



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

# UFH NEWS

JULY 2022

“The fight against GBV will only be successful when there is change in mindset and attitude.”

-VC at Men's Indaba



# FORT HARE FOUNDATION HOSTS SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL GAUTENG GOLF DAY



The Fort Hare Foundation (FHF) hosted its first Annual Gauteng Fundraising Golf Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July at the Houghton Golf Course in Johannesburg.

The event is one of several activities in the resource mobilisation strategy in support of the University's Decade of Renewal. Each year the Foundation focuses on specific priorities that seek to enhance the profile of the University, raise funds to support the priorities and to build sustainable partnerships with businesses and other critical stakeholders.

Foundation Director, Nokulunga Mngqeta said the event also enables the Foundation to network with alumni and create new fundraising opportunities. "Gauteng is the economic hub of the country and the majority of UFH's prominent alumni are based in Gauteng. Having a fundraising event in the province is a strategic move to position the University within the economic

hub whilst also engaging alumni to donate to the University." The theme for the event was 'Rebuilding, Restoring and the Renewal of NoKholeji'.

According to Ms Mngqeta, the aim is to raise funds for the modernization of the University through infrastructure improvement. "The University has a number of heritage buildings and sites that require maintenance and upgrading. It is important to improve the infrastructure and align its systems to modern technology." The infrastructure projects include, the construction of a state-of-the-art multipurpose centre, the extension, modernization and digitalization of the Alice library in support of online learning which informs the concept of renewal.

"The event was a success as new relationships were initiated, and new potential funders were identified," said Mngqeta.

The golf day was followed by a gala evening where art works created by students from the Fine Arts Department were auctioned and fetched a total of R226 723.33. According to Mngqeta the funds will be invested to optimize growth towards sustainability. "All the funds raised are ringfenced for the specific priorities identified by the University," she said.

Among the biggest highlight of the gala evening was the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the FHF and the Thabo Mbeki Foundation to work together to revive the Lovedale Press. The partnership falls under both foundations' Education and Heritage Development Programme Goals.

Some of the objectives of this joint venture includes establishing adequate funds for the benefit of Lovedale Press, establishing partnerships with

educational institutions and experts to ensure the viability of Lovedale Press and to create a collaborative platform to the benefit of both the Lovedale Press and beneficiary partners.

The joint venture also seeks to build a pre-eminent publishing and printing establishment in Africa by publishing high quality books and other works that educate readers and advance knowledge in the most technologically and fiscally responsible way possible, while enhancing the stature and reflecting the mission of the Lovedale Press and its partners.

In pursuit of achieving its mandate to raise funds, the Foundation is already preparing for the East London Fundraising Golf Day to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September at the East London Golf Club and gala dinner to be held at The Venue at Hemingways Hotel.



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# Fort Hare Foundation Gala Dinner 2022





# Law Faculty hosts 2022 Southern African Law Teachers Conference

Members of the judiciary, legal scholars and practitioners congregated at the East London International Convention Centre for the 2022 Southern African Law Teachers Conference (SALTC) hosted by the University of Fort Hare's Faculty of Law.

The four-day conference was held from 11 - 14 July under the theme, **Enforcing Accountability: Consolidating democracy, compelling sustainable development in the 21st Century.**

According to the Society for Law Teachers of Southern Africa (SLTSA) this year's gathering aimed to create an opportunity for legal academics and researchers to share research and reflect on the progress and failures of constitutionalism and political governance systems in South and Southern Africa.

The delegates also seek to interrogate existing national and global economic and environmental governance frameworks and reimagine the future around the necessary normative and governance framework changes.

The opening ceremony was graced by esteemed members of the judiciary such as Justice Nambitha Dambuzza (Supreme Court of Appeal), Justice Boissie Mba (Constitutional Court), and Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga (Constitutional Court).

In welcoming the delegates, UFH Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu spoke passionately about the role of researchers and scholars in response to uncertainties facing the world currently.

"As we meet here as a community of scholars, we should try and dissect and find the truth. As we try to search for the truth, we should ask ourselves, why is it that things have descended to this point where nothing is certain, nothing is guaranteed, nothing is safe, no one is safe and nowhere is safe?"

"I think it important that I am saying this to legal practitioners because, at the end of the day when everything is gloomy and uncertain, we [society] tend to look up to the Judges as they are the ones who adjudicate these matters. As you dissect and interrogate your papers, it is important to remember that society is waiting for answers and for certainty."

The UFH Management Executive Committee was represented by the VC, Prof Renuka Vithal (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning and Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnership and Innovation).

According to the Dean of Law, Prof Mzukisi Njotini, UFH expressed its interest to host the conference during a previous conference held at Kruger National Park in January 2020, before Covid-19 lockdown regulations were imposed. The request was subsequently approved and supported during the SALTC general meeting, however, the programme was disrupted by the pandemic.

"In my view, the fact that we are all here is a strong demonstration of our resilience. This gathering aims to celebrate scholarship and excellence."

"This gathering also seeks to remind our colleagues of some of the prevailing social ills that continue to prevail in our society," said Prof Njotini who made reference to the incident of the 21 youths who died at a tavern in East London.

SLTSA President, Prof Retselisitsoe Phooko thanked UFH for being a great host. He also thanked the members of the judiciary, Oxford University Press, LexisNexis, Juta and the Law Society of South Africa for their unwavering support for the conference.

First on the programme was a main plenary session chaired by Justice Madlanga. The presenters for the main plenary session included presentations by:

Prof Nomthandazo Ntlama-Makhanya (UFH Law Prof) who presented her research titled: The case of the 2030 Agenda of the Global Goals 'leaving no one behind' in the enforcement of the language of rights in the 21st Century; Prof Sandra Liebenberg (Stellenbosch University) presented her paper on The Wild Coast seismic survey litigation: A case study into the role of law in protecting the right to sustainable development.

Prof Thomas Spijkerboek (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) also joined the main plenary session with a virtual presentation titled: Accountability of the global North States in the promotion of accountability for external migration policies.



# UFH and SANBI host National Symposium on Biological Invasions

“Invasion of species into new regions is the second most important threat to biodiversity after habitat loss and degradation.” This according to Dr Lelethu Unathi Heshula, Senior Lecturer at the UFH Zoology and Entomology.

