



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

UFH NEWS

2nd Quarter 2024

“The establishment of the Chair aligns perfectly with our strategic goals of fostering sustainable development and promoting knowledge transfer to benefit society at large.”
- Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence



ANGLOGOLDASHANTI

AngloGold Ashanti
RESEARCH CHAIR



CONTENTS

01 Institutional News

- Global Mining Company AngloGold Ashanti Endows R12.5 Million To UFH To Drive The Dairy Sector's Research Agenda3
- Preserving The Legacy And Building The Future - Honouring ZK Matthews Through Literature7
- Strengthening And Expanding Research Collaborative Bonds: UFH And Angola Forge Ahead.....9
- Inaugural Professorial Lecture Sheds Light On The Complex Relationship Between Humans And Microorganisms..... 11

02 Research Focus

- Lack Of Knowledge On Tick Control A Significant Barrier For Communal Cattle Farmers In The Eastern Cape Study Finds..... 13
- SAMRC Grants UFH Researchers R1m For An Innovative Study On Workplace Safety Among Nurses In South Africa 15
- Groundbreaking Routledge Handbook Of African Social Work Education..... 17
- International Study Sheds Light On Health Implications Of Traditional Male Circumcision..... 19
- UFH Centre For Global Change's Research Capabilities Boosted By R4.5m Additional Funding And Vehicle From NRF 21

03 Alumni on the Move

- Nursing Science Alumna Embodies Nurse's Pledge..... 22

04 Staff on the Move

- Decades Of Outstanding Contributions To Legal Scholarship Prof Osiode A C2 NRF Rating 23
- Y2 NRF Rating - Another Feather In Dr Ellen Rungani's Stellar Academic Cap 25
- Law Dean Appointed President Of The South African Law Deans' Association..... 27
- A Well-Deserved NRF Rating Upgrade For Prof Chinyamurindi..... 29
- Impactful Research Focusing On Entrepreneurial And Small Businesses Earns Prof Chimucheka An NRF Rating 31
- Postdoctoral Fellow Wins Ukzn's Best Chemistry PhD Award From Miktek Scientific 33
- "Ordinary Whites In Apartheid Society" - Prof Roos Pens A Compelling And Insightful Book..... 35

05 Students on the Move

- Identical Twins Who Joined UFH With A Dozen Matric Distinctions Combined, Transitioning Well At Varsity..... 37
- BCOM Law Student From Duncan Village Launches Successful Skincare Brand 39
- From Fort Hare To Windesheim University In The Netherlands: Students Reflect On Their Unforgettable Academic Exploration 41
- Realising Digital Health Innovation Through A Swedish-South African Student Virtual Exchange Hackathon 43
- Science & Agric Postgrad Duo Represents UFH At Agricultural Business Chamber Congress In Sun City..... 45

06 Faculty News

- Future Nurses Lauded With Heartfelt Pinning Ceremony..... 47
- Faculty Of Law Launches Landmark Book And Discusses African Customary Law In Panel Led By Justice Madlanga 49
- Exploring Foundations Of Education From Contemporary Social Perspectives 51

07 Events

- Commemorating International Social Workers Day..... 53
- Aknowledging World Intellectual Property Day..... 55

08 Sports

- Blues Head Coach Chases Dream Of Shaping Future SA Stars 57
- UFH Karateka Picks Up Gold In First-Ever Tournament 59
- Law Student Graduates From Lieutenant To 'Captain' Rower..... 61
- UFH Academy Grad Peter Has Cricket World Spinning Like A Top..... 63

GLOBAL MINING COMPANY ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI ENDOWS R12.5 MILLION TO UFH TO DRIVE THE DAIRY SECTOR'S RESEARCH AGENDA

The University of Fort Hare (UFH) and AngloGold Ashanti marked a significant milestone with the launch of the AngloGold Ashanti Research Chair in Dairy Science & Technology at UFH's Faculty of Science & Agriculture.

This partnership was made possible by a generous endowment of R12.5 million from AngloGold Ashanti, one of the largest private sector investments in research at an Eastern Cape university. It is also the first time that Fort Hare has launched a research chair endowed by a listed company with a global footprint.

The joint venture between the global mining company and this great African University aims to revolutionize knowledge production by advancing research, development, and innovation in dairy science and technology while fostering sustainable development and inclusive growth across the province and South Africa.

The launch event signaled the culmination of a strategic idea crafted by UFH's Management Executive Committee (MEC) to amplify the university's impact in dairy science through its partnership with Amadlelo Agri, as 50% owners of the Fort Hare Dairy Farm which is nestled on a picturesque 210-hectare farm on land owned by the University of Fort Hare in Alice.

This pivotal occasion aligns well with UFH's renewal trajectory, including the forthcoming qualification

in dairy science, a first for the country, and the institution's identification to establish South Africa's second veterinary school.

Held at the Student Centre on UFH's Alice Campus, the esteemed guests included representatives from the University, AngloGold Ashanti, academia, community leaders, traditional leaders, and key players in the agriculture and dairy industry such as the SA Milk Producers Organisation.

Delivering the opening address and welcoming remarks, UFH Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu expressed his enthusiasm, stating: "This is an idea whose time is now."

"We are a 50% owner of the award-winning state-of-the-art Fort Hare Dairy Farm, which has been operational for over a decade. Last year, we crafted a plan to establish an Endowed Chair in Dairy Science & Technology that would become a hub for research and training to amplify the impact of the farm."

"The required fund to set up the chair was R25 million. The University invested R2.5 million and initiated a challenge where we knocked on the doors of potential donors to either match or exceed our investment. AngloGold Ashanti exceeded beyond expectations, earning themselves the naming rights of the Chair."

"Today, we celebrate the establishment of this research chair. This partnership symbolizes a

commitment to leveraging our academic strengths for the benefit of our communities and the broader dairy industry."

Expanding on the origins and objectives of the partnership, UFH Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Partnerships and Innovation, Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba said the Chair is set to bolster UFH's capacity to produce cutting-edge research and expertise in dairy science, crucial for enhancing food security, supporting rural livelihoods, and promoting economic prosperity for the province and the country.

"This establishment of the Chair aligns perfectly with our strategic goals of fostering sustainable development and promoting knowledge transfer to benefit society at large."

For AngloGold Ashanti, the R12.5 million endowment is part of a larger investment in legacy projects in education and agriculture that AngloGold Ashanti will carry out over the next five years to honour the company's commitment to South Africa, its employees, and its communities.

The Senior Vice-President, Group Sustainability at AngloGold Ashanti, Ambassador Baso Sangqu said the mining company deliberately targeted the province from which a significant proportion of their workforce was drawn for many decades. "It is a great honour for us to partner with the University of Fort Hare which is a source of inspiration, and we found resonance in its Decade of Renewal Strategic Plan. We are pleased to be part of this great university's renewal journey."

"The Research Chair position aligns with South Africa's National Development Plan, highlighting the untapped potential of rural agriculture. Its initiatives also support various Millennium Development Goals, such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality, and ensuring environmental sustainability," underscored Ambassador Sangqu.

The partnership was largely welcomed by key stakeholders in the dairy industry, such as Mr Fanie Ferreira, Chief Executive Officer of the Milk Producers Organization (MPO), who, in his message of support, shared a detailed and insightful landscape of the dairy industry. "We are excited and look forward to reaping the benefits that will emanate from this collaboration between Fort Hare and AngloGold Ashanti."

The CEO of Amadlelo Agri, Mr Simpiwe Somdyala, who already enjoys a fruitful partnership with the University through the Fort Hare Dairy Trust, said the launch was the start of an exciting and promising journey for the dairy industry. "The dairy industry is very competitive, and this research chair will ensure that the industry evolves as technology evolves."

"We have committed to ongoing support for the research chair, showcasing a shared dedication to fostering collaboration in research and innovation. This commitment underscores the importance of this initiative in areas facing poverty, infrastructure limitations, geographical disadvantages, and high unemployment rates," stated Somdyala.

Dr Gugu Moche, the National Research Foundation's Group Executive: Digital Transformation and Acting Deputy CEO for Research, Innovation, Impact Support, and Advancement, lauded the partnership and expressed the Foundation's keenness to bring "additionality" to this collaboration.

Looking ahead, Dr. Taole-Mjimba indicated that the university's next steps include appointing a chairperson, fundraising the remaining R10 million, developing research projects, and building human capacity for honours, masters, PhDs, and postdoctoral fellows. "We are looking for societal impact from this Research Chair to ensure it contributes to the betterment of this province and the country."

The event ended with a tour of the Fort Hare Dairy Farm.





PRESERVING THE LEGACY AND BUILDING THE FUTURE – HONOURING ZK MATTHEWS THROUGH LITERATURE

“We hope that our children will learn this history, draw from it, and learn valuable lessons about the life and character of the man.” - Dr Naledi Pandor

The ZK Matthews Public Lecture lived up to expectations, igniting a powerful dialogue and inspiring meaningful action toward a progressive society.

One of a series of events organized by the University of Fort Hare (UFH) in commemoration of ZK Matthews' centenary graduation, the lecture was delivered by Professor Malegapuru Mampokoro (Poki) William Makgoba, a distinguished figure whose contributions span across various domains, from immunology to higher education and public health advocacy.

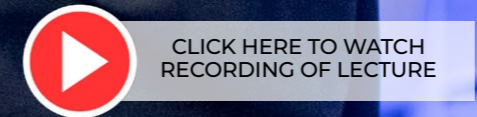
Titled: “Achieving the impossible through seeing the invisible,” In his address, Prof Makgoba reminded the audience of ZK Matthews' multifaceted legacy, by exploring his pioneering contributions to higher education and his pivotal role in the fight against apartheid.

In his address, Prof Makgoba focused on three intertwined and tightly linked transformative foresight of ZK Matthews and how these influenced his seminal contributions on education transformation (Africanisation), the politics of liberation (African identity, non-racialism, and the Freedom Charter) and the church (how missionaries, African identity

and Traditional African religions struggled with each other in his generation and how these contradictions influenced his persona).

Through timeline analysis, Prof Makgoba argued and provided evidence and concluded only ZK Matthews, “the academic intellectual scholar, transformed African education through Africanisation and conceived the idea of the Congress of the People and the fundamentals of the Freedom Charter that laid the blueprint for South Africa's non-racial democratic constitution and transformation long before it gained currency.”

“Like all of us, Prof ZK Matthews was created in the image of God, like all of us he was biologically unique with a permutation of unique phenotypical characteristics of intellect, foresight, humility, mathematical bent, clarity of thought and strength of character with unshakeable focus and belief in his vision, his love of languages, music, and nature. This permutation, and not combination, unlike no other is what distinguished him. Lord Caradon described ZK as a person ‘blessed with fine and rare personal qualities’, at his memorial.” [Read full speech.](#)



Commenting on behalf of the ZK Matthews family, Dr Naledi Pandor, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation who is the granddaughter of ZK, said they were deeply honoured by the recognition that Fort Hare has bestowed unto their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

“This is one of the oldest universities in South Africa that has served many of our leaders on the African continent and played a very important role in shaping post-colonial Africa. The fact that a university with this history has recognized ZK Matthews in the way they have, by having a regular memorial lecture dedicated to his work and memory, as well as designating this as the 100th year since he became the first graduate of the university, is an amazing privilege for all of us. We hope that our children will learn this history, draw from it, and learn valuable lessons about the life and character of the man”

The lecture was not merely a commemoration, it was a call to action, a reminder of the values Matthews stood for - equality, social justice, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. It served as an opportunity to inspire current and future generations to emulate Matthews' legacy, strive for excellence in education, and to champion the cause of justice in all its forms.



STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE BONDS: UFH AND ANGOLA FORGE AHEAD

A historic moment unfolded at UFH Senate Chamber when the Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu welcomed a high-level Angolan delegation representing two universities and the Ministry of Higher Education.

The collaboration between UFH and the Universidade Rainha Njinga a Mbande (URNM) and the Universidade Katyavala Bwila (UKB) is supported by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) in South Africa and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation in Angola.

This reciprocal visit aimed to expand existing research collaborations, forge new possible partnerships, and facilitate substantive postgraduate studies exchanges that will ultimately produce meaningful research that will impact humanity.

The visit comes on the heels of a UFH delegation visit to Angola led by the VC in November last year which laid the groundwork for the engagement. Read about the UFH visit by clicking [here](#).

The Angolan delegation comprised his excellency Nkula Ndilu Mankenda, General Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation in Angola; Prof Eduardo Ekundi Valentim, Vice-Chancellor URNM and; Prof Albano Vicente Lopes Ferreira, Vice-Chancellor of Universidade Katyavala Bwila UKB.

UFH and URNM already enjoy an existing partnership that began in 2021 when the DSI mediated a meeting between the two institutions. The existing collaboration, led by Prof Eduardo Valentim (URNM) and Prof Uchekukwu Nwodo (UFH) blossomed between a few researchers from over the past three years with substantial accomplishments stemming from the joint action plan entered by the researchers from both universities. On the visit to Angola, the two institutions re-enforced their commitment with the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

Welcoming the visitors was an equally high-level UFH delegation led by the VC comprising the DVC for Research, Partnerships and Innovation Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba; the DVC for Teaching and Learning, Prof Renuka Vithal; Interim DVC for Institution Support, Lebogang Hashatse; the Registrar Mr Njabulo Zuma; the CFO Mr Charles Matumba; the Dean of Students, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo and ; Dr Aceme Nyika the Director for Research and Innovation at the Govern Mbeki Research and Development Centre.

Instrumental in the engagement was the presence of Prof Nwodo and the University's six Faculty Deans.

In welcoming the delegation, VC Prof Buhlungu underscored the importance of the moment that was unfolding. "The significance of this joint venture is its multi-sphered approach which makes provision for the formation of partnerships between institutions, governments, and academics. This is the best illustration of what a research partnership should be. It is a brilliant example of meaningful and impactful collaborations for the benefit of humanity."



