In the inaugural College Newsletter (Issue 1(1) May 2007) I made reference to various manifestations of the fact that the College of Law and Management Studies had finally found its rightful place in the University and there was a growing sense of direction and focus. I am now happy to report that this perception was corroborated by the Vice-Chancellor after his recent visits to all the Schools in the University. In a report submitted to Council on 22 August 2008, the Vice-Chancellor had this to say:

“There was an overall appreciation of the new DVC and the stability that he has brought into the College. The Schools in the College have settled to a new pace and are functioning well.”

We continue to commit ourselves to the realization of the strategic goals that we set ourselves in the College Strategic Plan adopted last-year. In particular, we strive to continue providing effective leadership that is not only motivational and visionary, but leadership that also takes and accepts ultimate responsibility. It is mainly through this kind of leadership and commitment from everyone in the College that we have been able to make significant strides in realizing some of our strategic objectives.

Without taking anything away from some of the stories contained in this newsletter, I am happy to report that on 22 July 2008 the College held a successful Interdisciplinary Research Workshop that attracted more than 55 participants. This was followed by a vibrant and motivational College Research Workshop for Women on 15 August 2008, attended by more than 45 women academics. It is through efforts like these that we hope to realize the vision of being “the leading College in the University in terms of the quality and quantity of research output, renowned for excellence in teaching and learning, within the context of the University’s mission of seeking to be the “Premier University of African Scholarship.” In that regard, according to the statistics that have just been released by the Research Office, eight of the Top 30 Researchers of the University (2007) are from the Faculty of Law. That means that the Faculty of Law, which consists of about 65 academics and is the smallest faculty in the whole University, has produced almost 30 percent of the Top 30 Researchers for 2007! As I take this opportunity to congratulate them, I am also happy to know that the Faculty of Management Studies is doing everything possible to emulate their sister faculty.

There are some ongoing and upcoming events that are important to us as a College. The first is the Institutional Audit that is currently taking place and the second is the Strategic Planning Workshop at the beginning of November. It is through such engagements that we evaluate our performance and reorientate our focus in terms of our strategic direction. We look forward to these events.

- John Mubangizi
Two College of Law and Management Studies students have been awarded TATA Africa Scholarships.

The awards were made to Mr Phila Magwaza, who is registered for LLM, Business Law; and Mr Thokozani Dlamini, registered for BCom Honours, Accounting, during a function to launch the Gandhi-Luthuli Chair of Peace Studies at the Howard College campus on 18 September.

Mr Magwaza (28), an attorney with Anthony Whatmore and Company in Durban North, completed his LLB Degree in 2006 and he is currently working towards his LLM Business Law on a part-time basis.

He strongly believes in discipline and prioritising in order to achieve in life and applies the same principle when juggling work, studies and his personal life. “Studying is an important factor of developing one’s state of mind,” he said.

Mr Dlamini (21), a BCom Honours (Accounting) student from Ladysmith, completed his BCom degree cum laude last year and his goal is to become a Chartered Accountant.

Over the years, Mr Dlamini has received numerous scholarships for his excellent academic performances. After his studies he will serve his articles at Price Waterhouse Coopers in Durban.

“I feel honoured to be selected as a recipient of the TATA Africa Scholarship,” said Mr Dlamini.

Time management is the key to Mr Dlamini’s success. He plays soccer to relax while currently preparing for his examination this month.

The scholarship is prestigious and highly sought after. Only students with excellent academic records or improving academic records, who were deserving and from a previously disadvantaged background, were identified, according to Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

The awards were presented by the Managing Director of TATA Africa, Mr Raman Dhawan. The event was attended by the Consul General of India, Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, while the guest speakers were India’s Minister of External Affairs Government Mr Anand Sharma, and the President of the African National Congress, Mr Jacob Zuma.

The scholarship is led and managed by Professor Makgoba through the offices of the UKZN Foundation whose Director is Mr Bruno van Dyk.

- Hazel Langa

Research Workshop for Women

The College of Law and Management Studies hosted an empowerment workshop focussing on the challenges facing women in research and how those challenges can be overcome.

The workshop was a significant event coinciding with Women’s Month.

In his opening address, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College, Professor John Mubangizi, said although UKZN was working on correcting the imbalances of the past, women were still seriously under represented in academic structures.

Professor Mubangizi emphasised the need to encourage women to undertake research in order to rectify the situation and identified hosting the workshop as one of the strategies used by the College to develop the research capabilities of women.

Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Knowledge Production, Professor Johan Jacobs, told delegates what the Research Office was doing to facilitate research. He spoke about the various opportunities for funding and encouraged women to take advantage of the available financial resources, mentioning the Women-in-Research Programme as one of the initiatives which support women researchers in the advancement of their research careers.

Guest speaker, Professor Cheryl Potgieter then of the Psychology Department at the University of Pretoria, highlighted factors which impacted negatively on the productivity of women researchers. These included family commitments; the role of being a nurturer to students; the fact that a minimum qualification of a PhD was required in order to gain access into a senior position in academia, and teaching commitments.

A brighter picture was painted when Professor Potgieter discussed strategies on how to overcome the challenges and these included familiarising oneself with the rules of academia; knowing about and accessing the resources available; choosing a mentor who shares one’s ideological paradigm; publishing in recognised journals and contributing chapters in books.

- Hazel Langa
Inter-Disciplinary Research Workshop

An inter-disciplinary research workshop for academics from the College of Law and Management Studies was held in July this year.

Professor John Mubangizi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College, said hosting the workshop was a step aimed at giving meaning and effect to the realisation of the strategic plans of UKZN and the College.

Other reasons for hosting the workshop included identifying research interests and synergies across faculties and setting a stage for future research collaborations in order to instil the sense of College belonging.

Professor Johan Jacobs, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Knowledge Production, addressed the academics highlighting the initiatives undertaken by the Research Office to facilitate research.

