



# 37<sup>th</sup> Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Awards

7 SEPTEMBER 2019

WE CELEBRATE A  
HERITAGE OF EXCELLENCE

*Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.  
Inspireer uitnemendheid. Verander lewens.*



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA  
**ALUMNI**

Honorary Alumnus Recipient

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The Honorary Alumnus Award is the highest honour given to individuals who are not graduates of the University of the Free State but have made significant contributions in advancing the human and academic projects of the institution thus lending to its prestige over a significant period. Additionally, the individual is recognized for his or her outstanding leadership, pursuit of excellence and service to the institution.

DR KHOTSO MOKHELE

Cum Laude Award Recipients

6-8

This award is bestowed upon an alumnus to recognise excellence in any field, whether vocational or voluntary.

DR JANINE ALLEN-SPIES  
RYAN CRAIG ISHMAIL  
JACO JACOBS

Chancellor’s Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Recipient

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The Chancellor’s Distinguished Alumnus of the Year is the highest honour accorded to an alumnus in recognition of the recipient’s distinguished achievements. This award celebrates an excellent alumnus who serves to inspire fellow alumni, current students and the community at large.

DR RIANA SCHEEPERS

Executive Management Award Recipient

9-10

This service award is presented to an individual who has delivered exceptional service to the University of the Free State.

MARIUS JV RENSBURG  
PROF CORINNA WALSH

Young Alumnus of the Year Recipient

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This award acknowledges the achievements of alumni who have graduated within the past decade and have contributed immensely to their fields.

KARLA PRETORIUS

Kovsie Ambassador Award

11-13

The Kovsie Ambassador Award is bestowed upon an individual whose achievements have brought distinction to him/her, benefited his/her community and brought credit to the University of the Free State.

LOUZANNE COETZEE  
ANGIE KHUMALO  
KESA MOLOTSANE

## Honorary Alumnus

### DR KHOTSO MOKHELE

Khotso David Kenneth Mokhele was born and bred in Bloemfontein, matriculated from the Moroka High School and obtained a BSc degree in Agriculture from the University of Fort Hare, where he won the Massey-Ferguson award for the best student in his field. He continued his postgraduate studies at the University of California Davis on the prestigious Fulbright-Hays Scholarship Programme, completing his MSc (Food Science) and PhD (Microbiology). He was awarded postdoctoral fellowships at the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Pennsylvania in the USA. Mokhele returned to South Africa in 1987, set on becoming a top-class academic and researcher. He held lecturing posts at the Universities of Fort Hare (1987-1989) and Cape Town (1990-1992).

In 1992, he was approached by Dr Rein Arndt, the then President of the Foundation for Research Development (FRD – the predecessor of the NRF), to join the foundation as one of its vice-presidents. The decision was a difficult one for the young Mokhele. Not only had he just embarked on an academic career, he was uncertain whether it was appropriate for a political activist to join a parastatal organisation under the apartheid government. After much soul searching, he accepted the offer



UFS Chancellor  
2010 – current

on condition that he was given the freedom to transform the FRD into a funding agency geared to meeting the needs of higher education in South Africa. Shortly after he joined the FRD in June 1992, he made his presence felt as an outstanding organiser and communicator; several new research-funding programmes were initiated, with a strong emphasis on developing people who had previously been excluded. When Dr Arndt retired in 1996, Mokhele was the obvious choice to succeed him as President of the FRD. As President and CEO of the National Research Foundation (NRF) (1999-2006), Dr Mokhele played a central role in providing visionary and strategic direction to the South African science system and to the development agenda of the country.

He was part of the team that drafted the Green Paper for science and technology, was the founder President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF), Chairperson of the Economic Advisory Council to the Premier of the Free State (2001-2004), and a member of the Advisory Council on Innovation to the Minister of Science and Technology (2003-2007). His role in securing government and international support for the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) Project is evidence

of his dedication to science in South Africa. The success of this project laid the basis for South Africa being selected to host more than 70% of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), an international mega-telescope for radio astronomy. He was appointed as member of the first Council for Higher Education and deputy convenor of its task force on the Reconfiguration of Higher Education, and he served on the councils of a number of universities. More recently, he was appointed by the Minister of Science and Technology as a member of the National Advisory Council on Innovation, and by the Minister of Labour as chair of the National Skills Board.

