



ONGOYE

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2018 UNIZULU GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Honorary Degree conferred Upon Zulu King
- Top Students Speak of Academic Journeys

NEW UNIZULU Council Members Appointed

UNIZULU DISSECTS DECOLONIALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM



**UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND**

RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE

Vice-Chancellor's Message of Support

Universities are places of transformation, where lives are changed and the future is forged. Universities are also places that are continually being reshaped. The year 2018 has been a fruitful year for this institution. We were thrilled to celebrate one remarkable chapter in our university's history, and embark on a brand new chapter. This new chapter began on 25 April 2018 with the installation of the University's new Chancellor, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Mnyamazeli Zondo.

During the 2018 Autumn graduation ceremonies that took place in May, UNIZULU conferred and awarded degrees and diplomas to 4147 graduandi of which 3133 were undergraduate students and 861 post-graduate candidates (281 Honours candidates, 90 Master's candidates and 32 Doctoral candidates).

The graduandi were drawn from the four faculties with Arts having close to 1025 graduates; Commerce, Administration and Law with just over 781; Education with about 1668 and Science and Agriculture with just over 700.

On Friday, 4 May 2018, the institution conferred an honorary doctorate to a distinguished South African who has offered outstanding service in different sectors. It was with great pride that UNIZULU recognised an outstanding leader and our newest honorary degree recipient, His Royal Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu with a Doctor of Social Work (Honoris Causa) for His Majesty's philanthropy and charitable work.

His Majesty joined a long and prestigious list of elite alumni who have walked through the gates of this great institution and graduated, just like you. They include our Chancellor, Deputy Chief Justice Zondo, Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, Minister in the Presidency for the National Planning Commission for Policy and Evaluation Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and the late former state



Professor Xoliswa Mtose

president Nelson Mandela.

The tradition around graduation ceremonies in the world is that these are occasions for acknowledging and celebrating achievements and success; they are moments of joy in the lives of all graduandi, parents and relatives. They are auspicious occasions that mark years of personal sacrifice by parents, guardians and sponsors to provide the best education for their sons and daughters. They also mark the determination and great strides made by the graduandi in attaining their degrees.

Graduation is one of the great turning points in one's life and for many, the most pleasant. If the creed that hard work brings success, then graduation epitomises that. It is success which remains with one for the rest of their life- even to the very end. No one can take this away from you. Beside self-actualisation, it is the nation's investment in its own citizenry.

On another note, the University was reawakened to the reality of crime in South Africa when an intellectual and a knowledge fountain's life was cut short in what can be described as a senseless murder.

Professor Gregory Kamwendo was a full Professor in Sociolinguistic and

Education. He was an avid researcher and a seasoned leader. He joined the University of Zululand in 2016 as the Dean in the Faculty of Arts. He modelled UNIZULU values which are Innovation, Teamwork, Efficiency, Accountability and Mutual Trust by being a diligent and loyal academic until his untimely death on Tuesday, 22 May 2018.

The University mourns a conscientious and dedicated intellectual who used the talents and gifts as entrusted to him to empower and shape the academia in persuasive ways beyond imagination. Prof Kamwendo was so passionate about languages and freedom of speech that he often commented that extended to the freedom is the importance of one's medium of expression because a person might have brilliant ideas, but if they are not afforded an opportunity to advance those ideas through the language they best understand, then there's lack of freedom of expression.

Prof Kamwendo's talents were recognised globally as an energetic scholar and researcher therefore condolences are conveyed to his native country of Malawi, colleagues, students, friends, associations and most importantly his affected family.

Rest in Peace Professor Kamwendo.

Editor's Foreword

The year in progress has been an exceptional one for the University of Zululand as evidenced by its strategic events highlights. The inauguration of the Chancellor made a sterling mark as major stakeholders including the Alumni and Convocation were vocal about the importance of a credible resonating voice who will represent the University in key events, for example graduation ceremonies. The University is undeniably nestled in the Kingdom of the Zulu nation hence it was befitting when His Royal Majesty King Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu received an Honorary Doctorate in Social Work in a hall named after his father. This demonstrated the legacy the institution enjoys with the royal family.

It is worth noting that despite the fact that women obtain almost 60 percent of undergraduate degrees and 60 percent of all master's degrees in Africa, they occupy only 25 percent of executive, senior-level officials and managerial positions; hold 20 percent of board seats and only 6 percent are CEOs, according to the "Women's Leadership Gap" report by The Center for African Progress.

