

GRADUATION CEREMONY

QWAQWA CAMPUS

VISION130
Renew and Reimagine
towards 2034



EXCELLENCE

FRIDAY | 4 APRIL 2025 | 14:00



Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Bachelor's degrees

Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Bachelor's degrees, honours degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees



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



PROGRAMME

4 APRIL 2025 | 14:00
QWAQWA CAMPUS

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGREGATION

OFFICIAL WELCOME

MUSICAL ITEM

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF SOUTH AFRICA

DISSOLUTION OF THE CONGREGATION

PLEASE NOTE

List of candidates receiving degrees, diplomas, and certificates:

Degrees, diplomas, and certificates of candidates who are unable to attend the graduation ceremony will be conferred in absentia.

An* next to a name indicates that the degree, diploma, or certificate is awarded with distinction.

By attending the graduation ceremony, you agree that the UFS may use photographs taken by the official photographer in which you appear for marketing purposes.

By attending the graduation ceremony, you agree that the UFS may use video footage taken by the official videographer in which you appear for marketing purposes.

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF SOUTH AFRICA

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika

Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.
Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika -
South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,
Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.

In order to maintain the dignity of the ceremony, you are requested to take note of the following:

- Please stand as the procession enters the hall
- Do not move around during the ceremony in order to take photos
- Please refrain from unacceptable actions such as whistling
- Please put your cellphone on silent so as not to disturb the proceedings
- We strive to conduct the ceremonies in a dignified manner
- Please do not leave the hall before the graduation proceedings have been concluded
- Family and friends who are unable to attend may watch the full graduation ceremonies through our livestream link at <https://livestream.ufs.ac.za>

ABOUT THE UFS



BLOEMFONTEIN, QWAQWA, AND SOUTH CAMPUSES

The University of the Free State (UFS) has a proud history as one of the oldest institutions of higher education in South Africa. It opened its doors in Bloemfontein in 1904 as the Grey University College, with six students in The Humanities. Today it is a multi-campus institution, with two diverse campuses in Bloemfontein and one in Qwaqwa in the scenic Eastern Free State, accommodating more than 39 000 students in its seven faculties (Economic and Management Sciences, Education, Health Sciences, The Humanities, Law, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Theology and Religion), with a significant number of international students and associates, and an ever-widening scope of active involvement in and contribution to its surrounding communities.

For the past 121 years, the UFS has been delivering quality graduates who have made their mark in various sectors. What sets the institution apart is its holistic student support initiatives, enabling it to achieve some of the highest success rates in the country. Delivering students who are in high demand in the global job market remains a top priority. An established network of industry partners and close collaboration with the public and private sectors, as well as a continuous process of transformation and curriculum renewal, dovetail to produce highly employable graduates.

The UFS' research efforts are driven by dedicated scholars, some of whom are international leaders in their fields, with industry and social impact and real-world application.

Through the principle of engaged scholarship, the university responds to societal needs by using its scholarly and professional expertise with an intentional public purpose and benefit.

The UFS is an institution that goes all out to provide its students and staff with an outstanding university experience. Everything the institution does is rooted in its values of excellence, innovation and impact, accountability, care, social justice, and sustainability.

The university aspires to be a research-led, student-centred, and regionally engaged university that contributes to development and social justice through the production of globally competitive graduates and knowledge. Our *Vision 130* is an elaboration of our strategic intent to reposition the university for 2034, when we will commemorate our 130th anniversary.

Inspiring excellence, transforming lives through quality, impact, and care.

