ALUMNI REMINISCE AT SCREENING OF RFK IN THE LAND OF APARTHEID - A RIPPLE OF HOPE

Alumni, staff and friends of UKZN flocked to the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre at the Howard College campus on July 29 for a special cocktail function and screening of the film, RFK in the Land of Apartheid – A Ripple of Hope directed by Tami Gold and Larry Shore. The screening was part of the 31st Durban International Film Festival. KwaZulu-Natal-based graduates of 1964-1969 were invited by the Corporate Relations Division’s Alumni Affairs Office to attend the event as part of the film was filmed on the Howard College campus in 1966. Director of the Centre for Creative Arts (CCA) which stages the Film Festival, Mr Peter Rorvik thought it would be an excellent opportunity to bring those students from that time period back onto campus to commemorate the historical event. A number of the graduates who attended the screening had actually attended the RFK speech on the Howard College campus.

WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UKZN’S LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Dedicated efforts towards the implementation of UKZN’s Language Policy are under way in the College of Health Sciences. Health care practitioners are challenged by language barriers when communicating with non-English speaking patients and clients in clinical settings. With the curriculum traditionally taught in the English medium, clinical procedures are lost in translation.

The College held a workshop at the Howard College campus on August 6 titled The Implementation of the Language Policy in the Health Sciences. Prominent academics from the Health Sciences as well as Language and Linguistics specialists were invited. Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Tahir Pillay, and Professor of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Nancy Hornberger who chaired the workshop, were also in attendance.
LAW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

The Faculty of Law recently introduced a Law Scholarship Programme open to academically outstanding grade 12 learners at selected feeder schools in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. The programme was officially launched by Professors Managay Reddi, Dean of Law, and Shannon Hoctor, Deputy Dean of Law, on the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses respectively.

A total of R300 000 has been allocated to this high profile scholarship programme. Scholarship packages of R20 000 have been allocated to each of the 15 feeder schools selected by the Faculty. Schools were selected on the basis of their academic excellence as well as their strong relationship with the Law Faculty. It is hoped that this prestigious scholarship programme will attract a significant number of top learners to the Law Faculty, as well as cement the strong bonds which exist between the Faculty and certain of its important feeder schools. Each of the learners who qualify for a scholarship will be required to register for the LLB degree at UKZN during the 2011 academic year.

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS THE CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING A BILINGUAL LANGUAGE POLICY AT UKZN

In a bid to interrogate the implications of a bilingual language policy at Faculty level, UKZN’s Management Studies Education Unit hosted a seminar by Dr Nancy Hornberger, an Applied Linguist in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States, on August 3 on the Westville campus.

The seminar Understanding the Role of Language Use for Management Studies was a response to the fact that students whose first language was isiZulu were hindered in their understanding of lectures.

Professor Hornberger’s discussion revolved around: the value of mother tongue education in teaching and learning; the value of African language literacy for a career in commerce; and barriers that inhibit dual language usage at South African universities. The seminar included an open forum session where academics discussed discipline-specific language problems encountered by students in the Faculty.

UKZN BOOK ON THE MERGER LAUNCHED BY PROFESSOR KADER ASMAL IN CAPE TOWN

Former Minister of Education and Professor Extraordinary at the University of the Western Cape, Professor Kader Asmal has congratulated UKZN on the successful completion of the merger between the Universities of Natal and Durban-Westville.

Referred to as ‘the father of the merger’, Professor Asmal delivered an address on the positive impact of mergers between Higher Education Institutions at the Cape Town International Convention Centre where a second launch of The Creation of the
NEW BOOK FOCUSES ON LITERACY AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AS A TOOL TO ADDRESS APARTHEID INEQUITIES

A book written by a UKZN academic that traces the survival of ELET (the Environment and Language Education Trust), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) committed to literacy and language development since 1984, was launched on August 5 on the Westville campus.

Dr Rubby Dhunpath, the Director of Projects at the UTLO (University Teaching and Learning Office) launched his book Archaeology of a Language Development NGO: Excavating Organisational Identity which was based on his research on ELET over a period of five years. Capturing its 20-year institutional memory, the book documents ELET's ability to remain steadfast in its goal of providing alternative literacy and language development programmes as a means to address the inequities of apartheid education. UKZN academics, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal; Professor Nancy Hornberger, a visiting academic and Fulbright scholar from the University of Pennsylvania in the USA; Mr Mervin Ogle, the Founding Director of ELET and other ELET representatives were among guests who gathered at the Senate Chamber to celebrate the book’s launch.

