

This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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Getting To Know...

Dr Martin Goldstein

Classical Music Lecturer

The UFH Music Department has added a new tune to its sound, that of Dr Martin Goldstein – a highly skilled maestro and multi-instrumentalist.

Dr Goldstein joined the Music department on 1 August as a lecturer in the Classical Music Division. His expertise includes Music Theory and playing the piano.

ThisWeek@FortHare welcomed the opportunity to introduce Dr Goldstein to the UFH community.

“We would like to see our university being counted among the best universities in our country. In every respect we are capable and competitive.”



>> Dr Martin Goldstein

Please share a bit about your professional background, hobbies and other interests

I am an experienced piano teacher having taught students from a wide range of backgrounds and levels for many years, in several countries. I have many years of experience as an accompanist on the piano for instrumentalists, vocalists, brass bands and choirs.

I have also served as an organist, both in South Africa and in Maidenhead in the United Kingdom. I played the violin for many years with various orchestras. I have provided background music on the piano at several notable venues.

I hold the following qualifications:

- Bachelor of Music (Music Education), summa cum laude – University of Kwa Zulu Natal (2007)
- Masters of Music – King’s College London (2009)
- PhD in Music (Music Theory) – Bar-Ilan University in Israel (2018)

Hobbies and other Interests

- I play the piano, violin and pipe organ. I like to improvise on the piano and enjoy listening to a range of musical styles.
- I also take an interest in related fields such as History and Language and enjoy watching documentaries related to these interests.

Why did you choose to come to UFH?

I applied to various universities and was very grateful to be accepted at the University of Fort Hare.

What are the key focus areas of your new portfolio?

At the moment, my key responsibilities in the department include accompanying the opera students on the piano and also accompanying the choir. I also have a few piano students.

What is your approach to executing your key responsibilities?

My approach is actually quite spontaneous. I am happy to help students whenever they are available. I realize that schedules are seldom fixed in the Music department and I feel that it is important to fall in sync with this approach and be available at all times to help my students, even with tasks that don’t pertain directly to my portfolio, such as printing out music, etc.

So far, which areas have you identified as pockets of excellence and which ones require strengthening in your department?

Pockets of Excellence

Our department excels in its ability to learn and create music spontaneously. This was evidenced in the composition of the song for Women’s Month. Our students displayed incredible creativity and spontaneity and the ability to fashion music from the barest of materials.

Challenges

In terms of areas that require strengthening, we need to focus more on the ability to read and actualize musical notation and sight-reading. Our students also struggle to relate to the more theoretical subjects such as Music Theory and History and we would like to show them how these fields are integral to their development as musicians. The performance element is over-emphasized in our department and we want to create more rounded musicians known for their academic excellence too.

Lastly, what are your aspirations for the university as it sets off on its journey of a decade of renewal (2020 to 2030)?

We would like to see our university being counted among the best universities in our country. In every respect we are capable and competitive. We need to provide greater access to both printed and online material and to provide better training in the use of both.

We lack resources however, I am not convinced that being fully resourced is the solution. It is easy to provide fancy resources which are not looked after or utilized. Rather, we need to promote an understanding within our students that even things which might not appear to have any immediate value are ultimately integral to their professional development.

What is your advice on how to reach the envisaged destination (2030)?

We need to denude the notion that dry academia is somehow Eurocentric. Rather, we need to see an interplay between the spontaneity of an African mindset with the depth of Western learning.

Prof Forget Kapingura joins National Future Professors Programme

“I am highly elated. This is something I have been looking forward to as an emerging academic.”

UFH Associate Professor, Forget Kapingura and Head of the Economics department is among a group of South African academics who have been selected to participate in the Future Professors Programme (FPP) – an initiative of the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Established in 2019, the programme is a collaborative initiative aimed at developing the qualities of academic excellence and leadership in university scholarship in order to contribute to the development of a future South African professoriate. It is led by Prof Jonathan Jansen, a distinguished Professor of Education at the University of Stellenbosch.

Prof Kapingura is the third UFH academic to be selected for this prestigious initiative. He joins Dr Ellen Rungani, Senior Lecturer and Acting Deputy Dean for Teaching and Learning (Management and Commerce Faculty) and Dr Johannes Zanoxolo Mbese, Head of the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry in the Faculty of Agriculture and Science.

