



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

UFH NEWS

APRIL 2022



**HISTORIC WIN
FOR UFH RUGBY IN
VARSITY SHIELD TOURNAMENT**



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The 21st of April 2022 will go down as one of the most memorable days in the history of the University of Fort Hare. This is the day the University's rugby team, Luma Ke Blues became the first Eastern Cape University to win the Varsity Shield Tournament.

The victory over CPUT crowned the team's unbeaten record of 8 out of 8 games in the season. Also, being crowned on home ground at the Davidson Rugby Field on the Alice Campus, made the victory even sweeter. The team dedicated the win to the late Mr Elliot Fana who was the Blues' Director.

Congratulating the Blues, the VC Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said: "This is indeed a historic moment for the University, as although we have made into the finals before, in 2017, we have never won this competition. Our congratulations go to the team, captained by Kamvelihle Fatyela and our coach, Lumumba Currie."

"We are also grateful to our sports officers for their commitment to making it all happen. The win was indeed a team effort and various divisions in the University contributed to this very exciting and highly professional event. The victory marks an important moment for our institution."

Ordinarily, the winner of the Varsity Shield tournament would be promoted to the Varsity Cup, an established super league of largely better-resourced universities. However, ahead of the tournament, a decision was taken by the organisers that in order to balance the size of the two leagues, the winners of Varsity Shield 2022 would stay on in the league and two teams from the Varsity Cup would be redirected to Varsity Shield 2023. Explained the VC.

"This gives our team another year to dominate the Varsity Shield tournament. If successful next year, the window opens for Luma Ke Blues to take their rightful place in the top tier of varsity rugby, which they earned. We are immensely proud of the boys! They embody the Forterian spirit underpinning our Decade of Renewal: excellence, self-confidence, vision, and teamwork."

Click here to watch a video of the historic win: https://youtu.be/88nOLyqV_IU

Photos: Varsity Shield



International Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Research Collaborations on the cards

On the 1st of April the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnership and Innovation, Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba hosted a team of experts and delegates from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the National Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) to discuss future research collaborations.

The meeting was held at the Miriam Makeba Arts Centre on the East London Campus.

The ICGEB team was led by its Deputy-General, Dr Lawrence Banks while the DSI team was led by the Deputy Director-General, Dr Mmboneni Muofhe. UFH was represented by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu and staff from the faculties of Health Sciences and Science & Agriculture and the Govan Mbeki Research and Development Centre.

The ICGEB is a unique intergovernmental organisation initially established as a special project of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Independent since 1994, it runs 46 state-of-the-art laboratories, in Trieste, Italy, New Delhi, India, and South Africa and forms an interactive network with over 65 member states. It plays a key role in Biotechnology worldwide for excellence in Research, Training and Technology Transfer to industry to contribute in concrete terms to the achievement of sustainable global development and its operations are aligned to those of the United Nations System.

Expanding on the purpose of the meeting, Dr Muofhe said the engagement was part of nationwide visits to higher learning institutions which started in October last year. "We are doing this to ensure that research opportunities, especially international ones, reach all our people."

Dr Banks gave a lengthy presentation on what the ICGEB does and the opportunities it presents. This includes opportunities in the following research fields:

1. Infectious Disease
2. Non-communicable Disease
3. Medical Biochemistry
4. Industrial Biochemistry
5. Plant Biology and Biotechnology

Dr Banks' presentation was followed by an insightful overview of the University's Research shared by Dr Taole-Mjimba. The Dean of Health Sciences, Prof Mzikazi Nduna and the Dean of Science & Agriculture, Prof Graeme Bradley gave a summary of some of the intriguing and important research projects, including national and international collaborations that are currently conducted by researchers in the respective faculties.

A robust discussion got underway to explore ways of collaboration.

Dr Taole-Mjimba said: "What is evident after this engagement is that there is room for collaborations in capacity development, starting with the next generation of researchers such as postgraduate and specific programmes focusing on developing women in science. We also going to look into taking advantage of research grant opportunities in the Biotechnology and related fields."

The VC said: "This meeting gives us the opportunity to discuss and begin to think about our new niche areas, especially around Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. Engagements of this kind are very important, it sets the tone for national and international partnerships and for new areas."

*By Aretha Linden and Asaduma Baloyi
Photos: Tim Wilson*







An NRF C-Rating for former teacher and passionate Climate Change Researcher

A teacher by profession and Researcher by passion, Dr Leocadia Zhou's career in the education sector and academia, which spans over three decades, recently became full circle when she was awarded a C-3 Rating by the National Research Foundation.

Her rating brings the number of newly-rated Researchers at UFH to ten.

Dr Zhou is the Director of the UFH Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC) under the Faculty of Science & Agriculture. The Centre was initiated in 2011 by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the National Research Foundation (NRF); it is one of five flagship entities under the Global Change Research Plan's (GCRP) framework to direct global change research investments in South Africa.

She started her career as a teacher. Between 1990 and 1997, she taught Cambridge O and A-level Geography as a full-time teacher in Zimbabwe at Mandava High School. "Being a teacher laid a strong foundation for my quest to improve academically," she said.

In 1997, she enrolled for a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Geography at the University of Zimbabwe.

Her journey at UFH started in 2001 when she enrolled for an honours degree in Environmental Science thereafter, she progressed to do her masters and doctoral degrees in Geography and Environmental Sciences at Fort Hare. Over the years, 2004 and 2021 she has held the following positions: Intern at UFH's Govan Mbeki Research & Development Centre (GMRDC) from 2004 to 2009; Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC) in the year 2010; Manager of Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC) from 2011 up to 2014. She was appointed Director of RVSC in 2015.

Her research interests are in areas related to climate change management. According to her, global warning issues are topical and a better future can only be feasible through mitigatory research interventions. Calamities and disasters can be averted through the adoption of smart green technologies.

"I have strong vested interests in making the earth a better place to live and improving human livelihoods. Thus, my research focus is based on the conscious acknowledgment of the fact that the increasing incidence of extreme climatic events and global warming poses significant challenges that need to be confronted and addressed by promoting the adoption and implementation of scientifically informed coping strategies."

As a Researcher, Dr Zhou strongly believes her calling is to identify gaps and proffer solutions. As such she continues to demonstrate a passion for research in the following:

- Challenges that undermine improved understanding of climate-change stressors and processes that impact on the livelihoods of resource-poor communities;
- Societal responses to the adverse effects of climate change with emphasis on the water, energy and food security nexus;
- Barriers and enablers of climate-change adaptation and;
- The formulation of implementable interventions that can be used to increase the resilience of marginalised communities. I am gratified when I look at the outputs, outcomes and impacts of my research contributions towards addressing these global challenges.

