Transformation
UJ's transformative vision

Transformation office

Strategic thrusts

Mandela Day

Faculties transformation

Honorary Doctorate for Dawn Aung San Suu Kyi
contents

6 UJ’s transformative vision
8 Transformation office
10 Strategic thrusts
12 Mandela Day
16 Faculties transformation
27 Faculty news
37 Honorary Doctorate for Dawn Aung San Suu Kyi

UJ launches Science Centre in Soweto 39
Challenges in SA health system 40
Visual feature: Setups and upsets 45
UJ Arts and Culture 47
Sport achievements 50
95% online registration achieved 53
As we recently celebrated our second annual Diversity week at UJ, we thought it a good idea to dedicate this issue to transformation in all its forms and facets. Transformation is key to our new democracy, both to the country as a whole and to its communities. As one of these communities, UJ is committed to ensuring that transformation continues to take place on all levels of the institution.

For this issue we invited academic and support units to showcase projects which highlighted their dedication to transformation, diversity and community engagement. As you will see from the pages of this publication, each department and its employees and students are truly living the values of our university, using their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to make a difference where they can. It was also clear that it was not only needy communities which benefited from their efforts, but the UJ community itself; for it is definitely in giving that we receive.

On that note, it seems fitting that we wish everyone a festive season of generosity and goodwill, for we must remember that it is the actions of each individual that will ensure true transformation in our country.

Charmaine du Plessis
The University of Johannesburg has pursued a transformation agenda since its inception in 2005. Transformation at UJ is an ongoing, dynamic and qualitative process that enhances the development of knowledge for responsible citizenship.

The preamble to the new UJ Strategic Thrusts: 2011 - 2020 states the following:

UJ will, in the next decade, position itself as a modern African city university that is cosmopolitan in character and asserts academic freedom in the liberal, progressive and transformative values it espouses. It will provide education that is affordable and accessible, that is challenging, imaginative and innovative and that contributes to a just, responsible and sustainable society. It will offer a comprehensive range of excellent programmes and will cultivate students with integrity, who are knowledgeable, well-balanced, ethical and confident global citizens.

These strategic thrusts reflect the transformation priorities as identified by the higher education sector.

With the establishment of the Transformation Office on 1 January 2011, the appointed Transformation Steering Committee, under the guidance of Prof Derek van der Merwe (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Human Resources and Institutional Planning), developed the Institutional Transformation Plan (ITP) as its first priority. This plan has been reviewed by all University stakeholders and was approved by the UJ Council on 22 September 2011. The ITP will serve as a barometer to monitor and evaluate the progress of transformation at UJ.

Vice-Chancellor’s message on Transformation
Prof Ihron Rensburg

The University of Johannesburg has pursued a transformation agenda since its inception in 2005. Transformation at UJ is an ongoing, dynamic and qualitative process that enhances the development of knowledge for responsible citizenship.
Transformation is woven into the social, intellectual and structural fabric of the University of Johannesburg. It is in fact the Leitmotiv for its existence. The University was established as part of the realization of the transformation agenda of the national government. The government signaled its intent to achieve a large-scale transformation of the South African higher education system as early as 1997, with the publication of the Education White Paper 3: A Framework for the Transformation of Higher Education. In 2002 General Notice 855 (“Transformation and Restructuring: A New Institutional Landscape for Higher Education”) was published in the Government Gazette. This heralded a new higher education landscape characterized by the establishment of a number of new institutions, among which the University of Johannesburg. Such a new landscape was meant to “provide the foundation for establishing a higher education system that is consistent with the vision, values and principles of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society and which is responsive and contributes to the human resource and knowledge needs of South Africa” (Foreword to the General Notice).
The University of Johannesburg was officially established on 1 January 2005 and is therefore now in its seventh year of existence. Since its inception its character and identity has reflected the vibrancy and the social, ethnic and class diversity of the Johannesburg metropolis and its student profile mirrors the diverse society it serves. This diversity creates not insignificant challenges, both internal and external. It does, however, also provide many opportunities to establish in the institution a process of transformation that will result in positive and sustainable social change and the full embodiment of the democratic values of the Constitution, a state of affairs planned for by the architects of the national restructuring of higher education in the immediate post-1994 years.

The Council, Management and Senate of the University have pursued a transformation agenda since the establishment of the University and continue to do so. The University leadership, as the all-important drivers of a transformative institutional culture, is committed to leading the process (a commitment in fact reflected in the performance contract of each member of the Executive Leadership Group) and thereby to laying the foundations on which future generations of leaders can continue to build a diverse and democratic society. Transformation comes to naught, or is at best sporadic and fraught with contestation, if effective leadership to manage transformation is not constantly and consistently demonstrated.

Creativity and innovation are best nurtured within the institution when people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, perceptions, convictions and opinions engage in a spirit of mutual understanding and trust. Trust and understanding are earned, they cannot be imposed or assumed. This goes to the heart of the transformative enterprise. Once achieved and maintained, the result is a full realization of the potential inherent in the very diversity of the University’s academic, support and service staff profile and of its student profile, and the achievement of sustained excellence in the execution of its core functions.

In the Preamble to the recently approved UJ Strategic Thrusts: 2011-2020, the University proclaims itself to be “liberal, progressive, transformative and assertive of academic freedom in the values it espouses”. The strategic thrusts, and the accompanying key indicators for each of the thrusts, resonate with transformative intent. The MEC approved the establishment of a Transformation Office and a Transformation Steering Committee in 2010, and both became operative in early 2011. The Transformation Steering Committee is a sub-committee of the Management Executive Committee and, as its name indicates, steers the transformation agenda of the institution and provides guidance and support to the Transformation Office. The purpose of the Transformation Office is to facilitate, coordinate and support institutional activities in a manner that promotes institutional transformation and builds the capacity of line managers to manage and promote transformation.

What is “transformation”? A judge of the UJ Supreme Court once famously remarked, when seized with the problem of defining pornography, “I find it very difficult to define pornography, but I know it when I see it”. In similar vein, most of us would (and in fact, do) struggle to define transformation accurately and comprehensively, but most of us will recognize and understand issues of transformation, diversity and culture change in our working environments. When the Transformation Steering Committee met earlier in the year to prepare UJ’s Institutional Transformation Plan (ITP) it bravely ventured a working definition of transformation, since this is what the Plan demanded. After much deliberation the following definition was agreed upon: “Transformation at UJ is an ongoing, dynamic and qualitative process to enhance the development of knowledge for responsible citizenship”. This definition has now been included in the ITP recently approved by both Senate and Council.

While some might feel that this definition has a camel-designed-by-a-committee aspect to it, it is probably as good a working definition as any other. It acknowledges the process-driven, developmental nature of transformation, and attempts to place transformation at the heart of the Constitution-driven democratic enterprise by proposing “responsible citizenship” as the ultimate aim of transformation endeavours.

The ITP identifies five themes: (i) institutional culture; (ii) employment equity; (iii) transformational leadership, governance and management; (iv) academic excellence; and (v) a student-centred and caring institution. Action plans for the period 2011-2016 have been developed for each of the five themes. The ITP is an ambitious project and clearly signals UJ’s transformative intent. Transformation is about issues of race, class and gender. It is about identity-within-diversity and about creating and sustaining a cultural, intellectual and social climate conducive to the full expression by individuals of their identity within community. It is about the structural and procedural and governance arrangements for such an enabling environment. Above all, it is about a deep-seated recognition that transformation is not a project, or a series of projects, but a process of constant engagement with the Self and with the Other in the search for authenticity. An authentic life experience is a transformed life experience. It is an awareness of a level of consciousness that does not transcend the task-oriented materiality of our daily lives, but in fact demonstrably permeates and conditions our daily lives in a way that gives real meaning to our existence. It recognizes the interrelatedness of all things and the inter-dependence of all people. It supplements and enriches and deepens our understanding, our experiences and our emotions. It is the essential pre-condition for trust, respect, collaboration, commitment and a shared sense of well-being in the institution. This is true transformation and the responsibility of every employee and every student of the University engaged in the search for responsible citizenship – of the institution and of the country.
1 January 2011
Following the Management Executive Committee’s (MEC’s) approval of the establishment of a Transformation Office, the Office officially comes into existence on 1 January 2011.

22 February 2011
The Transformation Charter is approved by the MEC and a Transformation Steering Committee is appointed.

16 March 2011
UJ hosts the Higher Education South Africa (HESA) Transformation Managers’ Forum.

14 April 2011
The newly-appointed Transformation Steering Committee holds its first strategic planning workshop to develop the Institutional Transformation Plan (ITP).

26 May 2011
The Anti-Racism Network in Higher Education (ARNHE) has its Executive Meeting at UJ.

27 May 2011
UJ hosts the Annual ARNHE Colloquium with the theme “Transformation in Higher Education – Quo Vadis?”.

21 June 2011
The Institutional Transformation Plan is provisionally approved by the MEC and submitted to HESA.

18 July 2011
The first “Open Conversation on Transformation” panel discussion is held, with the theme “Nelson Mandela Day: Reconciliation – How do we reconcile and what is it that we are reconciling?”

OVERALL PERSPECTIVE: UJ TRANSFORMATION OFFICE

INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG
19 July 2011
Transformation Facilitators’ Workshop in the Council Chambers

16 August 2011
Second Workshop with Transformation Facilitators

29 August 2011
The second “Open Conversation on Transformation” is held, which deals with the issue of violence in our country and the impact on society and our daily lives. Speaker: Mrs Linda Biehl (USA).

16 September 2011
UJ Staff Day and UJ Spring Festival took place, launching the 2011 Diversity Week.

19 September 2011
The third “Open Conversation on Transformation” addresses how paradigms of the past do not necessarily provide the keys to unlocking the future. Speaker: Davide Zaccariello (Italy), Founder of Poxibilita.

