

This Week @Fort Hare



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Vol 3, issue 10 • 9 July 2021



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2 July 2021

Dear Staff and Students

CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND REPORTING LINES

Yesterday, three senior management staff formally joined the University. We are pleased to welcome Professor Nthabiseng Taole-Mjimba, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnerships and Innovation; Mr Lufuno Tshikhudo, Dean: Student Affairs; and Professor Neil Roos, Dean: Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr Oscar van Heerden joined the University on June 1st as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support. This means that we have now filled all the positions on the Management Executive Committee.

With the new position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnerships and Innovation introduced and the renaming of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs portfolio to Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning – led by Professor Renuka Vithal – the highly burdened academic portfolio has been unbundled. In addition, the importance of the Student Affairs division has been raised, with the inclusion of the Dean: Student Affairs on the Management Executive Committee. As part of this unbundling exercise, there are therefore also changes to the reporting arrangements for some of the executive portfolios.

- The Dean: Student Affairs, who previously reported to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs, now reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor.
- The Planning and Quality Assurance Unit, which previously reported to the Vice-Chancellor, now reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning.
- The Library, International Office and Transdisciplinary Studies Centre, which previously reported to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs, now reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnerships and Innovation.
- The Govan Mbeki Research and Development Centre, which previously fell under the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs, now falls under the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnerships and Innovation. The Dean of Research position has been disestablished.
- Professor Munacinga Simatele has been appointed as Acting Director: Research Management, a new position that replaces the previous Manager: Research Administration position. The Director: Research Management position will be advertised shortly.

The new reporting lines for the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning and Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Partnerships and Innovation are showed in the table below:

Vice-Chancellor	DVC: Teaching and Learning	DVC: Research, Partnerships and Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Advancement • Internal Audit • Finance • Teaching and Learning • Research Partnerships and Innovation • Institutional Support • Registrar's Division • Student Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences • Faculty of Law • Faculty of Health Sciences • Faculty of Management and Commerce • Faculty of Science and Agriculture • Faculty of Education • Planning and Quality Assurance • Teaching and Learning Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Govan Mbeki Research and Development Centre • International Office • University Library • Transdisciplinary Studies Centre

I welcome the new management team members and am looking forward to a period of consolidation and renewal.

Sincerely,

Professor Sakhela Buhlungu
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Getting To Know Dr Oscar van Heerden

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support

On 1st June 2021 the University of Fort Hare (UFH) welcomed a highly accomplished intellectual, Dr Oscar van Heerden who joined the institution as its new Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Support (DVC-IS).

He joined the UFH from Stellenbosch University where he held the role of Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the Faculty of Military Sciences.

Dr van Heerden holds an MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge, both in International Relations. His intellectual interests are in international political economy with an emphasis on Africa and SADC in particular. He is the author of two single-authored books, *Consistent or Confused? The politics of Mbeki's foreign policy 1995-2007*, with Jacana Media (Staging Post) and *Two Minutes to Midnight: Will Ramaphosa's ANC survive?* also from Jacana. He is a public intellectual and a regular contributor in the *Daily Maverick* publication.

He serves on the Councils of two other higher education institutions - the University of Venda and East Midlands TVET College.

Exactly one month into his new role, Dr van Heerden took a few minutes out of his busy schedule to share with *ThisWeek@FortHare* a bit about himself and his plans for his portfolio.



>> Dr Oscar van Heerden

“I want to be part of the process of putting the university back on its rightful path - to reclaim its legacy and standing in the country - as an institution of higher learning where quality research and qualifications are the order of the day.”

Please share a bit about your professional background?

My professional background is why I felt comfortable applying for this position at UFH. In large parts, but not exclusively, my new role involves stakeholder management – internally and externally.

I have occupied a number of executive roles over the years. This includes the ANC Head Office (Luthuli House) in Johannesburg back when it was still Shell House in the late 1990s. I then worked at the South African Qualifications Authority and moved to Management Consulting in one of my own companies. Thereafter, I joined Local Government where I worked in various professional capacities in the City of Johannesburg in one of its entities, Parks and Zoo.

