



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

# UFH NEWS

MARCH 2023

“Often history gets forgotten, lost, and distorted. It is crucial to remind and inform the younger generation of where we come from and how we came to be.” - VC



**“It is a singular honour that I have been invited to deliver this lecture because it is a lecture to honour one of the most outstanding sons, not just of our country but of this continent, one of the most outstanding freedom fighters, one of the most outstanding leaders that this country has produced.”**

- Chief Justice Zondo



## Chief Justice Zondo Delivers Prestigious O.R. Tambo Public Lecture

The University celebrated and honoured the life and times of an astute political icon who fought a great deal in the attainment of freedom in this country, O.R Tambo with a public lecture on Justice, Democracy and the Rule of Law delivered by the Chief Justice (CJ) of South Africa, Judge Raymond Zondo.

Held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, the prestigious lecture presented by the University's Faculty of Law saw members of the judiciary, such as Judge Mbuyiseli Madlanga descending on the Alice Campus' Sports Complex where the event was held on the 24th of March.

In attendance was the family of O.R. Tambo from Mbizana; the Chancellor of the University, Advocate Dumisa Ntsebeza SC; the Deputy Chair of Council, Dr Siphokazi Koyana; members of the University Management Executive Committee; the President of Convocation, Advocate Andile Mini and the mayors of Raymond Mhlaba and Buffalo City Metro Municipalities.

Previous keynote speakers for this event include former SA presidents, Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma; current president Cyril Ramaphosa (who was a deputy president at the time) and; former Minister and political activist, Pallo Jordan.

This year's lecture drew inspiration from the role that the late O.R played in navigating the dichotomy between obeying the (rule of) law and guaranteeing fairness and justice. The event also sought to examine the important contribution on, amongst others, law, justice and democracy, that O.R Tambo made to South Africa, the continent of Africa and the World.

Opening his address titled: "Oliver Tambo - his values and contributions to justice, democracy and the rule of law" Justice Zondo said: "It is a singular honour that I have been invited to deliver this lecture because it is a lecture to honour one of the most outstanding sons not just of our country but of this continent, one of the most outstanding freedom fighters, one of the most outstanding leaders that this country has produced. Therefore, it is important that one acknowledges this special privilege to have been invited to deliver a lecture in memory of somebody so outstanding."

In his speech the CJ reminded the audience of the enormous role O.R played in the fight against apartheid and the attainment of freedom for the majority of this country. "O.R Tambo's entire adult life was devoted to the elimination of apartheid and the attainment of justice, democracy and the rule of law."

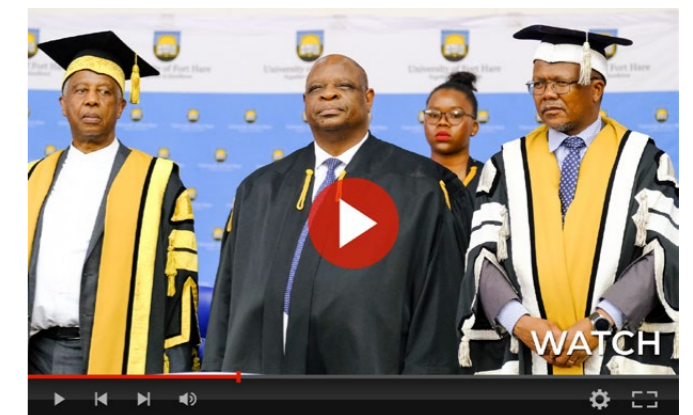
The CJ urged the audience to remember the values of O.R and speak out and blow the whistle against unjust and corrupt practices.

"If there is any one thing that we should fight with all we have if we want to honour Oliver Tambo's memory, it is corruption and state capture and those who fight corruption need to be protected and those who blow the whistle to say there is corruption, there is fraud, there is state capture, need to be protected and they need to be rewarded if their information leads to the recovery of money that otherwise would have been lost to the tax payers of this country."

"We also need to show no tolerance for corruption and fraud. If we show tolerance, we must know that we are betraying the values that Oliver Tambo used to guide his direction and to guide his fight."

"I know that in this institution there are serious matters relating to corruption and I think it is important that all of us give the leaders of this institution the encouragement to continue to fight corruption. It is important that those who pursue corruption know that they have no support, they have no place to hide and all of us must play our role," urged the CJ.

Click below to watch the recording of the lecture:





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# UFH and Raymond Mhlaba Municipality reinforce commitment to make Alice a safer University Town

Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu met with the Executive Mayor of Raymond Mhlaba Municipality, Councillor Nomhle Sango to discuss immediate, practical interventions the University has committed itself to in a bid to make Alice a safer university town.

The meeting held on the 23rd of March at the Mayor's Office in Alice was also a courtesy visit to welcome the Mayor who occupied office three months ago.

**“UFH and the town of Alice cannot exist without each other. We are like conjoined twins, if one suffers, the other will feel the brunt. If one becomes dysfunctional, the other will also become dysfunctional. The time to point fingers is long gone. We need to work together to find amicable solutions.”**

The engagement came less than a month after an incident where three female students were attacked resulting in the murder of one, and the hospitalisation of another following an incident of rape. The attack occurred outside UFH premises on the Tyhume river bridge that connects the town of Alice with the UFH campus.

This is not the first incident where UFH students were attacked on this bridge. In 2017, a male student died a day after sustaining injuries during an attack on the bridge.

Accompanying the VC was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Support, Dr Nosisa Mayaba; the Dean of Student Affairs, Mr Lufuno Tshikudo; the Interim Director of the UFH gender-based violence, Dr Rianna Oelofsen; three SRC members led by their President, Ms Siphokazi Mbalo; and representatives from the University's Properties and Services and Institutional Advancement Department.

The meeting was held at the Mayor's Office where the UFH delegation was welcomed by the Mayor; the Speaker of the Municipality, Mr Thozama Ngaye; the Manager in the Mayor's Office, Mr Melikhaya Beken; the Director of Engineering, Daluxolo Mlenzana and the Advisor to the Mayor, Mr Mandla Makaleni.

The immediate practical solutions by the University include the felling of the trees that surrounds the Tyhume river, bush clearing, excavating the grounds



under the bridge to clear the stagnant water and allow for better flow and also to erect tall lamp posts.

For medium-term solutions, the University proposed that in conjunction with the Municipality, to approach the SAPS to increase police visibility and jointly motivate for the establishment of a satellite police station. The issue of reinforcing certain bylaws to curb the dangers that are lurking was also proposed during the meeting.

