



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Institutional Advancement

This Week @FORT HARE

Vol 2, issue 23



// Alice Campus Entrance

30 October 2020

UPDATE ON MEASURES TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 ON OUR CAMPUSES

29 October 2020



// Prof Sakhela Buhlungu

Dear Staff and Students

On Monday and Tuesday, an inspection of our facilities and our residences in Alice and East London was undertaken by the World Health Organisation, the Eastern Cape Department of Health and representatives from the Buffalo City Municipality and Amathole district. We are responding swiftly to the areas where shortcomings have been identified and we are pleased with the areas where the University was found to be compliant.

Higher Health and the Eastern Cape Department of Health will be training our frontline staff (security and cleaning staff) on protocols for the first mitigation of containment linked to screening and cleaning. Line managers will be in touch, but we would like to see as many of our frontline staff as possible participating.

We want to thank staff and students who have been responsive to the call to scrupulously adhere to the Covid-19 prevention measures, including

- wearing a mask,
- regularly washing hands or sanitising,
- maintaining social distance,
- limiting movement and
- refraining from social gatherings.

Our number of active Covid-19 cases has come down, but we are still at a very delicate and critical stage of our efforts to stem the spread of Covid-19 on our campuses. In this phase, screening, testing, isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing are key for us to overcome the pandemic.

What we need now to succeed is for all staff and students to ensure that they complete the **UFH screening tool daily**. It is critical that you are frank and honest when completing the screening tool so that we can identify

at-risk staff and students swiftly. **The screening tool is available at <http://survey.ufh.ac.za/>**

Where students test positive in a residence, a soft lockdown will be implemented in the residence. With the assistance of the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) truck, all students in that residence will be tested.

We need to protect ourselves and each other. This requires a firm pro-social resolve and commitment. Where staff and students are referred to quarantine or required to go into isolation, compliance is critical to saving lives.

All previously venue-based exams will now be online, as indicated by the Registrar in a circular to the University community yesterday.

We want to reiterate that currently no events may take place on campus. Please also continue to limit your movements and refrain from gatherings to assist in containing the spread of the virus.

For psycho-social support, students should follow the Student Counselling Unit's Facebook page (Student Counselling Unit – Fort Hare University). It is managed by a psychologist on a daily basis. The platform allows for psychologists to participate in live chats and offer one-on-one assistance via private online sessions.

Staff can access staff support services through our Wellness Unit in Human Resources. Please contact Ms Mandisa Tyanti (mtyanti@ufh.ac.za).

I thank you for your commitment to keeping the University of Fort Hare and its surrounding communities safe.

Sincerely

Professor Sakhela Buhlungu
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

GOVERNMENT AND UFH JOIN FORCES TO INTENSIFY COVID-19 MESSAGING ON CAMPUS

Amid rising fears of a looming second wave and concerns over a spike in infections among tertiary students, government has moved with speed to launch a Covid-19 awareness campaign in partnership with the University of Fort Hare and other Eastern Cape institutions of higher learning.

The objective of the campaign is to remind students that the virus remains a threat.

At Fort Hare, the activation site was the Suigi student residence in East London on 23 October. The programme was led by the Government Communication and Information Systems (GCIS) in collaboration with UFH's Institutional Advancement Department, Buffalo City Metro's Environmental Health Department and the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

Ms Thabisa Ngqunge, GCIS EC Regional Communication Coordinator said the joint operation was driven by the recent Covid-19 transmission outbreak among UFH students.

"There is growing concern around the issue of students' poor compliance with Covid-19 protocols at the university. The campaign is part of an ongoing integrated government effort to reduce and suppress the spread of the virus at ward, village, cluster, township and community levels," she said.

Ngqunge cautioned against the misconception that being on alert Level 1 means the virus has died down. "This misconception has led to sporadic surges of Covid-19 cases. The move to alert Level 1 made people to forget that Covid-19 is still part of us. It is important for society, particularly the youth, to note that the fight against the virus is far from over."

During the activation, representatives from each of the partnering organisations encouraged students to stay safe during this time. Mr Velani Mbiza from Institutional Advancement reminded students about safety measures and protocols already in place on all campuses.

UFH CASE SUMMARY

Following a concerning spike in new infections which saw the university reach 60 active cases within a period of 7-10 days, the numbers have slowed down somewhat, with only 3 new cases recorded between 26-29th October. The other set of good news is that approximately 63% of the people who were in isolation have recovered and have been discharged from the isolation sites. Below is a breakdown of the numbers since UFH recorded its first case.

ALL CATEGORIES (as at 29 October 2020)	
Active Cases	25 (22 students + 3 staff members)
Recoveries	99
Fatalities	4
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES	128

By Aretha Linden and Tandi Mapukata



Professor Werner Nel

C-Rated NRF Researcher and Physical Geography Professor

Werner Nel is a Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science at the Alice campus of the University of Fort Hare. He lectures Climatology to first, second and third year students and Geomorphology to postgraduates. To date, he has successfully supervised more than 20 Masters and eight PhD students.

He serves on the joint International Association of Geomorphology/ International Geographical Union steering committee for Geomorphology and Society. He is a member of the South African National Committee for Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). He has been actively involved with the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) research for more than two decades. Prof Nel also serves as the Chief Scientist for shore-based science on relief expeditions to Marion Island and Antarctica.

This Week @FortHare is grateful for the opportunity to engage with the world renowned scientist.



// Prof Werner Nel // Busted finger on Marion Island after hitting it with a hammer

Who is Prof Nel?

I was born and raised in East London. I was educated at the University of Pretoria and graduated with a BSc in Earth Sciences: Atmospheric Science, BSc Hons in Environmental Analysis and Management. I also hold an MSc and PhD in Geography from the same institution.

My Masters degree was on Quaternary landforms on Marion Island (for which I overwintered with M56 in 1999-2000) while my PhD focussed on climate attributes and its geomorphic effect in the Drakensberg.

