

This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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NRF AWARDS SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST SARCHI CHAIR IN SEXUALITIES, GENDERS and QUEER STUDIES

Awarded to Prof Zethu Matebeni

Professor Zintombizethu (Zethu) Matebeni is the country's first recipient of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI) Chair in Sexualities, Genders and Queer Studies.

She is the second UFH academic to be awarded a SARCHI Chairship by the National Research Foundation (NRF) after Prof Gary Minkley who holds a SARCHI Chair in Social Change.

Affectionately known as Prof Zethu, she joined the UFH on 1st March 2021.

Prof Zethu is a sociologist and writer whose work focuses on African Queer Studies. In 2017 she was the Presidential Visiting Professor at the Women's Gender and Sexualities Studies (WGSS) Department at Yale University, USA. A year later she was awarded the African Humanities Program (AHP) Fellowship and the African Studies Association (ASA), American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Presidential Fellow.

She has edited various volumes on African sexualities and gender diversity including:

- *Reclaiming African: queer perspectives on sexual and gender identities (Modjaji books, 2014);*
- *Queer in Africa: LGBTQI Identities, Citizenship and Activism (with Surya Munro and Vasu Reddy - Routledge, 2018) and*

- *Beyond the Mountain: queer life in 'Africa's gay capital' (with B Camminga - UNISA Press, 2020).*

Zethu has written over 40 academic journal articles and book chapters, some of have been translated into Portuguese. She has also published short stories, poetry and essays for art exhibitions, the latest appearing in French at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, France (The Power of My Hands, 2021).

For the past three years she has been one of the editors of the South African Review of Sociology. She is also a visiting professor at the Nelson Mandela University's Centre for Women and Gender Studies.

According to the NRF, the main goal of the Research Chairs is to strengthen and improve the research and innovation capacity of public universities for producing high quality postgraduate students and research and innovation outputs.

Speaking to *ThisWeek@FortHare*, Prof Zethu shared some insights about her research interests and aspirations for the Chair.



>> Prof Zethu Matebeni

“Being the first SARCHI Chair in Sexualities, Genders and Queer Studies in South Africa, the University of Fort Hare demonstrated leadership in developing and nurturing a field of study often marginalised in the African continent. This is a significant investment for future generations of scholars.”

Please share with us your professional background and interests

Having grown up in Port Elizabeth I chose to pursue undergraduate studies in Sociology at Nelson Mandela University (NMU). This is where my academic and activist interests were nurtured. While studying at NMU, I was lucky to work as an assistant to the Labour Relations Manager at one of the major motor manufacturing companies. This role gave me insight into the plight facing many workers in communities where I lived and how labour injustices filtered into the domestic environment.

After graduating from NMU I pursued postgraduate studies in Sociology (Health, Population Studies and Labour) at the University of Pretoria where I obtained a Masters degree.

Two fellowships in particular changed the nature of my academic career - one at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in 2000 in Laxenburg, Austria, and another at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, School of Medicine at Yale University, USA in 2002-2003.

After working as a Lecturer for a number of years I left the University of Pretoria in 2004 to pursue interests in public health, working for an international

organisation. Later I returned to academia to pursue interdisciplinary doctoral studies at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER) and graduated in 2011. The PhD allowed me to explore other artistic interests, including documentary filmmaking and creative writing. Aspects of the degree which focused on black lesbian identities and sexualities in Johannesburg, appeared in films, art exhibitions and short stories.

Between 2011 and 2017 I worked at the University of Cape Town as a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Humanities in Africa (Huma) and later (2019 to 2021) as an Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of the Western Cape.

Please tell us more about your area of research?

My research interest started off with a focus on black lesbian sexualities and identities in South Africa, under lesbian and gay studies. At the time, very few people dared to get into this area for various reasons, including fear of being ostracised by society or even being considered unscholarly. For a long time my research has been a struggle with the notion of non-heteronormative sexualities and gender identities being at odds with what is deemed African.

... continued on next page

Over the years, this interest has narrowed to a field more broadly described as Queer Studies. My approach to Queer Studies, a very western field of study, is from an African perspective. I put African people and African experiences at the forefront. In unpacking genders and sexualities from an African perspective, my interest has moved away from seeing these as un-African. Rather, diversity has become central and sits at the core of understanding sexualities and genders. Thus, the terms lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex in my work have not only become limited, but redundant, although I still make use of them as a starting point. Through African paradigms, my work seeks to develop African Queer Studies by not only developing alternatives, but through exposing the hidden realities that have always made Africans diverse and dynamic in exploring sexualities and gender identities.