"It is a brilliant example of meaningful and impactful collaborations for the benefit of humanity."
- Prof Sakhela Buhlungu

The engagement kicked off with words of assurance from his excellency Nkula Ndilu Mankenda that the Angolan Higher Education Ministry was fully behind this collaboration. "We pledge our full support for this partnership," he said.

The programme proceeded with the VCs giving in-depth overviews of their respective universities. Dr Taole-Mjimba and Prof Vithal detailed the university's teaching, learning, and research programmes such as the newly launched research niche areas.

Thereafter, the UFH Deans were given an opportunity to present the work of their faculties and engage with the delegates. A fruitful discussion ensued where commonalities and opportunities to strengthen existing collaboration and the inception of new ones were instantly identified.

The visit concluded with a tour of Freedom Square where the VC narrated the history of the site where Tambo and Sobukwe Walk are located and a tour to the De Beers Art Gallery where significant moments of the University are immortalized and displayed, either in text or images, sealed the visit.

INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE SHEDS LIGHT ON THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND MICROORGANISMS



CLICK HERE TO WATCH RECORDING OF LECTURE

Professor Uchechukwu Nwodo, one of the leading scientists at UFH delivered the 35th Inaugural Professorial Lecture, signifying his ascension to Full Professor.

Titled “Anthropes and Microbes: The Paradox of Hostility and Harmony,” Prof Nwodo’s lecture explored the multifaceted dynamics of the paradoxical relationship and shed light on the complexities inherent in the coexistence of these two entities.

He highlighted the constant battle between anthropes and microbes, categorized by the struggle to overcome infectious diseases and microbial threats that pose significant challenges to human health and survival.

“Microbes have evolved ingenious mechanisms to infiltrate anthropic hosts, triggering immune responses and often leading to disease and mortality. In response, anthropes have developed intricate defense mechanisms, including antibiotics and vaccines, to combat microbial invaders.”

However, amidst this backdrop of hostility, Prof Nwodo emphasized the emergence of a paradoxical harmony, showcasing mutual relationships between anthropes and certain microbial communities.

“At the core of the human-microbe relationship lies a complex mutualism, wherein both parties derive significant benefits. The human microbiome, a vast community of microorganisms residing in and on the human body, exemplifies this symbiosis. These microbes perform essential functions such as aiding digestion, synthesizing vitamins, and modulating the immune system.”

Furthermore, he highlighted the broader ecological implications of the anthropes-microbes relationship, emphasizing the essential role of microbes in ecosystem functioning. “Microbes play indispensable roles in ecosystems, contributing to nutrient cycling, decomposition, and maintaining soil and water quality. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria, for example, convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that plants can use, facilitating plant growth and maintaining soil fertility. Similarly, decomposer microbes break down organic matter, recycling nutrients and ensuring ecosystem energy flow.”

Beyond biological interactions, Prof Nwodo addressed the sociocultural dimensions of the anthropes-microbes relationship, noting historical perspectives.

“Anthropes have historically viewed microbes through the lens of disease and contamination, leading to practices aimed at microbial eradication and sterilization.”

However, he highlighted emerging perspectives that emphasize the beneficial roles of microbes in areas such as agriculture, biotechnology, and environmental remediation, signaling a shift towards appreciation and symbiosis. “This shift in perception underscores the evolving relationship between anthropes and microbes, from one characterized by fear and hostility to one informed by appreciation and symbiosis.”

His lecture drew from his extensive academic and research background, which spans over two decades. With a Bachelor of Science combined Honours in Microbiology and Biochemistry and a Master of Science in Medical Virology all from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), and a PhD in Microbiology from UFH, his knowledge and insights on the topic captivated the audience.

Throughout his career, which began in 2006 as a lecturer at UNN, Prof Nwodo has held various leadership positions and made significant contributions to academia, research, and international collaboration.

He has published over 120 journal articles and received numerous awards and accolades for his groundbreaking research, including the Vice-Chancellor’s Emerging Researcher Award and recognition from The World Academy of Sciences. Recently, he was upgraded from Y2 to a C2 rating by the National Research Foundation.

Currently serving as the Acting Director of Postgraduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellows at UFH, he continues to foster a dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment for students and emerging academic staff.

Concluding his lecture, Prof Nwodo highlighted the necessity for ongoing innovation to leverage beneficial microbial processes for human benefit while simultaneously developing strategies to combat microbial pathogens and protect humanity. “The paradox of hostility and harmony in relationships underscores the imperativeness of a continuum in innovation to harness beneficial microbial processes for services to humankind yet keep ahead of the pathogens from the destruction of humanity.”

Congratulations Prof Nwodo.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ON TICK CONTROL A SIGNIFICANT BARRIER FOR COMMUNAL CATTLE FARMERS IN THE EASTERN CAPE STUDY FINDS

Low education and literacy levels under communal farmers in the Eastern Cape's Joe Gqabi district have created a significant barrier to proper tick control in the province, a study that included a team of researchers from the University of Fort Hare has found.

A team of academics from the Department of Livestock and Production Science at the University of Fort Hare, the Döhne Agricultural Development Institute in Stutterheim, Eastern Cape, and the Department of Veterinary Tropic Diseases at the University of Pretoria did the research.

The team members were Mandla Yawa, Nkululeko Nyangiwe, Ishmael Festus Jaja, Charles T. Kadzere, and Munyaradzi Christopher Marufu.

Their research first appeared in the journal *Tropical Animal Health and Production*.

The research team examined the knowledge base and practices for tick control followed by communal cattle farmers in the Eastern Cape's Joe Gqabi district. The seat for the Joe Gqabi District is Barkley-East, and it borders the Free State and Lesotho.

For their project, the team interviewed 160 farmers in the Siqu and Elundini communities to examine what farmers knew about ticks developing resistance to acaricides, the pesticides used to kill ticks.

Their results included that the most prevailing tick-borne disease in cattle was Gallsickness (59% of cases), which occurred mainly during summer (61% of cases).

About 59% of the farmers did not know the effect of tick-borne diseases on cattle production, and 78% of respondents reported that ticks were their most significant challenge to cattle farming. Pour-on (61%) was the most commonly used treatment system.

Farmers treat their cattle every fortnight (40%) during the summer and (31%) during the winter.

Pyrethroids (73%) were the most used acaricide compounds to control ticks. Most farmers (65%) said they did not know about ethnoveterinary medicines used to control ticks.

Ethnoveterinary medicines are associated with traditional beliefs and indigenous knowledge and practices. In other parts of the Eastern Cape, farmers, for instance, use certain medicinal plants to treat tick-borne diseases.

Data collected by the researchers showed that farmers regarded inefficient acaricide and undipped animals as the major contributing factors to the increased tick population and acaricide resistance.

Most farmers (about 85%) said they had no knowledge of rotating the type of acaricide they were using, and 88% of the respondents had no knowledge of ticks developing acaricide resistance.

Communal farmers in the Eastern Cape produce about a quarter of South Africa's cattle (3.2 million), and given socio-economic conditions in the province, especially in rural areas, successful cattle production is vital for food security.

However, in resource-poor farming systems (and most farms in communal areas fall in this category), diseases and parasites, especially ticks and tick-borne diseases, negatively impact cattle production by lowering the body weight and fertility and killing cattle.

In the early 1940s, the South African Department of Agriculture introduced a tick control program. Within that program, farmers had to bring animals fortnightly and monthly during the rainy and dry seasons to receive acaricides. The program was so effective that East Coast fever (a tick-borne disease) was completely eradicated by the 1960s.



In later years, however, the government returned such responsibility to livestock owners due to financial constraints.

This decision led to a breakdown in effective communication between farmers and agricultural authorities.

"As a result, ticks and tick-borne diseases began to infest cattle again. [C]ommunal cattle are the most vulnerable to infestation with ticks. The indigenous breeds of cattle in the traditional sector tend to become immunologically resistant to tick infestation compared with exotic breeds of cattle in the commercial sector," the article continued.

The researchers stressed that it was vital to investigate what communal farmers knew about tick control and acaricide resistance. These farming practices are no longer strongly informed by government policy but by affordability and farmers' preferences.

Their data further showed that most farmers only had a primary-level education and did not have knowledge of proper tick control. Prior research also confirmed a link between education and effective tick control, as farmers could not read the dosage instructions.

They added that they also found farmers needed to learn about ticks developing resistance to acaricides and ascribed this to the age of farmers, a lack of formal training, and low literacy levels.



“We aim to provide recommendations and guidelines to government, management, and HR practitioners that can improve the work performance, health, and well-being of nurses in South Africa.” - Dr Mari Ford

SAMRC GRANTS UFH RESEARCHERS R1M FOR AN INNOVATIVE STUDY ON WORKPLACE SAFETY AMONG NURSES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) has granted a group of three researchers from UFH a R1 million grant for their groundbreaking research project that seeks to unravel the intricate relationships between workplace safety, violence, and injury, as well as the conditions of decent work and sustainable work performance for nurses in South Africa.

Recently, the media reported on a deadly incident at a clinic in Ngqeleni in the Eastern Cape, where a security guard was shot and killed during a robbery at the facility, prompting a desperate call from nurses for protection.

Titled “The Management of Workplace Violence, Injury, and Sustainable Work Performance: A Moderated-Mediation Model Factoring in Decent Work & Workplace Safety among Nurses in South Africa,” the study is conducted by Prof Willie Chinyamurindi, Dr Mari Ford, and Ms Zikhona Dlaza from the University’s Business Management Department.

Additionally, Dr Martha Chadyiwa and two early career scholars from the Department of Environmental Health at the University of Johannesburg, and Professor Bright Mahembe from the Department of Industrial Psychology at the University of Western Cape, lend their expertise to the project.

The study is funded through the SAMRC’s Research Capacity Development Initiative (RCDI) for a period of two years.

Outlining the objective and inspiration behind the project, Dr Ford said: “The main aim is to objectively and subjectively explore the connections between workplace safety, violence, and injury, and the facets of decent work and sustainable work performance for nurses in the country.”

“The SAMRC invitation extended to UFH researchers, and given our background in Business Management, our team’s keen interest lies in the realms of work and well-being. As a result, we brought in a specific

focus linking violence and injury with decent work and sustainable performance.”

Utilizing a mixed-methods approach to data collection, encompassing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, the team aims to contribute significantly to the existing body of knowledge and also influence policy-makers through their findings.

“This quantitative study will add to our knowledge of the factors that contribute to creating organizations in which people can flourish and thrive. At the same time, our qualitative study will explore more deeply how nurses in South Africa experience violence and injury at work, and how this might affect their well-being and their ability to do their jobs. In this way, we aim to provide recommendations and guidelines to government, management, and HR practitioners that can improve the work performance, health, and well-being of nurses in South Africa,” explained Dr Ford.

The team intends to publish five articles from the research, with the aim to have at least two published in international journals and three published in local journals. In addition, they aim to attend one international conference in the second half of 2025 to share their findings with the broader academic community.

Experts who reviewed the proposal have commended the novelty and innovativeness of the study by the UFH trio, emphasizing the importance of unraveling the relationships among workplace safety, injury, and violence, particularly within the context of nursing in South Africa.

As the project unfolds, it holds the promise of driving tangible change and giving voice to those who have long suffered in silence.

GROUNDBREAKING ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF AFRICAN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

Professor Pius Tanga, an esteemed Social Work professor at the University of Fort Hare (UFH) celebrated for his significant academic contributions, has recently co-authored a transformative Routledge Handbook.

Entitled ***Routledge Handbook of African Social Work Education***, the book explores what defines African social work education, while shaping and influencing a culturally relevant era in the field.

The book is co-authored alongside equally esteemed international scholars namely: Dr Susan Levy who is an Associate Dean, International Affairs and Senior Lecturer in Social Work, at the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, University of Dundee, UK; Prof Uzoma Odera Okoye, a Professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Prof Richard Ingram who is a Professor of Social Work at the University of Dundee, UK and the co-editor of the International Social Work Journal.

According to Prof Tanga, the work serves as a comprehensive guide exploring the degrees and complexities of social work education within African contexts. It seeks to challenge and diversify traditional Western-dominated paradigms, offering insights into indigenous knowledge systems and their integration into social work curricula.

“This Handbook is a crucial step towards decolonizing and indigenizing social work education,” explains Prof Tanga, highlighting the book’s mission to redefine social work practices through a lens that is authentically African.

The publication encompasses contributions from scholars across Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, reflecting a diverse array of experiences and perspectives crucial for advancing the field of social work.

Professor Tanga, recently served as Deputy Dean for Research and Internationalisation in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, has built a distinguished career shaped by his extensive academic background and research contributions.

He began his professional journey with training in social work at the National School for Social Workers in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and furthered his education at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he earned a Bachelor of Social Work / Community Development degree with Honours.

Subsequently, he pursued a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, before completing his doctoral studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. He later augmented his qualifications with a Master of Arts degree in Human Rights and a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education and Training at UFH.

Since joining UFH in 2009, his research interests have focused on social justice, social protection for children and families, and advancing social work education in Africa. His scholarly output includes over a hundred academic publications, spanning journal articles, book chapters, books, and research reports. He serves on the editorial boards of prominent South African and international journals, contributing his expertise to academic discourse.

Recognized for his scholarly achievements, Professor Tanga has received numerous awards, including the Vice-Chancellor’s Research Award at the National University of Lesotho in 2009 and multiple Vice-Chancellor’s Senior Researcher Awards at UFH. He has successfully supervised 39 full dissertation masters, and 28 PhDs as well as assessed 93 masters’ dissertations and 42 PhD theses for other universities in South Africa and abroad.



