



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

# UFH NEWS

APRIL-MAY 2023

## AFRICA MONTH CINEMA FESTIVAL @ FORT HARE FILM



# ALICE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

## An epitome of Government's District Development Model

**“This partnership is a classic example of saying: A rising tide raises all boats.” - Vice-Chancellor**

The collaborative project between the University of Fort Hare (UFH), Amathole District Municipality (ADM), and the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality (RMLM) to deliver one of the most important basic human rights – access to safe drinking water – to the residents of Alice has been hailed as government's District Development Model (DDM) in action.

The water treatment works project in Ntselamanzi is one of two developments funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) to the tune of R130-million, the second project entails the upgrading of the wastewater treatment works.

Two months after the site was handed over to Mpumalanga Construction (PTY), a delegation from UFH led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu; ADM led by Executive Mayor Anele Ntsangani and Raymond Mhlaba LM led by Mayor Nomhle Sango, visited the site to re-affirm their commitment to delivering this service to the Alice community – including the 10 000 students on the University's main campus.

On this project, UFH is the implementation agent, ADM is the owner of the water treatment works, and Raymond Mhlaba LM is the beneficiary of the project. The process is facilitated by the University in conjunction with Raymond Mhlaba LM following the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

On arrival, the delegation found contractors hard at work, drilling, grinding, and excavating. The visitors were taken on a tour of the site led by Dave De Wet from Sinakho Consulting and a progress report was shared by Lusanda

Sihlahla, the Managing Director of Mpumalanga Construction (PTY).

During the site handover in February, the VC said this project is a perfect example of the District Development Model introduced by the Presidency which encourages all three spheres of government to work together to coordinate and integrate development plans.

“This partnership is a classic example of saying: A rising tide raises all boats,” - said the VC.

The DDM initiated by President Cyril Ramaphosa is an operational model for improving Cooperative Governance aimed at building a capable, ethical Developmental State. It embodies an approach by which the three spheres of government and state entities work in unison in an impact-oriented way, and where there is higher performance and accountability for coherent service delivery and development outcomes.

Executive Mayor Ntsangani echoed the VC's sentiment saying: “This project is a step in the right direction towards government's DDM - a model that seeks to foster a practical intergovernmental relations mechanism to plan, budget and implement jointly to provide a coherent government for the people of this country.”

Mayor Sango said it will bring much-needed relief to the communities of Alice. “As you are aware the town is facing ongoing water supply challenges. We are grateful for the project because it will bring those challenges to an end.”



The work to be carried out entails extensive upgrades on the treatment plant, the reservoir, and the reticulation/ piping system. The current capacity of the water treatment works is between 70 and 80 litres per second and once the upgrade work is complete the capacity will increase to 140 litres per second.

#### The scope of work is as follows:

- Flocculent channels to be increased from 30 metres to 95 metres
- Two new sedimentation basins are to be constructed in addition to the three existing basins.
- Two additional sand filters to be installed in addition to the three existing sand filters.
- Chlorine dosing to be upgraded following hailstorm damage.

- Existing sludge ponds to be cleaned.
- Existing building to be renovated, including a canteen area for the staff.
- A new 5Ml reservoir will be constructed adjacent to the existing reservoir and the old reservoir to be refurbished.
- A new pipeline will be installed from treatment works to the reservoirs.

The development is expected to take 14 months to complete and upon completion, the campus and surrounding households will have an increased and more reliable water supply with adequate pressure.





# INDEPENDENT WHISTLE-BLOWERS HOTLINE

## Major step in programme to root out corruption

An independent whistle-blower's hotline has been launched.

The initiative forms part of the University's commitment to identify, respond to and root out corruption as part of its renewal programme. The event was held at the new student centre on the Alice campus.

The line offers multiple reporting channels including a toll-free number 0800 834 834 (0800 UFH UFH); an e-mail address ([ufh@whistleblowing.co.za](mailto:ufh@whistleblowing.co.za)), a website ([www.whistleblowing.co.za](http://www.whistleblowing.co.za)), an SMS line (33490) and a WhatsApp chatbot and call facility (0313084664).

UFH chief internal auditor Mr. Nkanyane Hangalakani emphasised that the hotline enables whistleblowers to report without fearing victimisation. The reporting lines are managed by a third-party and accredited organisation specialising in whistleblowing, he said.

The hotline service will enable whistleblowers to report dishonest and unlawful activities including but not restricted to irregularities, fraud, theft, bribery, and other dishonest activities or acts perpetrated by service providers, employees, students or any external stakeholders.

VC Professor Sakhela Buhlungu said that the independent whistleblower is part of a turnaround plan to deal with fraud and corruption at the University spanning over several decades.

"We have taken this task very seriously. Since 2018, we have acted on more than fifty staff members through disciplinary hearings. The whistle-blower hotline will provide confidentiality and safe environment for people."

Mr Sathie Gouden, a member of the UFH Council said the relaunch of the hotline is in response to recent breaches of ethics and abuse of power within the institution.

"The initiative will assist the Management Executive Committee and Council to ensure transparency, accountability, and integrity in all areas of the university's operations. It is also a fundamental way to protect the rights of students, staff and the wider community," he said.

SRC President, Siphokazi Mbalo said: "This is a major step in the right direction for the university to eradicate corruption. The university will not be crippled anymore, funds will no longer be directed in the wrong direction. Under the university's renewal programme, corruption is a no-go".



[Click here to watch highlight video from the launch](#)

# DEGREES IN HAND AND DRIVING LICENSES IN THE POCKET

The University and the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality have made a pact to aid UFH students to obtain their driving licenses.

The first-of-its-kind collaboration between the University and the Municipality was instigated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu when during his 2023 Official University Opening speech posed a challenge to the Dean of Students, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo to fulfill two things. One was to initiate a programme that will ensure when a student graduates, they have a degree in hand and a driver's license in their pocket, the second task was to utilize the Alice campus' Olympic-sized swimming pool to give students swimming lessons.

On 11 May, the Dean lived up to one of the challenges when the Student Drivers License programme was launched with the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the VC and the Raymond Mhlaba Municipal Manager, Ms Unathi Malinzi to seal the commitment.

Witnessing this historic moment was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Prof Renuka Vithal; the Mayor of Raymond Mhlaba, Councillor Nomhle Sango and a delegation from her office; ward councilor Luxolo Nqala; the Dean; staff from Student Affairs and students who filled the Alice campus' New Student Centre to its rafters.

In the agreement, the Municipality pledged to fulfill the following roles and responsibilities:

- Provide the University with a platform to test for driving and learner's licenses.
- Assist in supervision and administration process of driving and learners license testing.
- Assist the University student to spend less time at the municipal driving license center.

- Provide alternative appointments date when students are engaging in exams.
- Assist the University to fast track the process of retesting for the students who were unsuccessful on the initial test.

While the University committed itself to:

- Decide on the students who qualify to be part of the programme.
- Co-ordinate and facilitate the selection of qualifying applicants.
- Ensure the availability of applicants for the administration processes and testing of driving or learner's licenses.
- Ensure the readiness of the applicants before the municipality conducts tests.
- Inform the applicants about requirements (including application fee and K53 method of driving license testing) under this program.
- Provide the municipality with a well-organized list of applicants required to be tested for driving or learner's licenses.
- Ensure students pay fees for both learners and driving licenses.

The MOU forms part of a bigger commitment between the two parties, a commitment to work together to revitalize and develop the town of Alice. It comes hot on the heels of the water infrastructure project launched in February, where the University (implementing agent) Raymond Mhlaba (beneficiary) Amathole District Municipality (owner) have collaborated to realize this multi-million-rand development that will end erratic water supply to the town of Alice.



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# HONOURING THE *Life and Legacy of Chris Hani*

Thirty years after Chris Hani was assassinated on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1993, the University through its Centre for Leadership Ethics in Africa (CLEA) hosted a memorial seminar in celebration of the life and legacy of the South African Communist Party leader.

Held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April at the De Beers Arts Gallery on the University's Alice Campus, the objective was to share the thoughts of the gifted and charismatic leader who fought for a society free of racism and to measure how far South Africa has gone and the shortcomings in realizing Hani's ideologies.

Head of CLEA, Dr Chris Alsobrook described Hani as a fearless leader who always looked forward to uplifting the poor of the poorest, a person who was never enticed by the perks of the new government. The session was also a reminder to the audience about the importance of ethical leadership to guide the country into a renewed path.

