

Welcome

Staff members, students, alumni and all stakeholders, I officially welcome you back to our faculty for 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic marred the previous academic year with near impossible circumstances, especially for students, academics and faculty management. It also caused a fair amount of anxiety, discomfort, difficulty, disappointment and for many, illness, pain and loss. Despite these tribulations and suffering, we persevered. I am hopeful that the new year will bring forth testimonies of renewed hope, strength, comfort, healing and restoration.

Welcome on board!

New Appointments and Transfers

The Faculty officially welcomed a number of new academic and support staff members during 2020 and at the start of 2021. Once again, a warm welcome to all new staff members we trust that you already feel part of the team.



Dr Eugene Fortein

Lecturer, Historical and Constructive Theology



Dr Doniwen Pietersen

Lecturer, Old and New Testament Studies



Ntando Mlambo

Lecturer, Historical and Constructive Theology



Faciola Ntamo

Student Academic Advisor



Anneli Machin

Lecturer, Department Old and New Testament Studies



Masabata Sebusi

Intern: Office of the Dean



Rev Jacob Mokhutso

Lecturer, Department of Religion Studies



Sinovuyo Mogwasi

Shepherd Coordinator



Rev Wessel Wessels

Postdoctoral Fellow



Staff News & Achievements



Our Dean, Prof. Rantsoa Letšosa, together with one of his former PhD students, Dr Marno Retief, received the Oasis Laureatus Award for the most cited article in the Theology and Religion AOSIS Scholarly Domain for their article "*Models of disability: A brief overview*" in HTS Theological Studies

With immense pleasure we proudly congratulate our staff members and announce the following achievements:

Promotions

Dr Joseph Pali was recently promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Books/monographs published

The following book publications by colleagues were published during 2020:

Baron, E. (ed). 2020. *Handvatsels vir COVID-19*. George: Kreativ SA.

Baron, E. & Botha, N.A. (eds). 2020. *Majority World Leaders Perspectives on Christian Mission*. Kreativ SA: George.

Baron, E. & Botha, N.A. 2020. *Obedience and servant leadership*. Bloemfontein: SUN MeDIA.

Schoeman, W.J. (ed). 2020. *Churches in the mirror. Developing contemporary ecclesiologies. University of the Free State Theological Explorations*. Vol. 4. Bloemfontein: Sunbonani Scholar.

Van den Berg, J.A. (ed). Engaging the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Perspectives from theology, philosophy and education. *University of the Free State Theological Explorations*. Vol. 3. Bloemfontein: SUN MeDIA.

Van den Berg, J.A. (ed). 2020. *Battle for the heart. How (not) to transform church and society*. Münster: LIT Verlag.

Verster, P. 2020. *Die wonderbare Heilige Gees én die Vader van liefde: 'n Missionêre teologie*. Bloemfontein: Sunbonani Scholar.

Edited collections in journals

Klaasen, J.S., Sporre, K., Osbeck, C. & Baron, E. (eds). 2020. *Ethics, Education and Social Justice. Perspectives from South Africa and Sweden*. (Special Edition: *HTS Theological Studies*)

Van Der Westhuizen, H.C. (ed). 2020. Justice and Beauty. A Collection of theological reflections. *Acta Supplementum* 29. Bloemfontein, Sun Media.

Articles/book chapters published and accepted

Baron, E. 2020. Mission studies at South African higher education institutions: An ethical and decolonial perspective in the quest to 'colour' the discipline. *HTS Theological Studies*, 76(1):114.

Baron, E. & Maponya, M.S. 2020. The recovery of the prophetic voice of the church. The adoption of a 'missional church' imagination. *Verbum et ecclesia*, 41(1):1- 9.

Baron, E. 2020. *Die Ligdraer* as a Grassroots Engagement on URCSA's Unification and Reconciliation between 1990 and 1997. *Missionalia*, 48 (1):81-100.

Baron, E. 2020. The questions and challenges for South African missiology in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). *HTS Theological Studies*, Volume 76 (2):1-11.

Mangayi, L. & Baron, E. 2020. Ten years (2010-2020) of exciting missiology in South Africa: Trends and trajectories. *Scriptura*, 119 (3).