From there onwards I joined the University of Johannesburg as an Executive Director for Internationalisation, looking particularly at the international portfolio of the university. I then worked for Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflections (Mistra) - an independent think tank that takes a long-term view on the strategic challenges facing South Africa, the continent and the globe. Most recently I was with Stellenbosch University.

My portfolio centres on strategy and stakeholder management, both areas I am familiar with, having been active in student and youth organisations and various civil society structures. I have acquired a skill set that works very well with stakeholders such as organised labour and student structures such as the SRC (Student Representative Council) as well as inter-governmental relations.

Personal Life

I hail from the Cape Flats in the Western Cape. I was born in Retreat and spent my formative years in Mitchell's Plain. I am married and a father to twins, Ayanda and Andile.

Hobbies and Interests

I enjoy walking. Everything associated with walking, leisurely, casually and also hiking. I like hunting, I know a lot of people have different opinions about hunting, but I really enjoy it.

I also read, mostly non-fiction but not exclusively. I have just finished a very good book titled: *Begin Again* by Eddie Glaude. Currently, because of my new position, I am reading the *First 90 Days* by Michael D. Watkins.

What motivated you to come to the University of Fort Hare?

First and foremost, it is the legacy of the university. One cannot deny this institution is home to legends who are the heroes of anti-apartheid struggle. But also, I am attracted to the challenge of renewal. It is common knowledge that the university came out of a difficult period of being placed

under administration. This usually points to serious administrative and operational deficiencies.

I want to be part of the process of putting the university back on its rightful path - to reclaim its legacy and standing in the country - as an institution of higher learning where quality research and qualifications are the order of the day.

What are the key focus areas of your portfolio?

My role lends support to the entire institution. The core mandate of a university is teaching, learning, research and community engagement and there are other DVCs who are responsible for that mandate. I am responsible for everything outside of that core mandate.

My portfolio consists of:

- Corporate Services (Human Resources);
- Properties and Services;
- Information Communication Technology (ICT) and;
- Service Delivery Bulk Infrastructure.

What is your approach to executing key responsibilities?

My first approach is to get a sense of the landscape within all the departments under my watch. To understand the landscape and identify some of the deficiencies and also identify the kind of human resources that are required to actually execute the strategy.

For example, under corporate services we talk of a regeneration strategy in which we really want to bring in systems that are going to be beneficial to human resource development within the institution.

Under Properties and Services we are looking into what is required from a bulk infrastructure point of view. What is the need over the next few years to ensure our lecture rooms, science labs and WiFi are actually in keeping with advancing quality teaching, learning and research work.

From an ICT point of view, the strategy is to ensure we put in place the necessary infrastructure in terms of bandwidth, availability of data, keeping costs low and negotiating with service providers for the best outcome for our students and staff.

Whatever I do in my portfolio feeds into the strategic objectives of the university. I conceptualise and provide strategic direction within the portfolios. I also oversee the management and development of physical infrastructure on all campuses, develop and maintain effective working relationships with key government and private organisations, partners and stakeholders. And of course, ensure financial stability in my portfolio.

Continued on next page...

In your first 30 days in office which areas have you identified as pockets of excellence and which ones require strengthening?

Pockets of Excellence

- The first thing to mention is the fact that there is a new, full complement senior management team. The VC, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu really took time to put together a very good executive management team that will be able to execute the strategy and implement the necessary plans to take the university forward on its part to renewal.
- The other notable achievement is that we have made very good gains within the academic space in the area of research.
- Also in the area of remote learning, being a rural university - it is commendable that we are able to provide students with the necessary tools and resources to study remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have done very well and kept teaching and learning going under severe conditions imposed by the pandemic in the last 18 months.
- We just came out of an audit process and it is looking good, much better than previous audit findings and reports. We are not 100% there yet, but it is a clear indication that says we are on the right track. We are beginning to get the systems right, where there are less fruitless and irregular expenditures.

These are some of the things we must celebrate.

Challenges

There are many challenges in my portfolio.