He discussed the College research statistics in comparison to other colleges and acknowledged the challenges facing researchers and motivated them to be proactive in identifying areas of interest and forming Research Chairs in order to increase the College’s research production. He informed the staff about the opportunities for funding and encouraged them to take advantage of the available funds to assist with their research.

The panel discussions provided an opportunity for staff to discuss strategies to improve research output in the College.

Professors Managay Reddi and Shannon Hoctor, representing the Faculty of Law on the panel, elaborated on the Mentoring and Research Incentive Programme (MARIP) that the faculty is using to motivate established researchers to mentor emerging researchers in order to produce recognised publications.

Professor David Coldwell of the Faculty of Management Studies enlightened the staff on the Research by Objectives strategy which provides solutions to many research barriers.

Intense group discussions which followed the panel session focused on research synergies with a view to the formation of partnerships and collaborations. In his closing remarks, Professor Mubangizi encouraged staff to keep the initiatives generated at the workshop alive through follow up meetings and one-on-one interactions.

- Hazel Langa

Staff attending the College Inter-Disciplinary workshop.
The Faculty of Law in association with the Indian and South African chapters of the Commonwealth Legal Association hosted a Social Justice Symposium with judges from India and South Africa.

The symposium was unique as it boasted the largest number of Indian judges ever to have visited South Africa for a single academic event. The Chief Justice of India, the Honourable Mr Justice KG Balakrishnan, who led the delegation, was accompanied by five Supreme Court judges, four Chief Justices of State High Courts, six High Court judges, the Solicitor-General of India and a prominent Indian Senior Counsel.

The South African judges were represented by Deputy-Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke, Constitutional Court Justice Zac Yacoob, the Judge President of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Justice Vuka Tshabalala, five High Court judges from KwaZulu-Natal and one from the Western Cape.

The meeting was also attended by eminent Senior Counsel, and other KwaZulu-Natal advocates, attorneys and academics.

The participants spent two days discussing various topics which included the role of the South African Constitutional Court and the Indian Supreme Court in achieving substantive equality in South Africa and India; the role of the Judiciary in a constitutional democracy dominated by a single political party; progressively realising socio-economic rights in South Africa and India; and the role of the Judiciary in realising gender equality in South Africa and India.

- Sejal Desai

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From left: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, College of Law and Management Studies, Professor John Mubangizi; Deputy-Chief Justice, Dikgang Moseneke; the Chief Justice of India, Hon Mr K.G. Balakrishnan and Pro-Vice-Chancellor: Corporate Relations, Professor Dasarath Chetty.

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**Law academics are high riders in Top 30 researchers list**

Eight of the Top 30 researchers at UKZN in 2007 are attached to the Faculty of Law, according to recent statistics released by the UKZN Research Office. This means that the Faculty of Law, which boasts about 65 academics and is the smallest faculty at UKZN, has produced almost 30% of the University’s Top 30 Researchers for 2007!

“As I take this opportunity to congratulate them, I am also happy to know that the Faculty of Management Studies is doing everything possible to emulate their sister faculty,” said Professor John Mubangizi, Head of College and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

The top researchers from Law are:

**Professor Shannon Hoctor (8th)**
— Criminal Law

**Professor Marita Carnelley (9th)**
— Family Law, Gambling Law, Criminal Law, International Law

**Professor Warren Freedman (18th)**
— Constitutional Law, Property Law

**Professor Michael Cowling (22nd)**
— Criminal Procedure, International Law, Labour Law

(These are all based at the Pietermaritzburg campus)

**Professor Max du Plessis (23rd)**
— International Law, Human Rights, Jurisprudence

**Mr Andre Louw (25th)**
— Labour Law, Sports Law, Intellectual Property Law

**Professor David McQuoid-Mason (26th)**
— Legal Education, Human Rights, Medical Law

**Professor Managay Reddi (27th)**
— Criminal Law, Human Rights

(These are all based at the Durban campus)

The Dean of Law, Professor Michael Cowling, also congratulated the top researchers.
UKZN excels in Chartered Accounting professional examinations

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has produced four of the top ten students in this year’s Part 1 Qualifying Examination of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

This is a remarkable achievement considering that no other university in the country had more than one candidate in the top ten.

The overall pass rate for UKZN’s first time candidates improved significantly from 48% last year to 82% this year, against the national average of 75%.

Contributing to the success of the University’s first time candidates, was the distance learning programme which achieved a pass rate of 77%, compared to 42% in 2007. This is a clear indication that the steps taken to raise the standard of the programme are paying off and the University is confident it will increase the number of successful candidates in the years ahead.

Another pleasing feature of this year’s results is the University’s contribution to transforming the profession. Of the 895 African candidates who wrote the examination nationally, 374 (42%) passed and of these the highest number, 115, came from UKZN. In addition, UKZN also contributed the highest number of successful Black candidates (African, Coloured and Indian) namely 304 out of 824 (37%).

The School of Accounting in conjunction with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) recently hosted a cocktail function to honour the students who achieved Top 10 position in SAICA’s 2008 Part 1 Qualifying Examination.

At the event, President of SAICA Eastern Region, Mr Suresh Naidoo, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College, Professor John Mubangizi, congratulated the School of Accounting for improving the results and for their contribution towards the transformation of the profession.

The guests of honour were Mr Anthony Gaydon who came third in the examination, Ms Tiffany Sneedon came fourth, followed by Mr Jacques van Ravesteyn and Ms Carmen-Jo Kotze in fifth and seventh places. The students are currently serving articles in various accounting firms.

- Nicholas Wood and Hazel Langa
The Graduate School of Business (GSB) was honoured to be nominated as a finalist in this year’s annual First National Bank KZN Top Business Portfolio Awards.

The GSB was nominated in the Community and Social Services Sector which includes services provided by government, community initiatives and NGOs.

