



Top honours for UKZN at Royal Show

SPACESTRUCK: A young visitor to the UKZN stand, assisted by a student helper, plays with the moon rocket at the Royal Agricultural Show. The University received a gold medallion and the Royal Industrial Floating Trophy for the Best Exhibit in an Individual Building. See story on Page 6.

Picture: Vicky Crookes

New SRC leaders elected

THE first fully-fledged Student Representative Council (SRC) of UKZN was installed at a special ceremony at the Howard College campus on 28 May.

There is a ten-member SRC on each UKZN campus, with its own president. Owing to the size of the Institution, there is also a central SRC comprising ten elected members, plus the five local presidents and a central president. Local presidents are Malibongwe Nxumalo (Edgewood), Ntuthuko Mahlaba (Medical School), Sanele Shabalala (Howard College), Thabani Nyawose (Westville) and Mdimiseni Ntuli (Pietermaritzburg). Khanyiso Sam is the central president. This SRC has a short time within which to deliver services to students as its term of office ends in September 2004.

This time round, the SRC elections were contested by clubs and societies rather than individuals. Only SRC-recognised organisations were eligible to stand for elections. Organisations that exist on more than three campuses were eligible to contest the central elections.

The outgoing president of the interim SRC, Fezile Makaula com-

mented that "the dust has cleared. We have competed, contested and argued. We now need to emphasize unity and argue about what we can do for students". Fezile is now the student governance officer.

On their agenda

Thabani Nyawose, SRC president on the Westville campus, wants to help students understand and participate in the transformation of Higher Education. He also hopes to address the student accommodation crisis at UKZN. Thabani is a third year BAdmin student.

Mdimiseni Ntuli, SRC President at the Pietermaritzburg campus, identifies curriculum change and staff equity as two of the many challenges facing UKZN. New student residences are urgently needed. Mdimiseni is a third year LLB student.

Sanele Shabalala is the President of SRC at the Howard College campus. He sees a challenge in creating a good working relationship with the central SRC. He is looking forward to working with the sports union, which is now governed by the SRC. He feels that students need to be involved in a long-term plan for building houses for students. Sanele is in the third year of his B Com degree.

Fifth-year medicine student, **Ntuthuko Mahlaba** is the president of SRC at the Medical School. He would like to see the six-year curriculum on basic sciences reinstated (it was replaced with a five-year curriculum, which he feels is inadequate). He hopes to encourage students to support SRC activities through clubs and societies on campus. Financial support for students is also at the top of his agenda.

For Edgewood SRC president **Malibongwe Nxumalo**, the crucial issue is that "no student is financially excluded". Other immediate challenges are resources for the SRC and entertainment facilities for students.

Malibongwe is a fourth year Bachelor of Education student. She believes that the merged institution offers hope to challenge issues such as racism on campus, curriculum reform, and community development.

—Bhekani Dlamini and Bheki Ka Mncube

Addressing the student leaders at the installation, Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Malegapuru Makgoba said that the University has made a number of gains over the past four months, and that the inaugura-

tion of the first SRCs marks another important milestone in the building of a truly South African Institution.

"The new SRC structure allows for a co-ordinated, united, and I think, stronger approach to issues which affect the Institution as a whole. Our students have demonstrated enormous resourcefulness, maturity and commitment to this process and they are to be highly commended for their contributions."

Congratulating the new SRC leadership, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Emmanuel Ngara said that UKZN will be judged by the character and performance of current Students: "The future of this University is as much in your hands as it is in the hands of the academics, the executives and senior management of the institution".

— Bhekani Dlamini



DETERMINED TO SERVE: (standing left to right) Mdimiseni Ntuli, Sanele Shabalala, Thabani Nyawose. (seated left to right) Ntuthuko Mahlaba, Malibongwe Nxumalo, Khanyiso Sam.

Picture: Sally Gills

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Two historic celebrations

AS South Africa celebrated Ten Years of Democracy, UKZN's Development Foundation was involved in unique celebrations in Denmark and the United Kingdom.

The South African Ambassador to Denmark, His Excellency Stephen P Gawe, requested that a musical group be identified to lead an event to celebrate South Africa's achievement in Copenhagen on 26 April.

Professor Darius Brubeck Director of UKZN's Centre for Jazz and Popular Music agreed to perform with his group, Darius Brubeck & Afro Cool Concept. The event in Copenhagen was held at The Black Diamond, a magnificent auditorium made of black marble, in The Queen's Hall in Copenhagen. The more than 400 guests gave the band a standing ovation. The reception that followed saw

many South Africans in the diaspora wistfully discussing their homeland and the great progress made in the country.

The band also performed at a celebration of the establishment of UKZN at the concert hall in South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, London on the evening of 29 April. Invitations were extended to alumni of both former Universities and 140 people attended. Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Malegapuru Makgoba provided an update on current developments at the University and the crowd enjoyed a scintillating concert of South African jazz. There was much nostalgia and considerable interest in the current activities and plans for UKZN.

– Bruno van Dyk

AFRO COOL: Barney Rachabane, Bongani Sokhela, Lulu Gontsana & Darius Brubeck.



A helping hand

THE mentorship programme has launched a pilot residence project to prepare students for examinations. The project started at P-Block residence on the Westville campus.

Mentorship is a unique peer educator programme aimed at providing support and assistance to first-entry students. Senior students undergo training to help fellow students. Facilitators are recruited from various fields to ensure that all students get peer help.

Tutors are expected to be individuals who have an excellent academic record, are mature and have sufficient emotional intelligence to guide and provide psychological support to students. They must know their campus well and be able to understand programmes and courses in their faculties. They are also expected to provide career advice and moral support. Problems are referred to the relevant ex-

perts such as the students counselling unit, financial aid bureau, students affairs and so on.