Dr Heshula made this statement ahead of the National Symposium on Biological Invasions (NSOBI) where critical stakeholders within the biological invasions fraternity converged on the University of Fort Hare Alice campus to share ideas and plot new directions for the future.

The three-day biennial symposium was hosted by the University in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) from the 6th to the 8th July.

Carrying the theme: *Investing in Biosecurity to Improve Human Livelihoods*, participants and contributors focussed on issues around research and the management of biosecurity and how this relates to improving livelihoods.

Furthermore, the theme aimed to bring to the fore the funding challenges that are plaguing the biological invasions field in the country by reigniting the debate around the importance of continued funding.

The symposium brought together invasion experts, students, managers, and policy makers that are interested in biological invasions and their management in the Southern Africa region.

This is the first time that UFH is hosting the conference, the University is also the first institution to organise a face-to-face gathering of this symposium since pre-Covid-19 conditions.

The gathering was opened with a welcome address delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu and opening remarks by Wiseman Rikhotso, Director at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

Dr Jana Fried, Assistant Professor from Coventry University in the United Kingdom delivered the first keynote address titled: Reflections on interdisciplinary research in biosecurity and invasion science.

Other key speakers for the duration of symposium included:

- Distinguished Prof Martin Hill: SARCHI Research Chair in Entomology, Professor and Head of Entomology, Director: Centre for Biological Control (CBC) at Rhodes University and President of International Organisation of Biological Control Global.
- Dr Angus Peterson, Managing Director, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB-NRF, MAKHANDA), and;
- Mr Wiseman Rikhotso

Dr Heshula said the meeting of these stakeholders was critical because of the significant challenges presented by biological invasion in South Africa.

“Invasive species (animals, plants, microorganisms, seeds) are pervasive drivers of global change responsible for substantial ecological, health, social and economic losses in societies almost everywhere in the world.”

“Generally, invasions occur when species colonize new geographic regions that are isolated from indigenous populations. Humans have played a significant role in facilitating and accelerating these invasion dynamics, in part due to an expansion in global trade and the ease and speed at which goods (including



“The goal of this symposium is to highlight the many successes in the field, by not only probing the various scientific aspects of biological invasions but also how findings have been a vehicle to improve human livelihoods.”

species) can now move across historical barriers such as borders,” explained Dr Heshula.

According to him, significant investments such as research and management, have been made in biosecurity over the past two decades as the global threat of biological invasions continues to rise. However, as national policies and priorities change under the pressure of multiple development demands and the COVID-19 pandemic, biosecurity faces numerous challenges.

“Key amongst these is sustained funding and ensuring that biosecurity continues to facilitate the improvement of human livelihoods. Therefore, this year’s theme aims to bring to the forefront the conversation on the value of biosecurity to the country, the need for continued funding and support, and

the importance of biosecurity as a vehicle to improve human livelihoods,” he stated.

Under the theme, contributors will cover topics centred on invasion theories, drivers of invasions, trends and status of invasions, impacts of invasions, and management interventions for invasions.

“The goal of this symposium is to highlight the many successes in the field, by not only probing the various scientific aspects of biological invasions but also how findings have been a vehicle to improve human livelihoods. We also believe that the hosting of this symposium at UFH Alice campus will serve to showcase the capabilities of our institution and our uniquely historical town as we embark on our Decade of Renewal,” concluded Dr Heshula.



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# African Universities Unite to Strengthen Research Capabilities to benefit African Communities

The great Nelson Mandela once dreamt of a united Africa, whereby its leaders combine their efforts to solve the problems of this continent.

Here at the University of Fort Hare, his dream is realized through a pact made with the University of Gondar (Ethiopia), Makerere University Business School (Uganda) and the University of Kigali (Rwanda) to work together to strengthen teaching, learning and research capabilities to mutually benefit staff, students and their surrounding communities.

The four African Universities sealed this agreement with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) during a virtual ceremony held in June.

The signing ceremony was directed by Prof Willie Chinyamurindi (HOD of Business Management), who alongside Prof Munacinga Simatele (Economics Prof) and Dr Annet Nabatanzi-Myimba (Makerere University) initiated and played a pivotal role in the realization of this commitment.

According to Prof Chinyamurindi, at the core of this partnership is the desire to strive for collaboration in research, collaborative teaching, new curriculum development, short course attendance, and the training of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

“Such Africa to Africa partnerships attest to the continued history of working together espoused by intellectuals and social activists like the late Kenyan-born thinker, Ali Mazrui. Despite the adamant challenges on the African continent, the clarion call here, Africans can re-script their destiny. Partnerships merely embolden and make haste our steps towards the liberation of the Africans,” said Prof Chinyamurindi.

Guests and participants who shared messages of solidarity for this joint venture during the MOU signing ceremony included:

- Dr Nthabi Taole-Mjimba - UFH DVC for Research, Partnerships and Innovation
- Dr Hlulani Mabasa - Office of International Affairs Director, UFH

- Dr Asrat Atsedeweyn Andargie - President of the University of Gondar
- Prof Robert Rugimbana - Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kigali
- Prof Waswa Balunywa - Principal of Makerere University Business School
- Prof Sarah Mosoetsa - CEO of the National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences

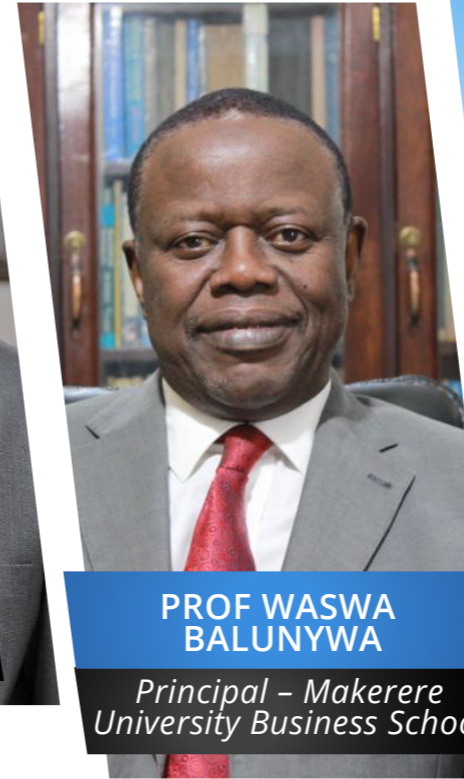
Prof Liezel Cilliers who is the Acting Dean for UFH Faculty of Management and Commerce said the African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” was fitting of the research journey undertaken by the universities and the researchers.

