INTERNATIONALISATION ANNUAL REPORT



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





1 3

Editorial | 4

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL NARRATION | 3

SECTION 2: OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS REPORT | 21

Reporting, Strategic Projects, iKudu Project and Virtual Exchanges | 22 International Partnerships, Collaborative Degrees, and Outgoing Mobility | 30

Internationalisation at Home (I@H) | 37
International Scholarships, Marketing and Web Content | 44
International Student Enrolment and Administration | 47
Scholarship of Internationalisation | 49

SECTION 3: FACULTY REPORTS | 55

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences | 56
Faculty of Education | 60
Faculty of Health Sciences | 62
Faculty of The Humanities | 74
Faculty of Law | 104
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences | 110
Faculty of Theology and Religion | 124

SECTION 4: DATA ON INTERNATIONALISATION | 129

GRAPH 1: Registrations by Residency (2021–2023) | 131

GRAPH2: Registrations from Global South | 132

GRAPH3: Registrations from Global North | 133

GRAPH 4: International Student Registrations by Qualification Level | 134

GRAPH 5: International Student Registrations per Faculty | 134

GRAPH 8: International Graduates per Qualification Level | 135

GRAPH 6: International Students per UFS Campus | 135

GRAPH 7: International Graduates per Faculty | 135

GRAPH 9: International Footprint Over 5 Years | 136

GRAPH 10: Postdoctoral Fellows by Country of Residency | 139

GRAPH 11: Collaborating Institutions and Co-authored Publications | 140

GRAPH 12: Type of Collaboration | 141

GRAPH 13: Top 5 Collaborating Institutions' Co-authored Publications | 141

GRAPH 14: Top 5 International Collaborators with UFS | 141





he year 2023 was a year of transition in notable positions relating to internationalisation at the University of the Free State (UFS). It marked the end of the term of office for the previous Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation, Prof Corli Witthuhn, and also the end of term for the previous Director of the Office for International Affairs, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier. Under the leadership of these two colleagues, internationalisation became a notable part of the core business of the UFS, and I want to recognise the impact they had over the years they were in office. On 1 April 2023, the UFS welcomed Prof Vasu Reddy as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation. Celebrated as a distinguished scholar, he brought with him a wealth of experience in the South African higher education sector, his deep knowledge of the field, and his extensive networks - nationally, on the continent, and globally – thus enabling the internationalisation project embedded in the UFS Vision 130 to flourish even more.

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) has supported the comprehensive internationalisation process at the University of the Free State (UFS) throughout the year by implementing the Councilapproved 2023–2028 UFS Internationalisation Strategy. The tenets were based on the successfully implemented 2018–2022 strategy,

with additional focus areas relating to the digitalisation of internationalisation, scholarship of internationalisation, internationalisation in society, and entrepreneurship in the context of internationalisation. The strategy has driven the UFS' targeted drive to reposition the institution towards 2034. Progress made in terms of the strategy is evident in the milestones that have been achieved thus far and are mentioned in this comprehensive report. It has built a solid foundation for the many strides the institution has yet to make in the near future to reach the vision of a university that is research-led, student-centred, and regionally engaged, contributing to development and social justice through the production of globally competitive graduates and knowledge.

What we offer in this report are examples of the level of internationalisation at the UFS, acknowledging that no report can fully capture all internationalisation endeavours at the institution. While the OIA is the enabling office in terms of internationalisation, we would like to recognise all the internationalisation coordinators and champions who provided us with the information and who support the work in faculties and units. We appreciate the efforts of each of the individuals mentioned in the report who contribute to comprehensively internationalise the UFS.

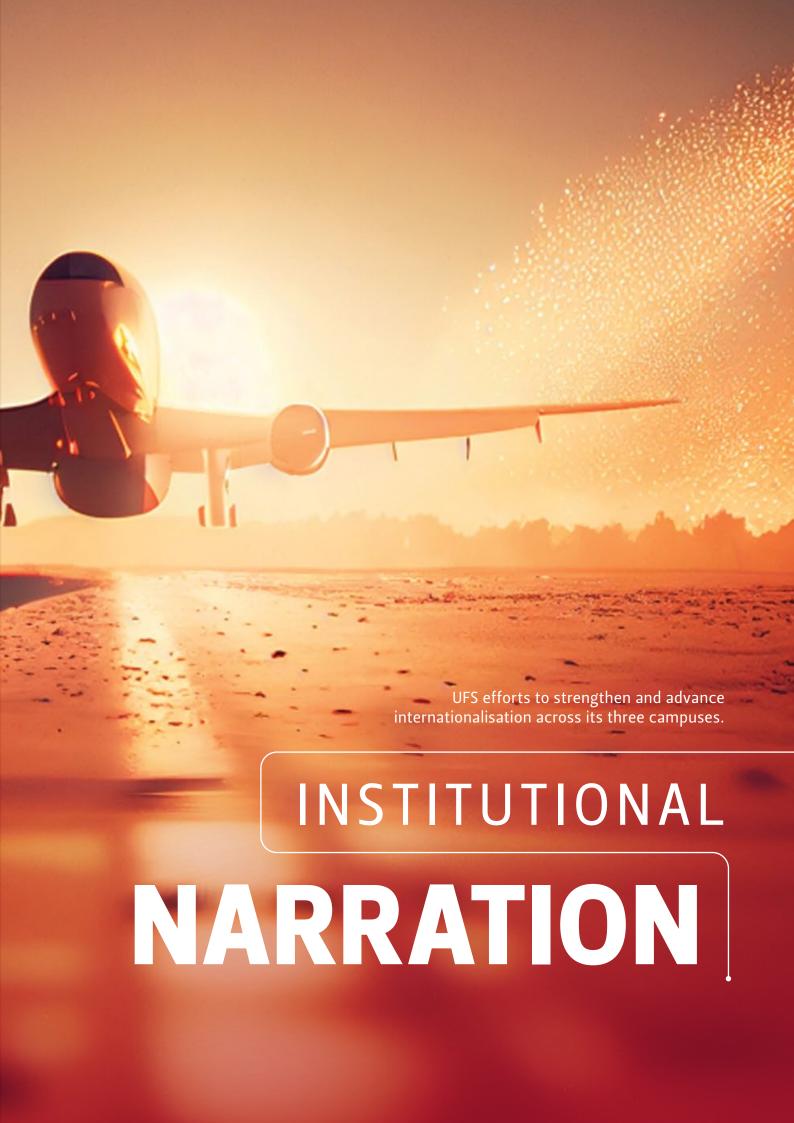
Internationalisation became a notable part of the core business of the UFS, and I want to recognise the impact they had over the years they were in office.

PROF LYNETTE JACOBS

ACTING DIRECTOR: UFS OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS









PROF VASU REDDY APPOINTED AS VICE-RECTOR: RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONALISATION

Prof Vasu Reddy was appointed as Vice–Rector: Research and Internationalisation for a five-year term. His extensive networks – nationally, on the continent, and globally – will contribute greatly to the university's intent for the coming years to be a research-led university that contributes to development and social justice through the production of globally competitive graduates and knowledge.

...to be a research-led university that contributes to development and social justice...

UFS HOSTS THE NATIONAL GLOBAL CHANGE CONFERENCE

The UFS hosted the 5th National Global Change Conference (GCC5) on its Bloemfontein Campus from 30 January to 2 February 2023. The conference, a collaboration between the Department of Science and Innovation (DST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF), served as a platform for experts, policy-makers and leaders worldwide to come together and discuss the most pressing issues related to climate change, environmental degradation, and sustainable development.





UFS GEARED UP TO BE A **LEADING ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION**

The UFS successfully mounted a spectrograph with a polarimeter to the Boyden Observatory 1,5-m telescope that will provide scientists with visual access to both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The upgraded telescope with the spectropolarimeter valued at R1.5 million, will also provide unique opportunities for collaborative research between the Astrophysics Groups at the UFS and researchers from the Appalachian State University (ASU).

UFS HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCEON MATHS. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The UFS hosted the 31st Annual Conference of the Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (SAARMSTE) on its Bloemfontein Campus from 17 to 19 January 2023. The conference theme was:

Intersecting Research, Policy and Practice for a Sustainable Praxis in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education: New possibilities and directions for the post-COVID-19 Pandemic Era.





DEVELOPING GLOBAL CITIZENS: UFS STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD IN AUSTRIA

The UFS and the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences launched a Master's programme in International Finance, which will allow students to obtain two Master's degrees in two years. This exclusive programme, which is a fruit of the collaboration between the Department of Economics and Finance at the UFS and the Department of Management and Tourism at SUAS emanates from more than 15 years of collaboration between **Prof Johan Coetzee** (UFS) and **Prof Christine Mitter** (SUAS). **Frans Benecke** and **Su-Mari Dreyer**, were among the beneficiaries of the programme, spending 2023 studying in Salzburg.

UFS TO INTRODUCE ISRAELI WATER TECH TO QWAQWA

Wastewater treatment remains an ongoing challenge in the Maloti-A-Phofung (MAP) Municipality where the UFS Qwaqwa Campus is based. **Dr Patricks Otomo**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Zoology and Entomology on the Qwaqwa Campus, consolidated a budding collaboration with **Dr Clive Lipchin**, who is the Director of the Centre for Transboundary Water Management at the Arava Institute in Palestine, to introduce transboundary water treatment and management to MAP.



POLICY DIALOGUE ON VIRTUAL SA-DUTCH HIGHER EDUCATION COLLABORATION

The Embassy of the Netherlands visited the UFS with a view to reinforce the existing relations with South Africa, specifically focusing on virtual collaborations and opportunities.



UFS STAFF MEMBER ATTAINS RARE QUALIFICATION IN CARDIAC ARRYTHMIA

Dr Kgomotso Moroka, the Acting Head of Department (HOD) for Cardiology in the Faculty of Health Sciences, graduated with a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Cardiac Arrhythmia Management (DAS-CAM) in June 2023. This distinctive postgraduate programme is offered by Maastricht University in collaboration with the European Heart Rhythm Association and the European Society of Cardiology. Her achievement makes her the sole DAS-CAM graduate in Sub-Saharan Africa.



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR UFS ALUMNA

Well-known actress and UFS alumna **Antoinette Louw** won the 'Best Actress' award at the European International Film Festival for her role as Rachel in the locally produced film, The Fragile King. Louw graduated cum laude from the University of the Free State's Department of Drama in 1996.

UFS UNVEILS **CUTTING-EDGE ELECTRON MICROSCOPY EQUIPMENT**

The Centre for Microscopy in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences) unveiled a sophisticated JEOL High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (HRTEM) during a two-day microscopy conference on 14 and 15 March 2023. The microscope is part of a larger investment into research equipment worth R65 million. The HRTEM microscope can be utilised across disciplines, giving the UFS an advantage in uncovering new solutions and creating national and international interdisciplinary research collaborations.







SASUF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WEEK 2023

The South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) hosted their 2023 Research and Innovation Week at the University of Western Cape from the 27th to the 31st of March 2023. The UFS delegation was led by the Rector, **Prof Francis Petersen**, who attended the Vice–Chancellors engagement, while a team from the Office for International Affairs and senior academics participated in various meetings and workshops. The UFS academics and their partners led three workshops.





MOU SIGNING: INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES IN AFRICA

The UFS welcomed senior members from the International Centre from the Medical Research in Franceville (CIRMF), Gabon to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities. CIRMF is a non-profit medical research centre that was established in 1974. Its primary focus is to diagnose infectious diseases that pose immediate problems in Gabon and the Central African sub-region.

UFS EXPERT ATTENDS WHO GLOBAL SUMMIT

Prof Motlalepula Matsabisa, Director of the UFS Department of Pharmacology and African traditional medicine expert, attended the first World Health Organisation (WHO) Traditional Medicine Global Summit in India in August after being invited to serve as a member of the Summit External Advisory Group for the WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit. Prof Matsabisa is chairperson of the WHO Regional Expert Advisory Committee on Traditional Medicine.

The UFS also exhibited products and services from its Department of Pharmacology, related to traditional medicine research and development.



UFS CHOIR MUSIC REPRESENTED ON THE WORLD STAGE

UFS Choirmaster, **Werner Stander**, member of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), joined choir conductors from all over the world at the 2023 World Symposium on Choral Music, held at the Atatürk Cultural Centre in Istanbul, Turkey from 25 to 30 April 2023. With the theme 'changing horizons', the symposium looked at the current world of choir music and what singing together could look like in the near and distant future.

UFS CO-HOSTS FIRST AFRICAN CONFERENCEON CRIMEAN-CONGO HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER

The UFS in partnership with Sweden's Karolinska Institutet, hosted the first CCHFV Africa Conference, at which experts from 16 countries – including 12 African countries – discussed Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV). **Prof Felicity Burt**, an expert in arbovirology from the UFS's Division of Virology in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), organised the conference in partnership with **Prof Ali Mirazimi** of the Karolinska Institutet, the Public Health Agency of Sweden, and the National Veterinary Institute in Sweden.



CHINESE EMBASSY VISIT STRENGTHENS UFS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH

The African Medicines Innovations and Technologies Development Platform (AMITD) within the Department of Pharmacology at the University of the Free State (UFS) hosted a delegation from the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria, led by the Minister–Counsellor of the People's Republic of China. The aim of the visit was to cement the collaborative relationship between UFS Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS) and the Beijing University of Chinese Medicines (BUCM).





UFS RESEARCHER EXPLORES AFRICAN-LED CLIMATE INITIATIVES IN NATURE ARTICLE

Dr Soumya Ghosh, Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Genetics at the University of the Free State (UFS), is one of eight authors who contributed to an article entitled: 'Funding African–led Climate Initiatives', which appeared in the reputed journal, Nature Climate Change. The article was inspired by the African action at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties 27 (COP27) that took place in November 2022, and illuminated the role of the African continent in mitigating the climate crisis.

UFS STAFF LEADING THE CHARGE WITH WHO INITIATIVES

Prof Champion Nyoni, Senior Researcher in the School of Nursing has been appointed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Academy Standing Advisory Quality Committee – making him the only representative from Africa to serve in this academy. **Prof Motlalepula Matsabisa**,

Head of the African Medicines Innovations and Technologies Development Platform (AMITD) within the Department of Pharmacology, has also been appointed to serve on a WHO initiative – the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine Editorial Board/Evidence Task Force.





The programme aims to strengthen cooperation between institutions of higher education in Sweden and developing countries...

STAFF AND STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF NURSING SPEND TIME IN SWEDEN

Three junior staff members from the School of Nursing as well as two nursing students were afforded the opportunity to experience Sweden and the country's education, healthcare system, life and culture as a result of an exchange programme with the Jönköping University (JU). Linnaeus–Palme is a Swedish exchange

programme, introduced in May 2000 for teachers and students at undergraduate and master's levels of higher education. The programme aims to strengthen cooperation between institutions of higher education in Sweden and developing countries, thereby increasing global contact in the world of higher education.



PROMINENT ALUMNUS AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHER **HOSTS UFS WEBINAR**

Prof Oliver Mutanga, a University of the Free State (UFS) alumnus with a PhD in Development Studies and an experienced researcher focused on matters pertaining to disability, education, equality, and health issues, recently took up the position of Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education at the Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan. Prof Melanie Walker, Director of the SARChI Chair in Higher Education and Human Development (HEHD) at the UFS, invited Prof Mutanga to discuss his own research via an open webinar and to engage with members of her research group.

DR PRINCE SARPONG AWARDED ACCA PRIZE FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Dr Prince Sarpong, Senior Lecturer at the UFS School of Financial Planning Law (SFPL), was honoured with the prestigious Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) prize for Financial Management. The ACCA is a globally recognised professional body for accountants.





ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR UFS MATHEMATICIAN PROF ATANGANA

Prof Abdon Atangana, Professor of Applied Mathematics in the Institute for Groundwater Studies (IGS) at the University of the Free State (UFS), was one of five young scientists who was awarded the first UNESCO– Al Fozan International Prize for the Promotion of Young Scientists in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The ceremony took place in June at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. Each winner received a medal and \$50,000 in prize money.





DR ADELHEID VON MALTITZ'S VISIT TO POLAND

Dr Adelheid Von Maltitz, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts, travelled to initiate collaboration with the Strzemiński Academy of Fine Arts Łódź (the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź), Poland, from October 16 to 29, 2023. This visit was for research purposes and is a part of her preparations for the 2024 Absa L'Atelier prize solo exhibition. The OIA provided administrative support and facilitated a connection with the academy. Following the visit, the Department of Fine Arts department and the OIA led negotiations with the academy for the initiation of a joint Erasmus+ project. Both parties agreed to commence with an Erasmus+ mobility programme, bringing two Strzemiński Academy staff members to the UFS in 2024, with plans for a joint funding application in 2024.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR UFS DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

A research paper by a Senior Lecturer and Medical Specialist in the UFS Department of Nuclear Medicine won the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) International Best Abstract Award for South Africa. The abstract, by **Dr Osayande Evbuomwan**, was about evaluating the efficacy of a new nuclear medicine radiopharmaceutical in the identification of active disease in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.



SA SWEDEN GRANT EXPANDS THE CLASSROOM FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

Prof Corinna Walsh, Professor in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, and her collaborators, were awarded the South Africa – Sweden University Forum (SASUF) Virtual Exchange Grant, which commenced at the beginning of 2023. Prof Walsh is the first academic at the UFS to receive this grant, which will allow her to embark on a virtual exchange programme in nutrition and public health education. SASUF, a project to strengthen collaboration in research and education between South Africa and Sweden, was launched in 2017, and to date has connected more than 3 000 Swedish and South African researchers and students in workshops and seminars.





UFS PUBLISHES DOCUMENT THAT AIDS UNIVERSITIES TO INTERNATIONALISE CURRICULA

The iKudu project, an Erasmus+ Capacity–Building in Higher Education (CBHE) co–funded project, which has among its aims internationalisation and decolonisation dimensions to transform universities' curricula, published a document: 'Considerations for enabling guidelines, strategies, and policies for internationalised curriculum renewal for universities with a focus on the diverse South African contexts.' The aim was to make the ideas and insights it contained available to the broader higher education community, in the hope that they will contribute to further debate on internationalised curriculum renewal processes.

WRITING RETREAT HOSTED BY INTERNATIONAL HEALTHCARE SCHOLAR

Prof Catherine Comiskey, a professor in Healthcare Statistics from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Trinity College Dublin and Academic Director of CHallenge–driven, Accessible, Research–based, Mobile European University (CHARM–EU) – an EU–funded academic programme – held a writing retreat for participants in the Transformation of the Professoriate Mentoring Programme on the 30th of June at the UFS, which also included working with individual members to identify potential European and UK collaborators on various research projects.





UFS STUDENT JOINS FULBRIGHT PROGRAMME

Buhle Hlatshwayo, a master's student in Education on the UFS Qwaqwa Campus, was selected for the 2023 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) programme. The Fulbright Programme is a prestigious scholarship programme that provides opportunities for international educational exchanges. Hlatshwayo taught isiZulu at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, for an academic year.



Eleven UFS staff members travelled to Istanbul, Turkey to spend five days benchmarking the best societal development and valuable insights into global challenges and solutions at higher education practices, as part of the Erasmus+ International Mobility Programme.





UMOJA BUDDY PROGRAMME CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

The Umoja Buddy Programme (UBP) in the Office for International Affairs celebrated the International Day of Friendship – a day proclaimed by the United Nations (UN) for people to celebrate the virtues of friendship and the role it plays in promoting peace across cultures. The UBP's ambassadors and buddies celebrated the day by visiting students and staff members all over campus and handing out treats with messages of friendship attached.

2023 ERNST MACH GRANT RECIPIENT FROM THE UFS

Michael Skosana, a student on the Bloemfontein Campus of the University of the Free State (UFS), was selected as the recipient of the 2023 Ernst Mach Grant scholarship exchange programme at the University of Applied Sciences in Austria. The Ernst Mach Grant is a program aimed at students from non–European universities who wish to spend a semester or two at an Austrian University of applied sciences.



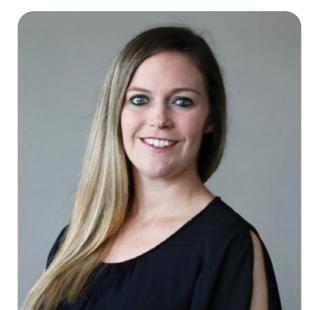


MEDICAL STAFF PART OF GROUNDBREAKING SURGERY

Medical personnel from the UFS and the Universitas Academic Hospital in Bloemfontein became the first in Southern Africa to use Interstitial brachytherapy as a method for treating cervical cancer. The multidisciplinary team consisted of an anaesthetist, clinical oncologists, application specialists, medical physicists, radiation therapy radiographers and professional nurses.

EXCEPTIONAL UFS LECTURER FINISHES SECOND IN GLOBAL ACCOUNTING EXAM

UFS School of Accountancy Lecturer, **Michelle de Lange**, aced the 2023 Chartered Global Management
Accountants Board exam, obtaining second position
in the world at the Chartered Global Management
Accountant (CGMA) Board Examination. The Chartered
Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) is the
world's largest global professional management
accounting body to offer training and qualification in
management accountancy.





UFS REMAINS STEADY

IN THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

The UFS maintained its position between 801 and 1000 in the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The university remains one of nine South African universities ranked in the top 1000 on the 2024 THE list, which was released

on 27 September 2023. It improved its scores in four out of five dimensions compared to the 2023 listing. Of the more than 2 600 institutions that submit data, 1 904 global institutions are reflected in the rankings.



OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS **LAUNCHES #UFSINTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) launched its #UFSInternational marketing campaign on the Bloemfontein Campus. The goal behind the visibility and awareness campaign is rooted in the UFS Internationalisation Strategy and Vision 130, which will highlight and promote the importance of visibility and create a brand identity with which the public can identify. The campaign, which was launched during the last week of September, aims to increase the visibility of internationalisation within a higher education institution and educate the UFS community about its significance using #IAmInternational.

HIGHLIGHTING SOUTH AFRICAN STORYTELLING IN SWEDEN

Nthabiseng Jafta, Publishing Coordinator at the UFS Library and Information Services Department, was part of a team that represented South Africa at the Gothenburg Book Fair in Sweden courtesy of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, implemented by the National Library of South Africa. The focal point of the group's attendance was their engaging storytelling programme, UnderTheBaobabTree, representing the essence of storytelling in African traditions, echoing the rich oral history passed down through generations.





GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT SHEDS LIGHTON CURRICULUM INTERNATIONALISATION

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) hosted a three-day iKudu engagement in Durban, with the aim of building on the expertise developed, deepening the work on the project deliverables, and focusing on sustainability. The IKudu iniative is co-funded through Erasmus+ and brings about a South African concept of Internationalisation of the Curriculum (IoC), which integrates Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) virtual exchanges.

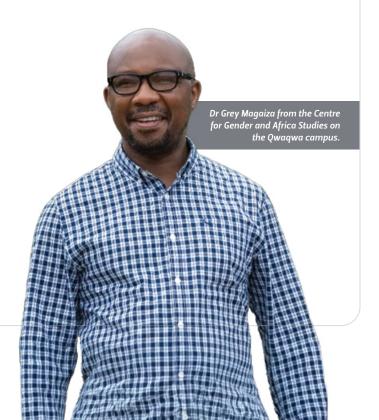


UFS LEADING CONSORTIUM TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

The UFS is leading a consortium of African university partners that aims to address the challenges of climate change and its effect on sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa. This consortium is funded by the European Union (EU) and brings together African universities which have outstanding expertise in the field of measuring and managing greenhouse emissions in the agricultural sector.

MOUNTAIN-TO-MOUNTAIN INITIATIVE BOOSTS UFS GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

A three-year collaboration between the UFS and the Appalachian State University (ASU) in Boone, North Carolina in the United States, was concluded in 2023. The Mountain-to-Mountain Collaboration under the US University Partnership Initiative in South Africa was funded through the US Embassy and Consulates in South Africa. Among the achieved objectives were: Developing an interdisciplinary master's degree in Mountain Studies and another in Community Development on the UFS Qwaqwa Campus; installing four climate monitoring stations in the Maloti-Drakensberg (South Africa), which will form part of a global network of climate change monitoring sites; establishing a formal leadership mentorship programme for younger black women in academia and support services at the UFS.





CHOIR MAKES HISTORIC DEBUT AT FIFTH EUROPEAN CHOIR GAMES

The UFS choir made its historic debut at the 5th European Choir Games, which took place in Norrköping, Sweden from 28 October to 5 November 2023. Other than its eclectic repertoire, what set the UFS choir apart from its competitors was its unique sound and energy, and a visual component that gave versatility to the performance.

...what set the UFS choir apart from its competitors was its unique sound and energy...



SOCIAL WORK STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN GERMANY

The Department of Social Work nominated one **Tiisetso Mokaeane** for a semester-long exchange programme at the Fulda University of Applied Sciences (Fulda), in Germany, as party of the UFS's annual international credit exchange programme. Mokaeane is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Social Work and is poised to gain a deeper understanding of social work in Germany, particularly the intricacies of social welfare systems that are in place.

PROF NENEH APPOINTED VICE-DEAN FOR RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONALISATION

Prof Brownhilder Neneh was appointed as UFS Vice-Dean for Research Engagement and Internationalisation. Prof Neneh is recognised as one of the top 2% most-cited researchers globally, standing at an impressive 9th place in the Stanford-Elsevier Ranking, a highly esteemed metric of a researcher's scientific influence. Her academic journey has been marked by a series of achievements and accolades, including recognition as the Best Senior Researcher in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences in 2019.



UFS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW REPRESENTS SA AT 2023 WORLD WOMEN SCIENTISTS CONFERENCE

Dr Yolandi Schoeman, a postdoctoral fellow in the UFS Centre for Environmental Management (CEM) represented South Africa at the 2023 World Women Scientists Conference in China. She was part of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professionals (SACNASP) delegation at this global event, which was made possible through a collaboration between SACNASP, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), and the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). She was also invited to participate in a panel discussion on science and the future of women in science.

LOUZANNE COETZEE CLAIMS MEDAL AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN PARIS

Louzanne Coetzee, Residence Head at Akasia residence, and coordinator of parasport for KovsieSport, scored a silver medal at the World Para Athletics Championships 2023 in Paris, France. Her medal – in the women's T111500-metre race – was the first for South Africa at the Championships, which took place from 8 to 17 July and were attended by around 1300 competitors from 107 countries.



UFS HOSTS **HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BREAKFAST**

The second Heads of Diplomatic Mission breakfast was hosted by the UFS in collaboration with the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) in Pretoria, South Africa on 26 October 2023. The event served as an opportunity to position the UFS as a preferred partner for international collaboration in higher education, research, and innovation – following the success of the inaugural event in 2022. More than ten diplomatic missions were represented by distinguished foreign mission representatives who shared in the deliberations on this year's theme, namely: "Partnerships and Collaborations."



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCESAT WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

During a special celebratory lunch, UFS Vice– Chancellor and Principal, Prof Francis Petersen, extended his commendation to the six Kovsies who proudly represented South Africa in the global arena of student athletics in Chengdu, China. Contributing to the South African cause, the UFS student–athletes who competed included **Robert Summers** (badminton), **Ester de Kock** (tennis), **Yolandi Stander** and **Wernich van Rensburg** (athletics). **Kesa Molotsane** serving as the athletics team manager and coach, and **Marco Markgraaff**, the swimming head coach, contributed in administrative roles for the national team.





STUDENTS TRIUMPH IN 2023 SDG CHALLENGE

A group of students from different disciplines within the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, claimed victory in the prestigious SDG Challenge South Africa, a global competition that unites students and organisations to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), which encompass critical issues such as climate change and the reduction of global inequalities. Team UFS joined forces with Ivanhoe Mines, a prominent mining company operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo to develop a waste management strategy for the Kamoa–Kakula Copper Complex.



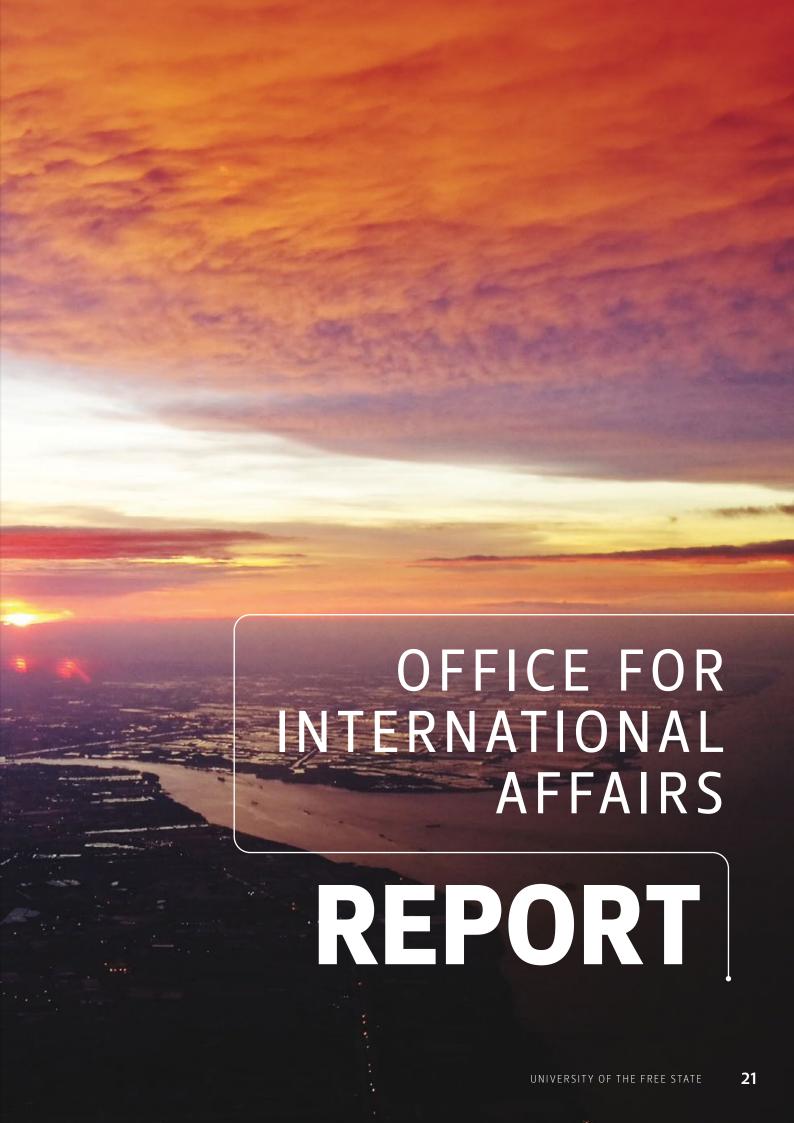




UFS PLAYERS TO REPRESENT SAIN NETBALL TEST

Four former and two current Kovsie Netball stars – Karla Pretorius, Khanyisa Chawane, Boitumelo Mahloko, Lefébre Rademan (former), and Rolene Steurker and Refiloe Nketsa (current Kovsies) – were chosen to represent the South African netball national team in a test series against 2023 Netball World Cup champions, Australia.







The Office for International Affairs (OIA) serves as the first port of call for all international staff and students at the UFS, providing assistance and specialised administrative support. The principal purpose of the OIA is to enable internationalisation at the UFS. It renders strategic advice on internationalisation and supports the international activities of internal UFS stakeholders. It supports international partnerships, research internationalisation, internationalisation at home activities, and student exchanges.

Reporting, Strategic Projects, iKudu Project and Virtual Exchanges

Portfolio leaders:Bonolo Makhalemele and Chevon Slambee





1.1 iKudu Project and Virtual Exchanges

1.1.1 Biannual Professional Development Series

To assist Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) academics with the implementation of their COIL projects for the first semester, Working Group 2 (WG2) hosted its four biannual professional development workshops, each with its own thematic focus area. For this round of professional development, the sessions focused on the Southern African perspective and capacity building for COIL facilitation.

To assist Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) academics with the implementation of their COIL projects for the first semester, Working Group 2 (WG2) hosted its four biannual professional development workshops, each with its own thematic focus area. For this round of professional development, the sessions focused on the Southern African perspective and capacity building for COIL facilitation.

For this round of professional development, the sessions focused on the Southern African perspective and capacity building for COIL facilitation.

Listed below are the details of the workshop series:

- Workshop #1: January 31 FOCUS AREA:
 Demystifying COIL and Decolonisation of the
 curriculum.
 Facilitators: Ntsoaki Malebo (CUT) and Alun de
 Winter (Coventry).
- Workshop #2: February 3 FOCUS AREA: Learning outcomes and Intercultural learning. The workshop focused on the importance of COIL design, looking at objectives and outcomes and linking these to graduate attributes. Facilitators: Tiana van der Merwe (UFS) and Eva Haug (THUAS).
- Workshop #3: February 14- FOCUS AREA: Collaborative tasks and Educational technology. Facilitators: Valarie Baloyi (UNIVEN) and Eva Haug (AUAS)
- Workshop #4: February 17 FOCUS AREA: Reflection and assessment for COIL and Implementation.
 Facilitators: Divinia Jithoo (DUT) and Alun de Winter (Coventry).

These four thematic areas focused on pertinent issues related to COIL project development and implementation. A total of 16 professional development trainings have been completed and conducted thus far.

1.1.2 COIL Foundation Course

The project conducted its second COIL foundation course on the 24th of January 2023, a joint initiative between Working Groups 1 and 2. The course was slightly redesigned and focused more on sharing examples of COIL in practice and highlighted the importance of intercultural learning opportunities within the COIL pedagogy. The course was developed to bridge the gap in the current workshop offering in terms of informing academics about COIL, matching, and starting COIL design. The COIL foundation course is aimed at strengthening the connection between IoC and the importance of developing COIL, and

provides the necessary context to strengthen COIL understanding, COIL design elements and implementation, as well as strengthening COIL coordination at local institutions. The South African facilitators who co-presented workshops this year, included Lynette Jacobs (UFS), Valeria Baloyi (UNIVEN), and Chevon Slambee (UFS). Attendees included several UFS teaching and learning staff members, working group members, academics responsible for COIL projects, and staff responsible for curriculum renewal. Overall, 85 participants were in attendance, which illustrated a 52,9% increase from last year's attendance.

1.1.3 UFS Curriculum Internationalisation Project

In order to increase COIL uptake and support academics to develop COIL projects, the UFS launched its Curriculum Internationalisation Project (CIP) project. The CIP is central to the UFS COIL hub, which will support all forms of virtual engagement. To test the COIL landscape at the UFS, the CIP will be piloted within the Faculties of The Humanities and Economic and Management Sciences. In a significant step towards the implementation of the CIP at the University of the Free State (UFS), a pivotal planning meeting with faculty deans, representatives of the OIA, members of CTL, together with select curriculum developers and instructional designers from integral stakeholders to the CIP, was convened on 20 January 2023. The meeting, attended by key stakeholders and experts, set the stage for a comprehensive road map to guide the university's endeavours in various crucial domains. During this seminal gathering, a comprehensive discussion ensued, resulting in the identification of eight focal areas that would serve as the bedrock to the successful execution of the CIP at the UFS. These focal areas, which were meticulously deliberated upon, were instrumental in shaping

the subsequent course of action.

They are as follows:

- Policy development
- Substantive content of CIP
- Substantive content of COIL
- COIL support
- Research
- Funding
- Decisions

With these seven focus areas established, subsequent meetings will be dedicated to each focal area, providing a platform to delve deeper into their respective domains. These meetings will serve as forums to track progress and report on the strides made towards the successful implementation of the CIP at the UFS. The first planning meeting on 20 January 2023 marked a pivotal moment in the journey towards implementing the CIP at the UFS. Through the identification of these crucial focus areas, the university demonstrates its commitment to fostering a comprehensive and strategic approach to higher education, aligning itself with contemporary global standards.

1.1.4 Curriculum Internationalisation Project Workshop

The OIA conducted a Curriculum Internationalisation workshop (CIP) which took place on 12 June 2023 in the OIA boardroom. The purpose of the meeting was to align the CIP with internationalisation, focus on theoretical framework, look at existing COIL support structures which could be leveraged from the iKudu project and outline CIP priorities, outcomes, strategies and tactics especially for the two pilot faculties namely Humanities and EMS. Another key aim was to establish synergy between the OIA and CTL in rolling out the larger mandate of the Curriculum internationalisation at the UFS.

1.1.5 Publications

Although the iKudu project is largely focused on capacity building, research opportunities have been promoted, which have resulted in the publications below:

- 5 journal papers
- 16 blog entries
- iKudu being promoted at 16 webinars and 18 conferences (local and international)

1.1.6 Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project updates

One of the main objectives of the iKudu project was to complete 55 COIL virtual exchange projects between the North and the South. Given the available evidence, the project is on an upward trajectory to

completing the target. Moreover, the project requires a total of 5 250 students to have participated in a COIL virtual exchange at the end of the project and steady progress is being made in this regard.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	To date (2020 – 2023)	UFS contribution
Number of completed COIL projects	5	15	16	18	54	8 COIL projects
Number of academics involved	10	30	35	36	111	4 UFS academics 5 iKudu partner academics
Number of students involved	257	824	968	947	2996	276

1.1.7 1st Curriculum Internationalisation Project (CIP) Workshop

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) hosted its first CIP workshop on the 12th of June 2023. The workshop hosted many potential stakeholders that will be key in the CIP, namely the Centre for Teaching and Learning, whilst the Faculty for Economic Management Sciences and the Faculty for Humanities will be the first pilot subjects.

