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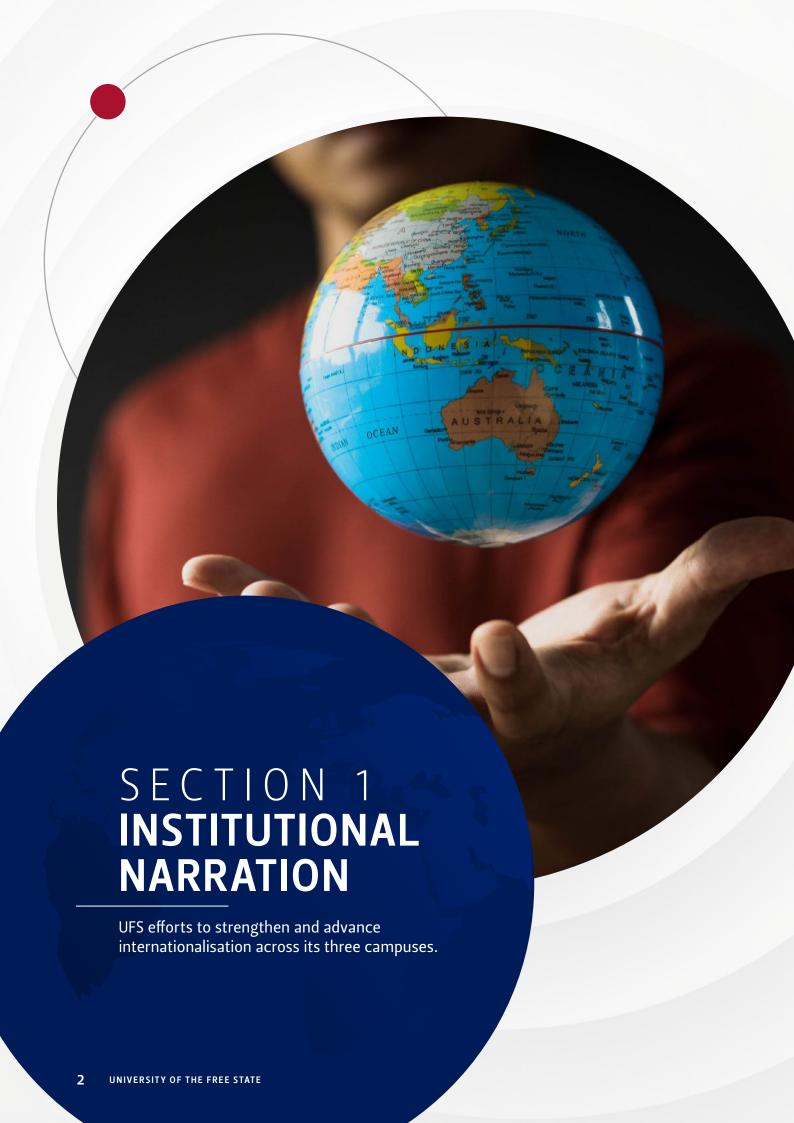
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he Office for International Affairs (OIA) enables the UFS internationalisation process. In 2022, the OIA established a research portfolio, which is seminal to an evidencebased approach towards strengthening its internationalisation process. The iKudu Project - an EU-funded capacity building project in higher education coordinated by the OIA, held its Leadership Summit at the University of Siena in Italy. Inspired by the ideas for curriculum renewal, which incorporate curriculum internationalisation and decolonisation dimensions, the UFS Curriculum Internationalisation Project was conceived. The OIA contributed significantly towards the visibility and impact of the UFS internationalisation process. It enabled new African partnerships and coordinated several diversity functions, including Africa Day dialogues on all three UFS campuses. The renewal of the international student admissions process was completed. The OIA, in collaboration with the University of Venda, implemented a staff development project on internationalisation, which was funded by the German DAAD and in which colleagues from several international offices at South African universities participated. The implementation of the 2018 - 2022 internationalisation strategy, which embraces a vision of comprehensive internationalisation for the UFS through various initiatives and collaborations, has enabled achieved thus far and have built a solid foundation for the many

The OIA contributed significantly towards the visibility and impact of the UFS internationalisation process.





UFS among world's best universities in Times Higher Education ranking

The UFS has cemented its place as a leading institution on the continent and in the world, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022. The UFS emerged in the 801–1 000 range of this prestigious ranking, which includes 1 799 institutions from across 104 countries – the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.



Prof Atangana top-ranked scientist in Mathematics

Prof Abdon Atangana, Professor of Applied Mathematics in the *Institute for Groundwater Studies*, was ranked No 1 in the world in Mathematics, No 186 in the world in all the fields, and No 1 in Africa in all the fields, according to the Stanford list of 2% single-year table. He was also named among the top 1% of scientists on the global Clarivate Web of Science list.

Another milestone was reached with international postdoctoral student, Dr Seda Igret Araz, introducing a new concept that can be used to test whether a new outbreak of Ebola virus disease will have one or several waves.





Prof Matsabisa addresses WHO and UN

Prof Motlalepula Matsabisa, Director of the Department of Pharmacology, shared his knowledge and expertise on the production of herbal medicines at a special event of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Health Ministers Regional Committee for Africa in Lomé, Togo.

This meeting, with the theme Building Back Better: Rethinking and rebuilding resilient health systems in Africa to achieve UHC and health security, was the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa.

Prof Matsabisa also gave a keynote speech on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Health during a session at the eighth edition of the UNGA77 Science Summit at the 77th United Nations General Assembly.

His message was around a call for investment in scientific research and development of traditional medicines.



African Mountain Research Foundation founder, Alex Hickman (left), and Dr Ralph Clark, Director of the UFS Afromontane Research Unit.

Ground-breaking partnership for Southern African mountain regions

The Afromontane Research Unit (ARU) on the Qwaqwa Campus was granted the unique opportunity to host a departmental licence that will facilitate a groundbreaking partnership between the African Mountain Research Foundation (AMRF) and Planet Land, a California-based company that operates the largest privately-owned fleet of satellites in the world, used for monitoring the earth's surface on a daily basis. The partnership will provide 100 students, scientists, and researchers based in the Southern African region with access to geospatial data on how tree coverings, water levels, and soil are changing on a daily basis, as well as on a long-term basis.

UFS alumna and Council member honoured by the American Bar Association

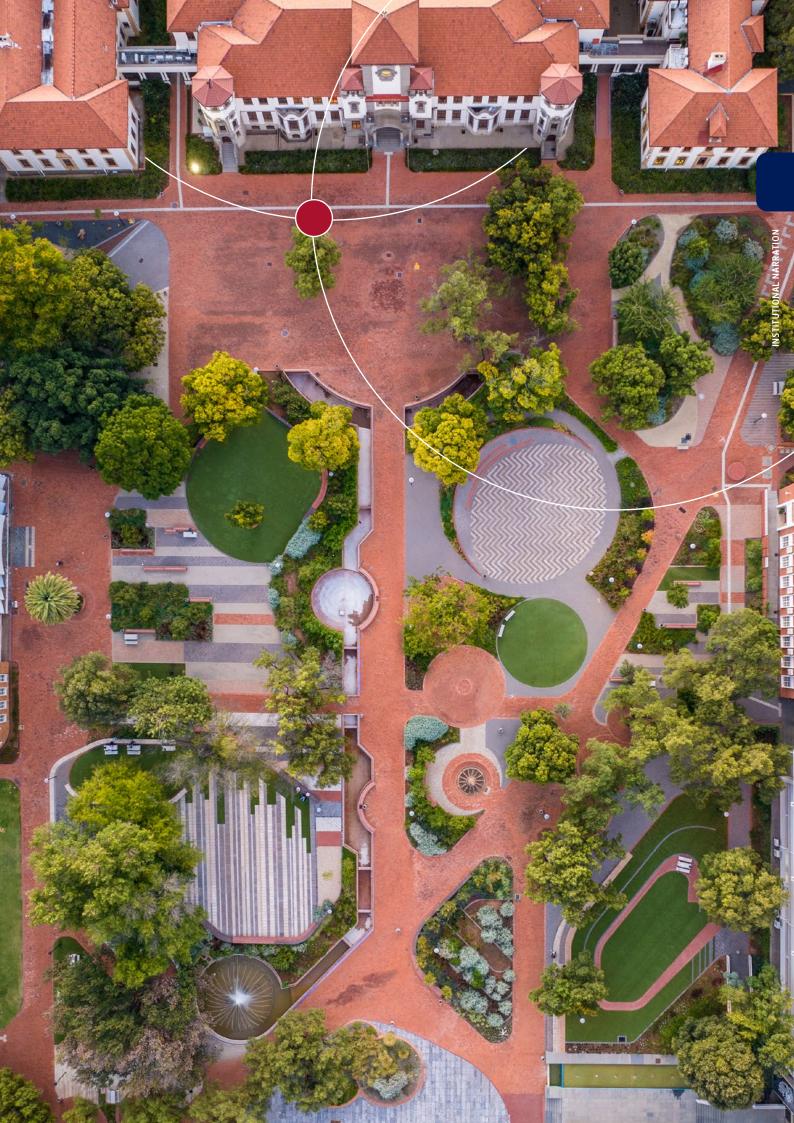
Leah Molatseli, alumna and Council member of the UFS, was the first African woman to be recognised by the American Bar Association in its list of Women of Legal Tech for her contribution and influence in the legal tech industry. A commitment to diversity is one of the core values of the American Bar Association, which the Law Practice Division aims to reinforce in the legal tech sector. A lawyer by profession, published legal tech author and speaker, as well as legal tech and innovation specialist, Molatseli uses technology and innovative means to empower and educate law professionals.



UFS students get to experience study abroad opportunities in Spain and Germany

The UFS is continually looking for ways to provide opportunities for students who want to study abroad and gain other academic and social living experiences. Ten UFS students gained valuable international experience, forming part of exchange programmes in Spain and Germany in 2022. The student exchange was part of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) Programme, in partnership with Universidad Rey Juan Carlos de Madrid in Spain, Fulda University of Applied Sciences in Germany, and the Alliance 4 Universities consortium, hosting students for a semester.





Celebrating ties with Appalachian State University and the United States

The US Consul General and the Associate Vice-Chancellor of the Appalachian State University in North Carolina in the US, visited various UFS projects supported by US grants, scholarships, and exchange programmes. The United State, and the Appalachian State University in particular, are longstanding, cherished collaboration partners from the Global North. Through key strategic partnerships such as these, the UFS celebrates knowledge exchange and the value of different perspectives, contributing to a better university.



Among the examples of US-UFS collaboration, are the university's two historic observatories, both of which have US origins. Pictured at the Boyden Observatory are from the left: Mr Vincent Spera; Prof Francis Petersen; Dr Khotso Mokhele; Helene Szegedi, Lecturer in the UFS Department of Physics; Prof Jesse Lutabingwa; Prof Pieter Meintjes, Senior Professor in the UFS Department of Physics; and Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier, Director of the UFS International Office.

Swiss Ambassador visits Qwaqwa Campus to boost mountain research

Dr Nicolas Brühl, Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa, visited the Afromontane Research Unit (ARU) on the Qwaqwa Campus to learn about the cutting-edge mountain research that the ARU is leading. Switzerland and South Africa have maintained high-level exchanges, which have been a strong driving force for development in South Africa. Both countries are rich in mountain biodiversity, and the ARU and Qwaqwa Campus will gain from Swiss expertise in the science and scholarship of mountain research by partnering with the country for future cooperative mountain research.



Prof Corli Witthuhn, Dr Martin Mandew, Dr Nicolas Brühl, Jacquelene Friedenthal, Dr Ralph Clark.

Collaboration agreement with Ugandan university

A promising collaboration agreement with the Busitema University in Uganda was signed, enabling the two institutions to work together and exchange expertise and innovation in the area of local manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.

Recardia Schoeman, Scientific Officer in the Department of Pharmacology, gave Prof Paul Waako, Dr Samuel Baker Obakiro, and Dr Richard Oriko Owor from the Busitema University a tour of the department and its laboratories.





Department of Economics and Finance receives prestigious CFA accreditation

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences was welcomed into the world's largest association of investment professionals, the CFA Institute University Affiliation Programme. The CFA designation is globally recognised as the gold standard in the investment field. Accreditation by this respected source of knowledge in investment and portfolio management reflects the rigour and value of the UFS BCom Investment Management and Banking (IMB) degree – housed in the more than a century–old Department of Economics and Finance. Only five universities in South Africa are affiliated with the CFA Institute.

Prof Francis Smit elected as member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery

Prof Francis E Smit, Head of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, has become only the third person from sub-Saharan Africa to receive the honour of being elected as a member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS). The AATS is an august international academic organisation founded more than a century ago by the earliest pioneers in the field of thoracic surgery, to which members are elected according to merit. Currently, the association has more than 1 400 active members from 41 countries. Around 30 to 40 new members are accepted annually, of which only 10 to 15 reside outside the USA and Canada.





Exciting collaboration on the cards for Qwaqwa Department of Sociology

The UFS Department of Sociology on the Qwaqwa Campus partnered with the Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg (PHF) to take transcontinental learning experiences to the maximum impact level. Through a collaboration between the two institutions, students and staff members stand to benefit from a wide range of opportunities, including but not limited to teaching and learning exchanges in virtual classrooms for under- and postgraduate students, online seminars and colloquiums, and even staff and student exchanges.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga appointed to lead global network on decoloniality

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga of the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, a leading voice and scholar on decolonisation, was appointed Global Academic Director of the Decolonial International Network (DIN). He will be involved with establishing a Centre for Decolonising The Mind, which will use 21st-century technologies to achieve the ideal of decolonialisation. The aim is also to work towards a decolonial textbook on the history of Africa.





Prof Sithole on UNESCO Advisory Board

Prof Pearl Sithole, Qwagwa Campus Vice-Principal: Academic and Research, has been appointed as the newest member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Management of Social Transformation scientific advisory board. The board is concerned with the critical role of social sciences in influencing policies in the international space as a key strategic focus; it is composed of nine internationally recognised experts representing various disciplines in the social sciences.



... with a mission to promote, guide, and advance best practices at institutions of higher education.

Tobias van den Bergh to lead mental health initiatives

Tobias van den Bergh, Counselling Psychologist at the UFS, was appointed as the President of the Southern African Association for Counselling and Development in Higher Education (SAACDHE). The organisation represents members of several higher education counselling and career development centres from the SADC region, with a mission to promote, guide, and advance best practices at institutions of higher education.





Aoate Tsimatsima leads student-sourcing antibiotic discovery network

Aoate Tsimatsima (fourth from the right), a master's student in the Applied Environmental Microbiology Group (AEMG) in the Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry, was appointed as the first Tiny Earth Partner Instructor (TEPI) in South Africa. Her role included forming a student-sourcing antibiotic discovery network. The Tiny Earth network has a database, created by students from around the world, with information about bacteria that can produce compounds that exhibit antimicrobial activity against significant pathogens.





Alina Ntsiapane runner-up in International Livestock Research Challenge

Alina Ntsiapane, a PhD student in the *Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems*, obtained second place in the partners category of the International Livestock Research Institute's (ILRI) CapDev Grand Challenge research pitching contest. The pitching contest was the first part of a 10-month process aimed at equipping scientists with the necessary skills to contribute to new research.

Katleho Nkosi scoops second place in national design competition

Katleho Nkosi, a fourth-year Education student, was runner-up in a national design competition hosted virtually by Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE). The competition formed part of the launch of the Student Entrepreneurship Week 2022, which took place at the University of Venda.



Wheat rust specialist contributes to paper in *Nature Genetics*

Prof Willem Boshoff, Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Sciences, was one of the authors of an article: 'Longread genome sequencing of *bread wheat facilitates disease resistance gene cloning*', which was published in the prestigious science publication, *Nature Genetics*. This research contributes towards establishing crops with genetic resistance to diseases, leading to a lower risk of epidemic outbreaks and lower input costs – ultimately working towards ensuring Zero Hunger, a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal.

Prof Buckley contributes to discovery published in Nature Astronomy

Prof David Buckley, Affiliated Professor in the *Department of Physics*, published an article in the prestigious science journal, *Nature Astronomy*, together with an international team of 20 authors. The article, titled: *'Discovery of a radio-emitting neutron star with an ultralong spin period of 76 seconds'*, was about the detection of an extremely slowly rotating pulsar.



Microbiology research in prestigious Infection and Immunity journal

Prof Carolina Pohl–Albertyn from the *Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry* and SARChI Research Chair in Pathogenic Yeasts, had an article published in the prestigious international science journal *Infection and Immunity* (IAI). The journal, published by the American Society for Microbiology, focuses on the interaction between various disease–causing microbes and their hosts and includes articles on infections caused by pathogenic bacteria, fungi, and parasites as well as the development of vaccines against non–viral pathogens.





UFS hosts country's first Indigenous Knowledge and Bio-Trade Indaba

The inaugural international Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Bio-Trade Indaba was hosted by the UFS African Medicines Innovation and Technology Development Platform under Prof Motlalepula Matsabisa, in collaboration with the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) – an entity of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). It was a platform for various stakeholders to network and share knowledge on current developments in indigenous knowledge research and product development, biodiversity, conservation, innovation, and commercialisation of the IK-based researched products.



UFS researchers part of major continental study on the evolution of SARS-CoV-2

Researchers from the Next Generation Sequencing (UFS-NGS) Unit and the Division of Virology/ National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) were part of a major publication featuring hundreds of authors from Africa who did research on the evolution of SARS-CoV-2. It was the first collaborative study of this nature conducted in Africa during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Among them was Prof Martin Nyaga, Associate Professor in the UFS-NGS and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre.



Impactful research to help victims of gender-based violence post-COVID-19

Sithembiso Ndlovu, a Public Health Lecturer in the Division of Public Health, Office of the Dean of Health Sciences, published a narrative review paper in the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender-based violence (GBV) among women. The aim was to assist victims and particularly government and organisations to address GBV post-COVID-19.

Dr Ngang appointed UNDP Human Rights Research Chair

Dr Carol Chi Ngang, research fellow in the Free State Centre for Human Rights, was appointed as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Rights Research Chair at the National University of Lesotho, where he is currently affiliated. The Human Rights Chair was established with the broad mandate to undertake and promote cutting-edge policy research, curriculum development, and community engagement.



Geographical research expedition to Marion Island

Marike Stander, Lecturer in the Department of Geography, formed part of the Sub-Antarctic Landscape-Climate Interactions (SANAP-LCI) Research Group on their annual visit to Marion Island in the sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean, where she assisted with fieldwork and data collection. One of the group's research objectives – to explore the viability of using geochemical tracers in the substrate on Marion Island – formed the focus of Stander's doctoral research.





International collaboration for Dr Nyoni in prestigious *Lancet* journal

Dr Champion Nyoni, Senior Researcher in the *School of Nursing*, together with other researchers from Brazil, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, was invited by *The Lancet* to write a paper related to the Frenk et al. publication on 'Transforming health professionals' education' – which has significantly influenced health professions education and research over the past decade.

Collaboration with Friedrich Schiller University to create innovation agriculture cluster

A group of academic staff and PhD students visited the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU) in Germany for a three-week regional innovation training workshop and job shadowing. With this training, various industry partners aim to build a regional innovation cluster for agriculture in the South African perspective that drives innovation, technology advancement, and trade methodology among academic institutions, the government, and industries.



Three ISG fellows to publish African history books through international grant

Drs Miyanda Simabwachi, Jennifer Chansa, and Honest Koke from the International Studies Group (ISG) were awarded the International African Humanities Grant, which is presented by the American Council of Learned Societies and funded through the Carnegie Foundation. The grant will allow them to revise their PhD theses into books and will help the candidates to conduct additional research and fieldwork to supplement their PhD theses and publish comprehensive monographs.











Prof Lues elected as a board member of IASIA

Prof Liezel Lues, Professor of Public Administration and Management in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the University of the Free State (UFS), was elected as a board member of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) – an association of organisations and individuals whose activities and interests focus on the education and training of public administrators and managers. Prof Lues will serve alongside Dr Nayak Zarrouk from Morocco, who is the first female president of IASIA since its inception.

Egyptian scientist sheds light on fungi, a wonder of the living world

Students and lecturers in the Department of Genetics had the opportunity to attend a lecture by Prof Ahmed M Abdel–Azeem, a professor of mycology from the Department of Botany and Microbiology in the Faculty of Science at the Suez Canal University in Egypt. He talked about 'Fungi in Egypt: a galaxy to discover'. Besides the history of fungi in Egypt, he also looked at the effect of climate change on fungi.





UFS student attends COP27 Simulation Model in Egypt

Letsatsi Lekhooa, a Master of Science student specialising in Climate Change, joined around 150 students from across the world in Egypt for the COP27 Simulation Model. Attendees were selected from a pool of more than 1 800 applicants across the world.

UFS mathematician Christian Budde part of the Heidelberg Laureate Forum

Dr Christian Budde participated in the ninth Heidelberg Laureate Forum in Germany, which saw 200 invited young computer scientists and mathematicians converge on the university town of Heidelberg. Dr Budde was one of 200 young researchers from more than 50 countries worldwide who were selected to attend the weeklong HLF event.



UFS academics joining University of Michigan's prestigious scholar programme

Prof Rodwell Makombe, Associate Professor in the Department of English on the university's Qwaqwa Campus, and Dr Sevias Guvuriro from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences on the Bloemfontein Campus, joined a prestigious group of academics from African universities for the 2022 University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) fellowship programme. Each year, the programme hosts more than 180 academics from different universities in Africa for a fivemonth fellowship, providing access to research libraries and facilities, on-campus housing, health insurance, and a stipend to cover living expenses.





Landscape change studies bring better understanding of climate change

Dr Liezel Rudolph, a lecturer in the Department of Geography, joined an expedition to Gough Island in the South Atlantic Ocean, where she was involved in research that aims to better understand the landscape evolution of some subantarctic islands and their response to long-term climate change.





Dr Namakula addresses UN and WCC

During the 77th General Assembly of the United Nations (UN), Dr Catherine Namakula, Senior Lecturer in Public Law, led a discussion on the plight of children of African descent, as Chairperson of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD). In addition, Dr Namakula headed the WGEPAD team to the 73rd regular meeting of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

Dr Namakula also delivered an address at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The focus was on combating racism and racial discrimination against minorities, as well as on the human rights concerns of people of African descent.

Dr Dube advancing decoloniality agenda

Dr Bekithemba Dube, Senior Lecturer in the *Faculty of Education* on the Qwaqwa Campus, visited the Appalachian State University in North Carolina as part of the university's staff exchange programme. The visit significantly contributed to intellectual diversity, including broadening understanding of the world, and new conversations around global scholarship, advancing the agenda of decoloniality studies on a global scale.





Odeion String Quartet proud custodians of world-renowned Quartet of Peace

The Odeion String Quartet (OSQ), the only quartet in residence at any South African university, has became the new custodian of the world-famous Quartet of Peace in 2022. The four magnificent stringed instruments were created by Brian Lisus in honour of South Africa's four Nobel laureates, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Oliver Tambo, and FW de Klerk. The quartet comprises two violins, a viola, and a cello, all made from indigenous South African wood, and were built by Lisus in Cape Town in 2010. They embody the values of hope, freedom, reconciliation, and peace.

Celebrating the university's intercultural diversity at the annual International Diversity Festival

With great fanfare, colour, song, and spoken word, the UFS Office for International Affairs celebrated Heritage Month with its annual International Diversity Festival, focusing on cultural competencies in higher education institutions.

Two festival dialogues took place on the Qwaqwa and Bloemfontein campuses –marking a first–of-its-kind for the former.





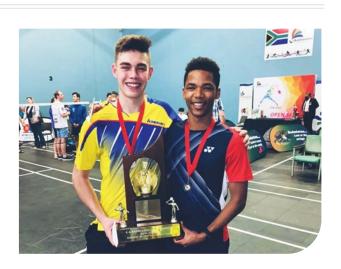
UFS artists' work on exhibition at world-famous NIROX Sculpture Park

Artists from the Department of Fine Arts had the opportunity to have their work exhibited at the internationally acclaimed NIROX Sculpture Park in Johannesburg as part of the park's *Good Neighbours exhibition*. The department, together with other international African artists and five partnering South African universities, participated in the exhibition, which reflected the relationship that South Africans have with its neighbours amid global instability.

UFS contingent flying national flag at Commonwealth Games

"A reflection of the commitment and hard work by all stakeholders under challenging circumstances over the past few years." This is how Maryka Holtzhausen, Acting Director of KovsieSport, described the journey of sportsmen and sportswomen from the University of the Free State (UFS) taking part in the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

A total of eleven athletes and coaches with UFS ties, featuring in seven different sporting codes, competed at the Games.



Sello Diphoko gets Texas Soccer Scholarship

Sello Diphoko, talented UFS striker, was given a scholarship to study at the University of the Incarnate word in San Antonio, Texas. Diphoko was previously crowned Player of the Tournament in 2021 – his Varsity Football debut year.

UFS student joins French rugby club

Jaco Theron, a Bachelor of Education student, was scooped up by France-based rugby club UMS Montélimar on a two-year renewable contract.









1. REPORTING AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Portfolio leaders: Bonolo Makhalemele and Chevon Slambee

1.1 iKudu Project extension

The iKudu Project, which is implemented by a consortium of five South African and five European universities, is coordinated by the OIA for the UFS. It has been conceptualised to develop a contextualised South African concept of Internationalisation of the Curriculum (IoC), which integrates Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) exchanges. The concept will allow South African partner universities to become the country's leading HEIs in IoC, curriculum renewal, and COIL virtual exchanges. Curriculum decolonisation is understood as a central aspect of curriculum transformation. COIL virtual exchanges provide an alternative and more inclusive way for international and intercultural learning compared to physical mobility, which cannot be implemented on a broad basis in SA, due to the country's socioeconomic realities.

At the heart of the project is staff capacity development, as it will produce a group of trained teaching staff who will have access to an international and local pool of knowledge, skills, and expertise in the relevant areas. In the period under review, the iKudu project has been granted an 18-month extension. This compensates for the delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and assists the consortium in achieving its goal of developing curricula that are locally relevant, globally competitive, and connect to multiple knowledge paradigms.

1.1.2 iKudu Engagement Visits

Partner engagement visits took place from 10 to 14 June 2022 in the Netherlands. A delegation of 35 members visited the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) and The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS). The purpose of these visits was to gain insight into the implementation of existing strategies and policies relating to curriculum transformation, how COIL forms part of the institutional being of these EU universities, and to obtain insight into COIL practices at AUAS and THUAS.

The concept will allow South African partner universities to become the country's leading HEIs in IoC, curriculum renewal, and COIL virtual exchanges.