Botha, N.A. & Baron, E. (*accepted*). The Protestant World Mission and Race Discourse: Edinburgh 1910 – Ghana 1958. In Kim, K. 2021. *Handbook for Mission Studies*. Oxford: OxfordUniversityPress.

**“A hardworking employee always inspires
management to do more and even better. Thank
you for being management’s motivation”**

– Anonymous

- Baron, E. (*accepted*). Church Media and Reconciliation in The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA). *Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae*, 46(3), p. 1-14.
- Baron, E. (*accepted*). The role of the media in the formation of virtuous citizens: A contribution to reconciliation in a post-apartheid South Africa. *Acta Theologica*.
- Baron, E. (*accepted*). ‘Coloured’, you’re on your own? A dialectic between Biko’s black consciousness thought and the post-apartheid conditions of the ‘coloured’ people in South Africa. *Black Theology Journal*.
- Baron, E. (*accepted*). Towards a deepened Christology in the Cape Flats: the “Spirit of Christ” metaphor in the Neo-Pentecostal church. In Kgatle, M.S., Nel, M. & Banda C. 2020. *Paradigm shifts in Christology: Jesus in various lenses of South African Pentecostalism*. Routledge New Critical Thinking in Religion.
- Baron, E. (*accepted*). Missiology and the quest for a ‘grassroots’ narrative to address ‘radicalisation and violence’ in a post-apartheid South Africa. In Temmerman, J. (ed). 2021. *Religious Radicalism. Demarcations and Challenges*. Netherlands: Open Access.
- Fortein, E.A. 2021. Allan Boesak: A Theology of Prophetic Resistance (1976-1990). *Some Historical-Theological Reflection Stellenbosch Theological Journal*.
- Fortein, E.A. (*accepted*). Celebrating the Lord’s Supper in South Africa: *Conscious of the paschal patterns in our history*. In Havenga, M. & Vosloo, R. *The Lord’s Supper and the theological, historical and socio-political dimensions*.
- Laubscher, M. 2020. Missional Ecclesiology “after Bath”? In W.J. Schoeman (ed). *Churches in the Mirror. Developing contemporary ecclesiologies*, 37-56. Bloemfontein: Sun Media.
- Meyer, J. 2020. Investigating the nature of and relation between masculinity and religiosity and/or spirituality in a postcolonial and post-apartheid South Africa. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*, 76(1), a5663. <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v76i1.5663>
- Meyer, J. 2020. Developing pastoral therapy as a professional qualification in South Africa: Rationale and motivation. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*, 76(2), a5659. <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v76i2.5659>
- Meyer, J. 2020. A practical theological narration of the spiritual narratives of adolescent orphaned boys in South Africa in the construction of a spiritual self. In Knoetze, J.J. & Kozhuharov, V. (eds.). 2020. Powers, inequalities and vulnerabilities: Impact of globalisation on children, youth and families and on the mission of the church. *Reformed Theology in Africa Series* Volume 4. Cape Town: AOSIS pp. 233-265.
- Mokhoathi, J. 2020. Conflicting spiritualities or transforming religions? Religious intersections at Mantsopa Cave in Modderpoort. *Battle for the heart. How (not) to transform church and society*. Münster: Lit Verlag.
- Mokhoathi, J. 2020. Religious intersections in African Christianity: The conversion dilemma among indigenous converts. *Scriptura*, 119 (1):1-12, UFS-037555.
- Mokhoathi, J. 2020. African Christianity: The search for an African personality. *Pharos Journal of Theology*, 101:1-9, UFS-037693.
- Mokhoathi, J. 2020. Finding beauty in the eyes of justice: A social-religious perspective. *Pharos Journal of Theology*, 101:1-9, UFS-037694.
- Oosthuizen, M. 2019. Contextual consciousness: A basis for the responsible exegesis of Songs of Songs. In Fischer, S. & Fernandes, G. (eds). *The Song of Songs Afresh: Perspectives on a Biblical Love Poem*. Sheffield: Sheffield, Phoenix Press.
- Pali, K.J. & Baron, E. 2020. Congregational leadership through imitation and persuasive speech for the transformation of Church and Society. In Hermans, C.A. & Van den Berg, J.A. 2020. *A Battle for the Heart. How (not) to Transform Church and Society*. Wien, Germany: Litverlag.
- Pali, K.J. 2020. Interaction between ministers and members of the congregations in the DRCA FS (NGKA VS). *Scriptura*, Vol 119 (1):1-20.
- Pali, K.J. 2020. Markers for a contemporary ecclesiology: An African denominational perspective. In Schoeman, W.J. (ed). 2020. *Churches in the mirror. Developing contemporary ecclesiologies. University of the Free State Theological Explorations*. Vol. 4. Bloemfontein: Sunbonani Scholar.
- Schoeman, W.J. 2020. Re-imagining the congregation’s calling – moving from isolation to involvement. *Acta Theologica*, 40(2):321-341, UFS-038813.
- Schoeman, W.J., Mahomva, S. & Bredenkamp, I.M. 2020. The perceptions of clergy on domestic violence: A perspective from the Kwazulu-Natal Midlands. *Acta Theologica*, 40(2):238-260, UFS-038817.
- Sutton, L. 2020. A battle of honour! Persecution in 2 Maccabees 7:1-42 as part of a post-war ritual in a challenge for honour to establish power and dominion. In N.P.L. Allen, P.J. Jordaan & J. Zsengeller (eds). 2020. *Passion, persecution, and epiphany in Early*