Mr Martin Challenor, Senior Lecturer at the GSB, received the nomination certificate on behalf of the School. “I was so pleased that the GSB was included amongst business entities in the province that had done well. What was equally pleasing was to see how many of our graduates were playing senior roles in these celebrated business entities.

“As a proud member of staff at the GSB I always set out to help ameliorate joblessness and poverty. Recognition like this confirms that the business school is correct to tirelessly seek to improve the economic performance and people of the province. Speaking on behalf of my colleagues, we want only to be included in the ranks of people doing their utmost to enhance the development of KwaZulu-Natal.”

Finalists in each sector were selected through a rigorous process that took the judges five weeks to complete. The winners of the awards were announced at a prestigious gala event held at Durban’s International Convention Centre in August attended by about 700 people.

MEC for Finance and Economic Development, Dr Zweli Mkhize, was the keynote speaker for the evening and he highlighted the important role of all businesses which participate in the province’s current success and future economic development.

Professor Anesh Singh, Head of the GSB, said: “This nomination is due recognition of the joint work of the staff and students who make the GSB the dynamic School that it is. I thank my dedicated colleagues of the GSB and our students for making this award possible. I also wish to thank the UKZN Executive for their support and for allowing the GSB to forge ahead.”

- Debbie Main
UKZN Represented at IAU General Conference

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Law and Management Studies, Professor John Mubangizi, recently represented UKZN at the 13th General Conference of the International Association of Universities held at the Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

The theme of the conference was: Higher Education and Research Addressing Local and Global Needs. The conference was attended by more that 500 delegates representing more than 300 universities from all over the world.

Many of the presentations and debates revolved around the need to meet societal expectations placed on higher education institutions while also addressing the major challenges facing humanity and society in various parts of the world.

“What I found interesting,” Professor Mubangizi said, “was that many of the issues raised were similar to the issues we are grappling with as an institution.” These include; emphasis on research and higher qualifications, decentralised decision-making, accountability, resistance towards organisational changes and organisational restructuring.

According to Professor Mubangizi, the conference also highlighted several challenges such as:

- Finding boundaries between governance and administration.
- Building administrative capacity while retaining the academic character of the institution.
- Creating and maintaining community/business responsiveness without losing academic independence.

For more information on the conference and IAU, visit http://unesco.org/iau/.

- John Mubangizi

Russia’s invasion of Georgia analysed in a Public Lecture

Ms Natsvlishvili was awarded the Third Millennium Foundation Human Rights Fellowship last year. She holds a BA in Public International Law from Tbilisi State University (Georgia) and an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the Central European University (Hungary). While working towards her BA degree she interned at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in the Department of International Legal Relations.

Her Public lecture was titled: Why did Russia Invade Georgia? Oil, Democracy and New Power Politics in Europe and Beyond.

Ms Natsvlishvili said although it was alleged that the military conflict started as a result of Georgia’s armed attempt to restore constitutional order in “so-called South Ossetia”, the reasons for Russia’s invasion of Georgia, as well as its consequences, went beyond Georgia itself.

“Experts have suggested that, in fighting Georgia, Russia fought a proxy war with the West and the USA and that the military operation in Georgia was a payback for the humiliation that Russia suffered after the fall of the Soviet Union, together with America’s invasion of Iraq and acknowledgement of the independence of Kosovo.

“While many claims around the conflict are highly contested and the full analysis of the situation is at large on hold before the humanitarian crisis is resolved, this lecture provides one of the first attempts internationally to examine the conflict in detail, explore its historical roots, international legal and geopolitical underpinnings and analyse its potential ramifications on peace and security in Europe and beyond,” said Ms Natsvlishvili.

Ms Natsvlishvili worked as a Europe Program Associate at ARTICLE 19 — Global Campaign for Freedom of Expression in London, where she researched and monitored legislative and policy developments in the field of freedom of expression in post-communist countries and contributed to a number of publications, including: Covering Conflict: Reporting on Conflicts in the North Caucasus in the Russian Media.

- Ana Natsvlishvili
UKZN’s Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) was well represented at the 17th Annual International AIDS Conference held in Mexico City in August.

HEARD’s Ms Maria Cabrera addressed two meetings — the first was a non-official International AIDS and Economics Network (IAEN) Pre-Conference meeting. The venue was the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (National Institute of Public Health) where Ms Cabrera obtained her Masters degree.

She presented a poster on a project titled: Establishing the Costs of Different Models of Anti-retroviral Treatment Delivery Programs in Urban, Peri-Urban and Rural Settings in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (review and ongoing experience).

“This pre-conference was important for me in the sense that the topics covered quantitative research in economics and in some cases, cost-effectiveness studies, which is my current research focus,” said Ms Cabrera. “The delegates were interested in my experiences of working on AIDS in South Africa and in HEARD’s activities.”

The main conference gave Ms Cabrera a special opportunity to meet with one of her Masters thesis supervisors, Professor Mauricio Hernandez-Avila — now Mexico’s Under-Minister of Health — and other academics with whom she had previously worked and studied.

Ms Cabrera’s study was well received at the main event. “It was an amazing experience to present in such a large and prestigious forum and I was proud to share the work I am doing in South Africa in my home country,” she said. “Although South Africa’s high prevalence of HIV is of grave concern, we have many promising models and important lessons to contribute to the global fight against AIDS — the need for economic research in relation to the pandemic is more crucial than ever.”

Another UKZN academic, Dr Jill Hanass-Hancock, who specialises in HIV/AIDS and disability, participated in two forums at the Mexico Conference: a pre-Conference Symposium on: Children and HIV/AIDS — Action Now, Action How and at the main event. She found both meetings to be very useful in terms of networking and building relationships with donors, NGOs and other researchers.

“For the first time, the International AIDS Conference programme addressed the issue of disability, devoting two satellite slots and one abstract session to this topic,” explains Dr Hanass-Hancock. “People with disabilities constitute a highly vulnerable group which has long been marginalised at many levels and tends to be overlooked in planning and implementation of HIV/AIDS interventions. This global focus was therefore a milestone in raising awareness around disability.”