As an economics researcher, Prof Kapingura's interest lies in development economics with a special focus on the role of the financial sector development in the broader economy, as well as its contribution to reducing poverty and inequality in sub-Saharan Africa, especially the SADC region.

“The interest in focusing on these issues at the regional level emanates from challenges which face the majority of our African countries at an individual level - which I believe - if addressed at a regional level, could be more beneficial.”

“I have also developed an interest in the role of the informal sector in the broader economy. Looking at the available literature, the informal sector has played a very important role in the alleviation of poverty in both urban and rural settings. Informal markets are not only important as a source of income but also as a source of affordable household necessities. This suggests that if well supported, it can be another channel through which the problem of poverty and inequality can be alleviated in Africa,” he said.

Prof Kapingura has presented several papers at national and international Economics conferences. His most memorable conference is the African Economic Conference (AEC) in 2011. To date, he has published 33 articles with an H-index of 10 and an i10 index of 11. He is also a member of the editorial board of the Sriwijaya International Journal of Dynamic Economics and Business, which is published by Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia and indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Currently, he is working on a project focusing on regional financial integration in the SADC region under the National Research Foundation (NRF) Thuthuka Funding, Rating Track. In the future, he intends to conduct studies on the interplay between financial sector development, financial inclusion, economic growth and poverty alleviation in the SADC region.

Since joining UFH in 2012, Prof Kapingura has taught several economics modules from first-year up to masters level and has supervised several honours students, 24 masters and two doctoral students. In 2018,



>> Prof Forget Kapingura

he was the Faculty and Institutional recipient of the Emerging Researcher Award.

He is a member of the Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA) Skills Development Committee and has reviewed several journals in Africa and internationally. He has also served as an external examiner for universities in South Africa and Namibia and currently serves as a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Asked about his reaction to the FPP, Prof Kapingura said: “I am highly elated. This is something I have been looking forward to as an emerging academic. The programme is highly rigorous and I believe it will prepare me to be an effective academic who will make an impact in the academic landscape within my field in South Africa and the world over.”

He expressed gratitude to the faculty leadership, the UFH Govan Mbeki Research and Development Centre (GMRDC) and the university management for supporting his application.

“My appreciation also goes to my great supervisors, Professor Sylvanus Ikhude whom I regard as my “academic father” and Prof Asrat Tsegaye, who have been extremely supportive and have played a critical role in creating opportunities for me. I understand the programme places a lot of expectations on participants and I am hopeful that I will pull through to be a full Professor by the end of the programme,” he concluded.

By Aretha Linden

Prof Roxanne Piderit Elected President of AISSAC

“I feel honoured to take over the helm of the AIS Southern African Chapter as we aim to adapt to the ‘new normal’ and move forward to find new ways to engage our membership.”

The University of Fort Hare has a new President in its midst!

Earlier this week Associate Professor Roxanne Piderit was announced President of AISSAC - the Southern African Chapter of the Association for Information Systems (AIS). She will serve in this role until 2024.

Prof Piderit is also Head of the Information Systems department in the Faculty of Management and Commerce.

The AIS is the premier professional association for individuals and organizations that lead in the research, teaching, practice and study of Information Systems worldwide. Prof Piderit has served on the AISSAC board since 2016 as Secretary and President-Elect.

In an interview with *ThisWeek@FortHare* Prof Piderit said: “I feel honoured to take over the helm of the AIS Southern African Chapter as we aim to adapt to the ‘new normal’ and move forward to find new ways to engage our membership. With the move to digitization, our discipline has also been propelled into the spotlight as private and public entities work to keep their engagements with their stakeholders through digital means. Therefore, currently, there are several developing possibilities in the field. We envisage more of a transdisciplinary aspect to how information systems will feature in the future as more disciplines embrace technology solutions.”

Academic Journey

Prof Piderit joined the University of Fort Hare as a contract Junior Lecturer in 2007 whilst in the process of completing her Master of Commerce in Information Systems within the department. She was appointed to a permanent lecturer post in April 2008 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2013. Three years later, she was promoted to Associate Professor level.

This is her second term as HoD. Her first term in the role ran from 2015 to 2016.