Previous projects I have completed started the *Queer in Africa* series which first developed as a conversation between artists and academics. This work culminated in the publication - *Reclaiming African: queer perspectives on sexual and gender identities* (Modjaji books, 2014). Creative work is central to Queer Studies, particularly in the African context as many queer people find 'safety' and political expression through art and creative works.

From this project I moved to a more academic and activist space, curating the Queer in Africa symposium, which culminated into the second volume *Queer in Africa: LGBTQI Identities, Citizenship and Activism* (with Surya Munro and Vasu Reddy - Routledge, 2018).

The third part of this project focused specifically on Cape Town, a city that is globally praised for its gayness. The interest was to interrogate the merits of a public space that frames itself as a 'gay capital' in a content that considered gayness as 'unAfrican'. During the period of #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall, it became imperative to interrogate the spaces that many queer activists and scholars occupied.

Cape Town shored up as a very troubled space, not only because of the racism accusations it carried, but also its supposed gay-friendliness. It was thus imperative to turn one's attention to Cape Town as a physical and social space that allowed for queer life to flourish in its fullness. The multi-media project on queering Cape Town produced the volume *Beyond the Mountain: queer life in 'Africa's gay capital'* (with B Camminga - UNISA Press, 2020).

Joining UFH

My role at UFH as SARChI Chair in Sexualities, Genders and Queer Studies comes at a very difficult time in the academy and society as a whole. The impact of Covid-19 has altered the nature of learning and engaging in very significant ways. At the same time, it has exposed the inequalities in accessing learning and knowledge. The SARChI Chair in Sexualities, Genders and Queer Studies considers these limitations and restrictions as significant impediments and also as opportunities. In a queer fashion, the SARChI Chair will develop creative and exciting ways to engage students, staff, and communities with content on sexualities, genders and queer studies. Over the tenure of the SARChI Chair, book clubs, seminars, community engagement sessions and symposia will be hosted in collaboration with community organisations and other stakeholders. Furthermore, it is envisaged that the space of the SARChI Chair will provide a dynamic and vibrant environment for students seeking to develop research areas in African sexualities and gender identities/diversity.

What advice would you give to young and upcoming researchers out there?

Being the first SARChI Chair in Sexualities, Genders and Queer Studies in South Africa, the University of Fort Hare demonstrated leadership in developing and nurturing a field of study often marginalised in the African continent. This is a significant investment for future generations of scholars.

Young researchers and students who have feared to pursue their research interests because of ostracism can rest assured that their pursuit of knowledge and life-changing research will be recognised.

The SARChI Chair in Sexualities, Genders and Queer Studies welcomes well-considered research ideas for Honours, Masters and Doctoral projects. *Together in Excellence. Our African imaginations can become a reality.*

2021 REGISTRATION UPDATE: 23 March 2021

The 2021 registration cycle commenced on 1 March 2021 and was extended to 25 March 2021 following Minister Blade Nzimande's directive to accommodate NSFAS processes.

This year, focus was on compliance with Covid-19 health and safety precautionary measures, and as such, for the first time, the university adopted a 90% online registration approach. We also implemented a concurrent multi-campus approach to ensure students from all three campuses can register simultaneously.

Although faced with initial system challenges, we are pleased to report that registration statistics have been peaking steadily and will soon surpass the 10 000 mark - thus providing evidence of the success of this cycle.

Contact registration sessions were factored into the plan to provide maximum support to first year students, given the context of the Eastern Cape landscape and its technology shortfalls, as well as consideration that the majority of first time entering students may not have access to computers.

To date, East London and Alice campuses have concluded contact registration sessions for 1st year students. A date for Bhisho is expected to be confirmed shortly by campus management. Faculties are currently reviewing their quotas to check on existing shortfalls, if any.

Returning students continue to register online. A dedicated team is on standby to troubleshoot and provide email assistance. From 17 March 2021, Finance and Registration staff have also been made available to assist with registration queries at both East London and Alice campuses. Anticipated cohorts of students who are yet to register are mostly those who are still in the process of sorting out finances.

Registration for postgraduate and international students closes on 30 March and 5 April 2021 respectively.



PHASE2 STUDENT VILLAGE IS READY FOR OCCUPATION

“This project is one of the biggest developments in the Eastern Cape and the biggest student development project by the Department of Higher Education and Training to date.”

Finally! Construction work on the last three buildings of Phase2 has been concluded. This means the new Student Village on the Alice campus is now ready for occupation.

The three buildings comprise two residences and a state of the art student centre. One residence will accommodate 122 students while the other is a postgraduate residence which will house 98 students.