I started my career at the University of Pretoria as a part-time lecturer. I then got a fulltime lectureship position at the University of Transkei (now Walter Sisulu University). I have been in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science at the University of Fort Hare since 2006.

Please share with us your research interest and your past and current work/projects.

Principally, I am involved in three international research projects/ collaborations.

Mauritius: I am one of the main collaborators (with Prof Paul Sumner) on a research project based in the Mascarenes Islands of Mauritius and Ile le Rond (Round Island). The research project is in conjunction with the University of Mauritius, Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF), the Mauritius Oceanographic Institute (MOI) and the Mauritius National Parks and Conservation Services (NPCS). It originally started as an investigation into the erosivity of high intensity rainfall on Mauritius. However, it has evolved into a multi-faceted project investigating erosivity (wind and rain) as well as soil conservation and coastal risk assessment principally on Mauritius but also on the offshore islets like Round Island.

Pearl River Basin, China: I am also currently involved in a collaboration with colleagues from Nanjing University in China. This project is part of a collaboration funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the NRF through the Research Cooperation Programme in Geosciences. Our part of the project is to investigate the effects of weathering and human activities on heavy metal pollution in China's Pearl River Basin.

Marion Island: Lastly and most importantly, I am the Principal Investigator in a SANAP project called: *Landscape and Climate Interactions in a Changing Sub-Antarctic Environment*.

This project evolved out of 20 years of preceding earth sciences projects and experience on both Marion Island and Antarctica. We are currently busy working on a number of research objectives on the contemporary periglacial geomorphology of Marion Island. We are also re-examining the glacial reconstruction and timing of deglaciation on the island through the use of state of the art cosmogenic dating techniques in collaboration with colleagues from the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre and the British Antarctic Survey.

What do you think are your most significant research accomplishments?

Some aspects of my PhD work (which I completed in 2007) on the contemporary climate of the Drakensberg are still receiving citations and interest from researchers.

I managed to publish nine papers (all in International Scientific Indexing accredited journals) from data from my PhD without any funding. The only funding for fieldwork we had was what was in mine and my supervisor's pockets. I am still quite proud of the work that Prof Paul Sumner and I did during that time.

Through all of the work we did on Marion Island and Antarctica, I (with Prof David Hedding from UNISA) received an invitation to be part of the RAISED Consortium. This is a multi-national group of researchers led by researchers from the University of Durham and the British Antarctic Survey. We were part of the work that reviewed the evidence for the extent and timing of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and the onset of deglaciation on the sub-Antarctic islands. This work, as well as the overarching community-based geological reconstruction of Antarctic Ice Sheet deglaciation - which was published in *Quaternary Science Reviews* continues to receive a massive amount of attention from Antarctic researchers globally.

The work I did on the erosivity of high intensity rainfall in the Drakensberg as well as the Mascarenes islands earned me an invitation to become involved in a global assessment of rainfall erosivity. This work was led by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and was published in *the Nature publication Scientific Reports* in 2017. It presents the erosivity of rainfall based on high-temporal resolution rainfall records on a global scale, and remains widely cited.

I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished from our current investigation on how earth surface processes and ecological systems on sub-Antarctic Marion Island responded to changes in ancient climatic patterns. The data we have gathered from cosmogenic ³⁶Cl exposure dating on the deglaciation of the island, has changed many long-term hypotheses of the timing of the Last Glacial Maximum. Not just of the island, but for the sub-Antarctic region and the southern hemisphere as a whole.

How do you ensure your research is well communicated, digested and acted on?

The straightforward answer is to publish as best we can. The work I mentioned above has generated interest from researchers because it has been published in top international journals. I think this remains the most important and only credible way to communicate your research.

Of course, social media is also very important as a way of "selling" your research. Unfortunately, I am very bad when it comes to being active on social media, but I do have students and colleagues who are good with these kinds of things. I am getting better but I do rely on them to communicate with interested parties through social and mainstream media. Still, social media is just a tool to generate interest in your work.

Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts. Publishing in good journals is the only way to effectively and credibly publicise your research. This does not say we have always gotten it right. There have been many failures along the way, but we always try to do the best we can.

What has been the greatest impact of your work?

Some of our work has had some impact on research and society. It has presented researchers with global datasets and benchmark reviews of the current knowledge of the state of the environment.

For instance, the work from the RAISED consortium is still the most current geological reconstruction of Antarctic Ice Sheet deglaciation during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM). Even though aspects of this work have been expanded on and/or contested, it remains hugely impactful in Antarctic research.

The global assessment of erosivity I have been involved in has given erosion researchers the first ever Global Rainfall Erosivity Database and a global erosivity map at 30 arc-seconds (~1 km) resolution. This is, and will remain for some time I am sure, the benchmark values of rainfall erosivity for the whole of the earth.

My most recent research with our Chinese colleagues from Nanjing University has the potential to be the research I am involved in that has the most benefits to society. We have started to publish our findings this year as a body of work in *Science of the Total Environment* and *Chemosphere*, on the effects of natural weathering and mining on heavy metal pollution in the Pearl River Basin in China. The Basin is heavily populated and heavy metal pollution is a real threat to the people living there. The content of some of the heavy metals in the river and sediments pose a very high ecological risk, and our research findings show the causes of the pollution and that full restoration of the ecological environment in the Basin is a complex and long-term process.

Finally, the most recent glacial reconstruction work on Marion Island done with EM Rudolph, a UFH PhD student as lead researcher, suggests that Marion Island's last major ice age ended prior to 35 000 years ago. It also suggests that most of the glaciers retreated 17 000 years ago.

These findings are in stark contrast with the original worldview that suggested the entire globe was at a maximum glaciated state around 20 000 years ago. They agree with more recent hypotheses that suggest the Northern and the Southern hemispheres do not respond synchronously to climatic changes. Our findings strengthen new arguments that the Southern Hemisphere may have been at a glacial maximum long before the Northern Hemisphere reached its maximum glaciated state.