His role in science is recognised internationally. In achieving his vision, he recognised the importance of South Africa's re-entry into the international science community and has been an ambassador for South African and African science in high-profile international fora. He was elected Vice-President: Scientific Planning and Review of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and as Chairperson of its Committee for Scientific Planning and Review (2005-2008), as well as a member of the Committee on Developing and Transition Economy Countries of the International Social

## Honorary Alumnus

Science Council (2008-2010). He also represented South Africa on the executive board of UNESCO (1997-2001) and served as Chairperson of the Special Committee of this board (1999-2001). Dr Mokhele was part of the UNESCO assignment (2006-2007) to review the science and technology system of the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and give advice on how to leverage science, technology, and innovation for the development of the Caribbean region.

Dr Mokhele's corporate positions included Non-Executive Chairman on the Board of Directors of Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd (Implats), ArcelorMittal South Africa, and Adcock Ingram Holdings Ltd; Non-Executive Director of African Oxygen Ltd (Afrox), Zimbabwe Platinum Holdings Ltd (Zimplats), Mapitso Consortium, Kenosi Investment Holdings, and Tiger Brands Ltd. He is the President of the Hans Merensky Foundation (South Africa) and a trustee of SciDev.Net (a web-based scientific magazine based in London, UK) and Start International Inc (a global-change capacity-building initiative based in the USA). He was Chairman of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee for Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Lesotho, and Swaziland (2007-2011) and has served on the South Africa at

Large Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee for more than 10 years.

Khotso Mokhele's contribution to science in South Africa has received wide recognition locally and abroad. He has received six honorary doctorates, the most recent from Rutgers University in the USA. He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the President of France in recognition of his personal efforts in strengthening scientific ties between France and South Africa, and was appointed a director of the Salzburg Global Seminar – an institution focused on global change, and subsequently as member of its Council of Senior Fellows. He was the recipient of the Technology Top 100 Lifetime Achievers Award in 2009, and the National Science and Technology Forum Award in 2005. He also received the Science Diplomacy Award from the Minister of Science and Technology in South Africa (2015).

After more than 10 years at the helm of first the FRD and then the NRF, Khotso Mokhele had decided that the time had come for new blood to take over and for him to focus his talents on new ventures.

It is appropriate at this point in his career that the university pay tribute to and acknowledge the monumental achievements of a truly great South African.

## Chancellor's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

### DR RIANA SCHEEPERS



Author

#### QUALIFICATIONS

BA Communication Science (1978)

BA Honours Afrikaans (1984)

MA Afrikaans (1987)

PhD Afrikaans and Dutch (1997)

Riana Scheepers was born in Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal, where she grew up with Zulu children. Riana learnt to speak Zulu at an early age and visited the Zulu narrator at night to listen to his stories. In 1975, she matriculated as head girl from the Vryheid High School. She won several prizes in poetry, writing, and debating competitions. She participated in various sports and acquired Northern Natal colours for athletics, swimming, and decorative diving.

She obtained a BA in Communication Studies, BAHons in Afrikaans, and MA in Afrikaans (all cum laude) at the University of the Free State (UFS). During her years at university, she excelled in various fields. Among others, she was editor of the student magazine, Irawa, and in 1979 she was elected to the Central Student Representative Council.

From January 1985 to March 1988, she worked as academic assistant in the Department of Afrikaans-Dutch at the UFS. After this, she accepted a post as lecturer at the University of Zululand, and later as lecturer in Afrikaans and Dutch at the University of Cape Town. From 1992, she was a part-time radio reporter for Die Burger, and in 1995 she joined Tafelberg Publishers as liaison editor. She continued her studies, obtaining a doctorate in Afrikaans and Dutch at the University of Cape Town in 1997.