She is an accomplished researcher who has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and four

book chapters in internationally renowned journals. "To my credit, I have also recruited, supervised and, or co-supervise graduate students to completion of their studies and have mentored subordinates to be better leaders of tomorrow."

"I take this award as a springboard to greater heights on my committed interest to contribute to the enhancement of our capacities to cope with the adverse effects of climate change."

Currently, she is working on six research projects listed below:

South Africa /Flanders Climate Adaptation Research and Training Partnership (SAFADAPT): Building adaptation knowledge and capacity-based projects. The project is in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT), University of Venda (UNIVEN), UFH, and Flanders government.

The University Staff Development Doctorate Programme (USDP) coordinates by the RVSC and administers the USDP programme in collaboration with the University of Arizona and Penn State University, United States of America and UCT to support four junior staff members in the Faculty of Science & Agriculture to work on their doctoral studies on climate change-related issues.

Water-Energy-Food communities in South Africa: multi-actor nexus governance for social justice project. A multi-disciplinary project awarded to the University of Utrecht and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and the North-West University (NWU) and the University of Fort Hare (UFH).

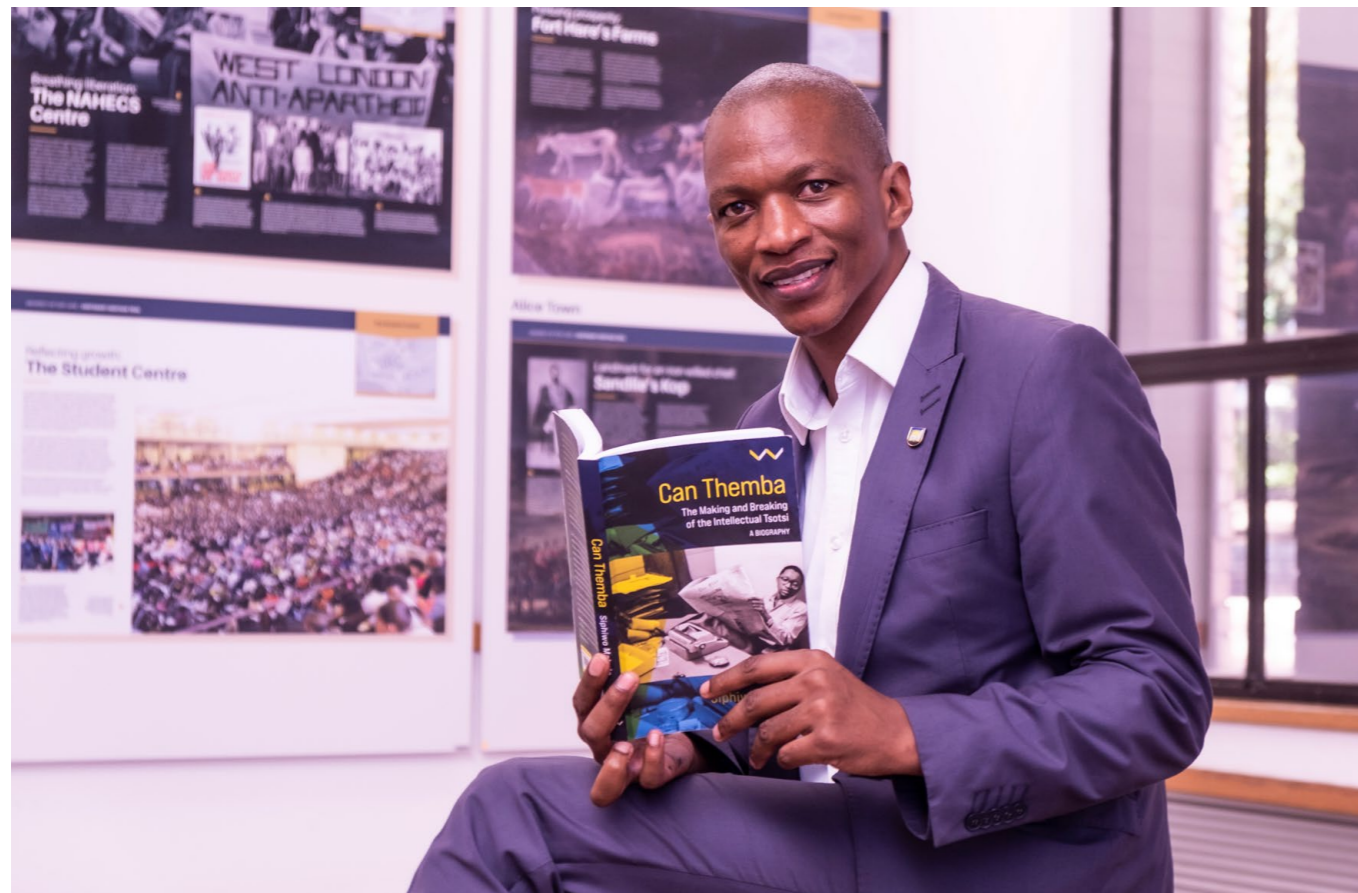
"Unlocking the Locked": moving to more engaged, inclusive, and generative approaches to climate change adaptation in South Africa, a multi-level engaged governance for change in the climate change arena and specifically on adaptation. "We argue that there is a gap in the governance, mainstreaming, and implementation of climate change adaptation in South Africa." Collaboration partners are WITS, UFH & DEFF, UFH.

Community Engagement project: Engaging South African farmers on climate variability and change through the use of climate services. The research will focus on two case study sites, the Western Cape Province and the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. Collaboration partners are UCT, WITS & ARC.

"Impacts of land use and land cover changes on water quality and quantity in key water sources of Limpopo and the Eastern Cape, South Africa provinces." A collaboration of three RVSCs (UL, WSU and UFH sponsored by WRC)

Her unrelenting commitment to Community Engagement has not gone unnoticed as evidenced by the Vice-Chancellor Excellent Award on Community Engagement in 2016. "Such befitting recognition is motivational and inspirational and could have been the precursor to the NRFC3-Rating award that we celebrate today," she said.

Commenting on her newly acquired rating, Dr Zhou said: "I am greatly humbled. This achievement is a stimulator and confidence booster. It is a culmination of hard work and team effort and I salute all those who supported me towards the attainment of this rating. I now have a strong conviction that nothing beats teamwork. I take this award as a springboard to greater heights on my committed interest to contribute to the enhancement of our capacities to cope with the adverse effects of climate change."