The abstract session covered the latest related research from four different countries. Dr Hanass-Hancock reported on non-medical representations of disability in the context of HIV/AIDS.


“Jose Vidal’s presentation on AIDS and ARVs causing disability was particularly impressive,” said Dr Hanass-Hancock. “The session hosted by the Stephen Lewis Foundation focused on advocacy, giving people with disabilities a platform from which to articulate their needs and experiences.” (The material covered during this session can be found at http://www.aids2008.org/Pag/PSession.aspx?s=557).

Two skills-building workshops were conducted, both focusing on people with hearing impairment. Deaf participants were active educators in these gatherings.

“There was quite a wide call for more applied research and evaluation of good practice in existing disability projects,” said Dr Hanass-H Hancock.

“We need to collect vital hard data, for example on prevalence rates. However, this is not a simple matter, as resistance to this aspect of HIV/AIDS vulnerability prevails among those designing prevalence surveys. We must continue to advocate strongly for disability to be mainstreamed in applied research planning, and for a more inclusive approach towards people with disabilities, both in research and in society generally.”

- Tracy Margetts
International environmental law-making and diplomacy course

The Faculty of Law in collaboration with the University of Joensuu in Finland and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) ran a high profile two-week course on the Pietermaritzburg campus on international environmental law-making and diplomacy.

The course was designed to transfer past experience in the field of international environmental law to the future negotiators of multilateral environmental agreements.

In addition, the course provided a forum to foster North-South cooperation and took stock of recent developments in negotiations as well as in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and diplomatic practices in the area.

This was the fifth year the course has been held and — as in previous years — the lectures were given by experienced hands-on diplomats, national and international civil servants and members of academia. The theme of the course this year was Oceans.

The course included lecturers from the Government of Finland, Government of South Africa, UNEP, University of Joensuu and UKZN.

The keynote address was delivered by Judge Albert Hoffmann of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

The Course was targeted at experienced government officials engaged in international environmental negotiations. Other participants included representatives of non-governmental organisations and the private sector, and researchers and academics in the field of international environmental law from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and Latin-America.

Participants Ms Trang Tran from Vietnam and Mr Stevenson Mkhulise from South Africa both agreed that the course was relevant, practical and beneficial and they will both recommend it to anyone concerned about environmental law-making.

- Michael Kidd
UKZN’s Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) held a seminar entitled *African Perspectives on the Rhetoric, Politics and Management of AIDS in Africa* in August this year. The seminar was a corollary to an Editorial Review Workshop which is part of a Book Project, *AIDS and the State*.

Included in the objectives of the project are, first, to understand patterns of State responses to the epidemic across Africa and secondly, to produce a set of critical engagements with these responses. The contributors to the volume took a conscious decision to avoid a confrontational engagement with the issues, but rather, to take a critical and analytical posture in a way that gives room for reflection and contribution to policy formulation from local government level to multilateral arrangements, especially the African Union. Another projection of the African situation as deplorable would certainly not be useful for the purposes of advancing governance in relation to public health matters on the continent. Speakers at the seminar included Professor Demola Ajuwon, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Professor Tim Quinlan, Research Director HEARD, and Dr Segun Ige, Project Co-ordinator.

One of the overarching issues in the book is the implication that certain state responses have had on the definition of rights and citizenship in some African states. The revisionist position emanates from the kind of leadership that continent has had on matters relating to AIDS. The contributors look beyond conventional discourse on these issues and propose pertinent ways where necessary to address the issues. Contributors are spread out all over Africa.


- Olusegun Ige

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**Book Overview: AIDS and the State**

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**Inaugural lecture by Professor Luiz**

Professor Stephanie Luiz of the School of Law has presented her inaugural lecture titled: *Corporate Law Reform: Taking Stock of the New Companies Bill*.

Professor Luiz’s lecture presented a broad overview of the Companies Bill focusing on institutional reform, the scope and categorisation of companies, company formation, naming and dissolution of companies, company finance, corporate governance, takeovers and fundamental transactions, business rescue and remedies and enforcement.

“The last time company law underwent a comprehensive review was in 1973. The Van Wyk De Vries Commission of Enquiry into the Companies Act resulted in the introduction of the Companies Act 61 of 1973,” Professor Luiz said in her lecture.

“Since then the social, political and economic scene in South Africa has altered radically. As company law provides the legal basis for corporate business entities which are central to South Africa’s economy and prosperity, it was recognised by the Minister of Trade and Industry in April 2004 that it was necessary to review and modernise company law to take into account the changing business environment both in SA and globally.”

“After widespread consultation, this review led to the introduction in Parliament of the Companies Bill 2008. As the Companies Bill proposes the wholesale repeal and replacement of the existing Companies Act, it is necessary for business people, lawyers and law students to come to grips with the new proposals.”

- Stephanie Luiz
Fifty-two Masters in Business Administration (MBA) students from the Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) were enlightened about business trends and economic development in KwaZulu-Natal during a week-long educational visit organised by UKZN’s Graduate School of Business (GSB).

The GSB compiled an intensive itinerary comprising factory visits, lectures and talks, and cultural tours to provide students with a well-rounded learning programme, according to Professor Anesh Singh, Head of the GSB.

“I am certain that the IIPM students now have a better understanding of business from an African perspective,” said Professor Singh.

Arranged in conjunction with the Consulate of India, the initiative aimed to expose students to the operations of business outside their own country and simultaneously experience the culture of a South African university.

Officially opening the programme at the GSB Auditorium on the Westville campus, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Law and Management Studies, Professor John Mubangizi, and the Consul-General of India, Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, told the students about the close ties between South Africa and India, including the academic links between UKZN and tertiary institutions in India.

