



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

Institutional Advancement

Volume 1, issue 5

# This Week @ FORT HARE



**“ FORT HARE IS UNDER  
NEW MANAGEMENT  
and FORT HARE  
IS HAPPENING ”**

*[Click here for Video Interview with the VC](#)*

## Interview with the VC

**“The University of Fort Hare's senior management circle is now complete” All five executive management (MANCO) positions have now been filled. The university is now firmly positioned to stabilize the 103-year-old institution”. These are the reassuring words of our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu.**

Prof Buhlungu is referring to recent executive appointments which became effective between August and October 2019. Three substantive and experienced individuals have assumed the following roles:

- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs (DVC-AA):** Professor Renuka Vithal
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Support (DVC-IS):** Professor Nokwethemba Ndlazi, and
- **Registrar:** Mr Njabulo Zuma

These positions became vacant between 2017 and 2018. Professor John Hendricks was appointed Interim DVC-AA, Prof Lindelwa Majova Songca became Interim DVC-IS, while Professor Patrick Osode held the position of the Interim Registrar.

Professor Buhlungu said he was thrilled that the university now has the full complement of executive members.

It has always been a source of anxiety for me to have people acting in these positions. I always felt that we may have good people acting in these positions, who applied themselves and acquitted themselves excellently. However, it is not the same as having someone who has a substantive appointment”

Commenting on the appointment of the two women DVCs, Prof Buhlungu said: “We are very pleased with our two DVCs. Not only because they are women but because they come with massive experience gained over many years.”

Professor Vithal, an internationally recognized scholar in the social, cultural and political dimensions of mathematics education, commenced duties on 1st August and Professor Nokwethemba Ndlazi, a highly accomplished scholar and executive manager in higher education, started on 1st September.

A few months into their appointments, the university is already feeling the energy brought by the two DVCs. “We have been receiving positive feedback on their appointment and their vision for this university,” said Prof Buhlungu.

The circle of top managers completed at the beginning of October with the appointment of the Registrar, Mr Njabulo Zuma who joins the university from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) where he served as Director of Governance and Administration in the Office of the Registrar since 2013. Previously he was Assistant Registrar at the same university.

“We now have a complete circle, the VC, the two DVCs the Registrar and the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) are in place. And the message we want to send out is that the university is under new management. It cannot be business as usual.”

**“We are going to be very sympathetic and very supportive towards people. At the same time we are going to be very firm to ensure people do their job. And when they do their job, we will provide the necessary support”,** said the VC.

These appointments happen in the midst of very exciting developments in the university, including the launch of the Student Village Infrastructure Development in Alice which is set to provide 2047 beds to students when it is completed in 2020.

The university also recently approved a Gender-Based Violence policy to ensure GBV-free campuses that are safe for all.

“We are shifting from being a university driven by protest, disruption and instability to being a university that is stable,” said Prof Buhlungu.

### The future

The next step in the process is to fill the next tier of senior positions that have become vacant. “I must say, every time we advertise a post we attract people from across the spectrum, from top universities in the country and in the world. That says we are still in the game”.

## Vc's Year-end Message to Students

The academic year is coming to an end and students are preparing to write their final exams. As he always does, the VC conveyed a message of support encouragement.

**"I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our students success. I wish those who are completing their studies well in their future endeavors. I must say, in my three years at the university, I have seen excellence in students, both internally and when they are competing externally. I have no doubt in my mind that we shall continue on this positive trajectory."**

*Together in Excellence*

## FHISER HOSTS PROFESSOR CAROLINE NCUBE, UCT

On 4 October the Fort Hare Institute of Social and Economic Research (FHISER) hosted a lecture that was delivered by University of Cape Town Law Lecturer, Professor Caroline Ncube. The event was held at the Nursing Science Auditorium, East London campus.

The title of Prof Ncube's lecture was: *Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Knowledge, Innovation and Intellectual Property*.

The main thrust of the paper is that innovation in many fields (advertising, marketing, agriculture, creative industries, fashion, pharmaceutical industry, etc) is often informed and inspired by cultural heritage indigenous languages. This raises a vexed question of misappropriation, inadequate acknowledgement and remuneration, the source of cultural heritage or indigenous knowledge.

