



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

Institutional Advancement

2<sup>nd</sup> edition

# This Week

## @ FORT HARE



## UFH SCOOPS RESEARCH AWARDS

It has been a week of research excellence at the University of Fort Hare following the awarding of a National Research Foundation (NRF) Excelleration Award and the Best Paper Award at the Southern African Institute for Management Scientist (SAIMS) conference.

## NRF EXCELLERATION AWARD



Derived from the words "excellence" and "acceleration", the Excelleration Award is a well-earned recognition for the University of Fort Hare's Research Centre which has seen a significant improvement in its research performance in recent years.

The annual NRF Awards recognise and celebrate South African research excellence. The 2019 ceremony was held on 12 September at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West. The event was attended by, amongst others, Minister and Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande and Mr Buti Manamela as well as former Ministers Dr Ben Ngubane, Mr Derek Hanekom and Mr Mosibudi Mangena.

Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola, Dean of Research, and Director of the Govan Mbeki Research and Development Centre at Fort Hare said the university

was thrilled and honoured to be the recipient of the award. According to her, until about ten years ago, Fort Hare was barely registering on the research rankings and was producing very few PhDs and research articles.

But that has changed quite significantly. *"We now consistently produce a large number of PhDs and Masters graduates. We have a vibrant and growing community of post-doctoral fellows and researchers in the country, on the continent and beyond"*.

"The award is a well-deserved honour. We continue to aspire to be an even more significant player and contributor to the knowledge production industry. This is certainly the direction we want to be moving in", said Prof Gqola.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW INTERVIEW WITH PROF GQOLA](#)

## BEST PAPER AWARD AT SAIMS CONFERENCE



A research paper authored by University of Fort Hare's Professor Roger Elliott and final year Master's student, Siphon Mfazi won Best Paper Award at this year's Southern African Institute for Management Scientist (SAIMS) conference.

Titled ***Reconceptualising cultural groups and their influence on entrepreneurial intention***, the paper investigates the extent to which culture influences the intention to become an entrepreneur.

The 31<sup>st</sup> SAIMS conference was held at the Nelson Mandela University on 8-11 September 2019. The conference was hosted by the School of Management Sciences and provided an opportunity for researchers from Southern Africa to share their research and to contribute to the world of management.

This year's conference was themed ***"Responsible Management in Disruptive Times"***. About 150 papers were submitted from various universities such as Rhodes, University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, the National University of Lesotho and the Great Zimbabwe University. Of the papers submitted, 60 were accepted as full competitive papers. Ultimately, Fort Hare won the award.

According to Professor Elliott, traditionally, culture has been understood as being synonymous or strongly related to nationality, ethnic group or in the case of South Africa, population group. "We argue that globalization, the movement of people and in particular, the pervasive influence of technology and social media has a profound impact on the values of young people, and how they see the world and behave. As such, the geographic area or societal culture in which they grow up, no longer completely defines their values."

The award vindicates the department's approach to focus on high quality cutting edge research. "It means that our unique and original contribution to the field of entrepreneurship has been recognised by our peers," he said.

Siphon Mfazi could barely contain his excitement saying had it not been for Professor Elliott who pushed him to go beyond what he believed was possible, he would have missed this opportunity. "My relationship with Prof Elliott was more than that of a supervisor and student. He was my mentor and supported me all the way. I hope my achievement will inspire township children and prove to them that anything is possible," said Mfazi.

## **PROFESSOR WILLIE CHINYAMURINDI**

### *Graduates Again!*

One of our own, a scholar and avid researcher, Professor Willie Tafadzwa Chinyamurindi, received a standing ovation when he graduated cum laude with a Master's Degree in Theology last week at the Spring Graduation ceremony in Alice.

Fondly known to the university community as simply Willie, Prof Chinyamurindi has a PhD in Business Management and is an associate professor in the Department of Business Management. He is also the research niche leader for the Faculty of Management and Commerce.