ICT DIVISION PRESENTS LAPTOP COMPUTERS TO HIGH SCHOOL AND LEARNER

Pride and excitement were the order of the day when learners and staff at the Ndengetho High School in KwaNdengezi heard that the school and a former grade 12 pupil had won laptop computers in a competition run by UKZN’s Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division.

ICT Central Services Manager, Mr Ray Mahadeo; Client Services Manager, Mr Terence Yeni; Channel Manager for Hewlett Packard, Mr Lennie Botha; and Mr Ashay Nathoo, Schools Liaison Officer in UKZN’s Corporate Relations Division presented the School and Miss Ntokozo Nxele, now a first year Cost and Accounting Management student with an HP Laptop computer each, at a special presentation during the school assembly.

Miss Nxele had entered the competition while visiting UKZN’s Open Day event in 2009 as a Grade 12 learner. ICT introduced this competition in 2008 as a community outreach initiative aimed at taking computer technology to schools and offering learners a chance to explore the possibility of a career in ICT.

LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST SEMINAR
On August 6 the Leadership Centre hosted a well-attended breakfast seminar in their Knowledge Cafe titled East-West, North South – where does the Leadership Education Compass point? Professor Nick Barker, a cultural anthropologist, who has become a leadership specialist, from the East-West Centre in Hawaii, and Mr Keith Coats from Tomorrow Today, a consultancy based in South Africa and the UK gave presentations at the seminar.

Professor Barker led a dialogue about the work of the East-West Centre. The emphasis was on how leadership is manifested as a self-organising phenomenon when nobody knows what to do. Mr Coats drew on the metaphor of the Doldrums' and presented leadership as an emergent property of individuals and groups in situations of great uncertainty. He drew on the work of Ron Heifetz, especially his work on adaptive leadership to emphasise the non-linear nature of the challenges faced by leaders today and their need to be responsive to situations using moral purpose as their compass. It was generally agreed that leadership education needs to draw on unique and creative methodologies to capture something of the dynamic of uncertainty and the creativity of emergent behavior.

LECTURER DEVOTES TIME ON INTERNATIONAL MANDELA DAY TO INSPIRE A LOVE OF SCIENCE

There is a shortage of qualified science teachers in South Africa and also a severe shortage of science and engineering related skills.

Grade 6 and 7 learners from two schools, Seven Hills and Beaconridge Primary in Montford, Chatsworth were exposed to an exciting and informative talk on careers in science and astronomy by Dr Nadaraj Govender, a senior Science Lecturer at UKZN’s Edgewood campus. The talks were Dr Govender’s contribution to the call for South Africans to give 67 minutes of their time as part of the celebration of International Mandela Day.

Dr Govender said that if learners are exposed to the process of science and value science early in their childhood, learners will be motivated to read, explore and participate in scientific activities that may lead to high-flying academic careers or for them to take on technically-related careers. The learners were given a short lesson on practical astronomy and how to identify constellations in the sky. They were introduced to the galaxies and the Big Bang theory, as well as to a brief history of science.

3RD TUBERCULOSIS AFRICAN ACADEMIC INITIATIVE (TAAI) WORKSHOP AT UKZN
Local and international scientists, laboratory technicians and clinicians researching TB learn about advancements in TB research at UKZN.

The Department of Infection Prevention Control (IPC) at the Howard College campus in collaboration with K-RITH (KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV) at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine hosted the 3rd TAAI workshop from August 2-13. The initiative which is funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) aims to assist African countries by enhancing existing laboratory and clinical skills.

The workshop provided theoretical and practical training to assist with the challenges of tuberculosis diagnosis and management. In addition, an African TB network for resistance surveillance has been established with many of the countries attending in an effort to inform management policies. The countries that have thus far participated in the TAAI workshop include Nigeria, Gabon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Seychelles, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania.