During her tenure at UFH, Prof Piderit has progressed academically. She completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education and Training (UFH) and graduated with a PhD in Information Technology (Nelson Mandela University). She is also a Teaching Advancement at Universities (TAU) Fellow.

Currently, Prof Piderit is pursuing a Masters in Education while focusing on improving student success rates.

“My studies and my teaching experience have made me realise the importance and necessity of advancing awareness about the Information Systems discipline. When I first started at UFH, Information Systems was a seldom advertised discipline. However over the years, we have graduated and sent our students out to the private and public sector and are seeing a growing awareness of the field in South Africa.”

Futuristic Research

Prof Piderit's core research interest is on digital government, the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to government functions and procedures with the purpose of increasing efficiency, transparency and citizen participation. Her specific focus is on the engagement of citizens on government platforms.



>> Prof Roxanne Piderit

Secondary to this, she also conducts studies on Big Data - an emerging area that complements digital government.

Being President

As AISSAC president, Prof Piderit will be:

- Responsible for the standard operating procedures of chapter meetings and the annual AISSAC seminar.
- She will also represent South Africa on the international AIS stage and engage with various chapters to learn more about information systems innovations on a global scale that is scalable for the South African context.
- Ongoing initiatives that she will be inheriting from her predecessor include continuing the work our chapter has done towards engagement with interested parties on the Africanisation of the Information Systems curriculum.
- She also intends to continue to explore new relationships and opportunities for collaboration with African universities and to aim towards achieving the Outstanding Chapter status award from the parent body.

Inspiration

“My late father was an educator and school principal for over 35 years and I am happy to be following in his footsteps as an educator and academic. His passion for education has always inspired me in my journey as an educator,” she said.

By Aretha Linden



FINE ART EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE HERITAGE MONTH

“This is the expression of art expression by students, a rejuvenation and restoration of the dignity of fine art. It has been there for some decades but was now becoming a little less visible. This is restoring, remembering and reshaping a department that has been in existence since the 1990s.”

On 16 September the UFH Fine Art Department launched an art exhibition showcasing the works of its 3rd year students.

The pieces will be on display for a whole month at the main campus in Alice.

This is the first of its kind exhibition since 2005 which incorporated an award ceremony honouring top performers in the fine art department across different academic levels. The exhibition was organized in collaboration with the Music department, the De Beers Art Gallery and the National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre (NAHECS).

In his message of support, Mr Ndumiso Mtshali from the music department said, “we are looking forward to this collaboration that, with the support of university management, seeks to bring the creatives in one space”.

Explaining the purpose of the event to *ThisWeek@FortHare*, Head of the Fine Art Department, Dr Siphe Potelwa said:

“This is the expression of art expression by students,

a rejuvenation and restoration of the dignity of fine art. It has been there for some decades but was now becoming a little less visible. This is restoring, remembering and reshaping a department that has been in existence since the 1990s.”

“This display will run for a month - specifically for 3rd years and a few 1st years. The intention is to attract many students from the SADC region and even from sister universities as well as funders from different organisations and government entities. We are looking for any form of funding - towards student bursaries and art material. We would like our graduates to be considered for internship and exposure in the field of arts. We invite museum stakeholders to partner with us as we embark on a renewal of fine art at Fort Hare”.

During his address, the Vice Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu hailed the department of fine arts for the role played in lifting the name of the slain law student, Nosicelo Mtebeni. He was making reference to the mural on the walls of the new arts block. The VC encouraged young talent to “move out of the shadows and take the lead as art can speak louder than words”.

Prof Buhlungu called on the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to champion issues of the Fine Art department. Once they start doing that, they will get more support and start to see donations and support for materials flow in. “The department is housed in an old house with visible cracks, yet so historic”, he lamented.

“This is the largest and the richest art material. It should not be under lock and key and people should be encouraged to visit, as it should pronounce our name to the world before we get there”, said the VC.

He also made reference to the 2019 Standard Bank Exhibition where about a hundred pieces were on display. “The country was blown away, they had never seen this, the best this country has to offer”.

Prof Buhlungu called on the Fine Art department to make this an annual exhibition for every generation of fine art to have an opportunity to display talent. The VC took a moment calling on the audience to stop mischief as this takes away resources from future generations.



