



University of Fort Hare
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UFH NEWS

MARCH 2022

UFH hosts SA's first Conference on Sport Psychology and Development



Introducing
our youngest NRF
Rated Researcher



VC makes good on his promise



// Prof Sakhela Buhlungu



// Ms Fezeka Nkomonye



// Prof Mzikazi Nduna



// Prof Leon van Niekerk



// Maryna van Niekerk



// Dr Keketjo Tsebe



// Dr Kathryn Nel



// Ms Maretha Claasen



// Dan Seekoe

UFH hosts SA's first Conference on Sport Psychology and Development

On 24th and 25th of March, the University of Fort Hare successfully held South Africa's first-ever Conference on Sport Psychology and Development.

The conference was hosted by the Health Sciences Institute at UFH's Faculty of Health Sciences in collaboration with the South Africa Society for Sport and Exercise Psychology (SASSEP) and the Eastern Cape Sports Academy. The hybrid event was held at the Miriam Makeba Arts Centre on the East London Campus.

According to Prof Leon van Niekerk from the Human Movement Sciences Department and organiser of the conference, the event aims to present an opportunity to meet strategic outcomes in the context of sports psychology and development. "While sport psychology addresses the mental development and skill of an athlete to be mentally and psychologically prepared for sports performance, its inclusion in sports development can contribute to the talent identification and development of skills and the athlete holistically to be ready to perform competitively in their specific sports," he said.

"DSRAC and UFH will benefit tremendously from this event as our psychologists, coaches, managers athletes and academics will engage and participate with experts in the field of development and psychological preparation of athletes for competition, as well as the presentations from South African psychologists."

The opening programme was graced by the presence of the Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, Eastern Cape MEC for the Department of Sports, Recreations Arts and Culture, Ms Fezeka Nkomonye and Prof Mzikazi Nduna, the Dean of Health Sciences.

During the conference, six experts shared their topic on sports psychology and development of athletes, they are:

Day 1:

Prof Leon van Niekerk presented his topic on Sport Psychology in South Africa and its contribution to development.

Prof Ankebe Kruger, Associate Professor and Senior Psychologist at the Centre for Health & Human Performance: Psychology & Wellbeing at North-West University. She presented her topic titled: Achieve Peak Performance in Sport.

Maryna van Niekerk, SA Athletic Olympic Coach. Her topic addressed the effect of mental skills training on the mental toughness of athletes. What coaches can do to deal with emotions in sport.

Day 2:

Dr Keketjo Tsebe - Sport Psychology Lecturer/ Researcher/ module leader at the University of South Africa. Her topic is titled: Sport Psychology for coaches: what coaches can do.

Dr Kathryn Nel - Registered Counselling Psychologist and specialises in Health, Neuro and Sport Psychology who has an interest in gender and sexuality. Her topic is titled: Cumulative Mild Head Injury in Contact Sports - a neuropsychological review.

Ms Maretha Claasen is a registered Counselling Psychologist in Private Practice. She presented her topic on positive thinking in sport.

Reflecting on the significance of this conference, the Dean of Health Sciences, Prof Nduna said: "This event

demonstrates that the Faculty of Health Sciences is maturing. For a five-year-old Faculty to host such an important event, is indeed a remarkable feat. The academics here have entrusted us with their intellectual work and chose to present their research at this conference, this is a demonstration of the high regard that they hold our Faculty."

At the start of the programme the attendees observed a moment of silence in honour of the late Mr Elliot Fana, UFH Senior Sports Officer. The former Border Bulldogs and UFH Blues Coach passed away in a tragic accident on Tuesday, 22 March.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said: "We have lost a talented and committed sportsman in Mr Fana. He was part of the ingredient that propelled the Blues to the top of the 2022 Varsity Shield Competition. We are saddened by his death. The Blues will dedicate their remaining games in his memory."

The VC also assured the organisers that choosing Fort Hare to host this inaugural conference was a indeed great decision. "We are a proud place of sports. We are an incubator of talent and our contributions go way beyond the university," said the VC who made reference to the various UFH athletes that have represented the province and country on national and international levels.

MEC Nkomonye agreed with the VC that Mr Fana's death was indeed a great loss. "The departure of Elliot leaves a huge void in this province and in the entire country. He was very instrumental in the development of rugby in this province."

The MEC wished the attendees successful deliberations for the conference. "We are looking forward to the discussions and I hope that the knowledge shared here will be filtered down to the most remote areas in our province," she said.

by Aretha Linden





“This is a pivotal moment in the history for the University’s Faculty of Science and Agriculture. Our research will possibly contribute to the development of a marine-based pharmaceutical economy for the Eastern Cape in the long-term while empowering local communities along the Eastern Cape’s coast.”

// Pictured from L-R: Dr Gilbert Siko from the Department of Science and Innovation, Dr Clifford Nxomani: National Research Foundation Deputy CEO, UFH Vice-Chancellor: Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, Dr Angus Paterson from the National Research Foundation - South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity and Prof Graeme Bradley, UFH Faculty of Science and Agriculture Dean.

New cutting-edge lab to unlock Marine Pharmaceutical Economy for Eastern Cape

The launch of a joint marine laboratory at the Alice Campus on the 10th of March has placed the University at the forefront of unlocking Eastern Cape’s marine pharmaceutical economy.

Funded by the Department of Science and Innovation, the ground-breaking DSI/NRF-SAIAB/UFH Bio-economy & Bio-discovery Joint Marine Laboratory is a direct outcome of a joint venture between UFH and the National Research Foundation - South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (NRF-SAIAB). The partnership was formed through the ACEP Phuhlisa (Development) programme that aims to address impediments that limit entrance or participation in marine science, as articulated by researchers and students at Historically Black Universities. The programme is being run in partnership with UFH, Walter Sisulu University, the University of the Western Cape and the University of Zululand.

According to UFH Dean of Science and Agriculture, Prof Graeme Bradley, SAIAB through the ACEP Phuhlisa programme has been supporting Marine Science at UFH for the past 10 years by providing access to SAIAB research infrastructure in Makhanda.

“For the next phase of this programme, DSI made available funds to establish Joint Marine Laboratories at the four partnering HBU’s. UFH is the first institution to launch the lab, thereby bringing cutting edge research equipment to the University.”

Highlighting the significance and benefits of the lab Prof Bradley said: “The South African oceans provide enormous potential for economic development to the benefit of our citizens and having the facilities and human capital to harness the oceans in a sustainable manner is critical to the sustainable use of this precious resource.”

“The type of work that will be done in the lab include isolation of novel compounds from underwater plants that might be effective against some common diseases, for example, diabetes and cancers,” he explained.

According to Prof Bradley, the lab aims to identify novel compounds not yet discovered in our oceans but also to develop human capital in this field, specifically black and female scientists.

“UFH researchers and students can be trained in the use of the equipment to do their own extraction and analysis of the novel compounds. Our students have also received specialized training by the supplier and they are very excited at the prospect of doing their own extractions and analysis. This lab will allow much innovation in bio-economy and bio-discovery and the development of intellectual property for the University,” said Prof Bradley.