“Alone, I can accomplish only so much with my own resources and knowledge but when I start to tap into the network of colleagues with various skills and knowledge, I can go further and accomplish so much more. The beauty of this arrangement is that it puts us in a position to give back,” said Prof Cilliers.



PROF SAKHELA BUHLUNGU

VC –  
University of Fort Hare



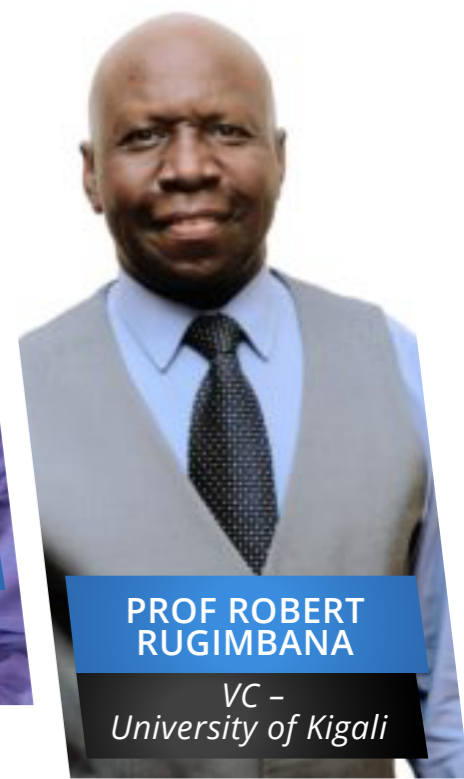
PROF WASWA BALUNYWA

Principal – Makerere  
University Business School



DR ASRAT ATSEDEWEYN ANDARGIE

President –  
University of Gondar



PROF ROBERT RUGIMBANA

VC –  
University of Kigali

**“We want this partnership to be successful and to be a flagship for other universities that South-to-South partnerships can work and produce research that is relevant to the current century.”**

Highlighting some of the expectations of this joint venture, Prof Simatele said the aim is to generate Afrocentric research that is impactful and to produce collaborative research that influences policies to benefit surrounding communities.

Echoing the sentiments of the previous speakers, Dr Nabatanzi-Myimba said the collaboration will unlock opportunities to find African solutions for African problems.

Dr Mabasa declared the University’s support and affirmed the importance of South-to-South collaborations. “The University is currently at the start of a Decade of Renewal and one of

our strategic plans is to expand partnerships across the African continent. We need to move away from relying on the West to tell us what is acceptable and what knowledge is best. It is time to go back to our indigenous knowledge and this partnership presents us an opportunity to do so.”

“We want this partnership to be successful and to be a flagship for other universities that South-to-South partnerships can work and produce research that is relevant to the current century. We are excited and look forward to the activities from this partnership.”

Dr Taole-Mjimba pointed out the fact that this collaboration speaks directly to two strategic

goals outlined in UFH’s 2022-2027 Strategic Plan which are to strengthen the University’s research and innovation profile and to enhance the University’s regional, national and international standing and impact.

“This project will hopefully give expression to the desire of the partnering Universities which is to uphold excellence in the work produced. It will certainly propel us to have the impact we aspire to have on the African continent,” said Dr Taole-Mjimba.



“The objective of my research is to understand athlete behaviour and the psychological impact the sport environment have on them to plan and implement intervention programmes that can enhance the mental toughness of the athlete to deal with the stress and pressure that comes with competitive environments”

## Prof Leon van Niekerk gets a well-deserved NRF C-Rating

Prof Leon van Niekerk, Sport Psychology Professor and a registered Counselling Psychologist who has been providing psychological assistance to national and international athletes for over two decades, has been awarded a National Research Foundation (NRF) C-2 rating.

Prof van Niekerk joined UFH in 2015 and is currently lecturing Sports Psychology and Research Methodology to undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Department of Human Movement Science (HMS).

He is the 12<sup>th</sup> UFH researcher to be awarded a rating by the NRF during this academic year.

According to the NRF, a C-Rating is awarded to an established researcher with a sustained recent record of productivity in the field and is recognised by their peers as having produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field. The recipient has also demonstrated the ability to conceptualise problems and apply research methods to investigate them.

Prof van Niekerk’s research interests are in the psychological well-being of athletes. This includes topics such as sexual abuse in sport, the development of mental toughness, development of sport identity and life roles, burnout, stress and anxiety among athletes, the effectiveness of mindfulness during competition, mental health in sport and the psychological health benefits of exercise.

“The objective of my research is to understand athlete behaviour and the psychological impact the sport environment have on them to plan and implement intervention programmes that can enhance the mental toughness of the athlete to deal with the stress and pressure that comes with competitive environments,” Prof van Niekerk explained.

He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in national and international journals and has written various chapters in academic books.

Prof van Niekerk completed his PhD in Psychology in 2006 at the University of Johannesburg and a European Masters in Sport and Exercise Psychology in 2007 at the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium.

Since the year 2000, he has provided psychological assistance to numerous national and international athletes in sports such as golf, squash, football, rugby, Olympic- and Paralympic athletes, swimmers, cricket players and teams such as our national life-saving teams, national acro-tumbling team.

He has also offered his expertise to the SA Proteas netball team, Bafana-Bafana, Lions u/18 team, and sports teams of numerous schools, universities and clubs.

Currently, he is involved in three major research projects which are:

- A Medical Research Council project with Prof Maya van Gent that seeks to study the physical and psychological risk factors associated with Non-communicable diseases among adolescents in the Eastern Cape;
- An Institute for Development Assistance Management (IDAM) research project with Prof Daniel Ter Goon that looks into the impact of covid-19 on the physical and mental health of farming communities in the Eastern Cape and;
- A collaborative project with Dr Alberts at the UFH Psychology Department that is titled: The sport identity and life roles of adolescent athletes in the Eastern Cape.

Prof van Niekerk counts his collaborative work with colleagues in India and China on Exercise Psychology and his impact on youth athlete development as two of his greatest career achievements.

Commenting on his newly acquired rating he said: “I feel very honoured and humbled to be recognised by peers as a C2-rated researcher. I was quite surprised to receive the news. I think it is a confirmation of what I did so far as a researcher and it is also an encouragement to continue and build on my current research.”