The paper considers South Africa's regulatory approach to the protection of cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge with examples from other jurisdictions.

Professor Ncube is a NRF-rated researcher who has authored more than 70 articles, conference papers and book chapters. She is the author of *Intellectual Property Policy, Law and Administration in Africa: Exploring*



*continental and sub-regional co-operation* and co-editor of *Indigenous Knowledge and Intellectual Property*. She co-edits the *South African Intellectual Property Law Journal* and serves on the editorial boards of several other journals.

She holds a PhD from the University of Cape Town, an LLB degree from the University of Zimbabwe and an LLM from the University of Cambridge. She is a Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society and a Shell Centenary Fund Scholar and an Associate Member of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society, at the University of Ottawa.

## ENABLING ROBUST DIALOGUE ON HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES:

### UFH hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Teaching and Learning Colloquium



The 3rd Teaching and Learning Colloquium, hosted by the UFH Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) was held at the East London ICC on 9-10th October. The gathering enables robust dialogue about key issues in the higher education sector.

Themed: *Quality of Teaching and Learning in the context of Free Higher Education: Should we be worried?*, the two-day colloquium is in its third year of running. It provides a forum for scholars and academics to initiate discussions and stimulate ideas on the subject at hand.

Researchers from the UFH, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Walter Sisulu University, North West and Vaal University of Technology engaged in intense dialogue on the critical issue of **Fee Free Education**.

Delivering the opening remarks, Prof Buhlungu (Vice-Chancellor) commended the organisers for choosing an intriguing theme. "The theme tries to draw us out and makes us think of the challenges outside the obvious question. Many people believed free education would produce only positive outcomes, and many believed that now that there is free higher education everything would be fine. On the face of it sounds very nice and simple, but

when we drill down and look under the surface, there are questions", said the VC, posing a challenge to participants.

According to Professor Renuka Vithal (DVC-Academic Affairs), the purpose of the day could be summed up in one sentence: "to develop a scholarship of teaching and learning." Commenting on the quality of the papers, she said, "the papers are thought provoking just by reading the abstracts."

Altogether, 16 research papers were presented.

The keynote address on day one was delivered by Dr William Mpfu, a researcher at the Wits Centre for Diversity Studies. He is a founding member of the Africa Decolonial Research Network. His address was based on his research study titled: *Epistemologies of the South: A Decolonial Approach to Curriculum Change in Africa*.

The programme concluded on Wednesday 10th October.





## *In conversation* with **PROF OSODE**

Just over a year ago, Professor Patrick Osode was requested to make himself available as Interim Registrar of the university. He took 48 hours to contemplate the request and said YES to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu.

So, on 19 September 2018 Prof Osode assumed the role of Interim Acting Registrar, a role he has served with dignity and integrity until the university filled the position with a permanent appointment on 7 October 2019.

*During a chat with [This Week @Fort Hare](#), Prof Osode took time to reminisce. "It has been an honour to step up on such a critical role in the university. There is no doubt that the office of the Registrar is not just a senior role, it's an absolute crucial role. It is the engine room of the university," he said.*

Even though he never aspired to be an Interim Registrar, Prof Osode said he was honoured to have served in this capacity.

"I must admit I did have some trepidations because I knew circumstances were not perfect. The context in which I was asked to step into office was not ideal. But I was clear that there was a vacuum and I needed to step in and fill that gap," he said.

Prof Osode, a full Professor in the Faculty of Law, has been with the University for 23 years. He started as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law. In 2002 he was promoted to Associate Professor and two years later he became a full professor.

He also served as the Head of the School of Law and the executive Dean of the Law Faculty between 2002 and 2011.

Sharing some of the highlights during his tenure as Interim Registrar, Prof Osode said many things occurred, good and bad, but he will focus on the positives.

"My first highlight is the 2018 Spring Graduation because it was my first graduation as Registrar. For the first time I had a different view of the graduation. I had to learn to put the hood over the students' head without pushing their hats down", he said chuckling.

A critical element of the Registrar's portfolio is the role of Secretary to Council. Prof Osode views this opportunity as another highlight. As Secretary, one assists Council to perform governance in accordance to the policy and legal prescripts and to ensure council operations are in accordance with legal policy prescripts.

