

DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

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An interactive mural art installation, featured below, by Wesley van Eeden, messaging the social drivers of HIV. This original piece was created for the SA Voices HIV Museum Project.



Message from the Executive Director

*Professor
Anesh Maniraj Singh*

It gives me great pleasure to pen my first message for the Development Brief. The past four months have been very challenging as I have been involved in making my transition from being a career academic to being a fundraiser. However, I have settled into my role and have been very inspired by the generosity of well-wishers and donors who recognise the need to support the University, thereby making a contribution to nation building.

The appointment of Brendan Boyce as the Foundation Operations Manager has relieved me of some administrative duties allowing me to concentrate on relationship building and fundraising which are core to the functioning of the Foundation.

The Foundation team has been busy in the past four months during which time a number of initiatives have been launched and new engagements have been embarked on, some of which are covered in the articles contained in this issue. The development team have a number of interesting projects which they have been working on to raise funds. I personally have visited a number of old business friends, visited new prospective donors and I have spoken at *alumni* events, including gatherings in Swaziland and London, where I encouraged those attending to 'give the gift of knowledge'.

An *alumna* who has truly inspired us at the Foundation is Dr Albertinah Luthuli, committing herself to working as a Goodwill Ambassador to encourage other *alumni* and members of society to give generously to UKZN. When asked what she would say to donors, her humble response was: 'Give, give, give! Giving is good for society and giving is good for you.'

It would be remiss of me to end this message without acknowledging the guidance and assistance of Professor Jane Meyerowitz in ensuring my smooth transition into the life and the work of the Foundation. I also want to thank my team for their support in helping me acclimatise.

Thank you to all our current donors for enabling the activities of UKZN to 'inspire greatness'. To those of you considering donating to UKZN, I conclude with Dr Albertinah Luthuli's words 'Giving is good for society and giving is good for you.'

A People's Champion with a Passion for Student Support

Crowd funding is a strategy which fundraisers use to mobilise specific communities around current issues and projects. In an effort to challenge staff, students, *alumni* and stakeholders to mobilise to give back to the University, the UKZN Foundation registered with Back-a-Buddy, a crowd-funding platform for those who want to make a tangible difference and raise funds for disadvantaged students. All funds raised will be channelled via the UKZN Foundation to the Student Funding Centre to support underprivileged students.

Mr Mandlenkosi Mdhuli is a pioneer and people's champion in the eyes of the UKZN Foundation. Mdhuli stepped forward during the 2016 Comrades Marathon and dedicated his run to raising funds to go towards student fees. As a University that has various stakeholders, it is noted that there may be other heroes out there who would like to become a People's Champion with a passion for UKZN.

Anyone associated with any community, sporting code, academic discipline or interest can use crowd funding to challenge their peers, associates, friends or colleagues to get involved in specific causes.

If you or your community or network want to get involved in a crowdfunding challenge for UKZN please contact UKZN Foundation's Monde Mjebeza at e-mail: mjebezam@ukzn.ac.za.



Mr Mandlenkosi Mdhuli challenges his peers to support financially disadvantaged students

Taking Science Education to All Parts of KwaZulu-Natal

On a clear winter's morning UKZN Science Centre Co-ordinator Dr Tanja Reinhardt (aka 'Dr T') loaded up her Embassy of Japan-sponsored mobile science lab, Science4U, and headed for the hills – to be precise, the grounds of Sithokozile Secondary School in KwaDabeka.

She joined forces with the Centre for the Advancement of Mathematics and Science Education (CASME), Engineering firm Mahle Behr SA and East Coast Radio for a fun morning of Science and Engineering.

In keeping with Women's Month, the aim of the outing was to increase the participation of young women in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

An enthusiastic group of learners were at the school to join in the activities which included building radiators, launching rockets, a special science-themed East Coast Radio Grand Challenge, and a much anticipated science show from the renowned 'Dr T'.

Learners at the school and East Coast Radio listeners heard UKZN post-doctoral scientist Dr Adriana Marais, share her passion for science and her determination to travel to Mars. She is one of the 100 remaining candidates for the planned 2027 Mars One Mission.

'It is vital for school pupils to learn more about subject choices at an early age, and be exposed to post-school study opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics,' said Dr Reinhardt. 'We are also very grateful to the Embassy of Japan for their generous funding of this mobile science lab which has allowed UKZN to take maths and science into these schools and communities.'



