



# UNIVERSITY OF *Swaziland* **INSIDER**

Issue #1



Chancellor's Speech

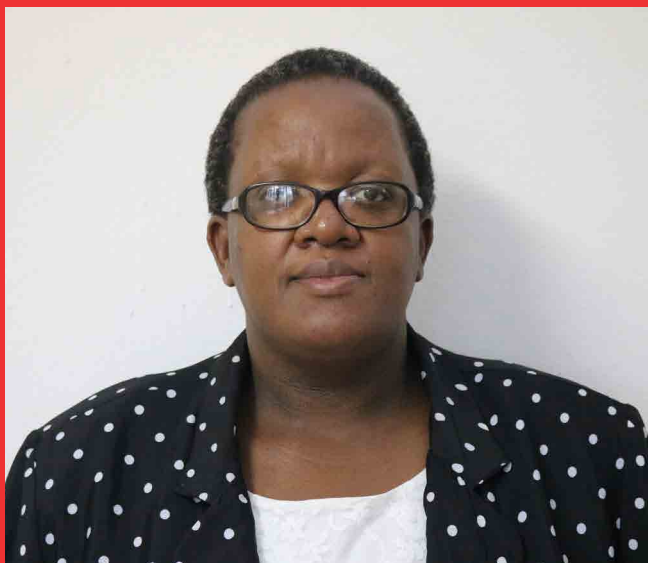
Intellectual Property  
Roving Seminar

Geomorphologists International  
Conference





# EDITOR'S NOTE



*The University of Swaziland Senate signing the National Anthem during the 37th Graduation Ceremony on 7th October 2017*



*Faculty of Health Sciences' Nursing Year 4 students and Staff posing for a picture with St. Joseph's Teachers*



*The Director CTC, Ms E. Dlamini, with Ms. E Fakudze receiving the 3rd place prize from Minister for Commerce Industry & Trade at the Trade Fair Hon. J. Mabuza.*

We wish to welcome our readers to the new and trendy version of our newsletter. We will now produce the newsletter bi-monthly via the web. We hope our readers will enjoy this new version which will bring UNISWA News to you sooner than we have been doing. You are invited to submit information on upcoming events, staff news such as presentations made at conferences, workshops and public lectures, articles on you area of specialisation, research and community service news. Please email to [corporate-affairs@uniswa.sz](mailto:corporate-affairs@uniswa.sz)

Hope you enjoy your read!

Qinsile Matse

## QZ

# In This Issue



## 2017 Southern African Association of Geomorphologists International Conference

**PAGE 13**

# Content Page

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Chancellor's Speech (Graduation).....        | p. 1  |
| Vice Chancellor's Speech (Graduation)....    | p. 4  |
| Graduation Highlights.....                   | p. 9  |
| Signing of MoU between<br>UNISWA & SPTC..... | p. 11 |
| Staff with new qualifications.....           | p. 16 |
| Intellectual Property Seminar.....           | p. 17 |
| Biodiversity.....                            | p. 21 |



## Chancellor's Speech

There is no denying the pride that unites us all here today at this 37th Graduation Ceremony of the University of eSwatini.

A warm welcome is extended to all families, friends and associates gathered here to witness a culmination of the focus, discipline and hard work of 1444 graduands, which shows an increase of 157 from last year.

The 381 Certificates and Diplomas, 1014 degrees and 49 Masters to be conferred today, place the recipients on a pedestal of opportunity to make a difference in their lives, that of their country and the global community.

We congratulate you all for this remarkable achievement, as well to those who contributed to your success – for believing that an investment in education yields the greatest dividends.

### EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Many of those who supported you throughout your academic journey

have walked the corridors of this very same institution over its 46 year history.

They may be part of the 194 students who first enrolled here under the guidance of 14 Academic and 4 Administrative staff in 1972 or part of the part of the 6 959 students, 323 Academic and 81 Administrative staff that serve this institution today.

We note with appreciation how the University has endeavoured to equip all of you by responding to the skills requirements of the public and the private sectors through the establishment of new faculties and institutes.

These efforts have produced astute captains of commerce and industry whose contribution towards national development is positioning the Kingdom for the first world status by 2022.

### FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE KINGDOM

One of the most significant contributions made by the products of

this University is heeding to the national call for the private sector to prioritise education and support Government in investing in higher education.

We recognise the transformational agenda by the University to sustain itself by setting up a holding company to invest in various sectors of our economy. These efforts complement those of the UNISWA Foundation that has now reached out to the global community for support.



*Masters Students taking photographs at the branded photobooth during the 2017 Graduation Ceremony*



The success of these initiatives should help the institution fulfil, among other goals, to double enrolment by 2021 through extensive use of information communications and technology.

The development of the SADC University of transformation, to which UNISWA is encouraged to contribute towards its establishment, will further enhance access to tertiary education.

These objectives are a key ingredient in alleviating unemployment, poverty, establishment of new businesses through self-employment, and increased productivity in the workplace.

It is for this reason that we reiterate the call to both the public and private sectors to engage in sustainable mechanisms for financing higher education in the country. This will ensure that human capital deployed in agriculture, industry and services is of high quality.

#### **KEYS TO QUALITY EDUCATION**

It has to be emphasized, however, that the success of these initiatives lies in the collaboration of all the stakeholders. Money and infrastructure alone cannot produce the highly skilled citizens we require.

This calls for close calls for close cooperation between the students, lecturers, administration, Government and sponsors of the University to ensure that a conducive

environment prevails for effective learning to take place.