Five speakers were lined up to deliver on the legacy of Chris Hani, an esteemed alumni of the university.

They included:

- Cleopatra Hani, Hani daughter;
- Temba Hani, Chris Hani's cousin;
- Dr Vuyani Boozi, a former student and employee at UFH's Liberation Archives who is currently the CEO of the Nelson Mandela Museum;
- Evelien Groenink, award-winning Investigative Journalist and Author;
- Kwezi Mbasa, a senior economic and social policy researcher at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in South Africa, is also a former MISTRA researcher in the faculty of political economy and has served as national social policy coordinator for COSATU;
- Nelisa Tona, UFH History Honours student;

Straight talking Cleo said it was painful to witness that even after 30 years, some of the struggles Hani fought against, remain. She lamented the lack of service delivery to communities, the unfair treatment of MK Veterans and education institutions that are in shambles. She wondered whether the young people of today would fit in the digital world or

would just follow what others are doing and not take the lead. "We must speak the truth our country is in shambles," she stressed.

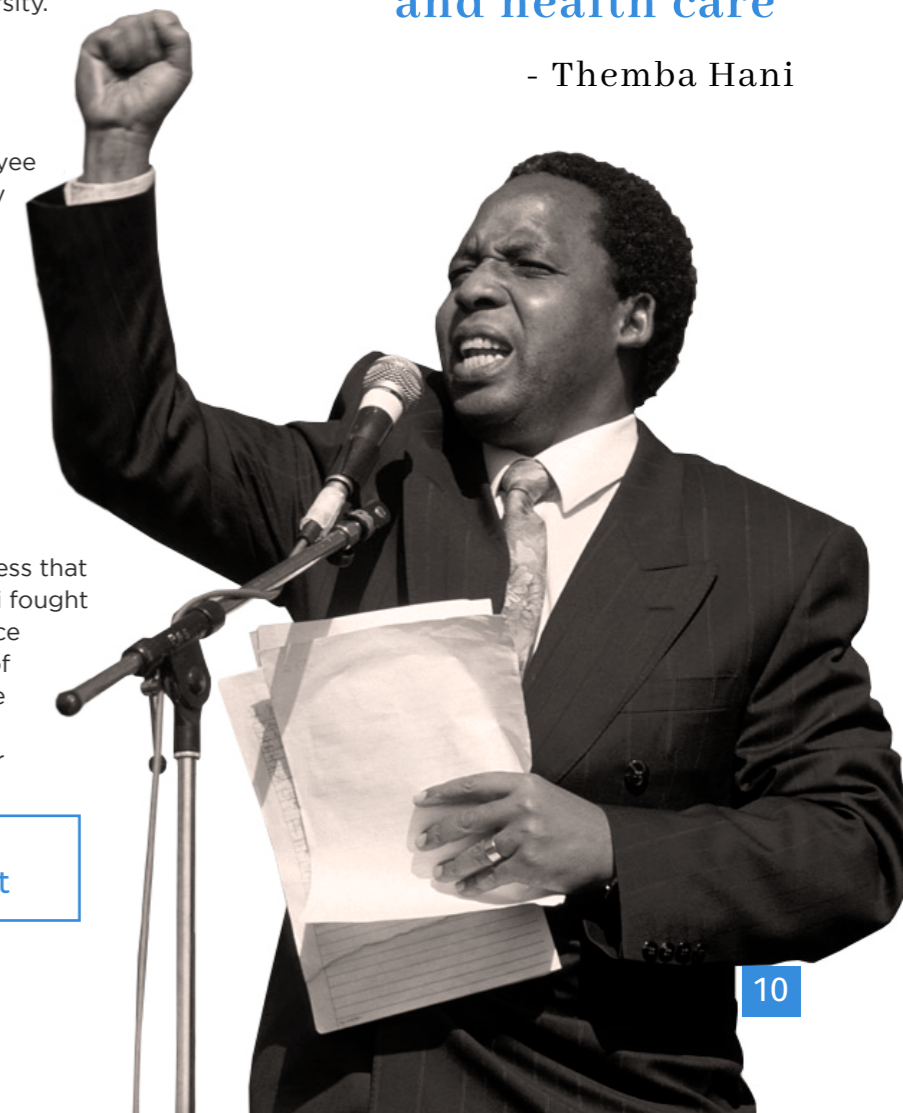
Themba Hani, described "Chris" as brave and strong-headed and a person who had the ability to stand for what he believed in. "His life taught us to be humble and to have boundaries. His life was about access to land and health care". He thanked the SACP for entrusting Chris with such a responsibility and called on the government to name one of the Presidential awards after Chris.

**"His life taught us to be humble and to have boundaries. His life was about access to land and health care"**

- Themba Hani



[Click here to watch highlight video from the event](#)



# NRF-FUNDED R1.9 MILLION TECHNOLOGY BOLSTERS ANIMAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

A newly procured state-of-the-art feed and food analysis technology, the FT-Near-infrared (FT-NIR) Technology, has put the University of Fort Hare's Department of Livestock and Pasture Science on the Alice Campus at the forefront of animal science research.

The technology funded by the National Research Foundation Infrastructure Funding Instruments through its National Equipment Programme Grants to the tune of R1.9 million is an ideal method for routine analysis in the food and feed industry.

Using infrared radiation, the FT-NIR analyzes the molecular structure of materials and can provide accurate and fast results without requiring extensive sample preparation, making it a highly efficient method for the food and feed industry, where large quantities of samples need to be analyzed daily.

This equipment will benefit the university community and its surrounding by improving food and feed quality, promoting healthy eating habits, and protecting public health. It will also widen employment opportunities for our students.

According to the NRF grant holder, Dr Ishmael Festus Jaja who is also a UFH Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Livestock and Pasture Science, apart from one private company in the Eastern Cape, UFH is the only place where you can find the NIR device. "Acquiring this technology places us ahead of other institutions in food and feed systems and meat science research," he said.

Dr Jaja, together with Dr Akinmoladun who is a part-time lecturer and Post-Doctoral fellow at the Department, and Mr Dumisani Pepe, the Department's Senior Laboratory Technician shared more details about this equipment and its benefits.

According to the trio, the FT-NIR technology can be used for various applications in the food and feed industry, including analysing protein, fat, moisture, and other important nutrients. It can also identify and quantify contaminants affecting food safety, such as mycotoxins and pesticides.

"One of the key advantages of FT-NIR technology is its non-destructive nature, meaning that samples can be reused after analysis. This is particularly important in the food and feed industry, where samples can be limited, and wastage is a concern. Additionally, it is a reliable and accurate method, with low detection and high precision limits, ensuring that the results obtained are trustworthy."

"Overall, the FT-NIR technology is a highly efficient and reliable method for routine analysis in the food and feed industry. Its non-destructive nature, accuracy, and fast results make it an ideal tool for quality control and assurance, process monitoring, and research and development," they explained.

This is how this equipment will benefit the University, graduates, surrounding communities and the food and feed industry:

- **Research and development:** Students and researchers can use the FT-NIR technology to conduct experiments and research projects on food and feed analysis. It will assist students to analyze food samples more efficiently and accurately and help them to learn about the principles and applications of spectroscopy.
- **Quality control and assurance:** It can be used by food and feed manufacturers to ensure the quality and safety of their products. This can help to prevent the distribution of contaminated or unsafe products and protect public health.
- **Improved nutrition:** FT-NIR technology can help identify the nutritional composition of foods, which can be helpful in designing and developing more nutritious food products. This can benefit the wider community by promoting healthy eating habits and improving overall health outcomes.
- **Food safety:** The equipment can detect contaminants and other harmful substances in food and feed products. This can help to prevent foodborne illness and protect public health.



**“One of the key advantages of FT-NIR technology is its non-destructive nature, meaning that samples can be reused after analysis. This is particularly important in the food and feed industry, where samples can be limited, and wastage is a concern.”**

- **Employment opportunities:** This technology is becoming increasingly popular in the industry, and students with hands-on experience in its use and application may have better employment opportunities and job prospects.

This revolutionary equipment will also benefit the Department's strategic partners and collaborations. These include the University of Pretoria, the University of Kwa Zulu Natal, and the University of Zulu Land where academicians in these institutions co-supervise postgraduate students. Also, it will strengthen the research relationship with Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute and the Dohne Agricultural Development Institute.

