



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

UFH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022

UFH Officially opened for the 106th Academic Year



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“Enjoy your time here, make new friends and remember you have come here to obtain a qualification to advance your career and improve your lives, the lives of your families and your society.”

Established on the 8th of February in 1916, the University of Fort Hare officially opened for its 106th Academic Year on 14 February.

The 2022 Opening Ceremony was held at the Christian Union Hall (Theology Building) located in the majestic Clock Tower Building on the main campus in Alice. In line with Covid-19 regulations, the University opted for a hybrid event. Only invited guests were allowed inside the venue while a larger audience was invited to join the proceedings virtually.

Delivering the keynote address, Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu reflected on the past, highlighted current milestones and also shared what the future holds for this great University.

Welcoming new and returning Students and Staff

The VC commended the University’s 3700 first-years on their successful transition from high school to university and for selecting Fort Hare as the University of their choice. “Congratulations, you have made a wise choice by choosing UFH – It is a choice that in years to come, you will never regret.

“Enjoy your time here, make new friends and remember you have come here to obtain a qualification to advance your career and improve your lives, the lives of your families and your society.”

The VC commended returning students and staff for showing sheer determination in the face of challenges imposed by Covid-19 in the last two years. “It has been a difficult time. We have lost family members, friends, colleagues and people in our communities to Covid-19. Some of us have personally battled the virus. In spite of it all, you have displayed sheer determination and great resilience. Through staff efforts, the university has managed to undertake all its functions: Teaching & Learning, Research, Community Engagement, Administrations and Support Services.” Under Covid restrictions, the University managed to graduate thousands of students during four graduation

ceremonies, three of which were held virtually and one hybrid event.

He also welcomed new staff, such as the first-ever Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnership & Innovation, Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba, and the Director for Research and Innovation, Dr Aceme Nyika, to the University of Fort Hare.

Celebrating 106 Years of Excellence

When the University first opened its doors, 106 years ago, it had a student enrollment of 20. Today the University has over 16 500 students. In celebration of this milestone, the VC highlighted some of the institution’s proud achievements.

“We are immensely proud to celebrate 106 years of producing great leaders and professionals for the country, the continent and the world. It has been 106 years of very productive contribution by the university. It has been 106 years of striving for excellence as a respected higher education institution that is a destination of choice for thousands of young people. It has also been 106 years of service to society as demonstrated by the role played by our Alumni in uplifting communities. This University has carried society, of course, together with other universities.”

“It was in recognition of this contribution that in 2005 the (then) President of the Republic, Thabo Mbeki, awarded UFH with the Supreme Order of Baobab (Gold). No other university in the country has received this honour. Today, our institution is home to all archive materials of liberation movements in this country. It is not a fluke, we have been here for this country.”

He further invited the University community to find a moment during the month of February to reflect on the University’s contribution to the country, the continent and the world. He also encouraged them to find a way to contribute to the revitalization and the renewal of the institution.



Together towards a Renewed and Revitalized University

Towards the end of 2021, the University published its Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategic Plan – Strategic Plan of the University of Fort Hare for 2022-2026: (ufh.ac.za). Subtitled: “Towards a Decade of Renewal” the plan which was developed by Management under the guidance of Council was approved by Council on the 25th of November 2021.

The VC shared the seven goals of the forward-looking and optimistic plan during his speech, which are as follows:

1. To pursue high quality and innovative teaching and learning;
2. To build the university’s research and innovative profile;
3. To improve the quality of student life and enhance student experience;

4. Enhance the university’s regional, national and international standing and impact;
5. Strengthen good governance to ensure effective management and leadership;
6. Provide fit and efficient infrastructure and support service and;
7. Ensure financial sustainability and a broader resource base.

The VC implored the university community to hold one another to these goals. “Let these goals not become some slogans sitting somewhere. The plan does not belong to the VC or Management, it belongs to all of us.”

By Aretha Linden





START OF THE 2022 ACADEMIC YEAR AND COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS

Although our national Covid-19 infection numbers are low, we remain on Level 1 of the national regulations, and we are therefore still in the shadow of a pandemic.

As a result, the teaching, learning and assessment regime adopted by Senate in response to the Covid-19 pandemic remains in place. This means that classes will be conducted online for the first semester at least. Only practical and laboratory classes may go ahead in person, provided that all the necessary Covid-19 protocols, including rotation, are in place.

With vaccines widely available and arrangements in place for a booster shot six months after the previous vaccination, all staff are now expected to return to campus, including staff with comorbidities and those older than 60. Only in a few areas of the University where it is not possible to comply with Covid-19 protocols may a rotational working roster be implemented by line managers. However, even in cases where a rotational roster is in place, each staff member should be on campus at least two or three days a week.

Towards the end of last year, the Management Executive Committee indicated it's in principle support for a recommendation by the Covid-19 Management Response Committee to introduce a mandatory vaccination policy. The process of formal consultation with all stakeholders, which will culminate in a recommendation to Council, will commence shortly and will be concluded over the next three months.

In the meantime, any changes to the arrangements outlined above will be made only in response to new developments in relation to the pandemic, including possible announcements by the President and the Department of Higher Education and Training. We will be monitoring the national and provincial Covid-19 situation closely. Any changes to the current teaching, learning and assessment regime will have to be approved by Senate.

As we return to campus, please follow all Covid-19 protocols, including regularly washing or sanitising your hands, always wearing a face mask, ensuring that offices and work spaces are well-ventilated and keeping the requisite social distance in order to protect yourself and those around you. Do not forget that our primary mechanism for staying safe and keeping others safe is vaccination.

I wish you all a good and productive 2022.

Sincerely,

Professor Sakhela Buhlungu
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

UFH APPLICATIONS INCREASE 25% YEAR-ON-YEAR, STUDENT ORIENTATION WELL UNDER WAY



Applications for first-time entering students (FTENS) increased with 25% year-on-year – a signal that the institution is well on track as a preferred study destination of choice.

For the 2022 academic year, the University received 52 819 applications.

Nearly 89% of prospective students opted to apply online. “We are excited by the increase in numbers and a smooth registration process” commented UFH Deputy Registrar Dr. Rose Masha.

She said UFH has established an ad hoc call center, applicant remote enquiry space (IENABLER), and provided on-campus COVID-19 compliant venues where applicants engaged staff regarding their registration statuses and any other enquiries they may have. This was done to ensure the registration process runs efficiently,

“We also made provision for late registrations in all our registration sites. This concurrent approach ensured a fast pace during registration,” she said.

Dr. Masha said the institution also closed monitored online registrations to detect areas that can be honed and improved as part of the Institution’s ongoing commitment to continual improvement to enhance the student experience and academic administration efficiencies.

The University will also unpack factors and variables that impact on the selection and application at UFH through student research and focus groups once student registration and orientation cycles have been completed for the new academic year.





// Prof Makaka



// Dr Otunola



// Prof Ntlama



// Prof Cilliers



// Prof Kapingura

Five new NRF Ratings for UFH

The University of Fort Hare recently welcomed five new additions to its growing list of National Research Foundation (NRF) Rated Researchers. This is testament to the VC's declaration that the University is on a steep research trajectory.