Congratulations Prof!

# MEN'S INDABA

*Mens talk*

**“The solutions are with you and the wisdom you have gained today you must go and impart that knowledge to the communities.”**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, the Alice Sport Complex was packed to the rafters as men from all walks of life gathered for University's Men's Indaba.

Themed, *Moral Regeneration*, the gathering organized by Student Affairs sought to challenge the status quo and to redefine the role of men in the society.

Powerful speakers drawn from different sectors of the society gave presentations on different interactive topics.

The programme was directed by Ayabonga Kekana, a Journalist by profession and well known as the “Xhosa men association spokesperson.”

Speakers included the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu who led a topic on preserving the legacy of the University of Fort Hare. The Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Mlibo Qoboshiyane spoke about

Men Identity while Thozama Ngaye, Council Speaker at the Raymond Mhlaba Local municipality talked to the role of young people in the society.

Dr Rianna Oelofsen from the UFH Gender Equity Office and Mr Nombola Lulama from the Student Counselling Unit delved deep into issues of mental health.

Both the Abathembu and Rharhabe Royal houses were represented by Chief Banzi Tyhali from Imingcangathelo, Chief Langa Mavuso of aMabhele and the spokesperson of Abathembu representing King Buyelekhaya Dalindyabo, Nkosana Langalibalele.

Also represented was the Student Representative Council (SRC) led by its President Snowi Hawker and Alice Premier, Lindokuhle Mveleli.

Addressing the session, the Dean of Students, Mr Tshikhudo, Lufuno said “The solutions are with you and the wisdom you have gained today you must go and impart that knowledge to the communities.”

The VC encouraged men to keep the dialogue going. “This session was a clear indication that we are turning the corner. The fight against GBV needs more engagement and commitment from all of us. As long as we are not successful in a fight against GBV, we will not be anywhere”, said Buhlungu.

He further stated that: “The fight will only be successful when there is change in mindset and attitude.” He also announced that the University will soon have a fully-fledged GBV prevention unit.



Municipal speaker Thozama Ngaye called upon men to do self-introspection. “Every negative thing is associated with men and that should mean there is something wrong with us. We need to ensure that we remain real men by guiding our actions.” He urged all men to become champions of change and development.

Chief Langa Mavuso highlighted the scourge of alcohol abuse by some students and urged male students to assist security personnel with intensifying the fight against any wrong-doings on campus. He also touched on a number of issues that affect men, including the death of initiates.

Qoboshiyane said: “By nature, a man is peace-maker, he instills values, culture and tradition and always has a backbone. A real men is the pillar in his household.” He encouraged men to become protectors and take the responsibility of safeguarding our society.

The attendees were entertained by Mr Vee Sholo with his much loved rendition of *Akalali umntu ozala ikwekwe*.



# Library staff appreciated for stellar service

“As we journey towards our 2030 destination, we encourage all staff to dream big and strive to be better and to do better.”

The Library and its staff have been rated the best in both staff and student satisfaction surveys that have been conducted in the past five years. In appreciation of their commitment and excellent service, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor hosted a luncheon where staff were awarded certificates of appreciation.

Considered to be the “Heart” of the University, the Library located on the Alice campus is the first point of reference for information for many academics and students, and provides much needed support to researchers.

Dr Connie Bitso, Director of UFH Libraries said: “It is very befitting for the staff to be the first support service personnel to be openly appreciated because they have remained committed and efficient throughout the years under different management.”

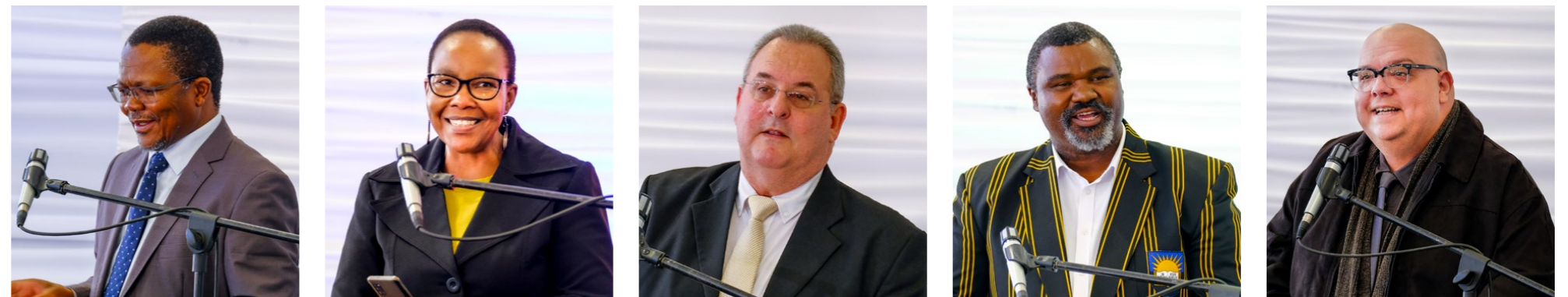
Among the award recipients are Ms Lulama Sodidi and Mr Phindile Songwiqi, both Librarians joined the University 39 years ago in 1983. The duo said they have witnessed the major transformation the Library underwent over the years.

A chuffed Mr Songwiqi said: “I have seen the Library change from card catalogue to the online library catalogue system. I have witnessed how technology has brought improvement and many changes in the manner we deliver our services.” Songwiqi also singled out the growth in the number of users as one of the leading factors that has influenced the new and improved changes for the Library and the University in general.

Ms Sodidi said in her 39 years of unbroken loyalty to the students and academics of Fort Hare, she has espoused the spirit of Ubuntu, mutual respect, teamwork, understanding and collegiality.

The VC, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said the quality of the service offered at the Library is aligned to the vision of the University’s Decade of Renewal strategic plan, which is to achieve a supportive learning and quality environment and excellence that revolves around student centeredness and the service culture for students and staff.

“The renewal programme is multi-faceted and it encompasses an ethos of setting and exceeding high expectation for our services. As we journey towards our 2030 destination, we encourage all staff to dream big and strive to be better and to do better.”