The workshop began with the OIA Director, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier, highlighting the key focus areas of the CIP, the main being to develop the project on the lens of using Sustainable Development Goals and give it a focus on Africa. He also emphasised the critical role of the council–approved 2023–2028 Internationalisation Strategy in aiding the realisation of Internationalisation at the UFS. This strategy entrenches the model of Comprehensive Internationalisation, meaning that it aims to infuse international and intercultural dimensions into all aspects of the University.

The key focus areas for internationalisation were highlighted as:

- Reiterate the point of Curriculum Internationalisation (which is one of the elements of the Curriculum renewal process of CTL)
- Prepare students as local, regional, and global citizens with relevant skills.

- Focus on virtual forms of collaboration including COIL
- Curriculum Internationalisation Project (draws from the EU-funded iKudu project that aimed to develop a contextualised South African concept of Internationalisation of the Curriculum (IoC) and enable the process through virtual exchange.)

Other presentations were made by Prof Lynette Jacobs and colleagues from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, and from the Faculty of Humanities.

As the workshop concluded, the committee decided on the following points as a prescriptive way forward:

- Internationalisation should be prioritised, specifically focusing on regional countries and also strengthening current collaborations (Faculties and OIA).
- Stakeholders must develop ways to identify and support drivers of collaboration (FIC, OIA).
- A tool for self-evaluation in relation to curriculum internationalisation will be developed and piloted in specific departments (Prof Lynette Jacobs).
- Where possible, co-curricular programmes should also be offered virtually (many are already virtual, such as virtual open days,

- study fairs, information sessions: explore COIL possibilities) (I@H portfolio and Immigration portfolio).
- International students should be expected to participate in the structured programmes offered by the OIA (I@H).
- Tools will be provided to faculties and departments to evaluate the level of internationalisation of the curriculum (Research portfolio of the OIA).
- Mixed methods approach.

https://www.ufs.ac.za/ikudu/resources/documentation

This project borrows insights from the high-level curriculum renewal guidelines which were developed during the iKudu Leadership Summit held in Italy, Siena, from 7 to 9 June 2022. This includes the use of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) as an instrument to internationalise the curriculum (IoC). Moreover, these guidelines were distributed at the 2023 International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) Conference and have been published on the iKudu Website.

1.1.8 Three-day reflective engagement

The iKudu Project hosted a three–day reflective engagement from the 12th to the 14th of September 2023, in Durban, South Africa where all 10 partner universities were represented. It also extended a special invitation to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), which was represented by Idah Makukule. In total, the event welcomed 70 participants, creating a diverse and dynamic forum for collaboration and reflection. The engagement focused on strengthening curriculum internationalisation and COIL practices within the iKudu consortium and laid the foundation for future initiatives and networks.

Objectives of the Engagement:

• Understanding Stakeholder Perspectives: One of the objectives of the engagement was to obtain a comprehensive understanding of stakeholder perspectives regarding the processes of curriculum internationalisation and transformation at iKudu partner universities. This insight would enrich the ongoing study conducted by Working Group 1 (WG 1) on the interdependent processes of curriculum internationalisation and transformation within the consortium.

- Insight into COIL Dynamics: Another crucial focus was to gain insight into stakeholder perspectives on the dynamics of COIL virtual exchange conducted within the scope of the iKudu project. Participants engaged in conversations around evaluation, taking an appreciative lens approach.
- Strategies and Approaches: The engagement served as a platform for conceptualising strategies and approaches to support iKudu partner universities in enabling COIL and curriculum internationalisation support beyond the iKudu project's scope. This discussion extended to operational aspects such as working on learning support with educational developers and how to professionalise COIL.
- COIL Handbook: Participants worked on further developing the COIL handbook as part of the ongoing collaboration with Working Group 2 (WG 2).
- Shared Vision for a COIL Hub: An important outcome of the engagement was the development of a shared vision for a sustained COIL hub emerging from the iKudu consortium. Participants discussed the possibility and its role in promoting internationalisation and collaboration among partner universities.
- Vision for a Future iKudu Network: Additionally, the engagement encouraged participants to envision a possible future iKudu network, discussing the potential impact on higher education and international collaboration.





1.2 University Staff Doctoral Programme (USDP): Visit from Dr Scott Heysell, Director at the University of Virginia Centre for Global Health Equity

From the 28th to the 30th of June 2023, the University of the Free State hosted Dr Scott Heysell, who is the newly appointed Director at the University of Virginia's Centre for Global Health Equity (CGHE). Engagements that took place included internal stakeholders from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the Faculty for Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and the School of Nursing. These engagements led to the identification of an appetite to develop mutually beneficial capacity programmes in 2024 such as the USDP, beyond the scope of medical sciences in order to grow the US–SA collaborative network in institutions of higher learning.

1.3 South Africa–Sweden University Forum (SASUF) Research and Innovation Week 2023

The South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) hosted its 2023 Research and Innovation Week at the University of Western Cape from the 27th to the 31st of March 2023. The week was divided into two parts, commencing with 35 satellite events hosted in 12 of South Africa's cities on the 27th of March, where 783 participants from both Sweden

and South Africa were registered for and attended virtually. These events were open to the rest of the world, including those from non–SASUF member universities. The events during the week saw more than 500 delegates from both South African and Sweden member universities in attendance, at the University of the Western Cape.

The rest of the week comprised two components-a student summit and a leadership summit where 50 workshops were held concurrently. These workshops alluded to the role of the forum in strengthening and reinforcing the relationships between South Africa and Sweden in research, innovation, and other scholarly approaches to finding solutions to the posed United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In these summits, various aspects of the forum were discussed such as funding opportunities for collaborative research, and how to encourage students in various universities to form part of the forum in their capacity as students, researchers, and/or staff. With the project being anticipated to conclude in 2024, many attendees of the research week shared their sentiments on how this internationalisation project had made an impact on various universities and proposed that it be sustained beyond the year 2024.

The student board, also known as the SASUF Student Network, also held a series of interactions with various attendees including vice-chancellors and academics. The student board sessions served to discuss and propose the furtherment of the student board's role in the overall forum. These interactions spoke to the student board structures, student representation at member universities, and proposing mechanisms to drive SASUF and SASUF initiatives at the student level. The UFS SASUF Student Representative, Mr Simba Matema formed part of one of the dialogue sessions with the vice-chancellors. >>







This discussion focused on the connection between science and society. Mr Matema's points alluded to community engagement and the role that science has played at the UFS and the Free State community, as far as empowerment and transfer of scientific knowledge in the community is concerned.

"As a research-led institution, we are proud to be a part of international initiatives and collaborations that uphold our institution's internationalisation goals and vision to have a scholarly approach to comprehensive internationalisation", concluded Simba Matema.

1.4 UFS SASUF Student Representative elected as SASUF Student Network National Coordinator

Simba Matema, Research Assistant in the Office for International Affairs, was recently elected as one of three National Coordinators for the South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) Student Network in May 2023. He is serving his second term as the SASUF student representative for the University of the Free State (UFS).

SASUF 2030 is a transformative project uniting 40 universities from across Sweden and South Africa, bringing together leading researchers, teachers, students, university leaders, and other stakeholders. The project aims to develop joint solutions to the challenges posed by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its Agenda 2030.

What the new student leadership structure entails?

Mr Matema says after various engagements at the SASUF Research and Innovation Week, which took place in Cape Town in March 2023, the SASUF Student Network proposed the establishment of a new student leadership structure, as the previous Student Network executive committee's term was approaching its end. The SASUF student network held elections for two Student Network National Coordinators, and both the elected are currently based in Bloemfontein. The other National Coordinator is from the Central University of Technology.

I would like to ensure a stable and functional student structure that will exist beyond my service to the institution and the student network as a whole, amongst other initiatives. Matema says his new position includes working to strengthen the voice of students within SASUF, and the relationship between students from both countries. It will also be his task to ensure that student representatives understand what SASUF and the Student Network are, and their role within both these structures.

"The position is one that has broadened my horizon and reach as far as student leadership is concerned. It further allows the opportunities to engage with representatives from other member universities across the two countries, resulting in collaborations to find better approaches to respond to the UN SDGs," he says.

He assumed his new role on 1 June 2023, and says he was motivated to take on a second term as a student representative because he felt there is a need to continue the establishing of a SASUF student structure. "I would like to ensure a stable and functional student structure that will exist beyond my service to the institution and the student network as a whole, amongst other initiatives."



1.5 South Africa Sweden University Forum (University of Venda student structure induction)

The University of Venda (Univen) hosted an Internationalisation week from the 27th to the 29th of September 2023, with which Mr Simba Matema, the UFS student representative and National Coordinator of the SASUF Student Network was invited to partake in. The internationalisation week commenced with the induction and establishment of an institutional committee for the SASUF Student Network at the University of Venda. Furthermore, the attendees explored potential correlations between UNISU (University of Venda International Student Union), an international student structure that is political in nature; and SASUF Univen; a non-political structure with aims of promoting research and knowledge sharing.

The programme featured former student leaders of structures such as the Student Representative Council and other internal student structures, giving words of inspiration and support for the newly established student network.

Mr Matema rendered a brief overview of SASUF and the SASUF student network respectively, reflecting on his experience as a student representative for the UFS, and a national coordinator. In his conclusionary remarks, Mr Matema pointed out the importance of finding synergy in all institutional structures and structures of student representation, to avoid redundancy.





International Partnerships, Collaborative Degrees, and Outgoing Mobility

Portfolio leader: Kagiso Ngake



Partnerships and collaborations



2.1 Appalachian State University Visit: Vice-Chancellor for International Education

From 22 to 31 January 2023, Prof Jesse
Lutabingwa, Associate Vice-Chancellor for
International Education and Development
Professor of Public Administration at the
Appalachian State University (AppState
University), visited the UFS Qwaqwa Campus
(22–27 January) and the Bloemfontein Campus
(27–31 January), with the aim of strengthening and
expanding the existing partnership, as well as the
continuing implementation of the Mountain-toMountain Project. Engagements were held with
various stakeholders to explore the expansion
of the partnership in the fields of public health,
fermentation science, education, and library
departments.

2.2 Hosting the Embassy of The Netherlands

On 7 and 8 February 2023, the Office for International Affairs hosted a delegation from the Embassy of the Netherlands. The aim of the visit was to reinforce the existing relations between South Africa and the Netherlands, specifically focusing on agriculture, virtual collaborations, and opportunities with the UFS. The delegation, which was led by Berto Bosscha, Education and Science Attaché at the Netherlands embassy, accompanied by Agricultural Adviser to the South African Netherlands Embassy – Mr Makhaliha Likalimba – reflected on the strategic direction of internationalisation and the cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, science, and innovation. The delegation hosted dialogues on the Qwaqwa and Bloemfontein campuses on 7 and 8 February, respectively, with the engagements focusing on understanding the Dutch perspective on concepts for future virtual collaboration, the SA Policy content, and the diverse contexts of higher education in South Africa.





2.3 Visit by International Centre for Medical Research in Franceville (CIRMF)

From 14 to 17 March 2023, the Office for International Affairs hosted a delegation from the International Centre for Medical Research in Franceville (CIRMF). The delegation was led by the General Director of CIRMF, Prof Jean Bernard Lekana–Douki. They met with various departments in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Conversations led to seeking mutually beneficial opportunities for collaboration, including the training of CIRMF staff at the UFS in nutrition studies. Other outcomes of these interactions were around joint supervision of postgraduate students, joint research, and co-publications.

During the visit, the delegation met with the Vice–Chancellor and Principal of the UFS, Prof Francis Peterson, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to formalise the partnership between the two institutions. This engagement was followed by a concrete road map that established the implementation plan from the engagements.

2.4 Visit by Stakeholders from the Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences

On 23 May 2023, two delegates from Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences, Prof Uwe Friedrich Hetter, the Vice-President of Studies and International Relations, and Dr Marcus Hornung, the Head of Studies and International Relations, visited the UFS with the aim of strengthening the newly developed Memorandum of Understanding. Engagements were held with various stakeholders to explore expanding the partnership in fields such as Sociology, Economics and Management Sciences, and Computer Sciences.



2.5 Strengthening Collaborations with Namibia University of Science and Technology

On 2 August 2023, Professor Francis Petersen visited the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) where he held a bilateral meeting with Dr. Erold Naomab, the Vice–Chancellor of NUST. During their meeting, the two discussed plans to establish teams in order to explore collaboration on the NUST Rietfontein Campus project, joint research on cactus plants, biofuel, and animal sciences. In order to enhance their work in agricultural sciences, both VCs agreed that NUST (with support from UFS) should join the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of universities in Africa focused on research and capacity building in agriculture.

Following their productive discussion, Professor Francis met with the Faculty Deans at NUST to further discuss potential collaborative initiatives and brainstorm new ideas that align with both institutions' shared objectives. Subsequently, the two Vice-Chancellors promptly signed a Memorandum of Understanding renewal encompassing various aspects of joint research, student and staff exchange programs, as well as collaborative academic endeavors. This agreement is intended to enhance the longstanding partnership between the two esteemed institutions.

2.6 The 33rd Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition

Kagiso Ngake, Portfolio Leader for the Partnership Portfolio in the OIA, attended the 33rd Annual European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference and Exhibition in Rotterdam, the Netherlands from the 26th to the 29th of September 2023. Furthermore, Kagiso held meetings with partner universities to enhance existing collaborations while exploring new avenues for **collaboration**. This attendance aligns with plans to identify potential strategic partners and expand the UFS collaborative degree programme across Europe.



2.7 **2**nd Heads of Diplomatic Mission Breakfast

Prof Francis Petersen, the Vice-Chancellor, and Principal of the University of the Free State (UFS), in collaboration with the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), hosted the 2nd Heads of Diplomatic Mission Breakfast in Pretoria on the 26th of October 2023. Themed "Partnership and Collaborations," the event underscores UFS's commitment to forging active alliances with the diplomatic community. At the 2023 event, UFS highlighted pioneering research collaborations in two fields: mountain research and pharmacology. Prof Motlalepula Matsabisa, Director of Pharmacology, presented groundbreaking work on medical cannabis, indigenous knowledge, and African medicine, in collaboration with international partners. He emphasised the importance of collaboration for new insights and policy contributions.

In terms of mountain studies, the UFS is a coordinator of a R 5-million SA-UK USDP with the University of the Highlands and Islands in the United Kingdom (UK) as well as the University of Venda, focusing on Afro-Montane Research. Dr Grey Magaiza, the project coordinator, says the project seeks to view mountains as 'social-ecological' entities. It is one of two UFS-led USDP projects, the other with the University of Virginia and the University of Venda, focusing on Global Health. Both projects aim to boost PhD-holding academics in South African universities.

During the event, Professor Francis Petersen emphasised the significance of reciprocal collaboration and knowledge co-creation in his keynote address. The 2023 event drew attendance from 10 foreign missions, further solidifying the university's dedication to fostering global partnerships.



2.8 UFS Strengthens South-South Relations with Brazil

The Office for International Affairs successfully coordinated engagements between the UFS Faculty of Education and the University of São Paulo, Brazil on the 29th of November 2023. These discussions resulted in both parties agreeing to implement the first student mobility programme in early 2024, with each institution hosting two students from their respective sides. During the meetings, colleagues on both sides agreed to promptly develop a plan for staff mobility, providing academic staff on both sides an opportunity to strengthen existing collaborations. This partnership with the University of São Paulo is led by Prof Thuthukile Jita, Dean of the Education Faculty UFS, who already had existing collaboration with the institution.

In September, the OIA team had a similar engagement with the Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), which launched the first exchange programme between the two institutions.

2.9 Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) Forum 2023

Kagiso Ngake, Portfolio Leader for the Partnership Portfolio in the OIA, attended a series of virtual workshops at the Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) Forum 2023 University Alliances and Networks on November 28, December 5, and December 12, 2023. Titled "Cooperation and Collaboration for the Development of Higher Education Institutions," the forum serves as a platform for DIES alumni to meet counterparts and experts from different fields of higher education management, such as internationalisation, university governance, quality assurance, and faculty management. Participants shared views and perspectives on current developments in HEIs, and exchange practices, and discussed pressing issues in the dynamic field of higher education management from an inter-regional perspective.

Staff and Student Mobility

2.10 Incoming Erasmus+ Staff Mobility: Fulda University of Applied Sciences

From 13 to 16 March 2023, the Office for International Affairs hosted two staff members from the International Office at Fulda University of Applied Sciences (Hochschule Fulda), Germany. Miss Carola Ossenkopp-Wetzig, the Overseas Exchange Coordinator, and Ms María Campuzano, Deputy Head and an Erasmus Coordinator of the International Office, visited the University of the Free State with the main objective of benchmarking and exploring new areas of common interest and wavs to strengthen the existing collaborations between the two institutions. Their visit formed part of the Erasmus+ International Mobility programme between the UFS and Fulda, which enables the mobility of students and staff funded through the Erasmus+ mobility programme.



... the forum serves
as a platform for
DIES alumni to meet
counterparts and experts
from different fields
of higher education
management...

2.11 Erasmus+ Exchanges: University of Debrecen

The OIA and the Department of Plant Sciences hosted Dr Brigitta Tóth, an associate professor at the Institute of Food Science, University of Debrecen in Hungary from the 10th to the 20th of May 2023. She visited the UFS to build on the existing partnership she has with the Department of Plant Sciences. During her visit, Dr Tóth facilitated lectures/classes on various subjects, including crop physiology, crop management and

protection, plant physiology, and environmental sciences. She also discussed opportunities for cosupervising Masters and PhD students.

On May 12th, she hosted an information session targeting Masters and PhD students to consider a joint programme with Debrecen. Additionally, she presented her PhD paper titled "Plant Physiological Examination of Industrial Byproducts and Wastes".



2.12 Erasmus+ Staff Mobility: Alliance 4 Universities

Following a successful grant application and support provided by the OIA, in June 2023 the Alliance 4 Universities awarded two UFS staff members mobility grants to participate in the Erasmus International Credit Mobility programme (Action KA171) with universities in Spain. Dr Ntombizandile Gcelu, a senior lecturer in the Department of Education Management Policy and Comparative Education, was awarded a teaching grant to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), where she will be teaching a

course on Leadership (Education Management and Leadership) and Comparative Education to UAB Masters students. Mrs Perle Du Plessis, Deputy Director of Risk Management, was awarded a training grant to visit the UAB Department of Area of Economy, where she will spend time not only benchmarking South African risk management experiences against a European perspective but also transferring her experiences from a South African and African perspective.



2.13 Regional Erasmus+ Week for Sub-Saharan Africa Event

Prof Lynette Jacobs, acting Director of OIA, and Kagiso Ngake, Portfolio Leader for the Partnership Portfolio in the OIA, attended a hybrid Regional Erasmus+ Week for Sub-Saharan Africa, regional cluster and contact-making meeting held in Johannesburg at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) from the 11th to the 12th of October 2023. The meeting served as a platform for Erasmus+ project beneficiaries and stakeholders to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and foster networking opportunities. The goal of this initiative is to enhance transnational collaboration among national focal points in the region, strengthen their ability to assist stakeholders and beneficiaries and promote greater involvement of Sub-Saharan African countries in Erasmus+ projects.

2.14 Erasmus+ World Wide Webinar 2023

Kagiso Ngake, Portfolio Leader for the Partnership Portfolio in the OIA, attended a two-day Erasmus+ Worldwide Webinar/Seminar from the 18th to the 19th of October 2023. The seminar focused on Erasmus+ opportunities for exchange and cooperation, available to organisations and individuals globally.

2.15 Erasmus: UFS - BAU Intercountry International Staff Week

The University of the Free State, in collaboration with Bahçeşehir University (BAU) in Turkey, organised a joint Erasmus International Staff Week from July 17th to 21st, 2023. The event took place simultaneously in Bloemfontein and Istanbul during that week.

Throughout the week, staff members from both institutions engaged in an exchange program. BAU welcomed 11 academic and support staff members from UFS, while UFS hosted 8 senior staff members from BAU. Participants took part in various benchmarking activities and established professional relationships in fields such as Psychology, Architecture, Economics and Finance, and Student Affairs departments. The Intercountry International Staff Week is a part of the partnership and mobility programme between the two institutions, which is funded through the Erasmus KA107 programme.







Internationalisation at Home (I@H)

Portfolio leaders:

Bulelwa Moikwatlhai and Bhekumusa Zikhali





3.1 Incoming Exchanges

The University of the Free State (UFS) enrolled five incoming exchange students for the first semester of 2023 from Sweden, Germany, France, and Japan.

The students from the Jönköping University School of Health and Welfare in Sweden were hosted by the University of the Free State School of Nursing, while the student from the University of Bremen in Germany was hosted by the UFS Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, and the student from Japan was hosted by the UFS Faculty of Health Science for four weeks. The student from Sciences PO Bordeaux in France had been enrolled since the second semester of 2022 and was due to complete her programme at the end of the first semester in 2023 with the UFS Faculty of The Humanities.

The students were added to a WhatsApp group created to ensure easier access to information and staff/resources at the UFS Office for International Affairs whenever they needed assistance. The students were also allocated ambassadors from the Umoja Buddy Programme (UBP) to help them navigate the Bloemfontein Campus to make their on-campus experience easier and more convenient.

3.2 Meet and Greet: New International Students First Semester Event

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) held its first 'Meet and Greet' event for incoming international students on 17 February 2023. The purpose of the event was to introduce firstentering international students to the university community to share valuable information as part of their orientation, and to foster a sense of belonging among students. The event aimed to provide useful information in a fun and memorable manner. Activities such as icebreakers to kick off the day sparked a competitive spirit and enjoyment among the students. Guest speakers included the Director of the OIA, a colleague from the Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Medical Services, Protection Services, the coordinator of the Umoja Buddy Programme, the Student Representative Council (SRC) member for the International Student Council, Housing and Residence Affairs, and members of the OIA.

All speakers tailored their messages to be relevant to the attendees. >>



The University of the Free State (UFS) enrolled five incoming exchange students for the first semester of 2023...

The success of the event was evident in the interactive question-and-answer session after the main proceedings, ensuring that all students had their queries comprehensively answered. The OIA and student leadership supported the event, indicating the importance of engaging and welcoming first-entering international students to the university community. The video recording of

the event will be uploaded to the OIA departmental webpage and the university's YouTube channel, ensuring that students who missed the event can still access the information shared.

Overall, the event was an immense success, and the OIA looks forward to hosting more events that provide students with a fun and informative introduction to university life.



3.3 International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21 February by the United Nations. The Office for International Affairs (OIA) celebrated the day with a social media campaign on the UFS Bloemfontein Campus, where students were photographed with a customised selfie frame promoting International Mother Language Day. This year's theme was 'Multilingual Education: A Necessity for Transforming Education'.

The OIA produced an edutainment video, highlighting the significance of multilingualism in Africa, showcasing the richness of African languages, and promoting multilingual education, which is vital to transforming education worldwide, as it breaks down communication barriers, fosters cross-cultural understanding, and promotes social cohesion. The video will be uploaded to the university's website and YouTube channel to spread awareness and encourage educators, policy makers, and individuals to take steps in promoting multilingual education in their communities.



3.4 Umoja Buddy Programme (UBP) launch

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) launched its flagship integration programme, the Umoja Buddy Programme, for the year 2023 on 10 March. This is an annual event hosted for the participants of the programme, giving them the opportunity to meet staff members from the UFS Office for International Affairs and staff from other key academic and support departments. This is to ensure a smooth and easy working relationships between the three mentioned legs, which makes the programme successful. The programme has seen an increase in the number of students showing interest in becoming UBP ambassadors.

Welcome to Mzansi: taking it back to the 80s', the programme commenced with opening remarks from the UFS Director of the Office for International Affairs, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier. His remarks pointed out how exhilarating it was to see the programme grow from what it was when it was launched in 2018 (previously known as The Wingman programme, conceptualised by Bulelwa Moikwatlhai). He further mentioned that international students should take an interest in the Umoja Buddy Programme as a platform to build lifelong friendships, beyond being members of the University of the Free State student community. In his closing remarks, the Director welcomed all attendees and extended the office's appreciation for the participants' involvement and interest in joining the programme. He also reiterated the support of the UFS Office for International Affairs staff to international students to ensure that their transition to South Africa and the University of the Free State goes as smoothly as possible. Other speakers, including Lekiti Rantsane, coordinator of the programme, gave a brief history of how and why the Umoja Buddy Programme started, and what its main goals were.

The event continued with performances from the Department of Arts and Culture, the Lilongwe group that performed beautiful pieces of drama, dance, as well as singing that took place in South Africa in the 80s. Furthermore, Lisakanya Hesewu and Fumane Koma, who were the masters of ceremony for the event and returning ambassadors in the programme, facilitated interactive activities that included all present. The ambassadors had the chance to get together and get to know their buddies while sharing South African history, dance moves, and cuisine.











3.5 Umoja Buddy Programme Africa Day Dialogue

The Umoja Buddy Programme (UBP) successfully hosted a dialogue session titled *Finding common ground: exploring knowledge in and from Africa* on 19 May 2023. The primary objective of the session was to foster information sharing, discussion, and engagement regarding the diverse types of knowledge that are present in Africa. The event aimed to highlight the importance of appreciating and promoting this knowledge, ensuring its accessibility for future generations.

Participants from different cultures and backgrounds actively contributed their perspectives, allowing a rich exchange of ideas and experiences. The dialogue sought to uncover the common ground and shared values between these diverse viewpoints.

Overall, the dialogue session successfully promoted an inclusive and open-minded approach to knowledge sharing. It demonstrated the value of recognising and preserving Africa's diverse knowledge systems and encouraged participants to actively engage with these perspectives in their respective fields and communities.

3.6 The Amazing Race

The Internationalisation at Home (I@H) portfolio, in collaboration with the Student Representative Council (SRC) member: International Students, hosted an event titled 'The Amazing Race' on 25 May 2023. The primary goal of this event was to promote awareness and appreciation of international cultures and countries while facilitating the integration of international students into the university community. Additionally, the event aimed to encourage knowledge sharing and the establishment of relationships between international and local students at the UFS. 'The Amazing Race' incorporated a series of puzzles and problems that participants had to solve to obtain clues leading to the next country in the race. To promote integration, participants were required to form groups consisting of five to ten members, with at least one international student in each group. This setup fostered cooperation and collaboration between international and local students, facilitating the exchange of ideas and experiences. As an incentive, study materials in the form of exam packs were awarded as prizes to the winning teams.





3.7 The UFS Africa Day Commemoration Dialogue

The Office for International Affairs organised a dialogue session on 26 May 2023 to promote and appreciate knowledge in and around Africa. The session focused on exploring the significance and value of African indigenous knowledge, emphasising the role of Africans as creators and co-creators of knowledge, and highlighting the importance of African knowledge on the international stage. The speakers comprised a diverse panel of experts, including members of management, academics, researchers, and students. It was hoped that the outcomes of this dialogue would contribute to advancing the recognition, preservation, and utilisation of African knowledge for the benefit of local communities and the global society at large.





...aimed at discovering aspects of educational history that would shape and sustain the preservation of African indigenous knowledge.

3.8 The Meal in A Jar 2023

As part of the Internationalisation at Home (IaH) portfolio's annual community engagement project, 'Meal in a Jar', the portfolio conducted a project on 31 May 2023 aimed at discovering aspects of educational history that would shape and sustain the preservation of African indigenous knowledge. The project team travelled to Phuthaditjhaba, also known as Qwaqwa, and engaged with royal families and chiefdoms in the region. Through collaboration with the royal families and the community, the team conducted video interviews with community members delegated by the leaders of the royal families. These interviews aimed to capture and document the African indigenous knowledge related to educational history received from the interviewees. The recording of these interviews would aid in the preservation of valuable knowledge for future generations.

3.9 Virtual Exchange: Staff Capacity Development

The UFS I@H portfolio hosted four virtual exchange engagements which ran throughout 2023. The interactive staff capacity development engagements between the University of the Free State, Appalachian State University, University of Zululand, and the University of Venda aims to strengthen the existing partnership between the universities while promoting peer-topeer intercultural learning and enhancing the intercultural and international learning of all colleagues working on internationalisation at home at the four respective universities. The project mirrors the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) approach to facilitate interaction between staff members from the four institutions. Using technology enabled us to bridge geographic distances and provide participants a venue for productive cross-cultural interactions. This approach was chosen because it aligns with modern educational principles, emphasising inclusiveness, and internationally relevant education.



 $Representatives \ from \ partner \ institutions \ in \ attendance \ of \ virtual \ engagements \ described as \ from \ partner \ institutions \ in \ attendance \ of \ virtual \ engagements \ described as \ from \ partner \ institutions \ in \ attendance \ of \ virtual \ engagements \ described as \ from \ partner \ institutions \ in \ attendance \ of \ virtual \ engagements \ described as \ from \ partner \ institutions \ in \ attendance \ of \ virtual \ engagements \ described \$

3.10 Incoming Exchanges

As part of the OIA integration programme known as the Umoja Buddy Programme (UBP), these students have been paired with ambassadors who are local UFS students to enable a smooth transition into the UFS community, Bloemfontein, and South Africa as a whole. The UFS hosts exchange students to promote internationalisation and alow students to study abroad. The Office for International Affairs (OIA) welcomed its 13 exchange students for the second semester which was also the largest number of incoming exchange students received post-COVID-19. The students came from the UFS' many international partners, including the University of Applied Sciences Kufstein in Tyrol in Austria, Sciences PO Bordeaux in France, the University of Bremen in Germany, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Radboud University, and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

The students arrived in July 2023 and were registered in the UFS' faculties of The Humanities, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and Economic and Management Sciences. The OIA hosted a 'Meet and Greet' event for the exchange students on 20 July 2023. The event collaborated with several stakeholders, including Protection Services, Information Communication and Technology (ICT), Medical aid service providers, the Student Representative Council (SRC), and the department of Housing and Residence Affairs (HRA). As part of the OIA integration programme known as the Umoja Buddy Programme (UBP), these students have been paired with ambassadors who are local UFS students to enable a smooth transition into the UFS community, Bloemfontein, and South Africa as a whole. The UFS hosts exchange students to promote internationalisation and allow students to study abroad.















3.11 The UMOJA BUDDY PROGRAMME (UBP) International Friendship Day commemoration

The Office for International Affairs' Umoja Buddy Programme celebrated International Friendship Day on 28 July 2023. It is a day proclaimed by the United Nations (UN), celebrated annually on 30 July. As part of the celebration, participants from various countries within the programme visited students and staff, distributing treats accompanied by friendship messages. The aim was to brighten someone's day, gain insight into diverse perceptions of friendship, and motivate individuals to connect with friends, convey gratitude, and share kind gestures. The occasion enabled people to contemplate the importance of friendship and how it can profoundly facilitate mutual understanding and inclusiveness. Additionally, the UBP initiated a social media drive to inspire global citizens to observe International Friendship Day. Through uplifting stories, videos, and communications, the initiative aimed to disseminate the notion of friendship and solidarity transcending geographical boundaries.

The commemoration of International Friendship Day by the Umoja Buddy Programme vividly showcased the programme's dedication to nurturing international friendships and advancing cross-cultural comprehension. The programme strongly believes that such interactions can dismantle preconceived notions, amplify cultural sensitivity, and cultivate unity and inclusiveness.

3.12 The UMOJA BUDDY PROGRAMME (UBP) Speed Culturing

In commemoration of Heritage Month, the Office for International Affairs hosted a speed culturing event on 2 September, which helped to showcase the power of diversity, fostering cross-cultural understanding and cooperation through the universal language of games. This event was attended by Umoja Buddy Programme participants and coordinators from the office. One of the primary reasons for the event's success was the diverse participation of Umoja Buddy members



from various cultural backgrounds, creating a rich tapestry of cultures and perspectives. This diversity added depth to the event, encouraging meaningful interactions and exchanges among attendees. A few games were played, consisting of memory games to remember the culture or country of another and questionnaires pertaining to how each individual was raised and the differences in how they were raised. This allowed the attendees to learn about various cultures' customs, traditions, and history. These immersive experiences helped to bridge gaps in understanding and fostered a deeper appreciation for each other's backgrounds and how inclusivity is of great importance towards the growth of our institution and vision. Moreover, the initiative broke down barriers and promoted dialogue among participants, helping them build connections and friendships.

3.13 International Cultural Diversity Festival (ICDF)

To celebrate Heritage Month, the University of the Free State's Office for International Affairs hosted its annual International Cultural Diversity Festival outside the Centenary Complex on the Bloemfontein Campus on 22 September 2023 from 12:00 to 20:00.

The 2023 International Cultural Diversity Festival (ICDF) was themed 'Internationalising Institutional Culture' and aimed to bring recognition, appreciation, and celebration of diverse cultures to the university. Opening the event was an hourlong dialogue facilitated by the Deputy Vice–Chancellor: Institutional Change and Strategic Partnerships, Dr Molapo Qhobela, with four student representatives sharing their thoughts on institutional culture, diversity, inclusion, and Vision 130's policies and strategies. The panel representation comprised former SRC President Luvuyo Jacobs, incoming SRC: Arts and Culture – Zama Zulu, Residence Prime Sibabalo Tokwe, and final–year Law student Pule Mmula.

The programme included a cultural fashion show led by campus residences, which showcased different cultural attires, followed by a stage play called Mhudi, curated by the Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, and lastly, artistic performances by the students, curated by the Student Affairs Arts and Culture office. This year's instalment of the festival included a Culture Market, with various food and drink stalls representing different cultural cuisines.



International Scholarships, Marketing and Web Content

Portfolio leader: Mbali Moiketsi



4.1 Scholarships

4.1.1 Campus France

On 24 April 2023, Campus France visited the UFS to present opportunities to all students. Additionally, students were able to book individual sessions with Campus France to get more information on the scholarship.





4.1.2 OIA hosts the Public Affairs Officer from the US Consulate

The University of the Free State's Office for International Affairs hosted a visit from the Public Affairs Officer, Mr Jeff Landeson, and American Spaces Director, Mr Vusi Kaunda from the US Consulate on 5 May 2023. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen ties between the UFS and the US consulate as well as to expand relations and support from the consulate. Moreover, the visit served to discuss ways in which the partnership between the two entities can be strengthened to ensure its long-term sustainability. The US consulate is the home to several opportunities available for South African students and staff. This is inclusive of the Fulbright Visiting Scholar programme and the Fulbright Student Foreign programme.

4.1.3 Campus France webinar

Campus France hosted a webinar week between the 26th and 30th of June 2023 to advertise available opportunities from French universities for South African students. The week-long series was filled with informative sessions for aspiring applicants.



4.1.4 Study Abroad Scholarship Fair in partnership with DHET (Bloemfontein and QwaQwa Campus)

The International Scholarships function of this portfolio aims to market scholarship opportunities and various funding agencies to students and staff. These opportunities are for individuals who would like to study abroad. Additionally, we curate events aimed at connecting students with international partners.

Summary of events:

- Study Abroad Scholarship Fair in partnership with DHET:
 Bloemfontein campus (16 October 2023)
- Study Abroad Scholarship Fair in partnership with DHET:
 Qwaqwa campus (18 October 2023)



4.2 Digital Marketing and Web Content

4.2.1 Kovsie Connect Virtual Experience Platform

On 12 May 2023 the Student Recruitment Services in collaboration with the Office for International Affairs launched the Kovsie Connect Virtual Experience. The Kovsie Connect Virtual Experience was a joint project aimed at recruiting prospective students who would like to be part of the Kovsie community and giving the modern-day prospective student an experience of what the University of the Free State (UFS) has to offer.

The Kovsie Connect Virtual Experience is thus an interactive online platform that allows prospective students to engage and learn more about the UFS from the comfort of their own homes. It is tailor–made for local and international prospective students with the aim of providing an overview of academic offerings, facilities, and student life through a series of online documents, pre-recorded videos, and virtual tours. Additionally, the virtual format allows for easy accessibility and convenience, as potential students can attend the event from anywhere in the world without the need for travel. This experience aims to provide students with the information they need to make an informed decision in ultimately choosing the UFS.



Unlike the usual virtual tours that have been previously launched, this virtual tour can be said to be more advanced as it consists of an animated character called Lenny who will navigate through the entire tour with end-users to ensure that they learn more about the university and familiarise themselves with what takes place at the UFS.





4.2.2 Office for International Affairs (OIA) Marketing Campaign

The marketing function of this portfolio conducted the Office for International Affairs campaign which aimed at creating awareness and visibility around the services that are provided at the office. The campaign was centred around #UFSInternational and #IamInternational which introduced the concept of how we are all global citizens either by association or by means of being foreign nationals within the UFS community.

The campaign was successfully launched in September 2023 on the Bloemfontein campus, followed by another activation on the Qwaqwa campus on 19 October 2023.