IASIA RECOGNITION FOR PROFESSOR PURSHOTTAMA REDDY

Professor Purshottama Reddy of UKZN’s School of Public Administration attended the 2010 Annual Conference of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) in Bali, Indonesia recently.

Professor Reddy presented a paper titled: The Role of Participation in Local Development: the Case of South Africa which was co-authored by UKZN graduate Dr Jayanathan Govender. Approximately 462 delegates from 62 countries attended the Conference.

Professor Reddy was re-appointed as Project Director of the Working Group on Local Governance and Development of IASIA, headquartered in Brussels, for the period 2010-2013. As Project Director, he is required to develop the themes of the Group for the invitation brochure for annual conferences, accept/reject paper proposals, manage the sessions/activities at annual conferences, and act as rapporteur and develop and co-ordinate research proposals for possible publications of the Group. In his capacity as Project Director, he also serves on the Board of Management representing the African Continent.

UKZN OPENS ITS DOORS TO LEARNERS TO MARK NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK
Learners and teachers are fascinated by Laser Science experiments.

School learners descended on UKZN’s Science and Technology Education Centre on the Westville campus from August 2-5 to catch a glimpse of the vast career opportunities in the field of Science.

The initiative was the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science’s response to National Science Week. Approximately 185 grade 10 and 11 learners from schools in and around Durban benefited from the programme which comprised informative lecture presentations, innovative experiments and interactive sessions where learners experienced firsthand what discipline-specific careers entailed. The National Department of Science and Technology is the driver of National Science Week, an annual event which encourages the promotion of activities aimed at creating an “awareness and appreciation” for science and technology among learners, with emphasis on its importance to nation building.

INAUGURAL LECTURE REFLECTS ON “A LIFETIME OF LIKING LICHENS”

Lichens, composite organisms consisting of a symbiotic relationship between an alga (5 percent) and a fungus (95 percent), were the topic of Professor Richard Beckett’s inaugural lecture held on August 4 on UKZN’s Pietermaritzburg campus. His informative presentation highlighted his lifelong interest in and passion for the study of lichens and revealed interesting features and uses of these amazing living entities.

Sometimes called ‘extremophiles’, due to their tolerance of extreme stresses, lichens were possibly the first land plants, evolving 400-600 million years ago. They are most prolific in polar and alpine habitats and are dominant on 8 percent of the land surface of the planet. They are extremely desiccation tolerant and can dry to contain a water content of only 5 percent and still remain viable for months. Also, they possess an amazing propensity to endure extreme temperatures. Even tropical lichen species are known to withstand liquid nitrogen (-1960°C). In a European Space Agency experiment lichens were launched into space and exposed, unprotected, for two weeks to harsh space conditions. They returned to earth virtually unscathed, revealing their resilience and capacity to endure adversity. Paradoxically, they are extremely sensitive to air pollution and are, therefore, valuable indicators of environmental damage.

CCMS STUDENT PRESENTS SEMINAR AT THE DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Masters student and researcher at the Centre for Communication, Media and Society (CCMS), Mr Jonathan Dockney is involved in a research project on cellphone filmmaking (cellphilms) with Director of the CCMS Professor Keyan Tomaselli and CCMS MA student, Mr Thomas Hart.

As part of the Durban International Film Festival, Mr Dockney presented a seminar at the CCMS using Iranian filmmaker, Sepideh Farsi’s Tehran without Permission as a case study. The film was shot entirely on a cellphone and is rated as an exceptional and moving example of the power of the citizen in media.

‘Cellphilms’ is a name that has been coined by Mr Dockney. “Cellphilms are made with cellphones for cellphones,” he said. He explained that cellphi production is at this stage based on adapting older filming techniques and ‘experimentality’ and has
UKZN PROFESSOR EMERITUS APPOINTED TO EDITORIAL BOARD OF AFRICAN MUSICOLOGY ONLINE

Beverly Parker, Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Associate in Music, has agreed to the request of Dr Femi Adedeji of Nigeria to join the Editorial Board of the peer-reviewed e-journal African Musicology Online. Edited by Dr Rose Omolo-Ongati, the journal is published by the Bureau for the Development of African Musicology at Maseno University in Kenya. It promotes and develops the concept and practice of African musicology by Africans and promotes mutual co-operation among African scholars in the field of African musicology.