19 September 2011
Diversity Day on the Soweto Campus

20 September 2011
Diversity Day on the Auckland Park Kingsway Campus

21 September 2011
Diversity Day on the Doornfontein Campus

22 September 2011
Diversity Day on the Auckland Park Bunting Road Campus

22 September 2011
Final approval of the ITP by Council

23 September 2011
International Day
UJ’s strategic planning philosophy

The fundamental purpose of strategic planning in any higher education institution (HEI) is to establish an ongoing process of interrogation of the institution’s strengths, weaknesses, goals, resource requirements and future prospects, and to set out a coherent plan in response to this.

UJ’s first strategic plan: 2005-2010

The rationale underlying UJ’s first strategic plan, which spanned 2005 to 2010, is captured in the Preamble:

The University of Johannesburg (UJ) was established on 1 January 2005. It is the result of the combination of three institutions, each with its own culture, ethos and academic thrust. This, the first strategic plan for the University of Johannesburg, must give direction and create unity of purpose for the new University and its diverse stakeholders. It must ensure that each individual stakeholder of the University, be it a student, be it a staff member, be it an external person with a vested or personal interest in the welfare of this institution, will know where the University intends going and what it wants to achieve. It is a document with which internal stakeholders can identify and can use to collectively take the University forward. It tells the outside world what the University stands for and how it wants to be judged.

The four sections highlighted in bold, indicate that UJ’s first strategic plan served the purpose of giving strategic direction to the institution, creating unity of purpose, setting broad, yet achievable goals and communicating what the institution values.

UJ’s approach to its second strategic plan

With UJ’s first strategic plan at the back of their minds, in March 2010 the Management Executive Committee (MEC) took the first bold steps towards UJ’s second strategic plan.

Aligned with UJ’s strategic planning philosophy, the MEC re-emphasised that strategising should be taking place institutionally, but also in all the different UJ entities (faculties, divisions, residences, etc.), purposefully involving a broad spectrum of partners and/or stakeholders. The assumption of UJ’s second strategic plan is that ideally, all the UJ entities should work together for the good of the whole institution.

The MEC’s stance is captured in the following diagram:

**Figure 1: Strategic planning as an element of UJ’s Strategising Cycle**
Setting the institutional direction: Eight strategic thrusts

On the 18th of March 2010, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Rensburg, on behalf of the MEC and the Executive Leadership Group (ELG) shared eight proposed strategic thrusts with members of the executive and senior management. Each strategic thrust provides a compelling theme that knits together otherwise independent activities and focuses the energies of functional groups on things that really matter.

In May/June 2010, 144 senior staff members participated in six workshops (steered by Prof Derek van der Merwe and facilitated by staff of the Division for Institutional Planning & Quality Promotion) aimed at the identification of plausible action steps for each thrust. The varied outcomes of the workshops were then analysed, interpreted, compared and consolidated by MEC members.

After another session with members of the executive and senior management in September, the eight thrusts, each with an associated set of enablers, were presented to and enthusiastically approved by Council in November 2010. The eight strategic thrusts of the University of Johannesburg for the next decade are:

1. Sustained excellence of academic programmes, research and community engagement.
2. A comprehensive institution recognised for the stature and quality of its scientific and technology programmes and its scientific and technology-driven research, innovation and technology transfer.
3. Equivalence of all campuses, with dedicated initial focus on the Soweto Campus and the Doornfontein Campus.
4. An international profile of employees, students, scholarly output and institutional reputation.
5. A brand that identifies UJ with relevant, accessible and excellent higher education.
6. Leadership that matters, in the institution and in civil society.
7. Supportive and engaged alumni that contribute to UJ’s reputation and resource base.
8. Resources that enable UJ’s fitness for purpose, support the achievement of the primary thrusts and facilitate a responsible and responsive institutional citizenship.

Moving towards a new UJ Vision, Mission and Values Charter

With the approval of the eight strategic thrusts by Council, the next logical step was to develop UJ’s vision and mission statement and values charter.

Under the chairpersonship of Prof Derek van der Merwe, a small working group was established during the second semester of 2011 to do reflective and innovative work on the proposed UJ vision, mission and set of values. These were then soundboarded during two October workshops facilitated by Prof Leon van Vuuren - one with a selected group of academic staff and one with a selected group of staff from the Service and Support Divisions. The small working group is now interrogating the valuable workshop feedback and putting a revised proposal on the table for further deliberations by the MEC and Council in November. A fully consultative process (involving staff and students, as well as other institutional partners) will be followed in 2012. The consultative approach will ensure buy-in regarding the UJ vision, mission and set of values, in order for all institutional partners to commit to the next decade’s strategy.
UJ’s 67 Minutes

Mandela Day 2011: UJ Auckland Park Kingsway and Bunting Road Campuses

Students and staff of the University of Johannesburg’s Auckland Park Kingsway and Bunting Road Campuses spent Mandela Day doing their 67 minutes of community service at Helen Joseph Hospital. The event was organised by UJ’s Office for Community Engagement.

After a brief march down Akademie Road, the staff and students met with workers from the hospital and were divided into teams.

“We had groups that cleaned, gardened, painted hospital walls, did artwork for the Crèche, washed dishes, read and distributed books to children and distributed food hampers to patients,” said Ernestine Meyer-Adams, Manager: Community Engagement.

UJ’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Adam Habib, noted: “Nelson Mandela transformed the world by giving. Our students need to become more passionate about their community and what they can offer.” (Gallery: http://tiny.cc/sbgzm)
The University of Johannesburg’s Soweto Campus (SWC) joined the world in celebrating Nelson Mandela’s 93rd birthday by donating their time and energy to the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, the world’s biggest hospital.

Upon arrival, the hospital CEO welcomed everyone, and the SWC Campus Director, Dr Joe Manyaka, spoke on behalf of UJ. Then the hospital staff took groups into different areas for cleaning, gardening, washing dishes and painting corridors. The library was cleaned and repacked and books were donated to both the library and individual patients, including children. There was also storytelling and reading for children at the paediatric ward by UJ staff and students.
The SWC Library donated books and made the hospital library environment more conducive to reading.
Community Engagement

After the briefing, everybody got down and dirty

Additional highlights included:

- Technical Services donated and transported old furniture to the library.
- Gifts were donated to the male general ward and children’s ward.
- The SWC Financial Officer, Colette Dada, donated crayons for the little ones.
- The Faculty of Management cleaned the hospital carpors and windows at the paediatric ward, and donated sweets and paintings.
- The maternity ward was cleaned and the sheets were changed.

A Poem by Richardson (UJ Library)

Mandela you are our hero
Tata you are our pride and joy
You gave selflessly without fear
South Africa is a blessed country
Africa is a blessed continent
And the world is a blessed place
We all send our thanks to the Almighty
For giving us someone like you
Thank you for giving us extended time
To be with you and cherish you
Thank you for hanging around
We will never thank you enough
We will never get tired of you Tata
Even if you are around for lot more time
In unison we say, Enkositata!!
May you see more and more days

Mandela Day 2011: UJ Doornfontein Campus

In the spirit of goodwill and enhancing what Nelson Mandela stands for, staff and students from the Doornfontein Campus (DFC) collaborated with the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital on 18 July. A team of 120 enthusiastic individuals worked with commitment and passion to change the image of the institution.

The DFC team arrived at the Wits Medical School in Parktown and marched from there to the hospital, accompanied by the UJ Choir, which was organised by Julia Paris from the Library at DFC. At the entrance of the hospital, staff and students were greeted and welcomed by the hospital CEO, the Public Relations Officer, and other hospital workers, who briefed the DFC team on their chores for the day.

Staff and students were divided into a group of men and a group of women. The women cleaned a floor space of approximately 1 000 m² in the underground tunnel and outside the premises. The team of men attended to the hospital gardens. Following these strenuous activities, the team still had the energy to read to the 60 children in the paediatric ward. Staff and students also gave food packs to patients in the outpatient facility.

UJ was thanked by the hospital CEO and the Public Relations Officer for the superb work done.
"Lekker... Lekker... Potjiekos"

The Cultural Committee of Accountancy at the University of Johannesburg organised a special potjiekos challenge on Friday, 11 March 2011. The event was held at the Grasdak lapa and was a fun-filled day of good teamwork.

Each team received a recipe written in many languages, and were given the task of finding out the missing ingredients. While some teams prepared seafood potjies, others made chicken or beef potjies. All the ingredients were supplied, but some teams added their own secret ingredients, to give them the edge over their competitors.

Some staff members helped with the preparation of the potjies, others worked on keeping the fires alight, while others were a bit more involved in “stirring” the pot!

Team 6 turned out to be the overall winners with their proudly South African “Protea-Potjie”.

Department of Commercial Accounting supports Tandanani SAVF Crèche

The Bunting Road Campus’ Department of Commercial Accounting’s first community project for 2011 was the Tandanani SAVF Crèche in Newlands.

The Crèche houses 72 toddlers between the age of two and six. Most of these toddlers come from very poor families, where receiving a small meal from the Crèche every day makes a big difference.

Staff from the Department generously donated second-hand clothes, and each little one received a handmade “lucky packet”, consisting of crayons, a cartoon picture to colour in, a fizzer, lollypop, chips and a Departmental pen.
Gomolemo gets new wheels
Staff members from the Faculty donated money towards buying a better wheelchair for a first-year Accounting student, Gomolemo Moagi, after seeing how she struggled with her old, heavy chair to and from classes.

Mrs Rhodes contacted Mr Ian Goldsmith, an external moderator, who is also involved in the Rotary Club. Gomolemo found the perfect wheelchair in Rotary’s storeroom in Selby and the money received was donated to the Rotary Club.

