

This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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In this issue:

- >> UFH Council Chairperson pays EC Premier a courtesy visit
- >> VC welcomes new and returning students
- >> National Liberation Heritage Institute undertakes site visit
- >> A Symbol of Love for Fort Hare: Deloitte donates R500 000 to UFH Department of Accounting
- >> Getting to Know Mr T. Mzizi, Interim Director - GBV unit
- >> 2021 Registration gets underway
- >> Workshops for Academics conducted by Prof J. Jansen
- >> Economics honours graduate wins 3rd prize in Minister Mboweni's Budget Speech Competition
- >> UFH participates in Virtual Mobility Programme
- >> 'Oliver Tambo' Chair and Legal Clinic collaborates to Enhance Human Rights through community-engaged research
- >> World Hearing Day
- >> Ways to improve Employee Wellness during COVID-19
- >> UFH Merchandise Catalogue

UFH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON PAYS EASTERN CAPE PREMIER A COURTESY VISIT

On 3 March, the Chairperson of the newly constituted UFH Council, Bishop Ivan Manuel Abrahams paid a courtesy visit to the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Honourable Oscar Mabuyane, to discuss the importance of sound relations between the university and the provincial government.

This meeting comes four months after the new UFH Council was inaugurated in November last year.

Bishop Abrahams said it was important for a university to have a good and sound relationship with the provincial government, "especially here in the Eastern Cape where there are four universities."

To demonstrate the UFH Council's commitment, during the closed session Bishop Abrahams shared elements of the university's strategic plan and also touched on issues pertaining to the development of the Higher Education sector – some of which were included in the Premier's recent State of the Province Address (SOPA).

"We had an opportunity to speak about the Blue (Ocean) Economy in the province, Artificial Intelligence and development in general. Just yesterday I heard there was some experimentation around hemp and cannabis farms that will stimulate the economy in this area," said the Chairperson.

Another important point discussed between the two statesmen was the identification of the University of Fort Hare as the ideal institution to house the second Veterinary School in the country.

An upbeat Premier Mabuyane said he was happy to meet with the Chairperson of the Fort Hare Council. "When I received this courtesy call about two weeks ago, I told my office this is a very important meeting. UFH is an iconic institution, it is a university that most of us can relate to."

Premier Mabuyane said the SOPA covered a lot of detail about EC government's strategic thinking and how universities will be brought on board.

"We have taken a serious paradigm shift. Development is no longer about logic only, it must be anchored on empirical evidence and it must be based on research. So we definitely need our four universities."

Premier Mabuyane is counted among notable alumni of the university. In his closing comments he said: "The Bishop has arrived at the university at the right time, he is in the right place and the doors of our government are open."

// by Aretha Linden



>> Premier Oscar Mabuyane and Bishop Ivan Manuel Abrahams

“The Bishop has arrived at the university at the right time, he is in the right place and the doors of our government are open.”

VC WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS



>> Prof Sakhela Buhlungu

As the University of Fort Hare commenced with registration of freshmen on the East London Campus this week, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu took some time to welcome new and returning students.

He explained that the university operates out of three campuses.

The main and largest campus is situated in the rural town of Alice (in operation since 1916), the Bhisho campus is in the heart of the provincial administration and the fastest developing campus is located along the coast in the city of East London.

In his address, the VC took time to particularly welcome those coming to university for the first time. He spoke about the diversity in the programmes on offer and urged new students to make the best of their time and focus on their studies.

"I would like to welcome all students who will be registering this year, in particular students who are registering for the first time. The University of Fort Hare is a good choice. It is a university with a good track record and has produced some of the top leaders of the country and the continent of Africa. It has graduates in every sphere of the country, in business, government, civil service and other areas of society".

"You have made the right choice by joining those people (alumni). Hopefully after three or four years you will walk tall as graduates of this university". Enjoy your time here, make friends and most importantly, focus on your studies. I will be here in four years and I want to welcome you as graduates. Remember that every moment of your time here is a moment of growth and learning that will carry you far into your life as a professional", said the VC in a pre-recorded video message.

He thanked students for showing confidence in the University of Fort Hare.

"Namkelekile kwa Nokholeji".