“The examination drive project is intended to improve the pass rate, inculcate a culture of academic excellence and ensure that (we become the) Premier University of African Scholarship,” says Siya Balane, programme co-ordinator. P-block residence co-ordinator Sulumani Ngwane adds that postgraduate students who are disabled will be recruited to assist fellow disabled students

Dean of Students Trevor Wills comments that “It obviously a labour intensive and expensive programme, but in view of the mission and vision of new University, it is an appropriate initiative. I am pleased to see it spread to the residences”.

The programme will be extended to the other campuses in 2005.
– Bhekani Dlamini



HELPING OUT: Trevor Wills (Dean of students) and Siya Balane (programme co-ordinator).



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UKZN Governance structures in place

THE University of KwaZulu-Natal's progress in the first six months of the merger has been astounding. With 42 000 students, registered in seven faculties on five campuses in two cities, the largest contact teaching higher learning institution in South Africa has achieved stability in all aspects of its academic endeavour.

With regard to governance, the Council of the University of KwaZulu-Natal has been elected in line with the Standard Institutional Statute. The Council is comprised of 29 members: five members were appointed by the Minister of Education, three elected by the Interim Executive Committee, three elected by the Convocation, two elected by the Senate, two elected by academic staff, two elected by support staff, two elected by the SRC and ten appointed by the Interim Council's electoral college.

Of the 29 members on the Council there are 16 Africans, 9 whites, 3 Indians and 1 Coloured. Nine of the 29 are women. The process used to appoint and elect the permanent Council has been transparent and democratic resulting in a demographically representative Council made up of experts with a broad range of competencies including education, business, finance, law, marketing, information technology and human resource management. At its first meeting the Founding Council elected Dr. Vincent Maphai to serve as its Chair. Formerly Corporate Affairs Director at SAB, Dr. Maphai currently serves as the Chairman of BHP Billiton. He has a distinguished track record in both academia and the private sector, the basis for Council's unanimity in their choice of chair.

The Senate of the University with 282 members is basically comprised of the full professorial staff of both the former universities of Westville and Natal, making it a large but representative group who constitute the highest academic decision making body, allowing for the institutional memories of both former universities to persist.

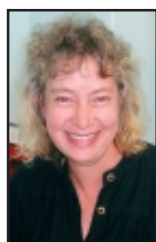
In this issue our lead story profiles the new SRC. Future issues will look at other governance structures in more detail.

**Professor Dasarath Chetty, Interim Executive Director
Public Affairs and Corporate Communications**

The ukzdaba team



Dasarath Chetty



Deanne Collins



Sharon Dell



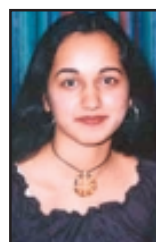
Bhekani Dlamini



Fikisile Mabaso



Bheki Ka Mncube



Avadhna Singh

Spotlight on...

Edgewood campus

ukzndaba continues our series on our five campuses

"A CAREER in education today is akin to a priestly vocation. There are no lucrative or material reasons to motivate people to enter the world of teaching and learning as professional practitioners. Rather, it is an interest in the development of human resources, the valuing of youth and development that inspires students to join the profession as teachers," said Dr Robert Balfour Acting Head of School at Edgewood in his welcome message earlier this year.

Indeed there are some educationists who argue that it is through education that all other professions come into being. As part of its commitment to the human resources development of the country, UKZN's Edgewood campus is a dedicated campus which is the University's primary site for teacher education.

Formerly the College of Education, Edgewood opened in 1966 in temporary accommodation at Glenashley Primary School with 42 students and 3 lecturers. Later it moved to its own Pinetown campus. However, the campus was nowhere near completion and was only officially opened on 14 March 1981.

In line with the transformation of Higher Education, the Edgewood College of Education was incorporated into the former University of Natal in 2001. After the merger of former Universities of Durban Westville and Natal, Edgewood became the home of the UKZN Faculty of Education.

Situated in Pinetown with easy access to the N3 highway and approximately 20 minutes' drive from Durban, the campus offers sophisticated and attractive facilities to a growing number of Education students.

The Faculty provides initial and in-service teacher education and offers university higher degrees in a wide range of specializations in education

as well as carrying out research and consultancy. The Faculty is actively engaged with policy-making in education in South Africa and contributes to the international profile of the university through participation in international conferences, teaching international students, hosting international visitors and publishing in international books and journals.

– Bheki Ka Mncube



Save the Cape Parrot

Cape Parrot Working Group



ENDANGERED: Cape Parrot nestlings. The birds nest ONLY in cavities.

MANY South Africans do not know that South Africa has its own special parrot. Furthermore, most people do not realize that it is listed as endangered and its numbers have declined greatly in the past 30 years.

The Cape Parrot is South Africa's only endemic parrot. It is a biggish bird (about 30cm) and mainly olive green in colour. Various factors have

caused the decline in numbers. These include forest degradation; food and nest-site shortages resulting in poor breeding success; removal of birds from the wild for the avicultural and pet trade; diseases, especially the beak and feather virus; and predators.

The Cape Parrot Big Birding Day (CPBBD) was held for the 7th consecutive year on 7 and 8 May. It is a

national effort to monitor the range of the Cape Parrot and estimate the abundance of the birds. The areas covered include forest, and roosting and feeding sites outside forests in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and in the Limpopo Province.

Professor Colleen Downs at the School of Botany and Zoology on the Pietermaritzburg campus is a mem-



INTERACTION: Field researchers show community members the practical use of research in a rural area near Umlazi, south of Durban.

