



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Institutional Advancement

This Week

@FORT HARE *Vol 2, issue 1*

*Welcome to the
University of Fort Hare*



WELCOME MESSAGE

Professor Sakhela Buhlungu
(Vice-Chancellor and Principal)



“ It’s going to be a great year, a year of growth, further development and exciting things.”

As the start of the 2020 Academic year gets into full swing, Prof Sakhela Buhlungu took the opportunity to welcome students with specific focus on those that will be entering our campuses for the very first time.

“I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our first years and first time applicants for 2020. This generation is fortunate to come to this university. This is going to be a life changing experience for you. We are confident that you will exit a graduate.”

Prof Buhlungu said studying at UFH affords students the opportunity and privilege to explore this university for its legacy.

The 104-year institution has three campuses, Alice, East London and Bhisho.

“Each campus brings with it a different experience. However, each experience will be life changing for students. Fort Hare is a university like no other. Past and recent graduates always say Fort Hare changed their world view.”

UFH is the only Southern African university to have produced various international heads of states: Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Yusuf Lule of Uganda, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Ntsu Mokhehle of Lesotho, and Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana. You too have potential to become an icon.

“It’s going to be a great year, a year of growth, further development and exciting things.”

“I would like to welcome you and say please make use of Fort Hare and the opportunity to grow and become professional adults.”



Dr Rose Masha

STATE OF READINESS

REGISTRATION 2020

"It's all systems go for the 2020 registration programme at the University of Fort Hare", says Dr Rose Masha, Deputy Registrar: Academic Administration.

She has given the assurance that, based on meticulous planning, a smooth registration process is expected.

Over the next three weeks, scores of students are expected to congregate on our campuses with one goal in mind: 'taking up space and cementing themselves', as they cultivate careers at this historical institution.

Registration will take place as follows:

- **20-24 January - East London Campus**
- **28 January until 7 February - Alice Campus**
- **11 and 12 February - Bhisho Campus**

"Selections are done and we are ready for the registration. We have even piloted the online registration system and successfully registered a number of students. Security measures are in place and our staff is ready to assist."

Students have an option of registering online or to register manually (traditional registration). A step-by-step guideline for online registration is available on our website www.ufh.ac.za and on all our social media platforms.

To avoid over-crowding during this period, or worst case scenario, a stampede, Dr Masha said there will be holding rooms at each venue where no more than 50 students will be allowed inside the registration venues.

"We want this process to be as comfortable as possible. We also want it to be safe for everyone."

So who will be allowed to register?

- Students who have been accepted for registration;
- Late applicants who qualify and are placed where there are spaces;
- Students that have been cleared by NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme) and have signed an agreement form;
- Self-funded students that are finance unblocked or have signed an acknowledgement of debt;
- International students who are finance unblocked, have a study permit and medical insurance. First time international students will be required to produce a SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority) clearance.

Dr Masha has a special message for first time entering students;

"Remember, communication is vital and when in doubt, please ask. Student support officials will be available to assist and answer all queries".

For more information and to view the 2020 Study Guide, please visit our website www.ufh.ac.za.

In Conversation with Ntibi Maepa

Deputy Registrar, Governance and Legal Services

Ms Ntibi Maepa, Deputy Registrar: Governance and Legal Services is officially in seat. She assumed duties on 6 January 2020.

Ms Maepa is an accomplished legal practitioner with demonstrated expertise in a range of areas including risk management, legal compliance, governance, negotiating and drafting complex agreements, dispute resolution, litigation management, legal research, policy and rule formulation among others.

Before joining the University of Fort Hare, Ms Maepa was a Legal Advisor at the University of Witwatersrand - a position she held since 2009. Previously she was Chamber Coordinator for Trade and Industry and Operations Manager at Nedlac. Before that she was an Advocacy Officer at the South African Centre for Non-Profit Law. She also served as the National Organiser for the Development Resource Centre where she set up the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO).

She has a BA Law degree from the University of Swaziland as well as LLB and LLM degrees from the University of Witwatersrand.

To find out more about this dynamic lady and her plans for her new role, *This Week @Fort Hare* Senior Journalist, Aretha Linden (AL) asked a couple of questions.