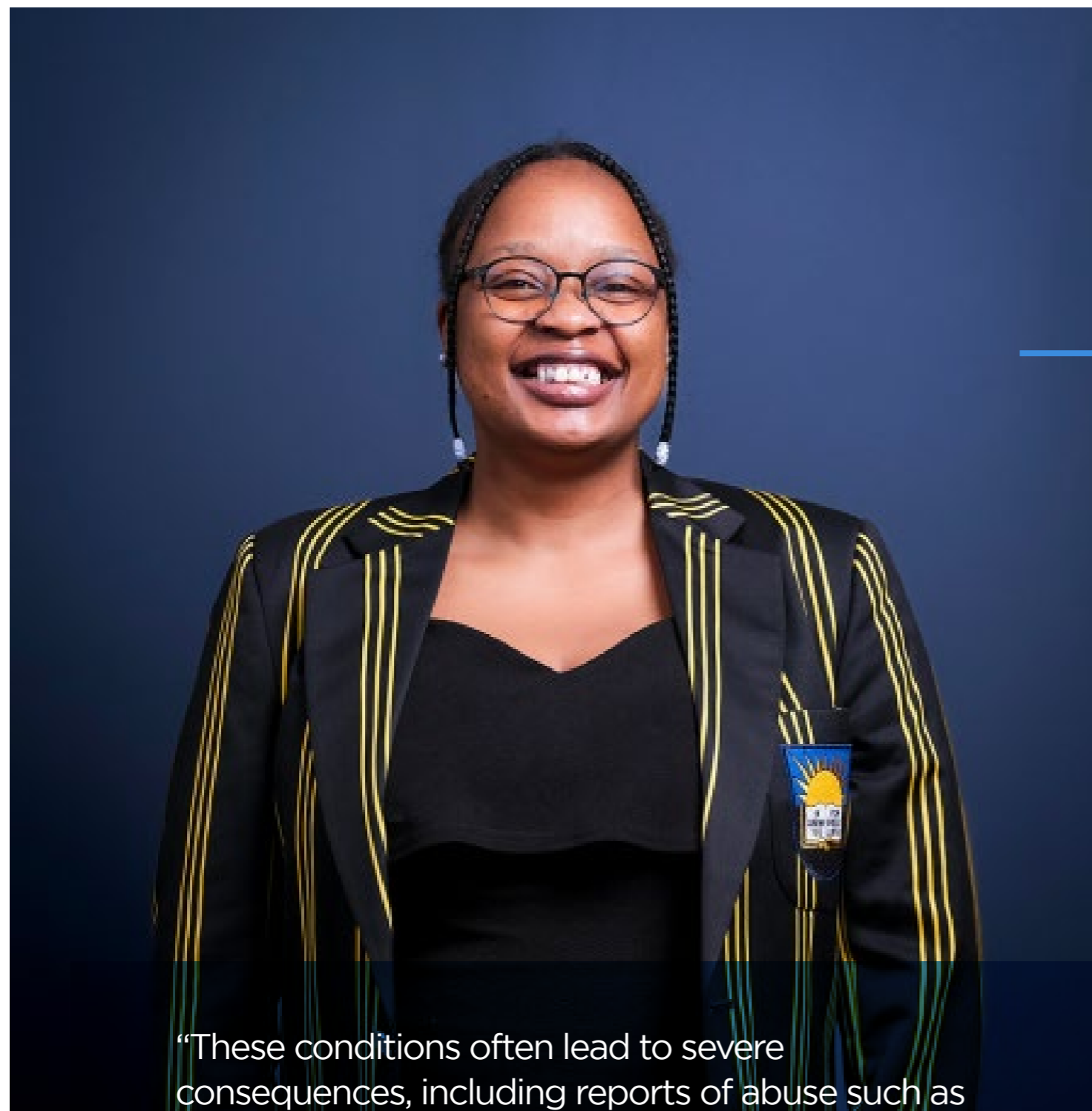
Underscoring the Handbook’s relevance beyond Africa and noting its implications for global social justice initiatives, he said: “We aimed to foster reciprocal learning and dialogue between different global contexts, enhancing the richness of social work education worldwide.”

The book is structured into four parts: Approaches to Indigenising, Decolonising and Developing Culturally Relevant Social Work Education; Social Work Education: Evolution across Contexts; Embedding Field Practicum into Social Work Education; and Knowledge Exchange between the Global South and Global North with a total of 32 chapters. Each section offers critical insights and case studies essential for reshaping educational theories in social work.

“We are thrilled to see this Handbook come to fruition,” said Professor Tanga, acknowledging the collaborative effort that made it possible.

“This Handbook is a crucial step towards decolonizing and indigenizing social work education.”
- Prof Pius Tanga

INTERNATIONAL STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF TRADITIONAL MALE CIRCUMCISION



“These conditions often lead to severe consequences, including reports of abuse such as bullying, physical violence, and mental trauma. This goes against the tradition’s intent, which is to build young males into responsible men who gain respect in communities.” - Ms Nokwanda Bokolo

Ms Nokwanda Bokolo, a New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) Public Health Lecturer at the University of Fort Hare’s (UFH) Faculty of Health Sciences, has recently discussed the profound health implications of traditional male circumcision (TMC) in South Africa during media interviews with Radio 702 and The Citizen newspaper.

Drawing from her extensive research and personal experiences, which were documented in a co-authored article published by IGI-Global, a leading international academic publisher, Ms Bokolo addressed significant psychosocial and health challenges faced by young males following TMC, particularly in the urban townships of Mdantsane, Eastern Cape.

The timing of these discussions coincides with the ongoing circumcision season in South Africa during June.

Her insights, detailed in the 2023 article co-authored with Prof. Daniel Ter Goon and Luvuyo Ndawule titled “Psychosocial Behaviours of Male Learners After Traditional Male Circumcision in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape, South Africa,” highlight critical issues arising from TMC rituals.

“The study involved in-depth interviews with 25 recently circumcised learners, as well as discussions with 17 schoolteachers and four parents. Data were coded and thematically analyzed using six coding phases to identify two themes: the relationships between parents, teachers, and learners both pre- and post-TMC, and the psychosocial behavior and school performance of participating male learners.”

One striking finding of the study was the increase in sexual activity among recently circumcised boys, often leading to multiple sexual partners. Additionally, participants exhibited higher rates of alcohol abuse and smoking post-TMC.

“These behavioral changes have raised concerns among educators and parents alike, as they observe alterations in the social dynamics and academic performance of affected learners,” Bokolo emphasized.

She stressed the urgent need for comprehensive support systems and educational interventions to mitigate the negative consequences associated with TMC.

In The Citizen article, she highlighted a major issue: the prevalence of illegal initiation schools, where “we have inexperienced surgeons and personnel taking care of initiates.”

“These conditions often lead to severe consequences, including reports of abuse such as bullying, physical violence, and mental trauma. This goes against the tradition’s intent, which is to build young males into responsible men who gain respect in communities.”

Ms Bokolo’s advocacy for integrated health approaches and community involvement aims to foster safer practices and better outcomes for young males undergoing TMC rituals.

For more insights, listen to the radio interview on The Aubrey Masango Show: [Man Torque: The Aubrey Masango Show: Man Torque: Exploring how circumcision can be perceived as regulating or controlling men’s bodies on Apple Podcasts](#)

Read The Citizen article: [Initiations: Bogus surgeons are the greatest problem – expert | The Citizen](#)

UFH CENTRE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE'S RESEARCH CAPABILITIES BOOSTED BY R4.5M ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND VEHICLE FROM NRF



The efforts of the University of Fort Hare's (UFH) Centre for Global Change (CGC), formerly known as the Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC), have recently been significantly boosted through an additional funding of R4.5 million and an additional off-road twin-cab Toyota Bakkie from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

According to the UFH CGC Director, Dr Leocadia Zhou, the additional grant will be utilized for the Global Change Social Science Research Program (GCSSRP), which focuses on "Social inclusive approaches towards sustainable agro-ecological landscape management and resilient agricultural systems: A catchment approach."

The added vehicle will further support the project's objectives, including ongoing initiatives and future endeavors.

Located on the Alice campus, the Centre is one of five initiated by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI-NRF) at South African Universities in 2011 as flagship entities under the Global Change Research Plan's (GCRP) framework to direct global change research investments in South Africa.

The four other centers are the University of Limpopo, Walter Sisulu University, University of Sol Plaatjie, and the University of the Free State. The RVSCs receive three-year annual cycle funding from the DSI-NRF to achieve the following mandates:

1. Contribute to Human Capital Development on issues of climate change through postgraduate student development, staff development, internship, and research collaborations with relevant stakeholders;
2. Generate up-to-date data and information for key sectors to support strategy development and decision-making in areas of risk and vulnerability, thereby supporting South Africa's transition to a resilient future;
3. Provide information for the South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas that will effectively bridge the gap between science and policy through improved access to information and;
4. Provide risk and vulnerability assessment services to local communities and other users.

Dr Zhou emphasized that at the heart of CGC's mission lies the commitment to empower and involve communities, especially those marginalized, in the process of research and innovation.

"The additional funding further demonstrates the NRF's confidence in the UFH CGC's endeavors. The newly acquired vehicle will be instrumental in advancing CGC's research initiatives, providing vital support to post-graduate students, and facilitating community engagement efforts."

"We express our deep appreciation for this significant support. This boost enhances the CGC's research capabilities aimed at understanding global change, assessing risks and vulnerabilities, developing innovative technologies, and facilitating technology adoption among stakeholders, ultimately fostering greater societal resilience and sustainability," said Dr Zhou.

NURSING SCIENCE ALUMNA EMBODIES NURSE'S PLEDGE

"I solemnly pledge myself to the service of humanity and will endeavour to practise my profession with conscience and with dignity. The total health of my patients will be my first consideration," these are the lines from the Nurse's Pledge that one of UFH's Nursing Science alumna made and embodied.

Ms Visisa Ntengo from Scenery Park in East London who holds a Bachelor of Nursing Science (2012) and a Master of Public Health Sciences (2022) from Fort Hare was recently lauded in an article in the Health For Mzansi online magazine for her dedication to patient well-being and empowering future nurses.

According to the article, Ntengo's nurturing spirit, evident since childhood, led her to nursing and was inspired by her grandmother's traditional healing and her mother's caregiving.

"Even during her kindergarten years, Visisa Ntengo displayed a natural aptitude for caregiving. This nurturing spirit blossomed further during her primary and high school years, where she developed strong leadership skills through peer education and community involvement. It reached fruition when she became a nurse, dedicating herself to community healthcare."



That natural aptitude led her to be recognized as the best in long-term contraceptive insertion (Implanon and IUCD) by the Buffalo City Municipality District in 2022.

Click [here](#) to read the full story.

DECADES OF OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP EARN PROF OSODE A C2 NRF RATING

Professor Patrick Osode, a revered scholar in Mercantile Law at the University of Fort Hare (UFH), has been awarded a C2 National Research Foundation (NRF) Rating for his exceptional contributions to legal scholarship.

This esteemed accolade highlights Prof Osode's profound impact on the field of law and reaffirms his standing as a preeminent authority in various aspects of legal studies.

According to the NRF, a C2 rating is awarded to an applicant when all reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant is an established researcher with a sustained recent record of producing a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field. They are also recognized as having demonstrated the ability to conceptualize problems and apply research methods to investigate them.

With an illustrious academic journey spanning decades, Prof Osode's scholarly pursuits have been marked by a relentless commitment to excellence and a profound dedication to advancing legal knowledge.

Holding degrees from esteemed institutions including the University of Jos, University of Lagos, and the University of Toronto, Prof Osode's academic history reflects a deep reservoir of expertise and a thirst for intellectual inquiry.

His association with the Fort Hare dates back to 1996 when he joined as a senior lecturer in Mercantile Law. Since then, his elevation within the academic ranks has been nothing short of remarkable. Rising to the positions of associate professor in 2002 and professor in 2004.

In addition to his scholarly pursuits, Prof Osode has played pivotal administrative roles within the academic community. He served as the executive dean of the Faculty, Director of the School of Law, Managing Editor of *Speculum Juris*, Head of

Department for Mercantile Law, and the University's Interim Registrar.