Another intervention proposed includes the establishment of a Thuthuzela Centre for rape victims.

These proposals and interventions by the VC and his delegation were greatly welcomed by the Mayor and her delegation who expressed their commitment to join forces with the University.

“We welcome this progressive move. The VC raised pivotal issues and proposed amicable solutions.

We need to strengthen our strategic partnership to address the socio-economic challenges faced by the University community and the community of Alice,” said the Mayor who detailed some of the initiatives the Municipality has undertaken following the death of the student, which includes a resolution to establish a Community Policing Forum and the reinforcement of bylaws.

Giving context behind the motivation behind this engagement, the VC said: “The two, UFH and the town of Alice cannot exist without each other. We are like conjoined twins, if one suffers, the other will feel the brunt. If one becomes dysfunctional, the other will also become dysfunctional. The time to point fingers is long gone. We need to work together to find amicable solutions to the challenges that face the 10 000 students on the Alice campus and the surrounding communities.”



# ACCOUNTING GRADUATES ACHIEVE 100% PASS IN SAICA-ITC EXAMS ON FIRST ATTEMPT

The Nkuhlu Department of Accounting has once again proven to be among the best accounting departments in the country, this after its graduates, on first attempt, attained a 100% pass in the 2023 South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Initial Test of Competence (ITC) exams.

This remarkable feat was only obtained by three other South African universities: University of Cape Town, University of Pretoria, and the University of Western Cape.

The ITC serves as the first of two SAICA qualifying examinations. The exam assesses how well a candidate can apply the technical competence they have acquired through the academic programme by requiring the candidate to analyse and evaluate specific scenarios presented.

Results for the 2023 exams were released on the 31st of March.

A total of 25 graduates from UFH sat for the exams and aced them on their first attempt. Altogether, 43 candidates were from the University of Fort Hare and of that number, 37 (86%) passed the exams.

The University outperformed both the exams' overall pass rate for first-time candidates and repeat candidates which is 93%, and 44%, respectively.

Located on the East London campus, the Nkuhlu Department of Accounting is named after the doyen of accounting, Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu who is a UFH Alumnus and the country's first black Chartered Accountant.

The Department is accredited by various professional bodies, including: SAICA, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA). The accreditation by these professional bodies enhances the value of the qualifications by the Department and ensures that its graduates are sought after by employers in the market.

Programmes on offer include the Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), the Advanced Diploma in Accounting (ADA), and Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting (PGDA).

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu lauded the successful candidates and congratulated the staff from the Department and encouraged them to "continue raising the UFH flag high."



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# Taking Healthcare Services to Rural and Remote Eastern Cape Communities

**“Community engagement and community service is key to our teaching and learning, and research programmes. It is important to develop meaningful partnerships that seek to empower our communities.”**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, the Department of Nursing Sciences under the Faculty of Health Sciences launched a mobile clinic and a 22-seater bus that will be taking healthcare services to rural and remote communities in the Eastern Cape.

Funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training to the tune of R1 million, the successful launch of this first-of-its-kind initiative in the Nursing Education Institution sector in the province, is a culmination of the Faculty’s partnerships with the Buffalo City Metro Health District and the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

The mobile health facility will provide primary healthcare services such as health education, basic screening for diseases and basic healthcare interventions that will be administered by students

from the University’s Department of Nursing Science and the Department of Rehabilitative Sciences under the supervision of qualified and professional health practitioners.

This flagship project will be piloted at an informal settlement outside Mdantsane, called Smiling Valley. This community was identified by the Buffalo City Metro Health District, as its nearest clinic is located miles away.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony which was held at the Miriam Makeba Arts Centre on the East London campus, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Prof Renuka Vithal said the project was a great example of academic institutions working with stakeholders to make an impact on surrounding communities.

“Community engagement and community service is key to our teaching and learning, and research programmes. It is important to develop meaningful partnerships such as this, not only for training our students, but also to give our academics the opportunity to do research and to better inform the kind of teaching that we do, as well as the kind of services we offer to impact the health and wellbeing of our surrounding communities.”

“This development also forms part of how we are gradually rebuilding the infrastructure needed to support our Health Services programmes under the Faculty of Health Sciences,” said Prof Vithal.



Speaking on behalf of the Provincial Department of Health, Dr Mthandeki Xamlashe, the Acting Deputy Director-General for Clinical Services in the Eastern Cape, said the launch of the mobile healthcare facility at UFH was very significant to the healthcare sector in the province.

“This is a very special day for us. It is an extension of a well-established relationship between the Department and the University. The launch of this mobile clinic speaks to where our hearts are, which is reaching out to rural communities and offering basic services to ensure that the people in these areas remain healthy and are knowledgeable about taking care of their health.”

The Dean of the Faculty, Prof Mzikazi Nduna said that this was a historic moment for the Faculty. “One of the most important things in the context of the country is the socio-demographics of the people that our Department of Health serves. Not all of our people

have access to clinics and for those patients, it is important that we the healthcare workers, reach out to them when they are unable to reach our facilities.”

Equally excited about this initiative is the Head of the Department of Nursing, Ms Ntombana Rala who said: “We are launching a teaching and learning opportunity for our students, it is an extension of our community engagement, and most importantly this is a great opportunity to prepare our students to become nurses that provide healthcare services where it is needed the most -in the rural and remote communities.”

Delivering the key message, Dr Xamlashe urged the students when they visit these communities to remember the nurses’ oath which they solemnly pledge themselves: *“to the service of humanity and will endeavour to practise my profession with conscience and with dignity.”*





# Restoration of Alice Staff Centre is Underway

The Alice Staff Centre which was torched during a violent student protest in 2017 is currently being restored.

Contractors have been hard at work since January and the project is said to be on target for completion.

The refurbishment of the centre is among the infrastructure projects the Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu announced for this year during his University official opening address last month.

“Staff will be pleased to know that the project has commenced, and it is on target to be completed before the end of this year,” said the VC who applauded the excellent workmanship of the renovations done on the Economics Building which caught fire two years ago.

“The renovations on the Economics Building were done extremely well and in record time. It serves as an example that it can be done.”

The VC also took the opportunity to remind staff and students that: “Infrastructure does not destroy itself, the University does not allow itself to go down, it is people who allow it. Let us recognize that fact.”

The news about the Staff Centre being refurbished was met with much delight by staff members.

Senior Administrator in the Vice-Chancellor Office, Khanyi Gola recalls the moments after the centre was torched. “I was shocked, I didn’t understand why the protest had to be so destructive. The Staff Centre was where we unwinded, met new colleagues and formed new friendships. I was devastated when I woke up to the news that it had been torched.”

