

O

ONGOYE

AUG/SEPT 2022 ISSUE



CELEBRATING UNIZULU WOMEN:

MESSAGES FROM THE VC
& MALE STAFF

DR GUMEDE RESOLUTE ON
RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT GBV



UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND

CONTENTS

PAGE 03

Editor's Foreword

PAGE 04

Women's Month Speech
by Prof Mtose

PAGE 05/06

Women's Month Messages
from Male Staff Members

PAGE 07

UNIZULU Academic Embarks
on 50km Run to Raise Awareness
About Abuse

PAGE 08

Official Opening of Biochemistry
Research Centre in
Collaboration with SAMRC

PAGE 09

What's Your Story? with
Jimmy Mthethwa

PAGE 10

What's Your Story? with
Vhutshilo Makananise

PAGE 11

Celebrating UNIZULU Women

Editorial Team: Gcina Nhleko, Naledi Hlefane, Precious Shamase and Sinenhlanhla Ngongo
Designer: Computer Artworks
Photography: Mbongiseni Thwala, Samkele Sokhela, Mbuyiselo Mlaba, Wandile Mathonsi and
Northern Natal News



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE TO UNIZULU'S PHENOMENAL LADIES



2022 THEME: "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience"

The Month of August has been set aside as the Women's Month in celebration and recognition of the role women have played in the struggle against apartheid and patriarchy. During my tenure as Vice-Chancellor, I have set a day to recognise this struggle.

On this day, female employees, regardless of rank and status are invited to be part of this annual celebration and recognition of women's contribution to the betterment of mankind.

Women's Month is a tribute not only to the thousands of women who marched on that day in 1956, but also a tribute to the pioneers of the women's movement in this country, dating back to 1913, when women like Charlotte Maxeke led the way in encouraging women to engage in the struggle for freedom. Pioneers include Cissy, Jaynab and Amina Gool. They were amongst the leaders of the National Liberation League and the Non-European United Front of the 1930s.

This year's Women's Month is celebrated under the theme "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back

Better for Women's Improved Resilience". This theme fits well with a global campaign for the emancipation of women and links South Africa to global efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030. We join hands with spheres of government as part of a decade of Action towards gender equality. We are also of the firm view that gender equality will contribute immensely to the objective of eradicating poverty. Women bear the brunt of the scourge of poverty.

Sadly, this year's celebrations took place against the backdrop of a gender-based violence and femicide pandemic. We should however not see this as a women's problem - *kuyinkinga yamadoda*, (a men's problem) also. It calls for doubling of efforts by all of us.

We are committed to acknowledging the successes of the women in our community, using our collective voice and power to ensure that the deaths of thousands of women and children and marginalised people in our society is not in vain.

Against this backdrop we are pleased that we have made some strides as society. These include the following:

- Last year, more females passed their matric exams and got more distinctions than their male counterparts.
- There are currently more female students enrolled at institutions of higher learning than males. This is also at UNIZULU.
- Graduates rate at UNIZULU consistently has been high for female students in the last past 5 years than it has been for males.
- The Vice-Chancellor and two Vice-Chancellors at UNIZULU are female professors
- Close to half of our Members of Parliament, judges and magistrates are women.
- More than 60 per cent of public servants are women.
- In South Africa today, women are champions. Recently our national team Banyana Banyana made us proud by bringing Women's Africa Cup of Nations trophy.
- Girls learn alongside boys in our primary and secondary schools and receive equal education.

Just as the pioneers of the Women's March of 1956 were role-models, the young women, and girls of today have no shortage of role models.

In conclusion as the country navigate its way back from the heavy COVID 19 restrictions, I encourage everyone to be involved and supportive.

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

This edition of Ongoye Online is an evident reminder that institutions of higher learning are engagements and knowledge exchange spaces. The conferences, seminars and workshops are highly charged and great conversation platforms.

On another side, August is a popular month in South Africa's rich history as there is a holiday that commemorates women and the important role they played in the struggle for freedom.

In the pursuit of gender equity in the workplace, it is vital not only to consider the need for more women in leadership, but also to work toward a shared understanding of differences in work-style. For instance, women with a desire to "climb the ladder" will often employ different strategies and subscribe to different definitions of success compared to their male counterparts. Gender balance is not about encouraging women to act more like men, but rather about creating greater awareness on both sides, along with better opportunities for mentoring and coaching.