“Thank you Fort Hare for making me and Can Themba” – Dr Sipiwo Mahala

A wave of nostalgia swept over Dr Sipiwo Mahala when he returned to his Alma Mater, the University of Fort Hare recently. The iconic short story writer, novelist and playwright had returned to the University to launch his first scholarly book. Titled: *Can Themba: The Making and Breaking of the Intellectual Tsotsi*, Mahala's biography retraces the life of the iconic Drum-era Journalist and writer, Can Themba who is also an illustrious UFH Alumnus.

“Being here has an element of nostalgia, I feel like my life has come full circle. I first came here in 1995 to study literature and now I am back to launch my first scholarly book. I am here, not only to trace Can Themba's footsteps but also to say thank you Fort Hare for making me and Can Themba.”

The launch was held on the 13th of April at the De Beers Art Gallery on the Alice Campus. The programme featured revered South African Actor, Sello Maake ka-Ncube who captivated the audience with an excerpt reading from Can Themba's provocative short story, *The Suit*.

Reflecting on the book, Dr Mahala said: “While I was doing my research for the book, I discovered that the University of Fort Hare played a very important role in Can Themba's intellectual development. I came across some of his earliest established records which is a poem dated 1945 that was published in the Fort Harian (previously South African Native College Student Publication). This is where he cut his teeth. Fort Hare established a foundation of what he became.”

Can Themba was enrolled at UFH in the 1940s after securing a scholarship. He majored in English, which he passed with distinction.

Dr Mahala obtained a BA Honours degree from the University of Fort Hare in 1998. He also has a MA from Wits University and PhD in English Literature from the University of South Africa. He is the Author of: *When a Man Cries* (2007), *Yakhal' Indoda* (2010), *African Delights* (2011), *The House of Truth* (2017) and *Red Apple Dreams and Other Stories* (2019).

The biography is Dr Mahala's sixth book.

By Aretha Linden
Photos: Tim Wilson



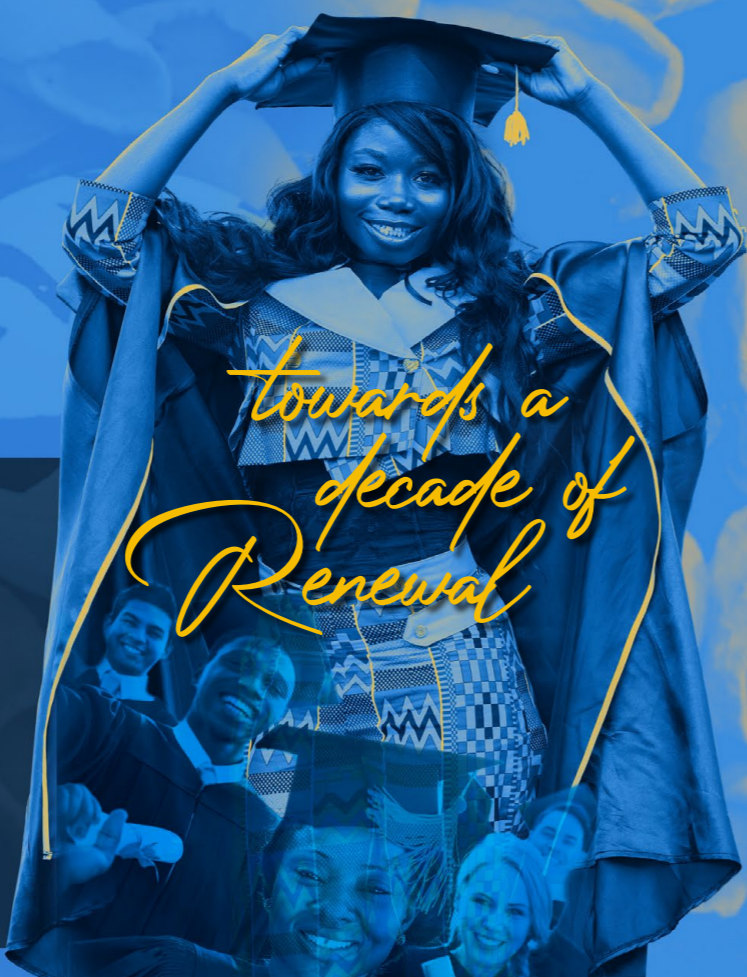


University of Fort Hare
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The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Fort Hare,
Professor Sakhela Buhlungu, invites you to the

2022 MAY GRADUATION

18-20 May 2022 | Alice Sports Complex



Wednesday, 18th May 2022

09h30 : Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
All PhDs, Masters, and Honours.
All undergrad programmes except the 3 qualifications indicated as
graduating in the afternoon session.

14h00 : Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Bachelor of Social Science (and its Foundation Programme)
Bachelor of Arts (and its Foundation Programme)
Bachelor of Social Work

Thursday, 19th May 2022

09h30 : Faculty of Management and Commerce
14h00 : Faculty of Education

Friday, 20th May 2022

09h30 : Faculty of Science and Agriculture
14h00 : Faculty of Health Sciences
14h00 : Faculty of Law

Over 3000 qualifications to be conferred during UFH's First face-to-face Graduation since COVID

The excitement is building up as the University prepares to host its first face-to-face graduation since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The May graduation "Walk-Through" ceremonies will take place on the 18th, 19th and 20th of May on the Alice Campus' Sports Complex. Over 3000 graduands will walk the stage during the ceremonies to be held over the three days.

The graduands will also be allowed to bring one parent or a relative to witness and celebrate this moment with them.

As per norm, the ceremony will be officiated by the Chancellor, Advocate Dumisa Ntsebeza SC and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu.

UFH and Rhodes documentary retraces The History of Intellectual Giants of the Eastern Cape

A day before the country celebrated Freedom Day (27 April), the University of Fort Hare's Hunterstoun Centre and Rhodes School of Journalism and Media Studies launched a documentary titled: *Intellectual Giants of the Eastern Cape*.

The one-hour-long doccic retraces and retells the history of some of the intellectual giants from the province who have paved the way for the intellectual freedom enjoyed by many today. These include Tiyo Soga, John Tengo Jabavu, Z.K Mathews, Cecilia Makiwane and Monica Wilson.

The internal pre-screening event was held at the De Beers Art Gallery on the Alice Campus and invited guests attended the event virtually and in-person.

Funded by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), the documentary was commissioned by the University of Fort Hare's Hunterstoun Centre.

The documentary film is the final stage of the Intellectual Heritage and Land project that the Hunterstoun Centre has been undertaking.

The title of the film references a quote by Sir Isaac Newton that has also been co-opted by Google Scholar: 'If I have seen further it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants.'