// By Mawande Mrashula and Asaduma Baloyi



>> Ms Baleka Mbete and Prof Sakhela Buhlungu

NATIONAL LIBERATION HERITAGE INSTITUTE UNDERTAKES SITE VISIT TO NAHECS CENTRE

Yesterday, a delegation from the National Liberation Heritage Institute of South Africa (NaLHISA) and Multichoice South Africa undertook a two-day (4-5 March) site visit to the National Heritage and Cultural Studies Centre (NAHECS) located on the Alice Campus.

The NaLHISA delegation was led by its chair, Ms Baleka Mbete (former National Assembly Speaker) and Multichoice was represented by its Corporate Affairs Group Executive, Mr Jabavu Heshu.

The delegation was welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu on behalf of the university. Ms Fezeka Nkomonye - MEC for the provincial Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture welcomed them on behalf of the Eastern Cape province.

NAHECS houses archives which belong to the following liberation movements - African National Congress, Pan Africanist Congress, Black Consciousness Movement and other richly documented liberation organisations. With the arrival of democracy, these organisations agreed to store their archives at Fort Hare. A dedicated building was identified for this purpose, thus giving birth to NAHECS.

About NAHECS

The Centre's history dates back to Fort Hare's Xhosa Literature Centre, an archival institution hampered by the "Xhosa only" dictates of the 1980s. Today, NAHECS is a vibrant academic unit and provides mentorship to Africa's future archivists and historians.

The purpose of the site visit was see how the archives are kept and how the material is arranged.

Almost 80% of the ANC material is now at an advanced stage of being digitized and the interest of NaLHISA is to have all archival material equally digitised.

In an open discussion, different views were shared about developing a skilled human resource to drive this critical project.

Explaining the importance of the archives, Mbete said, "The archives should date back as far as the era of colonial wars to put the Eastern Cape at the centre due to the role played by the centre - not only to benefit tourists but the future generations."

In response, the VC said for the materials to be useful, "they must be used and people have to know about them". He also raised a serious concern about the lack of a South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI) Chair at NAHECS but also indicated that the university is moving towards that direction.

"There is a Memorandum of Understanding expected to be signed in the not so distant future. Having a SARCHI Professor at NAHECS means our postgraduate students will be engaged, the university will have to be a national key point and above all, it will breathe life into Alice town," said the VC

MEC Nkomonye said the project has to be broadened to give expression to the forts and museums. "It must talk to people for whom the struggle was waged."

// By Mawande Mrashula



>> Mr Lwazi Bam

A SYMBOL OF LOVE FOR FORT HARE: Deloitte Donates R500 000 to UFH Department of Accounting

“This Department is what it is today, and what it will be in the future, because of that goodwill. As we welcome you Mr Bam, we are saying thank you for this, you are walking in the footsteps of many people. And most importantly, the footsteps of the person who gave his name to this Department - Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu”

The University of Fort Hare’s Nkuhlu Department of Accounting has received a donation of R500 000 from Deloitte, one of the Big Four and the largest professional services network in the world. The donation comes with an ongoing commitment to support thought leadership initiatives within the Department.

Mr Lwazi Bam - CEO of Deloitte Africa made the announcement during a special virtual handover ceremony on Tuesday, 23 February.

Bam said Deloitte recognises Fort Hare as one of the universities that continue to play a major role in the development of the country. “That is why we agreed to the donation. In addition, we want to broaden our participation by looking into how we could partner with the university. We have made a commitment to support the department on issues of thought leadership and to help enable access to resources and expertise in the field. We hope this contribution will help lead us in a particular direction, to restore trust in this profession and assist in developing the accounting and auditing profession,” he said.



>> Nkuhlu Department of Accounting Building

Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu received the donation on behalf of the university and defined the gesture as ‘a gift of love to Fort Hare’. Also representing Management were:

- Prof Renuka Vithal (Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Academic Affairs)
- Dr Ntombovuyo Wayi (Dean of the Faculty of Management and Commerce)
- Ms Wendy Terblanche, Head-Accounting Department
- Ms Chuma Mjali (Deputy Head - Accounting Department)

Also in attendance were members of the Accounting Department’s Advisory Board – all external stakeholders, namely:

- Ms Zee Harduth (Office of the Auditor-General)
- Ms Jacqui Mauer (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
- Mr Lwando Bantom and Olwethu Kente (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants)
- Ms Nontuthuzelo Zulu (Department of Higher Education and Training)
- Mr Sibongile Stuurman (UFH alumnus) and;
- Loren Smith (Marais & Smith Chartered Accountants).