**As the Director, Mr Kwinana has established several collaborations with national and international institutions and companies to benefit the UFH community and learners from surrounding schools. This includes the identification of the University of Fort Hare as the first South African institution to establish a Remote and Virtual Education Laboratory (ReVEL).**

## FOSST Director Represents SA at International Nuclear Security Education Network in Vienna

Mr Phumezo Kwinana, Director of the Forté School of Science and Technology (FOSST) Discovery Centre was in Vienna, Austria where he was representing the country at the annual meeting of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN).

Established in 2010, the Network in partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency under the United Nations aims to enhance global nuclear security by developing, sharing and promoting excellence in nuclear security education.

The Network achieves its objective through partnerships with educational and research institutions, as well as other stakeholders.

The purpose of the meeting held from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July is to review and revise INSEN's action plan, and to discuss cooperation and collaboration with the International Network for Nuclear Security Training Support Centres (NSSC Network).

The country was represented by Mr Kwinana and five other South Africans who are members of the network.

Mr Kwinana is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. His research interest are in science education, Nuclear Physics and Electromagnetics. He has published and presented papers in various conferences and journals.

In 2004 he founded the FOSST Discovery Centre on the Alice campus. The centre is aimed at enabling and encouraging high school learners to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) with the objective to develop and produce Scientists and Engineers from underprivileged schools in the Eastern Cape.

As the Director, Mr Kwinana has established several collaborations with national and

international institutions and companies to benefit the UFH community and learners from surrounding schools. This includes the identification of the University of Fort Hare as the first South African institution to establish a Remote and Virtual Education Laboratory (ReVEL).

Using coding and robotics, the ReVEL enables students to interact with peers from over 20 universities around the world on experimentations that address local and national imperatives in STEM. The lab also advances teaching and learning to address some technological inadequacies faced in local schools.

The FOSST Discovery Centre is also instrumental in the establishment of the University's first-ever Aeroponics project, a process that involves "growing plants in an air or mist" environment without the use of soil or an aggregate medium.

His efforts and passion to develop surrounding communities through his projects and research earned him the 2013 Vice Chancellor's Award in Community Engagement in recognition of his community work.

As a member of the Network, Mr Kwinana has attended several Professional Development Courses on Nuclear Safety and Security offered by international specialists and has been instrumental in the participation of more than 24 UFH postgraduate students in the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research.

According to Kwinana, he is currently working on a project to introduce a Nuclear Remote Laboratory for Physics students.

Thank you Mr K for flying the Fort Hare and South African flags high on the global stage.

# Spanish Scholars visit Fort Hare to Learn and Share Best Practices



On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, the University of Fort Hare International Office welcomed two visiting senior academics from the University of Alcala, Madrid-Spain, Dr Jose Lozano, a Film and Music studies scholar and Professor Carmen Santamaria Garcia who is a Linguistics Professor.

The week-long visit to UFH is a result of a European Union-funded mobility programme between the two universities to exchange best practices and opportunities to learn from each other.

So far, two postgraduate students and four staff from UFH visited the University Alcala since the inception of the programme in 2020.

The two academics were welcomed by staff from the International Office, the Registrar's Office, the Music Department, the English Department, Chief Internal Auditor, and the Eastern Cape Visual Audio Centre (ECVAC).

Prof Santamaria Garcia and Dr Lozano spent the week interacting with staff and students from the English

Department and Music Department, respectively, where they both learned and shared best practices to benefit both universities.

Prof Santamaria Garcia said she was looking forward to her stay and her experience at UFH. "Exchange programmes help students to experience different cultures to improve their objectives in life, their aims and their social perspectives. Universities are key in helping people to have social perspectives and as Professors, we are responsible to help human beings."

For Dr Lozano, the intent is to learn as much as he can from this great African university to share with his students in Spain and also, share as much as possible with our Music Department.

"When I teach, the intent is to learn more from my students than they learn from me. I am looking forward to learning about the diverse cultures at this university and the production of traditional music."

The HOD for the UFH Music Department, Mr Nduduzo Makathini says there is a lot to learn from the Music

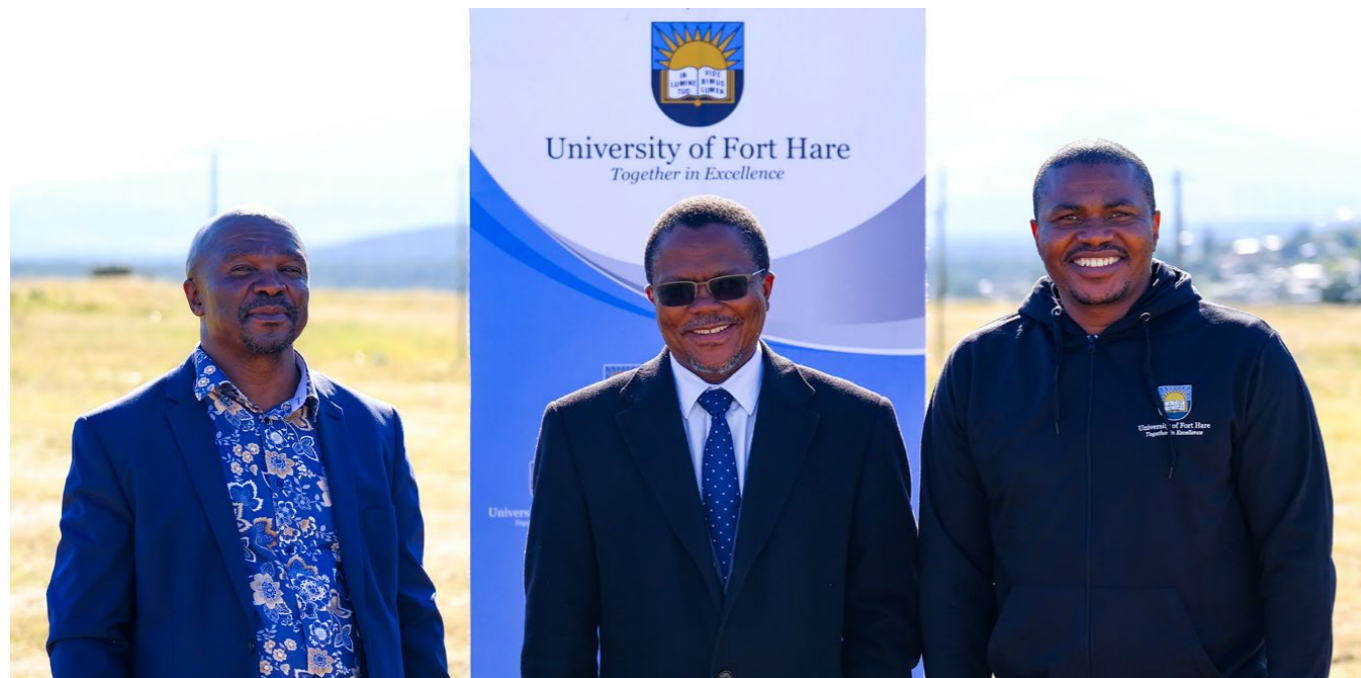
**"We have the most dynamic Music Department in South Africa. Our students are opening up to a lot of subjects that are beyond the music, for instance, our curriculum is mainly driven by decolonial thoughts. And also, music for us is more than just a tool for entertainment, it has aspects of politics and histories of music."**