UFH Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said the lab is an important outcome of renewal at UFH as the University continues to reinvent itself to make meaningful contributions to society and Eastern Cape communities through marine bio-prospecting for the pharmaceutical sector.

“This is a pivotal moment in the history for the University’s Faculty of Science and Agriculture. Our research will possibly contribute to the development of a marine-based pharmaceutical economy for the Eastern Cape in the long-term while empowering local communities along the Eastern Cape’s coast.”

“The project will support important and ground-breaking research that is already underway at UFH, such as the potential of red algae for the treatment of diabetics and cancer. If the study yields positive results, it will be a game-changer for global health but also for communities along the Wild Coast who look to the ocean for their livelihoods. We remain grateful to support of funders of this project,” said the Vice-Chancellor.

UFH empowers Amathole West maths teachers following calculator study

The University of Fort continues to play a meaningful role in empowering teacher and student communities in its surrounding areas.

Earlier this month, UFH hosted in excess of 70 teachers at its Alice campus for a one-day workshop geared at empowering mathematics teachers from schools in the Amathole West district.

The workshop followed after a 2021 NRF funded study on calculator provisioning in the Grade 12 mathematics jointly led by UFH DVC: Teaching and Learning, Professor Renuka Vithal, and Wits University's Professor Karin Brodie. The scholars surveyed 213 learners from ten Amathole West schools to understand whether calculators are used in the classroom and during exams.

The findings of the study revealed: nearly one third of learners (34%) do not own calculators; only 41,9% of learners have been taught to use calculators; and one third (36,2%) of learners indicated teachers did not use calculators in the class room.

In addition, a vast majority of learners (84%) stated that they needed help with the use of calculators.

Through an analysis of mathematics examination papers, the study identified that learners may lose up to 15% of marks in Mathematics examinations by not having a calculator or not being competent in using it.

"Currently, there is no policy regarding calculator provisioning in the Eastern Cape and this is left to schools, parents and external sponsors," commented Professor Vithal.

"A good quality scientific calculator is a significant cost for those who rely on various social grants, and it is not only used for mathematics, but for over a dozen other subjects like mathematics literacy, technical mathematics, physical science, accounting, agricultural sciences just to name a few," she said.

As part of the pilot study, teachers were provided with calculators, past mathematics exam papers, and Department of Basic Education (DBE) matric maths diagnostic reports. Following this, and with interventions of the Amathole West District, a significant improvement was observed in the performance of learners from the Amathole West region who wrote mathematics last year: learners passing mathematics with a mark of 30% and above increased by 20%, from 27,4% in 2020 to 47,2% in 2021.

Building on this success, UFH hosted an empowerment workshop for all mathematics teachers in the district to further augment the activities that contributed to the improvement in mathematics results.

Teachers were provided with new Casio calculators and device training. The institution further shared past matric mathematics papers and memos as well as Department of Basic Education (DBE) matric mathematics diagnostic reports.

"We are confident that our workshop will empower teachers across the entire Amathole West district for a cascading

"We are confident that our workshop will empower teachers across the entire Amathole West district for a cascading effect on learners"



// Prof Renuka Vithal

effect on learners. Now, teachers will be able to conduct lessons in mathematics using the calculators," said Professor Vithal.

Lauren Izaaks, a qualified educator at James Ralph which distributes Casio calculator facilitated training.

"The purpose of the training is to upskill the educators on how to better teach using the calculator and for them to take the knowledge and skills they have acquired back into the classroom and to impart the skills with their learners.

"Calculator skills will allow learners to improve accuracy and speed in mathematics and this will give more

learners a chance to solve tedious calculations that cannot always be done manually. In turn, improving mathematics marks overall.

"The training provided is free of charge to the educators. This is our way of empowering the educators better," she said.

Dr Odilo Ndiweni, the Head of Mathematics Department at UFH, who has been co-ordinating the calculator training programme for the University and a researcher in the study, will be following up with further workshops focussing on mathematical content knowledge and the use of the calculator.

Introducing our youngest NRF Rated Researcher, Dr Yeshona Sukai



“Going forward, my aim is to make a significant contribution towards improving the academic and socioeconomic status at an institutional, national and international level.”

At age 30, Dr Yeshona Sukai is our youngest National Research Foundation (NRF) Rated Researcher. Dr Sukai, a Senior Researcher in the Bioenergy Research Group at the Fort Hare Institute of Technology (FHIT) has been awarded a Y-rating.

According to the NRF, a Y-Rating is awarded to promising young researchers (40 years or younger), who have held a doctorate or equivalent qualification for less than five years at the time of application, and who are recognised as having the potential to establish themselves as researchers within a five-year period after evaluation, based on their performance and productivity as researchers during their doctoral studies and/or early postdoctoral careers.

Dr Sukai holds the following degrees: a Bachelor of Science (BSc.), BSc Honours, a Master of Science (MSc.) *cum laude* and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) (Microbiology) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Following her Ph.D, at the tender age of 26 Sukai was appointed as a postdoctoral fellow within the Microbiology and Chemical Engineering departments at UKZN for just under 3 years.

Her research focuses on waste valorisation for the production of biofuels and bioproducts using microbial fermentation processes. To date, she has co-authored 18 publications, two book chapters and attended national and international conferences. Additionally, Sukai has mentored students at various levels of study (BSc. Honours, MSc. and Ph.D) and also lectured undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Biotechnology. Sukai is currently a Senior Researcher in the Bioenergy Research Group at the Fort Hare Institute of Technology and has been awarded a Y-rating by the National Research Foundation.

Her current research focuses on the microbial fermentative production of biofuels and commercial value-added products from agricultural wastes. This research deals with finding suitable pre-treatment methods to release sugar from agricultural wastes (e.g. corn and sugarcane industry).

According to her, the sugar that is released can then be channelled towards microbial fermentation processes

that produce biofuels and/or commercial value-added products. “Biofuels such as biogas may serve as an additional energy source to current depleting petroleum-based sources, while the value-added products such as lactic acid, itaconic acid and succinic acid are precursors in the food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and biopolymer industries,” she explained.

Commenting on being the University’s youngest Researcher, Dr Sukai said: ‘This comes as a wonderful surprise. I am elated and honoured to have been awarded this rating. I hope to inspire young people to pursue a career in a STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) field in order to enhance the knowledge economy in South Africa.’

“I would like to acknowledge my postdoctoral mentor Professor E.B.G. Kana (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and current director Professor E.L. Meyer (University of Fort Hare). It is through their mentorship, belief, and motivation that I have been able to navigate this academic journey. Going forward, my aim is to make a significant contribution towards improving the academic and socioeconomic status at an institutional, national and international level.”

By Aretha Linden

Four more new Ratings...

In our February edition we profiled five newly National Research Foundation (NRF) rated Researchers, we are pleased to announce the addition of four new ratings:

- ▶ **Professor Ikechukwu (Ike) Umejesi**
Sociology/ Anthropology - C2;
- ▶ **Prof Olunyika Osunkunle**
Department of Communications - C2;
- ▶ **Prof Sonwabile Mswana**
Sociology Department - C3 and;
- ▶ **Our Youngest NRF-Rated Researcher, Dr Yeshona Sukai**
Fort Hare Institute of Technology - Y2
(Profile on the left).



