

# This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

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# LOOKING BACK ON THE 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR:

## *Deans of Faculties Share Their Reflections*

The 2020 Academic-Year has come to an end, and it has been a year like no other. The advent of Covid-19 brought about several changes in the way the university operates. We were plunged into uncharted waters but we sailed safely and successfully. Along the way we lost some of our colleagues who succumbed to the virus – may their souls continue to rest in peace.

Notwithstanding the challenges encountered during this period, we have also achieved pockets of success that we are proud of. We held two virtual graduation ceremonies and came out of Administration by inaugurating a new University Council.

The university pushed hard to be able to launch in 2021 two ground-breaking qualifications: Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery and a Masters of Law in Competition Regulation.

As we individually reflect on the year that was, *ThisWeek@FortHare* is excited to publish heartfelt pieces penned by our Dean of Faculties.

Here's to a high-performance 2021! *Together in Excellence.*

## **PROF VUSI SITHEMBISO MNCUBE** *Dean: Faculty of Education*

Dear Colleagues

I am writing this communiqué with a deep sense of gratitude because through it all, we have come this far. The 2020 academic year was clouded with so much uncertainty. However, your commitment and dedication restored certainty.

I have taken a moment to reflect on the journey we have travelled during a very stormy Covid-19 context of stringency. I have listened with admiration as academics narrated how they sacrificed their personal cellphones to be used as lecture rooms/halls through WhatsApp messages. I have observed colleagues navigating through the Blackboard space, trying to mediate learning despite the distance.

I thank you for your flexibility, willingness to learn and change. I am so grateful for the calmness and humility demonstrated during online classes. There were challenges - including infrastructural challenges that we had no power to unravel. However, we managed to rise above those challenges. We rose above the occasion. You have been the Faculty's feet, arms, ears, eyes and mouth, reaching out to all students, despite their socio-economic status. I can confidently say, we have laid a foundation upon which we will build a future aligned to the 'new normal' and being catapulted to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



I would not be doing justice if I did not thank our support staff led by the Faculty Manager. I thank you for being the pillars of strength to the academics. The faculty would not be presenting solid reports without your help.

It is in order to extend my gratitude to the Deputy Deans, Heads of Schools and Deputy Heads of Schools for their leadership and unwavering support throughout the 2020 academic year. I wish you more strength as we prepare for the 2021 academic year. The storm is not over, but the sky is slowly clearing and we have to remain vigilant.

# PROF FHULU NEKWEVHA

## Dean: Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The advent of COVID 19 and its fatalities and infection rates had a devastating impact on the operations of the University of Fort Hare as a higher education institution in South Africa. The fact that the Covid-19 pandemic emerged shortly after our institution was placed under administration in 2019 exacerbated matters for the institution.

The university was in the process of devising strategies to navigate the administration systems when the COVID 19 pandemic emerged and resulted in the national lockdown and the closing of all education institutions.

Thanks to the stewardship of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, his Management Executive Committee (MEC) as well as the Extended Management Team (EMT) - the university worked hard to satisfy the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) requirements. These resulted in the lifting of the administration of the university towards the end of 2020, in addition to the inauguration of the new University Council.

Conditions that had to be met included *inter alia*, the updating of university polices, cleaning up the university's Programme Qualification Mix (PQM), avoiding duplication of programmes on more than one site and ensuring alignment of all programmes according to requirements. The University of Fort Hare will henceforth strive towards quality teaching and learning and cutting-edge research as a world class institution.

In collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) and under the leadership of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof Renuka Vithal, the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (SSH) academic staff was workshopped on online blackboard teaching and learning at the beginning of the national lockdown. It thus became compulsory for everyone to learn and navigate themselves in the 'new normal'.

Faculty Higher Degrees meetings were now held through online Microsoft Teams. The embracing of the online blackboard teaching and learning approach heralded the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution practices in higher education. This approach was augmented by the use of a multi-modal approach. All these practices, including the assessment of Higher Degrees matters through Microsoft Teams ensured that we had two successful graduation ceremonies both in July and December 2020.



We want to thank our SSH academic staff, support staff and students for the ease with which they adapted to the new online blackboard teaching, learning and assessment innovations. We want to mention our Deputy Deans, both in Research and Internationalization and Teaching, Learning and Community Engagement, in partnership with the Heads of Departments and Directors of Centres, for the ceaseless efforts they made to monitor, evaluate and provide useful continuous feedback for the purpose of further enhancement of these processes. As we complete the 2020 academic year, the Faculty wants to formally acknowledge the role of each and every one of us in the teamwork which emanated into a successful 2020 academic year.