Cultural Integration and Community Engagement in the Marketing Management Department
The Department of Marketing Management has, over the past two years, taken active steps to ensuring a culturally integrated and community-engaged workforce. In order to drive its cultural integration efforts, a committee consisting of four academic members was put together towards the end of 2009. This committee organised a series of workshops in 2010 that addressed a number of issues, including helping staff appreciate cultural differences.

The Department’s cultural integration and community engagement efforts in 2011 included two main activities:

Cultural tour
On 2 June 2011, academic and administrative members of the Department visited the Lesedi Cultural Village, popularly known as The Cradle of Living African Cultures. The tour was aimed at giving staff an opportunity to diversify their cultural experiences. Upon arrival at the Village, the group was given a vibrant African welcome, followed by a visual theatre presentation on the history and origins of the different cultures in South Africa.
This was followed by a guided tour of five homesteads belonging to different cultural groups: the Zulu, Xhosa, Basotho, Ndebele and Pedi people. The tour was rounded off with traditional dancing, giving members of the Department the opportunity to show off their rhythmic skills, before being served a three-course Pan-African feast with delicacies from around Africa.

**Nelson Mandela Day**
Academic and administrative staff from the Department heeded the University’s call to contribute time, effort and resources towards community engagement on Mandela Day on 18 July 2011. Staff members offered a helping hand by scrubbing floors and cleaning pots and dishes at Helen Joseph Hospital. They also donated children’s reading books and non-perishable food items.

**Department of Business Management honours Mandela’s legacy**
Staff members from the Faculty of Management, stationed at the Soweto Campus, also participated in the University of Johannesburg’s Mandela Day initiative. They visited the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital for their 67 minutes of community service in honouring Mandela Day.

Upon arrival at the hospital, the staff members were divided into various groups. Some of the Faculty staff members had the task of cleaning carports, while others visited the children’s ward.

The Faculty also donated paintings, books and sweets to the children’s ward. This initiative encouraged UJ staff and students to support the community and facilitated the building of relationships between the community and staff.
**STH's commitment to the Elton John Bakery ensures they sing another song**

The School of Tourism and Hospitality (STH) has proven that working together to help others leads to great achievements. This is illustrated by its involvement in projects that help empower others in their communities.

In line with the University of Johannesburg’s Policy on Community Engagement, the first initiative at the STH started in 2009, when Hospitality Management Lecturers, Mrs Lesley Schie and Mr Pieter van der Westhuizen, got involved with the Elton John Bakery located in Eldorado Park.

Uplifting the competencies and skills of the ladies who work at the bakery was identified as a sustainable endeavour. STH integrated the initiative to help the bakery into the second- and third-year curricula of Hospitality Management students, through skills workshops titled *The 18-Month Rollover* which, as the name indicates, were planned for an 18-month period.

Students worked on sharing their skills and knowledge with the people working at the bakery by hosting workshops on:
- hygiene and safety in the kitchen;
- measuring abilities and general rules of baking.

This year, the people from the bakery were ready to bring everything that they had learned from these workshops into the kitchen with a two-week cycle plan. The third-year Hospitality students monitored the process and organised the final event. This involved one group hosting the hands-on workshop for all the people at the bakery, and the other group organising the final Celebration Community Engagement Dinner. All the people at the bakery assisted in these events by using the skills that they had acquired from the workshops. “The dedication of these people was absolutely astonishing and so rewarding. They realised that they were here to learn, and made the most of it,” says Mr van der Westhuizen.

The final workshop received considerable media coverage from national television and resulted in good publicity for the Elton John Bakery.
“The highlight of the evening was when the people received their well-deserved certificates from SIFE [Students in Free Enterprise] and when the STH Hospitality students handed over baking equipment for the bakery, which was bought from the money raised from the sales of baked goods from the workshops,” said Mr van der Westhuizen.

One of the goals of STH is to see the bakery growing bigger and operating as a profitable business. The students who will take over the project for the next 18 months will be working towards this, together with the ladies at the bakery.

In the first 18-month cycle, STH and its students achieved their goal of empowering the people of the bakery with various skills. Their dedication to community engagement has thus far proven to be a success.

**Jama YOUT2H celebrates UJ’s diverse cultures**

Jama (“the one that brings people together”) YOUT2H (Youngsters Overcoming Unemployment through Tourism and Hospitality) is a student cultural day event that was hosted by the School of Tourism and Hospitality’s (STH) Tourism Management students. The students decided to incorporate the University of Johannesburg’s community engagement project, the Elton John Bakery, into their event.

The Jama YOUT2H student cultural day took place in September 2011 on the STH premises and was very successful. The event ran in conjunction with the STH Colloquium, which was organised by the STH lecturers. In the colloquium venue, the students organised several South African cultural stands that showcased...
the STH students’ various cultures. The audience, which included the Chief Operating Officer of South African Tourism, Mr Timothy Scholtz, was also provided with entertaining cultural dances, poetry recitals and performances.

In addition to the cultural day, the students incorporated the Elton John Bakery into their event through facilitating a cake sale by several women from the Bakery. The STH community managed to raise a substantial amount on the Jama YOUT2H student cultural day, which will be used to provide the Bakery with additional stoves.

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**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**Beauty for Ashes**
by Caroline Malibo

One of the 10 strategic goals of the University of Johannesburg is to cultivate a culture of transformation, both internally and externally. The word “transformation” implies a journey and not a destination. It is a progression from one state of being to another: a vastly different and albeit new one. Our role as educators therefore is to facilitate learning experiences that form the type of citizen that will galvanise seismic changes, in order to contribute sustainable solutions to Africa’s kaleidoscope of socio-economic challenges.

As part of its commitment to bridging the gap between theory and praxis, the Department of Strategic Communication strives to create learning environments that foster the values of integrity and respect for diversity and human dignity.

A vivid and inspiring case in point is a second-year Marketing Communications assignment involving Mrs Jacqueline Ramohola, a resident of the informal settlement of Diepsloot. After losing her mother and then her grandmother at an early age, Jacqueline ended up on the streets as a teenager. For the next decade of her life, she suffered all kinds of abuse at the hands of male predators. Jacqueline then caught the eye of a good Samaritan who took her in. This act of kindness later prompted Jacqueline in 1997 to start the
Deflire Home and Child Care Centre in Diepsloot, a shelter for 40 orphaned and abandoned children, ranging in age from a few months to 19 years old. Run on meagre resources, the shelter relies heavily on the kindness of strangers. As part of their briefing for the assignment, students were required to visit the shelter to understand Jacqueline’s reality. Jacqueline’s “can do” attitude in the face of hardship inspired them to use the different skills sets within the class to design a corporate identity and a website for the shelter. The brief also required them to develop a social media campaign that would raise awareness about the shelter in order to galvanise support in the foreseeable future.

The whole experience has changed the perspective of each student and went beyond simply getting a good mark for an assignment. It has awakened the realisation that they too can be agents of meaningful change.

Phumani Paper writes a new future for many

Phumani Paper produces handcrafted paper that is uniquely South African. The fibres that are used in the production of the paper have their own tactile qualities in terms of texture and colour, giving the final product a raw, earthy feel that cannot be reproduced in any other country, as the paper takes on the colour and feel of the natural vegetation found in South Africa.

The Phumani Paper crafters use these interesting and unique papers to produce innovative products such as customised packaging, conference ranges, corporate gift ranges, cards and stationery. They also recently started a new lifestyle range.

The Faculty of Humanities is proud to support Phumani Paper as its flagship community engagement project. Phumani Paper is a unique project, as it addresses all three aspects of community engagement at the University of Johannesburg, namely, organised outreach, community-based research and service learning. For more information, visit www.phumanipaper.org.
UJ Architecture Students are re-educating the city

Architecture Master’s students from the University of Johannesburg are “re-educating the city” in a project that explores the spaces used for inner-city schools. The seven-week design project culminates in an exhibition of the work from all 16 participants.

The public exhibition Re-educating the City opened in June and showcased the research and design work done for the project, which interrogates and builds on the success of existing, hybrid and brand new schooling models within the context of Johannesburg’s inner city.

Before the opening of the exhibition, an invited jury of architects and urban designers evaluated the project outcomes to see how successfully students recorded, responded to and worked within the particularities of each of the four urban sites.

UJ Architecture Master’s student, Matthew Millar says, “The project has challenged us to think about the city and its spaces in a new way. It has pushed us beyond what we thought would be possible to achieve over a seven-week period.”

The project forms part of UJ’s new postgraduate MTech Architectural Design Technology (MTech Prof) programme that was launched this year. Alexander Opp, Senior Lecturer and Programme Coordinator says, “This exciting programme focuses on engagement with the city of Johannesburg. The work generated by students will be used to establish an archive of possible urban and architectural responses to this unique city.”

Re-educating the City deals with four inner city sites that provide entry points into the subject matter, with each embodying different contexts and scales:

- Small – Juta Street, Braamfontein;
- Medium – Cnr Pritchard and Polly Streets, Fashion District;
- Large – City block, defined by Claim, Plein, Banket and De Villiers Streets;
- Extra Large – Windybrow Precinct.