AL: What is your key focus as Deputy Registrar: Governance and Legal Services?

Ntibi Maepa (NM): This is a crucial portfolio within the Office of the Registrar. The key focus is to ensure good governance and the rule of law are embedded and maintained within university structures and activities.

AL: Please share with us some of the responsibilities that come with this position?

NM: Various sections constitute the role of the Governance and Legal office. The Secretariat is concerned with operationalizing governance imperatives, particularly, lending secretarial support to institutional structures such as Council, Senate and institutional committees. The Compliance office deals with compliance, both internally and externally.

We also provide legal guidance to the university through the provision of legal opinions, drafting, vetting and negotiation of contracts, handling litigation, and other legal risk management activities. The office is also responsible for student discipline.

We also have the Registry and Postal Services section. Historically, the section was responsible for archiving and postal services to the university community. Now it is mainly concerned with record keeping and archiving – an essential function, not just for purposes of preserving history, but also in terms of governance requirements.

AL: Why Fort Hare?

NM: The legend that is the University of Fort Hare could not have escaped me. The institution has been a beacon of black excellence long before any other institution I can think of. The recent troubles that have beset the university are saddening. Bottom line, UFH cannot be allowed to go under. I feel quite humbled for the opportunity to add my skills towards ensuring that this sad situation is averted.

AL: So far, what are some of the areas you have identified as having potential to advance the university and which do you think still need to be polished when it comes to the governance of the university?

NM: I have not been here long enough to answer this question fully. Suffice to say, the Report of the Independent Assessor regarding UFH gives us enough food for thought.

AL: What is your plan to ensure that everything is done in accordance to the law?

NM: Without over-simplifying the work ahead, I would say the best way to ensure that rules are complied with is to ensure that the rules are clear, are known, and are consistently applied. In this way, and over time, a culture of compliance can be created and compliance takes on a life of its own.

AL: What approach are you planning to use to ensure management decisions are aligned to the university's strategic objectives?

NM: Again, without over-simplifying the issues that need to be dealt with, we need to entrench a culture of accountability. There are policies and rules that will have to be either updated or put in place to achieve this. The basic principle at play here is that every officer of the university owes the university a fiduciary duty - an obligation to act in the best interests of the university. One of the elements of this is that officers of the university owe the university the duty of care.

AL: What are you most concerned about in your position?

NM: Resistance to change. I am quite determined, but my job will be so much nicer if no one has to be dragged kicking and screaming towards the achievement of a well-governed UFH.

AL: What are you most optimistic about?

NM: The fact that academic excellence still persists is testament to the commitment of members of this community to UFH and its mandate. This gives me assurance that everything else is fixable.

AL: Lastly, what are your aspirations for UFH?

NM: For UFH to make it to the top 100 universities list in the foreseeable future.

“ **The legend that is the University of Fort Hare could not have escaped me. The institution has been a beacon of black excellence long before any other institution I can think of.** ”

UFH Philosophy lecturer joins prestigious STIAS Research and Fellowship programme

“ most significantly for me, it creates a space for a community of early-career African scholars where we can support and learn from each other and develop exciting inter-disciplinary collaborations.

Dr Christine Hobden, Philosophy Lecturer at the University of Fort Hare is a recipient of the STIAS (Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study) Iso Lomso Fellowship Award 2019-2022.

Dr Hobden was selected based on her submission titled: *Citizenship, International Justice, and the View from the South*. Her first residency officially starts on Wednesday (15 January).

According to information provided on the STIAS website, Iso Lomso which means 'the eye of tomorrow' in isiXhosa, is a programme that aims to nurture the minds of early-career African scholars. Participants are required to have obtained a Doctoral Degree within the preceding seven years and also hold an academic position at a university or research institution anywhere in Africa.

Together with other fellows, Dr Hobden will spend various periods of residency at the STIAS Wallenberg Research Centre in Stellenbosch. The fellows also receive support to attend international conferences, convene workshops, and visit sister institutes for advanced study elsewhere in the world.

Dr Hobden said the fellowship was an excellent opportunity at this stage of her career.