Jewish literature. Abingdon, Oxton: Routledge. ISBN 9780429352263.

Sutton, L. 2020. An appropriation of Psalm 82 against the background of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Christian church as a change agent in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*, 76(2), a6126. <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v76i2.6126>

Sutton, L. 2020. The heart of leadership: The shape and shaping of the King in the Psalter. In Van den Berg, J.A. (ed). 2020. *Battle for the heart. How (not) to transform church and society*. Münster: LIT Verlag.

Van den Berg, J.A. Weerkaatsende woorde: 'n (Outo) biografiese refleksie van 'n (Praktiese) Teoloog. *Scriptura* 119(3):1-11, UFS-038.

Van der Westhuizen, H.C. 2020. The Spirit and Creation. *In die Skriflig*, 54(1) a2639. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ids.v54i1.2639>

Van der Westhuizen, H.C. 2020. Die NGK, hermeneutiek en etiek? *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(3), 79-109. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17570/stj.2020.v.6.n.3.a02>

Van der Westhuizen, H.C. 2020. Doing theology from below, from below? Bonhoeffer, De Gruchy, South Africa. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* 6(4), 83-112. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17570/stj.2020.v6n4.a4>

Van der Westhuizen, H.C. 2020. The Spirit and salvation. *In die Skriflig* 54(1), a2537. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ids.v54i1.2537>

Verster, P. 2020. The broken Christ in a broken world. *Pharos Journal of Theology*, 101:1-12, UFS-037659.

Verster, P. 2020. 'n Ondersoek na Christelike digkuns in Afrikaans na aanleiding van die bloemlesing Die mooiste Afrikaanse Christelike gedigte (2017), *Litnet Akademies* 17(2):300-319, UFS-037678.

Verster, P. 2020. Die sendingimplikasies van Romeine 8:31-39. *Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap/Journal for Christian Scholarship*, 1st Quarter, 137-156, UFS-037696.

Verster, P. 2020. A theological engagement with the Covid-19 pandemic, *Pharos Journal of Theology* 101(1-14), UFS-038233.

Awards

Oasis Laureatus Award

Our Dean, Prof. Rantsoa Letšosa, together with one of his former PhD students, Dr Marno Retief, received the Oasis Laureatus Award for the most cited article in the Theology and Religion AOSIS Scholarly Domain for their article "Models of disability: A brief overview" in *HTS Theological Studies* (<https://hts.org.za/index.php/hts/article/view/4738>).

ATKV-SA Academy Award

Prof. Kobus Schoeman with co-authors received the ATKV-SA Akademie prize for their accredited article "Corrigendum: 'n Navorsingstrategie vir missionale transformasie" in *Verbum et Ecclesia* (<https://verbumetecclisia.org.za/index.php/ve/article/view/1956/3635>).