Reaching out

TWO UKZN Centres of Excellence – the Centre for Rural Telecommunications on the Westville Campus and the Centre for Radio Access Technology on the Howard College campus – are making a difference to the lives of rural communities. A new combined Centre will be launched soon.

Apart from research in the fields of wireless networks and rural telecommunications, the Centre will also produce highly skilled graduates, offer continuing development training to industry, and provide a consultancy service.

Research priorities include problems related to subscriber services, tele-traffic aspects and access networks in existing rural telecommunications networks in South Africa. Simulation software will allow for

the analysis of problems unique to the rural environment through research projects at Masters and Doctorate levels.

"This will not only help to define communications systems for the rural environment, but will help in the training of engineers who will finally manage the systems. Telkom intends to provide four million new lines, of which two million are earmarked for under serviced areas, the greater part of which is in the rural areas," comments researcher Prashil Gareeb.

The Centre is intended to be a fully digital network, with an advanced network management capability. It is sponsored by Telkom, THRIIP and Alcatel and receives more than R44 million annually from these companies.

– Bhekani Dlamini

ber of the Cape Parrot Working Group and the overall co-ordinator of the CPBBD. A number of students from the Pietermaritzburg campus assisted with the counting.

This year 336 volunteer observers were posted at 127 observation points throughout the range of the Cape Parrot. 1 025 parrots were seen during the 7 May count and 994 the following day.

Over the past three years there has been an increase in the number of observers. This has resulted in higher numbers of birds being counted. Although this is largely a consequence of increased observer coverage across the species range, this year there has also been evidence of breeding successes, which likely explains the increased numbers.



DOWN TO EARTH: Student volunteers on the job

Cape Parrot Working Group

Sexual behaviour under the spotlight



COLLABORATION: Professor Marian Pitts (left), Director of the Research Centre in sex, health and society with her Deputy Director, Associate professor Anthony Smith.

TWO scholars from La Trobe University in Australia visited UKZN recently with a view to setting up a collaborative research project on sexual health and behaviour among students in relation to HIV/Aids.

Professor Marian Pitts, the Director of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, was accompanied by her Deputy Director, Professor Anthony Smith. They met with UKZN staff in Psychology, Student Counselling, people involved with HIV/Aids activities, Student Health and interested individuals.

The youth behaviour study will explore changes in behaviour, experience, long-term consequences and how students cope with this.

Similar research was conducted in the Asia Pacific region ten years ago.

Pitts says it is important to know how students negotiate the use of safe measures with their partners. It is also important to note how students define sexual behaviour in view of the environment they come from. Existing data that may be useful in this study will be collected from researchers, combined and analysed. On completion the research will be published.

The study is expected to involve between five and seven thousand people over 15 years and would be monitored every five years. No conclusive decisions have been made and suggestions from interested individuals are welcome.

– Bhekani Dlamini

Raring to go

THE Law School on the Pietermaritzburg Campus has completed their Moot Programme for final year law students. From this programme, finalists are selected for two prestigious competitions.

The first is the Africa Human Rights Moot Competition, a competition held annually in a different country in Africa, to which every university in Africa is invited. This



READY TO GO: Front (l to r) Matt Swain and Lauren Meyer (representatives for the Africa Human Rights Moot Competition in Dar es Salaam). Back (l to r) Nirvan Maharaj, Janine Thomas, Candice Louis and Avishkaar Ramdhin (representatives for the internal Prize Moot Final in September)



Raising cancer awareness

RAISING AWARENESS: Professor Madiba (back right) and Dr Buccimazza (back left) with cancer patients at the workshop.

COLORECTAL cancer is among the leading causes of death in South Africa. It is the third most common cancer among South African Whites and fifth among Africans.

The problem with colorectal cancer is that there is a lack of awareness and it gets diagnosed only at an advanced stage. Some of the early warning signs simulate those of ordinary benign conditions and patients are treated inappropriately for long periods of time.

To raise public awareness, Professor of Surgery at UKZN's Medical School Professor T E Madiba organised a workshop at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital on 22 May. The Workshop drew delegates from the different health districts in KwaZulu-Natal. There were lectures on colorectal and breast cancer, examination of patients with these conditions and discussions on treatment.

Lectures on breast cancer were given by Dr Buccimazza, a general surgeon based at Addington Hospital. Professor Madiba spoke on colorectal cancer and lectures in oncology were given by Dr R Ahmed, an Oncologist working at Durban Metropolitan hospitals.

The workshop was convened in association with the Provincial Department of Health. Further workshops are envisaged in the future.

Celebrating solidarity

AS part of the national celebrations to mark the Decade of Freedom, the Documentation Centre and the Campbell Collections of UKZN will jointly host a conference on "A Decade of Freedom: Celebrating the role of the International Anti-

Apartheid Movement in South Africa's Freedom Struggle" from 10-13 October. The Conference will be held at the International Convention Centre in Durban.

The conference will allow participants to reflect on South Af-

rica's achievements during the first Decade of Freedom and to discuss mutual co-operation during the Second Decade of Freedom as well as the challenges that face our country.

year's competition is being held during the first week of August at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Eighty two universities are participating. UKZN is sending 3 teams – one from each of the Westville, Durban and Pietermaritzburg Law Schools.

The second competition is the School of Law, Pietermaritzburg's internal Law School Prize Moot Finals in which the selected students argue a hypothetical set of legal facts before Judges of the High Court. This year's competition will be held in September.

– Rob Pennefather

'A wonderful experience'

UKZN recently hosted a group of students from the University of Portland, USA. They are members of "Students in Free Enterprise" (SIFE) and were in South Africa to find out more about local SIFE activities.