"It not only provides access to quiet, concentrated writing time to develop my research, but I think most significantly for me, it creates a space for a community of early-career African scholars where we can support and learn from each other and develop exciting inter-disciplinary collaborations."

This is a well-deserved achievement for Dr Hobden, a political philosopher whose research interests include global justice, citizenship, collective responsibility, international normative thought and the brain drain crisis.

Her interest in political philosophy first emerged as a school debater engaging in the politics of the day and the surrounding normative issues. Her first degree was a BA in Politics, Philosophy, and Law obtained from the University



Dr Christine Hobden

of KwaZulu-Natal. This degree introduced her to the wider world of Philosophy, and the excellent critical thinking skills it provides.

"Since then, I have been invested in learning and teaching critical thinking skills of Philosophy and applying them to difficult questions of how well we can live together in society."

After completing her Honours and Master's Degrees, she read for an MPhil in Political Theory at St Antony's College, Oxford. In 2014 she was a visiting student at Princeton University as part of the Oxford Princeton Global Norms Collaboration.

In September 2015 Dr Hobden completed her DPhil thesis under the supervision of Prof David Miller and Prof Cecile Fabre at Nuffield College, University of Oxford. Her thesis, *'States, Citizens & Global Injustice: The Political Channels of Responsibility'*, sets out an account of the duties of states to each other, and the consequent responsibilities that citizens of liberal western democracies acquire.

Previously, Hobden was a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Italy, under the mentorship of Prof Rainer Baübock.

She joined the University of Fort Hare in 2017. Her teaching interests include contemporary Political Philosophy, History of Political Thought, Philosophy of Education, and Ancient Egyptian Thought.

One Health Project: **UFH Collaborates with seven HE Institutions**



Left to right: Mr Maliviwe Mpayipheli, Professor Anita and Professor Victor Rutten

The University of Fort Hare's Department of Livestock and Pasture Science has collaborated with seven higher education institutions from South Africa and Europe on a project known as One Health.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention defines the One Health concept as a collaborative, multisectoral and transdisciplinary approach - working at the local, regional, national, and global levels.

The goal of the concept is to achieve optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants and their shared environment.

Partner institutions include the:

- University of Fort Hare;
- University of Pretoria;
- University of Limpopo;
- University of Venda;
- University of Mpumalanga;
- Southern African Wildlife College;
- Utrecht University (the Netherlands) and;
- University of Bologna (Italy).

Mr Maliviwe Mpayipheli, a lecturer at the Department of Livestock and Pasture Science said the purpose of the project is to "train and equip postgraduate students, technicians, academics and research administrators on the concept". This, he said, would be facilitated through student exchange programmes and workshops.

According to Mpayipheli, a collaborative proposal was submitted in February last year and was approved and funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+, KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE).

In November 2019, project steering committee members Professor Victor Rutten of the University of Utrecht and Professor Anita Michel of the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases at the University of Pretoria visited the UFH Alice campus. The purpose of the visit was to brief the different university partners about project details and the activities anticipated during the project's lifespan.

Mpayipheli said this project is vital because proper understanding and implementation of the One Health approach is necessary for effective health and welfare management at the interface between humans, livestock, wildlife and environment.

"A typical One Health example that is relevant to our province is that of dogs infected with rabies. This does not only pose risk to human health but to other animals as well. It is also a threat to food security."

He said communal farmers were also likely to receive training to help them deal with health related issues as the result of the livestock, human and wildlife interaction.

On 27 and 28 January, Mr Mpayipheli will attend a Grant Holder meeting in Brussels, Belgium on behalf of all South African partners.

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING NEW APPOINTMENTS



The Department of Accounting is excited to welcome Mrs Wendy Terblanche as the Head of Department as well as Ms Chuma Mjali as the Deputy Head.

"It is an honour and a privilege to have been asked to lead the Nkuhlu Department of accounting at UFH. It is a case of 'standing on the shoulders of giants' as we take the department forward, preparing our students for the future world of work, while building on the legacy left us by those that have gone before." said Wendy.