International Student Enrolment and Administration

Portfolio leaders: Matladi Tsoeu and Jeanne Niemann







5.1 International Student Enrolment

5.1.1 Benchmarking

The Office for International Affairs' portfolio for International Student Administration staff engaged in a benchmarking exercise with a number of higher education institutions such as the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) as well as external stakeholders such as Universities South Africa (USAf) forum. This benchmarking took place from the 7th to the 12th of May 2023, with the main objective being to gather information and data that would enable the portfolio to illuminate areas for the continuous growth and improvement of student enrolment administration processes.

5.1.2 Momentum Health Visit

On the 24th of May 2023, the International Students Administration and Immigration portfolio had a visit from Momentum Medical Scheme for the first time post-COVID-19. There were two Momentum consultants, namely Nikita Balram and Rikki Erasmus who were warmly welcomed by the OIA Director, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier and the Immigration team.

Instead of having an information session, the consultants had one-on-one interactions with students who use the Momentum Medical aid. Students were asked to RSVP before the consultations and 34 students were in attendance. Virtual appointments were arranged for QwaQwa students.

The purpose of having face-to-face engagements was for the consultants to identify ground-root challenges that international students encounter with medical aid. Students were advised on

using network doctors, downloading the Momentum app, using rewards, etc. One of the recommendations from students to momentum was looking into paying for psychological challenges, given the mental health problems that students encounter.

The recommendation was well received by Momentum who further advised students to make use of the free psychological session they offer virtually. All in all, this was a successful engagement that resulted in students getting their medical aid cards and encouraged them to make use of the virtual card.





5.1.3 Visit from USAF (Universities South Africa)

The Office for International Affairs invited the Regulations and Training officers from USAf for a training and workshop session on the 21st of June 2023. This engagement was pivotal to the betterment of processes for the assessment and evaluation of international results.

The regulations training and workshop was aimed at the respective admissions officers who are tasked with the assessment of results from international examining bodies. An invitation was extended to the relevant internal stakeholders. Student Academic Services (SAS) and the EMS faculty were in attendance. The evaluation of international results for the purpose of exemption is seminal to the admission process and the subsequent enrolment of international students. The over-arching aim of the workshop was not only to equip staff with the required competencies in the execution of their admissions but also to ensure that relvant staff keep abreast of new developments relating to the matriculation board regulations.

5.2 International Student Administration

5.2.1 Higher Education Users Group (HEUG) Conference

The Higher Education Users Group (HEUG) Southern African region hosted a conference at Wits University, from 7–8 September 2023. Various universities including the UFS who are members of HEUG joined in on the sessions. Additionally, some sessions focused on student information systems.

The Office for International Affairs was represented by Letlela Tshabalala, Matladi Tsoeu and Jeanne Niemann.

The conference was the perfect opportunity to learn, network, and share best practices with colleagues from other institutions throughout Southern Africa.



This engagement was pivotal to the betterment of processes for the assessment and evaluation of international results.

Scholarship of Internationalisation





6.1 Visiting scholar to The Hague University of Applied Sciences and the Danish

Prof Lynette Jacobs was invited as a visiting scholar to the Centre of Expertise for Global and Inclusive Learning at The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS), Netherlands from in May 2023. She also visited the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University which is based in Copenhagen, Denmark to conceptualise a grant application with colleagues from various parts of the world.





6.2 25th Annual International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) Conference 2023

The Office for International Affairs sent a delegation to the 25th IEASA Annual Conference 2023 in Durban which ran from 22 to 25 August 2023. The conference brought together internationalisation leaders, experts, academics, researchers, professional practitioners, educators, students, innovators, organisations as well as individuals interested in internationalisation in higher education to share thoughts, research findings, lived experiences, and good practices. Among other attendees, were the student medical aid schemes that the UFS works with such Momentum.

6.3 Research Publications

6.3.1 Perspectives in Education

Perspectives in Education (PiE) is a peer-reviewed, fully open-access journal published quarterly under the custodianship of the Office for International Affairs. Its focus is on contemporary educational issues across disciplines and

levels of education and seeks to stimulate debate on these topics. While research on both practical and theoretical aspects of education is accepted, the journal has a strong focus on the current debates around epistemology, methodology and ethics. >> It plays a role in the important dialogue and intellectual exchange on education with respect to schools, colleges, non-governmental organisations, universities, and universities of technology internationally.

The first issue of *Perspectives in Education* published in 2023, Volume 41 Number 1, was a special edition titled *Adaptable*, *resilient and future–centric higher education during COVID–19 (https://doi.org/10.38140/pie.v41i1)*. In their editorial, the guest editors, Prof Elizabeth Archer

(University of the Western Cape) and Mr Taabo Mugume (UFS and South Africa Ubuntu Higher Education Research Centre, Uganda), highlighted the significant transformations and challenges the academic world had to navigate during the COVID-19 pandemic to rapidly adopt new ways of teaching, learning, and conducting research. The collection of articles in this edition provide valuable insights into the challenges students and educators face and the strategies and solutions developed to address these challenges.

6.3.2 Scholarship of Internationalisation

6.3.2.1 Examples of articles and book chapters

Prof Lynette Jacobs, together with one of the office's international research fellows, Eva Haug from Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences contributed to a book chapter on the design of collaborative online internationalised learning to a publication titled 'Internationalisation in Higher Education: Responding to New Opportunities and Challenges Ten Years of Research' by the Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation. The book was edited by Fiona Hunter, Ravichandran Ammigan, Hans de Wit and Jeanine Gregersen-Hermans.

https://libri.educatt.online/books/CHEI/ebook-CHEI.pdf

Frans Kruger an OIA research fellow from Nottingham University and various international scholars published on engaging and developing community in digital spaces from the perspective of the Editorial Development Group in Educational Philosophy and Theory,

https://doi.org/10.1080/00131857.2022.2041412.

Lize-Mari Mitchell, an OIA research fellow at Tilburg University in the Netherlands published a paper, entitled 'Intercultural Competence: Higher Education Internationalisation at the Crossroads of Neoliberal, Cultural and Religious Social Imaginaries in the journal Religions',

https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14060801.





6.3.2.1.2 Virtual Exchange Project

Prof Lynette Jacobs, together with Barbara Howard from Appalachian State University and Natalia Ilyashenko from Novgorod State University in Russia reported on their virtual exchange project in the March edition of Perspectives in Education, https://doi.org/10.38140/pie.v41i1.6319.

6.4 2023 Internationalisation Colloquium Power Dynamics of International Knowledge Generation: 2023 UFS Colloquium

The University of the Free State (UFS) Office for International Affairs hosted the 2023 Internationalisation of Higher Education Colloquium between the 18th and 20th of September, aiming to catalyse the rethinking process surrounding the power dynamics inherent in knowledge production within the international higher education space (https://www.ufs.ac.za/docs/librariesprovider43/international-affairs/power-dynamics-of-international-knowledge-generation.pdf).

The internationalisation of the higher education community has not sufficiently engaged with the dynamics of knowledge production. For instance, the 2014 Nelson Mandela Bay Global Dialogue Declaration on the Future of Internationalisation of Higher Education augmented innovative thinking around programmes, curricula, and mobility, without emphasising knowledge production (https://www.afric.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Nelson-Mandela-Bay-Declaration-2014_New.pdf).

Addressing Concerns and Emerging Discourses

Scholars, including Hagenmeier (2021) and Jacobs, Kruger and Madiope (2022), have raised concerns about the inequalities and complexities impacting knowledge production. Inequalities and complexities impact knowledge production, and various discourses are emerging in different geopolitical spaces (Jacobs and Mitchel, 2021).

The colloquium proposed themes and subthemes as foundational building blocks to foster epistemic diversity. Discussions encompassed the dynamics of the internationalisation discourse, spaces influencing these discussions, methodologies for knowledge production, fostering epistemic diversity, decolonising knowledge generation, linguistic diversity in research, axiological considerations, providing pluriform perspectives in the curriculum, synergies between curriculum and research, and the scholarship of internationalisation.

Exploring Themes in Depth

Under the theme of "International Publishing," discussions delved into the dynamics, consequences, rules, accessibility, costs, and indexing processes of publishing. The "Collaborating" theme explored diversification of international partnerships, co-authorship, rethinking power dynamics in collaborations—particularly with the Global North—and the influence of funding models on knowledge production. The "21st Century" theme delved into emerging ethical research considerations, and ethical internationalisation in the contemporary era.

A Catalyst for Rethinking

The 2023 Internationalisation Colloquium, conducted in a hybrid format, served as a catalyst for initiating a rethinking process regarding the power dynamics of international knowledge creation. Scholars and internationalisation professionals from UFS and global partners engaged in short presentations that stimulated discussions.

Prof Vasu Reddy welcomed attendees, stressing the importance of having strategic conversations around internationalisation, based on scientific data sets. Prof Matt Wittenstein's keynote presentation challenged conventional thinking with "(Re)Positioning Higher Education Knowledge Production from a Third Space Perspective in Turbulent Times." (https://udayton.edu/directory/ education/eda/witenstein_matthew.php). Dr Munya Mushonga provided critical thoughts on ontological and epistemological diversity and challenged the attendees to consider: "What is the relationship between knowledge and identity?", while Prof Pearl Sithole offered insights into what ethical internationalisation means, highlighting what she called "the subtleties of knowledge sourcing", something that is not documented sufficiently.

Presentations and discussions covered a range of topics, including language and power, decolonial methodologies, perceived differentials in credit value across institutions and countries, and strategies to enhance discourse on internationalisation. The gathering emerged as a valuable forum for scholars and professionals to exchange ideas and collectively contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the power dynamics of international knowledge generation.

6.5 British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant

The UFS received a successful research grant application in terms of the British Academy/ Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant Scheme.

The applicants in the scheme is Prof Marina Orsini–Jones from Coventry University (PI), Prof Lynette Jacobs and Prof Kyria Finardi from Universidade Federal do Espirito Santo in Brasil as co–Pl's.

It will also involve some other women, such as Prof Ntsoaki Malebo (CUT) and Katherine Wimpenny (Coventry University), as well as Eva Haug (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences).

Earlier, we developed a theoretical framework for inclusive and equitable international learning (expanding on the framework of Betty Leask), and we published a paper on this.

With this small grant (10 000 GBP), we will have the opportunity to evaluate the framework that we developed across four continents over the next two years, and we also see this as seed funding towards applying to a bigger grant scheme. I do believe that this will take the UFS Curriculum Internationalization Project forward, and I hope to at least include two PhD students in the research project.

It will also serve as an example of a North-South collaboration.

6.6 **Dutch Knowledge Mission to South Africa**

The caretaker Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Robbert Dijkgraaf, lead an impressive delegation of 21 prominent Dutch educational and knowledge organisations on a knowledge mission to South Africa from 15 to 18 October 2023. The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) was one of the organisations. The mission marked a significant step in strengthening relations between the Netherlands and South Africa, with a particular emphasis on education and research.

Twenty-one leading Dutch educational organisations were represented; with the delegation including executives from senior secondary vocational education, research

universities and universities of applied sciences, and umbrella organisations. Together, they aimed to strengthen existing partnerships and initiate new ones, and pave the way for future collaboration, on a basis of equality, between educational institutions in the Netherlands and South Africa.

Promoting cooperation and knowledge exchange

The knowledge mission was an integral part of the International Knowledge and Talent Strategy (IKT), a strategic initiative aimed at promoting international cooperation in education and science. Within this ambitious strategy, South Africa occupies a prominent position as one of the focus countries, through which the Netherlands aims to reinforce its status as an international knowledge centre. This initiative reflects the Netherlands' ongoing commitment to promoting international cooperation and encouraging knowledge exchange on a global scale. We look forward to the fruitful results that will emerge from this mission and to the further strengthening of scientific relations between the Netherlands and South Africa. From the UFS' side. the meeting was attended by Prof Lynette Jacobs, Acting Director of the OIA, and Dr Glen Taylor, Senior Director of the DRD. It enabled them to engage with funders as well as key Dutch partner institutions, including AERES, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, and De Jonge Akademie.

The mission happened in parallel to the State Visit of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty Queen Máxima to South Africa at the invitation of President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa, on October 18 to 20th. This state visit focused on good relations and an equal partnership between the two countries, with a focus on sustainable and inclusive growth, cultural cooperation and knowledge exchange. The King and Queen also graced the attendees of the knowledge mission meeting with their presence.

Prof Francis Petersen, the VC, as well as Prof Philippe Burger, Dean of EMS, attended a performance by Lloyds Company featuring the Soweto Skeleton Movers in the State Theatre, Pretoria, on Thursday 19 October 2023 as part of the state visit.

6.7 Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Group Forum 2023

The annual meeting of the Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Group Forum (formerly known as the Donor Harmonisation Group Forum), took place on 8–10 November 2023 in Oslo, Norway. It was hosted this year Norad and the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills. The theme of the meeting was "Impact and innovation – Effects of higher education development collaboration", and deliberation centred around the higher education and international development landscape, including a discussion on alignment between agencies, North–South cooperation, and future directions.

Prof Lynette Jacobs, Acting Director of the OIA represented the UFS at the meeting. Together with Prof Jos Beelen from The Hague University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands and Prof Hege Aarlie from Western Norway University of Applied Sciences in Norway, presented a workshop on "North–South collaborations within a critical internationalisation framework".













Dean **Prof Philippe Burger**



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator **Dr Reabetswe Parkies**

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Department of Business Management

rof Jacques Nel has initiated collaboration with Prof De Regt (Utrecht University) on digital marketing research. He is also the guest editor for a special issue on the elderly's use of mobile services for Frontiers in Communication. The co-guest editor is Prof Steve Bellman from the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute, one of the University of South Australia's research institutes.

Prof Brownhilder Neneh is collaborating with Prof Brandon Ofem from the University of Missouri–St. Louis on a project on "Grit, Resilience and Entrepreneurial Passion in Closing the Entrepreneurial Intention to Behaviour Gap."

Published an article in collaboration with Prof Mefoute Badian (Cameroon) on 'Mobile banking adoption – its antecedents and postadoption effects: the role of consumers' status orientation in an African context.'

Submitted an abstract to the Academy of Marketing Conference 2024 with Dr Zivai Mare (UK), titled 'Enhancing smoking reduction with Al chatbots: a user experience perspective.'

Business School

Prof Liezel Massyn: Integrated learning collaboration with Prof Kristina Areskoug Josefsson, University West, Sweden.

Centre for Development Support

College of Education and Human Development (University of Minnesota) Global Signature grant proposal has been submitted for funding to support critical activities for the engagement

of an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional partnership, bringing together scholars conducting research related to SDG 4 and 5 – quality education and gender equality. The partnership and project, 'Well-being and Equity through Education (WEE)', includes an interdisciplinary group of scholars and graduate students at the University of Minnesota, University of the Free State, University of the Western Cape, and Christ University, India. The international collaborative team includes:

- Joan DeJaeghere, Professor in Comparative and International Development Education (OLPD);
- Dr Karen Brown, Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Global Change (ICGC) and the Sustainable Development Goals initiative for the UM;
- Dr Aditi Arur, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Christ University, India;
- Dr Mikateko Mathebula, Associate Professor of Higher Education and Development at the UFS, South Africa; and
- Dr Amiena Bayat, Associate Professor of Economics and acting Director of the Institute for Social Development at UWC.

Through this project, seminars will be coordinated, speakers will be invited, and capacity and networking opportunities will be developed for graduate students and faculty. Other faculty and students as well as alumni from OLPD, CEHD, and other departments (CLA, HEHD) will also be involved with the collaborative group and activities.

Department of Industrial Psychology Lyle Markham (HOD):

- Attended an online meeting with Prof Berkoh-Damoah from the Department of Organisation and Human Resource Management at the University of Ghana Business School regarding teaching and research and possible lecturer mobility opportunities.
- Attended International HR Conference (HRIC 2023), networking with colleagues from France, Germany, England, and the Netherlands and exploring collaboration opportunities.
- Attended the International Business Conference (IBC) in September 2023.

Department of Public Administration

Joint PhD degree programme between the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Department of Organisation Sciences and the UFS Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) – aimed at understanding how decentralisation processes related to disaster management unfold in South Africa.

Prof Liezel Lues represented the UFS, and Prof Kees Boersma and Prof I Drori represented the Vrije University. Dr Alice Ncube (Programme Director: DiMTEC) acted as mentor.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Centre for Development Support

OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGE

Dr Mikateko Mathebula and **Dr Faith Mkwananzi** visited the University of Zambia (January 2024) and the University of Malawi (October 2023) respectively. At both institutions, the researchers met with the HoDs of the Department of Education, as well as the deans and DVCs.

Prof Lochner Marais and **Phia van der Watt** visited the University of Queensland in November 2023 for further work on the Jagersfontein tailings facility.

Financial Executive Scoreboard

Prof Melanie Walker is spending 2024 as sabbatical at the University of Oxford.

Department of Business Management

OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGE **Prof BN Neneh**: Recipient of Erasmus+ funding and visiting scholar in the Department of Business,
Fulda University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

Dr Tarisai Rukuni: Presented classes at the Fulda University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

Visited Stern Business School at New York University in September 2023.

Economics and Finance

INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STAFF HOSTED
Prof Sageder from the Salzburg University of
Applied Sciences gave a presentation to staff and
postgraduate students.

OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGE **Dr Edson Vengesai** – teaching at Fulda University of Applied Sciences.

Dr CJ Nwosu – teaching at Fulda University of Applied Sciences.

Dr Arno van Niekerk – teaching at Salzburg University of Applied Sciences.

Prof Johan Coetzee – teaching at Salzburg University of Applied Sciences.

Industrial Psychology

INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STAFF HOSTED Prof Peter Rosseel from KU Leuven presented a series of lectures to both undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Department of Industrial Psychology and the Business School.

Public Administration

OUTGOING INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGE **Prof Chris Hendriks** visited the University of Bremen from 30 May to 13 July 2023. He presented lectures in the module Basics of Local and Regional Public Finance in Multilevel Systems during the Summer School.

INTERNATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Department of Business Management
Prof Brownhilder Neneh and Dr Karen Booysen

attended the Edtech Week organised by Edtech Station, 4–12 March 2023.

Business School

Hosted MBA study tour from Fulda University of Applied Sciences in Germany, 28–30 June 2023.

Public Administration

Prof Michiel de Vries from Radboud University, Nijmegen was appointed as Affiliated Professor for a term of three years.

Economics and Finance

Michael Skosana (Honours student in Finance)

 Ernst Mach grant; several courses in the Business and Finance programme at the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences.

Centre for Development Support

Incoming student exchange – Alena Rauch.
PhD research topic: 'Processes of subjectification and education of Social Work students in contexts of power relations and inequalities' (working title).
Institution: University of Education Freiburg, Institute for Educational Sciences, Department of Social Pedagogy, Germany.

Prof Lochner Marais and Phia van der Watt

gave feedback on the social aspects of the Jagersfontein tailings disaster during an international online webinar.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Department of Business Management

Four international students from Bremen will attend the ESBM2724 class.

Public Administration

Four international students will enrol for the module Public Administration and Management in Action (EPAM 1624) in the second semester. These students are from the University of Bremen.

PARTNERSHIPS

Department of Business Management

Prof Joanna Ozga from Fulda University of Applied Sciences delivered a virtual guest lecture to the Strategic Management class as part of her Erasmus mobility programme.

Business School

MoUs with:

- University of Ghana Business School
- Odisee University of Applied Sciences in Belgium
- International Advisory Board members of the Business School:
- Prof Mik Pindelski, Warsaw School of Economics,
 Poland
- Carla Aerts, Start-up mentor from Belgium/ England

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY Centre for Development Support

The visits to UNZA and UNIMA mark the first steps in the centre's strategy to initiate and foster new opportunities for collaboration and establish a research network across universities in sub–Saharan Africa (SSA). Support for internationalisation within the continent is rare, and establishing new links through these visits funded by the HEHD SARChI Chair can pave the way for

- 1. future knowledge exchange opportunities (for staff and students);
- 2. identifying high-potential students for our PhD programme; and
- capacity building for African university staff members (opportunities to co-supervise students; collaborate on future research projects; exposure to methodologically and conceptually innovative research conducted at HEHD).

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

Business School

Networking event with guest lecture by Prof Peter Rosseel – current students and alumni of Business School invited.

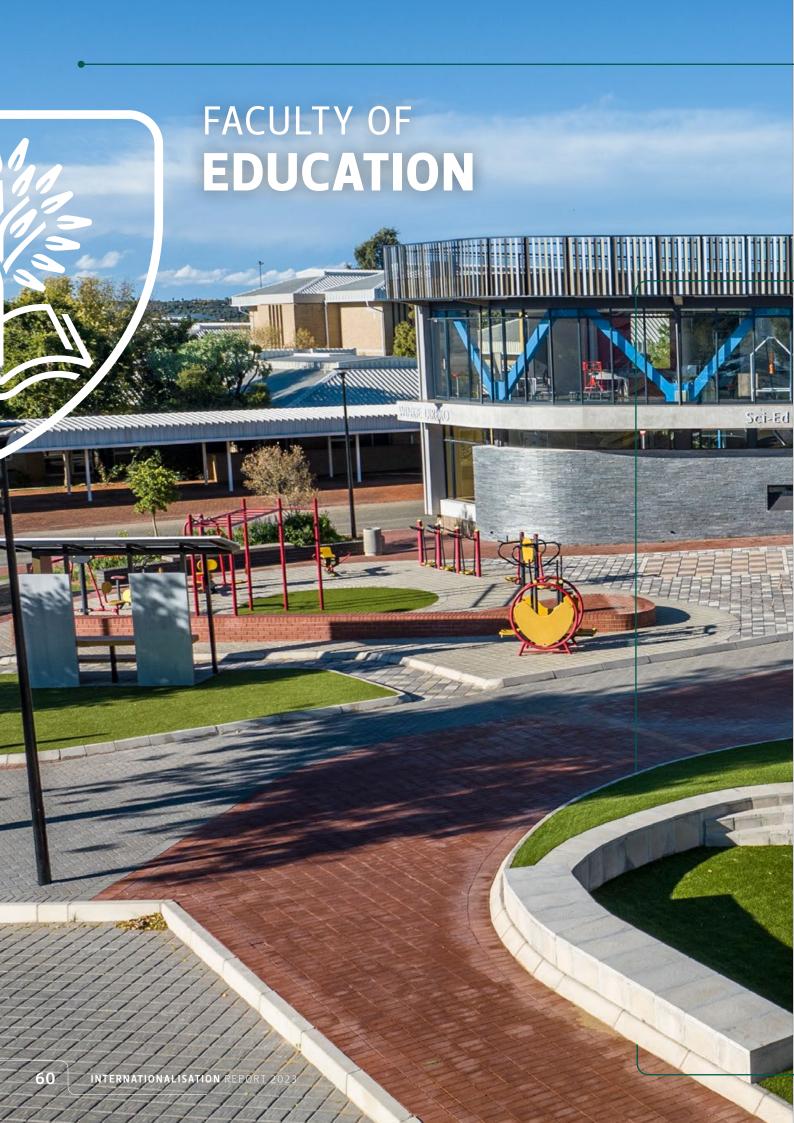
OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Centre for Development Support

The bi-weekly Brown Bag Talks (BBTs), which are held online and run by postdoctoral fellows, feature international scholars presenting their research to an international audience.

Industrial Psychology

Lyle Markham (HOD) presented a research paper at an international HR Conference (HRIC 2023).





Dean **Prof Loyiso Jita**



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator **Dr Sekanse Ntsala**

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

rof Loyiso Jita, Faculty Dean, was in Lesotho on 8 May to offer a PhD thesis finalisation workshop.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES
OUTGOING

Prof Thuthukile Jita was invited to Chile for an academic visit to the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile from 8 May until 2 June.

INTERNATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dr Sekanse Ntsala and Prof Zoe Gazeley-Eke (Coventry University) explored the possibility of continuing with their visual collaboration.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Prof Loyiso Jita spent time in Lesotho to recruit postgraduate students.

Dr Mokhele-Makhalwa undertook a PhD recruitment drive in Zimbabwe from 13 to 17 September 2023.

PARTNERSHIPS

Dr Ntombizandile Gcelu's grant application for A4U Erasmus+ international mobility grant was successful. She is planning to travel to Spain in January 2024.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

After the new UFS Internationalisation Strategy was approved, the various departments within the faculty were given the opportunity to make

submissions on the Faculty Internationalisation Strategy. A draft of the Faculty Internationalisation Strategy was produced and presented to the Vice-Dean for research.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Prof Mokhele-Makgalwa presented a paper at the 11th annual Teacher Education and Interdisciplinary Research (TEIR) Conference, 10–14 April 2023, Swakopmund, Namibia.

Prof Thuthukile Jita

Presented a paper at the 67th Annual Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)
Meeting, held from 14 to 22 February 2023 at the Grand Hyatt Washington, United States.

Presented a paper titled 'Caring pedagogy in pandemic practicum: a transnational case study' at the 67th Annual Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Meeting, held from 14 to 22 February 2023 at the Grand Hyatt Washington. The Department of Curriculum Studies celebrated Africa Day on 25 May 2023.

Prof Loyiso Jita

Attended the DETA Conference at Makerere University in July 2023.

Attended the ESERA Conference in Turkey. Hosted a research workshop and proposal defence in Harare in mid-September.

Drs Sekitla Makhasane, Lulama Mdodana–Zide, Makobo Mogale, and **Cias Tsotetsi** attended the WERA conference in Singapore from 22 to 24
November 2023.

Dr Sekanse Ntsala attended the Internationalisation Conference in Durban (11–15 September 2023) and participated in the Internationalisation Colloquium that took place in September 2023.

Dr Bekithemba Dube and **Dr Maria Tsakeni** presented papers at the Internationalisation Colloquium that took place in September 2023.

Stephanus Scheepers and Philangenkosi
Shabangu have been selected for the WitsEdinburgh Sustainable African Futures doctoral
programme to complete their PhDs with the
University of Edinburgh.





Dean
Prof Gert van Zyl



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator **Reuben Maeko**

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Department of Physiotherapy

roject: Implementing an ankle injury/ pain prevention programme in adolescent dancers in community ballet schools in central SA.

Staff member/s involved: Cherezane Stander (Marais) (PhD student/PI); Dr Roline Barnes (main study supervisor).

Collaborators: Dr Sue Mayes (La Trobe University/ The Australian Ballet); Dr Katia Ferrar (University of South Australia).

Both of the international collaborators are acting as co-supervisors for the current study.

Funding source: UFS staff study support grant.

Project: A framework for anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction post-surgery management.

Collaborative research: University of the Free State, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, High Performance Unit, Irish Rugby, Dublin.

Researchers: Vlok, A (UFS); Coetzee, D (UFS); Grindem, H; Van Dyk, N.

Background: Utilisation and specification of exercise descriptors are vital in allowing a uniform and optimal approach to ACLR rehabilitation and reporting. The study aims to develop a conceptual framework for the management of patients following anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction.

Status: The project is in the finalisation stage. The scoping review has been published in the *Journal* of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy.

Department of Nutrition and Dietetics Staff member/s involved: Prof Corinna Walsh.

Collaborators:

Prof Ilona Grünberger, Stockholm University Prof Anneli Ivarsson, Umeå University Dr Zakir Hossin, Karolinska Institute Prof Zandile Mchiza, University of the Western Cape

Dr Whadi-ah Parker, SA Human Sciences Research Council.

Project background:

This virtual exchange programme in public health education builds upon earlier successful collaborative research projects in public health nutrition and life course epidemiology.

Virtual collaboration in research and teaching covers all levels of academic education (undergraduate, advanced, and doctoral studies) and focuses on courses and study programmes in public health sciences (and child public health in particular), global public health and public health ethics, and public health nutrition.

Current activity: South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) Virtual Exchange Grant 2023.

Funding source: SASUF (SEK 200 000).

School of Clinical Medicine

Worldwide epidemiology of RRP in the paediatric and adult population. 13th Congress of the European Laryngological Society, 28 May 2021.

Burden of Jorr in low and middle-income countries. 41st Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases, 8–12 May 2023.

Clinical and translational evaluation of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (CTERRP) – applications for Horizon Europe grants have been submitted.

Adult-onset recurrent respiratory papillomatosis at a South African referral hospital. 13th Congress of the European Laryngological Society, 28 May 2021.

Oral presentation: Diagnosis of laryngeal tuberculosis in a high TB burden area. 13th Congress of the European Laryngological Society, 28 May 2021. Poster. Hagemeister, DT. Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in members of the Bundeswehr and its allied forces and among the local population during overseas deployments. Oral presentation at the 3rd Symposium on Tropical Medicine.

Dr Claire Barrett:

- Collaborator on a book: Global Perspectives and Practices in Transfusion Medicine with the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB).
- Chapter co-author: Chapter 19 'Integrated approach to transfusion education for clinicians, nurses and laboratory professionals.'
- Barrett CL, Du Preez IM, Coetzee MJ, Van den Berg K, Rambiritch VR, Vermeulen M, Wessels PL, Strydom L, Glatt T, Seoraj V. Construction of an online PBM short learning programme for nurses: an African case study. 23rd NATA (Network for the Advancement of Patient Blood Management, Haemostasis and Thrombosis) Annual Symposium. Athens, Greece. April 2023 (poster).
- Collaborator on a book: Global Education, Training, and Staffing Transfusion Medicine and Blood Banks with the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB).
- Section editor (Section 5: 'Transfusion safety and patient blood management: nursing education and opportunities') – submitted for peer review and publishing.
- Lead author chapter: 'Nursing education in transfusion and apheresis in HICs and LMICs' – submitted for peer review and publishing.
- Co-author: 'Promotion of patient blood management in HICs and LMICS: challenges and opportunities' – submitted for peer review and publishing.
- Co-author: 'Education systems and environments in transfusion medicine in LMICs.'
- Fundamental Standards for Blood Collection and Transfusion – second edition. AABB Standards Committee.
- Collaborating with Global Transfusion Forum (GTF).
- Systematic review and meta-analysis of patient blood management – project still underway.
- Editor in *Chief of Africa Sanguine* (the scientific

- publication of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion).
- Editorial board member of Vox Sanguinis (scientific publication of the International Society of Blood Transfusion).
- Faculty member: Fogarty Research training in HIV-related haematology and transfusion medicine in South Africa.
- Member of the Global Transfusion Forum (GTF).

Member of the following GTF subcommittees:

- Patient Blood Management
- Research
- Education
- Elected chair of the Scientific Committee of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion Congress 2024
- Abstract reviewer for the International Society of Blood Transfusion congress 2022
- Member of the Sub-Saharan Africa Patient Blood Management Forum
- Member of the International Society of Blood Transfusion Clinical Transfusion Subcommittee.

School of Nursing

Project name:

Linnaeus Palme programme (UFS and Jönköping University).

Researchers involved:

Dr A Fichardt; Prof M Reid; Dr J Mogakwe (UFS) Bengt Sundberg; Par Wennberg; Tillan Strand (Jönköping University).

Background:

Jönköping University and the UFS have collaborated since 2012, having successfully applied for Linnaeus Palme funding on several occasions.

Funding:

Linnaeus Palme funding July 2022-November 2023.

Project name:

Improvement of research learning experiences for undergraduate nursing students.

Researchers involved:

Dr JL Mogakwe, Prof M Reid, Prof Nyoni (UFS); Dr F Mbuthia, W Wambui, Dr S Githui (Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), Kenya).

Background:

The signed MoU between the UFS and DeKUT has a strong research focus, leading to the exploration of undergraduate nursing students' undergraduate research. The project was built on the joint presentation of undergraduate research modules between the two universities.

Funding: None.

Project name:

MEGA: Building capacity by implementing mhGAP mobile intervention in SADC countries.

Researchers involved:

Dr M Lahti, J Korhonen, Dr H Ellilä, A Narbro, and A Kiseleva (Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS), Finland). Dr R Jansen, M Coetzee, and E Janse van Rensburg–Bonthuyzen (UFS). Prof G Groen and A Jörns–Presentati (Hamburg, Germany). Dr L Mwape, Dr P Mukwato, R Wahila, F Chapima (University of Zambia). Prof DJ Stein, Dr E Breet, D Jonker (University of Cape Town). Prof J Mundenda, Dr T Sukwa, and A Kaluba (Lusaka Apex Medical University, Zambia). Prof S Seedat; Dr S Suliman; Dr L van den Heuvel, and I Mbanga (Stellenbosch University). T Turunen, K Valtins, I Kudina, A Beinarovica, and V Lipsta (Riga Technical University (RTU), Latvia). Prof G Grobler and T Chiloane (University of Pretoria).

Background:

MEGA: Building capacity by developing and implementing a mobile application for primary healthcare practitioners to screen adolescents for mental health issues in primary healthcare. It is a three-year project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Funding:

Erasmus + Programme of the EU (585827–EPP–1–2017–1–FI–EPPKA2–CBHE–JP).

Project name:

A comparison of digital health literacy among final-year undergraduate nursing students from middle- and high-income countries.

Researchers involved:

Dr M Pienaar, Prof M Reid (UFS), Dr K Malale (Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania), Dr A Moorhead (Ulster University, Ireland), Dr F Mbuthia (Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya).

Background:

Shared research interest in health communication

among researchers led to the investigation of the health literacy status of final-year nursing students. These students' health literacy status will influence their nursing practice when entering the profession.

Funding: None.

Project name:

Contribution of community health workers within interprofessional learning.

Researchers involved:

Prof M Reid, Prof A Joubert (UFS); T Clayes, I Depraetere (Vives University of Applied Sciences in Health Care, Belgium).

Background:

The need was identified to optimally involve community health workers in interprofessional learning platforms across countries.

Funding:

Various.

Project name:

Infection prevention control through virtual reality in Africa: a middle-range theory.

Researchers involved:

Dr L Hugo-Van Dyk, Prof C Nyoni, B Botha, and Prof Y Botma (UFS); Prof Louise Pretorius, Danial Ashipala (University of Namibia); Dr Lucky Mhango (Mzuzu University); Mpho Z Shelile, N Ralejoana (National University of Lesotho); Collins Atta Poku, Abigail Kusi Amponsah (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology); Prof Dithole (University of Botswana).

Background:

The University of the Free State and other African nursing education institutions are collaborating using desktop-based virtual reality to transfer infection prevention and control skills to undergraduate nursing students.

Funding:

UFS Digitalisation Fund 2023-2025.

Project title:

IPOCUS: Interprofessional education in point of care ultrasound in South Africa and Germany.

Researchers involved:

Prof C Nyoni, Prof E Turton (UFS), Dr I Abramovich, D Herinek (Charité Institute, Germany).

Background:

Point-of-care ultrasound education is essential

for nurses and doctors. Interprofessional education can be a vehicle to enhance the outcomes of continuing education for nurses and doctors in South Africa and Germany.

Funding:

Application is serving at the Charité Institute.

Project name:

Virtual reality in infection prevention and control. Researchers involved: Prof Hugo-Van Dyk (UFS), Prof Nyoni (UFS), Dr Botha (UFS), partners from the University of Namibia, the University of Botswana, the National University of Lesotho, Mzuzu University, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Moi University, and the Christian University in Tanzania.

Background:

Funded through the Digitalisation Grant of the UFS, the project aims to integrate virtual reality simulation related to infection prevention and control in undergraduate nursing education. The aim is to develop a middle-range theory for desktop-based virtual reality simulation in low resource settings.

Funding:

R7 million from the Digitalisation Grant at the UFS.

Project name:

Supporting mental health in employment path in Africa (SuMHEPA).

Researchers: Latvia, Finland, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, South Africa (UFS and UP). Dr R Jansen (UFS).

Background:

Supporting Mental Health in the Employment Path in Africa aims to address youth unemployment in the Sub-Saharan African region by focusing on providing mental health support and developing a virtual toolkit for students and youth. Indeed, mental health support tools will provide the youth with resources to face the labour market, anxiety, lack of motivation, and existing illegal practices, notably by offering screening processes and tools for evaluating the students' baseline mental health. At the same time, the mobile application aims to provide students and youth opportunities to explore the entrepreneurship path, upskilling initiatives with learning modules and practice projects with real-life needs, adapting their strengths and knowledge to the demands of the

labour market, and to obtain and offer support in creating their career path.

Funding:

Total project: 756 927,66 euros

UFS: 65 016,95

Project name:

Older adults' perception and experience of vulnerability and inequality in recovering from the pandemic.

Researchers: University of Regina (Canada); Oxford Brookes University (UK); University of Ghana; Dr Sebaeng (UFS).

Background:

The overarching goal of this project is to shed light on older adults' perception of their vulnerability and inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic and to generate knowledge about recovery strategies that will promote their social inclusion, equity, and quality of life.

Funding:

Seed funding – HRI fellowship (\$5 000)

- President's Research Seed Grant (\$6 000)
- Total (\$11 000).

Project name:

Development and validation of a Swahili cancer health literacy test.

Researchers: Dr Kija Nchmabi Malale, Prof M Reid, Dr M Pienaar.

Background:

The study addresses the need to improve cancer treatment in six Swahili-speaking countries in Africa.

Funding:

R50 000 from the UFS Centre for Graduate Support.

Awaiting feedback from further funding applications submitted.

Project name:

Professional identity in nursing: associative group analysis.