NRF Rating Award

Dr Lodewyk Sutton received a Y2 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

NRF Thutuka Award

Dr Joel Mokhoathi was awarded the NRF Thutuka Award at the start of 2021.

UFS TeachOn Champions Award

Dr Juanita Meyer, Dr Joel Mokhoathi, Rev. Marlene Oosthuizen, Dr Joseph Pali, Dr Lodewyk Sutton, Prof. Rian Venter and Dr Henco van der Westhuizen received special #UFS TeachOn Champion awards from the Centre of Teaching and Learning (CTL) for excellent teaching and learning work in 2020.

Collaborations

Together with Dr Albert Hogeterp, Prof. Francois Tolmie contributed to Contexticon, a Greek online dictionary that is being developed in the United States. Prof. Tolmie was also elected as a committee member of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*, and Dr Sutton was chosen to organise the 2021 conferences of the South African Society for Near Eastern Studies and the Old Testament Society of South Africa, to be held at the UFS. Furthermore, Profs Van Zyl, Snyman and Tolmie contributed to the new Afrikaans translation of the Bible (2020 *Vertaling*) that was officially launched in November 2020.

Book Contributions

Baron, S.M.I. 2020. Die vrou in diens van Christus en sy kerk. In Botha, D. 2020. (ed). *Predikantsvrou én vrou in eie reg. 26 hart-stories*. Wellington: CLF Uitgewers.

Training Qualifications Awarded

The Dean, Prof Letšosa, successfully completed and was awarded the Executive Business Leadership Certificate with Distinction at the University of the Free State.

Rev. Marlene Oosthuizen successfully completed a Coaching course (Coaching Essentials and Accessing Personal Genius) with Coach2live.

Ms Sinovuyo Mogwasi, newly appointed Shepherd Coordinator, successfully completed an SLP in Community-Based Service-Learning at Rhodes University.

Submission and completion of Doctoral Thesis

Rev. Wessel Wessels completed his doctoral studies successfully at the end of 2020, and Rev. Martin Laubscher has submitted his doctoral thesis and is awaiting the outcome early in 2021.

Shepherd Centre

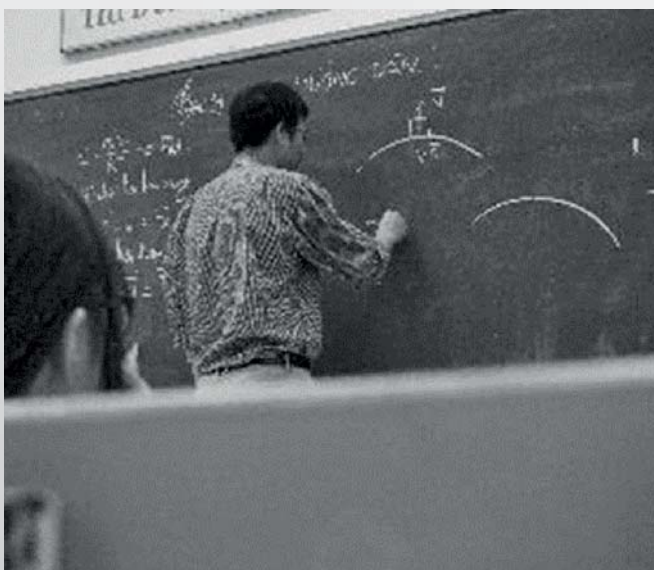


The Shepherd Centre has exciting new projects planned for the first semester of 2021. We are proud to announce that we will be introducing two new short learning programmes in April 2021 that will be delivered online, which are titled “Christian Leadership in Contemporary Context”, to be presented by Dr. Joseph Pali, and “Effective Bible Teaching to Children”, to be presented by Dr Lyzette Hoffman. Shepherd Centre is expecting four additional short learning programmes from academic staff in the Faculty, and we hope to have a minimum of six programmes running by the end of the first semester of 2021.

The Centre is also in discussions with ACRP (Association of Christian Religious Practitioners) with regard to a

partnership that will benefit our SLP participants towards a designation with the professional body, and we are hoping for the best outcomes from these discussions. Create International has also shown an interest in working with Shepherd on this venture of developing new SLPs that cater to our market’s needs not only nationally, but also internationally. We hope that those discussions will be fruitful for the growth of the Centre.