In 1999, she accepted a teaching post at Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch, where she started the Stellen-

bosch School of Writing and Creative Thinking. She resigned in 2001 to devote more time to her creative writing. After marrying her second husband in September 2002, she worked as farm manager in the Wellington district and with the women in the vineyards, presented literacy classes for adults in the farming community, as well as an annual course in Writing and Creative Thinking. She ran a guesthouse on the farm, and in 2009

the farm's boutique brandy received a gold international Michelangelo award. In 2015, she moved with her husband to Wildernis near George.

Riana has been Huisgenoot's social adviser for the column *Vra vir dr Adri* since 2002. She managed several columns and wrote sketches for, among others, Volksblad, Beeld, Die Burger, the Belgian newspaper De Morgen, Finesse, De Kat, and Rooi Rose. In 2000, she became a member of the South African Academy for Science and Arts.

She undertook several lecture tours on her own work and on Afrikaans literature in the Netherlands, Friesland, and Poland. The Flemish Parliament invited her to participate in its 30th anniversary celebrations on 11 June 2002, during which 24 poets from the Dutch speech community recited their poetry in Parliament. She was the only Afrikaans poet invited to this event. She has been a speaker at schools, reading circles, and study groups on numerous occasions.

Riana's hobbies include hiking, cycling, gardening, cooking (she published two cookery books), and the protection of the highly endangered Knysna dwarf chameleon.

Riana Scheepers has had an exceptional career, both in South Africa and abroad. She has made important contributions as a writer and language pedagogue. She is a dynamic person and an artist that the UFS can be proud of.

## Young Alumnus of the Year

### KARLA PRETORIUS



Professional Athlete  
&  
Dietician

#### QUALIFICATIONS

BSc Dietetics (2014)

MSc Dietetics (2018)

Karla Pretorius graduated with a BSc Dietetics degree from the University of the Free State (UFS) in 2014. She has a passion for academic writing and recently completed her master's degree in Dietetics/Sports Nutrition at the UFS. As a registered dietician, she worked as community-service dietician for the Mangaung University Community Partnership Programme in 2015.

Pretorius has been a professional netball player since 2015/2016, with experience at national and international level. She is regularly involved in netball coaching and is currently pursuing a Diploma in Sports Management as well as Netball South Africa level 2 coaching accreditation. She has excellent leadership skills and a thorough knowledge of netball, with a strong capability of developing and implementing netball sessions and programmes.

Team Bath in England contracted her to play in the Vitality Netball Super League for the 2015/2016 season. She is now playing professional netball in Australia, where she represents the Sunshine Coast Lightning team in the Suncorp Super Netball League.

Pretorius represented and later captained the Kovsie netball team between 2009 and 2015. During that time, she scooped one award after the other. In 2014 and 2015, she was the Varsity Player of the Year. She also represented the Free State provincial team, the Crinums, and is vice-captain of the South African national netball team,

the Proteas. Karla was the first South African netball player to field for a side in the new Australian National Netball League in 2017.

Among others, she represented the Spar Proteas in the SANZEA Quad Series from

2016 to 2019, in the test series against Wales in 2016, and in the Diamond Challenge in 2016 and 2018. She was also part of the Free State senior team at the Spar National Championship in Durban in 2016. In 2018, Karla represented team South Africa at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia.

At the recent Netball World Cup in Liverpool, England, Pretorius was named Player of the Tournament on Sunday 21 July 2019, making her officially the world's best netballer. She was twice named Player of the Match during the World Cup, and her 20 intercepts were the joint third most. According to the organisers, the fact that South Africa reached the final four for the first time since 1995, was in no small way thanks to her impeccable reading of the game, timing, and composure. She has carried herself both on and off court with huge distinction and has rightly claimed this honour.

Other accolades include the Kovies Senior Sportswoman of the Year (2016), Volksblad Senior Sportswoman of the Year (2016 and 2017), Free State Sportswoman of the Year (2017 and 2018), and Volksblad Sportsperson of the year (2018).

In her free time, Karla loves to travel, especially taking road trips to small towns in South Africa.