Who are the intellectual giants of the Eastern Cape and as UFH Vice-Chancellor Prof Buhlungu asks in the film 'How can we get anywhere if we don't know who they are - if we can't even get to their shoulders?'

The intention of the film is to enable people to form a connection with the past in terms of their intellectual identity, as Eastern Cape intellectuals. It intentionally addresses students, but also aims to provoke intergenerational conversations about this history and so harness oral history of these people and their time.

The film takes the viewers on a road trip through the Eastern Cape and explores the history of these giants who were the products of mission schools, as well as the generation that followed them.

Click here to watch a video clip of the launch:
<https://youtu.be/BERKHS10k84>





60 Future Nurses recognized during Pinning Ceremony

“Nursing is a calling and these students have responded to that calling. We have no doubt they will represent the profession and the University excellently.”

Sixty first-year Bachelor of Nursing students walked across the stage to receive their first pins, one on each shoulder, to signify the first year of their four-year journey to becoming professional nurses.

The ceremony was held on the 12th of April at the Nursing Science Building on the East London campus.

In addition to symbolizing the start of their studies, the ceremony also signified the launch of the nursing student's new uniform. The Department has since replaced the white uniform with a maroon scrub with azure blue piping.

Nursing Science HOD, Ms Ntombana Rala said the pinning ceremony is a prestigious event for nurses in waiting. “It is the pinning of the values of nursing and also the values of the University. It is a very significant event.”

Explaining the change of colour of the scrubs, Ms Rala said after much discussion, the department decided on the colour maroon which represents the colour of the epaulettes worn by qualified nurses. “The blue represents one of the University's colours.” The pins display the University's logo.

Ms Noluvu Gosangaye who is the Nursing Science level 1 coordinator for the Bachelor of Nursing qualification said the new students have shown great commitment to becoming nurses and upholding the values of the profession. “Nursing is a calling and these students have responded to that calling. We have no doubt they will represent the profession and the University excellently.”

Among the future nurses is Wandile Mzuku who is following in his mother's footsteps by becoming a nurse. “My mother is a nurse and it has always been my dream to pursue a career in

the medical field. Helping others is very rewarding and it feels good. With this qualification, I am heading in the right direction to achieve my dream.” he said.

Another student, 42-year-old Zukiswa Mnyapa dedicated her pin to her late sister who passed away in 2009 while giving birth in a hospital. “A few hours before my sister died, she placed her newborn baby in my arms and asked me to take care of her child. Today, I am reminded by her words that I have also been destined to take care of others,” said the mother of four.

The Faculty Manager for Health Science, Penny Nhlumayo implored the students to go out there and strive for excellence. “When you complete your studies, we want you to go out there and save lives and uphold the dignity of the nursing profession.”

By Aretha Linden



Rehabilitative Science Lecturer wins Best Oral Presentation Award at World Congress of Audiology

Mr Mukovhe Phanguphangu, a Time on Task Lecturer and Final Year Convenor at UFH's Department of Rehabilitative Science has won a Best Oral Presentation Award for his three papers delivered at the World Congress of Audiology (WCA) in Warsaw, Poland.

In its 35th year, the congress rounds up researchers, clinicians and speakers from across the globe to share their latest research and clinical guidelines (best practices) in the field of Audiology. The event was held from the 10th to the 13th of April.

Speakers included leaders in the field of Audiology, such as Prof James Hall (founder of the American Academy of Audiology), Prof Jackie Clark (University of Texas) and Prof Ross Roeser (University of Texas), who are the pioneers of Audiology and Authors of main books currently used in Education and Training in Audiology. In total, the programme covered an estimated 150 oral presentations, keynote addresses and round table discussions.

Mr Phanguphangu is currently employed as an Acting Assistant Director of Speech Therapy and Audiology at the Mthatha Regional Hospital. He joined the University in 2019 as a ToT Lecturer and convener of the Final Year BSc in Speech-Language Pathology program and also as a Research Coordinator within the Department.



He holds a Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and a Master of Medical Science (Family Medicine) (Summa Cum Laude). Currently, he is a PhD Candidate in Family Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's College of Health Sciences. Mr Phanguphangu is also a Golden Key International Society Lifetime Member as well as a Member of the South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

In 2019, he was nominated as a Mail & Guardian Young Influential South African and News24 Young Mandela's of the Future.

Mr Phanguphangu was invited to represent the University after the three abstracts he submitted were selected by reviewers. He presented the following papers:

"Auditory Manifestations in Children living with HIV," which estimated the prevalence (proportion of children) of ear and hearing disorders in children living with HIV as well as identifying the factors that may increase the risk of developing ear

and hearing diseases in children living with HIV.

Findings from this study showed that 49% or one in every two children living with HIV had some form of ear disease, including middle ear infections and wax block in the external ears while 32% or 3/10 of children living with HIV had some form of hearing loss.

Subsequently, periodic ear and hearing screening are recommended in children living with HIV to timeously identify and treat these ear and hearing disorders to prevent the development of their negative impacts on childhood development.

"Clinical Utility of smartphone-based audiometry for early hearing loss detection in HIV-Positive Children."

The study explored the use of smartphone-based applications to provide early hearing loss detection in children living with HIV. Children living with HIV aged 6-12-years-old were given instructions to self-administer hearing screening using the smartphone-based application hearScreen to assess their reliability, accuracy and time taken to complete the screening tests. Findings from the study showed that 6-12-year-old children living with HIV were able to accurately self-administer hearing screening tests in just under 1 minute.

"These findings are useful in the future clinical care of children as they may be used to plan periodic screening programmes where children can screen themselves and only those who fail the screening are referred to Audiologists for further evaluation and management. Also, these findings provide a novel approach to improving access to hearing healthcare for most children in resource-limited settings as the availability of self-screening stations may increase access to otherwise unavailable healthcare for them," explained Phanguphangu.

"Speech Therapy students experiences of online teaching and learning (OTL) including simulation-based clinical training during Covid-19 Lockdown."

The study was conducted with 3rd and 4th-year UFH Speech Therapy students to explore the challenges they encountered with regards to OTL during Covid-19 Lockdown.

The study found that while all students were provided

with data packages, the data provided was not adequate to access all online classes plus Simucase, and more than 60% of the students were residing in rural areas, and by virtue, had poor network connectivity. As a result, the majority of these students struggled to attend classes, not because they did not want to, but due to limited network connectivity and inadequate data provided.

"To quote, one of the students indicated that 'on days when I had online assessments I would take a taxi to town just to have uninterrupted internet connectivity because the network at home is so bad such that I cannot complete any of the assessments.'"