The NRF's rating system is a key driver in the aim to build a globally competitive science system in South Africa. Ratings are allocated based on a Researcher's recent research outputs and impact as perceived by international peer reviewers and are awarded in the following categories:

- A - Leading international researchers
- B - Internationally acclaimed researchers
- C - Established researchers
- P - Prestigious Awards
- Y - Promising young researchers

The newly-rated Researchers are:

- **Prof Golden Makaka**, Physics Department - C2-Rating
- **Dr Gloria Otunola**, Department of Botany - C2-Rating
- **Prof Nomthandazo Ntlama-Makhanya**, Nelson R. Mandela School of Law - C3-Rating
- **Prof Liezel Cilliers**, Acting Dean of Management & Commerce - C3-Rating
- **Prof Forget Kapingura**, Economics Department - C3-Rating

Prof Makaka has spent the last 25 years studying wind energy, biomass energy, energy efficiency

and solar energy applications. His research focus is on computational physics methods in energy system design, simulation and modelling, heat transfer modelling in buildings through different processes such as heat conduction, radiation, and convection. He also models temperature distribution and ventilation rate in buildings, predicating energy consumption in different building envelopes and modeling and optimization techniques of hybrid renewable energy systems for off-grid application. He is also involved in techno-economic analysis of optimized energy systems.

He has modelled and constructed a high-performance wind-powered permanent magnet (Feroba3 ceramic magnet) generator. The research resulted in a new design generator with higher efficiency and easy to manufacture.

He is currently involved in the following research:

Laser physics and optics: a laser beam shaping and propagation for special applications, such as medical applications and data transfer.

Wind energy: the harnessing of wind energy technologies, simulation and modelling of wind turbines performances.

Solar energy applications: passive solar and energy-efficiency design strategies, where he uses different software to simulate and model building thermal behaviour in response to different envelope

materials and weather parameters.

Bio-fuels: optimization of fuel production, system design, simulation and modelling of bio-digesters, efficiency improvement in methane yield. Prof Makaka has also designed and constructed an automated temperature-controlled bio-digester system and authored development and implementation guidelines for bio-digesters for the South African environment.

Commenting on his NRF C2-Rating Prof Makaka said: "It has certainly opened other doors for research funding - making it possible to improve our Department's research quality and increase its postgraduate enrolment."

Dr Otunola has over 25 years of experience in teaching and research in Higher Education. Currently, she is a Senior Research Fellow and co-Leader of the Medicinal Plants and Economic Development Research Niche Area (MPED-RNA) at UFH.

Her research has basically been in Biochemistry (the chemistry of life at the molecular level) and its application in a wide range of settings and disciplines which has led to her having a multidisciplinary experience in research.

"I joined the MPED Research Centre in 2013 as a postdoctoral research fellow under the mentorship of Prof AJ Afolayan. Since then, I have been involved in the nutritional, biochemical and pharmacological evaluation of the potential of medicinal plants and lesser-known

food plants that have both nutritional and medicinal potentials against malnutrition and chronic diseases"

"The outcomes of these investigations then birthed my current research focus which is the Development of Functional Foods, Beverages and Nutraceuticals tailored towards the prevention, treatment and management of chronic diseases. This research has afforded me the NRF CSURG grant (fortification of foods with phytochemicals for the treatment of chronic diseases 2020-2022)."

In 2019 as co-investigator, she was given a 2-year travel grant to France to develop a project on Valorisation of Moringa oleifera with other researchers at AgroSup Dijon and INRA. Of recent in 2021, she participated in the FSAGRI/AgTech Innovation challenge and was awarded all-expense-paid mobility to France based on the development of functional foods and nutraceuticals.

Dr Otunola's research findings have been presented at national and international conferences, as keynote and lead speaker, chair of technical sessions, as well as a facilitator at workshops. She has served as a member of the UFH Animal Research Ethics Committee (2015-2018). Dr Otunola has published over 65 articles in peer-reviewed accredited journals, is a reviewer and member of several editorial boards of scientific journals. Her Google Scholar H-index is 19; i10-index 25; 1201 citations.

"I am sincerely excited, honoured, overwhelmed, and thankful to the Almighty God who has given me life and the enablement to do research. I am also grateful that I could add to the research achievements and portfolio of the University. At the same time, I believe it is not time to rest on my oars, but to push ahead and work harder with God's help and the University's support, because, 'to whom much is given, much is expected,'" she said.

Prof Ntlama is a Professor of Public Law and Acting Head of the UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights at UFH's Nelson R Mandela School of Law.

Her area of research is on Constitutional Law with a broader focus on Human Rights and Customary Law with a specific on socio-economic rights, judiciary;

gender equality; women's rights; traditional leadership and governance and the current focus is on legal pluralism and future of human rights in judicial reasoning. "The main purpose in my research is to establish whether law can be used and measured as an effective tool for social change," said. Her recent publication is a Chapter in Rautenbach C (ed) entitled: *Introduction to Legal Pluralism in South Africa* (2022) Lexis Nexis Publishers.

Commenting on her newly acquired rating Prof Ntlama said: "To receive an affirmation of confidence from my peers in my area of specialty speaks volumes about the quality of work that I have produced. The publication of research work in high impact Journals is impeccable and being thrown into the 'lion's den' to have your work evaluated by peers for better results, as evidenced by the rating, has to be celebrated."

Prof Cilliers is the Acting Dean of the Management and Commerce. Her research interest includes mobile health with specific reference to electronic and mobile health records.

In the recent years, she has also started to investigate how social media can be used to search for health-related information and if South African users have the e-health literacy to understand such information.

Her study interests were further refined during the COVID-19 pandemic where 'infodemics' became relevant as the volume of health information that is published on social media can overwhelm the user and make it extremely difficult to distinguish between fake and real news.

"I have a particular interest in how Twitter is used to disseminate health information during health pandemics and this will be my research focus going forward into my professorship."

She has published at a steady pace over the past nine years as her CV and Google H-index of 12 testifies. To date, she has published six book chapters, 35 journal articles and 61 conference papers with colleagues and postgraduate students.

During 2020 she served as a Guest Editor of a special issue titled 'Mobile

technology within the 4IR era - Africa answering the call,' with Prof Willie Chinyamurindi (Head of UFH Business Management Department) in the Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa.

Prof Kapingura is an Economics Associate Professor. His research interests are in Development Economics with a special focus on the role of the financial sector development in the broader economy as well as its contribution to reducing poverty and inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially the SADC region. "My interest in focusing on these issues at the regional level emanates from the challenges facing the majority of our African countries at national level, which I believe if addressed at a regional level, could be more beneficial."

In the past, he has worked on two major projects. The first project was part of his PhD which focused on analysing the link between external financial flows, domestic savings and economic growth. The project was funded by the NRF under the Unrated Researcher award. The second project focused on analysing livelihood patterns Vis-a-Vis the existing constraints and opportunities in low-income areas in the Eastern Cape Province with the objective of identifying policy intervention points that enhance the alleviation and elimination of poverty within these areas. The project was funded by the Presidency office and the European Union.

Currently, he is involved in two projects, the first is on the role of regional financial integration and its role in promoting financial sector development in the Southern African Development Community. The second project is on understanding informality and Township Economy in South Africa.

"Receiving a C3 rating is a great and unexpected honour. This is a wonderful recognition from the NRF as well as my peers in the field. I applied for an emerging researcher rating, however, I was awarded an established researcher recognition. I am grateful to my supervisors, friends and colleagues whom I have worked with and have also been so supportive over the years," said Prof Kapingura.

Compiled by Aretha Linden

In conversation with UNITED STATES SCHOLAR, DR JILL HUMPHRIES

“I feel honoured having been a Fulbright Specialist Scholar appointed to the University of Fort Hare and contributing to student development in fulfilling the University’s mission and vision.”