## Cum Laude Award

### DR JANINE ALLEN-SPIES

Dr Janine Allen-Spies obtained her BA (1992), MA (1995), and PhD (2017) degrees in Fine Arts at the University of the Free State. She works as an artist, image philosopher, and senior lecturer in Fine Arts at the UFS.

As a visual artist, Dr Allen-Spies has excelled in the professional arts arena and in the academic art sphere. Her pioneering career makes her one of the most sought-after artist-academics.

She has won several competitions and is the first artist in the country to be selected for the prestigious international UNESCO-Aschberg Residencies for Artists Programme, of which only two artists from the African continent (in all categories including drama, dance, and theatre arts) were elected. Other notable awards include the ABSA Visual Arts Award at the International Free State Arts Festival and an Audience Award at the esteemed Spier Contemporary Biennale, Cape Town (2010). Her art has been selected for several international and national group exhibitions and she was a finalist in many prestigious South African art competitions.

Allen's academic career is a witness to her pioneering spirit and reputable leadership. She was the first scholar to complete a practice-based MA (including a full dissertation) and a PhD in Fine Arts at the UFS. This PhD brought great honour to the university at both national and international level, culminating into



Artist, Image philosopher and Senior Lecturer in Fine Arts (UFS)

#### QUALIFICATIONS

BA Fine Arts (1992)

MA Fine Arts (1995)

PhD Fine Arts (2017)

the exhibition: The Visionary Brusher Game (2017), which received the ABSA Visual Arts Award.

Dr Allen-Spies has paved the way for many young artists in the Free State arts community. The rather small arts community has been consolidated through a strong academically trained group of artists that contribute to the national art world. Some of the notable artists

that studied under her include Pauline Gütter, Angela de Jesus, Landi Raubenheimer, Dot Vermeulen, Elrie Joubert, and Louis Krüger. She has supervised many postgraduate students who completed their degrees with great accolade, as well as many other BAFA art students who immediately entered the arts sector and have become notable in their careers. She thus paved the way for postgraduate art studies at the UFS.

Allen's work is held in prestigious collections, such as the Luciana Benetton Collection (Venice Biennale), Modern Art Projects, etc. She initiated many projects that had a cascading effect on the Free State art world. In the Artists-in-Schools research project, she brought different artists from different communities together to work in schools in deep-rural and struggling communities. Many of the artists in the project, and also those who have mastered art in autodidactic ways, have received funding, were selected or had won competitions in their own projects after they took part in this project. In the interdisciplinary projects, for example, the Eureka project and the BioArt project, as well as through her thesis and artwork, she has pioneered ways to critically participate and add to the discourse of interdisciplinary studies at the UFS.

With such an impressive background, it goes without saying that Janine's hobbies include the collection of artworks.

## Cum Laude Award

### RYAN ISHMAIL

Ryan Craig Ishmail matriculated from Kimberley Boys' High School in 2003 as one of the top 20 black learners in the Northern Cape. He graduated with an LLB degree at the UFS in 2008. On completion of his articles in 2009, he was admitted as attorney at the age of 23 and started working at the UFS Law Clinic.

In 2010, he joined Legal Aid South Africa as a Professional Assistant, providing services to clients who could not afford legal representation. He obtained his master's degree in Labour Law (LLM) in 2014. After his tenure at Legal Aid South Africa ended in 2015, he started his own practice, RC Ishmail Attorneys, where he is currently still the Director. In the same year, he won an award for the best business plan for a start-up law firm. He was admitted as a notary public in 2015 and as a conveyancer in 2018.

Mr Ishmail was appointed supervising attorney at the UFS Law Clinic in 2016. He served as Legal Officer in the Directorate for Student Discipline and Mediation from 2016 until the end of 2017, chairing and initiating disciplinary hearings for UFS students. In 2018, he lectured Criminal Law to second-year LLB students, as well as Labour Law in the UFS Business School. He currently serves as chairperson in staff hearings on the UFS Human Resources panel and



Lawyer & Acting Magistrate at Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

#### QUALIFICATIONS

LLB (2008)

LLM (2014)

the Directorate for Student Discipline and Mediation.