According to a 2017 study by Lee Hecht Harrison, "Elevating Women in Leadership", most organisations see this as a problem but haven't been successful in fixing it. The study found that 82 percent of organisations surveyed believe advancing women is a critical business issue- yet only 28 percent of HR leaders are satisfied with their organisation's ability to do so.

Therefore, it is admirable that the University's Vice-Chancellor and the incoming Chairperson of Council, Nomarashiya Caluza, are both an inspiration to women by showing that it is possible. We commend the University for taking a bold step in advancing women into key strategic positions.

On the research front, six colleagues from

the Faculty of Education contributed a chapter in the recently published *Learning about Sustainable Change in Education in South Africa, The Jika Imfundo Campaign 2015 - 2017*. The chapter emanates from a research project that was funded by SAIDE. The book is freely available online.

The University has a number of upcoming scheduled events so make sure you visit our University website and social media pages for ongoing news updates.

On a sombre note, we say till we meet again to the finest academic of our time. Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory Professor Gregory Kamwendo.



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UNIZULU

CHE Special Audit



The Council on Higher Education (CHE) conducted the Institutional Audit of UNIZULU from 4 to 9 June 2017. During the site visit, the panel viewed the infrastructure of the KwaDlangezwa and Richards Bay campuses, conducted interviews with a wide range of UNIZULU's staff, students and other stakeholders, and examined all documentary evidence provided on site. Following this visit, the CHE produced the Report on a Special Audit of the University of Zululand (November 2017), received on 30 January 2018, and guidelines for developing the UNIZULU CHE Special Audit Improvement Plan 2018, received on 4 April 2018.

After receiving the Report on a Special Audit of the University of Zululand (November 2017), the University has responded as requested with an Improvement Plan to CHE on 31 May 2018. UNIZULU was required to ensure that the Improvement Plan addresses recommendations of the following keys reports:

- (a) Report on a Special Audit of the University of Zululand
- (b) UNIZULU 2013 Administrator's Report
- (c) CHE UNIZULU Audit Report of the 2010

The recommendations of the Report on a Special Audit of the University of Zululand are viewed in a serious light as a key turning point towards compliance which is why the Executive undertook a comprehensive strategic planning session on 7 February 2018. Here, Executive Management conducted a comprehensive analysis of the CHE Special Audit Report 2017 and linked its recommendations to the University of Zululand Strategic Plan 2016 -2021 and the University Strategic Risk Register.

The executive of the University has committed itself to putting in place coherent and robust systems, processes and frameworks to turn around UNIZULU

in line with the new strategic plan. These efforts have started to bear fruits in turning around the institutional culture and general organisational performance across various institutional structures and units.

The University EXCO is committed to ensuring coherence in the management of the University, firmly embedded on values and principles of good governance. The University notes that some of the challenges facing universities at present are not unique to UNIZULU and are, rather, endemic to the higher education sector, if not South African society at large. The implementation of the Improvement Plan will be monitored through quarterly reporting by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Council on Higher Education.

Closing the Chapter and Making Way for a New Future



Ms Nomarashiya Caluza

On Saturday, 7 April 2018, on the last meeting of the previous Council, four new appointments - made up of ministerial appointments - were made and some contracts were extended.

Following a special meeting, a new Chair of Council, Ms Nomarashiya Caluza, and Deputy Chair, Mr Joey Kunji-Behari, were appointed.

Caluza is the Deputy Principal at Luthuli High School in the Ugu District Municipality. She is also the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Secretary for the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU).

She holds a Senior Primary Teachers Diploma from Lyceum College; an Advanced Certificate in Education from North West University (NWU); a Diploma in Practical labour Law from the then Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a BED Honours degree from NWU.

Caluza has played and continues to play a pivotal role in the education sector. As a Teacher and Deputy Principal, she has conducted workshops for new teachers and heads of departments (HODs) in her school. A self-proclaimed motivational leader, she has, among other things, assisted teachers to identify areas of

development and helped HODs with managing the new basic education curriculum when it was introduced.

In her SADTU position, Caluza is responsible for more than 60 000 members. With the assistance of SADTU leadership, she develops and ensures to implement all programmes included in the strategic plan for KZN. She serves as Core-Chairperson of the KZN Department of Education Provincial Training Committee which identifies and plans training programmes for teachers in the province.

Not only is Caluza a passionate education professional but she is a firm believer of community engagement and development. She has helped parents to place their children in rehabilitation centres to recover from substance abuse. She is also part of a team, comprising her school and a local government department, which nurtures 21 learner cricketers under the age of 17.

In addition, Caluza is a Councillor for SACE (South African Council for Educators) and a member of ADVOCO. She also chairs the KZN Education Alliance.