"In addition to poor connectivity and inadequate data, most students indicated that their home environments were not conducive to OTL as they were expected to perform house chores, family members did not understand that they had to study and there was always background noise. Furthermore, most students indicated that they were not in the right headspace for OTL as they felt depressed due to social isolation, loss of loved ones and anxiety about the future."

According to him, these findings are useful for future planning on teaching and learning for students during a time of crisis as well as the use of Student Support Services and possible SADAG services for those who may feel depressed.

Commenting on his award Phanguphangu said: "I was very happy when I learnt that my presentations won the Best Oral Presentation Award, this is testament to the social responsiveness and novelty of my research work. The award was a true recognition of sleepless nights and my research ability, as judged by my peers and those I look up to within the profession. In addition, the Editorial Board of the Journal of Hearing Science and the International Journal of Audiology, which are leading Audiology Journals also sat within the presentations to adjudicate and judge the best presentations within each session."

Phanguphangu said he gained a lot of knowledge from the experience in terms of clinical audiology and research in the field of Audiology and hopes to implement some of the new evidence-based practices that he learnt from the congress. "I had the opportunity to team up with colleagues from other low-middle-income-countries, such as Asia, South America, South Africa, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal on a coalition project to improve access to healthcare and also map out Best Practices in Audiology which we will present at the 36th WCA in 2024 which will be held in Paris, France."

Well done Mr Phanguphangu and thank you for flying the UFH flag high.

By Aretha Linden

Dr Siphe Potelwa joins Provincial Arts and Culture Council

Dr Siphe Potelwa has once again been called up to serve on a structure aimed at developing the Arts and Culture sector. This time, the UFH Fine Arts HOD has been appointed to serve as a member of the Eastern Cape Provincial Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC) with effect from 20 April 2022 until April 2024.



“In a province where poverty affects most people, we seek to assist those artists that are unable to unleash their potential due to financial constraints. Our aim is to identify opportunities in the sector and make them accessible”

This new role is an addition to his membership on the National Arts Council (NAC) Visual Arts Advisory Panel; the South African Skills Development Foundation (SASDF) Advisory Panel and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) sub-panel for evaluation of Scholarly Creative Outputs.

The ECPACC is governed by council members appointed by the MEC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Ms Fezeka Nkomonye. Its mandated is to achieve the following nine goals:

1. Facilitate the review and streamlining of ECPACC’s mandate and functions;
2. Participate in the review and streamlining of the ECPACC founding legislation;
3. Review the institutional configuration of ECPACC and introduce appropriate changes;
4. Review and introduce appropriate changes to ECPACC’s funding model;
5. Review and introduce appropriate changes to ECPACC’s human and financial resources management;
6. Assess the impact of ECPACC’s work;
7. Monitor ECPACC-funded projects;
8. Participate in departmental and other external strategy and planning processes relevant to the mandate of ECPACC and;
9. Produce ECPACC’s strategic plan.

Dr Potelwa says he intends to use his new role to expose the richness of the Arts and Culture in the province and also to make information on funding opportunities accessible to the youth and students.

“In a province where poverty affects most people, we seek to assist those artists that are unable to unleash their potential due to financial constraints. Our aim is to identify opportunities in the sector and make them accessible,” said Dr Potelwa.

In an appointment letter, the MEC congratulated and affirmed her confidence in Dr Potelwa to deliver on the council’s mandate. “I trust that your appointment will add value to the objective of the council,” stated the MEC.

Congratulations Dr Potelwa!

By Aretha Linden

Museum Studies Lecturer curates and brings some newness to Monument Exhibition

“The new work speaks to Memory, Place and Makhanda and seeks to interrogate the relevance of collective memory as a tool for the undressing and re-dressing of communal wounds that exist in the afterlife of colonial rule and the violence of the apartheid era in the context of Makhanda”

Ms Zodwa Skeyi-Tutani, UFH Museum Studies Lecturer and Art Curator has rehanged and added new voices to the Monument Grahamstown Foundation Art Collection exhibited at the 1820 Settlers Monument in Makhanda.

The exhibition comprises about 40 artworks that date back to the early 1970s.

According to Ms Skeyi-Tutani, the project was initiated last year by the National Arts Festival (NAF). “The NAF requested me, as a curator, to rehang the Foundation’s collection. The exhibition will be on display permanently.”

On the project, she has worked with two of her students, Sino Makhubalo (4th year in BA Fine Arts Degree) and Yolanda Jacobs, (3rd year BA Fine Arts Degree) who conducted some of the curatorial research. She also worked with two Fine Arts students from Rhodes University.

The foundation’s collection includes pieces that were commissioned at various times dating back to the early 1970’s, it includes artworks by artists such as Helen Sebidi, Cecil Skotnes and Bonnie Ntshalintshali.



“Some of the artworks from the Foundation’s Collection were up already and some were in the vault. We needed to sift through the pieces to find what was usable and what was not before conducting our research,” she said.

The new work consist of performance pieces by Artists based in Makhanda, titled: *Inertia: Ubungeyo Mpazamo/ Elwandle/ Nithi Ngubanina Lo Makhanda?* The performers are Viwe Madinda, Dr Nompucuko Zakaza, Akhona Bhodl’ingqaka Mafani, Siphosethu Balakisi, Ashwin May, Khanya Ngzuka, Noluvuyo ‘NineCoyote’ Magagula and Milisa Ganiso.

“The new work speaks to Memory, Place and Makhanda and seeks to interrogate the relevance of collective memory as a tool for the undressing and re-dressing of communal wounds that exist in the afterlife of colonial rule and the violence of the apartheid era in the context of Makhanda,” – she explained.

Asked about her experience from working on the project, she said: “I love digging up old things to relook and rethink them in a different space. Opening that vault and figuring out how they collected the work and what informed the collection was exciting. Also, working with someone else’s collection and then reimagining the collection in a way that it speaks to the now and also speaks to inclusion, is exciting.”

By Aretha Linden

UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights hosts webinar on the effects of Covid-19

To close off Human Rights Month (March) the UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' Chair of Human Rights, in partnership with the Law Clinic, at the University of Fort Hare hosted a webinar titled the **"Effects of Covid-19 on the Right of Access to Higher Education in South Africa"**.

Speakers included:

- Prof Vusi Mncube, Dean of the Faculty of Education at UFH;
- Prof Jimi Adesina, DST/NRF SARCHI Chair in Social Policy at the College of Graduate Studies, University of South Africa;
- Dr Eileen Carter, Eastern Cape Provincial Manager, South African Human Rights Commission and;
- Mr Snowi Thembilizwe Gilbert Hawker, SRC President at UFH.