Department. "We have the most dynamic Music Department in South Africa. Our students are opening up to a lot of subjects that are beyond the music, for instance, our curriculum is mainly driven by decolonial thoughts. And also, music for us is more than just a tool for entertainment, it has aspects of politics and histories of music."

The Music Department located at the Miriam Makeba Centre for Performing Arts is also set apart by the fact that students are exposed to professional artists working and recording at the Eastern Cape Visual

Audio Centre which is located on the same premises. "This really changes the dynamics of the department and the level of musicianship, knowledge and skills," said Makathini.

Dr Sithembele Marawu, HOD for the English Department said he was looking forward to the partnerships that might arise from the visit. "I believe when we work together, both universities can have stronger research capacities to benefit staff and broaden the knowledge of our students."



## Law Clinic empowers local community with free legal services

**“It is important that the community know their rights in all areas. We hope that the clinic will be used effectively by the community because it is accessible to everyone”**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, the UFH Nelson R Mandela School of Law Legal Clinic brought their legal services closer to the small community of Alice by hosting a Street Law programme in Ntselamanzi location.

In addition, to providing practical legal training to students and candidate attorneys, the Law Clinic also provides professional legal services to indigent people, especially women, children and rural poor communities on matters such as wills, maintenance, domestic violence, harassment, children’s rights and evictions.

The programme is aligned to the Institutional Goal 4 of the University’s 2022-2026 Strategic plan which is to enhance the University’s regional, national, and international standing and to have an impact on surrounding communities.

The event was attended by the VC, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu; the Dean of Law, Prof Mzukisi Njotini; the Director of the Law Clinic, Mr Siyabulela Pango and; Dr Bellita Banda.

“It is very important for Universities to be grounded

and reach out to the communities they operate in,” said the VC.

Prof Njotini said the programme seeks to provide students with experiential training while providing local communities free legal services.

The day’s proceedings included a question and answer session where community members were given the opportunity to ask questions for advice from the legal practitioners on site. Matters that could not immediately be resolved during the Q & A session, were referred to the Legal Clinic Offices for further probing.

Raymond Mhlaba Ward 2 Councillor, Mr Matayo Mzimkhulu said the community was grateful for this initiative by the University. “It is important that the community know their rights in all areas. We hope that the clinic will be used effectively by the community because it is accessible to everyone”.

**Click here to watch the video from the Street Law Programme: <https://youtu.be/fmHYXOV7-DO>**

## Dr Kepe heads to Vietnam to collect data for his research on Corporal Punishment

Dr Mzukisi Howard Kepe, a devoted scholar at the UFH Faculty of Education will be travelling to Vietnam in September where he will be visiting three universities to collect data for his research on corporal punishment.

Dr Kepe will be a Visiting Scholar at the Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City, Tan Tao University in Long An Province and Van Lang University in Ho Chi Minh City.

At the core, his research is to draw comparisons between South Africa and Vietnam in regards to corporal punishment. Also, to investigate the drivers of violence in the two nations, which he believes may help discover factors at the structural and institutional levels that create the conditions for violence to occur.

Though abolished in terms of the South African Schools Act since 1996, incidents involving the physical abuse of learners by educators at schools in South Africa remain prevalent. According to Statistics South Africa (2020), in the General Household Survey, 2019, 6.8% of pupils nationally were subjected to corporal punishment in schools in 2019. This translates to at least one million who experienced corporal punishment in the 2019 academic year.

As in South Africa, in Vietnam, corporal punishment in school has been prohibited by the Law on Education since 2005, nevertheless it continues to be practiced. A 2015 study by UNICEF revealed that over half of Vietnamese students dislike school due to violence, including physical and verbal abuse by teachers and peers. A quick U-Report survey on the theme of corporal punishment by teachers and other adults in school revealed that 18% reported having experienced this form of discipline more than once, while 37% of students polled say they have witnessed it.

Dr Kepe says he chose Vietnam due to similarities in the historical context of the two countries. “My choice of Vietnam is informed specifically by our similarities in colonial landmarks and violent history. While my research project is in the local South African context, it is underpinned by a global theoretical framework that espouses the notion of ‘transcultural translatability’, which is a rationale for the study.”

“For this reason, the study attempts to seek international solutions concerning the abolition of corporal punishment in South Africa’s schools and elsewhere,” he explains.



**“Through this study, I intend to set a new standard for how evidence base data can be used to confront violence against children”**

He further states the that study is an attempt to contribute to a model of understanding violence that addresses a child’s agency – while also acknowledging the dovetailing structural and institutional factors that shape children’s changing social worlds.

“Through this study, I intend to set a new standard for how evidence base data can be used to confront violence against children. This in a way, is a milestone to building better violence prevention and response interventions for millions of South African and Vietnamese children and for them to enjoy the right to a violence-free life, like their peers around the world.”

# Forterians Celebrate Mandela's Legacy by Giving Back to the Community

In honour of the Mandela 67 minutes campaign, some of our staff and students stepped out of their lecture halls and campus grounds and stepped into their surrounding communities to give back.

The 67 minutes are dedicated to helping and selflessly giving back to others on Nelson Mandela's birthday on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

Inspired by his words, which are: "There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to helping others without expecting anything in return," Staff from the Faculty of Health Sciences hosted an awareness programme where they gave talks and presentations on issues related to important health matters such as mental health and hygiene.



The staff from the Faculty of Science and Agriculture visited Lavela Old Age Centre in Ntselamanzi where they donated and installed two Jojo tanks. They also fixed the roof and planted different vegetables. In addition, the Forterians each donated R67 to the Centre.

