



THE MERCURY

TERTIARY Ψ π TIMES

*Gaudeamus igitur
Annoes dum sumus
F. t. u. m. i. d. j. u. r.
P. u. r. u. e. s. t. u. r. e. n.
N. o. s. h. a. b. e. b. i. t. u. m.*

Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law

- The Department of Accounting and Auditing has collaborated with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in training learners in schools near the University to trade on the stock exchange. The programme is aimed at inculcating investment skills in young learners in line with the University's community engagement endeavours. Through the programme, the Department allocates mentors, who are students at the University, to each school. The effort led to one of the mentors winning an award from the Stock Exchange as a result of them being the most active to trade.
- The Department of Accounting and Auditing students who travelled to the University of Cape Town to study Certificate of Theory in Accountancy (CTA) passed. They also wrote and passed PART 1 (ICT) of the SAICA Board Exam. This is a sign that UNIZULU is on the right track in terms of building a SAICA-accredited programme.
- The South African Institute

of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) team visited UNIZULU to accredit the BCom in Accounting Science programme.

Department of Public Administration Highlights

- The University of Zululand, in collaboration with the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) hosted the SAAPAM 17th annual conference. Themed Ramifications of Public Ethics, Public accountability Public Service delivery: National and International Prism, the conference was attended by delegates from various South African higher education institutions, public and private organisations, as well as neighbouring African countries. Academics from various departments at UNIZULU also presented papers.
- In a bid to expose students to the workplace, and create a quality teaching and learning environment, the Department of Public Administration took its students to the KwaZulu-

Natal Legislature in Pietermaritzburg where the students were exposed to the inner workings of the governing body in relation to their studies. The Department also took its Honours students to the national Parliament as part of its workplace visits programme.

- The Department of Public Administration organised academic seminars for its students. An external person was invited as a speaker on issues affecting disciplines linked to their studies such as accountability, ethics and professionalism, etc. The Department, in partnership with the UNIZULU Convocation, hosted a seminar on Hindrances of Public Financial Management and Accountability in South Africa: Norms and Values Underlying Democratic Public Administration.

Law Department

- Earlier this year, the University received correspondence that its Bachelor of Laws programme had been accredited.



Sphelele Khomo (holding the microphone), UNIZULU Accounting and Auditing Head of Department, leading colleagues in a dance during the BCom in Accounting Science degree SAICA Awareness Campaign.

- Four students competed in the Lexis Nexis Moot Court Competition hosted by the University

of Pretoria. Out of four, two students from the University of Zululand made it to the semi-

finals. The competition, which is a mock trial, sees students argue it out in a court setting.



Pictured in gowns are UNIZULU students from the Law Department who participated in a mock court session competition organised the University of Pretoria.

Faculty of Science and Agriculture

- The faculty of Science and Agriculture recently appointed two NRF-rated lecturers. The rating of individuals is based primarily on the quality and impact of their research output over the years, taking into consideration the evaluation made by local and international peers. The NRF rating system is a valuable tool to benchmark the quality of research against the best in the world.
- One of these appointments was that of Prof Evelyn Madoroba who joined the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology as Associate Professor. She holds a PhD degree in Microbiology from the University of Pretoria. She also holds a Master's degree in Business Leadership, an MSc degree in Biotechnology and a Specialist Diploma in Medical Bacteriology (including Mycology). Prof Madoroba also has qualifications in Medical Laboratory Technology covering Microbiology, Immunology, Histology, Hematology, Immunoh-

matology and Histology. Prof Madoroba is a NRF C-rated researcher. She has numerous peer-reviewed publications and has written a book entitled Cholera: Current African perspectives. She has presented at both local and international conferences and has extensive experience in research and diagnosis of bacterial diseases. She has successfully mentored, supervised/co-supervised many postgraduate students from different universities in South Africa.

- The second appointment was that of Prof Khajamohiddin Syed as Associate Professor in Biochemistry and Microbiology in a bid to develop scarce skills and train students in advanced scientific research. Prof Syed, who is a world-renowned C1 rated scientist, will also train postgraduate students in advanced bioinformatics research. Through his research, Prof Syed is expected to find novel drug targets against pathogenic diseases such as tuberculosis that

has plagued the continent. Syed completed his MSc in Biochemistry and a PhD at Sri Krishnadevaraya University, India. After his doctoral studies, he worked as Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of the Free State and later moved to the University of Cincinnati in the USA as a visiting faculty member. Upon his return, he joined the Central University of Technology in the Free State as Associate Professor.

- Another achievement for the Faculty of Science and Agriculture is that of Senior Professor Neerish Revaprasadu, who scooped an award for being the Most Productive Researcher at the recent UNIZULU Research Awards. Prof Revaprasadu has published two books.

- To help upskill its students, the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology signed MoUs with the Cedara College of Agriculture, Tendele Coal Mine near Mtubatuba, Invotech Business Incubator, as well as Hemp Industries Association.



Prof Evelyn Madoroba joined the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology as Associate Professor last month.



Prof Khajamohiddin Syed was recently appointed as Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology.

A year of improved research output for UNIZULU

THE year 2017 was productive for the University of Zululand where research is concerned, with the University not only enjoying improvement in the number of researchers, but also in research output quality.

This is according to Prof Gideon De Wet, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, speaking at the recent UNIZULU Research Awards.

The event is organised annually by the institution's Research Office with the intention

of recognising, and honouring research and innovation excellence while encouraging increased research productivity among UNIZULU academics.

Prof Jesika Singh, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Partnerships at the University of Limpopo, who was invited as the guest speaker, said researchers needed to "motivate and mentor one another in order to grow as a network".

She urged academics to believe that whatever research

work they conducted mattered.

"Hard work is the greatest driver. If you work hard, success will follow. I congratulate all the awardees and nominees, you are the hard workers of this university. I would like to encourage you to keep going strong and keep your dreams and aspirations aglow with sheer determination and hard work. I wish you success in all your ventures. Remember to keep the flag of the university flying high all the time," said Prof Singh.

Academics were awarded certificates and trophies under six categories namely: Science and Development, Next Generation, Established Researchers, Departments, Special Categories and Prestige Awards.

The prestigious awards were received by the departments of Politics and International Studies; Biochemistry and Microbiology, as well as Economics – which received first, second and third prize of the Research Department of the Year awards respectively.

Prof Gregory Kamwendo, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at UNIZULU, who accepted the award for the Department of Politics and International Studies, said he was proud of the department's accomplishment.

He said that it (the department) had received the trophy as a result of hard work. Prof Kamwendo added that the faculty would encourage its other departments to increase research productivity so as to keep the trophy within the faculty.



Prof Gregory Kamwendo, the Faculty of Arts Dean, receives the first prize for the Research Department of the Year Award for the Department of Politics and International Studies from Prof Jesika Singh, the guest speaker at the event.

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