In welcoming the entire range of human experience, men and women share in the benefits of gender balance. In Padilla's words, "It is to the benefit of the individual woman and the entire company when a female leader is a strong negotiator. If you have the skills to negotiate successfully for yourself, you will also be able to advocate well for the company that you lead." When viewed through this lens, gender balance is not simply a women's issue, but a human experience issue that relates to better workplaces and better leadership. Collectively, we can live the 2022 theme which is #Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience.#



Schedule of Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

05-09 September 2022	A Five-Day Workshop on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling
09th September 2022	Internalisation Plenary
12-16 September 2022	Teaching And Learning Academic Week
26-27 September 2022	Two-Day Workshop on the Art of Scientific Writing Featuring Visiting Professor, Prof M. P. Jonathan From Inp, Mexico
28 September 2022	Students Indaba
30 September 2022	Dean's Student Excellence Awards
30th September 2022	KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing Workshop

WOMEN'S MONTH MESSAGES FROM MALE STAFF MEMBERS



Genuine role-model women are not concerned about having a superficial impact or about being popular or wearing the “most liked person” badge.

Rather, they understand the difference between leaving behind an inheritance or a legacy.

Why leave an inheritance when it fades away with time? Or when it is all spent – then there is nothing left and all the years of hard work are wiped away? It may temporarily bring joy, but it bears no fruit.

Strong courageous God-fearing women know the value of a living legacy.

It is something you instil in others and it permanently transforms them. It lives on long after you die. Your day-to-day activities become lasting achievements. Your values and morals and leadership and kindness and love become a living legacy.

May your vision of greatness within you and in those whom you impact live on for many generations to come.

- Dr Mike Reddy

Department of Communication Science

The Department of Social Work wishes the University community a happy Women's Month.

We celebrate the many successful women and women leaders who have shaped our profession and who serve our communities' most vulnerable members.

It was an absolute coincidence that a few months ago, the department conceptualised a men's dialogue series. Our inaugural event happened at the start of Women's Month, on Thursday, 4 August 2022, with the title: “Being a MAN in Social Work: the start of a conversation.” This was in partnership with the UNIZULU chapter of the South African Student Social Workers Association (SASSWA). We were not alone to start WOMEN'S month by focusing on MEN.... The institution hosted the “RES-TALK - BE A MAN” and the “Men's Imbizo: Madoda Sabelani!!” events.

The social work men unpacked this paradox and identified the subtext: ‘Men are the problem...’.

Instead of celebrating the brilliant, strong, successful women at the start of Women's Month, these

events highlighted men's problematic behaviours that have a negative impact on the lives of women.

The patriarchy, toxic masculinity, lad culture, substance abuse and gender-based violence are all unacceptable and must stop. The social work men students discussed how the marketing of these events had the potential of labelling all men as being part of the problem...: ‘all men are bad’. The label sticks, because many men do indeed behave badly.

The conversation concluded with the idea that men can remove the label from themselves individually by making healthy responsible choices and by treating women well. The social work professional identity is shaped by the values and principles in the “Policy guidelines for course of conduct, code of ethics and the rules for social workers”. The social work profession requires integrity, honesty, empathy and communication. By developing these characteristics, the social work men choose to remove the negative labels and choose to make good and healthy choices that will make them reliable and trusted men of integrity. The kind of men who honour and elevate women, and create positive safe spaces where women can thrive.

Happy Women's Month.

- Prof John V Rautenbach

Department of Social Work



WOMEN'S MONTH MESSAGES FROM MALE STAFF MEMBERS



Women are like land and water to me. You can't separate the two. Without land, there's no living and without water, there's no life.

Land is living, water is life and women are both combined.

- Masedi Manenye
Department of Creative Arts

Until women are seen as these sources - respected and placed in position of leadership, Mother Earth will continue suffering.

We need to realise a world where a woman's place is not in the kitchen but in the boardroom, where important decisions are made and dreams are realised.

A message that I thought I should share with all the creatures living on this God-created land is that of LOVE. In his book named ISILWANE, THE ANIMAL, an African seer, healer, sangoma and medicine man from the nation of amaZulu, Vusamazulu Credo Mutwa, a human being of LOVE, teaches us that:

"In olden days people viewed heaven and Earth, the spiritual and the physical, as one beautiful thing. People viewed God as being not only with us on Earth and in heaven, but also within us. We were taught by ancient Africans that we are part of God (as a little pebble is part of a great mountain), and because of this, we should beware of doing anything against the teaching and the nature of God."