According to Chuma, "in a country with one of the highest inequality rates, serving in a historically black university that seeks to address some of these challenges is an honour. One's purpose is said to be found in service to others."

We wish our new leaders great success and thank Mrs Ntombi Mnconywa for her leadership over the last six years.

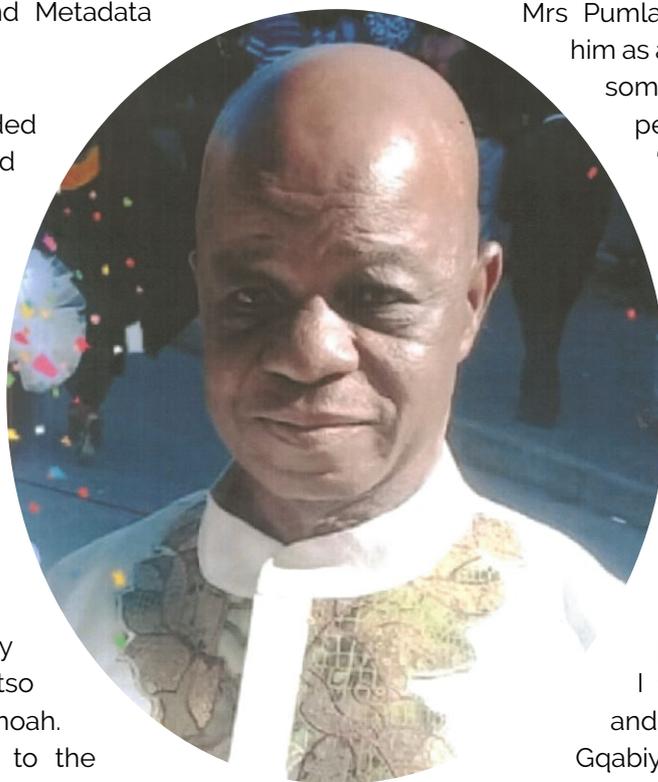
In Memoriam: *Library Staff Pay Last Respects to Mr Kwadwo Amoah*

On 14 January, library staff held a memorial service in the Agriculture Auditorium, Alice, in honour of Mr Kwadwo Amoah who passed away on 17 December 2019. He had been with the University since 1992 and was an experienced Cataloguing and Metadata Librarian.

The service was well attended and participants included members of the university community, family and friends of the family. Some of the mourners delivered heart-warming tributes describing the deceased as a professional who had served the University of Fort Hare with humility, distinction and dedication for 27 years.

Director of University Libraries, Dr Connie Bitso spoke very fondly of Mr Amoah. "He contributed immensely to the university in terms of research output. He was meticulous in his work and had a strong command of the English language which enabled him to edit technical reports and policies. As a result of this language competency, he edited students' research thesis and dissertations for free and did this out of the kindness of his heart. The university and country at large

have lost a quality cataloguer in him. He was a stalwart and contributed to linked data and semantic web", she said.



Mrs Pumla Ndlela, a colleague, described him as a pleasant person to work with, but someone who did not take kindly to people who do not respect others. "He was a family man who would always share details about his family". She comforted the family and commended his wife for always being there to provide support.

Mr Amoah and his wife had a strong sense of social responsibility. In addition to raising their biological children they also adopted and raised others. "I always felt like I was part of the family. It never felt like I was adopted. I loved my father and he loved me", said Thobinceba Gqabiya.

Mr Amoah will be fondly remembered by everyone he has touched throughout his life. It will be difficult to fill the void he has left in the library.

The funeral will be held in Fort Beaufort on Saturday 18 January.

May his soul Rest in Peace

Upcoming Events

2020 Registration

East London Campus: 20 - 24 January
Alice Campus: 28 January - 7 February
Bhisho Campus: 11 - 12 February

1st Years Orientation

East London Campus: 22 - 25 January
Alice Campus: 30 January - 1 February
Bhisho Campus: 11 - 12 February

Official Opening of the University

30 - 31 January

Varsity Shield Rugby

14 February

Varsity Shield Rugby 1st Home Game

6 March



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THIS WEEK @FORT HARE

your weekly newsletter

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