1.1.1 iKudu Leadership Summit

The iKudu Leadership Summit was held in Italy, Siena, from 7 to 9 June 2022. University leaders responsible for learning and teaching, academics, and curriculum designers convened in Siena to discuss curriculum internationalisation and transformation matters. A total of 55 participants took part in the engagement. The summit focused on developing high-level guidelines for curriculum renewal, including Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) as an instrument to internationalise the curriculum (IoC), from which iKudu partner universities can intelligently borrow for their curriculum renewal processes.



1.1.3 iKudu Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Development

The table below summarises the number of COIL projects implemented by the iKudu Consortium.

	2020	2021	2022	To date (2020 – July 2022)	UFS COIL projects to date
Number of completed COIL projects	4	14	14	34	6
Number of academics involved	8	28	31	67	4 UFS academics 4 iKudu partner academics
Number of students involved	20	630	700	1600	157 UFS students 100 iKudu partner students

1.1.4 Visits to South African iKudu Partner Universities

From 21 November to 2 December 2022, iKudu working group coordinators - Eva Haug, Jos Beelen, and Lynette Jacobs - visited all five South African iKudu partners to advance the work of the different iKudu working groups and to meet with stakeholders to discuss specific matters that have emerged as important for capacity building for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) in South Africa. The nature of the visit depended to some extent on the specific realities at the institutions, but in general, included the following: meeting with academics who are already involved in COIL and those interested in COIL; having a focused discussion on internationalisation and decolonisation of the curriculum with relevant stakeholders; engaging with those involved in and in need of curriculum support; discussing relevant matters specific to the context of the specific partner and in line with needs/requests by the partner.

1.1.6 iKudu Professional Development Series

To assist academics with the implementation of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects for the first semester, four professional development workshops were hosted by the project. Each session was co-facilitated by a South African and European facilitator to showcase both Northern and Southern perspectives on the thematic areas and to build capacity for COIL facilitation.





1.1.5 iKudu Engagements on Curriculum Internationalisation at the UFS

The UFS hosted two iKudu engagements on curriculum renewal, one on the Qwaqwa Campus and one on the BloemfonteinCampus, on 29 November 2022 and 1December 2022 respectively. The interactive workshops focused on integrating COIL in a renewed and internationalised curriculum in the institution and campus contexts. The engagement focused on preparing the implementation of the UFS Curriculum Internationalisation project, which has been developed based on the insight the UFS gained through its participation in the iKudu Project.

1.2 Guest Lecture by Prof Anil Sooklal, Ambassador-at-Large for Asia and BRICS, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa

The lecture took place in the Centenary Complex (UFS Bloemfontein Campus) on 1 June 2022. This lecture examined the role that BRICS played in shaping the current international order; the challenges and obstacles to BRICS' ambitions for global economic and political governance reform; and discussed opportunities for BRICS to reshape the emerging international order, given broad concerns among developing countries about the abuse of the system by the Global North. The guest lecture was followed by a panel discussion – facilitated by Prof Francis Petersen, the Rector and Vice–Chancellor of the UFS – with panel members comprising Prof Philippe Burger, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, UFS; Prof Hussein Solomon, Senior Professor, Political Studies, and Governance, UFS; and Ms Mosibudi Motimele, Lecturer, Political Studies, and Governance, UFS.



...discussed opportunities for BRICS to reshape the emerging international order...

1.3 National multiplication training on internationalisation in South Africa

The University of Venda (Univen) and the University of the Free State (UFS) were awarded a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) National Multiplication Trainings (NMT) programme to implement training on internationalisation for higher education leaders and managers. It was co-funded by the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the two coordinating universities. Two emerging internationalisation managers, Mr Matome Mokoena (UFS) and Mrs Nontlanhla Ntakana (Univen), led the programme, which is supported by DAAD with 25 000 euros. Dr Segun Obadire (Univen) and Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier (UFS), who serve as directors responsible for the international offices at their universities, were part of the training committee. The theme of the training programme was 'Enabling Internationalisation in Light of the 2020 Policy Framework for Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa 2022'; it comprised two training workshops and several virtual engagements. Dr Nico Jooste and Mrs Merle Hodges served as external experts on the training committee. Both are internationally renowned experts in the field and former presidents of the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA). Mr Leolyn Jackson (Central University of Technology) and Prof Lynette Jacobs (University of the Free State) also contributed to the two training workshops. The first training workshop was held at the UFS from 1 to 3 March 2022. From 8 to 10 November 2022, the second iteration took place at the University of Venda. Participants included senior and middle management members from international offices at South African universities.

1.4 UFS Curriculum Internationalisation Project

Based on the insight gained through the iKudu Project process, the UFS embarked on its curriculum internationalisation project, which was approved by the institution's Academic Committee. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and virtual exchange will be central to the approach, which is being implemented by a task team coordinated by the OIA. The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and the Faculty of The Humanities will be seminally involved in the pilot phase.



2. PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIVE DEGREES, AND OUTGOING MOBILITY

Portfolio leader: Kagiso Ngake

he Partnerships portfolio coordinates and enables the development and management of international partnerships. This portfolio is instrumental in the initiation of long-term and mutually beneficial relationships and collaborations between UFS stakeholders and partners. The portfolio identifies new opportunities leveraging on impetus from faculties. The portfolio also manages other work streams: outgoing student/staff mobility and Erasmus+ programmes that have a long-term effect, and collaborative degrees.

PARTNERSHIPS

2.1 UFS-Appalachian State University Partnership

Between 18 and 25 March 2022, Prof Jesse Lutabingwa visited the UFS to strengthen the strategic partnership between the Appalachian State University and the UFS. He engaged on existing projects and, together with UFS collaborators, identified areas for additional joint endeavours. Prof Lutabingwa visited all three campuses, including the Bloemfontein Campus (24 March 2022), to meet senior academics in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, and visited one of the experimental farms managed by the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. On 25 March 2022, he visited the South Campus where he had a round-table discussion with multiple stakeholders.

2.2 US-UFS Collaborations: US Consul General Visit

On 23 and 24 March 2022, the UFS hosted the US Consul General, Mr Vincent Spera, together with Prof Jesse Lutabingwa, Associate Vice-Chancellor of the Appalachian State University in North Carolina, who visited the UFS and spent time on both the Qwagwa and Bloemfontein campuses. In Qwaqwa, engagements took place with staff involved in the Mountain-to-Mountain Research Programme, a collaboration between the UFS and three universities in the United States of America (US), which is funded by an R8 million grant from the US Embassy in South Africa. On 24 March, the US delegation attended an event at the Boyden Observatory in Bloemfontein to showcase and celebrate the collaboration between US stakeholders and the UFS, specifically regarding astrophysical research. The group engaged with a cohort of scientists during a tour of the observatory and its telescopes.





This portfolio is instrumental in the initiation of long-term and mutually beneficial relationships and collaborations between UFS stakeholders and partners.



2.3 Kenyan High Commissioner – Education Attaché Visit



On 6 April 2022, the Education Attaché of the High Commission of Kenya, Mr Adan Ibrahim, visited the UFS. He engaged with the Vice–Rector: Research and Internationalisation, Prof Corli Witthuhn, and the Director of the Office for International Affairs, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier. The purpose of the visit was to share experience in the field of higher education and training, research technology and innovation, and to explore further potential areas of scientific and technological cooperation between the UFS and Kenyan public universities. The attaché further had an opportunity to engage with Kenyan students and professionals at the UFS.

2.4 Visit by the National University of Lesotho Registrar

On 24–25 April, the Registrar of the National University of Lesotho (NUL), Mrs Liteboho Maqalika–Lerotholi, accompanied by the Senior Assistant Registrar: Postgraduate, Mrs Malira Mohlabana, visited the UFS to benchmark with the UFS Registrar and the Centre for Graduate Support. The visit formed part of a series of engagements aimed at strengthening collaboration between the two institutions and also formed part of the preparation for the bilateral meeting to be held at NUL on 8 September 2022.





2.5 Masuku University of Science and Technology (Gabon)

The Vice–Rector of the Masuku University of Science and Technology (Gabon), Prof Alain Souza, accompanied by Mr Abbas Aoussi (External Relations Manager), visited the UFS between 23 and 27 May to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions. They visited the Bloemfontein Campus from 23 to 25 May and the Qwaqwa Campus from 26 to 27 May, where they engaged with a number of academics, mainly in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

2.6 Rector's Heads of Diplomatic Mission Breakfast

On 9 June 2022, the Rector, Prof Francis Petersen, hosted a breakfast in Pretoria for the Heads of Diplomatic Mission in South Africa. Fifteen foreign missions attended the event, with representation from Argentina, Belgium, Egypt, the European Union, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Spain, Switzerland, the United States, and Zimbabwe. The programme included a presentation by the Rector, and was followed by an engagement session.



The event offered the UFS the opportunity to reach out and engage with the international community on potential partnerships and collaborations. The Rector provided insight into the UFS, while positioning the university, and current/potential collaborations with institutions of higher learning and other sectors in the respective heads of mission countries.

2.7 Meeting with the High Commissioner of Ghana

On 21 June 2022, the UFS hosted the High Commissioner of Ghana, HE Mr Charles Owiredu. He was received by our Rector, followed by a meeting with all the Ghanaian students and staff members on our campus. The meeting started off with a welcoming and introduction by the Director of the International Office, Dr Hagenmeier, whereafter the High Commissioner was given an opportunity to address the room. In turn, he stated that the objective of his visit was to, inter alia, take up grievances and see to the welfare of the Ghanaian community on our campus. He was also eager to promote exchanges between Ghana and South Africa and to deepen the relationship between Ghana and the UFS specifically. The Ghanaian attendees were then given an opportunity to voice some concerns. The meeting was concluded, and everyone enjoyed refreshments before departure.

2.8 Engagement with the National University of Lesotho and other institutions in Lesotho



The OIA coordinated a visit by a delegation led by the Rector and Vice-Chancellor to the National University of Lesotho (NUL) on 8 September 2022. The delegation included more than 10 academics and senior academics from the UFS who are involved in the partnership or seek to collaborate with colleagues at NUL. An alumni function organised by Institutional Advancement on 7 September 2022 was supported during the trip. Besides this, the OIA arranged a courtesy call for the Rector and Vice-Chancellor to the Lesotho Campus of the Institute of Development Management (IDM) in Maseru, a higher education institution led by Dr Moeketsi Letele, a UFS graduate.

2.9 Collaboration with Busitema University, Uganda

During a visit hosted by Prof Motlalepula Matsabisa, Director of Pharmacology at the University of the Free State (UFS), the UFS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Busitema University, Uganda. The OIA supported the engagement and arranged for courtesy calls to the Office of the Dean of Health Sciences, Prof Gert van Zyl, and the Office of the Dean of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Prof Danie Vermeulen. The OIA also supported the new partnership by engaging with the Busitema management team on internationalisation in follow-up meetings.







2.10 Visit to Universities in Gabon

The OIA coordinated a visit by the Vice–Rector: Research and Internationalisation, Prof Corli Witthuhn; the Director of the OIA, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier; and the Qwaqwa Campus Subject Head: Zoology and Entomology, Dr Patricks Otomo, to the Masuku University of Science and Technology in Franceville, Gabon, to conceptualise a staff doctoral programme. During the visit, which took place from 10 to 14 October 2022, engagements also took place with the International Centre for Medical Research in Franceville and the EM–Gabon University in Libreville. Furthermore, the delegation engaged with the Gabon Ministry of Finance to explore funding opportunities for doctoral staff development and engaged with the South African Ambassador to Gabon, HE Ms Ncumisa Pamella Notutela Mthabela.

2.11 Visit by a delegation from EM Gabon

A delegation from Ecole de Management du Gabon University (EM-Gabon) led by its President, Prof Daniel Idiata, visited the UFS in November 2022, followed by a virtual signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UFS and EM-Gabon on 1 December 2022, as well as academic engagements. Meanwhile, PhD co-supervision commenced with the Department of Zoology and Entomology at the Masuku University of Science and Technology in Franceville, Gabon, due to the partnership established earlier in 2022. EM-Gabon reciprocated with a visit to the UFS in November 2022.

2.12 Side event to World Science Forum

The OIA Director, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier, together with Prof Jos Beelen from The Hague University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, presented at a side event to the World Science Forum in Cape Town in December 2022.

2.13 Visit to the universities in Ghana

Prof Corli Witthuhn, Vice–Rector: Research and Internationalisation, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier, Director of the OIA, together with the UFS Dean of Education, Prof Loyiso Jita, visited the University of Ghana and the University of the Cape Coast in Ghana from 22 to 26 October 2022 to strengthen the UFS footprint in Africa. At the University of the Cape Coast, the delegates engaged with several academic departments, including Finance and Management Studies and the Faculty of Science and Technology Education. Besides this, they focused on engaging with the Faculty of Science and Technology Education at the College of Education Studies, whose dean – Prof Douglas Agyei – is a long–standing collaborator of Prof Loyiso Jita. The engagements also included a luncheon with the university's Chair of Council, Prof Obeng Mireku.









2.14 Outgoing Student Mobility/Erasmus+ Mobility

Ten UFS students participated in exchange programmes in Spain and Germany in the second semester of 2022, gaining international experience and competence that will enhance their employability. The student exchanges were part of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) Programme, which was implemented in partnership with Universidad Rey Juan Carlos de Madrid in Spain, Fulda University of Applied Sciences in Germany, and the Alliance 4 Universities consortium in Spain.

2.15 Collaborative Degrees

The OIA is coordinating collaborative degree support. In the period under review, Dr Keamogetse G Morwe, Lecturer in the Department of Youth in Development in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education at the University of Venda, was awarded a joint PhD from the University of the Free State (UFS) School of Higher Education Studies and the University of Málaga in Spain (cum laude) at the December graduation ceremonies.

She did this joint PhD through an EU-funded Erasmus Mundus scholarship. By the end of 2022, the number of students registered on joint degrees was seven, with three students being registered at the University of Groningen (the Netherlands), two students at Université Bourgogne-Franche- Comté (France), one at Vrije University (Netherlands) and one at Leiden University (the Netherlands). Between 2016 and 2022, nine joint degrees were enrolled for in partnership with other European universities.



3. INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME Portfolio leader: Bulelwa Moikwatlhai

he portfolio for internationalisation at Home and Incoming Mobility focuses on activities that aid the easy and successful social and cultural integration of international students coming to the UFS. It further provides mentorship and guidance through its Umoja Buddy Programme – a programme that pairs first-time entering international students with local senior students known as Umoja Buddy Ambassadors.

3.1 Virtual Mobility

In the first semester of 2022, a virtual mobility with Science PO Bordeaux University in France was implemented. One student participated in studies at the UFS virtually. The student, Ambre Ceretto, her coordinator at her home institution, and the heads of the various departments in the Faculty of the Humanities at the UFS, were comfortable with the exchange taking place virtually and applied their minds to all the risks involved. She took her classes via Blackboard and was also assigned an Umoja Buddy Programme ambassador to help with academic, social, and cultural integration into the UFS community. Ms Ceretto had a successful academic year at the University of the Free State, passing five of her six modules with distinction.

3.3 First-Year International Student Welcome Function

On 18 March 2022, the Internationalisation at Home (I@H) portfolio within the Office for International Affairs hosted its annual first-year international student welcome function, themed 'Welcome to Mzansi', at the UFS RAG farm. The function hosted more than a hundred local and international students who are part of the I@H integration initiative, the Umoja Buddy Programme. The UFS students in the Arts and Culture division within Student Affairs set the tone for the evening with a drama presentation articulating a student's first day in the UFS community, Bloemfontein, and the surrounding area. The drama piece showcased the diverse student community represented at the UFS.



3.2 International Mother Language Day Celebration

In honour of International Mother Language Day, the Office for International Affairs (OIA) Internationalisation at Home portfolio created an entertaining and educational video and co-hosted a writing competition with the Initiative for Creative African Narratives (ICAN). The project's goal was to increase awareness about the significance of the day and to demonstrate why the preservation of mother tongues is so important, especially in the context of African education. Our goal with the video alongside the writing competition was to provide students with a creative way to mark the day and demonstrate their profound connections with their mother language. Furthermore, using this year's theme, Using Technology for Multilingual Learning: Challenges and Opportunities, the video attempted to highlight the need for multilingualism in society and investigate how technology could support this. The OIA collaborated with the Academy of Multilingualism on this project.



3.4 Internationalisation in society – Meal in a Jar community engagement initiative

'Meal in a Jar' is an annual asset-based community development (ABCD) initiative aimed at empowering the community through learning and teaching various skills. This is a strategy for sustainable community-driven development. Beyond the mobilisation of a particular community, ABCD is concerned with how to link micro-assets to the macro-environment. Following that, a community focus group is established and equipped with the knowledge and abilities to translate these resources into income-generating outputs.

The 2022 Meal in a Jar campaign was centred around youth empowerment through entrepreneurial education, in keeping with the project's goal of equipping learners with future business skills. The concept includes three components: jar recycling, shoe polish, and petroleum jelly made from spent candles.



...centred around youth empowerment through entrepreneurial education...

3.5 Incoming exchange students

The UFS welcomed its first physical exchange cohort in two years at the end of the COVID-19 limitations. Students came from the UFS' many international partners, including the University of Bremen in Germany, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and Sciences PO Bordeaux in France. The UFS faculties of The Humanities, Economic and Management Sciences, and Natural and Agricultural Sciences hosted the students, respectively. These students were paired with Umoja Buddy Programme ambassadors to aid in their transition and integration into UFS student life. Furthermore, Courtney Madziwa, President of the International Student Association (ISA), invited the students to join their association, exposing them to students from various nations and allowing them to learn about their cultures.

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) organised a hybrid orientation session for the exchange students, including those who had yet to arrive on the Bloemfontein Campus, on 18 July 2022.

The Umoja Buddy Programme hosted a certificate awarding ceremony on 14 October 2022 to celebrate and appreciate the ambassadors' dedication and commitment to the programme throughout the year. This event was the closing event for the integration programme for the 2022 academic year.



3.6 Africa Month Celebration Website

In celebration of Africa Month, the Office for International Affairs, in collaboration with the Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice, issued a call to the University of the Free State community to submit contributions for the Africa Month celebrations. These came in the form of poems by different poets, songs, opinion pieces, and articles. All the contributions received were posted on the Office for International Affairs website under the Africa Month tab. It highlighted the university's commitment to creating a diverse, challenging, intellectual environment. (See 'Africa Month Celebration Website')

3.7 Africa Week Commemoration

The University of the Free State's Office for International Affairs and the Unit for Institutional Change and Social Justice co-hosted the annual Africa Day Commemoration. The 2022 commemoration was held across all three campuses in a marathon called 'The Africa Week,' unifying the activities through cross-campus collaboration that speaks in one voice for one institution.

The activities were organised in three stages: an opening ceremony for Africa Week on the South Campus, a celebration dialogue on the Bloemfontein Campus, and a closing ceremony on the Qwaqwa Campus. All three activities were themed 'African

Higher Education – Celebrating African Education,' and included artistic expressions, music, dance, and meaningful discourse that focused on teaching and learning. The theme of African Higher Education is centred on the acknowledgment and appreciation of various African educational systems and the creation of a venue to begin the discourse about a unified African higher education system. The South Campus inauguration ceremony was followed by an interactive event on the Bloemfontein Campus, which featured a thought–provoking conversation between the panel and the audience, accompanied by poetry.



The **Qwaqwa Campus** programme served as a closing ceremony to Africa Week, recapping the activities of the week that took place institution—wide. The closing ceremony included students' views on African education and a beautifully curated performance from the Qwaqwa Choir and the Gospel Choir. Prof Francis Petersen did a recap and overview of the African Education dialogue, bringing together all three programmes of the week. Lastly, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier reflected on the week and delivered the closing remarks.



3.8 UBP (Umoja Buddy Programme) International Friendship Day

The Umoja Buddy Programme of the Office for International Affairs commemorated International Friendship Day on on 29 July 2022. International Friendship Day is a United Nations (UN) holiday observed worldwide. This day seeks to embrace and celebrate one another's values and the value of friendship in creating peace. UBP commemorated this day by distributing inspirational and encouraging words and chocolates to students and staff at the University of the Free State. International Friendship Day celebrations have also helped to promote peace and togetherness among the university community. This gesture exemplified the essence of maintaining peace among staff, students, and other members of the UFS community and members of the wider public by demonstrating the importance of being kind.





3.9 Speed Culturing

On 26 August 2022, the OIA Umoja Buddy Programme hosted a 'Speed Culturing' event. The goal was to bring together as many UBP Ambassadors and UBP Buddies as possible to execute and coordinate various activities and games, such as 'Country Card Games' and 'Privilege Walk.' The exercises "discovered our differences as human beings, even though we share the same spaces, as well as our similarities, even though we come from different backgrounds", said Lekiti Rantsane, the programme coordinator. The purpose of the event was for participants to learn about diverse countries, cultures, and fellow ambassadors.







3.10 Friday Mic Live

On Friday 16 September 2022, the OIA Internationalisation at Home portfolio hosted its first talent recruitment showcase, 'Friday Mic Live,' on the Odeion School of Music's front lawn. International students from the University of the Free State were invited to showcase their artistic talents, incorporating an international/African culture or language into their presentation in celebration of Heritage Month.

Students at the University of the Free State showed up in their numbers, not only in support of the initiative but also to showcase their talents. The initiative has played a crucial role in creating awareness and celebrating diversity in various on-campus student societies.

3.11 International Cultural Diversity Festival (ICDF)

3.11.1 Week Dialogue Series Part 1: Qwaqwa Campus, 19 September 2022

The University of the Free State Office for International Affairs hosted its annual International Cultural Diversity Festival (ICDF), themed 'Intercultural Skills Exchange in Higher Education Institutions', which aimed to bring recognition, appreciation, and celebration of diverse cultures to the university. This was achieved through an interactive space that promoted information sharing and an intellectual dialogue on intercultural competencies. Activities included artistic expressions - from music, poetry, and choreographed dance acts by residence Sing-Off winners – to a meaningful dialogue that awarded an element for learning and teaching. The Qwaqwa Campus programme focused on the principles of intercultural skills exchange at institutions of higher education, giving a student perspective both locally and internationally, breaking down institutional understanding, and the importance of intercultural skills/competencies at higher education institutions.



3.11.2 Week Dialogue Series Part 2: Bloemfontein Campus 21 September 2022

The ICDF programme on the Bloemfontein Campus was a continuation of the Qwaqwa Campus programme, which focused on key drivers of cultural awareness, how intercultural skills are key enablers to growth and success, the contribution of international cultural diversity to internationalisation at the UFS, and enriching university education through intercultural exchange. This concluded the programme for the week, bringing to an end the two-part dialogue series.







3.12 Mental Health Talk

The Umoja Buddy Programme hosted an event titled, 'Mental Health Talk', on 30 September 2022. The event aimed to capacitate students within the programme with the necessary knowledge about mental health awareness and mental health. The activities coordinated on the day mainly revolved around teaching methods to combat mental health issues and stress through healthy coping mechanisms and management techniques.

3.13 UBP Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The Umoja Buddy Programme hosted a certificate awarding ceremony on 14 October 2022 to celebrate and appreciate the ambassadors' dedication and commitment to the programme throughout the year. This event was the closing event for the integration programme for the 2022 academic year.











4. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMINISTRATION

Portfolio leaders: Jeanne Niemann and Matladi Tsoeu

he International Student Administration portfolio is one of the key components of the Office for International Affairs. It focuses on ensuring that international students are in possession of the relevant documentation required to be a student at the UFS. This section further disseminates pivotal information related to immigration, medical aid, and police clearance escalations in instances of unnatural delays, information emanating from various external stakeholders and immigration entities. In addition, the portfolio coordinates international student admissions.

4.1 Immigration Support

The OIA continued to engage with the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) to support UFS international students in complying with South African immigration law. On 10 May 2022, the National Director: Corporate Accounts in the DHA visited the UFS and conducted information sessions on the South African immigration process for international students. Besides this, he engaged in individual meetings to resolve specific immigration challenges and engaged with the Department of Human Resources.

4.2 International Student Admissions

The renewal of the international student admissions process continued. The International Student Admissions Committee, which was established as an operational committee in 2021, is now fully operational. It is tasked with making decisions on international student admissions and operationally aligning international student administration processes. Since its establishment, the committee has developed a dashboard for International Student Applications and Admissions. Various improvements have been implemented to increase international student admissions at the UFS, including tailored communication with prospective international students.

4.2.1 Universities South Africa

On 2 August 2022, the OIA hosted a Universities South Africa regulations and online application workshop for UFS internal stakeholders. The workshop was presented by colleagues from Universities South Africa, who graciously honoured the invitation to provide training on their online application portal as well as the exemption regulations for different examining bodies. The accurate evaluation of results from international issuing bodies is seminal to the admissions process for the affected prospective students.

The International Student Administration portfolio focuses on ensuring that international students are in possession of the relevant documentation required to be a student at the UFS.



4.2.2 Agreed Arrival Date

We have introduced the 'Confirmation of Arrival' process for undergraduate prospective students. This was propelled by some of the challenges we faced during the 2022 registration period, which inadvertently affected the enrolment of first-time entering international students. The 'Confirmation of arrival' is a new process that allows prospective international students to submit an arrival form indicating the preferred registration date, which must fall within the registration period. Once signed off by the respective faculty heads, a space is reserved for the student until the indicated date.

4.2.3 Medical Aids

Assisting students with the application and renewal processes of medical aids. We also assist with the activation of the medical aid, third party verification, and the issuing of medical aid cards.

Information regarding the accepted medical aids is sent to students on a continuous basis to ensure that students have the correct information (Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002) and the Medical Schemes Act.)

4.2.4 Services to international students include

- specialised services for international students, and ensuring their compliance with relevant legislation;
- liaison with various external stakeholders, i.e., government, embassies in South Africa, science councils, and funding agencies; and
- verification of undertaking letters with various external stakeholders.





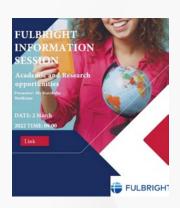
5. INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS, MARKETING AND WEB CONTENT

Portfolio leader: Mbali Moiketsi

his portfolio is mandated to professionally coordinate, conceptualise, and offer high-quality administration for international scholarships aligned with the UFS strategic goals. It is responsible for marketing and branding compliance of the UFS and internationalisation by creating brand awareness, developing a global audience, and promoting the internationalisation of higher education. In addition, it coordinates the OIA website and its digital content management. It maintains the OIA online presence for internationalisation on the website, social media, and webpages.

5.1 Fulbright Information Session

On 2 March 2022, the University of the Free State Office for International Affairs hosted an information session for Fulbright opportunities, which was aimed at making students, aspiring researchers, and staff members aware of the research and grant opportunities that are available to them. These opportunities were presented by Ms Matshaba Mothiane and Ms Selaelo Maseko from the United States (US) Consulate. Two sessions were conducted – one presentation targeted at students and one at researchers.