Professor Ikechukwu (Ike) Umejesi

Prof Umejesi is a multidisciplinary scholar and has been involved in various national research projects such as the:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Shale Gas Development in South Africa: a project of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on Shale Gas Development (SDG) in the Karoo;
- Water Research Commission (WRC) project on ethically-grounded and value-based approach to water governance in the Lower Sunday River and Upper Vaal Catchment areas of South Africa;
- And a supervisory member of Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA) – a capacity development program for technologically-focused universities in South Africa.

He is a 2009 Young Scientist Program (YSP) Fellow of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg Austria. Prof Umejesi is an NRF principal investigator in the Austria-South Africa Scientific & Technological Cooperation ÖeAD-NRF Project. He has worked on various projects with the RISK Group of the International Institute for Systems Analysis (IIASA). He is also the project leader in the Transdisciplinary Research Collaboration with the Faculty of Management, Czestochowa University of Technology, Poland; Joint-leader: Research on ‘multi-metric’ mineral resource governance: a North-South analysis (a collaboration with department of political science, University of Technology, Lulea, Sweden).

Continued...

He was a faculty member of two NRF-IIASA capacity-building programmes, namely: The Southern Africa Young Scientists Summer Program (SA-YSSP) 2013-2015, and Southern Africa Systems Analysis Centre (SASAC) 2016-2019. He belongs to different scholarly and professional bodies, such as: IIASA Society (Laxenburg, Austria); the South African Sociological Association (SASA, South Africa); Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM).

His research focuses on environment and natural resource extraction, mainly on the contestation for resource and environmental sovereignty (conflict of control) between opposing centers of authority in modern African states (i.e. traditional communities and the state); land use, socio-ecological risks and vulnerability associated with resource exploitation. He has published widely in these areas. He has also published scholarly papers on gender-related issues, mainly domestic violence. His interest in literary studies led him to pen two books in poetry and fiction, titled: "From Pilgrims to Pilgrims: a poetic interaction" (2005, 404 pages), and the acclaimed, "The Widow's Cross" (2016, 232 pages).

Currently, he is working on the following research:

- Interfacing indigenous knowledge system, small businesses and socio-ecologically sustainable development in South Africa: a study of selected communities in the Wild Coast, Eastern Cape;
- Planetary Utilization of Sustainability Strategies (PLUS). Collaboration with Justus-Liebig University of Giessen, Germany;
- Transdisciplinary Research Collaboration with the Faculty of Management, Czestochowa University of Technology, Poland;
- Multi-metric mineral resource governance: a north-south analysis (a collaboration with the department of political science, University of Technology, Lulea, Sweden)



Professor Sonwabile Mswana

Prof Mswana is a Sociology Associate Professor whose research broadly focuses on meanings of land, large-scale natural resource extraction and rural social change. For several years, he has led the execution of a detailed study that investigated the multiple impacts of platinum mining on rural communities in the North West and Limpopo provinces.

Prior to joining the University, Prof Mswana was the Deputy Director and Senior Researcher at Society, Work and Politics Institute (SWOP) and has taught sociology and education modules at Fort Hare, Cape Town and Wits universities. He is the principal investigator in a number of research projects. Between 2016 and 2017, he served as the President of the South African Sociological Association (SASA), the largest association of sociologists in Africa.

He is a recipient of several research prestigious fellowships and awards, including a 2019 fellowship at Stellenbosch's Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS), and in 2020 another fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), University of Edinburgh (UK), Wits Exceptional Research (2016). He is also a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Award, 2019 and 2021.

Prof Mswana's current research focuses on large-scale resource extraction, land and distributional struggles in Rural South Africa. For more than 15 years, he has led a number of studies in South Africa's former 'homeland' areas. In addition to commissioned papers, he has

published widely in reputable peer-reviewed international journals such as the *Review of African Political Economy*, *The Extractive Industries and Society*, *Labour, Capital and Society*, *Labour, Capital and Society, Resource Policy* and has published a number of book chapters with reputable scholarly publishers including Routledge and Wits University Press.

He is also a public intellectual whose research makes a notable contribution to social justice causes. Through his research, he has contributed to several advocacy issues, particularly on mining expansion, land rights and rural communities. In 2016, he was invited to participate as one of the leading experts in the Land Working Groups of the High-Level Panel on Land Policy in South Africa (2016-2017) chaired by Former State President Kgalema Motlanthe.

His latest publications include:

- Land reform, rural inequality and agrarian change: the case of Isidenge
- Custom' and fractured 'community': mining, property disputes and law on the platinum belt, South Africa.
- Chiefs, land and distributive struggles on the platinum belt, South Africa. Traditional Leaders in a Democracy: Resources, Respect and Resistance.
- Mine mechanisation and distributional conflict in rural South Africa



Professor Olunyika Osunkunle

Prof Olunyika Osunkunle is an Associate Professor and former Head of the UFH Communications Department under the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities. He has 18 years' teaching and research experience and has published several papers in local and international accredited journals

and book chapters. His research endeavours have taken him across and outside South African borders where he attended and presented papers in local and international conferences. He has supervised several Masters and PhD students that have all graduated while also mentoring Post-Doctoral Research Fellows. "I am strongly passionate about mentoring postgraduate students and providing a conducive research atmosphere for them to thrive and complete their studies," he said. This passion has seen him attracting both local and international students to his supervision umbrella and these students who have proceeded to occupy academic and research positions at UFH and at other universities such as Rhodes University, Walter Sisulu University, University of Limpopo, North-West University, UNISA, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) amongst others.

In 2017, he was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Award in the *Senior Researcher Category* for the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities.

Prof Osunkunle has served as an External Examiner for postgraduate research in Communication and related fields for some South African Universities such as CPUT, UL, NMU, UJ, RU, WSU, UCT, UKZN, NWU among others. He has

also been a Programme Evaluator in Communication and related fields as well as research modules for the Council on Higher Education (CHE) Pretoria since 2008.

His research interests include development communication research, especially community media and development, new/social media efficacies, stakeholders' relations, political communication and cultural studies. He has over the years studied the nexus of communication in development, most importantly focusing on the role of community media (community newspapers and community radio stations) in facilitating community development projects with several research articles published in accredited local and international journals. In collaboration with one of his MA student and a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, he conducted studies on "Participatory water conservation education on social media in Amathole District Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province" as well as "Social media use for water conservation education in South Africa, focusing on Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality residents". "These were important and timely research with very good findings considering the fact that the Eastern Cape Province has continuously faced water scarcity problems" he noted.

Speaking about his current research Prof Osunkunle said: "The advent of Covid-19 pandemic has in some ways refined

my research interest to focus more on health information/health communication and investigate related critical issues such as infodemics and the dangers of false or misleading information in digital and physical environments, especially during a pandemic, vaccine hesitancy and the role of community media in creating health awareness in the communities, especially in this era of Covid-19 pandemic."