Enkosi! Thank you! Baie Dankie!

# DR NOMBULELO LUBISI

## Dean: Faculty of Law

To say the 2020 academic year has been exceedingly challenging is probably beyond dispute. The year has tested and extended the resources, abilities and stamina of students, staff (both academic and support) as well as those of Faculty and University leadership in ways never seen before. However, we now find ourselves at the cusp of completing the daunting year and about to start a new one. For this, as Dean and as the collective leadership of the Faculty, we are truly grateful.

**To the students:** It has been an 'against all odds' year in your supreme effort not only to make something of the academic year, but also to actually make a success of it. Your willingness to adapt to new systems and processes, your patience, fortitude and grace in the face of uncertainty, lack of resources and tools, the enervating realities of a global pandemic and plans that often were characterised by considerable delays has been nothing short of amazing. The academic performance of this past year bears testimony of your commitment to the academic enterprise. Regrettably, while every effort has been made to cater for all students, there are some for whom circumstances made it impossible to succeed or to continue at all. To them, we say take heart and try again in this coming year or in the near future.

**To the Faculty staff:** How you put all hands on deck in a bid to serve and save the academic year has been truly incredible. The technophobes had to shed their fears and misgivings as almost everything became digitised and digitalisation took centre stage instantly. In the face of plans that shifted and changed and vital data that remained unreliable and uncertain as knowledge and the trajectory of the pandemic kept shifting, you stayed focused but flexible and adaptive. Notwithstanding your own challenges, those tasked with teaching taught and assessed and those tasked with providing administrative support steadfastly continued to do so. Again, thank you all. Thank you very much.

**To the leadership:** You found yourself seized with the responsibility of guiding, re-assuring, protecting, and many other things - even when you yourselves were in uncharted territory. There were no precedents, no prior examples from elsewhere. You had to innovate, rely on your collective wisdom and dig deep into your wells of commitment to the academic enterprise. Under the circumstances, you did well. No one could have justly asked for more of you as you planned, tore



up those plans and planned again, studied new rules, new guidelines (some of which kept changing), fielded questions to which you yourselves had no answers, and gracefully took criticisms that were often unwarranted.

**To all:** Our most sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones at this time, strength and healing to those who were infected and are still recovering. We are also grateful for those who got infected, recovered and put their shoulders back to the wheel undaunted.

We are not promised a better 2021 but we take comfort in the knowledge that the lessons of 2020 have given us a real chance to better navigate the waters of 2021. The year 2020 has tested all our virtues - patience, fortitude, self-discipline, commitment, team effort, adaptability, positive attitude and more.

For us as the Law Faculty committed to transformative constitutionalism, this past year has highlighted more than ever before the case for socio-economic transformation, distributive justice, intellectual property law and access to medicines and quality health care, the transformation of legal education itself, as well as well as the practice of law and more.

Congratulations for holding on and getting through this past year against all odds. Thank you all for your commitment and cooperation and, best wishes for the year ahead.

## DR NTOMBOVUYO WAYI

*Dean: Faculty of Management and Commerce*

We have finally come to the end of the 2020 academic year, a year that was full of uncertainty but also a year that provided us with a chance to seize opportunities that would have otherwise taken a few years to accomplish. I would like to take this time to congratulate staff and students of the Faculty of Management and Commerce, who through patience, commitment and resilience ensured that we made it.

During his 2020 opening address, the Vice-Chancellor stated that as we advance towards 2030 we must start imagining the University of Fort Hare as a Smart Rural



University. Little did we know that a month later the university's electronic mode would be a 'new normal' for university activities, including teaching and learning due to Covid-19. This came with its challenges but through all of these, we appreciate new ways of doing business.

The year has not been all doom and gloom. Both the institution and faculty have recorded several achievements. One such achievement came in the form of Mr Dylan Staude from the Accounting Department who received a Silver Award for the adaptation of a learning programme in response to Covid-19 during the International Learning Technologies Awards held in London. A student from the Department of Information graduated top of the class in the national Huawei Seeds for the Future programme. All of this shows that we did not let the challenges of the year derail our focus.