Dr Tanya Reinhardt and a student volunteer

Museum of HIV Memory and Learning: A South African Success Story

It was a first for South Africa, when info4africa – a self-funded Centre of Excellence in the College of Humanities – launched the South African Voices (SAV) HIV Memory and Learning Museum Project that is supported by eThekweni Municipality and Avacarehealth.

Avacarehealth, a multi-national pharmaceutical company with a growing footprint in Africa, hosted a launch event for their senior staff and health care associates at South African Voices on 18 July this year. A team from Avacarehealth supported the entire process to ensure the project was completed in time for the 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS2016) in Durban.

Avacarehealth Group CEO, Dr Vikram Naik, was delighted with the result, declaring it 'far beyond his wildest expectations'. A glance at the Visitors Book provides an indication of the quality and depth of the SAV exhibition. It is clear that the team has been able to create a moving and sensitive memorial that contributes to a more holistic narrative of HIV in South Africa.

The SA Voices HIV Museum is located within the historically significant KwaMuhle Museum's KwaZinithi Gallery – the largest gallery space in the eThekweni-owned museum in Durban. The exhibition runs until the end of December 2017 during which time the SA Voices team will work with Avacarehealth and the eThekweni Municipality to institutionalise and expand the project's footprint.

SAV Project Manager, Ms Debbie Heustice, remarked: 'The HIV Museum Project was an official South African legacy project of the 21st International



AIDS Conference which we launched on 11 July, 2016 – just a week before AIDS2016. Bringing to fruition the SA Voices HIV Museum Project was a mammoth task and would not have been possible without the incredible support of our partners and funders and the many content providers who invested their expertise and energy in this project. This is a truly South African HIV community effort!

The museum is a culmination of more than 70 stakeholder consultations, collaboration with about 85 diverse content providers and 9 000 hours of research and design. Significant content providers include HIV Champions such as Gail and the late Nkosi Johnson; Justice Edwin Cameron; Oziel Mdletshe; Musa Njoko; Mandisa Dlamini and the Gugu Dlamini Foundation; David Patient & Neil Orr; Treatment Action Campaign Section27; AIDS Law Project; CAPRISA; SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC); MatCH; HSRC; CHIVA South Africa; TB HIV Care and THINK TB Trials Network; Professor Hoosen (Jerry) Coovadia and Professor Anna Coutsooudis; Dr Mike Bennish of Mpilonhle; Dr Irwin Friedman of SEED Trust; info4africa; Higher Education South Africa AIDS Programme (HEAIDS); the Office of the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, the National Department of Health and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

Curator Bren Brophy and Project Manager Debbie Heustice have ensured the collection includes a vibrant mix of art and photography. Featured are photographs by Angela Buckland, Giselle Wulfsohn and Harry Lock; an installation on the subject of sexuality and loss of virginity by Skullboy; ME boxes and Hero Books facilitated in community workshops by MADaboutArt; memorial quilts; sex worker body maps from SWEAT; and an interactive mural art installation by Wesley van Eeden messaging the social drivers of HIV (see cover photo). Also featured is a collection of exquisite, archival artworks drawn from the Durban Art Gallery's permanent collection. The artworks reflect isiZulu traditional technologies of crafting and art making and their role in messaging awareness around the HIV pandemic.

SA Voices is a space where young South Africans, community activists and the public can mingle, discuss, learn and ask questions that might seem difficult in other settings. It's a warm, safe space to learn and raise voices about HIV, TB and the complex social drivers of the pandemic.

Uzzi Mpumgose, Youth Liaison and Educational Officer at SA Voices, says: Several of the youth team who volunteered in the SAV space during AIDS2016 continue to pop back into the SAV exhibition space to refresh their



Avacarehealth CEO, Dr Vikram Naik and Mr Ganas Gulabram (Director, Suprahealthcare) – with SA Voices Project Manager Debbie Heustice and Curator Bren Brophy

knowledge about HIV. 'Youth peer educators have found this a very useful way to ensure they are passing on the right information to communities. In addition, secondary schools are visiting the Museum from all over the country which is exactly what SAV hoped to achieve. On some days up to five schools visit.'

The South African Voices HIV Museum Project is open from 08.30 to 16.00 during the week and from 09.00 to 12.30 on Saturdays. Well-informed members of SAVY Youth are at the Museum daily to assist visitors to the free entrance exhibition.