During the month of October and November last year, the Govern Mbeki Research and Development Centre (GMRDC) had the privilege of hosting a highly accomplished United States Scholar, Dr Jill M. Humphries as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar to the University of Fort Hare.

Dr. Humphries is an assistant professor and part-time instructor for the University of Toledo’s Africana Studies Program. She is a former Ambassador Distinguished Scholar for Ethiopia and currently, an international faculty with the GMRDC.

As a scholar activist, Dr. Humphries is committed to the principles of democratic education with over 30-plus years of engagement in educational & social justice work pertaining to Africa and the Black Diaspora. She is an expert in African descent cultures, gender and sexuality formations and transnational political organizing.

She is also a multi-disciplinary, solutions-based consultant with 25-years extensive experience designing and implementing solutions that resolve operational inefficiencies in public, private and non-profit institutions. Dr. Humphries served as an analyst for the RAND Corporation where she conducted best practices research on welfare-to-work programs, policy and compliance, as a consultant on legal, public administration, public health, and / or environmental initiatives in the United States, Zimbabwe, and the Caribbean.

Dr. Humphries received her PhD and MPA in Public Administration from the School of Policy, Planning, and Development at University of Southern California. She also holds a BA in Anthropology and MPH in Public Health from the University California, Los Angeles, and completed post-graduate gender studies training from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Her work has led to travels throughout the United States, Caribbean, Latin America, Southern Arabia and the African continent.

We asked her a couple of questions about her time at UFH.



// Dr. Jill M. Humphries, Crawfords Beach Resort October 21, 2021.



// Dr. Mamadi Mathalko & Fort Hare University GMRDC postgraduate students, Introduction to Research Methods Workshop, Crawfords Beach Resort October 21, 2021.



// Dr. Jill M. Humphries & Fort Hare University GMRDC postgraduate students, Introduction to Research Methods Workshops. Crawfords Beach Resort October 8, 2021



// Dr. Jill M. Humphries & Fort Hare University GMRDC postgraduate students, Introduction to Research Methods Workshops. Crawfords Beach Resort, October 21, 2021.



// Dr. Jill M. Humphries & Fort Hare University GMRDC postgraduate students, Introduction to Research Methods Workshops. Crawfords Beach Resort, October 29, 2021.

What led you to this Great African University?

I was appointed as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar under the direction of Dr. Mamamelela Matlhako, Director of GMRDC’s postgraduate studies programme. I was tasked with supporting the Centre’s Strengthening Research Capacity Development Programme. This entailed teaching a series of research methods and skills-based workshops over two months to postgraduate students, emerging scholars and faculty.

Dr. Mamadi and I have known each other for over 15 years, having met at SUNY (State University of New York) in Purchase, US. Over the course of our friendship, we discussed collaborating in some capacity in Africa. Over the past couple of years, I began working overseas again as an international educator and consultant, first as an Ambassador Distinguished to Ethiopia in 2018 and now as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar for Fort Hare University in South Africa. The U.S. Department of State through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) sponsors an array of educational exchange programs for U.S. scholars and professionals to work overseas as part of their public diplomacy initiative.

How long was your stay at UFH?

Fulbright Specialist Scholars are appointed for 42 days or one

month and a half. My appointment was from 1st October to 11 November. Although I stayed in South Africa until late December.

What are you hoping to have imparted during your time at UFH?

I was tasked with designing and conducting a series of research methods and skills-based workshops for postgraduates and emerging scholars. These engagements are intended to build on participants’ existing knowledge but expose them to international postgraduate standards. Our goal is to train several cohorts or next generation of academics, scholars, researchers, and emerging scholars to be the driving force for institutional changes to postgraduate studies. In particular institute curricular changes - research methods course work.

The university strives to be a vibrant, equitable and sustainable African university that is committed to promoting research as a core university activity. In your opinion, what needs to be done to fully achieve this vision?

During my appointment with Fort Hare, I participated in their research week and part of the conversation revolved around transformation. This implies shedding the past and envisioning a new approach to

higher education in the context of a global South Africa. I prefer to ask questions than to be prescriptive: how does Fort Hare see itself and its role as a historical Black University with such a rich international history, what are the competencies, subject matter knowledge and skills required to prepare postgraduate students to be internationally competitive, etc. These are just a couple of questions that resonate with me.

What are some of the notable or unique elements that you have identified as having potential to further advance the university’s academic standing?

The University of Fort Hare is internationally recognized for its unique and historical role in educating Southern African liberation national leaders and African scholars and researchers. This history should be leveraged for fundraising, recruitment and cultivating the next generation of academics, scholars, researchers and national and international leaders.

I feel honoured having been a Fulbright Specialist Scholar appointed to the University of Fort Hare and contributing to student development in fulfilling the University’s mission and vision.

Prof Werner Nel Upgraded From C2 To C1 NRF-Rated Researcher

UFH Physical Geography Professor and well-accomplished Researcher, Werner Nel has been upgraded from a C2 to a C1-Rated Researcher by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Professor Nel's research focus is on contemporary geomorphology, paleogeography and climate change. His new rating was announced in December 2021, a few months after he returned from sub-Antarctica where he led a team of researchers who are investigating the interactions between landscape and climate in the region. <https://www.ufh.ac.za/news/News/UFHsProfWernerNelleadsresearchexpeditionsubAntarctica>

According to the NRF, the rating system is a key driver in the foundation's objective to build a globally competitive science system in South Africa. It is a valuable tool for benchmarking the quality of SA researchers against the best in the world. The ratings are allocated based on a researcher's recent research outputs and impact as perceived by international peer reviewers.

A C2- rating is granted to an established Researcher who, on the basis of the high quality and impact of their research, has achieved the following:

- Considerable international recognition or;
- Acquired a sound/solid international standing in their field but not yet considerable international recognition or;
- A scholar whose work focuses mainly on local and/or regional issues and a scholar who, at an international level, has substantially advanced knowledge and understanding in the field by contributing to new thinking, a new direction and/or a new paradigm.

Commenting on his newly acquired rating, Prof Nel said: "I am humbled by the recognition from the NRF and my peers. Our research is not a one-man show and I am hugely indebted to my collaborators especially Prof David Hedding (who also received a C1 rating) and Dr Elizabeth Rudolph. Their hard work and diligence to our projects is the backbone of our research."

"To attain a C1 rating, one's international collaborators become hugely important. I have been very fortunate to work with some of the finest people such as Prof Weihua Wu from Nanjing University in China and Prof Dominic Hodgson from the British Antarctic Survey. It is these international collaborations that make all the difference and I am very proud and humbled to be part of their research space and of our collective achievements," Prof Nel said.

In addition to being the principal investigator of the South African National Antarctic Programme, Prof Nel is also a South African National committee member of the Scientific Council for Antarctic Research.