UFS Honorary Awards | UFS Honorary Doctorates

1950	GLP Moerdyk – DLitt (h.c.)				A Polson – DPhilMed (h.c.)
1951	NC Havenga – LLD (h.c.)				J du P Scholtz – DPhil (h.c.)
1952	Thos Blok – DEd (h.c.)			1986	S Grové – DMus (h.c.)
	SHS Rubidge – DSc (h.c.)				FP Retief – DMed (h.c.)
1955	CR Swart – LLD (h.c.)				JA Stegmann – DCom (h.c.)
	CA v Niekerk – LLD (h.c.)			1987	WA Joubert – LLD (h.c.)
1958	CPB Brink – LLD (h.c.)				B Kok – DPhil (h.c.)
	CF Visser – DEd (h.c.)				WP Venter – DCom (h.c.)
1959	DB Bosman – DLitt (h.c.)			1988	JJN Cloete – DAdmin (h.c.)
	SP le Roux – DScAgric (h.c.)				FC Fensham – DLitt (h.c.)
	DF Malherbe – DLitt (h.c.)				JW vd Riet – DPhil (h.c.)
	GH v Rooyen – MA (h.c.)			1989	BJ Meyer – DSc (h.c.)
1960	SPE Boshoff – DLitt (h.c.)				N van Uden – PhD (h.c.)
1961	T Boydell – DPhil (h.c.)			1990	MG Corbett – LLD (h.c.)
1962	ES Botes – DEd (h.c.)				JS Rabie – DLitt (h.c.)
	PE Rousseau – DSc (h.c.)			1991	SS Brand – DCom (h.c.)
1963	EH Louw – LLD (h.c.)				JWL de Villiers – DSc (h.c.)
	EN Roberts – DSc (h.c.)				GT Fagan – DArch (h.c.)
	JGF (Kaalkop) vd Merwe – DCom (h.c.)				JH Hofmeyer – PhD (h.c.)
	HF Verwoerd – DLitt et Phil (h.c.)				E v Heerden – DLitt (h.c.)
1966	PSZ Coetzee – DPhilTh (h.c.)			1992	JP Louw – DLitt (h.c.)
	PJ du Toit – DSc (h.c.)				H Olivier – DSc (h.c.)
	MS Louw – DCom (h.c.)			1993	JD Anderson – DMed (h.c.)
1967	SM Naudé – DSc (h.c.)				RR Arndt – DSc (h.c.)
	LC Steyn – LLD (h.c.)				SJ Naudé – LLD (h.c.)
	BJ Vorster – LLD (h.c.)			1994	JJ Human – DPhil (h.c.)
1968	SJ Naudé – DCom (h.c.)				JA Myburgh – DMed (h.c.)
1969	CW (Nellie) Swart – DPhil (h.c.)				JP vd Walt – DSc (h.c.)
	AJJ Wessels – DCom (h.c.)			1995	WA Landman – DEd (h.c.)
1970	GS Nienaber – DLitt (h.c.)				WL Mouton – DPhil (h.c.)
	HO Mönnig – DSc (h.c.)			1996	WDO Marasas – DSc (h.c.)
1971	N Diederichs – DCom (h.c.)				NE Wiehahn – LLD (h.c.)
	RS Verster – DPhil (h.c.)			1997	AP Brink – DLitt (h.c.)
1972	LW Hiemstra – DPhil (h.c.)				B Hurwitz – DPhil (h.c.)
	PJ Meyer – DPhil (h.c.)			1998	FC Müller – DMed (h.c.)
1975	PJ Nienaber – DLitt (h.c.)			1999	FM Claerhout – DPhil (h.c.)
	De la H de Villiers – DScAgric (h.c.)				JJF Hefer – LLD (h.c.)
	GJ Stander – DSc (h.c.)				S Nigam – DSc (h.c.)
1976	AJA Roux – DSc (h.c.)				WL Nkuhlu – DCom (h.c.)
1978	SP Botha – DSc (h.c.)				MA Ramphele – DPhil (h.c.)
	EM van Zinderen Bakker – DSc (h.c.)				HJO van Heerden – LLD (h.c.)
	HB Thom – DEd (h.c.)				FJ van der Merwe – PhD (h.c.)
1979	FCL Bosman – DPhil (h.c.)			2000	MH Daling – DCom (h.c.)
	G Cronjé – DSocSc (h.c.)				TN Liversedge – PhD (h.c.)
	CJF Human – DCom (h.c.)				I Mahomed – LLD (h.c.)
1980	G Boonzaier – DPhil (h.c.)			2001	BP Gilbertson – DCom (h.c.)
1981	PW Botha – DPhil (h.c.)				NR Mandela – LLD (h.c.)
	B Human – DCom (h.c.)				EC Taglauer – DSc (h.c.)
	SG Shuttleworth – DSc (h.c.)			2002	BH Meyer – PhD (h.c.)
1982	BLS Franklin – DPhil (h.c.)				BAK Rider – LLD (h.c.)
	GvN Viljoen – DEd (h.c.)				CF Slabber – PhD (h.c.)
1983	L Luyt – DCom (h.c.)				JM Stetar – DEd (h.c.)
	SF Zaaiman – DPhil (h.c.)			2003	EWA de Corte – DEd (h.c.)
1984	HS Steyn – DSc (h.c.)				HA Serebro – DPhil (h.c.)
	FR Tomlinson – DScAgric (h.c.)				AG Sykes – DSc (h.c.)
	JH vd Berg – DMed (h.c.)			2004	S Badat – DPhil (h.c.)
1985	L Alberts – DSc (h.c.)				R Bringle – DPhil (h.c.)
	GG Cillie – DPhil (h.c.)				J de Wet – DMus (h.c.)
	SPD le Roux – DLitt (h.c.)				CF Fauconnier – DSc (h.c.)