The Faculty of Education staff went to Kama High School in Middledrift where they donated and planted trees.

Click on image above to watch the highlights from the Mandela Day outreach.



## UFH reaches out to Scenery Park Matriculants

The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities in conjunction with the Eastern Cape Audio Visual Centre (ECAVC) visited Uviwe Senior Secondary School in Scenery Park, East London to educate and inform Grade 12 learners about opportunities available after matric.

The outreach programme came just over a month after 21 learners died at a local tavern, an incident that caused huge outcry about underage drinking and left the community reeling in grief.

The event organized by interns from the Faculty was also in commemoration of the 67 minutes for Mandela. The programme included a career expo, career guidance and entertainment by an artist from the ECAVC.

According to Sduduzo Myeni, Artistic Coordinator at the UFH Miriam Makeba Centre of Performing Arts, the Faculty saw it fit to give back to this particular school following the recent tragedy that took the lives of the 21 learners.

"This is an initiative by the University that seeks to motivate learners that are currently in their matric year to work hard and obtain

good results that allow them access to university. Also, to motivate them to invest their time in positive activities."

ECAVC administrator, Rose Mdlambuzi-Lokwe said, with the minimal resources and time, they had to give back to such as distraught community.

"We chose Uviwe Senior Secondary since it is in Scenery Park where many hearts were shattered because of the recent incident. This is our way of giving support and consoling what is currently a broken community."

The deputy principal of Uviwe Secondary School, Vuyani Mgqolozana expressed that bringing such opportunities to the location schools was a good gesture considering that there was great need to expose learners to nearby tertiary institutions.

During the event, two learners gave impromptu performances which scored them a recording deal from the ECAVC. Myeni scouted the pair and following their performances announced that she would assist them to record their singles professionally.



For their 67 minutes, Summerpride Foods (Pty) Ltd invited some of our final and postgraduate Horticultural Science students on a field trip. During their visit they were shown how pineapple juice is processed in order to understand the agricultural value chain, the quality and standards, quality assurance, minimum residue levels and lab analysis required in the process.



# SRC donates food parcels worth R50k to unfunded students

In a bid to ensure no student goes to class on an empty stomach, the Student Representative Council (SRC) donated food parcels worth R50 000 to unfunded undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The SRC Premier for the Alice campus, Lindokuhle Mveleli said the initiative was sparked by the fact that the majority of the student population come from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds and with no funding, they struggle to afford a meal.

The food parcels benefited 130 students on the Alice campus and the items are set to last them a month.

Mveleli said the SRC used some of the funds set aside for other programmes to attend to this pressing matter. "As the leadership of Alice SRC Alice we saw it fit that we ensure that no student goes hungry under our watch. This will surely bring some relief to these students, they will be able



to shift their focus on their studies instead of worrying about where their next meal will come from. It will also build their mental and emotional strength."

Student Developer Mr Dzulani Munzhelele commended the SRC for this initiative, saying it is a demonstration of the strong

leadership skills of this current SRC. "We hope that this initiative becomes an annual project for future SRC members. We also need to consider calling the university community to contribute to this project," said Munzhelele.

# Finance celebrates clean audit

The Finance Department held a Post-Audit event in celebration of the departments success in achieving an external audit clean opinion. This unqualified and clean audit was last achieved over a decade ago.

Such an accomplishment has not come due to luck or coincidence but is a tireless and relentless effort exerted by the finance department in its entirety.

In absentia, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu commended the finance department on a job well done.

"The University's Council and Management Executive Committee (MEC) appreciates the importance of an unqualified audit outcome in terms of the institution's renewal program, reputation, and stability of the university. We want to thank the office of the CFO, our finance team, our group auditors, PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers), MEC, Council and governance committees for achieving an unqualified audit outcome." said the VC.





## Final-Year Law Student awarded prestigious Abe Bailey Travel Bursary

**“Dr Ndlovu is the reason I applied for this bursary. He always believed that I could go far and always reminded me that I have the right discipline and determination to go places.”**

It also seeks to enable outstanding South African students who show strong service ethic to experience British culture and participate in an interactive programme, and examine its significance in the context of South African history.

The call for applicants was issued in May by the Deputy-Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Prof Renuka Vithal for eligible students and junior staff to apply.

Luxolo was among the eager students who responded to the call. Three applicants were shortlisted and after a rigorous interview and selection process, Luxolo was ranked first and was awarded the bursary in June.

Born and bred in Mpumalanga, Luxolo’s selection comes as no surprise as he has portrayed excellent leadership qualities as a student.

He currently serves as the Legal Researcher and Acting Chairperson of the UFH Moot Court Society. He has participated in several international and national moot court competitions such as the Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot; the Jessup International Law Moot Court; the Nelson Mandela Human Rights Moot Court and the Kate O’ Regan Interschool Moot Court.

He also sits as a judge on the UFH Junior Moot Court for first and

second-year Law students and facilitates moot court competitions for high school learners.

In addition, Luxolo is a Writing and Language Consultant at the UFH Teaching and Learning Centre. He was also awarded a certificate by the Student Council Unit’s mentorship programme.

He attributes his success to his Senior Lecturer, Dr Ntandokayise Ndlovu. “Dr Ndlovu is the reason I applied for this bursary. He always believed that I could go far and always reminded me that I have the right discipline and determination to go places.”

Luxolo says he could not have chosen a better institution than UFH to pursue his law career. “UFH is a source of excellency. We are the present great minds here today and in the previous years, it were others who are now thriving in their careers. This University has produced Law graduates that are working at the Office of the Chief Justice and at several big law firms.”

He believes being awarded the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that holds the key to unlocking his full potential. “This opportunity will certainly broaden my horizons beyond imagination,” he said.

Congratulations Luxolo!

Luxolo Tomsana, a 22-year-old UFH final-year Law student has been selected for the prestigious Abe Bailey Travel Bursary.

Luxolo, along with a group of South African students and young academics selected for the bursary will travel to the United Kingdom in November where they will participate in a four-week educational tour hosted by the Goodenough College in London.

Established in terms of the will of Sir Abe Bailey who died in 1940, the travel bursaries funded by the Abe Bailey Trust is awarded annually to outstanding students and academics who are 25 years old or younger and have shown exceptional leadership qualities at their universities and within the community.