5.2 Virtual Study Abroad Fair

On 3 June 2022, the UFS hosted a virtual scholarship fair for master's and PhD students seeking international opportunities. The four scholarship organisations involved were the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Study in China, and SANORD. The event was open to staff and students of the UFS.

5.3 Study Abroad Fair: Qwaqwa Campus Virtual Study Abroad Fair

The University of the Free State hosted the Study Abroad Fair on 11 October 2022 on the Qwaqwa Campus. The various international scholarships conducted their presentations on the opportunities and programmes they offer. The turnout of students was remarkable, with a total online student attendance of 108, and a total of 89 students at the face-to-face event.







6. RESEARCH UNIT: RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONALISATION

Portfolio leader: Prof Lynette Jacobs

he Internationalisation Research Unit conducts research on the different dimensions of comprehensive internationalisation of higher education within comparative and international education. This unit contributes to shape comprehensive internationalisation standards and procedures, and promotes a scholastic approach to the internationalisation process, while also focusing on contemporary issues within education internationally. After building the concept over the previous two years, the new portfolio was formally established on 1 August 2022.

6.1 Keynote address at the Research Methodology Conference, Coventry

On 20 April 2022, Prof Lynette Jacobs delivered the keynote address at the London Institute Research Methodology Conference 2022 held at Coventry University in the UK. The conference was cohosted by the London Institute of Social Studies and Coventry University. The topic of her address was Authentically Journeying Research with Yourself and Others. In her presentation, Prof Jacobs had a conversation with her novice-researcher-self. and with others she met and walked side by side with while journeying research. Reflecting on the past 20 years as a wanderer through ontological spaces and epistemological places, crossing borders where her focus was on individual and systemic marginalisations and violations, she provided reflections and insights that attendees could use as signposts towards authentic, ethical, and inclusive methodologies. The discussion guided the attendees to confront their own assumptions, recognise structures of oppression, and engage in research that validates different ways of knowing, relating, being, and expressing.



6.2 Keynote presentation at the UFS Learning and Teaching Conference

On 13 September 2022, Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier delivered a keynote presentation at the UFS Learning and Teaching Conference, titled 'Integration of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Curriculum Internationalisation in the Curriculum Renewal Process'.

6.3 Keynote presentation at the CUT Internationalisation Family Week Series

On 11 October 2022, Prof Lynette Jacobs delivered a keynote presentation at the CUT Internationalisation Family Week Series, titled 'Contrasts and Context of Internationalisation, Africanisation and Decolonisation as a Melting Pot for Higher Education'.

Examples of Publications Relating to Internationalisation in Higher Education

De Wit, H & Jooste, N. (2022) 'Twenty-five years of internationalization and international student recruitment – The South African story'. In Hans de Wit, Ekaterina Minaeva, Lizhou Wang (Eds), International Student Recruitment and Mobility In Non-Anglophone Countries, (pp. 257–273), Routledge.

George, V; Jacobs, L & Hodges, M. (2022). 'Virtual Monitoring and Evaluation of Capacity Development in Higher Education Projects: Lessons for the Future'. In N Popov, C Wolhuter, L de Beer, G Hilton, J Ogunleye, E Achinewhu–Nworgu & E Niemczyk (Eds), *Towards the Next Epoch of Education, BCES Conference Books*, 20:25–31 https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED622685.pdf

Jacobs, L; Kruger, E. & Madiope, M. (2022) 'The potential of African diaspora academics and diaspora academics in Africa in reshaping international higher education'. In Deborah Lock, Andrea Caputo, Paul Igwe, Dieu Hack-Polay (Eds) Borderlands: The Internationalization of Higher Education Teaching Practices, (pp. 31–43) Springer Nature.

Jooste, N. (2022) 'Toward systemic internationalisation: Conversations with Mestenhauser on educational reform in South Africa'. In Anne M. D'Angelo, Mary Katherine O'Brien, Gayla Marty (Eds) *Mestenhauser and the Possibilities of International Education, Illuminating Pathways for Inquiry and Future Practice*, (pp. 89–100), Routledge.

Jooste, N. (2022) 'Trends, data, and dimensions of international student mobility and recruitment in Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa; and sub-Saharan Africa' in Hans de Wit, Ekaterina Minaeva, Lizhou Wang (Eds), *International Student Recruitment and Mobility In Non-Anglophone Countries*, (pp. 268–274), Routledge.

Jooste, N, & Hagenmeier, C. (2022). Policy Framework for the Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa: A Compass for Comprehensive Internationalisation? *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 26(4), 1–21 https://doi.org/10.1177/10283153221105318

Kruger, E. (2022). 'A Personal Account of a Chance Encounter with Postqualitative Inquiry at the Foot of a Mountain'. In N Popov, C Wolhuter, L de Beer, G Hilton, J Ogunleye, E Achinewhu–Nworgu & E Niemczyk (Eds), *Towards the Next Epoch of Education, BCES Conference Books*, 20:238–245. https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED622670.pdf

Wimpenny, K; Finardi, K.R; Orsini-Jones, M; & Jacobs, L. (2022). 'Knowing, Being, Relating and Expressing Through Third Space Global South-North COIL: Digital Inclusion and Equity in International Higher Education. In *Journal of Studies in International Education*. 26(2):279–296. https://doi.org/10.1177/10283153221094085

Wolhuter, C, Jacobs, L. (2022). 'The COVID-19 Pandemic as Potential Catalyst for Comparative and International Education'. In International *Perspectives on Education and Society*, 42B: 3-24 https://doi.org/10.1108/S1479-36792022000042B001









Dean Prof Philippe Burger



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator Reabetswe Parkies

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Department of Business Management

- SYSE project with Glasgow Caledonian University (Scotland) and The Challenges Group in Ghana on youth social entrepreneurship.
- Cluster management research project with University of Jena, Technopolis Group and Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany (Dr Karen Booysen, Prof Brownhilder Neneh, and Dr Tarisai Rukuni).
- Building African Capacities for the Development of Clusters Workshop, University of Jena, Germany (Dr Tarisai Rukuni and Dr Karen Booysen).

Department of Economics and Finance

- Prof Michael Kuttner from University of Salzburg visited the department.
- Prof J Coetzee, Dr A van Niekerk, and Dr I van der Merwe – visited University of Salzburg to teach.

Centre for Development Support

- University sustainability, decolonial research, students' activism – Universities as sustainable communities (2021–2022) funded by Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures (University of Bristol)
- Sexual and reproductive health of adolescents in the Free State – Funded by the Huffman Foundation (Marais)
- Innovation for African Universities Funded by the British Council (Van Rooyen)
- Urbanisation, Agglomeration, and Industrialisation: Exploring the Connections (Turok and Visagie)
- Universities as Sustainable Communities (TESF)
 Project budget
- Universities as Sustainable Communities (TESF)
 Funded by Education for Sustainable Futures (Mkwananzi)
- Industrial disasters, disclosure deficits: Can transparency level the playing field? – Australian Research Council in collaboration with the University of Queensland
- Adaptations of young people in monetary-poor households for surviving and recovering from COVID-19 and associated lockdowns – Funded by PANEX

Business School

Prof Kristina Areskoug Josefsson, University West, Sweden – integrated learning collaboration together with Prof Liezel Massyn.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Department of Business Management

INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STAFF HOSTED:

- Two guests from University of Glasgow, Scotland
- Two guests from *The Challenges Group*, *Ghana*

OUTGOING STAFF EXCHANGE

WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS ATTENDED:

- Workshop on Cluster Management in Russelsheim, Germany (Dr Karen Booysen)
- Prof Brownhilder Neneh and Dr Tarisai Rukuni attended online.
- Mountain to Mountain Symposium in North Carolina, Boone, USA (Lebo Masoabi)
- Prof Brownhilder Neneh was a visiting scholar and on research leave at the Bryan School of Business and Economics at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, USA from 3 October to 20 November 2022.

INVITATIONS TO WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS:

• The Challenges Group in Ghana (Dr Karen Booysen)

Department of Industrial Psychology

INCOMING

 Prof Peter Rosseel from KU Leuven in Belgium presented a series of lectures to both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

OUTGOING

Dr Tatenda Marange from the Qwaqwa Campus visited the Appalachian State University, with Prof Jacqui Bergman as her contact at that university. The agreement was that colleagues from the Appalachian State University would assist with co-supervision of postgraduate research projects in the department, and also present lectures to our students via an online platform. Dr Marange also committed to sharing the department's research interests with her.

Department of Public Administration

INCOMING

- Prof Michael Huth from the Department of Business at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany, is a visiting Professor in the Department of Public Administration and Management for the second semester. His appointment adds value in the form of:
 - Presenting lectures in both our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes
 - Assisting with the development of a curriculum for a new BCom degree in Supply Chain Management on the Qwaqwa Campus
 - Joint hosting of a possible public seminar on supply chain management
 - Providing support to staff in the department for building research capacity

OUTGOING

- Prof Chris Hendriks and Ms Constance Motsitsi visited the University of Bremen from June to July 2022. They presented lectures in the module Basics of Local and Regional Public Finance in Multilevel Systems during the Summer School. Their visit falls within the framework of collaboration between the University of Bremen and the UFS.
- Ms Constance Motsitsi presented her PhD research at a PhD symposium during the Summer School at the University of Bremen.

Centre for Development Support

INCOMING

Prof Alejandra Boni, Alvaro Fernandez-Baldor, Monique Leivas, Carlos Delgado Institution: University of Pavia, Valencia, Spain Reason for visit: Erasmus + Mobility project (UFS-UPV). During the visit, the UPV colleagues attended and listened to presentations from the HEHD research group: PhDs (19 April) and Postdoctoral fellows (21 April). Future collaboration was discussed on Friday 22 April 2022. Date of visit: 18-23 April 2022

OUTGOING

Mikateko Mathebula (Lecturer)

Institution: Technical University of Valencia

(Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Programme)

Place: Valencia, Spain
Date: 14–22 June 2022

Faith Mkwananzi (Lecturer)

Institution: Technical University of Valencia

(Erasmus Staff Mobility Programme)

Place: Valencia, Spain Date: 14–22 June 2022

Office of The Dean

OUTGOING

Prof Philippe Burger attended the 'iKudu Leadership Summit: Transforming curricula through internationalisation and virtual exchanges' Place: Siena, Italy

Date: 7-9 June 2022

Business School

OUTGOING

Dr C Crous, Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences, Rosenheim, Germany, November 2022

Economics and Finance

INCOMING

• *Prof Sageder* from the *University of Salzburg* gave a presentation to staff and postgraduate students.

OUTGOING

- Dr Edson Vengesai teaching at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany.
- Dr CJ Nwosu teaching at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany.
- Dr Arno van Niekerk teaching at the University of Salzburg.

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

Department of Business Management

- Two honours students attended an exchange programme at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- Ms Boitumelo Pitso attended the Winter School at the Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Department of Public Administration

STUDENT EXCHANGES

The following students completed a student mobility programme through Erasmus+ Key Action 107: Staff and Student mobilities at *Rey Juan Carlos University* (URJC) in Spain, with which the University of the Free State has a collaboration.

- Ms Anna Manaka
- Mr Percent Maswanganyi

Both students were registered for the BAdmin Honours degree in the Department of Public Administration and Management and completed modules in URJC's Bachelor of International Relations.

Business School

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

Department of Industrial Psychology

Two international students from the *University* of *Bremen* enrolled for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.



REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Department of Business Management

Dr Koloba: Two PhD students, one master's student, all international students.

Department of Industrial Psychology

Two international students from the *University* of *Bremen* are enrolled for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

PARTNERSHIPS

Department of Industrial Psychology

Prof Peter Rosseel from **KU Leuven in Belgium** was appointed as the department's Affiliated Professor.

Business School

Memorandums of understanding were signed with:

- *University of Ghana* Business School
- Odisee University of Applied Sciences in Belgium

Advisory Board of Business School international members:

- Prof Mik Pindelski, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
- Ms Carla Aerts, Start-up mentor from Belgium/ England

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

Internationalisation is one of the critical elements of the faculty's strategy for the next five years.

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

Department of Industrial Psychology

Two international students from the *University* of *Bremen* are enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Department of Public Administration

- Visiting Professor Michael Huth (Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany) – Presenting lectures in the BAdmin undergraduate programme in the module Supply Chain Management on the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses.
- In the Master of Public Administration programme: Visiting Professor Michael Huth (Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany): Presenting a guest lecture for the module Project Management for Public Managers.
- Visiting Professor Peter Rosseel (KU Leuven): Presented a guest lecture for the module Organisational Analysis and Intergovernmental Relations.



Business School

Networking event with guest lecture by *Prof Peter Rosseel* to which current students and alumni of the Business School were invited on 19 July 2023.

Department of Public Administration

- Visiting Professor Michael Huth (Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany) – presenting lectures in the BAdmin undergraduate programme in the module Supply Chain Management on the Bloemfontein Campus.
- Master of Public Administration programme: Visiting Professor Michael Huth (Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany) presented a guest lecture for the module Project Management for Public Managers.
- Visiting Professor Peter Rosseel (KULeuven) presented a guest lecture for the module Organisational Analysis and Intergovernmental Relations.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Department of Business Management

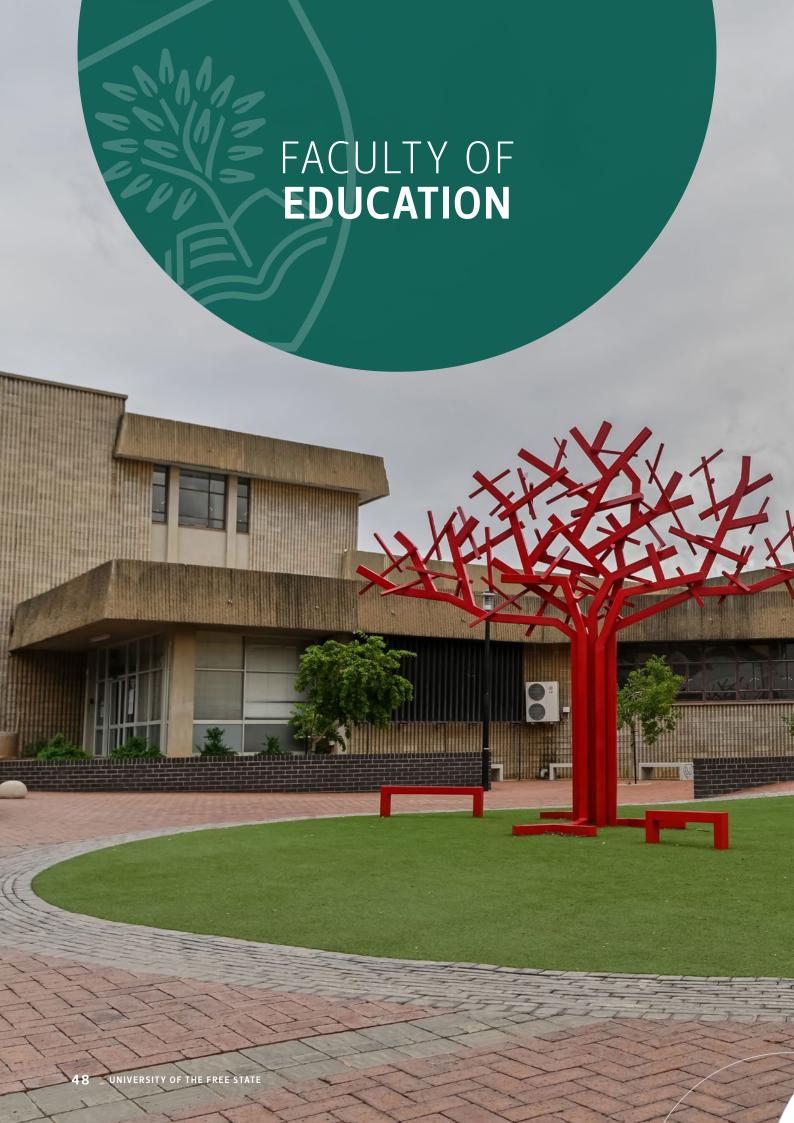
K-USDP Doctoral Programme (which includes the UFS and UNIVEN staff – supervised and mentored by academics from the *University* of the *Highlands and Islands*, *Scotland*). *Lebo Masoabi* and *Nkopane Miya* are the staff PhD students and *H Koloba* and *E Benedict* are the South African supervisors in the programme.

Department of Public Administration

- Prof Liezel Lues from the Department of Public Administration and Management was elected to the Board of Management of IASIA for the term 2022 to 2025, representing Africa, during the annual general meeting of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA). In the IASIA working groups, Prof Lues serves as the co-chairperson of Working Group VI: Public Sector Governance, Leaderships and Management.
- *Prof Hendri Kroukamp*, Research Fellow, serves as the co-chairperson of Working Group I: Education and Training in Public Administration.
- Prof Liezel Lues was appointed to the International Commission on the Accreditation of Public Administration and Training Programs (ICAPA) Steering Committee for the period 2022 to 2025.
- Prof Liezel Lues serves in the following capacities:

 - 2018 present: International board member, Africa Journal of Public Sector Development and Governance, issued by the National School of Government. ISSN 2617–7714







Dean Prof Loyiso Jita



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator Dr Sekanse Ntsala

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Prof Motshedisi Mokhele-Makhalwa presented a master's and PhD Writing for Publications workshop in *Lesotho* from 17 to 20 March 2022. This formed part of the SANRAL Chair project.

Prof Motshidisi Mokhele-Makhalwa presented at a PhD support workshop in Zimbabwe (8-11 March 2022). This was another SANRAL Chair-linked project.

Dr Kananga Mukuna attended the South African Higher Education and Research week in **France** on 27 June 2022.

Dr KR Mukuna, in collaboration with Ludwigsburg University (Germany), worked on an exchange programme with postgraduate students (master's and PhD candidates).

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Dr Mukuna, Dr Nhase, and Dr Mdodana–Zide visited Germany from 10 to 14 October 2022 as part of the Ludwigsburg International Classrooms' Guest Lectureship Programme to teach at a compact seminar on 'Inclusive Education for Teaching and Learning for Sustainable Development' at the Ludwigsburg University of Education (LUE).

Mrs Motaung visited the Appalachian State University, North Carolina (USA), as part of the Women in Mentorship Programme.

Prof Bekithemba Dube was a visiting professor at the University of Bayreuth in Germany from 24 October to 4 November 2022.

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

On 12 July 2022, *Dr Kananga Mukuna* organised and presented a workshop on 'Pre-service Teachers' Teaching Practice Reflection: Student Experiences, Psychological, Emotional Preparation, and Mentorship Support'. This activity was related to the 2022 Virtual Exchange Programme between the UFS and the *Ludwigsburg University of Education* (LUE) in Germany.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Languages Special Interest Group (responsible for language-related research issues) decided to make connections with strong prospective postgraduate students from neighbouring countries to convince them to register with the UFS to specialise in language education.

Prof Loyiso Jita conducted a PhD Writing Workshop and recruitment session in Harare, Zimbabwe (28 September-4 October 2022) and in Maseru, Lesotho (30 November-4 December 2022).

PARTNERSHIPS

Ms Ayanda Morwe (student) successfully applied for a student mobility opportunity. She left in September to visit the **Rey Juan Carlos University**.

Prof Loyiso Jita visited two universities in Ghana to explore possibilities for partnerships – the University of Cape Coast and the University of Ghana (22–28 October 2022).

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

The draft faculty internationalisation document was shared with the heads of department to share and provide input. The finalisation thereof is continuing.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Prof M Mosimege visited the **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Los Angeles, USA** (28 September-1 October 2022).





Dean Prof Gert van Zyl



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator Reuben Maeko

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Prof C Walsh

Project collaboration: Continuing research collaboration with Prof Anneli Ivarsson (*Umea University, Sweden*) and Prof Ilona Koupil (*Stockholm University, Sweden*) – South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) collaboration grant (50 000 SEK plus 80 500 ZAR)

Prof C Walsh (in her capacity as the President of the Nutrition Society of South Africa)
Project name: Improving Early Nutrition in South Africa (ImpENSA): 2019 to 2022.
Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union (grant 573651–EPP–1–2016–1–DE–EPPKA2–CBHE–JP).

Student: A Vlok

Study title: A Conceptual framework to manage rehabilitation after anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction

Staff members: *Prof D Coetzee*; *Dr L Holtzhausen* (Associate Lecturer)
Collaborators:

Prof Hege Grindem, Associate Professor, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Department of Sports Medicine

Dr Nicol van Dyk, Medical Research Lead at Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) Dublin, County Dublin, Ireland Dr Clare Ardern, La Trobe University,

Dr Clare Ardern, La Trobe University, Department of Physiotherapy, Melbourne, Australia

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr Monique de Milander Guest speaker at the World Paediatric Conference (WPC-2022) 27-28 April 2022 Prof Janse van Vuuren, Dr R Smith.

Presentation at international conference: Transfers and Transversals Interdisciplinary Translation Studies Conference, December 2022. Title: Interweaving graduate attributes across disciplines to create meaningful student learning experiences.

Dr A van der Merwe. August 2022.

Presentation at international conference (poster): Association for Medical Education in Europe Conference.

Title: The PIER framework for healthcare simulation integration in undergraduate physiotherapy education.

Robb L, Joubert G, Jordaan M, Osei Ngounda J, and Walsh CM: Reported health, social support, stress and associations with choline intake in pregnant women: the NuEMI study. Paper accepted for oral presentation at European Society for Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (ESPEN) 2022 Virtual Congress, Vienna, Austria, 3–6 September 2022.

Jordaan EM, Robb L, Van Rooyen FC, and Walsh CM: Knowledge, attitudes and practices related to overweight/obesity in adult women in Mangaung, South Africa. Poster accepted for poster presentation at the European Society for Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition (ESPEN) 2022 Virtual Congress, Vienna, Austria, 3–6 September 2022.

School of Clinical Medicine

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Prof F Maruma: Treatment outcomes for dermatosis papulosa nigra in using low setting electrodessication device in African patients.

American Academy of Dermatology Conference, Boston City, MA USA, 28–31 March 2022.

Prof M Sekhoacha: The governance of clinical trials in South Africa: strengthening collaboration between key stakeholders. SParCS Clinical Trial Oversight Regional Workshop, Victoria Falls, 10–13 October 2022.

Prof M Sekhoacha: Participation of vulnerable groups in health research: Waiving legal requirements in favour of ethical considerations. World Health Organisation National Ethics Committees Summit, *Portugal*, 15–17 September 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Indigenous knowledge and health-indigenous medical knowledge – Contribution to product development and universal health coverage. UNGA 77, New York, 20 September 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Local medical cannabis research and development: AfricaBio Convention, ICC Durban, 27–31 August 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: *Traditional medicines research:* Repurposing PHELA for COVID-19: Preclinical and clinical research medicinal plant research: Innovation and prospects in pandemic era – First Oku Ampofo Memorial Conference, 2 November 2022, AH Hotel, East Legon, Accra, Ghana.

Prof MG Matsabisa: IKS Health Research and Development Nations Biodiversity Conference COP 15/ CP-MOP10/NP-MOP4, 8 December 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Traditional medicines research: Repurposing PHELA for COVID-19 preclinical and clinical research, 55th Annual Conference, South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, 12–13 October 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Coverage and health security, 72nd WHO Regional Committee for Africa, Lome, Togo, 23 August 2022.

Dr A Mishra (postdoc): Invited as plenary speaker at the Sixth International Conference of the Society for Medicinal Plants and Economic Development (SOMPED), held virtually at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), Cape Town, South Africa, 23–25 August 2022.

Dr A Mishra (postdoc): Invited as keynote speaker for One Week Faculty Development Programme on Recent Advancement in Pharmaceutical Discoveries and Developments, organised by IFTM University, Moradabad, UP, India, on 20 August 2022.

Dr A Mishra (postdoc): Invited as keynote speaker at International Conference on 'Recent trends in Science, Technology, Management and Humanities', organised by Jagannath University, Bahadurgarh, Haryana, India, on 29 March 2022.

Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT) Congress, September 2022:

Barrett CL, Botes L, Davidson M, De Wet A, Moolman M, Schoeman S, Van Heerden R, Van Wyk E, Sempa J. Knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding obstetric patient blood management among doctors in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality. Africa Society for Blood Transfusion Congress. Dakar, Senegal. September 2022. (Oral)

Adams JC, Barrett C, Spruyt M. latrogenic blood loss in critical care: A prospective observational study conducted at Universitas Academic Hospital in the

Free State Province, South Africa. Africa Society for Blood Transfusion Congress. Dakar, Senegal. September 2022. (Oral)

Du Preez, IM, Coetzee MJ, Vermeulen M, Van den Berg K, Wessels PL, Rambiritch V, Strydom L, Rapodile T, Seoraj V, Barrett CL. Using ADDIE to develop an online short learning programme in patient blood management for nurses in Africa. (Poster)

British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS) Congress, September 2022:

Du Preez IM, Barrett CL, Coetzee MJ, Van den Berg K, Rambiritch VR, Vermeulen M, Wessels PL, Rapodile T, Strydom L, Glatt T, Seoraj V. Applying ADDIE to construct an online PBM short learning programme for nurses: An African perspective.

CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The 21st International Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology in Taiwan, China: 28–31 May 2022.

The 36th International Swiss Conference on Phytotherapy in Switzerland: 16–18 June 2022.

The 70th International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), 28–31 August 2022 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

CONFERENCE ORAL PRESENTATIONS

The Ninth International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology in India: 22–24 April 2022 (Virtual oral presentation).

The annual meeting of the German, Austrian and Swiss Societies for Haematology and Medical Oncology (DGHO), 7–10 October 2022 in Vienna, Austria.

PAPERS PRESENTED FOR PUBLICATION

Shenuka Singh, Mamello Sekhoacha, Penelope Engel-Hills, Lulama Makhubela. Bioethics: An African perspective. WHO National Ethics Committee Summit, Portugal, 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Indigenous knowledge and health-indigenous medical knowledge – contribution to product development and universal health coverage. UNGA 77 New York, 20 September 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Local medical cannabis research and Development: AfricaBio Convention, ICC, Durban, 27–31 August 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: *Traditional medicines research:* Repurposing PHELA for COVID-19: Preclinical and clinical research medicinal plant research: Innovation and prospects in pandemic era – FIRST Oku Ampofo memorial conference, 2 November2022, AH Hotel, East Legon, Accra, Ghana.

Prof MG Matsabisa: IKS Health Research and Development Nations Biodiversity Conference COP 15/ CP-MOP10/NP-MOP4, 8 December 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Traditional medicines research: Repurposing PHELA for COVID-19 preclinical and clinical research, 55th Annual Conference of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, 12–13 October 2022.