Internationally, it will boost the Department's contribution to existing research collaborations with the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences in Wroclaw, Poland.

Internally, a three-day training on installing parameters and usage of the NIR was conducted and attended by staff and students from the Department of Agronomy, Botany, and Livestock and Pasture Science.

# Faculty of Health Sciences partners in landmark PHD grant programme to train the next generation of HIV/Aids researchers in SA

**“This grant will be used towards training that is aimed at building capacity in the field of HIV/AIDS research at Fort Hare, in the Eastern Cape and nationally.”**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023 marked the launch of a groundbreaking multilateral PhD training programme between the University of Fort Hare (UFH), Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (DTHF), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), University of Cape Town and the University of California Global Health Institute (UCGHI) that seek to empower the next generation of HIV/Aids researchers in South Africa.

Dubbed, Khulani Siphile Siphuhle Training Program (KiSS-TP), the training programme is funded by the United States National Institute of Health's D43 International Research Training Grants programme to the value of \$1.4 million over a period of five years (2023-2028) and is supported by the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

The training consortium comprises all the partnering institutions that will offer intensive, interdisciplinary and mentored PhD training to carefully selected Masters-level staff from UFH, WSU and the DTHF research programme in the Eastern Cape.

Sharing some background on this landmark project, UFH Health Sciences Dean, Prof Mzikazi Nduna said, in 2022, the Faculty collaborated with

DTHF and UCGHI to implement a mentoring training project for senior staff at the Faculty. During the same period, a memorandum of understanding was signed between UFH and DTHF under which the PhD training and capacity building project falls under.

“It was clear from that training that there was a capacity gap in the Faculty in terms of PhD holders. In 2022, the University approved a policy that a PHD degree would be a minimum requirement for appointment into a lecturer position. These two realities necessitated that we increase opportunities for PhD training to ensure staff in the Faculty improve their academic qualifications.”

According to Prof Nduna, the Faculty has been involved in HIV/Aids, TB, and STI research since its inception.

“Various members of staff are involved in research on HIV biomedical and psychosocial prevention interventions. Others conduct research on the clinical management of HIV whilst some are involved in generating evidence on what care and support mechanisms work. This research informs teaching and learning in our postgraduate offerings such as the Master of Public Health programme as well as our flagship Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Management of HIV/Aids programme.

Expanding on the significance and the impact of this joint research training venture, Prof Nduna said it would address the endemic shortage of academics and researchers the country is currently facing.

“This is especially so in rural provinces such as the Eastern Cape. In 2021, the University established a Deputy-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Partnership and Innovation portfolio to support research and postgraduate studies, investment needs to go into supporting this directorate. faculties need to contribute to building research capacity for the University and beyond. This grant will be used towards training that is aimed at building capacity in the field of HIV/AIDS research at Fort Hare, in the Eastern Cape and nationally. Best practice has demonstrated that we can successfully build capacity if we build strong North-South collaborations, and this is one of those for the Faculty.”

“The successful candidates will be registered at UCT and will be taught by Faculty staff from across all the partner Universities. The programme has training opportunities that will be opened to selected candidates through short courses and training workshops. These will be linked to the work that the Faculty is already doing through the seminar series which is hosted at the [Health Sciences Institute](#).”

The programme has multiple principal investigators that are tasked with different roles, and they are:

**Andrew Medina-Marino (DTHF)** will serve as the contact PI for this grant, including overall administrative and financial oversight of the program, support of mentoring relationships between trainees and DTHF faculty, and collaborations with the other UCT D43 programs. He will also oversee the assignment of mentors.

**Linda-Gail Bekker (University of Cape Town)** will oversee the administration of the UCT PhD program and will support the mentoring relationships between trainees and UCT faculty.

**Craig Cohen (University of California Global Health Institute)** will lead the UCGHI component including administration, support of mentoring relationships between trainees and UC faculty, online coursework at UCGHI institutions, and in-country workshops.

**Mzikazi Nduna (University of Fort Hare)** will oversee the mentoring relationships between trainees and UFH faculty, as well as convene and lead the Mentoring-the-Mentors program for UFH and WSU faculty.

**Ola Oladimeji (Walter Sisulu University)** will support the mentoring relationships between trainees and WSU faculty, will convene the KiSS-TP Seminar Program, and will manage the mentor-mentee training contract process.

According to Medina-Marino, all the PI's will ensure proper budget management and necessary oversight for cost control by interacting with the financial management team at DTHF.

Asked about the direct impact of the programme on the province and the country, Prof Nduna responded: “This project is a good example of growing own timber as the candidates will be based in the Eastern Cape institutions and are likely to remain in the province. As for the country, with the aging cohort and the skewed racial distribution of scientists in South Africa, there is an aggressive drive to train the next generation of Black South African scientists. HIV/AIDS remains high on the list of the burden of disease and the cause of mortality in South Africa. Training HIV/AIDS researchers remains a priority for the country if we want to achieve the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan (NSP) and SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) of having 95% of people know their statuses, 95% of those who know their status being on treatment, and 95% of those on treatment being virally suppressed.”

# UFH HOSTS NATIONAL STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS' ANNUAL SUMMIT

## The University had the honour of hosting this year's National Association of Student Development Professionals (NASDEV) Best Practice Summit.

NASDEV is a body for Student Services and Development Practice in the Post School Education and Training (PSET) sector. The annual summit is aimed at shaping the capacity and capabilities of the members of this emerging professional practice by creating a platform for self-introspection and developing innovative pathways for this practice to be as proactive as possible.

The hosting of the event comes a few months after UFH Dean of Student Affairs, Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo was voted the "Most Visible, Relevant and Coolest" Student Affairs professional in the country by members of the South African Association of Senior Student Affairs Professionals in December 2022.

More than 80 delegates convened at the Miriam Makeba Arts Centre on the East London Campus, to present papers and hold deliberations under the theme: "Forging Pathways in Student Affairs for Reflection, Restoration for the Future."

The four-day summit proceeding included paper presentations, panel presentations, and dialogue sessions that carried various sub-themes that are in line with advancing social cohesion and transformation in Higher Education.

Welcoming the delegates, UFH Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu commended NASDEV for having paper presentations, saying: "It is an excellent idea that will ensure that the best practice set of papers presented at the summit are shared across the sector."

The guests were also welcomed by NASDEV President Dr Bernard Sebake who, in conjunction with Dean Tshikhudo officially opened the summit.

Some of the papers and deliberations were held under the following titles:

- Creating Pathways for Social Cohesion in Higher Education: The role of Student Affairs SAASSAP Representative
- Promoting Social Cohesion and Social Justice within Higher Education to Advance Good Governance by Mr Buntu Mnyaka- Sol Plaatje University
- Social Cohesion and Transformation in a Historically Advantaged Institution: A Case of the University of the Free State by Ms Zoleka Dotwana- University of Free State
- Effective strategies that the Central University of Technology uses to forge social cohesion through student wellness, the role of sport and arts and culture by Ms Blessing Ngo- Central University of Technology
- The Adoption of Digital Technology in Higher Education with Reference to Student Affairs by Ms Nicole Morris- Sol Plaatje University.





## UFH WELCOMES FELLOWS FROM USA'S KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

The Centre for Transdisciplinary welcomed students from Kent State University's Centre for African Studies who are on the Heritage Ubuntu Fellowship.

The Research Programme between South Africa and the United States intends to provide a transatlantic platform for conversations on the problematic histories and contemporary issues that connect South Africa and the United States.

Further, it promotes democratic discourse and 'understanding of US values, perspectives, policies, and relationship building between Americans and South Africans. The programme includes advocating for cross-pollination of ideas, experiences, values, academic and personal exchange between UFH and KSU for better global citizenry, inclusivity and social cohesion.

During their stay, the fellows accompanied by Dr. Felix Kumah-Abiwu, the Founding Director of the Center for African Studies and Associate Professor in the Department of Africana Studies at Kent State, will be exposed to formal and informal learning and teaching in an African university setting.

Under informal learning, they will visit a range of cultural heritage sites within the Eastern Cape Province and observe cultural and social activities, and also participate in some local social and historical activities.

The group also participated in the University's Africa Day celebrations held on 25 May.