- There is the challenge of insourcing instead of outsourcing, whether it is cleaning services, catering services or the security components of the university.
- Short-term contracts is also a challenge. Many people are on short-term contracts and that is something we want to address and slowly but surely root out of the system.
- There is also a challenge of change of corporate culture. Once you have a particular practice or culture that is not very conducive or good it takes time to change it. But it is something we have to work on and chisel away, until we have a good culture of transparency, accountability and taking pride in our work.

Lastly, what are your aspirations for the university as it sets off on its journey of a decade of renewal (2020 to 2030). What is your advice on how to reach the envisaged destination?

Come 2030, we want to be a vibrant, equitable and sustainable African University, an institution that is committed to quality teaching, learning and research. We want to become a university that provides good quality service to our students and scholars - a very important component for all of us.

We want to continue the legacy of producing world-class revolutionary leaders and political leaders as we have done for so many decades and produce more agents of change.

In order to make this vision a reality, we need to provide high quality education that matches international standards. Our research work needs to be socially and ethically relevant to address and improve society.

So these are my thoughts. I am excited to be part of the Fort Hare family. I am looking forward to turning our new strategy for the next five years, into reality - that would be my small contribution.



>> Nkuhlu Accounting Building, East London Campus

University of Fort Hare Accounting students excel in SAICA ITC exams

University of Fort Hare accounting students scored impressively in this year's South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Initial Test of Competence (ITC). The ITC is the first of two qualifying exams that are written by prospective chartered accountants.

UFH obtained an overall pass rate of 81% in the April 2021 ITC exam. This puts the university in the 7th place nationally, a position shared with Nelson Mandela University. The national average is 64%.

“It is testimony to the incredible work ethic and dedication of both our Accounting Department and our accounting students.”

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu said this achievement is extraordinary given the unprecedented circumstances under which the 2020 academic year had to be concluded. “It is testimony to the incredible work ethic and dedication of both our Accounting Department and our accounting students.”

The VC thanked Ms Wendy Terblanche, who was Head of Department until the end of June, Ms Chuma Mjali, Deputy Head of Department as well as all faculty and administrative staff in the Accounting Department. “We appreciate your hard work. Thanks is also due to the Faculty of Management and Commerce for its support. To our students, you made us proud - keep it coming.”

“We are grateful for the support of donors that are committed to our Accounting Department and assist in many ways to support its programmes,” concluded the VC.



Tracking our youngest and brightest:

Nelson R. Mandela School of Law Graduates Make Big Strides in the Legal Profession

The UFH Law Faculty is known for its rich legacy of producing outstanding graduates since it was established in 1961. Named after one of the university's notable alumni, the Nelson R. Mandela School of Law has, over the years, proven to be an institute to be reckoned with.

In this edition of *ThisWeek@FortHare*, senior law lecturer Advocate Vuyo Booyen shares the success stories of some of his former students and LLB graduates (drawn from the classes of 2019 and 2020) who continue to make big strides in the law profession.



Mr Sibusiso Genukile
(Class of 2019)

Advocate of the High Court and member of the Cape Bar
Age 23

Advocate Sibusiso Genukile is the youngest member of the Cape Bar. He currently holds chambers in Cape Town. His practice deals mainly with civil litigation, criminal litigation, tax, maritime, delictual claims and family law.

He is a young philanthropist, a vigorous and goal-driven individual who also values independent thinking, diversity and appreciates a strong work morale.

Advocate Genukile studied at UFH between 2016 and 2019. Throughout his studies he represented the institution in many competitions, domestic and international. He participated and won the second Kate O'Regan Interschool Moot Court Competition during which he had presiding officers who included former Constitutional Court Justices, Justice Albie Sachs and Kate O'Regan.

He is also a recipient of the Dean of Research Exceptional Achievement Award. Beneficiaries of this award are a handful of students who excel both in academic and extracurricular activities.