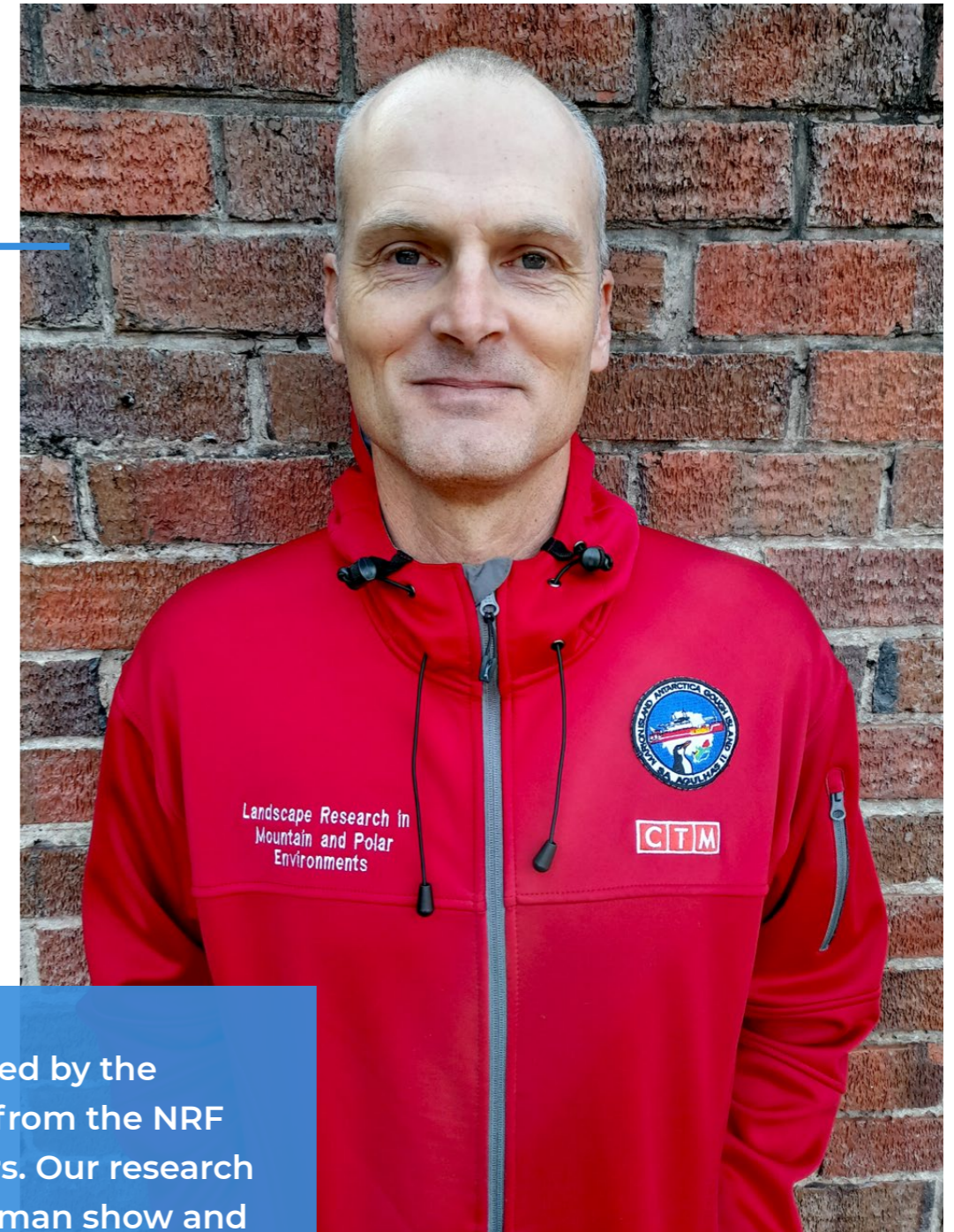
Among the current projects he is involved with are:

- 'Landscape and climate interactions in the sub-Antarctic' in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey and the SUERC lab at the University of Glasgow in Scotland;
- 'A comparative study on the weathering of basaltic fields: implications for landscape evolution', a National Natural Science Foundation of China/NRF Research Cooperation Programme collaboration with Nanjing University in China and;
- An international project with the University of Mauritius, the Mauritius Meteorological Services and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation on rainfall intensity monitoring, soil erosion and its associated surface processes on the island of Mauritius and its offshore islets.

These three projects yielded numerous international peer-reviewed papers most in Quartile 1 top international journals such as Science of the Total Environment, Chemosphere, Quaternary Science Reviews and Land Degradation and Development.

On behalf of the university, we would like to congratulate Prof Nel on his well-deserved attainment.

by **Aretha Linden**



"I am humbled by the recognition from the NRF and my peers. Our research is not a one-man show and I am hugely indebted to my collaborators especially Prof David Hedding and Dr Elizabeth Rudolph. Their hard work and diligence to our projects is the backbone of our research."

UFH GIS AND REMOTE SENSING HOD APPOINTED TO TWO STRATEGIC POSITIONS IN SA SPACE INDUSTRY

Mr Phila Sibandze, UFH Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing Senior Lecturer and HOD, has reaffirmed himself as a force to be reckoned with in the GIS field following his recent appointment to two strategic positions in the South African space industry.

“
My foundation in GIS & Remote Sensing was laid here at Fort Hare. I am one of many graduates from this Department who are in strategic positions in this field, both in Government and the Private sector. For that reason, I have a responsibility to make a significant contribution in upholding the legacy and good reputation of this institution.
”

The positions are as follows:

1. Co-Chair of a Community of Practice (CoP) in the Circular Economy and Natural Resources Management. The portfolio falls under the National Earth Observation Space Secretariat (NEOSS) which is an initiative of the Department of Science & Innovation (DSI). His responsibility as Co-Chair is, amongst others, to contribute knowledge, skills, and expertise in the usage of space technology in the management of natural resources while maintaining a sustainable economic environment.

2. Vice-Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Systems (CEOS) Working Group on Capacity Development and Data Democracy (WGCapD) held by the South African National Space Agency (SANSA). His responsibility on this appointment is to co-represent SANSA at the working group which aims to develop space capacity through teaching and learning and to

advocate for free access to space data, technology and services, especially to developing countries.

Mr Sibandze said his new roles will allow him to understand and contribute to the changes within the space industry at local and international levels. “As an academic, I will be able to recognize the current and future industry needs which I can then use to shape our curriculum in the Department to ensure that our graduates are equipped with the necessary skills required by the industry.”

“I will also have access to international experts in different remote sensing disciplines and be able to transfer knowledge through guest lectures and research collaborations. The other benefit will be that of contributing to how capacity in the space industry is developed and knowledge is transferred to developing countries.”

Mr Sibandze who also happens to be an Alumnus of the Department, having obtained a Bachelor of Science and Honours Degree in Applied GIS and Remote Sensing from UFH, said he hopes his achievements would serve as inspiration to current and future students. “My foundation in GIS & Remote Sensing was laid here at Fort Hare. I am one of many graduates from this Department who are in strategic positions in this field, both in Government and the Private sector. For that reason, I have a responsibility to make a significant contribution in upholding the legacy and good reputation of this institution.”

Some of the key contributions he intends to make in his roles include: ensuring that the South African National Space Agency achieves its objective at CEOS WGCapD, sharing best practices on knowledge transfer, and continuing advocating for free access to satellite data and resources.

