

A History of the University of Natal

I have recently completed a history of the Natal University College (1909-1949) and now ask for your assistance in undertaking a study of its successor, the University of Natal (1949-2003).

I have confirmed from writing other institutional histories - the Natal Museum (2006), Agricultural Studies in Pietermaritzburg (2010) and the Msunduzi Museum (2012) - that the surviving official archival records do not tell the whole story and are sometimes inaccurate. This is particularly the case with regard to personal details about staff members and students.

I would therefore appreciate any information that you are willing to provide concerning your association with the University. In this way I hope to achieve a more complete account which will come closer to doing justice to the role that you and others may have played in its life and development.

Please do not be modest about the contribution which, in your opinion, you and your immediate associates have made. Interesting/amusing anecdotal information is also welcome in order to lighten the load of what might otherwise be an unduly ponderous academic analysis.

The following suggestions provide an indication of what I am looking for but are merely guidelines and are by no means exhaustive. If you would prefer to write a more detailed account, perhaps for possible publication under your own name, but still to be incorporated in my proposed history, I will ensure that a copy is lodged in the University Archives. I will acknowledge all information provided, published or unpublished, in my footnotes and Bibliography. **Please send your contribution to me, Bill Guest, at: bizzngrizz@telkomsa.net**

- 1) What was the period of your association with the University?
- 2) In what capacity were you associated with the University (as a student/staff member/both/other?)
- 3) If a student, what previous study/work experience did you have prior to registering at the University? What qualifications did you acquire at the University and when?
- 4) Please give details of your subsequent post-student career.
- 5) If a staff member, what previous study/work experience did you have? In what capacity did you serve the University of Natal and what promotions and/or other distinctions did you achieve at the University and elsewhere?
- 6) Please give details of your subsequent post-University of Natal staff career, if any.

- 7) If you were associated with the University in some other capacity please provide appropriate details.
- 8) What recollections, anecdotal and otherwise, do you have of fellow-students, staff members who taught/supervised you and (if a staff member) of fellow-staff members?
- 9) What is your opinion of the academic standards that prevailed in the departments and faculties with which you were associated while at the University of Natal?
- 10) What is your recollection of the facilities that were available and of the physical changes that took place during your time on campus?
- 11) What is your opinion of the quality of student life (if a student) or of staff conditions of service (if a staff member) during your time on campus?
- 12) What recollections do you have of your own and of the University community's involvement in contemporary socio-economic and political regional/national crises while you were on campus?
- 13) What recollections do you have of your own and of the University's involvement in various forms of community service while you were on campus?
- 14) What contact (if any) and opinion (if any) did you have of the University's other campuses on which you did not study (Durban Howard College/Durban Medical School/ Durban City Buildings/ Durban Edgewood Training College/Durban "Non-European" Section, and the Pietermaritzburg Campus)?
- 15) Is there any other aspect concerning the history of the University of Natal about which you wish to contribute information or a personal opinion?
- 16) Please supply contact details relating to any other former students/staff members or persons otherwise associated with the University of Natal who may be willing to assist me.

Thank you for considering my request.

W.R. (Bill) Guest.

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