About 50 people attended the session directed by Mr Siyabulela Pango. Guests were welcomed by the Dean of Law, Prof Mzukisi Njotini, while Dr Siyabulela Fobosi, Acting Head of the UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' Chair of Human Rights, introduced the speakers and outlined the aim of the webinar. "The main objective of the webinar was to understand the effects of Covid-19 on the right of access to education in South Africa. The rapid spread of Covid-19 outbreak created uncertainty regarding the implications for both basic and higher education," said Fobosi.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof Mncube noted that the effects of Covid-19 on the right to access education in South Africa was compounded for rural institutions that did not ordinarily possess the capacity to provide alternative teaching and learning systems prior to the onset of the pandemic. "The disparity between rural and urban institutions was exacerbated. The rural-urban divide was also exacerbated by the limited educational resources in South Africa particularly, in rural universities and this increased the already high levels of vulnerabilities. Covid-19 exposed many inadequacies and inequalities in the education system that ranged from access to the broadband and laptops needed by students for online education. This meant that the universities had to shift their focus and identify how they could create a supportive online teaching and learning environment while addressing the misalignment between the sources and needs of students and staff," stated Prof Mncube.

First to respond to the keynote address, Prof Adesina stated that the progressive realization of the right to access education is key and the state should play a leading role.

Dr Eileen Carter, as the second respondent, provided a snapshot of what the Human Rights Commission is currently dealing with in the province. "The Commission is sitting with a nuanced and very intersectional concern when it comes to the effects of Covid-19 on the tertiary

institutions and on the lives of students. The pandemic did not only disrupt the right of access to education but other rights as well including, the right to movement"

In his presentation, UFH SRC President, Mr Snowi, stated that Covid-19 has revealed the deep-seated divisions between the haves and the have-nots. "We need to be able to distinguish whether or not we had equal rights to education before Covid-19. Whether the learners from rural areas of Bizana have the same rights

as learners from the urban areas of Stellenbosch."

The session concluded with a discussion facilitated by Dr Bellita Chitsamatanga on the importance of the right to access "quality" education, before closing remarks from Dr Ntandoyenkosi Ndlovu.

Source: UNESCO 'Oliver Tambo' Chair of Human Rights, Nelson R Mandela School of Law



UFH Drama Society: Making a difference in student lives

A talented group of students who come from different fields of study have been brought together by their love for art and entertainment. The UFH Drama Society has allowed them to express themselves in an artistic way as they entertain and inspire their audience.

The group has been hard at work, entertaining and educating students and staff on topics such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Suicide Prevention and other societal issues.

UFH News spoke to three students and their Facilitator about being part of the drama society:

Kanise Sonwabise a first-year Bachelor of Law student said being part of the society has made her feel safe and free. "Sometimes you need a break. You need to laugh about situations and not always stress about your studies. I like the fact that we can use the drama society to educate people about different topics and raise awareness on issues such as GBV, substance abuse and suicide prevention. Being part of the drama society has changed my life in a positive way because it has given me a safe space."



Namhla Mzekwa a second-year Bachelor of Education student joined the drama society when she was in her first year of studies. "When you are a first-year student you search for your place on campus, the drama society has helped me become a part of something that is bigger than me. It has given me a sense of belonging and added value to my student life. I was very happy and proud when I was chosen to be the Chairperson. It has also helped me to focus on my studies because as it served as a therapeutic outlet. When we are performing we do see that we touch people's lives. Sometimes the audience becomes emotional as they watch us perform and act out real-life situations that affect people on an emotional level. I believe that we are making an impact in people's lives."

Nelisiwe Jonas a first-year Bachelor of Education student says joining the drama society has helped her find her place on campus. "It has been a positive experience for me. I have traveled and met people from different backgrounds. I get to forget my problems for a moment and I found that it is therapeutic to me when I put myself in someone else's shoes. My favourite act to date has been "Together We Stand" it was a play about suicide prevention."

Yanga Mabetshe who is a Facilitator has been part of the society since 2016. He said: "I am most proud of the fact that the drama production were approved by the National Arts Festival and we have been performing there since 2018. We even made headlines in our local newspapers. This year we collaborated with GBV office to formulate a series of plays that bring awareness about GBV and other societal issues. The plays are titled "Xabekutheni" which loosely translates to: Why did it happen? We plan on premiering this play at the National Arts Festival and Guild Theatre this year with the intention to educate, influence and create change in a positive way."

By Asaduma Baloyi



Dance Sport bags 21 medals in National Competition and secures spot in international championship

The UFH Dance Sport danced their way to victory earlier this month during the DanceSport South Africa (DSSA) competition. Altogether, the group walked away with 21 medals: nine gold, nine silver, three bronze and three certificates.

In addition, a UFH duo has been selected for the 2022 Standard World Championships after winning the Senior 1 Championship category and the team has been invited to the 2023 Festival La-Dans to be held in the Seychelles from 1st to 3rd September 2023.

The DSSA is the governing body for dance sport and related dance styles in South Africa. The structure organizes national competitions such as the National Hip-Hop Championships and the National Achievers & Championships where provincial contestants compete for national honours.

The competition took place in KwaZulu-Natal where participants competed in 32 categories. Out of these categories the following UFH dancers achieved the following positions:

- 1. Adult All Girls :**
 - 1st Siyimpumelelo Masengana & Ntandokazi Nongawuza
 - 2nd Themba lethu Moya & Mhlahli Feke
 - 3rd Zukhanye Lupuwana & Sanelisiwe Vumendlini
- 2. Adult Singles :**
 - 1st Naledi Bangani
 - 2nd Yolani Ngawe
 - 3rd Thandeka Mhlanga
 - 4th Phumelela Ngalo
 - 5th Emihle Stofile
- 3. Adult Level 1 :**
 - 1st Lubabalo Xabanisa & Nontando Tsheleza
 - 2nd Lunje Mkiva & Axolile Ximbi
- 4. Adult Level 2 :**
 - 1st Inga Mthana & Zukhanye Lupuwana
 - 2nd Alungile Makhosonke & Themba lethu Moya
- 5. Adult Rising Stars:**
 - 1st Aphelele Bhodlisi & Lindokuhle Sibindlana
- 6. Senior 1 Championship :**
 - 1st Thandisizwe Matyumza
 - 2nd Ayakha Mqgibi

Matyumza and Mqgibi, winners of Senior 1 Championship category will represent the country in the 2022 Standard World Championships which will be held on 6 November in Sibiu, Romania.