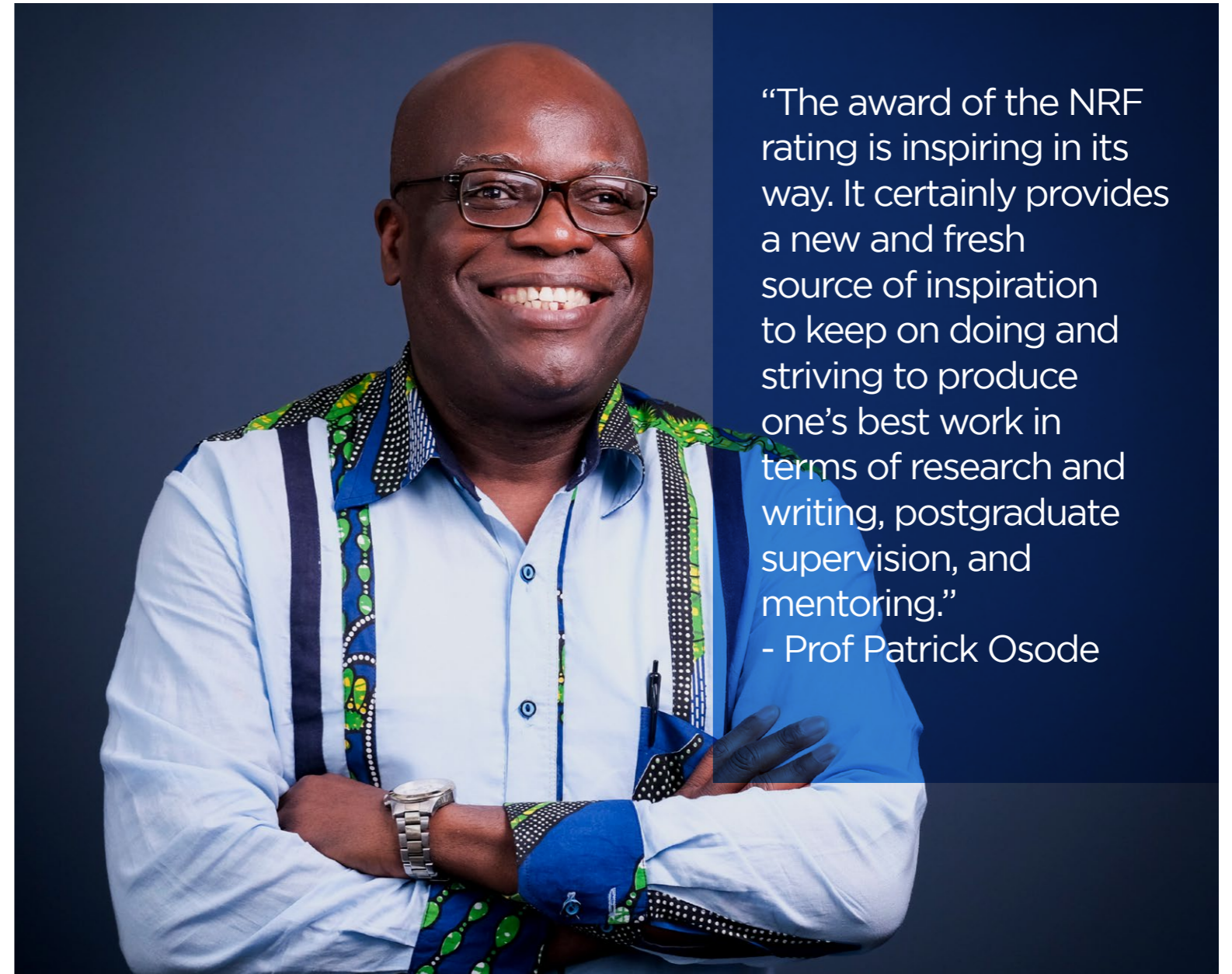
Beyond academics, his contributions to the legal community are manifold. He is a distinguished member of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law (IACCL), where his insights have enriched global discourse on commercial and consumer jurisprudence.

Additionally, his tenure as the Honorary Secretary for the Society of Law Teachers of Southern Africa (SLTSA) from 1999 to 2003 emphasizes his commitment to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the legal fraternity.

Throughout his career, Prof Osode has been a prolific author and editor, with numerous publications to his name. Notable among these are his co-authored book "Government Liability - South Africa and the Commonwealth" (2010) and his co-edited volume "Law and Transformative Justice in Post-Apartheid South Africa" (2010). Moreover, his extensive repertoire of law journal articles and book chapters attests to his scholarly acumen and wide-ranging research interests.

His research agenda is characterized by its breadth and depth, encompassing areas such as corporate law, securities regulation, public procurement, international trade law, and government liability. His influential contributions in these domains have not only advanced theoretical understanding but have also had practical implications for legal practice and policy formulation.

According to him, the overarching objective of his research is to produce work that advocates for and supports reform, application and interpretation or re-interpretation of Commercial Law related rules and regulations in ways that seek to balance technical regulatory soundness and efficiency of the rules/regulatory frameworks. "While, as much as possible, simultaneously facilitating the attainment of practical,



"The award of the NRF rating is inspiring in its way. It certainly provides a new and fresh source of inspiration to keep on doing and striving to produce one's best work in terms of research and writing, postgraduate supervision, and mentoring."
- Prof Patrick Osode

ground-level outcomes that are consistent with the values and socio-political goals of maximizing economic inclusion, equity, good governance, meaningful respect for human rights and sustainable development."

His current research projects are focused on aspects of the Law of Business Rescue and Financial Markets Regulation, which are prominent parts of the broader corporate and commercial law area.

As a mentor and supervisor, Prof. Osode has nurtured the next generation of legal scholars, guiding and inspiring numerous master's and doctoral students in their academic pursuits. Among his several achievements or milestones that stand him, he highlighted reaching the number 60 in terms of publications, the publication of his co-authored

Juta book publication on Public Authority Liability (in South Africa and the Commonwealth), and his admission as a member of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law.

The cherry on the cake for him is the recent publication, by Juta, of the book "Enforcing Accountability, Consolidating Democracy and Compelling Sustainable Development," co-edited with Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga, Prof. Mzukisi Njotini (UFH Dean of Law), Prof. Enyinna Nwauche, and Prof. Nomthandazo Ntlama-Makhanya.

"The award of the NRF rating is inspiring in its way. It certainly provides a new and fresh source of inspiration to keep on doing and striving to produce one's best work in terms of research and writing, postgraduate supervision, and mentoring," he said.

Y2 NRF RATING - ANOTHER FEATHER IN DR ELLEN RUNGANI'S STELLAR ACADEMIC CAP



“This recognition motivates me to continue striving for excellence and pushing the boundaries of knowledge in entrepreneurship and small business management.”
- Dr Ellen Rungani

Dr Ellen Chenesai Rungani, an outstanding academic who is a senior lecturer in the Department of Business Innovations and Entrepreneurship (BIE) at the University of Fort Hare (UFH), has been awarded a Y2 rating by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

This further cements Dr Rungani's exceptional contributions to research and academia, particularly in the field of entrepreneurship and small business management.

Fondly known as “Dr E”, she began her career at UFH in 2009 as a junior lecturer, advancing steadily through the ranks over the years.

In 2023, she received the VC's Excellence Teaching Award for her work in E-learning in recognition of her dedication to educating, inspiring, and supporting students to use innovation and entrepreneurship to address community challenges, employing various technologies to enhance learning. She is also the recipient of the Dean's 2023 Excellence Award in Community Engagement.

In addition to her teaching roles, Dr Rungani has held leadership positions, including Head of Department for seven years and acting Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning in 2019 and 2021.

Her research centers on small business management, SMME support, and entrepreneurship. Her work has been validated through various accolades, including fellowships like the DHET Future Professor Programme, the Higher Education Academy Senior Fellowship, and most recently, the Teaching Advancement at University (TAU) Fellowship.

Beyond her UFH roles, Dr Rungani serves as a critical reader and reviewer at UNISA and a panel member for qualification review at Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Her influence extends nationally and internationally through panelist, guest speaker, and lecturer engagements.

“My research work stems from the Global Entrepreneurship (GEM) Report of 2007 which reported that South Africa had a low Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) Rate compared to other countries in the same developmental stage. My research journey began in 2009, focusing primarily on the factors affecting the success of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). During this period, my studies concentrated on micro-level variables, exploring the internal challenges and opportunities that influence SMMEs' success.”

From 2016 to 2017, Dr Rungani's research shifted towards developing a comprehensive support framework for SMMEs, which became the focus of her PhD work. Since completing her PhD in 2018, she continued to build on her doctoral work by examining

specific support structures designed to enhance SMME success.

In recent years, she also started to have an interest in Curriculum Development and Educational Pedagogy, with experience in curriculum and program design. “My current research delves into the development of effective educational programs with interest in how curriculum innovation can enhance student engagement, learning outcomes, and employability.”

Dr Rungani's recent work includes evaluating the relevance and impact of financial and non-financial support during challenging periods, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and other economic crises and aims to identify the effectiveness of various support mechanisms in sustaining SMMEs through unforeseen economic hardships.

“Looking ahead, I envision my research expanding into several interconnected sub-areas of small business and entrepreneurship management, with a particular emphasis on support systems. My future research will focus on constructing efficient and robust frameworks to improve the success rates of SMMEs and entrepreneurial activities.”

As an academic and researcher, Dr Rungani considers her greatest achievements to be multi-faceted, which are all driven by a common commitment to advancing knowledge, supporting SMMEs, and fostering community engagement.

Commenting on her newly acquired NRF rating, Dr Rungani describes this attainment as a significant milestone in her academic career that holds profound personal and professional meaning for her.

“On a personal level, the NRF Y rating is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion I have invested in my research and academic pursuits over the years. It serves as an acknowledgment of my potential as a promising young researcher in my field. This recognition motivates me to continue striving for excellence and pushing the boundaries of knowledge in entrepreneurship and small business management.”

“As an academic, the rating has several important implications. It enhances my credibility and reputation within the academic community. It signifies that my research contributions are recognized as being of high quality and impactful, not only locally but also on a broader scale. The rating will further broaden the scope and impact of my work.”

“With this recognition, I am better positioned to mentor emerging scholars and lead research initiatives within my institution and beyond.”

Congratulations Dr E.

LAW DEAN APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW DEANS' ASSOCIATION

The University of Fort Hare congratulates Prof Mzukisi Njotini, the Dean of the Faculty of Law on his appointment as the President of the South African Law Deans' Association (SALDA). Prof Njotini's appointment was made during one of SALDA's annual meetings that was held at the University's Alice campus in April.

SALDA is a duly constituted and authorized body consisting of and representing Deans of Faculties and/or Schools of Law. It responds to the needs, views, and concerns of its members. It discusses matters of common interest relating to the management and execution of teaching and research in law at South Africa's universities.

The meeting was the first of its kind to be hosted by our institution. It marked a sharp and stern recognition by the SALDA of the institution's remarkable work in fostering quality teaching, learning, research, and innovation.

Prof Njotini's illustrious career includes serving as the Vice Dean for Teaching and Learning and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) where he pioneered teaching and learning frameworks aligned with the principles of "education for sustainable development."

Before his time at UJ, Professor Njotini held positions such as Professor and Director of the School of Law at the University of Limpopo (UL) and Senior Lecturer and Lecturer in the College of Law at the University of South Africa. Notably,



as Director, he played a pivotal role in the re-accreditation of the LLB programme by the CHE, underscoring his dedication to academic excellence.

Professor Njotini's areas of specialization encompass critical legal domains including information and communications technology law (ICT), the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), cybersecurity, legal philosophy, and ethics.

His scholarly contributions are extensive, evidenced by numerous journal articles, case notes, books, and book chapters in the field of ICT Law. Noteworthy among his co-edited books are "Law and Industry 4.0: Selected Perspectives on a New Scholarship of Teaching and Learning" and volumes 1 and 2 of the "Yearbook of South African Law."

Furthermore, Professor Njotini has presented peer-reviewed papers at both national and international conferences, enriching scholarly discourse in his areas of expertise. He has also developed several courses and programmes, including the Research Methodology in Law and Criminal Justice at UNISA and the Programme in Law and the 4IR at UJ. His teaching portfolio encompasses a diverse range of subjects such as Legal Ethics, Corporate Governance, Cyber Law, and Law and Industry 4.0.

In addition to his impressive academic credentials, Professor Njotini completed post-doctoral research with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. His research endeavors culminated in the publication of three journal articles, further solidifying his reputation as a leading authority in the field.



A WELL-DESERVED NRF RATING UPGRADE FOR PROF CHINYAMURINDI

In recognition of his exceptional work in the field of Business Management research, Prof Willie Chinyamurindi, a distinguished scholar at the University of Fort Hare (UFH) has recently been upgraded from a Y2 to a C2-Rated Researcher by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

This plausible achievement comes just a few months after delivering his Inaugural Professorial Lecture, marking another significant milestone in his illustrious academic career.

According to the NRF, the rating system is a key driver in the foundation's objective to build a globally competitive science system in South Africa and is a valuable tool for benchmarking the quality of SA researchers against the best in the world.

The ratings are allocated based on a researcher's recent research outputs and impact as perceived by international peer reviewers.

C-ratings are granted to established researchers with a sustained recent record of productivity in the field who their peers recognise as having:

1. Produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field.
2. Demonstrated the ability to conceptualise problems and apply research methods to investigate them.

For a C2, the applicant may, but need not, enjoy some international recognition for the quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs.

Renowned for his pan-Africanist perspective and commitment to promoting development ideals, Prof Chinyamurindi has dedicated his research endeavors to exploring various aspects of human and organizational capabilities.

His work covers a wide range of themes, including Human Resources Development (HRD) and Organisational Psychology, Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, and interpretivist research methods within the management sciences.

At the core of his research lies a deep interest in enhancing teaching practices and fostering a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between humans, technology, and socio-economic systems.

Prof Chinyamurindi's prolific research output has gained recognition both locally and internationally, with his work being published in esteemed journals and featured in various newspapers across the country and the continent.

Furthermore, his dedication to advancing knowledge has been reinforced by receiving research funds from prestigious organizations such as the NRF, South African Medical Research Council, and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, among others.

In addition to his scholarly achievements, Prof Chinyamurindi actively contributes to professional societies, holding memberships with esteemed organizations including the South African Board for People Practices, Health Professions Council of South Africa, and Psychological Society of South Africa, among others.

He is also the recipient of the 2021 Vice-Chancellor's Senior Researcher Award.

In his inaugural Professorial Lecture in October last year titled: Quo Vadis - The Future of Work? Navigating between Reality and Utopia for Human and Organisational Capability Development, Prof Chinyamurindi positioned what utopia could look like within a re-imagined world of work for the theory, policy and practitioner press.

Prof Chinyamurindi's elevation of his NRF rating to C2 underlines his unwavering dedication to academic excellence.

PROF CHIMUCHEKA RECEIVES AN NRF RATING FOR IMPACTFUL RESEARCH ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Professor Tendai Chimucheka, an Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the Business Management Department in the Faculty of Management and Commerce is among the latest University of Fort Hare (UFH) academics whose research excellence has been recognised and rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Prof Chimucheka, an expert in Business Management whose research focuses on Entrepreneurial Business Development, Improving Small Business Performance, Strategic Management, Marketing Management, and Human Resources Management, has received a Y2 NRF rating.

According to the NRF, a Y2 rating is awarded to researchers recognised by all or most reviewers as having the potential to establish him/herself as a researcher, this demonstrated by their recent research products.