In terms of formal learning and teaching, they will attend some classes and participate in small group discussions with students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. These activities will allow them to learn more about South Africa while also sharing their experiences, cultures and values with their counterparts and facilitators.

The US fellows were welcomed by Dr Nomzamo Dube from the Centre of Transdisciplinary Studies and Dr Hulani Mabasa, Director of International Affairs and Partnership.

The UFH fellows will visit Kent State University later this year.





*Reaching Out  
to those in need*

**“We are caring for people who are sometimes forgotten by society or even by their own families and to have Fort Hare and other donors visiting the facility bearing gifts, brings joy to the residents” - Ms Lulekwa Nanto**

The University of Fort Hare’s Nursing Department under the Faculty of Health Sciences donated much-needed patient beds with mattresses and bedside lockers to Silver Crown old age home in Amalinda, East London.

A group of staff members, led by Senior Lecturer Ms Thandi Khumalo and Ms Cleo Mthethwa who is the acting lab manager visited the centre to hand over the donation.

According to Ms Khumalo, the kind gesture was initiated by the faculty’s infrastructure committee upon realizing it had a surplus of assets in its clinical laboratory. “A collaborative decision was made to donate the spare equipment to those in need. This is also our way of giving back to the community that we service as health practitioners.”

The more than 100-year-old state-owned facility located on the Amalinda Main Road is currently home to 36 senior people (above the age of 60) some of who are battling chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension.

The donation was greatly appreciated by the centre manager, Ms Lulekwa Nanto.

“It might seem small to others but to us, it is a big deal. We have residents who are ill and cannot sleep on normal beds because they need to be elevated. These beds will certainly bring comfort to some of our residents.”

“We are caring for people who are sometimes forgotten by society or even by their own families and to have Fort Hare and other donors visiting the facility bearing gifts, brings joy to the residents,” said Nanto.

## Psychology Dept and UK-Based Charity Trust Partnership Empowers Communities and Students

A partnership between the University of Fort Hare’s (UFH) Psychology Department and the Borien Educational Foundation for Southern Africa (BEFSA) - a UK-based charitable trust, non-profit and public benefit organization working towards reducing poverty in Southern Africa through educational programmes and initiatives - has yielded two impactful community engagement initiatives.

Under the leadership of Dr Rivca Marais, a Lecturer in the Psychology Department and a Counseling

Psychologist, the partnership seeks to empower surrounding communities through community engagements and empower students by affording them practical experience.

The first initiative, the Ntabenkonyana High School project focuses on creating awareness about teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence. The project is run in partnership with the Occupational Therapy Department of Alice Hospital and Occupational Therapist, Zintle Mdeleleni. Dr. Gxamza who is a lecturer at the

Department is also part of the team, bringing her expertise in community psychology.

“Our aim is to create awareness, provide support, and make a positive impact in the lives of these vulnerable young individuals.”

The second project is Early Childhood Development in collaboration with BEFSA and Themba Connect NGO in Adelaide. “In this project, we promote the importance of early childhood development through our psycho-educational workshops, we offer parents valuable insights into various topics, including parenting, developmental milestones, optimal child development, stimulation techniques, bonding, autism, ADHD, and sexual abuse prevention.”

According to Dr Marais, the Social Work Student Association will soon be joining these efforts to enhance the impact further.

These projects benefit both the communities and the honours students who are involved in these projects, gaining valuable practical experience as part of their learning outcome.

“We believe that community engagement is not just a responsibility but an opportunity for growth and transformation. These projects empower our students to make a real difference while gaining invaluable experience. We are grateful to all our partners and collaborators who have made these initiatives possible. Together, we can create positive change and contribute to the well-being of our community.”

**“We believe that community engagement is not just a responsibility but an opportunity for growth and transformation.” - Dr Rivca Marais**





**“I believe that the projects that UFH Libraries has undertaken in realizing its strategic goal are achievable. It can be done, small steps are always the biggest ones to success.” - Mr Delight Sigauke**

## **NUST ACADEMIC VISITS UFH LIBRARIES TO IMPART EXPERTISE ON DIGITAL ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT**

Beginning the month of May, the University of Fort Hare (UFH) Libraries welcomed Mr Delight Sigauke, a Lecturer from the Department of Records and Archives Management at the National University of Science of Technology (NUST) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Mr Sigauke is an academic with specialisation in digital archives with over 14 years lecturing, research expertise and mentoring in digitization, computer applications in the digital humanities and their integration in library and archives digital repository systems.

He will spend four weeks at UFH as a Visiting Academic offering professional service in the scarce skills area of digital curation and building the competencies of UFH librarians in advanced digital literacy.

According to the Director of UFH Libraries, Dr Connie Bitso, during his stay, Mr Sigauke will facilitate workshops for UFH Library staff on digital curation and workflows for digitisation in the Digital Library Service Department. “He will also offer workshops to our Information Librarians on advanced delivery of digital and data literacies as part of our Information Literacy for the Digital Age Initiative (#IL4DAI) that was approved by Senate in 2022,” she said.

Special collections and other at-risk information materials of the University are currently being digitized for long-term preservation by UFH Libraries’ Digitisation Centre as part of the broader digital transformation. This initiative is strongly aligned to one of the institutional goals set out in the University’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan which is to provide an efficient, fit for purpose infrastructure and support service to the University community.

In an interview with UFH’s Institutional Advancement Department (Marketing and Communications), Mr Sigauke expressed his

honour and excitement to be invited by the UFH Libraries as a visiting Academic at this great African University.

“I view this as an opportunity to share and impart my knowledge, skills and expertise in digital technologies for digital curation and digital literacy. I am also here to learn and collaborate with the UFH Libraries on its digitization and digital transformation journey after which I will also gain new knowledge and make academic comparisons with how it is done by other institutions.”

Mr Sigauke is also the founder and lead researcher of the Digital Innovations for Archives and Libraries (Di4AL) at NUST and has presented research papers and conducted pre-conference training workshops in digital methods for the humanities, libraries, and archives profession.

He holds a Bachelors’ degree and Master of Philosophy from the National University of Science and Technology.

Currently, he is in his final year of study at the University of Cape Town where he is pursuing his second MPhil degree specialising in Digital Curation. For his dissertation, he is conducting a comparative study on the digitisation workflows in libraries.

“I am doing this research to establish and contribute to our profession, the state of practice for workflows that are most sustainable, especially for least resourced libraries,” he said.

“At the end of my visit, I would like to leave UFH with deliverables that will assist them to leap forward in terms of digital technology adoption and implementation. I believe that the projects that UFH Libraries has undertaken in realizing its strategic goal are achievable. It can be done, small steps are always the biggest ones to success.”

# HOGSBACK FIELD TRIP EQUIPS ENTOMOLOGY STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

A group of third years and honours Entomology students from the Zoology and Entomology Department recently completed a three-day field trip at Hogsback as part of their training to empower them with skills required for their postgraduate studies and careers.

Entomology is the study of insects and their relationship to humans, the environment, and other organisms.

The main objective of the annual field trip is to teach students basic field trip planning skills and to introduce them to various insect collection techniques, learn more about the motives behind sampling sites selection and to learn further insect preservation and identification methods.

According to UFH entomology lecturer, Ms Pfarelo Grace Tshivhandekano, in class, the students get to learn about all sorts of entomological information without much hands-on experience that they would get outside in the environment where insects exist.

“During the field trip, they get to observe live insects feeding on plants, dung, and other materials and if they are lucky, they can even

catch them mating and even in the process of molting or even laying eggs. Thus, each year we embark on field trips usually to Hogsback for the students to put into practice what they learn in class.”

On the trip, the students are accompanied by MSc students and staff from the department. The third years assist the honours students with collecting insects using different techniques and using different identification guides for identification. In the process, also familiarize themselves with the techniques. The role of honours students is extended to identifying the insects collected and writing a report on their composition and diversity.

The master students and staff serve as advisors to assist the students with, firstly, planning of field trips, site selection, and execution of the techniques. They also share survivor skills of being out in the field for several days with access to only a few necessities.

Sharing more detail on the activities of the field trip, Ms Tshivhandekano said: “Some of the activities include using pitfall traps to collect insects, which is a technique used to collect mostly ground-

dwelling invertebrates. This involves containers buried in the ground with upper rims level with the ground surface with a killing agent and preservative, such as ethylene glycol or water with dish-washing liquid inside. These are left outside for about 2-3 nights to let insects fall in and they are monitored daily to check which insects fell in.”