Mr Sibandze also hopes to improve coordination across different capacity building networks via the Earth Observation Training, Education and Capacity Development Network (EOTEC DevNet).

by Aretha Linden



Mr Phila Sibandze holds a Bachelor of Science and Honours Degree in Applied GIS and Remote Sensing from UFH and a Masters of Science Degree from the University of KwaZulu Natal. His work experience started in 2003 at Umvoto Africa as a GIS & Remote Sensing Technician. He then joined the Agricultural Research Council's Institute of Soil Climate and Water (ARC-ISCW) where he worked as a Researcher in the Geo-Informatics division. While at ARC-ISCW he was the recipient of the CV Raman Scholarship for African Researchers from the Indian Space Agency (ISRO) where he spent 3 months at ISRO's Bopal campus advancing his knowledge on crop monitoring. He

later joined the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) as a Remote Sensing Scientist working on satellite applications on disaster management with a particular focus on flood detection and monitoring. While at SANSA, Mr. Sibandze also served as the Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellite's (CEOS) Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy (WGCapD) which advocated and promoted free and easier access to satellite data and open-source resources. Mr. Sibandze has authored and co-authored papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented at both local and international conferences. In 2018, he joined the UFH as a Senior Lecturer and subsequently became the Head of the GIS and Remote Sensing Department the following year. He is currently studying towards a Ph.D. at Fort Hare where his research is investigating the impacts of climate change on the frequent occurrences of floods in the coastal town of Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape.

President Ramaphosa appoints UFH Public Law Professor, Nomthandazo Ntlama to Electoral Court

“The Court effectively seeks to translate the theory of law, which has been my experience in the academia, into real life and concrete situations in the resolution of disputes that are tabled before it.”

From playing international netball to the highest echelons of academia and now making big strides in the Judiciary.

Prof Nomthandazo Ntlama-Makhanya, Public Law Professor and Acting Head of the UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights at UFH's Nelson R Mandela School of Law, has been appointed as a Non-Judge Member of the South African Electoral Court.

Her appointment was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa after she was interviewed and recommended by the South African Judicial Services Commission (JSC). Her five-year term commenced on the 1st of January 2022.

The Electoral Court is a specialized court that oversees the Electoral Commission and the conduct of elections. It was established by the Electoral Commission Act, 1996 to replace a Special Electoral Court which oversaw the 1994 elections and has status similar to that of a division of the High Court.

The court consists of a Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal as chairman, two High Court judges, and two non-judge members. All members are appointed by the President on the advice of the JSC.

According to Prof Ntlama-Makhanya, her role is to assist the Court in the delivery of its constitutional mandate and to dispense justice in line with the ideals of the new dispensation.

“The Court effectively seeks to translate the theory of law, which has been my experience in the academia, into real life and concrete situations in the resolution of disputes that are tabled before it. Its particular role is to oversee the functioning of the Electoral Commission which has to translate the fulfillment of the right to vote to the general citizenry. The Court



was established against South Africa's history which limited the right to vote to White citizens to the exclusion of the general citizenry: Black people. My role, together with the other members is to bridge the gap and constitutionalise the interpretation of the said right to ensure the advancement of social change,” she explained.

In addition to being a well-accomplished Law academic and professional, Prof Ntlama-Makhanya who hails from the rural village of Qaqa outside Qonce (formerly known as King William's Town) is also the first Black National Netball player in the Eastern Cape and one of the first four Black Players of Border Netball in 1994 after the integration of black and white federations. The UFH alumna was recently appointed as the Chairperson of Netball South Africa's (NSA) Disciplinary Committee of Appeals.

Upon receiving the news of her appointment to the Electoral Court, Prof Ntlama-Makhanya said she was overwhelmed with emotions. “The support of the nomination from various law bodies gave credence to the quality of the work I produced as an academic including the judgments I delivered whilst I served as Acting Judge of the Divisions of the High Court in Bhisho and Durban. My appointment also assured me that there is progress in terms of transformation in judicial appointments which considers diversity to allow fresh perspective.”

Congratulations Prof Ntlama, UFH is proud of you.

By Aretha Linden

Revered UFH Fine Arts Lecturers appointed to serve on DHET Creative Outputs Sub-Field Panel

“As members of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the Department of Fine Arts, this appointment shows the caliber and expertise that the University has in the creative field. Also, it affirms the direction and commitment by DHET that young African academics should actively engage in such important work.”

For the next three years, Dr Siphe Potelwa (UFH Fine Arts HOD) and Mr Thando Mama (Fine Arts Lecturer) will serve as members of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Creative Outputs Sub-Field Panel for the evaluation of Scholarly Creative Art Works.

Dr Potelwa and Mr Mama were appointed by DHET, effectively from 1st January 2022.

According to Dr Potelwa, the panel is a statutory body of DHET which looks at the creative outputs from Academics in South African Institutions of Higher Learning.

“The objectives of this panel are to assess and confirm the accreditation of the creative outputs by academics or researchers which have undergone peer review. Our role as panel members is to assess the creative works and determine if they embody original research production. We also assess the wide range of ways in which creative works may enter the public domain. At the same time, we assess whether the work is of excellence standards, Innovative across the spectrum of strategic research and practice-led research.”

The sub-field panel is guided by the Policy on the Evaluation of Creative Outputs and Innovations Produced



// Dr Siphe Potelwa



// Mr Thando Mama

by Public Higher Education Institutions (2017) Implementation Guidelines.

Commenting on their appointment, Dr Potelwa and Mr Mama said: “Our appointment is not about us as Lecturers, it is about the UFH Department of Fine Arts' representation in the field of scholarly creative art outputs.”

“As members of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the Department of Fine Arts, this appointment shows the caliber and expertise that the University has in the creative field. Also, it affirms the direction and commitment by DHET that young African academics should actively engage in such important work. Perhaps, it will encourage

our institution to take the creative outputs in a serious light, and set up platforms and opportunities for the staff to be active.”

During their tenure, the pair hopes to develop student creativity to attract funders or subsidies. Also, to promote and market student artworks, by hosting exhibitions, art festivals participation and other creative art competitions such as Spier Art Contemporary and Sasol. Lastly, Dr Potelwa and Mr Mama hope to encourage Lecturers to produce more creative art publications.

by Aretha Linden

UFH represented at inaugural African Higher Education Workshop in Rwanda

The University of Fort Hare was represented as part of a 3-day inaugural African Higher Education Teaching, Learning and Research Collaboration Workshop held at the University of Kigali in Rwanda from 9th to 11th February.

The gathering also features scholars from Walter Sisulu University and the University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science. UFH was represented by Prof Munacinga Simatele, Economics Professor and the Nedbank Chair of Economics in the Faculty of Management and Commerce and Prof Willie Chinyamurindi, HOD for Business Management.

Day 1 of the workshop saw undergraduate students and their staff meet to discuss aspects related to the decolonization of the curriculum and issues related to teaching and learning in higher education.

Day 2 was dedicated to Masters Research students. A workshop was provided on aspects related to research supervision and aspects related to supervision.

On day 3, attendees had a workshop with staff members at the University of Kigali. The focus was mostly on:

- Applying for research funding;
- Getting published and;
- Supervision capacity building.

The trip was funded by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof Willie and Prof Simatele, together with Dr Newlyn Marongwe, Senior Lecturer at Walter Sisulu University and Dr Motshedisi Mathibe, Senior Lecturer with the University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science penned an opinion piece about the trip which was published in the Rwanda Times:



University of Kigali builds new research ties with visiting scholars

[FEATURED: UoK builds new research ties with visiting scholars | The New Times | Rwanda](#)

Published: February 15, 2022 | Updated: February 15, 2022

The new normal has been revealing. An oscillation between threats and opportunities. On one end, we are exposed and the revelation, our great need for physical connectedness. The restrictions posed by the COVID-19 have limited our ability to connect.