Here at UFH, his research excellence has been lauded twice as the recipient of the 2019 Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Award under the Emerging Researcher category in the Faculty of Management and Commerce, and just six months ago he was awarded the VC's Research Excellence Award in the Senior Researcher category in the Faculty.

Prof Chimucheka is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK, and a member of the Southern African Institute of Management Scientists (SAIMS) and the African Network of Social Entrepreneurship Scholars (ANSES).

From 2017 to 2021, he served as the University's coordinator for the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE), an initiative launched under the auspices of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and Universities South Africa (USAF).

Prof Chimucheka holds a Doctor of Commerce, a Master of Commerce in Business Management, a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education and Training, a Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree, and a Bachelor of Commerce in Business Management and Economics (awarded cum laude) from UFH.

He was appointed lecturer in the Department of Business Management in 2013 and promoted to a senior lecturer position in 2019. He then achieved the rank of Associate Professor in 2022.

His academic prowess has also been recognised locally and internationally when he was shortlisted for the 2020 Mail & Guardian (M&G) Top 200 Young South Africans and, most recently, his selection as a Visiting Scholar on an exchange visit to the University of East London in the UK in January 2024.

Prof Chimucheka's determination to produce impactful studies that influence ordinary people's lives has seen him initiate and collaborate on several meaningful research projects. This includes a recent partnership with researchers from the University of Zululand on a project on the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses.

Currently, he is working on a research project on the performance of women and youth-owned small businesses in the Eastern Cape.

Commenting on his well-merited NRF rating, Prof Chimucheka said: "I am grateful for the NRF rating. It means a lot to me. I appreciate the support from the University of Fort Hare, my family, funders and everyone that I have worked with in my academic journey."

Congratulations Prof!



"I am grateful for the NRF rating. It means a lot to me. I appreciate the support from the University of Fort Hare, my family, funders and everyone that I have worked with in my academic journey." - Prof Tendai Chimucheka



His project addresses United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 7: “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all,” contributing to alleviating global challenges related to energy supply and consumption.

UKZN’s Best Chemistry PhD award goes to UFH Postdoc Fellow

Dr Nicholas Rono, a postdoctoral fellow at the Fort Hare Institute of Technology (FHIT), has been honoured with the prestigious MIKTEK Scientific Award for the Best Chemistry PhD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). This accolade recognizes his remarkable doctoral thesis, titled “Investigating Graphitic Carbon Nitride-Based Materials and Selected Metal-Based Semiconductors in Organic Solar Cells, alongside a Computational Analysis of Perovskite Solar Cells.”

Dr. Rono’s cutting-edge PhD research was supervised by Profs Vincent Nyamori and Bice Martincigh of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, along with Prof. Joshua Kibet of Egerton University, Kenya. Additionally, he received one year of PhD training under Prof. Abdelkarim Merad of the University of Tlemcen, Algeria, after winning an exchange program scholarship through the ACADEMY project.

Dr. Rono holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, as well as a Master of Science in Chemistry (Physical and Computational) and Bachelor of Education Science (Physics and Chemistry) degrees from Egerton University, Kenya. During his master’s studies, he was awarded a Certificate of Excellence Performance and appeared in the prestigious Vice-Chancellor’s list of honor on the June 2016 graduation from Egerton University.

Motivated by the captivating solar energy research at the UFH Institute of Technology, Dr Rono applied for a postdoctoral position at UFH and was welcomed into the Institute’s vibrant research community.

Under the guidance of Professor Edson L. Meyer, the Director of FHIT, Dr. Rono works on developing high-performance lead-free perovskite solar cells for solar harvesting applications. Additionally, he mentors research postgraduate students from the FHIT and Chemistry Departments at UFH, aiming to advance solar energy research for a sustainable future.

His project addresses United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 7: “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all,” contributing to alleviating global challenges related to energy supply and consumption.

As a forward-thinking researcher, Dr. Rono has published over 18 research papers and serves as a reviewer for reputable journals such as Materials Communication Today, BMC Chemistry, and Progress in Chemical and Biochemical Research. He has presented his research at over six local and international conferences and is an active member of the South African Chemical Society (SACI) and the Kenya Chemical Society (KCS).

Dr. Rono expresses sincere gratitude to his PhD supervisors, the staff at the NanoChemistry Lab (UKZN), Theoretical Physics lab (Tlemcen), MIKTEK Scientific for the award, as well as the FHIT team, GMRDC, UFH, UKZN, and his collaborators for their constant support. He also thanks his family, friends, and everyone else who supported him along his academic journey.

“ORDINARY WHITES IN APARTHEID SOCIETY” – PROF ROOS PENS A COMPELLING AND INSIGHTFUL BOOK

Prof Neil Roos, Social Sciences & Humanities Dean and History Professor has recently published a compelling and insightful book that seeks to shape the understanding of South Africa’s past.

Titled: “Ordinary Whites in Apartheid Society,” Prof Roos delves into a crucial question: How were whites implicated in and shaped by apartheid culture and society, and how did they contribute to it?

Starting from 1948, when the National Party rose to power with its catchall apartheid slogan, Prof Roos takes readers on a journey through the lives of ordinary white people in South Africa during the apartheid era.

Through meticulous research and personal anecdotes, including insights from his own family’s history, he uncovers a complex reality.

Prof Roos explores how working-class whites frequently defied particular aspects of the apartheid state but seldom opposed or even acknowledged the idea of racial supremacy, which lay at the heart of apartheid society. This cognitive dissonance afforded them a way to simultaneously accommodate and oppose apartheid and allowed them to later claim they never supported the apartheid system.

Published internationally by Indiana University Press, with a local edition published by Wits University Press, this book serves as a moving reminder that the politics and practice of race, particularly apartheid-era whiteness, were not solely dictated from the top-down. Rather, they were deeply entrenched in the fabric of society, with implications that resonate to this day.

It offers invaluable insights into a complex historical period, shedding light on the complex dynamics of race, power, and resistance.

Prof Roos recently engaged in an insightful interview with Nancy Richards, an independent print, radio journalist, podcast host, and media trainer. During the conversation, Prof Roos elaborated extensively on the themes and findings of his latest book. Listen to the interview here: [NEIL ROOS: Ordinary Whites in Apartheid South Africa - People’s Stories & Books | Podcast on Spotify](#)



IDENTICAL TWINS WHO JOINED UFH WITH A DOZEN MATRIC DISTINCTIONS COMBINED, TRANSITIONING WELL AT VARSITY



Identical twins Aphindile and Ziphindiwe Mpenge walked through the doors of the University of Fort Hare (UFH) at the beginning of this academic year armed with twelve matric distinctions between them, ready to embark on their journey towards academic excellence as first-year students.

Hailing from Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape, the 19-year-old duo is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing qualification within the Faculty of Health Sciences. As the first semester draws to a close, they reflected on their transition from high school to university life, attributing much of their ease to the welcoming campus community.

“At first, we were anxious, navigating a new environment but we discovered that the university community was friendly and we quickly found support among our peers and lecturers, which has made the journey much smoother.”

Adjusting to the academic workload has been their primary focus, acknowledging the significant shift

“At first, we were anxious, navigating a new environment but we discovered that the university community was friendly and we quickly found support among our peers and lecturers, which has made the journey much smoother.” - Aphindile and Ziphindiwe Mpenge

from high school. “It’s a different ball game but with proper planning and preparation, we believe it’s manageable.”

The Mpenge twins were born on 11 November 2005, to a mother who is a teacher by profession and a father who is a former miner, and they have been inseparable since.

According to them, their remarkable intellectual abilities were evident from early as Grade R. Top of Form

“Our Grade R teacher noticed that our learning capabilities were advanced when compared to our classmates. As such, she would send us to the Grade 1 class where we would spend some time learning and interacting with the study materials, and we were able to grasp it with ease.”

Despite being labeled as naturally gifted by the people around them, the twins emphasize the role of hard work in honing their abilities. “All our lives we have been told that we are clever by nature. As we grew older, we realized that it is a gift that is further appreciated through hard work.”

Never leaving each other’s side throughout their 12 years of primary and secondary schooling, the Mpenge twins obtained their matric at Thabazi Senior Secondary School in 2023. Aphindile scored level sevens (between 80% and 100%) in all her seven subjects while Ziphindile obtained five level sevens.

According to them, Fort Hare became an obvious choice to further their studies. “A lot of people that we know back home studied at Fort Hare, even the majority of past pupils from our high school studied here and we witness how they attained success after obtaining their degrees.”

In addition to having physical resemblance and being equally intellectually gifted, the twins also do a lot of stuff together. They wear the same clothes, eat the same food at the same time, and often say the same words at the same time.

Asked what their favourite module was this far, they both exclaimed in excitement: “Psychology!” followed by soft chuckles from both.

They also seem to share the same aspirations for the future and that is to graduate with their first degrees together and further their studies up to doctoral level.

BCOM LAW STUDENT FROM DUNCAN VILLAGE LAUNCHES SUCCESSFUL SKINCARE BRAND

Cwenga Sixubane, a determined first-year Bachelor of Commerce Law student at the University of Fort Hare (UFH), is making waves in the beauty industry with the recent launch of her own skincare line, The Skin Rescuer.

Hailing from Duncan Village in East London, Sixubane was inspired to start her business after receiving numerous inquiries about her flawless skin.

“People often asked about my skincare routine because of how smooth my skin was,” Sixubane shared in an interview with DispatchLIVE. “That inspired me to create The Skin Rescuer, to help others with their skincare concerns and boost their confidence with effective products.”

Despite her studies and other commitments, including hosting a radio show on Kumkani FM and organizing the Miss Summer EL pageant, Sixubane has successfully juggled her passion for entrepreneurship. She attributes part of her business’s early success to personally using and endorsing her own products.

“I use these products myself, which makes it easier to market them to my customers,” she explained. “Running my skincare business not only helps those with skin issues but also provides me with an additional income stream.”

Sixubane, who crafts some products herself using recipes learned from a Johannesburg-based company, expressed her ambitions to expand her customer base beyond East London. She plans to recruit brand ambassadors nationwide once her business gains more traction.

“The profits from my business contribute to my independence and ease the financial burden

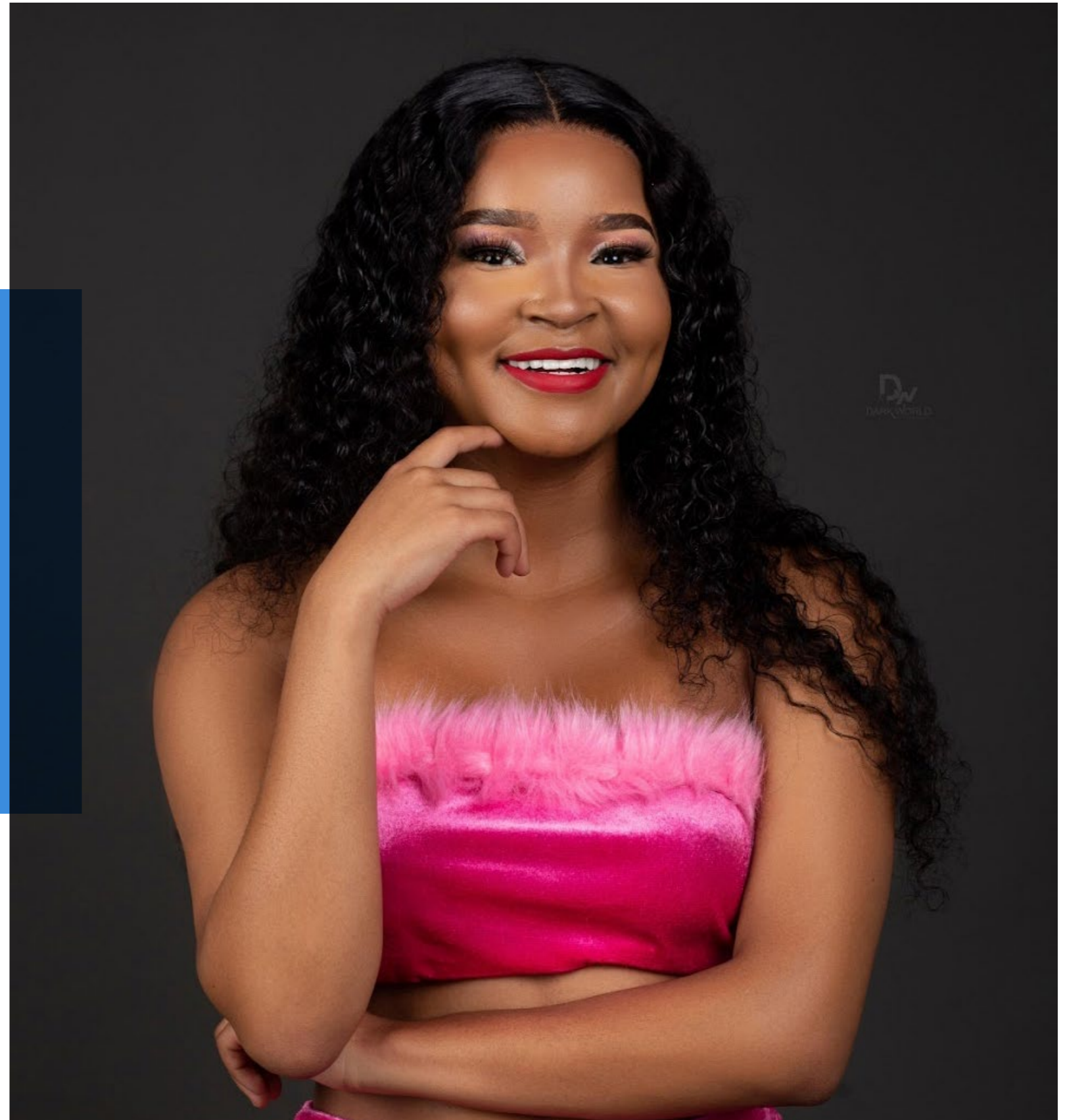
“The profits from my business contribute to my independence and ease the financial burden on my family, I am proud to be an entrepreneur and aspire to grow my brand further.”
- Cwenga Sixubane

on my family,” she noted. “I am proud to be an entrepreneur and aspire to grow my brand further.”