Prof Osunkunle is also a member of the South African Communication Association (SACOMM), the International Association of Media and Communication Researchers (IAMCR) where he is very active in Community Communication and Alternative Media (CCAM) Section and the International Association for Communication and Sports (IACS). He is a Reviewer for some local and international journals such as the Information Development, Journal of African Films and Diaspora Studies (JAFDIS), Academia Letters, Journal of African Education (JAE) and the African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development. He is also a Book Reviewer for publishing houses such as JUTA, Palgrave, Intech and Sage.

"This C2-Rating will certainly pave the way to more research opportunities for me," he said.

Actor takes up new role

Many regard him as an ‘ancestor’ of the Law Faculty, having joined as a student in the mid-1990’s to being a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Dean. And now, Mr Actor Katurura has taken up a new role at the University, that of a: Executive Operations Manager at the Registrar’s Office.

This is a new position created to support the executive function of the office which includes monitoring and evaluation, policy development; support to statutory structures; statutory compliance and reporting, and overall management of projects under the Office of the Registrar. Mr Katurura assumed his new role on the 1st of March 2022.

On his third day in office, Mr Katurura took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to share with *UFH News* a bit about himself, his journey at Fort Hare and his plans for his new portfolio.

Please share a bit about your academic and professional background?

I studied for the B Juris and LLB degrees at UFH in the mid to late 1990s, spending five joyous and life changing years at this institution. Thereafter I spent some time working firstly, in legislative drafting then subsequently as a corporate legal officer. I was then awarded a scholarship to undertake Master’s of Laws (LLM) studies at the then University of Natal-Pietermaritzburg.

I deliberately quit my job in corporate and took the scholarship offer to pursue a Master’s degree as a step towards becoming a legal academic.

Joining Fort Hare

I was recruited by Rhodes University as a Lecturer at the then Rhodes University - East London Campus (RUEL) just as I was about to complete my Master’s degree in 2003. About two years later the campus was incorporated into the University of Fort Hare during the university’s merger process. This was a home coming for me as I effectively re-joined my alma mater and I have been here ever since. At this point I registered for a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education and Training (PGDHET) and graduated *cum laude* in 2008.

“What I am most excited about is that this role gives me an opportunity to contribute in broader and new ways to my alma mater as part of UFH Decade of Renewal project”

In 2006 I was appointed Lecturer in Charge of the law programme on the East London Campus, then Head of Department: Public Law in 2008-2010, Foundation Programme Coordinator from 2010 till 2012, then HOD: Private Law till 2017.

I was promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer in 2012 then became the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law from 2018 till 2021. During this period, it may be worth noting that I received the VC’s Teaching Excellence Awards on two occasions, initially in 2010 in the *Developing Teacher Category* and subsequently in 2017 in the *Experienced Teacher category* at both faculty and institutional level. In addition, between 2015 and 2016, I successfully completed a DHET and Heltasa sponsored Teaching Advancement at Universities fellowship and earned the title; “TAU Fellow.”

What are the key focus areas and responsibilities of your new portfolio?

The portfolio is very broad, it includes carrying out of strategic managerial tasks, assisting with high level communication, research and information gathering, project management and coordination as well as office management. Primarily, it is an executive support function that involves monitoring and evaluation and the overall management of projects under the Office of the Registrar. Essentially, it will be my job to assist the division to stay on track and achieve the outcomes and impacts set out in

the Division’s annual performance plan (APP) while contributing to the University’s Strategic Plan and ensuring that the budget is managed optimally.

As indicated, the role also entails research and communication with both internal and external partners and stakeholders in support of the Registrar in carrying out the functions of his office. This will entail me working with the Deputy Registrars and the managers in the various units under the Registrar.

What is your plan to ensure your key responsibilities are executed at an optimal level?

I believe in leadership that is orientated towards having capable and even expert team players at all levels. This approach ensures a more participative approach to planning and executing tasks which in turn makes it easier to allocate and delegate tasks with confidence. It helps the leader to comfortably move from authoritarian leadership styles, which I firmly believe to be counterproductive. A significant part of my work will therefore entail a deliberate focus on capacity and overall resource building.

Since we are in an era of renewal guided by the UFH Strategic Plan 2022 I believe our approach will be outcomes oriented (in light of the 7 strategic goals in the Plan) but also evaluative in the first instance so that we can map our way on how to get there. In this respect I have become a firm believer in the use of

Logic Framework and /or Theory of Change models to ensure a proper evaluation and also as tools for project management in order to stay on track towards desired outcomes and impacts.

In addition, my experience of the University context has taught me that most functions processes can be conceived as projects which follow set cycles and timelines. This, in my view makes them eminently suitable to be executed and managed through the instrumentality of Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs). This approach, among other things, should greatly ameliorate the possibility of confusion, errors and paralysis if an individual who normally performs a given function is for some reason absent.

I am, of course, mindful of the fact that my knowledge of the operations of the Registrar’s office though obtained from very close are still in some ways form an outsider’s or more accurately, client’s perspective since they support the academic enterprise. I see this as an advantage in that it will ensure that my approach will be to have systems and processes that adequately respond to the actual imperatives that face the academic enterprise at the University.

The key strengths which I bring to the position is my legal education and training, my knowledge of the South African higher education context (SAQA, DHET, CHE etc policies as well as legislation); more specifically my familiarity and long involvement in the various structures and processes at the University of Fort Hare. I was a member of virtually every major Faculty and University committee at some point right up to Senex and Senate. The latter also include an understanding of the University’s Statute and the role of the Registrar as contained therein, the UFH Strategic Plan, I also bring a bit of project and budget management.

What are you most optimistic about?

What I am most excited about is that this role gives me an opportunity to contribute in broader and new ways to my alma mater as part of UFH Decade of Renewal project. At a personal level I see it as moving me increasingly towards being a well-rounded expert in higher education. I believe I have learnt much on the academic side and now will grow more in the administrative and management side.

Lastly, what are your aspirations for UFH as it journeys on a Decade of Renewal?

I see the University asserting and reasserting itself as a front runner in education and transformation on the continent and internationally as we move further into the second centenary of its existence. It is my hope that we will achieve the aspirations of being a smart 21st century university adequately equipped to deliver programmes and produce graduates needed in this age of the digital revolution, Artificial Intelligence and beyond.



UNESCO Honours UFH with Renewal of Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has renewed the UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights for an additional period of four years until 27 March 2025.

The UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair was the very first UNESCO chair in South Africa, and was established at UFH in 1996. UFH is the only Eastern Cape university with a coveted UNESCO chair.

Globally, only 877 chairs are available from UNESCO through its UNITWIN/UNESCO chairs programme that covers 70 disciplines in 117 countries at 850 institutions including Harvard University, the University of Chicago, University of London, Peking University and the University of Bonn, amongst other.

In correspondence to UFH's Vice-Chancellor, UNESCO Future of Learning and Innovation Director Dr Sobhi Tawil said: "the Chair [at UFH] has been working within its main objectives on democracy and human rights, carrying out a wide range of activities, from educational programmes, publications, to conferences and capacity building initiatives."