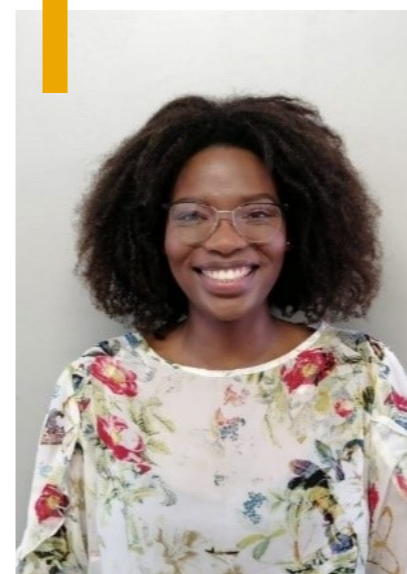
Adv Genukile was chairperson of the UFH Debating Union from the year 2016 to 2018. He participated in the Southern

African National University Debating Competition (SANUDC) in 2016, 2017 and 2018. He was the best judge in 2018 in a debate tournament known as the Free State Open hosted by the University of Free State.

He represented UFH and South Africa in a legal ethics training programme in Kigali Rwanda. He also represented the university in Mexico, Germany, USA, Qatar and Thailand in debating and mooted competitions.

During his student days, Adv Genukile held numerous leadership positions which include Chairperson of the Law Student Council (LSC), Research Coordinator for Students for Law and Social Justice (SLSJ). He was also an academic officer for Students for Science and Justice (SSJ) and was also a member of Enactus UFH.

Adv Genukile also worked as a legal intern at S Booie and Sons Attorneys, Hopisi Attorneys and at the University of Fort Hare Law Clinic. Between 2017 and 2019 he worked as a student assistant and tutor at the Nelson R Mandela School of Law.



Ms Thandokazi George
(Class of 2019)

Researcher at the Social Justice Coalition in Cape Town

Thandokazi is currently a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) candidate. Her research is based on gender justice and focuses on the intersectionality between gender justice, safety and sanitation for black women living in informal settlements.

She is the co-founder and former chairperson of the Fort Hare Mooting Society. In her undergraduate studies, Thandokazi represented UFH at the All Africa Human Rights Moot Court Competition in Accra, Ghana. She has competed in the UCT Kate O'Regan Moot Competition where she appeared in front of the former Constitutional Court Judge Kate O'Regan and made it to the semi-final round of the competition.

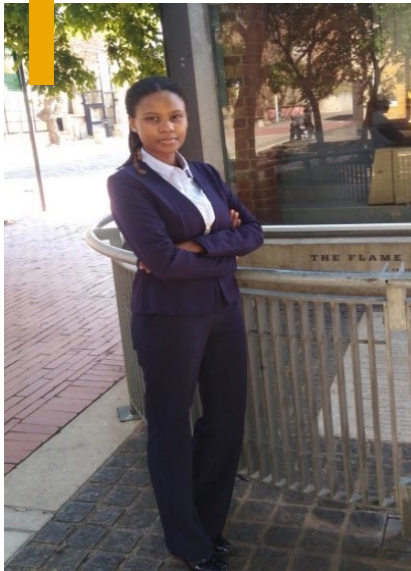
During the third year of her studies, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) leadership

programme identified her as one of the top 20 student leaders in the Eastern Cape.

In 2019 Thandokazi was awarded the Canon Collins Education Trust Scholarship. Her leadership capabilities were also recognised by the African Centre on Law and Ethics and she attended their Legal Ethics Training Programme, jointly organized by White & Case in Kigali, Rwanda.

Thandokazi is extremely ambitious and tenacious. Throughout her time at UFH she worked at the Law Faculty as a student assistant and in 2020, joined the faculty as a Time-on-Task Lecturer.

Her areas of interest include human rights, gender justice, criminal justice and policing.



Ms Lihle Bululu
(Class of 2020)

Law Researcher/Clerk at to Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng - Constitutional Court

Age: 23

Owing to her commitment to the democratic value of socio-economic justice and transformation which fuelled her insatiable interest and zest towards public interest law, Lihle attained a prestigious opportunity to serve as Law Researcher/Clerk to Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, at the Constitutional Court. She assumed her new role on 1 July 2021 and will serve until June 2022.

To further her knowledge and expertise, from 17 to 21 May 2021, she participated in an intensive programme on judicial enforcement of socio-economic rights in Africa hosted by the Centre on Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. Whilst a student at UFH in 2019 and 2020, she worked as a tutor for Criminal law and the Law of persons. In 2020 Lihle was awarded a bursary by a reputable law firm: Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc. (CDH) and also served as a facilitator at the UFH Centre for Transdisciplinary Studies.