	GJ Gerwel – DPhil (h.c.) WD Jonker – DTh (h.c.) A Krog – DLitt (h.c.) K Mokhele – DPhil (h.c.) CJC Nel (Posthumous) – PhD h.c.) L Quayle – DMus (h.c.) T (Karel) Schoeman – DLitt (h.c.) YK Seedat – DMed (h.c.) MK Seely – DSc (h.c.) C Seerveld – DPhil (h.c.) F van Z Slabbert – DPhil (h.c.) JC Steyn – DLitt (h.c.) PA Verhoef – DTh (h.c.) L van den Heever – LLD (h.c.) HA Wessels – LLD (h.c.)		M Nussbaum – DLitt (h.c.) OW Prozesky – MD (h.c.) FDJ Brand – LLD (h.c.) ZKG Mda – DLitt (h.c.) ML Blum – PhD (h.c.) L Mulvey – DLitt (h.c.) L Brahimi – DPhil (h.c.) JM Samuel – DEd (h.c.) MA Oduyoye – DTh (h.c.) JD Sacks – DEcon (h.c.) RJ Khoza – DEcon (h.c.) TA Manuel – DEcon (h.c.) M du Preez – PhD (h.c.) J Samoff – DPhil (h.c.) F Haffajee – PhD (h.c.)
2005	A du P Heyns – DMed (h.c.) JJF Durand – DPhil (h.c.) JA Groenewald – DSc (h.c.) WH Neuser – DTh (h.c.) M Ramos – PhD (h.c.) SJ Terreblanche – DCom (h.c.)		2017 PH Holloway – DSc (h.c.) M Botha – LLD (h.c.)
2006	T Moss – PhD (h.c.) PV Cox – PhD (h.c.)		2019 BL Fanaroff – DSc (h.c.) J Mofokeng wa Makhetha – DLitt (h.c.) MB Molemela – LLD (h.c.)
2007	BJ (Bannie) Britz – DArch (h.c.) KPD Maphalla – PhD (h.c.)		2021 ZM Yacoob – LLD (h.c.) SM Pityana – DPhil (h.c.) RJ van Niekerk – DLitt (h.c.)
2008	D Ferreira – DSc (h.c.)		2022 WK Byanyima – PhD (h.c.) DM Davis – LLD (h.c.) DE Moseneke – LLD (h.c.)
2009	JC Loock – PhD (h.c.) LTC Harms – LLD (h.c.)		AL Sachs – LLD (h.c.) MJ Wingfield – DSc (h.c.)
2010	P Gordhan – PhD (h.c.) BBS Ngubane – PhD (h.c.) AH Strydom – PhD (h.c.) M Jones – PhD (h.c.)		2023 M Musk – DDiet (h.c.) A Ekwamu – DSc (h.c.) D Pepler – DSc (h.c.) PCJ Vale – PhD (h.c.)
2011	D Tutu – DTh (h.c.) P Fourie – DLitt (h.c.) OG Winfrey – DEd (h.c.) RWM Frater – PhD (h.c.) A Sawyer – DEd (h.c.)		2024 Salim Abdool Karim – PhD (h.c.) Thabo Cecil Makgoba – PhD (h.c.) Murray Leibbrandt – PhD (h.c.) Bineta Diop – PhD (h.c.)
2012	RJ Goldstone – LLD (h.c.) ER v Heerden – DLitt (h.c.)		2025 RMM Zondo – LLD (h.c.) T Falola – LLD (h.c.) J Siwani – PhD (h.c.)

Shields of Honour, Council and Chancellor's Medals

1994	Prof FO Müller (Shield of Honour) RE Schoombie (Shield of Honour)	2008	Ludo Helsen (Shield of Honour)
1995	Prof FO Müller (Chancellor's Medal) RE Schoombie (Chancellor's Medal)	2009	Prof JU Grobbelaar (Council Medal)
1996	Prof S Mittman (Shield of Honour)	2010	Mrs AM Dippenaar (Chancellor's Medal)
1997	Prof M Jansens (Shield of Honour)	2014	Dr H Verster (Chancellor's Medal)
1998	Prof CJC Nel (Chancellor's Medal) Prof C Swanepoel (Chancellor's Medal)	2014	Mr JL Pretorius (Chancellor's Medal)
1999	WJ (Hansie) Cronje (Shield of Honour) Prof David Justice (Shield of Honour)	2016	Mr AD Osler (Chancellor's Medal) Ms M van der Merwe (Chancellor's Medal)
2000	Prof P Rosseel (Shield of Honour) Prof MJ Viljoen (Chancellor's Medal)	2017	Ms JS Isaacs (Chancellor's Medal)
2001	Prof PC Potgieter (Chancellor's Medal)	2019	Mr JF de Villiers (Chancellor's Medal) Ms EM Oosthuizen (Council Medal)
2002	T Moss (Shield of Honour) Prof CD Roode (Chancellor's Medal)	2022	Dr N Pearce (Chancellor's Medal) Mr N Janse van Rensburg (Council Medal)
2003	Prof HC Janse van Rensburg (Council Medal) Prof SA Petersen (Shield of Honour)	2023	Prof MG Lötter (Chancellor's Medal) Prof SC Brown (Council Medal)

MESSAGE FROM VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL: UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Welcome to the graduation ceremony of the University of the Free State (UFS).