It is saddening to note how the absence of tolerance and perseverance are affecting the quality of knowledge and skill that students are expected to have acquired in the precious time allocated to successfully complete their certificates, diplomas and degrees.

We encourage unity of mind and purpose among staff and students in ensuring high quality education. This will improve the employability of graduates and enhance their technical and managerial abilities in the workplace.

Let us inculcate a culture of teamwork that is characterised by continuous dialogue for peaceful,

mutual and speedy outcomes when addressing any challenges that threaten the desired progress for all.

#### **MESSAGE TO GRADUANDS**

To those of you who have come this far, we once again say well done. We look forward to your contribution to our development.

We urge you to explore job creation initiatives with the entrepreneurial skills that many of you have acquired at this institution.

The country has made efforts to tap into the innovation of its citizens through the establishment of the Science and Technology Parks.



*The Chancellor, His Majesty King Mswati III exchanging pleasantries with the Chairman of Council, HRH Prince Phinda and the Vice Chancellor Prof. C. M. Magagula*



Look into using the funding mechanisms at your disposal productively. We are at a crucial time where our economy yearns for more innovation and creativity for job creation.

We believe that you are the generation to provide this economic transformation because education creates men and women who are capable of doing new things.

## CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, may I conclude by thanking all of those responsible for the success of this event with all its activities. Your gifts are also well appreciated.

I thank you. May the Almighty God bless us all!

*His Majesty, King Mswati III  
The Chancellor of The  
University of Swaziland*







## Vice-Chancellor's Speech

On behalf of the University Council, the Senate, the University Community and on my own behalf, I have the honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 37th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Swaziland. Graduation is a special day to the University community because it is where, Your Majesty and Chancellor, you join us in this congregation to award certificates, diplomas and degrees to our graduands who have successfully completed their academic programmes.

On behalf of the Council, the Senate and University Community, I would like to congratulate you, Your Majesty and Chancellor, for successfully leading the SADC Community for the whole year and setting the standards high for the region as a Chairperson. I am sure, your Majesty and Chancellor, that you left a huge challenge for the next SADC Chairperson, His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, we would like to congratulate you for being a visionary leader on the fight against Malaria. The Kingdom of ESwatini has become a point of reference for other African countries fighting the battle against Malaria.

Last but not least, last but not least, the University would like to sincerely thank you, Your Majesty and Chancellor, for the introduction of the National Qualification Authority (NQA) and Swaziland Higher Education Council (SHEC). Since it started its operations, we have seen commendable results assuring us that the quality of higher education in

this Kingdom of Eswat will indeed improve in leaps and bounds.

Such developments will ensure that resources are channelled to institutions with credible foundations of higher education. This will, in turn, lead to high quality of human capital, research, innovation, transformation and sustainable development of the country and the world at large.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, I would like to extend a special welcome to the parents, guardians, relatives, spouses and friends of the graduands who have come to witness their sons, daughters and spouses receive their certificates, diplomas and degrees.

I am aware of the many sacrifices that they have made to ensure that their sons, daughters and spouses reach this stage. The greatest wealth that parents can give to their children is education. Education is the key to successful life and sustainable national development.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome and congratulate Her Royal Highness, Inkhosikati Make LaMatsebula, for successfully completing her Master's Degree in History. The University of Swaziland has been highly honoured, Your Royal Highness, for having her as our revered student.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the graduands who will be conferred



with certificates, diplomas, undergraduate, and postgraduate degrees. I am aware that if the fact that you begin this new chapter in your life, you will face many challenges. Some of the challenges would initially seem insurmountable. This should not surprise you because life, after all, is a journey full of challenges.

today to be a member of the UNISWA Alumni Association. We need your contribution.

This year, Your Majesty and Chancellor, the University is graduating a total of 1,444 graduands compared to last year's figure of 1,287 graduands. This is an increase of 157 from last year's graduands.



But I believe that with the knowledge, skills and attitude that you have acquired in this University, you will be able to overcome these challenges. I pray that the Almighty God make your dreams come true. As of today you are a member of the UNISWA Alumni Association and make sure that you fill up the Alumni Forms for membership.

The purpose of the Alumni Association is to raise funds for the development of the University of Swaziland. UNISWA is your alma matter, not by favour, but by choice. So please make sure you register

Of this number 381 are Certificates and Diplomas graduates, 1,014 are undergraduates, and 49 are masters' graduates.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, the University of Swaziland continues to expand its network and linkages in order to promote quality of teaching, research, and community engagement. To date the University has entered into a total of 191 entered into Memoranda of Understanding with other universities for staff and students exchange, collaborative teaching, research and community engagement.





Your Majesty and Chancellor, it is very important for us to acknowledge the tremendous support the University has enjoyed from His Majesty's Government through the subvention and scholarships. This has enabled the University to develop its physical infrastructure, purchase teaching and learning equipment and material, and attract a high calibre of professors anywhere in the world.

However, Your Majesty and Chancellor, Swaziland's economic growth is driven by external factors. Some of these factors are common to small member states in the South African Customs Union. Others are an outcome of trends in the global economy.

Since the 1990s, Swaziland's economic performance has been dominated by negative external shocks that have translated to national budgetary constraints and institutional financial difficulties.

As a result, the University of Swaziland's funding levels have declined in real terms. This has adversely affected the operations of the University such as the ability to cover the costs of academic inputs, maintenance and repair of the physical plant and the financing of new capital projects.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Your Majesty and Chancellor, the University has remained steadfast and resolute in its rigorous pursuit of excellence in higher education by implementing its strategic plan. Paramount among these strategies is the establishment of a Holding company called Chakaza Ltd Pty.