Kunji-Behari is an accomplished leader with vast experience in his field. He is a



Mr Joey Kunji-Behari

qualified metallurgical engineer and also holds a MBA degree.

Kunji-Behari is the General Manager for Smelting, Processing and Logistics at Rio Tinto Richards Bay Minerals. He joined Rio Tinto in 1995 and held various roles ranging from Superintendent, Smelter Manager and General Manager Mining. In his current role, he is responsible for all smelting and processing activities in addition to being responsible for the outbound logistics of approximately two million tons of final products and the inbound logistics of approximately three million tons of intermediate product. He currently leads an organisation of 1500 permanent employees and contractors, with overall budget responsibility of approximately R2.8 billion.

Kunji-Behari attended the Management Development and Business Leadership Development Programs at the universities of KwaZulu-Natal and New South Wales respectively. In 2015 he was selected to attend a talent exchange programme in China where he spent two weeks visiting Chinese mining companies with six other delegates. In 2016, he was selected to attend a global leadership excellence programme in China and Australia. In 2017, Kunji-Behari was selected to attend a Rio Tinto business leaders programme with 59 other high performing employees in Singapore.

Prior to joining Rio Tinto Richards Bay Minerals, Kunji-Behari worked for Anglo American Corporation, progressing from a Metallurgist in Training to Mineral Processing Engineer. Kunji-Behari also serves on various boards including the Zululand Chamber of Business Foundation for which he is the Chairperson.

Excitement as New UNIZULU Chancellor is Inaugurated



Pictured: Chancellor Zondo and Prof Mtose celebrate with the UNIZULU Choir as the new Chancellor is congratulated on his instillation.

It was a time 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 Bhhekuzulu Hall, KwaDlangezwa Campus during the month of April.

Chancellor Zondo was appointed by the University of Zululand Council in February 2018 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.

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.

UNIZULU Confers Honorary Doctorate to Zulu King



His Royal Majesty King Zwelithini is presented with gifts fit for a king by Chancellor Raymond Mnyamezeli Mlungisi Zondo (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose.

During the month of May, the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) conferred His Royal Majesty King Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu with an honorary Doctorate in Social Work in recognition of his philanthropic work and efforts to promote peace and unity.

Held at the King Bhekuzulu Hall, at the University's KwaDlangezwa Campus, the prestigious graduation ceremony was well-attended by representatives from various sectors including local, provincial and national government.

According to Professor Xoliswa Mtose, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the graduation ceremony was "special because it marks the conferment of an

Honorary Degree to an extraordinary leader whose philanthropic deeds have made a notable contribution to society".

Among the noteworthy works of His Royal Majesty is his key role in the fight against HIV/AIDS through the annual Zulu Reed Dance which encourages young women to abstain from sexual intercourse and the promotion of male circumcision, among other campaigns.

In his keynote address, Deputy President of South Africa David Mabuza congratulated the King saying the conferment of his honorary degree is a "major recognition of the pioneering work that His Majesty is doing for the betterment of the lives of the people of KwaZulu-Natal and the entire

South Africa".

Deputy President Mabuza echoed former president Nelson Mandela who once paid homage to the King for having been "the most consistent voice and campaigner for peace and unity among his people (in KwaZulu-Natal)".

Also in attendance was the Premier of the KwaZulu-Natal Province Willie Mchunu who congratulated the King and commended UNIZULU for its acknowledgement of the ground-breaking leadership and deeds of His Royal majesty.

2018 Graduate First to Obtain Degree Within Family

Phumlani Bonginhlanhla Ngema comes from a family that may have easily been ruled out as doomed by many in society but through hard work and perseverance, he has broken the cycle of poverty and dropping out of school by becoming the first person to graduate in his family.

The 22-year-old from rural Mtubatuba graduated with a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Development and Foundation Phase) degree during the 2018 UNIZULU Graduations.

But simply obtaining a degree would not suffice for Ngema. He had to stand out for something either than being a young man from an impoverished background as he graduated top of his academic programme; making him one of the top five students in the Faculty of Education for 2017.

Ngema evidently could not contain his jubilation as he proceeded to be capped on the graduation stage. He therefore marked this milestone with a traditional South African dance known as *ukusina*, accompanied by loud cheers from the audience.

When asked to share his recipe for success, Ngema was quick to clarify that he is merely a hard-worker and not a brilliant individual; adding that his goal to change his family's financial state was the impetus behind his achievement.

"I grew up only knowing my maternal family. I met my paternal family in 2016. My mother and grandmother are both deceased so, needless to say, I had a tough upbringing. I was supported by the Foster Child Grant so coming from such humble beginnings, I knew that education was my ticket out of poverty so I worked hard in order to change the situation back at home," he said.