Indeed, we MUST search, learn and teach that women are human beings, and that heaven, Earth, the spiritual and physical are one beautiful, equal Mother created by God. Wisdom is that, in old Africa, we did not regard ourselves as superior to Mother Nature.

The killing of women is the destruction of the self. Therefore, to realise women's rights for an equal future, Mutwa counsels us that:

"We must take a great spiritual step backward. We must adopt the view of creation that was held not only by ancient Africans, but also by native Americans and many other people of the ancient world: that creation is one great and beautiful whole, one revolving sphere of the purest, greenest crystal, a sphere to be viewed from all sides as one thing, instead of a number of shattered fragments upon the dark desert of human folly."

The creation of a woman is one great and beautiful whole. Professor Morgan Ndlovu (2022) taught us that we use knowledge to create reality. Therefore, knowledge about the creation of a woman is important in creating reality. Thus, the RIGHTS of women must lead us to an equal future, and this must prevail in all fields of human thought! That future is today.

PS: The interchangeable use of woman, women, human being, and Mother in this piece is deliberate.

- Ntsofa Clasper Monyela
Department of Anthropology and Developmental Studies



UNIZULU ACADEMIC EMBARKS ON 50KM RUN TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ABUSE

On Tuesday, 9 August which is a national holiday commemorating the strides made by South African Women towards emancipation, a young academic from the University of Zululand set off on a grueling 51km run from Paulpietersburg to Vryheid's Cecil Emmett Stadium to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV) and other crimes committed against women and children.

Dr Sphamandla Gumede (33), who recently obtained his PhD, said he hoped that this initiative, which is now in its second year, will continue to raise awareness about this very pressing issue. Gumede is also using this 50km run as a fundraiser so that sanitary towels can be provided to girls and young women from underprivileged backgrounds. While there is no financial gain for himself, Gumede said that improving and changing lives is his ultimate prize. Last year, Gumede completed the run in six hours and managed to donate 150 sanitary towels, which were then distributed to three schools in his hometown of Vryheid.

This year, he has donated over 200 sanitary towels to schools, all of which were sponsored by his employer, the University of Zululand. The recipients were Khanyisa and Kwabhanya Secondary School, as well as Emandleni Primary School. "I normally donate to schools that are situated in rural areas because, in most cases, these schools are not catered for in this respect. Instead, girl children have to use a cloth or a newspaper. Now they can use sanitary towels when it's that time of the month."

"We are in August and we are celebrating Women's Month, but if you look at what is happening in our country, you may be tempted to say there is very little to celebrate. Yes, our sisters and mothers are free to vote and they enjoy equal rights, but they are still murdered, raped and maimed every day. Just [recently], we learned of eight women being gang-raped in



Mogale City. Here in KZN, there was a case of two matric pupils who were brutally killed, allegedly by a young man. There are many of these cases and I believe that every one of us should take a stand. I hope that what I am doing will contribute towards the fight against GBV and I encourage other men to play their part as well," he added.

He said he is thankful to the community at large for their continuous support, as well as the University of Zululand, Mr and Mrs Zulu, Nkosinathi Nkosi and Sihle Masango. "I must say I was very disappointed when I did not

see even one official from the municipality, as I asked them before the time. I am based in Richards Bay now, but I believe that charity begins at home.

"I am also appealing for sponsorships. I am not looking for monetary sponsorship, but rather donations in the form of sanitary towels and other products that will help raise awareness and make the lives of girls and young women more comfortable," he concluded.

- Northern Natal News

OFFICIAL OPENING OF BIOCHEMISTRY RESEARCH CENTRE IN COLLABORATION WITH SAMRC



The Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU), in collaboration with the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), has officially opened the Biochemistry Research Centre wherein three research laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment are set up.

The centre consists of the Tissue Culture Laboratory, Covid-19 Surveillance Laboratory, and the Malaria Laboratory.

UNIZULU and SAMRC have been in partnership for 21 years, thus the launch of these labs was partly in celebration of the collaboration.

SAMRC President and CEO Professor Glenda Gray officially opened the research centre in the presence of SAMRC and UNIZULU representatives.

Prof Gray said, "The decision to collaborate with universities was another critical step in the right direction to producing innovative, high impact medical research. We are excited to see scientists embarking on bold and innovative

projects in Africa. (The) UNIZULU partnership was first established in 2001."