Researchers: Prof Nyoni (UFS), Prof Hugo-Van Dyk (UFS), and partners at the University of the Western Cape, University of Pretoria, University of Namibia, University of Botswana, Makerere University, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Cape Coast, Moravian University.

Background:

Project is aimed at identifying regional similarities and differences related to professional identity in nursing.

Funding:

Sigma grant (2 000 USD).

Project name:

Knowledge translation among nurses in Africa: a scoping review.

Researchers:

Prof Nyoni (UFS), Dr Muraraneza (University of Rwanda), Prof Mtshali (SANC) and Dr Amphonsah in Ghana, Prof Bvumbwe (Mzuzu University).

Background:

To support the initiatives of the WHO, the collaboration was set up to explore the contribution of nurses to research evidence and how they translate knowledge into their practice. **Funding:** None.

Project name:

Emergency remote teaching and learning in SSA.

Researchers: Prof Nyoni, Prof Van der Merwe
(UFS), and partners from Cavendish University, the
University of Zambia, the University of Zimbabwe,
the University of Botswana, the University of
Namibia, and Makerere University.

Background:

As an off-spin of the COVID-19 pandemic, this group investigates the use and application of emergency remote teaching and learning in Southern Africa.

Funding: 20 000 (USD) by AFREhealth.

School of Pathology

Funding from Wellcome.

P Bester and D Goedhals: Collaborated with P Mathews, University of Oxford: Title: Defining host and viral factors that are associated with hepatitis B virus control and clearance in Caucasian and African adults.

N Makoah: Keynote speaker at the EXIT symposium 2023 in Brühl, Germany. 29–31 March 2023.

F Burt:

Keynote speaker, title: CCHF – an emerging virus and development of assays for diagnosis and

surveillance. Presented at the International CCHF Africa meeting held in Cape Town, 3–5 May 2023. External funding acquired by F Burt from the Defence Threat Reduction Agency for hosting the CCHF Africa conference. Attended by a total of 59 participants from Africa, US, Sweden, Turkey, and France.

Member of WHO-led prioritisation of diseases of epidemic and pandemic threat, Bunyavirus working group.

Member of WHO-led prioritisation of diseases of epidemic and pandemic threat, Togaviridae working group.

Member of International Scientific Advisory Board for Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS).

Member of International Advisory Council, IS CCHF.

Chair of CCHF Africa Committee.

Member of the international advisory board for the *Lancet Infectious Diseases* (impact factor 56.3).

Member of editorial board of the *Virology Journal* (impact factor 5.9).

Guest co-editor, *Vaccines* Special Issue, Pandemics-born revolution in the preclinical and clinical trials of microbial vaccines.

14th International Congress of Human Genetics 2023, Cape Town, South Africa.

Christowitz C, Olivier DW, Van der Merwe N, Glanzmann B, McGregor N, Van Rensburg EJ, Van der Merwe NC, Kotze MJ, Engelbrecht A-M (2023a). 'Ex-vivo studies of a rare TP53 germline variant (NM_001126114.2, c.1018A>G, p.N340D): peripheral blood mononuclear cells completely resist cell death induced by the anthracycline, doxorubicin.' 14th International Congress of Human Genetics, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa. 22–26 February 2023 – oral presentation.

Van der Merwe NC, Oosthuizen J, Ntaita KS, Combrink HMvE, Kotze MJ (2023b). 'Evidencebased testing strategy for breast cancer diagnostics in the public sector of South Africa.' 14th International Congress of Human Genetics, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa. 22–26 February 2023 – poster presentation.



Oosthuizen J, Kotze MJ, Combrink HMvE, Van der Merwe NC (2023c). 'BRCA2 haplotype inference in South African breast cancer patients using next-generation sequencing data as an alternative to familial segregation analysis.' 14th International Congress of Human Genetics, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa. 22–26 February 2023 – poster presentation.

Okunola A, Baatjes KJ, Schoeman M, Van der Merwe NC, Kotze MJ (2023d). 'Integrating whole exome sequencing into the breast cancer clinical setting: process and outcome from a pharmacogenetics perspective.' 14th International Congress of Human Genetics, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa. 22–26 February 2023 – poster presentation.

Kotze MJ, Van der Merwe NC, Van Rensburg E, Theron M, Moremi K, Peeters A, Torrorey–Sawe R, Mia R, Mahasha P, Schneider J, De Jager L, Baatjes K, Pienaar F, Van der Merwe N, Oosthuizen J (2023e).

Development of a pathology-supported genetic testing service at the intersection of the research and oncology practice: translating population risk into personal utility using point-of-care genomics and next-generation sequencing.

14th International Congress of Human Genetics, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa. 22–26 February 2023 – oral presentation.

Combrink HMvE, Chabilal N, Oosthuizen J, Ntaita KS, Buccimazza I, Van der Merwe NC (2023f). Breast cancer patients from Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in South Africa: comparison of clinical and molecular characteristics between triple-negative and luminal-like disease. 14th International Congress of Human Genetics, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa. 22–26 February 2023 – oral presentation.

Ninth International Symposium on Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Montreal, Canada

Van der Merwe NC, Oosthuizen J, Combrink HMvE, Ntaita KS, Theron M, Kotze MJ (2023h). The unique genetic structure of the South African population reveals strong BRCA1/2 founder effects and a high contribution of non–BRCA risk genes, ultimately influencing testing strategies. Ninth International Symposium on Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. 2–5 May 2023 – poster presentation.

Van der Merwe NC, Oosthuizen J, Van der Merwe N, Masham-Thompson TP, Stephens D, Kotze MJ (2023i). One continent, one vision: integration of whole exome sequencing at the intersection of research and service delivery, as a necessity for underrepresented African populations. Ninth International Symposium on Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. 2–5 May 2023 – poster presentation.

Kotze MJ, Okunola AO, Baatjes KJ, Torrorey– Sware R, Conradie M, Kidd M, Van der Merwe NC, Erasmus RT, Zemlin, AE (2023j). Application of pathology–supported genetic testing incorporating whole exome sequencing in breast cancer research translation: lifestyle adjustments, change of medication, and genetic counselling. Ninth International Symposium on Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. 2–5 May 2023 – poster presentation.

18th St Gallen International Breast Cancer Conference, Vienna, Austria.

Olivier DW, Christowitz C, Van der Merwe N, Glanzmann B, McGregor NW, Van Rensburg EJ, Van der Merwe NC, Kotze MJ, Engelbrecht A–M (2023g).

Personalised medicine: piecing the evidence together to unravel actionability of a rare TP53 isoform variant in a South African breast cancer family. 18th St Gallen International Breast Cancer Conference, Vienna, Austria. 15–18 March 2023 – poster presentation.

Collaboration with the Bloomfield Centre for Leukemia Outcomes Research Department of Haematology The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA **Project:** AML molecular landscape in a central South African population.

Researchers: Jean Kloppers, Anneke van Marle, Jacques Malherbe, Caroline Steyn, Jill Buss, and Ann-Kathrin Eisfeld.

Funding: 100 000 US dollars from the American Cancer Society.

Collaboration with the University of Leuven Department of Haematology

Project: Micro vesicles in thrombotic disorders **Researchers:** Muriel Meiring, Rethabile Maleka, Anand Krishnan, François Mullier.

Funding: NRF R250 000.

Jean Kloppers – De Novo Intron 22 inversion

detection: the emerging value of genetic testing in a developing country.

The International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) 2023 conference. Montreal, Canada.

Collaboration with Switzerland Department of Cancer Immunology University of Zurich, Switzerland

Project: Monitoring cervical cancer patients' immune status using HPV oncogenes and PD-L1 as potential circulating exosomal biomarkers.

Researchers: Anand Krishnan, Muriel Meiring, Noluthando Gasa.

Funding: R250 000 from NRF Swiss/SA collaboration.

Usinq myWBDR as a tool to collect data on bleeds, treatment, and quality of life of patients (through PROBE and EQSDSL) in central South Africa. This study will aim to see if we can get patients to collect data about their disease management and quality of life using their smartphones. US\$2 000 obtained from the World Federation of Haemophilia.

Completion of the study: Family study in hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia: possible genetic cause of exacerbation of epistaxis after larger doses of intravenous iron. This study is investigating the effect that a genetic variation of a specific family is having on their tolerance of iron supplements. (In collaboration with Prof Claire Shovlin of the Imperial College, London.) No funding necessary.

AML research collaboration with Ohio State University and the American Cancer Institute. An investigation into molecular markers that may have potential clinical implications in a central South African acute myeloid leukaemia population. Grant funding obtained of \$100 000.

HIV-associated lymphoma research and training: Fogarty Grant

After the appearance of Dr Van der Merwe's latest publication, she was invited to become part of a renowned international research group investigating 'Risk-factor analysis of breast and ovarian cancer'. The progress of this international collaborative project was presented by the principal investigator, Dr Steven Narod, at the Ninth International Symposium on Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome in Montreal

Quebec between 3 and 6 May 2023.

Sequencing mycobacteria and algorithm—determined resistant tuberculosis treatment (SMARTT): a study for a phase IV pragmatic randomised controlled patient management strategy trial.

Whole genome sequencing for complex rifampicin–resistant cases of tuberculosis.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

School of Clinical Medicine

Dr Kgomotso Moroka (acting HOD of Cardiology, UFS) graduated from Maastricht University, Belgium, with a DAS-CAM: Diploma of Advanced Studies in Cardiac Arrhythmia Management on 21 June 2023.

Duration: two years

Achievements: In this two-year diploma, Dr Moroka learned the latest in cardiac arrhythmology, regulatory and societal dimensions of arrhythmia management, as well as cardiovascular biostatistics, health economics, and leadership expertise.

The diploma was presented by the top electrophysiologists in the world, a collaboration between the European Heart Academy of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), European Heart Rhythm Association, and Maastricht University Medical Centre (MUMC+). We hope that these skills will escalate cardiovascular-related services in the Free State.

Sequencing mycobacteria and algorithm—determined resistant tuberculosis treatment trial (SMARTT): Phase IV clinical trial investigators and sub-investigators:

International PI: Prof A van Rie, University of Antwerp (UA), Belgium (BE); National PI: Prof G Churchyard, Aurum Institute (AI), SA; Laboratory PI: Prof R Warren, Stellenbosch University (SU), SA; Sub-investigator: Anneke van der Spoel Van Dijk, National Health Laboratory Service, Microbacteriology Academic Laboratory Universitas, University of the Free State (UFS), SA; Sub-investigator: Dr N Ismail, SU, SA; Clinical trial statistician: Prof S Abrams, UA, BE; Central Clinical Committee sub-investigators (medical monitor team from SA): Prof G Maartens, University of

Cape Town; Dr F Conradie, University of the Witwatersrand; Dr S Potgieter, UFS; Dr J Black, Livingstone Hospital, Port Elizabeth, and from BE: Prof S Callens, Ghent University. Trial monitor/coordinator: H Makkan and T Beattie, AI, SA. Free State Department of Health (FSDOH) advisory committee.

Dr Noor Zakhura; Dr Boitumelo Fanampe Funding for the study was through a grant for Prof A van Rie and Prof R Warren.

Whole genome sequencing for complex rifampicin–resistant cases of tuberculosis.

International PI: Prof A van Rie, UA, BE; Laboratory PI: Prof R Warren, SU, SA; Clinical/national PI: Prof S Charelambous, AI, SA;

DoH investigator: Dr B Fanampe, FS DoH TB, DR-TB and CDC Directorate, SA; UFS investigator: Anneke van der Spoel Van Dijk, UFS/NHLS, SA; NHLS investigator: B Maloba; PCAC investigator: Dr Tanya van Zijl or Samantha Potgieter, UFS/PAO, SA. Research staff: Dr EC Conceicao and Dr F Wells, SU, Cape Town, SA. F Ndebele, AI, Johannesburg, SA; P Leew and Z Skosana: NHLS Universitas, SA; L Setlhare, FSDoH, TB/DR-TB and CDC Directorate, Bloemfontein, SA.

Protocol was submitted to HSREC.

School of Nursing

INCOMING

Staff member: Bengt Sundberg; Par Wennberg, Tillan Strand

University: Jönköping University

Involvement: Class facilitation and benchmarking

Period: 16-26 April 2023

OUTGOING

Staff member: Dr M Pienaar; Dr LJ Mogakwe; Dr S Phakisi

University: Jönköping University

Involvement: Class facilitation and benchmarking

Period: 23 January-11 February 2023

School of Pathology

International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) conference: De Novo Intron 22 Inversion detection: the emerging value of genetic analysis in developing countries (poster presentation).

Dr Esterhuysen was invited to give a talk about HIV and the pathology in the kidney at the African Nephrology Congress in Cairo, Egypt, in February 2023.

Prof Felicity Burt: CCHFV Africa Conference, 2–4 May 2023, Cape Town – organiser and keynote speaker.

Prof Felicity Burt: Third International Conference on CCHF, 19–21 September 2023, Thessaloniki, Greece – speaker.

Prof Felicity Burt: CCHF Gap Analysis workshop in November in France.

Nigel Aminake Makoah: Keynote speaker at the 'EXIT Symposium 2023' in Brühl, Germany.

INTERNATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Department: Nutrition and Dietetics

Staff member/s involved:

Dr HC (Ermi) Spies Prof CM (Corinna) Walsh Prof VL (Louise) van den Berg

Activity information:

Since February 2023, Rowan Stewart (Australian dietitian and founder of the NCP website), Dr Ermi Spies (University of the Free State [UFS], South Africa), Prof Louise van den Berg (UFS), Prof Corinna Walsh (UFS), Percival Delali Agordoh (University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana), and Janine Scholtz (Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, South Africa) collaborated on Microsoft Teams to develop an HIV Nutrition Care Case for students across the globe to be completed online on the Nutrition Care Professionals (NCP) website https://www.nutritioncarepro.com/.

Third-year Dietetics students from the UFS, Ghana, and the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University completed the case in May 2023 on the NCP website. Stewart gave a lecture on the nutrition care process to all. Thereafter, students from the UFS and Ghana presented their nutrition care progress report (summary of the case evaluation) to each other in groups. Stewart also visited SA to record videos of a real patient (which

was included on the website) to increase the credibility of the case.

Human Genetics – **Dr Nerina C van der Merwe** in collaboration with:

University of Toronto, Canada – Dr Steven Narod Project title: Predictors of pathological complete response using BRCA1 mutation carriers affected with invasive breast cancer.

McGill University, Canada - Prof William Foulkes

School of Clinical Medicine

The school is planning a four-week clinical exposure programme for German sub-speciality trainees in infectious diseases, which, if approved, should start seeing visiting medical practitioners from the second half of 2023 or the first half of 2024.

Collaborating with Global Transfusion Forum (GTF) In collaboration with nurse educators in 13 different LMICs (South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, India, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and Yemen), developed the 10 most important teaching outcomes to be included in undergraduate nurse education programmes with regard to transfusion training.

Dr Richard Gammon (Drexel University College of Medicine, Orlando, Florida, United States), who is a patient blood management expert, critically reviewed and gave input into the short learning programme hosted by the School of Clinical Medicine.

School of Pathology

Prof Meiring: member of the Haemostasis Advisory Committee of the RCPA.

Dr Esterhuysen is a member of the Renal Pathology Society since March 2023.

Dr Morrison is planning to attend the IAP2024 in Mexico.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow from India – Dr Palanisamy Krishnan.

Haemophilia Association of Lesotho (HAL), Maseru, Lesotho: 27–31 March 2023. There is a haemophilia treatment centre in Maseru once again. The standard of care is improving steadily. Members of the department managed to arrange treatment

for an adult with inhibitors, as well as treatment for a patient with haemophilia B.

Frontiers for Haemophilia and Bleeding Disorders Sierra Leone (FHBDSL), Connaught Hospital (principal adult referral hospital for Sierra Leone), Freetown, Sierra Leone: 13–17 November 2023. Members of the department helped with both the clinical and laboratory aspects. We are assisting with the improvement of laboratory quality assurance, as well as the implementation of managerial improvements in the clinical service. We submitted a report of the NNHF.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Department: Nutrition and Dietetics

During October 2023, our department recruited and selected the following international students for 2024:

Murakwani, Pamela (Zimbabwe), D Nutrition Lehlasoa, Rose (Lesotho), D Nutrition

School of Nursing

The clinical placement of students is provided in line with SANC regulations, while still optimising clinical exposure. Two undergraduate students from Jönköping University enrolled for modules during the first semester of 2023.

Prof Nyoni and **Prof Hugo–Van Dyk** presented and invited potential master's and PhD students to

enrol at the School of Nursing when they visited the Mzuzu University and the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Malawi.

Prof Nyoni, Prof Hugo–Van Dyk, and Dr Botha presented and invited potential master's and

PhD students to enrol at the School of Nursing when they visited Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana.

The School of Nursing has a strategy to increase the number of applicants for the master's and PhD programmes. An online open day to showcase the postgraduate degree programmes in the School of Nursing was led by Prof Nyoni, with 50 potential applicants from eight countries in sub–Saharan Africa attending the session.

PARTNERSHIPS

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Department: Exercise and Sport Sciences

The department is in the process of signing a new MoU with the University of Namibia. The partnership involves exploring the possibility of the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences mentoring and assisting the University of Namibia in developing a new degree in Sports Coaching.

Dr A van der Merwe; Dr R van Wyk; Prof C Nyoni

International conference name: All Together Better Health Conference (November 2023). Title of presentation: 'Educator needs regarding a simulation debriefing programme: a missed



opportunity for interprofessional practice at a South African university'.

Dr A van der Merwe; M Serekoane

(Faculty of The Humanities)

International conference name: SoTL in the South (November 2023).

Title of presentation: 'Situating pluralism in biomedical healthcare practices: lessons from the ethnomedical approach'.

Dr A van der Merwe; Prof EC Janse van Vuuren

International conference name: SoTL in the South (November 2023).

Title of presentation: 'Creating an interactive, inter-professional space for pre-clinical skills training: a utopian view'.

Department: Nutrition and Dietetics

Dr L Robb

Activity: Invited to present at the International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit 2023. Title of presentation: 'Dairy's building blocks for nourishing prenatal brain development: helping children reach their full potential'.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

Internationalisation has been widely accepted by institutions of higher learning to maintain educational global relevance. The Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Free State (UFS) supports internationalisation and recognises it as a necessary component of high-quality higher education and research. Key components within the faculty's internationalisation strategy therefore include international staff and student mobility agreements, as well as international research and teaching collaborations. The process of internationalisation entails adding a crosscultural, international, and global perspective to our work, study, and learning environments. Through the diversity of languages, cultures, and worldviews, internationalisation benefits the Faculty of Health Sciences and the University of the Free State as a whole.

Vision:

An innovative people-centred, globally competitive Faculty of Health Sciences.

Through the faculty's vision of being a 'globally competitive' faculty, it remains fully engaged in and committed to internationalisation.

Mission:

Development of socially accountable research and healthcare professionals.

Building on the vision, the mission further ensures the 'development of socially accountable' graduates who are aware of global trends and are able to respond appropriately to these trends.

Strategic goals of the Faculty of Health Sciences:

- 1. Research internationalisation
- 2. Internationalisation of learning and teaching
- 3. Supporting the core business through partnerships and collaborations
- 4. A diverse international student body.







Prof Mogomme Masoga



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinators



Dr Grey Magaiza and Lutendo Mabata

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Department of African Languages

CONFERENCES: RESEARCH FELLOWS dlovu, E. 2022. An evaluative case study of

the implementation progress of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education Curriculum Framework for Primary and Secondary Education 2015-2022. Paper presented at the 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA). Protea Hotel, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 21-24 September 2022.

Ndlovu, E. 2022. Access to justice for the deaf and hard of hearing in South Africa. Paper presented at the 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA). Protea Hotel, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 21–24 September 2022.

Ndlovu, E. 2022. An examination of the reception of the dictionaries compiled by the University of Zimbabwe's African Languages Research Institute (ALRI). Paper presented at the 26th African Association for Lexicography (AFRILEX) International Conference. Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 27-30 June 2022.

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, **German and French**

The department is proud of its international research associates, who produced a number of research outputs during 2022/2023. This was particularly evidenced by the German section's collaboration with Prof Stuart Taberner from the University of Leeds (UK), the French section's collaboration with Prof Karen Ferreira-Meyers from the University of Eswatini, and the Afrikaans and Dutch section's collaboration with Prof Jerzy

Koch from Poland. Accredited research outputs are a result of this collaboration, as is evident on RIMS.

The names of all national and international research associates are included on the departmental website.

Prof Cilliers van den Berg is still the editor of Acta Germanica, the journal of the Association for German Studies in Southern Africa; there has been much communication with international colleagues publishing in the journal (2022 and still continues in 2023). The countries include Poland, Nigeria, Germany, Switzerland, Israel, and Spain.

This is the yearbook of the Association for German Studies in Southern Africa (SAGV). Editorial work involves national and international collaboration regarding the contributions selected for the journal. Contributions in 2022/2023 included work of researchers from all over the world.

Prof Henning Pieterse's manuscript: *Reinaard die* vos. 'n Vrye vertaling van Van den vos Reynaerde. Vertaal en berym deur HJ Pieterse (Reinaard the Fox. A free, rhymed translation of the Middle Dutch epic Van den vos Reynaerde), with an introduction by CHF Ohlhoff (UP), was accepted for publication by Protea Boekhuis. Die book is due to be published in September 2023.

Dr Mathilda Smit attended the Ohio State University HipHop Literacies conference on black and trans/queer hip-hop feminisms as online participant with a paper: 'Goddesses of Hip-hop. An exploration of the black (coloured) female voice in the Afrikaans rap landscape, with specific reference to YOMA and Rosey the rapper'.

Department of Art History and Image Studies

In Media Res Theme Week on ChatGPT From 15 to 19 May, **Prof Martin Rossouw** co-curated (with Rick de Villiers from the Department of English) a 'theme week' for the US-based short-form essay platform, In Media Res. The theme week, 'ChatGPT and the Spectres of Authorship', features a diverse mix of interdisciplinary contributions, which are meant to act as provocations and conversation starters. Alongside pieces by Rossouw and De Villiers, there are posts by Steven Connor (literary studies, King's College London), Virginia Kuhn (digital humanities, University of Southern California), and Eduardo Navas (remix studies,

Pennsylvania State University).
To see the published theme week, visit: https://mediacommons.org/imr/content/chatgpt-and-specters-authorship

Topical publication in IBSS-accredited international journal

Early in 2023, **Prof Suzanne Human** published an article on image theory and university campus sculptures in the IBSS and Scopus–accredited Taylor and Francis journal, *Critical Arts*. Full details: Human, ES. 2022. 'Iconoclasm, violent interpretation, and the desiring image: sculptures on a university campus in South Africa. *Critical Arts* 36(5/6): 34–56.

https://doi.org/10.1080/02560046.2023.2169728

Guest editorship: special issue of Critical Arts **Prof Martin Rossouw** is currently acting as the guest editor for a special edition of the journal *Critical Arts*. The issue deals with translation, interdisciplinarity, and the arts, and was inspired by an international conference that our department co-hosted with the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice in December 2022. *Critical Arts* – an IBSS and Scopusaccredited journal – offers a widely recognised international platform for the scholars involved to showcase their work. Work on the special issue is currently in progress, and it is expected to be published by December 2023.

Staff involvement on international editorial boards **Prof Martin Rossouw** continued his work as editor of Brill's Contemporary Cinema, a book series that centres upon screen productions since the turn of the millennium to chart the rapidly unfolding landscape of the moving image. The rest of the editorial board: Jaimie Baron (University of Alberta, Canada), Maryann Erigha (University of Georgia, GA, USA), Cynthia Felando (University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA), Mark Jancovich (University of East Anglia, UK), Seung-hoon Jeong (California State University Long Beach, CA, USA), Kathleen Loock (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany), Tiago de Luca (University of Warwick, UK), Ernest Mathijs (University of British Columbia, Canada), Sheila J Nayar (University of Utah, UT, USA), Iain Robert Smith (King's College London, UK), Christina Stojanova (University of Regina, Canada), Aaron Taylor (University of Lethbridge, Canada), Catherine Wheatley (King's College London, UK),

and Dan Yacavone (University of Edinburgh, UK). For more information:

https://brill.com/view/serial/COCI?contents=about

Prof Martin Rossouw also continued his active involvement as editorial board member of *Short Film Studies*, currently the sole international journal dedicated to the study of the historical importance and increasing contemporary prominence of short films. For more information: https://www.intellectbooks.com/short-film-studies

Editorship of significant international edited volume

In August 2023, What Film is Good For: On the Values of Spectatorship, co-edited by **Prof** Martin Rossouw (with Julian Hanich, University of Groningen), was published by the University of California Press, a prestigious top-tier US publisher in film and media studies. With more than 30 essays devoted to setting a broader agenda for the idea of film ethics, the volume brings together some of the best-known film scholars worldwide – including Tom Gunning, Laura U Marks, Michel Chion, Michele Aaron, Carl Plantinga, Dudley Andrew, Sarah Cooper, Francesco Casetti, Timothy Corrigan, Seung-hoon Jeong, Martine Beugnet, Catherine Wheatley, and Adrian Martin, alongside further contributions from filmmakers Mike Figgis, Radu Jude, and Mark Cousins. In early reviews, Janet Staiger described the volume as "opening to a vast and valuable conversation"; and Catherine Grant goes so far as heralding it as "a foundational volume for Screen Studies". This edited volume project was born from Prof Rossouw's collaboration with the University of Groningen in hosting the international colloquium 'Viewing Values: Varieties of Ethical Experience in Cinematic Spectatorship' in March 2019, and was supported by a €4 000 grant from the Netherlands-based Nicholaas Mulerius Foundation as seed funding.

Grant for 'the Marion Island Hut Book Project' (2024–2026). **Prof Martin Rossouw** was the corecipient of a SA National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) grant of 215 000 ZAR for the three-year 'Marion Island Hut Book Project' (2024–2026) – with Elizabeth M Rudolph as principal investigator (University of the Free State, Department of Geography), Marike Stander (University of the Free State, Department of Geography), Anne

Treasure (Stellenbosch University), Charne Lavery (University of Pretoria), and Ria Olivier (Stellenbosch University).

International conference presentations
Combrinck, Louiza (Lecturer, Units). 'Image
generation across media: translation between oil
painting and Al-generated images'. Department
of Linguistics and Language Practice (UFS) and
Iconic Research Group international research
colloquium: Colloquium on Translation, Cognition,
and Semiosis, Federal University of Juiz de Fora,
6-7 November 2023.

Human, Suzanne. 'Explosive translations: Colonial image encounters and Laduma Madela's mythical pictures of landscape motifs'. Epistran International Conference: Epistemic Translation – Towards an Ecology of Knowledges, Lisbon, Nova University, 14–16 December 2023.

Human, Suzanne (with Adelheid von Maltitz). 'Adelheid Frackiewicz: relations among land art, trauma and translation'. International conference of photography studies: Photography and Site – Routes, Cartographies and Drifts, Colégio dos Jesuítas, Universidade da Madeira, Funchal, Portugal, 4–6 December 2023.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Stephanie Cawood:

Collaborated with Dr Mushonga (first author) on chapter, titled 'You have to pay with your body': the precarity of subaltern Basotho migrant women within the Lesotho–South Africa border (land)s in continuing book project with Michigan State University, Migration and the role of borders in the making of Southern Africa to be published by Lexington Press in 2023/2024.

Publication of special issue on 'Xenophobia in Africa' in *Acta Academica* on 28 November, volume 54, no. 2. Guest edited publication with Prof Peter Olapegba from the University of Ibadan (Nigeria). Range of authors from all over Africa. Collaborative project from 2021 to 2022. (not yet reported on).

Co-publication of article based on international collaborative research with Prof Jonathan Fisher (University of Birmingham, UK, as part of Newton Advanced Fellowship), 'It should be a constant reminder: space, meaning and power in post-liberation Africa' in prestigious international journal, *Political Geography*, 99(2002): 102783.

(Impact factor: 3.62). (not yet reported on).

Prof Pamila Gupta:

Final submission of edited book manuscript to Palgrave Series on Globalisation with two Dutch colleagues based at the University of Amsterdam (ASCA), Esther Peeren and Hanneke Stuit, and WiSER/Wits-based scholar Sarah Nuttall, titled, *Planetary Hinterlands: Extraction, Abandonment and Care* (forthcoming publication in August 2023).

Book manuscript reviewer (for a new manuscript tied to my own research on Zanzibar and the Indian Ocean, will keep author's name anonymous for reporting) for Princeton University Press. February 2023.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga:

Continuing collaboration with colleagues at the UFS (BFN and QQ) and in the USA at Michigan State University on a book project under the title Migration and the role of borders in the making of Southern Africa. The book will be published by Lexington Press in 2023/2024.

Leshota P and Mushonga, M, et al. 'Subverting the hegemony of Western 'theological' and cultural domination: King Moshoeshoe I and 'hidden transcripts' of resistance', *Critical African Studies*, 2023, pp.2–17.

Prof Hussein Solomon:

Book project titled *African Security in the Anthropocene* (Springer, 2023) finalised – joint
project with Niger Delta University in Nigeria. Prof
Solomon is also a Research Fellow at Niger Delta
University.

Working on a research project and appointed as a Research Fellow at the Africa Research Institute, Obuda University in Hungary.

Continuing collaboration with the African Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences – planned book project on hybrid war in Africa.

Continuing research collaboration as a Visiting Professor at Osaka University, Japan.

Continuing collaboration with the Centre for Africa Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University in India – also seat of African Studies Association (ASA) of India – co-editor of a journal associated with ASA of India – *Insight on Africa*.

Continuing research collaboration as Senior Research Associate of the Jerusalem-based Research on Islam and Muslims in Africa (RIMA).



Book project with Sergey Kostelyanets: *Between Promise and Peril: African Security* in the 21st Century. Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Worked with Russian Academy of Sciences on this joint book, which appeared in December 2023.

Centre for Health Systems Research and Development

Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D, UFS) and Dr Alice Ncube (DiMTEC, UFS) conducted the South African leg of the research and participated in the writing of the below book chapter:

Panchi Robles S, Barragán–Ochoa F, Yassen AO, Ncube A, Heunis C, Membretti A and Szarzynski J. 'The impact of COVID–19 and sustainability governance in three different mountain regions of the world – an intercontinental comparison. In: Schneiderbauer S, Fontanella Pisa P, Shroder J and Szarzynski J (Eds.). Safeguarding mountain socialecological systems. A global challenge: facing emerging risks, adapting to changing environments and building transformative resilience in mountain regions worldwide, 1st Edition, 1 November 2023.

Profs Gladys Kigozi–Male, Christo Heunis, and Michelle Engelbrecht are collaborating with Prof Monique Brown from the University of South Carolina, USA, on a systematic review of treatment adherence among older persons living with HIV in sub–Saharan Africa.

Prof Christo Heunis collaborated with Prof Joerg Szarzynski, United Nations University, and coauthors from Ecuador, Iraq, Italy, and Japan to produce a book chapter on the impact of COVID-19 and sustainability governance in three different mountain regions of the world.

Profs Christo Heunis, Gladys Kigozi–Male and Michelle Engelbrecht collaborated with Dr Michel Muteba (World Health Organisation) on research to establish the impact of COVID–19 on selected essential public health services in the Free State.

Department of Criminology

In partnership with the Basque Institute of Criminology, **Prof Robert Peacock** participated in an international project with global leaders in the field, published by Thomson Reuters (2023) under the title *Victimología y violencia: Conectar con las víctimas*.

Prof Peacock has been elected to serve on the scientific committee of the international collaborative research project 'Crime, Criminal Behaviour and Victims', spearheaded by the University of Murcia in Spain.

Department of Communication Science

Prof Nyasha Mboti collaborated with US legal scholar Steve Zipperstein presented the University of California's (Santa Barbara) Department of History Focal Point: Dialogues in History series on 12 April 2023 on the topic of 'Anti-blackness'.

Department of English

In May 2023, **Dr Marthinus Conradie** submitted an application for the Spencer Grant in collaboration with Michael Boucher from the Texas A&M University–San Antonio.

Dr Susan Brokensha is currently working on a ChatGPT study in the context of higher education with Willfred Greyling from the Waikato Institute of Technology in New Zealand.

Dr Doreen Tivenga has been working on a book project with Tanaka Chidora from the Johann Wolfang Goethe University in Germany and Ezra Chitando from the University of Zimbabwe as coeditor. The first manuscript was submitted to the publisher, Routledge, in May 2023.

Dr Rick de Villiers served as co-editor (with Dr Martin Rossouw) of a 'theme week' on 'ChatGPT and the Spectres of Authorship' for the short-essay platform, *In Media Res.* Invited contributors included: Prof Steven Connor (King's College London), Prof Virginia Kuhn (University of Southern California), and Prof Eduardo Navas (Penn State University).

Prof Oliver Nyambi was a Visiting Fellow at the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth, Germany, between January and February 2023. He worked with colleagues from the University of Bayreuth and the Humboldt University of Berlin on a book project on African Shakespeares. His trip was partially sponsored by the DHET Future Professors Programme.

Prof Oliver Nyambi received a publishing contract with Brill, Leiden, for his upcoming book Contested liberations and transitions in Zimbabwe: (counter)cultures of crisis post-2000.

Prof Helene Strauss had three pieces accepted

for publication: (1) 'Dangerous, ugly air': reckoning with atmospheric and photosynthetic in injustice in Dying for Gold. Forthcoming in book titled Ruptured Commons, edited by Veronica Austen and Anna Guttman, published by Benjamins for their International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures (FILLM) Studies in Languages and Literatures Series; (2) 'The most hidden open secret': an interview with Uhuru Phalafala on Mine Mine, forthcoming in a special issue of Agenda: Empowering Women for Gender Equity on 'Climate Justice, Gender and Activism'; and (3) 'Rebirth | Revolt | Resurrect', a conversation with Uhuru Phalafala forthcoming in a special issue of Studies in Social Justice. She continues her work as part of the international 'Reworlding Research collective,' and presented a paper titled 'Breathing with trees: towards decolonial embodied learning' at the EACLALS Triennial Conference, Paris, France, June 2023.

Dr Nonhlanhla Dlamini – 'Fictions of masculinities' construction in *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi' Wives'*. Presented at the Fourth ASSA conference held in Cape Town, 11–16 April 2022.

Dr Nonhlanhla Dlamini – 'Of fragments, history and ancestors in Emezi's *FreshWater* and *The Death of Vivek Oji*'. NEST International Conference. 29 September–1 October 2022, Wits University.

Department of Fine Arts

Dr Adelheid von Maltitz:

Creative output – three-person international group show. Title of show: *Refuge: an uncommon home*. Absa Gallery in Johannesburg – November 2022, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (KKNK) in Oudtshoorn – March 2023, and Institute Museum of Ghana in Accra – July 2023. This show is part of an Absa L'Atelier award and is a collaboration between three artists. The artists are from South Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Took up a two-week artist residency at the Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz, Poland. October 2023.

Group show with Absa ambassadors from Nigeria and Ghana. Title of show: *Refuge: an uncommon home*. Institute Museum of Ghana-Noldor Artist Residency, Accra, Ghana. June-August 2023. Invited to be a speaker and panellist for creative laboratory/gathering around the broad theme

of 'women's work as artistic practice: material

uprising' at the Origins Centre, Wits University, Johannesburg. This speaker series was made up of international panellists and was attended online internationally. June/July 2023.

Presented the paper 'Adelheid Frackwiewicz: relations among land art, trauma and translation' at the International Conference of Photography Studies I Photography and Site: Routes, Cartographies and Drifts, held at the University of Madeira, Funchal, on 6 December 2023.

Bontle Tau: Participated in a panel discussion at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, following a collaborative exhibition with Prof Peter Glendinning from Michigan State University (16–17 March 2023).

Co-curated a three-part exhibition as part of a French-South African project called 'Matrimoine'. Matrimoine is a project that explores traditional mural painting in South Africa. This project was done with the support of the French Ministry of Culture.

The three-part exhibition took place in three venues in France (the Château d'Oiron in Oiron; the Chapelle Jeanne d'Arc in Thouars; and the Palais-Royal in Paris). The project consisted of a three-month residency in France (May-July 2023), where two South African muralists (Joyce Ndimande and Maria Motaung) created works in situ. As curator, Bontle Tau hosted various workshops and open studios with the artists and local communities. Tau also moderated a round-table discussion in Oiron with various representatives from the French visual arts and academic communities.

From 6 to 7 November, **Lyrene Kuhn–Botma** participated and presented a paper online at the Second Colloquium on Translation, Cognition and Semiosis hosted by the University of the Free State and the Federal University of Juiz de Fora in Brazil. The title of the paper: *Artmaking, images and their media as sites of memorialisation*.

Department of Hebrew

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Dr KD Chau. 'Brotherly nature and nature
metaphors in *Jacob's Farewell Poem*.'
International Society of Biblical Literature annual
meeting. July 2023.

Dr KD Chau. 'Out of the shadows: Psalm 121's metaphor of God as shadow in the light of

linguistic parallelism and cognitive linguistics.' Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting; San Antonio, USA, November 2023.

Dr TJ Makutoane. 'The influence of the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs on the development of Sesotho orthography and its implications for Bible translation.' International Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. July 2023.

