

A memorial was held at UKZN's Killie Campbell Africana Library in Durban, the archival repository for documents that formed a cornerstone of Jeff's historical work.

Thembisa Waetjen was Jeff Guy's colleague for 12 years in Historical Studies at UKZN. She is now academic

coordinator of Student International Training (Programme in Social and Political Transformation) and a research associate at the Durban University of Technology.

THEMBISA WAETJEN

(With acknowledgements to the
Sunday Tribune)

Penelope Anne Haswell (1946–2014)

PENELOPE Anne Haswell (nee Routledge) was born in Barberton on 25 April 1946. Her father was a manager for Barclays Bank and was regularly transferred. First to Pilgrims Rest – where she commenced her schooling in the one-classroom school which still stands – and then to Nelspruit – where one of his clients was James Stevenson-Hamilton, and Penny developed a love of the Lowveld, especially Kruger Park, which remained with her throughout her life. Her father's transfer to Stilfontein, resulted in her attending the Convent of Notre Dame in Kroonstad, from where she matriculated in 1961.

She met Rob Haswell at registration for the University of the Witwatersrand in 1962. He surreptitiously signed her up for the boxing and rugby clubs, but she was one step ahead of him and enrolled him for ballet and debating. Financial constraints saw her leave Wits midway through her second year, but their friendship continued to blossom and they married in Johannesburg in August 1967. The following month they left for the United States, where Rob was to obtain an MSc from Southern



Penny Haswell

Illinois University in 1970. Their first child, Bobby, was born in Murphysboro, Illinois in 1969.

In September 1970 they moved south to Baton Rouge, when Rob was appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University. Their second son, Benjamin, was born there in 1971, and Penny was able to en-

rol for courses in Educational and Child Psychology. Although well-established in the US they made a conscious decision to return to South Africa, and Rob took up a lectureship in geography on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal in 1974. Penny worked for Barclays Bank in between giving birth to Daniel in 1977 and Nicholas in 1979. Remarkably, she graduated with a BA in that same year.

The birth at home of Sarah in 1983, resulted in Penny finally being able to do what she had always wanted to – stay at home and set up a pre-school. Zulu speakers soon named the school “Lindiwe” – the one we have waited for – and the city’s first non-racial pre-school, which put the interests of children first, was established. Penny and Rob also fostered many children, and in 1991 adopted Ningi Mchunu, who had been abandoned.

Penny obtained a Diploma from the London Montessori Centre in 1990, and Lindiwe soon became a loving and caring microcosm of what a pre-school could and should become in the new South Africa. It attracted parents and children from all parts of the apartheid-divided city – with Penny steadfastly defying legislation and racist harassment. During the 31 years in which she led and guided Lindiwe, thousands of children have received an outstanding preparation for education and life, with play and learning activities, ballet, ball skills and computers an integral part of the curriculum, along with annual end-of-year concerts at the Hexagon Theatre.

Speaking at her funeral, Professor Phillipe Denis said, “for most people children are important, but for some they are everything. They are at the centre. Penny was one of those. She

had an incredible heart for children.” Yvonne Spain, a long-time friend, recalled a phone call Penny had once received. “I believe you have different races at your school.” “Yes we do, we have running races, skipping races and other races as well.” “This is not a grey area and you have colours at your school.” “Yes we do, we have a green group, a red group and a blue group.” Phumelele Ntombela-Nzimande said, “she gave my three children a lifeline, and today they are highly qualified in rare skills such as finance and aviation. We owe her a mountain of gratitude.”

In addition to all this, Penny was extremely active in community affairs. She was a counsellor for Lifeline and the La Leche League, a founding member of the Thadanani Childrens’ Foundation – established in 1989 in response to the abandonment of children in Edendale Hospital. She was involved in numerous child welfare activities in Pietermaritzburg, and served on the National Children’s Rights Committee, 1996-98. She was also a member of the Black Sash.

She responded to the Seven Days War in 1990 by assisting with the supply of food and clothing to those displaced, and as a result was invited to join the ANC Women’s League, which she did, incurring the wrath of many, given that her husband was a Democratic Party MP at the time. Characteristically, Penny was unmoved and continued to be involved in community issues, especially those relating to children, and in 2014 she received a Certificate of Recognition from the Women’s League.

She rather reluctantly – because it was her husband and not she who had been elected – but with great dignity and empathy, served three terms as Deputy Mayoress and one as Mayoress of the

City of Pietermaritzburg (1995–96). “In front of an ordinary man there was an extraordinary woman” is how her husband put it. Mayor Omar Latiff described her as “a true civic-minded

hero of Pietermaritzburg. The Mandela project of creating a rainbow nation will sadly miss her positive energy.”

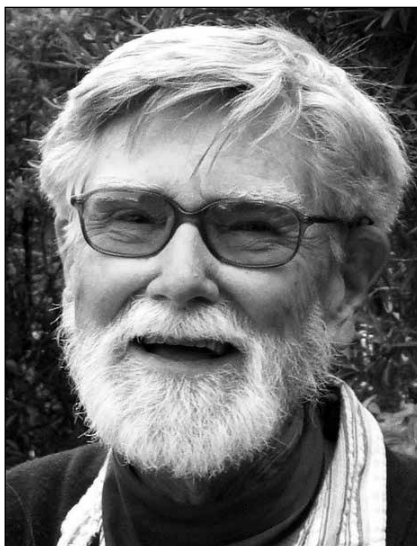
ROBERT HASWELL

Michael Menne Martin (1927–2015)

PROFESSOR Emeritus Michael Menne Martin, the former Head of the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology (1977–1987) at the then Faculty of Agriculture, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, passed away peacefully aged 87 on Friday 27 February 2015, surrounded by his family.

He was born on 6 November 1927 to the Reverend Walter Martin (Anglican Archdeacon of Durban) and Theresa Egner (a classically trained concert pianist), and spent much of his youth in St Thomas’s vicarage in Durban. After completing his BCom part time in Durban, and realising that this was the wrong career choice, he left the country and worked on a farm in Canada. The intolerable cold drove him to Vancouver, where he worked as a postman before being awarded a bursary to study at the Faculty of Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg.

He completed his BSc (Agric) at the University of Natal, and as there were no local virologists, he undertook his Masters in the Department of Virology at the University of Wageningen, Netherlands. This was converted into a PhD after his return, and he was subsequently appointed as the local departmental virologist. His PhD, which was awarded in 1976, focused on the



Michael Martin

Purification and Electron Microscopy of the Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. Interestingly, the current incumbent of the virology post at UKZN, Dr Gus Gubba, also studied tomato spotted wilt virus for his PhD.

Martin was appointed as a lecturer at the University of Natal in 1958, serving as a Senior Lecturer during the 1960s and being made a full Professor in 1977. He was Head of the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology from 1977–1987, succeeding Professor Susarah Truter who had started the Department in 1955.