moyo of Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. He thanked all

attendees, adding: "Our academics, postgraduate students and even our undergraduates attended in their numbers. A special thank you goes out to the three keynote speakers, who are Professor Sabelo Ndlovu from the University of South Africa, Professor Maano Ramutsindela from the University of Cape Town and Professor Richard Grant from the University of Miami in the US, for their thought-provoking discussions, as well as all."

- Precious Shamase

## NEW DEAN EAGER TO TRANSFORM FACULTY OF ARTS

The University of Zululand is privileged to have been joined by Professor Mogomme Alpheus Masoga, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, a seasoned academic with a wealth of knowledge.

Prof Masoga assumed his position on Monday, 3 June. He is an alumnus of the University of the Free State, where he obtained his doctoral degree. He holds other qualifications from various institutions in South Africa.

A C2 National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher, Professor Masoga's areas of expertise include indigenous African studies, Africology and social entrepreneurship. He is planning to write three books that cover these broad areas. Prof Masoga is widely published in peer reviewed journals and book chapters. Going forward, he aspires to improve his rating when re-applying in 2021. He received a straight C2 when he first applied and this has encouraged him to work towards improving this rating.

Prof Masoga's experience has been honed through occupying many senior management positions. These ranged from managing NRF's Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Education Research portfolios to heading the Historical Sciences School at the University of the North to founding the African Renaissance Centre at the University of the North. He has also directed the Research Department of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Religious, Linguistic, Cultural Rights of Communities (CRL Rights Commission) and once acted as Academic Journal Editor at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) in addition to supervising postgraduate students and being an external examiner of postgraduate studies. Furthermore, he has been Research Professor in the School of Human and Social Sciences at both the universities of Venda and Limpopo.

Prof Masoga subscribes to the open-door policy. "Leadership is both consultative and (about) providing direction, especially when it comes to policy related matters within the faculty. In short, I believe that while I consult



Professor Mogomme Alpheus Masoga, the newly appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

I should be able to drive since I am in the driver's seat," he said.

Having spent most of his professional life working in a rural campus, Prof Masoga is of the view that rural campuses have a lot to offer and that their location and status should also become an opportunity.

"There are opportunities of rethinking the humanities and social sciences. Rural sociology and politics within the rural spaces could be some of the programmes that could be offered in this case. The other programme is social work; it could look at a cultural-sensitive way of teaching and researching. I have published a number of articles on Afro-sensed models and theory of researching – in this case I became conscious of the context and ontological basis of teaching and conducting research while noting the African communities in which such teaching and research happens," said Prof Masoga.

Prof Masoga's plan of action includes the reaccreditation of a number of programmes within the faculty as well as filling vacant positions. "I am not Messiah and will depend on the support of my colleagues to turn things around. We have a gender representation challenge that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. All our HODs are males and this does not represent the faculty well. The issue of research output also needs to be prioritised. Both Local and international collaborations need to be created," he concluded.

Behind the mortarboard, Prof Masoga confessed to being a huge fanatic of singing and playing some instruments. Interestingly, he also holds a MA in African Musicology, which he obtained with cum laude.

- Precious Shamase

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The university is a space of interaction where ideas and concepts are formulated behind study zones and lecture halls. We, therefore, wish our students a peaceful rest period as they will require all the energy as they navigate the final semester of the University calendar. We take our hats off and salute dedicated University staff as they inspire and infuse knowledge to the next movement of future leaders.



**Gcina Nhleko**  
Director: Communications and Marketing

The University hosted a number of significant events in the month of June. The one-day business symposium hosted by the Businesswomen's Association Zululand BWA Zululand chapter, in association with the University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Richards Bay Campus, was a collaborative success. It featured expert industry leaders as well as an exhibition area for local SMMEs. Emerging entrepreneurs were encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to showcase their unique products and services at the expo's exhibition area. From branding and marketing to the importance of investing business as well as legal advice, a business panel of local experts shared factors affecting businesses in this economic climate. A second panel further elaborated on prioritising wellness among businesswomen, becoming a trendsetter when it comes to corporate style and image as well as unveiling the latest safety and security options. Emerging entrepreneurs also got an opportunity to address the business gathering.

The IGU CAS Conference (lead article) was another highlight moment for the institution. The objective of the conference was to bring together geographical, multi and interdisciplinary scientific research and thought leadership on issues impacting on Africa. The conference responded to the need for globally competitive research and scientific innovation and sought to translate this to the international academic community through the IGU CAS initiatives.