This research has been hailed as the most important finding from terrestrial research on Marion Island in the last 20 years. The research has solicited substantial responses from social and mainstream media.

What advice would you give to Young Researchers out there?

Build networks and relationships with your research partner. Since I am not very clever, I had to make sure I surround myself with clever people.

Research is not driven by institutions but by individuals. With the right people, you can do anything. Make sure you connect with the right people and work on those relationships. I have had the privilege to work with the best people, but it is a two way street.

You cannot shirk your responsibilities. You must show absolute commitment to the research project and to your fellow researchers. This includes a willingness to travel to the far ends of the world to do fieldwork, or long hours in the lab and in front of your computer to do the analysis. If your colleagues want you to write or edit parts of the research paper, then do it and do not procrastinate. Showing commitment is the most important thing you can do in collaborative research.

Lastly, strive to publish in the best and most appropriate journals you can. Sometimes it is not always possible as certain research only lends itself to certain journals, but always try to find the best vehicle for your research outputs. The benefits are greater in the end.

JUDGE DIKGANG MOSENEKE DISCUSSES NEW BOOK: *All Rise, A Judicial Memoir*

UFH WEBINAR – 28 October 2020

The UFH Nelson R Mandela School of Law together with Pan Macmillan publishers had the honour of hosting an online discussion with former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke, during which he laid down his judicial experience as captured in his latest book titled: *All Rise - A Judicial Memoir*. The webinar was streamed live on Microsoft Teams on 28 October.

Meaning Behind The Title

Sharing the meaning behind the title, the legal giant said "All Rise" is an important call to duty to those who work actively in the courts to do justice and restore equilibrium.

"It is a call to invite each other to assume our important role and hear out the different sides of participants and claimants, and to seek to resolve the differences before us."

"It is also a call to civil accountability, for all of us to take a deep breath and look and see if we have been sufficiently accountable or have we chosen the easier path of rolling over."

With a legal career spanning over 40 years, in his book, the former DCJ depicts a picture of the country's legal and political landscape, through a compilation of history wherein he records the state of the judiciary in 1994.

"The book throws history at you and reminds the reader that we need to rise to be able to achieve the range of things that we promised each other at the beginning of our democracy."

Inside All Rise

All Rise follows the former DCJ on a trip from Tanzania to Solomon Mahlangu Freedom School where he shares his experiences and the significance of this journey. It follows him into retirement and being pulled out of retirement to adjudicate the Life Esidimeni case.

"I take you through 1994. I show you the transition. I show you a flying-high Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela standing on a podium delivering his speech where he says: *'Let freedom remain a freedom so glorious on it the sun should never set'*, and continues to say *'let there be bread, let there be water and let there be salt'*."

The book also offers a unique, insider's view of the transition in the judicial system. "It takes you through the disciplines of law, jurisprudence and the history of institutions tasked to uphold the law. It gives you a backdrop of Polokwane (ANC's 52nd national conference) and the beginning of political contestation within the country and how this was reflected in the cases that landed in court."

In conclusion, the former DCJ said he dedicates his memoir to all young South Africans and Africans. "They deserve freedom and justice. I hope when these are absent, they will know it and they will not tolerate it and they will rise."