SIFE is a non-profit organisation which aims to improve the quality of life and standard of living around the world. It teaches the principles and values of the free market economy and entrepreneurship. SIFE is active at more than 1 600 universities and colleges in 40 countries. The organisation organises, motivates and trains university students to form management teams that design, develop and implement community-based micro business.

At UKZN, the Portland students met MBA students and staff. They are exploring the possibility of establishing joint projects with the local SIFE.

Describing their visit as a "wonderful learning experience", the students applauded the Student Development Office for the great job it does in empowering those who are less fortunate.

– Bhekani Dlamini



SHARING INFORMATION: (left to right) Kevin O'Brien, Matthew Muhlhauses, Sinenhlanhla Gwala, Thami Zondi Quinn Finnigan and Mandla Ndaba from Student Development Office.

'Recognise sign language'

THE failure to promote and recognise sign language – the 'natural language of the deaf' – has resulted in the marginalisation of deaf learners.

This is one of the findings of a study on the status of sign language by Nokuzola Cele, who received her PhD from UKZN in May. Dr Cele completed her studies on the Westville campus at the School of Languages and Literature.

The South African Schools Act (No 84 of 1996) recognises sign language as an official language for the purposes of learning at a public school. Section 29 (2) of the South African Constitution stipulates that: "Everyone has a right to receive education in the official language or languages of their choice in public educational institutions where that is reasonably practicable."

Dr Cele found, however, that "very little has been done by researchers and the government to assist the deaf to gain recognition in their community." Because sign language is not properly recognised, parents of deaf children are unable to communicate fully with their children. Deaf children prefer to be taught by deaf teachers because they can identify with them.

Literature for the deaf is almost non-existent. Sign language is not taught as a subject and deaf learners are not able to take their subjects on the Higher Grade.

Dr Cele feels that recognition and elevation of the status of sign language would improve trade and industry, as well as travel and tourism in South Africa. She encourages the hearing community to make an effort to learn the language.

– Bhekani Dlamini

Youth empowerment

EDGEWOOD students have launched an exciting project to empower youth to fight poverty, unemployment, HIV/Aids, and social instability. The project will also develop talent in performing and creative arts.

A student organisation, Seeing for Ourselves, is collaborating with the Sekwanele Youth Organisation,

a non-profit organisation based in Mariannhill.

Seeing for Ourselves, the Edgewood HIV/Aids research team, Sekwanele and the Mariannhill branch of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) co-hosted a youth performing arts and HIV/Aids event at Dassenhoek Hall, Nagina, Mariannhill in June. Sekwanele performed an original HIV/Aids-related

drama piece, *Ngizophila*, the Edgewood team showed a short documentary about youth HIV/Aids activism and the TAC provided information about HIV/Aids prevention, testing, support groups, and treatment. There was also a range of exciting music and dance performances by community groups.

The Edgewood team is assisting Sekwanele to access funding, tech-

nological resources, information, and links to other organisations.

Seeing for Ourselves focuses on using participatory visual and arts-based methodologies in youth-based HIV/Aids prevention. It is linked to the Gendering Adolescence and Aids Prevention project of the University of Toronto.

– Kathleen Pithouse

Consolidating ties



A delegation from Iran visited UKZN to consolidate collaborative ventures with the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine. Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, the special advisor to the Interim Vice-Chancellor, the Interim Executive Director of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, Professor Dasarath Chetty and Dean of Medicine Professor Barry Kistnasamy received the delegation on the Westville campus.

The delegation consisted of HE Prof Hussein Malek Afzali – Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Mohtram Mirfasihi – Spouse (Specialist in Internal Medicine); HE Ambassador Mohammad Ali Ghanzadeh – Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to South Africa; Dr Ahmad Haerian – Chancellor: Shahid Sadougee University of Medical Sciences; Dr Hamid Reza Mansurian – Vice-Chancellor (Academic): Shahid, Sadougee University of Medical Science; Dr Sayed Mojtaba Yasini – Vice-Chancellor (Research) Shahid Sadougee University of Medical Sciences; Dr Abbas Afaltoonian – President – Infertility Centre and Mr Mohammad Pournajaf – Head: Science & Culture, Iranian Embassy in South Africa.

Children at risk

TWENTY years ago, exercise was a natural part of children's play. Children used to jump, climb trees and play a lot of physical games. Today, they spend more time in front of TV's, play stations, and surfing the net. Children as young as 5 are exposed to lifestyle diseases like obesity, hypertension, and high cholesterol levels.

Research conducted by Professor Yoga Coopoo of UKZN's Sport Science shows that fitness levels are decreasing among school children. He attributes this to the lack of physical education in schools, increased part-time employment to supplement family income, and too much time watching TV. A recent national health survey revealed that 45% of South Africans over the age of 15 are obese.

Coopoo recommends that physical education be brought back into schools programmes. Parents should play a role in influencing children to take part in sport.

– Bhekani Dlamini

Mentor Supreme

NUCLEAR scientist Professor Krish Bharuth-Ram of the School of Physics received the Eskom Research Capacity Development award at a gala dinner in Kempton Park, Gauteng, on 28 May.

The award, which includes a trophy and a R100 000 research grant, recognises individuals who have made a significant contribution to the successful training and mentoring of black researchers/students in science, engineering and technology.

The adjudication panel of independent judges representing all sectors within the Science, Engineering

and Technology Forum (NSTF) commended Professor Bharuth-Ram for the number of black South African postgraduate students he has supervised and who have completed their studies. Other criteria included providing assistance to students to present and publish research work, providing mentorship, support and development of essential skills in the world of business, and continued interest in the individuals' professional advancement.