When asked how she felt now that it is being renovated the tone of Gola’s voice instantly switched from sad to jovial. “I am extremely happy that we are going to have our place back,” she said.

Equally excited is Mr Lundi Wana, Lecturer at the Department of Sociology located less than 100 metres from the Staff Centre. Wana described the building as the true “centre of the university”

“It was not just the centre of the University by virtue of its location, but it was the place that brought us together and held many of us together. It was much more than a place to have our lunch. The Staff Centre was a space where intellectual debates were had by people from different disciplines with diverse views on various social, academic, and political topics.”

“New friendships were formed, newcomers were inducted and many amicable solutions were shared to different challenges.”

Mr Wena who has been at UFH for over two decades says one of his fondest memories at the Staff Centre is the spontaneous or sometimes planned live performances by the Music Department. “The artists from the music department would render us one or two items and we would loosen up a bit and by the time you go back to class, you feel revitalized.”

**“It was not just the centre of the University by virtue of its location, but it was the place that brought us together and held many of us together and I am happy it is being refurbished.”**



# Prof Mncube's new book offers empirical insights and practical solutions to the scourge of violence in schools

**“A significant reduction in violence in schools does not necessarily involve major injections of resources or complex reforms – much could be achieved by doing the basics well.”**

Prof Vusumzi Mncube, the Dean of Education, recently launched his latest book which offers empirical insights and practical solutions to the global phenomenon of violence in schools.

Titled, *Violence in Schools: SA in an international context*, the book co-authored with Emeritus Professor Clive Harber from the University of Birmingham and Honorary Professor at University of South Africa, covers both the social bases of school violence and the role many schools play in breeding violent behaviour.

The book launch took place on the 31st of March at the University's East London campus main building.

This is the second edition; the first edition was published in 2017 following a research project conducted by the two professors in 2012 on violence in six South African provinces which was published in a ring binder form.

Both books are published under the UNISA Press. The first edition won the prestigious Hiddingh-Currie award from UNISA Press, an annual award to recognise UNISA Press books viewed to be of the highest academic merit and original scholarship.

The book is utmost pivotal as concerns over violence on school grounds continue to grow, daily. Internationally, violence occurs in schools on a regular basis and in some contexts, it is particularly serious and widespread. Most recently, a mass shooting occurred at The Covenant School, in Nashville America where six people were killed.

In South Africa, on an almost daily basis, newspapers carry reports of one or other aspect of school violence.

In November 2022, the South African Police Services (SAPS) released crime stats that showed that 19 murders had been committed at educational facilities across the country – this raised the alarm over the increase of violence in schools.

According to the authors, while several academic studies have delineated the extent and nature of such violence, and made recommendations on possible solutions to

the problem, there has, until now, been no single book bringing together theory and research on the causes of violence, and on its reduction and prevention.

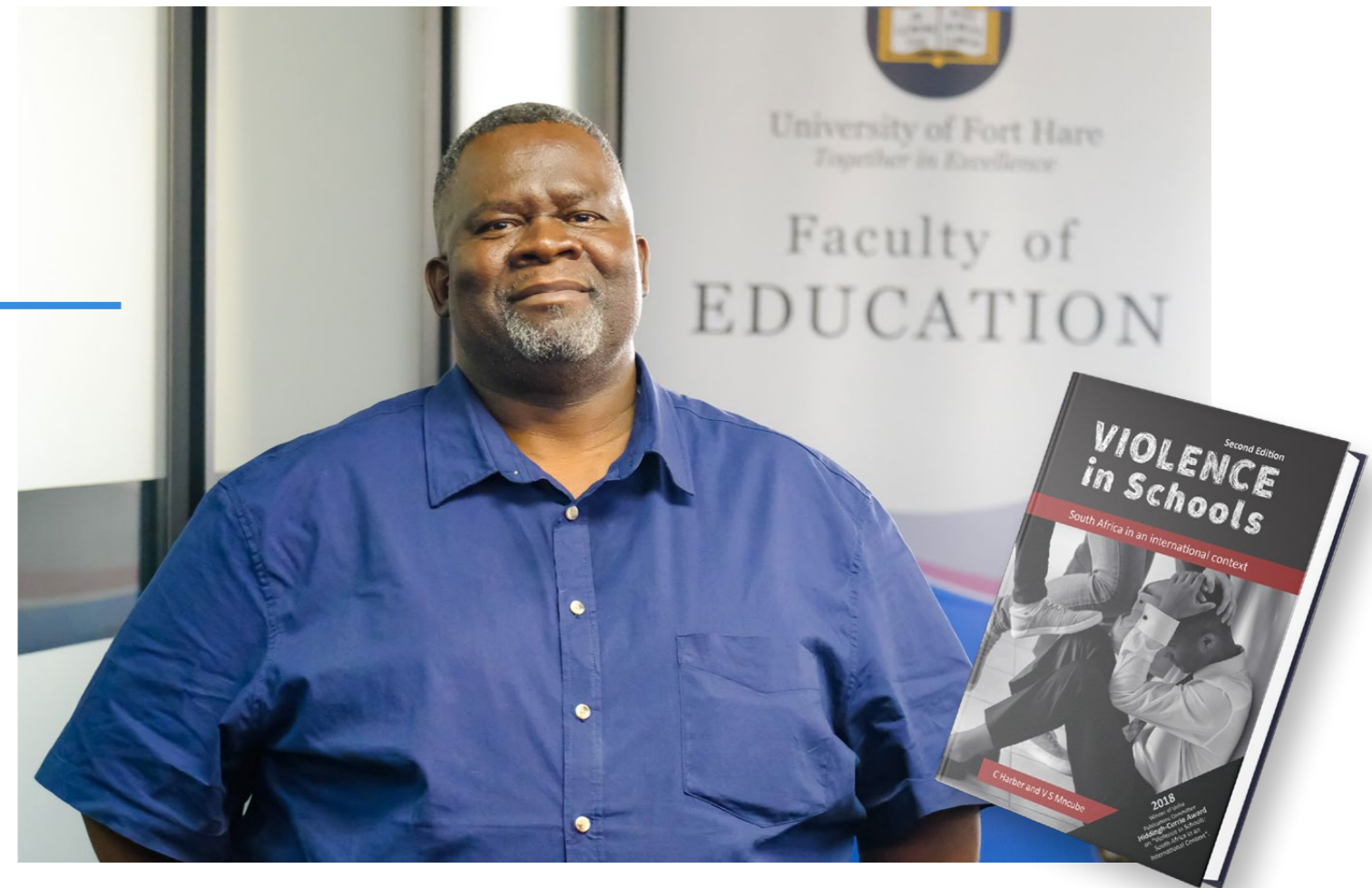
“Because the book understands violence in schools and elsewhere as an essentially **social** phenomenon, rather than, say, genetic or biological, this means that it is possible to both understand its causes and to do something about them,” explained Prof Mncube.