Construction of Phase2 - a 1437-bed student accommodation - commenced in December 2018 and was scheduled for completion in September 2020. However due to various extensions of time during the construction phase, the Developer handed over the completed project on 11 March 2021. At completion, the entire project yielded 2060 beds, 13 more than was envisaged at the start of the project at a revised budget of R419m. This mega project will go a long way towards reduction of accommodation challenges at the university's main campus.

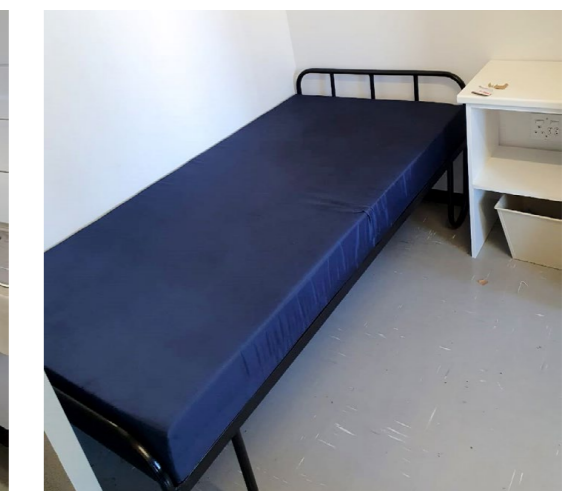
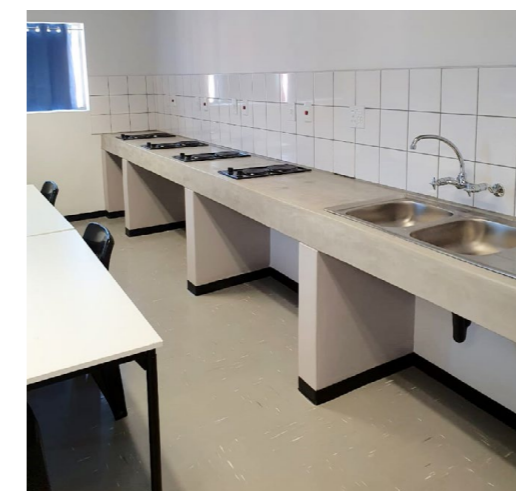
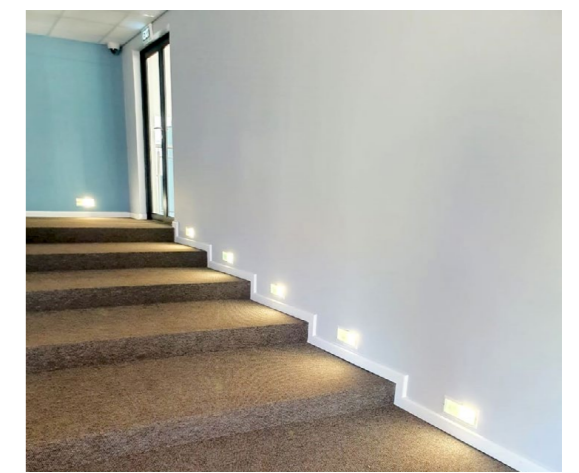
INTERESTING FEATURES

- Each floor is accessed through a biometric scanner - a non-negotiable security feature.
- The village is equipped with fire hazard prevention equipment - two fire horse reels and two fire extinguishers on each floor, positioned on both wings. A fire alarm system with heat detectors is situated in the security room.
- Residences include rooms that are designed for ease of access by students living with disabilities. The rooms are spacious enough to accommodate wheelchair mobility.
- The student centre has a cinema style room and facilities that can serve as retail outlets

“This project is one of the biggest developments in the Eastern Cape and the biggest student development project by the Department of Higher Education and Training to date. Lack of accommodation has been a major challenge for our students in recent years. Completion of the new residences means accommodation-related protests will be a thing of the past”, said Mr Kaizer Dlemnyango, Maintenance Manager within Properties and Services department.

The date of the official launch will be announced in due course.

// by Asaduma Baloyi



UFH HEALTH CENTRE HIRES THREE DOCTORS

The UFH Health Centre has raised the bar when it comes to the administration of student health by employing not one or two, but three doctors to be of service to students and staff. In addition, three more nurses have also been brought in to ensure our clinics function optimally.

Drs Pumla Nikiwe Balfour, Babalwa Dunga and Bulumko Futshane commenced duties on 1 March 2021.

Although in the pipeline for some time, the Covid-19 pandemic expedited the university's commitment to acquire additional medical practitioners.

The Alice clinic has been allocated two doctors who are available weekdays (Monday to Friday) while the third doctor works weekends. The East London health centre has been allocated one doctor who is available on Tuesdays and Fridays. Of the three nurses, one has been placed in Alice while two are in East London.