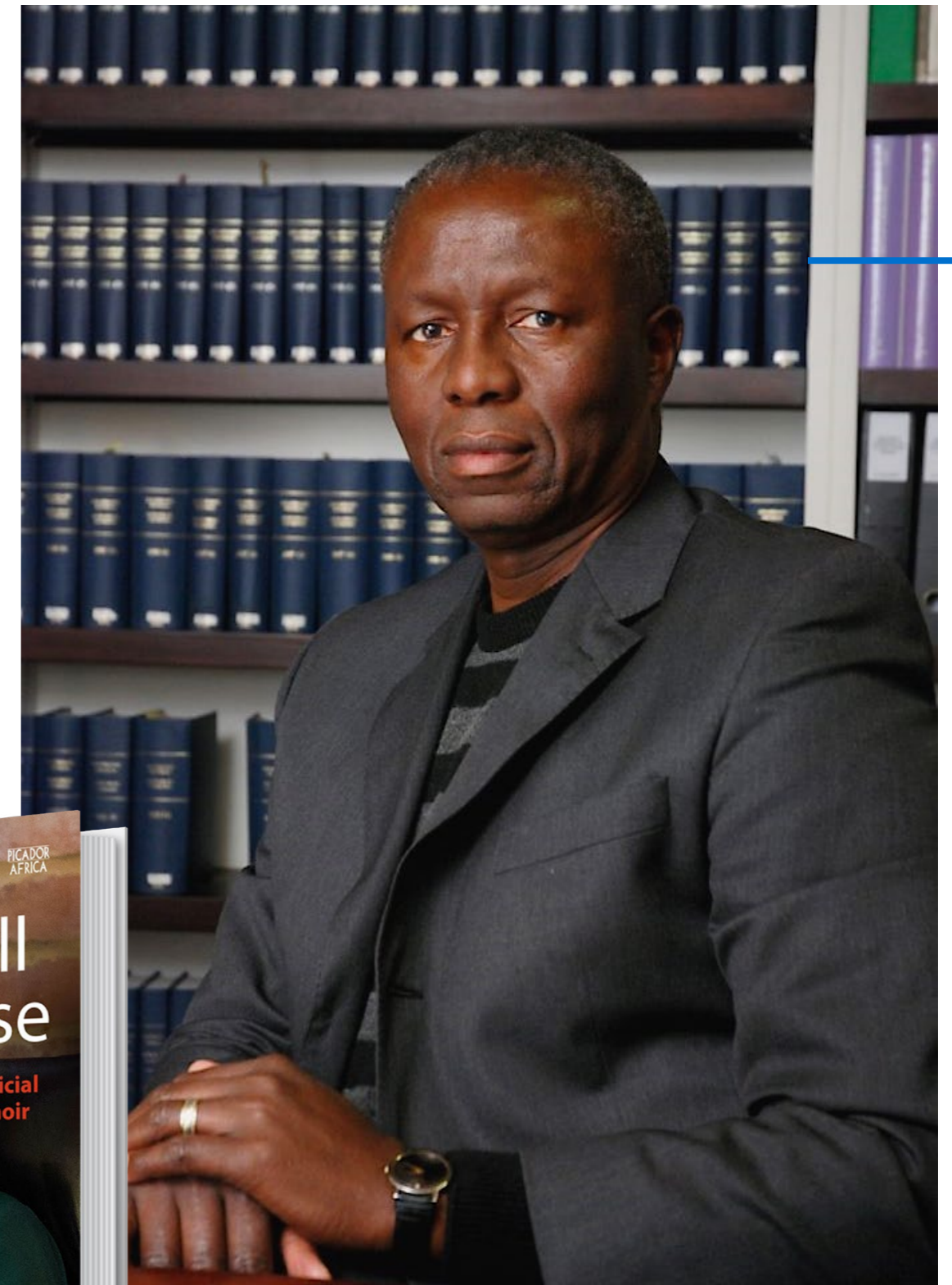
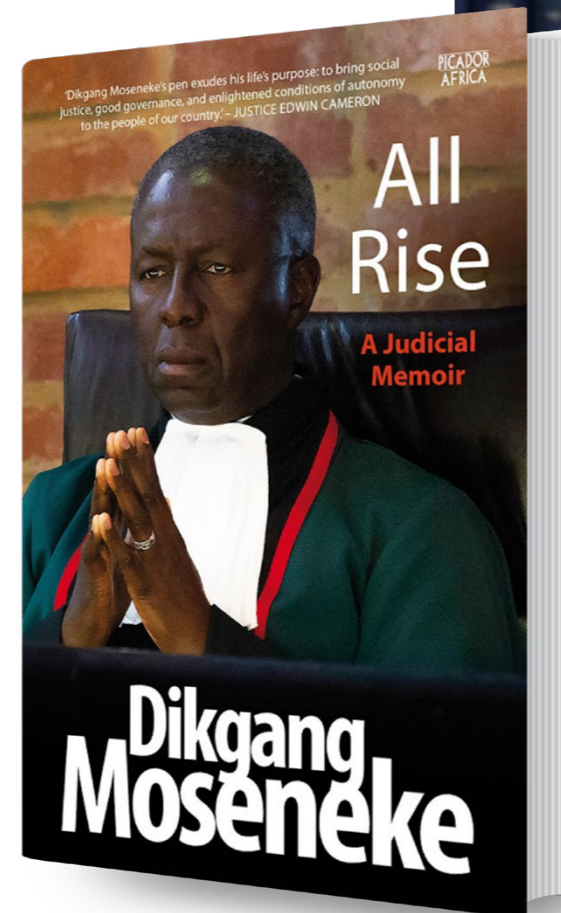
The session was followed by an intriguing discussion among participants led by Mr Actor Katurura, Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Law and Associate Professor, Arthur van Coller.

Prof Sakhela Buhlungu, Vice-Chancellor and Principal and Dr Nombulelo Lubisi, Dean of the Faculty of Law, expressed gratitude and honour for the opportunity to host the legal maestro.

"We treasure these kinds of visits, this is a rare honour. I think this is the first time a former DCJ has visited this 104-year-old university," said Prof Buhlungu.

The session concluded with a classic all-rise moment as Senior Law Lecturer, Bronwyn Bachelor requested participants to stand as the Honourable former DCJ exited the session.

by Aretha Linden



// Justice Dikgang Moseneke

"It is also a call to civil accountability, for all of us to take a deep breath and look and see if we have been sufficiently accountable or have we chosen the easier path of rolling over."



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2020 CONVOCATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given, in terms of the Amended Statute of the University of Fort Hare 2020, s60(2), that the **Annual General Meeting of the Convocation of the University of Fort Hare will be held as follows:**

Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Time: 17:30 for 18:00

Venue: Virtual (Zoom/Teams) (TBA)

Agenda and related documents available on
<https://www.ufh.ac.za/convocation/convexagenda2020>

UFH CONVOCATION

The Convocation of the University of Fort Hare is a statutory body which consists of all persons who have obtained a degree or a diploma from the University (alumni), the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s), the Executive Director(s), the Registrar, the Deans, the academic employees on the staff establishment of the University, professors emeriti, and such other persons as Council may determine

CALL TO ALL ALUMNI

Members of the UFH Alumni are hereby invited to update their records on the official roll of the Convocation. The official roll of the Convocation is conclusive evidence of membership of the Convocation, and only persons whose names appear on the roll are entitled to vote as members of the Convocation.

To register/ update contact details: send an email to: NMakohliso@ufh.ac.za or alumni@ufh.ac.za by **20 November 2020**.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UFH CONVOCATION:

The UFH Statute requires the convocation to elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, as well as three (3) additional members from amongst its ranks to serve on the Executive Committee of the Convocation. The President of Convocation also serves as a member of the University Council.

Bona-fide members of Convocation are hereby requested to nominate fellow members in good standing to fill the abovementioned positions. Each nomination must be supported by at least 10 seconders to be eligible. Nominations must be sent to ConvexNominations@ufh.ac.za before **30 November 2020**. The electronic voting procedures will, in due course, be communicated to registered Convocation members.

UFHGP ALUMNI CHAPTER DOUBLES EFFORTS TO ASSIST UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES

By Dr Jongi Klaas, Chairperson



// Dr Jongi Klaas

Ms Phumza Dlomo and Dr JJ Klaas worked around the clock communicating with the identified unemployed graduates.