The bursary seeks to broaden the views of young South Africans and effect greater cooperation and understanding of different viewpoints and opinions among those with various language and cultural backgrounds and encourages leadership that demonstrates open debate and mutual respect for others.



## Biochemistry PhD candidates join SEAmester - South Africa’s Class Afloat

Sitha Ntlokwana and Faith Masilive Mshiywa, UFH Biochemistry Doctorate Candidates were among 40 South African postgraduate students who were selected to aboard the SA Agulhas II marine ship for the SEAmester- South Africa’s Class Afloat programme.

The nationwide programme takes participants on a cruise where they perform research along the ASCA (Agulhas System Climate Array) monitoring line.

According to the SEAmester website, the programme aims to introduce marine science as an applied and cross-disciplinary field to students who have shown an affinity for core science disciplines by taking the participants on a voyage.

The crew sailed from Cape Town to Marion Island and back in two weeks. During the voyage, the students participated in lectures with hands-on ship-based deck activities and were also provided with an opportunity network and to support specialist scientists in recognized marine research activities.

Commenting on the experience, Sitha said: “The SEAmester program was truly an eye opener for me in terms of how co-linked and vast marine sciences are, as a discipline.

When I started my Ph.D. I was introduced to marine sciences and this program provided me with the boost and assurance that I am in the right field. I met people such as Prof Bettine Van Vuuren who is an expert in genome sequencing and evolutionary genomics and he gave me some vital information regarding my work.”

Faith also shared some of her SEAmester experience which led to opportunities such as meeting various experts from other institutions. “Being a part of the

SEAmester cruise has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I’m truly grateful to have been chosen. I’ve gained profound knowledge and expertise of oceanography and I have found the new skills mind-blowing and will apply them in my thesis.”

The duo thanked the National Research Foundation - South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity and Prof Graeme Bradley (Dean of Science and Agriculture) for making the experience possible for them.



## UFH Choirs record for the New Season of Melodi Gospel Show

The UFH Alice and East London Choirs will once again make an appearance on our television screens, this follows the recording of their performances for the new season of Melodi gospel show on Dumisa TV – DSTV Channel 340.

This is the second time that the choirs have been invited to perform on this gospel show, they first appeared in 2021.

The recording took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July at the Urban Brew Studios in Randburg, Johannesburg. The choirs performed and recorded 16 songs. Their performances included songs such as *Ngobonga Ngani Enkosini, Asilwi Thina Nabantu, Ndim Lo, Thuma Mina Thixo, Eloyi, Bawo Ndixolele and Morena.*

According to the Choir Coordinator, Ndumiso Mtshali, the second invitation came after the channel received requests from viewers to see more of UFH choirs

perform. “The Programme Director, Lawrence Molepo said the choir brought something fresh and unique to the show. And the fact that the first performance contained choral music with a full band raised the show’s viewership,” said Mtshali.

Khwezi Madolo, Chairperson of East London Choir said: “We are happy about the exposure that the choir has been receiving from national TV shows. This exposure will not only help the Choristers but also fellow students who are studying music. It will most hopefully be a stepping stone towards them getting recruited by record labels.”

Mr Mtshali also expressed a word of gratitude to Institutional Advancement for sponsoring the band with their uniform.

The show will be aired at a later stage and will be announced in due course.



## UFH Duo dance their way to Clinch Ballroom Top Honours at USSA Tournament

“I was inspired by the fact that dancesport is a diverse sport that encourages equal treatment for all people, irrespective of their gender, sexual, social and economic status”

Dance duo, Aphelele Bhodlisi and Wanzi Maxhobi waltzed all the way to the top of the University Sports South Africa (USSA) Dancesport ballroom category where they secured first place.

The five-day tournament was held at the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The ballroom category consists of five dances which are Waltz, Tango, Viennese, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep.

Their victory did not come cheap, the pair spent seven days at a camp dedicated to physical and mental preparations. The week-long schedule for the team included two hours of physical training and six hours of practice each day.

They both agreed that the competition was tough, having competed against a total of 13 institutions from around the country. “Some of our competitors were well-known dances, some we have even looked up to during our growth in sport. And some of them were previous winners in this category for consecutive years. Our aim was just to make it to the top three but we were surprised and very excited when we were named the overall winners in our section”

Born in the rural village of Kwa Dlepu in Butterworth, Aphelele holds a Communication Management qualification from Fort Hare and

is currently studying towards his Postgraduate Diploma in Archives and Records management. He started dancesport when he arrived at Fort Hare and got more inspired by his coach, Thandisizwe Matyumza who saw great potential in the young man. “I was also inspired by the fact that dancesport is a diverse sport that encourages equal treatment for all people, irrespective of their gender, sexual, social and economic status”, said Aphelele.

Wanzi Maxhobi was born in Mdantsane, she started dancing at the early age of 15 in Thubalethu High School, Alice. She is currently registered for a Master of Science in Geology and sings praises for the guidance she gets from her coach, Matyumza. “Dance sport sets my being free and enables me to express my emotions”

Explaining the category, Aphelele said “This category can be distinguished from the Latin American, in that the two partners stand in closer proximity to each other, with the male being the leader and the female partner as the follower. Unlike in the Latin American style of dancing, Ballroom dancers never let go of each other’s hand and must both be connected as they move together - the lady doing the opposite of what the male partner is doing and vice versa.”

“Ballroom happens to be my favourite style and resonates well

with my relaxed personality, I am able to relate to it more and do my routines in absolute enjoyment and to the best of my ability.”

Wanzi, attributed this success to the mutual understanding and equal commitment between them. “We had to be equally committed and put equal amount of effort towards training and preparations and follow our coach’s instructions.”

Explaining the importance of dancesport, UFH Sports HOD, Loyiso Lange said: “In addition to keeping athletes physically fit and boosting interaction confidence, dancesport has played a very significant role in moulding the current transitions in our society especially in relation to community and social acceptance of diverse gender identities.”

“Dance teaches athletes, especially males to show respect and gentleness towards each other and other people. Dancers are encouraged to be independent and expressional through interpreting their understanding of the steps and dance routine and making the necessary adjustments if a need arises,” said Lange.

The couple was also placed third in the Latin American category which is made of five dance genres which are Samba, Cha-cha, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive.

Well done!





University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

**PRODUCED BY**

Institutional Advancement

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