The purpose of establishing Chakaza LTD PTY is to initiate and manage all business subsidiary enterprises and services of the University that have the potential to generate revenue for the University. It is anticipated that Chakaza Ltd Pty will further establish subsidiary companies with specific business objects.

Last year, Your Majesty and Chancellor, we reported about the establishment and registration of Chakaza Holding Company (PTY) Ltd. We also reported that we were in the process of appointing the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Office. Today I am pleased to report, Your Majesty and Chancellor, that the Board of Directors of Chakaza Company has been appointed. The Board of Directors has since appointed the Chief Executive Officer.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, last year we also reported that the University was planning to offer demand-driven credit and non-credit programmes and professional short courses on a commercial basis



*A visually impaired student being ushered to the podium. He graduated with a B. Engineering Degree.*



at a time convenient to clients to generate additional revenue for the University. I am pleased to report that the University, through Faculty of Commerce, is now offering a demand driven MBA programme on a commercial basis.

Following His Majesty and Chancellor's command that the University must take a lead in supporting the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP), I am pleased to report that the University continues to work very closely with RSTP to ensure that the command is effectively carried out.

I am happy to report that the University, through the Computer Science Department, is collaborating with RSTP to publish monthly ICT supplements in the print media. The objective of this platform is to create awareness in the country about the importance of ICT. Secondly, the Department of Computer Science is collaborating with RSTP and SIPA to host a National ICT FAIR on this Campus this month.

Lastly, Your Majesty and Chancellor, the Department of Computer Science, RSTP and the University of Essex will soon be setting up an Innovation Lab at the Innovation Park. This Lab will enable our students to have ICT classes and practicals. The Innovation Lab will also provide our students with an opportunity to interact with innovators, scientists, and mentors all over the world.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, the University continues to introduce new undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. This year the University has introduced the Master in Business Administration for (MBA) for professionals, the Master of Nursing Science, and the Bachelor of Community Health Nursing.

Last year, Your Majesty and Chancellor, we reported that the University was constructing two classrooms, one at Kwaluseni Campus and another one at the Mbabane Campus. I am happy to report that the University has completed the construction of classrooms



Each classroom has the capacity to seat about 600 students. As a result student enrolment has increased this year from 6,718 students to slightly over 7,0000 students.

Your Majesty and Chancellor, the University appreciates your unwavering support towards the UNISWA Foundation's fund-raising initiatives. Just last month, you graciously allowed the UNISWA Foundation to be part of your delegation to the United Nation General Assembly. The UNISWA Foundation was able to engage philanthropic support from friends and alumni of the Kingdom of Eswatini as well as establish contacts with fund-raising agencies.

Indeed, the UNISWA Foundation, Your Majesty and Chancellor, continues to augment University resources through its fundraising initiatives. The total funds raised in cash and in kind by the Foundation during the 2016/17 financial year amounted to E2,2 Million Emalangeni.



Of this amount, Your Majesty and Chancellor, E1.7 Million was used to rehabilitate the roads at Kwaluseni Campus. The main sponsors of this project included A.G. Thomas Construction, Inyatsi Construction, Afrisam Cement, MTN Swaziland, UNISWA Alumni Network, Friends of UNISWA, and the UNISWA Staff.

Furthermore, Your Majesty and Chancellor, the UNISWA Foundation raised E316 Thousand towards scholarships for economically disadvantaged students enrolled at UNISWA. The sponsors



of these scholarships included Swaziland Water Service Corporation (SWSC), Swaziland Royal Insurance Corporation (SRIC), the Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation, NEDBANK and Swaziland Building Society.

The University would like to express its gratitude towards the Board of Trustees for its hard work. Furthermore, the University would like to thank all of our local and international partners for making contributions to the UNISWA Foundation. Last but

but not least, Your Majesty and Chancellor, the University is pleased to note that the Foundation has appointed a new Chief Executive Office who will spearhead the Foundation.

I am pleased to report, Your Majesty and Chancellor, that the University has partnered with the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (SPTC) to re-establish the CISCO SYTEM Academy. The purpose of the Academy is to equip professionals in the public and private country with the latest ICT knowledge and skills.

The CISCO SYSTEM Academy is housed in the Department of Computer Science. The Department has already trained trainers, and will shortly be inviting applications from prospective students. I would like to thank SPTC for partnering with the University in re-establishing the CISCO System Academy.

The size of the internet bandwidth in the University is too small, Your Majesty and Chancellor, to accommodate the number of staff and students. I am pleased to report that the University is currently negotiating with SPTC to increase it from the current 50 mbps to atleast 200 mbps. This will enable the University to improve its research output, access databases, and use blended learning. I am optimistic that SPTC, as usual, will be smpathetic to our request.



*A prize-winning student receiving her prize from the Registrar, Dr. S.S. Simelane*

The academic staff continue to engage in research inspite of the lack of funding. They continue to pay from their own pockets to attend and present papers at national, regional and international workshops, seminars, and conferences. I am pleased to report, Your Majesty and Chancellor, that some of the research conducted by the academic staff has received recognition from other research organizations.

In conclusion, Your Majesty and Chancellor, I wish to note that today's graduation is yet another great milestone in the history of the University. We would have not achieved it without the full cooperation of the students, the commitment of the academic staff



*One of the top to students talking to the Senior Assistant Registrar Academics Ms. Z. Fakudze*



and support staff, the guidance of the University Senate and Council and your Wisdom, Your Majesty as the Chancellor.