PLACEMENTS:

Dr Sisa Ngebulana, CEO of Billion Group & Rebois Property Fund has taken on board five graduates for a fulltime internship programme with an excellent stipend and empowering training programme. The group is made of four ladies and a gentleman aged between 22 and 29. Three have Master's degrees, one has an Honours and another a Bachelor's degree. All of them commenced their internship at the beginning of October 2020. The Gauteng Alumni chapter is very grateful to Dr Ngebulana for offering them an opportunity of a lifetime.

Ms Thandeka Mgoduso - through her networks managed to secure funding for five graduates to attend a fully funded Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration at the Gordon Institute of Business Science, (GIBS), University of Pretoria. This group comprises of four ladies and one gentleman aged between 21 and 26. Two of them have Honours degrees whilst the other three have Bachelor's degrees. They are expected to start in January 2021. Ms Mgoduso continues to work very hard exploring opportunities and ways of helping our unemployed graduates.

Adv Thandi Orleyn and **Commissioner Thembinkosi Bonakele** have each taken three unemployed graduates from the Law cluster for mentorship. Their ages range between 30 and 31. They are in consultation with the three graduates to establish a workable system for the mentorship programme.

Dr Thami Mazwai: 15 October 2020, Dr Mazwai hosted a webinar about the practical dimensions of entrepreneurship as a contribution towards empowerment of unemployed graduates. In essence, the presentation emphasised on the importance of creating a support network for young people in particular, and how to contribute to the Reconstruction and Recovery Plan which has been announced by the government recently. Dr Mazwai called for the hosting of a workshop to empower unemployed graduates with entrepreneurial skills

The South African economy shed 2.2 million jobs in the second quarter of 2020. This is according to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey Quarter released by Statistics South Africa on 29 September 2020 (<http://www.statssa.gov.za>). According to StatsSA, the youth in the 15-24 age group are most vulnerable in the South African labour market as the unemployment rate among this age group hovered at 59.0% at the beginning of 2020.

Unfortunately, UFH graduates are not immune to these economic challenges. Consequently, the UFH Gauteng Alumni chapter deemed it imperative to explore on how best to create opportunities for unemployed UFH graduates who reside in Gauteng.

The Executive Committee collected information in order to establish the extent of the challenge in the Gauteng Province. So far, approximately 60 unemployed graduates have been identified.

A team comprising of Ms Thandeka Mgoduso, a member of the High Level Support Organ, GP Alumni Chapter executive committee members Ms Aphindiwe Majova,

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY WEBINAR UNPACKS KEY DRIVERS OF LOCAL CONFLICT IN MINERAL-RICH COMMUNAL AREAS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Sociology and Anthropology Department, in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung- South Africa (FES-SA) recently hosted a webinar titled: *Communities and Struggles on the Rural Mining Frontiers*.

The session unpacked the key drivers of local conflict in mineral-rich communal areas in South Africa.

The webinar was facilitated by **Dr Asanda Benya**, Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Town's Sociology Department. The session featured the following three speakers:

Wilmien Wicomb: An Attorney at the Legal Resource Centre who co-leads the organisation's land programme. Her practice specialises in land reform generally, African customary law and community governance systems. She has published several articles on customary law.

David van Wyk - A renowned activist, public intellectual and researcher. He is currently the lead researcher at the Bench Marks Foundation where he is responsible for 11 out of 13 major Bench Marks Research Reports. His research is widely published.

Prof Sonwabile Mnwana - Associate Professor of Sociology at UFH whose research work focuses on land and distributional struggles in SA's rural mining. He is an accomplished researcher and author whose work has been very influential and made meaningful impact in attaining and maintaining social justice.

All three speakers spoke passionately about different issues pertaining to mining, the targeting of communal land - especially in rural areas - by mining companies. The speakers also delved into the massive environmental impact on land, livelihood and people because of mining.

WILMIEN WICOMB

Her presentation titled: *Escaping Accountability Is a Team Effort* on the evidence presented before a Commission of Inquiry between 2016 and 2018 into the Affairs of the Bakgatla ba Kgafela Community.

"The narrative from the Commission was of a traditional leader, *Kgosi Nyalala Pilane*, who allegedly transacted on behalf of his community's land and resources without their knowledge and made a massive amount of money. But I don't only want to tell that story, I also want to tell the story of

all of the actors that enabled this kind of heist of community resources. These actors include mining companies, lawyers, government, banks and several financial advisors, who all profited by looking the other way," she said.

She gave detailed background on the community and the events that led to the "heist".

She shared some of the findings in the Commission's report. "R5 billion wealth was accrued to the community, R2 billion could not be traced and by end of 2016 the Bakgatla community was bankrupt and R3 billion remains untraced." The report was released in 2019. "A newspaper at the time said this is possibly the largest state-sanctioned, business-perpetrated fraud in the history of Big Mining in South Africa," she said.

According to her, there are four aspects of how accountability was evaded, allowing Kgosi Nyalala Pilane to successfully accrue R5 billion without the community's knowledge. The aspects are as follows:

1. Manipulation of customary law
2. Slipping through the cracks between traditional and corporate governance
3. State enabling, and
4. Private Sector enabling

In conclusion, she said: "For accountability to prevail, the state must, through legislation, recognize and support downward accountability to the community and then open up, rather than shut down spaces for healthy and political contestation."

DAVID WAN WYK

Started his presentation with general anthropological remarks. "First of all, I agree with *French Anthropologist, Claude Meillassoux* when he says these rural traditional communities were self-reliant and closely associated with the environment and the land where they operate. When these communities are confronted by major mining companies, they are confronted by a rapacious global economy driven by gross consumerism, when they are actually self-reliant communities.

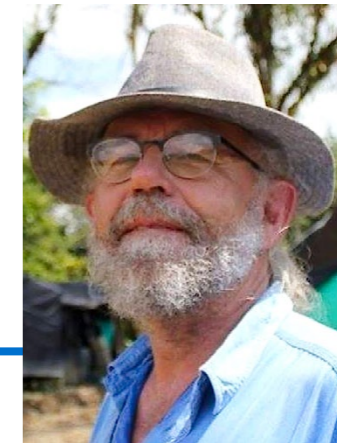
Often, when mining companies move into communities they tell us there is massive unemployment and poverty in those communities. But that is a definition of poverty in terms of



// Dr Asanda Benya



// Wilmien Wicomb



// David van Wyk



// Prof Sonwabile Mnwana

consumerism and in terms of the global economic need for growth and so-called development, which views every human as an employee rather than an independent self-reliant individual," he explained.