Today is indeed a special day. Few occasions hold as much significance as your graduation, both for you and for those who have supported you along the way. Many of you have had to overcome numerous challenges during your journey to get to where you are today. Many of you are the first in your families to reach this significant milestone. You have earned this moment, and you should be extremely proud of your achievement.

Graduands, you have had the honour of studying at a 121-year-old institution. Always acknowledge and recognise the significance of your achievements as you transition from being a University of the Free State (UFS) student to a UFS graduate. I invite you to stay connected to your alma mater as a proud alumnus.



Although the mission of our university has always been to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to make a difference in your field of study, we are also mindful that values are just as important for you to make a difference in your community. The University of the Free State places great emphasis on ensuring that students have an outstanding university experience. In our pursuit of excellence, we are proud that our environment is conducive to intellectual and personal growth. As such, our values of excellence, innovation and impact, accountability, care, social justice, and sustainability are embedded in all activities across the institution.

As you step into the world beyond the University of the Free State, remember that your education is a powerful tool. I urge you to use it to create positive change, to question the status quo, and to pursue your passions with determination. The future may seem uncertain, but it is filled with possibilities waiting for your unique talents and contributions. As you embark on your next adventure, carry with you the lessons you have learned and the courage to forge your own path.

Celebrate your success, cherish the memories, and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. The world is yours to explore, and we cannot wait to see all the amazing things you will do and accomplish.

Congratulations to all our Kopsie graduands. May you have continued success in all your endeavours!

Best wishes

PROF. HESTER C. KLOPPER

**VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE**

Siyanamukela emcimbini wokuthweswa kweziqu waseNyuvesi yase-Free State.

U suku lwanamhlanje lungolukhethekile futhi olubalulekile kithi. Imibalwa imicimbi engaqhathaniswa nalo wokuthweswa iziqu, uma ubheka ohlangothini lwakho nalolo lwalabo ebebekuseka ngesikhathi uzabalaza lolu suku luyingqophamlendo. Iningi lenu lihlangabezana nezingqinamba ezinhlobonhlobo kulolu hambo olujule kangaka. Iningi lenu ningabokuqala ngqa emindenini yenu ukuthi nifinyelele kuleli qophelo lempilo. Le mpumelelo ifike ngokuzikhandla kwenu ngakho kumele niwuthakasele lo mzuzu, futhi niziqhenye ngokuphindiwe ngomvuzo wezithukuthuku zenu.

Nina enizohlomula umvuzo-nibe nethuba eliyinqayizivele lokufunda esikhungweni semfundo ephakeme esineminyaka eyi-121 ubudala. Mihla yonke kumele uhlale ukutusa futhi ukuncoma ukubaluleka kwempumelelo yakho njengoba ususuka esigabeni

sokuba umfundi waseNyuvesi yase-Free State usunyukela esigabeni sokuba isifundiswa sakhona. Nginyanicele ukuthi nihlale nixhumene nozakwenu ebenifunda nabo ngokuthi niziqhenye ukuthi ningabanye bezingqalabutho ezanyathela emagcekeni ale nyuvesi.

Kuyiqiniso elingephikwe ukuthi impokophelo yeNyuvesi yethu kuhlale kungukukupha ulwazi namakhono adingekayo ukwenza ushintsho endimeni yakho yemfundo ephakeme, kodwa angeke sikulibale ukuthi amava nawo abaluleke ngokwedlulele ukuze wenze ushintsho emphakathini wangakini. INyuvesi yase-Free State iqinisekisa ukuthi abafundi baba nomunga ongekohlakale ngokwenzeka emanyuvesi. Emzameni wethu wokugcina ubuyoninco, siyaziqhenya ngokuthi isikhungo sethu singesivulelekile ekutheni umuntu nomuntu akhule ngokwemfundo nangokwempilo jikelele! Ukufakazela lokhu, amava ethu obuyoninco, ukuphucula nokuba neqhaza, ukuzibophezela, ukunakekela, inhlaloni, nokulondoloza abonakala kuzo zonke izimiso nezinhlelo zesikhungo sethu.

