



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Institutional Advancement

This Week

@FORT HARE *Vol 2, issue 3*



Agriculture Auditorium, Alice Campus

7 February 2020

This Week @Fort Hare

THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE WILL BE **FULLY DIGITAL BY 2030**



Dr Christian Johl

“Higher Education is moving towards one direction, and that is digital. UFH is getting geared to move in that direction”

The University of Fort Hare has completed the first draft of its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) 2030 Strategy. This was revealed by Dr Christian Johl, the university's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and according to him, one word dominates the strategy - *Digitisation*.

Speaking to *This Week @Fort Hare*, in his second floor office in Gasson Centre, Dr Johl shared a glimpse of what the future holds for UFH in the technology space. It sounds very exciting. “Higher Education is moving towards one direction, and that is digital. UFH is getting geared to move in that direction,” he said.

“Point, click, access and enter. That is how easy it will be for students to study at Fort Hare. If a student is from Lusikisiki we should not be trying to get them here and into student residences. Instead, we should give them a device that will connect them to the university and provide means to keep them connected, wherever they are.” he said.

Dr Johl says he aims to get the university “digital ready” before he retires in 2023.

His career in the ICT sector started in 1976 as an engineering assistant at Transnet's Signals and Telecommunications division. He progressed through the ranks before leaving the company in 1997 to join Border Technikon (now Walter Sisulu University) as its Information and Communication Technology Director. He joined the UFH in 2008 as the CIO.

Dr Johl holds a National Certificate for Technicians: Light Current, obtained in 1981 from Port Elizabeth Technikon. In 1993 he obtained a Diploma in data metrics from Unisa and in 2000 he graduated with an MBA from Business School Netherlands. In 2014 he was back at PE Technikon (Now Nelson Mandela University), where he graduated with a Doctoral Degree in ICT Governance.

Chris joined the Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA) in 1983 and is one of its longest serving members. He is also registered with the Engineering Council of SA and is a member of the Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists. He also serves as a board member of the Association of SA University Directors of Information Technology (ASAUDIT) since inception in 2011.

At UFH, he has been at the helm of ensuring that the university stays on par with other Higher Education Institutions when it comes to ICT. He also keeps the university community abreast on any developments by disseminating important information and notices to staff and students on a daily basis. “Information and Technology is capable of changing everything in life, including Institutions of higher learning. It has become a proactive enabler.”

“With digitization, it won't matter whether you are sitting in California or in the comfort of your home anywhere in the world. You will be able to access the University of Fort Hare,” he said.

by Aretha Linden

UFH HITS 11 000 REGISTRATIONS



“We will be working on Saturday (8 February) as an extension of the current schedule. The entire team will be at their stations in Alice to register students”

By Friday 7 February the University of Fort Hare had registered more than half of its 2020 student population.

So far, 11 006 students of the 15 000 expected students have been registered, with a substantial number of them already allocated residences. Of the registered students, 10 168 are undergraduates and the rest are postgraduates.

The registration process started on the East London campus on 20 January and moved to the Alice campus on 24 January.

The process was however disrupted for the whole of last week due to the SAUS universities shutdown campaign.

Dr Rose Masha, Deputy Registrar: Academic Affairs gave assurance that “registration teams would be working around the clock to catch-up and wrap-up the process”.

“We will be working on Saturday (8 February) as an extension of the current schedule. The entire team will be at their stations in Alice to register students,” she said.

She was speaking from the Alice Sport Centre where scores of students were lined-up for registration.

Next week the registration team will move to Bhisho campus.

Dr Masha encouraged all students to register online. “Online registration is open for all campuses,” she said.

by Aretha Linden





UFH Nursing Students Encouraged to *Strive for Excellence*



“When patients see you in that white uniform, their hope of being healed gets renewed. So you need to show compassion and serve with excellence”

On 3 February, the Nursing Science Department welcomed an enthusiastic group of first-year Bachelor of Nursing Science students during the launch of a week-long orientation programme. The sessions are held at the Nursing Science Building on the East London Campus.

During the first two days students were introduced to some of their lecturers who shared messages of encouragement. Professor Cheryl Nikodem, Head of the Nursing Department advised students to stay on top of their studies.

“You were selected from hundreds of applicants, you are the cream of the crop and you need to maintain the standard.” She also cautioned students about the challenges they might encounter on and off campus and how they can avoid such challenges. “You have a much more difficult course than others. You only get to go on holiday in December, the rest of your holidays you spend doing practical training. We are here to support and build you,” she said.