School groups are welcome and guided tours are available on a daily basis. To find out more about SA Voices contact Project Director, Debbie Heustice on phone: 071 624 2255 or at SAVoices@info4africa.org.za



KwaMuhle Museum



Prof Albert Modi talks to learners from Swayimane

Local Farmers to Adapt to Climate Change

In October last year the University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation (UKZN-F) and the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences (UKZN-SAEES) entered into a tripartite agreement with the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the uMgungundlovu District Municipality (uMDM) to partner on the uMngeni Resilience Project (URP).

The URP which is funded by the Adaptation Fund to the value of US\$7.49 million is managed by SANBI which acts as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) and the uMDM, the Executing Entity (EE).

UKZN-F and UKZN-SAEES have partnered with SANBI and uMDM to deliver on selected components of the overall URP. The combined value of projects allocated to UKZN is US\$1 617 143 over the next five years. The project is led by Professor Albert Thembinkosi Modi, who is Dean and Head of the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences and who has a long track record of community engagement aligned projects.

This ground-breaking project involves UKZN-SAEES working with farmers in Swayimane, Vulindlela and Nhlazuka to help them adapt to climate change through a range of climate smart agriculture interventions. The URP will also see UKZN-SAEES pioneer a ward-based agrometeorological early warning system that

will enable farmers in Swayimane to assess seasonal weather forecasts as well as help them to adapt to climate change.

In the first year, UKZN-SAEES has made exciting progress towards achieving these goals. At project inception, UKZN-SAEES was working with 17 farmers in Swayimane with the aim for the first year being to increase this number to 50. However, the project has far exceeded its grassroots impact by reaching 126 farmers in the first year! At a recent meeting farmers gave testimonies of increased income earned as a direct result of support received from the URP. For example, one farmer earned enough money to put a ceiling on his house and also buy potato seed for the upcoming season. This project has also succeeded in engaging youth interested in agriculture. About 15 youths recently formed an organisation known as Simunye Youth Initiative in Swayimane and are participating in the URP after seeing their parents also involved.

Other successes include hosting an international stakeholder workshop at UKZN in March on using seasonal weather forecasts to adapt to climate change. The workshop was a success and attracted participants from various institutions in South Africa and abroad. This was followed-up by another workshop in May with learners at Swayimane High to introduce them to climate change. The workshop proved to be exciting with learners reporting that they had learned a lot about climate change and how they could play a part in helping their communities adapt to climate change. Another success was the hosting of a visiting student from Lund University in Sweden who participated in baseline surveys at Swayimane.

UKZN project leader Professor Modi said: 'We'd like to take the lessons from here to other parts of the province and the country to build capacity and facilitate replication. We will work closely with KZN DARD to make what has been developed become mainstream practice.'

Goodwill Ambassadors Programme Launch at UKZN Foundation

A group of senior graduates, pictured below, re-connected with their *alma mater* and fellow graduates at a lunch hosted by the UKZN Foundation.

Newly-appointed Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation, Professor Anesh Maniraj Singh, addressed the group of retired graduates in a vibrant information sharing session during which the purpose and function of the Goodwill Ambassadors Programme was explained. 'Goodwill Ambassadors are needed to extend the reach of both the UKZN Foundation and the University of KwaZulu-Natal to a far wider audience,' said Singh. Developing networks of retired *alumni*, reassuring senior *alumni* of the work being done at UKZN and encouraging senior *alumni* to contribute to the work of the Foundation, would form part of the Goodwill strategy.

Singh invited this initial group of senior graduates to become the core Goodwill Ambassadors by espousing goodwill on behalf of the university through their own networks and personal interactions with others thereby generating a more positive base of support for the institution and its activities.

Promoting UKZN's ongoing innovations, developments and achievements, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, updated the group of senior graduates on the latest developments taking place at the university and concluded his address by endorsing the Goodwill Ambassadors Programme initiated by the UKZN Foundation. The group of graduates enjoyed the opportunity to meet and engage with the Vice-Chancellor.

The event ended on a high note with retired, yet still very active graduates, willing to partner with the University on this excellent initiative driven by the UKZN Foundation. Social activist and graduate of the university, Ms Ela Gandhi, looked forward to the follow up progress from this initial meeting saying: 'I think it was a good initiative and hope we will be able to help take the University to a higher level.'