“The other technique is to use the Malaise trap which is a tent-like structure used for trapping and preserving flying insects, particularly Hymenoptera and Diptera. We also actively search for insects from foliage and the ground under rocks and fallen tree logs where they can be picked by hand, forceps, or aspirators/pooter. All the insects collected are stored in 50% ethanol solution for preservation so that they do not rot, and if time allows, they can also be pinned.”

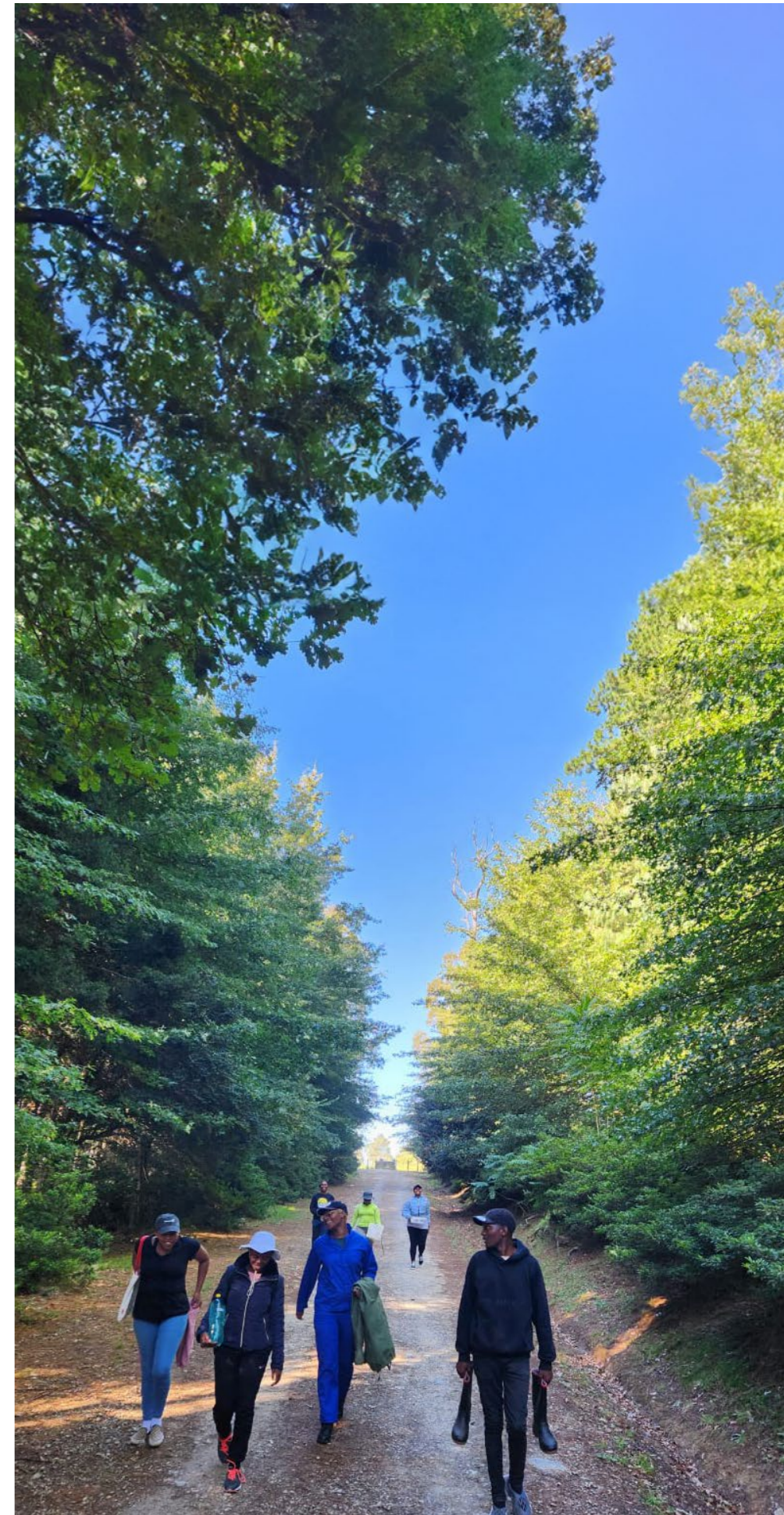
According to Ms Tshivhandekano, in addition to learning to catch their own insects and practicing using collection tools, other highlights of the trip are that the students get to enjoy further lessons outdoors, observe the insects in nature and observe some of the phenomena they knew theoretically.

“The students also get the

opportunity to form networks amongst each other and get to know their lecturers in a less formal setting. They also realize that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy because they also get downtime in the evenings to play games, chat, sing and cook together.”

Sinobomi Fadana, a third-year entomology student and class rep said the field was a great learning experience. “I learnt about the collection methods of insects, and how to choose a site for sampling. The location was cold but the good thing about it is that it had almost everything. I also gained experience in socializing with my peers when I participated in games and other activities. The skills and techniques we acquired during the trip will certainly make us better entomologists and scientists”

Commenting on this excellent initiative, Dr Unathi Heshula, Senior Lecturer of Entomology, said: “If learning by doing is the ultimate way to learn, then that’s exactly what these students got during their three-day trip! With senior staff and students as their guides, they got to see, touch, and experience the incredible organisms they’d only read about in Entomology textbooks. It was like their science class came to life. Furthermore, the trip gave them a whole new appreciation for the diversity of nature and the urgent need to protect it in a changing world. It was three days I believe they’ll never forget.”



# Film Festival leads AFRICA MONTH Celebrations

A Netflix and UNESCO production, "African Folktales, Reimagined," six short films created by six filmmakers from six African countries were screened during a film festival hosted by the University in celebration of Africa month.

The production is a multilingual anthology series of much-cherished African folktales that are boldly reimagined. The films are a result of a groundbreaking partnership between Netflix and UNESCO, through the launch of the 'African folktales, reimagined' short-film competition in 2021 to find some of Sub-Saharan Africa's up-and-coming filmmakers.

According to UNESCO, the aim of the competition is to promote diverse local stories and bring them to the world. The competition was also a step towards creative equity - as part of the Netflix Creative Equity Fund, which aims at enabling new voices from underrepresented communities within entertainment to bring their perspectives to a global audience.

The six winners were announced in March this year and they are from Mauritania, Tanzania, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa.

"The University of Fort Hare is very proud of the unique collaboration between UNESCO and Netflix," said JP Roodt, UFH Director: Institutional Advancement (Marketing and Communications).

"There is also a close link between the University of Fort Hare and UNESCO. The UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights is based at the University of Fort Hare and advances human rights, respect for democratic values, peace, and social justice. Similarly, the brilliant young African filmmakers and storytellers explore themes of gender-based violence, poverty, African cultural identity and common heritage in their short films," he said.

Roodt said that the Africa Month Film Festival aligns with one of the institutional goals of enhancing student experience on our campuses while diversifying and expanding Africa Day celebrations.

For the East London Campus the screening was held at ABC Hall (Main Building) on Thursday, 25 May, and the Alice Campus open-air film screening was held on Friday, 26 May on the lawn in front of the main building.

[Click here to watch highlight video from the event](#)



# Fort Hare celebrates AFRICA MONTH. the African Way

Clad in beautiful traditional attires, University of Fort Hare (UFH) students, staff and guests that included a member from the Kenyan Embassy and fellows from Kent State University in Ohio, filled the Alice Sports Complex to its rafters to experience and celebrate Africa.

The Africa Day celebration event held yesterday, 25 May, was hosted by the Office of International Affairs and Partnership in conjunction with Student Affairs. The occasion saw Forterians come together to embrace the diversity of this beautiful continent through song, dance, poetry, and drama performances.

The keynote address was delivered by Bishop Joshua Maponga, author, motivational speaker and philosopher.

The programme was directed by creative musician, Mr Vee Sholo.

Africa Day is a commemorative event to acknowledge the creation of the organisation of African Unity (OAU), the precursor of the African Union (AU) on May 25 in 1963. The day intends to celebrate the AU's successes in the fight against colonialism and apartheid while celebrating the progress that Africa has made and reflect on continental challenges.