He based his talk on a couple of communities in South Africa and Zambia that he has interacted with on their interaction with mining companies. He also gave personal accounts of the emotional and physical destruction caused by mining companies on these communities.

"A chief from a Zambian community who is about to receive land back after an utter destruction by a mining company told me they were returning a sucked-out orange to me. He said, they have sucked out all the juice and life out of this community and left us with the skin."

He made reference to the *Machete people in the Mapungubwe* community in Limpopo, who were removed from their land in 1968 to make way for the De Beers Venetia mine. "They were dumped 200 km from their land. They made land claims for more than 90 farms in the area. All these claims were gazetted, but they were never given back their land."

He ended his address by making reference to the PricewaterhouseCoopers 2020 Mine Report. "I have read how well the mines were doing in South Africa. We are faced with a situation where we are constantly told we are poor as a country when in actual fact, we are quite wealthy. This is an imbalance we need to look into," he concluded.

PROF MNWANA

Last to speak was Prof Mnwana with his presentation titled: *Rethinking Mine Conflict in South Africa's Rural Mining frontiers*, a topic that forms part of a book monogram he is currently working on.

Like Wicomb, he also zoomed into the Bakgatla ba Kgafela traditional community.

"One of the points I want to make is that most of the land, even if it was purchased by private African groups and fell

under traditional authorities, customary systems of sharing, allocation and distribution remain intact and they still do. But disruptions and radical claims emerged in the context of mining expansion," he said.

Prof Mnwana said land conflict, particularly in traditional authority areas, is characterized by private group claims. "I have mediated on many such claims, and we found that the original buyers' names were not listed on original title deeds and the chiefs are now using that land and the minerals to enrich themselves."

He pointed out that there is now a bit of a disjuncture in what is articulated in the social and labour plans and other land distributive mechanisms. "People are not just demanding jobs or to do business with mining companies, they are now saying we are the owners of the land. They want mines to engage with them directly and not the Chiefs."

He outlined a paradox on the interpretation of customary land rights, saying it seems to paradoxically hinder processes of internal commodification. "It limits the control by the holders of those rights. It enables external factors or external individuals of powerful actors to commodify land. As we have seen Chiefs are able to strike serious deals on the platinum belt with mining companies, while those who own the land continue to be displaced."

Prof Mnwana said there is a need to revisit the interpretation of customary land rights. "If we want to understand the current disposition, we need to look back to see how the institution of custom in land was distorted. I think this where the root of conflict lies."

He concluded his address by saying: "To understand contemporary struggles, we should first look at the nature and character of distributive struggles."

The two-hour session concluded with a question and answer session that created robust interaction between the speakers and participants.

by Aretha Linden

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE FULL DISCUSSION](#)

FORT HARE DAIRY TRUST BAGS ANOTHER AWARD AT AGRI-EXPO AWARD CEREMONY

“This is not an individual achievement, it is the reward of the efforts that have been put in by the current team and those who came before us. The aim is to continue producing more quality milk and growing the Trust to even greater heights”

The award-winning Fort Hare Dairy Trust is the cream of the crop, literally and figuratively. Once again the farm has bagged a prestigious award at the ARC annual National Dairyman Awards ceremony held virtually on 21 October 2020.

This time around the farm won winner of the 2020 Agricultural Research Council (ARC) Special Award for Innovative Development by a Dairy Producer.

This award comes just a year after the Trust became the overall winner of the Amadlelo 5th Annual Awards held in Hogsback.

The 210 hectares picturesque farm nests on land owned by the University of Fort Hare on the Alice campus.

This year's ARC annual event was hosted by Agri-Expo on behalf of the ARC's National Milk Recording and Improvement Scheme. The prestigious competition celebrates South Africa's top commercial and smallholder achievers in the industry. It is recognised by key stakeholders as a highlight on the country's agricultural calendar.

The Trust is the fruit of a partnership between the University of Fort Hare with Amadlelo Agri – a black empowerment agricultural business. It was established in 2006 and production began in 2007. To date, the farm remains commercially viable.

Last year the Fort Hare Dairy Trust farm scooped six of 15 awards during the Amadlelo 5th Annual Awards, namely:

1. Most grass eaten per ha
2. Least nitrogen per ha
3. Best fertility figures
4. Lowest cost producer
5. Highest profit per ha
6. And the most improved farm

Commenting about the most recent accolade, Mr Simpiwe Somdyala, CEO of Amadlelo Agri, said this was an exciting achievement.

“The Trust prides itself as one of the environmentally friendly dairy farms. Through new research, we continue to discover and develop new ways of ensuring that we have and utilise the best technologically advanced tools for our production.”

“It is encouraging to be recognised, compete and compare with top dairy operators who have been in the industry longer than us,” said Somdyala.

Ms Jeanet Rikhotso, who joined the Trust as its Manager six months ago, said the award is a result of joint effort by the employees on the farm.

“This is not an individual achievement, it is the reward of the efforts that have been put in by the current team and those who came before us. The aim is to continue producing more quality milk and growing the Trust to even greater heights,” she said.

Notable facts about the Fort Hare Dairy Trust:

- 4.3 million litres of raw milk is produced per year
- It has 800 dairy cows in its stock.
- The farm has a smallholding at Coega Dairies in Port Elizabeth where the milk is sent for pasteurization. The sterilized milk is then used to make dairy products such as cheese and yoghurt.
- The Trust serves as an enabler for proper and sustainable transfer of knowledge and skills between academics, students and commercial expertise.
- Lastly, it creates jobs and provides experiential training to agriculture students and graduates.

by Aretha Linden



THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAREER:

Sandra Sharma, Counselling Psychologist



// Sandra Sharma

"In view of the fact that we live in a highly competitive era whereby all career choices determine the quality of our life in the future, proper career guidance and counselling cannot be overlooked." This is according to Mrs Sandra Sharma, Counselling Psychologist at the UFH Student Counselling Unit (SCU).