Professor Mubangizi said hosting the IIPM students was in line with the University’s goal of achieving internationalisation. He said it was important to expose students to other global universities. He indicated the possibility of future collaboration between UKZN and IIPM through a Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr Shringla thanked the GSB for hosting the delegation and briefed students on India’s bi-lateral trade agreements with South Africa which he said amounted to R5 billion annually. Of their learning opportunity in KwaZulu-Natal, an academic in Marketing Management, Professor Virat Bahri, who accompanied the IIPM students, said: “It was a nicely structured visit that exposed students to global business trends. It was a new experience for students where they learnt how companies manage the business environment here in South Africa.”

The students were taken to Hulamin in Pietermaritzburg, Tata Steel in Richards Bay, UEC Altech, Beacon Sweets and Dunlop Tyres in Durban. According to the students, the visit to Beacon was the highlight of the tours. A very touching moment for the students was the visit to the Pietermaritzburg Station where Mahatma Gandhi was thrown off the train and the visit to his statue in the middle of the main street.

- Neesha Maharaj
UKZN Faculty of Law academic, Dr Cephas Lumina, has been elected as a member of the Co-ordination Committee of the United Nations Special Procedures Mandate-holders which acts as the interface between the special procedures and the Human Rights Council.

Dr Lumina was elected to the five-member Committee by fellow UN experts at their 15th Annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in June. He was also appointed to the meeting’s team responsible for the drafting of the Manual of Procedures of the UN Special Procedures.

Earlier this year, Dr Lumina was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as its Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic social and cultural rights.

“Special procedures” is the general name given to the mechanisms established by the former UN Commission on Human Rights and assumed by the Human Rights Council to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world.

There are currently 29 thematic and 10 country mandates responsible for examining, monitoring, advising and publicly reporting on human rights situations in specific countries or territories, known as country mandates, or on major phenomena of human rights violations worldwide, known as thematic mandates. Special procedures also respond to individual complaints, conduct studies, provide advice on technical cooperation at the country level, and engage in general promotional activities.

- Cephas Lumina

UKZN Academics at International Finance Summit

Five academics from the School of Economics and Finance attended an international finance summit held at Cape Town’s International Convention Centre.

The two-day summit was organised by Stern Stewart & Co and titled: The Revolution in Finance.

The summit celebrated the 50th anniversary of the creation of modern finance by Merton H. Miller and Franco Modigliani, both of whom went on to win the Nobel Prize in Economics. Their paper, published in 1958, changed the field of finance from one based on intuition to being based on objective analysis.

The summit was a first for South Africa and it brought some of the world’s most admired leaders, researchers and opinion-makers in finance to this country.

The presentations explored relevant issues on corporate finance, financial policy and regulation. The experts included Professors Richard Roll, Stewart Myers, Myron Scholes (a Nobel Prize laureate for the Black-Scholes option pricing model), Michael Jensen, Stephen Ross and many others.

Some renowned South Africans such as Judge Dennis Davis, Professor Michael Katz, Professor Brian Kantor and former State President FW de Klerk, joined these experts on the stage for panel discussions.

- Shelley Donnelly
Management Studies academic on Exco of international research association

Professor Lesley Stainbank, Dean of Management Studies, has been appointed to the executive committee of the International Association of Accounting Education Research (IAAER) as one of the eight vice-presidents with a specific portfolio.

Professor Stainbank’s portfolio will be membership which is in two categories: institutional membership and university membership. Institutional members are mainly national and regional bodies of accounting associations, academies and institutions. Currently there are 52 institutional members.

Previously she served on the executive committee of the IAAER from 2002 to 2004 as a “vice-president — at large” and represented the Southern African Accounting Association. “I am honoured to be invited as such and to be given a specific portfolio. My portfolio will involve contacting universities and professional associations around the world and invite them to become members of the IAAER,” said Professor Stainbank.

The IAAER is a global non-profit organisation. Its mission is to promote excellence in accounting education and research on a worldwide basis and to maximize the contribution of accounting academics to the development and maintenance of high quality, globally recognised standards of accounting practice.

The IAAER carries out the Association’s mission by engaging in, the following activities, among others:

- Bringing an objective, research-based, academic voice to the development and approval process of international accounting and auditing standards through its relationships with various international bodies.
- Participating in the development of International Accounting Education Standards through representation on IFAC’s International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB).
- Communicating with individual members and academic and professional association members through the IAAER newsletter (COSMOS Accountancy Chronicle), the IAAER website (www.iaaer.org), and other means.
- Commissioning research projects in collaboration with sponsors (i.e. KPMG and ACCA) which contribute to the development of advances in international accounting and educational standards.
- Promoting the development of accounting faculty internationally, in co-operation with national and regional academic accounting associations, through the organization and sponsorship of international conferences, international symposia and workshops, and through international doctoral and new faculty colloquia.
- Sponsoring and coordinating the World Congress of Accounting Educators and Researchers held every four years in conjunction with IFAC World Congress.
- Supporting the Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting which is the official research journal of the IAAER.

(For more information about the IAAER, visit www.iaaer.org).

- Lesley Stainbank

Dean of Law at international conference in Rio

Dean of Law, Professor Michael Cowling, delivered a paper on Non-State Actors and Non-International Armed Conflicts at a conference in Rio De Janeiro in Brazil.

Professor Cowling said Rio proved to be a very stimulating and yet relaxed place — a bit like a mixture between Durban and Cape Town!

The conference was attended by delegates from all over the world producing constructive networking which resulted in the establishment of a series of commissions which would launch studies into various aspects of interesting and challenging developments within International Law.

- Michael Cowling
The 5th National Local Government Conference hosted jointly by the Democracy Development Programme (DDP) and UKZN’s School of Public Administration, was recently held at the Elangeni Hotel in Durban.

The Conference focused on municipal financial viability; intergovernmental fiscal relations, indigent management; creativity and innovativeness in generating new sources of revenue; public accountability, maladministration/fraud and corruption; local economic development; municipal services partnerships; accessing donor and grant funding; municipal valuation and property rating and supply chain management.