Dr TJ Makutoane. Invited as the John Beekman Memorial Lecturer for the BT (Bible Translation) 2023 Conference, 13–17 October 2023, Dallas, Texas, USA.

Prof T Notarius. 'Land-registration Aramaic Ostraca from Idumea (4th c. BCE): lexical and grammatical issues'. Invited paper for the international conference 'Marking the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Professor Edward Yechezkel Kutscher,' Bar-Ilan University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), February 2023.

Prof T Notarius. Invited speaker in a panel at the Assyriological Laboratory (Israel) to discuss the seminal publication by Andrew George and Manfred Krebernik 'Two remarkable vocabularies: Amorite–Akkadian bilinguals!' *Revue d'assyriologie* et d'archéologie orientale 116: 113–66.

Prof T Notarius. 'Impersonal usage of stative verbs in Ugaritic language.' In the section Ugarit and Its World at the International Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. July 2023.

Prof T Notarius. 'Current trends in the ancient Hebrew research: a glance from the newly published Amorite tablet.' Invited paper for the international conference Current Trends in Old Testament Research, Department of Old and New Testament Studies, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of the Free State. July 2023.

Dr KD Chau. 'Brotherly nature and nature metaphors in *Jacob's Farewell Poem*.' Invited paper for symposium: Perspective on Nature and Environmental Ethics in the Old Testament. International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan. Oct 2023.

Dr TJ Makutoane. 'The influence of the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs on the development of Sesotho orthography and its implications for Bible translation.' International

Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. July 2023.

Dr TJ Makutoane. 'Quality in oral Bible translation and performance.' Invited keynote lecture as the John Beekman Memorial Lecturer for the BT (Bible Translation) 2023 Conference, 13–17 October 2023, Dallas, Texas, USA.

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Shakespeare and 16th Century English Bible translations: what Bible translation did Shakespeare use?" Invited presentation to *That Shakespeare Life Podcast*, hosted by Cassidy Cash (USA).

Prof T Notarius. 'Progress on the Ugaritic corpus." University of Göttingen, Faculty of Theology, presentation at the meeting of the editorial board of the Edition der Ugaritische Poetische Texte. November 2023.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Meaning-making processes in religious translation involving sacred space'. In *Translation beyond Translation Studies*, edited by Kobus Marais. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 197–218.

Prof T Notarius. 'The Northwest Semitic – Akkadian linguistic convergence: *sipr – as case study.' In Esther Eshel and Michael Langlois (eds.), The Scribe in the Biblical World: A Bridge Between Scripts, Languages, and Cultures. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2023, pp. 183–202.

Prof T Notarius. 'Passive voice in Ugaritic and Biblical Hebrew in the historical linguistic perspective,' *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentlische Wissenschaft* 135: 70–84.

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Biblical plant hermeneutics and the translation of plants and plant products in the Book of Ben Sira 24:13–17'. In Phillip S Marshall, John D Meade and Jonathan Kiel (eds.), *Like Nails Firmly Fixed (Qoh 12:11): Essays on the Text and Language of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures Presented to Peter J Gentry on the Occasion of His Retirement*. Leuven: Peeters, pp. 295–325.

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Generative linguistics as a theoretical framework for the explanation of problematic constructions in Biblical Hebrew.' In William Ross and Elizabeth Robar (eds.), Linguistic Theory and the Biblical Text. Cambridge: University of Cambridge and OpenBook Publishers, pp. 6–66.

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Community translation and modern philology: the Rosetta stele and African orthographies.' Journal of Translation Studies in Africa 5: 19–34.

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'The intersection of syntax and poetry in the first Hebrew acrostic poem of Lamentations'. Festschrift for Andries Coetzee (editor-in-chief of the journal *Language* and professor at the University of Michigan [USA]). *SPILPlus* 67: 93–106. doi: 10.5842/67–1–1011

Prof T Notarius contributed to the volume by Bezalel Porten, Ada Yardeni, with the contribution of Tania Notarius and Matt Kleitzing, *Textbook of Aramaic Ostraca from Idumea, Vol. 5: Dossier H: Land Descriptions.* Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2023.

Prof T Notarius. 'The land descriptions of the Idumean Ostraca in their Ancient Near Eastern context.' In Bezalel Porten, Ada Yardeni, with the contribution of Tania Notarius and Matt Kleitzing, Textbook of Aramaic Ostraca from Idumea, Vol. 5: Dossier H: Land Descriptions. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, pp. 1–18.

Prof T Notarius. 'Stative verbs in Ugaritic: between argument structure and syntactic alternations." *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 49.1: 55–93.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Dr KD Chau. Co-author of book tentatively titled *Biblical Hebrew Poetry: An Introduction and Guided Reader.* Co-author is US-based scholar, Dr Lance Hawley. Signed contract with Tyndale House (Hendrickson Publishers, USA).

Dr KD Chau. 'Psalm 118' *in Psalms: Texts @ Contexts*. Eds. Athalya Brenner, Gale A Yee, and CC
Lee. London: Bloomsbury.

Dr KD Chau. 'Metaphor' in *Cognitive Linguistics for Biblical Studies: An Introduction*. Atlanta: Scholars Press (in preparation).

Dr KD Chau. Contributor and co-editor for a volume regarding biblical studies and environmental ethics; co-editors are Dr Mari Joerstad (Canada) and Dr Johannes Ro (Japan) (in preparation).

Dr TJ Makutoane. 'Re-translating for the empowerment of readers: the case of the Revision of 1989 Sesotho Bible Translation', *Translation as Empowerment: New Bible (Re-)translations*, edited by Sabine Dievenkorn. Berlin: Frank and Timme.

Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Mimesis and convention in the representation of conversation in Ugaritic myth.' In Peter T Daniels, Edward L Greenstein, John Huehnergard, Mark Leson, and Philip C Schmitz (editors), 'May You Favor the Work of His Hands': Essays in Memory of Michael Patrick O'Connor. Atlanta: Society Biblical Literature. (accepted)

Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Intransitive verb classes in Shilluk' (with Leoma G Gilley). (in preparation)

Prof JA Naudé. 'Syntactic features of *kol* as a polarity item in negative statements in Biblical Hebrew.' In Peter T Daniels, Edward L Greenstein, John Huehnergard, Mark Leson, and Philip C Schmitz (editors), 'May You Favor the Work of His Hands': Essays in Memory of Michael Patrick O'Connor. Atlanta: Society Biblical Literature. (accepted)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Semantics and pragmatics', invited contribution to the *Cambridge Companion to the Bible and Linguistics*, edited by Stanley E Porter. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (in preparation)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Parallel corpora of the Bible in minority languages', invited contribution to *A Handbook of Corpus Translation Studies*, edited by Defeng Li and John Corbett. London: Routledge. (submitted)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Community translation and modern philology: the Rosetta stele and African orthographies.' *Journal of Translation Studies in Africa*. (Special issue containing the papers from the Association of Translation Studies in Africa, held in Ghana in 2022, and edited by Sewoenam Chachu and Luke Liebzie). (accepted)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'South Africa (history of translation)', invited contribution to *Encyclopedia of Translation and Interpreting* (edited and to be published in Spain). (accepted)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Generative linguistics as a theoretical framework for the explanation of problematic constructions in Biblical Hebrew', invited contribution to Cambridge University Press volume, edited by Elizabeth Robar and William Ross. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (in press)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Religious texts, translation, and censorship', invited contribution to the *Handbook on Censorship and Translation*, edited by Denise Merkle and Brian Baer. London: Routledge. (submitted)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'The intersection of syntax and poetry in the first Hebrew acrostic poem of Lamentations'. Festschrift for Andries Coetzee (editor-in-chief of the journal *Language* at the University of Michigan [USA]). *SPILPlus*. (in press)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Chomskyan linguistics'. *Encyclopedia of Biblical Greek Language and Linguistics*, edited by Stanley E Porter et al. Grand Rapids: Baker. (submitted)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'The semiotics of theology and alterity in twenty-first century Bible re-translations: the 2020 Afrikaans Direkte Vertaling (Direct Translation) as a case in point'. Translation as Empowerment: New Bible (Re-)translations, edited by Sabine Dievenkorn. Berlin: Frank and Timme. (in press)

Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. 'Biblical plant hermeneutics and the translation of plants and plant products in the Book of Ben Sira 24:13–17'. In Like Nails Firmly Fixed (Qoh 12:11): Essays on the Text and Language of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures Presented to Peter J Gentry on the Occasion of His Retirement, edited by Phillip S Marshall, John D Meade and Jonathan Kiel. Leuven: Peeters, pp. 295–325. (in press)

Prof JA Naudé, Prof CL Miller-Naudé and Dr Daniel J Wilson. 'The negative existential in post-predicate position in Biblical Hebrew'. Mats Eskhult Festschrift. Uppsala: Uppsala University. (accepted)

Prof T Notarius. "Every glance of their eyes – like a flame, two flames": the Ugaritic **Gt** "-m-r 'see' in yitmr KTU 1.2 I 32 reconsidered". Festschrift in honour of Prof Geoffrey Khan to be published by Cambridge University Press (accepted).

Prof T Notarius (with Yitzhaq Feder). ''Surely there is God in this place': **Ugaritic İţt and Hebrew ?iššeh** reconsidered in light of Kirta's vow (KTU

1.14 IV 38),' *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (2024): forthcoming.

Prof T Notarius. 'The land descriptions of the Idumean Ostraca in their Ancient Near Eastern context.' In Bezalel Porten, Ada Yardeni, with the contribution of T Notarius, *Textbook of Aramaic Ostraca from Idumea, Vol. 5: Dossier H: Land Descriptions.* Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns (scheduled for August 2023).

Prof T Notarius. 'Peculiarities in the representation of the subjects,' chapter in *Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar (The Oxford Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*), edited by Geoffrey Khan. (accepted)

Prof T Notarius. 'Middle voice in Ugaritic in historical view.' In Nora Boneh et al (eds.) Language Change: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives. Springer. (submitted)

Department of History

Dr Rebecca Swartz

Working on a journal special issue of *Settler Colonial Studies* with Dr Felicity Jensz at the University of Münster, Germany. The two are also organising a workshop and will publish an edited volume arising from that in 2024/2025.

Was selected to the Executive Committee of the Society for the History of Childhood and Youth (based in the USA).

Prof Mohamed Badat

Was commissioned to produce a research report for the EU-funded Creating Postgraduate Collaborations (CPC) consortium on postgraduate development. The CPC comprises the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam; the University of Antwerp; Boğaziçi University; Rhodes University, the University of Venda; South Eastern Kenya University; Maseno University and Moi University.

In collaboration with Dr Anne Heffernan from Durham University, and with support from the British Academy, a workshop has been planned for December 2023, which will focus on histories of universities in South Africa.

Department of Psychology

Prof JP Fouché

International book chapter contribution via invited editors of the book: *The Palgrave Handbook of*

Servant Leadership, by Prof Satinder Dihman, Woodbury University, California; and Prof Gary Roberts, Regent University, Vancouver. Publishers: Springer/ Nature, Switzerland. ISBN:978-3-031-01323-2. Published April 2023.

Internationally compiled book by editors: Prof Claude–Mayer, University of Viandra, Germany and research associate of UJ; Prof Roelf van Niekerk (NMU) and Prof Paul Fouché (UFS), RSA, and lastly Prof Joe Ponterotto from Fordham University, New York. Publishers: Springer / Nature, Switzerland. ISBN: 978–3–031–28826–5. Book title: Beyond WEIRD– Psychobiography in times of transcultural and transdisciplinary perspectives. Collaboration with international experts in the field. Published May 2023.

Department of Philosophy and Classics

Prof John Hilton: Submitted a book proposal to an international publisher, EJ Brill in the Netherlands, which is currently under consideration. The details are: JL Hilton (forthcoming), A Commentary on Books 3 and 4 of Achilles Tatius' Leucippe and Clitophon.

Prof Bert Olivier: During a research and teaching visit to the University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw, Poland (by invitation), fruitful contact was established with the School of Communication at the university, specifically with Profs Jan and Agniezka Stasienko. Common interests were explored in research meetings as well as lectures to staff and students concerning comparative ontological perspectives on AI and being human, with a view to establishing not merely irreducibilities, but also potential impacts of AI on human survival and somatic behaviour. The latter theme was related to what has become known as extinction studies (the work of Claire Colebrook and others). Profs Stasienko, who specialise in the field of media technologies and posthuman intimacy, and who (since before this visit) have become valuable research partners in the field of post- and transhumanism, (have) solidified their position in this respect during and since the visit.

Prof Barbara Goff: Part of the advisory board for the Leverhulme–funded research project 'Aristotle beyond the Academy'.

Dr Dennis Masaka: Invited by the Department of Philosophy at Howard University to serve as a reviewer for conference submissions for the

Philosophy of the Black Experience Conference to be held at Howard University, 28–30 March 2024.

Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Continuation of the research project, *Survey of South African Sign Language Place Names*, partly in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures and with some advisory team members from institutions who are international experts in their fields. Added two postdocs to serve as expert researchers.

Department of Sociology

Prof André Pelser collaborated with colleagues at the Midlands State University in Gweru, Zimbabwe, on a research project about extramarital affairs among married women in the mining town of Shamva in the Mashonaland Central Province of Zimbabwe. A peer–reviewed article has been accepted for publication in *Anthropology Southern Africa* 46(1).

Dr Josh Platzky Miller

Research partnership with Lea Cantor (Oxford)
Co-authoring a monograph (in process)
Co-authoring journal articles and popular pieces
(one published, one under review)
Co-editing an edited volume (in process)
Co-editing a journal special issue (proposal under review, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*)
Hosted an international conference in Oxford (28–30 April 2023)

Co-authoring with international colleagues: Dr Albert Sanghoon Park (Oxford) Dr Antje Daniel (Vienna) Emre Sahin (Binghamton/Nevada, US)

Prof Sethulego Matebesi

Research partnership on the *Social aspects of the Jagersfontein tailings disaster* with the Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland (Australia).

Research partnership with Danish partners on coal mining in Mpumalanga (applied for funding to Danida).

Co-authoring an article with Australian partners.

Odeion School of Music (OSM)

RESEARCH

Dr Kunnuji served as a guest editor for the *Journal* of the Musical Arts in Africa (JMAA), published

by NISC (Pty) Ltd in association with the South African College of Music at the University of Cape Town.

Dr Frelét de Villiers was also the accompanist of the UFS Institutional Choir (under the directorship of Mr Werner Stander, contract staff member of the OSM), which took part in the European Choir Games in Norrköping, Sweden. The choir won two categories: Gospel, Spiritual, Music of Spirit and Faith; and Folklore a cappella, and went through to the Grand Prix of Nations, winning a gold medal with an average of 7,25%.

International accredited articles
Hambrock, H and De Villiers, F. 2023. 'Proposing a seamless learning experience design (SLED) framework based on international perspectives of educators from five higher education institutions.' *Electronic Journal of e-learning*, 21(1):52–68. Available: https://doi.org/10.34190/ejel.21.1.2497

Kunnuji, J and Wium, M. 2023. 'Interrogating the nuances of West African melodies: cadential conventions in Ogu songs. *Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa*, 20(1): 37–54.

Nel N, De Villiers, F and Griesel, D. 2023. 'Reflections on teaching piano to young children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.' *Muziki*. Available:

https://doi.org/10.1080/18125980.2023.2199458

Viljoen, M. 2023. 'Mzansi Magic: 'Jerusalema' as redemptive culture. *M/C – A Journal of Media and Culture*, 26(5). https://doi.org/10.5204/mcj.2989.

Chapters in edited volumes – international publications

Stander, WJ. 2023. 'Applications of music learning theory with a children's choir in South Africa. In J Reese, K McCoy, and S Chapman Hill, *Q and A for MLT: Choral Music Perspectives on Music Learning Theory*, pp. 196–202. Chicago: GIA Publications.

Wium, M. 2023. 'A temperament of 'ideal cast, lofty tone, sacrificial flame and haughty purity': Jenny Lind's faith and her career.' In James Grande and Brian Murray (eds.), *Scripture and Song in Nineteenth–Century Britain*. London: Bloomsbury. Chapter VI, pp. 117–132.

Wium, M. 2023. "Domestic affliction and a 'relaxed throat" reporting on the tribulations of Mary Shaw. In Christina Fuhrmann and Alison

Mero (eds.), *Opera and British Print Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Clemson: Clemson University Press. Chapter IV, pp. 87–103.

Wium, M. 2023. 'Adelaide Kemble and opera arias in concert and drawing rooms.' In Roberta Montemorra Marvin (ed.), *Opera Outside the Box: Notions of Opera in Nineteenth–Century Britain.*New York: Routledge. Chapter V, pp. 96–115.

Conference papers

De Villiers, F. 2023. 'Learning technologies for today and tomorrow: a digital collection of insights and tips for academics.' Paper delivered at the Asian Conference on Education (ACE2023) (online). 22–25 November 2023.

De Villiers, F. 2023. 'Moving away from traditional teaching.' Paper delivered at the 22nd International mLearn-iTLT Conference, Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal. 9-11 October 2023.

Kunnuji, J. 2023. 'Alo as cultural activism: theorising the agency of Yoruba storytelling.' Paper delivered at the 47th Annual International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) World Conference (online). 13–19 July 2023.

Kunnuji, J. 2023. 'Looking ahead by way of heritage: theorising the sustainability of African popular musics through the digitisation of source materials.' Paper delivered at the Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH) Conference (online). 29 June–1 July 2023.

Röntsch, M. 2023. 'Funk to grind your teeth with: masculinity and insecurity in the music of Stereo Zen.' Paper delivered at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music conference, hosted in Hamilton, New Zealand by the University of Auckland, Wintec | Te Pūkenga Campus. 6–8 December 2023.

Strydom, D. 2023. 'Resonance of diversity: unearthing gems in South African clarinet-piano repertoire.' Lecture-recital delivered at the EU clarinet congress, Tilburg, the Netherlands. 5-9 December 2023.

Wium, M. 2023. 'Revisiting Gerhard Kubik's Àló studies: serendipity, convivial scholarship and the history of ethnomusicology.' Paper delivered at the 47th Annual Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) World Conference (online). 13–19 July 2023.



CREATIVE OUTPUTS

Alumnus **Fabio Tafuni** (student of Dr Jan Beukes) was appointed as one of the organists of the St Peter's Basilica, Vatican.

Dr Danré Strydom and **Dr Ben Schoeman**

presented 'Autumnal Clarinet – repertoire for clarinet and piano' at St Stephen Walbrook in London on 5 December 2023.

Unit for Professional Training and Service in Behavioural Sciences

Negotiations underway to renew multinational research project initiated in 2019 and suspended due to COVID-19.

UNIBS is currently in negotiations with KU Leuven, Belgium, for a new research project. Prof Koen Luyckx (KU Leuven) is working on a proposal for a new project in collaboration with a doctoral student at KU Leuven. The student's funding application has been submitted, but no feedback has been received to date. A PhD student from the UFS will possibly collaborate on this study. The possibility of a joint degree for our PhD student will also be investigated.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Department of African Languages

Ndebele, H and Zulu, N. 2022. 'Insights on language management in the health sector: reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa.' Paper delivered at the 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Shabalala, S, Ndebele, H and Naidoo, S. 2022. 'Publishing journal articles in indigenous South African languages: a scoping review of two South African databases 2000–2020.' Paper delivered at the 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Malete, EN. 2022. 'Thematic and syntactic analysis of JJ Moiloa's poetry with particular reference to his collection of poems about Basotho culture.' Paper delivered at the 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Motsei, AS. 2022. 'The expression of aspect in

Sesotho.' Paper delivered at the 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Khanyetsi, M. 2022. 'Political nicknames among the Basotho: an ostensible influence of trending events.' Paper delivered at the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA), Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town (face-to-face). 19-20 September 2022.

Khanyetsi, M, Ndebele, S, Busane, M and Motloung, M. 2022. 'Dog naming strategies in African societies: a comparative analysis of the Basotho and Zulu naming.' Paper delivered at the Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA), Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town (face-to-face). 19–20 September 2022.

Khanyetsi, M. 2022. 'Socio-political dynamics and creativity in language: place naming among the Basotho.' In: Proceedings of the Sixth International Symposium on Place Names, Standardisation and the wealth of place names – aspects of a delicate relationship, Clarens, South Africa, 29 September–1 October 2021. Sun Media Bloemfontein. pp.73–86.

Mensele, MS. 2022. 'Dynamics of Botho/Ubuntu in Basotho folktales – with specific reference to a Sesotho folktale: Leobu.' Paper delivered at 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA), University of the Western Cape, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Mensele, MS. 2022. 'Appreciation of nature and biodiversity: the Sesotho literary contribution.' Paper delivered at 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA), University of the Western Cape, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

INCOMING

The department is hosting the Dutch winter school in July 2023 with two visiting international scholars, Prof L de Wachter (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Prof Yves T'sjoen (Gent University).

Department of Anthropology

INCOMING

Prof Robert Gordon, a research fellow in the

UFS Department of Anthropology and Prof Emeritus at the University of Vermont (USA), visited the department from 22 to 26 May. During the visit, we discussed possibilities for future collaboration, including Prof Gordon's involvement in postgraduate supervision and examination.

Department of Art History and Image StudiesINCOMING

Prof Annie van den Oever has continued her consultation and collaboration with us in her capacity as extraordinary professor in our department. This year, she visited the UFS from 3 to 6 April 2022, and her stay included guest lectures, postgraduate supervision, and liaising with key stakeholders at our university. Prof Van den Oever is Associate Professor of Film in the Department of Arts, Culture, and Media at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, research associate at the Institut ACTE, Cinéma et Audiovisuelle, Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne, founding editor of the Amsterdam University Press academic book series The Key Debates, founding editor of NECSUS: European Journal of Media Studies, editorial board member of Image and Text, and adviser to the Dalkey Archive Press.

OUTGOING

Josef van Wyk visited the University of Groningen for the first of two required three-month periods at the Dutch university as a joint PhD candidate with the University of the Free State. This first visit, which was from 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, served the purpose of personal contact with his Dutch supervisors, connection with peers, and to formally present his research.

Van Wyk and Johanet Kriel-De Klerk (a former colleague and current PhD student) therefore continued their PhD studies as formally enrolled students in the Graduate School of the Humanities, University of Groningen (Netherlands), as part of a joint PhD agreement with the University of the Free State.

Bontle Tau is part of a continuing residency and exhibition at the Château d'Oiron in Oiron, France (10–31 May 2023). She is a co-curator for the exhibition titled *Matrimoine/Litema*. The exhibition will be shown at the Château d'Oiron in July and the Palais Royal in Paris in September.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

OUTGOING:

Prof Pamila Gupta:

Academy of Fellows, University of Bayreuth (Germany). Three-month visiting fellowship (1 May-30 July 2023) to develop book manuscript: Experiments in the Dark: Visualising Capital Art Studio in Stone Town, Zanzibar.

Prof Heidi Hudson:

Hosted a CGAS Research Fellow, Dr Madsen, from 20 to 26 March, during which a co-authored paper was finalised and submitted to an international journal.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga:

Facilitated the visit of Sandew Hira, Secretary of the Decolonial International Network (DIN) and author of book *Decolonizing the Mind: A guide to decolonial theory and practice* to CGAS, the UFS, and CUT from 22 to 26 May 2023.

INCOMING

From Appalachian State University:
Dr Matt Essop
Prof Kathy Shcroeder
Dr Julie Shepherd Powell
Trevor Mckenzie
From the University of the Highlands and Islands
Prof Vicky Johnson

CGAS Qwaqwa Campus

Hosted staff from the University of the Highlands and Islands. Prof Johnson is co-supervisor of two PhD students at the UFS. CGASQQ hosted her for a week in February. We have since submitted an interdisciplinary proposal to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). This is an important project that will enhance youth transitions and youth research in the Eastern Free State if the funding is approved.

Hosted two scholars from the Appalachian State University in March. They have been critical in the development of the Master of Community Development degree, and we are now exploring pathways to further the partnership through consecutive master's possibilities and online teaching, among other initiatives.

Arranged for visit by Prof John Grider to guest lecture in the Gender Studies Programme while on Fulbright scholarship in SA in the first semester of 2024. Dr Cawood provided support as UFS institutional host for the Fullbright scholarship.

Dr Lake has started arrangements for the visit of Jessica Lynn, Global Ambassador of the Kinsey Institute from the USA/UK, and Debi Jackson from the US, to conduct gender sensitisation workshops in April 2024.

Centre for Health Systems Research and Development

Prof Gladys Kigozi–Male visited the School of Public Health, University of South Carolina (USA) in July 2023. She met with Prof Monique Brown with whom she explored the Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System data to address potential research questions.

Prof Gladys Kigozi–Male and Prof Christo Heunis visited Prof Edwin Wouters at the University of Antwerp (Belgium) in November 2023. The purpose of the visit was to discuss potential collaboration on matters of mutual interest in mental health research. Additionally, they discussed potential collaboration in HIV and aging research in South Africa with a focus on the Free State province.

Department of Criminology

Prof Robert Peacock was a recipient of the Global Minds Grant awarded by KU Leuven (Belgium) and hosted by the Faculty of Law and Criminological Sciences (Faculteit Rechtsgeleerdheid en Criminologische Wetenschappen). In strengthening and deepening capacities, knowledge and cooperation, the niche themes of Prof Peacock's work, namely 'human rights and transitional justice' and 'restorative justice and victimology' were considered strategic and relevant to the Belgian development cooperation.

Department of Communication ScienceOUTGOING

Boitumelo Mampane travelled to the University of Oldenburg in Germany for the Dialogues for Responsible Gender and Queer Studies – Experiences from the South of Africa and Germany Summer School from 21 to 27 June 2023, where she presented on 'Feminist Imagination and Cultural Practices in South Africa'.

Prof Nyasha Mboti travelled to the Utrecht University and Leiden University in the Netherlands in November 2023 to talk about apartheid studies, the emerging field of study that he pioneered.

INCOMING

In June 2023, Communication Science, along with the UFS Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC), hosted Erasmus scholars from Romania to engage on risk communication and social media.

Department of English

In the first semester of 2024, **Dr Marthinus Conradie** has been invited to teach an undergraduate seminar at Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw.

Department of Fine Arts

Bontle Tau is part of a continuing residency and exhibition at the Château d'Oiron in Oiron, France (10–31 May 2023). She is a co-curator for the exhibition titled *Matrimoine/Litema*. The exhibition will be shown at the Château d'Oiron in July and the Palais Royal in Paris in September.

Lyrene Kühn–Botma received a travel grant from the Sub–Saharan Africa (SSA) Strategy at the University of Groningen, which is a partial travel grant awarded towards a month–long visit in the Netherlands in April 2024. This is the first phase in the PhD supervision of Lyrene Kühn–Botma and a pivotal point in the instigation of her joint PhD degree in Fine Arts between the University of Groningen and the University of the Free State in South Africa.

Department of Hebrew

Dr KD Chau attended a symposium, 'Perspective on Nature and Environmental Ethics in the Old Testament' at the International Christian University (Tokyo, Japan), October 2023.

Prof T Notarius took part in the Advisory Board meeting of the 'Edition des ugaritischen poetischen Textkorpus (EUPT)' at the University of Göttingen Faculty of Theology (Germany). 31 October–3 November 2023.

Prof T Notarius is the Mercator Fellow in the project 'Edition des ugaritischen poetischen Textkorpus' (University of Göttingen), supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

Department of Philosophy and Classics

Dr Madhlozi Moyo: 2023 AfOx Fellow as part of the *Africa Oxford Initiative*. Dr Moyo will be

affiliated with the University of Oxford for a full year from January 2023 until January 2024, with a two month in-person visit to Oxford during Trinity term, 1 May-30 June 2023.

Prof Johan Beukes: Member: Groningen Centre for Late Medieval and Early Modern Thought (GCMEMT), Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands.

Board member: Foucault Cirkel Nederland-België, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Faculty member and Research Coordinator: Reflections on Science, Technology and Society (RESTS), Section Philosophy, University of Twente, The Netherlands Exam Board and First Examiner: doctoral (PhD) candidate Tineke Melkebeek (Medieval Philosophy), Ghent University, Belgium.

Departmentof South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Added two postdoctoral researchers as experts in related fields to the research project, Survey of South African Sign Language Place Names. Dr Patrick Sibanda from Zimbabwe and Dr Sara Siyavoshi from Iran.

Department of Sociology

Dr Josh Platzky Miller

Visit to the University of Cambridge (UK, May 2023). Visit to the University of Liverpool (UK, May 2023).

Unit for Professional Training and Service in Behavioural Sciences

Prof Adelene Grobler visited the Katolieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Belgium, from 13 to 20 August 2023, the focus being on resurrecting research projects and interest in exchange programmes for postgraduate students in Psychology.

Prof Koen Luyckx (KU Leuven, Belgium) will be visiting UNIBS to present a workshop and to meet with relevant research colleagues from 29 April to 4 May 2024.

INTERNATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

Dr Albertus Barkhuizen acted as examiner for

the internationally accredited French language proficiency examinations.

Prof Van Niekerk acted as examiner for the internationally accredited Dutch Language proficiency examinations.

Dr Trudie Strauss acted as examiner for the international accredited German language proficiency examinations.

On average, eight students per year enrol for the international examination for Dutch as foreign language, *CNaVT*. Five students have written the exam in May 2023 in the department.

Department of Anthropology

In February, the department reached out to its research fellows to encourage their virtual participation in a new, hybrid, bi-weekly seminar. The aim of the seminar is to enhance the department's research culture, especially as it bears on the training of our postgraduate students. Five of our fellows are based internationally (Germany, the Netherlands, USA) and their participation in seminars has begun to add international dimensions to our discussion. One of these fellows, Prof Robert Gordon, supervised postgraduate theses in the department, and we hope that other fellows will become involved in postgraduate supervision in the near future.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Stephanie Cawood:

8–9 December 2022: participated in Teaching Africa/African Languages (TAAS) Workshop held by the Centre of African Languages, University of Copenhagen (closed workshop by invitation only) (not yet reported on).

Participated in public round-table discussion on 'Comparative Experiences in Africanist PhD Education' on 9 December, organised by the Centre of African Languages, University of Copenhagen (not yet reported on).

Invited panellist participating in the book launch of the book, *Sabelo Ndlovu–Gatsheni and African Decolonial Studies*, by Prof Toyin Falola (International Scholar, UAT) hosted by the Faculty of Law, University of the Free State.

Prof Pamila Gupta:

External PhD supervisor for Dale Meneses,



Georgetown University (Washington DC). Department of History, 2020–present.

Series editor for the University of Michigan's 'African Perspectives' book series (Ann Arbor, MI USA), alongside Kelly Askew (University of Michigan) and Laura Fair (Columbia University), 2020-present.

'World Anthropologies' editor for *American Anthropologist* (journal and website) alongside
Penelope Papailias (University of Thessaly, Greece).
2021–present.

Regions 2050 programme run by Achille Mbembe (WiSER, Wits University). Scientific coordinator for 'Southern Atlantic/Indian Ocean' research cluster. Collaboration of seven local and international scholars (Namibia, UK, Mauritius, South Africa, Mozambique), producing an edited volume from the research papers.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga:

Attended the Barcelona Decolonising Knowledge and Power Summer School, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) Campus, Spain, 3–7 July 2023.

'Mental slavery, colonisation of the mind and exiting the mental prison', public lecture (online) to the Decolonising The Mind (DTM) Reading Group, 27 July 2023.

'The 'tradition/modernity' trap: beyond rhetoric,' speaker at the Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Intersection of Traditional African Values and Modern Perspectives in Achieving Gender Equality seminar, organised by the Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, UFS, 24 August 2023.

Invited to give a public lecture on 'Decolonising Knowledge', organised by the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Academic Forum for the Development of Lesotho (AfdeL), Roma, NUL, 7 September 2023.

Invited to conduct a workshop on 'Decolonising the Mind', organised by the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Academic Forum for the Development of Lesotho (AfdeL), Roma, NUL, 8 September 2023.

Discussant for 'Mapping the contours of the battle for ideas in African studies and delineating the challenges,' being an extraordinary inaugural lecture by Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu–Gatsheni, University of the Free State, 27 September 2023.

'Voices from below: representations and narratives of school children and students from

Lesotho and the coloniality of the Lesotho–South Africa border,' presentation at the 20th anniversary of the Oral History Association of South Africa (OHASA), Mogale City, Gauteng, Maropeng Cradle of Humankind, 9–13 October 2023.

Prof Hussein Solomon:

'Terrorism in the Sahel after the military coups,' presentation made to the Centre for African History, Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. 29 November 2023.

Participated in the Third Vienna Forum: Countering Segregation and Extremism in the Context of Integration. Hosted by the Federal Chancellery Republic of Austria. Palais Niederosterreich, Vienna, Austria. 24 October 2023.

'Coups in the Sahel: critical reflections', presentation made to Dutch Minister of Defence, Kajsa Ollongren, and members of the Royal Dutch Ministry of Defence. Stellenbosch. 20 October 2023.

'The struggle for LGBTQI rights in Egypt,' paper presented to the Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia University. New Delhi, India. 3 October 2023.

Keynote address – 'Terrorism in the Sahel after the coup in Niger,' paper presented to the International Conference on Counter–Terrorism, Technology and Development in Africa, co–hosted by the Africa Institute of Obuda University, Hungary, and the Centre for Military Studies, Stellenbosch University. 20 September 2023.

'Terrorism and counter-terrorism in the Sahel,' paper presented to the 2023 Summer School on EU Counter-Terrorism, co-hosted by the Jean Monet Network on EU Counter-Terrorism, Dublin City University and the University of South Wales. Dublin. 23 August 2023.

'African security in the Anthropocene,' paper presented at the book launch of *African Security in the Anthropocene*, co-hosted by Global Action to Prevent War and Soka Gakkai International. New York, USA. 26 June 2023.

'Climate security and governance in Africa,' paper delivered at the conference on The Changing Nature of Security, Warfare, Institutions and International Players, hosted by the United States African Command and the Near East South Africa Strategies Studies Centre of the National Defence University (Washington, D.C.), Casablanca, Morocco. 13 June 2023.

Prof Heidi Hudson:

'Doing' Gender Relationally for Sustainable Peace: Conceptual Traps and Transformations. Invited to present paper at the MIASA (Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa) Conference on "Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding in Africa: Practices and Disconnects", 27–28 November 2023, University of Ghana, Accra.

CGAS Qwaqwa Campus

Master of Community Development degree – negotiations with Appalachian State University to be a consecutive master's degree.

Department of Criminology

Prof Robert Peacock

Invited to present guest lectures in Germany at the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences on the topic of the 'Victimology of state crime' (20– 24 March 2023).

Participated as an expert resource person in the 19th international Asian Postgraduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice hosted by O.P. Jindal Global University in India (5–16 June 2023), with a presentation on 'Pain as punishment: the victimology of state crime.'

Participated during a doctoral defence evaluation of the Department of Clinical and Psychobiology at the reputable University of Barcelona in Spain.

Served as an expert resource faculty of the international Asian postgraduate courses on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice hosted at O.P. Jindal Global University (Delhi) and as honorary research fellow of Jindal Behavioural Institute, O.P. Jindal Global University (India).

As a visiting scholar to KU Leuven, Prof Peacock presented a guest lecture on 12 December 2023 in the Faculty of Law and Criminological Sciences in the module Criminologie en Mensenrechten (B-KUL-C08C8A) on the topic of 'Beyond restorative justice: the Zwelethemba model', thereby connecting KU Leuven to African philosophy and knowledge paradigms.

Dr Matthew Cronjé presented online on 'Decolonising Curriculum: Reflections from the

Social Sciences Programme' at the Centre for Anti-Racist Scholarship, Advocacy and Action's Race Matters forum, 20 April 2023.

Department of Communication Science

Communication Science is hosting incoming undergraduate student, **Amelie Janssen** from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, where she will take modules in Journalism and Communication in the second semester of 2023.

Department of English

Dr Susan Brokensha

Has been accepted by the TESOL International Association to act as a reviewer for the TESOL 2024 International Convention and English Language Expo that will take place in the United States. She has undergone the first part of reviewer training presented by the association (June 2023). Submitted an abstract to the TESOL International Association for the TESOL 2024 International Convention and English Language Expo in the United States, titled 'South Africa's Language Policy and ESL: contradictions to linguistic diversity'. The abstract is currently under review.

Department of Fine Arts

Dr Adelheid von Maltitz was invited to give a lecture titled 'Rooted/Uprooted', reflecting on her fine arts practice at the Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz, Poland. October 2023.

Department of Governance and Political Transformation

Dr Tania Coetzee will be part of the IKudu COIL project from 2024. She has been in contact with the Office for Internationalisation and discussions have taken place. She has completed the necessary forms.

Department of Hebrew

International Engaged Scholarship:

Dr KD Chau

- Steering Committee for Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium (Society of Biblical Literature [Annual Meeting] affiliate, USA). Organised session and contributed to planning of the Annual Meeting; San Antonio, USA, Nov 2023.
- Organised sessions and contributed to planning of the International Society of Biblical Literature Meeting; Pretoria, July 2023.
- Co-Chair of Steering Committee for Biblical

- Hebrew Poetry (Society of Biblical Literature [Annual Meeting], USA).
- Reviewed an application for a fellowship with the National Endowment for the Humanities (USA).