"I found that there were problems in terms of how compliant Council had been. My highlight was actually trying to get Council to see how things should be done and to notch them back. This kind of tested my legal skills in different ways because I am used to using my legal training for teaching and research."

When asked about the future, Prof Osode confided that despite a punishing schedule, he never stopped supervising his masters and honours students. "I look forward to going back to spend more time in shaping the minds of the young academics I supervise. I also look forward to going back to my first love - Law."

In closing, Prof Osode conveyed words of encouragement to the new Registrar, Mr Njabulo Zuma. "He must be courageous and unrelenting in his insistence to ensure things are done in accordance with legal policy prescripts."



## **KEEPING POVERTY AT BAY**

It is common knowledge that the Eastern Cape is the poorest province in South Africa and many households are unable to meet their food needs. However, despite being located in a rural setting and facing the harsh realities of poverty on a daily basis, [the University's Agricultural and Rural Development Research Institute \(ARDRI\) is committed to improving the lives of rural people.](#)

[Through research and participation in policy discussion networks, the Institute aims to promote the expertise and knowledge that is available at the UFH while at the same time, promoting rural development.](#)

Founded in 1977, and based on the Alice campus, ARDRI is part of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, and enjoys close ties with the three agriculture-focused departments in the faculty. These are: the Department of Livestock and Pasture Science, the Department of Agronomy, and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension.

Professor Michael Aliber is the leader and Director of ARDRI. In addition to being research-focused, the Institute currently runs three initiatives aimed at keeping poverty at bay and putting food on the table. They are:

- (a) Food Security Study Group initiative;
- (b) Keiskammahoek (KKH) Farmers' Market and
- (c) Livestock Farmer Training initiative.

### **Food Security Group**

The food security study group initiative aims to help low-income households increase their home garden production, mainly for own consumption. "The other aim

of the initiative is to demonstrate the efficacy of the group-based, learning-focused approach, which is adapted from the Food and Agriculture Organisation's farmer field school approach. It is highly cost-effective."

### **KKH Farmers Market**

Professor Aliber said the KKH Farmers Market aims to make it easier for local farmers to sell their produce, and give consumers access to produce that is very fresh and affordable. "But again, our underlying objective was to test and demonstrate the efficacy of the approach. Government is mainly focusing on assisting farmers to access formal markets, which is ok, but that tends to be expensive and reach few farmers," he said.

Professor Aliber said while these two initiatives were worthy of being significantly expanded, unfortunately the Institute has not been successful in attracting the resources to do so. Both initiatives are run by UFH Agriculture graduates, Asanda Apleni and Wandisile Sixoto.

### **Livestock Farmers Training**

The third initiative trains livestock farmers to make amasi (sour milk), yogurt and cheese. This initiative began in late 2017 and now involves farmers from eight villages around Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality. The project is run by another UFH graduate, Dr Monday Idamokoro.

*Prof Michael Aliber has a BA-Religion, Williams College (USA), MA-Public Policy, University of Michigan (USA) and a PhD-Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin (USA).*

## UFH RESEARCHERS OCCUPY KEY POSITIONS AT ASnA

Two Researchers at the Fort Hare Institute for Social and Economic Research (FHISER) have been appointed to key positions in the Anthropology Southern Africa Association (ASnA).

**Dr Teresa Connor** has been appointed as one of four editors of the Anthropology Southern Africa Journal and **Dr Octavia Sibanda** was appointed Vice-President of the association.

ASnA is the professional association for social anthropologists living and working in Southern Africa and represents members in seven southern african countries. It is the organiser of the largest anthropological conference in Southern Africa and collaborates with other anthropological organisations across the continent, and the world.

Dr Sibanda said as a member of the council she intends to expand the association by recruiting more members and make anthropology relevant to current times.

*"Anthropology is a very old discipline, but now we have to move with time to speak to the needs of the current situation, she said.*



*Dr Octavia Sibanda*



*Dr Teresa Connor*

The Journal is an accredited peer-reviewed publication.

It aims to promote anthropology in Southern Africa, to support ethnographic and theoretical research, and to provide voices to contemporary debates in social and cultural anthropology, and in relevant interdisciplinary scholarship.