Sharma says career guidance offers students information and support in making choices that lead them from conflict and confusion to clarity about what they truly want to do in their life.

Below are extracts from a conversation Sharma (SS) had with *This Week @FortHare* Journalist, Aretha Linden (AL):

AL: Why is career counselling important?

SS: Career Guidance is a scientific approach to map an individual's career profile. The career guidance counsellor administers a variety of assessment and guidance tools. These tools help them to identify the competencies of a student. They may also use questionnaires, worksheets and have discussions, individually or in groups.

Careers are lifelong decisions and therefore must be chosen carefully. Career guidance gets you actively involved in making a major decision through a process of self-exploration that can result in finding a satisfying and fulfilling career.

AL: When is the right time to choose and lean towards the career that best suits you?

SS: The perfect time for students to seek career is when they are in Grade 8 to 12.

It is a time when they are preparing to transition from school to college or university. It is also a time when career decisions are made.

At this stage of a student's life, their parents are actively involved in shaping their careers. Sometimes it works and sometimes it does not, because every child is unique. It is not always easy for parents or teachers to recognize the child's strengths and weaknesses, their passion or dislikes.

In grade 12 students are forced to make serious decisions about their careers and most students are inexperienced and confused. Most students are coerced or misled by the belief that a high score in a subject is a good criteria for making choices. This is when career guidance becomes necessary.

For students that are in college or university who are still confused about what they want to do, knowing what you enjoy can give you insight into what careers you may be best suited for. When students find themselves asking the following questions: "What do I do now?" or "What am I doing with my life?" - these are warnings that they need career guidance.

Professionals may also find themselves wanting to transition from their field to something they love. Do not allow age or the number of years you have worked in your current job stop you from transitioning to a career you love.

AL: How do you know when you have chosen the right career?

SS: By using these three distinct approaches, one can determine whether they have made the right career choice:

- Job analysis
- Analysis of satisfaction criteria
- Emotional validation

Analysing each element in the above way forces you to consider the multidimensional criteria that goes into determining a great job fit. With a decision that is valid emotionally as well as on paper, you can be confident that you have made the best possible choice. You will feel happier, and will realize what your life would have looked like if you had not chosen this career. You are going to love your new reality and this will convince you that you made the right decision for a career choice.

Students that have chosen the right career path find university a place of growth, enjoy their modules, work with enthusiasm and commitment and perform well academically. They are more energized and motivated. They settle in quickly, make friends and take initiative to advance themselves in their field of work.

It is important to note that careers evolve with time, and students need to know that career choices are not fixed. They can be changed at any point in one's career.

AL: What are the signs of a bad career choice?

SS: Without a clear idea of your personal and academic goals, you can find yourself feeling out of place and unmotivated by university life. This could ultimately lead you to quit. As soon as you start to experience anxiety and stress, this is a warning that you are not comfortable doing what you are doing. Students should listen to their inner voice, acknowledge the reason for their negative responses, and seek help earlier in their academic year.

FOR EMPLOYEES:

- When you start to feel unchallenged or miserable at work and find yourself going through the week to get to the weekend.
- When you start to get bad feedback from your Manager or colleagues often. If this feedback starts to make you feel bad about yourself then you know you have to accept your limitations. Regard these as warning bells informing you that it is time to take responsibility for yourself and your career so you can find a place where you will be better suited.
- If you are not passionate about your career, yet you fail to be yourself especially at social gatherings. Your work life and personal life have to balance. This could cause a threat to your well-being and mental health.
- The moment you stop learning and start stagnating, you will feel unchallenged. You will feel that you are working very hard but your results are unsatisfactory. The reason for this could be a lack of skill or talent.
- If you find yourself complaining about work all the time.

- If you spend more time at work and go home having negative thoughts.
- When you feel like you are running from something rather than towards something.
- When you feel desperate and dread your work.

You need a career that highlights your strengths and avoids your weaknesses. If you do not utilize your strengths this is because your career is not rewarding or fulfilling. Then you should consider a career change.

AL: What are the implications of choosing a wrong career?

SS: First-year students may find themselves failing their first semester due to lack of commitment and discipline. Their disinterest in their career choice may influence them to indulge in unsavoury behaviour, such as substance abuse or high risk sexual behaviour. Most of them become depressed and isolate themselves or even resort to suicide. They experience fear of disappointing their parents, appear as failures with their peers and fear financial loss due to a wrong career choice. Final-year students who realise they have chosen a wrong career path are faced with the reality of the job they will be doing that will not make them happy and satisfied.

AL: What are the benefits of choosing the right career?

SS: In the case of a college or university student, they experience fewer adjustment problems. They remain focused and motivated. They perform well because they are committed and enjoy the modules they have chosen. They are more likely to complete their choice of career without encountering academic difficulties whilst enjoying a balanced social life.

In the workplace, when you love the work you do, you feel motivated, energized and confident. You will also seize any opportunity that comes your way to advance yourself in your career.

You will feel a little scared. Remember that fear is a very normal feeling before making any decision. This fear should not make you feel like you have made the wrong decision; instead, it is a sign that you, in fact, made the right choice. This fear can push you to grow.

You will start to feel your confidence grow as you take the reins of your own life. Your boost of confidence will make you realize that you are capable. You will also find yourself making good decisions more quickly. Productivity and work satisfaction will increase.

AL: What advice would you give to those who might feel like they have made the wrong career choice and would like to rectify their decision?