Welcoming Mr Bam, Prof Buhlungu said the Nkuhlu Department of Accounting is that one place in the university that illustrates the generosity of people.

“This Department is what it is today, and what it will be in the future, because of that goodwill. As we welcome you Mr Bam, we are saying thank you for this, you are walking in the footsteps of many people. And most importantly, the footsteps of the person who gave his name to this Department – Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu,” said the VC.

Prof Vithal thanked Deloitte for choosing the University of Fort Hare. “We would like to repay the confidence expressed in us by Deloitte by driving major changes in the training of the scholars we produce, developing research and asking probing questions. UFH is well-positioned to be a leader in providing answers to some of the critical questions,” she said.

In closing, members of the UFH Management assured Deloitte that the Department and Faculty would use the funds and support optimally.

// by Aretha Linden

Getting To Know Mr Thandi Mzizi

Interim Director - GBV unit



>> Mr Thandi Mzizi

On 13th September 2019, the university approved its first-ever Gender-Based Violence policy. A process to translate the policy into practice and the establishment of a GBV unit was immediately set in motion. This process started with the appointment of an Implementation Task Team. A year later, Mr Thandi Mzizi was appointed as the interim Director for the soon-to-be established GBV unit.

Mr Mzizi joined UFH on 1st October 2020, bringing with him higher education experience in the area of staff and student wellness. He holds an M Phil Degree, Post Graduate Diploma on HIV/AIDS (University of Stellenbosch) and Bachelor of Social Science from Rhodes University. According to the VC, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, Mr Mzizi serve on the role until October 2021, by which time it is expected that the GBV unit will be in place.

To find out more about his plans for the unit, *ThisWeek@FortHare* asked Mr Mzizi a couple of questions.

Please share a bit about your professional background?

I began my career as an Admin Clerk at the Department of Education & Training (Eastern Cape). I rose through the ranks and have worked in different sectors. Some of the positions I have held include:

- Sales Rep at Metropolitan life and Sanlam,
- Psychosocial Worker at Grahamstown Hospice,
- Assistant Director: HIV/AIDS Industry Support at the Department of Economic Development & Tourism (Western Cape Provincial Government),
- Director: Research & Training at Bramble Training CC,
- Institutional HIV/AIDS Officer/Advocacy Officer at Rhodes University.

Prior to joining UFH, I was an Institutional Wellness Specialist at Rhodes University.

What motivated you to join the UFH GBV unit?

Fort Hare has produced leaders like Nelson Mandela, who went on to leave an indelible mark in the apartheid - a monolithic system of oppression that left a large swathe of society disenfranchised. At one time, it looked like apartheid could never be overcome. I am inspired by that.

I see the role of the GBV unit as similar to liberating women from the scourge of gender related violence, which tries to prevent them from freely taking a meaningful part in society. My role is to champion that cause, and to put myself on the line, as did some of Fort Hare's alumni, to see GBV brought to an end.

Additionally, it is to transform men's thinking towards women and LGBTQI+ - there are some deeply embedded ideas that fuel this growing wave of GBV, and men need to be disabused of them.

I am an impassioned advocate and combatant against GBV, and see myself carrying on the legacy of the likes of Mandela in this particular field of battle.

What are the key focus areas of your portfolio?

- To develop and drive the implementation of a coherent strategic Gender Based Violence policy and programming framework.
- Informed by existing evidence-based research, to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response to the crisis of gender-based violence and femicide with a specific focus on violence against women.
- To intensify and accelerate efforts and eliminate all forms of violence against women.
- To champion the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions and strategies directed towards the effective and successful management of gender programmes.

In your view, what defines an effective GBV unit?

Strong mandate: The unit needs to have a strong mandate in terms of its legal muscle and institutional policy. In other words, it needs backing - from university policies to a legal basis to enable it to follow up on, and prosecute cases. If this area is not strengthened, we will end up having many hearings that go nowhere, and effect nothing.

Adequate funding: It will very likely cost a lot of money for the unit to accomplish its objectives. This will become more apparent based on the legal challenges and action taken against abusers.

Administratively: The unit needs to stand on a solid platform. All the possibilities for successfully executing its mandate hang on a good administration foundation. We need to structure this area well from the outset, so that we can hit the ground running.

What is your personal stance against the scourge of GBV?