"The appointment of the long awaited practitioners will serve as a core support to students. The doctors and their expertise will lift the UFH health centre to reach new heights in establishing support for priority programmes such as HIV/AIDS management", said Sister Linda Simandla, a nurse on the Alice campus health centre.

Now, students and staff can be seen by a doctor timeously. Previously, this was a huge problem because of the time and resources it took to travel to local hospitals and having to endure long queues which ate into their study time.

"At times, as nurses we need a second opinion in making a diagnosis or prescribing treatment for certain conditions. Having a doctor on site instead of making phone calls is helpful. There are certain essential drugs e.g. schedule 5 - Promethazine which is used in emergencies that only a doctor with a dispensing licence is allowed to order from pharmaceutical companies. When an ambulance is delayed in an emergency, a doctor with the team will manage the emergency better", said Sister Zanele Magalela, a nurse at the East London clinic.

// by Asaduma Baloyi



"The appointment of the long awaited practitioners will serve as a core support to students. The doctors and their expertise will lift the UFH health centre to reach new heights in establishing support for priority programmes such as HIV/AIDS management"

INTRODUCING THE DOCTORS:



Dr Bulumko Futshane

Dr Bulumko Futshane qualified as a medical doctor (MBChB) in 2001 from University of Transkei. He worked as a general practitioner for three years with a focus on primary health care and HIV/AIDS management. He later completed a HIV residency programme with the University of California, San Diego and Oakland Children's Hospital in San Francisco, USA where he was credentialed as a HIV Specialist by American Academy of HIV Specialists in 2009. He holds a master's degree in Public Health (MPH), a Graduate Certificate in Global Health and Graduate Certificate in Occupational and Environmental Health - all from John Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

He has more than 18 years cumulative work experience in Public Health, Global Health Delivery, Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention & Management, Health Systems & Community Systems Strengthening. His career trajectory is to be a leading expert in the field of HIV Medicine, infectious diseases, and public health, offering leadership in clinical care, research, consulting, project management, curriculum development, training, and clinical mentorship. His key strategic focus and distinctive capabilities are in Public Health and Infectious disease epidemiology.



Dr Pumla Nikiwe Balfour

Dr Pumla Nikiwe Balfour is an independent Medical Practitioner who graduated with an MBChB from Walter Sisulu University. She is an Associate at Dr B Ogundipe & Associates Back & Neck Rehabilitation (DBC technology). She has experience practicing in primary healthcare in and around the Buffalo City Municipality as well as in Mangaung Municipality, FreeState province. Her specific interest is in family medicine and public health. She is passionate about free and accessible quality healthcare for every citizen.

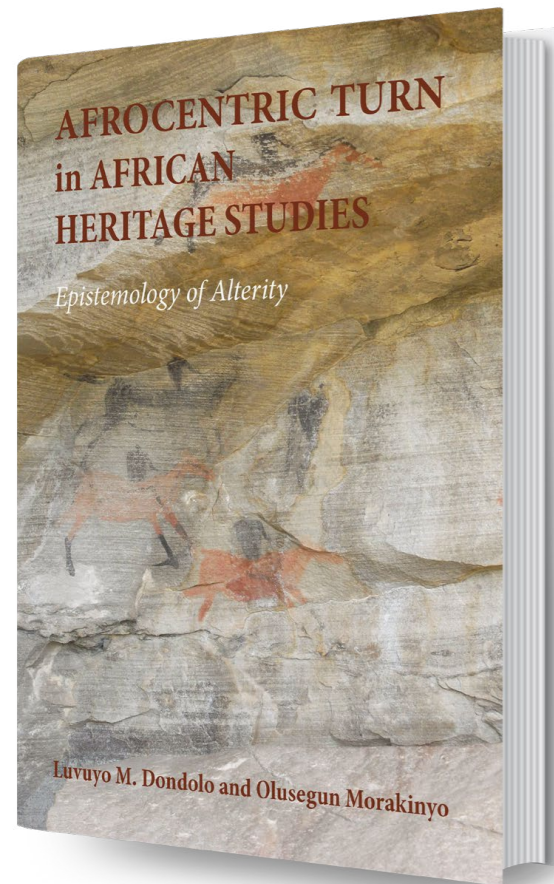


Dr Babalwa Dunga

Dr Babalwa Dunga is a Senior Manager of Medical Services at the Compensation Fund, Eastern Cape. Her main area of interest is occupational and public health medicine. She holds a MBChB qualification, a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Economics and Masters in Public Health.