During the annual UFS Law Faculty Open Day, Mr Ishmail assists prospective LLB first-years and their parents regarding the LLB degree. He has been a guest speaker on various platforms, such as the Law Faculty Dean's Awards and the annual event where LLB students take their oath as future legal professionals.

Upon opening his practice, he appointed a paralegal from the LGBTQI+ community who was unable to complete his degree due to financial problems. Mr Ishmail took it upon himself to fund this student, who will complete his LLB at the end of 2019.

Mr Ishmail was the youngest ever magistrate in the Free State at the age of 31. He also serves as presiding officer at the annual National Schools Moot Court, and lectures Ethics and Constitutional Law to candidate attorneys. He has served as branch committee member of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADEL) in Bloemfontein since 2016; during this time, he helped to establish a student chapter at the UFS.

His hobbies include food and wine pairing, he is an aspirant wine connoisseur, does weightlifting, and enjoys adventures with his daughter.

Cum Laude Award

JACO JACOBS

The well-known author Jaco Jacobs was born in Carnarvon, where he matriculated as head boy in 1998. In his matric year, he won the Poort Prize for prose and poetry. He obtained a BA degree in Communication Studies (cum laude) at the UFS in 2001 and received the Dean's Medal as the best undergraduate student in the Faculty of the Humanities. In 2002, he completed his honours in Afrikaans and Dutch Literature.

He started his career as editor of the book page at Volksblad, also acting as editor of the Jip and the weekend edition, Joernaal. In 2004, he became a publisher of children's books at Lapa Publishers.

His writing career began at school where he participated in competitions for aspiring writers, and the publication of his first stories in magazines. His first children's book, *Pretpark*, was written while still at school, but *Troetelgedrog* was his first published book (2001). Over the years he has published more than 150 books for toddlers, children, and young adults. He translated more than 250 children's books by authors such as Julia Donaldson and Chris Riddell. He also uses the pseudonyms Tania Brink and Lize Roux.

Most of his books are written and published in Afrikaans. *A Good Day for Climbing Trees* was his first international book, followed by *A Good Night for Shooting Zombies* in 2018. The lat-



Author

QUALIFICATIONS

BA Communication Science (2002)  
BA Honours Afrikaans and Dutch (2005)

ter was one of the winners of the British Book Trust's 'In Other Words' competition and was nominated for the Carnegie medal. *A Good Night for Shooting Zombies* and *Suurlemoen* were adapted into feature films and released in South Africa. The CD album by Anna Davel and the Jakaranda Children's Choir, *In die land van Kammalielie*, is a collection of Jaco's nursery rhymes. A production of

*Kaptein Blitz en die Skool vir Superheldes*, with Frank Opperman as Captain Blitz, made its debut at the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival in 2012.

Jacobs was awarded numerous times and is often recognised as the most successful writer of children's books in South Africa. He also enjoys wide international recognition. Among others, he received the following awards: the Hennie van Deventer trophy for outstanding journalism; 26 ATKV children's book awards; the Alba Bouwer Prize; the CP Hoogenhout Medal; the Maskew Miller Longman Prize; the Kyknet/Rapport Book Prize; the SATI prize for translation; the Tienie Holloway Medal; the SALA Prize; the Exclusive books/IBBY Prize; and the Elsabe Steenberg e-book prize for translated children's literature.

Known for his passion for children, Jacobs regularly visits school to motivate learners; he also conducts writing workshops for talented learners. He is also one of the Afrikaans authors who donates his work on a regular basis to the literary archive of the Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French. The UFS can truly be proud of this member of the alumni.

Reading, parenting (he is the father of two gorgeous little girls) and running (he recently completed the Comrades Marathon for the second time) are some of Jaco's favourite things.

Executive Management Award

MARIUS JANSE VAN RENSBURG

Marius Janse van Rensburg obtained his BProc degree at the University of the Free State (UFS) in 1987. He was admitted as attorney on 1 October 1992 and has been practising under the name of Horn & Van Rensburg Attorneys in Bloemfontein for the past 27 years.