In addition to her impressive academic track record, she was a member of the

UFH Moot Court Society and participated in several moot court competitions. Worth mentioning, are two moot competitions in which she represented the institution: the 28th All Africa Moot Competition held in Botswana in 2019 and the 2020 Philip C. Jessup International Moot Competition (regional rounds) held in Sandton and reached semi-finals and Top 10 oralist rankings.

In 2019 Lihle worked as a vacation student at Adams & Adams attorneys in Pretoria and at Drake, Flemmer & Orsmond in East London. Representing UFH and South Africa, she participated in the 5th Annual African Legal Ethics Training Programme hosted in 2020 by the African Centre on Law and Ethics. The programme inculcates and fosters the essence of fundamentals of ethics in the legal profession within the African continent.

According to Lihle, her success thus far is a result of failing but choosing to fail forward.



Mr Sive Makhulathi
(Class of 2020)

Masters Candidate in International Trade and Investment Law in Africa (TILA), Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

Age: 23

Sive is a young philanthropist and a vigorous individual who learns unceasingly. He values diversity and appreciates a strong work ethic. While at UFH between 2019 and 2020, he was awarded the prestigious Webber Wentzel Scholarship.

Recently he has been selected by the International Development Law Unit (IDLU), Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, for a scholarship provided by the National Research Foundation (NRF) through its funding of Professor D. Bradlow's SARChI chair.

Prior to joining the TILA LLM Programme, Sive also worked as a tutor at the Nelson R Mandela School of Law (on pro bono basis in 2019, and on contract in 2020). He worked as an intern at Adams & Adams in 2019. He also volunteered in the following organisations: Team Lee

South Africa, UFH Enactus, and UFH Paralegals.

From 2020 to 2021, Sive served as the Academic Officer for the Black Management Forum as well as the Secretary-General of the Consumer Law Student Chapter. He is the winner of the 2018 UFH Junior Moot Court Competition and has participated in the UFH Human Rights and Senior Moot Court Competitions. He also took part in the Faculty of Law campaign to raise consumer rights awareness during the World Consumer Rights Week.

His areas of interest include International Trade, Investment Law, Maritime Law, Commercial law and Human Rights Law.



Ms Gugu Sixolise Tom
(Class of 2020)

Candidate Attorney at Bowmans Law Firm in Sandton, Johannesburg

Age: 23

During the course of her studies (2017-2020), Gugu exhibited an impressive academic track record, illustrated by her inclusion in the Dean's merit list in 2019. Gugu was a well-rounded student with multiple accolades under her belt.

Owing to her academic excellence, she attained three bursaries:

- Webber Wentzel Scholarship;
- The Eskom Tertiary Education support programme as the top-performing female student and;
- The Canon Collins Leigh Day LLB Scholarship

Gugu was part of the team that represented the UFH for the first time at the prestigious Phillip C. Jessup International Moot court competition [National Rounds] where she ranked as the 6th best speaker in the competition. She also made it to the semi-finals.

She was also part of the team which won the 2019 Kate O'Regan Moot Court Competition and represented the institution at the All Africa Moot Court competition in 2019 in Botswana. She has further participated in various internal moots held by UFH in which she won and emerged as the best speaker.

In addition to being a decorated mooter, she has developed herself in numerous leadership positions both in and outside the institution. In 2019, she was selected as one of the top 20 students in the Eastern

Cape to join the One Year Leadership programme ran by the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung organisation at the Fort Hare Autumn School.

She was also interim chairperson for the Consumer Student Chapter which was pioneered by the UFH in 2019. Her passion for leadership and advocacy was also illustrated by her participation in various legal discussions as a panellist where she demonstrated her understanding of law. These included being a panellist for the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung webinar on the Constitution and the role of young people during Covid-19, as well as the World Consumer Rights (WRC) week discussions around POPIA (*Protection of Personal Information Act*)

Gugu was a UFH delegate at the 4th preparatory meeting for the WRC in 2019, as well as the Eighth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection in 2020 which was held virtually.