While navigating challenges such as ensuring product safety during deliveries, Sixubane remains undeterred in her pursuit of expanding The Skin Rescuer.

Congratulations Cwenga, your story is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit and determination fostered at UFH.

Article adapted from DispatchLIVE



FROM FORT HARE TO WINDESHEIM UNIVERSITY IN THE NETHERLANDS:

Students Reflect on their Unforgettable Academic Exploration

A University of Fort Hare (UFH) degree can take you anywhere in the world. This assertion was recently exemplified by five students from the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities who returned from an academic trip to Windesheim University in Zwolle, Netherlands.

The opportunity is one of the direct benefits of an ongoing partnership between the two esteemed institutions, anchored on teaching, learning, and research collaborations. The exchange saw students and staff participate in Windesheim University's International Week.

Reflecting on their journey, Thandolwethu Cwayi, Sibulele Moni, Siwaphiwe Zizo Ami Hlengani, Abigail Star Boshof, Zuko Ntlebi, and Janet Lunga shared the same sentiment that it was an unforgettable academic exploration that marked the beginning of a transformative chapter in their respective academic pursuits.

Mr Sibulele Moni, who hails from Engcobo in the Eastern Cape and is currently pursuing his Honours Degree in Human Movement Sciences, described the trip as a transformative journey that ended with profound personal and academic growth.

"Stepping onto Dutch soil was profound. It symbolized not just physical travel, but a journey towards personal growth and academic enrichment. It was an exploration of the unknown and a testament to the power of education to transcend borders."

"This trip has reaffirmed my passion for academia and instilled in me a newfound appreciation for the diversity and richness of the world around us. As I continue on my academic journey, I carry with me the



"This trip has reaffirmed my passion for academia and instilled in me a newfound appreciation for the diversity and richness of the world around us." - Sibulele Moni

memories and experiences of Zwolle, a place that will forever hold a special significance in my heart," Moni said.

Ms Siwaphiwe Zizo Ami Hlengani, a Speech Language Pathology (SPL) student, counts the experience as life-changing.

"I am the first person in my family and in my village to travel to Europe. During the program, I learned valuable lessons about working under pressure and finding my role in interdisciplinary teams. Engaging in various activities such as keynotes, workshops, and group projects introduced me to topics like infographics, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and inclusive learning."

"Moreover, the program taught me how to apply theoretical knowledge practically, an important skill in the field of speech-language pathology," said Hlengani, who gave a presentation on SPL, enriching the academic discourse with specialized insights from UFH's diverse student body.

The trip was the first international travel for Ms Thandolwethu Cwayi, who is a nursing student.

"A girl from the dusty, rural areas of Umtata taking part in a program overseas. Who would've thought?" she expressed with excitement.

Cwayi, who has set her career aspiration on becoming a travel nurse, said collaborating and engaging with international students has enhanced her ability to work with diverse teams and clients in preparation for her aspirations.

"It has helped me understand how to work as a team despite language barriers. At times we were not able to understand each other very well, but we developed ways to communicate effectively and work together. I believe this experience will make it easier for me to work with other professionals from different countries in the future."

During her stay, Cwayi attended a workshop that focused on Mindfulness in Nursing which assisted with her research proposal on the experiences of nurses exposed to traumatic events in Emergency Care Units in East London Hospitals and Community Health Care Centers.

Ms Janet Lunga, a social work student, said professionally, the trip shifted her focus from theoretical to practical problem-solving aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

"The exposure to diverse intervention strategies broadened my approach to global challenges and comparing cultural influences on poverty between South Africa, Romania, and the Netherlands sparked critical reflections."

Lunga said the opportunity not only broadened her perspectives but also prepared her for future practice, research, and advocacy in social work. "Attending informative keynotes on experiential expertise and interdisciplinary approaches expanded my professional horizons aiding adaptation to new environments."

The actual program and collaborating with other international students were incredibly eye-opening, said Abigail Star Boshof, who is studying social work.

"Learning about how other countries approach similar societal issues was truly insightful. It highlighted the fact that every continent faces its own set of challenges, but what matters most is how stakeholders and people of authority choose to address them and implement strategies for positive change."

"It was comforting, in a way, to hear stories and firsthand experiences from other students about the challenges their countries face, especially from a first-world perspective."

"I feel a deep sense of pride in being South African, studying through the University of Fort Hare, and having the opportunity to become a more effective and competent social worker in the future. This experience has reinforced my commitment to making a meaningful difference in people's lives and tackling social issues both locally and globally."

Zuko Ntlebi said the trip was a journey of self-discovery and personal growth.

"I now understand the importance of stepping outside of my comfort zone, embracing new experiences, and celebrating the diversity that makes our world so vibrant. When I returned home to South Africa, I carried with me a newfound appreciation for the beauty of cultural exchange, global perspective, and the profound impact they can have on our lives."

As they reflected on their experiences, the students expressed their utmost gratitude to the University of Fort Hare for making the trip a success, for the opportunities that came their way, and for the lessons learned along the journey.



The hands-on experience enabled students to apply their academic knowledge to a “real-world” case study, thereby enhancing their skills in teamwork, digital literacy, and problem-solving.

REALISING DIGITAL HEALTH INNOVATION THROUGH A SWEDISH-SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT VIRTUAL EXCHANGE HACKATHON

In a remarkable display of international collaboration and educational innovation, a diverse group of students from the University of Fort Hare, Malmö University, and Rhodes University convened virtually for a cutting-edge Hackathon from April 22-26, 2024.

The event, funded by the South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF), was part of a larger initiative titled “Exploring Digital Transformation in Society through a Virtual Exchange Initiative to Stimulate Innovative Learning-Centred Engagement.” It successfully fostered cross-cultural and academic exchange between South African and Swedish university students, embodying the spirit of global citizenship.

The Hackathon, themed around “Digital Transformation in Healthcare,” aligned seamlessly with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3, focusing on good health and well-being. A total of 27 students were strategically divided into six teams, ensuring an equitable mix of South African and Swedish perspectives. This dynamic setup encouraged students to delve deeply into the complexities of healthcare challenges within a global context, which was influenced by their personal country-specific experiences.

During the Hackathon week, each team was provided with a case study that guided their creative processes through four meticulously designed phases: Emphasize, Ideation, Prototype, and Presentation. Initially, teams engaged deeply with the case study to pinpoint specific healthcare challenges, moving on to brainstorm potential digital solutions. With ideas in hand, they crafted wireframe prototypes using various software tools, culminating in a showcase of their solutions on the final day.

A highlight of the week was the creation of the “Health Wisdom” mobile app by Team 5. This innovative solution aimed to preserve and share indigenous healing traditions through a digital library of herbal remedies. It featured user-friendly interfaces

suitable for all ages and included gamification elements to make learning about traditional healing engaging and accessible. This project not only addressed a local need but also enriched the global repository of traditional knowledge.

The Hackathon was supported throughout by expert coaching sessions led by Dr. CJ Orre and Mr. A Tibblin (Department of Computer Science and Media Technology – Malmö University), Prof. G Foster (Department of Information Systems – Rhodes University), Mr. D Boucher (Department of Information Systems – University of Fort Hare), and two project managers from MaU Innovation at Malmö University, Pablo Vilches and Jenny Levhag, who provided essential guidance and feedback. The expertise provided helped to refine the teams’ solutions, which were critically evaluated on innovation and applicability.

Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting the Hackathon as an exceptional opportunity for learning and collaboration. The hands-on experience enabled students to apply their academic knowledge to a “real-world” case study, thereby enhancing their skills in teamwork, digital literacy, and problem-solving.

This Hackathon was more than a competition; it was a celebration of knowledge exchange, innovation, and the relentless pursuit of solutions that span geographical and cultural boundaries. It underscored the importance of global citizenship and the role of digital technology in shaping a healthier, more connected world. Each participant received a digital certificate, symbolizing not just their participation but their commitment to being agents of change in the global digital landscape.

Article submitted by: Duane Boucher, Senior Lecturer at the UFH Department of Information Systems

SCIENCE & AGRIC POSTGRAD DUO REPRESENTS UFH AT AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS CHAMBER CONGRESS IN SUN CITY

Lunga Nobetsiki and Simamakele Mkhutshwa, both postgraduate students from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension at the University of Fort Hare, proudly represented the institution at the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) Congress 2024 held in Sun City.

The event, which spanned three days (5-7 July) gathered delegates from various sectors of agribusiness across South and Southern Africa.

The chamber's core function is to ensure that agribusiness plays a constructive role in the country's economic growth, development, and transformation, and to create an environment in which agribusinesses of all sizes and in all sectors can thrive, expand and be competitive.

Nobetsiki and Mkhutshwa were among the students who were invited to the event. As part of a competition, they developed a case study and presented their insights on "The Resilience and Revival of the South African Wine Industry."

Commenting on the experience, the duo said their participation was a key moment in their academic journey and their career aspirations. "The development and presentation of the case study enforced us to think outside the box and on our toes, as time was limited. We were exposed to the real world of the agriculture sector and commercial farming. We wish similar opportunities could be presented to high school learners in agricultural schools, especially in the Eastern Cape, to ensure that agricultural studies don't just stop with theory but become a lived experience."

Among the key speakers was Mr Wandile Sihlobo, Agbiz Chief Economist who is one of the proud alumni of the University of Fort Hare.

The duo's presence at such a prestigious event reflects not only their academic excellence but also their commitment to advancing the agricultural sector through research, innovation and actively engaging in industry dialogues that shape the future of agriculture in the region.

"We were exposed to the real world of the agriculture sector and commercial farming. We wish similar opportunities could be presented to high school learners in agricultural schools, especially in the Eastern Cape, to ensure that agricultural studies don't just stop with theory but become a lived experience."



FUTURE NURSES LAUDED WITH HEARTFELT PINNING CEREMONY



The Nursing Science Department honoured its final-year nursing students with a heartfelt pinning ceremony, marking a significant milestone in their journey toward becoming qualified healthcare professionals.

The event, held at the Miriam Makeba Arts Centre on the East London campus, recognized the dedication and hard work of the forty-five (45) soon-to-be graduates as they prepare to enter the noble field of nursing.

Delivering the keynote address, the Acting Deputy Director for Nursing Services at the Eastern Cape Department of Health, Dr Sizeka Monakali, an alumna of the department, highlighted the significance of the occasion in servicing the nation.

“You will be joining this profession at a time when the country is burdened with disease and in dire need of professional nurses. You will also be among the first cohort of newly qualified nurses to implement the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill that was recently introduced, thus leading the path for those to follow.”

Dr Monakali commended the students for choosing the noble profession. “You will soon be transitioning from student nurses to professional nurses, and this moment underscores your readiness to assume the role of dedicating your lives to saving human lives.”

She also encouraged and reminded the student nurses that their learning journey had not ended; instead, it was just starting. “Nursing is a lifelong learning journey; it never ends. The pin that you have just received represents accountability and the

responsibility of being a nurse. It also reinforces the importance of professionalism boundaries to maintain the high standards of the profession as you serve your communities.”

Also present were representatives from Frere and Cecilia Makiwane Hospital, two clinical partners of the Department. Mrs Lizzette Jennings, who is the Nursing Services Manager at Frere spoke fondly about the relation between the department and the hospital, and the professional conduct of the graduates produced by the department. “The student nurses produced at Fort Hare are young and always eager to learn. We work with them from the first year, and it is wonderful to witness them transitioning from being students to professional nurses.”

Among the cohort was 42-year-old Mr. Thando Hlanga from Ngqamakwe, who collected and proudly wore his pin. “This moment means a lot to us; it signifies the end of one journey and the beginning of another. It is a moment of pride.”

Staff at the Department, including the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Liezel Cilliers, urged the students to continue upholding the image of the university when entering the field as professionals.



“The student nurses produced at Fort Hare are young and always eager to learn. We work with them from the first year, and it is wonderful to witness them transitioning from being students to professional nurses.”





 [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE DISCUSSION](#)

FACULTY OF LAW LAUNCHES LANDMARK BOOK AND DISCUSSES AFRICAN CUSTOMARY LAW IN PANEL LED BY JUSTICE MADLANGA

In a significant stride towards fostering legal discourse and advancing societal progress, the University of Fort Hare’s (UFH) Faculty of Law marked a pivotal moment with the launch of a book titled: “Enforcing Accountability, Consolidating Democracy and Compelling Sustainable Development in the 21st Century,” edited by four scholars from the Faculty and Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga.

This landmark event was followed by a thought-provoking and insightful panel discussion focusing on the consolidation and modification of African Customary Law, spearheaded by none other than Justice Madlanga (Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa)

The two events held at the Miriam Makeba Arts Centre on the East London Campus saw revered legal practitioners such as the Judge President of the Eastern Cape Division of the High Court, legal scholars, traditional leaders, community members, and students converge to witness the dynamics of law in action.

The publication, which emanated from the Southern African Law Teachers’ Conference hosted by UFH in 2022, brings together diverse perspectives from scholars and industry experts, addressing modern issues like sustainable development, e-hailing drivers’ legal status, and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

Edited by four esteemed scholars from the Law Faculty, namely: Prof Patrick Osode; Prof Mzukisi Njotini (UFH Dean of Law) Prof Enyinna Nwauche; Prof Nomthandazo Ntlama-Makhanya and Justice Madlanga, the book delves into themes of accountability, democracy and governance, offering insights into South African realities and global challenges.