The Conference was an eye-opener as it covered crucial aspects and relevant topics which were high on the municipal agenda in South Africa.

Dr Rama Naidu and Professor Purshottama Reddy welcomed the delegates on behalf of the DDP and UKZN. The keynote address was delivered by the Head of the Provincial Treasury in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sipho Tshabalala.

The papers delivered touched on important issues that required collective action. They were reflective of practical challenges facing municipalities in South Africa such as poverty and unemployment as well as budget management which includes under spending, under collection, lack of appropriate planning and huge personnel costs.

The conference proceedings and deliberations noted the following:

- Municipalities must think “out-of-the-box” in order to generate more revenue given the changed environment they operate in;
- Morality in the management of the affairs of communities is critical. Morally sound persons do not involve themselves in corrupt and fraudulent activities. Moral regeneration needs to be supported at all costs;
- Commitment, political and administrative will are fundamental in the journey of transforming municipalities to be high performing organisations;
- Community-driven processes tend to deliver better results such as LED processes;
- Donor and Grant funding is not the ultimate solution for the challenges facing local government and municipalities should avoid depending on funding;
- Planning is fundamental and it is critical to plan work.

The conference was attended by about 209 delegates from all parts of the country made up of senior municipal functionaries, representatives from the national and provincial government, academia and the non-governmental sector locally, provincially and nationally. The speakers comprised highly qualified academics and professionals with considerable experience and the papers presented were well researched and of a high quality.

- Purshottama Reddy

From left: Professor Purshottama Reddy from the School of Public Administration and Mr Sipho Tshabalala, Head of the Provincial Treasury in KwaZulu-Natal.
The Graduate School of Business (GSB) Alumni Association was launched at UKZN’s Westville Campus on June 12.

The event brought under one roof several distinguished academics who have contributed to the success of the GSB over the years.

The guest speaker, Professor Josef Venter (76), started the GSB with a class of six students and served for 20 years as Director. His talk was encouraging and inspiring.

“The general principles of management should be applied in order to ensure that the GSB Alumni Association stays alive,” said Professor Venter. He urged the members of the association to take full responsibility for the activities of the GSB as the success of any association depended on its members. “You are all appointed as ambassadors of this GSB,” continued Professor Venter. He encouraged the members to engage with one another through debate evenings and conferences.

He also encouraged the academics to use South African case studies when teaching. “Generate case studies from your experience.”

The President of UKZN Convocation, Mr Andre Young, attended the launch and in his address emphasized the importance of giving back to one’s alma mater. He encouraged the members to contribute their time as well as financial resources to the university.

- Hazel Langa

**UKZN duo at executive certificated programme in Gaborone**

Two senior staff members in the School of Public Administration, Head of School, Dr Pregala Pillay, and Professor Purshottama Reddy attended an executive certificated programme in Gaborone, Botswana on: Enhancing Leadership and Policy Implementation Skills in the SADC Public Sector.

The Programme was hosted by the Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) and the Centre for Specialisation in Public Administration and Management (CESPAM) at the University of Botswana.

The thematic issues addressed at the Workshop, which was very participative and interactive, included public sector reform and leadership challenges; implementation and change management and performance management and service delivery.

The 43 participants at the workshop were high ranking public servants from countries in the SADC Region. The Programme had an international and Regional African dimension and the facilitators were senior public sector functionaries, senior academics and consultants from Australia, Canada, Botswana and the neighbouring African countries.

The Workshop proved to be insightful and empowering as it allowed for some self introspection in terms of leadership and also challenges in relation to policy implementation in an African context.

- Purshottama Reddy
The Enriched Management Studies (EMS) Programme hosted its annual awards dinner at the Comsa Lounge on the Westville Campus recently with the aim of acknowledging its top achievers.

The keynote address was delivered by an alumnus of the EMS Programme, Mr Nkosini Magwaza, who is Audit Manager at KPMG in Durban.

Mr Magwaza hails from Inanda Township and, like many EMS graduates, he benefited from the sponsor-driven community outreach initiative from UKZN’s Faculty of Management Studies. The programme offers financial and academic support to students and it has been running successfully for 19 years.

Mr Magwaza’s talk focused on the shortage of skills; in particular the shortage of black accountants and the current status of the South African economy. He mentioned lack of exposure, limited career guidance in schools, the drop out rate at universities and immigration as some of the contributing factors in the shortage of skills.

He encouraged students to play an active role in addressing these problems. Mr Magwaza practises what he preaches as he tutors Accounting students in high schools at Inanda.

Certificates of merit and achievement were presented to students who achieved more than a 70% aggregate and those who achieved in sports and leadership.

The event was attended by representatives of some of the current sponsors of the EMS programme including Shell SA, the Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust, Standard Bank and the Industrial Development Corporation.

The Dean of Management Studies, Professor Lesley Stainbank, and the Director of the EMS Programme, Mr Jabulani Zikhali, thanked the sponsors for their continued support and also congratulated the students.

- Hazel Langa

Management student to study in Europe

Mr Njabulo Mathe is the first student from the Faculty of Management Studies (Pietermaritzburg campus) to enjoy the fruits of the Tripartite Agreement involving joint research, lecturing and the development of staff between the Universities of KwaZulu-Natal, Liege in Belgium and Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr Mathe is a final year BCom Economics and Finance student who will attend the second semester at Haute de Commerce Management School, University of Liege in Europe. He left South Africa at the beginning of September this year.

With the guidance of Professor Barry Strydom, Deputy Head of School, Mr Mathe was able to select the courses that would be suitable for his BCom. To overcome language barriers, he attended French classes in the evenings.

Earlier this year he received a bursary from Nedbank and he will join them in 2009. He is planning to further his studies by enrolling for an Honours Degree in Finance after he has settled at work.
The first Ombudsman for Financial Service Providers, Mr Charles Pillai, was the main speaker at a successful Business Breakfast hosted by the Graduate School of Business (GSB) in July.