Gugu has also demonstrated eagerness to develop herself through the corporate space. She was invited by Webber Wentzel for a panel interview for an offer of articles and she was head-hunted by Bowmans in 2019 where she secured her articles of clerkship.

She was a consultant for the Language and Writing Advancement team UFH and also worked as a tutor in Law of Evidence.



Mr Halalisani Xulu

Intern Researcher at Centre for Comparative Law in Africa (CCLA), University of Cape Town

Age: 24

Halalisani graduated his Bachelor of Law Degree with distinction (*cum laude*). He is currently a Masters Student in Commercial Law (LLM) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), specialising in corporate governance, corporate finance, competition law and International trade law

He also holds certificates in Twin Peaks, Insurance Act and the COFI Bill from UCT.

In 2018, whilst enrolled for his 2nd year at UFH, he was signed with one of the leading firms in Africa, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr and will commence with his articles of clerkship with the firm at the beginning of 2022.

Halalisani is a brilliant young man with a hawk-eye in analysing both legal

and socio-economic issues and has an incredible passion for hard work.

He received an academic award for being one of the top-performing students at Nelson Mandela R. School of Law.

Halalisani is also a proud winner of the Kate O'Regan Inter-varsity Moot Court Competition. While at UFH. He was a member of various non-profit organisations, including Team-Lee, and Enactus. Halalisani is also a recipient of the CDH (Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr) bursary which funded his undergraduate studies and currently, his LLM studies.

He is a recipient of the UCT Post Graduate Scholarship, in recognition of his excellent academic performance.

UFH Departmental Journal on Local Government Research Accepted into the Directory of Open Access Journals



>> Prof Ogo Nzewi

The Department of Public Administration's journal titled: **Journal Local Government Research and Innovation** (JOLGRI) has been accepted into the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

Associate Professor Ogo Nzewi and Head of the Department Public Administration is the Editor-in-Chief of JOLGRI. According to her, the research publication seeks to publish and foster knowledge development in educational, epistemological and practice advancements within local government that will result in alternative models practised in local government service delivery and governance.

"The journal has a rigorous, double-blind peer-review process and a rolling publication system, which encourages prompt publication of accepted papers. JOLGRI publishes research articles, notes, conceptual reviews and essays as well as practitioner-focused papers. Manuscripts are welcome from South Africa, Africa and across the globe."

Benefits of journals indexed in DOAJ

1. One of the benefits is that all articles published in the journal this year - can be submitted to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) next year for subsidy. DOAJ requires at least 5 original articles to be published yearly in order to remain on the list. https://jolgri.org/index.php/jolgri/pages/view/journal-information#part_2
2. DOAJ has more than 900 000 page views and 300 000 unique visitors a month to DOAJ from all over the world.
3. Many aggregators, databases, libraries, publishers and search portals (like Scopus and EBSCO) collect DOAJ free metadata and include it in their products.
4. DOAJ is OAI compliant and once an article is in DOAJ, it is automatically harvestable
5. DOAJ is OpenURL compliant and once an article is in DOAJ, it is automatically linkable.
6. Over 95% of the DOAJ publisher community said that DOAJ is important for increasing their journal's visibility
7. DOAJ is often cited as a source of quality, open access journals in research and scholarly publishing circles.

Prof Nzewi said this is huge milestone for the journal. "Well done to all members of our editorial board, our reviewers and everyone who has been working behind the scenes to make this a success."

For more details on the journal or to submit articles please visit <https://jolgri.org/index.php/jolgri>

"Well done to all members of our editorial board, our reviewers and everyone who has been working behind the scenes to make this a success."



UFH Trio Scoops EC Youth Awards



>> Mr Nkosinathi Makamela



>> Mr Lutho Klaas



>> Mr Avuyile Xabadiya

The University of Fort Hare is proud of its own: Mr Nkosinathi Makamela, 3rd-year Animal Science student, UFH alumni Mr Lutho Klaas and Mr Avuyile Xabadiya - for scooping awards at this year's Eastern Cape Youth Awards.