Please use the short break as a chance to reflect, recharge, and be ready for the new academic year. As we look forward to the new academic year, let us continue with the same conquering spirit as before to ensure that we finish with pride.

I would like to end by applauding final year students for proving that resilience and adaptability are key as one approaches the finish line. Well done!!

All the best.

## PROF NOMAKHAYA MONDE

*Dean: Faculty of Science and Agriculture*



Dear Colleagues

As we approach the end of 2020, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you have done to make it a successful year in spite of challenges we experienced. The Covid-19 pandemic changed our world, and we found ourselves having to embrace new ways of doing core business. But you have pushed through this challenge with grace and positive energy. The institution and faculty are proud to have loyal and dedicated employees like yourselves.

**The following are some of the achievements in 2020:**

- In 2020, the Faculty of Science and Agriculture graduated 67 masters students and 21 doctoral students
- For 2018-2020, publications in DHET-accredited journals exceeded 3.6 publications per staff member per year
- Of the 30% of permanent staff members who do not have PhDs, 71% are presently pursuing them, and many are close to completion
- 50% of staff received research grant funding for part or all of the period 2018-2020

**Individual Achievements:**

- Prof A. Okoh and team published 59 articles in DHET-accredited journals in 2020
- Prof B. Aderibigbe (Chemistry) has just been awarded a C2 NRF rating
- Dr J. Mbese (Chemistry) was accepted into the prestigious Future Professors Programme

Thank you so much for your contribution to our success God bless you all!

## PROF LEON VAN NIEKERK

*Acting Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences*

Looking back, 2020 seems so distant as we are already two months into 2021 yet we are concluding the 2020 Academic Year.

This pandemic gave us new perspectives about time and space: being placed under lockdown and restrictions being lifted, the end and the beginning of the academic year and so many more distinct contrasts.

I want to thank all staff and the students of the Faculty who took this journey with us this year. When our time and space was disrupted at the start of the academic year and we all got locked down in our homes, we decided to open up new ways of teaching and learning.

Thank you for your willingness to change and to move from face-to-face to online teaching in a very short period of time.

We look forward to 2021 with new appreciation and excitement as we await new challenges.

Thank you.



# REGISTRATION *UNDER LOCKDOWN*

The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly changed the way we do things in the Higher Education sector. In some instances we have adapted seamlessly to the new normal, however, we are still trying to find our feet in some areas.

In a bid to shed some light on the upcoming 2021 registration process, Dr Rose Masha: Deputy Registrar for Academic Affairs created time in her busy schedule to respond to questions sent by [ThisWeek@FortHare](mailto:ThisWeek@FortHare).



>> Dr Rose Masha

She shared the following pockets of critical information as the university endeavours to comply with Covid-19 health and safety regulations:

## Registration process

- ALL continuing students will be registered remotely from the 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- Registration for first years will take place on the following dates:
  - o East London campus : From 1<sup>st</sup> March
  - o Bhisho campus : 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March, and;
  - o Alice campus : 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March

Information will be uploaded on the UFH website under the 2021 Registration Guide.

## Late Applications

- The university is not accepting late applications because the quota of applicants has been reached
- If there are any spaces identified by faculties after registration, the list of rejected students will be revisited.
- If there is still space, faculties, especially those that require Maths and Science as criteria – will move into walk-in space.

## Walk-in Applications

- Every year, the university only accepts walk-ins in the Science and Agriculture as well as Management and Commerce Faculties. The number of applicants with from the Science and Mathematics stream is usually below the faculties' quota.
- In 2021 the walk-ins application process is going to be closely monitored in order to comply with Covid-19 restrictions.
- The university will issue a communication as soon as faculties confirm the number of available spaces.
- Walk-in application forms will be downloadable from the university website. Applicants may complete the form and email it to the relevant faculty.
- Once approved, faculties will alert the successful students and invite them to come in and register.



# FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES SECURES SAMRC RESEARCH GRANT TO INVESTIGATE NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE RISKS



>> Prof Leon van Niekerk

The Department of Human Movement Science (HMS) within the Faculty of Health Sciences has been awarded a yearly grant of R400 000 over the next three years by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) to investigate the risks associated with non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

UFH is among selected SA universities that will receive this grant which forms part of the SAMRC Research Capacity Development Initiative.