Covid-19 has made us more aware of, and cautious about, our surroundings as a Centre, and we hope to reach more pastors and leaders by moving from face-to-face delivery, towards making more use of the online platforms offered by the institution.



Faculty Student Council

The Bloemfontein Faculty Student Council Election took place online from 1 – 7 December 2020. The following candidates were elected to serve on the Faculty Student Council for the 2021 term:

Chairperson:	Mr Omolemo Lesia
Deputy Chair:	Mr Thabang Bookholane
Secretary and First Year:	Ms Oarabetse Morokane
Treasurer:	Ms Gloria Feya
Marketing and Liaison:	Mr Craig Gayisa
Sports and Social:	Mr Moses Piet Davids
Academics:	Mr Lesiba Kekana
Spiritual:	Mrs Lulama Jacobs

Hearty congratulations to the newly elected council!! We wish you well for the term and we certainly hope for an eventful and successful academic year.



Welcoming message to students

Charles Caleb Colton writes: "Life isn't a book. Life isn't logical or sensible or orderly. Life is a mess most of the time. And theology must be lived in the midst of that mess."

A warm word of welcome to all Theology students in this New Year where we continue, and some of us begin, with our academic endeavours. I found the quote above very fitting to describe our experience as students of theology and religion, after the way that we've had to adapt to a new form of learning over the past year, to having an opportunity to remind ourselves once again how it is that we live theology in the midst of the different kinds of 'messes' we encounter, some unprecedented like the present pandemic, that have differently deepened our understanding of our field of study through questioning, introspection and reflection.

As we are called to see the transcendence of hope, faith and love in the different contexts we feel drawn to, it is my wish that we, as students, may seek to see God in the margins, limitations and restrictions of society that we are currently experiencing. As inspired by the words of Colton, our Sola Gratia Committee, which is the student body in our Faculty, aims to enable us as students to experience this year as one in which we can contribute to one another's experiences as students of theology.

I believe that one of the few things we have in common between our life on campus and academic life online, is that we tend to live out our academic (and personal) experiences of theology and discourse in isolation, rarely knowing what is going on in one another's reflections on the academic material that our professors enjoy bombarding us with.

It is important to note, however, that the differences in our backgrounds, cultures and encounters of theological interest should on their own be reason for us to be aware of the colourful community of which our Faculty consists, in acknowledging its intentions to produce leaders who will be transformative by contributing to one another's experiences as students, so as to appreciate the wider communities that we will be serving in the future, through our different vocations.

Last year, we had our activities as the student body suspended just after welcoming our first-years, fortunately after we were able to get to know our new students. For 2021, we can look forward to engaging both physically and virtually, depending on the prevailing circumstances due to Covid19, to using our creativity and good intentions, in order to create safe spaces for students, both socially and academically. We are looking



forward to being engaged in new forms of conversation, different socialising platforms, and dynamic ways of worship as an inter-denominational student body, with various forms of appreciating our academic commitment as a guide for achieving future prospects.

In light of this, we wish to let all students who are new to our Faculty know that they are not in the wrong place. Some of you chose to study Theology out of interest, others felt called to take it as a course for a future vocation and a passion for spirituality, whilst still others feel that it chose them – and feel as if it is nothing but a burden that they never wished to carry. We all have something to learn, deduce and understand beyond the peripheries of society in this field of study; and we have an opportunity to learn to know ourselves better. Most importantly, you will learn, as some of us still are learning, that life doesn't have to make sense, be orderly or logical – it is the experience of living that makes it all worthwhile.

Omolemo Lesia

Chairperson: Faculty Student Council

Undergraduate notice

Dear Student

Congratulations on your firm accepted offer! We are so excited at the prospect of welcoming you as one of our students! We hope, with this letter, to guide you through every step in your journey of becoming a registered UFS student at the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

Registration process 2021

Registrations for all the UFS first years will take place during 1-12 March 2021, and below are the faculty arrangements for your noting.



1. What to expect

1.1 Permit

Since you have accepted a firm offer to study with us, during the week of 22-26 February 2021 you will receive a campus permit for a face-to-face faculty advising orientation session during the period of 1-12 March 2021. The e-mail will be sent to your preferred e-mail address as indicated in your application.