Speaking at the event, the Mayor of the City of uMhlatuze, Honourable Mr Mduduzi Mhlongo sang high praises of the University for Zululand for being a strategic partner in knowledge harvesting and community engagement initiatives. He outlined his hopes that the discussions during the conference would assist the city in addressing the challenges that the continent is facing and make sure that agenda 2063 is achieved.

We are privileged and truly blessed that UNIZULU is an environment where women thrive and are equal contributors and shapers in the decision-making process. The University has made a transformation mark in appointing female leaders successfully.

On an educational note, the upcoming months will be packed with conferences, seminars and symposiums. This include the HSS Conference; IS Conference; Conference on Genomics, Proteomics and Metabolomics – CGMPB; Student Disability and Culture in Diversity.

Let us all participate in true UNIZULU spirit as such opportunities can further enrich our knowledge fountain.

# DR KHAN LANDS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Dr Malik Khan (left) pictured with his research partner Professor Neerish Revaprasadu during one of their lab sessions.

The month of July promises to be an educative period for Dr Malik Khan, a research fellow in the Department of Nanotechnology at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU). He will be attending the 8th International School for Energy for Materials and Sustainability (ISMES VIII) at the California Institute of technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, California.

Dr Khan will join 24 other participants, from Harvard University, Imperial College and many other top institutions in the United States of America, whose applications were accepted in the weeklong school holding from 21-27 July.

ISMES is an international school on the themes of energy and sustainability organised by Caltech, Stanford, Colorado School of Mines, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the European Materials Research Society, and the Materials Research Society. It provides graduate students and postdoctoral scholars the opportunity to learn about state-of-the-art equipment and future trajectories for materials as they can be applied to energy generation and storage for sustainable energy technologies.

During the school, participants attend lectures by experts in a variety of areas ranging from climate change to renewable energy to manufacturing. There are also individual student exercises designed to broaden the students' knowledge of the energy and sustainability landscape. Lastly, participants engage in team exercises where groups of international students tackle challenging scenarios.

This year's topics will include global warming; conventional and sustainable technologies; solar energy conversion (PV and thermal) and solar chemical conversion, among others.

Professor Neerish Revaprasadu, a lecturer in the Department of Nanotechnology who works closely with Dr Khan on many projects, is excited by the news of his colleague's selection as he believes the experience will be of benefit to the pair's new proposed patent in the field of energy.

Professor Gideon de Wet, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, said: "This is such fantastic news! Well done to Dr Malik Khan for this wonderful achievement! This is a from-Zululand-to-Hollywood situation!"

– Naledi Hlelane



## DESIGN OF WATERLESS TOILET PROTOTYPE IN PROGRESS



Dr Linda Liganiso, an academic in the Department of Chemistry, is leading a team designing a prototype of a waterless toilet.

A University of Zululand (UNIZULU) team led by Dr Linda Liganiso, an academic in the Department of Chemistry, is seeking to come up with a practical solution to the lack of proper sanitation facilities in rural South Africa by designing a unique waterless toilet prototype that is set to be piloted in the City of Umhlathuze Municipality after September.

The project is funded by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). Together with three postgraduate students from her department, Dr Liganiso began working on the design in April and expects to have a “working prototype” by the end of September.

She acknowledged that amid minor challenges, the project was progressing as planned. The team has spent the past two years conducting research on the design, materials and machinery required for prototyping and are using the EDTEA capital to source these.

Explaining the rationale behind this project, the academic said she was deeply touched by the “devastating” statistics of South Africans who do not have access to toilets. “In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) sanitation targets, it is estimated that about 32 million people in South Africa would require safely managed toilets from 2015 to 2030. To end open defecations, close to one million people would need toilets, which is the most urgent problem. The challenge is that many people perceive the

flush toilet system as the only acceptable sanitation solution. However, it is well known that South Africa is among highly (greater than 80%) water stressed countries. The recent severe droughts especially in the Western cape, Free State, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal are evidence of this.

“Dry sanitation is the way forward in the fourth industrial revolution. It is a system that will eventually be the norm throughout the world as it is a safe, sustainable, cost effective and environmentally friendly solution that is immune to climate, geography and topography as well as culture. If fully embraced, South Africa can start generating value from human waste and industrialise since biogas and organic fertiliser can be produced in municipal plants,” Dr Liganiso said.

Once the prototype is ready, the next step will be prototype testing (performing a field study) within UNIZULU. This will give guidance on whether there is a need for further improvements on the prototype and also allow the team to patent the toilet design and start the piloting stage. After this, Dr Liganiso envisions establishing a small factory, which will be a spin-off company.

Since the Chemistry Department has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the municipality of uMhlathuze and worked with them 3 years ago, the intention is to pilot the project in an area under management of the municipality.