Retired Deputy Rector of the former Edgewood College, Dr Alexander Coutts, echoed a similar sentiment stating 'by placing the UKZN more consciously at the centre of one's thinking and infusing one's mind-set with positive highlighted elements of all things UKZN ... we can only soar to higher heights!'

Dr Albertinah Luthuli summarised the ethos of the Goodwill Ambassadors when she commented, 'If you are in a better position to help then you should. The need is great but the current infrastructure is so limited. Help us to service this great demand for quality education. Only by giving can we unite to service this big need. Giving is good for society and giving is good for you.'



Sixth Annual Food and Nutrition Fair

Farmer Support Group (FSG) and local community women hosted the sixth annual food and nutrition fair, themed: From Seed to Plate – Kusuka Embewini Kugcine Epleytini, on 20 July, 2016 at Nhlesi, Msinga.

Most communal areas in South Africa face the challenge of severe land degradation, unemployment and low household income. The predicament of rural people is further compounded by the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and its impact on livelihoods and Msinga is no exception.

FSG and members of the community have been engaged in various agricultural and non-agricultural projects in the Msinga municipality since 2004 to combat the problems facing the local community. FSG provides smallholder farmers with training and advice ranging from organic and indigenous gardening to crafting. FSG aims to assist these smallholder farmers and other land-users to actively manage their natural and related

cultural resources in a sustainable manner in order to improve their livelihoods and quality of life.

In 2011, FSG and farmers established a Food and Nutrition Fair to encourage the groups in Msinga to learn and reflect on their accomplishments on an annual basis. The fair does not only bring together farmers to share and exchange ideas, but farmers also showcase and market their produce and are linked to relevant stakeholders. The fair also provides a platform for farmer-to-farmer exchange within and between districts. Women dress in their traditional attire and perform local entertainment to give a flair to the occasion.

This year's Fair was very successful and in line with the theme, the event highlighted the importance of household food production, and the journey of starting with planting a seed and caring for it until it reaches maturity. The theme expanded on farmers' indigenous knowledge on seed saving combined with technical knowledge acquired through training on seedling production.

The event was attended by about 250 guests comprising farmers and local community members from around Msinga; Bergville farmers; UKZN staff members from different disciplines; representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (KZN DARD); staff of the University of Zululand, and local leadership, including the ward councillor.

KZNDARD Extension Officer, Ms Phumelele Khanyile, said she was pleased with the growth in farming operations, adding that the department would be like to see the focus changing to goat farming because the area is dry. She also encouraged the one-home one-garden initiative and the use of grey water for irrigation.

The event included a visit to the Nhlesi community's vegetable garden, which is alongside the Mooi River. Inputs for irrigation and plating supplied by FSG and the Department of Social Development enabled farmers to produce crops despite the severe drought. The group of 30 farmers grows crops including spinach, spring onions, beetroot and tomatoes.

Crops are grown organically without using fertilisers or chemicals. The farmers also use inter-cropping and companion planting methods to



Food products on show at the Sixth Annual Food and Nutrition Fair



Nokubonga with Nhlesi group members during the garden visit

control pests. Despite the abundant and healthy crops produced, and the fact that the farmers grow crops year-round, market access remains a challenge for the rural farmers. Nevertheless, the profit from the crops allows members to fend for their households and send children to school.

Farmers, who praise FSG for its assistance, have been able to work with unemployed youth, teaching them the value of agriculture.

During the event farmers had the opportunity to share their farming techniques and methods with Bergville farmers, including saving of seeds, minimum tillage and encouraging the consumption of organic food.

At the conclusion of the event, FSG Director Dr Maxwell Mudhara, thanked those who attended and noted that while the group had struggled previously, it had managed to overcome challenges. Mudhara raised the issue of climate change, emphasising the importance of exploring options which make farmers more resilient.

Referring to the day's theme, he encouraged farmers to continue to explore how to grow their own seedlings rather than buying them and emphasised the importance of being conscious of the food they ate, in terms of chemicals. He also mentioned that there was a need to find alternative ways to sell surplus produce.

After all the presentations and discussions, there was an opportunity to buy and sell produce. Farmers sold organic vegetables and crafts.