To update your contact details, please contact studentadmin@ufs.ac.za.

1.2 Academic advice

During the weeks of 1-12 March 2021, the Faculty Academic Advising Office (FAAO) will be offering compulsory registration orientation and curriculum advice to all first-year students on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Please note, we have limited space, and once we have reached our target number, we will close registration and withdraw all other accepted offers. Your space at the faculty is only guaranteed once you have registered.**

Scheduled sessions will run daily (Mon-Fri) at the HMS Scholtz Hall as stipulated below:

Venue	HCert Theology	BDiv Extended	Bdiv Main Stream
HMS 10 HMS 33	08:00-10:30	11:00-13:30	14:00-16:30

Please note, we can only accommodate 35 students per session. There will however be a waiting area for all students who arrive on time for their session. Students who are more than 10 minutes late will be requested to attend the session scheduled for the following day.

1.3 Registration

Immediately after your advising orientation session, the FAAO will guide you through your online self-registration process. Registration will take place according to the set schedule indicated above.

2. Take the following steps to avoid disappointment

2.1 Finance

Before arriving at the Bloemfontein campus for your registration, please ensure that you have completed, signed, and e-mailed the Financial Agreement form to tuitionfees@ufs.ac.za. Failure to do so may delay your registration process.

Please note that there is a minimum registration fee of R7 480 payable before registration can take place. The

first payment is payable five (5) working days prior to registration at the UFS. If you have an approved bursary/ sponsorship that will cover ALL your fees for 2021, please submit the confirmation letter to tuition fees (tuitionfees@ufs.ac.za).

For more information, kindly consult the student finance webpage (click on the link): <https://www.ufs.ac.za/kovsielife/student-finance>

IMPORTANT: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown restrictions, to help avoid unnecessary long queues, please ensure that you do not have any financial block when you come for your session.

Kindly note that we cannot hold your place while you wait for confirmation from your bursary provider.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Student Finance: +27 51 401 2806 / 3003.

2.2 Accommodation

Kindly make accommodation arrangements in time as classes will commence on 15 March 2021, immediately after the registration period. Please visit below link for further assistance:

Housing and Residences

Please note, all residence students must liaise with HRA prior to their return to campus. E-mails to be sent to ResApplications@ufs.ac.za. No Residence Student should return unless he/she has received final accommodation confirmation from HRA.

3. Enquiries

For any additional information, please visit the sites below on the UFS website:

- Student Finance
- Financial Aid and Bursaries
- Academic Merit Bursary
- International Students Information
- Centre for Universal Access and Disability Support (CUADS)

We hope that the above information is helpful. For further enquiries, please feel free to contact us at theology@ufs.ac.za. Please remember to always **include your student number** in the communication.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Postgraduate notice

Dear Student

Greetings in the New Year! We hope you have had a blessed festive season with your loved ones under these trying times. It is that time of the year again where we have to prepare for the academic year ahead. Due to the currently adjusted Level 3 lockdown restrictions, the university is following a minimalistic approach to the return of staff and students to the campus. For the first semester of 2021, therefore, the faculty will continue with online teaching and learning, with the exception of the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and the Master of Divinity, which will have face-to-face classes as per their scheduled timetable.



Registration Process 2021

Online registration:

8 Feb– 31 Mar 2021: Online registration for senior postgraduate master's and doctoral students.
Online self-service registration will be available from 8 February 2021.

For academic advice, please contact:

T. +27 51 401 7876/2786 | E: theology@ufs.ac.za

1. What to do

- Make sure that your UFS password is correct.
- Make the required first payment or submit confirmation of an approved bursary/loan.
- Log in on the PeopleSoft system for self-service enrolment or click www.ufs.ac.za/register. Refer to the step-by-step guide on using the online enrolment service.
- Access your study material on Blackboard – structured master's degree study.

Comprehensive registration information is also available online at www.ufs.ac.za/register

1.1 Step 1: UFS password

Please make sure that your UFS password has not expired; you will need the password to access electronic systems used by the UFS.

How to set your UFS password:

1. Log on to: <http://selfservice.ufs.ac.za>
2. To activate your password, log in with the following:
 - Username: student number
 - Password: your personal password.