DR DONDOLO and DR MORAKINYO COLLABORATE ON NEW BOOK

- *Afrocentric Turn in African Heritage Studies*



On 16 March, the Centre for Transdisciplinary Studies (CTS) hosted a virtual book launch for its Director, Dr Luvuyo Dondolo and African Heritage Scholar, Dr Olusegun Morakinyo.

Titled: ***Afrocentric Turn into African Heritage Studies***, the book is about a quest for decolonization and Africanisation of African Heritage Studies (AHS). The authors describe the book as an eloquent, extended and exciting essay on an important academic concern in post-Apartheid South Africa.

The launch discussion was chaired by Dr Nomzamo Dube, UFH Academic Coordinator and Author of Milk, Bile and Honey.

During the launch the authors provided an overview of the book - an objective self-reflection as former participants of the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies (APMHS), programme hosted by the University of Western Cape and the Robben Island Museum.

Dr Dondolo said the book is a culmination of an ongoing initiative and discussion that was triggered by a number of factors. "Firstly, we look back at the programme to see how far they have gone in terms of changing the heritage landscape."

According to him, the book is important when it comes to decolonising AHS. "As we reflect on the programme, even though it was revolutionary, progressive, and a turning point in as far as heritage discourse in South Africa at the time - it was still Eurocentric."

He said the second factor that triggered the book is historical consciousness. "For us, our historical consciousness paved the way for this book. It advocates for epistemic justice in Heritage Studies"

Dr Morakinyo unpacked the necessity of Afrocentric Heritage Studies and historical consciousness. "

"AHS needs to be decolonised and we argue that an Afrocentric tone is the best way of decolonising AHS. Our argument in this book is that Africa remains segregated because it continues to lack knowledge of itself. There is a serious lack of historical consciousness and this is the basic problem. This book is for anyone who believes and sees the need to decolonize AHS," said Dr Morakinyo.

The discussion was followed by a question and answer session and robust discussion about decolonising of African Heritage Studies

E-books are currently available online and hardcopies are available from the Centre.

// by Aretha Linden



Luvuyo Mthimkhulu Dondolo, PhD

Dondolo holds DLitt et Phil in Social Science (History). His area of interest is the 19th and 20th centuries history thematic areas of the then Cape Province. He is a former Fulbright Scholar based at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania (US) in the 2016/17 academic year conducting research on African American heritage scholarship.

He is also the former Rockefeller Scholarship holder and studied at Emory University in Atlanta, US, to further his understanding on public history, museums and heritage studies, and African history.

He has co-authored two books, the latest with Morakinyo. He is the Director of the Centre for Transdisciplinary Studies, University of Fort Hare, and the Research Associate at the Visual Identities in Art and Design Research (VIAD), University of Johannesburg.



Dr Olusegun Morakinyo

Dr Morakinyo is a former Academic Coordinator of the Robben Island Museum/University of the Western Cape - African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies.

He was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the department of Philosophy at the University of Johannesburg before moving to the Centre for Leadership Ethics in Africa (CLEA), University of Fort Hare, and later to the department of Philosophy, University of Stellenbosch, 2016-2018.

Dr Morakinyo has B.A (Honors), Philosophy OAU, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, M.Sc. Equality Studies, UCED, Dublin, Ireland and PhD, History, UWC, South Africa.

“For us, our historical consciousness paved the way for this book. It advocates for epistemic justice in Heritage Studies”



>> Dr Mzukisi Howard Kepe

TRANSLANGUAGING PRACTICES IN A SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY: Dr Kepe Presents Paper at an International Conference

“For the past two absorbing consecutive years, serving as a postdoctoral research fellow around the clock, I was always eager to finish with a parting shot.”

UFH Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Mzukisi Howard Kepe presented his latest research paper titled: *Beliefs of Students about their Translanguaging Practices in a South African University* at the 15th International Technology, Education and Development (INTED) 2021 Conference.

Held virtually on 8-9 March, the conference affords authors from more than 80 countries the platform to share their abstracts, papers and virtual presentations (slides, videos and posters) and open them for discussion. Post-presentation, the papers are published in the INTED publication.

Dr Kepe whose two-year Fellowship commenced in 2019, said he could not have imagined anything bigger than to present his work on an international stage as he concludes his fellowship. “For the past two absorbing years, serving as a postdoctoral research fellow around the clock, I was always eager to finish with a parting shot. The best way to do so, I would imagine, has been to do it on an international stage with an international publication,” he said.

In the paper, Dr Kepe argues that even with the demise of apartheid, following the advent of democracy in 1994, English language domination continues unabated in South African mainstream schools and Universities.