***“What we do affects
others. Making a
positive difference
starts with people
helping people.”***

– John F Kennedy



Inaugural Ukulinga Howard Davis Memorial Symposium

UKZN's College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science (CAES) hosted the Ukulinga Howard Davis Memorial Symposium at the Institution's Ukulinga Research Farm in Pietermaritzburg. The multi-level research and information-sharing symposium highlighted agriculture for life and the future, exploring sustainability through research, agribusiness and community outreach. The symposium is an initiative of the Howard Davis Farm Trust and the UKZN Foundation to continue the relationship between the Trust in Jersey and UKZN. The Trust was founded by Durban-based British businessman TB Davis whose son Howard was killed in the Battle of the Somme in 1916 during World War 1.

Honouring the memory of Howard Davis, the Ukulinga Howard Davis Memorial Symposium links the Ukulinga Research Farm to the Howard Davis Farm in Jersey bought by TB Davis in 1927. M. Roderick Stevens of the Howard Davis Farm Trust said that then, as now, agriculture was under stress. The Trust was created to benefit those who needed it most, and those who were the custodians of the world's food security.

In his opening address, UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, said the symposium set out to explore the way science engaged with society. 'There's nothing better in science than someone discovering something astonishing and I hope something astonishing will come out of this event,' said van Jaarsveld.

A major theme was that of climate and agriculture, with keynote speakers including eminent hydrologist and climate expert, Professor Emeritus Roland Schulze of UKZN, and Professor Richard Eckard, Director of the Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre in Australia.

US Consul General Ms Frances Chisholm gave an optimistic keynote presentation focusing on the development of the relationship in agriculture between the United States and South Africa. 'South Africa has a wonderful future, with considerable support from the US,' said Chisholm.

Presentations ranged from perspectives on how to respond to climate change in the agricultural sector, to history about Ukulinga's world-

class research in various disciplines. Talks were also given on biofuel crops, maize breeding projects, sustainable agriculture, and catchment management.

There were presentations from Kwanalu's CEO Ms Sandy la Marque, Ms Janet Lee of the KwaZulu-Natal Poultry Institute (KZNPI), and Bio-Watch South Africa managers. Field demonstrations included UKZN's Animal Science Steer Project and a demonstration of a tiller from Stihl.

Participants were from various sectors, with more than 90 small-scale farmers working with UKZN's Farmer Support Group and engaging with academics, students and industry representatives.

Post-graduate presenter Ms Nomali Ngobese said she felt honoured to be included in the Symposium and excited about scientific advances reaching those they were intended for.

In closing, Acting Vice-Chancellor of Research, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, said for scientific research to advance, new knowledge needed to be generated in the kinds of forums the Symposium was offering. The Howard Davis Farm Trust has very generously committed to support this Ukulinga Symposium for 2017 and the organising committee has already started planning for another successful Symposium next year.

UKZN Foundation Making a Difference for Mandela Day

While many people in South Africa do not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, for many others it is sadly a daily concern. As part of its contribution to '67 minutes of doing something for the community', the UKZN Foundation, the *Alumni* Office and the UKZN Vice-Chancellor, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, supported the initiative to make a difference to 150 lives in the Cato Manor Informal Settlement below the Howard College Campus of UKZN.

The UKZN Foundation team handed out about 150 bunny chows and cold drinks to local



Dr Van Jaarsveld and Prof Singh together with youth from the Cato Manor Settlement

residents. 'Mandela inspired, we wanted to make a difference in our local community by providing a warm meal to the less fortunate in one of the neighbouring informal settlements,' said van Jaarsveld.

The Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation Professor Anesh Singh commented: 'This was our way of making a small difference to people's lives by giving back to the less privileged, many of whom had probably not had a warm meal that day.'

Alumni from Swaziland Give Back to UKZN

A group of 51 *alumni* from all over Swaziland met on 23 July, 2016 for a lunch and information sharing presentation at The George Hotel in Manzini.

The group enjoyed meeting each other, swapping stories about their University experiences and exchanging contact details. *Alumni* included agriculturalists, teachers, lecturers, lawyers and medical practitioners.