Dr. Tawil continued: "UNESCO has approved the nomination of Prof. Nomthandazo Ntlama Makhanya, as the new Chairholder of this UNESCO Chair."

Commenting on the development, UFH Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu said:

"This renewal affirms that UFH is playing an influential role in uplifting human rights and development debates not only in our immediate rural communities, the Eastern Cape and South Africa, but on a global stage."

The Vice-Chancellor said that the Eastern Cape remains underdeveloped, and that government, development agencies, civil society and private sector must leave no stone unturned to restore human rights and dignity in the region through interventions.

Professor Buhlungu said that state capture, corruption, climate change and water security, slow economic recovery as well as the Russian-Ukrainian conflict are direct and indirect dangers to human rights not only in the Eastern Cape but beyond provincial borders.

"UFH researchers across all our faculties are working around the clock to generate new and groundbreaking knowledge to provide answers to societal problems, to unlock new terrains and to advance developmental agendas. Government and private sector are empowered through these contributions to plan, deliver and invest with the aim of improving human rights," he said.



Criminology HOD develops models to curb reoffending and overcrowding in correctional facilities in South Africa

Concerned by the alarming rate of re-offenders and overcrowded correctional facilities in South Africa, the UFH Head of Criminology Department, **Dr Oscar Magadze** has developed and proposed two models aimed at assisting ex-offenders, parolees and probationers with the process of reintegration.

Dr Magadze recently presented these models during a conference hosted by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in Southern Cape, George. The event was held under the theme: *Building capacity for Community Corrections: Work Session*. Dr Magadze received a special invitation to provide guidance to the DCS executives on *"An integrated re-integration mechanism/plan to address re-offending of offenders, parolees and probationers in South Africa"*.

After his presentation, a commission was formed to interrogate some of the issues raised by Dr Magadze and further consultations were recommended.

The first model dubbed the "National Offender Financial Scheme Model (NOFS)" seeks to address unemployment and anxiety that likely lead to reoffending/relapse. "This model will focus on funding skilled ex-offenders, probationers and parolees to create jobs for themselves and their community members, meaning they become employers," explained Dr Magadze.

According to Dr Magadze, the main objectives of the NOFS model is:

- To ensure proper creation of jobs and guarantee successful reintegration of ex-offenders;
- To fund all ex-offenders and parolees who acquired skills during incarceration;
- To fund ex-offenders' projects to promote entrepreneurship and business management and;
- To eliminate ex-offenders' frustration elements during re-entry.

Explaining the funding stream, Dr Magadze says DCS will train offenders on different skills during their incarceration. "Therefore, through these skills, the offenders will be able to generate funds. DCS will also assist with getting funding and donations from private and public institutions. The model also proposed that agricultural products produced by offenders be sent to the public market as way to generate more funds.

The second model intends to focus on dealing with the continuous assessment of offenders. "This is a special model because it will be assisting the department to identify symptoms of relapsing/reoffending at the early stage. This proposed model argues that ex-offenders must continue to have access to DCS specialists after completion of their sentences in order to assist them to address or deal with unemployment, stigmatisation and labelling by community members," he said.

According to Dr Magadze, the models stem from the findings of a study he conducted on the Community Corrections Forum (CCF) which focuses on offender re-entry, at the Vhembe District Municipality in the Northern part of Limpopo province and also his vast involvement in DCS systems.

"The finding is that CCFs understand that employment can decrease the rate of recidivism by increasing bonds with communities and families. The other finding is that if ex-offenders got employed they could find responsible and productive ways to spend time. It could increase ex-offenders association with other law-abiding members in their communities."

"I am also part of a team that developed the South African Sexual Treatment Offender Programme (SOTP) and a Member of the team that developed the Department of Correctional Services Occupational Certificate: Parole Board Member (Offender Placement and Release Practitioner) qualification programme. In all these engagements, I had the opportunity to be familiar with the DCS system and have access to offenders," he said.

Asked why it was important to implement the proposed models, Dr Magadze said: "Crime is a social problem, therefore it is very important for the country to come up with new ideas to eliminate the situation that creates or gives an individual the opportunity to commit a crime. This country is losing money from foreign business community and tourism because of the high rate of crime."

By Aretha Linden



VC makes good on his promise

On the weekend of the 6th and 7th of March, the Vice-Chancellor took 80 first-year students on a tour of the Alice Campus. This is a promise he made in his keynote address during the 2022 Orientation programme.

The purpose of the tour was to educate students about the rich history of the institution and included site visits to the Freedom Square, Stewart Hall, The Fort and the De Beers Art Gallery.

Walking along Freedom Square with the students the VC said: "You are walking in the footsteps of giants. I am giving you this tour so that you can see the value of this great institution. This university is no ordinary university, this campus is and should be a national heritage site."

At The Fort the VC shared a brief history on the naming of the institution. The university was a military post during the frontier wars and was named after Colonel John Hare.

Nokukhanya Vinjwa who is enrolled for a BCom in Accounting said: "This has been an eye-opening experience. I feel lucky to be part of this tour. I am proud to be part of this institution and I walk out of this tour motivated to study here."

The tour ended at the De Beers Art Gallery where art pieces of the university's historic moments are displayed.

"One thing you can do to honour everyone who has studied at this institution is to look after the infrastructure so that this university still stands and thrives in the next 100 years," said the VC.

By Asaduma Baloyi





WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FORT HARE AND FORT COX

The University together with its neighboring Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute are aiming to better their relationship, this after delegations from the two institutions met at Fort Cox on the 25th of March.

The Fort Hare delegation included the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu and Dr Irma du Plessis who is Director in the VC's office whilst Fort Cox was led by its Acting principal, Dr MG Araia, (Rural Development Centre) Buyisile Mrabata, (Head Human Resource) Siya Rawula, Dr B Moyo who is the HoD for Animal Research and Bongani Ndlovu, the Farm Manager.

The engagement included an impressive tour of various sites where students effectively do their practical work.

The tour started at the college's two abattoirs for red meat and poultry and was followed by a visit to the custom feeding facility which is made available to the community through a Co-op. The tour proceeded to

a workshop housing an Engineering Lab and Plant Production component for citrus and Stone fruit orchards, green mealies, butternut and sunflower.

Thereafter, the delegates visited the 24 hectares animal pastures where dairy pastures, teff grass, and silage maize are planted. The tour ended at the Old College where the farm stall, veterinary clinic, abattoirs, small stock kraals, Beef Custom feeding facility, Piggery, Dairy and Layers (egg laying chicken) facilities were viewed.

Currently the university has a representative in the Fort Cox academic council; there is also supervision and or co-supervision of research work.

By Mawande Mrashula



Dr Mzukisi Kepe probes the abolishment of corporal punishment in SA schools

“There is a need for integration of themes that are based on good values that can go a long way towards the improvement of their behaviour, rather than violence”

Dr Mzukisi Kepe from the Faculty of Education recently gave a virtual plenary talk at Dhofar University in Salalah, Oman on his recent study titled: *“Investigating the Abolishment of Corporal Punishment in South Africa: The Case of One High School at Dimbaza Township in the Eastern Cape”*.