Nursing Science Lecturer - Mr Lwazi Tilolo, said in order to succeed in the nursing profession, students needed to be passionate about nursing. “I hope you did not choose this career simply because other courses were full or you were told to do it. You need to be passionate about nursing,” he said. He also shared some pointers on how nurses should conduct themselves. “Confidentiality is key and being professional at all times is imperative,” he said.

Senior Lecturer, Ms Nomntu Melitafa, stressed the importance of striving for excellence. “When patients see you in that white uniform, their hope of being healed gets renewed. So you need to show compassion and serve with excellence.”

The programme continues until Friday. Some of the activities in the line-up include presentations from professional associations, a practical demonstration of the Nursing Science learning approach and more words of encouragement.

by Aretha Linden

Faculty of Management and Commerce **WELCOMES FIRST YEARS**



“Our aim is to develop independent thinkers, people who are not only going to go out there and seek employment, but people who will go out there and find solutions to problems”

On 6 February, Dr Ntombovuyo Wayi, Dean of Faculty of Management and Commerce welcomed an exciting group of first year students. The Faculty's East London orientation session was held at the Ashton Chubb Lecture Hall.

“You are very special because you were selected from thousands of applicants. By virtue of you being here, it means you are top achievers,” she said. According to Dr Wayi the Faculty received thousands of applicants but only less than 1000 students met the Faculty's admission requirements.

Directed by Dr Ellen Rungani, the three-hour session was very informative.

The Dean said choosing Management and Commerce was the right choice to shape students' careers.

“Being a Management and Commerce student is an exciting journey. It can be confusing at times, but if you do things the right way, you will make it to the end. Our aim is to develop independent thinkers, people who are not only going to go out there and seek employment, but people who will go out there and find solutions to problems.”

She also encouraged students to open themselves to meeting new people of all backgrounds and to be actively involved in student life.

“There are students who come from different provinces and countries in Africa. This is your chance to create new friendships and learn from each other. We have sports, music, politics and various organisations that you can join and participate in. But, please remember to prioritize. Your studies come first,” she urged.

Students were also addressed by Heads of Departments and the Faculty Manager, Ms Landelwa Sitebe.

The Faculty has scheduled similar programmes for Alice and Bhisho campuses. These will be held on 7 and 13 February, respectively.

by Aretha Linden



TAKING COUNSELLING SERVICES TO STUDENT RESIDENCES

“We want to take our services to where students are most comfortable - inside their residences”

Ms Thobeka Msengana

Plans to launch a “Res Talks” programme - an initiative to take counselling services to student residences - are at an advanced stage.

This is according to Ms Thobeka Msengana, Senior Psychologist and SCU Acting Manager.

“We want to take our services to where students are most comfortable - inside their residences,” she said.

This intervention comes as mental health issues are being flagged as a growing global problem among students.

The unit is based in Alice and East London and comprises registered psychologists as well as intern psychologists who are doing their final year in Social Work. The core function of the unit is to provide mental health support and promote student wellness.

The counselling team is aware that most students are not familiar with services provided by psychologists. “The majority of our students come from rural backgrounds and are not used to seeing a psychologist. When we go into residences we believe we will provide a safe space for talking about personal issues,” explained Msengana.

Res Talks will focus on various topics related to mental health and psychosocial matters. “We plan to have these talks at least once every month, starting with first years. Research shows that when students are well adjusted in their first year at university, chances of becoming better students and graduates increase. We want to give our students a solid foundation and create a culture of seeking help”, she said.

The overall objective is “to release balanced graduates into the workplace.”



Ms Zoliswa Mafanya with East London Campus SCU Mentors

Much more than a counselling unit:

In addition to looking after students' mental well-being, the SCU has several other wellness interventions aimed at assisting students with their academic, social life and job placements.

These include:

- First Year Experience Programme that assists first years to adjust to university life
- First Year Mentorship Programme
- Graduate Placements
- Career Guidance
- Study skills workshops
- Gender-based violence dialogues

The unit also provides food parcels to unfunded students.

Ms Zoliswa Mafanya, SCU Coordinator, said the mentorship programme involves 30 final and postgraduate students from East London and Alice campuses who are trained to provide academic support and look into the psychosocial challenges that might affect first year students. “The programme supports and empowers students. It aims to build a university community that supports one another,” said Mafanya.

by Aretha Linden

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE... *still a place of hope* - Daniel Massey



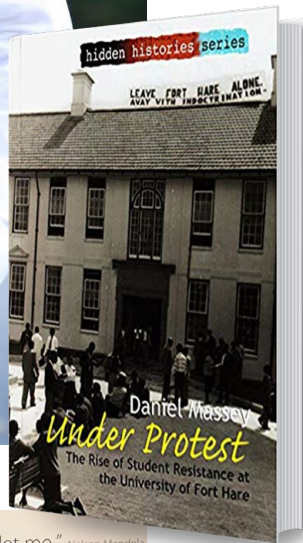
"I still believe in Fort Hare. It is a university that is capable of producing renowned leaders. It is still a place of hope"

Two decades after graduating from the University of Fort Hare, Daniel Massey, a US-born Journalist and Author of *Under Protest: Rise of Students Resistance at the University of Fort Hare*, remains fond of his alma mater.