Prof CL Miller-Naudé

- Reviewed a chapter for the Handbook of Corpus Translation Studies (London: Routledge).
- Reviewed an application for a fellowship with the National Endowment for the Humanities (USA).
- Was asked to provide an endorsement of a new book on Biblical Hebrew for Baker Academic (USA).
- Was asked to provide an endorsement of a new book on Biblical Hebrew for Zondervan Publishers (USA).
- Co-chair of the steering committee of the 'Biblical Hebrew Language and Linguistics' programme unit of the International Society of Biblical Literature; organised the 2023 annual meeting programme.
- Co-editor of the series Linguistics Studies in Ancient West Semitic, published by Pennsylvania State University Press (USA).
- Member of editorial board, The Bible Translator.
- Prof CL Miller-Naudé and Prof JA Naudé, translation consultants for the Dinka Cam Bible translation project (South Sudan).

Prof JA Naudé

- Co-editor of the series Linguistics Studies in Ancient West Semitic, published by Pennsylvania State University Press (USA).
- Was asked to provide an endorsement of a new book on Biblical Hebrew for Baker Academic (USA).
- Was asked to provide an endorsement of a new book on Biblical Hebrew for Zondervan Publishers (USA).
- Member of editorial board, Handbook of Translation Studies.
- Member of advisory board, Handbook of Terminology.
- Member of the editorial board,
 The Bible Translator.
- Member of editorial board, Folia Orientalia.

- Member of advisory board, National Association of Professors of Hebrew (USA).
- Member of international advisory board, Journal for Translation Studies in Africa.

Prof T Notarius

- Chair of steering committee at the Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew section (USA).
- Biblical Studies book review editor of Hebrew Studies, journal published by the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (USA).
- Was appointed Mercator Fellow at the international research project 'Edition des ugaritischen poetischen Textkorpus (EUPT),' hosted at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Göttingen and sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).
- Acted as a peer-review referee for the international journals: Ugarit Forschungen; Journal of the American Oriental Society, Vetus Testamentum, Journal of Semitic Studies.
- Is the director of the continuing interdisciplinary colloquium 'Sounds and Souls of the City' at Polis – the Jerusalem Institute of Languages and Humanities.
- Is permanent contributor to the project #929
 Daily Biblical Chapter (in Russian); the lessons are available on YouTube.

Department of History

Dr Rebecca Swartz

In the process of setting up a cotutelle arrangement for a student in the ISG registered for a PhD with the University of Southern Queensland.

Co-supervising a PHD at the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory.

Continued to act as the book review editor of *History of Education*. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the Society for the History of Children and Youth. With her colleague, Dr Felicity Jensz at the University of Münster, she organised two online workshops on 'Children and institutions in settler colonial contexts.' With Dr Ana Stevenson and Dr Sarah–Jane Walton, she coauthored a blog, *Women, protest, and the colour black: South Africa and Israel/Palestine*, Australian Women's History Network VIDA blog, *http://www.auswhn.org.au/blog/colour-black-protest*.

Organised two online workshops with Dr Felicity
Jensz on 'Children and institutions in settler
colonial contexts' (June and October 2023). She
served as a book manuscript reviewer for Palgrave
Macmillan and the University of Pennsylvania
Press. She was an invited speaker at the British
Academy-funded workshop on Social History in
Southern Africa in February 2023. She was an
abstract reviewer for the European Educational
Research Association (EERA) ECER 2023 Glasgow –
European Conference on Educational Research.

Prof Saleem Badat

Has written for various international publications, including *The Guardian*, 14 July; *World Learning*, March and September. He also presented to the media on *BBC World* – 3 July; *BBC London* interview – 4 July.

Prof Badat's research project on the Histories of Universities in South Africa involves collaboration between the UFS, Stellenbosch, Durban University of Technology, the University of Johannesburg, the University of Limpopo, Rhodes University, the University of Fort Hare, the University of Pretoria, and the University of Zululand. Furthermore, an international collaboration involving nine international universities (three Kenyan, two South African, and four European – the Netherlands, Belgium, and Turkey) resulted in a report, titled *Postgraduate Education and* Research at the CPC Universities and Supportive, Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive Environments in which Postgraduates Can Thrive. Prof Badat's research visits and engagements include the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the International Institute of Social Studies at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Antwerp, Boğaziçi University in Turkey, Rhodes University, the University of Venda, and three universities in Kenya: Maseno University, Moi University, and South Eastern Kenya University. He also served as a board member of the International Consortium of Critical Theory Programmes, which included members from the United States, Turkey, Palestine, India, South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, Germany, and South Korea.

Dr Victor Gwande

Acted as the paralegal adviser to the National Union of Transport Workers of Zimbabwe to assist the union in getting affiliation with the

International Transport Workers' Federation. He also wrote a policy brief titled 'Crisis, Mbingas, and Artisanal Small–Scale Mining in Zimbabwe: can informal mining entrepreneurship offer a gateway for youths?', which was published in *Megatrends Africa*, 16, 1–7.

Applied for a British Academy grant to hold a workshop for writing and publishing for early career researchers in collaboration with Dr Ushe Kufakurinani (University of Sussex, UK) and Dr Hove (National University of Lesotho).

Academic staff members acted as reviewers for several accredited journals on a continuous basis during the year.

Dr Lazlo Passemiers assisted Dr Yves Schmitz with a funding application for a LuxAf project located within the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH) of the University of Luxembourg on Luxembourgish foreign policy towards different African countries from the 1950s to the 1980s, including South Africa.

International Studies Group

A total of four visiting students were hosted by the International Studies Group in 2023. They were:

Max Tilman Hufschmidt, a visiting PhD student from the University of Basel.

Lisa Hoppel, DOC Fellow of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Vienna.

Siobhan Amelia Smith, a visiting PhD student from the European University Institute. Riccardo Mercatali, a visiting MA student from the Sapienza University of Rome.

Several postdoctoral fellows and PhD students were involved in various international engagements. These included international visiting fellowships, invitations to present at international workshops and conferences, invitations to be book review editors for international top-notch journals, and to present guest lectures as well as external examinations.

Dr Alessandro de Cola was invited to the Department of Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna's Abendkolloquium. Title of the presentation: 'Rethinking the two sides of the coin: the Maria Theresa thaler in the Red Sea (1860s–1960s)', 16 May 2023.

Belinda Makare, Nicola Yon, Keaobaka Tsholo, and **Nyasha Bushu** attended the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) two-day mentorship workshop at the National University of Lesotho from 16 to 17 March 2023.

Dr Geraldine Sibanda was invited to be the review editor for *H-Diplo*. She was also the coordinator for the Young Scholars Initiative – Africa Working Group and was involved in the Twentieth Century Economic Thinking (ECOINT) research project housed in the Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy, which is funded by the European Research Council. Collaborations with Profs Glenda Sluga (PI – EUI), Thomas David and Dr Pierre Eichenberger (University of Lausanne, Switzerland).

Dr Innocent Dande was part of a group of leading animal historians who established the *Animal History* journal – the first journal of record in animal history. The journal is published by the University of California Press and housed at the University of Dayton.

Dr Joseph Jakarasi attended a funded international workshop at the University of Bologna, Italy.

Dr Kaluba Chama was invited as one of the guest lecturers at the 2023 Entangled Food Histories Winter School organised by the University of Pavia, 4–5 December. He was also an external examiner of a Master of Arts in History dissertation at Kwame Krumah University in Kabwe, Zambia.

Dr Michael Glover secured a Visiting Research Fellowship at the African Studies Centre Leiden, August-November 2023.

Nicola Yon was invited to present at the Regional Conference on Social Protection for Informal Economy Workers in Nigeria. She was also invited to attend an international training programme on Social Protection in Sweden. She also presented at the Southern African Social Protection Experts Network (SASPEN) 2023 Annual Conference in Mauritius.

Nyasha Blessed Bushu attended the *Journal of Southern African Studies* Early Career Writing Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, 15–19 August 2023.

Dr Unaludo Sechele was invited to serve on

the Botswana Notes and Records international advisory board.

Department of Sociology

Dr Josh Platzky Miller

Invitations to guest lecture: University of Manchester (US), 27 Feb 2024 – presented.

University of Cambridge (UK), 14 June 2023 – presented.

One of the Qwaqwa postgraduate students will pay a four-month visit to the University of Education in Freiburg, Germany, in April 2024 as part of our MOU with that institution.

Odeion School of Music (OSM)

LEARNING AND TEACHING

The OSM hosted a Fulbright scholar, Emeritus Professor Ramona Holmes, from 4 to 15 September. She is a music education and ethnomusicology specialist from Seatle Pacific University (USA). Her involvement included interactions with all lecturers and students, but especially those from Music Education and Ethnomusicology. They had discussions on different aspects such as ethnomusicology, choral music practice, service learning, community music programmes, youth strings development programmes, and research. During her visit, Prof Holmes observed Music Education classes, suggesting new ideas, and contributed to the development and review of the Music Education modules. She visited the community service programmes, namely the Bloemfontein Life Change Centre Music School in Heidedal, and the Mangaung Strings Programme (MSP) at the Musicon. During her visit, she taught American folk songs to the learners, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Dr Sonkanise Nkosi organised a performance lecture for Music students on 23 March, presented by Prof Omekongo Dibinga from American University (Washington, DC). The event also included performances by the students. It included a discussion about his PhD research on rap/popular music studies.

Marius Coetzee curated a concert dedicated to

South African art music as part of the prestigious 'Festival Voor het Afrikaans 2023' in the Hague, the Netherlands. The event was pre-recorded and broadcast on Sunday 26 November. It included works by Dizu Plaatjies, Matthijs van Dijk (a commissioned work by the SA Strings Foundation and Nelson Mandela University in collaboration with Rhodes University and the National Institute for the Humanities), Pieter van der Westhuizen (arranged by Lance Phillip), Hendrik Hofmeyr, and Arnold van Wyk. The goal was to introduce listeners to the vast diversity within the genre, while keeping the concert explicitly inclusive. The curator of the festival - Ingrid Glorie - along with collaborator Elize Zorgman, shared their enthusiastic feedback about the event: "We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the impressive and truly special programme you curated for the festival! The reception was exceptional, and during the concert, one could hear a pin drop as the audience remained captivated and attentive."

Dr Anchen Froneman is part of the Faculty of the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies New Pathways certification programme in New York, teaching the online-based programme to students from Ecuador, the USA, Canada, Uganda, and South Africa. The first cohort of African students in the programme was certified in December 2023. Dr Froneman co-supervised the final projects of two qualifiers in the group.

Werner Stander attended the Professional Development Levels Course of the Gordon Institute of Music Learning Theory. He was granted the Choral Level 1 accolade at the University of Maryland, College Park, Washington (USA).

Dr Danré Strydom was invited to conduct the wind ensemble at the 2023 Youth Orchestras of Namibia project.

UNIT FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND SERVICE IN BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

Lecture by Prof Koen Luyckx (KUL) to the master's degree students in their second year of the professional programme in Psychology on 26 September 2023.

Second-year master's degree students to attend

a work offered by Anne-Marie Wulf, Director of the Danish Solution-Focused Institute, Denmark, from 22 to 23 August 2023.

The possibility of a joint PhD degree in collaboration with KU Leuven, Belgium, is being investigated.

UNIBS will be hosting two international interns from KU Leuven in Belgium in 2024. They will do their internship from the beginning of September 2024.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

On average, eight international students (visiting the UFS) per year enrol for the conversational short learning programme in Afrikaans as foreign language. Students on the UFS campus attend the SLP twice per week for 13 weeks in semester 1 and separately in semester 2. Five international students /visiting scholars (one each from Taiwan, Sweden, USA, Germany, Lesotho) received UFS SLP certificates after their successful completion of the programme on 7 June 2023.

Department of Art History and Image Studies

Dr Martin Rossouw is currently in discussion with the Department of Arts, Culture, and Media at the University of Groningen regarding a potential candidate for a joint PhD (sandwich construction) between the two universities. Discussions and proposal development are still underway, although – as much as this would be an attractive international recruitment for our department – funding of this project from the UFS' side for a sandwich construction may likely prove to be a problem.

CENTRE FOR GENDER AND AFRICA STUDIES

Bloemfontein Campus:

Enrolled postgraduate international students in the PhD in CGAS in 2023: 17 (30 postgraduate international students overall).

Qwaqwa Campus: Facebook initiative

International postgraduate students graduated in December:

Bekezela Gumbo (PhD student from Zimbabwe)

(supervisor: Dr J Steyn-Kotzé, co-supervisor: Dr S Cawood).

Natalia Magaua (PhD student from Mozambique) (international external supervisor: Prof G Griffin from Sweden/UK, international external cosupervisor, Dr M Paolo from Mozambique, internal supervisor: Dr N Lake and internal cosupervisor: Dr S Cawood).

Gibson Makamure (MA Gender Studies, Swaziland) with distinction (supervisor: Dr S Cawood, cosupervisor: Dr N Lake).

Department of English

Dr Kudzayi Ngara has recruited a new PhD student from 7imbabwe.

Dr Nonhlanhla Dlamini has recruited a new PhD student from Kenya.

Department of Fine Arts

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans volunteers as a visual artist at CareerVillage.org, which is based in the United States. CareerVillage.org, a non-profit organisation, serves as a global platform where professionals across various fields can respond to questions from students worldwide regarding their career interests. The organisation specifically assists individuals – particularly underserved high school students – who aspire to pursue careers as visual artists.

Department of Governance and Political Transformation

Dr Tania Coetzee has been in contact with Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier to assist with the recruitment of international students; marketing material was sent to his office.

Department of Hebrew

The Department of Hebrew has a large number of international postgraduate students, coming from the following countries: Australia, Botswana, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Madagascar, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Palestine, Siberia, UK, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

One of our PhD students, **Jacobus van Straaten**, attended the Misano Summer School for Translation Studies (Italy) with a scholarship and presented his PhD research there.

Prof TJ Makutoane travelled to Morija Theological Seminary in Lesotho to recruit students, 1–4 November 2023.

One of our PhD students, **Megan Braithwaite**, presented a portion of her PhD research at the International Society of Biblical Literature conference in July.

Department of Political Science and Governance

The department is currently involved in one short learning programme. At the request of the African Union, this SLP was developed to train analysts at the AU to correctly interpret the information they receive from on–the–ground sources with a view to successful conflict resolution, mediation, and peace–making efforts. The course material has been developed and the department is waiting for feedback from the AU to commence with the training.

Unit for Professional Training and Service in Behavioural Sciences

Continuous negotiations to reignite interest from postgraduate students in Psychology at KUL to choose UNIBS as their internship site for clinical exposure. Exchange programme lost momentum after COVID-19.

PARTNERSHIPS

Department of Art History and Image Studies

Prof Martin Rossouw is currently in discussion with Prof Annie van den Oever (Department of Arts, Culture, and Media, University of Groningen), Prof Mogomme Masoga (UFS Dean: The Humanities), and Prof Vasu Reddy (UFS Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation) regarding (a) the expansion of our current joint PhD collaborations with the University of Groningen and (b) the further possibility of establishing a pipeline for talented postdoctoral candidates from Groningen to join the UFS as part of a MOU between the two institutions. Discussions and proposal development regarding this are still underway.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga:

Partnered with the University of Glasgow on 18 May in the production of a podcast titled *Decolonising Education.* Podcast will be published on the University of Glasgow's website.

Prof Hussein Solomon:

Two EU funding proposals have been submitted



(one Horizons 2023–2024 and the other Marie Curie).

Dr Grey Magaiza, Dr Stephanie Cawood, and **Nomcebo Dlamini** (along with a number of other UFS colleagues across various faculties from the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses) were invited to spend several weeks in September 2023 at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina (USA), as part of the Mountain–to–Mountain Collaborative Project to enhance collaborative networks with relevant departments such as the Centre for Appalachian Studies and the Department of Geography, among others. Dr Magaiza was also invited to give a presentation on 'Participatory Community Development with Afromontane Communities' at the Community Development Society in Portland (USA).

Department of Criminology

The Institute of Behavioural Sciences of O.P. Jindal Global University – recognised as an institution of eminence and ranked the number one private university in India (2023 QS World rankings) – bestowed the honour as an Honorary Fellow on Prof Peacock.

Department of Communication Science

Communication Science entered into an informal partnership with Sputnik TV of Russia, whereby experienced reporters and journalists at Sputnik provided training to Communication Science Journalism students on international journalism trends, including addressing topics such as fake news and disinformation.

Department of Fine Arts

The department always strives to include and encourage international and intercultural dimensions in the curriculum.

Department of Governance and Political Transformation

During discussions with Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier, he agreed to assist with establishing partnerships with international countries and governance.

Department of Hebrew

Prof T Notarius is a partner in the Copenhagen Ugaritic Corpus Project (Denmark).

Department of Linguistics and Language Practice

DLLP and the Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu have an Erasmus exchange running from 2024 to 2026.

Department of Psychology

Prof Luzelle Naudé:

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Zurich, Switzerland, to facilitate the research collaboration pertaining to the African Long-Life Study (principal investigator Prof L Naudé).

Department of Philosophy and Classics

Prof Bert Olivier: Another important development that has been put on hold for the time being concerns promising research and teaching contact with the (English-language) School of Advanced Studies at the University of Tyumen, South Siberia, Russia, which was first initiated before the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict and has remained latent since then. Common interests in philosophy of technology, science fiction in cinema and literature, and the historically shifting grounds of film noir have since been established in communication with the Director of the school (SAS), Prof Andrey Cherbonov, and when circumstances permit, these interests will be explored further through a visit to SAS in Tyumen at the invitation of Prof Cherbonov.

Dr Dennis Masaka: Presented a paper titled 'Overcoming epistemic injustice in Africa: a Global South perspective' at an international conference on Decolonising Epistemic Injustice/Implicit Bias, at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromso, 25–26 January 2023.

Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Continued collaboration with the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy to host the biennial International Symposium on Place Names and to advance research on place names locally. The Seventh ISPN will be hosted 26–29 September on the UFS Bloemfontein Campus.

Co-hosting the annual Afrilex (African Association for Lexicography) conference from 26 to 29 September on the UFS Bloemfontein Campus,

aimed at local as well as international scholars.

The Survey of South African Sign Language Place Names is partly in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures as a component of a larger project, Advancing South African Sign Language for 4IR Technological Development Using Place Names. The latter is funded by the SA Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC). The Memorandum of Agreement has been signed. DSAC visited the UFS for an onsite inspection on 26 March 2023. On 14 June, the team (our department and the ICDF) attended the annual Steering Board meeting with DSAC.

Odeion School of Music (OSM)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Werner Stander (conductor of the UFS Institutional and Bloemfontein Campus Choirs) is a member of the International Federation for Choral Music and attended the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, Turkey, in April 2023.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY Department of Anthropology

In December 2022, **Prof Joy Owen** and **Dr Christian Williams** discussed the possibility of extending relationships with one or more European universities with which individual staff members already have connections. This aim might be achieved via an Erasmus mobility grant and/or a DAAD grant (German Academic Exchange Service). Although the department is not in a good position to take this matter further now, we will return to it at our strategic planning meeting towards the end of the year and consider the way forward.

Department of Governance and Political Transformation

Focus also falls on the identification of international external examiners for assessing postgraduate qualification assessments and examining mini-dissertations. Colleague in governance of Ghana has been contacted in this regard.

Unit for Professional Training and Service in Behavioural Sciences

Prof Grobler (UNIBS) visited KU Leuven, Belgium,

during August 2023, where she met with three colleagues, namely the faculty's international officer, Elise Konings, Prof Hilde Colpin, and Prof Koen Luyckx (research fellow).

These discussions essentially focused on future mobility opportunities for UFS postgraduate students, the internship exchange programme, future research collaborations, and Prof Luyckx's visit to UNIBS in 2024.

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

The department was co-organiser of a symposium on benchmarking foreign languages for Southern Africa, including Namibia and Lesotho, on 8 and 9 June 2023. This included Afrikaans, Dutch, German, French, Sign Language, Sesotho and isiZulu.

Department of Anthropology

In February, the department reached out to its research fellows to encourage their virtual participation in a new hybrid, bi-weekly seminar. The seminar's aim is to enhance the department's research culture, especially as it bears on the training of our postgraduate students. Five of our fellows are based internationally (Germany, the Netherlands, USA) and their participation in seminars has begun to add international dimensions to our discussion. One of these fellows, **Prof Robert Gordon**, has supervised postgraduate theses in the department, and we hope that other fellows will become involved in postgraduate supervision in the near future.

Department of Art History and Image Studies

The department always strives to include and encourage international and intercultural dimensions in the curriculum.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga:

On 10 May 2023, had very fruitful face-to-face discussions with colleagues at the University of the Western Cape under the project titled

The ABC of Decoloniality. The need to integrate, incorporate, and deploy indigenous languages as medium of learning and teaching was highlighted and success stories of this were shared.

Department of English

Prof Helene Strauss has been implementing collaborative embodied pedagogies in her third-year seminars. This work partly grew out of a collaborative project with the 'Reworlding Research Collective' (UFS, Brock University, McMaster University, Concordia University). One of the aims of the collective was to design pedagogical practices and curricular innovations that animate reparative feminist, anti-racist, and decolonial pathways for 'living, dying, being, and feeling otherwise' amid the worsening climate crisis. One of the offshoots of this work is a paper titled 'Breathing with trees: towards decolonial embodied learning' (presented at the 2023 EACLALS conference).

Department of Hebrew

The Department of Hebrew has hired two international scholars: **Prof T Notarius** from Israel and **Dr Kevin Chau** from the USA. Their research expertise and postgraduate training at the Hebrew University and the University of Wisconsin–Madison provide our undergraduate and postgraduate students with important international perspectives on our discipline.

Department of Philosophy and Classics

We should stress that the department prefers to emphasise quality over quantity and in our view, when the choice for quality is made, it is not wise or responsible to work with quantitative goals, i.e., so many conferences should be organised or attended, so many publications should be chased at such and such dates. The value of this approach is arguably clearly demonstrated by the strong record that the department has built over the past five years and more through the work done by our research fellows and our full-time academic staff, ensuing in the work by these colleagues being disseminated at international conferences, in foreign publications, and also in that collaborators from our network elsewhere bring their knowledge to the UFS context, also publishing in UFS journals, for example Acta

Academica, with whom our department has a record of fairly close collaboration. We could state that when it comes to the priority in this area, the internationalisation should work in both directions, i.e., ideas that we develop here in our context, inasmuch as it is relevant to international critical questions of our time, should be communicated at fora where these matters are researched and discussed. At the same time, we work hard to ensure that leading thinkers in the areas in which the department specialises are also given exposure in our context. A case in point is the choice the department made this year in hosting the SA Society for Critical Theory, of which we were a co-founder in 2017. We chose the topic of Ecology and Critical Theory based on the strengths of the academics in the department and came up with a wish list of key thinkers in South Africa and abroad in these fields, and we succeeded to attract three of them as keynote speakers for the upcoming conference.

Department of Sociology

Dr Josh Platzky Miller

Engagement with theoretical and empirical casework from the Middle East and Latin America in SOCP6808 and SOCP2624 coursework, as well as theoretical debates largely stemming from Western Europe and North America.

Internationalisation in undergraduate (SOCP2624) and honours (SOCP6808) teaching: Engagement with theoretical and empirical casework from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, alongside Western Europe and North America. Supporting master's student to attend German

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Department of African Languages

Study Abroad Programme.

JOURNALS:

Ndlovu, E. 2022.

'Language and inclusive sustainable human development in Zimbabwe: a case study of the agricultural sector.' *Journal of African Languages and Literary Studies*. 3(2): 119–142.

Ndlovu, E, Mtetwa, T and Makina, D. 2022. 'Public

access to, involvement in, and the right to petition parliament in Zimbabwe.' *Language Matters*, 53(3): 114–131.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Ndlovu, E, Chipfupa, D and Dhoro, K. 2022. 'Foreign language teaching at the University of Zimbabwe: Whose agenda? What agenda?' In: Mukaro, L, Ncube, G, Mushangwe, H, Chipara, M and Gwatirisa, Y. (eds.). *Unlocking an Untapped Potential: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Language and Development in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa*. University of Zimbabwe Press. Harare. 9–25.

Ndlovu, E. 2022. 'Ethnic minority language speakers in Zimbabwe: their place and challenges with regards to their linguistic human rights (LHRs) and human rights,' in Ndlovu, E and Gopo, LT (eds.). Language Legislation in Southern Africa and Beyond. Harare: University of Zimbabwe Press. 27–52.

Ndlovu, E and Gopo, LT. 2022. 'Introduction: language legislation,' in Ndlovu, E and Gopo, LT (eds.). Language Legislation in Southern Africa and Beyond. Harare: University of Zimbabwe Press. 1-6.

Gopo, LT and Ndlovu, E. 2022. 'Conclusion: policy and planning: the chicken and the egg in language management,' in Ndlovu, E and Gopo, LT (eds.). Language Legislation in Southern Africa and Beyond. Harare: University of Zimbabwe Press. 264–274.

EDITED BOOKS:

Ndlovu, E and Gopo, LT (eds.). 2022. *Language Legislation in Southern Africa and Beyond*. Harare: University of Zimbabwe Press.

ARTICLES:

Shah, S, PhD1,2*, Letzadzo Kometsi, LLD3 and Brenzinger, M, PhD2: 2022. Language activists and linguists in pursuit of the siPhuthi cause.

Department of African Languages (Bloemfontein Campus)

Principal contributor: Dr Sheena SB Shah

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Stephanie Cawood:

Co-hosted/organised international joint conference with War Museum, titled 'The unsung

heroines and youth of South Africa: Violent histories and experiences of South African women and children during wars, conflicts and pandemics.' 24–25 Nov 2022 (not yet reported on). Attended by numerous international scholars in person and online.

Prof Hussein Solomon:

Organised an international conference on The Future of War for 30 May 2023, including speakers from Qatar, Denmark, Nigeria, Tanzania, the Czech Republic, and Ghana.

Served as external examiner for a PhD candidate – Adenke Fadahunsi – at Nottingham Trent University in England.

External reviewer for University of Portsmouth for Dr Tom Smith being promoted to Reader.

CGAS Bloemfontein Campus:

Graduated postgraduate international students at April graduation ceremonies: seven (of which three were international PhD students).

Hosted Prof Motlatsi Thabane from Lesotho as the speaker for the Africa Day Memorial Lecture on 24 May 2023.

CGAS Qwaqwa Campus:

We are working on a South-to-South collaboration with work in East Africa and the rest of SADC to market our online postgraduate diploma.

International members of the CGAS board:

- Prof Ramon Grosfoguel (UC Berkeley)
- Prof Stephen Small (UC Berkeley)
- Sandew Hira (Decolonial International Network)

International Research Fellows in the CGAS:

Dr M Alubafi (Cameroon)

Dr O Amao (Nigeria/Cameroon/New Zealand)

Prof LL Atanga (Cameroon)

Dr M Chibwana (Zimbabwe)

Prof JV Fisher (UK)

Dr T Kamuti (Zimbabwe)

Prof P Lamb (UK)

Dr D Højlund Madsen (Sweden/Denmark)

Dr S Maliehe (Lesotho/Zimbabwe)

Dr W Mwatwara (Zimbabwe)

Dr J Muzondidya (Zimbabwe)

Dr O Ogunnubi (Nigeria/Canada)

Dr S Onwuegbuchulam (Nigeria)

Prof E Sienaert (Belgium)

Prof M Thabane (Lesotho) Prof RA Themner (Sweden) Dr R Williams (USA)

International Extraordinary Professors in the CGAS:

Prof H Melber (Sweden/Namibia) Prof SJ Ndlovu-Gatsheni (Zimbabwe/Germany) Prof G Griffin (Sweden/UK)

Department of Criminology

Dr Matthew Cronjé has become a community advisory member for the Centre for Anti-Racist Scholarship, Advocacy and Action housed at Arcadia University in Philadelphia, USA.

Prof Robert Peacock

Serves on the board of Just Detention International (Los Angeles and South Africa) to advance praxis and social justice.

Senior editor of the journal Global Advances in Victimology and Psychological Studies and serves on various editorial boards of international journals (Journal of Victimology and Victim Justice, Mediarres: Revista sulla Mediazione; Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice, Temida: Serbian Journal of Victimology and Human Rights, Criminologia e Vittimologia).

Serves as an international expert on the research line of Human Rights and Transitional Justice at KU Leuven: Belgium.

Department of Communication Science

Communication Science's journalism stream hosted Prof Dani Madrid-Morales (University of Sheffield, UK) and Prof Herman Wasserman (Stellenbosch University) for a set of classes, focus groups, and workshops on fact checking

and fake news.

Department of English

Ndivhuwo Ndou attended a Curriculum Renewal Programme with CTL from 5 to 9 June 2023.

Department of Fine Arts

In 2023, **Dr Adelheid von Maltitz** and **Johandi du** Plessis-Kleynhans were awarded the esteemed distinction of the Ampersand Foundation Fellowship and Residency. The renowned accolade entails an all-expense-paid residency situated in Tribeca, New York, spanning a month. It affords fellows the opportunity to spend time in the United States of America, thereby enriching their educational endeavours and subsequently enhancing their contributions to the broader South African art community. Dr Von Maltitz and Du Plessis-Kleynhans joined a distinguished cohort of more than 200 Ampersand fellows who have occupied the same space and benefited from similar experiences of New York and returned to South Africa to contribute to the art community and their development as artists. Dr Von Maltitz will take up her residency in June 2024, and Du Plessis-Kleynhans in September.

Department of Philosophy and Classics

Prof RM Britz: Served as external assessor for two PhD theses (Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary/Theological University Apeldoorn) and was invited to participate in the Examination Committee in the public defence of the theses. Prof RM Britz was appointed as co-promotor for a PhD candidate enrolled for a joint degree (Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary/Theological University Apeldoorn).



Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Co-authoring a chapter for an international handbook with Prof Theo du Plessis:

Du Plessis, T and Loth, C (2024). 'Transforming the linguistic landscape of Southern Africa – more of the same?' D Gorter and J Cenoz. *Handbook of Linguistic Landscapes and Multilingualism*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Mapeshoane, M, Kotoyi, A, Loth, C, De Lange, J and Du Plessis, T. 'Official language, official names? A case study of SASL place names,' to be presented at the Seventh International Symposium on Place Names to be held in Bloemfontein from 26 to 29 September 2023.

Van Staden, A. 'The impact of emergent literacy and cognitive linguistic skills on ESL reading success in South Africa: implications for teachers and policy makers' (Modality: Oral presentation).

15th annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies

3–5 July 2023, Palma de Mallorca (Spain) – also accepted for the conference proceedings.

Van Rhyn, AA and Van Staden, A (2023 – under review).

'Unlocking literacy potential: a theoretical exploration of ESL learners in South Africa, *Per Linguam*.

Department of Sociology

Dr Josh Platzky Miller

Conference/Workshop attendance: Presented at British Society for the History of Philosophy conference, University of Aberdeen, Scotland (UK, 14–15 April 2023). Attended 'Echoes of 1973: Revisiting the Memories of Latin America' workshop/exhibition, King's College London (UK, 17 April 2023).

Hosted Questioning 'Western Philosophy'
Conference, University of Oxford (UK, 28–30 April 2023).

Attended The Future of Intellectual History conference, QMUL, London (UK, 10 May 2023). Attended conference: A Dialogue on Disappearance: 'The Missing' in Global Perspective, University of Cambridge (UK, 15 May 2023). Attended Decolonising Economics workshop, University of Cambridge (UK, 18 May 2023). Attended UK Latin American Historians Network conference, LSE, London (UK, 19 May 2023). Attended UK Latin American Historians Network conference, LSE, London (UK, 19 May 2023). Presented at *Jornadas de Estudio y Reflexión sobre Movimientos Estudiantiles* conference (Buenos Aires, AR, 6–8 Sept 2023).

Presented at Free Decolonised Education in the Aftermath of Rhodes Must Fall and Fees Must Fall in South Africa conference (HSRC/University of Cambridge, UK, 22–23 May 2023).

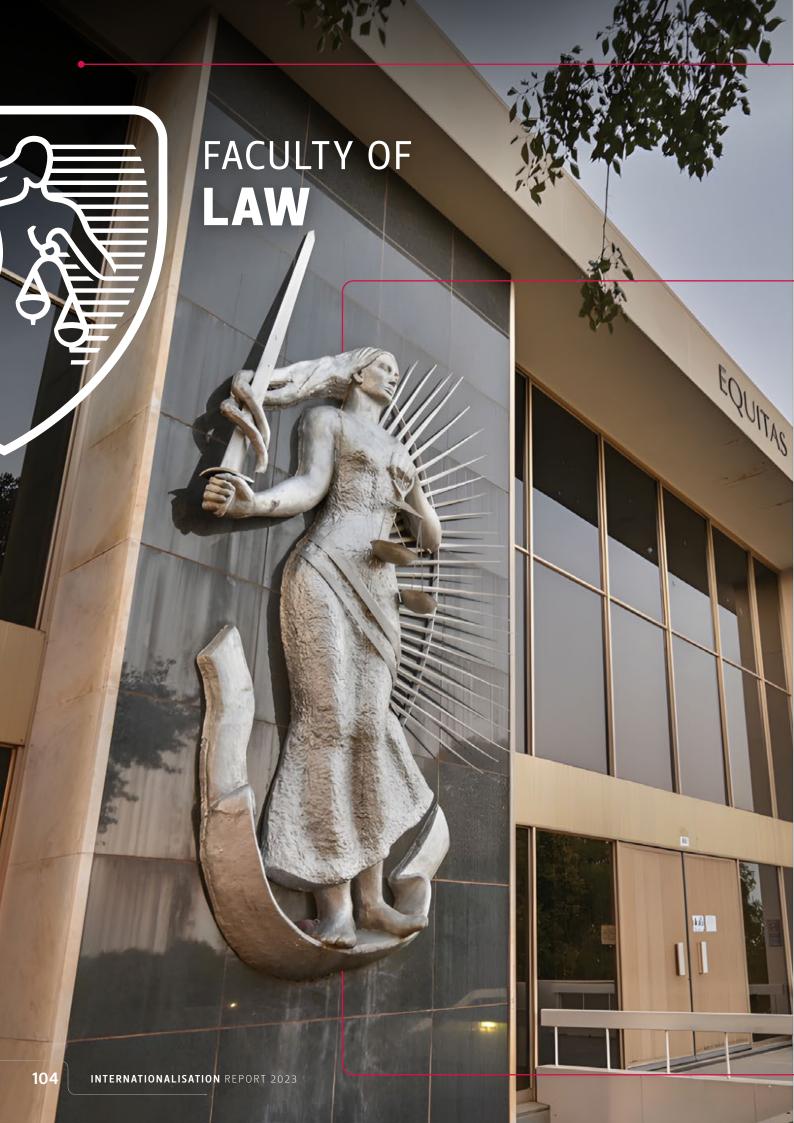
Invitations to peer review:
Book proposal for Agenda (UK)/Columbia
University Press (US).
Book proposal (University of Wisconsin–Madison, US).

Journal of World Philosophies (Indiana University Press, US).

Unit for Professional Training and Service in Behavioural Sciences

Continuing collaboration with colleagues from Ireland (PhD co-supervisors) and Belgium (extension of exchange programme).







Dean
Prof Serges Kamga



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator **Quinter Onyango**

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Prince Sarpong – member of the Equity and Inclusion Committee of the Financial Therapy Association (USA).

Committee member, Financial Therapy Association, USA.

Dr Tamanda Kamwendo – member of the Association for Responsible Research and Innovation in Genome Editing (ARRIGE). This is an international advisory body responsible for promoting the global governance of genome editing.

Dr Shelton T Mota Makore – external editor for the journal, *South African Yearbook of International Law.*

Rika van Zyl held discussions on 8 July 2023 with colleague Martin Schoenmaker at the Utrecht University in the Netherlands on public policy in law of succession for possible future research.

Dr George Fordam Wara

Co-authoring an article with the International Leadership Institute (ILI), an NGO based in Minnesota, USA, to be presented at the Sixth World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality at the University of the Western Cape Bellville Campus in Cape Town, South Africa, from 3 to 6 September.

Board member of the International Leadership Institute (ILI), an NGO in Minnesota, USA.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Watoto Rescue Association, a Kenyan NGO working to promote and protect the rights of youths, orphans, and vulnerable children.

Dr A de Man – co-editor of the Blog of the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers.

Dr Catherine S Namakula – member of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.

Free State Centre for Human Rights

Prof Danie Brand contributed a chapter to the *Research Handbook on Social Welfare Law* due to be published in November 2023 by Edward Elgar publishers as part of a research collaboration with colleagues from the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK; the University of Southampton, UK; the University of York, UK; and the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

The Free State Centre for Human Rights has joined the International Association of Constitutional Law as institution.