Your majesty and Chancellor, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 37th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Swaziland.

**Bayethe Wena Waphakathi**

*Prof. C. M. Magagula*  
*Vice Chancellor*  
*University of Swaziland*

**OVER 1, 400  
STUDENTS GRADUATES**



On Saturday 7 October 2017, the University of Swaziland held its 37th Convocation at which 1,444 students graduated. The auspicious ceremony was officiated by the Chancellor of the University of Swaziland, His Majesty, King Mswati III.

Her Royal Highness, Inkhosikati LaMatsebula received a Master of Arts in History.

At this ceremony, 49 graduates received master's degrees in ten fields i.e. Master of Arts in History, Master of Education (Adult Education), Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching, Master of Education in Educational Foundation and Management, Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Master of Science in Agricultural Extension, Master of Science in Chemistry, Master of Science in Crop Science and Master of Science in Environmental Resource Management.

In additional 1014 graduands received conferred with various bachelors' degrees and 381 candidates were awarded certificates and diplomas.

**OVER 6000 PEOPLE ATTENDED  
THE 37<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION OF  
UNISWA**

The rains did not dampen the excitement that comes with the graduation ceremony each year. Over 6 000 people attended graduation and the mix included members of the Diplomatic Corps, Cabinet Ministers, Judges of the High Court of Swaziland, Members of Parliament, the private sector, UNISWA Staff and Students, parents, guardians and well wishers.



*Invited VIP Guests looking on during the Graduation Ceremony*



# 33 GRADUATES RECEIVED PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE



The private sector and the University sponsored prizes for outstanding students. Of the 30 prizes, the private sector sponsored 20 while UNISWA sponsored 10. Some of the companies that sponsored prizes included, Colonel Johnson, M.A. Consulting Engineers, MTN, NAMBoard, National Maize Corporation, PKF (Swaziland), Professor S.M. Guma Students, REDI, Roderick Ross, Swaziland Dairy Board, Swaziland Electricity Company, STANLIB (Swaziland), and Swaziland Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP).

The University is grateful for the philanthropic gesture from the sponsors.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS 2017

**Vice Chancellor's Prize:** 1. Mhlanga Nomvuyo P.  
2. Mhlabane Fezile S.  
*Awarded to the most outstanding student*

**Dean's Prize:**  
Agriculture Mhlanga Nomvuyo P.  
*Awarded to the best final year student*

Commerce Simelane Hlalisile  
*Awarded to the best final year student*

Consumer Sciences Thusi Cebile L.  
*Awarded to the best final year student*

Education 1. Dlodlu Lindokuhle  
2. Ngwenya Mfanufikile  
*Awarded to the best final year student*

Health Sciences Thwala Phetsile N.  
*Awarded to the best final year student*

Humanities Ndwandwe Thobile  
*Awarded to the best final year student*

Science & Engineering Mhlabane Fezile S.  
*Awarded to the best final year student*

Social Sciences Mdluli Teluleko L.  
*Awarded to the Best final year student*

**Director's Prize:** Mkhathshwa Gcinaphi  
*Awarded to the Best final year student*

Colonel Johnson Award: Mabuza Hleli S.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Agricultural Education*

**FNB Book Prize:** Gama Colani M.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Business Finance*

**KPMG Prize:** Gama Colani M.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Accounting*

**MA Consulting Engineers Prize:** Dlamini Lucky M.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Electrical and Electronic Engineering*

**MTN Marketing Prize:** Simelane Hlalisile  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Marketing*

**MTN Electronic Engineering Prize:** Mapfumo Irvine  
*Awarded to the best final year student Electronic Engineering*

**NAMBoard:** Shongwe Hloniphile  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Horticulture*

**National Maize Corporation:** Mhlanga Nomvuyo P.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management*

**National Maize Corporation:** Mthethwa Nontobeko  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Agronomy*

**PKF (Swaziland):** Gama Colani M.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Accounting and Finance*

**Prof. S.M. Guma Award:** Stewart Eunice W.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in African Languages*



**REDI:** Mnisi Nothando  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Management*

**Roderick Ross Prize:** Nkambule Khayaletu  
*Awarded to the Best student in Public Administration*

**Swaziland Dairy Board Prize:** Ndlangamandla Phumlani S.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Animal Science (Dairy)*

**SEC Computer Science Prize:** 1. Nyika Cynthia V.  
 2. Mavuso Chris N.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Computer Science*

**SEC Electrical and Electronic Engineering Prize:** Dlamini Lucky M.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Electrical Engineering*

**STANLIB (Swaziland):** Mdluli Teluleko L.  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Monetary Economics*

**Swaziland Development Finance Corporation (FINCORP) Prize:**  
 Agriculture Khumalo Bandile M.  
 Commerce Jwankie Tsidi N.  
 Science & Engineering Mapfumo Irvine  
*Awarded to the best final year student in Entrepreneurship*



*A student receiving her prize from the Registrar, Dr. S.S. Simelane, looking on is the Acting Registrar, Academics, Mrs. L.W. Nhlabatsi*

## THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND SIGNS AN MoU WITH SWAZILAND POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (SPTC)



*A group photo of the UNISWA and SPTC delegates who attended the UNISWA-SPTC MoU signing ceremony*

The University of Swaziland, (UNISWA) and the Swaziland Posts and telecommunications (SPTC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday 02 August 2017 at the New Wing, Kwaluseni Campus. The MoU anticipates fostering collaboration between the two Governments Parastatals in the area of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) through the ICT Academy which would be housed in the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science and Engineering. Before the signing of the MoU, senior official from both parastatals took a site tour of where the ICT Academy would be located, a computer laboratory which had a seating capacity of 30 students. Although the computer room had 30 monitors, it did not have proper and were not up to speed. It lacks air-conditioning and blinds. It was mentioned to SPTC that the plan was to hold classes for the students during the day and then hold evening classes for professionals working in the different telecommunications of Swaziland and beyond.