The authors go on to argue that school-generated violence is potentially much more amenable to positive intervention. “Solutions can be developed at the local level, by schools themselves, and in response to the specific circumstances generated in individual schools.”

The book is divided into two main sections – examining and explaining violence in schools on the one hand and reducing violence in South African schools on the other.

Some of the conclusions made in the first section are as follows:

- Violence is a global phenomenon but is widespread in South African society.
- Violence is harmful to both individuals and societies and can act as a barrier to learning.
- Most violence has social causes.
- Key social causes of violence globally and in South Africa are social and economic inequality, dominant interpretations of masculinity and negative forms of socialisation.
- Schools can be part of these social causes of violence through their role in socio-economic reproduction, their reproduction of – or failure to combat – models of masculinity based on violence and their role in both authoritarian socialisation and in providing a dysfunctional and disorganised educational arena.
- The sources of violence in schools can be external, internal and indirect (by omission) or internal direct.
- It is crucial to try to understand where violence in a school is coming from and why it occurs in order to begin to reduce or eliminate it.



The second section, chapters six to nine, the authors examine ways in which violence might be reduced in schools.

“We begin with a bridging chapter which is an analytical exercise based on two case studies from KwaZulu Natal. The reader is encouraged to analyse what might be causing, or helping to cause, violence in both schools. Understanding the causes of violence in schools is the beginning of finding a solution.”

Chapter seven and eight discusses the important role of the management and culture of schooling in reducing school violence as well as the need for teacher education to play a part and look at specific strategies and techniques, both preventative and punitive, that a school might use to help to reduce violence. Chapter nine looks at the curriculum implications for reducing violence both in the school and in the wider society.

Some of the possible solutions to the problems mentioned in the final chapter include the following:

- Schools do not necessarily have to be helpless victims of a violent society.
- A significant reduction in violence in schools does not necessarily involve major injections of resources or complex reforms – much could be achieved by doing the basics well.

- There needs to be a much greater emphasis on the achievement of teacher professionalism in South Africa.
- Schools need to be both effective and democratic institutions.
- Violence prevention in schools through better organised and more purposeful schooling is more effective than control, surveillance and punishment.
- If punishment is unavoidable, then it should be proportionate to the offence, understood by the offender and help to restore the damage that has been done.
- There are many practical steps that a properly organised school can take to begin to reduce violence both internally and in relationships with the school community.
- Schools need to teach about violence and its causes in the classroom, but this again has implications for teacher training and teaching skills and methods.

Overtly, based on the value of democratic values in seeking solutions, the book provides very useful resources for a whole range of educational endeavours and is of considerable interest to government educational departments, non-governmental organizations, teacher-education institutions, staff and governing bodies in schools.



# Education Professor's Practical Guide seeks to Empower Future Educators

Prof Emmanuel Olusola Adu, a UFH Professor in the School of General and Continuing Education under the Faculty of Education is the co-editor of a practical guide prescribed for post and undergraduate students studying to become educators.

Titled: ***“Managing the microteaching process: a practical guide to teaching practice preparation”*** Prof Adu explains that the book serves as a complementary resource to the teaching practice preparatory process in initial teacher training whereby lecturers are expected to strategically prepare second, third, and fourth years as well as the postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) students to theoretically and practically learn to teach.

“The focus of this study guide is on the microteaching textbook proceeded with formal theoretical explanations of the relevant skills of teaching to students through their participation in the teaching practice modules’ lectures in the faculty of education as well as other teacher training institutions.”

“If well-managed, the content of this textbook would help equip the students with knowledge of what portends quality teaching under a controlled environment. It would assist the students to understand what makes the ideal teacher.”

The guide has two parts of 27 chapters that seek to address its core objectives which is to equip students with ability to describe the basic concepts, meaning and importance of micro-teaching; and to demonstrate an understanding of the quality of an ideal teacher; in-depth understanding of various micro-teaching skills; develop skills in planning, presenting and evaluating teaching and learning. The book also aims to enable the students to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of various phases, procedures and cycles of teaching through micro-teaching before embarking on teaching practice.

This is the fifth book that Prof Adu has been involved in that seek to carve education students into quality teachers. He has made contribution on the following books:

1. Learn to teach: A handbook for teacher education (co-editor)
2. Teaching Economic and Management Sciences (Contributor)
3. Early Childhood Care and Education 0-4 (Contributor)
4. Fundamentals of research in Humanities, Social Sciences and Science Education (Lead Editor)

Speaking about the motivation behind his involvement in producing study guides to empower future educators, Prof Adu said: “It is my heartbeat to grow the teaching profession, not only in Africa but across the globe.”

Commenting on his experience as co-editor of his latest offering, Prof ADU said: “It was a very interesting and informative experience having assembled 48 scholars apart from the editors within the continents. It was indeed educative to understand various practices of teaching practice which is called ‘School Experience’ in some universities in South Africa. Dealing with professional scholars of high pedigree is not an easy task but with the help of five peer (Blind) reviewers used by the publishers, we are able to navigate and sail through,” he said.

The book was published in February 2023 and already, Prof Adu revealed that he is working on another book which will be revealed soon.

**“If well-managed, the content of this textbook would help equip the students with knowledge of what portends quality teaching under a controlled environment. It would assist the students to understand what makes the ideal teacher.”**

# ICT DEPARTMENT MAPS OUT 'SMART' FUTURE

The rapid evolution of information and communications technologies, further nudged by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, cajoled universities like Fort Hare into becoming "smarter" academic institutions.

Wherever in South Africa they are and whatever time of the day or night it is, students and staff have come to rely on the ICT department to plug them into the university's systems via the internet for e-learning purposes or to access vital documents and information.

To prevent outsiders from having any type of access, the Eastern Cape institution has invested heavily in its cybersecurity protocols. These include e-mail and endpoint security as well as robust perimeter protection and detection software.

The University of Fort Hare's (UFH) interim chief information officer Shakes Scott is confident that the Alice-based institution is now in a prime position to safeguard data "quickly and effectively" in the face of malicious attacks.

Endpoint security will ensure that the university can continue to reach staff and students should it ever need to go into "pandemic mode" again, he says.