The book’s diverse chapters, addressing subjects from land rights to technology regulation, make it a compelling read and reference for a wide audience including legal practitioners, students, and individuals intrigued by societal approaches to critical challenges. Watch the book launch here: [Faculty of Law - Book Launch \(youtube.com\)](#)

The panel members for the discussion titled: “Consolidating and Modifying African Customary Law,” comprised:

- Prof Sakhela Buhlungu -UFH Vice-Chancellor and Principal
- Judge Selby Mbenenge - Judge President of Eastern Cape Division of the High Court
- Judge MI Madondo - - Retired Judge at the KwaZulu-Natal Division of the High Court

- Mr EB Ngubane – Chief Magistrate at the Durban Magistrate’s Court
- Nkosi N Dumisile – Chief of the AmaJingqi Traditional Council
- Chief CG Mdutshane – Chief of the Xopozo Traditional Council in Flagstaff
- Prof Ntlama-Makhanya
- Prof Moses Retselisitsoe Phooko – Prof and Chair of the UFH UNESCO OR Tambo Chair

The discussion explored the intersection between tradition and modernity, examining the evolving role of African Customary Law within the contemporary legal framework, and the ongoing efforts to consolidate and modify its application in a rapidly changing society.

A robust dialogue between the panel and the guests provided an invaluable platform for deep exploration into the enduring resilience and adaptability of this esteemed legal tradition, enlightening its ongoing influence on legal discourse and community norms.

EXPLORING FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION FROM CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES

The crucial role of educators in shaping future generations is undeniable. To ensure their readiness for this responsibility, scholars from the University of Fort Hare's (UFH) Faculty of Education have co-edited a book to equip undergrad, postgrad, teachers, and lecturers with the essential skills for a successful career in education.

The book Titled "Foundations of Education: From Contemporary Social Perspectives" offers a comprehensive exploration of the underlying principles that drive the teaching and learning process.

The editors from UFH are Prof Emmanuel Olusola Adu, Prof Ntombuzuko Duku, Prof Mzuyanda Percival Mavuso, and Prof Charl Wolhuter from the North-West University.

According to Prof Mavuso, the book is authored to provide a multifaceted understanding of education. "Numerous individuals enter the field of education with the aspiration to impact students' lives positively. Nevertheless, becoming an effective educator poses challenges without a sturdy grounding in the fundamental principles of teaching. This is where a book on the foundations of education becomes invaluable."

"It delves into various philosophical, historical, sociological, and psychological dimensions. Tailored specifically for undergraduate and postgraduate pre-service teachers and lecturers, it promises to equip readers with the essential knowledge and skills required for a successful and meaningful career in education."

One of the distinguishing features of the book is its inclusion of case studies and research contributions from esteemed authors, enriching the learning experience for readers.

It covers a wide range of topics, including the history of education in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, the fundamentals of philosophy of education,

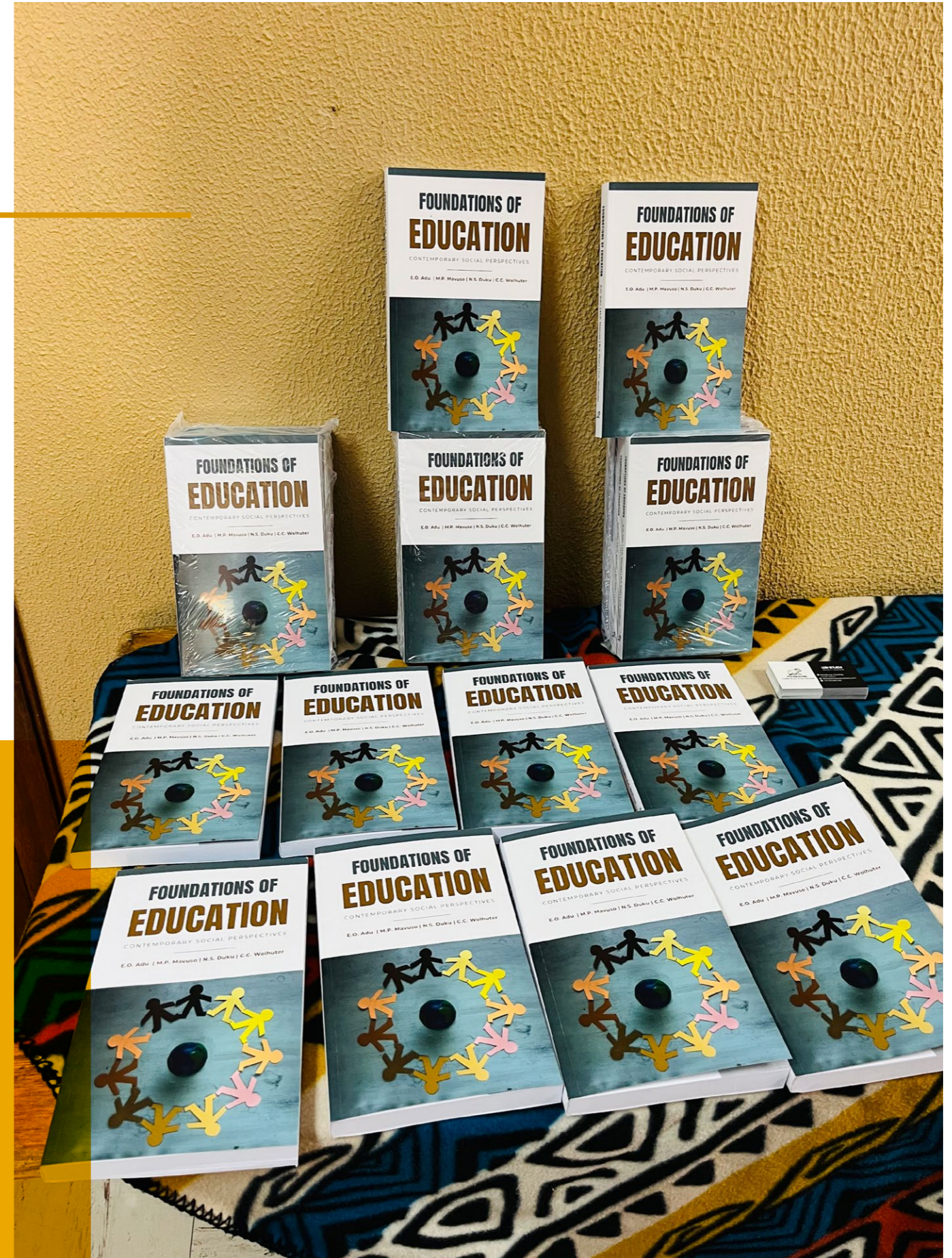
decolonization of education, and sociocultural perspectives of learning, among others.

Notably, the book explores the concept of Ubuntu as an African philosophy of education, shedding light on indigenous perspectives that have often been overlooked in traditional educational discourse.

Furthermore, it addresses contemporary issues such as the global higher education revolution, political education, financing higher education, and the ideology of formal education.

With chapters dedicated to topics such as inclusive education, cognitive and language development, and psychological interventions in education, the book aims to provide a holistic perspective on the complexities of the teaching profession. By addressing both theoretical concepts and practical applications, the book seeks to empower educators to navigate the challenges of contemporary education effectively.

"Tailored specifically for undergraduate and postgraduate pre-service teachers and lecturers, it promises to equip readers with the essential knowledge and skills required for a successful and meaningful career in education." - Prof Mavusa



COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS DAY



The Department of Social Work at the University of Fort Hare (UFH) continued its tradition of commemorating International Social Workers Day (ISWD) with an enlightening event held at the Miriam Makeba Arts Centre on the East London campus recently.

Observed every third Tuesday of March, the ISWD serves as a platform to recognize and honour the invaluable contributions of social workers worldwide in combating social injustices, poverty, discrimination, and other societal challenges.

This year's theme, "Shared Future for Transformative Change," highlighted the collaborative approach needed to address ongoing societal issues.

Sharing some background to the day, Mr Sifingo Mbona, Lecturer and fourth-year course coordinator at the Department said the origins of ISWD trace back to 1983 when the International Federation of Social Workers United Nations Representatives, led by Jack A Kamaiko, proposed the initiative to bring attention to the crucial role of social workers on a global scale. "Since then, the United Nations has designated March as the month dedicated to acknowledging the tireless efforts of social workers and advocating for social change."

In attendance, were members of the University community, including students from various departments, displaying the spirit of inclusivity and solidarity.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Kim Schmidt, Head of the Department of Social Work emphasized the importance of collective action in fostering positive

societal transformations. The event also featured valued contributions from the Student Counseling Unit (SCU), Gender-Based Violence Prevent Unit (GBVPU), and SANCA (South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) East London, shedding much-needed light on topics affecting students on campus.

Highlighting the importance of the profession, some of the students shared their stories of resilience and dedication to making a difference in their communities. In addition, the South African Council for Social Services Council assisted social work students in taking the Social Workers Oath of Practice, reaffirming their commitment to ethical and professional conduct.

Mr Mbona extended gratitude to the organizing committee comprising four social work honours students, Melisa Nkombise, Unathi Sidinile, Nompumelelo Dladla, and Siphokuhle Sofeya who worked alongside him to make the event a success.

"We are also grateful for the unwavering support from staff at the Department and the Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities which highlighted the importance of collective effort to uphold the principles of social justice and empowerment."

"The event echoed the sentiment encapsulated in the phrase, Aluta continua; vitória é certa - the struggle continues, but victory is certain, reinforcing the commitment to creating a more equitable and just society, one where the transformative power of social work continues to be recognized and celebrated," Mbona concluded.

"The event echoed the sentiment encapsulated in the phrase, Aluta continua; vitória é certa - the struggle continues, but victory is certain, reinforcing the commitment to creating a more equitable and just society, one where the transformative power of social work continues to be recognized and celebrated."
- Mr Sifingo Mbona

AKNOWLEDGING WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

The University of Fort Hare joined the global community in celebrating World Intellectual Property (IP) Day at the Alice Campus. This annual event, marked by the United Nations Convention on April 26th, is celebrated worldwide through workshops, exhibitions, competitions, social media campaigns, panel discussions, and webinars.

This year's celebration at UFH was graced by distinguished guests from the National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), Adams & Adams IP attorneys, and Walter Sisulu University.

World IP Day aims to raise awareness about the critical role that intellectual property rights play in fostering creativity and innovation. The broader objectives include:

Promoting IP: Educating the public on the importance of intellectual property rights in encouraging creativity and innovation.

Encouraging Innovation: Highlighting the critical role that IP plays in driving technological advancement and economic growth.

Celebrating Creativity: Recognizing the contributions of inventors, artists, and entrepreneurs.

Facilitating IP Understanding: Increasing understanding of how protecting IP rights helps promote fair competition and stimulates further creative endeavors.

Influenced by this year's theme, "IP & SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity," the event focused on how support should be given to researchers.

Mr. Jase from NIPMO presented on regulatory frameworks and capacity development support, emphasizing how NIPMO can assist researchers. Mr. Phochana from TIA discussed funding instruments available for innovative research, prototype development, and commercialization of intellectual property. Dr. Ida Makukule from DHET provided an outline of creative output evaluations and guidelines, highlighting how these are awarded as units to universities.

Prof. Oyedeji from Walter Sisulu University shared her inspiring success story, detailing her innovative work and highlighting the means of attracting funding and the benefits of collaboration. Mr. Mmotong from Adams & Adams IP attorneys concluded the event with a presentation on different IP strategies associated with sustainable development goals.

The celebration underscored the importance of supporting researchers and fostering an environment where innovation and creativity can thrive.





BLUES HEAD COACH CHASES DREAM OF SHAPING FUTURE SA STARS

“I saw a bunch of willing boys who were keen to learn and who wanted to better themselves as players. That left a lasting impression on me.”

- Chase Morison

Blues head coach Chase Morison recently came across a phrase that perfectly describes his ambition for Fort Hare rugby. “It’s not about winning championships; it’s about creating championship players.”

For the 31-year-old, officially appointed to his role at the back end of the 2024 FNB Varsity Shield, these words resonate powerfully with his dream of turning his charges into some of South Africa’s best players.

Morison has been around the Blues set-up since 2021, when he was invited in as a consultant by former head coach Lumumba Currie with whom he had worked at Border Rugby.

“I will never forget the first time I went to a Blues session. I was asked to assess the players’ fitness,” he said.

“I saw a bunch of willing boys who were keen to learn and who wanted to better themselves as players. That left a lasting impression on me.”

Considering the many memorable moments in his career as a professional player and top Eastern Cape coach it is huge testament to the passion that exists at Fort Hare.

Morison was born in Gauteng but moved with his family to East London at a very young age.

He was schooled at Stirling Primary and Selborne College, where he starred as a prop forward. It was a matter of course that he would be selected for the Border U16 and U18 sides during his high school years.

After matric he was awarded a junior contract with the Free State Cheetahs. He also enrolled at the University of Free State to study human movement sciences, which allowed him to turn out for Shimlas in the Varsity Cup.

In 2015 the Free State students lifted the Cup for the first time, with Morison playing a major role in their success thanks to his powerful scrummaging up front.

Stints with the Cheetahs’ U19 and U21 teams followed before making his debut for the senior side in the 2014 Vodacom Cup.

This was a game he will never forget. Included in their line-up was Heinrich Brüssow, at the time considered the best loose forward “fetcher” in the world.

While they only played one match together, it was a moment that would live with Morison forever.

A year later, he made his full Currie Cup debut for the Cheetahs.

Another standout moment he recalled from his time in Bloemfontein was being in the same Free State side as Springbok and former Stormers favourite Tiaan Liebenberg.

After sustaining a serious back injury, it seemed like Liebenberg would never play again. However, after a Herculean comeback the Cheetahs took a chance on him.

“What I learnt from him in the short space of time that we played together was incredible. You could see he was a Springbok and that he had played at that level before.”

Morison moved to Griquas in 2016 but when his contract was not renewed by the Kimberley-based

side, he may well have believed his professional playing days were behind him.