Prof MG Matsabisa: Coverage and health security, 72nd WHO Regional Committee for Africa, Lome, Togo, 23 August 2022.

- Green synthesised silver nanoparticles for ciprofloxacin delivery against resistant Escherichia coli. Fifth Edition, Scholars International Conference and Exhibition on Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery Systems, 14–15 November 2022, TIME Asma Hotel, Dubai, UAE.
- 2. Evaluation of quality and antimicrobial efficacy of locally manufactured ethanol-based hand sanitisers marketed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in the era of COVID-19. PKFokam Conference on Science and Technology, ninth edition, 7-9 June 2022, Life sciences, physical sciences, health sciences, drug design and development, Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- 3. Green synthesised zinc oxide nanoparticles using moringa stenopetala leaf water extract for ciprofloxacin delivery against resistant Escherichia coli. International Conference on Materials Properties, Measurements, and Applications (ICMPMA 2022). Kerala, India.
- 4. Section chair of PKFokam Conference on Science and Technology, ninth edition, 7–9 June 2022, Life sciences, physical sciences, health sciences, drug design and development, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Prof F Maruma: *Skin of Color Society* (SOCS), United States of America.

Prof M Sekhoacha represents South Africa on the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF), a network of African national regulatory authorities established by the World Health Organisation.

Prof MG Matsabisa: WHO chairperson on Traditional Medicine Response to COVID-19, UN Narcotics, ILAE.

Dr Veronica Salau (postdoc)

Topic Coordinator for Frontiers in Pharmacology – Therapeutic Potential of Natural Products in Oxidative and Metabolic Diseases.

Dr Gebremariam (postdoc)

- 1. Topical advisory panel member of *Gels*, an open access journal from MDPI.
- 2. Member of the American Chemical Society (ACS membership number=32719440).
- 3. Member of the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Association.
- 4. Member of the Pharmaceutical Advisory Board, Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia.
- 5. Guest Editor, Dove Medical Press.

Dr Claire Armour (Barrett)

- 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 HIVrelated haematology and transfusion medicine in South Africa.
- Member of the Global Transfusion Forum (GTF), also member of GTF Education, as well as GTF Research subcommittees.
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion Congress 2022.
- 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 and 2023.
- Member of the Sub-Saharan Africa Patient Blood Management Forum.
- Member of the International Society of Blood Transfusion.
- Collaborator on a book: Global Perspectives and Practices in Transfusion Medicine with the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB).
- Participant in project run by International Society of Blood Transfusion: International Forum on Transfusion Education for Healthcare Professionals who Administer Blood to Patients in Hospitals and Health Services.
- 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).

Dr Ravnit Grewal serves on the editorial board of the following journal: *Medicine and Pharmacy Reports*.

Dr Ravnit Grewal serves as special guest editor for the following journal: *Frontiers in Medicine*.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Beijing University of Chinese Medicine: International collaborative research on key technologies for constructing South African traditional medicine knowledge system – three-year funding of R1,5 m over three years.

Korean Institute of Oriental Medicines / University of Science and Technology: Development of traditional medicines for priority diseases.

University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica: Traditional medicines research for cancer.

Existing collaborations:

- University of Bonn, Germany Synergy research
- Busitema University, Uganda
- Centre for Plant Medicine Research, Ghana
- Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (India)
- Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
- Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil
- University of Talca Chile

PROJECT: Anti-cancer and potential anticancer resistance reversal properties of cannabis sativa in cervical cancer

Funding obtained: NRF NGAP, NRF Thuthuka, and Argelander Scholarship (Germany)

Department of Pharmacology

International virtual meetings: Smart material for biomedical applications

Department of Biomedical Engineering: SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India Keynote address delivered by Dr Anand Krishnan Topic: Small molecules vs exosomes: Controlling cell to cell communication

School of Nursing

Dr A Fichardt; Prof M Reid; Dr J Mogakwe (UFS) Bengt Sundberg; Par Wennberg (Jönköping University) Project name: Linneus Palme programme (UFS and Jönköping University) Funding: Linneus Palme funding, July 2022–Nov 2023 Dr CN Nyoni, UWC, UP, University of Namibia, University of Botswana, University of Zimbabwe, University of Nairobi (Kenya), University of Zambia, Makerere University (Uganda), Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria), University of Ghana, University of the Cape Coast (Ghana), Moravian University (US), and Texas Christian University (US).

Project name: Professional Identity in Nursing – Associative Group Analysis

Funding: Alpha Eta grant by Sigma, July 2022–June 2023, 2000 USD

School of Pathology

Prof Meiring: International congress – ISTH Poster presentation: 'HIV might not be the trigger for HIV-associated TTP'.

Prof Muriel Meiring serves on the Haemostasis Advisory Committee of the Quality Assurance Programme of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

Dr Ravnit Grewal serves on the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics (SAGE IVD).

Dr Jaco Joubert serves on the Editorial Committee of the Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfSBT).

World Bleeding Disorder Registry

Collaborators: Jaco Joubert, Leriska Haupt, Evan Bowen, Shaun Grobler, Marius J Coetzee.

World Bleeding Disorder Registry Committee of the World Federation of Hemophilia.

Microparticles in the haemostasis-inflammation-cancer triad.

Prof Muriel Meiring (Haematology and Cell Biology). Collaboration with Prof Francois Mullier from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

An investigation into molecular markers that may have potential clinical implications in a South African acute myeloid leukaemia population.

Collaborators: Jean Kloppers, Dr Anneke van Marle, Dr André de Kock.

Collaboration with the Clara D Bloomfield Center for Leukemia Outcomes Research, Division of Hematology, the Ohio State University.

Funding: Sample collection and preparation will be funded by research funds from the principal investigator in the Department of Haematology and Cell Biology. Courier costs and screening of samples for specific genetic markers will be funded by the Division of Haematology at the Ohio State University, USA.

Dr Anand Krishnan:

Member of Bio-economy Youth Ambassador (BYA) Regional Bioeconomy Team.

International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB)

Editorial Board member:

Frontiers: Publisher

Frontiers in Pharmacology: Journal Respiratory Pharmacology: Division

Research Topics

Oxidative stress related to cellular metabolism in

lung health and diseases.

Next Generation Sequencing Unit

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

African Enteric Virus Genome Initiative – Sequencing and antigenic cartography of enteric viruses in Africa. Sub-award for the UFS-NGS Unit as the sequencing laboratory for the AEVGI and the study's co-principal investigator for South Africa. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) – Investment ID INV-046917: \$1 249 962 (2022–2025).

African Enteric Virus Genome Initiative. Principal investigator on long-term evaluation of the monovalent RV1 vaccine in three African countries (Ghana, Malawi, and South Africa). Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Investment ID: BMGF-OPP1180423. \$965 798 (2018–2022).

World Health Organisation/AFRO – UFS-NGS WHO CC VPD Surveillance and Pathogen Genomics. Grant number: 2022/202897188. \$185 000 (2022–2024).

Rostropovich–Vishnevskaya Foundation (RVF). Whole genome sequencing of the spring 2021 outbreak strains from Palestine. \$28 400 (2021–2022).

CDC Foundation, Atlanta. Astrovirus, sapovirus, adenovirus typing project of Global Pediatric Diarrhea Surveillance stool specimens. \$50 000 (2021–2022).

UFS: Goedhals D (affiliated PI), Bester PA, Van Vuren C.

Oxford: Prof P Matthews, University of Oxford.

Defining host and viral factors that are associated with hepatitis B virus control and clearance in Caucasian and African adults.

Funder: Wellcome Trust.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Prof Martin Nyaga was appointed as the Chair of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Pathogen Genomic Initiative (PGI) Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Focus Group of experts in genomic surveillance. Leading a group of experts from Uganda (Prof Charles Muyanja), Kenya (Dr Daniel Mugendi), DRC Congo (Dr Tressor Kabiya), Nigeria (Dr Sanni Osman), and South Africa (Dr James Ndirangu and Peter Nthiga).

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

Musa Hindley, Majd Allaham, and Raed Ghneim were trained on rotavirus whole genome data analysis in a workshop by Prof Martin Nyaga and Dr Peter Nthiga held from 20 to 27 May 2022 as part of the Caritas Baby Hospital – Palestine collaboration with the UFS-NGS Unit.

Purification of CCHFV glycoproteins and isolation of CCHFV antibodies from CCHF survivors. Presented at a collaboration meeting, Zoonosis Symposium between the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Yaoundé 1 and the Division of Virology at the University of the Free State. 11–14 January 2022, Yaoundé, Cameroon.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Designation of the UFS-NGS Unit as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Surveillance and Pathogens Genomics, reference number SOA-49: 2022 renewal.

Burt, F – Member of editorial board of Virology Journal.



INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

School for Health And Rehabilitation Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS OUTGOING

Staff member: Prof C Walsh

Prof Walsh visited the *University of Southampton* at the end of June for the ImpENSA Training Programme pilot study data analysis and publication preparation workshop, hosted by the University of Southampton in Southampton, UK. As a partner of this EU Erasmus+-funded ImpENSA project consortium, Prof Walsh will participate in 1) analysing the training programme pilot data, 2) appraising the results, and 3) preparing a journal manuscript. In addition, she will present the details of her current research to the Faculty of Medicine staff in order to strengthen research collaborations.

School of Clinical Medicine

INCOMING

- Dr Hani Abdelmagid, a supernumerary registrar from Sudan, has joined the Department of Neurology.
- Ms Jackie Aber from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda (visiting student in Pharmacology – three months).
- Vice-Chancellor and senior staff members from Busitema University visiting the UFS and Pharmacology – seven days.
- PhD research project assistance granted and signed collaboration agreement between the UFS and Busitema University, Uganda.

OUTGOING

Ms Innocensia Mangoato – 12-month Pharmacology staff exchange,

University of Bonn, Germany.

Argelander scholarship – Conference attendance and laboratory research project assistance.

School of Nursing

INCOMING

Staff member: Dr Bektas

University: Bahçeşehir University, Turkey

Involvement: Facilitation of third-year undergraduate

classes

Period: 18-22 July 2022.

School of Pathology

A delegation from the *Haemophilia Association of Lesotho* (HAL), which included medical, nursing, pharmacy, and patient representatives, visited the Department of Haematology and Cell Biology for two days in February 2022. Managed to establish ties with HAL, leading to future collaborations, planned for second semester of 2022.

Next Generation Sequencing Unit

OUTGOING

Dr Benjamin Kumwenda facilitated (visiting UFS-NGS bioinformatician (5–9 September 2022). Meeting with Student Affairs, hosted by Mr Temba Hlasho (Executive Director) and Dr WP Wahl (Director: Student Life) and their delegation, and then the Office for International Affairs at the UFS, hosted by Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier (Director), to discuss collaborative ventures between the UFS-NGS Unit and the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS). 6 September 2022.

Dr Javan Okendo (bioinformatician, UCT, South Africa), 4 August 2022. Spoke on identification of VPD genomic surveillance priorities, exploring standardised protocols, tools, and criteria. Development of vaccine preventable diseases genomic surveillance bioinformatics tools and protocols.

INCOMING

Country-level engagement between UFS-NGS Unit with Benin and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the following was discussed:

Sample information – where it was suggested that sequencing 420 samples per country would be ideal to initiate the collaboration (210 pre– and 210 post–vaccination introduction) for the project. It was suggested that the countries collect samples at least seven years before vaccine introduction for the pre–vaccination samples. For the post–vaccination samples, two and half to three years after vaccine introduction was regarded suitable. It was suggested that at least 30 samples per year (for seven years per phase) would be ideal for the project.

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

School for Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Staff member: Prof C Walsh Community engagement:

Advanced level and graduate course on 'Early life conditions, health development and child public health' (PH11AO and PH006F1). Invited to present by Prof Ilona Koupil, Professor of Health Equity Studies, Department of Public Health Sciences, Stockholm University. 5 April 2022. Title of address: The first 1 000 days – initiatives to improve nutrition and health outcomes.

School of Clinical Medicine

PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS

- Dikkers FG, San Giorgi MRM, Rinkel RNPM, Remacle M, Giovanni A, Wierzbicka M, Seedat RY, Campos G, Sandhu GS. Informed consent for suspension microlaryngoscopy: what should we tell the patient? A consensus statement of the European Laryngological Society. European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology. November 2022; 279 (11): 5269-5276.
- Dikkers FG, Seedat RY, San Giorgi MRM. Recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. In: Remacle M, Eckel HE (Eds): Textbook of Surgery of Larynx and Trachea.
 2nd edition. Berlin Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag.
 Springer Nature 2022: 199–211.
- Erhabor JO, Idu M. Toxicological evaluation of aloe barbadensis root extracts in wistar rats using haematology and lipid profile. *Journal of Experimental Research*. 2022 Dec 1;10(4).
- Malakoane B, Heunis JC, Chikobvu P, Kigozi NG, Kruger WH. Improving public health sector service delivery in the Free State, South Africa: development of a provincial intervention model. BMC Health Services Research. 2022 Apr 12;22(1):486.
- Marin-Cuartas M, Vervoort D, Contreras JR, Garcia-Villareal OA, Escobar A, Ferrari J, Quintana E, Sadaba R, Mestres CA, Carosella VC, Almeida R. Perspectives in training and professional practice of cardiac surgery in Latin America. *Brazilian Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery*. 2022 Sep 19; 38:1-4.

- Matsabisa MG, Tripathy S, Dassarma B, Chabalala HP, Mukherjee PK. African traditional herbal medicine: Addressing standardisation and quality control challenges for product development. In Evidence-Based Validation of Herbal Medicine. 2022 Jan 1 (pp. 561-586). Elsevier.
- Seedat RY, Dikkers FG. Global epidemiology of HPVassociated recurrent respiratory papillomatosis and effect of vaccination. Future Virology. May 2022; 17(5): 265–268. doi:10.2217/fvl 2021 0278.
- Sibeko SR, Seedat RY. Adult-onset recurrent respiratory papillomatosis at a South African referral hospital. *Indian Journal of Otolaryngology* and Head & Neck Surgery. doi: 10.1007/s12070-022-03110-4. Published online 6 July 2022.
- Siquier-Padilla J, Cuervo G, Urra X, Quintana E, Hernández-Meneses M, Sandoval E, Lapeña P, Falces C, Mestres CA, Paez-Carpio A, Moreno A. Optimal timing for cardiac surgery in infective endocarditis with neurological complications: a narrative review. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*. 2022 Sep 7;11(18):5275.
- Van den Berg K, Glatt T, Vermeulen M, Little F, Swanevelder R, Barrett C, Court R, Bremer M, Nyoni C, Swarts A, Mmenu C, Crede T, Kritzinger G, Naude J, Szymanski P, Cowley J, Moore P, Black J, Singh J, Baijnath P, Mody P, Malherbe J, Potgieter S, Van Vuuren C, Maasdorp S, Von Gottberg A, Louw VJ, Wasserman S. Convalescent plasma in the treatment of moderate to severe COVID-19 pneumonia: a randomized controlled trial (PROTECT-Patient Trial). Scientific Reports 2022; 12:2552.

Assisted Busitema University in Uganda with the review and input on its Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Busitema University has developed a Master of Science in Pharmacology curriculum and elective course unit in Indigenous Knowledge Systems related to Traditional Medicines.

Most IKS Pharmacology staff are reviewers for local and international science research journals.

Most are editors and guest editors of science paper journals.

Training in 'Nanotechnology workshop, Nanocomposite Hydrogels for Biomedical Applications' conducted by Nano Science and Technology Consortium, India, from 17 to 19 November 2022 (certified).

Training on 'Open data sharing – a new trend in open access publishing', 1 December 2022. Taylor and Francis Group (certified).

Review of more than 10 manuscripts invited from different publishers (certificated).

School of Nursing

Co-research of undergraduate research modules presented at the School of Nursing, UFS, and Nursing at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

Two students from the UFS to attend classes in the first semester of 2023 at Jönköping University, Sweden.

Two students from Jönköping University to be part of exchange programme, attending classes at the UFS during the first semester of 2023.

School of Pathology

A delegation from the Haemophilia Association of Lesotho (HAL), which included medical, nursing, pharmacy, and patient representatives, visited the Department of Haematology and Cell Biology for two days in February 2022. Managed to establish ties with HAL, leading to future collaboration planned for second semester of 2022.

Dr Jaco Joubert (Haematology and Cell Biology)
Dr Leriska Haupt (Haematology and Cell Biology)
Prof Marius Coetzee (Haematology and Cell Biology)

Prof Marius Coetzee attended the Cure HHT Patient and Physician Conference online (29 April–8 May 2022). CureHHT is the American organisation for hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia. It supports patients and organises the treatment. Dr Scott Olitsky (the Chief Medical Officer of CureHHT) reached out to Prof Coetzee with the view to registering our Bleeding Disorder Clinic as a Centre of Excellence for HHT.

Next Generation Sequencing Unit

Explorative online class sessions among UFS thirdyear undergraduate research students and students from Dedikan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya.

MOU signed between UFS and DeKUT (Dedikan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya).

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

OFFICE OF THE DEAN: HEALTH SCIENCES

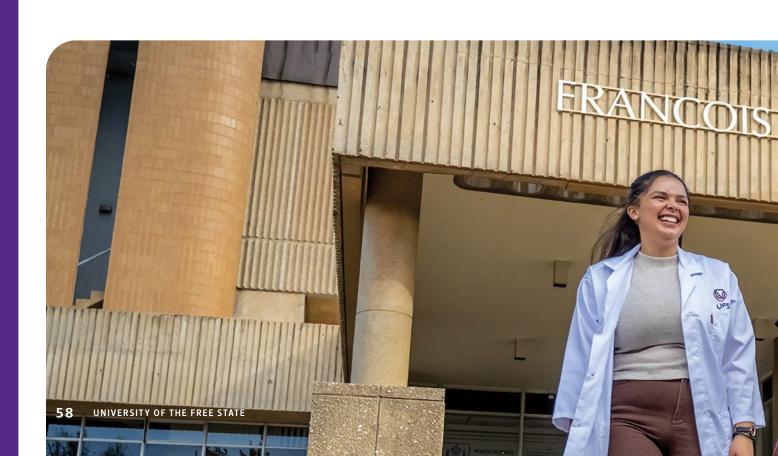
Involvement: Prof EC Janse van Vuuren; Mr R Maeko; Prof W Mudzi

The recruitment of international postgraduate students has consistently been prioritised through marketing efforts from the UFS Marketing Office and the Centre for Graduate Support. Similarly, the recruitment of undergraduate students for enrolment in professional degrees (i.e. not requiring a community service year) is prioritised through marketing efforts in Africa.

The selection policy for undergraduate non-professional degrees has been amended to stipulate the inclusion of international students in these programmes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOTHERAPY

Dr Nuhu from Nigeria has been appointed as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Physiotherapy.



School of Nursing

Recruitment in Kenya in 2020 by the School of Nursing resulted in the enrolment of three PhD candidates, with an additional four PhD candidates accepted for registration in 2024.

PARTNERSHIPS

School of Nursing

Africa collaboration: University of Botswana, University of Namibia, Makerere University in Uganda, Cavendish University in Zambia, University of Zambia, the National University of Science and Technology (Zimbabwe), the Midlands State University (Zimbabwe) and the University of Zimbabwe.

AfriVIPE committee: Research under review, activities of the committee are continuing on an annual basis, including the annual Virtual Interprofessional Education (VIPE) experience.

University of Zurich and other partners: A Swiss grant has been applied for, and we await the outcome. Another manuscript is being developed.

University of KwaZulu-Natal, Mzuzu University (Malawi), University of Rwanda, University of Ghana: Proposal submitted for ethics clearance.

University of Exeter, United Kingdom: Protocol development underway.

Ulster University, Ireland: Combined data collection among adult patients diagnosed with chronic conditions is continuing.

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Staff member: Prof C Walsh

- Serves on the nominating committee for the Council of the International Union of Nutrition Societies (IUNS).
- Academic Editor for International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH).
- Guest Editor for PLOS ONE.







Dean Prof Heidi Hudson



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator Quinter Onyango

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

Prof C van den Berg presented a paper at the 23rd conference of the International Comparative Literature Association in Tbilisi, Georgia. The paper was titled:

On minor/small literatures and difficult pasts: literary mnemonics between the local and the global.

As 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.

An online programme for Dutch as foreign language was developed, with Prof A van Niekerk as the project leader. This programme was showcased at the International (every four years) Conference for Dutch in August 2022 in Nijmegen.

Collaboration with other universities to gain access to the content of the programme is foreseen since the conference in August 2022; this was clarified with the Kovsie Phahamisa Academy in early September 2022. The programme for Dutch language acquisition has been developed with full funding by the Dutch Language Union in 2020–2021. This may provide third-stream income for the SLP in the department.

The department is proud of its international research associates who produced a number of research outputs during 2022. 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.

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

Prof C van den Berg presented a paper at the 23rd conference of the International Comparative Literature Association in Tbilisi, Georgia. The paper was titled: On minor/small literatures and difficult pasts: literary mnemonics between the local and the global. (24–29 July 2022).

Dr Trudie Strauss presented a paper during the inaugural IMA Maths in Music Conference hosted by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) at the Royal College of Music opposite the Royal Albert Hall, London, from 13 to 15 July 2022. Working with colleagues Zani Ludick (a lecturer in Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Science) and Wilben Pretorius (MSc student in Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Science), Dr Strauss presented their paper on investigating the relationship between linguistic measures and self-similarity matrices in assessing the structure of music.

Prof Angelique van Niekerk presented a paper in Nijmegen, Netherlands in August 2022:

Angelique Van Niekerk, Nerina Bosman, Lieve de Wachter – Nederlandsonderricht voor Afrikaanse studenten: een 'low-tech' online context.

Prof Henning Pieterse presented a paper at the international conference for Dutch in Nijmegen (the Netherlands), August 2022: Om *Van den vos reynaerde* in Afrikaans te vertaal: Probleme en moontlike oplossings.

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 continues in 2023).

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 included work of researchers from all over the world.

Prof Van den Berg was asked to join the scientific board of *Colloquia Germanica Stetinensia*, a journal based in the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Szczecin, Poland.

The journal functions as a platform for exchange of academic views between German (and other) philologists.

Department of African Languages

Title of project: Multimedia digital corpus of siPhûthî Project co-workers: Dr Sheena Shah (UFS); Dr Matthias Brenzinger (UFS) Funded by SADiLAR

CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH PAPERS

Lecturers: Busane MS, Ndebele SA

Title of conference: (NSSA) Conference, University of

Cape Town. 19–20 September 2022

Title of paper: Traditional doctors nicknaming strategies in some Zulu literary works: a contribution to the study of socio-onomastics.

Lecturers: Busane MS, Ndebele SA

Title of conference: Names Society of Southern Africa (NSSA) Conference, University of Cape Town. 19–20 September 2022Title of paper: Reggie Ndlovu's strategies for nicknaming South African soccer players.

Lecturer: Dr M Khanyetsi

Title of conference: NSSA (Names Society of Southern Africa), Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town (face-to-face). 19–20 September 2022.

Title of paper: Political nicknames among the Basotho: An ostensible influence of trending events.

Lecturers: M Khanyetsi, S Ndebele, M Busane and M Motloung

Title of conference: NSSA (Names Society of Southern Africa), Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town (face-to-face). 19–20 September 2022.

Title of paper: Dog naming strategies in African societies: A comparative analysis of the Basotho and Zulu naming.

Lecturer: Dr EN Malete

Title of conference: ALASA 23rd Biennial International Conference, *African Languages in Practice in the 21st Century*, University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch Protea Hotel, 21–24 September 2022.

Title of paper: Syntactic analysis of JJ Moiloa's poetic text: A psycholinguistic approach.

Lecturer: MS Mensele

Title of conference: ALASA (23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Title of paper: Dynamics of Botho/Ubuntu in Basotho folktales – with specific reference to a Sesotho folktale: 'Leobu'.

Lecturer: MS Mensele

Title of conference: ALASA (23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Title of paper: Appreciation of nature and biodiversity: the Sesotho literary contribution.

Lecturer: Dr AS Motsei

Title of conference: 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association in Southern Africa, University of the Western Cape, Protea Hotel in Stellenbosch, 21–24 September 2022. Title of paper: *The expression of aspect in Sesotho.*

Lecturers: TJ Makutoane and AS Motsei

Title of conference: International Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, Colorado. 19–21 November 2022.

Title of paper: A comparison of left dislocation constructions in Biblical Hebrew and Sesotho: implications for pedagogy and linguistic typology.

Lecturers: H Ndebele and N Zulu

Title of conference: 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Title of paper: Insights on language management in the health sector: Reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa.

Lecturer: S Shabalala, H Ndebele and Naidoo

Title of conference: 23rd Biennial International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Title of paper: Publishing journal articles in indigenous South African languages: A scoping review of two South African databases 2000–2020.

Lecturer: Dr MA Nhlapo

Title of conference: 23rd ALASA Biennial International Conference, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. 21–24 September 2022.

Title of paper: The identification and analysis of the grammatical case in Sesotho: the diachronic perspective.

Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology continues to grow its reputation internationally, including on the African continent, as colleagues are sought-after panellists and discussants in various fora. 2022 was a busy year intellectually, as we presented papers at international conferences, participated in invited workshops, and underscored the comparative nature of the discipline within our curricula. Our curricula included ethnographic examples from various global sites, creating space for a critical exploration of how local experiences are both distinct and enmeshed within broader sociocultural processes and political systems.

Dr Shirley du Plooy continued her PhD work on sacred sites.

Attended a virtual symposium on still landscapes. Drawings: Still places organised in the framework of Nevena Tatovic's PhD project 'Hearing Holy Landscapes: Heritage of Silence – Intangibility between Nature and Culture' (FCT_PD/BD/150442/2019), 9 March 2022.

Presented a paper titled, 'The heroine's journey at the sacred sites of the Eastern Free State' at Sacred Journeys Ninth Global Conference, University of Primorska, Piran, Slovenia, 6–8 July 2022.

Member of the panel conversation on Cultural Heritage in Unsettled Landscapes, 9–13 November 2022 (virtual), American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.

Prof Joy Owen re-entered her primary research field, African transnational migration, by co-presenting a paper titled, 'Thinking the human through African transnational migration' together with M Mokoena (master's supervisee) for the ASAA2022, the Fourth Biennial Conference of the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) co-hosted by HUMA – Institute for Humanities in Africa at the University of Cape Town, 11–16 April 2022.

Prof Owen's research interest in academic motherhood, initiated during her visiting professorship at the University of Oxford in 2019, was further explored in a paper titled, 'M-other – messiness incarnate: a tale of being human' at the ASAA2022, the Fourth Biennial Conference of the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) cohosted by HUMA – Institute for Humanities in Africa at the University of Cape Town, 11–16 April 2022.