When his name was called out the hall broke into applause. Students, staff and fellow academics stood up and cheered him on as he made his way across the stage to be capped by the Chancellor.



Willie's MA research dissertation: *Redefining the calling - Narratives of women excluded from the ordained ministry in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in South Africa* - is in honour of his late grandmother's memory.

"One of my grandmother's aspirations for my twin and I was for us to become pastors. [In her last days I made her a promise that one day I would make a contribution to the church ecosystem that I belong to. Almost three years since her death, that promise has been kept](#)", said a proud Willie.

During the research process, Professor Chinyamurindi interviewed 15 women who had studied to become pastors but were not allowed to practice due to their gender. Another interesting finding from his research was that people are afraid to challenge traditionally held conventions and structures.

"The intent was not to challenge or destabilise but rather to give a voice to those whose calling was often prevented by these structures or traditions."

The next step in the process will entail writing and publishing papers to generate conversations on the same topic.

# 2019 *Chancellor's* DINNER

## **CHANCELLOR'S PLEA: PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE**

The Chancellor of the University of Fort Hare, Advocate Dumisa Ntsebeza SC has made clarion call to students, staff and alumni to play their part to preserve the legacy of the University of Fort Hare. Advocate Ntsebeza made this call at the annual Chancellor's Dinner held on 12 September, ahead of the Spring Graduation ceremony.

*"This is a university with a rich history and has produced many icons. Our forefathers made a lot of sacrifices for this university. We have the responsibility to make it work," he said.*

The glamorous evening event sponsored by Standard Bank was held at the East London International Convention Centre. The purpose of the dinner is to raise awareness on the special needs of the university and to pave way for possible funding to address those needs.

Some of the stakeholders who graced the Chancellor's table include the Administrator, Professor Loyiso Nongxa; Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, Raymond Mhlaba Municipality Mayor Councillor Bandile Ketelo, UFH alumnus, former WSU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Malusi Balintulo and Standard Bank representative Mr Rogers Siyengo.

Professor Nongxa said in order to improve teaching and learning and research output, the university needed financial stability. "Our students need to have access to the same facilities and resources that other students have and take advantage of at other universities," said Nongxa.

Advocate Ntsebeza returned to his alma mater in 2017 as Chancellor. During his five-year tenure, he hopes to realise his three aspirations for the university:

1. Construction of a library in Alice
2. Refurbishment of the Great Hall, also in Alice
3. Establishment of a scholarship fund for underprivileged students.

"The library is in tatters and needs to be rebuilt. The Great Hall is the soul of the university and has a great significance. I live for the day my dreams for the university are realised."

On the evening about 30 books were auctioned with each book fetching between R200 and R700. The biggest auction item was an aerial picture of the Alice campus which sold for R10 000.





# Raising the Bar



## 162 PhDs CONFERRED IN 2019

Over the past three years the number of doctoral degrees produced by the University of Fort Hare has increased remarkably. There has also been a notable surge in the number of graduates from 3122 three years ago to 3990 this year.

In 2016 110 PhDs were conferred. The number leaped to 154 in 2018 and 162 this year.

The 2019 Spring Graduation Ceremony - the second and final for the academic year - was held in Alice on 12 September. As per norm, the ceremony was split into two sessions. After the academic procession led by Chancellor Advocate Ntsebeza, a moment of silence was observed in honour of two alumni, President Robert Mugabe and boxing champion, Leighandre' "Baby-Lee" Jegels, as well as all UFH students who passed away this year.

[Altogether, 381 degrees and diplomas were conferred across six faculties. Of those, 37 were doctorates. In May 125 PhDs were conferred.](#)

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Buhlungu congratulated the graduates for making it "against all odds"

The guest speakers were Ms Sindiswa Qayi, Managing Director of Amahlali Eco-Tech Africa and inventor of an energy-saving device called the Hot Spot and Ms Andiswa Mlisa, Managing Director at the South African National Space Agency's (SANSA) Earth Observation directorate.