Mr Pillai was appointed to the position in August 2002 in terms of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services (FAIS) Act of that year.

Mr Pillai’s presentation was titled: The Ethical Mind and Corporate Citizenship.

The topics covered in the presentation included: traditional values, systems and regulations; elusive corporate ethics; ethics and the triple bottom line; what the Constitution has done for corporate citizenship; and the role of the Ombudsman.

Mr Pillai told the audience that ethical conceptions and behaviours demanded a certain capacity to go beyond one’s own experience as an individual. There was a need to become more like an impartial spectator of the team, the organisation, the citizenry and the world.

He warned that during the past few years various scams had left thousands of investors — many of them pensioners — penniless.

The audience was advised to always be on guard and to ask questions about what is being offered to them and what they are signing. “Do not be tricked through false promises,” said Mr Pillai.

- Debbie Main

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**2008 Law Ball**

The Annual Law Ball was held at the Hellenic Community Centre in Durban North with purpose being to instill a sense of camaraderie within the Law student body, especially the final year students.

Guests were treated to light hearted relief by the two MCs for the evening, Mr Gareth Courtois and Mr Minikazi Mtati. The students and lecturers thoroughly enjoyed the three-course meal.

A minute’s silence was observed for the Sham family who were tragically killed shortly before the Law Ball. Mr Kavir Sham was a third-year LLB student and was well liked by his colleagues.

The evening was packed with entertainment, with an outstanding vocal performance by Ms Amanda Nogwaza and was concluded by speeches by each fourth year group as well as some “surprising” awards, the favourite being “the most annoying question asker” going to a very worthy Mr Gareth Courtois. The closing speech was made by Mr Khulekani Dumisa.

Special thanks go to the Law Students’ Council and the Law Ball Committee for the tireless efforts and sacrifices they made towards the Ball’s success. Thanks also go to the sponsors: Werksman Attorneys, Bell Dewar Hall, Cliffe Dekker, Shepstone and Wylie, Garlicke and Bousfield, PPS Insurance Co. and Woodhead Bigby.

- Jonathan Mazoue
School of Accounting adopts upgraded teaching and learning system

Lecturer in the School of Accounting, Jane Skinner, analyses the new system now in place at the School.

At the beginning of 2008 Professor Nicholas Wood, Head of School of Accounting, asked the Management Studies Education Unit (MSEU) to prepare a proposal for innovative systems of learning and teaching that would lead to improved pass rates and throughput rates throughout the School.

The MSEU had run a successful pilot project on the Westville campus at the end of 2007 in which tutors had been rapidly recruited from among the honours class to mount intensive interactive tutorials for third year students in the run up to the end-of-year exams. The intention was now to introduce this improved tutoring more systematically for all third-years across both campuses, along with Online learning initiatives for both contact and distance learners, and intensive language development research in Accounting for students whose first language is not English.

The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) was supportive of these ideas from the beginning - but formal agreement from their board for the R1.8 million required to implement the ideas for the year was only secured at the end of May. The new tutorial system was however initiated with UKZN funds from April and the other aspects of the programme have been coming on stream in the course of the second semester.

As a result of the new system, students found themselves at the beginning of the second term required to hand in work each week for marking and to face the prospect of a short test on a key principle of the previous week’s work.

They also had to participate much more actively in tutorials than had been the case in the past and when asked at the end of May what they liked most about the new system several answered “nothing”!

By September however students’ responses had changed markedly. Only two out of 42 student evaluations on the Westville campus do not see any value in the new system now. All the others are enthusiastic about one or other key aspect of it and all have good suggestions about how some aspects might be improved. Typical remarks are: “It ensures that we understand all the concepts properly”; “it is more practical, more interactive” and “we can correct ourselves where we are going wrong before tests and exams”. Three students now say that what they like is “everything”!

Many students are still not keen to work on an unseen question on the current week’s topic. This only works well for students who have pre-read for the latest lecture and who got interested in what the lecturer was explaining that morning or the day before. Then if they work together with other students, open-book and getting help where needed from their tutor, they begin to get absorbed in finding the solution.

Getting the timetable more ‘user-friendly’ is something to consider for 2009. Getting the “culture of teaching and learning” to shift is a challenge the school feels it is beginning to win.

The honours students who are tutors are the backbone of the system. About 70 of them have been employed across the two campuses and are paid R500 a week as opposed to the R195 they previously earned.

Staff were worried at the outset that they may be putting the tutors’ work in jeopardy by requiring the additional preparation and marking involved. In their evaluations, however, every questionnaire so far received from tutors has said that this teaching has helped them with their own studies. This confirms educational research which shows that the amount most people will remember three months later of something they have merely listened to is around ten percent. From material taught one can expect a 90 percent recall.

Perhaps surprisingly there has been less take-up so far of the online help available for students. Top tutors who have excelled in the recent Accounting Board Exams along with a course co-ordinator all make themselves available in “real time” for an hour in the evenings to answer questions or to reply to those received at other times within 24 hours. This part of the programme has only been operational from the end of August so it is thought that students are still not fully aware of it or not sure of what they don’t know – so that they find it difficult to know what to ask! The computerized BLINK system however has proved very popular with everyone who has tried. This is a speed reading, speed comprehension and number recognition programme which students play against themselves increasing their skill as they go along.

The language interventions are still at a very early trial stage involving at present only one pilot group of isiZulu-speaking first year students, assisted by a top isiZulu-speaking tutor from the Pietermaritzburg campus and a linguistics specialist from the MSEU. This promises to provide valuable insights into text-book and materials development for English Additional Language students in the future along with greater understanding of the links and breaks between Accounting vocabulary and its isiZulu translation.

Readers will be thinking – but how can this possibly be sustainable? The School believes the answer lies in “mainstreaming” the programme and in qualifying for increased government subsidies.