Uma kungenzeka uye kwenye indawo yempilo okungesiyo iNyuvesi yase-Free State, ukhumbule ukuthi imfundo yakho iyisikhiye sekhethelo. Ngiyakuncenga ukuthi uyisebenzise ukwenza uguquko olunezithelo, uyisebenzise ukulwisana nezimiso ezibekwe abaphezulu, nokuthi ukwazi ukufezekisa amaphupho akho ngomdlandla. Ikusasa alaziwa, kodwa ekugcineni kwakho konke lihlezi lifumbethe amathuba asuke elinde ukuthi uwamukele ngokwamakhono akho nangalokho okuphonse esivivaneni. Njengoba usuzoqala olunye uhambo lwempilo, hlala njalo ukhumbula izimiso osuzifundile kanye nokugququzeleka okutholile ukuze ucabe indlela yakho ethi 'wena!'

Thokozelani impumelelo yenu, nixoxe ngezamzukwana, niphinde nithakasele amathuba eniwaphathelwe ikusasa. Umhlaba ulindele ukuba niwuthuthukise, ngakho angeke sisakwazi ukulinda ukuthi sinibone nenza futhi niphothula izinto ezinhle.

Sithi halala kubo bonke abazokwethweswa iziqu namhlanje. Sengathi ningaqhakaza ngempumelelo kukho konke enikwenzayo.

Onifisela okuhle

NGU-SOLWAZI HESTER C. KLOPPER

**ONGUSEKELA-SHANSELA APHINDE ABE NGU-THISHANHLOKO
WENYUVESI YASE-FREE STATE**

Re a le amohela moketeng ona wa dikgau le dikapeso tsa Yunivesithi ya Freistata (UFS).

Letsatsi la kajeno efela e le le ikgethileng. Ke diketsahalo tse mmalwa tse nang le bohlokwa jwaloka mokete wa hao wa dikapeso, molemong wa hao esita le bao ba nnileng ba o tshehetsa nakong ena yohle. Ba bangata ba lona ba ile ba lokela ho hlola diphephetso tse ngata nakong ya leeto lena ho tla fihla moo le leng teng kajeno. Ba bangata ba lona le ba pele malapeng a bolona ho fihlella mokolokotwane ona wa bohlokwa. Le sebeditse ka thata ho fihla nakong ena, mme le lokela ho ba motlotlo ka phihlello ena ya lona.

Lona boradikgau, le bile le tlotla ya ho ithuta yunivesithing e nang le dilemo tse 121. Kamehla le amohela le ho ananela bohlokwa ba diphihlello tsa lona ha le fetola maemo a ho ba baithuti ba Yunivesithi ya Freistata (UFS) mme jwale le se le ba boradikgau ba UFS. Ke le kopa ho dula le ikamahanya le mohlodi ona wa lona wa dikgau tsa thuto, le le boradikgau ba motlotlo.

Le hoja sepheo sa yunivesithi ya rona e nnile ya ba ho le hlomella ka tsebo le ka boitsebelo ba mesebetsi e hlokehang bakeng sa ho etsa diphetoho mafapheng a dithuto tsa lona, re ntse re tseba hore makgabane a molemo ho wena ho etsa diphetoho setjhabeng sa heno. Yunivesithi ya Freistata e hatella haholo ho etsa bonnete ba hore baithuti ba na le boiphilelo bo hlwahlwa ka yunivesithi. Mabapi le kgothaleto ya rona ya boipabolo bo hlwahlwa, re motlotlo hore tikoloho ya rona e tshehetsa kgolo ya kelello le mahlale esita le ntshetsopele ya botho. Ka tsela e jwalo, makgabane a rona a boipabolo bo hlwahlwa, boitshimollelo, sekgahla, boikarabello, tlhokomelo, toka ya setjhaba, le tshwarello, di kenyeleditswe mesebetsing yohle ya institjushene kapa setsha sena sa thuto.

Ha e le mona le kena lefatsheng le ka nqane ho meedi ya Yunivesithi ya Freistata, hopolang hore thuto ke sesebediswa se matla. Ke le kopa hore le e sebedise ho sibolla diphetoho tse molemo, ho nahanisisa ka hohle ka maemo a bophelo a hona jwale, esita le ho ntshetsa pele ditabatabelo tsa lona ka boikemisetsa. Bokamoso bo ka bonahala bo sa kgolwehe, empa bo tletse maemo a kgonahalo a emetseng dineo tsa lona tse ikgethileng esita le tsona diabo tsa lona. Ha le tswela pele ka sepheo sa lona se latelang bophelong, hlomellang ka dithuto tseo le ithutileng tsona le tshepo ya ho ipetlela tsela ho ya pele.

Ketekang katleho ya lona, thabelang mehopolo ya mahopotsane, mme le amohela menyetha e tlang. Lefatshe lena ke la lona hore le le sibolle, mme re ke ke ra emisa ho tadima ka tebello dintho tse makatsang tseo le tla di etsa le hona ho di fihlella.