The project was identified by **Prof Leon van Niekerk**, Acting Dean of Health Sciences and **Prof Maya van Gent** who is a HMS HoD. According to Prof van Niekerk, the research project sought to investigate the development and impact of an intervention on the physical and psychological risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases among adolescents in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

“We set out to conduct a situational analysis to determine the factors associated with NCDs among adolescents and then develop an intervention aimed at reducing the risk factors associated with NCDs in adolescents.”

He said an intervention will be implemented to address the risks. “This entails 6 and 12-months post intervention tests to determine the effect of, and adherence to the intervention programme,” he explained.

Giving background to the research background on the project, Prof van Gent said the physical and psychological health concerns and risk factors of non-communicable diseases among adolescents has been prioritized on the agenda of international health institutions globally.

“Living healthy lives and maintaining healthy lifestyles is often neglected in many countries, specifically in low-income countries. Therefore, this study aims to explore these risks,” said van Gent.



>> Prof Maya van Gent

**“Living healthy lives and maintaining healthy lifestyles is often neglected in many countries, specifically in low-income countries. Therefore, this study aims to explore these risks”**

# 1<sup>ST</sup> COHORT OF SPEECH THERAPISTS ENTERS FINAL YEAR OF STUDY



>> Ms Unati Stemela-Zali



>> 2018 Cohort SLP Programme Students

**“Employment opportunities are still plentiful as this programme offers a scarce skill nationally.”**

More than 80% of the first cohort of students from the Department of Rehabilitative Sciences within the Faculty of Health Sciences are set to finish their studies this year and graduate in 2022. The students enrolled in 2018.

The Department of Rehabilitative Sciences officially opened its doors in 2016. It offers a BSc Speech Language Pathology programme that was accredited in 2017.

According to the Head of Department, **Ms Unati Stemela-Zali**, the BSc Audiology programme is also fully accredited but awaiting the South African Qualifications Authority registration.

Stemela-Zali shared some of the latest developments, highlights, challenges, job opportunities that await the graduates and her aspirations for the department.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics states that the demand for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) is on the rise, with a projected job growth at 21% through 2024. Yet

a shortage of SLPs has put the squeeze on schools and healthcare organisations.

### Employment Opportunities

The scope for job opportunities is quite wide. UFH graduates can pursue careers in the following sectors:

- Department of Health - as Therapists in Healthcare Centres
- Department of Education - as Curriculum Support Therapists for learners with barriers in education
- Academia - as Researchers and Academics
- Private practice - as self-employed Therapists in independent practice
- Private sector - like insurance companies and medical aid companies as communication disability specialists etc.

“Employment opportunities are still plentiful as this programme offers a scarce skill nationally. In this current cohort about 80% of students are studying through the Eastern Cape Department of Health Bursary. They

will be placed in the Department’s facilities as soon as they get their results confirming their degree completion in December 2021,” she elaborated.

Despite some challenges such as staff shortage and under equipped labs, Stemela-Zali has great aspirations for this department and is optimistic these can be realised. These include:

- Becoming one of the leading producers of rehabilitation professionals nationally and internationally
- To produce rehabilitation professionals who are contextually relevant in terms of their skills.
- To become a contextually relevant knowledge producer through research, and
- To offer more programmes in the near future, such as Audiology, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.”

// by Aretha Linden



# NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF LAW INTRODUCES A NEW QUALIFICATION:

## Master of Laws in Competition Regulation

In our previous edition we broke the news of an exciting new Nursing and Science qualification – the Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery. In this edition, we are proud to share the news of yet another new ground-breaking programme, a Master of Laws in Competition Regulation.

This LLM Degree is a new flagship coursework degree offered by the Nelson R Mandela School of Law within the Faculty of Law. The first student intake for this unique inter-disciplinary degree will be in the 2021 academic year.

According to Prof Patrick Osode, Head of the Mercantile Law Department, the initiator and university's partner on the project is The Competition Commission South Africa.

“The process of getting the programme approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training, accredited by the Council of Higher Education and registered with the South African Qualifications Authority took us four years. That’s a bit too long but we are glad to have received the all-clear to finally commence the programme,” said an upbeat Prof Osode.

The qualification is the perfect post LLB programme for Law graduates who wish to specialise in the exciting field of Competition Regulation. It will broaden and deepen their knowledge of the underlying law, policy and economics, in addition to further developing their research skills.

### STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The degree will encourage independent learning and critical thinking as well as robust engagement with the socio-economic policy rationales, ethics and values that are at the core of the development and enforcement of competition regulation.