SS: It is very challenging to consider a major change in your life. There will be many things to consider before transitioning to a new career. You may have questions and thoughts such as:

- Where should I begin?
- It's too much work to change careers
- I'm too old to change careers
- I don't have enough skills to consider a new career
- The economy is so bad I'm lucky to have this job

Changing careers does require substantial time but you must remember it does not happen all at once. Sit down and plan by breaking down larger tasks into smaller ones. It then becomes

manageable. Remember always that if the change offers a happier and more successful career, it is worth it.

If you start to wonder whether you have enough skills to consider a new career, then it may be that you are unaware of the skills you have, or you have low self-esteem that leads to underestimating your marketability.

Consider skills you have learned not only from your job but also from hobbies, volunteering, or other life experiences. Without quitting your current career or job, you can consider volunteering in your interested field to gain experience and further your studies part-time.

You may start to wonder if you are too old to change careers and decide that it is best to stay in your current job. You may also consider the loss of retirement, health benefits and the effort you put into your current career. Remember that in the time you have worked, you have acquired skills that you can transfer to a new career. You can also plan a new career transition after retirement.

Considering the economy, you might feel that you are lucky to have a job and not want to risk your current employment. However, if you are unhappy in your current job the best option is to explore other careers that can offer fulfilment and job satisfaction. You do not have to leave your current job until you are certain of your new career path.

AL: Lastly, please share some tips on how to manage a career transition

- **Pace yourself.** Try not to become overwhelmed and remember that you can and will get there with commitment and motivation.
- **Ease slowly into your new career.** Take time to network, volunteer or work part-time in the new field before committing fully.
- **Remember to take care of yourself.** Manage your stress, eat correctly, have adequate sleep, exercise and conserve your energy for the changes to come.
- **When transitioning to a new career make sure** you market yourself to employers and identify gaps where you might need more training. Consider an additional degree or specific training.

Having a degree in a field that was wrong for you is not the end. You can still learn something you like and eventually change your career path. Take some courses, or take some time to learn something new by yourself. Do not be afraid to venture into a new career. Remember it is never too late to change because learning is a continuous process no matter what age you are. If you continue studying at the same university, you can always apply for credits from your previous qualifications if it is pertinent to your new qualification. This offers you a head start in your new degree.

If you are nearing the end of your study it would be best that you finish it first. If you are in the first few months of your studies and realize that it was the wrong choice, changing your course of study as soon as possible may be a better option.

Always remember to get help from a career guidance counsellor in order to make the right choice next time.

For all career guidance related matters, students can contact Mrs Sharma on:
ssharma@ufh.ac.za



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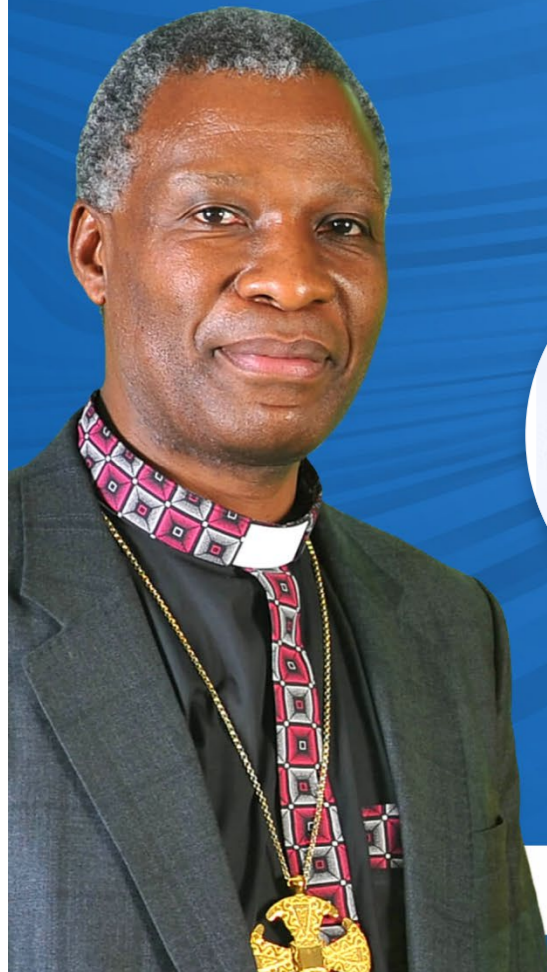
The Vice-Chancellor Prof Sakhela Buhlungu
invites you to the

3rd ARCHBISHOP THABO MAKGOBA ANNUAL LECTURE

6 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 4PM

THEME: Leadership in Local
Economic Development

VENUE: Microsoft Teams
(Click here to access Virtual Lecture)



Keynote Speaker:
Dr Lulu Gwagwa
CEO,
Lereko Investment



Host:
Prof Sakhela Buhlungu,
Vice Chancellor,
University of Fort Hare

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Prof Forget Kapingura - fkapingura@ufh.ac.za

Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards

INVITATION

e-Learning Excellence Awards 2020

Candidates applying/or nominated are to submit a full case history of no more than 5000 words which will be considered as an entry requirement. A panel constituted by Faculty and TLC adjudicators will evaluate the case histories.

The criteria for the case history is obtainable from the Deputy Deans: Teaching and Learning and the Teaching and Learning Centre consultants.

IMPORTANT DATES

Full Case History Submission	: 13th of November 2020
Finalists Announced at Faculty Level	: Determined at Faculty Level
Institutional Winners Announcement	: December 2020

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-Chief: Tandi Mapukata

Writers: Aretha Linden, Mawande Mrashula & Asaduma Baloyi

Graphic Design & Layout: Alida Mundell

Photography & Videography: Tim Wilson

Creative Specialist: Tim Wilson

Marketing Advisor: Khotso Moabi

Social Media Specialist: Velani Mbiza Gola

FOR COMMENTS, IDEAS AND STORY LEADS:

Tandi Mapukata | tmapukata@ufh.ac.za

Aretha Linden | alinden@ufh.ac.za

Submission deadline 5pm Tuesdays