In response, SPTC noted that Cisco Systems had their own standards that need to be followed which they promised to adhere to. SPTC also impored the Department to think of which other courses they would run as the intention was to turn the ICT Academy to a centre of excellence which could also be used by the region.

During the signing



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Cisco Magagula officially welcomed the over 50 guests that had attended the ceremony. In his welcome address he mentioned that UNISWA and SPTC would sign a five year strategic and business partnership MoU. The purpose of the MoU was to launch an ICT Academy which would offer professional courses such as Cisco Systems to employees of the telecommunications industry.

In his address he also mentioned that the relationship between UNISWA and SPTC dated back to 2008 when SPTC pledged a monthly subsidy of E 32, 874.00 over a three-year period. The subsidy enabled UNISWA to increase its Internet connectivity from 256 Kbps to 512 Kbps. The subsidies gradually increased until 2009 when the Internet connectivity via SPTC was increased from 1,024 Kbps (1 Mbps) to 1,526 Kbps (1,5 Mbps). The Vice Chancellor noted the need for further negotiations with SPTC to increase UNISWA's bandwidth. He noted that the ICT Academy would not only be a

sound investment of SPTC but would also improve education in general and economic growth towards achieving His Majesty's vision 2022.



*The Vice Chancellor, Prof. C. M. Magagula and SPTC MD, Mr. Petros Dlamini exchanging the signed MoU documents*

The Managing Director of SPTC, Mr Petros Dlamini noted that the two parastatals have had a number of collaborations in the areas of training and development including supervisory management, customer excellence and the internship programme. He mentioned how their senior engineers who are themselves products of UNISWA teach on a part time basis and he singled out a lady engineer Ms Fulatsa Zwane who holds an M.Sc. in Engineering. He mentioned how employees were important in an organisation as they made things happen. He particularly thanked members of the Computer Science Department for the initiative, Dr Petros Mashwama, Dr Andile Metfula and the Dean Professor J.M. Thwala. He mentioned how creating a better world requires partnerships and collaborations. The Managing Director then pledged to offer UNISWA free WIFI. He mentioned that it is anticipated that the training of trainers would be done in September and the first intake of students be taken in October 2017.

Closing remarks were performed by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Mgidi Dlamini. He thanked SPTC for the partnership which dates back to the 80s and for taking UNISWA students for internship.



## THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING HOSTED THE 2017 SOUTHERN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Story by Dr. Sizwe Mabaso & Prof. Heinz Beckedahl

The University of Swaziland, through the Department of Geography, Environmental Science and Planning (GEP) and the Faculty of Science and Engineering, in collaboration with the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG), the Vetiver Network International (TVNI), and the Soil Erosion Focus Group of the Land Rehabilitation Society of Southern Africa (LaRSSA), hosted an international conference themed 'Southern African Geomorphology: Pure and Applied'. The conference also included a training course on the rehabilitation of soil erosion. The conference ran from the 25th to the 28th July 2017, at the Kwaluseni Campus of the University of Swaziland.

The Conference received positive support from stakeholders as demonstrated by the impressive level of participation. In total, there were 75 delegates (apart from dignitaries) attending the conference, with 11 posters and 40 papers being presented, in addition to the workshop on Soil Erosion and Rehabilitation. Altogether, 10 universities from

Southern Africa were represented in the conference, as well as eight government departments from South Africa and Swaziland. Apart from the above, there were also eight consultancy firms represented, together with many other delegates who attended in their private capacity. In addition to the formal sessions, the less formal events that took place facilitated networking; something that the GEP Department and UNISWA at large will benefit from in the future, as colleagues from Midlands State University in Zimbabwe, UNDP in both Swaziland and South Africa, Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA), and from the local Ministry of Agriculture expressed interest to work closely with the GEP department in the future. What was also of great significance was quality of presentations as almost a third were made by senior (postgraduate) students, in conjunction with their supervisors.

Preceding the conference was an opportunity for participants to participate in a four-days, three-nights pre-conference excursion, which started on the 22nd



July and finished on the 25th July 2017. The excursion had a focus on selected sites covering a range of geomorphic interests/research, starting from slope stability and erosion in the Drakensberg, to Mtunzini along the Kwazulu Natal coastal area (Figure 1) to consider environmental change, to land use issues in the Ulundi area, and entering Swaziland through Mahamba.



*The pre-conference field trip participants at one of the visited sites*

The delegates were welcomed to the University on the evening of the 25th July by the Vice Chancellor at the meet and greet function, sponsored by UNISWA, a gesture that was greatly appreciated.

The official opening ceremony took place on the 26th July, the first full day of the conference, and was graced by the presence of the Vice Chancellor and the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs. The honourable minister officially opened the conference.

This was followed by the conference keynote address, which was given by Prof. Kate Rowntree, who is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Geography at Rhodes University. Her talk focused on Geomorphology and ecosystem protection, which involves evaluation of stream catchments in the context of assessing the flow requirements through an understanding of the geomorphic setting. This is to ensure that there is enough stream flow provided to support the human needs on the one hand, while still providing for the continued support of the prevailing



*The Honourable Minister for Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr. Christopher Gamedze making his remarks.*

ecosystems.