FACULTY OF ART, DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

Art and Design students from the University of Johannesburg making a difference at Helen Joseph Hospital on Mandela Day 2011

Photos taken by Alex Opp
Students contribute creatively to Mandela Day
On Monday, 18 July 2011, students from three departments in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (Interior Design, Visual Art and Jewellery Design) picked up their paintbrushes and made a valuable contribution to the University of Johannesburg’s Mandela Day initiatives at both the Helen Joseph Hospital and the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital.
Staff and students from the Faculty focused on painting identified rooms in the Helen Joseph Hospital Crèche. The paintwork included painting wall surfaces as well as adding images of animated characters. Students also spent time making art with the children at the Crèche, and taking the children into the eating area, where they told stories and prepared food treats.
It was a productive and fun day, where the students actively engaged with the children and Crèche staff. “I thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was a great opportunity to make a contribution to my community,” says Ashleigh Blackman, third-year UJ Interior Design student.
The Crèche’s principal and staff were delighted with the colourful images on the Crèche walls and shared their delight saying: “God has answered our prayers”.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION
A different kind of education on Mandela Day
On 18 July 2011, a group of first- and second-year Foundation Phase students from the Soweto Campus participated in the Mandela Day celebrations. The students visited the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, accompanied by staff from the Faculty of Education, with the focus on reading to children and distributing books to the library.
The Faculty of Education group was directed to the children’s ward, where patients were being treated for burn...
injuries. Here, students and staff engaged with children from six months to about 10 years old. Some students engaged on an individual basis with children, while others read to groups of children in a variety of different languages. It was evident that the children enjoyed the attention – looking curiously at the pictures and, for a moment, seemed to forget about their pain. The need for hard-covered, big and bold books was evident, seeing as it was difficult for children with restricted movement to turn flimsy pages. In the future, the Faculty will focus on exploring this possibility with the hospital.

Students and staff also assisted in feeding the children, as this was challenging for some, considering their injuries. It was clear how the involvement at the hospital touched these students, with comments being made about how brave the children were, considering their injuries, and the difference a person can make when you share some of your time.

From left to right: Dr Kamela Peter, Dr Elzette Fritz and first- and second-year students registered for Foundation Phase Teaching, Faculty of Education

FACULTY OF LAW

Faculty of Law: Celebrating Cultural Diversity

The Faculty of Law held its diversity week celebrations on Friday, 23 September 2011. More than thirty staff members, dressed mostly in traditional regalia and Springbok colours, attended the event. The activities of the day included the sampling of a variety of traditional cuisines that colleagues brought to the celebration. These included curries, chicken biryani, mola le mogodu (tripe) served with samp, dombolo (steam bread), boerewors, biltong, droë wors, melktert and koeksisters. In addition, there were games such as the ‘egg-and-spoon race’ as well as several lucky draws where Faculty members walked away with a variety of University of Johannesburg-branded prizes.
Some 570 University of Johannesburg (UJ) employees from various departments and faculties joined 50 000 other participants in this year’s Discovery 702 Walk the Talk. The annual walkathon took place in the leafy suburbs of Emmarentia and Greenside on Sunday, 24 July 2011.

UJ created a sea of orange during the 5 km walk with T-shirts and caps boasting the UJ catchphrase, ‘Be Anything You Want To Be’.

By entering 570 participants, UJ donated R57 000 towards the official charity of the walkathon, The Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. The Laureus Sport for Good Foundation uses sport to bring about positive social change.

“The Discovery 702 Walk the Talk has become a hugely popular event on the UJ calendar. It affords staff from diverse departments, cultures, ages, shapes and sizes the opportunity to come together and socialise with each other outside of working hours. Being the University of Johannesburg, it is also fitting that we create a massive presence at one of Johannesburg’s biggest events,” says An-Li Theron, Internal Communication Coordinator.
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment
Promoting engineering innovation via reality TV

The South African Solar Challenge seeks to showcase and develop solar technology and alternative energy by racing solar and hybrid vehicles across the country. Teams from universities around the globe come to South Africa to compete in this event, which is organised every two years by the Advanced Energy Foundation and the Innovation Hub.

The University of Johannesburg (UJ)’s entry into the South African Solar Challenge, the only entry by a South African university, aims to show young South Africans that building alternative fuel vehicles is an opportunity to have fun while addressing a pressing global challenge.

The UJ’s School of Electrical Engineering, within the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, has started preparations for the South African Solar Challenge 2012 race by experimenting with a few cars powered by renewable energies to establish which model will be suitable for the race.

A significant step in the preparation was hosting a mini race in October, at the university, to test the capabilities of the solar-powered cars and to also get the opportunity to enhance certain aspects of the cars before the actual race.

“We have spent about R2-million, sourced from different sponsors, on the testing of the prototype cars. “The estimated cost of the final product is R5-million, which will be contributed by additional sponsors,” says UJ’s School of Electrical Engineering head Professor Willem Clarke.

“We have just completed building a pilot design centre, which is jointly funded by telecommunications giant MTN and the university to provide the faculty with infrastructure and support to nurture our creative outlet. Most of the team comprises third-year electrical engineering students, fourth-year students and postgraduate students,” explains Clarke.

“The university has also invested in a television studio, which was recently completed, where it produces an electrical engineering-based reality show, FuelDuel, which is aired on Tuesdays on DSTv channel 319.

“The aim of the studio is to position UJ as an innovation and technology partner in the industry.

The reality show features students in the faculty and aims to make the electrical engineering field attractive to school-going children.

The faculty has now also secured a deal to have the reality show aired on a daily basis on CNBC Africa from April 2012. “Currently, besides other projects, we are working on a proposal for a cooking show to incorporate innovation in cooking to highlight the different facets of electrical engineering in our daily lives,” he adds.

The studio recently produced some technologically advanced animation samples, as it plans to also produce an animation show in the next few months. The studio boasts the latest technology, including the only known 360° high-definition camera in South Africa.
Faculty of Economic and Financial Sciences

New Bachelor of Accounting degree (BAcc) equips students with new skills

The Department of Accountancy currently offers a BCom Accounting degree that aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge, competence and skills to practise as professional accountants. This programme is registered with several professional accounting bodies, including the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

From 2012, UJ will be offering two degree programmes, the existing BCom Accounting degree, which will provide students with a more general education in Accountancy, and the new BAcc, which will be aimed at students who want to qualify as chartered accountants.

Ongoing reflection by the Department to ensure quality in teaching and learning

UJ partners with JSE in exciting new accounting project

By Karla Janse van Vuuren

Clerks from the University of Johannesburg's Department of Accountancy are currently involved in a one-of-a-kind project in collaboration with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

Prof Angina Parekh, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at UJ, stated that UJ is proud of its collaboration with the JSE. “Our involvement in this auditing process is thanks to the high level of specialist activities of the academics in the Department of Accountancy.”

The project involves the clerks monitoring financial statements of about 80 companies that are listed on the JSE. As there are currently 406 listed companies, each company’s statements will therefore be monitored at least once every five years. The purpose of this is to improve the standards of financial reporting of the listed companies in a proactive manner.

The clerks involved in the project are currently doing their first year of articles at the University. Before students can qualify as chartered accountants, they must complete articles for a period of three years – usually at a bank or auditing firm.

Landi Janse van Vuuren, a clerk specialising in auditing, says that she has already learnt a lot from the JSE project. “We examine and analyse the financial statements of certain listed companies and then answer a list of questions: the answers of which are then examined by a senior analyst. After this, a report is drawn up, which is sent to the JSE. This exposure to financial statements will definitely help us next year when we start working at auditing firms.”
The South African Accounting History Centre
Launched at UJ

The South African Accounting History Centre (SAAHC), the first of its kind in Africa, was officially launched on 10 February 2011 at UJ. At the launch, Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, the first black chartered accountant to qualify in South Africa, said that this centre acknowledges the proud history of the accounting profession and the role it has played in the development of South Africa’s economy and society.

The SAAHC also succeeded in securing the tender for the publication of a book for the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) on the development of the accounting profession in South Africa. The growing literature on the accounting profession in the British Commonwealth calls for the systematic presentation of the unique South African contribution to the development of this accounting arena. “The leading role of SAICA in international accounting standard setting, especially with regard to sustainability reporting, is testimony to the global leadership of the South African accounting profession,” says Prof Alex van der Watt, the Head of the Department of Accountancy.

UJ Professor receives Accounting research award

Prof Ben Marx was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Accounting Research Award at the recent 2011 Southern African Accounting Association (SAAA) Conference held in George.

The SAAA, in collaboration with the International Association of Accounting Education and Research, presented an International Biennial Conference with the theme Accounting Education’s Role in Enhancing Sustainable Business Driven by Professional and Ethical Business Leaders.

“We are absolutely delighted that one of our members was awarded this accolade, especially at such a prestigious event, which hosted some 446 delegates,” says Head of ACCA South Africa, Nadine Kater. Elaborating on the role of research in the accounting profession, Kater added, “Research plays a critical role in our profession as it informs curriculum content and also ensures that accounting professionals continue to play a leading role in the sound functioning of business and economies worldwide.”

Finance and Investment Department students excel at 2011 CIMA Global Business Challenge

The 2011 CIMA Global Business Challenge saw four dynamic young teams of four members each pitting their skills against one another for the top spot in South Africa – and a trip to the Global Final in Chengdu, China.

The four finalists – The Business People, University of Johannesburg (UJ); Emthunzini Consultants, University of KwaZulu-Natal; Sylen Business Consultants, University of Johannesburg; and Tunajibu Consulting, North-West University – did their universities proud, as they presented their solutions to the judges.

“All the entries were of an extremely high standard,” says Samantha Louis, Regional Director of CIMA Sub-Saharan Africa. “This made it very difficult for the judges to choose a winning team from the final four. Presentations from all four teams were strong, considered solutions to a case study and scenario given to them at the start of the competition”.

This year saw 30 teams from universities around South Africa submitting their reports for the 2011 CIMA Global Business Challenge. Seventeen of these teams were from the University of Johannesburg.

The winning team – The Business People from the University of Johannesburg – was an all-women quartet that engaged the judges with their solutions to the issues presented to them. Poonam Bhana, Pragna Patel, Londiwe Gumbi and Natalie Usmar offered practical and insightful answers to some of the difficult questions posed to them.
Economics students in Top 10 for National Budget Speech Essay Competition

The National Budget Speech Essay competition is an annual initiative through which Nedbank and Old Mutual seek to nurture and invest in the next generation of economists, decision-makers and thinkers. Two Economics Master’s students, Ian Mrozek and Fulu Mudau, ended in the Top 10 in the postgraduate category of the 2010 competition. At the prize-giving ceremony, held after the 2011 Budget Speech, it was announced that Fulu Mudau achieved third place nationally, with her essay titled Should Exchange Rates and Asset Prices Play a Larger Role in Monetary Policy Rules? She was awarded a scholarship of R25 000. This is now the third consecutive year that UJ Economics students obtained national Top 10 places in this competition.