“We are not going to be timid in changing this university, we are now changing it for real”. He said people are taking an interest in us now and each one of us has a role to play in changing the landscape.

The following students were recognized as Best performers in Fine Arts:

Diploma Category

- Bantubonke Sityi (1st year)
- Zikanye Makibeni (2nd year)
- Vuyo Mzamo (3rd year)

Bachelor's

- Athenkosi Nonduku (1st year)
- Lumka Zotho (2nd year)
- Lunga Mabongo (3rd year)

Best Student Award

The best student award of a floating trophy sponsored by the SRC went to *Anda Mkefa*.

by Mawande Mrashula



UFH LAUNCHES INHOUSE VACCINATION SITE

“The aim of the vaccination drive is to get more people vaccinated. This means achieving “herd immunity” within the university. Fewer people will get infected by transmission of the virus in the community. It is of utmost importance to urge people to vaccinate”

On 6 September, the University of Fort Hare, in a partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Health, officially established a Covid-19 Outreach Vaccination Site on the Alice campus Sports Centre.

So far, an average of 50 people are being inoculated daily. Currently, the site is administering the Pfizer (two doses) vaccine.

Leading up to the launch the following groups of people teamed up to prepare the university as a vaccination site:

- Covid-19 vaccination sub-committee (which falls under the Covid-19 Task Team)
- Staff from the UFH Health Care Centre (HCC), and
- Student Affairs division

Said Mr Loyiso Lange, sub-committee member:

“In an attempt to bring the idea to life, the team invited the Department of Health Sub-district Raymond Mhlaba - Vaccination Coordinating Team, to present their proposal as well as discuss the training required for identified individuals. I’m proud to record that our proposal was greatly welcomed.”

According to Mr Lange, a total of 10 Nursing Science students and six Peer Educators as well the HCC and Sports staff - were equipped with the necessary skills required to operate an efficient vaccination site.

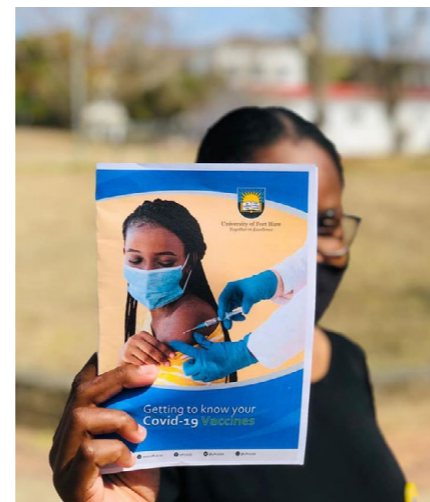
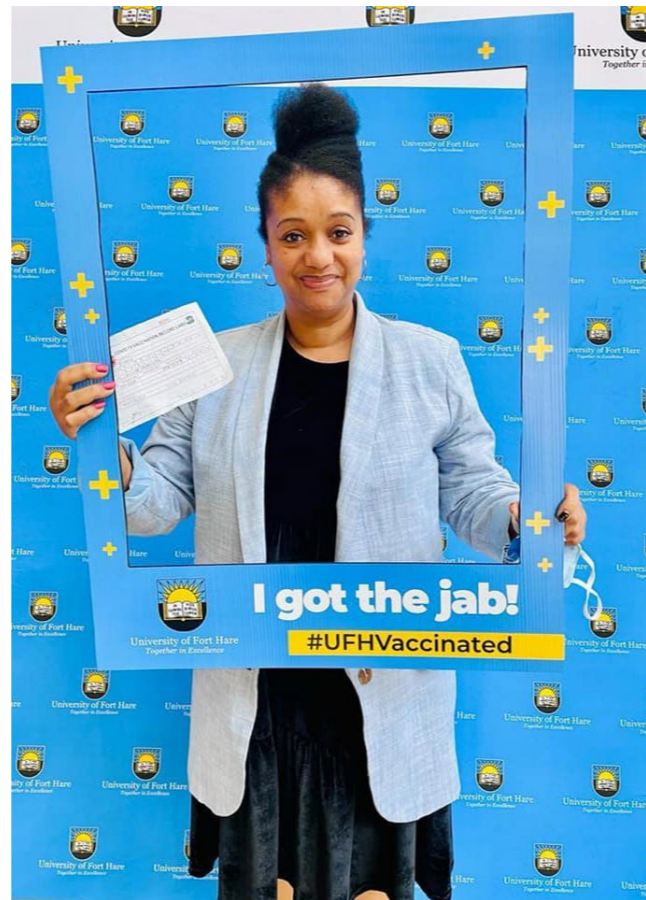
Dr Pumla Balfour from the HC, indicated that the site is manned by a team that comprises the following individuals:

- Sister Prudence Kalipa – HCC Manager
- Professional Nurses
- Nursing Science volunteering student nurses and their Lecturer (Mrs Dasheka)
- 17 Peer Educators and
- Two Advanced Paramedics from Alderson Ambulance.

The programme is also supported by a group clinicians from the district and sub-district.

“The aim of the vaccination drive is to get more people vaccinated. This means achieving “herd immunity” within the university. Fewer people will get infected by transmission of the virus in the community. It is of utmost importance to urge people to vaccinate”, said Dr Balfour.

So after registering for vaccination here: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>, you can come to the Sports Centre and get your JAB!!!





University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

13 – 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

I MAY
WALK TALK SEE HEAR
THINK LOOK LEARN
Differently
BUT
WALK TALK SEE HEAR
THINK LOOK LEARN
I can and do
ONLY DIFFERENTLY



Disability the new ability

VISION

UFH strives to promote an inclusive work and study environment in which every individual is able to participate fully in all aspects of student/ staff life at UFH.

MISSION

To remove barriers and create an enabling environment for students with disabilities by:

- Finding / providing reasonable accommodations;
- Increasing awareness and advocacy about disability;
- Increasing awareness of the abilities of persons with disabilities among the UFH community;
- Providing students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of student life at UFH.

If you need to know **ASK**

If you want to help **ASK**

If you feel pity **DON'T**

REMEMBER:

MASK-UP • SANITISE • DISTANCE SOCIALLY • & TAKE CARE

UFH DISABILITY UNIT'S AWARENESS WEEK

MESSAGE FROM THE VC



>> Prof Sakhela Buhlungu

13 September 2021

Dear colleagues and students

The University of Fort Hare Disability Unit's Awareness Week is taking place from today until Friday (13 - 17 September 2021).

As part of our 'Decade of Renewal', the institution will enhance its efforts to meet the requirements of DHET's Strategic Policy Framework on Disability for the Post-School Education and Training System (2018). Our vision for the decade leading up to 2030 of inclusivity, a society free from discrimination, and a future where all South Africans have equal rights and are able to access those rights is the foundation to enhance the student experience for our students living with disabilities. This vision is also encapsulated in the University motto 'Together in Excellence'.

Today, I call on colleagues in management and other leadership roles, as well as everyone able to drive change and transformation in their spheres of influence to commit to a process of renewal and reflection, specifically during the Disability Unit's Awareness Week, but also outside the time frame of this special event.

Whilst we have been making some headway as an institution, significant work remains. Ongoing conversations and reflections need to take place so that we successfully adapt our teaching and learning programmes to better accommodate our students living with disabilities, provide world-class institutional support, develop compelling research agendas, and build appropriate future infrastructure to realise DHET and UFH's shared vision.

This is necessary to ensure that students with disabilities have unencumbered access to dignified learning and living experiences at our institution. We need to pursue this mandate with passion and urgency.

Today, I also call on our student body to play a much greater role in eliminating prejudice and discrimination on our campuses. Let us work hard to establish an environment of respect and regard for our students who live with disabilities, and atmosphere where we value diversity in our student body.

Sincerely

Professor Sakhela Buhlungu
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

DRIVERS OF INCLUSIVITY: Meet The UFH Disability Unit Team

The UFH Disability Unit (DU) was established six years ago and over the years it has aided hundreds of students with Disabilities (SwDs). Currently, there are 66 SwDs registered with the DU.

Based on Alice and East London campuses, the support offered by the entity includes emotional and physical support as well as an open-door policy which has proven to be successful in terms of offering all SwDs a safe and confidential space.

The Unit is a serving member on the HEDSA (Higher

Education Disability Services Association) EXCO for the past three years. HEDSA is a National NPO representing all tertiary institutions in South Africa on matters of disability. Therefore, the DU ensures active involvement in inclusivity, not only for UFH students but also on a regional and national level.