"Now is the time for freedom-loving South Africans to pick up the baton, to stand against gender-based violence, to speak against this war on women, to confront their peers, their idols, their families on all forms of gender-based violence, and importantly to act decisively and bravely".by (Andrew Ihsaan Gasnolar, 2019).

It is not a faraway problem, it is insidious within our families and communities, and the seeds can be seen germinating among the youth even in their early teens.

In your view, what needs to be done to defeat the war against GBV on campus and society in general?

South Africans should be outraged. Now is the moment to consider how we leverage this outrage to drive real change that can restructure, reinvent and compel a society that is able to unshackle itself from violence, abuse, patriarchy and misogyny that is targeted against women, children and LGBTQI+.

GBV and femicide constitute a societal ill that has left no sector of society untouched. We call upon all South Africans to be part of the implementation of a National Strategic Plan, to support it both materially and morally, and to be active forces for change in their homes and communities. The public, universities, media, faith-based groups, traditional organisations, business and labour, must all come on board.

It is not a problem that can be delegated to public bodies only. As communities, we need to give full-on engagement and remove all traces of enabling behaviour in our dealings with budding abusers.

Lastly, what is your broad aspiration for the GBV unit?

I want the UFH GBV unit to be an example of good practice and a country-wide standard bearer in how to effectively combat GBV. If we commit to this war with all our might and are united in our efforts, it is within our ability to achieve this.

The unit is capable of being a model entity to fight GBV and have a ripple effect on other institutions, not only within higher education, but across the board.



>> East London Registration

2021 REGISTRATION GETS UNDERWAY

The first day of registration started in earnest on Monday morning (01 March 2021). Scores of first time university entering students gathered in various Covid-19 adhering waiting areas on the East London Campus - eagerly awaiting their turn to get registered.

Many of the students had travelled long distances to complete this process which signifies the start of their journey towards obtaining a university qualification.

By mid-morning groups of excited first-years were spotted holding their freshly encoded student cards. First to register were first-years from the Faculty of Education and Bachelor of Social Sciences and Humanities, followed by Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music students in the afternoon.

The registration process is also open to returning students who are pursuing Masters or PhD degrees.

Dr Rose Masha, Deputy Registrar for Academic Affairs said by lunch time the university had registered more than 200 students. "Were it not for a minor glitch experienced in the morning, we would have registered a large number of students. After the glitch was sorted, the process was smooth sailing and we were able to register a student within 10 minutes."

"Another challenge is that two of the main student funders, NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme) and Funza Lushaka are yet to send their list of approved students. But we are hopeful that this will be sorted soon."

According to Dr Masha, the university had received over 40 000 applicants while there is space for 4000 applicants. "The demand was high, unfortunately we could only accommodate 10% of the applicants."

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES AND PROCEDURES

- **ALL** continuing students will be registered remotely from **8th - 14th March 2021**
- Registration for first years will take place on the following dates:
 - o **East London campus:** from 1st March
 - o **Bhisho campus:** 5th to 6th March, and
 - o **Alice campus:** 8th to 14th March

This information has been uploaded on the UFH website under the 2021 Registration Guide.

LATE APPLICATIONS

- The university is not accepting late applications because the quota of applicants has been reached.
- If there are any spaces identified by faculties after registration, the list of rejected students will be revisited.
- If there is still space, faculties, especially those that require Maths and Science as criteria – will move into walk-in space.

WALK-IN APPLICATIONS

- Every year, the university only accepts walk-ins in the Science and Agriculture as well as Management and Commerce Faculties. The number of applicants from the Science and Mathematics stream is usually below the faculties' quota.
- In 2021 the walk-ins application process is going to be closely monitored in order to comply with Covid-19 restrictions.
- The university will issue a communication as soon as faculties confirm the number of available spaces.
- Walk-in application forms will be downloadable from the university website. Applicants may complete the form and email it to the relevant faculty.
- Once approved, faculties will alert the successful students and invite them to come in and register.



The University of Fort Hare is pleased to announce two

Workshops for Academics

Conducted by

Professor Jonathan Jansen



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Prof. Jonathan Jansen is an A-rated scientist with the National Research Foundation, and distinguished professor in the Faculty of Education at Stellenbosch University, where he teaches, supervises postgraduate students and conducts research on school governance, management, leadership and policy. A former Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the University of Free State, he is currently President and Chairperson of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He is also a Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Behavioural Sciences at Stanford University; a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association, a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and President of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

The two workshops on Academic Leadership and on Becoming a Professor will each take place over TWO sessions as follows:

Workshop 1: Academic Leadership

All Deans, Deputy Deans, Heads of Departments, Schools and Academic Centres are hereby invited to participate in the workshop on Academic Leadership.