Mr Van Rensburg joined the management team of the UFS Rugby Club in 1996 as team manager of one of the junior teams. Since then, he has served in the management structures of the club in various capacities for an uninterrupted period of 23 years, including as vice-chairman from 2000 to 2005. He was elected as chairman in 2006, a position he still holds, making him the longest-serving chairman in the history of the club. He was chairman of the club when the UFS Shimlas won the Varsity Cup in 2015.

He furthermore serves on the following structures, where he ensures that the interests of the UFS Rugby Club are well looked after: the Free State Rugby Union Board for the past 14 years, from 2006 to date; the Varsity Cup Board of Directors from 2009 to date; the Board of Directors of Cheetahs (Pty) Ltd, from 2017 to date.

He also served on the Free State Rugby Union Executive Committee from 2008 to 2011. He acted as Citing Commissioner



Lawyer

QUALIFICATIONS

B Proc (1987)

for the South African Rugby Union (SARU) from 2012 to 2018, as well as for the Guinness Pro 14 competition from 2017 to 2018. Among others, he was Citing Commissioner for the World Rugby Sevens Series in Port Elizabeth in 2014, and for the Beachcomber World Club 10s tournament in Mauritius in 2018.

The fact that Mr Van Rensburg has devoted himself to unreservedly serve the interests of the UFS Rugby Club and the University of the Free State for the past 23 years, undoubtedly makes him a worthy nominee for the Executive Management Award. His inspiring, unwavering leadership – for which he has received no remuneration over the years – has persuaded many rugby players and other individuals alike to join the ranks of the UFS Rugby Club, which has cemented its position as one of the leading amateur rugby clubs in South Africa under his guidance. His contribution to ensure the smooth running of the UFS Rugby Club over such an extended period of time is indeed something to behold, especially in light of the fact that he has done this while running a very busy and successful law firm.

Apart from rugby, Mr Van Rensburg likes to play golf in his free time.

## Executive Management Award

### PROF CORINNA WALSH



Professor: Nutrition and Dietetics (UFS)

#### QUALIFICATIONS

BSc Dietetics (1990)

MSc Dietetics (1992)

PhD (1996)

Professor Corinna Walsh obtained her BSc (1990), MSc (1992), and PhD (1996) degrees in Dietetics at the University of the Free State (UFS). She is currently a full professor in the School of Allied Health Professions Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at the UFS and serves as Chairperson of the Nutrition Society of South Africa (NSSA).

Prof Walsh started her career as a dietitian in 1992, when she was appointed as a community dietitian in the House of Representatives. Between 1993 and 2001, she worked as lecturer and senior lecturer in the School of Tourism, Hospitality and Sport at the Central University of Technology. In 2002, she accepted a position as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at the UFS; she became an Associate Professor in 2008 and was promoted to Professor in 2017.

Throughout her academic career, Prof Walsh has been involved in research relating to nutrition and health epidemiology, which has contributed to a greater understanding of both infectious (HIV/AIDS) and chronic lifestyle diseases in the Free State.

Currently an NRF C3-rated researcher, she has initiated and led large-scale research projects on nutrition and epidemiology, obtaining grant funding in excess of R3 million. She has published widely, both nationally and internationally, authoring or co-authoring 53 peer-reviewed research papers, 4

chapters in books, 30 published conference proceedings, and 1 report for the office of the presidency.

Prof Walsh has mentored numerous master's and PhD students from South Africa and Africa (Ghana, Lesotho, Kenya, Ethiopia, Botswana). She is a well-respected member of the Faculty of Health Sciences, uniting colleagues from various disciplines and professions through her research projects. In addition,

she serves on numerous committees with great wisdom, enthusiasm, and commitment.

As board member of the AIDSMO Trust, she is involved in community-engagement projects for Lebone Land, a care centre for children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. She serves on the editorial boards of the South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition and the open-access research journal, Heliyon. Apart from her involvement in extensive service-learning activities, she is also a member of the ImpENSA project, which was commissioned by the European Union to collaborate on nutrition education globally.

She has received the Nutrition Society Best Young Scientist Award and the Association for Dietetics Community Dietetics Award. She serves on the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences and is a council member of the Nutrition Society of South Africa. Between 2005 and 2010, she served on the Board of the Medical Research Council, gaining valuable experience in health research and research administration.