Massey spoke to *This Week @Fort Hare* during a brief family vacation in South Africa recently. He was accompanied by his wife and daughter Yolisa, who he named after the late UFH Librarian, Yolisa Soul. "I still believe in Fort Hare. It is a university that is capable of producing renowned leaders. It is still a place of hope," he said.

Massey has an undergraduate degree from Brown University and Masters degrees from the University of Fort Hare (2000) and City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism.

In 2010, in an interview with the City University of New York, Massey said he chose UFH because of its rich history. "I knew that people like Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Robert Sobukwe, and Chris Hani had been to Fort Hare. To walk the campus that they had walked was an opportunity I could not pass up. But I also wanted to study at a university that did not primarily educate South Africa's privileged few."



Under Protest is a combination of valuable previously untapped university records containing recollections of dozens of former students who dig deep into the complex past of the institution. In the book published in 2010, Massey interviews 34 Fort Harians ranging from Govan Mbeki and Wycliffe Tsotsi to Jeff Baqwa and Thenjiwe Mtintso, who explain the vital role UFH played in the development of their activism.

The book pays particular attention to the 1960 government takeover, showing how the authorities' attempt to stifle student protest ended up creating the hothouse conditions that eventually brought apartheid to its knees.

Viva Nokholeji!

by Aretha Linden



MOOT COMPETITION CHAMPIONS GRATEFUL TO UFH SCHOOL OF LAW

“The University of Fort Hare’s School of Law paved the way to our success and we are grateful for the support”

On January 31, Team SA won the 5th International School Moot Competition 2020 held in Poland.

The eight-member team consists of four pupils from the Eastern Cape: Okhela Sigwela and Lizalise Dlomo (Hudson Park High School, East London); as well as Mhlahli Sofile and Ondela Bede (Holy Cross High, Mthatha). The rest of the team comprised learners from schools in KwaZulu-Natal.

“The University of Fort Hare’s School of Law paved the way to our success and we are grateful for the support,” said Okhela Sigwela, speaking on behalf of the EC team.

She spoke during an intimate breakfast meeting hosted by Eastern Cape Premier, Honourable Oscar Mabuyane and Education MEC, Mr Fundile Gade in honour of the EC team. Premier Mabuyane is a UFH alumnus.

The event was held at the East London ICC and was attended by parents, officials from the EC Department of Education (ECDoE), Office of the Premier and lecturers from the UFH Nelson R. Mandela School of Law.

According to UFH Senior Law Lecturer, Advocate Vuyo Booyesen, the Law Faculty got involved in the programme late last year after being approached by ECDoE.

“We received a request from the Department to support the programme



and also provide training to the learners.” Adv Booyesen said the request came after UFH won the Kate O’ Regan 2019 Interschool Moot Competition. “We saw this collaboration as the perfect opportunity to continue uplifting the province, country and continent at large,” he said.

Senior Lecturers and students in the Law Faculty were hailed for their commitment and contributions throughout the stages of the competition.

ECDoE Superintendent-General, Mr Themba Kojana, thanked Adv Booyesen, Dr Nombulelo Lubisi (Dean), Adv Sibulelo Seti (Senior Lecturer), Mr Toka Moeketsi (UFH Law graduate) and Mr Mthokozisi Mbixane (3rd-year Law Student) for their support.

“UFH contributed to the success of the programme by volunteering to faculty services and providing legal technical support to the learners,” said Mr Kojana.

Competition Background

For the EC learners, the journey to the international competition started in August last year. They represented their

schools in a provincial moot competition hosted by the Nelson R. Mandela School of Law in partnership with the provincial Human Rights Commission and the EC Department of Education (ECDoE). The winners formed the provincial team which proceeded to the national competition hosted by the University of Pretoria.

In the end, the SA team consisted of learners from the EC and KZN provinces who then proceeded to the international stage of the competition. SA competed against Bulgaria, Romania, Mongolia, St Marten, Venezuela and USA. In the last round, SA beat Team USA and became overall winners.

The moot case was based on the *Scene of Conflict over the past decade in Tabanath*.

The learners’ accomplishment is being celebrated all around the country. President Cyril Ramaphosa is among South Africans who have showered the winners with congratulatory messages.