This year the African Union selected the theme: *Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area to bring greater prosperity to the continent.*

In welcoming the participants, Director of International Affairs and Partnership, Dr Hlulani Mabasa underscored that, for a University that played an integral role in the liberation and education of many African minds, it was fitting to host an Africa Day celebration event.

"When we talk about Africa's journey to liberation and its independence, as UFH we are proud to be at the centre of that journey. When this University opened its doors in 1916 it was to empower Africans through education, many of those who, after graduating from this institution became great leaders in various countries on this continent."

Mr Lufuno Tshikudo, the Dean of Students, said the day will be remembered as one of the events that embodied one of the University's Decade of Renewal strategic goals which is to improve the quality of student life and enhance student experience.

Student Representative Council President, Ms Siphokazi Mbalo highlighted the significance of the day and why it should be celebrated. "We ought to celebrate the diversity of this beautiful continent and embrace it. It is also significant to reflect on how far we have come to address challenges of the past and the present." She encouraged the audience to use the day to learn at least one African language.

In his keynote address, Bishop Maponga implored the audience to start thinking outside the box to keep up with the highly transformative world. "Learning is not collecting information, learning is knowing where to find information, you learn to learn. We simply come to school to develop a positive attitude towards books and written content so we can reference our information."

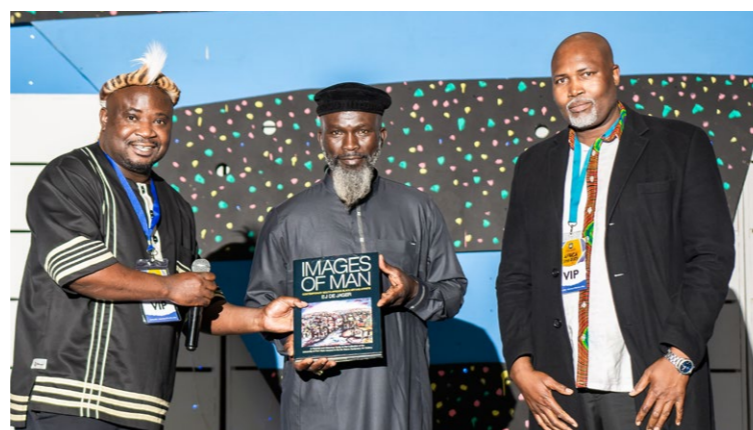
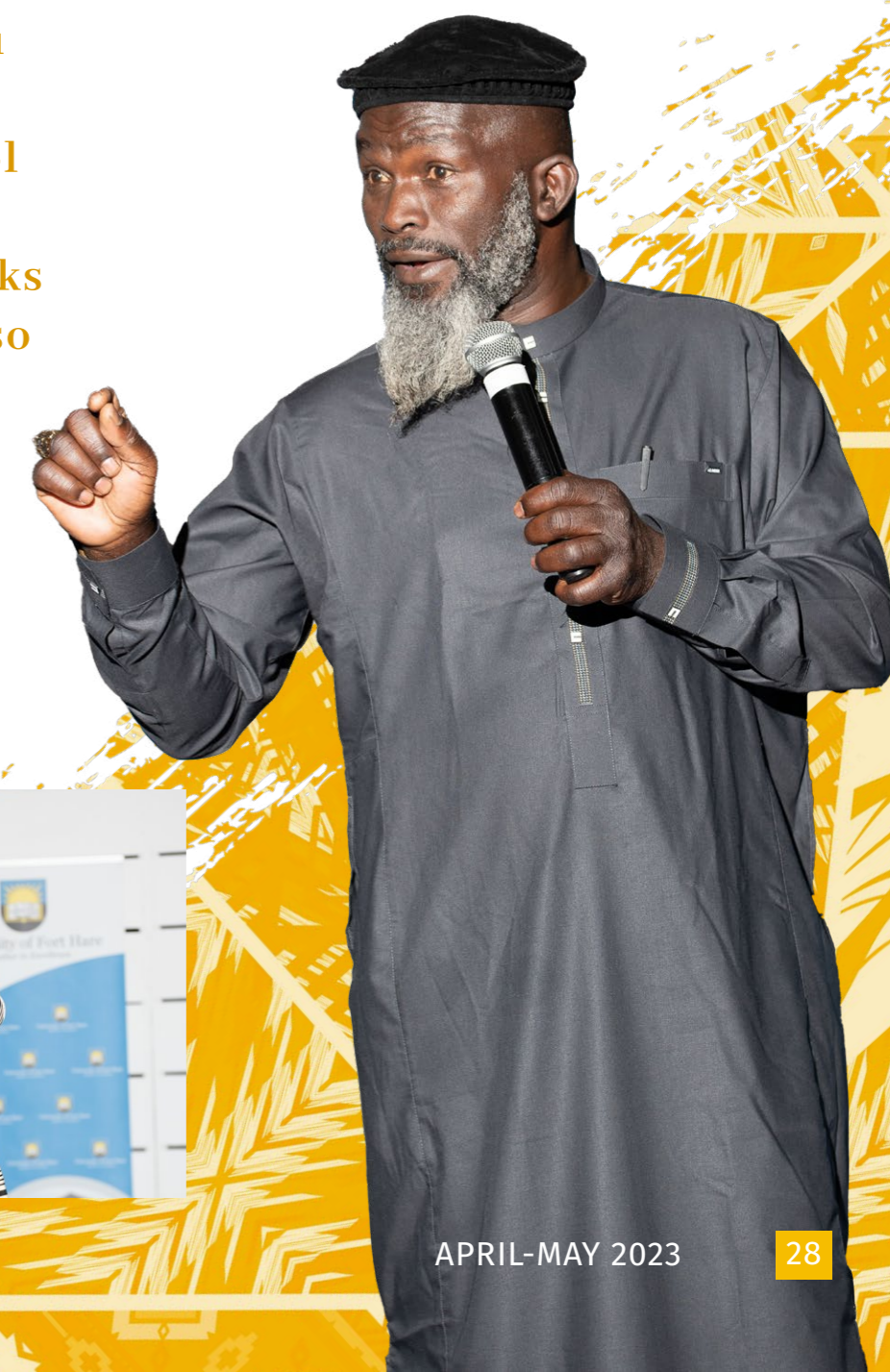
The programme included traditional dance performances by a renowned African traditional dance group, renditions from the UFH Choir, a play from a drama group, reciting of poems, and ended with an exhibition of artworks and an African food tasting.



“ Learning is not collecting information, learning is knowing where to find information, you learn to learn. We simply come to school to develop a positive attitude towards books and written content so we can reference our information.

- Bishop Joshua Maponga

#AfricaMonth





# STEWART HIKE MEMORIAL (SOMGXADA)

[Click here to watch highlight video from the day](#)





## MUSIC DEPARTMENT TALENT BLOOMS AT UMTIZA ARTS FEST

A music lecturer and two students from the University of Fort Hare's Music Department were among the talented artists lined up for the Umtiza Arts Festival that was held in East London from 24 May to 3 June.

Dr Martin Goldstein, UFH Classical Music Lecturer gave a piano recital; Zintle Mbuyazwe, a final-year student and jazz musician rendered a silent concert while Mava Gqeba who is also a final-year student majoring in jazz music, performed his one-man show titled, "Dear Tata: What Makes A man a man?"

In addition, the former UFH Music HOD and multi-award-winning jazz maestro, Dr Nduduzo Makhathini graced the Umtiza stage. Together with Mbuso Khoza, they presented their recently released project titled, "Abasemkathini."

The exciting Festival is hosted by the Guild Theatre, East London Museum, and Ann Bryant Art Gallery and aims to create an entertaining line-up that expresses the talent the Eastern Cape possesses in the art, music, and drama spaces.

Speaking ahead of her performance, Zintle who goes by the stage name "Ne Ahtyah" said she was excited to be among this year's artists.

"It is my first time performing at the festival. It is a great opportunity to showcase my talent to a bigger audience and with those in the industry."

She performed a silent concert where the audience were provided wireless headphones to listen to the live performance, interact and react to her music. She sang some of her music, "Ingoma zase Mandulo," that she has composed over the years, sounds that reflect her essence as a singer, one who seeks to heal, uplift, and soothe souls.

Dr Goldstein played a range of styles in his recital including works by Bach, Chopin and Debussy.