So, in 2017, he returned to Selborne as the first XV’s strength and conditioning coach and 12 months later the school produced one of its best sides with five players being selected for the South African Schools squad.

Three of these were also on the radar of a professional rugby scout who had travelled to East London to chat to the boys and their coaches.

Little did Morison know that his life would take another dramatic turn when he and the rest of Selborne’s management team met the scout that evening.

“He told me they were desperate for a tighthead to play for a team in Japan. They were only two weeks out from the Top League (Japan’s premier rugby competition) and only one of their four tightheads was fit.

“I told him, ‘I’m your man!’” Two weeks later I received a contract to play for Sanix Blues in Japan.”

His five months in the Land of the Rising Sun were some of the best of his life.

Springbok centre André Esterhuizen was a teammate and he played against greats of the game like All Blacks legend Dan Carter and Aussie kingpin Matt Giteau.

Another clubmate was Karne Hesketh, the Japan back who broke Springbok hearts in their shock win at the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

Morison was welcomed with open arms by Selborne upon his return to South Africa to become assistant and then head coach of the college.

He is now looking forward to the challenge of inspiring the next generation of Fort Hare players.

“In terms of willingness and talent of the players, there’s an abundance,” he said. “There is so much potential here.”

However, he was adamant that the players’ studies would play a major role in their future success as academic results were directly linked to playing in the Varsity Shield.

“They need to have discipline. If that happens, they will be far better equipped not only on the rugby field, but for life after varsity.”

UFH KARATEKA PICKS UP GOLD IN FIRST-EVER TOURNAMENT

The University of Fort Hare's young karatekas may have gone into the Madibaz semi-contact karate tournament as outsiders, but their final medal count told a very different story.

Of the 10 won by UFH at Mandela University in Gqeberha, eight – including a gold and silver – went to athletes taking part in their first-ever competitive event.

Fort Hare finished third overall, a result that astounded all and sundry considering the Alice-based institution was largely using the tournament to give its rookies experience.

While Siphe Kamnqa (two bronze) and Linda Mqambeli (one silver, two bronze) dazzled in their first outing, it was 22-year-old debutant Afika Dyubhele who shone brightest.

Her tournament haul of one gold and two bronze medals spoke volumes about her talents as a karateka, especially since she only joined the Fort Hare set-up last year.

Even more astonishing is that until her karate journey kicked off in August, she had not taken part in any other sport – even during her school years at Ngqeleni near Mthatha.

“I am very proud of myself. I didn't get medals at school. When I first started karate at Fort Hare, I said I must now get medals,” the second-year Bachelor of Arts student said.

Dyubhele makes no secret of the fact that the tough training regimen immediately made her want to quit when she first joined the programme.

Even warm-ups had been a struggle, she recalled the pain she endured running up the steps of the sports complex in Alice.

“I doubted myself for even coming because of the pain.

“But then my sempai (Anele Gqumayo) called and told me, ‘The pain you feel right now will be removed by training more, not quitting’.

“The support from my instructors is the thing that has made me the person I am today to win those medals.”

In the last few months of 2023, Dyubhele truly started to believe in her ability.

She recalled a ceremony where the best karatekas at the club had been awarded certificates. When she beat one of these recognised recipients in a match, she knew she could do well in the sport.

In December, she was even double-graded, moving straight from white to orange belt.

Her confidence was given a further boost when she took a point off a much-feared Madibaz karateka who had fought overseas. Though she lost the fight 1-3, she realised that she had what it took to compete at a high level.

In fact, she even asked if the fight could continue.

“I felt there was something more I could do against this star,” Dyubhele explained.

Though her family back home know about her karate and support her, they are still unaware of her achievements in Nelson Mandela Bay.

“I want to surprise them in person when I go home. I want to show them the medals I won at the tournament.”

The remainder of Fort Hare's 10 medals came courtesy of Gqumayo (bronze) and Philani Momoti (bronze).



“The support from my instructors is the thing that has made me the person I am today to win those medals.” - Afika Dyubhele

LAW STUDENT GRADUATES FROM LIEUTENANT TO ‘CAPTAIN’ ROWER

“Coach Lunga has been a great mentor. All the great techniques he has taught me have really helped my rowing.”
- Lisakhanya Mqalo



Standout Fort Hare rower Lisakhanya Mqalo had never dipped an oar in anger before his arrival at the Eastern Cape university.

While he played rugby, cricket and hockey at school in Fort Beaufort, the 21-year-old wanted to try something different during his first year of studies in 2022.

As so often happens, someone he knew introduced him to another student involved in the sport and so his love of competitive rowing began.

At the Universities Boat Race in Port Alfred last year, he was part of the crew who defeated the fancied Rhodes in the D-final to secure seventh overall – a jump of three spots from the previous year.

At the time, Fort Hare coach Lunga Mcetywa attributed their rise up the rankings to a culture of continuity that had come to define the club. Mqalo, now in his third year of an LLB in law, has been a big cog in that wheel.

Aside from missing the University Sports South Africa Sprints in his first year, he has represented UFH at every other USSA event.

“Coach Lunga has been a great mentor. All the great techniques he has taught me have really helped my rowing,” he said.

Mqalo made no secret of his passion for the Quad class, which he described as rowing’s “elite” category.

For him, there is something special about four men working in unison to achieve the high speeds a lighter boat offers.

Given that he is now something of a club veteran, it comes as no surprise that he has taken up the key role of stroke, who is the pacesetter for the rest of the crew.

“Throughout the years I was lieutenant stroke, so it’s a big move for me this year. It’s an interesting position that has me on full attention, but I’m feeling good about it.”

He was extremely proud that Fort Hare always managed to compete at a high level despite the code not being blessed with the budget of some others.

The universities of Cape Town and Pretoria traditionally dominate the national circuit but Mqalo said their goal was “trying to get there”.

He explained that the major reason why the Alice rowers were playing catch-up was the difference in experience between them.

“Many of us had never rowed before coming to Fort Hare while they started before university.”

The club’s next major assignment is the USSA Boat Race in September and while that may still be two months away, there has been no drop-off in the intensity of their training.

Their sessions of late had been “quite a remarkable experience,” Mqalo said in a tone as wry as it was diplomatic.

“Our coach makes sure we give that extra 10 per cent on the water. We always have to make sure that we are at our best.”

One of Mqalo’s greatest qualities as an athlete is that he works as hard off the water as he does on it.

Aside from the rigorous training sessions on East London’s Buffalo River, he regularly hits the road for 10km runs and the gym as often as he can.

“Even by myself, I always make sure I perform so I can ensure my physique is 100 per cent [for regattas].”

He urged his peers at Fort Hare to try out for the club as it offered many great experiences.

While, at first, they may “regret” their decision because of the heavy training regimen, they definitely will not do so downstream.

“They will love it,” he said.

UFH ACADEMY GRAD PETER HAS CRICKET WORLD SPINNING LIKE A TOP

There was an inevitability about Nqaba Peter making an immediate impact on his international debut with the Proteas.

The 21-year-old only graduated from the University of Fort Hare-Cricket South Africa Academy last year but the past 12 months have seen him become one of the most dangerous spinners on the domestic circuit.

He is the first men's player from the Academy to represent his country at T20 international level. Before him, graduates Jerry Nqolo and Somila Seyibokwe donned the green and gold at the Hong Kong Sixes in 2017.

Peter was a key player for the Eastern Cape's linyathi before joining the DP World Lions, one of the country's biggest franchises and home to the likes of Temba Bavuma, Rassie van der Dussen and Kagiso Rabada.

In the recent T20 Challenge, he ended up as the third-highest wicket-taker, bamboozling the country's leading batsmen with his fast-paced leg and top-spinners.

Hauls of 4/18 against the Titans, 3/22 against North West and an incredible 4/7 against Western Province announced his arrival in emphatic style.

He might well have believed that having his high-performance contract with the Lions upgraded to a two-year professional one for the 2024/25 season would've been the cherry that topped his breakout season.

It was not. With many of the Proteas' stars not playing in the recent T20 series against the West Indies in the Caribbean, the national selectors decided there was no time like the present to introduce Peter to the world.

And what an introduction it proved to be.

Making his debut in the second match in Kingston on May 25, he picked up the wickets of West Indies skipper Brandon King and Kyle Mayers.

In his second outing, his guile accounted for Johnson Charles who had been in fine form throughout the three-match series, which unfortunately saw South Africa being whitewashed by the home side.

Regardless of the result, Peter's name is now up in lights.

While the Proteas squad for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and United States are already set in stone, he will surely come into the reckoning if there are any injuries during the tournament.

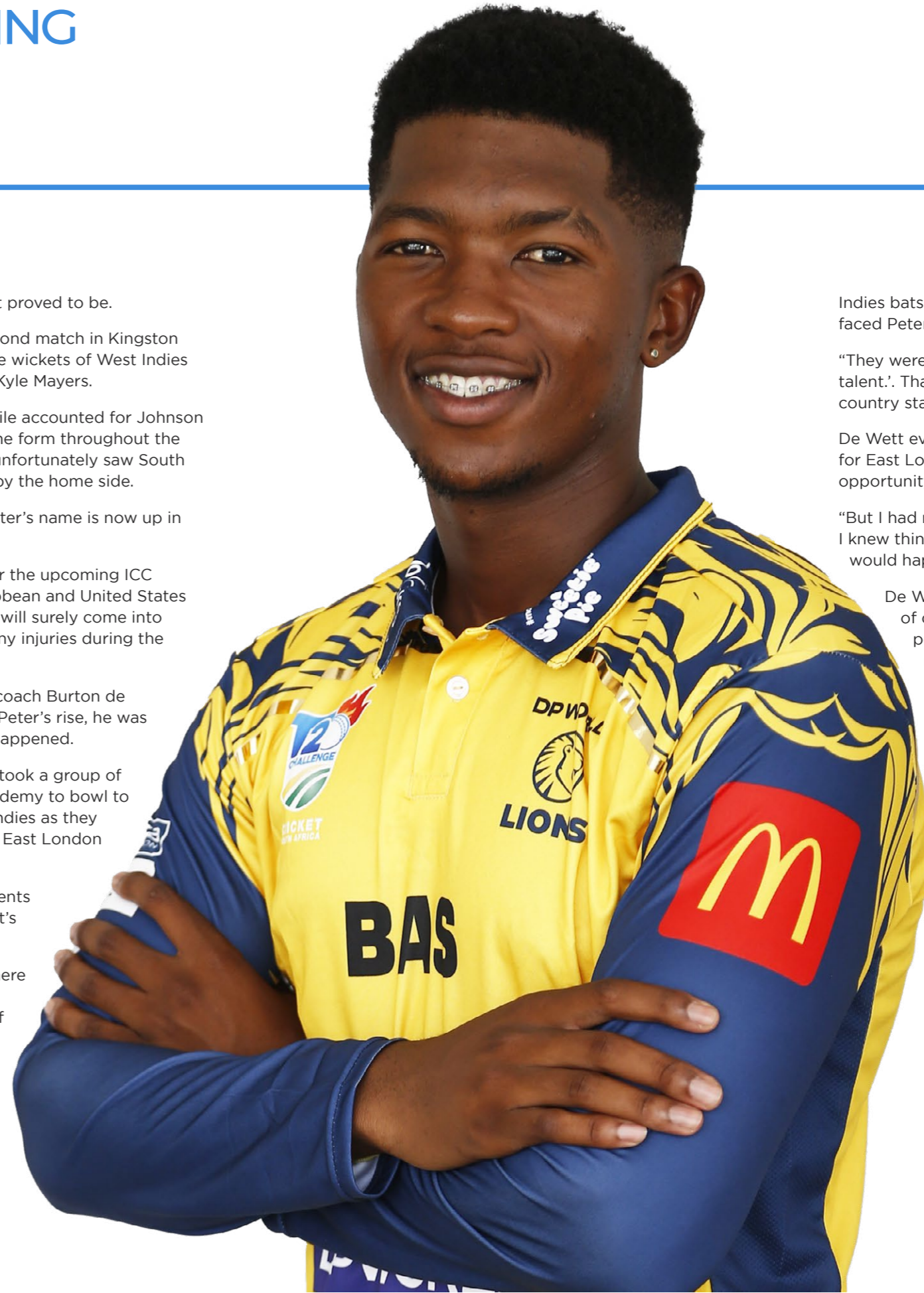
While UFH-CSA Academy coach Burton de Wett was not surprised by Peter's rise, he was amazed by how quickly it happened.

It was in fact De Wett who took a group of "net bowlers" from the Academy to bowl to the Proteas and the West Indies as they prepared for their match in East London last year.

It was there that Peter's talents were first noticed by cricket's biggest stars.

"It's crazy to think he was here [at the Academy] this time last year. I am very proud of him," De Wett said.

He recalled how Proteas Bavuma and Quinton de Kock as well as the West



Indies batsmen had been impressed the first time they faced Peter in the nets.

"They were like, 'Who is this guy? He is a special talent.' That's when the franchises from around the country started taking an interest."

De Wett even told the group prior to their departure for East London that they should not take their opportunity to bowl to world-class players lightly.

"But I had no idea it would get so big [for Peter]. I knew things would happen, but I didn't realise it would happen so fast."

De Wett has sent his former charge messages of congratulations on his debut and performances with the Proteas. He said he responded, "Thanks coachy".

"He's obviously a very busy guy now," he quipped.

The coach said it was now all but guaranteed that teams from the biggest T20 leagues in the world - including the Caribbean Premier League - would target his signature.

He also expected him to go for "big money" in next season's SA20, where he made his debut for the Paarl Royals a few months ago.

"He is a hard worker, a really focused cricketer. I'm chuffed for him," De Wett said.



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

PRODUCED BY

Institutional Advancement

Please note that the content is a selection of articles published on the UFH News Page: <https://www.ufh.ac.za/InTheNews>

FOR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND STORY LEADS:

Aretha Linden - alinden@ufh.ac.za