Students Awarded Mandela Rhodes Scholarships for 2012

In early October, interviews with candidates shortlisted for the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships 2012 were held in Cape Town. A total of 23 Mandela Rhodes scholars were elected, two of whom, Nicholas Nhundu and Anthea Paelo, are UJ students.
Sustained excellence in commerce: Developing sought-after organisation leaders creating legacies

Tomorrow’s leaders of Africa-based commerce need to be adept at interpreting Africa’s unique challenges in the context of global business dynamics in order to position their organisations confidently and expertly.

It is with these requirements in mind that the Faculty of Management at the University of Johannesburg contributes to the socio-economic transformation of South Africa, with 2 000 graduates and 1 800 certificate holders being produced annually.

Partnering is vital in realising the Faculty’s future-fit agenda. In the course of their 2011 programmes, students were exposed to prominent South African leaders. Numerous ministers, CEOs, MDs and visiting professors contributed to the Faculty’s series of courageous conversations engaging in leadership and economic development.

Championing the mission of growing future-fit leaders, Prof Daneel van Lill, UJ’s Executive Dean: Faculty of Management, notes that UJ has been clear from the outset in enhancing the development of the knowledge, skills and behaviour required to promote responsible citizenship. “Since its inception in 2005, UJ has grown into an internationally recognised champion of transformational leaders who are well-balanced, ethical and confident global citizens,” says Prof van Lill. In essence, the Faculty empowers and enables students to make a decent living and to understand that the meaning of life is also found in solving complex problems and being of value to others.

The Faculty’s level of future-fitness is indeed illustrated by its MCom programme, which is ranked third among South Africa’s accredited Business Schools, and the six international conferences hosted in 2011, attracting participants from 36 countries.

In stretching the Faculty’s transformational agenda into the future, the newly established Centre for Social Enterprise and Social Economy will be lead by Dr Susan Steinman, internationally renowned champion of the social economy agenda. In further strengthening the Faculty’s brand promise, Dr Sydney Mufamadi, former Minister for Safety and Security, was appointed as Director of the School of Leadership.

In commenting on how the Faculty manages to sustain performance regardless of its magnitude, Prof van Lill reveals, “All our efforts are driven by a formidable team emphasising the full range of transformational change drivers. Our approach drills right down to weaknesses in the South African collective mindset affecting our performance within the global constellation of emerging economies. The Faculty of Management contributes beyond socio-political transformation, by also adding to Africa’s business acumen.”
**Competency set of five skills taught at UJ’s Faculty of Management**

**First:** Being skilled in the ability to identify an important goal and to apply basic leadership and managerial skills, perseverance and energy to achieve high levels of performance.

**Second:** Being skilled in mastering your own emotions and to cope with stress in a way that instills confidence and enhances group performance.

**Third:** The need to know how to inspire others by setting an example and by helping others reach higher levels of performance.

**Fourth:** The need to be skilled in demonstrating creativity in developing products and services that lead to bottom-line success.

**Fifth:** Learning to be a systems thinker and helping to increase overall learning and performance by designing, implementing and connecting processes.

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**Social Enterprise World Forum – Knowledge-Based Sectors Are “Key Drivers of New Jobs”**

The University of Johannesburg, through its Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Social Economy in the Faculty of Management, hosted the fourth Social Enterprise World Forum (SEWF) in April 2011. The SEWF emerged from national support agencies in the United Kingdom seeking a means to collaborate and advance social enterprise development globally.

It was the first time since its inception that the forum was hosted in South Africa, on a continent that has the highest number of people living below the poverty line and is highly aid-dependent.

Economic Development Minister, Ebrahim Patel, has highlighted knowledge-based industries in the private sector, such as manufacturing and technology, as the critical drivers of job creation and economic growth.

Addressing delegates at the opening of the fourth SEWF 2011, Patel said that South Africa has the potential to create 260 000 additional jobs if the social enterprise sector is developed efficiently.

“The conference brought together more than 600 social entrepreneurs, development practitioners and government and corporate representatives from around the world. It examined the potential of social enterprise to generate social change and build sustainable communities,” said Dr Susan Steinman, Head: Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Social Economy at UJ.

Steinman added that the conference highlighted engagement and participation and that the “how to” breakaway sessions focused on issues such as achieving excellence, mobilising resources, engaging youth in social enterprise and creating an enabling environment for social enterprises through policy development.

UJ’s Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Social Economy, which hosted the conference, is positioning itself as a centre for promoting social entrepreneurship and the social economy in South Africa and on the African continent.
Faculty of Management

UJ’s Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies hosts Thredbo 12

The Thredbo 12 International Conference on Competition and Ownership in Land Passenger Transport, held in Durban in September, was co-hosted by the Department of Transport and UJ’s Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS) (Africa).

This year, approximately 140 delegates from 25 countries attended. Directed at a broad audience of policy-makers, planners, infrastructure and service operators, and academics, the conference series is recognised as the premier international forum dedicated to the analysis and debate of competition and ownership issues in land passenger transport. The focus is on determining the effects of different forms of competition, contracting, ownership and organisation for land-based passenger transport.

The September 2011 Conference featured plenary sessions over four days, and series of intensive workshops based on keynote papers, providing a range of international perspectives, not only from developed countries but developing economies too. There was a strong emphasis on the policy lessons that can be learned from recent experiences internationally and the issues that warrant further investigation.

From left to right: Prof Jackie Walters (HOD: Department of Transport and Supply Chain Management at the University of Johannesburg and Chair of the Local Organising Committee), Prof Daneel van Lill (Executive Dean: Faculty of Management at the University of Johannesburg), Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin (Department of Transport, Pretoria) and Mr Neil Smith (Transit Systems, Australia)
Moeletsi Mbeki Impresses the UJ Crowds

On 20 September 2011, the Department of Politics of the Faculty of Humanities hosted a public lecture with keynote speaker, Moeletsi Mbeki, who spoke about his latest edited book, *Advocates for Change: How to Overcome Africa’s Challenges*. Mr Mbeki’s presentation was thoroughly entertaining and included digressions on the number of cattle farmed in South Africa and the very real problem of living in a consumption economy.

Book contributor Prof Gilbert Khadiagala, Professor of International Relations at Wits, also presented a speech on the need for African democracies to conduct their own elections without the need for observer teams. The speakers stirred up significant debate amongst the Politics students, staff and interested members of the public who packed the hall to capacity.

Anton Harber launches new book on Diepsloot

*Of Fractals and Frogs: What We Can Learn from Diepsloot* was the topic of a recent lecture given by Wits Professor of Journalism, Anton Harber, when he discussed his new book, *Diepsloot*. Harber, a former editor of the *Mail & Guardian*, has returned to his journalistic roots in the book, producing a highly relevant account of one of Johannesburg’s many semi-informal settlements on the outskirts of the city. “If you want to understand this country and where it is headed, you need to understand a place such as Diepsloot and the hopes and aspirations of its peoples,” says Harber. The talk was hosted by UJ’s Department of Journalism, Film and Television of the Faculty of Humanities.
Faculty of Humanities

Marketing Communications Students do UJ proud at Assegai Awards

By Caroline Malibo

At the recent Assegai Awards, two teams of students from UJ’s third-year Marketing Communications group walked away with gold awards in the Student Marketing Campaign category. The Assegai Awards were founded 11 years ago by the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) in recognition of excellence in the direct marketing industry. Team One’s group members were Tshepiso Phaho, Puseletso Moshesa and Nonkululeko Mabena and Team Two comprised Tracey Solomon and Michelle Olivier.

These two gold awards were a culmination of an ongoing collaboration between the DMA and the Department of Strategic Communication. Earlier this year, second-year Marketing Communications students were given a brief to come up with a campaign using the techniques that were covered in a series of lectures given by Steve Bird, Director of the DMA. The top three groups were nominated by the Department of Strategic Communication to deliver their presentations to a DMA judging panel, who was very impressed with the calibre of work, commenting that the future of marketing in South Africa seemed to be in good hands.

Each member of the final three groups was awarded membership of the Institute of Interactive and Direct Marketing, and an opportunity to do an internship at the DMA. Members of Assegai, the winning group, were given tickets to attend a two-day workshop on the integration of social media into direct marketing strategy, which was run by Professor Tracy Tuten from the University of Michigan, USA.

“We couldn’t have been given a better opportunity. It was so eye opening and I am truly grateful for it,” said Masindi Siaga, a member of the winning group.

The Assegai team from left to right: Masindi Siaga, Tarryn Talbot, Ayanda Mbonambi and Kenosi Matsebatlela, with DMA CEO Brian Mdluli presenting the membership certificates
On 4 October 2011, the Faculty of Humanities conferred an Honorary Doctorate in absentia on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma’s pro-democratic leader and Nobel Peace laureate. The Honorary Doctorate was accepted on her behalf by her cousin and Prime Minister of the exiled National Coalition Government of Burma, Dr Sein Win. During the graduation, a recorded message by Dr Suu Kyi was played, where she thanked the University as well as South Africa for their continued support of the cause.

In honour of this historical event, the Faculty also hosted a public lecture on 3 October, during which there was a live interview with Dr Suu Kyi.

During the public lecture, Aung San Suu Kyi addressed excited family, friends and activists in an informative and thought-provoking question and answer session. Connecting directly via Skype, she enthralled the crowd with her inspirational words, answering each question with the intelligence and wisdom of someone truly devoted to a cause.