Looking back, Ngema marvels at how he managed to pull through the hardships he faced while studying towards his degree. A portion of his Foster Child Grant



Phumlani Ngema, one of the top five graduates in the Faculty of Education, after being hooded on the graduation stage; a moment he has long waited for.

was deposited into a special account intended to contribute towards his tertiary education. In 2014, when Ngema had to register at UNIZULU, he had R4900 with which to pay his registration fee, rent and groceries. The first two years of his studies were the hardest, he recalled. He was funded by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Nsfas) and lived off-campus so he had to survive on a menial allowance. The situation slightly improved after he received the Funza Lushaka bursary in the last two years of his degree.

Though not moments Ngema would ever want to relive, he appreciates how these hard times helped unleash his entrepreneurial skill. "To supplement my R600 allowance from Funza Lushaka, I decided to join a network marketing business and sold health products. I put a lot of effort into my business and I reaped the fruits almost immediately," Ngema said. Seeing his success in network marketing, the young man said he aspires to exploit the real estate market in the long run.

Ngema's intention was to further his studies after completing his undergraduate degree but due to lacking financial resources, he had to postpone his plans. He will luckily

resume his postgraduate studies in 2019 as he secured employment as a teacher in Khulunolwazi Primary School in the Mpumalanga Province at the beginning of February 2018. His remaining short-term goals are to rebuild his mother's family home- in honour of his late mother and grandmother- as well as to support his two younger siblings throughout their high school and tertiary studies.

"Success comes after struggle and hardship," said Ngema to students pursuing their undergraduate studies. "Do not measure your success based on your background. Know that anything is possible. When you have claimed something with your mouth, it is bound to materialise because words have power," he said.

The Promise Arts Faculty Top Achiever Couldn't Break



Pictured: Mukelwa Majola, the Bachelor of Library and Information Science graduate who was honoured as one of the top achievers within the Arts Faculty during one of the Faculty's graduation ceremonies. Handing over a laptop as a prize for her achievement is Professor Gregory Kamwendo, late Arts Faculty Dean (left) and Professor Xoliswa Mtose, UNIZULU Vice-Chancellor.

"Before my mother passed on, she made me promise that I would make my grandmother proud. I hope she is looking down and is proud."

These were the words of Mukelwa Majola, a Bachelor of Library and Information Science graduate who was honoured as one of the top academic achievers within the Arts Faculty during one of the Faculty's graduation ceremonies in May 2018. Raised by her grandmother, Majola who hails from Claremont in Durban attributed her success to hard work and being a bookworm.

"Being a bookworm was the reason behind me choosing to study towards a Bachelor of Library and Information Science degree. Whilst I was in matric looking at options of possible career streams, I came across the Library and Information Science degree and went

to our local library to make enquiries about the course. The Librarian in charge advised me that it is a good course to study and that is how my journey began.

"I have never looked back ever since and have no regrets with regards to my career choice."

Because no journey is ever without obstacles, Majola remembers a time when she almost dropped out of university. This was the year she lost her mother whilst she was in her second year of study. "The year that I lost my mother was the most difficult for me. My mother was the bread winner at home. So many things went through my mind when she passed on. I

asked myself how I would make it; how my granny would manage to support me financially. She (my grandmother) has always been my source of strength and she told me she would do her best and she did," said Majola, adding that her grandmother is extremely excited about her academic record.

Majola said her outstanding academic performance came as a shock to her, even though she knew she had been working hard. Her achievement taught her a great lesson that "you can achieve anything you set your mind to as long as you work hard". "I started weeping when my name was called out as a top achiever. I truly believe that this day was ordained by God. It was not my doing but it was God's work. God showed up and showed off. I am in awe. I have no words to express how I feel," said Majola.

Accounting Graduate Ready to Make a World Impact

Twenty-three-year-old University of Zululand graduate, Lungisani Andile Msimang, believes that a life without an impact is a life not well lived, and thus he is committed to achieving this goal in his family, career and life in general.

The Dundee born graduate took one step closer towards fulfilling his dream when he was conferred with a Bachelor of Commerce: Accounting Science and named one of five top achievers during one of the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law graduation ceremonies.

“I expected to do well
but not this well,”

“I can only attribute this success to hard work, making lots of time for my studies and learning from my failures as I have failed many times before in my life,” said Msimang whilst also acknowledging the essential role played by all his lecturers in his journey as a UNIZULU student.