After the opening ceremony, the SAAG membership also had a chance to hold its biennial general meeting, where issues on the association and its growth were deliberated. Moreover, elections for a new SAAG Council for the term 2017-2019 were held. Dr. Sizwe Mabaso (a member of the GEP Department, UNISWA) was among the new members that were elected onto Council for the next two years. The Erosion Rehabilitation Research Group was also established under SAAG, under the stewardship of Prof. Heinz Beckedahl (also a GEP Department staff member), with the intention to work closely with the Erosion Focus Group of LaRSSA.



*Prof. Kate Rowntree, who is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Geography at Rhodes University, giving her keynote address during the opening ceremony*



Hosting the conference has benefitted the GEP department and UNISWA, and has ultimately put the University in the regional and global map of geomorphologists.

Besides the exposure, there is a wealth of potential partnerships and links with other institutions and universities that the department is exploring. In addition, during the biennial general meeting, a member of local organizing committee, Dr. Sizwe Mabaso was elected into the SAAG Council for the 2017-2019 term. This too avails great opportunities for exchange with other institutions, something that would not have likely happened had UNISWA not hosted the conference.

Hydromulch, one of the key conference sponsors,

donated over 400 seedlings of vetiver grass to the GEP Department, which has enabled the department to establish a vetiver nursery plot. The department is indebted to the UNISWA Management once again for the provision of the plot where the nursery has been established. Its establishment and success will greatly contribute towards the Department's teaching, research, as well as community service through rehabilitation and erosion prevention work.

Besides the numerous support SAAG received from the University and the international partners in order to successfully host the conference, there was great support from local organisations too. The Vice Chancellor supported the conference by welcoming the delegates on the evening of the 25th through a Meet and Greet cocktail, to which the department is truly grateful for. Amongst other key sponsors was Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC), which was the main sponsor for the conference dinner that was held on the 26th. Swaziland Water Services



*Delegates assessing a gully at Ezulwini during the post conference field excursion*





Corporation was also kind to the Department as delegates were given permission to visit the treatment plant during the field excursion. MTN also contributed towards the success of the conference. Different sectors and government ministries also sent through delegates, which also went a long way in ensuring the success of the conference, especially through their participation. Furthermore, the local participants were very happy with the conference and training; the exposure and exchanges with other experts.



*The vetiver seedlings two months from planting*

The level of camaraderie, friendship and co-operation evident throughout the conference served as one of the highlights. The other was the support and interest in collaboration. As highlighted above, stemming from the conference is the likelihood of collaboration between Midlands State University, Zimbabwe and UNISWA. Collaboration will also take place between UNISWA, SNTC, the SEA and UNDP, to a greater extent than was already the case. UNDP (South Africa) and UNDP (Swaziland) have pledged to work together with SEA, SNTC and UNISWA in assessing the extent of land degradation in Swaziland. This will feed into the UNCCD initiative to determine member countries' Land Degradation Neutrality, thus limiting further deterioration of land quality.

## More photos from the Conference



## Staff with New Qualifications

1. Sotja G. Dlamini - PhD - Agricultural Economics Management
2. Ncamsile N. Dlamini - PhD - Library
3. Samuel V. Mhlanga - PhD - University Planning Centre



# Intellectual Property (IP)

## Roving Seminar for Academic and Public Research Institutions (PRIs), University of Swaziland

The Swaziland Institute for Research in Traditional Medicines, Medicinal and Indigenous Food Plants (SIRMIP) hosted an Intellectual Property (IP) Roving Seminar at Ligcabho LemaSwati Sport Emporium on the 28th and 29th August, 2017. The Seminar was funded by the African Regional Intellectual Property Office (ARIPO), and made possible with the permission and support of the University of Swaziland. The Seminar was mainly for the country's institutions whose Research and Development (R & D) activities are either publicly owned or operated or that depend to a large extent on government block funding. Such institutions fall into two main categories which are; universities and public research institutes (PRIs).

The African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO), formerly known as African Regional Industrial Property Organization, is an intergovernmental organization for cooperation among African states in industrial property and other intellectual

property matters. The African organisation was established in 1976 by the Lusaka Agreement, mainly to pool resources of its member countries in industrial property matters together in order to avoid duplication of financial and human resources. ARIPO has 19 member states which Swaziland is amongst those, and administers a number of legislations on IP, such as the Harare (Patents), Banjul (Trademarks), and Arusha (Plant varieties) Protocols. The organisation also features a protocol on the protection of traditional knowledge, the Swakopmund Protocol, signed in 2010 by nine member states (including Swaziland) of the organization. The latter, greatly touches on SIRMIP's work, hence the Institute's strong interest in IP matters.

### IP ROVING SEMINAR GUESTS

A total of 111 delegates (excluding dignitaries) attended the two-day seminar. These delegates were coming from the country's universities and





colleges, and public research institutions (PRIs). These included: University of Swaziland (host), Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU), Swaziland College of Technology (SCOT), Gwamile Vocational Training Institute, Manzini Industrial Training Centre (MITC), Royal Science and Technology Park, Department of Agricultural Research and Specialty Services from the Ministry of Agriculture, Siteki Industrial Training Centre, Nhlanguano Agricultural Skills Training Centre (NASTC), Ngwane Teachers College, among others. In addition to these academic and research institutes, the seminar was attended by traditional health practitioners (THPs) who are SIRMIP's major stakeholders.

her warm welcome to the UNISWA management, ARIPO delegates, Swaziland's IP office and to all attending personnel from various local institutions. She then introduced the Vice Chancellor of the University of Swaziland, Professor Cisco Magagula, to make his welcome remarks.