The programme continues and UFH’s support remains unwavering.

by Aretha Linden



National Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity

Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity 2020 competition identifies, recognises and supports studentpreneurs across South Africa. **Entries open on 22 January 2020**



1. Introduction

The Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme is hosting the second annual national Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity from January to July 2020. The competition is funded through the University Capacity Development Programme of the Department Higher Education and Training (DHET) and is supported by Universities South Africa (USAf) and its partners.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity is to identify the top student entrepreneurs at the South African public universities, recognise and showcase their businesses, and invite investment into this cohort of student businesses. The competition also provides opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs in the ideation phase to pitch their innovative business ideas. In the process, universities will have the opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial talent and demonstrate the ways in which they support and grow the next generation of business leaders.

3. Categories

Studentpreneurs are invited to submit their innovative ideas or existing businesses in one of the following four categories:

- Category 1: Business Ideas
- Category 2: Existing Business – Tech
- Category 3: Existing Business – Social Impact
- Category 4: Existing Business – General

for more information or to register visit

www.edhe.co.za



UFH Blues Get Ready for Varsity Shield



"We are at 60% in terms of readiness and I am pleased with the positive attitude being displayed by the boys on and off the field"

It is just a little over two weeks to this year's highly anticipated rugby tournament, the 10th FNB and Steers powered Varsity Shield.

Nothing can be more mouth-watering than the Eastern Cape derbies and a double header which will be played at Nelson Mandela University on 21 February. The first game between Fort Hare Blues and Rhodes is scheduled to kick-off at 17h00. WSU All Blacks will lock horns with NMU Madibaz.

Throngs of supporters are expected to fill the stadium to the rafters.

At home, preparations for "Luma ke Blues" are at an advanced stage. "We are at 60% in terms of readiness and I am pleased with the positive attitude being displayed by the boys on and off the field", said Head Coach Lumumba Curry.

Four pre-season conditioning games have been arranged. The first one was played on 25 January in Port Elizabeth against Motherwell Mummies. Both A and B-sides gave a positive indication of what to expect in the shield. They scored 53-7 and 37-0 victories respectively.

Team Manager Sphiwe Ncege is just as confident that the team will do UFH proud and is urging everyone to support the team.

The winner of the Varsity Shield will be promoted to the lucrative FNB Varsity Cup next year.

Blues will also host UKZN Impi on 6 March as well as the defending champions CPUT, on 20 March. Both games will be played at the Davidson stadium, Alice campus. The games will be played on Friday evenings.

Other participants that our home team will face away from home are Nelson Mandela Madibaz, TUT, WSU.

Luma Ke Blues!

by Mawande Mrashula



CORONAVIRUS

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that are common among animals. In rare cases, they are what scientists call zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted from animals to humans.

The viruses can make people sick, usually with a mild to moderate upper respiratory tract illness, similar to a common cold.



HOW IT SPREADS

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands
- Rarely, fecal contamination



PREVENTION

There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against human coronavirus infection. Transmission is reduced through:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick

If you are mildly sick, keep yourself hydrated, stay at home, and rest.

If you are concerned about your symptoms, you should see your healthcare provider.

CORONAVIRUS: THE FACTS

- 1 Virus enters through the nose and mouth
- 2 It then finds a 'host cell' in the respiratory system
- 3 The host cell then bursts and infects other cells nearby

SYMPTOMS

- Runny nose
- Cough
- Sore throat
- High temperature

HOW IT SPREADS

Novel coronavirus first spread to humans from an animal – thought to be a snake – at the South China Seafood Wholesale Market.

The virus is transmitted between humans in droplets from coughing and sneezing and touching or shaking hands.

HOW IT CAN KILL

Most victims of the virus die from complications including pneumonia and swelling in the lungs.

The virus also causes swelling in the respiratory system, which can make it hard for the lungs to pass oxygen into the bloodstream – leading to organ failure and death.

Severe pneumonia can kill people by causing them to 'drown' in the fluid flooding their lungs.

CHINA
South China Seafood Wholesale Market, Wuhan

INDIA

1000 km

Upcoming Events

Faculty of Law Orientation

First Year Law Students: 10 February - Auditorium 1, East London @ 08h30

All Law Students: 11 February - Auditorium 1, East London @ 08h30

Official Opening of the University

Alice Campus: 13 February - Science Auditorium @ 10h00

East London Campus: 14 February - ABC Hall @ 10h00

Varsity Shield Rugby

From 14 February

Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Tribute Lecture

27 February - ABC Hall, East London @ 18h00

Human Movement Science 5km Parkrun

Every Saturday - HMS Gym, Alice @ 08h00



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THIS WEEK @FORT HARE

your weekly newsletter

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