Msimang is currently enrolled for a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (PGDA), commonly referred to as a Certificate in the Theory of Accounting (CTA), at the University of Cape Town in his journey towards becoming a Chartered Accountant. Though he finds the course challenging, Msimang said he is investing most of his time into his studies as always because he needs to prepare himself for Allan Gray and Nedbank- companies which he aspires to work for and make a lasting impact in.

Above everything, Msimang hopes to be successful for his mother and deceased father, whom he refers to as his “best friend and role model”. “My dad suffered from a heart attack two weeks before I started writing my exams in my third year. It was such a blow. I had only one week to prepare for my exams because we were preparing for the funeral in the other week,” Msimang recalled.

While this could have been an excuse for him to lose focus in his academics, it instead motivated him to excel, in his father’s honour. “My dad was a very responsible father. He taught me a lot of things that I want to emulate today,” said Msimang.



Lungisani Andile Msimang, BCom: Accounting Science graduate who was one of the top achievers in his Faculty.

Teaching Graduates Told of Profession's Rules to Live By

In order to break the vicious cycle that South Africa finds itself caught in, it does not need just any teachers, but those that are well qualified and professional and thus able to assist the country in breaking the chains it currently finds itself shackled in.

This was the sentiment of Dr James Keevy, Chief Executive Officer at JET Education Services, during one of the Faculty of Education's graduation ceremonies in May 2018. Dr Keevy is a policy researcher who works in the education and training sector. He has conducted and overseen various initiatives related to national, regional and international qualifications frameworks in Africa and further afield.

Delivering his address as a Guest Speaker, Dr Keevy; who was addressing then soon-to-be graduating teachers, said the damage caused by apartheid education policies have "cut so deep" that 24 years post democracy, South Africa still finds itself stuck in a situation in which the vast majority of its children are underperforming. "International studies such as the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2016) show us that we are scrapping the bottom of the barrel with many countries easily outperforming South Africa. Another measure that demonstrates this alarming situation are the Annual National Assessment (ANA) results. While the ANAs were not contested in their own right, learner performance in these tests revealed that we have serious problems in reading and Mathematics. This shows most acutely when one looks at the grade nine Mathematics results which were mostly in the single digit percentages," said Dr Keevy.

Turning his focus on possible solutions for this challenge, Dr Keevy said while a silver bullet does not exist due to the complexity of the problem, a sophisticated approach is needed. "And this is what I would like to discuss with you (graduates) today. I also want to challenge you as newly qualified teachers since you have a key role to play in the execution of such a strategy," he said.

Building on the Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development in South Africa- an agreed tool between the departments of Basic Education and Higher Education and Training- which sets out key priorities for teacher education up to 2025, Dr Keevy spoke on three key concepts which he said have a crucial bearing on teachers who ought to be committed to the transformation of the country's education system and agenda.



Dr James Keevy during his address on the graduation stage.

"Each (one of the three concepts) in my opinion when viewed on its own and in relation to the other concepts provides a very important level to improve the quality of education in South Africa. 'Values' is the first of these concepts. Research shows us that teaching is a values based process in which teachers draw on bodies of knowledge, professional skills and qualities. Values matter and I would add that the values of our teachers matter more because they inform motivations and intentions; hence they shape human action in almost any behavioural setting," he said.

Accountability - which Dr Keevy said lies in the heart of professionalism- was named as the second concept. He said accountability, be it bureaucratic or professional, is required for quality service to learners, members of the public as well

as fellow professionals. "While our 'can't do' teachers certainly have some leeway to grow their accountability, 'won't do' teachers simply do not have a place in our education system. We need to work with our teacher unions to actively address the problem that was in part caused by our need for forms of militancy during the apartheid years that has become entrenched in some cases and more so, an excuse to teach badly without being accountable. Lokhu akwamukelekile (this is no longer acceptable)," said Dr Keevy.

Linked to values and accountability, so said Dr Keevy, is professionalism which he emphasised is more than a performative function. "Professionalism includes attitudinal aspects- how teachers think and what attitudes and values they hold. Professionalism consists of intellectual, behavioural and attitudinal components. In short, professionalism is seen as the identification and expression of what is required and expected of members of the teaching profession," he said.

Dr Keevy challenged the newly qualified teachers to do some introspection and ask themselves what their core values are; how they would interact with fellow "can't do" and "won't do" colleagues as well as whether they would be accountable and hold their peers accountable once in the workforce.

"Lastly, I challenge you to interact with the Basic Education Department, SACE, teacher unions and other role players as the professional teaching standards will be consulted on and rolled out in the few years. These standards are more than what they seem. They represent the interface between values, accountability and professionalism and should be engaged with meaningfully. May your teaching career be a lifelong journey with strong values, accountability and professionalism at all times. Help us break the cycle today and not in the next 25 years," concluded Dr Keevy.