The DU team comprises, a Coordinator and two Student Assistants who are qualified Social Workers. They are advocates for equal access and opportunities for all within the university.



Sam Van Musschenbroek
Position: DU Coordinator

Message to SwDs: "We want to encourage students who are living with disabilities to come forward and let us know how we can help. The earlier the disclosure the greater the chances of getting the support and assistance needed to ensure an equitable student experience. To the students that are registered with us, thank you for trusting us, we will do our best to serve you."

Message to UFH Community: "We would like to encourage any and all communication from within the body of the university for the betterment of our services to our SwDs."

Nosicelo Buwa
Position: DU- Student Assistant (Alice Campus)

Message to SwDs: "Firstly I would like to thank all students registered with the Disability Unit to ensure their voices are heard as students whose goal is to finish their studies and graduate into the workplace. Secondly, we encourage SwDs not to be afraid or reluctant to approach us. Talking to us will make your student life much easier. Remember the university is a home away from home. We are here to make you feel at home."

Message to UFH Community: "Thank you for the support and the positive feedback we receive from the various Departments we seek services from. Your support makes it easier for us to deliver services to our students. I want to encourage the UFH community to continue promoting inclusion and the provision of equal access to opportunities and resources for persons/students with disabilities."



Aviwe Makinana
Position: Student Assistant (EL Campus)

Message to SwDs: "A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

Message to UFH Community: "When you focus on someone's disability you ignore their abilities, beauty and uniqueness. Once you learn to accept and love them for who they are, you subconsciously yourself learning to love unconditionally."



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UFH DISABILITY UNIT

The Institutional Advancement Department considers itself a strategic partner to the Disability Unit (DU) which, under the passionate care of its Coordinator, Mr Sam Musschenbroek, continues to create equal learning opportunities for UFH Students with Disabilities (SwDs).

Therefore, all DU milestones are Advancement's milestones - and there have been several in the past year alone. As the DU's marketing arm, we are among the first to hear about the unit's achievements and we never hesitate to share the good news with UFH stakeholders and friends of the University across our multiple platforms.

Just in the past year alone, the Advancement Team has been privileged to witness first hand, the direct impact of the DU on the lives of UFH students such as Mr Siphamandla Boyce who overcame a rare brain disease and graduated with a BCom Law during the 2021 Winter Graduation. That story travelled far and wide and was re-published by mainstream media houses such as the Daily Dispatch and its associated publications.

In an interview with *ThisWeek@FortHare*, Boyce thanked Mr Sam Musschenbroek and his team for their assistance in securing a sponsor to pay for his tuition fees.

Most recently, the publication covered an article about two SwDs who, with support from the DU, obtained their driver's licenses in June this year. There have been plenty other student success stories in previous years. Some students have gone on to excel in their sports careers while others have successfully led child-headed families while pushing their degrees against the odds. We cannot cite them all in this piece.

We take off our hat to Sam and his team. Well done colleagues! Advancement subscribes to the theory and practices of inclusivity. Every university student deserves to be the best version of themselves.

We will continue to support your endeavours and may the year ahead bring you closer to achieving the DU's vision.

Tandi Mapukata
On behalf of Institutional Advancement



>> UFH Choir

UFH CHOIR TO FEATURE ON MZANTSI MAGIC – CHANNEL 340

“The UFH choir sound is different and unique. This worked to our advantage in getting us called to record on the show. It was very easy for them to accept our request because we were bringing something new to choral sound fused with the band.”

UFH choirs (Alice and East London) have recorded eight songs with television gospel show Melodi on Dumisa TV (channel 340). The recording took place on the 12th of September 2021 at Urban Brew Studios in Randburg, Johannesburg.

The invitation came after choir overseer and Music lecturer, Mr Ndumiso Mtshali, sent choir profiles to Mzantsi Magic Programmes Manager.

“The UFH choir sound is different and unique. This worked to our advantage in getting us called to record on the show. It was very easy for them to accept our request because we were bringing something new to choral sound fused with the band. My wish is for the choirs to record volume 2 albums and go on a tour visiting different universities” said Mtshali.