>> Prof Patrick Osode

It will seek to attract legal representatives (lawyers) already working in the competition regulation/compliance industry as well as recent law graduates wishing to position themselves for practice within that industry.

The LLM Competition Regulation degree will be taught over a period of one academic year of full time study (or two years part-time). Each module is offered in one semester and various forms of assessment will be utilised including formal examinations.

In addition to the taught modules which constitute the coursework component, all students must complete a research mini-dissertation over the course of the academic year on an approved topic. One of the features that set this programme apart from its national and international peers is the economics component of the curriculum. In addition to three taught law modules, students must register for and pass two economics modules - one of which is compulsory.

Module Name	Credits	Nature of module
Economics for Competition Regulation	20	Compulsory (Core Module)
Advanced Competition Law & Policy	20	Compulsory (Core Module)
Competition Regulation Enforcement & Procedure	20	Compulsory (Core Module)
International & Comparative Competition Law	25	Compulsory (Core Module)
Mini-dissertation	90	Compulsory (Core Module)
Students choose one elective module from the following		
Competition and the use of tenders and auctions	8	Elective
Innovation and intellectual property	8	Elective
Financial sector regulation and development	8	Elective

### KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this programme, students should be able to do the following:

- Clearly identify and competently apply the rules, principles and values of Competition Law in solving real-world problems.
- Develop and apply advanced knowledge of the economic and socio-political theories and rationales central to the legal regulation of anti-competitive behaviour.
- Evaluate and monitor, through research and enquiry, national and international developments in the field of competition policy, law and industry regulation.
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge and appreciation of the challenges and dangers posed by widespread non-compliance with Competition Law-related rules and values from multiple stakeholder perspectives.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be in possession of the LLB (bachelor of laws) degree or equivalent 4-year law degree (B Proc) qualification.

**NB:** A limited number of financial aid bursaries might be available based on merit and need. The number of available spaces is limited.

Interested applicants should contact Mrs T Malima at: Tel: 043 704 7539 / email: [tmalima@ufh.ac.za](mailto:tmalima@ufh.ac.za)

# Dr Mbese Joins Prestigious National Future Professors Programme



>> Dr Johannes Mbese

Dr Johannes Zanoxolo Mbese, Head of the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry in the Faculty of Agriculture and Science, is among 31 South African academics who have been selected to participate in the Future Professors Programme (FPP), funded by the Department of Higher Education Training (DHET).

Under the leadership of Professor Jonathan Jansen, an internationally renowned expert and a distinguished professor, the FPP aims to develop qualities of academic excellence and leadership among a select pool of academic staff. This will contribute to the development of the future South African professoriate.

Commenting on the nomination and selection process, Prof Jansen said: "The quality of nominations from all South African universities was exceptional."

The programme is staged as three cohorts of between 20 and 30 fellows. The first cohort started in January 2020, the second in January 2021 and the third will be in 2022.

Dr Mbese is a member of the second cohort selected from 118 nominations received from a call to all 26 SA Public Universities. He was personally invited to join the programme by DHET Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande.

Selected fellows represent disciplines from Audiology to Zoology, with a strong node in chemistry and related disciplines as exemplified by Dr Mbese's fellowship.

Said an excited Dr Mbese: "Honestly, I knew that only those exceptional academics will be selected and was not sure if I would make it. I was in complete disbelief when I received the outcome. The nomination comes with a sense of responsibility. I will give it my best, not for myself, Department or Faculty, but for the institution."

"I want to thank my colleagues, the Director of the Fort Hare Institute of Technology (FHIT), Prof Edson Meyer, the seniors in the Faculty, the UFH management and everyone who spent designated time to assist in formulating my application," said Dr Mbese.

The two-year programme includes the following components:

- Residential component (accommodated virtually because of the current pandemic)
- An evaluation of each scholar's standing in their field or discipline
- Academic mentorship and;
- An international engagement component, tailored to each individual fellow.