Dr Connor plans to use her newly acquired position to create space for relevant UFH authors and scholars, to put their research forward.

*"This appointment will put me in contact with a lot more scholars and that will enable me to push certain issues and also push the University and put the Eastern Cape in the fore," she said.*

## RESEARCH FOCUS

### AEASA CONFERENCE

The 57th Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA) conference was held in Bloemfontein on 8th-10th October 2019. This is an annual event where Agricultural Economists from across the world gather in South Africa. The theme of the conference is "Growing a Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture".

The conference opened with industry-oriented panel discussion sessions whose aim was to bring industry role players together with academics and government to facilitate mutual understanding of the unique challenges that face the sector. This will enhance the growth of a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.

The conference was attended by 249 delegates attended the conference. Of the 44 oral presentations, seven (16%) were authored and/or presented by UFH staff members.

#### UFH Oral Presentations

- **Mr. Maloka & Prof. Mushunje:** *Contribution of improved open pollinated variety (OPV) maize to livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Raymond Mhlaba and Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality*
- **Dr. Mdoda, Ms. Meleni & Dr. Mujuru:** *Agricultural credit effects on smallholder crop farmers input utilization in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa*
- **Ms. Mose, Prof. Mushunje, Dr. Ngarava & Ms. Molebatji:** *Determinants of information communication technology (ICT) use in livestock development programmes (LDPs). A case of KyD cattle development scheme*
- **Dr. Onomu & Prof. Aliber:** *Analysis of the smallholder farmer willingness to pay for tractor services in Delta and Benue States, Nigeria*
- **Dr. Ngarava, Prof. Mushunje & Dr. Chaminuka:** *Modelling ICT use in cattle marketing by smallholder farmers in South Africa: A structural equation approach*
- **Ms. Masinda, Dr. Muroyiwa & Prof. Mushunje:** *Smallholder farmers choice and adoption of coping strategies to mitigate the effect of drought on maize production in OR Tambo District Municipality*
- **Ms. Madyo, Prof Mushunje & Dr. Nhundu:** *Simulation of the economic impact of bovine brucellosis on dairy production: The case of KwaZulu-Natal and Free State Provinces, South Africa*
- **Mr. Phetshe, Prof. Mushunje & Dr. Ngarava:** *Market awareness and participation for cattle farmers in the Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo (KyD) scheme in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa*
- **Ms. Ntongolo, Dr. Akinyemi, Prof. Bester & Prof. Mushunje:** *My appetite my weight: Determinants of overweight and obesity among rural children in South Africa.*

#### UFH Poster Presentations

- **Ms. Ntongolo, Dr. Akinyemi, Prof. Bester & Prof. Mushunje:** *My appetite my weight: Determinants of overweight and obesity among rural children in South Africa.*

## RESEARCH FOCUS

### 2019 TEACHING AND LEARNING COLLOQUIUM

Research papers on Fee Free Higher Education presented by UFH staff:

- **Dr C Bisto and Dr V Lawal:** *Open Scholarship as a strategic imperative for widening access to free quality higher education*
- **Prof A van Coller and Ms B Brownyn:** *A comparative study of the success of the success of massification of higher education*
- **Ms N Mxotwa:** *"Free Higher Education in South Africa" Lessons from other countries*
- **Mr M Mpayipeli:** *Challenges and opportunities of using Blackboard Learning Management Systems in enhancing quality of teaching and learning post #FEESMUSTFALL: Insights from course evaluations*
- **Mr Y Madikizela:** *The Epistemological Dimension of Decolonisation: Undoing Colonial Structural Boundaries, Logic and Erasure*
- **Prof W Chinyamurindi:** *Private Sector concerns around quality education in South Africa: An exploratory study*
- **Dr D Mafa:** *An investigation on policy and system implementation, a critical developmental program to enhance quality free education. A case of Fort Hare University in the Eastern Cape South Africa*
- **Mr S Kwezi and Prof J Kheswa:** *Policies of Higher Education on study fees and their impact on the South African unemployed graduates*
- **Mr E Mashabala:** *Exploring free education as narrowing inequality gap between lower socioeconomic status and high socioeconomic status individuals*
- **Mr N Ncamane:** *Social impact bonds as an alternative method in financing free higher education*
- **Mrs A Riley:** *Reflecting on the implied discourses in the 'Free education Debate' as represented in online media coverage*
- **Ms S Mkosi; Ms A Mase; Mr A Hlwempu and Mr M Mpayipheli:** *Pedagogical implications of using WhatsApp as an integrated learning tool for Meat Science undergraduate student post #Feesmustfall: Is it effective and acceptable*
- **Mr D Hompashe:** *Does implementation of technology in higher education exacerbate inequalities? A literate review study*
- **Mrs W Terblanche; Mrs D Fakir; Dr C Birkholtz; Mrs T Ntisana; D Emsilie; Prof W Chinyamurindi; Prof S Mshi and Prof G Bartlett:** *The impact of lecturer competency, student self-esteem and mental toughness on students' perception of learning and academic achievement within the context of free higher education*

# DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK:

*Let Your Half Tiger  
Eat Someone Else's Needs*

The Disability Unit has been quite busy in recent weeks rolling out the annual Disability Awareness Week and Half Tiger fundraising campaign across the two campuses. The East London leg took place on 12-16th August and Alice ran from 30th September - 4th October 2019.

The aim of the Half Tiger campaign is to raise funds for UFH students with disability needs. The campaign also serves as an outreach to schools for community-based learners with disabilities. The slogan - *Let Your Half Tiger Eat Someone Else's Needs* - is premised on the understanding that everyone can afford to donate R5 (Half Tiger).

The Half Tiger campaign was launched in 2015 by Mr Samuel Van Musschenbroek, the DU Coordinator. Since then, the campaign has contributed significantly into improving the lives of our students. The first beneficiary, Phelisa Loleka, received a pair of artificial limbs which were partly financed by the campaign. She was able to walk again after 10 years and this year she is pursuing her 4th year Social Work degree.

This year, funding from the campaign was used to purchase provisions for a school which caters for learners with disabilities. The school is based in Alice.

Van Musschenbroek believes the Half Tiger campaign will build camaraderie among members of the university community. **"It is an affordable way for all to give money and show love and care towards fellow students with disabilities within the university and neighbouring communities. It may take a few years to raise awareness, but we certainly hope the day will come when everyone in the university is aware, takes pride and participates meaningfully"**, said Sam.

Volunteers went around all campuses to collect donations from students and staff and the response been heart-warmingly positive.



## **BABY BLUES** *make us proud*

The University of Fort Hare ladies rugby team, the Baby Blues, played their hearts out during a four team maiden Varsity Sports tournament hosted by the University of Johannesburg on 4-5th October.

The ladies went all the way to the finals only to be beaten by a determined University of Pretoria side by 29-0. Down but not out.

The maiden tournament left head coach, Ntyatyambo Mkafu, happy man "we are growing each and every year as the team and we are achieving good results. But there are also a few boxes that still need be ticked" said a beaming Mkafu.

Despite a very busy academic schedule and other rugby tourneys, "I want to see this team grow and become one of the best feeders to the national team", he said.

Mkafu leads a team of players who are willing to learn, play the game as it should be played and enjoy themselves while at it.



*Congratulations Baby Blues. Nokholeji is behind you all the way.*



### **STAFF SPORTS HANDING OVER A GIFT TO THE VC** *in appreciation of the university's support*

*02 October 2019 - Alice Campus*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Book Launch by Khusta Jack**

When: 16 October 2019  
Time: 12pm - 2pm  
Venue: CLEA boardroom, Alice

### **Centre for Transdisciplinary Studies Monthly Seminar Series**

When: 16 October 2019  
Time: 1pm to 3pm  
Venue: Main Boardroom, East London and ICT Boardroom, Alice

### **Exams Students Counselling workshop**

When: 16 October 2019  
Time: 5pm to 6pm  
Venue: Elco Lecture Hall, East London and Black Auditorium, Alice

### **Research and Innovation Day hosted by the Govan Mbeki Research Development Centre**

When: 18 October 2019  
Time: 8am to 4pm



**University of Fort Hare**  
*Together in Excellence*

# **THIS WEEK @ FORT HARE**

## **your weekly newsletter**

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