If your password is reset, the UFS issues a temporary password that must be changed the first time you log into the system. You will need your cell phone for the one-time PIN.

For further assistance with this facility, please contact the Student Helpdesk at +27 51 401 2442.

1.2 Step 2: Fees payable

- Please note, the registration prepayment fee payable for 2021 is R7 480 for South African students, R25 180 for SADC and R49 450 for non-SADC students.
- For more information please visit <https://www.ufs.ac.za/kovsielife/student-finance>.
- First payments are payable five (5) working days prior to registration. Students will not be able to register until these amounts reflect as credits on their tuition-fee accounts. Should the tuition fee be less than the amount required, the full amount, as per quotation, is payable.

1.2.1 Students with financial assistance (SA students only)

- Confirmation of an approved bursary must be submitted five (5) working days prior to registration.
- A certified copy of the bursary/loan agreement must be submitted to the Department of Finance: Tuition Fees, or the bursary/loan document can be emailed to tuitionfees@ufs.ac.za
- If the bursary does NOT cover all fees for the year, the first payment remains payable five (5) working days prior to registration. Students will not be able to register until these amounts reflect as CREDITS on their tuition-fee accounts. Should the tuition fee be less than the prepayment required, the full amount is payable.
- **IMPORTANT:** If you have a bursary, it is your responsibility to ensure that your bursary provider makes payments on time, and in accordance with university regulations. You must also make sure that your bursary provider has your student account details.

1.2.2 Programme prices

- Tuition fees are charged per module. Programme prices will vary according to the modules registered for and are estimated average costs per year. For an official quote, please visit <https://kovsielife.ufs.ac.za/quote/quote.aspx>
- You will need the module codes to get a quote. Kindly refer to the faculty rulebook http://apps.ufs.ac.za/dl/yearbooks/359_yearbook_eng.pdf for more information.

1.2.3 Banking details

- **ABSA Bank**
Any branch
Name of account: University of the Free State
Branch code: 630734
Account number: 1570 151 688
SWIFT Code for international transfers: ABSAZAJJ
Reference number 100 followed directly by student number for the first payment, tuition, and accommodation fees.
E-mail proof of payments to: tuitionfees@ufs.ac.za
- **Internet (EFT)**
You must register the university as a beneficiary on your account at any branch of your bank. Use the same ABSA bank details as above.
Reference number 100 followed directly by your student number.
E-mail proof of transaction to: tuitionfees@ufs.ac.za

1.3 Step 3: Online registration (enrolment)

How to enrol

- An enrolment guide will be sent to you for step-by-step guidance on using the online system.

- For comprehensive information, you can also go to the UFS webpage at: www.ufs.ac.za/register

Proof of registration

- Kindly note, it is your responsibility to ensure that your registration has been completed correctly [correct study code/module code(s)/centre of presentation]. Please contact theology@ufs.ac.za if you are unsure about your registration.
- After you have completed your online registration, you will receive an e-mail via your UFS4Life e-mail address with a copy of your proof of registration.
- Please ensure that you are registered correctly on or before the last date allowed for changes (first semester, 19 March 2021) to avoid financial complications or problems with bursaries.

1.4 Step 4: Access your study material (structured master's)

You can access your study material via Blackboard once you have enrolled for all your modules. The cost for the study guides and material will be added to your tuition-fee account.

2. Funding

The university has allocated funds for doctoral bursaries and funding is available for the first three years for both full-time and part-time study.

2.1 Who can apply?

- All South African and international students from any higher education institution are eligible.
- You must meet all academic requirements of the university and must already be admitted to an academic programme at the University of the Free State.

2.2 Closing date:

- First-year doctoral students can apply at any time.
- Returning students must apply in November of the year preceding the year of study.

2.3 What is covered?

- Eligible candidates who are South African citizens or who are from SADC countries will receive funding to cover their academic tuition fees on an annual basis.
- Eligible international students and students from non-SADC countries will receive funding of up to 67% of their annual academic tuition fees.

2.4 What is not covered?

- All PhD students pay registration fees, residence pre-payments, and accommodation (for students who stay in university residences) and living costs.
- International levies.