New research collaborations:

The Free State Centre for Human Rights, in partnership with the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, and the University of Dayton Human Rights Centre, hosted the Sixth International Conference on the Right to Development in Dayton, Ohio from 2 to 4 November 2023. The theme of the conference was 'Decolonisation and Development for Africa and People of African Descent'.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Public Law

International Publications

Prof S de Freitas, 'Whose equality? Freedom of religious associations and *Gaum v Van Rensburg'*, *Journal of Law and Religion*, Vol. 38, 2(2023), 1–16, Cambridge University Press.

Prof Iain T Benson, 'Natural law and human rights amid the legal ruins of liberal scepticism, values language and global resets', in Tom Angier, Iain T Benson and Mark D Retter (eds), *The Cambridge Handbook of Natural Law and Human Rights*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2023, 385–401.

Prof Iain T Benson and Prof Jane Adolph, 'The Anglo-Saxon tradition and the rule of law' in Michał Gierycz and Piotr Mazurkiewicz (eds.), Faces of the rule of law in Europe, Warsaw, 2023 (forthcoming).

Prof Iain T Benson, 'Can it ever be 'reasonable' to ignore the facts?' in Fulvio de Blasi (ed.), *Politica, Diritto e Religione In Tempo Di Covid*, Rome: Phronesis Editore, 2023.

Prof IT Benson, 'Minister of Home Affairs and Another v Fourie and Another: a jurisprudence of engagement', in R Barker, PT Babie and N Foster, Law and Religion in the Commonwealth: The Evolution of Case Law, Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2020, 227–246.

Prof J van der Walt, 'Rawls, Habermas and liberal democratic law', *Netherlands Journal of Legal Philosophy*, Vol. 52, 1(2023), 16–45.

Prof J van der Walt, 'Reply to my critics', Netherlands Journal of Legal Philosophy, Vol. 52, 1(2023), 134–155.

Presentations at International Conferences: **Dr L Prinsen** presented a paper at the Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference, 4–6 April 2023, Ulster University's Magee Campus, Londonderry, UK: 'Consent for biomedical research: suggestions from South Africa'.

Prof S de Freitas presented a paper at the International Institute for the Study of Freedom of Religion or Belief (ISFORB) Conference, 4–5 May 2023, Evangelical Theological Faculty, Leuven, Belgium: 'Prince v President, Cape Law Society and Others, the right to freedom of religion and aspirations towards inclusion'.

Prof M Reyneke presented a paper titled, 'Screening national frameworks and best practices for equal education opportunities: a South African perspective' at the European Association for Education Law and Policy Conference on Education Governance and Leadership for inclusive Digital Transformation. Bologna, 12–13 May 2023 (online).

Private Law

Dr Marda Horn delivered a paper at the Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference that was held at the MacGee Campus of the Ulster University in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland from 4 to 6 April 2023. The title of her presentation was 'Real rights and personal rights as property'.

Dr Tamanda Kamwendo and Quinter Onyango

participated in a staff mobility programme at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul from 14 to 21 July 2023. The programme presented an opportunity for the faculty to strengthen its internationalisation agenda in line with Vision 130, which emphasised the expansion of research networks and the fostering of relationships with universities and other partners to advance academic excellence, quality, and impact.

Dr T Kamwendo presented a paper at the 15th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics, and Health Law, which was held in Porto, Portugal, on 17 October 2023. The paper was titled 'The right to access heritable human genome editing: a South African perspective'.

Mercantile Law

Simbarashe Tauyanago, 'The new dawn birthed by section 187(1)(c) of the LRA: a reflection on National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa and Others v Aveng Trident Steel', *Acta Universitatis Danubius*. *Juridica* (2023) 19(1).

Simbarashe Tauyanago, 'Going against the grain of international labour law standards: criminalisation of strike action within the healthcare sector in Zimbabwe (Health Service Amendment Act, 2022)', *Industrial Law Journal* (2023) DOI.

Simbarashe Tauyanago, 'Substance over form: determination of when a notifiable merger transaction has taken place through the lens of the SABC/MultiChoice 'merger'', *Interdisciplinary Journal of Economics and Business Law* (2023) (12(3).

Bronwyn Le-Ann Batchelor and Shelton Tapiwa Mota Makore, 'The conundrum of two fellows in the same ship: a comparative legal analysis of the duplicity of damages in South Africa, *African Journal of Legal Studies*, 15 (2023) 215–241.

Shelton T Mota Makore, 'Developing an anti-corruption proviso in pursuit of clean trade: a critical reflection on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement', paper accepted for publication in 2023, African Journal of Rhetoric.

Office of the Dean

Prof Serges Kamga attended and presented a paper at the 'Regional Webinar on the Realisation of the Right to Development in Africa. Can the

right to Development Effectively Contribute to the Solution of the Structural Crises Affecting the Countries of Sub–Saharan Africa?' 18 April 2023. The event was co–hosted by the UN Regional Centre for Human Rights in Central Africa, Yaoundé, Cameroon, the UN Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Quinter Onyango

Attended and presented a paper at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference, 30 May-2 June 2023, Washington DC: 'Flip the coin – power relations in South-North partnerships: why an intersectional approach to diversity is key.'

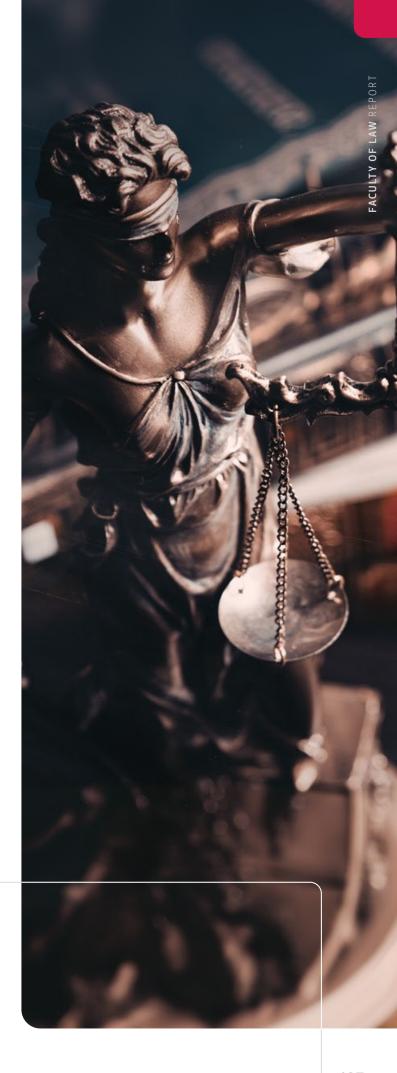
Attended and presented two posters at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Conference 30 May-2 June 2023, Washington DC: 'Diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality in international education through African eyes.' 'Comparison of a centralised vs decentralised internationalised campus.'

Presented a masterclass on 'Exploring Diversity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality from an African Perspective as a Catalyst for Sustainable Partnerships' at the African Network for Internationalisation of Education (ANIE) Conference in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 4 to 6 October 2023.

Chevon Slambee partnered with Quinter
Onyango to present a paper, titled 'Social justice and inclusion as a lens to address the digital divide in higher education' at the International Education Association of South Africa. The presentation explored the gaps and interventions by universities to address the digital divide – issues such as digital literacy and competency, while fostering inclusion and social justice using relevant SDGs.

Free State Centre for Human Rights

The FSCHR hosted Profs Karl Klare and Lucy Williams of Northeastern University, Boston, USA as keynote speakers at an international conference on legal culture, presented by the FSCHR in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch University.



School of Financial Planning Law

Dr Prince Sarpong:

Case Centre's Case Writing and Case Teaching Workshop – London (27–30 June 2023).

Presented a paper at the Financial Therapy Association Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina, United States: The title of the paper was: 'What does African psychology and financial therapy have in common?'

Rika van Zyl presented a paper on 'The conundrum of public policy in private wills' at the ATINER Annual Conference on Law, Athens, Greece, 10–13 July 2023.

Dr Marda Horn delivered a paper at the Socio-Legal Studies Association Annual Conference held at the MacGee Campus of the Ulster University in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland from 4 to 6 April 2023. The title of her presentation was 'Real rights and personal rights as property'.

Henda Kleingeld presented a paper at the 20th Annual International Conference on Law in Athens, Greece, from 10 to 13 July 2023. Presentation titled 'A proposed legal framework for implementing and regulating financial therapy in the South African financial planning law landscape.'

INTERNATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Prof Reyneke completed a Collaborative Online International Learning Project (COIL) with the University of Siena (Italy). Students in the Education Law elective module (LEDL 4810) did an online project with the students from Siena University. Prof Reyneke presented lectures to

the students on 'The law and child abuse from a South African perspective.' The students worked on different related topics and did online presentations on 16 and 17 May 2023.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The faculty will be focusing on postgraduate recruitment in 2024 and has mapped its international postgraduate footprint.

PARTNERSHIPS

Free State Centre for Human Rights

The FSCHR concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Human Rights and Peace Centre of Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

The FSCHR concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.

The FSCHR, with the assistance of the Dean of Law, concluded a collaboration agreement with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights so that the FSCHR can act as platform for coordinating research and activist efforts around the right to development in Africa.

A partnership is being established between the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR/RTDS) and the University of the Free State on the Right to Development with a focus on Africa. Proposed elements of the partnership include the following:

Research and publications
Joint events, including side events
Visiting students and interns, staff and
researchers to OHCHR
Support to UN meetings, including RTD expert
mechanism, working group, and treaty process.



Research activities will include the following areas:

- Operationalising the right to development
- Global justice, including reform of global economic governance
- Socio-economic justice for sustainable development
- Financing for development
- Taxation
- Illicit financial flows
- Meaningful community participation and engagement in development
- Fair local, regional, and global distribution of the benefits of development
- Trade and investment
- Debt
- Science, technology and innovation, technology transfer and intellectual property rights
- Mining and extractive industries
- Least developed countries and landlocked developing countries
- International cooperation, including South– South and triangular cooperation
- African regional agendas and cooperation.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

The faculty has drafted its first Faculty Internationalisation strategy. The strategy will be presented to the faculty before being submitted to the faculty board for adoption in 2024.

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

As part of the Africa Day celebration on 25 May 2023, the UFS Faculty of Law hosted a round-table discussion titled 'Advancing justice with a view of the future: the 2063 Agenda for

Sustainable Development'. The dialogue was moderated by Dr Shelton T Mota Makore, with Prof D Brand, Dr I de Villiers, and Ntando Sindane participating in the panel discussion.

As part of celebrating Africa Day as an internationalisation at home activity, the second tier of Africa Day incorporated students, where students had to create a display of an African country, depicting the following:

- Fun facts about the country
- The legal system practised in that country.

Two students from the Faculty of Law submitted applications for the SASUF UFS student forum. This is an initiative to spearhead internationalisation at home activities and student voices on the international platform.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Dr Catherine Namakula

Drafted and tabled a resolution on Africa's Reparations Agenda and the human rights of Africans in the diaspora and people of African descent worldwide during the 73rd session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul. The resolution further propelled Ghana to propose a draft resolution at the AU Commission on building a united front to advance the cause of justice and the payment of reparations to Africans (Assembly/AU/Draft/Dec.21(XXXVI).

Led the country visit of the UN Working Group of experts on people of African descent to the United Kingdom from 18 to 28 January 2023.

Served as a panellist on racial justice in a webinar hosted by the Congress of Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO), 2 March 2023.







Dean **Prof Danie Vermeulen**



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinators Prof Abiodun Ogundeji and Elfrieda van den Berg



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Afromontane Research Unit

The RangeX team, funded by the DSI through a BiodiverSA call (Horizon 2020) and led by South African principal investigator (PI) **Prof Ralph** Clark (UFS ARU Director) and Swiss PI Prof Jake Alexander (ETH–Zürich), continued to fly high this year with several helicopter-aided research field trips to their Alpine Research Station on the plateau of the Amphitheatre at 3 100 m above sea level in the Maloti-Drakensberg. The team also gathered for a productive writing retreat in Glengarriff, Ireland, to discuss data management, publication ideas, and progress. Funding opportunities for a further team effort in order to expand their expertise to assess biodiversity along elevation gradients in several other mountain ranges globally, using acoustic and photographic recorders, eDNA and environmental variables, was also discussed.

Department of Agricultural Economics

Dr Lindie von Maltitz was involved in a project funded by the Michigan State University African Alliance Partnership, which revolved around Agricultural Advisory Training in Africa: Process Skills and Competency Gaps in Undergraduate Curriculum. The research was done in selected countries, namely South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, and Uganda. A workshop was held at Egerton University in Kenya from 14 to 18 May 2023. A paper on 'Strengthening Agricultural Extension Training in the MSU Alliance for African Partnership Consortium Partners in Africa – process skills and competency gaps in undergraduate agricultural extension curriculum in South Africa', was presented at the workshop.

Department of Animal, Wildlife, and Grassland Sciences

Prof Francois Deacon was part of the group which, for the first time ever, managed to place a GPS collar on the Himalayan brown bear. The bears were successfully darted by Dr Willem Daffue in the Deosai National Park in Pakistan on 22 September 2023. These collars are novel and were manufactured by Martin Haupt from Africa Wildlife Tracking and sponsored by Dr Johan Marais from Saving the Survivors.https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/news-archive/campus-news/2023/october/ufs-part-of-collaborative-efforts-to-collar-the-himalayan-brown-bear.

Department of Architecture

Ntetleng Orepa Mosidi, a new member of staff in the Department of Architecture, produced two research papers in 2023, exploring African literature and questions of identity relating to architecture. The first paper was submitted to the South African Journal of Art History (SAJAH), while the second paper will be published as conference proceedings from the International Conference of Architecture and Gender VI in Valencia, Spain. Mosidi was able to present at this prestigious conference with various well–known international female architects.

Department of Computer Science and Informatics

The Computer Science Education (CSE) research group, led by Prof Liezel Nel, continued investigating strategies to enhance student understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of computer science. Prof Nel presented some of this research internationally at the Decoding the Disciplines (DtD) conference in Aachen, Germany, and the 19th Conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) in Utrecht, the Netherlands, during November 2023. These engagements fostered global collaboration and highlighted the group's innovative approaches, including the 'disciplinary dream-drawing' methodology. Currently, two master's and two PhD students contribute to CSE-related projects.

Prof Eduan Kotzé continued to work with Prof Walter Daelemans at the Computational Linguistics and Psycholinguistics (CLiPS) research centre at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. They are jointly working on natural language processing research projects, investigating methods and algorithms to automatically detect abusive language online in South Africa, as well as conversational agents.

Disaster Management Training and Education Centre For Africa (DiMTEC)

A team from DiMTEC participated in a 12-month project focused on flood risk-informed urban development. Under the umbrella of Connective Cities and the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management, this project emphasised the 'Learning Process on Flood Management for Risk-Informed Urban Development'. The kick-off event, which took place in Namibia from 18 to 20 April 2023, featured engagements with stakeholders from various sector departments. This initiative represented a collaborative effort to enhance urban development strategies by incorporating comprehensive flood management and risk assessment practices.

Centre For Environmental Management

Dr Marinda Avenant led an interdisciplinary project titled 'Threats of extreme weather events: improving the resilience of Qwaqwa to the multiple risks of climate change', funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC), which came to an end in 2023. The project team included researchers from the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC), the Department of Zoology and Entomology on the Qwaqwa Campus, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), and the TU Dresden. The project investigated the potential risks associated with extreme weather events on service delivery in Qwaqwa and sought to develop a risk reduction strategy for the area. Dr Avenant and Dr Tascha Vos joined Dr Dirk Jungmann and Dr Hilmar Börnick from the TU Dresden on a followup dry season sampling trip in Qwaqwa during July 2023.

Dr Surina Esterhuyse researched the impact of oil and gas drilling in Namibia and Botswana on the Okavango River basin groundwater resources and delta with colleagues from the University of Edinburgh (Rory Sheldon), the University of Stirling (Sarah Greenwood), and the UFS Institute

for Groundwater Studies (Anton Lukas). This research led UNESCO to recommend expanding the Okavango delta protection zone to include the entire watershed in order to protect the delta against upstream oil and gas drilling. Her international collaboration also included reviewing the book Groundwater Contamination and Geoenvironmental Impacts of Upstream Oil and Gas Production for the Groundwater Project, based in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, for Prof John Cherry, an Adjunct Prof from the University of Guelph and Prof Emeritus from the University of Waterloo in Canada. The Groundwater Project is a volunteerbased charitable non-profit organisation registered in Canada and is global in scope. It is committed to the advancement of groundwater understanding and awareness by creating and making high-quality groundwater learning materials available in many languages.

Prof Paul Oberholster and Dr Nicolette Vermaak in the Centre for Environmental Management collaborated on the MARSA project (September 2021–August 2024) – funded by the Danish International Development Agency (Danida) – with GEUS (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland), Ramboll (a Danish consulting company), the UFS, DWS, and UWC. Study sites are at Atlantis and Langebaan Road, near Saldanha.

Department of Geography

Prof Sam Adelabu also led the Department of Geography to the Appalachian Department of Geography and Planning in Boone, North Carolina, from 4 to 15 September 2023 as part of the Mountain 2 Mountain project between the UFS and ASU.

Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry

Prof Robert Bragg visited India, where he assisted Ventri Biologicals (a poultry vaccine manufacturer based in Pune) with their infectious coryza vaccine.

Department of Plant Sciences

Dr Makoena Moloi collaborated with Prof Ned Bowden from the University of Iowa, USA, on a project involving the use of biodegradable dithiophosphates for the improvement of drought tolerance in edamame. They co-supervised an MSc student who graduated in 2023 and are also co-supervising a PhD project. Dr Moloi also has a continuing collaboration with Prof Brigitta Tóth (University of Debrecen, Hungary), which commenced in 2019. During 2023, their work produced one publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Dr Moloi visited the University of Debrecen in Hungary on the Erasmus teaching mobility programme. She also hosted Prof Brigitta Tóth in May 2023 through the same programme.

Prof Maryke Labuschagne's collaboration with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (Nigeria and Zambia) on cassava and cowpea, respectively, continued in 2023. Maize research on biofortification continued with the CIMMYT in Harare and Zamseeds in Zambia. A new collaborative project on mutation breeding in legume crops was initiated in 2023 with the University of Namibia. National collaborative projects with the ARC on cowpea, sorghum, and maize continued in 2023.

Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences

Dr Phumudzo Tharaga collaborated with Dr Andrew Christopher Oishi of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Services and with other researchers from Georgia State University. The collaboration was initiated in 2019 and provides for an exchange of knowledge and skills. USDA-Forest Services provided support to Dr Tharaga to acquire an Equipment-Related Travel and Training Grant (ERTTG) from the NRF. The funding was used to cover the cost for Dr Tharaga and Nozindaba Radebe to attend training in North Carolina (USA) on how to manufacture sap flow sensors from 27 May to 17 June 2023. The training included climate monitoring in complex terrains or ecosystems. This training helped the section develop a new module on advanced micrometeorology and instrumentation.

Dr Tharaga also started a collaboration with ICT International, which manufactures sap flow sensors, dendrometers, neutron probes, psychometers, soil moisture sensors, and low-cost weather station systems. The collaboration is based on exchange of knowledge and instruments for teaching purposes. Dr Tharaga visited the ICT International at Armidale, Australia, from 27 November to 15 December 2023.



Department of Sustainable Food Systems and Development

Students partnered with Ivanhoe Mines, a prominent mining company operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to develop a waste management strategy for the Kamoa-Kakula Copper Complex. The challenge addressed the limited waste management options and increasing environmental concerns in the area, together with the socioeconomic and biodiversity challenges stemming from the burgeoning population in the region.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Dr Abraham Matamanda and Dr Andreas Scheba

(UFS Centre for Development Support) and postgraduate students from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning conducted fieldwork on small-scale rental housing in Maseru, Lesotho.

Department of Zoology and Entomology

Dr Ellie van Dalen was invited by Dr Kebaneilwe Lebani to be a Research Access Champion – Project Developer and Trainer, as a South African role player in the mission of ReachSci. The mission of ReachSci, a society at the University of Cambridge, is to make research and innovation accessible to anyone anywhere. To that end, a short course and accompanying research project will be developed to impart research skills, especially in developing countries. In preliminary discussions, team leaders from four Southern African countries were invited and accepted to be involved in this project.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

INCOMING

Department of Plant Sciences

Dr Stephanie Payne–Smith, a postdoctoral fellow hosted by Prof Sandy Steenhuisen from the Department of Plant Sciences, co–taught BIOL6834: Advanced Biostatistics in 2023, presented at an international conference in Chile, leads the pollination aspects of the international RangeX project in affiliation with the ARU, and is co–supervising three master's and one doctoral candidate in the department. In November 2023, she participated in a RangeX writing retreat hosted by the Swiss collaborators of the RangeX project in Glengarriff, Ireland.

OUTGOING

Department of Architecture

Phadi Mabe was invited to take part in the first edition of the Biennale College Architecture in Venice, Italy. The conference was a month-long experimental lab during which he collaborated with world-renowned architects and academics in the field of architecture on the themes of decolonisation and decarbonisation. The purpose of the engagements was to chart new paths for the future of architectural education and practice. During the conference, Mabe and his team creatively engaged and researched the topic of decarbonisation, producing a floating platform device to counteract the sinking of the city of Venice due to climate change.

Department of Geography

Marike Stander and Dr Elizabeth Rudolph

expanded their expertise in the realm of geochronology at the International Geochronology Summer School hosted by the University of Zürich in Morteratsch, Switzerland. From 27 August to 2 September 2023, they immersed themselves in an enriching academic environment in which they shared insights from their own research and also delved into the latest advancements in the field. Their participation not only contributed to the exchange of knowledge, but also provided them with invaluable opportunities to enhance their skill set.

Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

Prof Tomas Vetrik visited the Mongolian National University of Education in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 3 to 11 June 2023. Among other activities, he presented a short course on extremal graph theory. The course was organised by the International Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics (CIMPA), a UNESCO centre based in France.

Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry

Precious Letebele joined the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, USA, as a research intern in the Department of Infectious Diseases. She is working with Prof Daniel Zamith-Miranda and Prof Joshua Nosanchuk. The Nosanchuk laboratory focuses on fungal pathogenesis and innovative therapeutic

development, including the use of nanoparticles. During the three-month visit, Letebele learned the different techniques used to investigate extracellular vesicles released by fungal species and their impact on host-pathogen interactions.

Department of Physics

Hélène Szegedi attended the AHEAD2020 High Resolution X-ray Spectroscopy School at the University of Alicante in Spain (22 to 25 May 2023). During the school, world-class experts in various astrophysics fields (atomic data, low-mass X-ray binaries, galaxy clusters, active galactic nuclei [AGN], etc.) delivered lectures and conducted practical sessions. The participants gained handson experience in analysing data from gratingbased spectrometers (XMM-RGS, Chandra HETG) and the new era calorimeters (XRISM, X-IFU), enabling them to successfully utilise current and future generation X-ray instruments. In addition, Szegedi attended the Golden Age of Cataclysmic Variables and Related Objects – VI Conference in Palermo, Italy (4 to 9 September). During the conference, she presented her research on 'Long amplitude outbursts of long orbital period CVs' and was a recipient of the ceremonial 'passing of the baton to the new generation' of researchers.

Department of Plant Sciences

Kelvin Hlatshwayo was awarded a Plant Breeding internship from Bayer (Field Testing) in Germany.

Prof Maryke Labuschagne spent two months at Ghent University in Belgium, working on a collaborative wheat quality project with Corteva in South Africa. Her collaboration with the University of Córdoba in Spain on wheat quality also continued, as well as research on the application of metabolomics in legume breeding with the Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Córdoba.

Dr Laetitia Otomo, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Botany on the Qwaqwa Campus, undertook a research trip to Gabon from 13 November 2023 to 13 January 2024 to engage with the International Centre for Medical Research in Franceville. The trip included testing synthesised therapeutic nanoparticles and endosymbionts on tissues infected with tropical diseases.

Department of Zoology and Entomology

In collaboration with Prof Louis du Preez

(NWU), **Dr Edward Netherlands** undertook a research trip to Auburn University in Alabama, USA, from 18 May to 6 June. During this visit, he conducted a workshop on blood parasite sampling of local fish, amphibians, and reptiles, furthering their comparative research efforts. Additionally, he was invited to Temple University's campus in Philadelphia, USA, to establish a sustainable collaboration on the systematics and biogeography of haemosporidian parasites, which are a key focus of his research.

Prof Linda Basson completed a five-week visit to the University of Pisa in Italy as part of the Arger project – a project under the umbrella of Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions. This is an H2020-MSCA-RISE-2019 project, titled NGTax (Next Generation Taxonomy: Ciliophora and their bacterial symbionts as a proof of concept). Prof Basson completed the visit as part of a 12-month secondment. This period was spent in the lab of Prof Giulio Petroni, during which his research team concentrated on various free-living ciliates and their symbionts, using an integrated approach of light, confocal, and electron microscopy to study the morphology, taxonomy, biology, and ecology of various ciliates and their symbionts. During the visit, a week-long course was presented to selected undergraduate students from various institutions. This course on Biodiversity and Morphological Techniques included lectures in the mornings and demonstration of various practical techniques during the afternoons. Prof Basson assisted with the various practical sessions. The rest of the period in Pisa was spent networking with fellow NGTax members, working on collaborative publications, collecting fresh marine material at Marina di Pisa, and attending various meetings to discuss the next postgraduate student from the UFS, who will complete a secondment of six months in various Italian laboratories.

INTERNATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Department of Agricultural Economics

Markus Monteiro presented the South African Futures Exchange (SAFEX) (the Johannesburg Stock Exchange [JSE] Agricultural Derivative Market) course at Namib Mills in Windhoek,



Namibia, in September 2023. The course is aimed at those who would like to learn more about the agricultural derivatives market (ADM) and how derivative instruments can be used to mitigate price risk. A total of four courses are normally presented, two in Afrikaans and two in English. The SAFEX course is a comprehensive course, primarily designed to assist individuals who want to write the SAFEX exam. The UFS is the only higher education institution that offers a course in this field to the industry.

Department of Architecture

Two new PhD candidates joined the design-based PhD programme in 2023. Four PhD symposia were held for the new candidates, and two for the existing candidates. Thanks to blended learning and our live streaming platform, the PhD symposia have developed an international character, with attendance in 2023 from Australia, Greece, India, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and various parts of South Africa.

During the annual Vrystaat Arts Festival on the UFS Bloemfontein Campus, the Department of Agriculture's Earth Unit presented the 'Daughters of Litema' exhibition to showcase service–learning, combined with a COIL exchange with Art History students during the previous years. A duplicate research exhibition was exhibited at the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art at Colorado State University in May.

As part of the last year of the iKUDU Project, 36 BArchHons students shared in a collaborative online international learning (COIL) exchange during March and April 2023. Gerhard Bosman from the Department of Architecture facilitated the UFS students while collaborating online with students from Akita International University in Japan and the University of Siena in Italy.

Centre for Environmental Management

Dr Marinda Avenant participated and presented on 25 May 2023 at the closing workshop of the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) Climate Change Programme, under the GCCA+ Climate Change and Sustainable Development Project. The final curriculum that was developed as part of this project was presented to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 2023. Moreover, she served

as curriculum adviser for the project and was also the lead developer for two modules, focusing on biosphere stewardship and science and climate change communication. She will provide support on the implementation of the curriculum in 2024.

PARTNERSHIPS

Department of Chemistry

Prof Alice Brink and three UFS PhD students (Christo van Staden, Francois Jacobs, and Hannah van Dyk) were awarded a National Research Foundation (NRF) National Equipment Programme grant to attend Bruker Advanced Crystallographic Application training at the Bruker headquarters in Karlsruhe, Germany, in July. Furthermore, she was a fellow of the Future Professors Programme (Cohort 1) – a flagship programme of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), which is a national, collaborative initiative aimed at developing the qualities of academic excellence and leadership in university scholarship to contribute to the development of a future South African professoriate.

Disaster Management Training and Education Centre For Africa (DiMTEC)

Prof Johanes Belle and Prof Joerg Szarzynski were guests at the 2023 Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF), which took place on 22 and 23 March 2023 at the Albert Borschette Conference Centre in Brussels, Belgium. This prestigious forum, hosted by the European Commission and jointly organised by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)-Joint Environmental Unit (JEU), convened experts from around the globe specialising in environmental emergencies. The EEF served as a vital platform for sharing knowledge, strategies, and innovations in the field of environmental emergency management. During this conference, Prof Belle successfully negotiated a significant cooperative agreement with the UNOCHA-JEU. This collaboration aims to introduce, identify, and train local candidates from South Africa for the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Programme. Candidates selected through this initiative will be

added to the UNOCHA roster, preparing them for eventual deployment to disaster-affected areas in Africa and globally. This partnership underscores UFS-DiMTEC's commitment to enhancing disaster management capabilities and highlights the critical role of international cooperation in addressing global environmental emergencies. The involvement of UFS-DiMTEC in this programme marks a significant step in fostering global resilience and response capacity to environmental disasters.

Centre for Environmental Management

Dr Marinda Avenant and Dr Bimo Nkhata worked together with academics from various universities to develop a proposal for the EU Erasmus+ initiative. The proposal focused on the theme of 'Science Education' and involved the UFS, TU Dresden, University of Zambia, Copperbelt University, University of Venda, and The Hague University of Applied Sciences. Dr Nkhata was invited to Lusaka, Zambia to further discuss the involvement of the University of Zambia in the Erasmus+ proposed project. The invitation was also used to explore opportunities for research collaboration between the UFS and the University of Zambia.

Dr Nkhata also participated in the annual management committee meeting of the Insaka University Consortium held in May 2023. The consortium is currently made up of Clemson University, Copperbelt University, the University of Montana, the University of Namibia, and the Independent Institute of Education. The meeting discussed, among other things, the formal inclusion of the UFS into the MoU of the consortium. He furthermore led a team of experts who supported the University of Namibia to further develop a new campus in Katima Mulilo. The support involved the enlargement of the Department of Wildlife Management and Tourism Studies on the Katima Mulilo campus. Dr Nkhata facilitated a workshop to support the department and its lecturers in building capacity for developing new courses and implementing new curricula. The workshop was held under the auspices of the German Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) in Katima Mulilo from 17 to 24 July 2023.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Afromontane Research Unit

In December 2023, **Dr Martin Clark**, Dr Shayantani Ghosal (postdoctoral research fellow), and Samkelo Radebe (PhD candidate) contributed to discussions in geoscientific argumentation and remote mineral and groundwater exploration at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Conference in San Francisco.

Department of Agricultural Economics

Prof Yonas Bahta delivered a paper on 'Smallholder livestock farmers coping and adaptation strategies to agricultural drought in South Africa' at the 11th Societá Italiana per le Scienze del Clima (SISC) Annual Conference, in Milan, Italy, which took place from 22 to 24 November 2023. Prof Bahta was also the co-author of a number of papers delivered at international conferences in 2023 – 'Towards an automated, urban resilience, agile operational housing system framework: a case study of Khayalitjha in-situ informal settlement upgrading, South Africa' (co-authored with C Muhame and A Ncube), delivered at the Climate Change and Futures in Africa conference series (Maputo, Mozambique. 8–10 November); 'Export competitiveness of Namibia's timber sector: implication for forestry sector (co-authored with S Mbai and EN Moses), presented at the Standard Bank Biomas Fair held at Okahandja, Namibia, on 7 September; 'Competitiveness of Namibia's agrifood commodities: implications for food security' (co-authored with S Mbai), presented at the IFAMA World Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 17 to 20 June 2023; and 'Transforming human settlement through an urban resilience agile operational model'.

Department of Animal, Wildlife and Grassland Sciences

Dr Adri O'Neill presented a paper at the Eighth All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture held from 26 to 29 September in Gaborone, Botswana. The title of the presentation was 'The effect of habituation and rest interval during electroejaculation on the semen quality of Merino rams.'

Department of Architecture

In May 2023, **Prof Jonathan Noble** from the

Department of Agriculture was invited to participate in design studio sessions to discuss future collaboration and to give a keynote address in the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Baçeşehir University (BAU) in Istanbul. He also presented a public lecture on his book *The Architecture of Peter Rich: conversations with Africa*.

On behalf of the Earth Unit in the Department of Architecture, **Gerhard Bosman** attended the International Union of Architects (UIA) World Congress of Architects from 2 to 6 July in Copenhagen, where he co-presented the findings of the Architecture of Care and Engagement Research Project, funded by the Central Research Fund of the UFS.

Groundbreaking student work from the Department of Architecture was featured from 1 May to 30 September 2023 in the South African Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition (Biennale) in Venice, Italy. The Biennale showcases transformative and innovative work in the field of architecture from various countries around the world. The creative contribution was made by the UFS team – **Phadi Mabe** (lecturer),

Yamkelwa Simelane, Jan Truter, Khalipha Radebe, and Anya Strydom – with an exhibition titled 'Amplified Voices'. The exhibited architectural artefact captured student critique and 'design voices', represented by a 3D-printed 'data object of sound', which encapsulates the language of architectural form.

Department of Chemistry

Prof Alice Brink presented an invited lecture at the 44th SACI National Convention in Stellenbosch, SA, and a seminar lecture at the University of Zürich in Switzerland. She was further invited as a session chair for the 26th Congress and General Assembly of the International Union of Crystallography held in Melbourne, Australia, in August 2023.

Prof Jeanet Conradie delivered an invited keynote address at the 53rd Heyrovský Discussion at Castle Třešť, Czech Republic, in June 2023.

PhD student **Lenard Carroll** (Moskaleva research group) was selected to deliver an oral presentation at the prestigious Fourth International Symposium on Nanoporous Materials by Alloy Corrosion, held in Nohfelden, Germany, in April 2023. Carroll and a fellow PhD

student, Kgalaletso Otukile, visited the Institute of Materials Chemistry at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria, in June 2023, during which they gave oral presentations at a workshop of the UFS Department of Chemistry and the Institute of Materials Chemistry in Vienna, Austria. They also participated in the 17th International Congress of Quantum Chemistry (ICQC) in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Department of Computer Science and Informatics

A paper by an honours student, Jan-Louis du Toit, co-authored by Prof Eduan Kotzé, was accepted for oral presentation at the 2024 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Computer, Data Sciences and Applications (ACDSA) at the University of Seychelles.

Dr Bennie Botha:

- Visited higher education institutions in Malawi as part of the digitalisation project for advancing infection prevention and control through the use of virtual reality. As part of the visits, a needs analysis was done, and partnership-building events were organised where the institution could voice its needs and concerns while we seek to foster collaboration and build partnerships for the project and other postgraduate initiatives.
- Presented a paper titled: 'Desktop based virtual reality to enhance role clarification in interprofessional education' at the All Together Better Health Conference (ATBH2023) in Doha, Qatar, in November 2023.

Disaster Management Training and Education Centre For Africa (DiMTEC)

On 21 April 2023, Dr Olivia Kunguma from DiMTEC engaged with Dr Albert Maipisi from the Women's University in Africa's Faculty of Social and Gender Transformative Sciences. The Women's University in Zimbabwe recently registered a Master of Science degree in Disaster Risk and Livelihood Studies. To improve this qualification and explore other areas of collaboration, they invited UFS-DiMTEC to engage in a benchmarking exercise. The colleagues discussed potential collaborations regarding short learning courses, staff and student exchange, research projects, and the appointment of research fellows. The UFS-DiMTEC and Women's University are in the

process of signing a memorandum of agreement. Dr Kunguma also had the opportunity to meet with Hon Edmond Mkaratigwa, a mining portfolio chairman interested in disaster risk management as an important area in the mining industry.

Dr Alice Ncube from DiMTEC attended a regional consultation on climate-induced migration and human rights considerations in Africa, hosted by the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES), ACT Alliance and the Climate, Migration and Displacement Platform (CMDP) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 10 and 11 May. This was one of a series of organised regional consultations aimed at strengthening collective analysis and advocacy while exchanging information, considering the climate and migration crises in different sub-regions. This workshop was held ahead of the UNFCCC inter-sessional meeting (Bonn, Germany). The consultation aimed to identify and build support for coordinating national responses to climaterelated migration and displacement that address the human rights of people at risk of displacement and/or migrating under duress, to provide a forum for exchange on related challenges in the different countries, and to organise related national and global advocacy. Dr Alice Ncube was also chosen to join the board of the African Science and Technology Advisory Group (AfSTAG) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Dr Ncube was invited to the Africa Conference on Science, Technology, Policy, and Private Sector Nexus for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Tunis on 2 and 3 October 2023.

Prof Abiodun Ogundeji (DiMTEC) and Prof Angelinus Franke (UFS Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences) attended a workshop titled 'Watershed Managements in Farmlands and African–Bavarian Academy on Climate Change Management' at the University of Applied Sciences, Freising, Germany, from 18 to 24 June 2023. The workshop included delegates from other universities in South Africa and Africa. A new consortium emerged, comprising academics from various universities, which will include joint research proposals and skills transfer.

The Africa Climate Summit and the Africa Climate Week took place in Nairobi Kenya from 4 to 6 September 2023. **Prof Johannes Belle** from UFS–DiMTEC delivered a keynote presentation on flood risk management, the essential role of cities, and the importance of municipal preparedness

at the German government's side event during the summit (GIZ-Connective Cities). Prof Belle also moderated the panel discussion on various themes related to the same topic on urban flooding.