The next DSSA competition will be held on 28 May in Pretoria, where UFH will be participating in the champions' league.

By Asaduma Baloyi





Softball Head Coach appointed as Team Manager for USSA squad

“Honestly, my appointment came as a surprise. I was a player for USSA Softball just a few years ago. I am humbled and honoured to have been appointed to this position.”

Nolwazi Mabindisa started playing Softball 22 years ago while still in Primary School. Today she is the UFH Softball Head Coach and recently she was appointed as the Team Manager for the University Sports South Africa (USSA) team – a role she will serve for one year.

The UFH Social Science graduate and Political Science (Honours) student, joined the University’s Softball team in 2016. As a player she had an excellent inning, this includes her selection to the Eastern Cape Team and for the National USSA team where she played for two seasons for each team.

She was promoted to Assistant Coach to former Coach, Dalibuhle Dyani (now Provincial Coach) before she took over the Head Coach position in 2021. She has produced several Provincial and National Softball players who represent the institution with pride. Currently, four of her players have been shortlisted for the 2022 USSA National squad, they are Zizipho Lingela, Tyhila Tibe, Onke Khaya Gewu and Mlamli Mpfana.

The expectations of her new role includes working closely with the technical team. She will also oversee all the administrative work for the team and the wellbeing of the student athletes, on and off the field of play.

In an interview with UFH News, Mabindisa said: “Honestly, my appointment came as a surprise. I was a player for USSA Softball just a few years ago. I am humbled and honoured to have been appointed to this position.”

Asked what her “game plan” was to succeed in her new role Mabindisa said: “I intend to treat the student athletes with the respect they deserve and to have a good working relationship with them and the rest of the technical team. This will ensure we reach our desired goal which is to win the NPC (National Provincial Championships) and get a team that will represent the country in the CUCSA (Confederation of Universities and Colleges Sports Association) tournament later this year in the African continent.”

By Aretha Linden

Baby Blues Stars featured in Winning Springbok Women’s Sevens Team

UFH Baby Blues Rugby stars, Asisipho Laatjies and Lusanda Dumke (former Baby Blues) formed part of the Springbok Women’s Sevens team that represented South Africa at the Rugby Africa Women’s Sevens Tournament that was held in Tunisia from 29-30 April.

Asisipho, a final-year Public Administration student was called up by the Springboks Women’s Rugby in January this year. Born in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), Asisipho started playing rugby in 2014 and made her mark for the Baby Blues in 2019 under her capable coach, Ntyatyambo Mkhafu.

In an interview with SA Rugby Communications, she said: “When I was called up to that very first camp in January, this moment seemed extremely far away, I just wanted to learn as much as I could and now that I will get the opportunity to play for my country, I am so happy.”

Lusanda, who was voted SA Rugby Women’s Player of the Year for 2021 was called up to play for the Springbok Select team in 2017 and the Springbok Women’s Senior Team in 2018. This is her first trip to the African competition

According to SA Rugby, the tournament featured nine teams that played at the Mustapha Ben Jannet Stadium in Monastir.

Well done Asisipho and Lusanda and the entire team.



Asisipho // Women Boks: Twitter



Lusanda // Women Boks: Twitter



Photo // SA Rugby



Sazi Sings for Peace

Our opera singing sensation, Sazi Gcaba has done it again. This time, the award-winning opera maestro sang to raise funds for war victims in Ukraine.

The 23-year-old final-year Music Student from Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape was among 20 opera singers from around the world who participated in a production called, Artist for Peace. The digital concert organised by Opera Cecilia, an international opera company, was held on the 29th and 30th of April.

Sazi was selected through an auditioning process and performed three contracting songs. The talented singer is no stranger to the international opera stage, in 2020 he won the Voices of South Africa International Opera (VOSA) online competition - under 22 category and in 2021 he won the Aspiring Opera Singing Voice Competition under the Emerging Artist Category.

The talented singer said: "The current situation in Ukraine has left a lot of people homeless and destitute. I am grateful that I was able to use my God-given talent to raise much-needed funds for the victims."

The donations from the concert went towards humanitarian aid that includes medical and food supplies and care for young children.



BOXING TEAM PUT UP THEIR BEST FIGHT AT USSA CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the UFH Boxing team for clinching three gold medals, two silvers and one bronze at the University Sports South Africa (USSA) Championships held in Secunda, Mpumalanga from 29th April to 2nd of May.

In addition, the team also deservedly won the Best Fight trophies in both female and male categories.



Farewell to the Cricket Legend

- MR GREG HAYES

The University of Fort Hare, Cricket South Africa and Border Cricket bade farewell to one of the game's legends, Mr Greg Hayes during a farewell ceremony held at the Dr Krish Mackerdhuji Cricket Academy - an institution the legend himself has overseen into what it is today.

Greg spent more than twenty years nurturing the deep rural talent, not only at the University but also in the surrounding communities and in the Eastern Cape Province in general.

The farewell ceremony was held on the 21st of April. Among the attendees was the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, representatives of both Border and Cricket South Africa, Mfuneko Ngam who once was head of Dr Krish Mackerdhuji Cricket Academy and former Proteas bowler, Makhaya Ntini.

During his spell and involvement

within the academy, Greg has unleashed some notable talents, such as Jerry Ngqolo, Ayabonga Khaka, Nobulumko Banethi and Zintle Mali.

According to Bev Weimann from Border Cricket, who worked with Greg for a period spanning over 25 years, with Greg, "everything had to be perfect."

"As a development manager Greg preferred Mondays as his admin day and for the rest of the days he would be often out of office, visiting schools, different regions, meeting with players and parents". Bev continued to describe Greg as a person who takes extreme pride in his work.

"For many years he continued to arrange and coordinate a fixture between Ngumbela X1 and the Pineapple X1. This event between the former 'All white cricketers vs All black rural cricketers' played a

major role in unifying people in our country."

A few years ago, Greg won the President's award when former President Thabo Mbeki presented him with an award for his contribution to cricket development.

He played an instrumental role in the development of the state-of-the-art Krish Mackerdhuji Academy on the Alice campus. He also managed to attract sponsors and contributions towards the building of side screens, maintenance of the turf, mounting of scoreboards and the development of another field for women cricket.

The VC commended Greg for the notable role he played and all the changes he made in touching people's lives, not only at Fort Hare but the entire country.

By Mawande Mrashula

In Memory of FRANCIS WILSON

MAY 1939 TO APRIL 2022

South Africa has lost a rare, true, and kind intellectual gentleman with the passing of Francis Wilson. It feels, with the timing, after Easter, given sure indices of sound structural reforms in South Africa, and at the University of Fort Hare, despite tremendous uncertain change, this steadfast economist put his last pain and effort toward renewal. He understood South Africa, in his effort toward reform.