Session 1 Date : Thursday, 11th March 2021
Duration: 10h00 - 12h00

Session 2 Date : Tuesday, 13th April 2021
Duration: 10h00 - 11h30

[Click here for registration form](#)

Workshop 2: Becoming a Professor

All academic staff, especially those aspiring to be professors, are hereby invited to attend the workshop on Becoming a Professor.

Session 1 Date : Tuesday, 16th March 2021
Duration: 10h00 - 12h00

Session 2 Date : Friday, 16th April 2021
Duration: 10h00 - 11h30

[Click here for registration form](#)

To register for the workshop please complete and sign the attached SPECIFIC Registration form and return to Mrs Thozama Yawathe by e-mail – tyawathe@ufh.ac.za. **The deadline to register is strictly Friday, 5th March 2021.** The workshops will be conducted online but numbers will be limited.

ECONOMICS HONOURS GRADUATE WINS 3rd PRIZE IN MINISTER MBOWENI'S BUDGET SPEECH COMPETITION



>> Mr Luyanda Matomane

The year 2021 belongs to Mr Luyanda Matomane! He has just completed his honours degree in Economics and will graduate later this year. He has also won a prize of R50 000 for being placed third in the National Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition – Postgraduate Category.

Winners of this prestigious competition were announced last Wednesday (24th February) after the Budget Speech delivered by Minister Tito Mboweni.

In its 48th year running, the competition challenges Economics and Finance students from the country's 26 universities to write an essay that speaks to the country's key social and economic challenges. Under normal circumstances, finalists are invited to Cape Town to attend the Budget Speech, where winners are announced at a gala dinner held after the Minister's speech. However, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic the Budget Speech was delivered virtually and winners were announced on the same platform.

"I was at home with my siblings when the winners were announced.

I jumped for joy. It was the best day of my life," said an ecstatic Matomane.

There are two categories in the competition - undergraduate and postgraduate. For their essays, undergraduates had to discuss South Africa's focus on the public sector wage bill as an expenditure control measure. Postgraduates were required to discuss debt default risk in South Africa and its potential fallout, making use of international experience.

After stringent judging rounds, three UFH students made it to the top 40. Ultimately, two UFH students pushed to the final round - Matomane and **Mr Dicend Chiseko**, who represented UFH in the undergrad category. Chiseko has also completed his Agricultural Economics degree and will graduate later this year.

In his essay, Mr Matomane argues that the mandate of the South African Reserve Bank should not be changed. "Changing it would derail the main objective of Reserve bank which is to achieve and maintain price stability in the country." He also states that the Reserve Bank's independence should not be curtailed: "because doing so would expose it to politically elected officials who would serve their own interests instead of making decisions that would benefit everyone."

Professor Munacinga Simatele, Acting Dean of Research is one of three student mentors on the Budget Speech initiative. The other two are Professor Forget Kapingura and Ms Nomasomi Ngonyama. She shared a brief background about the initiative.

"The UFH has had great success in the competition in the past three years. Mongi Tshaka was a finalist in the postgraduate category in 2018. In 2019, Bekithemba Qeqe took home the top prize accompanied by fellow finalists Cwayita Mkrola in the postgraduate category and Manyoni Ndambenhle in the undergraduate category".

"The entire university community would like to send hearty congratulations to Matomane who walked away with a R50,000 prize for his efforts as well as to the mentors in the department of economics who work very hard to keep the UFH at the top in this prestigious competition", said Prof Simatele proudly.

Born in Welkom in the Free State and raised in Port St John's Eastern Cape, Matomane says being in the Top 3 of such a prestigious competition is a blessing to him. "I am over the moon. Getting recognised by well-established scholars really means that I'm moving in the right direction."

He dedicates this achievement to a lot of people, including his family for their support and his high school teachers and lecturers who have mentored him over the years.

Matomane's career aspiration is to become one of the top Economists in the country.

"I want to make valuable contributions towards building a South Africa that will have sustainable economic growth for the benefit of all."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MATOMANE'S ESSAY](#)

// by Aretha Linden

UFH PARTICIPATES IN UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA'S VIRTUAL MOBILITY PROGRAMME

Mr **Maliviwe Mpayipheli**, Livestock and Pasture Science Lecturer and two postgraduate students, Ms **Nasiphi Bontsa** and Mr **Sikhumbuzo Ngcuzana** from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture have been selected to participate in a virtual mobility programme hosted by the University of Bologna in Italy.