"I did not expect to win as other candidates were also of high calibre," is Professor Bharuth-Ram's modest



MENTOR SUPREME: Professor Krish Bharuth-Ram with his award.

Picture: Sally Giles

response. "It is a special award in the sense that the judges included my peers in the field and industry experts."

Professor Bharuth-Ram (63) of Springfield is a renowned researcher

with an NRF B1 ranking. With a D.Phil from Oxford University, he is also the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, National Nuclear Regulator. When he entered the University of Fort Hare in 1959 to study for a

Bachelor of Science, he had not done physics at school. "I only loved mathematics, but I soon mastered physics," he says. He has more than 140 publications to his name.

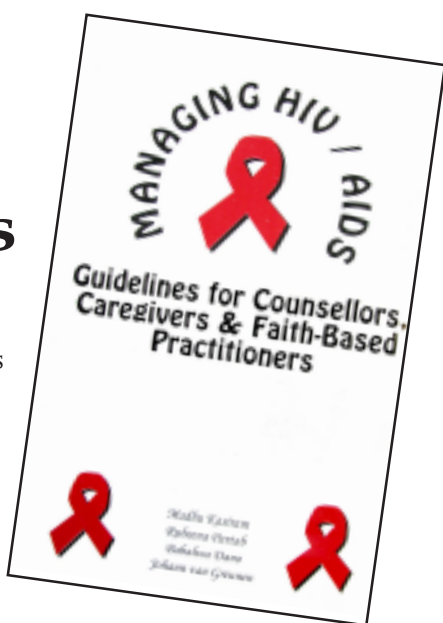
– *Bheki Ka Mncube*

Support for caregivers

A TEAM of UKZN researchers have compiled a manual for HIV/Aids caregivers. Professor Madhu Kasiram, together with Rubena Partab and Babalwa Dano drew up the manual after an extensive workshop on the impact of HIV/Aids on married and family life conducted by the University's departments of social work and religion and culture.

"We had people coming from all walks of life, from ministers to women from the informal settlements who care for their loved ones in their homes", says Professor Kasiram.

It became obvious that there is a need for a manual for caregivers. The manual provides an understanding of the impact of Aids on intimacy. It addresses fears associated with Aids-related deaths, offers self care in the face of burnout and a training pack-



age on best practice models to manage HIV/Aids.

A homegrown tool, the manual has also drawn the interest of the international community. It was presented to an international audience in Slovenia in May 2003. Professor Kasiram recently presented a paper entitled "Can Intimacy and HIV/Aids Co-Exist?" at an International Health and Mental Health Conference in Quebec City, Canada.

– *Bhekani Dlamini*. Additional information from the *Sunday Times*, 23/5/2004)

On top of the world

GRADUATE of the former University of Natal Andre Bredenkamp became the first South African man (Cathy O'Dowd beat him to it) to summit Mount Everest via the formidable north face on 20 May.

Eighty percent of climbers chose the southern route to the world's highest mountain. Andre and two other South Africans tackled the northern route – considered to be the most difficult because of bad weather conditions. His colleagues were forced to turn back, but Andre struggled through blizzards and a snowstorm to summit at 2.10pm. It took 14 hours to get up and an-

other seven to go down. He placed a flag celebrating South Africa's ten years of democracy and the international Boy Scout flag at the summit.

With four of the seven major summits in the world already under his belt (Everest, Kilimanjaro, Mount Elbrus in Russia and Aconcagua in South America), Andre plans to take on Mount McKinley in Alaska in June next year. And it all started when, as a boy scout, he climbed the Drakensberg mountains.

(Information from the *Sunday Tribune*, 6/6/2004)

Top honours at Royal Show

UKZN excelled at the Royal Agricultural Show held in Pietermaritzburg from 28 May to 6 June. The University received a gold medallion for achieving an overall score of more than 80% and the Royal Industrial Floating Trophy for the Best Exhibit in an Individual Building. This was no small achievement considering there were more than 395 commercial organizations exhibiting at the show and that the University exhibited at two separate stands and sites.

The University's new exhibit, the animal nursery, proved a huge hit with the public and received praise from the Royal Agricultural Society. It offered both an educational and fun perspective complete with

hatching chickens and newborn sheep. Popular attractions included an interesting display on diseased plant materials and different types of micro organisms; an electron microscope showing animal and human hair; a display on sports turf management, a hydrostatic pump constructed by Agricultural Engineering and displays from Grassland Science, Forestry and Botany.

For the entire show period the University's permanent stand, a wooden structure on stilts, situated in a prime position near the main entrance to the show grounds, was packed with people of all ages. The young enjoyed the steam cars, the moon rocket and the electric piano while grown-ups

were fascinated by the alien plant display, the genetic display testing simple human traits and the Centre for Visual Art's exhibition.

In terms of public awareness and marketing, the Royal show certainly helped to put the new University on the map. Of the 215 000 visitors to the show, few could have missed UKZN's exhibits.

The University's success at the Royal Show would not have been possible without the contributions by academics, support staff and students, who gave generously of their expertise and time – it was truly a team effort and everyone involved must be congratulated.

– *Vicky Crookes*



Golden voices

The KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra hosted a music extravaganza on 24 May featuring students of the UKZN School of Music. Students taking part included (back left to right) Miles Warrington (Composition), Elias Gebremichael (Composition), Fiona Tozer (Composition), Nozuko Teto (Voice), Bonginkosi Cingani (Voice), Zenneth Ndlovu (Voice), Lubabalo Nteyi (Voice), (front standing) Mhlaba Buthelezi (Voice), Keri Povall and Marisa Laidlaw (Flutes), (front sitting) Sarah Pudifin (Violin).