After the conversation with Dr Suu Kyi, the keynote address was given by Dr Kiru Naidoo, founder of the Free Burma Campaign in South Africa. His topic was Dilemmas in South Africa’s Relations with Burma. In his lecture, Dr Naidoo gave a history of the Burma campaign as well as South Africa’s involvement.
Faculty of Law

UJ’s first-year Law students come out tops in Moot Court Competition

The 8th annual Kovsies (University of the Free State) First-Year Moot Court Competition was held at the Bloemfontein High Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal on 7 and 8 October 2011. This competition is intended to challenge students from nineteen universities in legal writing, legal research and oratory skills, by creating a mock trial scenario. Students prepared their legal research and court documents in advance and were provided with the opportunity to argue their case against their peers in front of sitting judges and advocates from the Bloemfontein High Court.

The Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg sent three teams to the competition. UJ’s Afrikaans team came out tops, winning all the prizes in their category: Best Afrikaans Team, Best Afrikaans Heads of Argument and Best Afrikaans Speaker.

Faculty of Law funds Conhill Debating Tournament

The finals of the Constitution Hill Debating Tournament took place at the Women’s Jail at Constitution Hill this October. The competition, which brought together a total of 24 schools from Thembisa, Soweto and the Johannesburg CBD, was funded by The Claude Leon Foundation, the University of Johannesburg and the Constitution Hill Trust. It centred on South Africa’s Bill of Rights and was aimed at training learners unfamiliar in the skills of debating.

“We believe that debating is a wonderful way to learn about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights,” says Professor David Bilchitz, Director of The South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC), which was one of the organisers. “The Tournament does not involve passive, rote learning; rather it requires learners to engage actively with our bill of rights and to see what they mean in practice.”

In the run-up to the finals, in which twelve schools participated, the learners attended debating workshops organised by members of the Gauteng Debating League and a workshop on the Bill of Rights run by the law clerks of the Constitutional Court. The learners were also given a historical tour of Constitution Hill, organised by the Constitution Hill Development Company and Blue IQ. The topics for the debates were connected to topical issues relating to the bill of rights such as affirmative action and the wearing of religious symbols in school. The final required the learners to debate the motion that “land should be expropriated without compensation in order to rectify past injustices”.

The winning school of the debating series was Bophelo Impilo High School in Mayfair, with Fons Luminis School in Soweto coming second. These schools each received book vouchers to assist them in developing their libraries.
Faculty of Science

UJ Soweto Campus Launches Science Centre

The value of science in achieving national development goals is more evident now than ever, since the application of science in advancing new technologies is one of the most effective weapons in the struggle toward the reduction of poverty in our society.

However, in order to realise our potential to harness science and technology for our country’s development, we first need to address our current crisis in mathematics and science education. The UJ Soweto Science Centre was established as a facility to address some of the challenges faced by our country in the areas of science, engineering and technology. In particular, the Centre’s aim is to bridge the gap between high school and university science, thereby training the future scientists and engineers that South Africa desperately needs.

The Centre provides hands-on experience for learners in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and IT laboratories, as well as exposure to a variety of exhibitions spanning various disciplines. Through innovative Science theory, laboratory lessons, computer training, exhibitions and practical application, the UJ Soweto Science Centre is ideally poised to play an important role in nation-building efforts.

Opened in 2011, the Centre has already registered 200 Grade 10 learners, 200 Grade 11 learners and 240 Grade 12 learners in the subjects of Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science, Environmental Science and English. Learners come from schools in Soweto and its surrounding regions.

In addition, the Centre also assists in empowering and enhancing the skills of Mathematics and Science teachers, in collaboration with SciBono. The UJ Soweto Science Centre provides teachers with educational support and assistance in Mathematics and Science teaching, along with other areas of curriculum and professional development. Mathematics and Science study rooms, as well as a computer room with 30 computers with Internet access, are used to train teachers in the use of relevant technology at different levels and for different purposes.
Faculty of Health Sciences

Key Challenges in the South African Healthcare System
Professor André Swart, Executive Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences

The South African healthcare system is currently facing an urgent challenge related to service delivery. With less than 20% of the population in a position to afford and have access to private healthcare insurance, the need and demand for services at public healthcare facilities is significant. Although the budget allocation has increased from about R63 billion for the 2007/2008 year to R102.5 billion for the 2010/2011 period, the system is still characterised by a fragmented approach to service delivery.

The key challenges to our healthcare system are:

• HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis - South Africa has 5.7 million people infected with HIV/AIDS, which represents 17% of the world's HIV/AIDS infections;
• Increasing maternal and child mortality rates – in order to achieve the Millennium Developmental Goal targets, infant mortality will have to decrease by two-thirds and maternal mortality by three-quarters;
• Violence in society – violence is high on the top 10 causes of death in SA;
• Challenges to health status posed by non-communicable diseases, including diseases of lifestyle, cancers, diabetes and respiratory tract infections.

It is the belief of the University of Johannesburg that to address the abovementioned challenges, training institutions will have to change their approach in respect of the teaching of healthcare professionals. These challenges require, inter alia, specific skills and competencies at various levels and in different domains. It is believed that if training can occur in an integrated manner with a range of practitioners, health outcomes can be addressed more holistically.

In order to address the healthcare skills shortage, the Faculty of Health Sciences at UJ and Philips Healthcare have established an agreement. This agreement is based on their joint mission to educate, train and prepare students to work as healthcare professionals in the challenging healthcare environment of our country. As a leading company in health and well-being, Philips aims to improve the quality of healthcare in South Africa through meaningful solutions, innovations and partnerships.

Professor André Swart, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Johannesburg states, “We are very happy about our collaboration with Philips, as it underscores the acute need for increasing the output of trained and skilled healthcare professionals in the country. We believe that this collaboration will enhance opportunities and thus improve the quality of care in South Africa.”

J.J. van Dongen, Vice-President of Philips Africa and CEO for Philips SA added, “There has been a remarkable reconstruction and transformation of facilities and service infrastructure in the healthcare sector in the last decade, but the challenges facing the South African public health system remain. The key to improving health outcomes is to develop strong partnerships with leading academic institutions, such as our collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Johannesburg.”
Students from the University of Johannesburg’s Department of Architecture recently won the 2011 Murray & Roberts Des Baker Award at the Architectural Student Congress in Port Elizabeth. The Awards were founded in 1983 in recognition of the late Des Baker, who was Chairperson of Murray and Roberts until his death in 1982.

The members of UJ’s winning team are BTech Architectural Technology students Jessica Grobbelaar, Ruben Kruger and Anton Bouwer.

This year’s project brief for submissions was Cradle to Grade 6: Designing a School in a Rural Area. Ms Grobbelaar describes their entry: “Essentially, whilst we proposed an intervention that is intrinsic to the existing site and community, it is paralleled with a commentary that questions the appropriateness and validity of a Grade 6 exit level OBE curriculum. In essence, this scheme identifies an (in)visible reality; acknowledging an informal network as a foundation for a sustainable learning environment.

“We are ecstatic about winning the Des Baker Award for UJ and thankful for the support that we received from family, friends and lecturers throughout the five-month duration of this challenging project.”
UJ students excel in Thuthuka Jewellery Design Awards

On 11 October 2011, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile, announced the winners of the fourth annual Thuthuka Jewellery Design Awards, with the University of Johannesburg's Caroline Turner taking first place in the Overall Achievement category.

The Thuthuka Jewellery and Product Development skills programme is a partnership between the Department of Arts and Culture and various jewellery design education institutions, including the University of Johannesburg. Thuthuka's vision is to showcase the wealth of contemporary jewellery design talent in South Africa. This year, entrants were asked to design a beautiful button and integrate it into a piece of jewellery and a lifestyle item.

Students from the University of Johannesburg's Department of Jewellery Design walked away with eight of the 19 prizes, including the Innovation Award and The Achievement Award. Congratulations to winners Billy Matsoso, Janci Bisschoff, Nikiwe Mathebula, Chanel Estebeth, Delphine Joustra and Michelee Evans.
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture

UJ students awarded Loeries

The University of Johannesburg’s Department of Graphic Design scooped up prizes at this year’s Loerie Awards, winning gold, silver and bronze in various student categories.

The Loeries focus on the advertising industry, celebrating professional and student creative talent from Africa and the Middle East. The awards cover many categories of television, radio and print, including brand communication, graphic design, architecture, direct marketing and digital media.

Zelé Angelides, a 2010 BTech graduate, won a Gold Loerie in the Publication Design category for her Kindle project, “Kindle was bound using traditional Chinese stab binding, reflecting the Chinese history of burning books in order to unify and eliminate opposition. Shortly after production, Kindle was turned to charcoal in representation of the fate of future printed books.”

Ciara Moore, a third-year UJ Graphic Design student, won a Silver Loerie in the Logos and Identity Programmes category for rebranding a laundromat. In the same category, her classmate, Matthew McIver, won a Bronze Loerie for his rebranding of Greenland’s Health Store.

Pan’s Missing Shadow is another project that was selected as a finalist in the Loerie’s Digital Crafts category. This project was also selected as a finalist in the Pendoring Awards. In this collaborative game design project, students Emma Robinson-Harbour, Leighton Coertze (both UJ Graphic Design students) and Georgia Walsh (UJ Multimedia student) designed a viral marketing campaign for a book or a graphic novel of the students’ choice.
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture

UJ wins in ARMSA Student Design Awards 2011

Industrial Design students from the University of Johannesburg and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology participated in the Association of Rotational Moulders of South Africa (ARMSA) Student Design Award 2011 with designs of indoor/outdoor/patio chairs.

Judges for this competition included lecturers from both academic institutions and members of ARMSA from the rotational moulding industry.

The UJ Department of Industrial Design’s second-year students made the Department proud by winning numerous awards, resulting in UJ being awarded top university in the competition.