In his opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Cisco Magagula welcomed everyone attending the seminar, and passed his sincere gratitude to SIRMIP Director, Professor Priscilla S. Dlamini, for organising such an important seminar on Intellectual Property, and ARIPO for choosing the University of Swaziland to conduct the roving seminar, and financing it as well. He also thanked Mr. Stephen Magagu



*The Vice Chancellor, Prof. C.M. Magagula making his remarks during the seminar*

la, the Registrar of Intellectual Property Office in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade for facilitating this seminar between ARIPO and UNISWA. He referred to intellectual property as a hallmark of tertiary institutions, like UNISWA, throughout the world. He mentioned that the vision of the University of Swaziland is to be the University of Choice in Africa, with a mandate to produce highly knowledgeable and skilled human capital for the Swaziland and the global village. He emphasized that the bedrock (anchor) of the University of Swaziland's vision, core

The delegates, dignitaries and ARIPO consultancies were welcomed to the University of Swaziland through an Official Opening Ceremony in the morning of the first day of the seminar (28th August, 2017). The official opening of the seminar was graced by the University of Swaziland Senior Management, ARIPO Director General and Swaziland IP Registrar, among the dignitaries. The Programme Director for the official opening was Professor Priscilla S. Dlamini (Director, SIRMIP), who extended

functions and mission, is research, innovation, development, and entrepreneurship. He elaborated that the University encourages research, innovation, and development by forging links and partnerships with other institutions to promote collaboration on research. However, he cried foul that most of the research, development, and innovations from the African continent have been used elsewhere without acknowledgement, and millions, if not billions of dollars have been realized at our expense.



He urged all participants to take the deliberations from the seminar very seriously, as this workshop would help us understand the importance and the benefits of intellectual property,

and help us as well in mapping out a way forward with regards to developing our institutional IP policies, legal instruments, and units as well as incorporate IP in our curricula.

The VC of the University of Swaziland was followed by the Director General of ARIPO, Mr. Fernando dos Santos, who thanked the Government of Swaziland for her continued support for the growth of ARIPO. He passed his special tribute to the IP office Registrar General, Mr. Steven Magagula, and SIRMIP Director, Prof. Priscilla Dlamini, for making it possible for ARIPO to co-host such a seminar with the University of Swaziland. Mr. dos Santos also expressed his gratefulness to Professor Magagula for accepting to partner with ARIPO in organising such an important seminar. His remarks focused on efforts taken by ARIPO in imparting people with knowledge in IP matters, through holding of workshops and seminars. He mentioned that ARIPO has embarked

embarked on member states to conduct IP roving seminars for academic and public research institutions, as they have been found to be creators and custodians of intellectual property. He said the Kingdom of Swaziland was the third country in the entire Africa to host such a seminar through the University of Swaziland. He continued to say ARIPO has partnered with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the African University, in Zimbabwe, to offer a sponsored Master in Intellectual Property since 2008. He said to date the programme has produced 250 graduates from 25 countries across Africa, and at least two of them are from Swaziland. He encouraged more Swazi citizens to grab this opportunity for the Master's programme. Lastly, he urged all participants to take the seminar seriously.



*Mr. Fernando dos Santos (ARIPO DG) making his remarks*

The official opening ceremony was concluded by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade's



*Mr. Steven Magagula (IP Office Registrar) delivering the Minister's speech.*

speech which was delivered on his behalf by the IP Office Registrar, Mr. Steven Magagula. In his speech, the minister said the Kingdom of Swaziland attaches great importance in intellectual property rights protection. He said IP is no longer only academic but it has evolved into vehicle for stimulating economic growth by adding value, job creation and poverty alleviation. He highlighted that the Kingdom has rich history of cultural heritage and he urged all participants to come up with solutions on how this cultural heritage can also be added into the intellectual property systems. He expressed his hope that the workshop's outcome will assist the University to put up its policy on IP or even a unit as well as enhancing its courses on IP and develop its own spin off company for commercial gain to improve socio-economic status of the University. He informed the participants that there are four IP bills presently in parliament.



He assured that once these bills are enacted into laws, the creators of the respective innovations will be guaranteed a strong and effective IP protection. On behalf of His Majesty's government, he welcomed the Director General of ARIPO and his delegates to the Kingdom of Swaziland. He asked them to pay visit to some places of interest in the Kingdom. Lastly he thanked and passed sincere gratitude to ARIPO for financial support for this IP workshop. He described this as a clear testimony that the organisation is committed towards assisting member states in achieving economic growth.



*Mr. Outule Rapuleng (Head of ARIPO Academy) making his presentation*

The workshop was officially closed by the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Swaziland, Professor M.D. Dlamini. In his closing remarks, Professor Dlamini thanked the ARIPO Director General and his delegates for ensuring that the workshop was a great success. He expressed his



hope that all participants benefited from this seminar. He emphasized on the importance of IP, citing that research has to be taken to the market rather than being kept in the shelves. He mentioned that the University will continue to consult ARIPO to assist in distinguishing research that can be patented from that which cannot be patented. He asked for SIRMIP and UNISWA Research Centre to work together on the way forward from this workshop. Lastly, he appreciated the representation of the local different institutions and acknowledged their valuable contributions.