*Dr Mbese is the first South African to graduate with a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Fort Hare in May 2017. He currently serves as a Research Group Leader and Founder of the Energy, Materials and Inorganic Chemistry Research Group (EMICREG). His research interests are in the synthesis of metal sulfide nanoparticles/nanocomposites, metal oxides, carbon quantum dots and carbon nanotubes for applications in nanotechnology, chemical sensing, water treatment and renewable energy. His research work is supported by the NRF Thuthuka Grant (2019-2021) and UFH Institutional Research Grant from the Govan Mbeki Research and Development Centre (GMRDC) from 2014-2020.*

*He has supervised to completion one PhD and three MSc students and numerous honours students. He has served as Head of Department of Pure & Applied Chemistry (HoD) at the UFH for the past two years.*

Source: UFH Pure and Applied Chemistry Department



>> Jazz Singer: Elam Ntshantshu

## UFH TURNS 105!

### UFH Music Department renders impromptu virtual concert to celebrate the milestone

On the 8 February, UFH turned 105 years old. In celebration of this significant milestone by this great university, the VC, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu commissioned a surprise celebration during the university's first virtual Senate meeting for the year. The meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Covid-19 restrictions notwithstanding, our Music Department delivered an impromptu virtual concert, a delicious combination of marimba, jazz and opera renditions.

The VC also implored Senators to celebrate its oldest alumnus, Sir Charles Njonjo, a former Attorney General of Kenya, and Minister of Constitutional Affairs - he turns 101 years old this year.

At the end of the senate meeting, the VC proposed a toast to the iconic institution.

*Khula Nokholeji*

#### Notable facts about the University of Fort Hare:

- The university opened its doors on 8 February 1916. It was the first higher education institution in the country for black South Africans, but was also open to students of all races and genders.
- Classes began on 22 February 1916 with just 20 students.
- From 1916 onwards, it has produced several notable alumni, who have contributed immensely to the liberation and transformation of SA and the African continent.
- We are the only Southern African university to have produced various international heads of states: Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Yusuf Lule of Uganda, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Ntsu Mokhehle of Lesotho and Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana.
- Other Notable alumni who received honorary doctoral degrees in recognition of their contribution as leaders of their countries and statesmen on the continent include the 1st President of Tanzania - Julius Nyerere and former President of Zambia - Kenneth Kaunda.

The university has also produced or has been associated with the following alumni (in no particular order or hierarchy):

Dr AC Jordaan, Mr Govan Mbeki, Chief Kaizer Matanzima, Mr Oliver Tambo, Mrs Phyllis Ntantala, Mr Can Themba, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Mr Robert Sobukwe, Prof Barney Pityana, Mr Chris Hani, Adv Dumisa Ntsebeza, SC, Prof Richman Mqoke, Adv Thandi Orleyn, Dr Sizwe Nxasana, Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu, Mr Mfundu Vundla, Mr Peter Mvundla, Ms Wendy Luhabe, Dr Sisa Ngebulana, Prof Loyiso Nongxa, Mr Nhlenganiso Dladla, Premier Oscar Mabuyane, Prof Digby Koyana, Mr Singata Mafanya, and many, more... who continue to play an active role in the growth and development agenda of the University of Fort Hare.

# New Institutional Student Parliament Leaders *officially in seat*



**ISP SPEAKER**  
Lwando Nontamo



**ISP DEPUTY SPEAKER**  
Jasson Gola



**ISP ORGANISER**  
Anelisa Keti



**ISP FINANCE OFFICER**  
Nolwazi Mabindisa

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 a successful partnership between the Student Affairs Department and the Interim Student Representative Council (SRC) delivered the first ever online Institutional Student Parliament (ISP) which resulted in the election of a new ISP leadership.

*ThisWeek@ForthHare* spoke to the Acting Student Developer, **Mr Wandisile Mdepa** who said the ISP is governed by section 26 of the UFH Student Governance Constitution. It forms part of the Student Governance Organogram and is the second highest student decision-making arm after a Student Mass Meeting.

Below is the list of students who were nominated and later elected in various positions.

Position	Name and Surname	Organisation/Society	No of votes
<b>Speaker</b>	Lwando Nontamo	YBM	35
	Bongani Ozias Moyo	EFFSC	20
<b>Deputy Speaker</b>	Jasson Gola	ANCYL	28
	Lubabalo Mzimela	SCO	27
<b>Organiser</b>	Anelisa Keti	ANCWL Desk	26
	Abongile Mfanta	SASCO	22
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Nolwazi Mabindisa	LGBT	28
	Siphokazi Mbalo	PASMA	19

According to Mr Mdepa, an engagement held in August 2020 with the SRC led to the decision to hold an ISP meeting. This was followed by a student consultation process. However, the process suffered a series of delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

“In January 2021 the office was advised that a physical ISP meeting could not sit because of Covid-19 regulations that prohibit political, religious and social gatherings. Eventually, the meeting was held online.”