Academics Have Huge Role to Play in Decolonising HE Curriculum



Prof Emmanuel Mgqwashu

Academics can no longer afford to dissociate their academic project in its entirety from the commitment to achieve a decolonial curriculum in higher education. In fact, if decoloniality of the curriculum is still viewed as irrelevant, then academics in Africa are in trouble.

This was the opinion Professor Emmanuel Mgqwashu, the Education Faculty Deputy Dean and Head of the Education Department at Rhodes University expressed during his seminar presentation on the topic of decolonising the curriculum. The seminar was held on Friday, 25 May 2018 at the Protea Hotel, Empangeni. It was the first of a series of three seminars (on the same topic) organised by the University of Zululand's Teaching and Learning Centre.

As a challenge to fellow academics, Prof Mgqwashu argued that knowledge has to be "historicised" and insisted that this is core-activity in knowledge generation. Who was present and absent, and from what contexts knowledge originates needs to be interrogated in the process of decoloniality envisaged for and in re-curriculation.

"Knowledge generation can no longer be knowledge for its sake but it has to speak to the issues of the past which continue to entangle us. The discourse of decoloniality, across spheres and faculties, needs to make its way through our research aims, norms and processes," said Prof Mgqwashu, adding that scholars should cease to view the decoloniality discourse as a humanities matter because it affects all disciplines.

As he unpacked the topic, Prof Mgqwashu touched on the transformation discourse, discussing how it is often confused with decolonisation. According to him, the two are not the same. He believes the transformation rhetoric has had negative effects on the social justice project. He said: "The transformation discourse has changed things to remain the same. The mentality of the inferiority of anything or person other than white and/or Euro-American has not changed." Likewise, Prof Mgqwashu said decolonisation as a concept has failed higher education and academics as "it did not succeed in removing procedures, values, norms, practices, thinking, beliefs, choices of a sense of superiority of Europe".

In changing this, Prof Mgqwashu suggests that institutions need to probe their approach to curriculum theory and practice. There are four ways of approaching curriculum theory and practice, namely curriculum as product: where students are taught certain skills to master and facts to know; curriculum as process: the interaction of teachers, students and knowledge; curriculum as context: contextually shaped (that is, looking at where people are and looking at how to engage them based on their current state) and, curriculum as praxis: practice should not focus exclusively on individuals alone or the group alone. It must explore how both create understandings and practices.