Prof Owen's inclusion in a critical discussion on the interrelated nature of research on transnational African migration, with an emphasis on refugee studies in Africa and Germany, provided further impetus to continue her analytical work within transnational migration. The workshop, African Forced Migration Research in Germany (virtual, 10–12 June 2022) hosted by the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI), Freiburg, provided further insight into the parameters of the field of migration studies in Germany specifically, and access to a wider network of migration scholars.

Prof Owen's intellectual work on reflexivity and anthropological fieldwork in South Africa was recognised with an invitation to participate in a workshop on Malinowski's influence in the Global South, a century after his seminal text *The Argonauts of the western Pacific* was published. Her discussion paper: 'Un-disciplining the 'native' – revelatory reflection and reflexivity' was well received by the general discussant for the workshop, Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern. The workshop, titled 'Decentering Anthropology by way of Malinowski' (Bozen-Bolzano, 13–16 September 2022) was hosted by the Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy.

Prof Owen continues to serve as the Regional Africa Editor of *Teaching Anthropology* published by the Royal Anthropological Institute, and on the editorial board of *Anthropology Southern Africa*.

Mr Motsaathebe Serekoane's intellectual work in the research area of heritage is sought after.

Member of the panel conversation on Cultural Heritage in Unsettled Landscapes, 9–13 November 2022 (virtual), American Anthropological Association Annual meeting.

Serves on the editorial committees of *The South African Journal of Cultural History (2019–2024)* and *Africa Institute of South Africa.*

Dr Christian Williams continues to deepen his contribution to migration, with a focus on African exile specifically. His international project, 'Faith and Exile', was supported by a Humboldt Research Fellowship between 2019 and 2022. While working on the project in 2022, Dr Williams was based in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Freiburg in Germany for six months and conducted research in Wuppertal (Germany) and Helsinki and Vaasa (Finland). He is writing a book based on this research, which is under contract with James Currey (United Kingdom) and the University of Namibia Press.

Presented a paper titled, 'SWAPO's 1976 crisis and Nordic anti-colonial solidarity: Salatiel and Anita Ailonga's detainee letters'. Conference on 'Colonial Aspects of Finnish-Namibian Relations (1870–1990)', University of Turku, Finland (March 2022).

Presented a paper titled, 'Dissident solidarity: SWAPO's crisis in Zambia and the Ailongas' letters in Finland' for a seminar series hosted by the Basler Afrika Bibliographien, Basel, Switzerland (April 2022).

Convened and presented a paper at a panel titled 'African exiles/refugees and European solidarity: histories from Southern Africa's anti-colonial struggles, 1960–1990' at the Conference of the German African Studies Association, University of Freiburg (June 2022).

Serves on the editorial committees of Journal of Southern African Studies and Anthropology Southern Africa.

H-Net cross-network project, 'Refugees in African History'.

Department of Art History and Image Studies

After a successful anonymous peer–review process, Dr Martin Rossouw, in collaboration with Prof Julian Hanich (University of Groningen, the Netherlands), has been working on the final revised manuscript for an edited volume, What Film is Good For: On the Ethics of Spectatorship, which will feature more than thirty essays by top international film studies scholars from across the globe. This edited volume is under contract with the University of California Press and is due for publication by fall (Sept/Oct) 2023.

Dr Martin Rossouw has signed a contract to guest edit a special issue of *Critical Arts* – an accredited Taylor and Francis culture studies journal with a broad international audience – on the theme of translation, interdisciplinarity, and the arts. The call for papers is currently still open and will likely feature a number of international contributions, of which the estimated publication date is December 2023.

Together with the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice, our department is co-organising an interdisciplinary translation conference, which will be hosted by the University of the Free State on 1–2 December 2023. The hybrid conference will also feature online presentations by international presenters – among others, Susan Petrilli (University of Bari, Italy), as one of the confirmed keynote speakers.

Dr Martin Rossouw has continued his work as editor of Brill's Contemporary Cinema, a book series that centres on 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), Dan Yacavone (University of Edinburgh, UK).

Dr Martin Rossouw has 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.

Together with the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice, Fine Arts, Hebrew, as well as the Odeion School of Music, our department coorganised an interdisciplinary Translation Studies conference here at the University of the Free State on 1–2 December 2022. The hybrid conference featured online presentations by a range of international presenters – among others Susan Petrilli (University of Bari, Italy) as keynote speaker.

Suzanne Human and Adelheid von Maltitz. 2022. 'Borders and boundaries in South Africa: relations among land art, trauma and translation.' Transfers and Traversals: An Interdisciplinary Translation Studies Conference, University of the Free State (1 December 2022).

Martin P Rossouw, Elizabeth M Rudolph and Martin D Clark. 2022. 'Cameras, phones, and drones to convey stones: on digital geosite visualisation as intermedia translation.' Transfers and Traversals: An Interdisciplinary Translation Studies Conference, University of the Free State (1 December 2022).

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Stephanie Cawood

- Dr Stephanie Cawood continued working on research publications with Prof Jonathan Fisher from the University of Birmingham based on their collaborative research for the Newton Advanced Fellowship (2016–2019) on 'Memorialising struggle: Dynamics of memory, space and power in postliberation Africa' with a joint article published in the prestigious journal, Political Geography, in November.
- Dr Stephanie Cawood was invited to participate in the Workshop on Teaching Africa/Teaching African Studies at the Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen, 8–9 December 2022, as well as a public round-table discussion on PhD-level education. Participants came from all over the world, including Denmark, South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sweden, Finland, the USA, etc.
- The publication of the special issue in Acta Academica, 'Xenophobia in Africa', was also the result of collaboration between Dr Stephanie Cawood and the international partner, Prof Peter Olapegba from the University of Ibadan (Nigeria). This collaboration is part of the MoU signed between the two institutions in 2019. The special issue was finally published in November 2022 as Volume 54, no. 2 and brought together a range of different perspectives and areas of expertise to contribute to an interdisciplinary exploration of xenophobia in Africa. Authors hailed from numerous different countries, including South Africa, Nigeria, Australia, Zimbabwe, and Germany.

Dr Nadine Lake

• The operations of the SIDA Project entered the final phase in 2022. Since 2018, Dr Nadine Lake has been involved in the continuous collaborative project, 'Gender Mainstreaming: Developing competencies in Higher Education for Gender Equality, Peacebuilding and Gender Sensitive Research', funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The principal partners in the project were Prof Gabriele Griffin (Uppsala Universitya), the Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique), and the University of the Free State through Dr Lake's involvement. Overall funding received: 8 million Swedish Krona (approximately 12,5 million ZAR). Doctoral students from Eduardo Mondlane University enrolled in the project have also entered the final phase of their doctoral studies. Dr Nadine Lake participated in PhD training at the Centre for Gender Research at Uppsala University

- as lecturer in March 2022. As part of the project, Dr Nadine Lake organised and hosted MA Gender and Development students from the Eduardo Mondlane University for an intensive two-week teaching workshop in which staff from the CGAS, notably Dr Cawood, Dr Mushonga, Dr Lake, and Dr Kamwendo, all participated as lecturers.
- She was also the recipient of an Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and Key Action
 1: Teaching and Training mobility for staff at the Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain.
- Dr Lake was also offered a six-month research fellowship at the Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University.

Dr Moroosi Leshoele

Dr Leshoele also participated in the inaugural International Afrocentric Think Thanks 2022 held in Zanzibar (Tanzania) by the Association of Public Administrators Tanzania (APAT) and Zanzibar University, Tanzania, 25–27 May 2022. The theme of the conference was, 'Rethinking the contours of the national security of African States – focus on post-COVID-19, South Africa'.

Dr Juliet Kamwendo

 Dr Kamwendo participated in the Eighth International Conference of the South African Development Studies Association at the University of Botswana, Gaborone, 17–19 October 2022. She delivered a paper titled, 'Looking beyond the horizon and join the dots in the quest to redress the prevalence of genderbased violence in South Africa'.

Dr Grey Magaiza

• Dr Grey Magaiza spent one month (June/July) at the Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, on research leave. He was invited as a discussant on an expert panel on the theme, 'Social Work and Social Development Responses and Challenges to the COVID-19 Pandemic', and also presented on work integrated learning to the National Community Development Forum.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga

- The collaborative project titled, 'The Border, the 'Bantustans' and the Rainbow Nation: A Contradictory Mix of Discreteness and Continuity in the Oral Histories of Transnational Communities in the Borderlands of Lesotho/South Africa and the Joe Gqabi District (Eastern Cape)' with Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga as the principal investigator, was the result of international collaboration between internal collaborators, including Prof Chitja Twala (Vice-Dean: The Humanities and Department of History), Dr Grey Magaiza (CGAS, Qwaqwa Campus), and an international partner, Dr John Aerni-Flessner (Michigan State University). In March, the project management team organised and hosted the Academic Forum for the Development of Lesotho (AfdeL)/UFS Online Think Tank Conference as a capacity-building initiative to encourage junior postgraduate students to read papers at a conference for the first time.
- Dr Munyarardzi Mushonga was appointed as the Global Academic Director of the Decolonial International Network (DIN) and will formally assume his role from 1 January 2023. This role will involve much international collaboration in this network.
- He delivered the keynote address at the History Teachers Association of Zimbabwe and the Ministry of Education and Training Conference, 26–27 August 2022, held in Harare, Zimbabwe. The title of his address was, 'The 21st Century History Teacher/Lecturer: Unlearning, Relearning, and the Reconstitution of the Destituted'. He was also invited to deliver a public lecture and to facilitate a workshop titled, 'Decolonisation of Knowledge and the Mind' at the National University of Lesotho on 1 December.

He also facilitated a workshop on 'Decolonising the Mind (DTM) using the Mercator vs Peters Projection Maps and Decolonial Challenges and Dilemmas in Universities' for the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, under the theme, 'Decolonising the Classroom' on 2 June 2022.

Extraordinary Professors

- Prof Henning Melber: Delivered keynote addresses during international conferences at the University of Education Freiburg, the University of Kassel, and the University Institute of Lisbon (Iscte).
- Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni has assumed the leadership position of Vice-Dean for Research in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, as well as Director for the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced Study at the University of Bayreuth. He delivered numerous keynote addresses at prestigious international fora, such as the Global South Workshop of the Bavaria Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Political Horizons Critical Global Politics Research Cluster (University of Manchester), the LUCAS Annual Lecture (University of Leeds), Summer School Masterclass at the Ludwig-Maximilian University (Munich), the Annual Anton Wilhelm Amo Lecture (Martin Luther University), Research Dialogue Sessions at the London School of Economics and Political Science, the international conference on 'African Epistemologies for the 21st Century' at Yale University, the University of Lincoln Working Group Seminar, and at the South-South Decolonial Dialogues: Africa-Asia and the Caribbean Summer School, to name a few.



Prof Gabriele Griffin was the recipient of notable research grants from the Swedish Research Council for a Research School in Gender, Humanities and Digitality and a Wallenberg Research Grant with Anna Foka and Fredrik Wahlberg on 'Quantifying Culture: Al and Heritage Collections'. Prof Griffin was also invited to address the 'Doing Research: Intersections of Research Practices, Epistemological Orientations and Autobiographies Workshop' at Tampere University, Finland, in May.

General

The CGAS also hosted a number of international visitors for some of its commemorative events:

- The Africa Day Memorial Lecture took place virtually on 25 May 2022 with notable IKS and postcolonial scholar, Prof Bagele Chilisa (University of Botswana). The title of the lecture was: 'Research and knowledge production: Africa and the call for a fifth research paradigm'.
- For Women's Month in August 2022, Dr Nadine Lake organised and hosted a series of workshops and seminars with global transgender activist and educator, Jessica Lynn (USA/UK), between 1 and 12 August. The overarching theme was, 'Transgender rights and experiences'.
- The Heritage Day commemorative event was hosted by the CGASQQ in Qwaqwa on 23 September 2022, with Prof Katherine Ledford, notable scholar in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University (North Carolina, USA), as the keynote speaker and Dr Grey Magaiza as the moderator of the event. The title of her lecture was, 'Comparative Mountain Heritages'.

International doctoral graduates

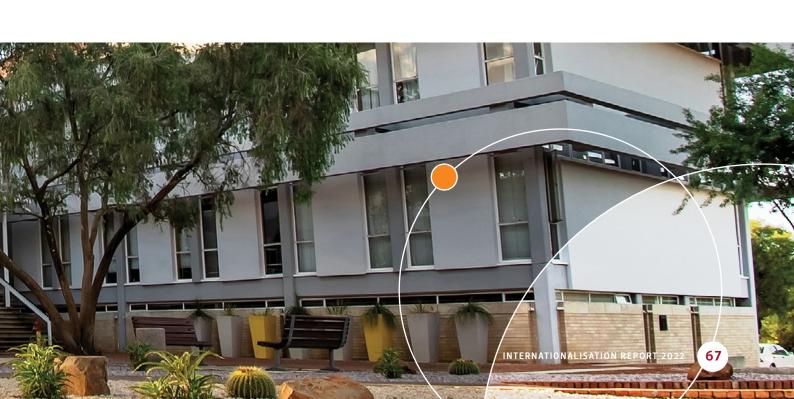
- Nobre Canhanga (Mozambique) with thesis: Democratisation and state-building in Lusophone African states: The case of Cape Verde and Mozambique (Supervisor: Dr J Steyn-Kotzé; Cosupervisor: Dr S Cawood).
- Saru Mahomva (Zimbabwe) with thesis: Caregiving

 a feminist perspective on the lived experiences
 of caregivers in Harare (Supervisor: Prof IM Bredenkamp; Co-supervisor: Dr N Lake).
- Emmanuel Tembo (DRC) with thesis: Interethnic conflict and the role of traditional leaders in the Truth and Reconciliation Programme in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (Supervisor: Dr M Mulumeoderhwa, Co-supervisor: Dr S Cawood).

Centre for Health Systems Research and Development

Prof Joerg Szarzynski (Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) Programme, United Nations University) visited DiMTEC and the CHSR&D on 3 March 2022 for the purpose of writing a collaborative paper that has since been submitted: 'COVID-19 and sustainability governance in mountains. Safeguarding mountains – a global challenge facing emerging risks, adapting to changing environments and building transformative resilience in mountain regions worldwide'.

A collaborative paper titled, 'The impact of COVID-19 and sustainability governance in three different mountains regions of the world – an intercontinental comparison' has been produced.



The collaborating authors were:

Panchi Robles, Sofía¹; Barragán–Ochoa, Fernando²; Yassen, Abdullah Omar³; Ncube, Alice⁴, Heunis, Christo⁵; Membretti, Andrea⁶; Szarzynski, Joerg¹, ⁴, ², 8

- 1. United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany
- 2. Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales (IAEN), Quito, Ecuador
- 3. Erbil Technical Administration College, Erbil Polytechnic University, Kurdistan region of Iraq
- 4. Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC), University of the Free State (UFS), Bloemfontein, South Africa
- 5. Centre for Health Systems Research & Development (CHSR&D), University of the Free State (UFS), Bloemfontein, South Africa
- 6. Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland
- 7. Eurac Research, Bolzano, Italy
- 8. International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

The paper will be published in the book, Safeguarding Mountain Social–Ecological Systems. A Global Challenge: Facing Emerging Risks, Adapting to Changing Environments and Building Transformative Resilience in Mountain Regions Worldwide First Edition – 1 March 2023.

Department of Communication Science

The Department of Communication Science participated in the co-hosting of an international webinar on 'Content Moderation, Disinformation, and Misinformation' in collaboration with the University of Lagos, Nigeria, in the second semester of 2022.

Prof Mboti and Dr Jonathan Muringani from the Institute of Technology Systems, University of Oslo, are collaborating on a potential Norwegian/EU grant funding application.

Prof Ian Glenn, Communication Science Research Fellow, is collaborating with Prof Parker from Stanford University on a colonial maps project. Prof Glenn will write an introductory overview for the Stanford Levaillant project, particularly focusing on the work of the mapmaker, Benjamin Delaborde.

Prof Ian Glenn is collaborating with Prof LJ Mitchell of the University of California (Irvine) on Brassier and French colonial maps.

Prof Mboti will present a webinar on Apartheid Studies for the Postgraduate Programme in Law at the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) in Brazil in November 2022.

Department of Criminology

Prof Peacock was invited by the Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law in India to participate in a capacity building development programme on Critical Criminal Law on 17 January 2022, with a presentation on A Critical Perspective on the Evolution of Criminal Law. Prof Martha Minow, former Dean of Harvard Law School, Prof Alan Norrie from the University of Warwick, and Prof Pande from the Delhi University iwere also participants.

On 23 February 2022, Prof Peacock presented the opening address at the *Congreso Internacional de Victimologia: Nueves Retos para Europa.* Murcia, Spain.

On occasion of the UN's 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (15 March 2022), Prof Peacock provided the opening remarks and intervention at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime event: Legalising the Drug Wars: A Regulatory History of UN Drug Control.

During the period 3–5 April 2022, Prof Peacock participated in the Inaugural Session of the First International Victimology Colloquium on Victim Empowerment through Social and Legal Initiatives organised by the Centre for Criminology, Criminal Justice and Victimology, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab. Prof Peacock presented on the topic of the Inequality of Victimisation, followed by another session on Marginalisation and Access to Justice.

In partnership with the Basque Institute of Criminology, Prof Peacock – together with the President of the Basque Country – presented the official opening address on occasion of the 17th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology. Victimisation in the digital world: responding to and connecting to victims. 5–9 June 2022. The symposium was preceded by a welcoming address by Prof Peacock in the palace of the mayor of Donostia/San Sebastian, Spain.

Prof Peacock and international restorative justice expert, Annette Pearson from Colombia, paid a special tribute to Nobel peace laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu, with an Africanimbued and Global South intervention on occasion of the 17th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology. Donostia (The Basque Country): 5–9 June 2022.

Prof Peacock participated in a round-table discussion on the topic of *Responding to and connecting with victims of LGBTQI+ hate crime* at the 17th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology. Donostia (The Basque Country): 5–9 June 2022.

Prof Peacock was the special guest speaker of the Annual Lecture Series of the International Journal of Restorative Justice and presented on the topic of Restorative Justice and Access to Justice: Critical reflections of the Global North–South Divide. San Sebastian (8 June 2022).

To encourage international agenda setting and audience participation, Prof Peacock was invited as a keynote speaker to two international conferences. On occasion of the 11th International Conference on Victim Assistance (Delhi: 19–21 October), Prof Peacock presented the keynote address on Advancing research methods in Victimology. Prof Peacock presented a further keynote address on Gender-based victimisation at the International Conference on Legal Contours of Victimology: Theory and Practice (Hyderabad, India: 9–11 September).

Department of English

African Futures Research Project – no funding. Inaugural Africa Humanities Association (AHA) Executive Committee Meeting. Date: 23 March 2022. Member of *Literary Geographies* (UK) journal's Editorial Board.

Member of the Editorial Board of *Dande Journal* (Zimbabwe).

Member of the *Imbizo* journal.

Member of the Editorial Board of the Postcolonial Studies Book Series, Rodopi Publishers.

Member of the Conference Organising Committee for Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Association's 19th Triennial Conference: Ruptured Commons, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 11–15 July 2022.

Secretary of the Executive Committee of Africa Humanities Association.

Dr Susan Brokensha

Project for the University of Bremen Yearbook:

Combrink HMVE, De Wet K, De Villiers F, Brokensha S and Kotzé E (forthcoming). Basic digital education and the digital divide in South Africa: A Free State perspective. In: Combrink HMVE, Knedlik T, Nour SSOM, Schuerkens U, De Wet K and Wohlmuth K (Eds.), Business Opportunities, Start–Ups, and Digital Transformation in Africa (Vol. 23). Berlin: LIT Verlag Münster.

Dr Marthinus Conradie

Publications for 2022:

Dr SI Brokensha and MS Conradie, "I did not know that there were problems': Government officials' blame avoidance strategies generated in the face of a tragic event'. Text & Talk: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Language, Discourse and Communication Studies.

Dr MS Conradie, 'Scales off my eyes: Tutors teaching about racism at a South African university'. *Howard Journal of Communications*.

Dr MS Conradie, 'Ignite some agency: How teaching assistants engage whiteness at a South African university'. *Society Register*.

Dr MS Conradie, 'ACTIVATE! Change Drivers: Blameattribution and active citizenship on a South African youth blog'. Text & Talk: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Language, Discourse and Communication Studies.

Critical whiteness studies and blame games in the context of tutorials on postcolonial literature. Delivered to a round-table discussion hosted by the University of Birmingham.

Dr MS Conradie serves on the editorial board for the journal *Society Register*.

Mrs H Hennin, 'Map-making and the Adoption Atlas in 'Killing Karoline' by Sara-Jayne King. *Proceedings of the 10th European Conference on Arts and Humanities*. London, United Kingdom/Online. 21–24 July. (Online).

Mrs Hanta Henning, 'Mothering and Othering: Reading Fiela's Child as an Adoption Narrative'. Alternation Special Edition 38C.

Prof I Manase, 'The trope of contagion and the futurist South African climate crisis and hidden drug pandemic in Mohale Mashigo's *Intruders*: Short Stories'. *Journal of Literary Studies*.

Prof I Manase, 'Nationhood and ethnic ideology: Examining selected cartoon paratexts in Kwani?' African Studies.

Dr R de Villiers: Collaborative interdisciplinary project: 'Emotional intelligence: a key to complex change within the clinical learning environment'. The project is funded by the UFS interdisciplinary grant but involves researchers from the University of Exeter (UK).

Dr R de Villiers: 'Criteria of Embarrassment: JM Coetzee's Jesus trilogy and the legacy of modernist difficulty,' *English Studies in Africa*.

Dr R de Villiers: Guest editor: *English Studies in Africa* 65.1: A Century of modernism in South African literature and literary culture.

Colloquium chair for 'Asbestos: The Last Modernist Object', 28 Sept 2022.

Prof Helene Strauss:

- 'Reckoning, Repairing, Reworlding.' Collaborative international project underway, which includes continuing monthly symposia and a planned special issue of the international journal Studies in Social Justice. Participants are drawn from international and local universities, including Concordia University, Brock University, McMaster University, the University of Alberta, and Stellenbosch University.
- Contribution to panel on 'Feminism, Memory, Activism: Forging Transnational Solidarities.' Invited by Sandra Young (University of Cape Town) and Rosanne Kennedy (Australian National University).
- Paper invited for inclusion in a book titled Ruptured Commons, edited by Anna Guttman and Veronica Austen, published by Benjamins for their International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures (FILLM) Studies in Languages and Literatures Series. Completed.
- Plenary: Footnotes Online Speakers Series, Zuid-Afrikahuis, Amsterdam, 21 March 2022: 'Strike a Rock and Women's Activism.' With Camalita Naicker, Patience Mususa, and Aliki Saragas. Invited by Kylie Thomas and Ksenia Robbe.
- Editorial Board: Cultural Studies, since 2021.
- Vice-Chair: global Association for Cultural Studies, 2020-2026.
- Co-convenor, ACS Virtual Lecture Series (continuing): https://www.cultstud.org/ wordpress/virtual-lecture-series/
- Editorial Board: ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature, since 2012.

Dr Oliver Nyambi: African Shakespeare Working Group funded by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth, Germany – project at book publication stage.

Editorial board member of *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*

Editorial board member of Cogent Arts & Humanities.

Dr Kudzayi Ngara: Palimpsestic Mobilities: Overwriting Personal and National Identities in NoViolet Bulawayo's *We Need New Names*.

12th MESEA (Multi-Ethnic Society: Europe and the Americas) Conference, University of Central Lancashire, Larnaka, Cyprus. 26–30 May 2022. An exploration of the depiction of Zimbabwean cultural aspects in Tendai Huchu's The Maestro, The Magistrate and the Mathematician.

Zimbabwe Open University International Conference on Heritage (ICOH2022), Great Zimbabwe, Masvingo, Zimbabwe. 14–16 September 2022.

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 Rick de Villiers: Collaborative interdisciplinary project: 'Emotional intelligence: a key to complex change within the clinical learning environment'. The project is funded by the UFS interdisciplinary grant but involves researchers from Exeter University (UK).

Prof Irikidzayi Manase: Completed the Geographies of African Futures project with Prof Matthew Eatough of City University of New York, Baruch (culminated in the publication of a *Literary Geographies* journal Special issue, Volume 8(2) 2022).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Dr Rick de Villiers: Colloquium chair for 'Asbestos: The Last Modernist Object', 28 September 2022.

Dr Marthinus S Conradie: Critical whiteness studies and blame games in the context of tutorials on postcolonial literature. Paper presented at an online round table on blame games, hosted by Sten Hansson and Ruth Page, University of Birmingham, 15 September 2022.

Dr Rick de Villiers: Invited panellist: Decolonising Literary Studies in Practice: A Teaching and Careers Event. Salford University, UK. 12 November 2022.

Mrs H Henning: Paper delivered at the Twentieth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Department of Mediterranean Studies, School of Humanities, University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece, 20–22 June 2022. Title of paper: #NotMyNAAM: Global adoption practices and the plight of the adoption triangle.

Mrs H Henning: Paper delivered at The European Conference on Arts & Humanities (ECAH2022), Birkbeck, University of London, 21–24 July 2022. Title of paper: Map-making and the Adoption Atlas in 'Killing Karoline' by Sara-Jayne King.

Prof Irikidzayi Manase: Presented (online) the paper, 'Imagining the human and ecological conditions in futurist South Africa of 27 April 2034' at the Raptured Commons, Triennial Conference of the Association Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS), 11–15 July 2022, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Prof R Makombe: Presented a paper at the University of Michigan, titled 'Change without change: the spectre of Mugabeism in Kapfupi and Marabha's comic skits', 14 November 2022.

Prof Helene Strauss:

- "Dangerous, Ugly Air': documentary activism, extractive trauma, and the aesthetics of respiration in Dying for Gold.' Presented at the ACLALS conference, Toronto, Canada, 11–15 July 2022 (online).
- "A poetry of scar and soil": traumatic recall and reparative re-earthing in Gabeba Baderoon's *The History of Intimacy*." Presented at the American Comparative Literature Association's (ACLA) conference as part of the seminar 'Feminism, Memory, Activism: Forging Transnational Solidarities', 15–18 June 2022, National Taiwan Normal University (online).
- Invited Convener: Spotlight Session for the 'Crossroads in Cultural Studies' conference, 17 to 19 November 2022, University of Lisbon, Portugal. Panel title: 'Postcolonial Intimacies Reconsidered.' Speakers were Kimberley Bain, Sarah Brophy, and Danielle Wong.
- Plenary Panel: 'Re-placing Literature: Mobilising Emergent Strategy to Decolonise our Institutional Practices,' with the Reworlding Research Collective, Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies (CAPS), Temporal Shifts in Postcolonial Critique, Toronto, 15 June 2022 (online).