As she welcomed guests, Professor Vuyokazi Nomlomo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, expressed elation and affirmed that the relationship between the two partners would indeed not end with the establishment of the labs. She confidently stated that the collaboration would have a very positive impact on staff and students. "UNIZULU would like to thank you for over two decades of capacity development," Prof Nomlomo told the SAMRC team. She added: "This is an extremely exciting moment to all of us. You come at a very strategic time when our vision 2027 starts. Our new vision as a university is to be a leading comprehensive African university that thrives on quality and fosters collaborative and innovative cultures with its rural and urban campuses."

Professor Albertus Basson, Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, said the University has produced a number of master's and doctoral students through this collaboration. His hope is that these new labs will have an impact in bringing up more master's as well as PhD candidates. This collaboration has

produced the people who have made history in their families by being the first PhD holders. "For that we are eternally grateful. Professor Miller and Prof Globe started this a while back. I would like to thank SAMRC for funding these young researchers," said Prof Basson.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation Prof Nokuthula Kunene expressed appreciation to the SAMRC group for taking time out of their busy schedule to physically come to UNIZULU to launch these state-of-the-art labs. "As it has been mentioned today, I would like to congratulate the department for the effort that they have put in their work. This collaboration has been going on for twenty-one years. The most important thing that has come out of this relationship is the publications - master's and doctoral candidates who now work all over the country. This department, for the last five years, has been receiving research awards for being one of the top three departments at UNIZULU, in terms of publications and postgraduate production. When myself and the Dean analysed this, we came up with the conclusion that it is because of this collaboration which has made the department so successful," Prof Kunene concluded.

- Precious Shamase

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Jimmy Zenzele Mthethwa gives *Ongoye Online* a sneak peek to his private life



Jimmy Zenzele Mthethwa, a project accountant at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) described himself as a reader. He likes reading non-fiction books and magazines that relate to men's health, cars, and houses.

"My favorite telenovelas are *The River* and *Ekasi*, and when it comes to sports, I prefer to watch soccer teams from other countries and F1 car races," he said. A soccer team that he used to support in South Africa was Kaizer Chiefs but stopped supporting as the team was not performing well, and now he supports England and Manchester United. The genre of music he listens to is Gqom, amaPiano, Deep House and Jazz. The type of artists that he listens to in the amaPiano industry are the likes of Maphorisa, Young Stunna and JazziQ. Gqom wise he likes artists like Mampintsha and Dladla Mshunqisi. He listens to any of these genres depending on how he is feeling on that day.

During weekends, Mthethwa does not do much. "During weekends, I stay at home and focus on reading, go to the gym or watch the news to stay updated," he said.

Mthethwa's favorite meal is *uphuthu* and spinach. He described himself as a good cook and can cook almost anything. "I can cook up a storm," said Mthethwa. Other meals depend on his mood; whenever it is cold, he prefers to cook dumplings and chicken curry, beef curry or a bunny chow.

The employee described what life means to him. "Life is about chasing your dreams and fulfilling your purpose. Life is about understanding that there will always be ups and downs. It is about understanding that we are not

in competition with each other but ourselves and running your own race. Each and everyone's journey has its own stumbling blocks, and they are not the same," said Mthethwa.

- Sinenhlanhla Ngcongo

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Vhutsilo Makananise shares a piece of his life with *Ongoye Online*

Vhutshilo Makananise, born in Venda and a grants administrator at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU), described himself as a very curious person and as someone who is very eager to see what tomorrow brings for him.

He is not a sports person but he likes to jog and watch series or read books in his free time. During weekends, he prefers to spend his time with friends and likes to play chess.

A total hodophile, he spends his free time seeing as much of the world as he can. He has visited places such as Cape Town, Bloemfontein, The Netherlands, Johannesburg, Pretoria,

Durban, and many other places around the world.

The type of series that spark his interest are investigative and crime series, such as Money Heist and Pablo Escobar. He stated that he is currently watching a political series called House of Cards.

When it comes to music, he is a versatile person but on top of his list is raggamuffin/dancehall and classical music.

Makananise described himself as a good cook, his favorite meal is creamy spaghetti with chicken breast. He rates himself an 8/10 in terms of his cooking skills.

Asked about what keeps him going, he said, "Knowing where I am from as a person and my love for education

because I am forever a student. Wanting to learn more keeps me going."

Makananise sees life as a journey for everyone and thinks that each and everyone's journey does not have to make sense to anybody but themselves.

- Sinenhlanhla Ngcongco







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

Ongoye Online is a University community publication that is designed and produced by the
Communications and Marketing Division



@UNIZULUongoye



University of Zululand



UNIZULU Official



@unizulu_official