The aim is to continue the current programme of innovation with funding support until the end of 2009 by which time it will have been tried and adjusted and the administration taken over by faculty members themselves. Ongoing educational and language input will be available from the MSEU when currently vacant posts are filled. The need to pay more tutors and pay them better will involve a commitment to an additional R1 million a year – an amount which would be more than covered by government subsidies adjusted to a ten percent increase in pass and throughput rates for 500 students.

And how do Faculty staff view the programme? We believe that although supportive and helpful to the educationalists who are involved, they probably need longer than the students to be entirely convinced of its value. They are of course the key to its ultimate success.

- Jane Skinner
Students at UKZN have been exposed to life skills training for several years, however, following the partnering of the Faculty of Management Studies with the Centre for Student Counselling on the Retention Programme, it was decided to introduce Life Skills training as a compulsory credit-bearing module in the academic curriculum.

Management 110 is a course that lays the foundation for BCom and other degrees and is a prerequisite for Management 210 and 220. The Life Skills training component was incorporated as part of the Management 110 course.

The Management Skills Training Module is a comprehensive academic and personal skills development programme geared towards empowering students with skills which will give them a competitive edge in the work environment, and make them more marketable and confident in order to meet the challenges facing them in their academic career and personal lives. The following critical life skills topics were covered in this training programme:

- Time Management and Goal Setting
- Study Skills and Critical Thinking
- Effective Team Work
- Effective Communication and Oral Presentation
- Examination Preparation and Stress Management

Students were required to attend all five life-skills training areas over a 13-week period and complete a test which would contribute towards the overall DP. A total of 1200 students were targeted and eight facilitators who are professional staff from the Centre for Student Counselling conducted the training. Each topic was conducted over a period of two weeks in 40 sessions to ensure that all students were exposed to the training. A total of 200 sessions were therefore completed. The skills training module culminated in a test aimed at determining the knowledge of the skills taught and internalized.

Students’ perceptions of the Management Skills Training Programme were explored with the aid of the evaluation questionnaire. The questionnaire comprised nine open-ended questions aimed at eliciting a wide range of responses and catering for individual subjective experiences. Patterns and trends that emerged were captured according to themes for qualitative analysis and interpretation.

Student perceptions of the compulsory Life skills programme were resoundingly positive. A majority of students who attended the course perceived both the content of the programme and method of teaching to be beneficial. About 88% of respondents indicated that they would recommend the Life skills Training programme to other students.

The most prominent themes emerging from the data were students’ awareness of the value of the programme for their holistic development both academically and socially; the enduring, transferable nature of the skills acquired in the course and the enhanced potential for success. Students’ responses reflect, to some degree, enhanced self-reflection evident in their ability to identify improvements that they had noted within themselves after attending the course.

This could be linked, in part, to the transformative, experiential style of facilitation advocated in the literature and adopted by the programme facilitators. Student perceptions of the Life skills programme as beneficial is aptly reflected in the overwhelming majority of students proposing that the programme continue beyond first year, be expanded to include other life skill topics and that every student be exposed to the programme on campus.

- Wulganithi Thaver
Law academic boasts 31 Comrades Marathon medals

It was the dramatic struggle between Mani Khun and Tommy Malone in 1967 (when Malone passed Khun a metre from the finish) that brought the Comrades Marathon to the attention of Dean of Law, Professor Michael Cowling.

Professor Cowling immediately became inspired to run the marathon. The extent to which this influenced his decision to pack up and leave Cape Town in 1975 in order to pursue his LLB studies at the then Natal University in Pietermaritzburg will never be known.

However, it was in that year he ran his first Comrades and became seriously “bitten by the bug”. Since then he has run the race 31 times and this would have been consecutively had it not been for the three years (1978 - 1980) he studied at Cambridge University in England.

The 31 marathons under his belt means that he is the most capped runner in Pietermaritzburg.

As far as long term planning is concerned the wisdom of age has introduced an element of modesty to his approach to Comrades and tends to take it one race at a time but does have his eyes set on the magic number of 40.

Professor Cowling has contributed to Comrades by serving on the Board of Trustees since 2001 and recently as Vice-Chair.

- Michael Cowling

Short Staffed grin and beer it at soccer tournament

Short Staffed was the name of the team fielded by the Law staff in the 5-a-side football tournament organised by the Law Students Council on Women’s Day in August.

The name was apt as the team was scraped together with an advocate at the Durban Bar drafted into the side at the last minute. He was deemed “legal” because of his position as an external examiner for the Law Faculty.

The tournament had four groups of four teams, and each team had three games to play in the group stage.

Short Staffed managed to win all three of their group games. They won the first game 8-1 against a team dressed entirely in Manchester United shirts followed by a really tough game against a bunch of guys probably 20 years their juniors — some of whom had clearly failed a number of supplementary exams and wanted to settle scores — but still won 3-0. The final game was a far more relaxed affair which they won 3-1.

Having now made it through the group stage and with a goals record of 14:2 it seemed inevitable that Short Staffed would go on to win the semi-finals and the final and the tournament itself. There was even talk of giving up their day jobs to concentrate on soccer!

But the team decided to quit while they were ahead and retired early to enjoy the beer!

- Ed Couzens
School of Accounting Soccer Day

The School of Accounting held their Soccer Day recently with staff and students meeting on common turf to challenge one another through to the final.

The event has been growing year by year with 2008 seeing as many as 20 teams taking part.

The encouraging support from staff, students and sponsors of the day, accounting firm Peter Warmingtons, produced an eventful and memorable occasion.

The day began with a series of round-robin play-offs which lead to the top four teams eventually being selected.

The staff team gave the students a good run for their money earning a place in the final.

Shanela, a team of third year students, out-skilled everyone and were the champions on the day.

- Carol Ahern

The two teams who made the final: Console-ators and Shanela.