The UFH ICT department of today has evolved from the data processing function used to capture the university's finances in the 1980s.

In the nineties, says Scott, data processing matured to the extent that business support and management information systems could be established.

A database to manage all of UFH's operations was in place by the turn of the century. This system was based on Enterprise Resource Planning and Management technologies - ERPM in short.

Scott scores the department highly when it comes to being proactive in a field that

evolves at a phenomenal pace. It takes 25 permanent staffers, 21 part-time workers and three government-sponsored interns to run this digital race.

The team oversees the digitisation and automation programmes that allow UFH to take advantage of what is now referred to as the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

The CIO explains that the division is driven by the Smart concept, which entrenches specific, attainable and measurable goals. It guides it in its efforts to keep abreast of the latest technology, the Internet of Things (a system of interrelated computer devices and other mechanical and digital machines) and 4IR initiatives.

In his opinion, this need to be ahead of the curve is crucial if the institution wants to keep fighting in the same weight class as its competitors. To this end, he says, the department's role is pivotal in UFH's transition to e-learning and blended pedagogical models.

"We are doing this by providing a cloud-based LMS Blackboard as well as Microsoft Teams for hybrid teaching and operations."

The need for flexibility and adapting to everchanging circumstances brought on by lockdown was a learning curve Scott and his team will not forget in a hurry.

"We provided various solutions to address the operational requirements under Covid. Staff worked from home using VPN (Virtual Private Network) connections that allowed them to bring the classroom experience into an online environment."

Adopting the same method made it possible for students to attend classes from their residences or homes.

Technology-wise, Scott believes the ICT department is on par and in some cases ahead of other tertiary institutions in this country.



**"An improved and more reliable internet service with additional access points, faster network speeds and better tech for teaching venues are in the pipeline."**

"That said, we also have to negotiate issues unique to the Eastern Cape, many of which are finance-related. These include the provision of data and modems to students."

The secondary problem is that none of the mobile network operators' networks offer coverage to all parts of the province and beyond.

"We are forced to refine the service to allow access via a 'network of choice' to reach the students that are scattered across the country."

With new systems come the need to train students in the proper use of ICT technologies. In this regard, says Scott, UFH has moved from a push to a pull approach.

This means online training videos and demos are available, while most courses provide tutorials and practicals.

Here, too, the ICT division plays a crucial role

to ensure that effective training systems are in place. Open, free-to-use computer labs equipped with the necessary soft and hardware are an example.

Scott says every single staff member and student has been a beneficiary of the department's initiatives over the past 40 years, yet he believes it is just the tip of the iceberg.

"An improved and more reliable internet service with additional access points, faster network speeds and better tech for teaching venues are in the pipeline."

"Other than that, there is the upgrade of Alice's 3G network to 5G and new units for the computer labs to look forward to."

The department is also involved in plans to introduce an alternative energy plan for UFH in order to negate the Eskom factor.

# SEMINAR: DECOLONISATION OF EDUCATION IN SA

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, the Faculty of Education, in collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Centre hosted a seminar on the decolonisation of education in South Africa.

Themed: “Deepening South African Education Transformation Through Decolonisation: Perspectives and Practices” the seminar created a platform for professional dialogue among academics to discuss the relevance of ethical values as we transform and decolonise the academy.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof Simphiwe Mthiyane who is the head of education at the University of Pretoria.

According to Prof Mthiyane: “Recently, the SA Higher Education sector has observed an insidious creeping in of a chronic and deadly dysfunction that has reversed our gains since 1994.”

In his presentation, Prof Mthiyane argues that this dysfunction should be thoroughly and systematically researched, theorised and understood within the broad context of a post-conflict South African society which has been characterised as “multiple wounded, multiple traumatised and multiple mourning.”

To frame his argument Prof Mthiyane borrowed from Albert Memmi (2006), Frantz Fanon (1967), Xolela Mangcu (2014) and Jonathan Jansen (2023).

Click below to watch the recording of the session:



# VC's Tour brings Excitement and Enlightening



**“I am very happy to have been part of this journey of discovery with the VC. I am now more informed about who my VC is and what he stands for, the history of this institution and this campus.”**

Scenes of excitement played out at the Alice Campus on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March, when the Vice-Chancellor took a group of 80 first-year students on a history tour of the campus.

The VC initiated the First-Year Tour last year and it has since become an annual tradition at the University of Fort Hare.

The purpose is to educate the first years about the rich history of the 107-year-old University, it also presents the students an opportunity to engage the VC and to get to know him better during interactive sessions held between the site visits.

“I felt it was important to do this tour because often history gets forgotten, lost, and distorted. It is crucial to remind and inform the younger generation of where we come from and how we came to be.” said the VC.

First stop was the De Beers Art Gallery, which houses a substantial collection of South African art acquired over an extended period. These include artworks of iconic artists and a collection of traditional African art including beadwork, utilitarian objects, costumes and a variety of other artefacts.

Next, was Freedom Square, regarded as the centre-point of the University's academic activities. In design, the building is a quadrangle created by the layout of three prominent buildings, namely Stewart Hall, Livingstone Hall and Henderson Hall.

The tour proceeded to the Christian Union Building (also known as the Theology Building). Completed in 1930, the building resembles a cross, and its main feature is a square clock tower with four clocks facing the four cardinal points.

The VC and his tourists then stopped over at The Fort which was built in 1847 and named after Colonel John Hare who was lieutenant governor of the then Eastern Division of the Cape of Good Hope.

The second last stop of the tour was at the Chapel on the East Campus and then it ended at Green Auditorium where the murals of UFH alumnae, Gertrude Ntlabati, Phyllis Ntantala and Nolitha Fakude and the late Nosiselo Mtebeni are painted on the exterior.

Among the excited group of tourists was Amvuyele Mahlala, a Bachelor of Education student. He described the tour as “fulfilling and informative” saying: “I learnt a lot about the history of the institution. I am very happy to have been part of this journey of discovery with the VC. I am now more informed about who my VC is and what he stands for, the history of this institution and this campus.”

Sibongwa Jwayiza who is also studying towards a Bachelor of Education said: “I really enjoyed the tour and learning about the institution. What excites me the most is hearing about the positive changes and transformations of the institution since its establishment. I am happy to be studying at the University of legends such as Nelson Mandela, and Robert Mugabe and Robert Sobukwe.”