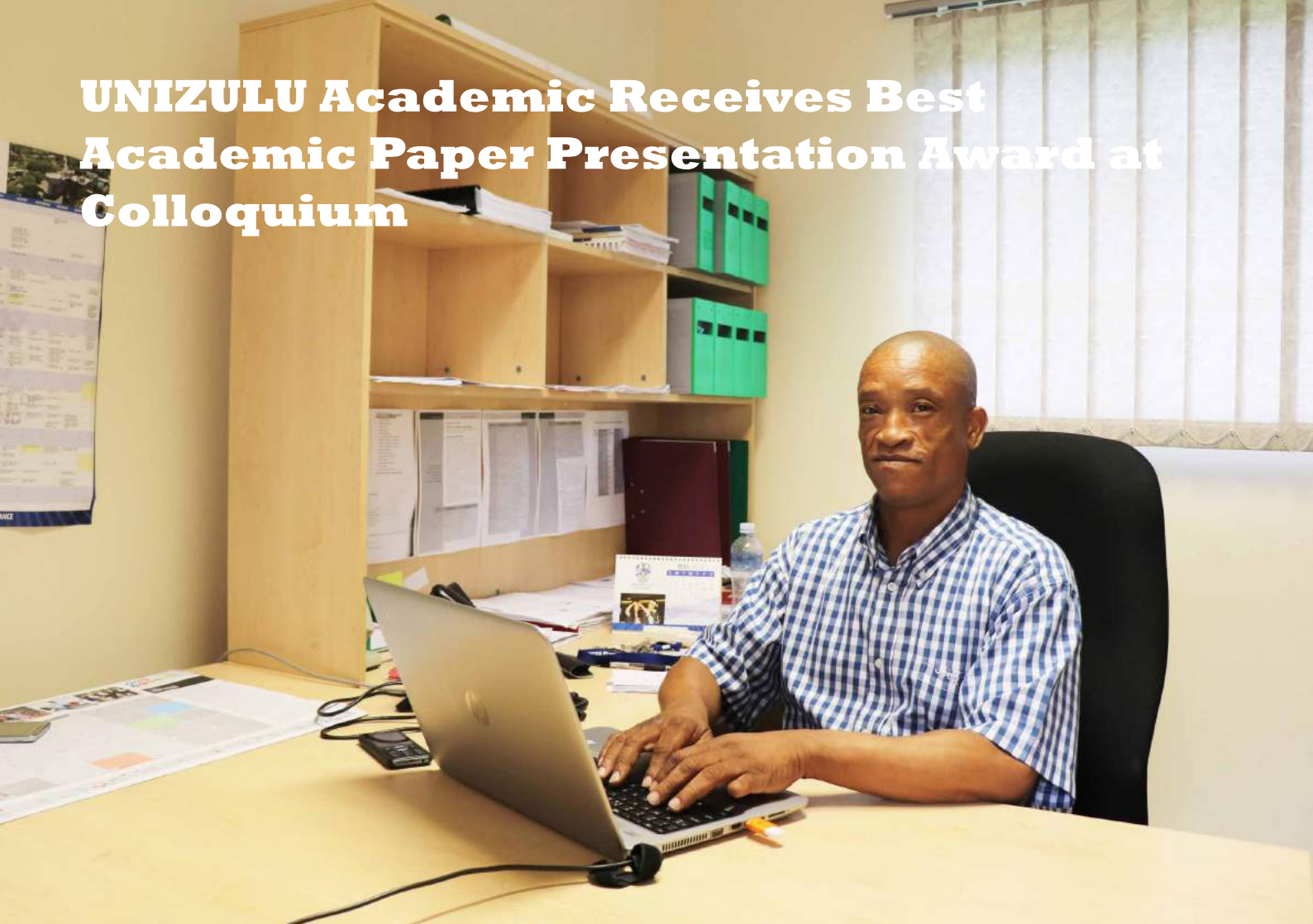


Prof Mohebatsi Nkoane

In Prof Mgqwashu's view, the praxis theory is the best of all as curriculum "cannot just be about serving a particular group or an individual but it should enable understanding and practices that should reflect both individuals and groups".

In his response to Prof Mgqwashu's presentation, Professor Mohebatsi Nkoane, from the UNIZULU's Faculty of Education shared similar sentiments about Eurocentrism. He also discussed the matter of indigenous knowledge systems, arguing that Africa needs to "rise from the decay" and emancipate itself from "global North". "Within the pyramids of knowledge systems, we have to acknowledge that there are other knowledge systems that exist instead of amplifying and validating only the knowledge that comes from the North," Prof Nkoane said.

UNIZULU Academic Receives Best Academic Paper Presentation Award at Colloquium



Dr Sithembiso Ngubane, an academic from University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Teaching and Learning Centre, outshined his fellow scholars in the higher education sector at a recent colloquium in Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) where he received an award for the best academic paper presentation.

The conference, which was organised and hosted by MUT's Teaching and Learning Development Centre, was themed The future of Higher Education in the 21st Century: The Technology Balancing Act and aimed to address various issues of current interest in the higher education sector.

Dr Ngubane's winning paper was titled Mentorship programme: Experiences of first year students at the University of Zululand. The study was based on UNIZULU's first-year mentorship programme, which seeks to assist first-year students to pass 'high risk' modules (modules that the majority of first year students fail). After writing the first

assessments students who score below 40% are allocated a mentor who has been trained to understand the calibre of the first-year students after profiling has been done and how to improve their academic performance at the university.

Dr Ngubane's aim was to deepen his understanding of the practices within the programme and its impact on students' success in the University.

He said the background of the study emanated from the fact that the majority of students who are admitted at UNIZULU come from poor socioeconomic backgrounds but come to study in the institution because of many reasons which include the desire to make the standards of living of their families better and interest to learn further. Considering the rurality of the area, some schools in the Zululand region do not have state-of-the-art facilities but manage to produce learners who meet the minimum requirements for entry into universities. The research project is a qualitative study that was informed by

Lewin's Cycle of Adult Learning.

"The findings suggested that variables such as socioeconomic background, emotional and psychological problems impact on the overall academic performance of the first-year students," Ngubane said. "A low proportion of students who participated in the mentorship programme switched over to other courses. This could suggest enhanced academic performance from the students who participated in the mentorship programme," he added.

On behalf of the Teaching and Learning Centre, Dr Yasmin Rugbeer, Director: Teaching and Learning Centre, extended her "sincerest congratulations" to Dr Ngubane for his award saying his research contributes to the institution's "knowledge pedagogy and learning through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)".