As part of the Climate Adaptation Research Programme (CARP), the Partners Enhancing Resilience of People Exposed to Risks (PERIPERI U) secretariat coordinated and co-hosted the first CARP workshop at Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 30 October to 2 November 2023. **Dr Alice Ncube** attended as part of the African Union Commission (AUC) Science and Technology Advisory Board (AfSTAG). The main aim of this workshop was to assist in establishing the CARP community to allow for greater networking and engagement between early career and established African professionals working in this sector. The invitation of Tanzanian government officials to attend the workshop underscored the importance of engagement between disaster risk reduction practitioners, policy makers, and local communities in order to address climate adaptation challenges. Seventy participants from different countries attended the workshop, which included South Africa, the USA, Senegal, Nigeria, Algeria, Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Morocco, Rwanda, and the host country Tanzania. Participants included emerging scholars from the 33 CARP research projects (125 members) focused on reducing climaterelated disaster risks across 10 African countries. The event included several discussion sessions. group-based activities, poster presentations on research conducted by the various teams, and field excursions to various project sites focused on reducing vulnerability and risk against flooding in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Olivia Kunguma played a crucial role as the Programme Coordinator for the Climate Change and Futures in Africa Conference. The conference was held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 8 to 10 November. She was also invited to participate in a panel discussion and to give a presentation on 'Disaster declaration process and the media: a case study of Jagersfontein dam collapse', at the DMISA Conference. Dr Kunguma was appointed as co-chair and member of the National Research Agenda at the South African National Disaster Management Centre.

Department of Engineering Sciences

Dr Abdolhossein Naghizadeh undertook a study tour in Europe, comprising the presentation of two research papers, attending three conferences and workshops, as well as several technical meetings and lab visits in the Netherlands, France, Austria, and the Czech Republic. He also presented a workshop on Green Concrete in collaboration with the South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE).

Centre for Environmental Management

Prof Shola Ololade:

- Appointed as a volunteer judge for different categories of student poster presentations in her research area at the Sigma Xi IFoRE, held from 9 to 12 November 2023 in Long Beach, California, USA.
- Lead co-editor of an accepted book proposal by Taylor and Francis with other co-editors (Dr Israel Ropo Orimoloye, Western Michigan University, USA; Dr Adeyemi Oludapo Olusola, York University, Canada; and Dr Suzanne Walther, University of San Diego, USA), titled Sustainable Solutions: Remote Sensing and GIS Case Studies for Environmental and Disaster Management.
- Lead editor with other colleagues, Dr Mihaela Sima (Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania); Dr Amy Quandt (San Diego State University, San Diego, California, USA); Prof Muthukrishna Vellaisamy Kumarasamy (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa); and Prof Nicolette Matthews (University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa) on a special edition titled 'Operationalising the water-energy-food nexus as an adaptation and mitigation strategy for climate change and resource management' for Frontiers in Sustainable Resource Management.

Dr Nico Avenant serves on the editorial board of *Integrative Zoology* (the journal of the International Society of Zoological Sciences). He acted as chair for one of the symposium sessions and served on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the 14th African Small Mammal Symposium (17 to 22 September 2023 in Swakopmund, Namibia). He served on the executive committee of the International Conference on Rodent Biology and

Management and on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission Cat Specialist Group, as well as the Technical Committee of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP), for the review of the proposed Marion Island mouse eradication programme.

The Centre for Environmental Management staff visited various institutes in other countries for research, which included the University of Namibia, Denmark (MARSA project), San Diego State University (SDSU) in the USA, Zambia, Greece, the University of Suceava in Romania, and China.

Department of Genetics

Collaborative work performed by **Dr Gerda Marks** and several collaborators on kidney disease was presented at the 13th International Congress of Genetics (16–21 July) in Melbourne, Australia.

Department of Geography

During the 11th INQUA Congress in Rome, **Dr Elizabeth Rudolph** was nominated to be the early career researcher (ECR) representative for Southern Africa on a steering committee for a research group investigating 'Quaternary warm intervals in the Southern Hemisphere'.

The National Focal Point (NFP) nominated **Prof Geofrey Mukwada** to attend meeting sessions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 28 (COP28) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 24 November to 12 December 2023.

Department of Geology

Prof John Carranza delivered a keynote lecture on 'Exploration Information System – linking of mineral systems and mineral prospectivity mapping' at the 29th Colloquium of African Geology, held from 26 to 29 September 2023, in Windhoek, Namibia.

As a member of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Programme – Bushveld Complex Drilling Project (ICDP-BVDP) steering committee, **Prof Frederick Roelofse** was invited to attend the sampling workshop of the ICDP Barberton Archean Surface Environments (BASE) workshop in Spandau, Germany.

Prof Frederick Roelofse, Dr Jarlen Keet, and Justine Magson participated in the 14th International Platinum Symposium in Cardiff, which took place from 4 to 7 July 2023, where they collectively presented three papers and a poster.

Megan Welman–Purchase completed the research for her doctoral degree on 'An investigation of the iron–cyanide mineralisation in gold mine dumps'. She attended the International Mine Water Association (IMWA) Conference from 17 to 21 July 2023 in Newport, Wales, where she presented a portion of her PhD research.

Institute for Groundwater Studies

The International Conference on Natural Science and Environment (ICNSE) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (1 to 2 June 2023), was attended by **Prof Modreck Gomo**. ICNSE is sponsored by the International Institute of Engineers and Researchers (IIER) and aims to be a leading international conference for novel and fundamental advances in the fields of natural science and environment. It also serves to foster communication among researchers and practitioners working with a common interest in improving natural science– and environment–related techniques.

On 19 June 2023, **Prof Abdon Atangana**, together with a group of exceptional young scientists from Argentina, Cameroon, China, Egypt, and Serbia, received the prestigious UNESCO-Al Fozan International Prize for the Promotion of Young Scientists in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) during a ceremony at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France.

Rolene Lubbe participated in the International Mine Water Association (IMWA) Conference that was held in Newport, Wales, from 17 to 21 July 2023. Lubbe presented the paper 'Cost-effective method to depressurise perched aquifers to prevent slope failures in open-pit mines, South Africa' on behalf of the authors (H Schreuder, Dr PJ Lourens, and Prof PD Vermeulen).

Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

In August 2023, **Prof Tomas Vetrik** gave two talks

at the King Mongkut's University of Technology in Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand. The titles were respectively 'The metric dimension and the partition dimension of graphs' and 'The degree-diameter problem'.

Prof Johan Meyer collaborated with Prof W-F Ke from the National Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan. Prof Ke visited the UFS in April and Prof Meyer visited Tainan in November. From these fruitful visits, three manuscripts have been submitted for publication.

Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry

Dr Carmien Tolmie from the Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry attended the International School of Crystallography: Structural Drug Design 2023 in Erice, Italy, from 2 to10 June, during which she presented a poster ('Structural studies of squalene synthase from Candida albicans for developing novel antifungal therapies'), and acted as a session chair.

Songezo Gidaga attended the Eighth European Crystallography School (ECS8) in Berlin (Germany) from 18 to 24 June 2023. The school was held at the Helmholtz–Zentrum (Bessy II) Synchrotron facility and was coordinated by Manfred Weiss.

Dr Adepemi Ogundeji, curator of the Yeast Culture Collection, represented the BBSA at the 2023 Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN) conference in Aguascalientes, Mexico, hosted by the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes from 17 to 20 October.

Dr Julio Castillo was recruited as a member of the National Committee of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Programme (ICDP). In November 2023, Dr Castillo was the guest speaker at the Deep Life Meeting of the Institute of Deep–Sea Science and Engineering at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

PhD student **Songezo Gidaga** from the Biocatalysis Group was the African recipient of the David Blow Bursary to attend the Diamond Light Source–CCP4 Data Collection and Processing workshop, held at the Diamond Light Source, Harwell Oxford campus, UK, from 27 November to 5 December 2023. The workshop included a series of theoretical lectures by leading scientists, such as Andrey Lebedev (Rutherford Appleton Laboratory), Elspeth Garmanc, and Ed Lowe (both from the University of Oxford).

Dr Nkhasi Lekena, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Molecular Virology group of Prof Trudi O'Neill, has been awarded the highly competitive and prestigious Werner Baltes Fellowship offered by the Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR), Berlin, Germany in 2023. This enabled Dr Lekena to visit Prof Reimar Johne and Dr Alexander Falkenhagen at BfR during a three–month stay between October and December 2023.

Centre for Mineral Biogeochemistry

Dr Yolandi Schoeman was runner-up in the 2023 Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer Research Grant for the project 'BioCredits: Regenerating Africa's Landscape bio-intelligently'. She participated as a UFS team member in the SDG Challenge South Africa, a global competition that unites students and organisations to address the United Nation's (UN) SDGs. The UFS team also claimed victory in the event with their contribution to 'Institutionalising the Ecological Engineering Institute of Africa in the University of the Free State'. Dr Schoeman was also invited to represent South Africa at the 2023 World Women Scientists Conference in China as part of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) delegation during October 2023.

Department of Physics

Prof Brian van Soelen was an invited speaker and Natalie Matchett from the Department of Physics presented at the Variable Galactic Gamma-ray Sources (VI) meeting in Innsbruck, Austria, in April 2023.

Prof Matie Hoffman attended the Stars for All Planetarium Conference in Kingsport, Tennessee, USA, in June 2023, where he presented a poster. Prof Hoffman also presented a talk at the Detroit Observatory Astronomy Night on 'A University of Michigan Observatory ... in Bloemfontein, South Africa'. These international partnerships, cultivated over many years, continue to be invaluable to the development of our activities.

Department of Plant Sciences

Doctoral student **Karabo Moloi** was awarded second place for her speed talk at the 12th Oppenheimer Research Conference (4 to 6 October 2023, Randjesfontein Cricket Pavilion,

Midrand), while doctoral student Lehlohonolo Donald Adams was awarded the prize for best poster presentation at the 16th International Conference on Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions (EMAPI 2023, 23 to 25 October 2023, Pucón, Chile).

Dr Lisa Rothmann was invited to join the scientific committee for the Botrytis, Monilinia and Sclerotinia symposium (MoBoSclero2025), hosted by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece. She also presented a guest lecture at the Peritum Agri Institute on 'Introductory plant pathology and crop protection'. This is the third year she has been invited as a guest lecturer.

Department of Quantity Surveying and Construction Management

Dr Christopher Amoah was recognised and awarded for his excellent performance in Research in the Future Professoriate Programme at the UFS. He was also awarded the best response letter for paper review at the CIB W070 Conference on Facility Management and Maintenance in Trondheim, Norway, in May 2023.

Tascha Bremer won the Best Paper Presentation at the Development and Investment in Infrastructure International Conference 2023 in Zambia. The topic was: 'A framework for sustainable human settlement building methods for low-cost housing in Northern Cape Province'.

Prof Kahilu Kajimo-Shakantu, Prof Theo Haupt and PhD student Mohlomi Raliile won the Best Paper at the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) W099 Annual International Conference: Digital Transformation of Health and Safety in Construction in Portugal.

Prof Kahilu Kajimo-Shakantu:

 Was invited as a keynote speaker at the International Conference on Development and Investment in Infrastructure, held in July 2023 in Livingstone, Zambia. The topic was: 'Innovative active design principles – considerations for sustainable infrastructure

- development in Africa.'
- Was invited to deliver a guest presentation at the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning in Gainesville, USA. The topic was: 'Towards building sustainable and affordable low-cost housing: a South African perspective on realities, perceptions and opportunities.

Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences

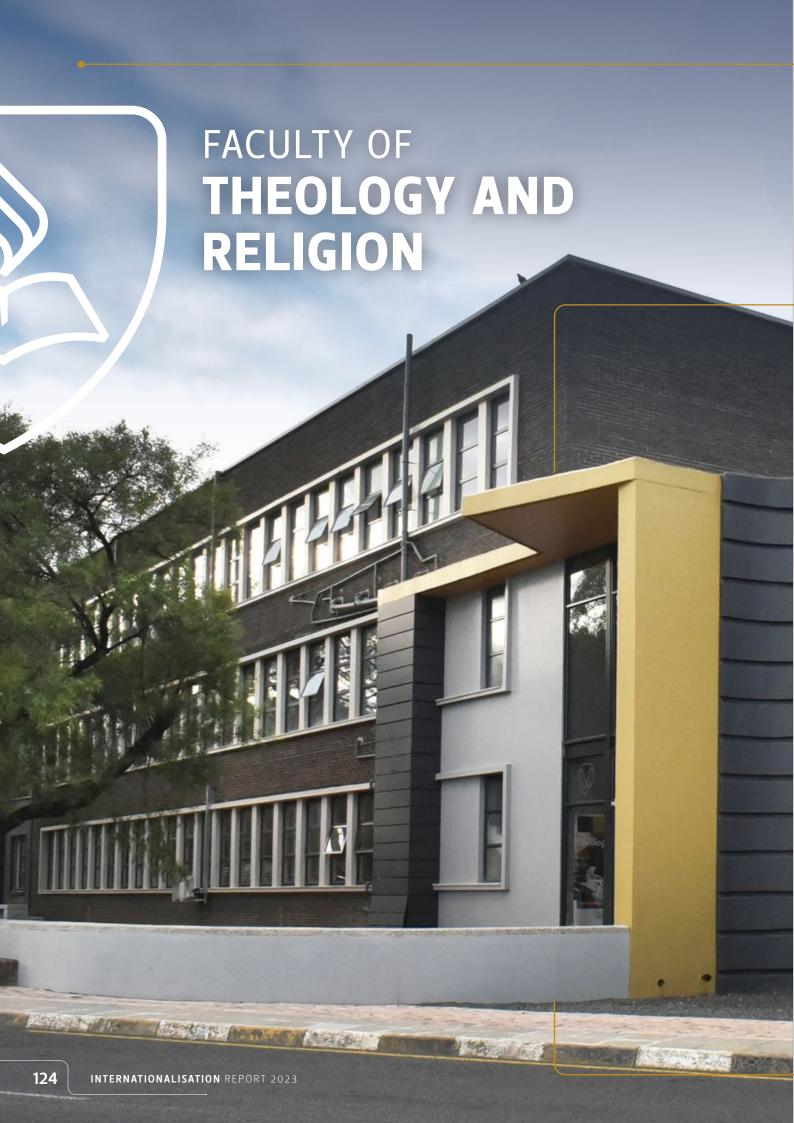
Muthianzhele Ravuluma, a PhD student under the supervision of Dr Phumudzo Tharaga, attended the 12th International Workshop on Sap Flow held in Rotorua, New Zealand, from 31 October to 3 November 2023, to present a research poster. Ravuluma won the award for the best presentation.

Department of Zoology and Entomology

Prof Aliza le Roux arranged a special symposium on Small Carnivores at the International Mammalogical Congress in Anchorage, Alaska.

Prof Peter Taylor and his two PhD students from the Department of Zoology and Entomology presented at several national and international conferences, including the Fifth Global Change Conference in Bloemfontein in January/February, the IUCN African Bat Red List Workshop, Swakopmund, 14 to 17 September (where they were all invited participants), the 14th African Small Mammal Symposium, Swakopmund, Namibia, 18 to 23 September (where Prof Taylor was an invited plenary speaker). The two students, Veli Mdluli and Alexandra Howard, also attended a field school in Madagascar from 21 to 31 October under the leadership of Joro Rakotoarivelo, a researcher on contract in the ARU (2022 to 2023).

Dr Ellie van Dalen and Elizna Terblans attended the 29th International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology in Chennai, India, in August 2023. Both their presentations were well received and conference networking introduced them to many new ideas and possible projects for the future.





Dean **Prof Francois Tolmie**



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinators



Prof Lodewyk Sutton and Lethabo Machabaphala

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

rof Lodewyk Sutton attended the following international collaborations and research conferences:

- The Anglican Institute Lecture 2023 Dr Chris Wright on 'Preaching the Word in a culture of scepticism: reflections on Jeremiah', 22 May 2023, Ridley College, Australia.
- The Langham Partnership Lecture, 'Depression and the Psalm of Lament', 19 May 2023, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
- The Centre for Faith and Community of the Faculty of Theology and Religion, UP - Seminar, Prof Dennis T Olson on 'Preaching the Old Testament in a Christian church', 20 June 2023, UP, Pretoria (in person).
- Prof Sutton also participated in the Tel Hazor excavations in Israel with the Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, for the period 13 July-28 July 2023. The site leader was Dr Igor Kreimerman from the Hebrew University.

Dr Martin Laubscher

Read a paper on 'An international (South African) response to Dr Julio Adam's 'Preaching and decoloniality in the Brazilian context – an attempt" at the Annual Academy of Homiletics, Louisville, 1 December 2022.

His article on 'Barth on 'Preaching toward truth" has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Homiletics.

Prof Juanita Meyer attended a conference organised by the association Research in diaconia and Christian social practice (ReDi) from 31 May to 2 June 2023. The conference was held in Norway, Oslo and the theme of the conference was: Contested spaces of diaconia. Seeking justice, safety and well-being. The title of her presentation was: 'Theological storying: spatiality, temporality and transformational diaconia'. This conference was exceptional with regard to the interdisciplinarity of voices that contributed to the theme of diaconia. The contributors came from various disciplines. including sociology, anthropology, and social work. A variety of denominations also contributed to the conversation.

Dr Joseph Pali attended a virtual conference of the International Leadership Association on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) on 21 and 22 June 2023. It was hosted by the Indiana Wesleyan University (USA). The theme of the conference was A Call to Awareness, Advocacy, Action, and Transformation for Inclusive Leadership. Dr Pali's presentation was titled: 'The legacy of inclusive leadership of Manthatisi: lessons and challenges.'

A new cycle (CLS–Southern Africa) of collaboration with Church Life Survey (Australia) was started under the guidance of Prof WJ Schoeman.

Prof C Hermans (Radboud University, the Netherlands and Extraordinary Professor associated with the Department of Practical and Missional Theology) facilitated some research workshops on the Bloemfontein Campus in February 2023.

Prof Henco van der Westhuizen

Took part in a seminar on Inductive Theology. The seminar was hosted by the University of Zurich (Switzerland). A multiyear project on Systematic Theology and Ethics grew out of this seminar, with further seminars planned for 2024 in Heidelberg (Germany).

Took part in the Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag from 7 to 11 June 2023 in Nuremberg, where he took part in seminars on Ecumenical Theology.

Worked on an international project on Pneumatology (We believe in the Holy Spirit), which was published by Wipf and Stock. Held international lectures on Theology and Design with Hanna Reichel (Princeton); Fashion Theology with Robert Covolo (Fuller); Gaming and Theology with Prof Frank G Bosman (Tilburg); and Theology and Animals with David L Clough (Aberdeen).

Dr Eugene Fortein

Held an online lecture with Dr Gert van Klinken from the Protestant Theological University, Amsterdam on the topic of Protestantism and the land issue in Palestine (2 March 2023).

Prof Joel Mokhoathi

Attended the Ninth African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) Conference in Africa under the theme: Creativity, Innovation and Imagination in African Religions. The conference was held at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, from 2 to 4 August 2023. It was co-sponsored by the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) as an IAHR regional conference. Prof Joel Mokhoathi presented a paper on the following theme: 'Diviners, healers and prophets: Mantsopa's hybridisation of African Christianity'.

Co-hosted a seminar with the Department of Religion Studies at the National University of Lesotho (NUL) around the theme of African thought and Identities: connections between religion, culture and identity. The seminar focused on the empirical findings of a research project

on prophetess Mantsopa Makhetha, who is the progenitor of early African Christianity among the Basotho of the Free State and Lesotho.

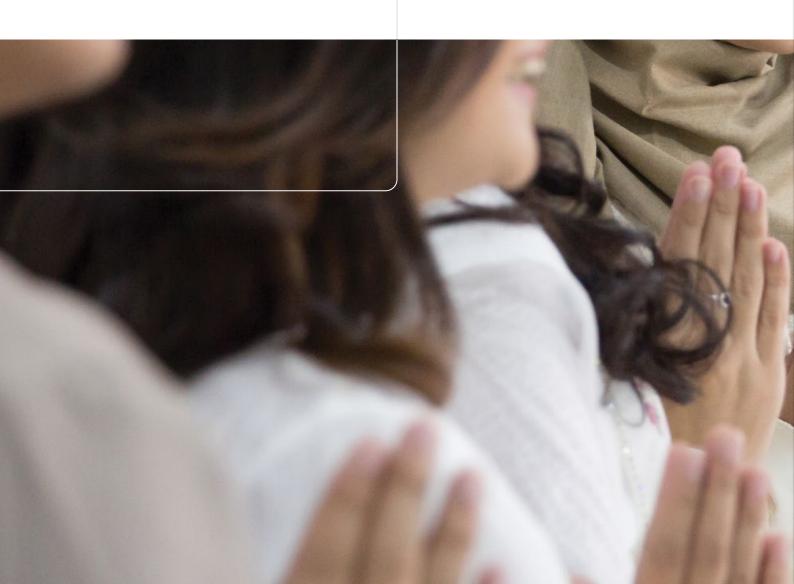
INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Dr Eugene Fortein attended and presented at the conference of the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race at the University of Zambia. The paper was titled, *Youth resistance in South Africa: reflections on the struggle of the 'born free' generation.*

He also presented a paper at the annual Church History Society of Southern Africa conference at the University of the Free State. The title was, The church and forced migration/removal: the Elandskloof case.

INTERNATIONALISATION OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dr Jacob Mokhutso was involved in a collaborative teaching and learning process where he presented a paper in a module (THEO 680: Doing Theology



Interculturally: World Christianity as context for doing theological reflection today) for master's and PHD students on 19 September 2023. This was for the Garrett–Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, USA. Dr Jacob Mokhutso was invited for the third conservative year to serve as an external moderator for the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) College from 29 October to 1 November 2023.

Prof Joel Mokhoathi was invited to participate as a guest lecturer at the Inter–Religious Week event organised by the Oxford (University of Pretoria) Centre for Religion, Public Life, and Security in Africa. The centre is spearheaded by Prof Maniraj Sukdaven and directed by Dr Charel du Toit under the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria.

Prof DF Tolmie read a paper on 'Did Jesus lie? Insights from the History of Reception of John 7:8–10' at an international conference held by the Colloquium Ioanneum in Viena, 31 July to 4 August 2023. Served on the board of the Colloquium Ioanneum.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Two students from Zambia presented their research proposals for PhD studies at the research day of Practical and Missional Theology in June 2023. There are also several students from Lesotho in the Practical and Missional Theology master's and PGDip programmes.

One PhD student from Zambia has successfully submitted his PhD thesis and graduated in December 2023.

PARTNERSHIPS

The process for renewing the faculty's MOU with the Academy for Reformed Theology in Giessen, Germany, has begun.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

The UFS Internationalisation Strategy has been shared with all the staff members in the faculty for consideration.









he University of the Free State integrates international and intercultural dimensions in all aspects of its core business and service functions. It specifically focuses on the international visibility, impact, and connectedness of research and innovation, with a particular focus on advancing transdisciplinary international research. In 2023 this was evidenced by the host of international accolades and achievements by UFS staff and students, as well as the countless examples of meaningful, impactful international collaborations across all faculties, as reflected in this report.

...meaningful, impactful international collaborations...

The UFS considers its diverse university community as a core resource to incubate intercultural and international competencies and produce new knowledge. It strives to preserve and grow staff and student diversity and to attract bright minds from across the globe to join its university community. In this regard the competent, committed staff of its Office for International Affairs (OIA) play an invaluable role, as evidenced by this office's comprehensive operations and numerous high-quality activities and events offered with a specific focus on improved internationalisation.

In 2023 the UFS had 913 international students spread out across its 3 campuses – representing around 2% of its total student population.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY REGION

Registrations by residency

As in preceding years, the majority of international students registered in 2023 were from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. These students totaled 758.

Non-SADC countries accounted for 125 student registrations, while 30 hailed from various other countries spread out over the globe (ZAF).

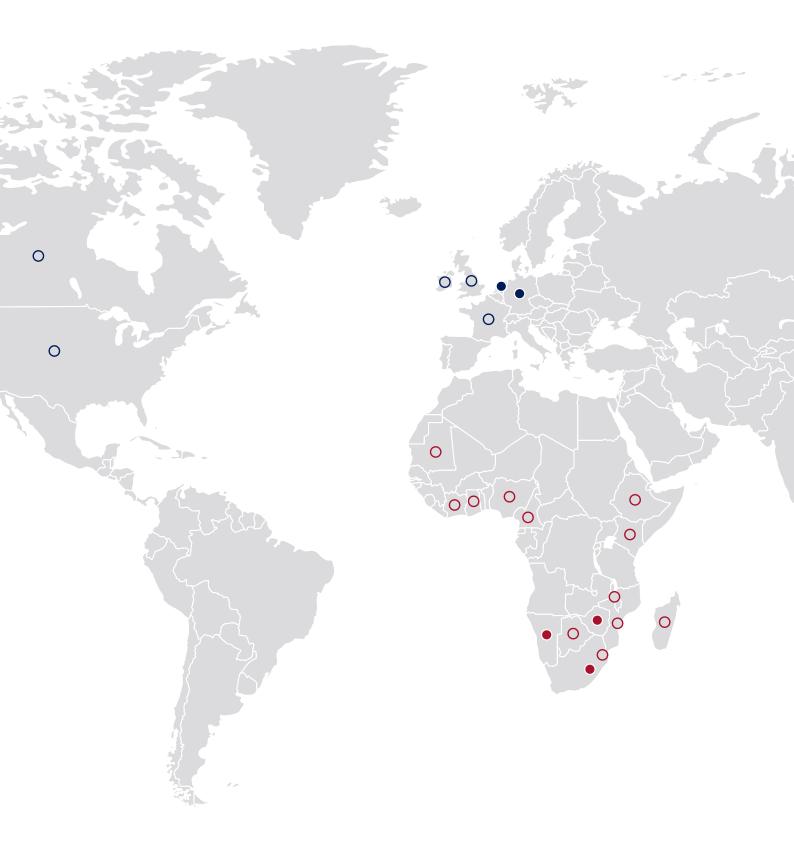
In all cases, numbers were lower than in the two preceding years, with the proportional spread reflecting a similar distribution trend.

Residency > Nationality > Home Language	2021	2022	2023
	Registrations	Registrations	Registrations
NSADC	143	118	125
SADC	924	825	758
ZAF	36	32	30
TOTAL	1103	975	913

GRAPH 1: Registrations by residency (2021–2023)

Registrations from Global South

The majority of students from the Global South were from Lesotho (which lies within the borders of the Free State province), with Zimbabwe in second and Namibia in third place. This reflects a similar distribution pattern to the two preceding years.

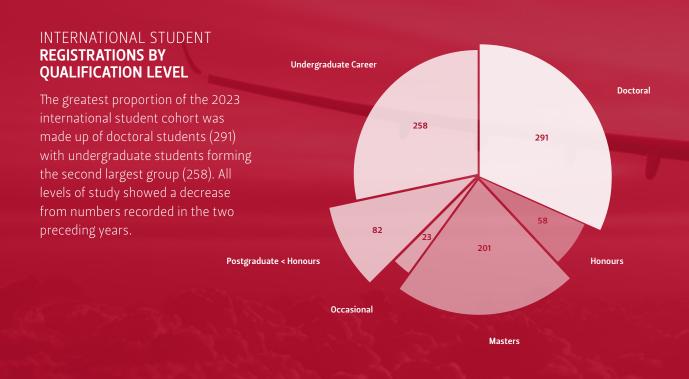


Registrations from Global North

The majority of students from the Global North were from Germany and the Netherlands.



GRAPH3: Registrations from Global North.

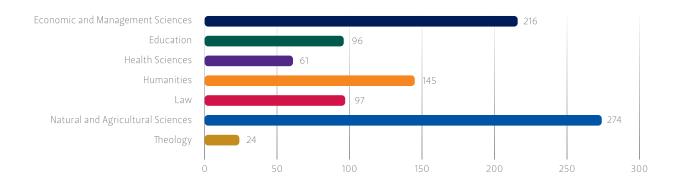


INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REGISTRATIONS PER FACULTY

As in 2022, the largest number of international students (274) was registered in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, with the second largest number (216) in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, and The Humanities (145) in third place. This corresponds with the size of the relevant faculties, as these are three of the UFS's largest faculties comprised of a variety of different departments, representing a large number of study specialisations.

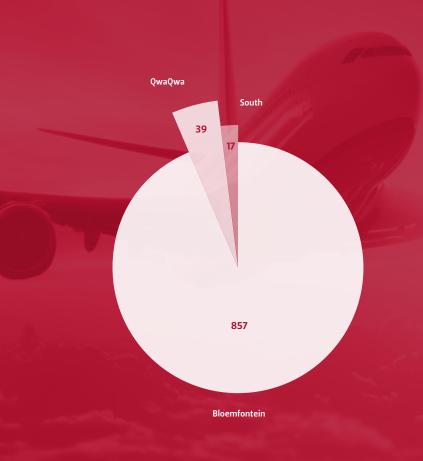
The smallest number of international students (24) were registered with the Faculty of Theology and Religion, one of the UFS' smallest faculties.

These proportions correspond with distribution trends recorded over the 2 preceding years.



GRAPH 5: International student registrations per faculty.

GRAPH 4: International student registrations by qualification level.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PER CAMPUS

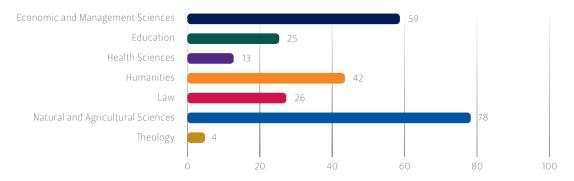
Of the 913 registered international students in 2023, 857 students were based on the Bloemfontein Campus, 39 on the Qwaqwa Campus and 17 on the South Campus.

This geographic spread makes sense in light of the fact that the Bloemfontein Campus is the largest of the UFS's three campuses, hosting all seven faculties, while the other two campuses have smaller faculty representation, with selected, specialised academic offerings.

GRAPH 6: International students per UFS campus

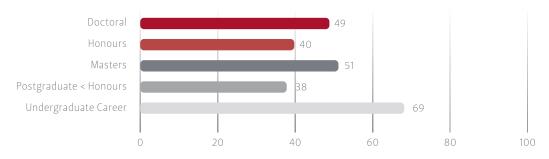
INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES

In 2023, 247 international students graduated, with the largest group of graduates recorded in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (78), and the second largest in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (59). This corresponds with trends recorded in the two receding years.

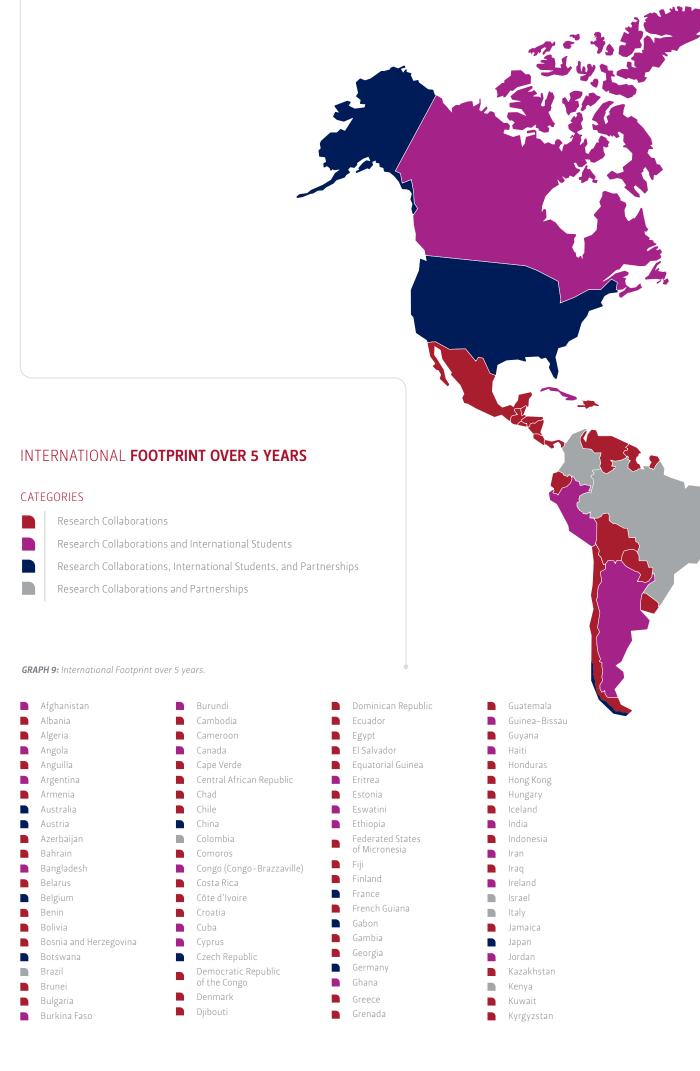


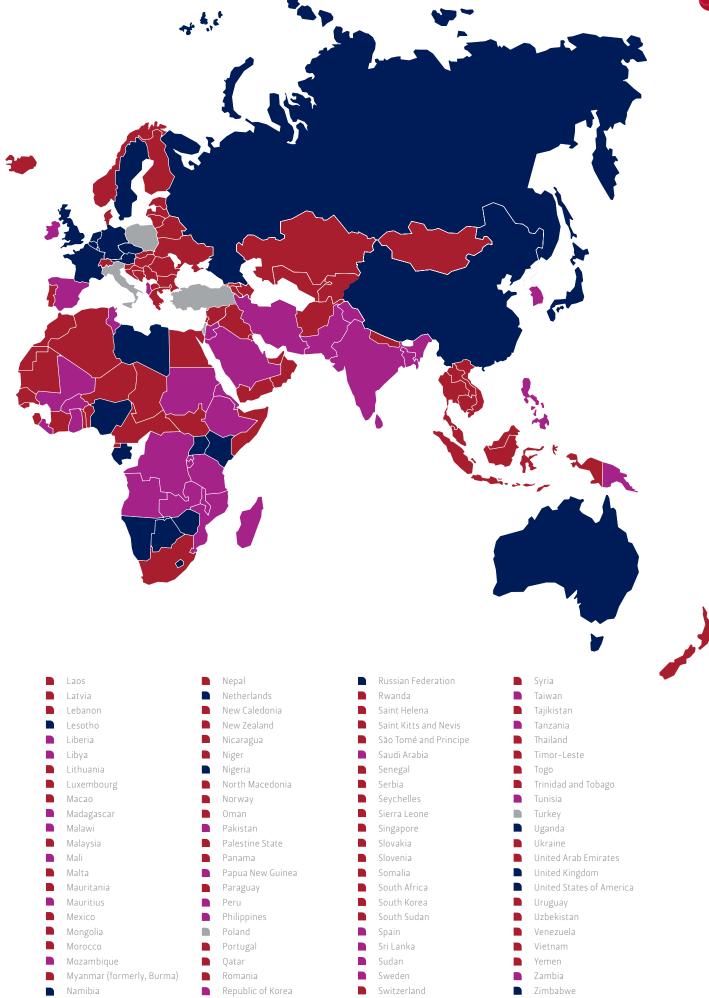
GRAPH 7: International graduates per faculty.

Most of the 2023 international graduates received undergraduate degrees, with masters degrees making up the second largest, and doctoral degrees the third largest group.



GRAPH 8: International graduates per qualification level.







GRAPH 10: Postdoctoral fellows by country of residency.

OVERVIEW OF **UFS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION**

The UFS collaborated with 2 844 international institutions in the period 2021 – 2023, while UFS scholars' collaboration with international counterparts produced 3 772 co-authored papers over the same period.

The greatest number of collaborations was with Europe-based (972 institutions), and secondly Asia–Pacific-based (681 institutions). The largest number of co-authored publications was produced with African institutions (2460 publications).

Most international collaborations (67.4%) fell in the *Academic only* category, with the University of Nigeria the top collaborating institution.

	COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS	CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS
Africa	396	2 460
Asia Pacific	681	1033
Europe	972	1186
Middle East	214	442
North America	464	605
South America	117	167



Data accessed on SciVal in August 2024.

GRAPH 11: Collaborating Institutions and Co–Authored Publications



	TYPE OF COLLABORATION	2023
	Academic-corporate collaboration	1.5
	Academic-government collaboration	13.2
(Academic-medical collaboration	2.1
	Academic-other collaboration	2.8
	Academic only collaboration	67.4

GRAPH 12: Type of Collaboration

TOP 5 COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS' CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

University of Nigeria

French
National Centre
for Scientific
Research
112

KU Leuven

University of Oxford

101

University of Amsterdam

GRAPH 13: Top 5 Collaborating Institutions' Co-Authored Publications

INSTITUTION	CO-AUTHORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE	CO-AUTHORS AT THE OTHER INSTITUTION	FIELD-WEIGHTED CITATION IMPACT	CITATION COUNT
University of Nigeria	40	155	1.40	1,034
French National Centre for Scientific Research	51	296	2.19	1,499
KU Leuven	24	112	1.93	1,336
University of Oxford	58	102	4.62	4,378
University of Amsterdam	14	47	1.27	1,110

GRAPH 14: Top 5 International Collaborators with UFS