STEWART HALL

The Gospel of Self-Affirmation  
A New Dawn for African Leadership

The Neo-Classical Trio

Tambo Walk S...we Walk

...the 'makuhiti cubicle'...  
Elukhanyisweni

The Neo-Classical Trio

The Neo-Classical Trio

DE BEERS CENTENARY ART GALLERY

MORENA BANYE

DE BEERS CENTENARY ART GALLERY

FORT HARE UNIVERSITY & THE ANAKHOLA HERITAGE INITIATIVE  
OLD FORT →  
↑ STEWART MEMORIAL

Aspirations and contradictions:  
The Neo-Classical Trio

MR CHRIS HANI

DE BEERS CENTENARY ART GALLERY

23

Towards a Decade of R...

24

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# STUDENTS SAY "NO" TO GBV

Parts of the small town of Dikeni (Alice) were brought to a halt on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March when Fort Hare students embarked on a peaceful march against the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV).

This follows an incident where three female students were attacked on their way from town to campus, resulting in the murder of one female student, and the hospitalisation of another following an incident of rape.

Clad in black to mourn the loss of one of their own, the students marched from the Alice campus to the local police station in Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality where they handed over a memorandum of demands to the station commander and the Mayor, Nomhle Sango.

Leading from the front line was Dr. Rianna Oelofsen from the UFH Gender-Based Violence Prevention Unit; Dr Bellita Banda Chitsamatanga, researcher; SARCHI chair in Sexualities Genders and Queer Studies; Mzi Lingela, students residence manager; SRC President, Ms Siphokazi Mbalo; head of security Mr Shikombiso Nyambi and; Mr Dzulani Munzhelele who is Students Development Office.

Among the students' demands to the South African Police Services is 24/7 visibility patrol; a 24/7 surveillance camera system between the University and Alice town; a satellite police station near campus to operate at night.

To the Mayor, the students demanded the installation and replacement of streetlights; the cutting of trees and the weed along the route; the establishment of a 24/7 rape centre that is fully functional; and for the municipality to intensify awareness campaigns against GBV.





## GBV Prevention Unit rolls out its year-long Awareness Campaign for 2023

Four years after the University of Fort Hare adopted its Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based-Violence (GBV) policy, which is currently subject to review, efforts to make the institution a GBV-free zone are ongoing.

Through its GBV Prevention Unit, the University continues to stamp authority and remain resolute in its stance against GBV, this after the Unit rolled out its nine-month-long yearly awareness campaign for the 2023 academic year.

Dubbed: "Colour the World," the campaign initiated last year is an educational awareness programme that starts in March and ends during the 16 days of activism against GBV in November. Each month, the focus is on a different colour that represents various vulnerable groups.

For the month of March, the Unit coloured the world Orange against GBV and the first awareness event was held earlier this week at Freedom Square on the Alice Campus.

The function saw the audience lively interacting with the policy.

The Unit's Interim Director, Professor Rianna Oelofsen emphasized that such campaigns cannot be limited to Women's Month in August and the 16 Days of Activism in November because GBV happens on a daily basis and "in order to create a GBV free society such awareness campaigns should be kept rolling".

Prof Oelofsen explained why colour the world (orange): "We want to stand out, we want to be seen in the world of darkness. We will bring light and solutions out of that darkness and we want everybody to see what we stand for".

"We are still not the rainbow nation as depicted but should, by all means possible, strive to be as there are inequalities we need to confront together."

The event also allowed the audience to make recommendations to be considered in the formal review processes.



## Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation Donates Self-Care Packs to UFH First-Years

Having a deep understanding of the plight of unfunded students, the Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation (UMF) and the University of Fort Hare's Student Counselling Unit (SCU) donated self-care packs to hundreds of UFH first year students who are unfunded.

The packs were handed over on the 31st of March by Ms Noma Mrwetyana -Uyinene's mother and founding director of UMF.

The foundation was established in celebration of the life of Uyinene, a 19-year-old University of Cape Town first-year student who was raped and murdered in 2019. Her murder highlighted the broader national problem of gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa

Ms Thobeka Msengana who is the UFH SCU Manager, and an advisory board member of the foundation said, this kind gesture stems from a pledge between the Unit and the Foundation to work together to stamp out GBV.



"Knowing the negative impact of not having basic things such sanitary towels or soap can have on the confidence and mental well-being of a student, we decided to give them these packs to remind them that there is support and we do care," said Msengana.

Giving a message of support, Ms Mrwetyana said: "One of the first things we did after Uyinene was enrolled and checked into varsity, was to buy her toiletries. I felt it was very important to hand over these packs because many students come from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds and do not have the privilege of affording toiletries.

These self-care packs are coming from the bottom of our hearts because UFH has been very supportive to us.

The Foundation has also developed relations with Dr Rianna Oelofsen from the UHF GBV Prevention Unit after she formed part of a panelist in one of the Foundation's recent events.

Conveying a message of gratitude on behalf of UFH students, SRC President, Ms Siphokazi Mbalo said the packs meant a lot to the students. "Such initiatives truly boost the confidence of our students because when you feel good, you do good."

Dr Oelofsen thanked the Foundation for restoring the students' dignity with these care packs. "You are making a real difference in the students' lives and for that, we are very grateful."



"We formerly signed a memorandum of understanding last year where we agreed to place our interns at the Foundation where they can gain experience and also lend psychological support and assist with campaigns against GBV, especially in rural areas and also give career guidance. The handover is a direct result of that MOU, which intends to curb or even prevent incidents of GBV using a holistic approach."

# Student's Book Inspired by True and Personal Experiences up for Mzantsi Arts and Media Award

Pained by the tragic loss of his sister who was murdered by her boyfriend in 2016, Abongile Ngqoleka, a UFH Social Sciences final-year student, turned to the might of 'pen and paper' and penned a book to document his sorrow, seven years later his book has been nominated for the Mzantsi Arts and Media Awards #Mama23.

In its 4th year running, the annual awards ceremony seeks to celebrate and recognize the achievements of South African artists and media professionals in various categories such as music, film, print television, radio, and sports.

Ngqoleka's book titled: NAKHANE which means "To build one another" has been nominated under the awards' Best Writer category.

Originally from Mount Frere (KwaBacha) in the Eastern Cape, Ngqoleka, who was born in Johannesburg endured several hardships in his life.



**"After many years of seeking solace and closure over my sister's death who was raped and killed by her boyfriend, I decided to just let the voices in my head out and produce my first book which I dedicate to her."**

This includes being orphaned at age eight which led to him and his younger brother being raised in an orphanage and later, the tragic loss of his sister who died at the hands of her partner.