BOOKS

Prof Helene Strauss: Wayward feeling: Audio-visual culture and aesthetic activism in post-rainbow South Africa. African and Diasporic Cultural Studies Book Series, University of Toronto Press, 2022 (published with the help of a grant from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the Awards to Scholarly Publications Programme, C\$ 8000). Winner: UFS Book Prize for Distinguished Scholarship.

Dr Marthinus S Conradie: Member of the editorial board for the accredited, peer-reviewed journal *Society Register* since 2020.

Prof Irikidzayi Manase: Participated, as the Secretary, in the Africa Humanities Association (AHA) Executive Committee meetings on strengthening Africa humanities in Africa, membership drive for the association, holding of Manuscript Development Workshops in different regions of Africa, and plans for the Inaugural Conference at the University of Cape Town in November 2023.

Prof Irikidzayi Manase: Editorial board member of (i) *Literary Geographies* and (ii) Rodopi Publisher's Postcolonial Studies Book Series.

Department of Fine Arts

Prof Janine Allen–Spies was selected as fellow at the art residency, the Sacatar Foundation in Itaparica, Brazil. One of the tasks was a contribution to the foundation's community involvement. Two teams were commissioned to design a quilt from given material. Prof Allen–Spies and the Belarussian/ Polish artist Rita Staszulonok worked in a team and won the quilt designing competition. She also took part in open studio visits involving artists from France, the US, and Poland, a curator from the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), as well as the Sacatar community. Prof Allen–Spies also visited the South Atlantic Rainforests for research and for the development of new works.

Finding the invisible. An international panel discussion including Dr Thuthula Balfour, Prof Janine Allen-Spies, Prof Peter Gelendinning, Mr Gerald Visagie, moderated by Dr Andre Rose. The panel discussion accompanied the two-person exhibition of Prof Janine Allen-Spies and Dr Andre Rose, titled Eureka. 18 August 2022, William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, South Africa.

Dr Adelheid von Maltitz is currently working on the international Absa L'Atelier exhibition, which will travel in November 2022 from Johannesburg to Nigeria, Ghana, and finally Bloemfontein during 2023. This exhibition is part of the Absa L'Atelier ambassador's award, which Dr Von Maltitz won in 2021.

In November 2022, Dr Adelheid von Maltitz exhibited in an international Absa L'Atelier exhibition in Johannesburg with two international artists, Ayobola Kekere-Ekun from Nigeria and Michael Jackson Blebo from Ghana. This show will be travelling to Bloemfontein, Lagos, and Accra during 2023.



Selected staff and postgraduate students participated in the NIROX Open Lab II Winter exhibition titled: Good Neighbours. This included Prof Janine Allen-Spies, Dr Adelheid von Maltitz, Lyrene Kühn-Botma, Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans, Bontle Tau, and Leon Witthuhn. Artists from South Africa participated along with artists from Botswana and Zimbabwe. Lyrene Kühn-Botma was appointed as the internal curator from the UFS; the title of the UFS cohort of artists' exhibition was Fluid Imaginaries. This exhibition was held at the NIROX Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa; the exhibition was on display in the NIROX sculpture park from 7 May to 31 August 2022.

Lyrene Kühn-Botma participated in the Lithographic Institute of Sweden's 2022 International Lithographic Symposium in Tidaholm, Sweden, with a lithographic print. The artworks were on display at the symposium from 23 July to 8 August 2022.

Department of Hebrew

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Kevin Chau, 'Lyric, Allusion, and Emotional Experience in Psalm 118.' Biblical Hebrew Poetry section of the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado (USA).

Kevin Chau, 'Lyric and Allusion in Psalm 118.' International Organisation for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) 24th Congress, Zurich, Switzerland. (Unable to present because of illness.)

Kevin Chau, 'Nature Metaphors and Memory in the Poems of the Pentateuch.' Invited presentation at the International Symposium: Perspectives on Nature and Environmental Ethics in the Pentateuch and the Deuteronomistic History, International Christian University, Tokyo (Japan).

TJ Makutoane and AS Motsei, 'A Comparison of Left Dislocation Constructions in Biblical Hebrew and Sesotho: Implications for Pedagogy and Linguistic Typology.' Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew section of the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado (USA).

Jacobus A Naudé and Cynthia L Miller-Naudé, 'The Translators of the Septuagint and Its/Their Theology'. Invited presentation at the international conference on *The Theology of the Septuagint*, sponsored by the University of Rostock and Stellenbosch University.

Jacobus A Naudé and Cynthia L Miller-Naudé, 'Are there black(ish) precious stones in the Hebrew Bible?' Invited paper to section 'The Language of Colour in the Bible: From Word to Image' at the conference of the European Association of Biblical Studies, Toulouse, France. 4 July 2022.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Tshokolo J Makutoane, 'A people divided by a common language': The orthography of Sesotho in Lesotho and South Africa and the implications for Bible translation. *HTS Theological Studies*.

Cynthia L Miller-Naudé and Jacobus A Naudé, 'Acrostic style and word order: an examination of macrostructural constraints and local syntax in the acrostic poem of Lamentations 3'. Like 'llu Are You Wise'': Studies in Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures in Honor of Dennis G. Pardee, edited by HH Hardy II, Joseph Lam, and Eric D Reymond. Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

Cynthia L Miller-Naudé and Jacobus A Naudé, 'The Revised Standard Version (1952) and its revisions as a linear emergence of the Tyndale-King James Version tradition', HTS Teologiese Studies/ Theological Studies 78(1), a7647. https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v78i1.7647.

Jacobus A Naudé, 'Emergence of the Tyndale-King James Version tradition in English Bible translation', HTS Teologiese Studies/ Theological Studies 78(1), a7649. https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v78i1.7649.

Jacobus A Naudé and Cynthia L Miller-Naudé, 'Unity and diversity in Qumran Hebrew: evidence from quantification'. In *Emerging Sectarianism in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Continuity, Separation, and Conflict.* Discoveries in the Judean Desert, 141. Edited by John J Collins and Ananda Geyser-Fouché. Leiden: Brill. pp. 78–115.

Jacobus A Naudé and Cynthia L Miller-Naudé, 'Generative Syntax and Septuagint Greek'. In *The Septuagint South of Alexandria*, edited by Johann Cook and Gideon Kotze, Vetus Testamentum Supplementum. Leiden: Brill / Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature.

Jacobus A Naudé and Cynthia L Miller-Naudé, 'Alternative revisions of the *American Standard Version* (1902) and retranslations within the Tyndale-King James Version Tradition'. *HTS Theological Studies*. 78(1), a7650.

https://doi. org/10.4102/hts.v78i1.7650.

Jacobus A Naudé and Cynthia L Miller-Naudé, 'Meaning-making processes in religious translation involving sacred space'. *Translation beyond Translation Studies*, edited by Kobus Marais. London: Bloomsbury.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The Department of Hebrew was one of the contributing departments to the international conference 'Transfers and Traversals: An Interdisciplinary Translation Studies Conference', which was hosted at the UFS on 1–2 December under the leadership of the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice. Dr TJ Makutoane has been invited to present the Beekman Memorial Lecture, a prestigious keynote address, at the BT (Bible Translation) Conference 2023 in Dallas, TX (USA).

Department of History

Dr Rebecca Swartz continued as Book Reviews editor for the journal *History of Education*, the flagship for the European Educational Research Association.

Prof Neo Ramoupi continued as a member of the Advisory Board of America's Voices Against Apartheid (AVAA).

Prof Chitja Twala presented a paper titled, 'Apartheid South Africa's 'Big Brother' syndrome against Leabua Jonathan of Lesotho, 1965–1986'. Paper presented at the History Seminar organised by the Holy Cross University, USA, (virtually presented), 30 November.

Prof Chitja Twala presented 'Differentiations and similarities in the nomenclature of 'paqama gates' along the Lesotho–South Africa border'. Paper presented at the Special Research Seminar hosted by the University of Southern Queensland, Australia, (virtually). 29 March.

Prof Chitja Twala and Prof John Aerni–Flessner from the Michigan State University. Prof Twala presented the paper titled: 'Lesotho and the Qwaqwa Ski Resort: border disputes, national sovereignty, and development in the apartheid era'. Paper presented at the Great Lakes History Conference hosted in conjunction with the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Midwest World History Association, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, 23 September (virtual presentation).

Dr Clement Masakure was invited to speak on his book, African nurses and everyday work in twentieth-century Zimbabwe, for the Global Friday Lectures.

Prof Chitja Twala was hosted by the Department of History at the University of Ghana, Accra from 27 June to 26 July 2022 and conducted research at the African Archives and Library at the University of Ghana.

Prof Chitja Twala presented a guest lecture in the Department of History, University of Ghana, Accra, 13 July. The title of the lecture was: 'Lingering in the shadows of history: the political life and writing of the PAC's Peter Nkutsoeu 'Rocks' Ruboroko'.

Odeion School of Music

Prof Dale Cockrell (Research Fellow, OSM) and Dr Suzanne Strauss (contract staff member) collaborated on a conference paper on South African country music – to be read at the South African Society for Research in Music's annual conference in August 2022.

Dr Anneke Lamont presented a paper at the 12th International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Cordoba, Spain, titled, 'Transcended texts: giving wings to words (in captivity)', in July 2022.

Léon Snyman presented a paper, 'The complex sum of simple parts: how *LV/xi* produces an immersive whole through simultaneous variation' at the inaugural IMA Maths in Music Conference hosted by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications at the Royal College of Music, London, from 13 to 15 July 2022.

Albertus Engelbrecht was approached to become an affiliate of the Black Opera Research Network.

Albertus Engelbrecht presented a research paper, 'Decolonising JS Bach's St John Passion: an autoethnographic inquiry of a dramatised production of the St John Passion in Soweto, South Africa', at the Transnational Opera Studies Conference at Bayreuth in June 2022.

Werner Stander was invited to contribute a chapter to the forthcoming book, *Q & A for MLT: Choral Music Perspectives on Music Learning Theory.* It will be published by GIA publications. The chief editor is Jill Reese.

Collaborations with the Office for International Affairs to obtain funding for international students from Africa. We are working on a proposal to become a DAAD In-country host institution.

Collaboration between Dr Matildie Wium and Dr Joseph Kunnuji, which includes the use of Gerhard Kubik's recordings archived at the Phonogrammarchiv, Austrian Academy of Sciences.



Research on the role of music in the Rwandan genocide by Dr Sharon de Kock and Dr Joseph Kunnuji. Dr Joseph Kunnuji presented at the Third Symposium of the ICTM Study Group on African Musics (online: 13–16 June 2022). Paper title: 'Expressions of modernist reformism in Avale: recontextualisation of traditional Badagry Ogu music'.

Dr Joseph Kunnuji presented online at the Sixth Annual Lagos Studies Association (LSA) Conference in Lagos State, Nigeria. Paper title: 'Tripartite antinomies in the workings of Gbokos in Lagos State, Nigeria'. Dr Joseph Kunnuji and Ms Jeanne-Louise Moolman presented at the 2022 American Viola Society (AVS) Festival and 47th International Viola Congress, 1–5 June 2022 in Columbus, GA, US. Paper title: 'Inclusivity through intercultural musical collaborations: Odeion Viola Quartet and Mangaung String projects explore African musical practices'.

Mr Leon Snyman presented a paper 'The complex sum of simple parts: how *LV/xi* produces an immersive whole through simultaneous variation' at the IMA (Institute of Mathematics and its Applications) Maths in Music Conference at the Royal College of Music, London; 13–15 July 2022.

A student, Ms Zani Ludick, in collaboration with Mr Wilben Pretorius and Dr Trudie Strauss, presented a paper 'Investigating the relationship between linguistic measures and self-similarity matrices in assessing musical structure' at the IMA (Institute of Mathematics and its Applications) Maths in Music Conference at the Royal College of Music, London; 13–15 July 2022.

Dr Matildie Wium contributed a chapter on English opera singer Adelaide Kemble (1815–1879) to the recently published *Opera Outside the Box: Notions of Opera in Nineteenth–Century Britain* (Routledge), edited by Roberta Montemorra–Marvin.

Department of Philosophy and Classics

Charles Villet

- Far-Right Populism and Fascism in the Global South (collaborative project across various South African and international universities).
- Philosophy and Violence: An African perspective (collaborative book project with scholars from across the world, contract with Springer in New York).
- The South African far-right and the (global) tale of white victimhood.
- Webinar: 'Contemporary Forms of Far-Right Populism and neo-Fascism, with particular attention to South Africa and the Global South', 29 and 30 September 2022.

Beukes, CJ

- Honorary Professor Johann Beukes (Department of Philosophy and Classics) was accepted in February 2022 as a member of the prestigious Groningen Centre for Late Medieval and Early Modern Thought (GCMEMT) at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in the Netherlands. He also is a member of the Center for the History of Philosophy and Science (CHPS) at Radboud University Nijmegen, since September 2019.
- Appointment: Resident Associate under European Directive 2016/801 at the Center for the History of Philosophy and Science (CHPS), Faculteit der Filosofie, Theologie en Religiewetenschappen, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, The Netherlands, from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2025.
- ATKV prize (second time in three years) for one of the four best annual Humanities research articles published in Afrikaans.

Olivier, G

- Co-editor of book in 'Cyber-century' series (titled Online Civilisation), to be published by Asher and Associates, USA. This entailed inviting national and international scholars to contribute to the book, which is still in process.
- Invitation by Olaf Recktenwald, the Canadian Editor of Montreal Architectural Review, to write a review essay for the journal on Paul Guyer's A Philosopher Looks at Architecture.
- Invitation by the editor of a book on Values, Prof Michael Welker (Germany) to contribute a chapter, titled: 'Contemporary media and the crisis of values'.
- Collaboration with international scholars on the project to publish an edited book on *Online Civilisation*, to be published by the Asher Group in the USA in 2023.

Raath. A

 Involved in international research projects on themes in religious philosophy. Frans Huisman and others.

Vanhoutte, KKP

- Continued collaboration with an international group of scholars on the philosophy of sports.
- Collaborating with the University of Vigo in Spain in the field of philosophy of literature.
- Continued collaboration with the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking (PICT).
- Currently working on a multifaceted research project analysing the contemporary implications of the ancient understanding of the concept of heresy at the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking (PICT).

Britz, RM

- Berliner Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Missionswissenschaft, Gesellschaft für die Geschichte des reformierten Protestantismus, Historisch Documentatiecentrum voor het Nederlands Protestantisme (1800-Heden) and the International Reformed Theological Institute.
- Visiting Professor: Theological University Kampen/Utrecht.
- Fellow in the Centre for Dutch Reformation History at the Theological University Kampen/Utrecht.
- Co-leading the Colloquim Historiae Ecclestiastica with Prof Erik de Boer. (Leading/mentoring/guiding a cluster of young upcoming researchers preparing to submit proposals at the Theological University.

Rossouw, JH

Lecture on mimesis between tradition and modernity: René Girard and Orhan Pamuk's The Museum of Innocence presented on 4 November 2022 on invitation of the organiser at the Madibaland World Literature Festival (3–5 November 2022), Richmond, Northern Cape.

Amiradakis, MJ

- The Culture Industry 2.0: A critical reconstruction and evaluation of the Adorno – Benjamin Debate in the Age of Digital Reproduction.
- SASCT 4 South African Society for Critical Theory: Fourth Annual Conference 16–19 November 2022 – Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Cawood, H

- A critical approach to urban wildlife photography as translation of solastalgia
- SASCT 4 South African Society for Critical Theory: 4th Annual Conference, 16–19 November 2022 – Potchefstroom, South Africa

Moyo, M

Chosen for an Africa Oxford (AfOx) Visiting Fellowship, 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 taking place during Trinity term, 1 May-30 June 2023.

Reconceptualising ecofascism in the Global South: an ecosemiotic approach to problematising marginalised nostalgic narratives.

Webinar: 'Contemporary Forms of Far-Right Populism and neo-Fascism, with particular attention to South Africa and the Global South', 29 and 30 September 2022.

Department of Political Studies and Governance

Prof Hussein Solomon: Following the signing of MoUs with the University of Haifa and the Russian Academy of Sciences, the department co-hosted an e-conference last year and an edited book appeared in December last year. The book was launched on 18 January 2022 at an event which was co-hosted by the department, the University of Haifa, and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

On 28 June 2022, another e-conference was co-hosted between the department, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Independent University of Banja Luka. This conference was titled 'Between Promise and Peril: African Security in the 21st Century'.

Prof Jude Cocodia from Niger Delta University and Prof Hussein Solomon are working on an edited book on African security, bringing colleagues together from both universities.

In the course of 2022, the Department of Political Studies and Governance strengthened a number of its collaborations, both internally and externally. Internationally, cooperation with the Russian Academy of Sciences continued, with the UFS hosting an online conference on African security on 25 June 2022.

A number of postgraduate online discussions were held between Niger Delta University and the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance in both semesters. The UFS hosted the Taiwanese Liaison Office in its webinar on the Future of Taiwan (4) November). Collaboration with partners at Jawaharlal Nehru University continued, especially at the level of supervision of doctoral students during their fieldwork. An MoU with the University of Banja Luka was signed, and members of the department actively participated in their international conference on 24 November. focusing on global security. The department also hosted academics from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, in a webinar on Ukraine, and also participated in various podcasts pertaining to Political Islam in the world with Charles University.

Department of Psychology

Prof JP Fouché

Worked with colleagues in the field of psychobiography from Germany, Hungary, United States of America, and Australia to produce articles and book chapters, as well as acting as invited guest editors in psychobiography to a special journal issue and two books by Springer (Palgrave).

This involved the following:

- Invited co-guest editor for Europe's Journal of Psychology (EJOP, published in late 2021) based in Cham, Switzerland. Author and/or co-author of five articles in this special issue on psychobiography. Fellow guest editors included: Prof C Mayer from the European University Viadrina, Germany; and Prof R van Niekerk from the Nelson Mandela University. Authors ranged from Fordham University in New York; Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary; to the University of Queensland in Australia.
- Co-guest editor with Prof M Mayer and R van Niekerk for a specially issued book on psychobiography by Springer/Palgrave. It was titled: Psychobiographical illustrations on meaning and identity in sociocultural contexts (published end of 2021). Wrote three chapters in conjunction with the co-guest editors. Authors ranged from Trinity College Dublin to the Training and Research Institute for Systematic Psychotherapy in Athens, Greece. There was also collaboration with the University of Warsaw and the University of Pécs in Hungary. Active working relations were established with Prof Virág Rabs and Prof Athena Androutsopoulou, who is also acting as external examiner of PhD students in Psychology.
- Co-guest editor for a new book in psychobiography by Springer/Palgrave, titled: Beyond WEIRD; Psychobiography in times of transcultural and transdisciplinary perspectives. The co-guest editors are from Germany (the European University Viadrina, Germany) and Fordham University in New York. Prof Joseph Ponterotto from the latter institution assisted a great deal with this collaboration process. Collaboration in chapter writing and publication of the book included psychobiographers from South Africa; USA; Greece; Hungary; and Poland. The collaborative effort has resulted in publication of this book in late 2022.

Dr Florence Tadi

- 1. MISC-CBO: A cluster randomised control trial to improve the mental health of OVC in South Africa.
- 2. Cultural Consensus Modelling to Identify Culturally Relevant Risk Factors for Suicide among Sesotho Youth in South Africa conditional approval. (GHREC); Applications for review (HSREC).

Dr Neo Pule

- 1. Appointed as Visiting Academic Fellow at the University of Central Lancashire for the period March 2022-April 2025. This appointment incorporates the establishment of the social dreaming research centre, a venture that was conceived in June 2022 during my visit to UCLan. Additionally, during this visit, I led a Decolonisation symposium, which has developed into a research project that is seeking ethical clearance at UCLan.
- 2. Working with National Institute of Organisation Dynamics Australia to co-author two papers on student leadership through the social dream drawing project. One has already been presented at the National Institute of Organisation Dynamics Australia symposium in September 2022 and is due for submission to the Socioanalysis journal. The proposal for the second has been accepted as part of a special issue in Frontiers in Psychology and is due for publication in November 2022.

Also participated in the following conferences:

- African Studies Association of Africa, April 2022
- National Institute of Organisation Dynamics Australia (NIODA), September 2022
- Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society, October 2022



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 Social Work

The Department of Social Work finalised the establishment of collaborations with Fulda University in Germany. We immediately initiated a student exchange programme that will see two of our undergraduate students visiting Fulda University for three months from October 2022. We are currently in engagements to establish staff collaborations between two universities.

Secondly, 15 of our students and one staff member will be participating in an online international course offered by Fulda University. The course will take place during their winter semester.

We are also pursuing relationships with Curtin University, Australia. We are at the preliminary stages to of establishing collaborations.

Department of Sociology

In collaboration with the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, University of Queensland, Australia, the Centre for Development Support and the Department of Sociology (UFS) are working on a research project on the post-disaster dynamics in Jagersfontein.

Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Establishment of the research project, Survey of South African Sign Language Place Names. Partly in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures. Some team members from other institutions are international experts in their fields.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

INCOMING

The Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French hopes to host a visiting Dutch lecturer in early 2023 as part of the 'gastdocentschap' initiatives of the Dutch Language Union. This is organised by the Suider-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Neerlandistiek, of which some lecturing staff in the department are also members.

OUTGOING

Dr Alison Stander has applied for a three-month exchange programme at KU Leuven, Belgium, in September. This is the result of a conference that Prof Van Niekerk attended in August 2022 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. A project partner, Prof L de Wachter (KU Leuven), has asked the department to identify a relevant staff member with a PhD to apply for this programme.

Department of African Languages

Research project: Multimedia digital corpus of siPhûthî by Drs Sheena Shah and Matthias Brenzinger.

External examiners: Motsei, AS, 2022. Serves as external examiner for MA degree: The Linguistic Analysis of the Sesotho Comparatives of Inequality. Department of African Languages and Literature, Faculty of Humanities, National University of Lesotho.

Department of Art History and Image Studies

Junior Lecturer, Mr Josef van Wyk, continued his PhD studies as a formally enrolled student 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. His co-supervisors at the University of Groningen are Prof Annie van den Oever (University of Groningen), Prof Nicholas Baer (University of Utrecht), and Prof Julian Hanich (University of Groningen); his supervisor at the University of the Free State is Prof Suzanne Human.

(Note: Plans are currently in place for Mr Van Wyk to spend the first of two required three-month periods at the University of Groningen (November 2022 to January 2023) for personal contact with his Dutch supervisors, connection with peers, and to formally present his research.)Lecturer Ms Johanet Kriel-de Klerk has also continued with her PhD studies as a formally enrolled student 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. Her supervisor at the University of Groningen is Prof Annie van den Oever, and her cosupervisors at the University of the Free State are Prof Suzanne Human and Prof Helene Strauss.

Prof Annie van den Oever continued her consultation and collaboration with the department in her capacity as extraordinary professor in our department. This year, she visited the UFS from 4 to 8 April 2022, with her stay including 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.

Dr Maarten Coëgnarts (University of Antwerp) was appointed as a new research fellow in the department. Dr Coëgnarts specialises in intersections between cinema and cognitive science, is a prolific researcher, and adds a valuable perspective to our department.

Drs Nikita Mathias (Munch Museum, Oslo) and Dr Francis Halsall (National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland) also remained research fellows of the department.

Department of English

Prof R Makombe: Visiting scholar at the University of Michigan under the University of Michigan Presidential Scholarship Programme, 3 August 2022 to 20 December 2022.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Nadine Lake: Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and Key Action 1: Teaching and Training mobility for staff at the Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain.

Centre for Health Systems Research and Development

Prof Joerg Szarzynski (Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) Programme, United Nations University) visited DiMTEC and the CHSR&D on 3 March 2022 for the purpose of co-promoting Ms Mariëtte Joubert's interdisciplinary PhD (Department of Social Work, UFS) in Disaster Management and Health Systems Studies together with Dr A Ncube (DiMTEC – supervisor) and Prof JC Heunis (co-supervisor).

Dr Raymond Tweheyo from the School of Public Health, Makerere University and a Research Associate at the CHSR&D, visited the CHSR&D from 3 to 14 October. Besides networking, he participated in data analysis for a continuous joint project with Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male. He also presented a lecture on 'Evaluating the 18-month pilot of the national Community Health Extension Worker Strategy in Uganda: The nexus of Implementation Science and Health Systems Research'. Together with staff of the CHSR&D, he submitted a proposal for international funding, which was unfortunately not successful due to the highly competitive nature of the call. He is also in the process of submitting another proposal for funding to the National Institute for Health and Care Research in partnership with the staff of the CHSR&D.

Department of Communication Science

The Institute for Media and Creative Industries at Loughborough University, London, UK, hosted Dr Mthobeli Ngcongo in September 2022.

Plans are underway for Prof Nyasha Mboti to visit Loughborough University, London, UK, to give talks on Apartheid Studies to PhD students in the Institute for Media and Creative Industries in early 2023.

Plans are underway for Prof Nyasha Mboti to visit the University of Lagos, Nigeria, in the first semester of 2023, and to host the Head of Department of Mass Media and Communication at the University of Lagos at the UFS in the second semester of 2023.

Department of Fine Arts

A visiting Fulbright scholar, Prof Peter Glendinning from the Massachusetts State University in the United States of America, came to the University of the Free State to exhibit a project initiated in 2019, titled *Attached to the Soil*. Prof Glendinning is working in collaboration with five South African universities, including the University of Pretoria.

The UFS Gallery and the Department of Fine Arts hosted Prof Glendinning during his visit and exhibition opening/walkabout. Prof Glendinning presented a two-hour workshop to Fine Arts students and participated in many departmental activities, such as critique sessions, postgraduate seminars, and exhibition openings.

Prof Glendinning also participated in a panel discussion on an exhibition by Prof Allen-Spies from the University of the Free State and Dr André Rose, an affiliated artist and public health expert.

Department of Hebrew

Dr Jean-Claude Loba-Mkole, a Global Translation Adviser with the United Bible Societies based in Nairobi, Kenya, visited the Department of Hebrew for two weeks in September 2021. He also presented a paper at the Septuagint Society of South Africa's conference at Stellenbosch University on 7 September 2022.

Department of Psychology

Dr NP (Neo) Pule: Hosted by the University of the West of England, UK, and the Centre for Psychosocial Studies as part of the British Council Newton Researcher Link Travel Grant and the NRF Black Academic Advancement Programme. May-July 2022.

Department of Sociology

Visiting Professor from the University of Education Freiburg, from 7 October 2022 to 6 November 2022. Prof Albert Scherr will be hosted by the Department of Sociology in Qwaqwa. He will host seminars with undergraduate students, present his work at the department's speaker series, and act as critical reader for the writing retreat hosted by the Faculty of The Humanities in Qwaqwa.