Graduates were welcomed by the Director of University Relations, Ms Normah Zondo, who also introduced guest speakers President

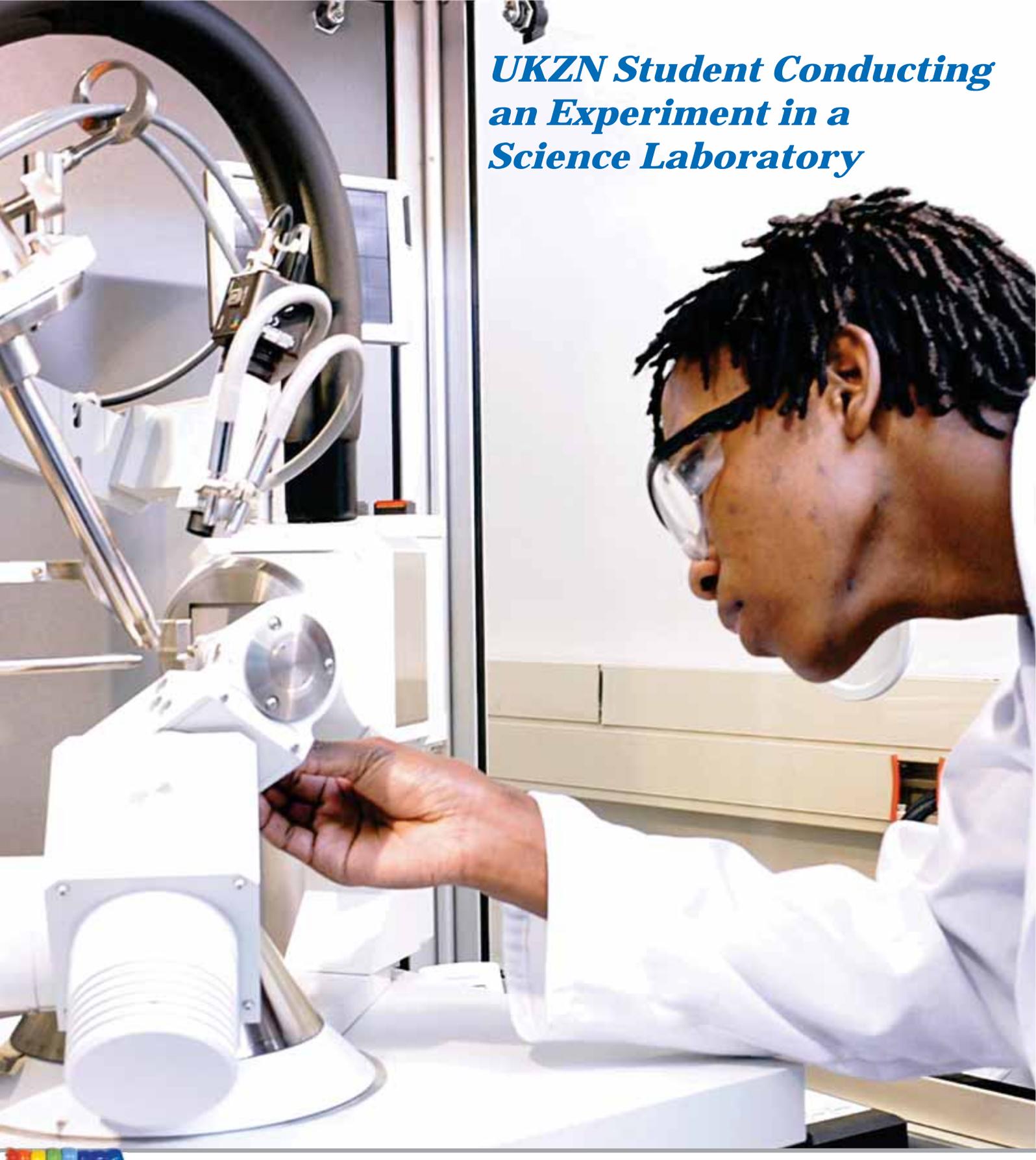
of Convocation, Mr Fanle Sibisi, and Executive Director of the UKZN Foundation, Professor Anesh Singh.

Both Sibisi and Professor Singh encouraged the participants to 'give back' to their *alma mater* and a number did just that through completing the 'pledge forms' in the information packages given out at the event.

Professor Singh gave a comprehensive overview on the current developments at the University as well as information on student numbers, current ranking and research productivity. Questions posed to the speakers included many regarding registration and funding procedures for international students as several *alumni* were interested in starting post-graduate studies at UKZN. Those in attendance asked the *Alumni* Relations Office to co-ordinate a similar event in the not too distant future.



UKZN Student Conducting an Experiment in a Science Laboratory



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