Ditakaletso tsa mahlohonolo ho baithuti ba rona ba Kovie ba amohetseng dikgau. E se eka le ka ba le katleho e tswelapeng pele mererong yohle ya lona ya boiteko!

Madume

MOPROFESA HESTER C. KLOPPER

**MOTLATSI WA MOTJHANSELA LE MOOKAMEDI
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA**

OFFICE-BEARERS



Prof BF Mohale
Professor of Practice (JBS)
CHANCELLOR



Prof HC Kloppe
PhD (UJ)
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND
PRINCIPAL



Mr D Noko
HND Mechanical
Engineering (UJ)
CHAIR OF COUNCIL



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PhD (UWC)
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VICE-CHANCELLOR:
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Prof V Reddy
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DEPUTY VICE-
CHANCELLOR:
RESEARCH AND
INTERNATIONALISATION



Dr M Qhobela
PhD (KSU)
DEPUTY
VICE-CHANCELLOR:
INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE,
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
AND SOCIETAL IMPACT



Mr T Hlase
MPhil (NMU)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
STUDENT AFFAIRS



Ms M Nel
CA(SA) BAccHons (UFS)
CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER



Mr NN Ntsababa
MPA (NMU)
REGISTRAR



Prof P Ngobeni
DTech (TUT)
CAMPUS PRINCIPAL:
QWAQWA CAMPUS



Mpho Maloka
ISRC:
ACTING PRESIDENT
GENERAL

DEANS



Prof P Burger
PhD (UFS)

DEAN:
ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



Prof LC Jita
PhD (MSU)

DEAN:
EDUCATION



Prof GJ van Zyl
PhD (UFS)

DEAN:
HEALTH SCIENCES



Prof MA Masoga
PhD (UFS)

DEAN:
THE HUMANITIES



Prof SD Kamga
LLD (UP)

DEAN:
LAW



Prof P Oberholster
PhD (UP)

DEAN:
NATURAL AND
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



Prof JS Klaasen
DTh (US)

DEAN:
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

QWAQWA CAMPUS SENIOR LEADERSHIP



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DTech (TUT)
CAMPUS PRINCIPAL



Prof CT Tsotetsi
PhD (UFS)
CAMPUS VICE-PRINCIPAL:
ACADEMIC AND
RESEARCH



Mr TI Manchu
MA (UFS)
CAMPUS VICE-PRINCIPAL:
SUPPORT SERVICES



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PhD (UFS)
ASSISTANT DEAN:
ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



Dr S Makhasane
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NATURAL AND
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DR KHETHIWE MTSHALI



GUEST SPEAKER

Dr Khethiwe Mtshali is an NRF Y2-rated researcher and Lecturer in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). She holds a PhD in Science (Zoology) from the North-West University (2022), an MSc in Zoology (cum laude, 2013), BSc Honours in Zoology (cum laude, 2011), and BSc in Zoology (2009) from the University of the Free State (UFS). She has accumulated a number of academic excellence awards, including merit award bursaries from both the UFS and NWU, as well as postgraduate scholarships from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

With more than 15 years of experience in academia, Dr Mtshali began her teaching career as a laboratory assistant at the UFS before joining TUT as a lecturer in 2013, where she was instrumental in teaching Veterinary Parasitology, Animal Anatomy, and Physiology. Her research

expertise spans molecular parasitology, molecular microbiology ecology, and phytomedicine. She has graduated 12 postgraduate students and is currently supervising two PhD and five master's candidates. She has published nine peer-reviewed research articles, with several in the pipeline.

Dr Mtshali has earned numerous accolades, including Best Oral Presentation awards at the International Conference on Veterinary Biology and Microbiology in the Netherlands (2022), the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa (2012), and the Annual Symposium of the National Zoological Garden of South Africa (2010). She has secured a number of funding awards, including the NRF Thuthuka PhD Funding Track. She is affiliated with the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa, Zoological Society of Southern Africa, and she is a Professional Natural Scientist under the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions. Dr Mtshali also serves on various committees, including the TUT Senate, and is a board member of the Society for Postgraduate Development and Advancement. Beyond academia, she actively engages in philanthropic activities.