Held on 26 June, the award ceremony is a provincial initiative designed to recognise, celebrate and promote youth excellence in the Eastern Cape.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

Agriculture, Arts & Culture, Civil Society, Education, Entertainment' Entrepreneurship

Event Management, Health, Justice and Law, Media, Politics and Governance, Science and Technology, Social Entrepreneur and Sport.

Mr Makamela won the Youth in Agriculture Award. The 21-year old from Dutywa made headlines earlier this year when he was featured in various publications, including UFH's corporate newsletter: *ThisWeek@FortHare*. This is after he used a portion of his NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme) funding to revive and run his family's small-scale farm.

Mr Klaas holds a LLB degree from UFH. At age 27, he was appointed as director of a top law firm in March this year. He won in the Justice and Law category.

Mr Xabadiya holds a BSc (Honours) in Agricultural Economics from UFH. He is currently a Chief Economist at the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. He was crowned winner in the Education category.

Indeed, *Together in Excellence!*

UFH Alumnus - Lusindiso Holiday participates in Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

“The ultimate aim is to donate and channel these funds towards the support of social and health programmes that promote the welfare and human rights of vulnerable groups and sexual minorities”

Lusindiso Holiday, a UFH alumnus is among 700 young Africans from 49 African countries who have been selected to partake in the 2021 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.

The Fellowship is a flagship programme of the American Government's [Young African Leaders Initiative \(YALI\)](#). Since 2014, nearly 4,400 young leaders from Sub-Saharan African countries have participated in the programme. The Fellows, between the ages of 25 and 35, are accomplished leaders and have established records of promoting innovation and positive impact in their communities and countries.

During the Fellowship, the Fellows participate in six-week Leadership Institutes, studying business, civic engagement, or public management hosted by US colleges or universities. This year's fellows were selected after undergoing a rigorous selection process of more than 35 000 applications and attending physical interviews with the US Consulate representatives.

Holiday hails from Qhaga location, a village situated outside Qonce. He completed his Bachelor of Social Sciences degree at the University of Fort Hare in 2007. He also holds a BA Honours in Social Behavioural Studies (HIV/AIDS) from the University of South Africa and is currently registered for a Master of Medical Science in Public Health with the University of KwaZulu Natal.

He is a South African professional with almost 15 years' worth

of diverse experience in the conceptualisation, coordination, planning, implementation and management of health and social programmes. Two of those years were spent volunteering at the UFH Student Counselling Unit in Alice. He also spent two years as an intern at the Employee Health and Wellness Unit at the Department of Human Settlements in East London.

Currently, Holiday works for the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa (NPA) as a Victim Assistance Officer at the Sexual Offences & Community Affairs (SOCA) Business Unit. His role at the NPA comprises managing rape and other sexual assault cases through the provision of psychosocial support services. He also looks into the individual needs of each victim, from point of contact to care, until they appear in court. He also facilitates access to all in-house services as well as stakeholder contact at the Thuthuzela Care Centre.

In 2012 Holiday was awarded a scholarship to study for an Advanced Health Management Programme (AHMP) through a partnership between the Foundation for Professional Development Business School (FPD) and Yale University School of Public Health. He completed the programme in 2013.

Holiday is a member of the South African Institute of Healthcare Managers (SAIHCM) and the Black Management Forum (BMF).

He has managed groups and coordinated HIV/AIDS programmes (inclusive of advocacy, education,



>> Lusindiso Holiday

and prevention activities), health promotions, conducted training, workshops, and awareness campaigns as they appear in the International Health Calendar.

According to him, his long-term vision and goal is to establish an effective international development foundation that will have as its primary mandate a massive and aggressive fundraising and resource mobilisation towards the development of the underserved and vulnerable populations.

“The ultimate aim is to donate and channel these funds towards the support of social and health programmes that promote the welfare and human rights of vulnerable groups and sexual minorities (that is inclusive of sex workers, queer communities (LGBTIQA+) and others. Thereby ensuring that social justice is served and achieved in our lifetime for all these vulnerable groups in Africa and the entire world,” he sates.

Prof Andries Bezuidenhout Releases 4th solo album: *Spoorlangs*



>> Prof Andries Bezuidenhout

“Throughout the album, the theme is that losing your way can also be a way to explore new roads and a means to finding a new sense of direction.”