The participants will join a Sustainable Development and One Health (OH) online course where they will attend classes and seat for a final exam to earn credits. The course started on 3 March and will run until 21 April 2021.

This is a benefit that accrues from the ELEPHANT collaborative project between eight Higher Education Institutions in South Africa and Europe.

The term ELEPHANT derives from the project title: **E**mpowering universities' **L**earning and **r**esearch **ca**pacities in the one **H**ealth **A**pproach for the **ma**Naagement of animals at the interface between humans, livestock, wildlife and environment in **SouTh** Africa. The primary objective of the project is to contribute towards poverty relief by boosting innovative learning and research capacities in the One Health context.

The project is funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus + Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education programme.

About the Course

According to information published on the website of the University of Bologna, the course aims to provide the basis of systemic thinking for the improvement of surveillance programmes, timely response to emergencies and economic savings by applying the OH approach. It intends to make students understand the need for an integrated and cross-sectoral approach toward the achievement of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It also provides basic knowledge on the main issues related to health at the human/animal/environment interfaces.

The programme targets students of all disciplines, who see their future as leaders in local and international bodies such as:

- Institutions involved in health management and food security
- Organizations dealing with cooperation and development in the field of health and food security
- Companies active in the production and marketing of food products abroad and in international trade
- Research institutes dealing with sustainable development
- Biosafety and bio-defence agencies

- Advice to public bodies on health management, responsiveness and sustainability
- Academic institutions
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the field of cooperation and development.

Mpayipheli, aspiring academic who is passionate about community engagement, said he was very excited to be part of the programme. "It will expand my knowledge of OH approach and afford me a chance to work and learn from other colleagues from different disciplines."

According to him, the focus of this module is on climate, water, food and health, which are crucial priority areas of the Sustainable Development Goals. "Therefore, we stand to acquire knowledge and skills that may potentially reshape our university curriculum, increase research outputs and assist in the attainment of food security in the near future."

Ms Bontsa said she is grateful for the opportunity "I will be empowered with more knowledge and it will enhance my research skills, especially around the OH methodology."

Mr Ngcuzana described being selected for this programme as "a once in a life-time opportunity."

// by Aretha Linden



>> **Nasiphi V. Bontsa**, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension (PhD candidate)



>> **Sikhumbuzo G. Ngcuzana**, Department of Livestock and Pasture Science (MSc Candidate)



>> **Maliviwe Mpayipheli**, Lecturer – Department of Livestock and Pasture Science

Well done to the selected participants. UFH is proud to be part of the ELEPHANT collaborative project.

THE 'OLIVER TAMBO' CHAIR AND LEGAL CLINIC COLLABORATES TO ENHANCE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH



>> Dr N. Lubisi
Dean: Faculty of Law



>> Mr S. Pango
Director: Legal Clinic



>> Professor N. Ntlama-Makhanya
Acting Head: UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo'
Chair of Human Rights

The advent of COVID-19 pandemic has been dubbed as a catalyst for universities to embrace the importance of Communities of Practice (CoP) amongst its academics. The CoP concept has been recognised as a vehicle for promoting knowledge-sharing, improved communication, participant interactivity, and development of expertise through research, community engagement and teaching and learning.

As such, in a bid to foster growth and continued research throughput, the UFH UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo: Chair of Human Rights (OTCHR) and the Legal Clinic were recently granted the green light by the University Management to collaborate in all its activities.

This collaboration comes at a time when harnessing all realms of knowledge through CoP within and outside the university remains critical for survival and success, particularly during Covid-19 pandemic.

The OTCHR, is currently led by Prof Nomthandazo Ntlama-Makhanya and team members Mr Siyabulela Fobosi and Dr Bellita Banda. It is based on the Alice Campus and is a member of the Global Networks of UNESCO Chairs, which exist in different countries, institutions and academic disciplines.

The initiative to establish a Chair of Human Rights at UFH emerged in the 1990's as a response and in the wake of the end of apartheid. The Chair undertakes many of the human rights education training and research programmes and activities, which include, but not limited to:

- Women's access to economic justice;
- Traditional Leadership;
- Communal Land ownership and administration;
- HIV/AIDS and Human Rights; Disability and Human Rights;
- Gender-based violence in Schools;
- Medical Care and Human Rights;
- Street Law, Democracy and Human Rights;
- COVID-19 Pandemic and Human Rights.