We are grateful to the ICT Department for their support that ensured a smooth process throughout.

Mdepa said all members of the ISP from organisations and societies were required to be represented by two delegates.

“The meeting was initially chaired by the Interim SRC President (Mr Sipiwo Ngcenge) who was appointed by the Acting Dean of Students (Prof Priscilla Monyai). The meeting had to elect an interim chair who led the meeting until the ISP Secretariat was constituted.” The voting process was held by a show of hands.

When asked about the role, functions, values and vision of the ISP, Mdepa responded as follows:

#### **ISP role and functions**

The ISP’s primary role is to ensure the Student Governance Constitution is respected and upheld at all times, something would be amiss if that fundamental and important function is not performed.” The ISP is composed of all SRC members, chairpersons and secretaries of organisations and societies that exist on the university’s campuses.

Among its other functions, the ISP is empowered to receive reports from the SRC, endorse registration of any organisation, club or society recommended by the SRC. Furthermore, it advises the SRC on any matter it deems necessary.

#### **Values and Vision**

The ISP assists the general student population in ensuring that democracy is entrenched in the student governance circles by holding the SRC accountable. That is achieved by holding SRC statutory and constitutionally mandatory meetings.”

#### **Student Elections**

The ISP meeting also resolved that SRC elections should be held on 22 April 2021 to conclude the term of the current interim SRC. We have sought the support of Supply Chain Management in Finance, to identify an external company which will oversee the election process to its conclusion according to the Students Governance Constitution.

*// by Aretha Linden*

# SRC DONATES 3000 PACKETS OF SANITARY TOWELS TO UFH STUDENTS

**“Our plan is to sustain this as an ongoing SRC legacy project and we are looking into attracting more helping hands. We are proud of our university.”**

The University of Fort Hare’s Institutional Students Representative Council (ISRC) went into overdrive when it donated about 3000 packs of sanitary towels to female students on both Alice and East London campuses on 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The initiative started on the Alice campus where students collected packages that were packed in beautifully decorated gift bags. The drive proceeded to the East London campus the following day. Here, the SRC went the extra-mile, delivering the gift packs to students at their residences. Each pack contained extra goodies such as a chocolate bar, hand sanitizer and a keyholder.

The combined effort by the SRC, Student Affairs, UFH Peer Helpers, Security Personnel and institutional Advancement was not without challenges. The SRC had to donate from their personal pockets to realize this dream of helping the most vulnerable of their female mates. The University of Fort Hare is on an extended academic year due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Mr Siphwi Ngcenge, SRC President, “the aim of the initiative was to help students in any way possible. This is a measure that can help bring relief to students who can’t afford to purchase the items. This initiative is one of the various challenges UFH students have had to deal with, particularly during the COVID-19 period”.

“Our plan is to sustain this as an ongoing SRC legacy project and we are looking into attracting more helping hands. We are proud of our university.” said Ngcenge.

The initiative has received positive feedback from the entire university community. University social media platforms were flooded with messages of encouragement.

*// by Asaduma Baloyi*



# FINE ARTS STUDENT WORKS GO ON DISPLAY

On the 16 -17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 The Fine Arts Department on the Alice campus held its annual Student Art Exhibition. On display were paintings, print markings and sculptures.

Four of the artworks by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students have been selected for display in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

The display is aimed at marketing the students' work to the general public, promoting public community awareness and exposing social ills through visual narratives.

The Department stands to benefit as the students' creative pieces will be exhibited at the Makhanda National Arts Festival and other creative art competitions such as Sasol, Spier Contemporary and National Heritage. The exhibition also aims to attract funders such as the National Research Foundation, the Eastern Cape Department of Arts and Culture and the National Lotteries.

**“despite some challenges such as lack of exposure, understaffing and lack of resources, the department and its students have great potential to excel.”**

Fine Arts senior lecturer **Dr Siphe Potelwa** said “despite some challenges such as lack of exposure, understaffing and lack of resources, the department and its students have great potential to excel.”

“We are determined to use the little that we have to become the face of the university,” he said.

Dr Potelwa, also implored Management to support the Fine Arts Department.

“The VC said ‘art is within his blood’ and that he loves visual art. We would like him to help us grow this Department.”