The following UJ students won awards:
• First place to Myles Day for his Shadepod;
• Second place to Melissa Yeatman for her Radiance Swing Chair;
• Third place to Gabriele Birkenmayer for her Voyeur Reader.

Merit awards went to UJ students Etienne Bartie, Alexandra Michaelides and Tyrone Pottow.

First place in the ARMSA 2011 competition went to Myles Day for his Shadepod design

Second place in the ARMSA 2011 competition went to Melissa Yeatman for her Radiance Swing Chair

Third place in the ARMSA 2011 competition went to Gabriele Birkenmayer for her Voyeur Reader design
Exploring the work of Willem Boshoff

On Thursday, 4 October, the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA) Gallery opened the 2011 Prestigious Alumni Exhibition featuring Willem Boshoff.

Boshoff achieved a Master’s diploma in Technology in Fine Art at the Technikon Witwatersrand in 1984 (now the University of Johannesburg). He taught in the Department of Fine Art and was also Head of Department between 1984 and 1996. Boshoff was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University in 2008.

Boshoff is generally classified as a conceptual artist. His main areas of exploration include dictionaries, botanical gardens and nature, medieval and early music, avant-garde music, ethnic music, philosophy and language systems that subvert the institution of the traditional gallery.

The FADA Gallery exhibition, entitled Setups and Upsets, took an interesting approach to exploring Boshoff’s work as it allowed viewers to gain insight into the private workspaces and libraries that have inspired his art-making processes.
Faculty of Economic and Financial Sciences: UJ LAUNCHED THE WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT IN JOHANNESBURG

On 26 July, the 2011 World Investment Report (WIR) was launched in 50 locations worldwide, including nine in Africa. The WIR is published every year by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and is regarded as the authoritative source of information about Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Each year since 2006, Professor Stephen Gelb, from the Department of Economics and Econometrics, assists UNCTAD in putting together the WIR and launches it on their behalf in Johannesburg. This is connected with his active research interest in FDI in South Africa, and between South Africa and other emerging markets.

This year’s WIR reported that FDI inflows rose globally to $1.24 trillion in 2010 – 5% more than the 2009 figure. FDI occurs when a company sets up (or buys) another company in a foreign country in which it owns more than 10% of the equity. Though FDI flows are very large, the 2010 figure was still 15% below the average for the years 2005 to 2007, before the global financial crisis hit in 2008. For the first time in 2010, developing countries (which include China, India, Brazil, etc.) received more than half of global inflows.
Supporting UJ

A new cast for UJ Arts and Culture

Ashraf Johaardien, the dynamic new head of UJ Arts and Culture, joined UJ in August this year. Johaardien is a playwright, producer, arts manager and an occasional performer. He grew up in Cape Town and at the age of fifteen he was awarded a Prince of Wales Scholarship to study at the United World College of the Atlantic in the UK. Johaardien obtained an International Baccalaureate Diploma in 1994, after which he returned to South Africa, and completed graduate and postgraduate degrees at the University of Cape Town.

He has been published widely and his plays have been produced at mainstream theatres and festivals in South Africa and the USA, as well as in Ireland, the UK and the Netherlands. He was also named one of the Mail & Guardian’s Top 200 Young South Africans in 2008.

We visited him at the UJ Art Centre, and spoke about his ideas around talent, the youth and of course, UJ Arts and Culture.

South Africa has a pool of talented people, particularly the youth. Do you think there are enough initiatives to hone this talent?

There are enough initiatives, but the problem is that they are all largely urban-centred. They tend to happen in areas that are well-resourced. Funding also tends to flow into urban areas. The focus should be on getting to the rural areas and creating the same opportunities for kids who can’t easily access urban areas. Then we will be able to really discover hidden talent.

How do you plan to inspire UJ students to be more creative, and to bring more ideas to the UJ Art Centre?

I really believe in platforms. I have benefited personally from a range of different platforms, like festivals and showcases. I think it would be fantastic to create a platform for students, staff and alumni to interact, collaborate and feed off each other, creatively. I am looking at different mechanisms for achieving exactly that in 2012.

UJ Arts and Culture has a strong presence on the Auckland Park Campuses, with theatre spaces on both the Bunting Road and Kingsway Campuses.

Are there any plans to create such spaces on the Doornfontein and Soweto Campuses?

UJ has made great strides in building new spaces and leaving legacies. I am, however, wary of too many performing art spaces. We have the Soweto Theatre opening in Soweto next year and the Windybrow Theatre that is close to the Doornfontein Campus. I would rather explore partnerships with these existing spaces to serve those constituencies.

What interesting productions, exhibitions and collaborations can we look forward to in the near future?

I hope that UJ will take the lead in presenting an Annual Arts and Culture Conference that can benefit all the stakeholders in the country. I also think the time is right for UJ to have its own Arts and Culture Festival. In addition, I am looking forward to a season of new South African plays. As a playwright this is one of my passions. Apart from that… Watch this space.
Prof Bonga-Bonga enhances the Department of Economics and Econometrics research outputs

Since his appointment as Head of the Economics Department in 2009, Professor Lumengo Bonga-Bonga has focused on enhancing the quality of research interests and outputs of his 33 academic staff members.

Already there have been outstanding achievements, as last year, Associate Professor Alain Kabundi scooped the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for the best young researcher. The department also added to its winnings the Vice-Chancellor’s prize for the best teacher in 2010, which was awarded to Mr Arnold Wentzel.

“It’s unprecedented to have one department winning the two prizes,” says Bonga-Bonga. He sees the University of Johannesburg’s research output ranking climbing to the top three within the next ten years, from sixth place currently.

In its recent strategic meeting, the Department of Economics and Econometrics came up with a new vision to become the leading economics department in South Africa. Bonga-Bonga believes this vision is “quite ambitious but realistic. He says it is his responsibility to gear the department towards that direction. “Research output is one of the elements to help us realise our vision. Through embracing the growing research culture in the department, I see our research output increasing from the current 22 article papers produced in 2010 to more than 40 in 2013.”

One of the activities introduced by Bonga-Bonga is the compulsory seminars which staff members attend every Thursday. During these seminars, departmental staff present research articles they are working on, which cover a broad range of topics from development economics to financial economics. The seminars also attract presenters from other local institutions such as Wits and UCT, as well as international institutions like the International Monetary Fund and various universities in the United States and Europe. Another initiative that is paying off involves research workshops tailored to meet the needs of academic staff. These workshops are run by staff members who are competent in their respective fields, including research methodology and econometrics.

GETTING TO KNOW PROF BONGA-BONGA

1. As a child, what did you want to become?
   As a child, I wanted to become an engineer given the passion I had for mathematics and physics. In fact, I enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering in my first year at varsity.

2. Why did you choose academics, and not the corporate world?
   A career in academics was the last thing on my mind! It was as a master’s student at the University of Pretoria that I developed a taste for academia when I was given an opportunity to lecture. Since then I have enjoyed it tremendously – so much so that I keep on declining all opportunities to join the corporate world!

3. What is your favourite food?
   I am quite traditional in my cuisine. My favourite food is called mfumbwa, a cuisine unique to the Congo.

4. What is your favourite holiday destination?
   I like to spend time with my family at the North Coast, especially around Richards Bay and Saint Lucia. Paris is also a place I always like to visit.

5. Do you have any hobbies?
   I was a soccer player at varsity, and my love of the sport has grown considerably over the years. I even juggle my weekend between family time and watching soccer! It is not always easy for your family when one spends many hours watching local and international games.

6. What have been some of your most memorable moments so far as the Head of Department (HOD) of Economics?
   I always believe that individuals who develop a culture of research increase their pool of knowledge, and thus can plough back this knowledge to students in a form of relevant, appropriate and updated teachings. Harvard University is the best academic institution in the world because they can combine the two activities of research and teaching. I would like to be remembered as the HOD who instilled and encouraged research activities in the Department of Economics and Econometrics. It has been very satisfying to see a culture of research developing within the department in such a way that we have more than tripled our research activities in the past three years.

7. Which valuable lessons have learnt as HOD?
   To be an HOD is a tremendous responsibility as one becomes the guardian of the destiny of the department. The success and failure of a department depends largely on the vision of the HOD and being able to sell that vision to your staff. As an HOD, one is a servant of the department mostly at the expense of your own achievements as a researcher and academic. One of the most difficult aspects of my job is to manage people, which is not easy in a department of 35 staff members with different backgrounds.

8. How do you see the future of the Economics Department?
   The future of the Department is bright, and our focus at the moment is on reducing the gap that exists between our University and international universities. Economics as a field of knowledge is quite dynamic and we need to keep abreast of all the developments on an international level.

9. Where would you like to retire?
   I wish to retire at the University of Johannesburg. I am proud of UJ.

10. What is your motto in life?
    Christ in me, hope of Glory! There is nothing I do without God’s direction. Nonetheless, I am still human.
Banyana Striker Honoured as Sportswoman of the Year

Banyana Banyana striker and UJ student Noko Matlou was honoured at the South African Sports Awards by scooping the prize for Sportswoman of the Year. She was nominated alongside fellow UJ student, hockey player Pietie Coetzee, and javelin thrower Sunette Viljoen.

The Limpopo-born forward, who was also the only female nominee in Sports Star of the Year, played a pivotal role in seeing South Africa to the final of the recent Council of Southern African Football Associations (COSAFA) Women’s Championship. She was also instrumental in helping Banyana Banyana secure the bronze medal at last year’s African Women’s Championship.

The 25-year-old has netted 48 goals in 61 matches for the national team, and she says her next goal is to help her team qualify for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Executive Director of UJ Sport, Professor Wim Hollander, said that Matlou’s win was well-deserved and a result of her dedication to both her sporting and academic careers.

“Noko is an example to sportsmen and women in this country. She has embraced every opportunity she has received and continues to take nothing for granted.”