He had this to say ahead of his performance: "I am grateful to the University of Fort Hare for allowing me to develop both as a lecturer and musician. I have a particular interest in Bach as my PhD dissertation was on 'Stretto in Bach's Instrumental Fugues'. I

always like to include one of his works in a recital. I consider Chopin the essence of the piano, so I have included one or two of his works too. In addition to the other works that I will play in this forty-five-minute recital, I will conclude with Debussy. I love the singing quality which his works bring out of the piano."

Mava's cabaret tells the story of many young black men through dance, music and poignant storytelling. His performance explores themes such as identity, self-worth and sexual liberation, but most importantly it poses the question, "What does it mean to be a black man in South Africa in this day and age?"

Speaking ahead of his show, Mava who is a gifted Actor, Singer, Dancer, and Songwriter who formerly lived in Cape Town, said he was excited to be part of the show and even more excited to witness how showbiz in East London and the Eastern Cape has grown.

Both Mava and Zintle are lined up for this year's annual National Arts Festival in Makhanda.

## FINE ARTS STUDENT DOODLES HIS WAY TO COMPETITION FINALS!

Aluta Tunyiswa, a final-year Fine Arts student's doodle art piece inspired by Jean-Michel Basquiat, an American artist who rose to success during the 1980s as part of the Neo-expressionism movement, was among the artworks selected for the regional round of the global Red Bull Doodle Art Competition held at the Central Art Gallery in Gqeberha recently.

The Red Bull competition empowers a new generation of artists by inviting students and creatives from around the world to let their minds wander through imaginative doodles. Opportunities include heightened exposure, art mentorship and a spot at Amsterdam's World Final, where renowned judges will select the Red Bull Doodle Art winner.

The contest includes four stages: First, applicants submit their doodles online or at a local Red Bull Doodle Art event. Next, an expert panel of local judges reviews the eligible submissions and chooses the national winner to represent the country. Then, each national winner can access an artist mentor as they enhance their doodle for the World Final. Finally, the doodles of the national winners are displayed at the World Final, where a global panel of judges announces the overall Red Bull Doodle Art winner.

Doodling refers to drawing, sketching, or scribbling idly, while a person's attention is otherwise occupied. They are basic sketches that may have concrete relevance for representation or can be abstract shapes.

Tunyiswa was placed fourth in the regional round of the competition.

So how did the 28-year-old from Anshaw Location in Xesi

(Middledrift) stumble across this art form? Well, it goes back to when he was around 10/11 years old and in primary school.

"In primary school, while the teachers stood in front of the class and gave lessons, I would just get lost in my drawings. I would draw abstract shapes or anime characters such as Dragon Ball Z. This was not accepted or supported by my family who, for obvious reasons, wanted me to focus on what school was for, get an education."

Whilst in Grade 4, his passion for sketching was noticed and embraced by a teacher who commissioned him to paint seven murals of people representing various cultures. This was for a Heritage Day event where nearby local schools were invited to view the murals. "That is when I realized I was truly gifted."

After matric, his love for the arts grew even bigger.

"I did not see myself doing anything else, but art. As a result, I spent about three years at home where I used to paint on and modify T-shirts and jackets."

After some time, he moved to Johannesburg where he enrolled at a college for a qualification in Amadeus technology. Upon completion, he secured a bursary

from the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Ltd and studied photography.

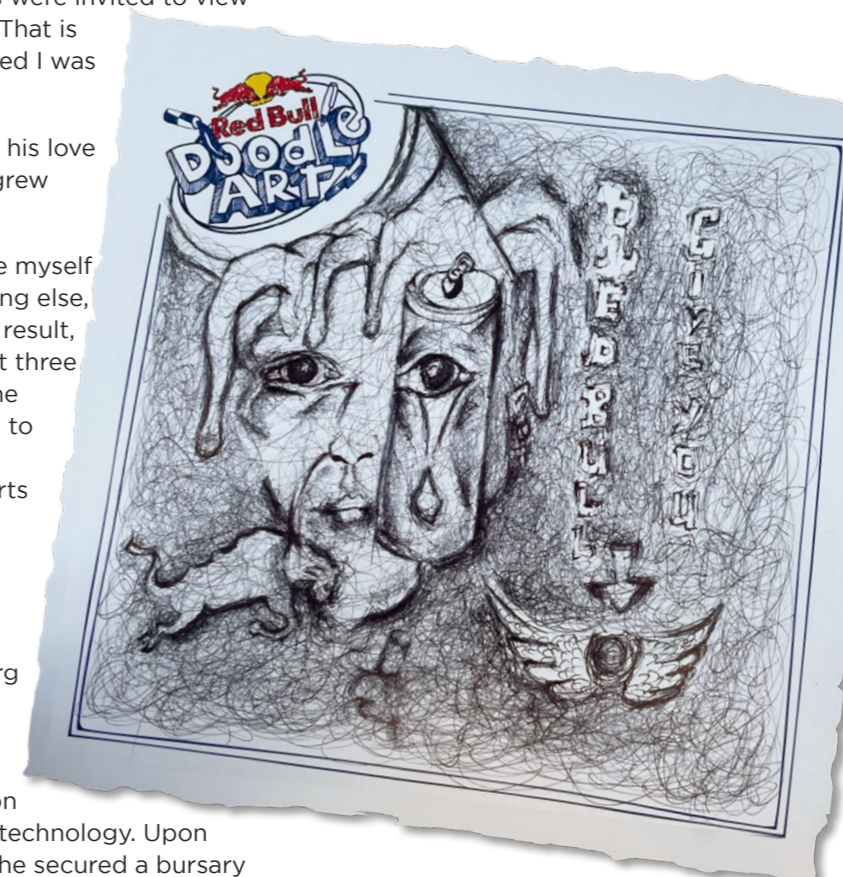
In 2020, just before the Covid-19 lockdown, he decided to move back home.

"I was still longing to pursue the dream of becoming an artist. That's when I decided to enroll at Fort Hare for a Fine Arts Diploma."

Tunyiswa majors in printmaking and drawing

The avid cyclist also collects BMX bicycles some he buys old, pimps them up, and re-sells them, with the most expensive selling for R3500.

His dream is to get his own studio at the East London Esplanade where he can display his art and his BMX collection.





**“This is a victory for the institution and shows the strides we have made to put Fort Hare rugby on the map.” - Coach Currie**

# BLUES RUGBY COACH RELISHES CHANCE WITH JUNIOR BOKS

UFH rugby coach Lumumba Currie is relishing the chance of working with South Africa’s elite young players after being appointed to the Junior Springboks management team. His immediate task will be to help prepare the Junior Boks for the IRB U20 World Championship held in South Africa from June 24 to July 14.

The 38-year-old, a World Rugby Level 3 accredited coach, has been in charge of the Blues since 2014, with the crowning glory coming when they claimed the FNB Varsity Shield last year.

Until his appointment with the Junior Boks, he was head coach of the Border Bulldogs and coached the union’s U19 (2008 to 2009) and U21 (2014 to 2015) teams. He worked with the SA Rugby Academy in Border from 2014 to 2017.

His new role was the realisation of a long-cherished ambition as he sought to move up the coaching ladder.

“As a coach, to work with a national team is something you dream of,” said Currie, who will take charge of the Junior Boks forwards.

“As much as you work hard to develop the players under you, you also want to grow as a coach and this is a great opportunity for me.”

The Blues mentor added that as significant as it was for him, it was also a positive development for Fort Hare.

“I see this as a good thing for the university because I will be interacting with the types of players we will be looking to recruit for the Blues going forward.

“Another point is that it means people are noticing what we are achieving with our rugby players at Fort Hare.”

Although the appointment was his, he felt what the Blues had achieved by winning the Varsity Shield last season and having a good run in 2023 was the result of the work they had been doing as a coaching team.

“This is a victory for the institution and shows the strides we have made to put Fort Hare rugby on the map.”

Currie said his future with the Blues still had to be decided.

“I am busy having discussions with the varsity authorities about the way forward, so there’s no clarity on that at this stage.”

He said that he had already joined the Junior Boks squad and that they would be working hard over the next few weeks to prepare for the global event.

“Our aim is simple – we want to win the World Championship,” he said. “It will take a lot of work to achieve that but we are excited at the opportunity of playing at home.”

He suggested that it was what they needed as a country to hopefully set the tone for the senior World Cup in France later this year.

“There is more pressure playing at home, but that is something we have to live with.”