Conversely, the new normal has also revealed how much we need partnerships to thrive, with technology playing an important part. For African universities, it becomes vital to collaborate. Consequently, University of Kigali (UoK) has partnered with 4 renowned institutions of higher learning in South Africa; Walter Sisulu University (WSU), University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), University of Fort Hare and the National Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences to organize an *Inaugural African Higher Education Teaching, Learning and Research Conference at its Kigali campus* for its staff and students.

The 3-day conference facilitated by scholars from the South African partner institutions started on February 9 and ends on February 11, 2022, with a focus on discussions around 'Decolonizing the Curriculum', 'Basics on Research Topics and Supervision', 'Basics of Research' and 'Making Sense of the Process of Attracting Cents'. The cross-pollination of ideas, especially within African universities is needed because our presented challenges, often similar, necessitate the need for working together.

The situation on the African continent is still ominous. A recent World Bank report directs focus in improving continental dynamic capabilities. For such to happen, a twofold focus is needed.

First, African universities need to develop a skilled human resource cohort of world-class standards. Such a cohort needs to be sufficiently trained and also entrenched in solving local challenges. Other aspects of focus

should pay attention to human resource practices, such as talent management strategies and remuneration. This encourages the challenge of the brain drain where African labour is mainly benefitting Western countries. Let's improve the material conditions of the African workforce. There is no other substitute for quality.

A second priority is an investment in technologies of the future. Something as basic as an investment in affordable high-speed internet connectivity can assist in the developmental agenda. There is a noted observation that many of our socio-economic imperatives require this development orientation in mind. For instance, we note the rise in aspects of informality on the African continent. There is a need for such technologies to arrive in such sectors where our people ply their trade.

The role of the African university becomes critical also in all this.

Many African countries have a growing youth population. There is a need for continued investment in this young population. Many of these young people still see the university as a helpful outlet to get the skills for the workforce. The African university becomes an essential citadel with the potential of a spill-over effect to other sectors of society.

A second work to be prioritized in African universities centers around addressing infrastructure challenges. A Deloitte Report bemoans the challenge of infrastructure as a significant obstacle to Africa achieving total economic growth. To enhance competitiveness, there is a need to invest in infrastructure that encourages connectivity in African universities.

The critical role of partnerships becomes necessary now more than ever. This is the type of collaboration that is mutually beneficial by maximizing economies of scale and fostering synergies.

Our visit to Rwanda attests to the importance of such collaboration especially amongst African scholars. Funded by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences in South Africa, we aim to use this trip to forge these partnerships for African excellence. Colleagues and students at the University of Kigali have been welcoming and are seeking with us ways for collaboration in research, joint teaching, new curriculum development, short course attendance, and the training of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

As a research team we are already impressed by what we are seeing in the land of a thousand hills. From the warm embrace and love shown by the people of Rwanda to an appreciation of how clean the country is. Then there is the level consciousness around promoting African innovations and the green economy. All this presents learning points for us as visitors to Rwanda.

Such research partnerships between African universities attest to the continued history of working together on the African continent. The clarion call by President Paul Kagame is weighted with challenge and also opportunity: "Africa's story has been written by others; we need to own our problems and solutions and write our story." Trips like these to Rwanda merely put us on the right path to writing our African stories.

The UFH Gender Equity Office

Colours The World Against GBV

Dr Rianna Oelofsen, Interim Director of the newly established Gender Equity Office tells us more about the core objectives of this Office.

Background

Gender-based Violence (GBV) is a serious problem in our university, our society, and our world.

It came to the attention of the University of Fort Hare that cases of GBV were not properly addressed due to a lack of coordination between different units and offices at the University. This meant that the University's response to the issue was fragmented, and this is what the establishment of the Gender Equity Office (GEO) seeks to address.

What is the vision and objective of the GEO?

The Office is the central reporting structure for GBV at UFH. Its role is to ensure that all cases of GBV are properly dealt with, that proper statistics are kept and that psycho-social support is provided for all involved.

The GEO also aims to ensure that all staff and students of the University are sufficiently trained, and have proper awareness and education on what GBV entails. It is also responsible for conducting research on the problem of GBV at Fort Hare, in order to be able to implement research-based solutions to the problem.

Who, where and how to get help?

Even though GBV is mainly experienced by women, the GEO notes that LGBTQI persons and men are also affected and therefore the office deals with all issues of gender and gender-based violence at the University. Men and LGBTQI persons need not feel excluded.

Cases of GBV can be reported to the office directly, or to another person at the University if the survivor feels more comfortable with that option. If a case of GBV is reported to anyone, they have the duty to contact the Office as soon as possible, in order for the Office to take the matter forward. GEO aims to provide psycho-social support to all survivors of GBV, and also aims to provide support throughout the legal process of dealing with the incident, should the survivor decide on a formal disciplinary process in order to deal with the case.

It is important to note that survivors (Staff and Students) may approach the office, and will receive support, even if they choose not to formally report the incident for further action. The process is very private and confidential and no survivor will be re-victimised.

If you would like to report a case of GBV, or if you would like to find out more on how to support survivors of GBV, you can contact the Gender Equity Unit via email (Genderequity@ufh.ac.za), phone or WhatsApp 072 684 5864 - this number is available 24/7. Should you prefer to be seen in person, you may visit the Gender Equity Offices: Alice office is in room L25 in the Social Sciences and Humanities building and the East London office is located at 24 Hill Street.

Please tell us more about current and upcoming awareness campaigns?

In order to combat GBV, it is necessary to change our societal, and institutional cultures of violence. It is also necessary to recognize the relationships and links between other issues such as mental health and HIV/Aids with GBV. In order to tackle the problem we need to start looking at it holistically. How do you change a culture? The Gender Equity office maintains that a culture of violence cannot be changed to a culture of peace through having 16 days of activism and Women's month. Rather, the Office maintains that a better approach is to pay some attention to the issue throughout the year. We need to stand #AgainstGBVEveryday

The Office is therefore spearheading and driving an awareness and educational campaign to run through the year of 2022, starting in March, and to end with



// Khanya Nhdlovu and Sandiso Ngoqwane, volunteers for the Gender Equity Office with the interim Director Rianna Oelofsen.

the 16 days of activism against GBV in November. The **#Colourtheworld** campaign is a collaboration between this Office and some other stakeholders, for example the UFH GBV Task Team, Stand as One Against GBV, Institutional Advancement, and the Student Counselling Unit, to name but a few.

The campaign has a different colour and theme every month for 9 months. The overall campaign is against GBV, but different months focus on different aspects of GBV, and/or different vulnerable groups. The colours used are colours that are already assigned as colours of awareness for each cause. For example, green for mental health awareness, teal for rape, orange for GBV, white for violence against women, rainbow for pride, purple for domestic violence, red for HIV/AIDS, etc.

The first month of #UFHColourstheWorld is orange. Orange is the colour for GBV awareness, and we will focus on the general issue, as well as on the UFH GBV Policy in March. It is important to realize that the UFH GBV policy affects all staff (including security, administrative and academic) and students, as well as third party contractors at the University of Fort Hare.

How to get involved

In order to enlighten and educate the UFH community on its rights, responsibilities and duties, the Office is hosting an event on the Alice and East London

campuses respectively. Join us in order to get to know your rights and duties according to the policy, and join in a dialogue. This dialogue is for ALL staff and students. There will also be small prizes awarded for practical ideas on how we can combat GBV at UFH. Please see the poster accompanying this article for details on the events.