“Consequently, the English language hegemony became a deficit to most students from less affluent backgrounds, learning the English language as the first additional. This situation follows as researchers agree that students learning English as First Additional Language (EFAL) battle with conceptualisation and struggle to classify added information at universities in South Africa”

According to him, to help maximise the learners’ and teachers’ linguistic resources in problem-solving and knowledge construction, he explores the beliefs of students about their translanguaging practices during pre-writing at the University of Fort Hare.

“The central question was: What are the students’ beliefs about their translanguaging practices in a South African university?”

The case study focused on five third-year students from the Bachelor of Education undergraduate class.

“The study revealed that when translanguaging is adopted, it accommodates cultural and linguistic practices negotiation. It is informed by plurality to reflect a broad diversity of global settings, whilst accommodating successful communication, including in our language classrooms,” he explained.

Doctor Mzukisi Howard Kepe is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Fort Hare. He is a researcher and currently teaches English Methodology to 3rd and 4th year students. His research focus is mainly on reading and writing pedagogies, identity, and culturally responsive pedagogy, translanguaging, teaching English as a lingua franca, language and text-based approaches to language teaching and learning. He has published extensively and has given conference presentations in many different countries. He is a Member and Editor of English Scholars beyond Borders. He is also an editor of the journal.

// by Aretha Linden

UFH’S OPERA SINGING SENSATION, SAZI GCABA BAGS ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL WIN

Mr Sazi Gcaba has done it again! The third-year UFH Music Student has bagged himself another international win in an online Opera singing competition.

On 6th March, the 22-year-old from Flagstaff was announced winner of the Aspiring Opera Singing Voice Competition under the Emerging Artist Category. The US-based competition aims to create a platform for music students around the world to showcase their talents. Out of 121 music students worldwide who submitted their pre-recorded auditions, judges were bowled over by Gcaba’s audition.

The judges’ citation reads: **“Out of 121 videos, your performance exemplified a combination of stellar technique, and great acting skills, creating a captivating performance.”**

This remarkable victory comes less than three months after he was crowned winner of the London-based Voices of South Africa International Opera (VOSA) 2020 online competition - under 22 category.

In an interview with *ThisWeek@FortHare*, Gcaba said he stumbled across the competition on social media. “I sent my audition on 25th February, just before the closing date. At the time, I did not think much of it. I just enjoy singing Opera and viewed the competition as an opportunity to showcase my talent. When it was announced that I have won, I was ecstatic.”

In addition to the international exposure, Gcaba also walked away with the first-place prize money of \$150.

The University of Fort Hare is proud of Sazi for continuing to fly the UFH flag high.

// by Aretha Linden



>> Mr Sazi Gcaba

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE UFH CONVOCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7 March 2021

“The newly-elected Executive Committee of the Convocation consists of strong, reputable and diligent team of men and women who have pledged their knowledge, experience and expertise to the disposal of the University of Fort Hare, driven by a common objective of their affection and love for the university”



Adv. Andile Mini
PRESIDENT



Ms Musa Gcilitshana
VICE PRESIDENT



Ms Bulelwa Ganyaza
SECRETARY



Mr Luthando Bara
ADDITIONAL MEMBER



Dr Wayne Malinga
ADDITIONAL MEMBER



Mr Sibonelo Nomvalo
ADDITIONAL MEMBER

NEW UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE CONVOCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOWS TO RETURN THE INSTITUTION TO ITS FORMER GLORY

The University of Fort Hare (UFH) convocants have elected a new Executive Committee of the Convocation which was announced during an online Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday, Saturday 6 March 2021.

The successful six candidates will serve on the Executive Committee of Convocation for a four-year term. This follows an unprecedented electronic voting presided by a reputable private and independent institution, the Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), from 4 to 6 March 2021. Voting was open to all eligible Alumni and Convocants who met the requirements as set out in the University's Institutional Statute.

Advocate Andile Mini, former President of SRC at UFH, was announced as the new President of the Convocation along with Musa Gcilitshana (Deputy President), Bulelwa Ganyaza (Secretary), Dr Wayne Malinga, Sibonelo Nomvalo and Luthando Bara as additional members.

A total of 5 501 votes were cast, with Advocate Mini obtaining 66.4% of the presidential election votes. In his acceptance speech, Advocate Andile Mini expressed his deepest gratitude on behalf of the leadership collective to all Alumni and Convocants for the overwhelming support and confidence in them. “The newly-elected Executive Committee of the Convocation consists of strong, reputable and diligent team of men and women who have pledged their knowledge, experience and expertise to the disposal of the University of Fort Hare, driven by a common objective of their affection and love for the university,” Advocate Mini stated.