Friends and family filled the Sports Centre to the rafters and ululated in celebration of the milestone achieved by their loved ones.





University of Fort Hare  
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— 2019 —  
SPRING  
GRADUATION



# Good Luck Anelisa

## - UFH STUDENT JETS OFF TO ENGLAND TO REPRESENT SA

Anelisa Tsipa, a fourth year Bachelor of Commerce student will be heading to England to represent the country in the 2019 Judo Commonwealth Championship in Birmingham in England.

Ms Tsipa will represent Judo South Africa in the over 78Kg weight category. The championship will take place on 25-29 September. This is a remarkable achievement considering that she started participating in this physical sport only two years ago.

Born in Mcubakazi in Butterworth and raised by her late mother, Ms Tsipa said she could have chosen any other sporting code, but opted for judo.

"I joined a judo club in 2017 for wellness and self-defence training. At first my mom did not approve because of the risks associated with it. When she saw how dedicated I was, she became my number one supporter. After she passed away I did not lose hope, instead I became more determined," she said.

[Ms Tsipa is ranked fourth in SA in her division. She will proudly wear her green and gold colours to represent the country and the UFH.](#)

In 2017, while she was still a novice, she received a national silver ranking which earned her a training camp with the national team. During the same year she won a silver medal at the University Sports South Africa games.



In 2018, her career took a knock when she could not participate in any competition due to an injury she sustained during training. She however made a remarkable recovery in April 2019 when she collected a gold medal in the Amatole trials. She subsequently made it through the SA open championships where she begged gold in the national rankings.

Her beaming head coach, Athenkosi Monki said this was the beginning of many opportunities for the institution, Judo and in particular for Ms Tsipa.

"She will spread her wings making sure she is counted amongst other great Judoka. May God continue to bless her," said Monki.

Good luck Anelisa.



## ***“Never felt this good”***

### **ALICE CAMPUS MAKE-OVER TESTIMONIES**

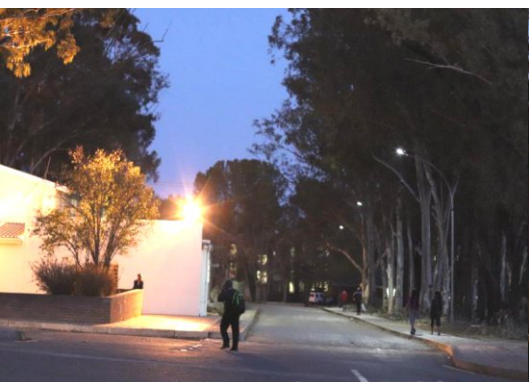
The Alice campus has recently received a “make-over”. Street lights have been installed, trees were trimmed and five dilapidated structures have been demolished. These improvements have uplifted the general look and feel of the campus!

This is the testimony of **Professor Anthony Okoh**, Deputy Dean (Research and Internationalisation) in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, who went on an early evening walking exercise and was delighted by the experience. Along his route he picked-up some comments made by a group of students about the campus new look. In fact, the comments encouraged him to extend his walking distance.

*“I fast-walked past a group of three students. I heard them commending the university on the beautiful lightning all around campus. I slowed down to catch the gist. It was all praises, and one of them used the phrase **‘Never felt this good’**. I then decided to do an extended coverage of the campus and I concurred fully with the students. It was a kind of experience I’ve not had in a long while, and it’s so beautiful and tranquil to behold the lights. I felt like walking throughout the night!”*, said Prof Okoh.

According to Alice Campus Premier, James Nqabeni, “students now felt much safer when walking on campus at night. More safety features such as a biometric system and visiting cards will be introduced soon”.

The university would like to thank Mr Kaizer Dlemnyango and his team (Properties and Services) for a job well done.





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# **THIS WEEK @ FORT HARE**

**your weekly newsletter**

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