According to him, the study mainly intended to investigate the abolishment of corporal punishment in SA schools drawing from the perspectives of the respondents through interviews and questionnaires. The respondents included, teachers, principals, the School Governing Body, a School Management Team member and learners.

“The investigation aimed to demonstrate the educational and social values of the respondents concerning banning corporal punishment and its long-term aftermath in schools,” said Dr Kepe.

Below are some of the findings and recommendations from the study:

- “Despite the divergence of views by various stakeholders in South Africa and elsewhere around the globe concerning the abolition of corporal punishment in schools, generally, there is consensus that violence in the form of corporal punishment breeds violence. To this end, suggested a need for intercultural translatability and transfer of viable strategies between and among schools.”

- “The appetite to resort to corporal punishment by some teachers, corporal punishment has no impact on improving the discipline of learners. It suggested the integration of topics that enhance values rather than physical punishment may strengthen the character to behave better in class.”

- “Alternatives to Corporal Punishment (ATCP) endorsed by the Department of Basic Education is not always consulted as a point of reference by public schools when they are drafting the school Code of Conduct. In most cases, each school prescribes its Code of Conduct outside the confinement of the ATC.”

- “Teachers are not comfortable with alternative measures such as detention specifically as it tends to punish the teachers as well because the students must be invigilated during detention. The study suggested a need to catch those learners that are doing well at the moment of doing well, praising and acknowledging and reinforcing that behaviour in front of others may encourage the unruly to do good as well.”

- “There is a need for integration of themes that are based on good values that can go a long way towards the improvement of their behaviour, rather than violence because violence breeds violence and may lead to bottled feelings of resentments or vengeance.”



Gender Equity Office Colours the World Against GBV

“As a institution of higher learning it is critical to have debates of this nature to allow our students to change their minds set towards GBV and unlearn the culture of violence and relearn how to protect and treat each other in order to create a free and safe learning environment for all.”

After a successful Colour the World Orange against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign in March, the Gender Equity Office (GEO) has launched the Colour the World Purple and Teal Against Suicide awareness campaign for the month of April.

The educational programme will run through the year. The overall aim is to raise awareness against GBV with each month focussing on different aspects of GBV.

Explaining the concept, Dr Rianna Oelofsen (Interim Director of the GEO) said a colour will be assigned to each month to raise awareness. “The colours are already assigned as colours of awareness for each cause. For example, green for mental health, teal for rape, orange for GBV, white for violence against women, rainbow for pride, purple for domestic violence and red for HIV/AIDS.”

During this month’s campaign, the GEO will be hosting a Yoga Challenge for the improvement of mental health. The challenge will take place on both Alice and East London Campus on 5th and 6th April (see poster below).

The March GBV awareness events were held on 9th and 10th March on the Alice and East London Campus. Attendees, including senior management engaged in activities and a dialogue centred around the university’s GBV Policy.

In his opening address during the East London leg of the campaign, The DVC-IS, Dr Oscar van Heerden called upon the university community to protect and take care of each other, regardless of gender as GBV affects everyone. He further appealed to young men and women to speak out on acts of GBV: “Justice is not silence. If you do not come forward and you don’t speak out, we cannot help you.”

Dr Oelofsen said the campaign aims to assist in finding solutions on how to change the culture of violence and patriarchal behaviours on our campus and in society. “As a institution of higher learning it is critical to have debates of this nature to allow our students to change their minds set towards GBV and unlearn the culture of violence and relearn how to protect and treat each other in order to create a free and safe learning environment for all.”

By Sihle Makasi



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence



COLOUR THE WORLD
#UFHAgainstGBV

UFH Gender Equity Office
in collaboration with
UFH Student Counselling Unit,
ECAVC and Stand as One

Colour the world
PURPLE & TEAL
for Suicide Prevention

Join the Gender Equity Office and let's colour the world purple and teal for suicide prevention. Please attend the events as scheduled for Alice and EL.

ALICE • 5th April 2022
11:00 – 13:00 • Green Auditorium New Arts Building

EAST LONDON • 6th April 2022
11:00 – 13:00 • Miriam Makeba

This month we will be holding a **YOGA CHALLENGE** for the improvement of mental health.

Yoga is meditative and physically challenging at the same time. Doing Yoga is a very good way to look after one's mental health. Men are especially encouraged to take part, seeing as statistically, men are more likely to commit suicide.

Please attend the events to learn more – the winners of the challenge will win a limited edition T-shirt.

#UFHcolorstheWorld #UFHAgainstGBV



ECAVC
Home of Artists



MEMEZA!!!
Stand as One
against GBV

UFH Gender Equity Office @UFHGenderEquity

UFH trio's e-waste solution wins first prize at **Boxfusion #GovGeeksCode Graduate Programme Competition**

A solution that allows for the automation of e-waste disposals in civil and corporate environments developed by three UFH Information Systems graduands has claimed first prize in the Boxfusion #GovGeeksCode Graduate Programming Competition.

Boxfusion is a 100% South African owned, operated, and staffed software Solutions Company that takes pride in developing digital capabilities for the South African government.

In addition to the R20 000 cash prize, the three graduands have also earned themselves an entry to the prestigious graduate programme.

The brains behind this winning solution are:

- **Nyarai Nedziwe**, Bcom Information System graduand;
- **Wellington Kahondo**, Bcom Information System graduand; and
- **Admire Chindenga**, BSc Computer Science graduand.

The trio will be graduating during the university's 2022 upcoming graduation ceremony. The UFH team entered the competition last year September, while in their final year. They joined the 12-months programme after they were announced winners in January this year.

Explaining their concept, the team said: "Our solution is a web-based hailing platform in which stakeholders (businesses, local authorities, and citizens) engage to dispose of e-waste responsibly. The solution is targeted towards the management of e-waste both in civil and corporate environments."

"The value driver for our proposed solution is service delivery while innovatively improving e-waste disposal. Our solution formalizes e-waste disposal by providing a common platform for stakeholder engagement in e-waste lifecycle management through an on-demand e-hailing based e-waste collection platform that facilitates real-time engagement between e-waste producers and recyclers."

Dr Edmore Chindenga from the Information Systems Department said: "Learning from the UFH teams' victory, there is a lot of potential in UFH graduates. They have a unique talent that sets them apart in a competitive way against their colleagues from other academic institutions in the country. The department is very proud of the three graduands' achievements."

by Aretha Linden



"Learning from the UFH teams' victory, there is a lot of potential in UFH graduates. They have a unique talent that sets them apart in a competitive way against their colleagues from other academic institutions in the country"

Tech Wizards **CRACK**

2022 ELIDZ ICT HACKATHON CHALLENGE

Three UFH students who met by chance and teamed up for the 2022 East London Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) Science & Technology Park ICT Hackathon Challenge have been crowned winners of the challenge. This after their prototype, a web based app to address municipal service delivery issues, wowed the panel of judges.