Some of the apex priorities of the newly elected executive committee include:

- Restoration of the integrity of the university's qualifications;
- Ensuring intergenerational participation of all alumni and equal gender representation in all areas;
- Inclusivity and unity of all stakeholders both internally and externally;
- Restoring the legacy and the brand of Fort Hare to its former glory;
- Transparent mobilisation of resources towards financial stability of Fort Hare;
- Immediate establishment of alumni chapters in all districts, provinces and countries with Fort Hare Convocants;
- Prioritisation of community engagements and internalisation;
- Facilitation of partnerships with local industries and drive UFH graduate employability in both public and private sector;
- Elimination of corruption and an urgent return to clean governance and create an environment for operational stability and cohesion while restoring the reputation of Convocation.

“These will be detailed at a strategic planning session the committee will be embarking on to advance a new path for the Convocation. We have also taken note of the recent statement issued by the University following the resignation of Prof Idjioma. As the executive, we view these allegations serious and will allow to take its course as these conflict with the strategic direction we have envisioned for our prestigious university. We condemn in the strongest terms any unethical conduct or educational fraud in our institution as these threaten to undermine

the university' academic integrity, devalue our convocants qualifications and tremendously damage our beloved university's reputation.

We would like to also express our deepest gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Prof Buhlungu, the Registrar, the Presiding Officer of the electoral Agency and all other stakeholders for creating a platform necessary for Convocants to elect its executive committee.

We must applaud the University of Fort Hare community for its keen interest and willingness to advance the interests of our beloved and cherished institution. This is a clear testimony of your guaranteed support in bringing about strategic changes that will reposition the university at the academic global map. As the leadership collective, we commit ourselves to taking our prestigious university back to its founding principles and values. Accordingly, we call upon all Convocants to rally behind this cause,” said Advocate Mini.

The committee, which comprises members with diverse strengths in various areas of specialisation, is committed to giving back and meaningfully contribute towards uniting and rebuilding the university to make Fort Hare great again. “I invite all Members of the Convocation to proudly lift the flag of this glorious university, which has produced world renowned icons, to rally their support in making the university a barometer of hope for the poor and its existence be felt across the globe,” Advocate Mini concluded.

**For media enquiries or interviews,
Please contact Advocate Andile Mini on 079 690 8313
or Bulelwa Ganyaza on 083 514 5526.**



UFHGP CHAPTER BIDS FAREWELL TO DR JJ KLAAS

Yesterday (22 March 2021) the UFHGP EXCO together with members of the High Level Support Organ bid farewell to Dr JJ Klaas who stepped down as a Chairperson in December 2020. We thank the esteemed luminaries who graced the event as well those who contributed to the hosting of the event.

Source: UFHGP Chapter



UFH ALUMNA, NONCEBA KONTSIWE SWORN IN AS NEW MEC FOR EC HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Ms Nonceba Konstiwe, UFH alumna and Member of the Provincial Legislature, is the new MEC for Human Settlements.

The announcement was made by the Honourable Premier of the Eastern Cape, Oscar Mabuyane – also a UFH alumnus – at a media briefing held on 9th March. MEC Konstiwe was officially sworn in by the Eastern Cape acting Judge President Selby Mbenenge.

The 61-year-old was born in Ntabethemba, Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality. She registered at UFH in 1989 and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996. In 1997 she obtained a Higher Diploma in Education.

She served the ANC in the Chris Hani District Municipality before joining the Eastern Cape Legislature in 2014.

UFH wishes her all of the best in her new portfolio!!



>> Ms Nonceba Konstiwe



❖ REST IN PEACE ❖
Mr Simo Reginald Hopa

At the end of February Nokholeji bid farewell to a beloved Fort Harian, Mr Simo Reginald Hopa. The Alumni Relations office within Institutional Advancement will remember him as a cheerful gentlemen who was dedicated to his role as an alumnus of the University of Fort Hare. We send sincere condolences to the Hopa family and the University of Fort Hare community at large.

Simo graduated with a BA Communication degree in 1994. He also majored in English and loved literature. While at UFH, he was a member of the Ballroom Dancing Society. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Fort Hare First Aid Society, training students in First Aid because of his Boy Scouts background. One of his other hobbies was hiking.