A great son of the Eastern Cape has passed; a liberal Christian socialist, steward of the Amatole, child of amaRharhabe, economist, historian, professor, activist, benefactor, mentor, Francis Wilson.

Francis Wilson was born in May 1939, far from the launch of the first issue of “the Amazing and Unique Batman”, in Livingstone, Zambia (at the bottom of “Northern Rhodesia”), aside the edge of the (#) Victoria Falls, when Germany and Italy signed the Pact of Steel, and, in Lane vs Wilson, the United States Supreme Court found against key prejudiced limitations on black voters’ rights. Europe was starting a second world war for imperialism, nationalism, capitalism, socialism, racism, fascism, greed, and domination, and for the progress of universal human rights, civil rights, and workers’ rights; a war to seek control of the world, which ended with two nuclear bombs dropped on Japan.

The setbacks took away his father, Godfrey Wilson, Malinowski’s Scottish anthropologist protégé of the London School of Economics, from Monica (Hunter) Wilson, the anthropologist of Pondoland, of Lovedale

missionaries, and of Cambridge; having met and worked together in Tanzania. With her return to Alice, Francis grew up around Hogsback after the war, alongside the Tyhumie Falls. He attended St Andrews. Monica Wilson is the renowned UCT anthropologist of the 1950s and 60s.

Anthropology shares clear genetic roots with Economics in the history of the African mining industry. The Rhodes-Livingstone Institute was the first local African anthropological research facility, founded in 1938 under the initial directorship of Godfrey. Francis Wilson advanced this familiar research to show how the migrant labour system ripped apart families for diamonds and gold, to forge a united South Africa, dividing homelands into an empire of principalities, in indirect rule.



In 1959, the Bantu Education Act intended to turn the non-racial South African Native College into a “bush college” reserved for speakers of isiXhosa, stirring the shades and ashes of a saga of struggles we all know well. Armed with a Cambridge PhD in Economics, and training in Physics, Francis returned home towards the

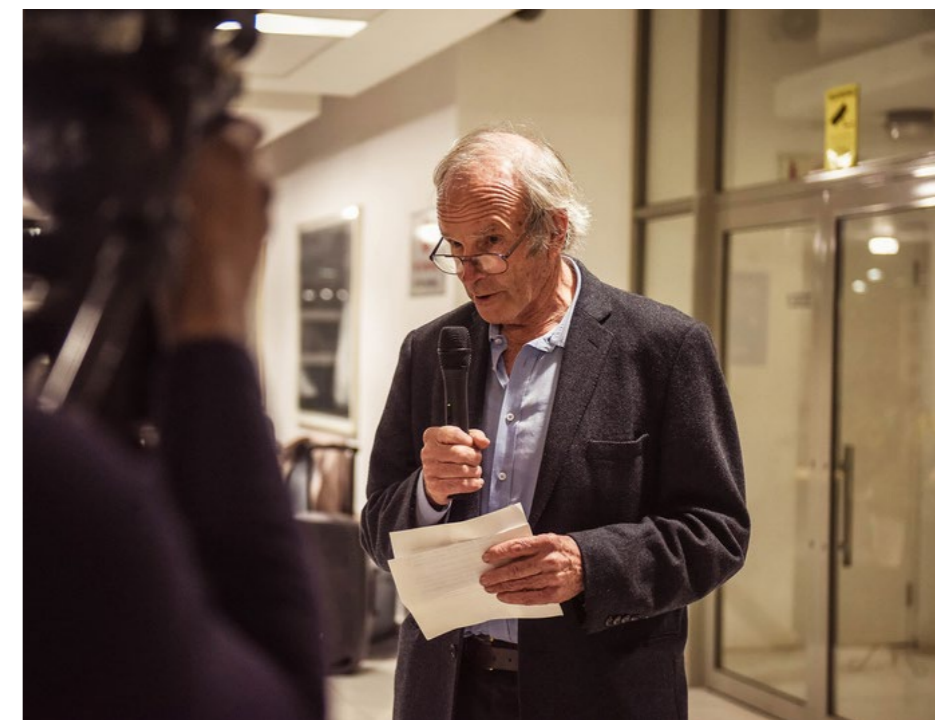
end of 1966, in the wake of the Sharpeville massacre, and the Rivonia Trials. At UCT he taught economics, mining, on poverty, economic justice, and on migrant labour. Francis, the economist, and his wife Lindy, who closely documented apartheid and its transition in film and in writing; the activist friend of Steve Biko, with whom she produced *Bounds of Possibility*.

Monica Wilson and Leonard Thompson published the *Oxford History of South Africa* at the height of the turbulent period of cultural, political and social change between 1969 and 1971. The Central African Federation of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland split up in a process of decolonization. Kenneth Kaunda adopted African socialism, like Tanzania, and one-party participatory democracy. Presidents John Vorster and Ian Smith held private talks. Mangosuthu Buthelezi took command of KwaZulu.

In 1972, Francis Wilson published *Migrant Labour in South Africa* with Spro-Cas, the South African Council of Churches. He directed the UCT Labour and Development Research Unit he founded from 1975 to 2001 to give incontrovertible, hard evidence of the unjust economic and social impact of our uneven and divided development, and its effects of mass poverty. He helped demolish the myth, peddled by a rogue regime, of good neighbourliness, for separate but equal national development. His Carnegie Study on Poverty helped make it impossible to invest in the minerals industrial complex with conscience, faith, or credit, with no policy reform. He and his brother Tim and Lindy, and their family, have long served the University of Fort Hare and its surrounds with consistent dedication.

Prof. Wilson published a short, accessible history of South Africa, from its geological foundations to

its social present, which is easily worth reading. He helped to establish and mentor, in his mom’s home, in the Amathole forest, with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Fort Hare Centre for Leadership Ethics, a long-running Autumn School for Eastern Cape leaders, promoting social democratic rights, whose circles of



alumni grow wide. Professor Wilson engaged us with great insight, goodwill, good humour, good isiXhosa, and humility, during a period of radical change, between 2012 and 2020, into his latest years. He saw the light at the end of the tunnel and survived to find evidence of it with recent publication of the *Oxford Handbook of the South African Economy*.

We celebrate his good work, this May / Workers’ Day, as we learn to work together for one other. Read his work to gain his understanding of where we are, how we got here, and what to do.

By Dr CJ Allsobrook, Director: Centre for Leadership Ethics in Africa, University of Fort Hare
Photo: UCT



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