The trio walked away with a R30 000 cash prize and a ticket into a 12-months incubation and acceleration programme to develop their prototype.

The students are:

- **Zizipo Magaga** (Final-year Masters in Economics);
- **Axolile Mququ** (Final-year Masters in Information Systems); and
- **Chumani Charlie** (3rd-year BCom Information Systems).

The challenge was held from the 25th to 27th March with six hacking stations connected virtually across the Eastern Cape. The UFH team was based at the ELIDZ Science & Technology Park. According to ELIDZ, the hackathon seeks to identify ICT skills available in the province and allow for those skills to be put into use as technologies to help address challenges faced by Eastern Cape society, individuals, businesses, as well as government.

UFH News met with the trio, a few days after their victory. Still beaming with excitement, the students who met for the first time on the first day of challenge dubbed their encounter as a “fortunate chance”.

“We went there as individuals hoping to be placed in teams. However, we were informed that we needed to be in groups of three in order to be eligible.” Without knowing they were all UFH

students, the three found each other and formed their group; “ZAC” which represents the first letters of their names and also the official name of their group: “Zebibyte Automation Cloud”.

Altogether, 14 teams registered for the challenge. The teams were given three categories to select from: Service Delivery, Education and Unemployment, and they chose service delivery. The brief was to develop a 4IR solution to the challenges in these categories.

Using Buffalo City Metro’s recent water woes as an example, the UFH team developed a web based app that will allow users to connect with the relevant official to report service delivery issues in real-time.

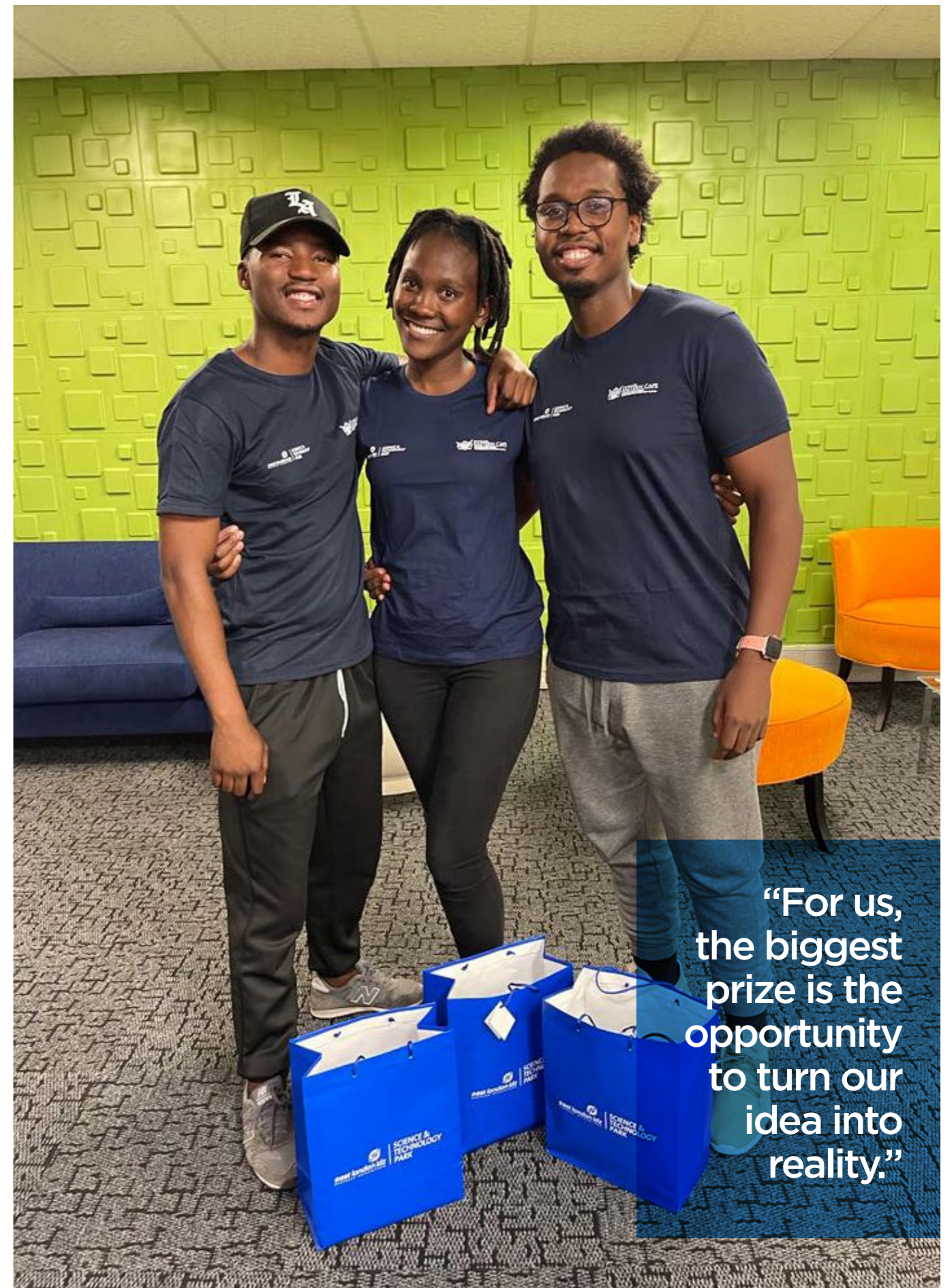
“Often service delivery is delayed due to the failure to reach the relevant person to attend to the matter in reasonable time. People often have to go through many channels or officials, such as the Ward Councillor, in order to get to the relevant person. The App aims to close that gap by ensuring that there is instant interaction between residents/customers and the municipality.”

The team spent 16 hours, with no sleep developing their solution and presented it 10 minutes before the competition closed on Sunday. Their presentation included a PowerPoint presentation and a demonstration video.

When they were announced winners, Zizipo jumped for joy, Charlie was in disbelief and Axolile was overwhelmed, they said.

“For us, the biggest prize is the opportunity to turn our idea into reality.”

By Aretha Linden



“For us, the biggest prize is the opportunity to turn our idea into reality.”



First Things First

Know your status and empower yourself!

The HIV/AIDS Centre hosted its quarterly testing campaign 'First Things First'. The campaign is an initiative by Higher Education and Training HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS) - a national programme that aims to develop and support the HIV/TB/STI and General Health and Wellness mitigation initiatives at South Africa's public Higher Education Institutions.

The campaign brings HIV testing, counselling and education directly to students and staff members on campuses, as well as provides screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and Tuberculosis (TB). In addition to HIV, STI and TB services, First Things First offers screening, treatment and support for a wide range of general health issues including hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular health, blood pressure and cancer.

The campaign took place from 22nd to 23rd March in Alice campus. Due to bad weather the visit to East London campus was postponed to 5th and 6th April 2022. The Campaign encourages students and staff to be responsible, and be tested to empower themselves by knowing their status.