Expedition bears fruit

ANDREW GREEN, a PhD student at the Marine GeoScience Unit, School of Geological Sciences, has returned from a very successful expedition to Sodwana Bay where he has been studying the geology of the coelacanth habitat.

This work comprises part of the African Coelacanth Research Programme, a multinational research partnership between the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, and the Max Planck Institute in Germany. Andrew's research includes the understanding of how deep submarine canyons have formed along the continental shelf of Northern KwaZulu-Natal.

With the aid of JAGO, a deep water submarine supplied by the coelacanth researchers from the Max Planck Institute, the geology of the canyon down to 367 m depth was observed. Particularly exciting was the observation of a palaeo-beach deposit at -125 m corre-



SUCCESS: Andrew Green at 367 m depth in the JAGO. It is considered bad luck to give a thumbs up in a submarine, so it has to be a thumbs down.

sponding to sea levels that occurred during the last ice age. This is the first time such an observation has been made for the east coast and provides solid proof for previous

ideas that have been purely speculative until now. Future field work will involve taking deep water rock and sediment samples with a coring device from the FRS Algoa, the

Coelacanth Programme's research vessel. This will aid in the understanding of how the continental margins and canyons have formed over geological time.

"A MISMATCH in the language policy and practice in the former House of Delegates (HOD) schools has adversely compromised language equity as espoused by the South African Constitution", says school teacher Rama Pillay (37). He received his Masters degree cum laude for his research into the "Status of isiZulu at ex HOD schools".

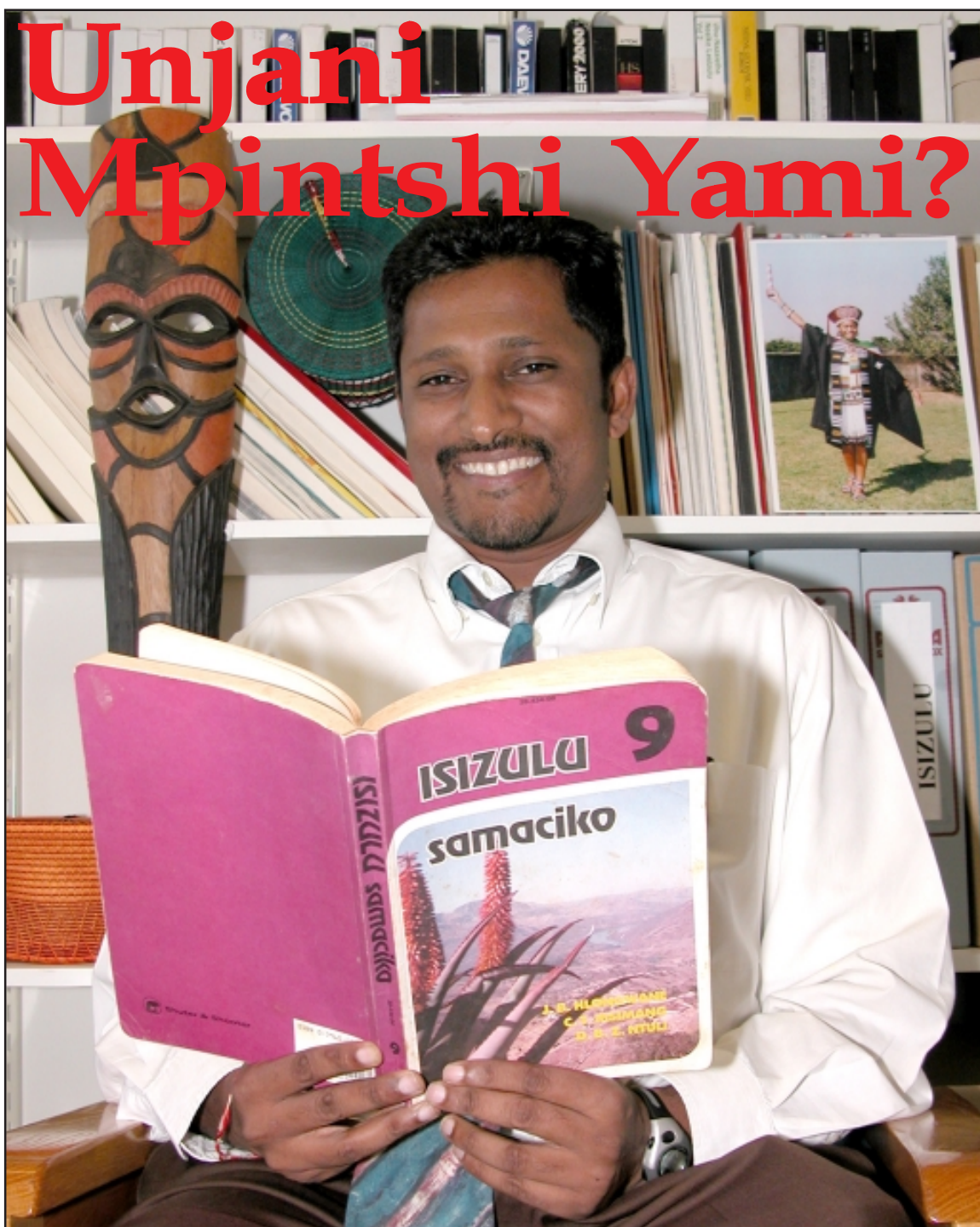
"The South African language policy says each school must offer any two official languages. The task of choosing these languages rests with the School Governing Bodies (SGB's). This is where mismatch occurs, because SGBs of the former HOD schools are not representative of pupil demographics at the schools. Hence they neglect the language of the majority – isiZulu – in favour of Afrikaans."