The Legal Clinic, based at the East London Campus, under the leadership of Mr Siyabulela Pango comprises of two administrators, Mr Nini based at the Alice Campus, and Ms Lamati based at the East London Campus. The Legal Clinic has two Candidate Legal Practitioners, Ms Mashalaba, and Ms Zinyusile. Both Candidate Legal Practitioners assumed duties on the 1st of December 2020 and are based at the East London Campus.

The Legal Clinic re-established its satellite office at the Alice Campus on the 3rd of April 2018. The satellite office is housed temporarily at the Old Law Faculty Building. The Legal Clinic offers a wide range of legal services, such as, Family Law, Labour Law, Contractual Matters, Public Interest Law Litigation, Socio-Economic Rights Matters, Divorce Matters, and Criminal Matters in the Lower Court and High Court.

“The collaboration represents one of the Faculty’s commitment to Transformative Constitutionalism and to establish a richer knowledge base about societal needs while identifying effective ways to address challenges across the various communities”

Working with the Legal Clinic, it is envisaged that the Chair will make use of Community-Engaged Research that focuses on connecting Researchers and communities. This it plans to achieve through active collaboration to generate data that can resolve fundamental societal issues and/or lead to the creation and evaluation of approaches to addressing community issues in and around Alice.

The importance of community engagement will be made evident through collaborative decision-making by both parties, which is driven towards social transformation in line with the Faculty of Law's focus on 'Transformative Constitutionalism'.

Already in place is an integrated and comprehensive 2021 calendar of envisaged activities with a focus on community engagement and research. In line with the needs of the Alice community, the Centres will also implement research outreach programmes to create awareness on human rights issues – particularly Gender-based Violence (GBV).

Some of the activities that will be implemented in and around Alice include among others: street law lecture;

seminar on Women's Economic Justice for Social Change; research presentations on Human Rights issues. Both Centres will hold summits, workshops, colloquiums on access to human rights and justice in Alice and East London during the course of the year. It is envisaged this will create a host of opportunities for collaboration and accelerating of knowledge sharing through research, teaching and learning and community engagement.

Dr Nomthandazo Lubisi, Faculty of Law Dean said: “The collaboration represents one of the Faculty's commitment to Transformative Constitutionalism and to establish a richer knowledge base about societal needs while identifying effective ways to address challenges across the various communities”.

Sources: UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' of Human Rights and UFH Legal Clinic

WORLD HEARING DAY: UFH Rehabilitative Sciences and Buffalo City Metro Education Joint Awareness Event



On Wednesday 3 March - World Hearing Day, the UFH Department of Rehabilitative Sciences collaborated with the Buffalo City Metro's District's Inclusive Education Department to host an awareness event.

This year's campaign was spearheaded by the World Health Organisation with the theme: **Hearing care for ALL! Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate.**

The awareness event took place at Parklands Special School in East London. UFH was represented by 3rd-year Speech-Language Pathology students.

Ms Unati Zali, Head of the Rehabilitative Sciences Department said the students attended the event to offer their assistance and also for practical exposure. "Such partnerships are appreciated as they offers exposure for our students and create networking platforms to build strong relations."



Ways to improve Employee Wellness during COVID-19

The number of Covid-19 positive cases might have decreased significantly, but the virus remains a threat. Even more concerning are the after and long-term effects left by the virus on our wellbeing. Most of our employees who tested and recovered from Covid-19 are still feeling sick for weeks or months afterwards.

During this time, self-care is more essential than ever. Self-care helps to build and maintain a healthy immune system. We need to take care of ourselves before taking care of others and this is how we can achieve this:

1
Eat well: Eating a well-balanced diet is essential. Spending time with family while preparing food can be also be a tonic for your mental health.

2
Exercise: 10-15 minute of movements can burn some calories and reduce stress related to work, family or pandemic.

3
Get enough sleep: Avoid caffeinated or alcoholic drinks in the evening. Get at least 6 to 8 hours of sleep.

4
Stay connected to others: We need one another right now, maybe more than ever. Although still expected to comply with physical distancing guidelines we can contact each other via virtual platforms.