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Dissertation Title:
DIFFERENTIAL EXPRESSION OF microRNAs IN DROUGHT-STRESSED SORGHUM ROOTS

Supervisor: Prof R Ngara

Co-Supervisor: Dr DZH Swanevelder

LEODI, Tlalane Elizabeth

Dissertation Title: USE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF CANCER AND CANCER RELATED DISEASES IN THE THABO MOFUTSANYANA DISTRICT, EASTERN FREE STATE

Supervisor: Prof AOT Ashafa

MASHAMBA, Tapiwanashe

Dissertation Title:
DEMOGRAPHICS AND RECRUITMENT OF ALIEN WILLOWS IN THE GRASSLAND BIOME OF SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisor: Prof S Steenhuisen

Co-Supervisors: Prof GD Martin and Dr S Payne



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MBELE, Thembelihle Joyce*

Dissertation Title: INVASIVE STATUS OF PAMPAS GRASS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisor: Prof S. Steenhuisen

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
MAJORING IN COMPUTER
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MATUE, Thabo Emmanuel*

Dissertation Title: DEEP LEARNING-BASED TRAFFIC FLOW CONGESTION PREDICTION IN NON-SIGNALISED ROADS FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisor: Dr AA Akinyelu

Co-Supervisor: Dr MB Mase

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
MAJORING IN PHYSICS**

NKOMO, Qiniso*

Dissertation Title: STRUCTURAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF RARE EARTH ACTIVATED (Ba, Sr) ZrO₃ NANOMATERIALS FOR LIGHTING APPLICATION

Supervisor: Dr SJ Motlounge

Co-Supervisor: Dr KG Tshabalala

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
MAJORING IN POLYMER
SCIENCE**

KUMALO, Fisokuhle Innocentia*

Dissertation Title: FABRICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF POLY (BUTYLENE SUCCINATE) (PBS), POLY (ϵ -CAPROLACTONE) (PCL) AND EUCOMIS AUTUMNALIS CELLULOSE BIO-COMPOSITES FOR TISSUE ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS

Supervisor: Dr MA Malimabe

Co-Supervisors: Dr MFT Mosoabisane and Dr TP Gumede

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
MAJORING IN ZOOLOGY**

HLONGWANA, Blessing Moxe

Dissertation Title: USING THE BEHAVIOURAL RESPONSES OF MOSQUITO LARVAE TO ASSESS THE CONDITION OF STANDING WATERBODIES ON COMMERCIAL FARMLANDS IN THE EASTERN FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisor: Prof P Voua Otomo

Co-Supervisor: Dr MM Kamdem

RADEBE, Nonhlahla

Dissertation Title: SURVIVAL, BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE, AND GRAVITAXIS RESPONSE OF CULEX SP. LARVAE (CULICIDAE) AFTER EXPOSURE TO CARBARYL AND PYMETROZINE

Supervisor: Supervisor: Prof P Voua Otomo

Co-Supervisor: Dr J Obame-Nkoghe



DOCTORAL DEGREES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MAJORING IN BOTANY

MOLOI, Sellwane Jeanette

Sellwane Jeanette Moloi was born on 20 June 1991 in Petsana, Reitz, Free State. She matriculated from Mmathabo Senior Secondary School in Qwaqwa in 2007. She obtained a BSc degree in Botany in 2013, a BSc Honours in 2015, and an MSc in 2018, all from the University of the Free State, Qwaqwa campus. She began her career as a Teaching Assistant in 2016 and then a Research Assistant in 2020 all in the Department of Plant Sciences. In 2023, she co-lectured a first-year biology module and is currently an Academic Facilitator in the same department at the Qwaqwa campus.

With her thesis titled: **PHYSIOLOGICAL, BIOCHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR ANALYSES OF THE DROUGHT STRESS RESPONSES OF TWO CONTRASTING WHEAT VARIETIES**, the candidate contributes to the field of plant stress biology, focusing on the drought responses of two contrasting wheat varieties. Plant physiological analyses integrated with diverse "omics" technologies revealed the divergent responses of the two wheat varieties towards drought stress. The drought-tolerant variety accumulated more osmolytes and osmoprotectants, maintained higher tissue hydration status and had a higher antioxidant capacity to preserve cell structure and function under stress. Gel-free leaf proteomic analyses revealed that drought modulates various biological processes in wheat plants, subsequently affecting the synthesis, stability, and functions of diverse biological molecules. Notably, the drought-tolerant wheat variety largely suppressed photosynthesis, possibly as a strategy for averting photosynthesis-derived oxidative stress damage, to maintain cell membrane integrity during stressful conditions. The study also identified protein targets for future functional validation studies under drought.

Supervisor: Prof R Ngara

Co-Supervisor: Prof S Chivasa

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MAJORING IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

NGWENYA, Sipiwé Janet

Sipiwé Janet Ngwenya was born on the 22nd of October 1982 in Harare, Zimbabwe. She completed her O' Levels at Manama High School in 1999 and her A' levels at Gloag High School in 2001. She graduated with a BSc (Honours) Natural Resources Management and Agriculture degree in 2006 from the Midlands State University (MSU) and a Masters in Science Geography degree in 2016 from the University of Pretoria (UP).