Department of Social Work

A staff member visited Fulda University in Germany under the staff exchange programme.

Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Establishment of the research project, Survey of South African Sign Language Place Names. Partly in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures. Some team members from other institutions are international experts in their fields.

Odeion School of Music

Marius Coetzee convened and produced the IV OSM International Liesbeth Schlumberger Organ Chair, which took place 26–31 August 2022.

Marius Coetzee initiated and facilitated the participation of violinist Charlotte Potgieter, Principal of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra as instructor, mentor, and performer for the first Young Virtuosi Chamber Collective, presented in October 2022.

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

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

On average, eight students per year enrol for the international exam for Dutch as foreign language, *CNaVT*. All students who wrote the exam in May 2022 passed.

Dr Barkhuizen taught two eight-hour seminars in Nice, France, at the *Francophonia* Summer University for French teachers. The seminars focused on the use of generating subtitles in the foreign language classroom to enhance interculturality and language enhancement techniques for foreign language learners.

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

Department of African Languages

Lecturer: Dr EN Malete

- Guest editor: Special section in the South African Journal of African languages (SAJAL) allocated for the celebration of Dr KPD Maphalla's literary works.
- Elected as Chairperson of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA) from 2023 to 2025.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Mr Prince Muzuva, a PhD student in CGAS, was one of the few students selected for the three-month Ghent University (Belgium) Short Stay Research Fellowship from 18 April to 14 July 2022.

Centre for Health Systems Research and Development

Invited lecture delivered:

Heunis JC (CHSR&D, UFS), Malakoane B (Department of Community Health, UFS), Ncube A (DiMTEC, UFS) & Joubert M (Department of Community Health, UFS). Improving public health, social work and disaster management systems to mitigate vulnerabilities: the need for whole-system reform in the Free State, South Africa. MSc Programme on Global Health Risk Management and Hygiene Policies, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), United Nations University. Virtual, 19 May 2022.

Department of Criminology

Prof Peacock participates annually as guest lecturer in the Criminology, Victimology and Criminal Law programme of the Niederhein University of Applied Sciences in Germany. During the week of 23 March 2022, Prof Peacock presented lectures on the topics of Interrelationships between victimisation and the identity process, Content and structure of the adolescent, and Critical reflections on the needs of victims of crime and abuse of power, access to justice and victim empowerment.

Prof Peacock is a member of the international Research Line on Political Crimes, Human Rights and Human Security of KU Leuven (Belgium), with activities beneficial to the specialisation areas of transitional justice and victimology in particular, also with reference to doctoral studies and appraisals conducted within transitional contexts worldwide.

Laura Vanduffel from the Catholic University of Leuven presented a guest lecture to our first-year Criminology students on the topic of *Prison Violence* and *Southern Criminology* on 2 August 2022.

Prof Peacock serves as an international faculty resource member of the Eastern European Postgraduate course (Dubrovnik), and during the period 6–28 May 2022 presented on the topic of decolonising justice to a select group of international students on occasion of the XXXVI Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice postgraduate course, hosted by the Inter-University Centre for Advanced Studies.

In advancing praxis, Prof Peacock contributed to the development of model legislative provisions to support and protect the needs and rights of victims of terrorism and attended the launch of the model provisions convened by the UN_OCT and partners on 23 February 2022.

Prof Peacock enjoyed Special Observer and Delegate status and participated in the 31st session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), Vienna, 16–20 May 2022. The commission acts as the principal policy–making body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Prof Peacock has been appointed as senior editor of the journal *Global Advances in Victimology and Psychological Studies* with its unique regional and global reach and scope.

Global transgender activist Ms Jessica Lynn presented a guest lecture to our postgraduate students on 11 August 2022, from her personal experiences and expert knowledge about what it means to live one's life as transgender in a victimising cisnormative world.

Mr Jean-Paul Pophaim and Ms Kelebogile Olivier published an opinion article in *Business Ghana* (5 October 2022) on raising hope and awareness for the homeless. This was followed by a radio interview by Mr Pophaim on *Radio Islam* on the same topic. Ms Kelebogile published an opinion piece in *The African* (28 September 2022) on parenting a child with a hearing impairment in a safe environment.

As an international resource faculty member, Prof Peacock lectured on the 18th Asian Postgraduate programme of Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice at O.P. Jindal Global University (India: 10–21 October 2022).

Prof Peacock was also invited by the Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law in India to present a public lecture to all members of faculty on the topic of LQBTQI+ identity and hate crimes (India: 14 October 2022).

Department of Drama and Theatre Arts

In September 2022 (16–18 September), Banele Khoza, a South African-born visual artist now residing in France, was part of a joint Arts Entrepreneurship Workshop Programme hosted by all Arts departments in the faculty. He addressed students on marketing a project or the artist him-/herself. His address also focused on presenting an artistic idea and leaving a global social footprint. This is an important development in the renewed focus on the Arts Management course for all arts students.

Department of English

Dr Susan Brokensha (as senior programme coordinator of the proposed MA (TESOL) qualification): The proposed degree (Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) has been benchmarked against the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) in the United States and the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. The programme has been approved thus far at the level of the University of the Free State's Academic Committee. Benchmarking was done in collaboration with Dr Jillian Haeseler, currently the Director of English as a Second Language in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dr Susan Brokensha

Collaboration with Dr Willfred Greyling from the Waikato Institute of Technology in New Zealand, culminating in a publication:

Brokensha, S, Conradie T and Greyling, W. 2022. 'I did not know that there were problems': Government officials' blame avoidance strategies in the Life Esidimen Arbitration Hearings. *Text & Talk* (de Gruyter).

Dr Colleen du Plessis

Co-authored a book chapter related to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The book developed from the attendance of a symposium in New York in 2016, and further collaboration with the Study Group on Language and the United Nations, an independent group of scholars and practitioners on matters related to language and education. The book is scheduled to be published before the end of 2022. Collaboration with Study Group on Language and the United Nations – contribution of book chapter scheduled for publication at the end of 2022.

Prof Helene Strauss

Continuing work with the 'Reworlding Research Collective' (UFS, Brock University, McMaster University, Concordia University) towards curricular and pedagogical renewal accountable to the human and planetary vulnerabilities of a post-COVID world. One of the aims of the collective is to develop 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. Currently implementing collaborative embodied pedagogies in third-year seminar, and preparing paper titled 'Breathing with trees: towards decolonial embodied learning.'

Core Organising Team: Association for Cultural Studies Virtual Lecture Series, 2021 to present. Speaker list in 2022 includes: Mehdi Semati (February); Mark Anthony Neal (March); Danai Mupotsa (April); and Fan Yang (August).

Critical Arts, Article Review, May 2022

Oliver Nyambi

Independent reviewer – University of Namibia Press Peer reviewer for the following journals: African Studies Review; Journal of Asian and African Studies; Nomina Africana; National Identities; Africa Review; Journal of International Migration.

Department of Hebrew

International Engaged Scholarship:

Dr KD Chau, Steering Committee for Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium (Society of Biblical Literature [Annual Meeting] Affiliate)

Dr KD Chau, Co-Chair for Steering Committee for Biblical Hebrew Poetry (Society of Biblical Literature [Annual Meeting]).

Prof CL Miller-Naudé, co-chair of the steering committee of the 'Biblical Hebrew Language and Linguistics' programme unit of the International Society of Biblical Literature.

Prof CL Miller-Naudé, co-editor of the series Linguistics Studies in Ancient West Semitic, published by Pennsylvania State University Press (USA)

Prof CL Miller-Naudé, 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)

Prof JA Naudé, member of editorial board, *Handbook* of *Translation Studies*

Prof JA Naudé, member of advisory board, *Handbook* of *Terminology*

Prof JA Naudé, member of the editorial board, *The Bible Translator*

Prof JA Naudé, member of editorial board, Folia Orientalia

Prof JA Naudé, member of advisory board, National Association of Professors of Hebrew (USA)

Prof JA Naudé, member of international advisory board, Journal of Translation Studies in Africa

Odeion School of Music

Collaboration between Mr Albertus Engelbrcht and Eva Mei from the Academia del Maggio Musicale (Florence) with guidance on advancing vocal students of the Odeion School of Music.

Dr Anchen Froneman is part of the faculty of the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies' New Pathways certification programme. She joins faculty at LIMS New York to teach the online-based programme to students from Equador, the USA, Canada, Uganda, and South Africa. In January 2022, she taught the South African in-studio week with colleagues from South Africa and Uganda, as the students completed the second tier of the New Pathways Programme. The third tier commenced in March 2022 and were completed by another instudio week in July 2022.

Dr Danre Strydom is the chair for Africa – International Clarinet Association.

Dr Danre Strydom was on the jury for the ICA clarinet competition.

Dr Danre Strydom was a practical examiner at the University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

The First International Woodwind Competition was held at the OSM under the auspices of Dr Danre Strydom.

Marius Coetzee assisted Dr Strydom with broadcasting, marketing, and publicity for the First International Wind Competition hosted by the OSM in October 2022.

Department of Political Studies and Governance

Prof Hussein Solomon: Served as external examiner for PhD candidates at the University of Otago (New Zealand) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (India).

Following the signing of an MoU with Niger Delta University, online engagements brought together MA and PhD students.

Department of Psychology

Dr NP (Neo) Pule: Collaborated with the Black South West Network – Bristol on the Research Charter. The charter foregrounds collaborative and co-productive research of academics. My role, as requested by the network, was to offer research expertise consultation and advice on the development of the charter, as well as working together with the network on the development of the charter.

Department of Sign Language and Deaf Studies

To better emulate global standards of sign language transcription, linguistics students are trained to use the Eudico Linguistic Annotation software (ELAN) from the Max Planck institute of Psycholinguistics. Those who choose to pursue research in sign linguistics are better equipped to manage and present sign data.

Department of Social Work

Fifteen students and one staff member participated in an online international course offered by Fulda University. The course took place during the winter semester.

The department is pursuing relationships with Curtin University, Australia.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

On average, six international students (visiting the UFS) per year enrol for the conversational short learning programme in Afrikaans as foreign language. Students on the UFS Bloemfontein Campus attend the SLP twice per week for 13 weeks in semester 1 and separately in semester 2. These students receive a UFS SLP certificate upon successful completion of the programme.

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Mushonga has maintained close links with two universities he has worked for in the past 20 years or so. As a result, it has been easy to recruit from these countries (Zimbabwe and Lesotho). This was the case for all international students applying for SAQA evaluation.

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.

Megan Braithwaite, a PhD Hebrew student, was invited to present her thesis research at the international conference on *The Theology of the Septuagint*, sponsored by the University of Rostock (Germany) and Stellenbosch University. Her presentation was on 'Guilt and Blame in Targum Lamentations and Other Ancient Translations'.



Nebeyou Alemu, an MA Bible Translation student from Ethiopia, presented two papers at the Society of Biblical Literature annual conference in Denver, CO (USA):

'The status of the Biblical Canon of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church' in the session on Ethiopic Bible and Literature; and 'Apocalyptic Ecology: reading the Revelation of John in Contemporary Africa' in the session on African Biblical Hermeneutics.

Mulugeta Hailu Lefebo, an international student from Ethiopia, received his MA Bible Translation qualification at the December graduation ceremony.

Department of Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Recruitment of a postdoctoral research fellow to participate in the Survey of South African Sign Language Place Names. The position is also open to international candidates, and has been advertised on the UFS vacancies page and other UFS channels (e.g. the Centre for Graduate Support social media and other platforms), internally on the Digest, via professional platforms (e.g. newsletters of associated academic associations). A paid advertisement will also be placed on the premium linguistics platform, LinguistList.

Department of Social Work

The department is actively campaigning to have international postgraduate students.

Unit for Professional Training and Service in the Behavioural Science

Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between KU Leuven, Belgium on behalf of its Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences and the UFS.

Renewal of the Implementation Programme through the Faculty of The Humanities and with reference to the internship exchange programme at the Unit for Professional Training and Service in the Behavioural Sciences (UNIBS).

PARTNERSHIPS

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

Dr Barkhuizen accompanied Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Francis Petersen, to the South African French Research Week in Paris and Montpellier France. The aim of the week was to seek out partnerships in research and student exchanges between South African and French universities and research institutions.

Department of Communication Science

Discussions have begun on a research partnership with the Department of Mass Communication at the University of Lagos.

Department of Drama and Theatre Arts

In May 2022 (9-13 May), Dr Senem Cevher from the Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey, visited the department for a series of lectures and a workshop on Turkish theatre, storytelling, improvisation, and shadow theatre. The workshop consisted of two lectures on the Art and History of Meddahism, Turkish Shadow Theatre, and Kagagoz depictions. The work sessions for third-year, honours, and master's students in Theatre-Making and Acting, on storytelling, improvisation, and shadow theatre were conducted over three days. It was initiated by the International Erasmus Staff Teaching Programme. Further collaboration has already been established for 2023. The programme for the return from the UFS via the Erasmus project is in process. Mr Dion van Niekerk was in Istanbul for the first of the collaborations between the departments. His input was on South African theatre-making trends.

Odeion School of Music

Dr Frelet de Villiers is a mentor of the Mountain-to-Mountain mentorship programme – a collaboration between the UFS and Appalachian State University. She visited Boon in June 2022 as part of this programme. They are planning a next collaboration and mentorship programme.

Newly signed MOU Erasmus+ KA 171 between Odeion School of Music and Artesis Plantijn University College of Antwerp (AP Hogeschool Antwerp). Areas of cooperation include exchange of students, exchange of teaching and/or administrative staff, development of collaborative research and other types of projects, and other activities mutually agreed by the partner institutions.

Agreement between KASK (Belgium) and Dr Danre Strydom to supervise master's students.

MoU in progress between the University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands) and Dr Danre Strydom.



Department of Political Studies and Governance

This year, a new MoU was signed with the Independent University of Banja Luka.

Department of Sociology

An MoU between the University of Education Freiburg and the Department of Sociology has been signed at a virtual signing ceremony on 31 October 2021. The collaboration between the two universities entails knowledge exchange, where staff and postgraduate student exchanges will take place.

In addition, postgraduate supervision and external examination between the two institutions will be considered.

Department of Social Work

The MoU between UFS and Fulda University has been renewed.

Department of 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 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.

Unit for Professional Training and Service in the Behavioural Sciences

Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between KU Leuven, Belgium, on behalf of its Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences and the University of the Free State, South Africa.

Renewal of the Implementation Programme through the Faculty of The Humanities and with reference to the internship exchange programme in the Unit for Professional Training and Service in the Behavioural Sciences (UNIBS).

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

Department of Criminology

Internationalisation, Africanisation, and decolonisation are considered complementary processes that provide for scientific education interventions, crosscultural communication, innovation, and international benchmarking to ultimately ensure best practices in order to advance inclusive and equitable quality education and global citizenship by adding global, intercultural, or international elements into the content of the curriculum.

Drama and Theatre Arts

Dr Vincent Mantsoe, Noa Company Vincent Mantsoe Association, France

In March 2022 (22–25 March), Dr Vincent Mantsoe – internationally acclaimed dancer and choreographer – presented a week–long workshop on the process of dance or movement. The process is an essential part of re–education on 'the spirit of dance' and a rebalancing of the past with the present through which the interdependence of man and nature is revealed. Movement and Theatre–making students attended the workshop, which provided them with the opportunity to work with their bodies through a new performance aesthetics that is rooted in a fusion of Asian martial arts and African dance.

Dr Chris Vorster, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania In February 2022 (10-28 February), Dr Chris Vorster was invited as a guest lecturer to the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, where he lectured multiple sessions on theatre, film, and broadcasting, focusing on his practical experience as an actor, director, and writer in the South African theatre and television industries. The lecturing series included the presentation of two workshops as well as guest lectures: one of the workshops involved the Broadcast Production students, and the observation of Pitt to the Point, a one-hour live weekly broadcast completely produced by students in the broadcast track. A second workshop was conducted with the University of Pittsburgh's Film Production students. Dr Vorster also appeared as a guest on Pitt Tonight, a monthly live evening entertainment programme produced by UPTV students. In addition, during his visit he participated as a guest lecturer in a Broadcast-2 class, a Film-2 class, and an Elements of Screenwriting class.

Following Dr Vorster's visit to Pittsburgh, two lecturers were in turn invited to the University of the Free State to present lectures:

On 14 March 2022, broadcasting specialist Lisa Johnson presented a lecture to UFS Drama and Film students on the challenges of being a female in a male-dominated industry. She also spoke about the American youth and reflected on her positive view of the youth and why she has high hopes for this generation. Her lecture stemmed from the initial collaboration and connected the American with South African theatre and film experiences.

On 18 March 2022, Karen Gilmer also shared aspects of her professional knowledge and experience in intimacy choreography. Students and lecturers from the Department of Drama actively engaged with Ms Gilmer during her session, which ignited excitement for this unexplored subject, as it opens up new job opportunities in South Africa. A director on the South African soap opera *Suidooster* also joined the session and shared the content with her colleagues at Homebrew Studios in Cape Town.

Department of Hebrew

The Department of Hebrew has partnered with the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice to present a colloquium at the university for International Translator's Day (30 September 2022) in commemoration of the decipherment of the Rosetta Stone. The Rosetta Stone unlocked the knowledge of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, the earliest written script in Africa.

Odeion School of Music

The newly developed African Music module (MUMB4808) by Dr Joseph Kuunuji, which will be implemented in 2023, includes studies in musical practices from the five regions of Africa, namely Southern, East, West, Central, and North Africa.



Department of Political Studies and Governance

Internationalisation lies at the core of this department - this is seen in the curriculum, with modules such as International Law and Organisation, International Political Economy, and the like. Two Visiting Professors who have been appointed in the department – Prof Glen Segell (Haifa University) and Prof Arno Tausch (Vienna) – are also lending an international flavour to this department as they interact with students and speak at webinars. In addition, research fellows such as Prof Jude Cocodia (Nigeria), Dr Mahlakeng Khosi Mahlakeng (Lesotho), and Dr Fanie Herman (Taiwan) all have a positive impact on the department's profile. Various webinars were hosted, which were also attended by students, with speakers emanating from the diplomatic corps, such as the Ambassador of Israel, the Ukrainian Military Attaché, and various international scholars.

Department of Psychology

Student research in psychobiographical studies has been undertaken from more international, intercultural, and transdisciplinary perspectives. One such example is the chapter to appear in *Beyond WEIRD: Psychobiographies* about Miriam Makeba, who was studied from an integrated African psychology perspective (IAPP), which is both transcultural, interdisciplinary, and intercultural in approach.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

Department of Psychology

The research undertaken by the Department of Psychology is actual and internationally relevant, and has led to more international publications, such as books and articles on accredited platforms, such as Scopus, ISBN, and the Norwegian platform, which leads to an increase in the h-indexes of researchers.

Centre for Health Systems Research and Development

A pre-PhD student is jointly supervised by Prof Katinka de Wet (Department of Sociology/Centre for Digital Futures) and Dr Raymond Tweheyo (Makerere University/CHSR&D).

Centre for Gender and Africa Studies

Dr Stephanie Cawood

Collaborated on hybrid international conference in collaboration with the War Museum, Bloemfontein, on the theme, 'The Unsung Heroines and Youth of South Africa: Violent Histories and Experiences of South African Women and Children during Wars, Conflicts, and Pandemics'.

Invited to participate in workshop on Teaching Africa/ Teaching African Studies at the Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen, 8–9 December 2022, as well as a public round-table discussion on PhD-level education. Participants came from all over the world, including Denmark, South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sweden, Finland, the USA, etc. This workshop was the first step in future collaboration, as the way forward will include a joint international conference as well as publications.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga

Keynote address to the History Teachers Association of Zimbabwe and the Ministry of Education and Training Conference, 26–27 August 2022, held in Harare, Zimbabwe. Title of address: The 21st Century History Teacher/Lecturer: Unlearning, Relearning, and the Reconstitution of the Destituted.

Dr Juliet Kamwendo

Participated in Eighth International Conference of the South African Development Studies Association at the University of Botswana, Gaborone, 17–19 October 2022. Title of presentation: 'Looking beyond the horizon and join the dots in the quest to redress the prevalence of gender-based violence in South Africa'.

Unit for Professional Training and Service in the Behavioural Sciences

Workshop offered to postgraduate students, interns, and staff by Prof Koen Luyckx, KU Leuven, Belgium, on 4 October 2022.

Internationally accredited training workshop offered by the Schema Therapy Institute to postgraduate students, interns, and staff from 24 to 27 October 2022.





Dean Prof John Mubangizi



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator Dr Catherine S Namakula

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Albert Nell, 'A rhetorical reading of self-other polarities in counsel arguments made before the trials of major criminals at Nuremberg and Tokyo', (2022) Journal of International Criminal Justice.

Catherine S Namakula, Fair Trial Rights and Multilingualism in Africa: Perspectives from Comparable Jurisdictions (published in September 2022 by Routledge).

Fifth International Conference on the Right to Development in Africa presented at the UFS in October 2022, hosted by the FSCHR, with participants from 30 different countries attending/participating.

Prof S de Freitas is a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal for Religious Freedom (IJRF) (since 2011).

Dr Marda Horn visited the library of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, Germany, from 1 to 31 August 2022 to conduct postdoctoral research. She succeeded in accessing sources pertaining to research done in other countries on the legal phenomenon similar to sectional titles in South Africa, as well as sources that deal with property principles in general. These sources are quite unique and most of them are not available in South Africa.

Dr Horn furthermore accessed a number of articles on the 'numerus clausus' principle of a closed system of limited real rights that is practised in civil law countries. As a result of this, she conceptualised a research output in which she explored this concept and compared it to the open system that is followed in South African law in order to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the different systems. The aim was to complete this output by the end of the first semester of 2023.

A research grant was received for a seminar series funded by the Urban Studies Foundation, in collaboration with international scholars and host institutions. The Urban Studies Foundation is a Scottish charitable organisation founded in 2008. Its aim and objectives include advancing academic research and education in the field of urban studies.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Prof Danie Brand delivered a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association in Lisbon, Portugal (July 2022).

Dr De Man presented a paper at the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Constitutional Law in Windhoek, Namibia.

Dr De Man and Dr Kamga presented papers at the fifth annual International Conference on the Right to Development in Africa, in Bloemfontein, South Africa (October 2022).

Prof Mubangizi:

Attended and presented a paper at the Annual Human Rights Conference (Artificial Intelligence, Government, Corporation and Human Rights) in Florence, Italy, 26 and 27 May 2022.

Attended and presented a paper at the Third International Conference on Governance and Service Delivery in Developing Economies (Sustainable Service Delivery: Partnerships and Innovations), at the Uganda Management Institute, Kampala, Uganda, 25–27 October 2022.

Attended the International Association of Law Schools (IALS) 2022 Global Law Deans' Forum and the 2022 Annual Meeting held at the University of Oxford (Pembroke College), United Kingdom, 26–29 September 2022.

Dr Prince Sarpong:

2022 Financial Therapy Association Conference (Denver, Colorado).

Paper: 'Exploring the Unintended Psychological Implications of Black Tax'.

Dr Catherine Namakula:

Reporting to the General Assembly:

On Monday 31 October 2022 – as Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent – Dr Namakula presented the annual report titled 'Children of African descent' to the third committee of the General Assembly at the UN Headquarters during General Assembly 77. The presentation emphasised the plight of children of African descent, including the law being in conflict with them. Dr Namakula met privately with other heads of UN agencies, including UNICEF, UN Women, and the leadership of the World Council of Churches. They discussed human rights-based approaches to programming towards mainstreaming racial justice in their work.

Reporting to the Human Rights Council:

As Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Dr Namakula presented three reports to the Human Rights Council on 30 September 2022, including the annual report on Children of African descent and two reports, following official country visits by the working group to Portugal and Switzerland.

Participation in the 73rd session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rigts Monday 17 to Saturday 22 October 2022. Dr Namakula led the delegation of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, who attended the 73rd ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. The delegation attended the Forum for Non–Governmental Organisations (also known as the NGO Forum) and the Forum for the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), the two key events preceding the session of the commission. The NGO Forum is a dialogue that precedes the ordinary session of the commission. It attracts participation from civil society across the African continent.

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was afforded an opportunity to conduct a panel discussion on the International Decade for People of African Descent. In attendance were four commissioners of the ACHPR, including the Chairperson of the commission. Dr Namakula's statement to the NGO Forum raised awareness of the opportunities and need for engagement by Africa's civil society in the work of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, and the UN's anti-racism machinery. She alluded to the continuing process of drafting the 'Declaration on People of African Descent' to which they could contribute African perspectives. Dr Namakula also alluded to the significant role of civil society in documenting and providing the narratives of vulnerable victims. She drew attention to the precarious situation of victims of contemporary forms of enslavement, torture, and exploitation in the Middle East and Gulf States. Dr Namakula also raised the need for the work on Africa's reparations agenda to commence urgently, with a view to documenting Africa's claim and establishing the requisite normative framework and institutional structures. She invited participants to a side event during the Ordinary Session on 21 October 2022 – the talks on Africa's reparations agenda. Work is underway for the Faculty of Law of the University of the Free State to anchor the academic alliance for Africa's reparations agenda.

On the second day of the sitting of the commission (22 October 2022), Dr Namakula – as Chairperson of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent – delivered a statement on the state of human rights in Africa's diaspora. She welcomed the commission's willingness to integrate work on human rights in Africa's diaspora into the commission's mandate, and raised four significant areas of concern, as well as mutual cooperation between the working group and the commission. Included in this regard were pushbacks on migration and racialised border policing, contemporary forms of enslavement of Africans and people of African descent, facilitation of citizenship and identity documentation for Africans in the diaspora, and the work on Africa's reparations agenda.

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

The Faculty of Law has introduced a course in international criminal law to be taught as part of the LLB in the coming year.

Prof Brand was international co-supervisor for a doctoral student from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (FUMG), Belo Horizonte, Brazil, together with Prof Maria Fernanda Salcedo of FUMG.

The School of Financial Planning Law (SFPL) uses a UK-based company (SYNAP) for examination purposes. This is an online examination programme, as all the SFPL programmes are online, and the examinations takes more than four hours to write.

Prof Mariette Reyneke was involved in the COIL project together with The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THUAS) in the Netherlands, working on the realisation of children's rights during the COVID-19 pandemic. The students investigated and reflected on the services provided by NGOs to ensure the realisation of children's rights. This was a comparative study that investigated the responses of NGOs to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Prof Mariette Reyneke also worked with THUAS on a project on children's rights in the module EDLA 6804 (Educational Law).

PARTNERSHIPS

Memorandum of Understanding concluded with the Human Rights and Peace Centre of Makerere University, Uganda.

Memorandum of Understanding initiated with the Faculty of Law of the Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia, concluded in early 2023.