Prof Walsh is recognised nationally and internationally as an accomplished researcher, scholar, and philanthropic community-oriented member of society. The UFS is privileged to have staff members of this calibre and professionalism who embody the mission and values of the institution

## Kovsie Ambassador Award

### LOUZANNE COETZEE



Athlete

#### QUALIFICATIONS

B.A Integrated and Corporative Marketing Communication (2014)

B.A Honours Integrated and Corporative Marketing Communication (2014)

MA Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (2019)

Louzanne Coetzee was born blind due to a hereditary condition called Leber congenital amaurosis. Her academic qualifications include a BA and BAHons in Integrated and Corporative Marketing Communication, and an MA in Social Cohesion and Reconciliation – all from the University of the Free State (UFS).

In 2014, she became the first visually impaired student to be elected to the UFS Student Representative Council (SRC), with the portfolio Student Accessibility. From 2015 to 2017, she was a research assistant in the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice at the UFS, and in 2016 she also acted as junior lecturer in a computer module for students with visual impairments. From 2017 to 2018, she was Residence Head of Arista Ladies City Residence, and she is currently the Residence Head of Akasia Residence at the UFS.

Whether it is the 5 000 m or the 1 500 m, Coetzee is breaking records in all her races. Fans of Coetzee were elated when she set a new world record in the 5 000 m T11 category at the Nedbank National Championships for the Physically Disabled in March 2016. The Lithuanian athlete Sigita Markeviciene's 16-year record of 20:05.81, set at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, was shattered by Coetzee's stellar performance of 19:17.06. Markeviciene's record was bettered by 48.75 seconds when Coetzee and her guide, Khotatso Mokone, sprinted past the finish line hand in

hand. She became the first totally blind female to clock sub-20 minutes in the 5 000 m.

Two days before breaking the 5 000 m world record, Coetzee set a new African record in the 1 500 m. She lowered the

mark from 5:27:21 to 5:18:44, placing her ninth in the world.

Disappointment followed when she was disqualified at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro because officials deemed her guide, Khotatso Mokone, to have provided illegal assistance.

In 2018, she competed in three events at the Para Athletics event in Berlin, Germany – the 800 m, 1 500 m, and 5 000 m. She was in top form and set a new African record in the T11 800 m race, taking the silver medal behind Mexico's Monica Rodriguez Saavedra. In the 1 500 m she had to settle for a bronze medal, but in the T11 5 000-m event she smashed her own world record by clocking a time of 18:00.34 – 13.97 seconds better than her previous record.

Coetzee has been nominated for several awards. She was named the 2014 Senior Sportswoman of the Year by the Free State Sport Association for the Physically Disabled (FSSAPD). In 2017, she and her guide Khothatso Mokone received a Special Award for Disabled Sport at the KovsieSport Awards. In 2018, she won the Free State Sports Star Award, and recently she was named Sports Star of the Year (period June 2018 to April 2019) by the Free State Sports Association for the Physically Disabled.

Her hobbies include reading, walking, baking, shopping, and cooking.

# Kovsie Ambassador Award

## ANGIE KHUMALO



Broadcaster

### QUALIFICATIONS

BSc (1999)

BSc Honours Botany and Genetics (2000)

Angie Khumalo is a celebrated Johannesburg-based radio broadcaster who obtained a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of the Free State (UFS) in 1999. She subsequently completed a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Botany and Genetics (2000) and went on to register for a master's qualification. While working towards this qualification at the UFS, her passion for radio was unearthed. She began hosting a weekend talk show at Kovsie FM and reading the news for the afternoon drive show. Before long, she was poached by OFM to read the news. During this time, she was working towards completing her master's qualification during the week, while reading news on the weekends. Realising that radio was her real passion, she opted not to complete her master's qualification. She remained at OFM for five years, hosting her own show.