Rama's research found that learners would rather learn isiZulu as a second language than Afrikaans. He describes the claim that schools would have to employ more teachers if they are to offer isiZulu as "feeble", adding that "it is incumbent upon current educators to upgrade their language skills".

Rama of Woodview speaks isiZulu fluently. His research is the culmination of many years of practice and interacting with Zulu-speaking people. "I developed an interest in isiZulu at a very young age. I use to play soccer with Zulu-speaking boys in the rural areas, and I fell in love with the language."

After a 16-year career as a teacher, Rama is the head of department at Lenaria Secondary School in Phoenix. His research findings will be published in the *Journal of African Languages*.

– Bheki Ka Mncube



PASSIONATE: Rama Pillay is promoting the teaching of isiZulu in schools.

Global leader

UKZN accountancy student Privashni Pillay was selected for the Goldman Sachs Global Leader award competition in New York City in July. She was nominated by her faculty on the basis of her excellent academic performance.

The Award seeks to train and develop tomorrow's educators, policy makers, business leaders and other professionals and to create an international network through which they share ideas and work together.

A consistently high achiever, Privashni has received scholarships from Post newspaper, Edgars and Intuition Computer College as well as a Vice-Chancellor's scholarship. She is studying engineering networking and computer design on a part time basis. She also took part in the Miss India South Africa pageant in May.

– Bhekani Dlamini

A world first

LEADING UKZN academics and experts in South African literature, Professors Judith Coullie and Jean-Philippe Wade have compiled and produced the world's first academic multi media CD ROM profiling and highlighting the life and the achievements of poet Roy Campbell.

The seven hundred-page CD ROM is an archive of undiscovered poems, biography and select items on the life of Roy Campbell. It was launched on 25 June at the Killie Campbell Collection.

– Bhekani Dlamini

Setting new standards

BLACK economic empowerment within the financial services sector took a step forward in June when UKZN's Professor Dilipkumar Garach was named as Personal Finance/Financial Planning Institute financial planner of the year for 2003.

Professor Garach is the head of tax and fiscal studies at the Westville campus and a partner in a family financial services company. He is the first black person to win the award.

On the international stage

PIETERMARITZBURG campus academics made their mark on two important recent international events:

Dr Albert Modi from the Crop Science discipline represented UKZN and South Africa at the 21st Commonwealth Conference in Australia in April. During the conference he participated in a Youth Forum, which produced a 10-point plan for the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth. Dr Modi says that the conference increased his knowledge as an agricultural scientist: "I learned a lot about Australian agriculture and how it is similar to ours. My paper was very well received and I made contacts with people who were interested in my line of work".

Professor Mark Laing from Plant Pathology was invited to speak at an international course on the "Application of Biological Control in Agriculture" in Seville, Spain. The two-day course was presented to 150 students, academics and industry representatives. The 17 speakers came from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy, Spain and South Africa. The Foundation of Andalucia, University of Alicante, University of Salamanca, Newbiotechnic and El Monte Foundation sponsored the course.

– Ticky Crookes

Picture: Sally Giles

Soccer partnership with Engen

UKZN was the official host of the inaugural Engen Knock-Out Soccer Challenge, a dynamic U17 tournament at the Howard College campus from 2-3 July. Sixteen teams in three regions (Eastern and Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal) competed for prizes valued at R10 000.

The tournament aims to enhance and develop soccer at grassroots level. In the words of UKZN Sports Officer Vijay Balram, "the ultimate aim is to unearth South Africa's hottest young talent".

During the tournament, South Africa's veteran coach Clive Barker and his panel of selectors chose 12 talented young stars and 3 coaches to travel to Britain in late July to watch the Milk

Cup in Belfast, Ireland. They will train alongside clubs such as Manchester United, Charlton Athletic and Leeds United. On hand to meet the youngsters will be South Africa's football giants who are plying their trade in Europe such as Lucas Radebe, Shaun Bartlett and Quinton Fortune.

Corporate Sponsorship Manager at Engen Petroleum Brad Bergh says that Engen is very excited to launch this development programme and is proud of its partnership with UKZN. Puma South Africa is the official technical sponsor of this tournament and the Sports Institute of South Africa will conduct life skills and a mentoring programme for coaches and players.

– Bheki Ka Mncube



Picture: Sally Giles.

UNLEASHING TALENT: UKZN Sports Officer Vijay Balram at the official launch of the Engen Knock-Out Soccer Challenge.

UKZN quartet for world championships

FOUR UKZN students have been selected to play for the South African Students Sports Union (SASSU) national team. They will be making their mark on the world championships.

Martial arts experts Shandell Lombard and Rio-Jess Leslie will be taking part in the judo championships in Moscow from 14-21 December 2004. Judo has the second highest number of registered players after soccer. It is the only martial sport that is part of the Olympic Games.

Shandell started judo at the age of eight. She plays for the under 57 kg division. To maintain fitness, she trains five days a week and she also does a lot of running. This year she won the national tournaments under the banner of South African Junior Team in Johannesburg. She lives in Hillary and owns a Judo club.

Rio-Jess from Durban North, qualified for the national team when she participated in the 'varsity games at Wits. She is doing her second year in physiotherapy.

"The idea is to break your opponent's balance by pulling or pushing them and then throwing them while they are off balance," she explains.

Karate champion Devon Govender jetted off to Yugoslavia to participate in the Fourth Student World Championship from 8-11 July. Devon, from Umbilo, developed an interest in karate when he was eight. He is doing a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Business and Marketing.

Vidahatha Deonarain has been chosen to play for the SASSU national team in the World Table Tennis Championships. She will be leaving for Hungary in September. She joined the KwaZulu-Natal club in 1998 where she played for the under 14 division. She is one of four women representing the province in the SASSU championships. "For me it's the experience and exposure that's important. Our country will also be on the world map. We are new in world sport." Vidahatha is doing a Bachelor of Commerce Law.