Mr Lundi Makhohliso the Manager HIV/AIDS UNIT & HEAIDS Project Manager who runs the programme with the help of Peer Educators said, "The campaign is important to the HIV/AIDS unit as it brings much needed resources to students and staff. We are hoping that our community takes responsibility of their health and promote behavioural change".

The campaign offers Lay Counsellors on site with the following expertise:

- Counselling prior and after testing
- Provide referrals
- Make follow ups and make sure that students and staff members who test positive have access to the ARVs and support groups when needed.
- They hold counselling and testing certificates which makes them professionals to provides counselling and support to students and staff members.

The unit hopes to reach at least 80% of their yearly target by conducting more educational programmes on HIV through Dialogues, Res Talks, Social media and other platforms.

by Asaduma Baloyi



ABSA and partners invest in UFH food bank

The shelves of the UFH food project for students in need were replenished on the 4th of March, following the donation of food parcels from ABSA, Rise Against Hunger, Joint Aid Management (JAM) and Volkswagen.

Founded and managed by the Student Counselling Unit (SCU), the project seeks to provide healthy (uncooked) meals to unfunded students.

Speaking at the handing-over ceremony at the East London SCU offices today, Mr Andy de la Mare from ABSA said: "This donation is an addition to our main Corporate Social Investment programmes. We felt we needed to invest into the UFH food project - it is a great investment."

President Ramaphosa appoints UFH Alumnus, Adv Sakata as new DPP for Northern Cape

Advocate Livingstone Mzukisi Sakata, a UFH Alumnus has been appointed as Director of Public Prosecutions in the Northern Cape Division of the High Court, Kimberley, with effect from 1 April 2022.

The announcement was made by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 21 March.

Advocate Sakata obtained a B Proc degree from the University of Fort Hare in 1988. He is an attorney with private and public sector experience.

Adv Sakata became a Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in 1999. In 2003 he was appointed as Eastern Cape Coordinator of the Organised Crime Component in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Prior to his new position, Adv Sakata served as the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Eastern Cape.

Source: <https://www.thepresidency.gov.za/>



GAME ON
#RUGBYTHATROCKS
4 MAR - 22 APR

1 APR
17:00
CPUT SPORTS STADIUM
LIVE ON S
#RUGBYTHATROCKS
FNB CPUT FNB UFH
FNB VARSITY SHIELD
STEERS

8 APR
17:00
BCM SPORT STADIUM
LIVE ON S
#RUGBYTHATROCKS
FNB UFH FNB DUT
FNB VARSITY SHIELD
STEERS



UFH BLUES SLAYS WSU ALL BLACKS and claims Eastern Cape Derby

It's official, FNB UFH Blues remains unbeaten and log leaders of the 2022 Varsity Shield Competition. This after beating the FNB WSU All Blacks to a 27-13 victory.

The match which took place at Tuks Stadium on the 20th of March was the Blues' fourth win out of four games.

Already at half time the Blues were in a commanding position with a tally of 18 points to 3 points after lock Walter Moyo and centre Ryan Maree scored a try each. Blues' mentor and Coach Lumumba Currie commended the players for a job well done and consolidating their position of log leaders. "Well done to all the players including the non-travelling guys that we left behind in Alice. This is a collective effort and I know very well that they were at Sport Complex watching the team on the big screen with the entire UFH society cheering for the team."

Explaining his approach leading up to the much anticipated encounter, Currie said: "I constantly reminded the team that rugby is a collision sport and it's more than a contact sport. I demanded that we be extremely physical against a skilful team like WSU All Blacks. The brief was to be physical at scrum time, ruck time, break down, general attacks and most importantly, to be in defence when playing without the ball. So the players implemented and executed this plan very well which was pleasing to see."

The Blues back line was getting good quick quality balls, which fly-half Keith Chiwara utilised to drive the WSU All Blacks back into their half. Chiwara was very instrumental with his boot, scoring 17 points and earning himself the title of Man of the Match.

UFH Dean of Students, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo said the university community remains immensely proud of the Blues. "Our team's performance in the Varsity Shield to date has been stellar. We remain proud of the team's break-through performance and their committed Forterian spirit for victory. Our team is now hungry to be the ultimate victors of the Varsity Shield tournament for 2022."

The team has now set their attention on their next game against Cape Peninsula University of Technology, the 2021 Winners of Varsity Shield and who also remain unbeaten to date. "We are looking forward to that encounter and obviously we will have to study all their footage and come up with a different strategy to the one we used against other teams as they differ in playing styles and approaches."

This game will be played on the 1st of April 2022 at the CPUT Stadium in Cape Town. Kick-off will be at 7pm.

By Elliot Fana - May his soul rest in peace.

A moving tribute for COACH FANA

The University of Fort Hare held a moving memorial service for the late rugby coach and mentor, Elliot Mntwekhaya Fana at the Sports Complex on Wednesday, 30th March.

Fana lost his life in a horrific car accident on the 22nd of March.

The memorial service was, amongst other people, attended by the Vice-Chancellor, former sports administrator, Mr Gideon Sam, the MEC for Sports Recreation Arts and Culture, Ms Fezeka Nkomonye, representatives from Walter Sisulu and Rhodes University, Border Rugby, Eastern Cape Sports Federation including local and district rugby structures.

In a sombre mood, with players struggling to get to the top of their voices, friends and colleagues describe the rugby fanatic as a strong believer to his views yet accommodative to others.

The Dean of Students, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo acknowledged the work done by Fana at a competitive level and the impact it has to form a foundation in the decade of renewal. He called Fana the pride of the Eastern Cape rugby and urge all involved to follow his determination of winning all. As Blues will be playing against CPUT in a crunch game, he called on the boys to dedicate the game to the life well lived.

According to Mandla Dakuse from the Star of Alice Rugby Club: "The introduction of Koshuis rugby still stands out as Fana's commitment to rural rugby and identification of talent, it made available rugby material to the local talent, which is largely rural." Dakuse revealed, they could not confine Fana to the

local team but to allow him to explore professional rugby as they released him to the Griffons.

Blues Club rugby President, Craig Christian who has worked with Fana for almost 14 years said, "I do not think we will ever recover from this, he had his special way of making us happy when we were not and he made us to believe we can coach, play and be administrators at the highest level". Fana almost single handedly managed a campaign when Christian was elected Vice President of Border Rugby.



Lusanda Jam represented professional rugby referees, lauded Fana of the role he played in bridging the gap between the clubs and the refs killing the notion that the two are archenemies. He said Fana died when they were busy working on emulating the academy in Matties that bridges players and the men in the middle.

The VC revealed that rugby players from the Fine Arts department have requested to build a mural for Fana at the Davidson Stadium and he has given them a nod.

Border Rugby representative, Mr Zuko

Bidli, who is the interim leader said, Elliot's vision was bigger than the University of Fort Hare as he formed part of unions in a rural settings. "I trust that others would take the baton", he said.

The MEC for Sports Recreation Arts and Culture, Fezeka Nkomonye said: "Fana surrendered himself to sports development especially to those that had the odds against them."

By Mawande Mrashula



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Institutional Advancement

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