All participants were awarded with certificates of attendance, which were issued by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation in collaboration with the University of Swaziland.

The IP roving seminar was a major success. In terms of organisation, it was properly organised with of course a few areas of

improvements. The seminar greatly benefited the whole university in terms of IP awareness: available IP regimes, procedures for filing applications i.e. both national and international routes, and commercialization. It was an eye opener for many researchers on how much they are losing, and consequently how much the country's universities and PRIs lose from maintaining the old dogma of "Publish or Perish" instead of the new one "Innovate or Perish". The seminar also, helped researchers realise how much time and money they are wasting in doing basic research achieved through using "relatively old" and less industry oriented resources as opposed to using 'new' resources found in patent searches that would help them come up with inventions and innovations. Most importantly the seminar helped universities and PRIs come up with solutions that can help them generate their own revenues thereby improving their R&D activities.



# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

### DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

#### REPORT ON THE 2ND ANNUAL SWAZILAND BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH CONFERENCE (SBRC)

BY THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

At the previous Savannah Research Centre (SRC) Board Meeting which was held at Magadzavane (Mlawula) in 2016, the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Swaziland (represented by Prof. Ara Monadjem, Dr. T. Mahlaba and Prof. C. N. Magagula) was chosen to host the 2nd Swaziland Ecological Research Symposium (hereby called the Swaziland Biodiversity Research Conference, SBRC).

Dr. T. Mahlaba was appointed to be the convener of the organizing committee. Such conferences are to be held once every year. This year's conference was held in the Conference Room at Luyengo campus on the 25th of July 2017. The SBRC is a forum for Savannah Research Centre (UNISWA's Biological Sciences Department in partnership with UF & All Out Africa) to showcase completed and ongoing projects as well as for researchers working in Swaziland and abroad to report on their findings. With an emphasis on ecological monitoring and research projects conducted in association with the University of Florida and University of Swaziland, SRC's

vision is to be globally recognized as a leader in research and education for conservation and ecology in African Savannah's. The international delegates that attended the conference included the South African, European (British & Dutch) researchers, University of Florida (UF) staff as well as UF students under the IRES (International Research Experiences for Students) Programme. Swazi delegates included Biological Sciences staff and students participating in the IRES programme. Researchers working in Swaziland, especially in conservation ecology were also present, including Big Game Parks, All Out Africa and Mlawula Game Reserve personnel.

The theme for this year's conference was ***"Grooming young ecologists to study and protect Swaziland's ecosystems"***.

Swaziland is a small country (17 340 sq. km) with a large percentage of Southern Africa's plant and animal species. Ecosystems and biodiversity of the country are critical in the support of its population, in promoting ecotourism, in providing food as well as traditional medicine. Though the country's ecosystems and biodiversity are so important, they face a large number of threats, most of which originate from land use and habitat alteration. It should be noted that the database for Swaziland's biodiversity is not complete and there is great need for research on the country's ecosystems and biodiversity.





Conferences such as the SBRC are important platforms for biodiversity researchers to share research findings so as to chart future research direction, avoid duplication of conservation efforts, apply resources where they are most needed, 2

address the country's issues and help meet the country's obligations to international biodiversity agreements under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which the Kingdom of Swaziland acceded to on the 13th of June 2006.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE 2017 SBRC

The objectives of this year's biodiversity research conference were to:

- provide a forum for an international and interdisciplinary exchange of research ideas and findings in small and large mammal biology.
- explore diverse and innovative ways of translating research findings into scientific and social applications.
- create opportunities for networking on current research in conservation ecology and to provide opportunities for students (local & international) to interact and learn from experienced researchers

### PERCEIVED BENEFITS OF HOSTING SBRC

#### Benefits to the Biological Sciences Department

- Staff and students were afforded a chance to present their research findings in conservation ecology.
- The department's profile and image as a centre for excellence in the study of conservation ecology was definitely enhanced and shall continue to be improved as more such conferences are held in future.
- Research collaborations with top ecologists in the world are strengthened by hosting such conferences as SBRC.
- SBRC presents a potentially good platform for securing funding (bursaries and scholarships) for students in the Department of Biological Sciences.

#### Benefits to UNISWA

- The profile of the University is raised by hosting the 2017 SBRC.
- IRES programme is a potential avenue for enrolling foreign students at UNISWA.
- UNISWA is afforded a good chance to create national awareness on the need to conserve Swaziland's biodiversity.
- The MoU signed with the University of Florida is naturally strengthened.

#### Benefits to the country

- SBRC is a good forum for the country's ecologists and those involved in various aspects of research and applications in the field of ecology to present papers and network with scientists
- The foreign delegates may wish to explore and visit other parts of the country as tourist.
- Greater understanding of the management of the country's rich biodiversity is assured.
- Such conferences may go a long way in assisting the Kingdom to achieve its commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity to which it is a signatory.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor C.M. Magagula officially opened the conference. After that, an addendum to the UNISWA-UF MoU was signed by the Vice Chancellor, the UF and Biological Sciences representatives. This year's SBRC was a one-day conference which was attended by close to fifty (50) delegates. The delegates included senior research scientists and lecturers from University of Florida, University of Swaziland, personnel from Agriculture and Conservation (Big Game Parks and Mlawula Game Reserve). Over twenty presentations were given by researchers (students, lecturers and conservationists). Topics ranged from conservation of small and big mammals to vegetation and landscape ecology/dynamics as well as ornithology studies.

# University of Swaziland Mbabane Campus