Currently, the Department is home to 250 students and is in partnership with the HillenbergTrust Fund.

*// by Mawande Mrashula*



>> Mr L Dyongo: Drawing with Pencils



>> Miss N.P Mampunyu: Ceramics (Clay work)



>> Miss S Ncayo: Ceramic (Clay work)



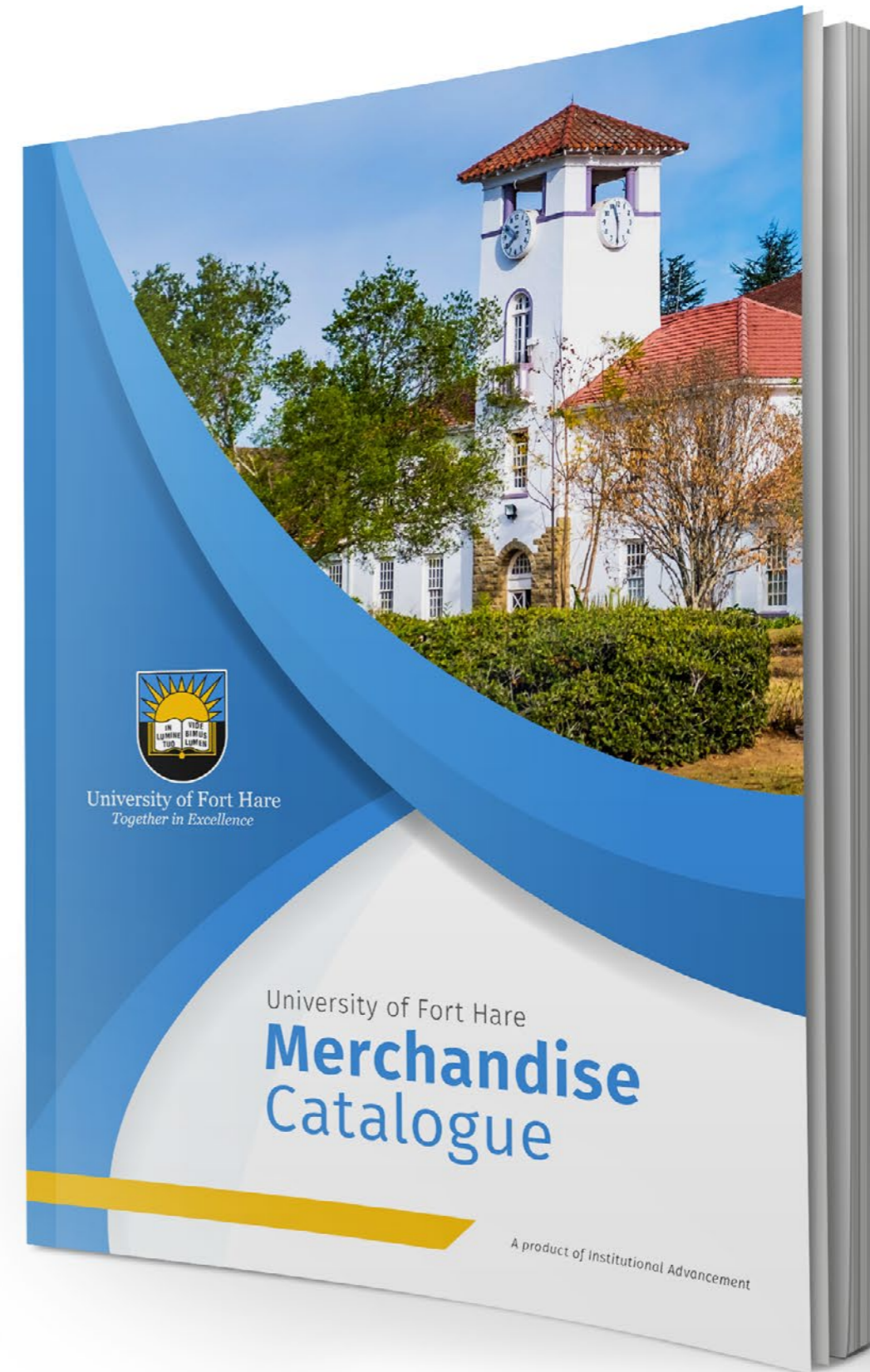
>> Mr A Noko: Oil Pastel and Charcoal



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your weekly newsletter

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