He said the Transport Management student remained extremely humble despite her sporting prowess. “In my view, it is because of these attributes that Noko has achieved on the sports field, in the lecture hall and in life.”
Assisting athletes with disabilities is reaping rewards for the University of Johannesburg after a clean sweep at the recent South African Sports Awards at Sun City.

Two of the tertiary institution’s wheelchair tennis players, Lucas Sithole from Newcastle, and Kgothatso Montjane from Polokwane, were named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year with a Disability. They beat off the likes of visually impaired athlete Hilton Langenhoven, and Olympic swimmer Natalie du Toit.

Sithole – SA number one and 14th in the International Tennis Federation’s world rankings in the men’s quad division – showed his class when he won the singles title at the Melbourne Open earlier this year.

Montjane, the country’s top women’s player, is ranked 17th in the world.

“These awards recognise the quality of the athletes as well as the work UJ Sport is doing with regards to sportspeople with disabilities,” said Professor Wim Hollander, Executive Director of UJ Sport. “Their achievements confirm that UJ is becoming a leader in this field.”

Hollander said that the University would continue to invest time and money in upgrading its facilities in line with the needs of its students.

“It’s important that student athletes with disabilities are accommodated from a teaching perspective. The sporting side is just one aspect of a holistic support programme.”

“Once they were in the system, the University provided services such as academic, sports science and medical support with guidance from the Sports Psychology and Performance Excellence units”, he said.

“Their performances are proof that our talent identification and development programmes are working.”
Where many see a future as barren as the dusty ground on which his teams practise, Diepsloot hockey coach Silver Malele sees hope.

“Where have we an Astroturf or even grass, just bare ground,” says Malele, who was named Volunteer of the Year at the recent South African Sports Awards. “The fact that boys and girls have been developed to provincial level on this rocky piece of land is unbelievable.”

Malele’s Silver Stars development project in the Johannesburg township, on the northern fringes of affluent Sandton, is giving children from the ages of seven to 17 something positive on which to focus their energy.

The father-of-five believes the project helps children avoid the peer pressure and socio-economic pitfalls plaguing his impoverished community.

Starting with half a dozen youngsters in 2001, the unemployed Johannesburg resident now has over 150 players in nine teams. No child is ever turned away.

Malele’s ultimate goal is to have a dedicated academy in Diepsloot. He is a little closer to achieving this thanks to the involvement of the University of Johannesburg’s Hockey Club.

A chance meeting with UJ Sport’s Siobhan Brown at a counselling course in 2008 saw the tertiary institution taking up his cause. “Thanks to media reports about violence, people don’t want to set foot in Diepsloot, but the UJ people came.”

The 42-year-old Malele’s passion for hockey started as a player in the late seventies, when he learned the game at Witkoppen School in the Fourways area of Johannesburg.

After leaving school, he quit the sport on principle. “I was selected for Transvaal, but there was nothing support-wise. You’d arrive at a hotel on tour and sometimes find your room was not booked.”

But the deep-seated love of the game returned decades later when he decided to do something positive for his community.

“As Africans we are just focused on soccer. So I thought let me do something different and see if the kids would be interested.”

They were, and interest grew steadily.

Malele says he has seen significant changes in the children who come from far-flung areas.

“They are often in different schools, but, when they are together at Silver Stars, they have the opportunity to make friends and teach and support each other. That’s what I like to see.”

He says a few successful matriculants have thanked him for the role the coaching played in helping shape their focus and determination.

“They said they only managed to complete their matric because they played hockey. I just like to make more of a difference in the coming generation.”

Two of his biggest success stories are Shirley Machaba and Kabelo Motsatsi, who have both qualified for the Southern Gauteng U/18 sides on a number of occasions. Motsatsi now plays for the Beaulieu College men’s side and is coached by former Olympic hockey player Allistar Fredericks.

Malele has applied for various jobs over the years, but fears that finding permanent employment will mean the end of Silver Stars. “I do this out of love,” he says.

“People don’t want to do volunteer work; they always want something in return. I want more people in the community to get involved so that the project can move forward and become sustainable.”

In addition to his hockey commitments, Malele runs a community food garden and counselling, and supports groups for HIV/AIDS patients and their families at the Diepsloot South Clinic.

“I thank God for everything. He’s the only one keeping my projects going.”
The incorporation of the Vista University campuses (East Rand Campus and Soweto Campus) and the merger between the Rand Afrikaans University and Technikon Witwatersrand resulted in the formation of the University of Johannesburg in 2005. The challenges related to the merger, with specific reference to academic administration governance, were significant.

Academic administration refers to the management and governance of the academic life cycle of the student from application to graduation. Fortunately, all three of the former institutions utilised the ITS (Integrated Tertiary Software) system for the management of student data. The first step following the incorporation and merger was therefore to unify the student data systems, also referred to during this period as the “cloning” of the student data.

The registration of students – and being adequately prepared for this process in the new academic calendar year – was therefore one of the major challenges. Student registration processes had to be aligned so that the registration of students on different campuses were captured on a single database. Registration of students in 2005 proceeded as a campus-based process, and the system had to also make provision for the identification of campus-based programmes and enrolments. A total of 45,544 students were registered in 2005, compared to 48,315 in 2010.

A period of stabilisation or “legacy practice management”, using a manual-based registration process, were followed for the next three years. An online registration process was developed in 2008 for piloting in 2009, focusing on undergraduate students. The implications were as follows: in addition to the student’s registration fee payment, the identification document and NSC (or National Certificate) verification had to be captured as “seen” on the system before online registration could take place. Online registration could then proceed from home (or an internet café), or by means of an organised process of assistance in the computer laboratories on campus.

In addition to undergraduate first years, some faculties prepared the online registration system for selected postgraduate qualifications. Approximately 600 students registered online prior to the official commencement of the traditional registration process on 19 January. A total of 15,012 students (36%) registered online by close of registration on Saturday, 31 January 2009. The online registration success story continued when we achieved a 95% online registration by close of registration in January 2011, thereby exceeding our 90% target. Continuous refinement and enhancement of the system will take place, to ensure sustained excellence in this regard.

In addition to online registration achievements, UJ’s academic governance simultaneously improved significantly. A culture of excellence within central and faculty academic administration has been instilled over the past few years.

It can be categorically stated that the division Academic Administration at UJ is a national trendsetter in online registration and general governance excellence. The principle of sustained excellence and campus equivalence is continuously pursued.
WHY UNIVERSITY RANKINGS DON’T ROCK MY WORLD
Adam Habib, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Advancement

The publication of this year’s Times Higher Education World University Rankings will provoke the usual celebrations and handwringing among university executives around the world, including my home country. But some of my colleagues and I will continue to observe this with a sense of bemusement – and hope that my fellow executives in South Africa and on the rest of the continent do not get so carried away in their enthusiasm for these rankings that they allow them to determine their strategic decision-making within their institutional settings.

Some of you reading these words will, I am sure, think that this is simply a matter of sour grapes. And I am not going to try and convince you otherwise, as you have already made up your mind. However, for those among you who are at least prepared to give me a hearing, let me tell you why these rankings don’t speak to my reality.

I am an executive at a university that is located in a society in the midst of a democratic transformation. A substantive proportion of my fellow citizens is poor and marginalised and, for much of our history, has been politically oppressed, economically exploited and deliberately deprived of access to a decent quality of schooling. One of the results is that we are currently burdened with a bifurcated economy: a small, advanced, industrialised one that could compete with the best in the world, and a larger informal one in which livelihoods compare with some of the most desperate parts of our globe. Our long-term economic and political success is respectively dependent on addressing the skills shortage in our society and bridging the class divide by creating hope for the vast majority of marginalised citizens.

This context defines my university and how we operate. We have just over 50 000 students – 87% of whom are undergraduate students in nine faculties. We are also a comprehensive university which, in South Africa, means that we offer both diploma and degree programmes, roughly in a 40 to 60% ratio. The former, we believe, are necessary for addressing the skills shortages that plague our economy. We deliberately keep our fees low so that students from poorer communities can access higher education and therefore have hope for a better future. But, as a university, we also drive research and teaching. Our accredited research output has almost doubled in five years. Our postgraduate student numbers are just over 6 200 – larger than many universities in the world and about the same size as the postgraduate student body of MIT. We produce in excess of 10 000 graduates annually. But, we have taken this particular character because, in essence, it speaks to our context and addresses the development challenges we confront.

The global university rankings industry – in all of its various manifestations – cannot understand this university and deliberately discount it. Per capita, research productivity indicators do not account for the fact that 40% of our teaching staff are servicing diploma students and are therefore not research focused. Citation indicators do not reflect the biases of their sample and the academics and research surveys as a rule reflect the sizes of one’s national economy influences results. Moreover, they tend to advantage Anglo-Saxon economic models and their higher education systems and, concurrently, disadvantage more state and developmentally oriented models in this regard. Finally, teaching and research surveys as a rule reflect the biases of their sample and the academics who constitute these samples, however great these scholars may be, nevertheless betray the assumptions that their spatial location lends them.

The dilemma of the university ranking industry, despite its diversity, is that its core agenda is to develop indicators drawn from one reality and to get it to speak to multiple contexts across the globe. It has forgotten the most simple of rules of comparative reflections: that comparative studies can reveal much and enable lessons to be learned from multiple and diverse experiences, but only if we do not forget context. Comparisons are only useful if coupled to contextual specificity. In the absence of the latter, comparisons become odious. The most benign consequence of this will be the production of institutional uniformity across the global higher education system. The most dangerous, however, is the derailment of the development agenda and the continued reproduction of poverty, inequality and marginalisation in the developing world.
There won’t be many times when your life is as full of possibility as it is now. So dream big. Believe in yourself. Seek others who believe in you; who’ll help you realise your potential. Seek diversity. Explore. Get an education that prepares you, pushes you, and earns you respect. Wherever you go. Whatever you do.

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