The book follows the life of a female teenager, named Namhla whose life turns for the worst when her mother dies, leaving her to be raised by her father who became her rapist, infected her with HIV and impregnated her when she was 17. Namhla names the child Nakhane

"Set in the dusty villages of the Eastern Cape, the book seeks to offer readers an incisive glimpse into the murky and unspoken reality where both mother and daughter share the same pain unleashed on them by the one person who is supposed to shelter and protect them," explained Ngqoleka.

The self-published author said he dedicates this book to the memory of his sister.

"After many years of seeking solace and closure over my sister's death who was raped and killed by her boyfriend, I decided to just let the voices in my head out and produce my first offering which I dedicate to her."

He adds that the book deals with various social ills that continue to plague societies such as gender-based violence, rape, persecution of people living with albinism, homophobia, life of an orphan, teenage pregnancy, HIV and Aids, absent fathers, depression and gender inequality.

Commenting on being nominated for this prestigious award, Ngqoleka said: "It means a lot to me. I honestly can't describe the feeling. Such things are hard to achieve when you're doing everything on your own, with no sponsorship and no agent representing you. It would mean even much more if I could bring the award home to Eastern Cape because this award is not only for me but for every black child in this province, who like me, comes from humble beginnings yet give it their all to make things happen for themselves."

To ensure he bags this win, SMS "MAMA 876" to 40439, voting lines for all nominees close on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

The awards ceremony will be held in June in Pretoria.

# Trendy Graduand gets recognition from International Clothing Retailer, John Craig

Benathi Makiyela, a UFH Agricultural Economics graduand who made name for himself as an award-winning studentpreneur with a flair for fashion was recently named the winner of the "Styled By Me" - John Craig competition for up-and-coming fashion influencers with an eye for detail and an inspired sense of style.

John Craig - a men's clothing retailer that offers the best brands and stylish fashion - from casual to smart as well as footwear, accessories and more.

The competition sees two contestants selected from around South Africa go head-to-head to style each other based on a brief provided by the judge on the day.

The 26-year-old from Mount-Frere (KwaBhaca), also known as "Gosa\_we\_style" earned a spot in the John Craig competition after his content, pictures of him dressed to the nines, on Instagram caught the eye of the clothing brand.

His content is named "Painting the world with colours" and his style focuses on vintage and sartorialism, with most of his outfits being tailor-made.

"I would sometimes tag John Craig on some of the content I post. They obviously took note and were impressed by my style because I received a DM (direct message) requesting that I email my profile to the Marketing Manager. I was then selected to be part of the competition."

Benathi was announced the winner of the competition's season 2, episode 1 which was shoot in Southgate in Johannesburg last month (February) where he went against a Pretoria based influencer.

This is not the first time he has made name for himself, last year, Benathi completed his final year on a high note when he placed 2nd in the National Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) InterVarsity 2022 Competition's Social Impact category for his great business innovation: "Makiyela Recycling" which transforms old tyres into beautiful decor and furniture.

The EDHE programme is piloted by Universities South Africa (USAf) with the aim of developing the entrepreneurial capacity of students by encouraging them to participate in entrepreneurial activities as a strategy to advance the economy.



**"This serves as validation that there is a place for my sense of style, which is to bring colour into the world of those that are around me."**

The young fashionista is also a founding member of the Fort Hare Dandies - a group of young UFH male students who dress stylishly and are steadfast in changing society's perception of men by the way they present themselves and also by initiating outreach programmes.

In addition to a prize money, as a winner, he also gave John Craig the right to use his photos and videos to promote their clothing on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, in-store advertising, out-of-home advertising, and broadcast television.

"I am honoured to receive this recognition from such a reputable clothing brand that has been around for decades. This serves as validation that there is a place for my sense of style, which is to bring colour into the world of those that are around me."

# Karate ‘Graduates’ proof of how far the sport has come at UFH



Two Fort Hare karateka who graduated to brown belts are living proof of how far the sport has come at the Eastern Cape tertiary institution that is the mainstay of the student village of Alice. It was a proud moment for Lunga Nobetsiki and Anele Gqumayo, who both made the cut at a grading ceremony for the Goju-Kai style in Gqeberha recently.

However, no one was prouder than senpai Thobela Ntsonkota who has been working with them ever since they first set foot in his brand-new dojo almost six years ago.

“Lunga [Nobetsiki] was my first student when I opened the club in 2017,” he recalled. “He has been dedicated since day one and always wants to learn more.”

Gqumayo, who joined later that year, also found solace within the doctrines of the sport.

“After his third class he came up to me and said, ‘Senpai, I have been looking for a place and a sport like this for a long time,’” said Ntsonkota, who himself is a second-dan black belt in what is deemed a semi-contact offshoot of the sporting discipline.

Nobetsiki, a native of the Eastern Cape village of Lusikisiki, is grateful for the opportunities that the Japanese martial art has flung his way. “For me it is more than just a sport,” he explained. “It’s a lifetime journey that makes you understand more about yourself.”

The master’s student in agricultural economics said the club felt like home and was adamant that he would not have achieved what he had were it not for Thobela’s teachings and mentorship.

The sport has opened Gqumayo’s eyes in more ways than one, too.

“For me, it is something nobody else can imagine,” said the BSc student. “Under the guidance of an instructor like ours, everything is possible.”

Apart from the physical skills, he said Ntsonkota had taught them about dedication, commitment and spirit.

However, he acknowledged that their journey would have been a short one had they not enjoyed the support of their fellow students and the sports department at Fort Hare.

Karate proved a hit among the Fort Hare students as soon as the cornerstone of Ntsonkota’s dojo was laid. Within weeks, around 30 pioneers signed up without realising what impact their decision would have on them and the university.

Last year, every member of its 18-strong contingent returned from the University Sport South Africa tournament with at least one medal. The team collected a total of 27, the most by any institution at the competition, with the vast majority being golds.

Ntsonkota hoped that the success of his students would inspire their peers to follow in their footsteps and he invited them to experience first-hand what the club offered.

“In Goju-Kai karate, we are a family, and we welcome anyone who wishes to practice a sports discipline that teaches life lessons and prepares you for the outside world.”

It was by no means a slam dunk to master karate, but he was confident that anyone who joined “with their heart” could be successful.



## Childhood Game propels Tida to Long Jump Title

An obscure childhood game called “stretchy” helped propel University of Fort Hare student Hlonelikhaya Tida to the provincial long jump title at the recent Eastern Province Athletics Championships in Gqeberha.

Despite being a bundle of nerves, the 20-year-old field athlete showed her potential when she leapt to the women’s gold medal in a discipline she had only recently adopted.