- International students and non-SADC students will still be required to pay 33% of their tuition fees.

For more information, please contact Mr Prince Khoza:
T: +27 51 401 2045 | E: KhozaPN@ufs.ac.za

3. Accommodation

For any accommodation-related enquiries, please click on link below for further assistance:

Housing and Residences

Please note, all residence students must liaise with HRA prior to their return to campus. E-mails to be sent to ResApplications@ufs.ac.za. No residence student should return unless he/she has received final accommodation confirmation from HRA.

4. Enquiries

For any additional information, please contact:

Student Finance

Postgraduate students:

Student Finance Call Centre: +27 51 401 2806 / 3003
T: +27 51 401 9090 | E: tuitionfees@ufs.ac.za

Student Service Centre and Registrations:

Call Centre: Bloemfontein Campus
T: +27 51 401 9666 | E: StudentAdmin@ufs.ac.za

Student card

Collections:

T: +27 051 401 3448

International students

Website: <https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/departments/international-affairs/about-us/contact-us>
E: internationalenquiries@ufs.ac.za

Centre for Universal Access and Disability Support (CUADS)

Website: [https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/departments/student-affairs-home/bloemfontein-campus/center-for-universal-access-and-disability-support-\(cuads\)/overview-home/contact-us/staff-of-cuads](https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/departments/student-affairs-home/bloemfontein-campus/center-for-universal-access-and-disability-support-(cuads)/overview-home/contact-us/staff-of-cuads)

UFS Covid-19 Protocol

Website: <https://www.ufs.ac.za/covid-19-sars-cov-everything-you-need-to-know>

We hope that the above information is helpful. For any further enquiries, please feel free to contact us at theology@ufs.ac.za. Please remember to always **include your student number** in the communication.

Faculty Turns 40



The Faculty of Theology and Religion celebrated its 40th year of existence in 2020 with the theme “Transforming theology and religion”. The celebrations started early in the year with the academic conference “A battle for the heart. How (not) to transform church and society” hosted by the Department of Practical and Missional Theology. A number of local and international scholars attended this conference.

Speakers for the “A battle for the heart. How (not) to transform church and society” conference.

In March a public lecture was hosted by the Department Old and New Testament Studies. The speaker for this lecture was Prof. Stefan Fischer from the University of Vienna, with a paper titled “The transformation of theology and religion in and by the Biblical wisdom literature”. It was a very successful occasion with a large number of attendees.

Unfortunately, the current pandemic and resultant restrictions caused the rest of the planned programme to be postponed. Scheduled speakers such as Isabel Phiri and Willie Jennings had to cancel, and the scheduled 40-year celebration dinner with Prof. Petersen as guest speaker was also cancelled.

Stefan Fischer, public lecture

2021, however, is still at its beginning. We are still experiencing the pandemic's restrictions, but we are hopeful that the rest of the year will bring other opportunities to continue our celebrations. One of these is the planned *Acta Theologica* supplementary issue for the 40-year celebrations titled “Transforming Theology and Religion”. Currently, more than 20 authors, including eight international scholars, are participating in this project. This publication is scheduled to appear in October this year with guest editors, Drs Joel Mokhoathi and Lodewyk Sutton.





To sum up, the faculty produced 199 graduates at the end of the academic year of which:

- 4 PhD's
- 20 Master's
- 17 Advanced Diplomas in Theology
- 7 Bachelors
- 7 Honours
- 139 Higher Certificates in Theology
- 5 Post Graduate Diplomas in Theology

were conferred, which showed a total growth of 51.9% compared to the 2019 academic year.

*Rea Leboha, Siyakuhalalisela, Siyavuyisana,
Baie geluk!*

No words can ever be enough to thank you all for the tremendous efforts and contributions during the course of 2020 to ensure that we concluded the academic year successfully. We are cognisant of the fact that staff put in longer hours, forfeited rest days and went the extra mile throughout the year to ensure that students were given optimal opportunity to succeed in their respective academic courses.

Special mention needs to be made about the Faculty Management who without fail attended regular and irregular meetings throughout the course of the year to steer the ship in the right direction. The strategizing, input and tremendous efforts did not go unseen and clearly contributed to the success of the academic year. For this, we are extremely grateful.