– Naledi Hlefane

# DR MAKHOBAS SPIRIT WILL LIVE ON



The late Dr Khenani Lloyd Makhoba.

A fine academic, writer and poet; these were some of Dr Khenani Lloyd Makhoba's prominent attributes. This is according to the speakers who shared a few words about the academic at his memorial service held recently at the KwaDlangezwa Campus.

Dr Makhoba was a lecturer in the Department of African Languages and Culture within the Faculty of Arts. He joined the institution in 2014, serving diligently until his time of passing. A prolific writer and columnist, he had a number of short stories, poetry and other nonfiction books published under his name. Among these is *Amancoko Okuqala*, a book that studies the genre of jokes, which he published late in 2017.

A man with a great sense of humour, Dr Makhoba's memorial service was synonymous with his trait. There was lots of laughter as speakers paid tribute to their humorous colleague, friend and lecturer.

UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose referred to Dr Makhoba as a soldier of the university, who stood for truth. She emphasised that through his passing, the academic's great influence was revealed. "Dr Makhoba's unparalleled legacy in higher education, especially at the University of Zululand, cannot be reduced to words. To say his presence will be deeply missed at UNIZULU will be an understatement. Dr Makhoba's name will

remain and come up in faculty meetings and student conversations. The fact that he is no more will remain a myth to most of us," highlighted Prof Mtose.

Dr Makhoba's passing came a week after he was conferred with his doctoral degree at UNIZULU's King Bhhekuzulu Hall. His supervisor Professor Lincoln Zamokwakhe Mthokozisi Khumalo, an academic in the Department of was deeply saddened by the news of the academic's death. "A teacher has fallen. An advisor has fallen. A leader has fallen. A writer has fallen. A cultural enthusiast has fallen. A comedian has fallen. A poet has fallen. A father has fallen," he said. He added that this was not only a loss for UNIZULU but the Department of Education as well.

One of Dr Makhoba's students, Sithembiso Mthembu, shared the same sentiments, saying the late academic was more than a lecturer to his students. "We called Dr Makhoba 'doctor' before he even obtained his doctorate. That's because he was so knowledgeable and we admired him for that. He was a lecturer, friend and life coach to us. He used to motivate us to write books and he'd guide us in terms of how to write for publishing. He was very strict when it came to literature because he was a man of high standards," Mthembu recalled.

Dr Makhoba was due to retire in July 2019.

– Naledi Hlefane



# YOUR WELLNESS MATTERS

## Aerobics Your Way to Fitness!

*Are you feeling lethargic?*

*Do you long to get that coveted "summer body" that's the annual buzz word on social media?*

*Are you looking to combat a health issue?*



**FREE  
ENTRY**

**Well, look no further! The UNIZULU Employee Relations and Wellness Aerobics Club is here for you.**

For just an hour, four times a week, undergo a full-body workout with the guidance of experienced aerobics instructors. Classes are held every Monday to Thursday from 4h15 to 5h15 at the East Residences.

**What's more? ENTRY IS FREE!**

## GET FINANCIALLY FIT WITH OLD MUTUAL'S "ON THE MONEY" PROGRAMME

The UNIZULU Employee Relations and Wellness Unit recently partnered with financial services provider Old Mutual in bringing the "On the Money" financial education programme to UNIZULU. Over a period of two days, staff members attended a two-hour workshop where an Old Mutual representative shared the five key secrets to being more savvy with money. Interestingly, these secrets were discovered through analysing the characteristics of the big five, which appear on South African bank notes.

### Secret 1: The Lion

The lion with its protective nature eats before its family so as to fully guard the pride when its time to consume food comes. This teaches one about the power of saving before spending.



### Secret 2: The Leopard

The leopard always aims for things it can get. This teaches one to have clearly defined goals for their savings because a savings plan without a goal is prone to failure.



### Secret 3: The Elephant

From the elephant and its impeccable memory, one is reminded that knowledge is power. When you budget and factor in all your expenses, you gain control of your money.



### Secret 4: The Rhino

The rhino's secret weapon is to charge whenever it is under threat. This teaches one to face debt head-on.



### Secret 5: The Buffalo

The buffalo is deliberate, steady and patient. This teaches one to invest money and exercise patience while it accumulates interest.



To make contact with the UNIZULU Employee Wellness Programme you can contact 0800 111 150, which is free from a landline and cellphone. You can also dial \*1348905# to request a call back or send an email to [unizulu@icas.co.za](mailto:unizulu@icas.co.za).

– Naledi Hlefane