Her career started as an Environmental Officer in 2007 as the Environmental Management Agency in Bulawayo and she is currently working as an Environmental Consultant.

With her thesis titled: **MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN A SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: THE CASE OF MALUTI-A-PHOFUNG**, her study contributed to the understanding of socio-ecological systems along the Maloti-Drakensberg Mountains.

A regression analysis revealed significant increases in temperature and rainfall over a period of 120 years in the municipality. Climate hazards experienced by a sample of 383 households in Qwaqwa included extreme weather,



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drought and floods. In response, coping and adaptation strategies were adopted albeit at a low rate. The study revealed low levels of hazard preparation and had no support from the local government in terms of adaptation. The lack of planning, financial capacity, skilled personnel and local policy was highlighted by government officials as the main contributor to low household adaptation. Weak governing institutions and lack of effective ecosystem governance further expose local households to climate change hazards in the region.

Supervisor: Prof G. Mukwada

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MAJORING IN PHYSICS

MOTSEI, Tebogo

Tebogo Motsei was born on July 3, 1995, in Hamafose, Letshalemaduke, Qwa-Qwa, South Africa. She completed her early education at Qwabi Primary and Mam poi High School, matriculating in 2013. She earned a BSc in Physics and Chemistry (2019), an Honours in Physics, and a Master's in Nanoscience (2021) from the University of the Free State. While pursuing her Ph.D., she was awarded the prestigious CV Raman Fellowship, completing her final year at India's Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI) under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

With her thesis titled: **NANOSTRUCTURED ELECTRODE AND ELECTROLYTE FOR LITHIUM-SULFUR BATTERIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH SELF-HEALING Fe₂₄Cr ELECTRODES FOR SODIUM-ION SUPERCAPACITORS/BATTERIES**, the candidate's research advances Sodium-Ion Supercapacitors (Na-ion SCs) and Lithium-Sulfur Batteries (LSBs) to address the global energy crisis. A novel Na-ion SC with self-healing properties was developed, while key LSB challenges-current collector corrosion and polysulfide shuttle effect- were investigated. Nafion-based sodium-ion-selective membranes, particularly Nafion-MgAl₂O₄ (NMA), significantly improved cycling stability and energy efficiency. Corrosion inhibitors like BTFE reduced Al and Cu corrosion by 20%, while NMA membranes enhanced stability by 30%. Fe₂₄Cr electrodes increased capacitance by 15%, improving Na-ion SC efficiency by 10% over 1,000 cycles. XRD, SEM-EDS, EIS, and CV studies validated these advancements. The research proposes a hybrid energy storage system combining Na-ion SCs' high-power density with LSBs' superior energy capacity, offering scalable, cost-effective solutions for grid stabilization and portable electronics, particularly in energy-scarce regions. Future work aims to further optimize materials and reduce fabrication costs for commercial viability.

Supervisor: Prof RO Ocaya

Co-Supervisor: Dr KG Tshabalala

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MAJORING IN ZOOLOGY

MDLULI, Veli Monday

Born in 1996 in Eswatini, Veli Monday Mdluli obtained his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry at University of Eswatini in 2018 and his master's degree in conservation ecology at the same university in 2020. He commenced his doctoral research at University of the Free State in 2020. He has presented his research at several conferences in Eswatini, Namibia and South Africa, including winning the best PhD oral presentation at two conferences. He



has five scientific papers published or in press, as well as three fiction books. He is passionate about nature conservation and education.

With his thesis titled: **QUANTIFYING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ANTHROPOGENIC DISTURBANCE ON BAT COMMUNITIES IN A MONTANE GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEM**, the candidate contributes to scholarship on the impacts of climate change and urbanisation on montane biodiversity. By obtaining over 68,000 acoustic recordings using bat detectors, and by capturing bats at eight sites spanning a range of both elevation (1740 to 3000 m) and disturbance (urban, rangeland and protected areas), the candidate showed that bat diversity was greatest at lower elevation, less extreme climates, and in natural compared with urban environments. Since negative human perceptions threaten bat conservation globally, Mdluli used questionnaires to probe the attitudes of Grade 7 & 8 learners to bats before and after an environmental education programme at four schools in Phuthaditjhaba. While learner perceptions towards bats were initially negative, environmental education was an effective tool in turning these perceptions more positive.

Supervisors: Prof PJ Taylor and Dr E Bredenhand

Co-Supervisors: Prof A Monadjem and Dr A. Rakotoarivelo



CONGRADULATIONS,

Class of 2024, on your graduation! You are now officially alumni of the University of the Free State (UFS) and part of an ever-growing community of excellence. We are proud of your achievements and excited to see what your future holds and to connect with you in the bright future ahead of you.

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