UNIZULU Launches Green Campus Initiative



Pictured: A UNIZULU student clad in a dress made out waste material to showcase one of the various ways one can recycle waste.

In a bid to preserve the University's environmental-friendliness, the University of Zululand's (UNIZULU) Student Housing Department recently launched the Green Campus Initiative (GCI) at the KwaDlangezwa Campus.

A drive supported by many universities in South Africa, GCI is aimed at tackling climate change and environmental sustainability challenges through innovative academic researches that get transformed into actions on university campuses and beyond.

According to Simphiwe Mhlongo, UNIZULU Housing Committee Chairperson and driver of the UNIZULU GCI, the purpose of the launch was to spread awareness about environmental challenges and ensure that students and staff members understood the importance of sustaining a waste-free environment.

"The aim is to educate the UNIZULU community to take care of our university by making it greener. We are here to plead with everyone to take care of the environment. We want to change the way people think of the environment because taking care of nature is taking care of our lives," said Mhlongo.

In his guest speech, Professor Bruce Sithole, Director in Biorefinery Industry Development Facility in the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN), applauded UNIZULU for launching GCI, predicting that the project would have a far-reaching impact in society. "This project also plays a big role in preventing the damaging of property when protests occur. We are educating protesters about environmental sustainability. Every time I see protesters destroying property, that tells me they know less about the importance of the environment. So, this is very important as it educates them about how they should value the environment," added Sithole.

Furthermore, he said GCI plays a key role in solving the country's water and electricity shortages through raising awareness about how to save these utilities.

Apart from students, the launch was attended by representatives from the University's Department of Economics and four institutions of higher education in KwaZulu-Natal, who all took the GCI oath which states: "Green is our colour. If we love our environment, the environment will take care of us. Waste is not a waste; waste is gold."

Unlocking the potential of Indigenous Knowledge Systems

An interfaculty team led by the Department of Consumer Sciences at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) recently organised an open dialogue aimed at unlocking the potential of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS).

Professor Unathi Kolanisi who was championing the event said the purpose of the workshop was to get different stakeholders to start talking about the richness of the continent's indigenous knowledge. She said the anticipation was that the discussion would give a clear direction of "where we are going as a nation" while also allowing people to define development; share and exchange relevant experiences and establish or trigger innovative formats to enhance the processes of economic and social transformation systems to effect change by unlocking the potential and effective use of IKS to improve the quality of life in rural communities.

Prof Kolanisi said the event, which coincided with Africa Month, was centred around the link between IKS and the preservation of South Africa's natural heritage. "Our University is a rural-based comprehensive university; it is mandatory that we establish a culture of creating environments to bring social transformation," she said.

The keynote speaker, Professor Paramu Mafongoya SARCHI Chair: Agronomy and Rural Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal emphasised on the significance of agriculture in creating employment. "Agriculture and manufacturer are the main source of employment and also has potential for catalysing economic growth and creating employment for the youth," he said. Mafongoya reiterated that Agriculture manufacturing and service industries still



Gog' Qho, an indigenous system specialist from Mtubatuba, singing with excitement during the open dialogue event which recently took place at UNIZULU's KwaDlangezwa Campus

employ 80% while mining employs 10%.] Agriculture contributes to 25% of GDP and remains a major livelihood option.

The dialogue also provided IKS-based entrepreneurs with an opportunity to showcase their products. Gog' Qho, from Mtubatuba, shared her indigenous knowledge about the preservation of indigenous plants for sustainable livelihood counting sicknesses, climate change and poverty as some of the issues IKS can help resolve. Bab' uShandu who is the Community Agriculturalist in KwaDlangezwa outlined the challenges in sharing knowledge and culture with the future generation.

According to Prof Kolanisi, the world is looking at Africa as the potential feeder of nine billion hungry people by 2050, therefore "we need alternative ways to increase the production of food to meet this demand".

"This projected situation calls for an intervention and more options of food production systems and relevant value

chain. Therefore, recognition and promotion of IKS as part of a sustainable socio-economic solution becomes critical especially for countries such as South Africa, in more particular rural-based provinces like KwaZulu-Natal. It is high time that we take control and pride in utilising our available and accessible resources to improve the quality of life for all," she added.

Various stakeholders varying from Swedish partners, students, smallholder farmers, entrepreneurs, performing artists/co-operatives, development bank (Ithala), SEDA, UKZN- IKS centre, other higher learning institutions (Owen Sithole & UKZN) contributed in shaping the content of the next dialogue.

Prof Kolanisi acknowledged Professor Gideon de Wet, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation and the project team for initiating the South Africa-Swedish research project.



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