Apart from attending the event on your campus, to get involved in the fight against GBV, wear orange in support of survivors of GBV in March. Upload your pictures of you (and your friends) wearing orange to support the fight against GBV and tag us on Social Media using the following hashtags #UFHColourstheWorld #UFHAgainstGBV. You can also follow the Gender Equity Office on social media, where there will be snippets posted on aspects of the UFH GBV policy throughout the month. In April we will move to the next color and theme of the campaign.

Every single person who stands up against GBV is part of the solution. Change can be hard, but it has to start somewhere. Let change start at UFH this year, in order to create a safe, secure, and nurturing learning and working environment for all our staff and students.

Facebook: UFH Gender Equity Office
Twitter: @UFHGenderEquity
Instagram: @UFHGenderEquity



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence



Colour the world
ORANGE
against GBV

In March, wear orange in support of survivors of GBV.

Upload your pictures of you (and your friends) wearing orange to support the fight against GBV and tag us on Social Media using the following hashtags
#UFHcolorstheworld #UFHAgainstGBV

UFH Gender Equity Office @UFHgenderequity @UFHgenderequity

The UFH Gender-based Violence policy affects YOU!

Join us in order to get to know your rights and duties according to the policy, and join in a dialogue. There will be prizes for bringing practical ideas to the table on how we can address GBV at UFH.

Date: Wed, 9 March 2022

Time: 13:00 - 15:00

Venue: Freedom square (Alice)

Date: Thurs, 10 March 2022

Time: 13:00 - 15:00

Venue: Miriam Makeba (EL)

#UFHcolorstheworld #UFHAgainstGBV

Brought to you by the **UFH Gender Equity Office**
in collaboration with **UFH Student Counselling Unit,**
ECAVC and **Stand as One**



VC gives message of support at Rev John Knox Bokwe Centenary Launch

On the 22nd of February, the Vice-Chancellor a message of support at the launch of the Centenary of Rev John Knox Bokwe.

The launch was held at the Rev John Knox Bokwe Memorial Church in Dikeni (Alice).

Born on 15 March 1855 in Ntselemanzi in Alice, Rev Bokwe was a Journalist, Presbyterian Minister and one of the most celebrated Xhosa hymn writers.

He played an instrumental role in the foundation of the South African Native College in 1916, which later became the University of Fort Hare.

Rev Bokwe died on 22 February 1922. The Centenary programme hosted by the provincial Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, is dedicated to the life and times of this great icon, 100 years after his demise.

“You cannot write the history of the University of Fort Hare without mentioning Rev John Bokwe. He is part of our institution. He laid the foundation for the establishment of Fort Hare, as one of the pioneering community leaders who raised funds in the early 1900s to build this institution. Therefore, it is important to note that he is an ancestor of this University.”

In remembrance of the great Rev, the Department of Fine Arts and Music is housed in a building named after him. Recently, students painted a portrait of him at the entrance of the building.

by Asaduma Baloyi



Staff from Phyllis Ntantala Collaborative Library spreads love during Valentine's Day



This Valentine's Day (14 February), staff from the Phyllis Ntantala Collaborative Library (PNCL) on East London Campus decorated the Library with hearts and flowers.

According to PNCL Administrator, Ms Sina Dondolo the aim was to spread love across campus, especially during the challenging times of Covid -19, joblessness and financial difficulties.

“We wanted to give our students and staff some hope and love and encourage them to be open-minded, calm and concentrate on the positives. Also, we wanted to remind them to ‘remember to lose their hearts in books’ as that is the only way out of any difficult situation.”



2021 FIRST-YEAR SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS EXCEL AS THEY PARTICIPATE IN MASITHE THE PERSONAL GROWTH AND COUNSELLING SKILLS COURSE



Towards the end of 2021, eighty-five first-year social work students were invited to participate in a personal growth and development and basic counselling skills course offered through a local NGO Masithethe that specializes in counselling and trauma work. The two courses were run alongside the students' practice modules and were intended to support the first year students with discipline specific mentorship. The funding for this opportunity was granted through the University Capacity Development Grant (UCDG), a special grant awarded to UFH through DHET for staff and student development.

Students attended in small groups, facilitated by trained professionals, once a week over an eight week period and showed an excellent spirit of attendance, participation and learning. Students commented that the training boosted their confidence, gave them an opportunity to work through their own trauma and consolidated their learning around social work values, skills and ethics.

The Department of Social Work and Social Development would like to congratulate all of the social work

students who worked so diligently to complete this training. Well done! Know that your hard work today will reap a healthy tomorrow not just for yourself but also for the clients and communities that you will be working with one day.

The department would also like to thank Masithethe for facilitating the training and keeping our students safe by strictly adhering to COVID protocols. I know that it was not always easy and took a lot of planning and energy from your side.

And to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the UCDG team who supported this project from the very beginning offering encouragement, advice and support along the way, a huge thank you to you, without you this programme may never have been possible.

Kim Schmidt

Senior Lecturer Department of Social Work and Social Development

UFH Blues rugby team gearing Up for 2022 Varsity Shield Competition



// Mr Lumumba Currie

The UFH Blues Rugby Team has played four friendly games this year as they enter the second phase of the 2022 Varsity Shield preparations. The team is now at the end of their pre-season games preparing for the competition which starts on 4th March 2022 until April 2022.

Mr Lumumba Currie, UFH Blues Rugby Coach, said so far, preparations have gone according to plan. "We finished our off-season on a high and started the pre-season on a high with the same energy as we left each other for December holidays in 2021. We embarked on a talent identification programme as early as September 2021 where we played teams from different Districts in the Eastern Cape including both Heritage Tournament and Youth Day Tournament at Ntlaza."

"Players that were identified were then put on a high performance programme where they started the off-season during November 2021 period to December 2021 period. Out of a group of 45 players for the off-season training camp 35 were invited to come back for the pre-season phase with a group of 15 ladies that are due to travel to France for the rugby sevens tournament."

According to Coach Currie, during the off-season the team focussed more on strength and conditioning which he says has been the team's downfall in the last few seasons. "Obviously we have now worked very hard to try and rectify our mistakes and do well in the 2022 version of the Varsity Shield."

"It is not nice to lose games when you have the Vice-Chancellor of the institution watching and supporting the team - we feel like we are letting the Fort Hare community down and hence this season we really want to improve and give ourselves a chance to be in the play offs," he said.

Coach Currie says he is confident in the quality of the team's performance. "The quality of our pre-season opposition was very good and notably playing against

the Madibaz who play Varsity Cup. We really competed very well and lost that game only in the last ten minutes when we gave our young stars well-deserved opportunities."

The final score in that game was 35 - 26 to the Madibaz. The team also played and won three games, scoring more than four tries in each and every match.

Against Dispatch Oostelikes RFC, UFH Blues won 28 - 10, against the Brumbies UFH won 33 - 10 and beat Stutterheim Crusaders to a 61 - 10 victory.

"I know our players are hungry to bring joy to our fans, the University and our VC, Prof Buhlungu."

Both UFH Blues and the Baby Blues (Women's side) have been producing outstanding players nationally and internationally. Recently former Baby Blues player, Lusanda Dumke was voted Springbok Women's Player of the year 2021. This is after Asisipho Platjie was selected for the Springbok Women's Sevens squad. Last year the Border Bulldogs Team had seven players from the University. "This proves our programme is amongst the best in the region," said Coach Currie.

Keith Chiwara, Blues fly half has also been selected for the Zimbabwe Sables which will play Currie Cup First Division in the next two months.