The tournament features the top 12 teams in the world and will be played in the Western Cape. Due to the Covid pandemic, the tournament has not been held since 2019.

South Africa last hosted the World Championship in 2012 when they won the title.

# FORT HARE DANCE PAIR

## *Waltz into Eastern Cape Team*

Championship dancers Aphelele Bhodlisi and Lindokuhle Sibindlana have resolved to fly the University of Fort Hare flag high when they compete in two competitions later this year.

The pair, who have been partners since 2020, have been selected to represent the Eastern Cape team at the provincial championships in July and the South African champs in October.

They took first place in the adult championship category at last month's Buffalo City competition and Bhodlisi said they were thrilled with the recognition.

"What it means to us is that there are people outside of our Fort Hare circle who have acknowledged the work that we do in dancesport," said the 27-year-old, who is studying towards a post-graduate diploma in archives and record management.

He said the committee selected the best dancers based on results and although the Fort Hare community knew what effort they put in, their inclusion was acknowledgement from a wider circle.

"It is such an honour. We have committed ourselves to use this opportunity to work hard with our coach to make Fort Hare and dancesport in the Eastern Cape proud."

Ironically, six years ago Bhodlisi did not even know dancesport existed. He discovered it during a random walk past a hall on the Alice campus.

"I was attracted by the soft music in an area in the sports complex and decided to go in and find out what it was about," he recalled.

"I spoke to someone who gave me information about the sport and how to join and I started attending practice the next day."

That led to what he called "an incredible journey" during which he learnt something new every day.

One of the major role-players in his development has been Fort Hare head coach Thandisizwe Matyumza.

"Not only has he taught us so much, he also invites people to share their dance experiences and steps, so this is a journey that is full of lessons.

"I started as a beginner and have developed to reach the championship category, specialising in ballroom dancing."

He explained that there were two dance styles - Latin American and ballroom.

"The difference is that in Latin American you are not always in contact with your partner whereas in ballroom dancing you are constantly connected."

This, he added, called for a strong bond between the two dancers and he felt he had achieved this with Sibindlana, a 25-year-old honours student in industrial psychology.

"We first met in 2019 when she joined as a beginner and, as my previous partner had completed her degree, I started a partnership with Lindokuhle."

They started competing in the Rising Stars category before graduating to championship level.

It had been an interesting journey, with a massive emphasis on developing a proper appreciation for each other, according to Bhodlisi.

"In dancing, you often come from different backgrounds and one of the main things for us is to ensure that there is mutual respect. We respect the paths each of us has travelled and we respect each other's opinions."

Bhodlisi said one should remember that ballroom dancing was not an individual exercise as you literally had someone in front of you matching every single step you executed.

"You need to be mindful of them and make sure you work in unison all the time."

The two have become close friends and did different types of exercises together to stay in shape. They practice as often as they can under the guidance of their coach, who has been the glue in their journey.



## VERSATILE FORT HARE NETBALL COACH PART OF NATIONAL UMPIRES' PANEL

Fort Hare player-coach Gabriel Simion's career path continued on its upward trajectory after being appointed as an umpire for the Telkom Netball League recently. It is the highest level of competition for domestic teams in South Africa and the first matches were played in Polokwane from April 27 to May 1. It continues in June and concludes with the finals in Pretoria in early July.

Simion, head coach of the men's team at the university's East London campus, has been officiating at this level since 2019 but is nonetheless proud of his election to the national umpires' panel for another year.

"To officiate in the TNL is a real honour," said the 36-year-old, who believed the competition honed his skills and helped him learn more about game management. He added that he was thrilled to have

the opportunity to run the rule over the TNL games in Polokwane.

"It was another very competitive weekend of netball because you are dealing with the top provincial teams.

"I worked so hard to do well and getting good feedback from the umpiring assessors was a big positive, which means I'm still on the right track."

Interacting with national players over the course of the tournament also helped him grow as an official, he said.

Simion, who started out as a player before turning his attention to coaching and officiating, grew up in Limpopo but now lives in East London.

"I played from 2006 when they introduced men's netball at a national level. Even though I now mainly coach and umpire, I still turn

out for the Fort Hare team."

He grew to love the sport and started coaching in 2008 when he became involved with several high schools in Limpopo.

Then, in 2012, he began coaching at North-West University before relocating to the Eastern Cape in 2016. He took up the coaching position at Fort Hare in 2017.

Simion was adamant that his umpiring credentials added value to his coaching.

"You could say I'm two in one as a coach because as a player you need to understand the rules of the sport.

"I bring my umpiring knowledge to my role as a coach and therefore I can develop my players according to the rules. I feel this is an advantage for them."

# FORT HARE PASS STERN TEST TO CLINCH INAUGURAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP

Fort Hare's men's football team clinched the inaugural Alice Football Association League Cup after overcoming a stern test in the first quarter of the final played in the Eastern Cape town at the weekend. After initially struggling to break the defensive lines of Future Stars, they drew first blood. However, the eventual runners-up equalised shortly afterwards to get back on an even keel.

The university then started to find its rhythm in attack and rammed in three goals in quick succession to take a 4-1 lead into halftime.

With a three-goal buffer, it was up to Fort Hare's defence to keep the game out of reach of their opponents in the second half and they proved impenetrable from that point onwards.

Although the margin against Future Stars suggested otherwise, coach Mongile Nyosana admitted this week that it had been a proper test of character.

"The game was very tough to manage in the beginning as they played with a flat four at the back and we struggled to penetrate that line," he explained.

All in all, the team had been exceptional both in defence and attack, which Nyosana believed were the two pieces of the puzzle that helped solve the Future Stars problem.

Playing a starring role within the team dynamic was midfielder Tangana Thembela, whose distribution of the ball to both flanks kept Fort Hare prodding forward.

"He was our player of the match," noted the coach.

Fort Hare's Sinobom Kapase found the back of the net nine times



**The team's victory shows that they are steadily maturing as a unit. Their previous success came in the Top 8 in July last year and a couple of weeks ago they were third in a tournament in Peddie.**

in nine matches to finish as the tournament's top goal-scorer.

Nyosana was delighted with the result and felt it would boost the confidence of the players as they prepared for a host of important competitions over the next few months.

These include the SAB League, Nedbank Cup and University Sport South Africa tournament. But first, they will get another chance to take a step forward when they run out in the Charity Cup, hosted by the King of Glory Foundation, in East London this weekend.

Thirty-two teams competed in the regional tournament, a new

initiative by the Alice Local Football Association (LFA).

"The LFA did an excellent job in putting on this competition," said Nyosana. "It will really help with the development of football in the area."

The team's victory shows that they are steadily maturing as a unit. Their previous success came in the Top 8 in July last year and a couple of weeks ago they were third in a tournament in Peddie.

"This means we are growing bit by bit," said their mentor, whose number one goal was to develop the sport at Fort Hare by targeting greater consistency.

# FAST-LEARNING FORT HARE ROWERS IMPRESS AT USSA TEST

**A marginally inexperienced Fort Hare rowing team stroked their way to a gold medal and several other top performances at the University Sports South Africa National Sprints Regatta at Moorreesburg in the Western Cape recently.**

The men's coxed four, led by Isolethu Mona, combined brilliantly on the waters of the Misverstand Dam to bring home victory in the D division for the Alice-based tertiary institution.

The team placed fourth out of nine institutions in the overall standings. Equally important, said Fort Hare women's team captain Banathi Sithole, was the experience gained.

"Competing in this regatta really meant a lot for the rowers as it was the first USSA sprints event for some and they did an amazing job," she said.

"They had a chance to learn how to work together as a team and realised that in this sport there is no place for individualism – rather that we work as a family."

What impressed men's captain Luxolo Jekana most was the improvement shown from last year.

"Both in terms of the number of boats and our positions in the races," he said. "There is a definite move in the right direction."

The fact that there were a number of newcomers to the team meant the results were even more encouraging, said the skipper.

They have pushed all year in training to put on a good show against their tertiary rivals and the exposure will be invaluable as they aim to raise the profile of rowing at Fort Hare one paddle stroke at a time.

"The competition was a steep but valuable learning curve," said Jekana. "When you compete against other teams you learn from them and these lessons make you more comfortable each time you race."

And that, he said, made it easier to execute a game plan while exposing the areas that needed work.

"Even though we have some good rowers, we know there is always room for improvement."





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