– Bhekani Dlamini

"Short Story" Competition

for ALL Alumni of the University of KwaZulu-Natal

Prestasi, South Africa's largest independent short-term insurance broker invites you, the alumni of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, to once again show how creative you can be by entering our 2004 Short-story competition. In a way it is an invitation from one "Creative" to another. As specialists in the field of creative solutions to your short-term insurance needs, we challenge you to write a short-story that entertains and captures our imagination.

The subject of your short-story this year is "One Summer". The story must be between 2500 and 6000 words long in double-line spacing. If submitted in a printed format, please type on one side of an A4-sized paper.

Send your short-story to Prestasi Short-story Competition, P O Box 2795, Pietermaritzburg 3200 or submit it via e-mail to shortstory@prestasi.co.za by 31 August 2004. Please include your name, address, contact numbers, year of graduation and e-mail address. For any further queries, please contact Angela Donval on (033) 394-6120.

First Prize - R2500
1st runner up - R1000
2nd runner up - R500

RULES OF THE COMPETITION:

- Submissions must be original.
- Previously published work will not be accepted.
- A prize-giving function will be held towards the end of the year to which finalists will be invited but they must be prepared to fund their own way to the function.
- Winners must agree to have their photographs and submissions published in the Alumni Magazine, the websites of the university and that of Prestasi as well as local papers.
- No entry fee or entry forms required.
- Closing date for short-stories to be received via post or e-mail by 31 August 2004.




Kwasha

It's happening

Send your diary of events to events@ukzn.ac.za

GERMAN FEATURE FILMS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS MTB ROOM 236). Every Monday, 2nd semester at 3.30 p.m. German Programme, (Foreign Languages). Everybody is welcome. There are no fees. The titles of the films are announced on the University Notice Board. Enquiries contact Marion Pape TEL: 031-260 1107/2380 FAX: 031 260 1242.

WEEKLY SATSANG: (WESTVILLE CAMPUS), every Friday. This is a weekly prayer service which consists of the singing of devotional songs (bhajans) accompanied by Indian musical instruments and occasional discourses. The satsangs take place every Friday from 12.20 – 13.10 (6th period) in the Hindu Students Association (H.S.A.) room. For further information please e-mail: 202513309@ukzn.ac.za.

ELIZABETH SNEDDON THEATRE (HOWARD COLLEGE). 7 – 25 July. This endearing family musical based on Charles Dickens' timeless classic, OLIVER, is presented by the UBR Young Performers. Enquiries Jackie Cunniffe, Email Cunniffej@ukzn.ac.za or call 031 260 2065.

ANNUAL FRANTZ FANON LECTURE, (SENATE CHAMBER, WESTVILLE CAMPUS), 8 July Nigel Gibson the author of Fanon: The Postcolonial Imagination (Polity, 2003), among many books, he will speak on "Frantz Fanon and the political cultures of South Africa". Contact Richard @ pithouser@ukzn.ac.za, call 031 260 1506.

DURBAN RAG 75TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING GOLF DAY (BLUFF GOLF CLUB) Friday 23 July 2004. As part of its 75th birthday celebration, Durban Rag has organised the Golf Day at the Bluff National Park Golf Club with an entry fee of R120 per player. Sponsorship of a Tee or Green and display your corporate logo will

cost R250-00. Enquires and bookings contact Jean on Tel: 260 1374 or email strachan@nu.ac.za.

ANDRE THE HILARIOUS HYPNOTIST AT ELIZABETH SNEDDON THEATRE (HOWARD COLLEGE). (27 July – 15 August). First launched to fame 10 years ago, and if it is hilarity you are after, this year will prove no different. Andre has devised a new angle to his show by screening footage of some of the volunteers interacting with members of the public in the most hilarious ways.

HAROLD WOLPE MEMORIAL LECTURE, (HOWARD COLLEGE THEATRE), 5 August, Deborah Posel (Director Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research) will deliver a talk on "The politicization of sexuality in post-apartheid South Africa". Contact Richard @ pithouser@ukzn.ac.za, call 031 260 1506.

JOMBA! CONTEMPORARY DANCE FEST ELIZABETH SNEDDON THEATRE (HOWARD COLLEGE). 19 – 29 August sees the return of the Jomba! Contemporary Dance Festival – a dynamic 10-day

showcase of the finest in South African contemporary dance, in addition to performances by international dance companies. Enquiries Jackie Cunniffe, Email Cunniffej@ukzn.ac.za or call 031 260 2065.

AFRICAN MUSIC AND DANCE SHOWCASE (HOWARD COLLEGE THEATRE), August 27th – 28th, at 7.30pm. Tickets R25 adults; R15 students and children. Enquiries: Contact Patricia Opondo, UKZN – African Music Project 260 1045 email: opondop@ukzn.ac.za. Bookings: Contact Functions Office (Hazel Dlamini 031 260 2406, email dlaminih1@ukzn.ac.za

AFRICAN CUISINE – STUDENT'S UNION, (HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS) from 8 African countries, August 27 – 28, a sumptuous banquet starting at 9:00pm Tickets R30. Live band and DJ. Enquiries: Contact Patricia Opondo, UKZN – African Music Project 260 1045 email: opondop@ukzn.ac.za. Bookings: Contact Functions Office (Hazel Dlamini 031 260 2406 email dlaminih1@ukzn.ac.za

– Compiled by Bheki Ka Mncube



Recycle your ukzndaba
Please don't litter... when you've finished with your ukzndaba, why not pass it on to someone else, or place it in a bin for recycling with other paper-waste.