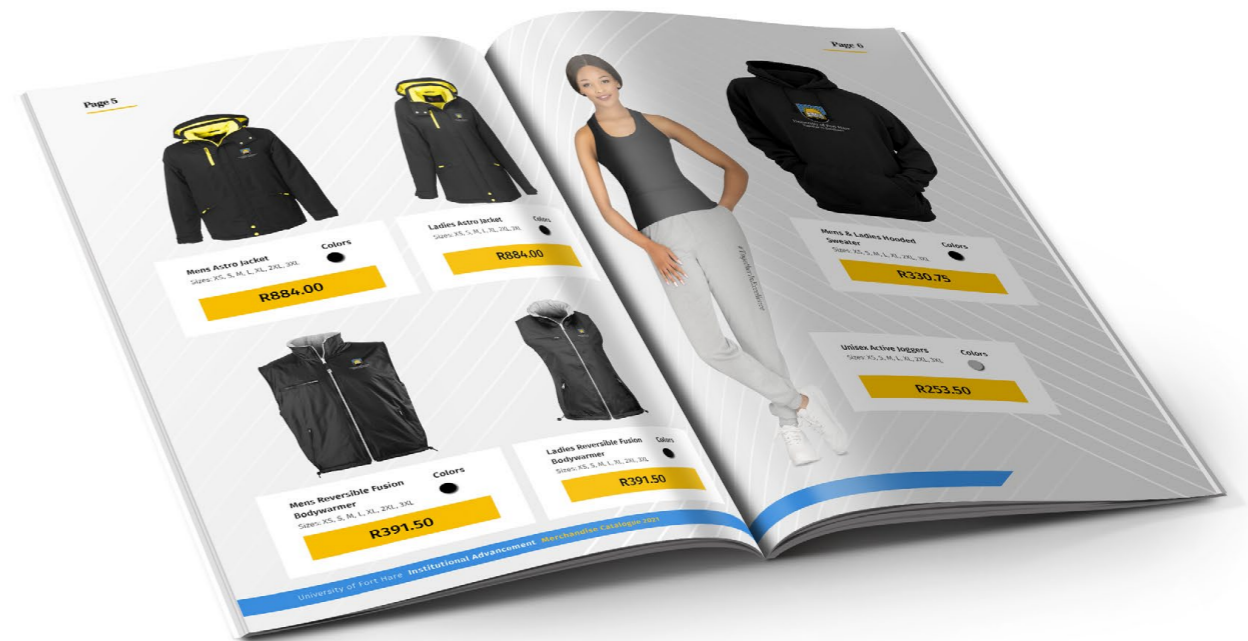
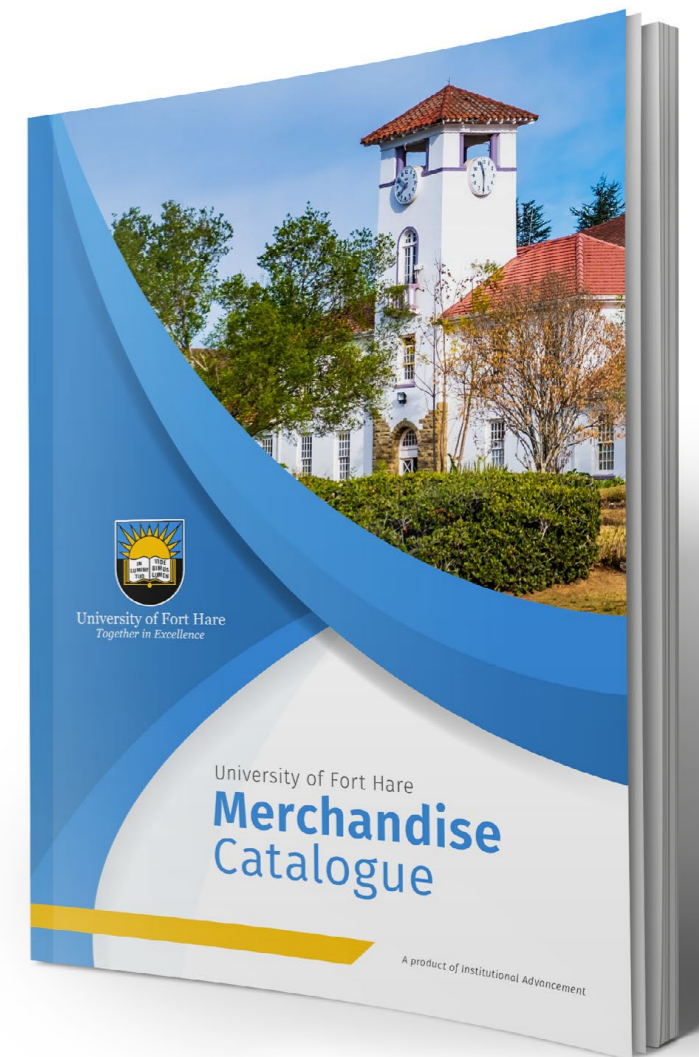
In recent years Simo was an active member of the University of Fort Hare Western Cape Alumni Chapter and served as its Chairperson (2014 -2016) – a term he served without blemish. He will be sorely missed. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



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