Professor Parker has recently completed a review of the two-volume International Handbook of Research in Arts Education, edited by Professor Liora Bresler of the University of Illinois. This work includes 103 chapters and 80 international commentaries by 116 authors, including one from Namibia, one from Kenya, and two from South Africa (review forthcoming in the Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa).

WOMEN EMPOWERED AT GSB LUNCHEON

The Graduate School of Business (GSB) in the Faculty of Management Studies hosted a Women's Day Executive Lunch on August 5 at the Hellenic Community Centre, Durban North.

Addressing guests, Head of the GSB: Professor Anesh Singh, said that the event afforded the School the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the role played by women in business and society.

Survivor of a hijacking and high school teacher, Ms Kavisha Seevnarain, delivered a moving and motivational talk. She recalled the ordeal of her near-death experience at the mercy of her hijackers in November 2009. She was traumatised for hours before being thrown over the 60 meter high Umkomazi River bridge on a rainy and cold night. She miraculously survived and this experience has taught her to take a positive approach in life.

CCRRI SEMINAR ON WORLD CUP CITIES AS WORLD CLASS CITIES

A seminar reflecting on the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup and its impact on South African host cities was presented by Mr David Roberts, a visiting research associate at the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity (CCRRI) on August 3.

Mr Roberts hails from the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto. He was awarded the 2008 João Havelange Research Scholarship – a Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) setup scholarship which is aimed at promoting football-related scientific research by researchers in the fields of law, economics, sociology, ethics, geography, history or medicine.

The seminar was titled, World Cup City as World Class City: Cloning, Securitization and Race in South Africa, and shed a light on the positive social influences arising out of the World Cup. At the same time, it questioned the ways in which the World Cup affected the lived geographies of South Africa’s host cities.
Mr Roberts explored how, in effect, the World Cup might have forced South Africa to clone itself as 'World Class City' under FIFA's securitization policies.

SCHOOL OF NURSING LECTURERS WIN PRIZE FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PAPER

Lecturers and former lecturers at UKZN's School of Nursing are surprised and delighted to have been awarded a prize of R4 000 for a collaborative research paper they published in the South African Journal of African Languages (SAJAL) in 2008.

Mrs Charlotte Engelbrecht, Dr Zethu Nkosi, Mrs Dorien Wentzel, Mrs Selverani Govender who now lecture at the Durban University of Technology, and Professor Patricia McInerney who is at the University of the Witwatersrand conducted critical research on the language and communication challenges faced by students enrolled at the School of Nursing when dealing with predominantly isiZulu-speaking clients in clinical settings.

PROFESSOR KRIBEN PILLAY PARTICIPATES IN HISTORIC FORT HARE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Acting Director of the Leadership Centre, Professor Kriben Pillay was part of a group of local and international academics who participated in the launch conference of the Centre for Leadership Ethics in Africa (CLEA) at the University of Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape.

Fort Hare has an illustrious leadership history, producing such eminent African leaders as Nelson Mandela, Robert Sobukwe, Oliver Tambo and many others from other parts of Africa. It is thus fitting that the Centre has a home at this institution, which was founded in 1916.

START A BUSINESS WITH UNDER R1 000 WORKSHOP A GREAT SUCCESS
Mr Atul Padalkar addresses the workshop on Starting a Business with under R1 000.

The thought of starting a business on a shoe string budget of under a R1 000 may seem impossible to the ordinary person. However, a workshop organised by UKZN’s Centre for Entrepreneurship on August 11 proved that this is a possibility.

Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship in the Faculty of Management Studies Professor Shahida Cassim said that this workshop is part of the OPPSHOP (Opportunity Shop) initiative, a series of interventions aimed at infusing the spirit of enterprise among students and staff. OPPSHOP aims to expose delegates to business ideas in a variety of sectors.

Mr Atul Padalkar, an entrepreneurship consultant, ran the first OPPSHOP. His workshop Start a Business with under R1 000 aimed to inform students of the endless entrepreneurship opportunities available to them. A key factor to be considered before venturing into business is finding out and defining one’s purpose in life, said Mr Padalkar. He added that a clear answer to this question would enable one to develop a set of SMART goals to achieve their purpose.