In addition to being an industrial sociologist and a well-accomplished researcher, Prof Andries Bezuidenhout is also a successful Afrikaans Music singer-songwriter.

The Development Studies Professor in the Faculty of Management and Commerce has released his latest solo album titled: *Spoorlangs* (Along the railway tracks).

The album - his fourth - was released on 1 June, 2021 by DistroKID on the following streaming platforms: Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube.

Speaking to *ThisWeek@FortHare* about his music career, Prof Bezuidenhout said: “When I produce music, I try to ask questions and tell stories. I think art is there to question and activate the imagination.” He is also a visual artist, an author and a poet.

Andries, who lives in the small town of Alice said the content/lyrics of his latest album was inspired by typical Eastern Cape stories.

“This album got most of its inspiration from Eastern Cape landscapes and history. There’s a song about Robert Sobukwe, as well as a fictional character called Andrew Rennie Pringle who lost his family farm at the time when Ciskei was created by the apartheid state.

“There’s a song about Alice and the involvement of old and new missionaries in creating the place. There’s also a song

about what you encounter on the road between Hogsback and Keiskammahoek. Another song is about what people win or lose when they decide not to have children for reasons of ecological sustainability.

Throughout the album, the theme is that losing your way can also be a way to explore new roads and a means to finding a new sense of direction.”

When asked how he manages to juggle being an academic and a recording artist, Andries said: “During the day I do academic work and after dinner I retreat to my home studio in Alice. When other people watch television, I compose or record music. Sometimes I work on oil paintings, or write poetry.”

“What holds everything together is an interest in people’s creative potential to shape the landscapes where they find themselves. I see ‘place making’ as a kind of human agency, a way to challenge structures of disadvantage and power. So rather than having to juggle between them,

there’s a synergy between my academic interests and my music, held together by an interest in issues related to history, landscapes, identity, and belonging.”

The editor of this publication has persuaded Andries to agree to a gig in Alice, one weekday afternoon – post pandemic, of course. Watch this space Nokholeji!



DISABILITY UNIT EMPOWERS STUDENTS TO OBTAIN DRIVERS LICENCES



“It is proof that nothing that can stop people living with disabilities from achieving their goals.”

An initiative by the Eastern Cape Disability Economic Empowerment Trust (ECDEET) to assist disabled people with getting their drivers licenses has benefitted two students from the UFH Disability Unit (DU).

Visually impaired Ms Pumlisa Lusiba is currently enrolled for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education while Mr Simbongile Qabaka, who has a physical disability, is a 3rd year BSc - Human Settlements student. Both obtained their driver's licenses on 24 June.

According to Nosiselo Buwa, a UFH Bachelor of Social Work graduate who works as a student assistant at the Disability Unit, nine students have benefitted from the programme since it was introduced two years.

“So far, out of the nine, four students have completed and obtained their driver's licenses through this programme.”

The assistance provided by the ECDEET to students includes:

- Learner driver license guides;
- Driving lessons, and
- Test bookings

The DU's Sam Van Musschenbroek said the ECDEET initiative is a clear demonstration of the organisation's dedication towards promotion of inclusivity.

“It is proof that nothing that can stop people living with disabilities from achieving their goals. This achievement further capacitates UFH students to qualify for job opportunities that require a driver's license.”



❖ IN MEMORIAM ❖ *Professor Ben Bester*

Prof Ben Bester was a senior staff member in the Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, and in the Faculty of Science & Agriculture. He joined the University in 1988 as Professor and Head of Department (HOD). He loved teaching and enjoyed mentoring his students, and many of his graduates continued over the years to keep in close contact with him. He retired in 2018 after 30 years of complete dedication and excellent service to the Faculty, and to the University.

Prof Bester's burial was held in Hogsback but because of COVID-19 the service was limited to a very small number of family and friends.

Recording of the live stream: https://fb.watch/6D-hGP_RKK/

There is a memorial page on the internet for people to leave messages:
www.benbester.co.za

May his soul rest in eternal peace

Source: Faculty of Science and Agriculture, University of Fort Hare



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