In 2008, Angie joined 5FM, where her strong background in news and current affairs was put into use. She also formed part of the Roger Goode Radio Show weeknights from 19:00 to 22:00. An avid movie buff, she was introduced as 5FM's Zulu Maiden movie reviewer in 2011, offering sneak movie previews and insider scoops. It was so well

received that it grew from a once-a-week segment to a twice-a-week segment in 2012, giving the lowdown on the latest box-office additions on the Rob Forbes Show on Fridays and telling listeners what's hot and what's not on KrazyBoy Weekends with KB. She also became the resident movie reviewer for TeenZone Magazine.

A self-described 'speed freak, adrenaline junkie, and petrolhead', she traversed the country with DJ Fresh and other celebrities in 2011, and again in 2012 as part of the Nelson Mandela Foundation's Bikers for Mandela cross-country charity campaign. 2012 saw her join the 5FM cycling team that participated in the Argus cycle challenge, and hosting Vaya Mzansi alongside celebrated music personality, DJ Cleo. The show documented them travelling the country on motorbikes and exploring hidden gems and the country's tourism offering.

The following year, she joined South Africa's biggest urban radio station, Metro FM, as a sports and news reader. At present, she forms part of the afternoon drive team. She is also a farmer who is fondly known as 'Mother of the Cows' on Metro FM.

# Kovsie Ambassador Award

## KESA MOLOTSANE



Athlete &  
MACAH Foundation  
Ambassador

### QUALIFICATIONS

B.A General Management (2015)

Basic Labour Law certificate (2015)

Advanced Labour Law certificate (2016)

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
certificate (2019)

Kesa Molotsane is a professional athlete who has acquired her BA degree in General Management (2015), as well as certificates in Basic Labour Law, Advanced Labour Law, and Alternative Dispute Resolution at the University of the Free State. She is the only athlete who has won the Spar Ladies Grand Prix in her debut year.

In 2016, she broke the 1 500-m record in the Varsity Athletics event in Stellenbosch. She finished 1st in the 5 000 m at the ASA Night Series in Cape Town and the USSA Championships in Limpopo. During the Southern Regions CUC-SA Games, she won both the 1 500 m and 5 000 m and was 1st in the 10-km event at the South African Cross-Country Championships in George. She was also selected for the World Student Cross-Country Championships in Italy, but the South African team withdrew from the championship.

In 2017, she took part in several events, among others, the ASA Speed series in Durban; the World Cross-Country Championships in Kampala, Uganda; and the World Student Games in Taiwan. She also won the 1 500-m Varsity Athletics event in Pretoria in a record time of 04:26, was 1st in the 10-km Spar Women's Challenge in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Pietermaritzburg, and 1st in the 10-km Free State Cross-Country Championships in Bloemfontein.

Kesa was included in the Athletics South Africa team for the 2018 CAA Cross-Country Championships in Al-

In 2018, Kesa won the GSport4girls Public Choice Award and was recently named the Bloemfontein MyCityRun ambassador, advocating a healthy lifestyle. She represented South Africa at the IAAF World Cross-Country Championships in Aarhus, Denmark in March 2019, where she became the first South African to finish. She was named Kovsie Sportswoman of the Year in 2017. Her contribution to the Kovsie community has been massive – she also volunteered and translated documents from English/Afrikaans into Sotho for the Vrystaat Arts Festival since 2015.

Being the country's most versatile middle-distance athlete – running track, cross-country, and dominating the road-running scene – she has truly become the face of Kovsies. Her commitment to the sport was highlighted both on and off TV screens and the athletic track when she became a proud ambassador for the Mother and Child Academic Hospital (MACAH). Her sporting career and involvement in community projects is well-known; she is indeed a true leader and motivation for everyone.

When she is not a professional athlete, she spends her free time attending sporting events, sleeping, family time, running, as well as community upliftment – with a special focus on girls and young women (hence her involvement in the MACAH Foundation). If that is not alumni material, nothing is.

geria; she also finished as the 1st South African lady in the FNB Cape Town 12 One Run event in May 2018. She won the 10-km Spar Women's Challenge in both Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. At the USSA Championships in Sasolburg, she was placed first in the 5 000 m as well as the 10 000 m.



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