The songs are a mixture of church hymns and traditional African songs - Izitibili. The choir also performed other well known songs which are mostly performed during university graduations such as Thina Siyagiya, Hlala Nami, Thaba Tshweu, just to name the few.

Melodi gospel show is currently shooting a new season which will be broadcast in October. Urban Brew studios will inform the choir on the exact date the show will be featured.

The CDs can be purchased from Institutional Advancement offices.

By Asaduma Baloyi

UFH ALUMNUS FACILITATES GIFTS TO HIS ALMA MATER

The *Imbiza Journal for African Writing* - founded by Dr Sipiwo Mahala (renowned Author and UFH Alumnus) - has gifted the University of Fort Hare and the Vice-Chancellor with copies of the Journal's two editions (Vol 1, Issue 1 and 2).

Imbiza is an inclusive publishing platform for creative writing, criticism, academic writing and intellectual engagement for African thinkers, cultural workers and activists.

Dr Mahala graduated with a BA Honours degree from the University of Fort Hare in 1998. He also has a MA from Wits University and PhD in English Literature from the University of South Africa.

He is the Author of: *When a Man Cries* (2007), *Yakhal' Indoda* (2010), *African Delights* (2011), *The House of Truth* (2017) and *Red Apple Dreams and Other Stories* (2019).

Dr Mahala requested that the copies be shared with the university's English and African Languages Departments. The VC will receive a copy of each book.

Nokholeji says "Thank you Dr Mahala".

>> Dr Sipiwo Mahala



UFH ALUMNAE - NDILEKA COLA AND UNATHI MTYA - MAKING BIG STRIDES IN THEIR CAREERS

This week, the university celebrated two esteemed alumnae, Ndileka Cola and Unathi Mtya - who have both been appointed to leading roles in their respective careers.



>> Ndileka "Ndindi" Cola

Ndileka "Ndindi" Cola was announced as the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC) new Head of Communications and Stakeholder Relations. Ms Cola holds a Bachelor of Applied Communication and Management Degree from UFH (2004). She is a seasoned communication specialist with 17 years of experience in the communication field within the public service.

Before joining the SABC, she was the Director of Marketing and Communication (National Spokesperson) at the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID).

During her illustrious career she has occupied the following roles:

- Director: Stakeholder Relations Management at the Department of Home Affairs.
- Manager: Corporate Communications at the Eastern Cape Department of Health
- Communications Coordinator at the Greater Kokstad Municipality.
- Senior Communications Officer at the Government Communication and Information Systems (GCIS)

She also worked as a Communications Officer at two Eastern Cape Government Departments.



>> Unathi Mtya

Unathi Mtya has been appointed as African Bank's new Group Chief Information Officer.

Unathi completed a Bachelor of Science Degree, Majoring in Computer Science and Geographical Information Systems at UFH (1998)

According to her professional profile, Unathi is a tech enthusiast, a renowned speaker, a member of the Forbes Technology Council, and a Board member at PenPlusbytes.

She started her 23-year-long successful career as a Junior Operations Analyst at First National Bank. She then progressed to the following roles:

- Network Engineer: Sales Executive at BCX
- Account Manager at S1 Services
- Chief Information Officer and HOD at SITA SOC (Ltd)
- Chief Financial Officer at the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

According to a statement issued by African Bank, Unathi joins the group from Grindrod Bank, where she was the Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

She has been serving as a member of the Forbes Technology Council since November 2019.

Congratulations ladies, UFH is proud of your achievements!

IN MEMORIAM

May their souls rest in eternal peace

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO FAMILIES OF UFH ALUMNI

In recent weeks and months several alumni of the University of Fort Hare have passed on. It has not been possible to honour each and every one individually. However, I'd like to place it on record that in the same spirit that we honour the achievements of men and women who have walked the academic corridors of our university, we also mourn very deeply, the loss of each and every graduate of our beloved institution.

On behalf of the UFH Alumni Relations Office and the university community at large, I bow my head in honour of those who have transitioned to the other realm. As a university we recognise every effort to lift the Fort Hare brand whilst they were still alive and thus extend heartfelt condolences to their families, friends and acquaintances.

*Lalani ngoxolo boonyana neentombi zika
Nokholeji. Rest in perfect peace beloved Fort
Harians.*



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

ThisWeek@FortHare

your fortnightly newsletter

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