During the December holidays - Mr Currie was invited to a High Performance Coaches Seminar in Cape Town where he rubbed shoulders with current and former Springbok Coaches, Jake White and Jacque Nienaber.

The Shield games will commence as follows:

- 1st Game - FNB UFH Blues RFC vs TUT Vikings 15h00 (04 March 2022) @Rhodes University
- 2nd Game - FNB UFH Blues RFC vs KZN Impi 15h00 (06 March 2022) @Rhodes University

Elliot Mntuwekhaya Fana

Senior Sport Officer: Sport Department

GAME ON

#RUGBYTHATROCKS

4 MAR - 22 APR

LIVE ON S



STEERS

20 MAR

17:00

TUKS STADIUM

LIVE ON S

#RUGBYTHATROCKS



FNB UFH



FNB WSU



STEERS



Fort Hare Foundation rallies support for UFH Rowing Club

“It is absolutely fantastic to know that the club is being supported. My long-term hope is to assist the club to firstly become, autonomous and secondly, world-class”

The Fort Hare Foundation (FHF) has heeded the Vice-Chancellor’s call for support for the UFH Rowing Club.

During their participation in the Buffalo Regatta on 12 February 2022, Club members were draped in their first-ever kit sponsored by the Eastern Cape Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) through the efforts of the Foundation’s Director, Ms Nokulunga Mngqeta. The kit consists of UFH-branded tri suits and bucket hats.

According to Mngqeta, the VC made the call for support during the inaugural Annual Golf Day gala dinner hosted by the Foundation in October last year. “I was among the audience when the VC announced that the University has a rowing club that is in need of assistance. I was triggered to find out more about the Club and to establish how the Foundation could assist.”

Despite the Club not being under the foundation’s fundraising priorities, Mngqeta sprang into action and approached DSRAC during the December holiday last year. “The Department was very keen on supporting us. They requested an analysis of the Club’s immediate and five-year needs.”

“The Club has a couple of immediate needs and the Department committed to securing the kits for them. Discussions for medium and long-term support for the Club and other UFH sporting codes are underway. I will get in contact with the UFH Sports Department to expand on these discussions,” she said.

UFH Sports HOD, Mr Loyiso Lange said the initiative is greatly welcomed. “We always value and appreciate such support from internal and external stakeholders. The Department is always open to any discussions that seek to advance sporting codes at Fort Hare. Our main initiative is to transform sport at the university by elevating our students to the highest competition realms (national and international levels)”

Ms Deilzielyn van der Westhuizen, Club Secretary and 3rd year Bachelor of Arts student said the branded kit has brought some identity to the members. “For the first time, we felt like we belonged and our opponents and spectators were able to identify us. Wearing our kits, we already felt like winners before the competition started.”

Deilzielyn, joined the club three years ago when she was in her first year at UFH. Currently, she is the captain of the Women’s 8. She also assists with coaching novices.

Club Mentor, Ms Kate Godfrey, believes with the required support, the Club is more than capable of becoming world-class. “It is absolutely fantastic to know that the club is being supported. My long-term hope is to assist the club to firstly become, autonomous and secondly, world-class,” said Kate.

By Aretha Linden

Action Picture: Daily Dispatch





Left to Right // Anele Gqumayo, Zabathembu Kolota, Xolani Thobela Ntsonkota and Lunga Nobetsiki

UFH Karate Kids shine in all styles tourney

The University's flag was flown high during an all styles karate tournament hosted by the Buffalo City Metro Karate Association on 19 February where two UFH students, Anele Gqumayo and Lunga Nobetsiki were placed first and second, respectively.

The all-stars tourney featured Goju Kai, JKA, KKOGK, Oyama Atado and Shotokan karate styles.

According to the UFH Karate Team coach, Sempai Thobela Ntsonkota, the team's versatility in various styles was an added advantage. He attributed the recent achievement to the support he receives from the entire sports administration, the respect he gets from his students as a coach, the dedication and discipline from his team, "All those aspects combined makes it easy for me to give back the art and skill I have acquired throughout my experience. As much as we did not have adequate time to prepare, I am happy with our achievement." he said.

The Sempai says the team's responsibility goes beyond Doja but also aims to deal with issues of mental health and Gender-based Violence by getting involved in GBV programmes. "We aim to encourage students, children and parents to do sport to help them in life in general and to teach them respect and self-love too.

Ntsonkota and the duo are from the Goju- Kai style, the team has a community outreach programme that aims to spread the influence, and the art of karate to better their surrounding communities.

by Mawande Mrashula

CRICKET TEAM FARES WELL IN USSA "A" 2021 CRICKET TOURNAMENT



UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

Back Row (L-R) E.Mgoqi, M.Mjakula, L.Shoba, M.Calana (Consultant), S.Mayase, A.Namba, J.Daries, S.Khala, L.Ndlovu, W.Mgculo, A.Mahlungu
Front Row (L-R) B.Siqonyela (Conditioning Coach), M.Gege (Ass Coach), L.Katywa, L.Mzamo (Capt), J.Kilani (Coach), A.Rebe (Vice Capt), L.Hanabe (Ass Coach), T.Sqoko, G.Kanuka (Manager)

The UFH Cricket Team ended top of group B with 15 points after putting up solid performances against Rhodes University, TUT and KZN University to secure three massive wins during the **University Sports South Africa (USSA) 2021 Cricket Tournament**.

The week-long tournament was hosted by Nelson Mandela University last month.

Under the leadership of its head coach, Jongile Kilani, the team popularly referred to as the UFH Forties only lost one match of the four matches they played during the tournament.

Accompanying the squad, were Assistant Coaches: Lukhanya Hanabe, Mfundo Gege and Mkhululi Calana, Strength and Conditioning Coach: Bakholise Sigonyela and Team Manager, Gcobisa Kanuka.

Despite the challenges of losing their captain, Loyiso Mzamo and Senior Bowler, Thabang Sqoko to

injuries and the Covid-19 outbreak ruining the chances of finishing the event as planned, the players displayed great spirit on the field.

“
We are looking forward to developing this team into a quality outfit. Our ambition is to gain promotion and play at a higher level.
”

Akhanya Rebe took the captaincy in the absence of his regular skipper and did a sterling job for the team. Debutants Lwando Shoba and Emihle Mgoqi shined with outstanding performances.

The 19-year-old bowler Lwando dominated the USSA A 2021 bowling records for taking five wickets. He was ranked number one bowler in the tournament bowling records and second in the overall

player rankings with 749 points. He was also the joint leading wicket-taker with eleven wickets during the tournament.

Batsman Emihle Mgoqi was named the third-best run-scorer of the tournament, with 155 runs in four games. He finished the tournament with a good average of 77.50.

Coach Kilani said they were happy with the team's performance. "We are looking forward to developing this team into a quality outfit. Our ambition is to gain promotion and play at a higher level."

"The team is pumped up and appreciate the opportunity for their skills to be tested in a tournament of this nature. They really showed so much zeal and determination - we hope they continue in this form going forward," said Kilani.

By Mawande Mrashula



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Together in Excellence

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Acting Editor: Aretha Linden

Writers: Aretha Linden, Asaduma Baloyi, Mawande Mrashula

Graphic Design & Layout: Alida Mundell

Creative Specialist: Tim Wilson

Marketing Advisor: Khotso Moabi

FOR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND STORY LEADS:

Aretha Linden - alinden@ufh.ac.za