5
Show gratitude: Although things may look bleak, there's still much more to be thankful for, even in this time of crisis. This pandemic gives families time to reflect and talk about possible solutions together.

6
Control stress levels: Chronic stress suppresses immune function. It is important to learn to deal with stress.

7
Finally, self-reflection is incredibly important. Remember to be patient with yourselves in these trying times.



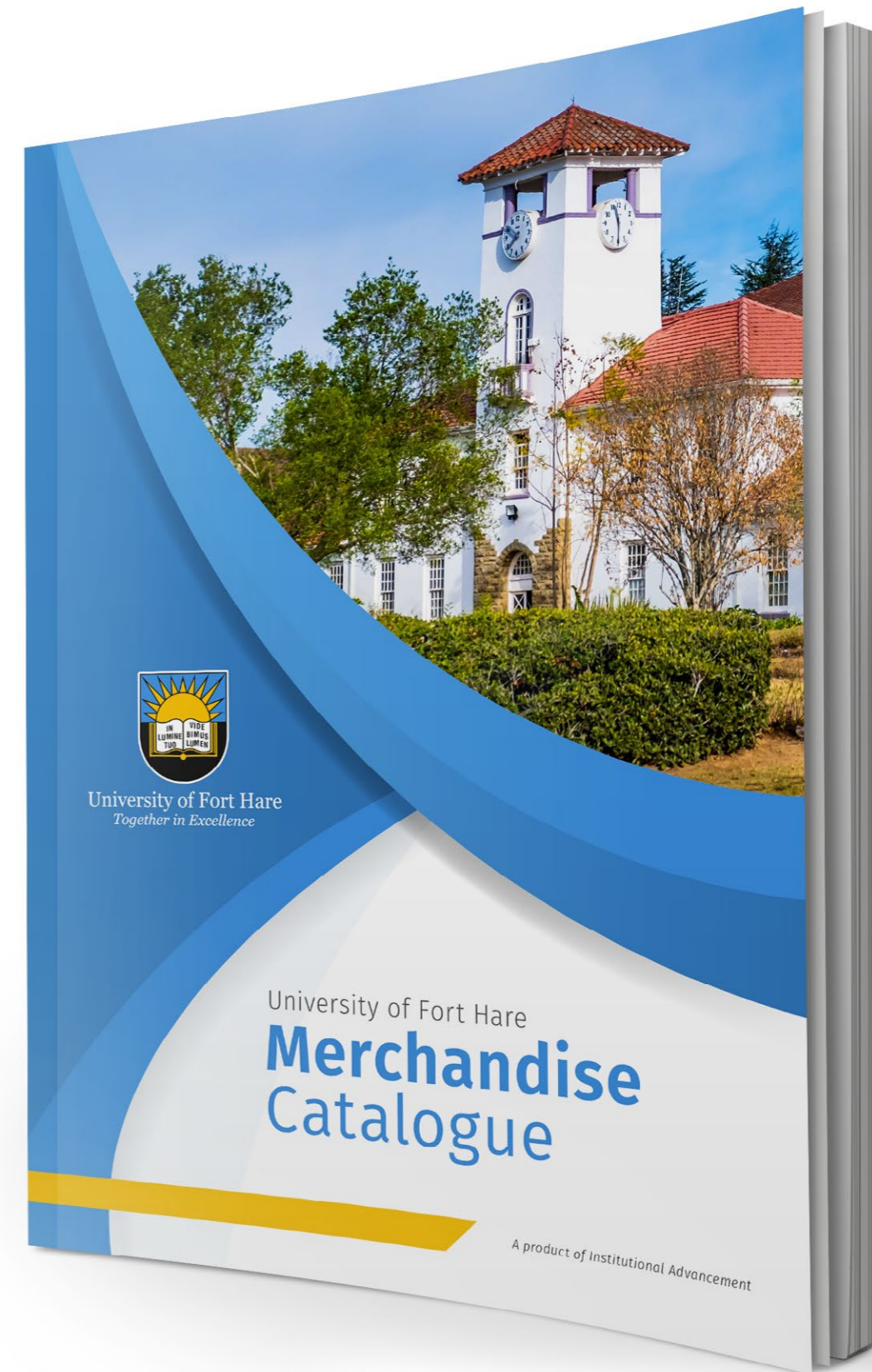
By: Ms Mandisa Tyanti
Employee Wellness Practitioner

Source: World Health Organisation

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