“It was the first time I took part in a long jump competition and my nerves were all over the place,” admitted Tida, a fourth-year BSc student at the Alice institution. “But I have a coach (George Hlanganisani) who is super encouraging and with his help, and some determination, I was able to apply the strategies I had been taught.”

She confessed that victory had come as a total surprise as it had been her first competitive outing in the event. “I was so overjoyed, I even went to the bathroom to scream. Winning makes you happy and pushes you to do better than the last time.”

Before the championships, she gave the gold medal little thought as she did not want to pile any pressure on herself. She simply wanted to enjoy the experience.

“But I had such fun that I wished it would not end,” said the Mdantsane native. Although she did not give herself a chance, those in her close circle might have thought differently as she had a passion for athletics from early on. “I remember when I was about eight how I loved racing my peers. When I lost to a certain

person, I would always make sure that I worked harder and did better the next time.”

Running on the track brought her happiness and the knowledge that many were rooting for her gave her that extra boost, she admitted. The former 100m specialist’s chronic asthma eventually nudged her in a new direction as far as track and field was concerned.

“I’ve always considered taking up jumping because I grew up playing a game called stretchy, which is similar to triple and long jump.” She explained that she had a knack for the children’s game and when her condition prevented her from running longer distances, like the 200m, a permanent move into the long jump pit seemed a natural progression.

Even though she went to the meeting with modest expectations, she rated the title as her best athletics performance yet and a “proud moment”.

“I actually went there with a training mind-set in order to improve my performances.”

Unfortunately, her winning distance fell just short of the qualifying criteria for next week’s SA seniors and therefore she has turned her focus to the University Sport South Africa competition in May. For that, further improvement was on her mind.

“One of the big things I am working on is my hesitation when I get to the board, because I tend to overthink it. I need to work on trusting my instincts more.”



## Fort Hare dancers find rhythm and podium in Durban

The University of Fort Hare's dancers found their rhythm and the podium at the Federation of Dance Sport South Africa's Champions League 1 contest in Durban at the end of March.

A complement of six couples, dressed to the nines, returned from the Pinetown Civic Centre with three first, one second and two third places in the Amateur and Champions League categories.

A proud head coach, Thandisizwe Matyumza, said their achievements were just the latest in a string of successes at provincial and national level.

Last year four couples were selected for the Eastern Cape team who competed at the nationals and they all returned with podiums.

According to Matyumza, the most memorable achievement of 2022 was when two duos – Aphelele Bhodlisi and Lindokuhle Sibindlana and Lorenzo Swartbooi and Wanzi Maxhobi – were promoted to the Champions League for the 2024 world championships qualifying events.

"Dancers must compete in at least three Champions League competitions with the top two couples on the log winning the

right to represent the country," he explained.

Having been established in the nineties, the sport is one of the oldest at the tertiary institution. It gained recognition as a competitive code in 2007.

Club members have excelled in the provincial and national championships over the years. In addition, the club returned with the winners' trophy from the Queen Cup in Lesotho in 2017 and 2018.

The team were awarded a certificate for consistency at the UFH Sports Awards in 2018 and the sport was recognised as one of the eight priority codes the following year.

Matyumza said the sport had grown in popularity, so much so that students at the East London campus lobbied for a team to be established there.

The club boasts 32 members at the Alice campus and 30 newbies have already signed up for the first classes in East London later this month.

The club has also made an impact on student life.

"We hosted a very successful event called Dancing with the UFH Sports

Stars where we invited leading players from each code to take part," said Matyumza.

"It served to bring unity among all codes and to show what dancesport is all about."

Twenty-eight athletes took part with the top three places going to karate, cricket and tennis.

Club members are also making an impact on administrative level. Thandeka Mhlanga is assistant secretary of the Federation of Dancesport EC while Matyumza serves as assistant secretary of the EC Sports Confederation.

### Results from the Durban event:

**Amateur League:** Sikhulule Bukani and Esethu Bangani (1st: Level 3 ballroom), Phumelela Mqalo and Thandeka Mhlanga (3rd: Level 3 ballroom), Lubabalo Xabanisa and Nontando Tshelaza (1st: Rising stars ballroom) and Inga Mtana and Zukhanye Lupuwana (3rd: Rising stars ballroom)

**Champions League:** Aphelele Bhodlisi and Lindokuhle Sibindlana (2nd: Championship ballroom) and Lorenzo Swartbooi and Wanzi Maxhobi (1st: Professional ballroom).

## UFH SOFTBALL ON THE UP AS FIVE MAKE CUT FOR USSA NATIONAL TEAM

The progress of softball as a sport at the University of Fort Hare is reflected in the selection of five student-athletes for the University Sport South Africa national team.

This comes after the Alice-based university sent 12 players to the annual Gordon Monk tournament in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, at the end of January. With Fort Hare not attending the USSA championships in December, the event doubled as the official trials for them.

Three women – Awanele Nompetseni, Sinenjongo Yolwa and Zizipho Lingela – and two men – Thabiso Kebe and Khanya Giwu – made the final cut. Lingela and Giwu were also part of the national outfit in 2022.

Furthermore, UFH head coach Nolwazi Mabindisa was appointed women's team manager for the second successive year. Her colleague, strength and

conditioning coach Silindile Mdlelelni, received the nod for the first time.

The sport initially had a relatively low profile at the university but the coach confirmed that it was on an upward curve.

"Not a lot of people knew much about softball when we introduced it at Fort Hare, but each year more students are getting involved."

The tertiary institution has four teams at its Alice and East London campuses, where men's and women's sides compete in each of the local leagues.

The women's team had shown their potential by winning back-to-back USSA titles in 2021 and 2022 and Mabindisa believed this was a huge incentive to become involved.

At this point, UFH had not produced any senior national players, but she confirmed that it was one of the club's main objectives.

"That would be a great achievement which would raise the profile of softball, so it's definitely something we are working towards."

In the meantime, they would continue to provide opportunities for players by competing against other institutions and clubs in the province and even farther afield.

"Our women's team were runners-up last year, so we are aiming to go one step better this time. The men will also be targeting the top spot."

Mabindisa paid tribute to the players for their commitment to improve and expressed appreciation for the backing received from the authorities.

"I would be doing the university's sports department an injustice if I did not acknowledge the work done by them and the support they have afforded us."

The club has also engaged in a softball programme to grow the sport at UFH and in the province.

"To plan for the future, we are developing the sport at high schools in the region so that they can become feeders to the university's teams," explained Mabindisa.





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