Memorandum of Understanding initiated with Ohio State University, USA, concluded in early 2023.

Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Makeni, Sierra Leone.

MOU with the Gujarat National Law University, India.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The faculty is in the process of developing a postgraduate marketing and recruitment strategy.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

To find out what internationalisation meant for the Faculty of Law, roadshows were held between November and December 2022. This makes it easier to determine the internationalisation priorities and goals that the faculty shares, so that a faculty internationalisation strategy and action plans can be created.

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

The newly approved LLB curriculum contains several international and multicultural dimensions taught in the following modules: Public International Law, International Criminal Law, International Economic Law, and Private International Law.

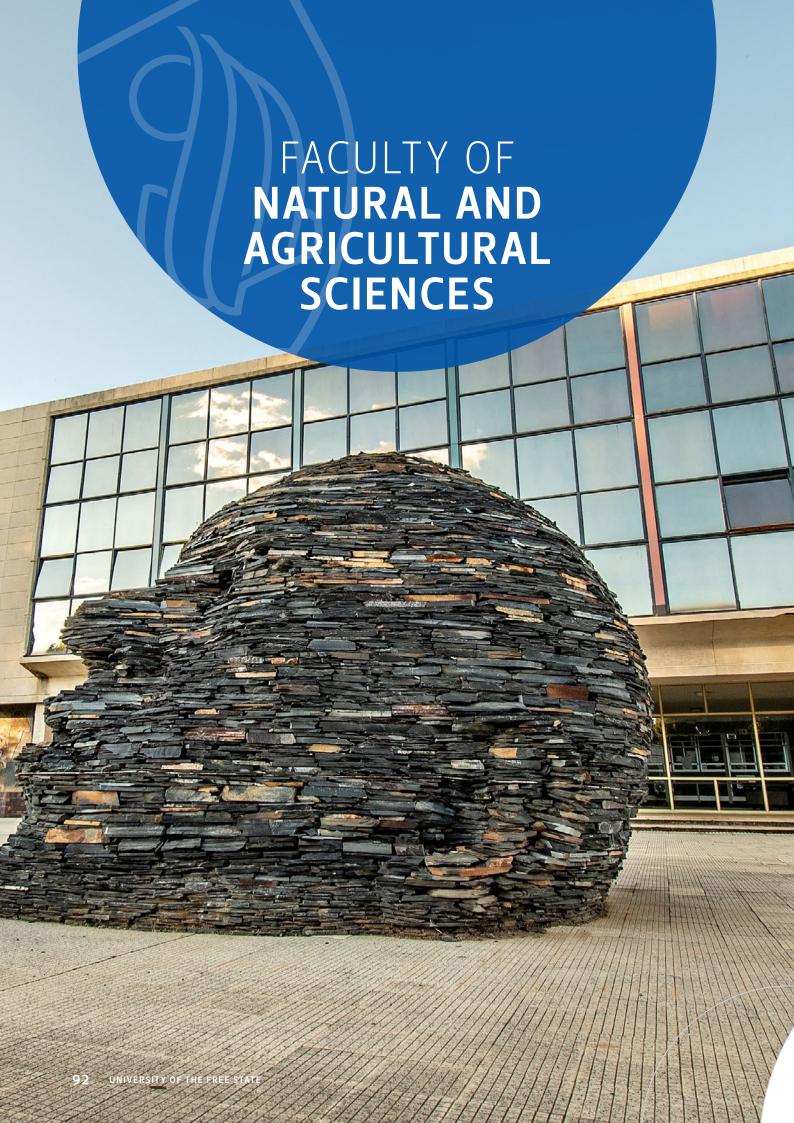
SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONALISATION

The UFS Law Clinic has identified three potential international partners at the GAJE Worldwide International Conference, which include:

- the Open University United Kingdom;
- Missouri Western State University United States of America; and
- Africa University Zimbabwe.

Dr Prince Sarpong became a member of the Equity and Inclusion (E & I) Committee of the Financial Therapy Association (FTA). The FTA is a professional body of financial therapists based in the United States.







Dean Prof Danie Vermeulen



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator Prof Maléne Campbell

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Centre For Environmental Management

Prof Olusola Ololade is serving as a Lifetime Fellow Member of the International Society for Development and Sustainability (ISDS) in Japan.

Dr Falko Buschke is on the scientific committee of the International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB), the biennial conference of the Society for Conservation Biology. He is a member of the Review College of the British Ecological Society (a committee that reviews grant applications for the society), and also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Commission on Ecosystem Management, particularly for the Impact Mitigation and Ecological Compensation (IMEC) working group. Dr Buschke is on the editorial board of the journal Conservation Biology, which is the journal of the international Society for Conservation Biology.

Dr Marinda Avenant had international collaboration with Dr Dirk Jungmann, Chair of Limnology, Institute of Hydrobiology at the Technical University of Dresden; Dr Hilmar Boernick, Institute of Water Chemistry, Technical University of Dresden.

Through *Prof Paul Oberholster*, the UFS is involved in a collaborative project with the CSIR and four Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, titled 'Alternative low-cost solution to rural sewage wastewater treatment using phycoremediation'. The aim of the study is to reduce the health risks that wastewater treatment works (WWTWs) pose to communities, and to reduce poverty through innovation. The project involves participation by local communities to assess and reduce health risks, and cooperation with local governments to assess and implement options. The objectives also include improving the operational efficiency of pond-based WWTWs, implementing biotic cultures in pond systems to reduce pathogens and nutrients, developing operational guidelines and procedures for roll-out to other WWTWs in SADC countries, and transferring technology and building local capacity to support local entrepreneurs and local government capacity.

In a related long-standing collaboration – started in 2016 and completed in 2022 - Prof Oberholster was the principal investigator and project leader of the African Development Bank and African Climate Technology Centre (ACTC) (financed by the Global Environment Facility [GEF]) project, which examined phycoremediation as an adaptation measure for climate change vulnerability at rural wastewater treatment plants in SADC countries. With locations and activities in Botswana (Gaborone), Malawi (Zomba), and South Africa (Mossel Bay), the principal objective of the project was to facilitate efficient reduction of nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) and certain pathogens (protozoa, helminths, bacteria, and viruses) that have increased due to climate change in effluents of the identified WWTWs, thereby reducing human health risks and improving water resource quality for reclamation, to be re-used in irrigation.

Prof Shola Ololade is a co-principal investigator with Prof Bethany O'Shea from USD and Dr Amy Quandt from SDSU on the project titled 'The Salton Sea Crisis through the Water-Energy-Food nexus lens'. The study is based in San Diego, California.

Prof Ololade was also part of a team of five representing the UFS that visited Israel during June 2022 to investigate that country's approach to water resource management.

Dr Surina Esterhuyse finalised a book chapter on the impact of hydrocarbon extraction on freshwater resources for the *Encyclopedia of Inland Waters* with researchers from Belgium and Brazil.

Dr Bimo Nkhata leads the secretariat of the INSAKA International Research Consortium involving six universities (IIE MSA, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Namibia, Copperbelt University, University of Montana, and Clemson University). Dr Nkhata also collaborated with colleagues from Brock University (Canada) and the University of Montana (USA) in developing a special issue for *Ecology and Society*.

Centre for Microscopy

The centre supports researchers in gathering structural information using microscopes such as the scanning electron microscope (SEM), transmission electron microscope (TEM), confocal laser scanning microscope (CLSM), and stereo light microscopes. While the centre primarily supports the University of the Free State (UFS), other local and international institutes outside the UFS also utilise the available facilities.

Department of Agricultural Economics

Prof Henry Jordaan presented a paper at the 23rd International Farm Management Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark, 26 June–1 July 2022, titled 'Sustainable water use for tobacco production' (Motaung NA and Jordaan H).

Prof Yonas T Bahta presented a paper at the 23rd International Farm Management Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark, 26 June–1 July 2022, titled 'Trade regimes and welfare in Lesotho' (Bahta YT, Lombard WA and Van Niekerk HN).

Dr WA Lombard presented a paper at the 23rd International Farm Management Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark, 26 June–1 July 2022, titled 'The effect of monetary policy on agricultural production of South Africa' (Bahta YT, Lombard WA and Jordaan H).

Prof Yonas T Bahta attended the 29th International Population Virtual Conference (IPC2021), Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into sustainable human settlement and informal settlement upgrading: A case study of Khayalitjha in–situ informal settlement upgrading; South Africa. Hyderabad, India. (Muhame C, Ncube A and Bahta YT).

Dr WA Lombard, Dr Walter van Niekerk, Prof Yonas T Bahta and Prof Frikkie Maré were invited as speakers on 'Understanding the economic implications of stock theft and predation losses within the Namibian livestock sector. A producer perspective in a macroeconomic outlook', under the theme of 'Farmers, food, and future'. Agricultural Outlook Conference 2022, organised by the Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) with the collaboration of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Agricultural Trade Policy Institute (ATPI), 5 October, Safari Hotel Windhoek, Namibia.

Dr Lindie von Maltitz collaborated with MSU Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) consortium partners in Africa on 'Strengthening agricultural extension training in the MSU Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) consortium partners in Africa – process skills and competency gaps in undergraduate agricultural extension curriculum in South Africa. Partnerships for Innovative Research in Africa (PIRA) Grant Report. Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, United States of America' (Von Maltitz L and Davis K).

Miss Zimbini Coka attended the 10th Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD). With the topic: 'Review of the Sustainable Development Goals: How South Africa has performed in partnerships for the goals through virtual farming.' Coka Z in Session 9E | Advancing SDGs at the local level: Understanding scale for collective impact.

Mr Markus Monteiro had the privilege of doing an online guest lecture at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2022, where he shared his knowledge about the 'Agricultural derivatives market in South Africa (SAFEX)'.

Prof Yonas T Bahta attended a workshop with the aim of supporting food production, building a lasting framework for future engagement, and providing input that would make an important contribution to developing 'One Food' in South Africa and forming the priorities for future years of the project. The theme of the workshop: 'One Food: Climate resilient, biodiverse, safe, and sustainable food systems' workshop, 31 October–2 November 2022, held at Kwalata Game Lodge, Dinokeng Game Reserve in Gauteng. The workshop was facilitated by the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa.

Prof Yonas T Bahta presented a paper at the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa (AEASA) Conference, 'How recent value chain disruptions shaped agri-food systems in sub-Saharan Africa'. 59th Annual Conference, 2–5 October 2022. Strand Hotel, Swakopmund, Namibia. Paper presented: 'Quantifying the impact of COVID-19 relief voucher schemes on food security: empirical evidence insights from South Africa (Bahta YT and Musara JP).

Prof Yonas T Bahta presented a paper at the Research Innovation and Industrialisation Week from 25 to 30 July 2022 at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) in Harare. The research week event was hosted under the theme 'University of Zimbabwe: Actualisation of a Research – Innovation – Industrialisation Ecosystem Model for Zimbabwe's Economic Development. Paper presented 'Adoption of blended high-yielding sorghum seed varieties and partial-organic fertiliser: implications for farm income in the drylands of Zimbabwe'. The presentation was classified under 'Food systems and heritage' (Musara JP, Bahta YT, Musemwa L, and Manzvera J).

Department of Animal Science

Dr Vincent Ducrocq from INRAE in France and Dr Mike MacNeil from the USA are actively involved in research and postgrad supervision in the department.

Prof Francois Deacon and Dr Willem Daffue visited Pakistan and the Himalayas in August 2022 for a new initiative to rewild Pakistan with rhinos and to determine the existing status of brown bears. On invitation, they presented lectures in Islamabad to stakeholders, NGOs, and government officials on the way forward. An official MOU between the UFS and the Pakistan Government was compiled to reintroduce Indian one-horned rhinos to a sanctuary in Pakistan.

Dr Adri O' Neill had two contributions at the All-Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture held in Gaborone, Botswana, as well as a contribution at the Association of Embryo Technology in Europe Annual Conference 2023 held in Heraklion, Greece, from 7 to 8 September 2023.

Department of Architecture

Staff members *David van der Merwe* and *Dr Hendrik Auret* were invited to present their co-authored paper at the International Union of Architects (UIA) conference in Rio.

Prof Jonathan Noble was invited to do a series of streamed lectures in conversation with architect Peter Rich, relating to his book on The Architecture of Peter Rich: conversations with Africa, published by Lund Humphries in 2020. The first session on 17 April formed part of the 'International Literary Festival of Architecture', curated by Durganand Balsavar (Dean of the Saveetha College of Architecture and Design - Chennai, India), which was streamed to India, Bangladesh, and Southeast Asia as part of the Council of Architecture's (India) COASocial forum. A second session on 21 August was an introduction to the four lectures in conversation - concerning the book - which were to follow. This session formed part of the Saveetha College of Architecture and Design Forum, hosted by Durganand Balsavar, together with the Jerusalem School of Architecture. Four further sessions went into more detail regarding the book, with lectures in conversation conducted as a recorded live stream for COASocial in collaboration with the Artes Roots Fellowship, hosted by Durganand Balsavar.

Department of Chemistry

Prof Visser and Dr Schutte-Smith focus part of their research on developing anti-cancer and anti-bacterial compounds involving metals such as gold, silver, and rhenium. For this research, they collaborate with Dr Gilles Gasser from ParisTech, France, Prof Justin Wilson from Cornel University, USA, and Prof Olihile Sebolai from the UFS Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry.

Prof Purcell, Dr Alba Gómez-Arias (Postdoctoral Fellow), and Dr Julio Castillo Hernandez (UFS Microbiology and Biochemistry) successfully submitted an ERAMIN3 application to the European Commission (EU) Horizon Europe. The research – to extract REE from mine tailings using chemical and microbiological processes, will be undertaken in collaboration with researchers from Chile, Spain, and Portugal.

Department of Computer Science and Informatics

Prof Eduan Kotzé and Dr Oluwafemi Oriola from Nigeria continue working together on natural language processing. They delivered a paper at the 22nd International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications in Malaga, Spain. Prof Kotzé and Dr Edna Aliyu presented a paper on Stacked language models for an optimised next-word generation at the 2022 IST Africa Conference.

Prof Tanya Stott and Dr Luna Bergh delivered a paper on reading and eye movements at the First Biennial International Symposium on Multimodal Texts in Schools, in Koper, Slovenia, and online. Prof Stott also delivered a paper on eye-tracking analysis of source code reading on a line-by-line basis at the 10th International Workshop on Eye Movements in Programming (EMIP).

Mr Bennie Botha and Prof Lizette de Wet presented a paper on measuring the usability and user experience of immersive virtual reality navigation methods at the 2022 International Conference on Electrical, Computer, Communications and Mechatronics Engineering (ICECCME) in Malé, Maldives. They also presented a paper on using design science research to create a virtual environment for Nursing students at the Eighth African Conference on Information Systems and Technology (ACIST) in Blantyre, Malawi.

Dr W Nel, Prof Lizette de Wet, and Prof Robert Schall delivered a paper on 'The value of brain-computer interface measurements when using ambiguous search queries' at the Future of Information and Communication Conference (FICC) in San Francisco, United States of America, and online. Mr Riaan Bezuidenhout and Dr Nel also presented a paper on 'Transient random number seeds in blockchain systems' at the 17th International Conference on Design Science Research in Information Systems and Technology (DESRIST) in St. Petersburg, Florida, United States of America.

Prof P Kogeda and co-authors presented a paper on 'The impact of radio map size on indoor localisation accuracy' at the 22nd International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA) in Malaga, Spain, and online. Prof P Kogeda and P Simelane delivered a paper on 'A cloud-based drones' model for the detection and tracking of stationary- and motion-based snakes on farms in marginalised rural areas' at the 14th EAI International Conference on e-Infrastructure and e-Services for developing countries (EAI AFRICOMM) in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Prof Kogeda and F Kau also delivered a paper on subscription fraud prevention at the same conference.

Dr R Wario delivered a paper investigating 'The use and impact of social media on student academic performance' at the 16th Multi-Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems (MCCSIS) in Lisbon, Portugal. Dr Donald Atsa'am and Dr Wario also presented a paper on 'The clustering of the West African starchy roots and tubers using nutritive value' at the International Conference on Intelligent and Innovative Computing Applications in Balaclava, Mauritius.

Department of Engineering Sciences

The department, through *Dr Naghizadeh*, is leading a collaboration of researchers from the Universities of Johannesburg, KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela University, Central University of Technology, and the University of Yaoundé (Cameroon) and Erzurum Technical University (Turkey), to formulate an ecofriendly construction material called 'green concrete'. The project is aimed at reducing the impact of cement and cement production on the environment.

Department of Genetics

In the Biosystematics group, *Dr Marieka Gryzenhout* collaborates with Prof Ahmed Abdel-Azeem (Egypt); Prof André-Ledoux Njouonkou, University of Bamenda, Cameroon; Prof Tonjock Rosemary Kinge, University of Bamenda, Cameroon; Dr Joyce Jefwa, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya; and Prof Leho Tedersoo, University of Tartu, Estonia. In the field of conservation genetics, *Prof Paul Grobler* collaborates closely with Prof Frank Zachos (Natural History Museum, Vienna) and Prof Jess Jones (Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech University, USA).

Department of Plant Sciences

Dr M Moloi collaborated with Prof Ned Bowden from the University of Iowa, USA, on a project involving the use of dithiophosphates to improve drought tolerance in crops of agricultural importance. They are currently co-supervising an MSc student on the project. Dr Moloi has also collaborated with Prof Brigitta Tóth from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, on crop physiology and improvement; their work has produced five publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Rudo Ngara was invited to give a plenary lecture at the 47th South African Association of Botanists Conference at the North-West University, South Africa, 17–20 January 2022. Dr Ngara was also invited to give a research talk during the University of Missouri Interdisciplinary Plant Group/University of the Western Cape South Africa Seminar series, 8 April 2021, Zoom platform. Organised by Prof Robert Sharp (University of Missouri) and Prof Ndiko Ludidi. Dr Rudo Ngara was invited to attend an online Royal Society Seminar: Anhydrobiosis-cheating death and telling the tale, 21–23 March 2022. Organised by Prof Roy Quinlan (Durham University, UK) and Prof Takekazu Kunienda (University of Tokyo, Japan).

Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences

Prof Elmarie Kotzé and Prof Johan van Tol were involved in the supervision of two PhD students as part of a cotutelle agreement with the University of Burgundy, France, working on soil—and water—related research in the montane fire climax grasslands of Cathedral Peak in the Drakensberg, South Africa.

Prof Van Tol is collaborating with researchers from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Texas and Aarhus University in Denmark to improve model predictions following a hydro-pedological approach. A joint training workshop was held in September 2022, followed by two joint presentations at the International Kirkham Conference in Skukuza.

Ms Neo Mathinya continued her sandwich PhD with Wageningen University in the Netherlands. She is expected to submit her thesis by the end of 2023.

Department of Zoology and Entomology

Prof Charles Haddad signed a MOU with Dr Danilo Harms (Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Hamburg) and Prof Stefan Foord (University of Venda), with participation from other local and international arachnologists, for an investigation into South Africa as an example of an old, climatically buffered, infertile landscape (OCBIL). The focus of this study will be on the arachnofauna of the Fynbos Biome. He is also collaborating with Prof Foord and Prof Ansie Dippenaar–Schoeman (University of Venda) on a project investigating spider diversity patterns in arid western South Africa.

Prof Linda Basson forms part of a project of the European Union (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) Call: H2020–MSCA–RISE–2019), titled 'Next Generation Taxonomy: Ciliophora and their bacterial symbionts as a proof of concept (NGTax)'. The project commenced at the end of 2019, although the official launch would have been in June 2020 in Italy. At long last the project could get off the ground officially, and Prof Basson could send her first secondee (PhD student Gerhard de Jager) overseas. The hosting institution in Italy was the University of Pisa (September–December 2021), with the Max Planck Institute (Tübingen) the host in Germany (during January–March 2022).

Prof Liesl van As (Aquatic Parasitology) collaborates with the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) of the University of Botswana in Maun.

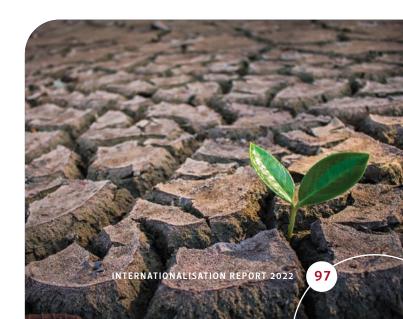
Prof Daryl Codron continued long-standing collaborations with Profs Marcus Clauss (University of Zurich, Switzerland), Matt Sponheimer (University of Colorado at Boulder, USA), and Dr Liora Horwitz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel). He is also part of an EFR-StG project 'PEOPLE' headed by Dr Michael Toffolo (Spanish National Research Centre for Human Evolution CENIEH, Burgos, Spain), and a Human Frontier Science Programme (HFSP) project led by Dr Cajetan Neubauer (University of Colorado at Boulder, USA). Ms Runé van der Merwe, a PhD student, holds a bilateral NRF-NUFFIC scholarship supporting a joint PhD at the UFS (under supervision of Prof Codron) and the University of Groningen, the Netherlands (under supervision of Prof Han Olff).

Prof Charles Haddad continues collaboration with Prof Wanda Wesołowska (Wrocław University, Poland) and Dr Galina Azarkina (Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia) on the systematics of Afrotropical jumping spiders. Other continuing research includes studies on predatory specialist and myrmecomorphic spiders with Prof Stano Pekár (Masaryk University, Czechia).

Dr Patricks Voua Otomo initiated a collaboration with Prof Alain Souza of the Masuku University of Science and Technology (Gabon).

Prof Aliza le Roux continues her international collaborations on the Snapshot South Africa project, as well as her links with the University of Zurich (Prof Dr Marta Manser) and Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (Dr Nick Friedman).

Prof Peter Taylor continues his active involvement with two international projects funded by the German Federal Government's SPACES II programme (South African Limpopo Landscapes Network) and the African Union and European Union ('EcoRodMan' project). He also actively collaborates (including student co-supervision) on small mammals with researchers at the University of Montpellier in France and the University of Eswatini.



INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Department of Architecture

7ealand-based Multi-award-winning New architect, Dr Jeremy Smith, was granted an Adjunct Professorship, primarily to assist with the practicebased PhD programme and to serve as a guest critic in our professional programme. Dr Smith has an impressive design portfolio and CV. He completed his PhD with creative practice in Architecture at the University of Auckland in 2019 and was formerly an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Auckland. He has extensive experience as an examiner for the University of Auckland and Victoria University of Wellington, and since 2020 he has served as an international adviser to the Saveetha College of Architecture and Design in Chennai, India. Practising as a principal and partner since 2005, Dr Smith's design work has received international acclaim via numerous awards. We anticipate that Dr Smith will make a valuable contribution to the future success of our new design-based research programme, boost the departments' international profile, and prove to be a worthy ambassador for the UFS.

Department of Genetics

Prof Gordon Luikart from the University of Montana spent time in the department in July. He visited a research field site with Prof Grobler and presented a guest lecture in the department. As part of his visit, students and staff could participate in online training in bioinformatics and R programming with experts from the University of Montana.

Prof Ahmed Abdel-Azeem from the Suez Canal University in Egypt also visited the department in August to discuss collaboration with Dr Marieka Gryzenhout on fungal biodiversity, conservation, and industrial applications. During his visit, Prof Abdel-Azeem presented a guest lecture in the department. Dr Gryzenhout also works with the SANBI Invasion Biology Directive.

Department of Geography

Prof Samuel Adelabu spent just over a month on invitation as a scholar to the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at the University of California, Davis (UCD) Campus. He was hosted by Prof Yufang Jin, the leader of the remote sensing group at that university. During his visit, he presented to various groups, including the Hydrological Science Group and Remote Sensing Group.

Department of Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Science

Prof Maxim Finkelstein, A-rated researcher, is a Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK. This collaboration continues to benefit both universities. The collaboration of the department with the Department of Management Sciences at the University of Strathclyde is planned to be extended.

The department's collaboration with KU Leuven is also long-standing, and continues with visits from Prof Jan Beirlant, world-renowned for his work in extreme value theory.

Department of Zoology and Entomology

In Tübingen, Germany, *Mr Gerhard de Jager* not only received training in transcriptions, but also in confocal microscopy and UNIX system programming. During this time, he assembled two RNA genomes, those of representatives of *Trichodina* and *Trichodinella*, and worked on gene predictions of these two genera. As part of the agreement, he will return to the UFS in March 2022 and share his knowledge with staff and post-graduate students. Knowledge and experience gained will be concorporated in honours modules during 2022.

Material for *Jade Hastings* (MSc student) was collected during a field trip to De Hoop Nature Reserve. The project concentrates on three ciliate groups from two intertidal molluscs. Dr Joaquín Verdú Ricoy, a post-doctoral fellow from Spain, joined the delegation, as his expertise in molecular techniques was indispensable.

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

Department of Architecture

During March and April 2022, *Prof Gerhard Bosman* facilitated a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) event, together with students and lecturers at three international universities. Thirty-seven BArchHons students collaborated online with students from Akita International University, Japan, and the University of Siena, Italy.

A further 12-week COIL was led by *Prof Gerhard Bosman and Phadi Mabe*, in collaboration with Art and Art History students from the Colorado State University in the USA. Posters produced from the COIL, together with *litema* plaster panels, were exhibited from 6 to 9 December 2022 at the World Science Forum, Science for Social Justice exhibition at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC). The same exhibition will be open in May 2023 at the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art of the Colorado State University.

Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (Dimtec)

In June 2022, Ms Lulia Ajtai, Ms Ioana Cristina Pistea, and Mr Ioan Mihai Harsan from the Babes-Bolyai University, Romania, visited DiMTEC as part of the Erasmus Staff Mobility Programme that supports the educational, professional, and personal development of people in education in Europe and beyond, through lifelong learning. It thus provides academic staff with an opportunity to contribute to and to learn from the best practices of other countries' education systems.

Department of Engineering Sciences

The department reconfirmed an international industry research and development collaboration with the Grid Protection Department of Schweitzer Engineering Labs (SEL) in the United States of America.

Department of Geography

Prof Geofrey Mukwada continued to serve as the coordinator of the Mountain-to-Mountain Programme between the Appalachian State University and the UFS. As part of this, meteorological stations are being set up in the Maloti-Drakensberg to monitor the climate of the highly fragile environment using a wireless sensor network (WSN). As part of the programme,

Prof Mukwada completed three automatic weather stations during 2022. These stations are the highest in Southern Africa, and their establishment is opening a new frontier of mountain climate change research.

Prof Mukwada also continued to render his services as the coordinator for the University Staff Doctoral Programme, a collaboration between the UFS and the University of Venda in South Africa, and three universities in the USA, namely Appalachian State University, Colorado State University, and the University of Montana.

Dr Melissa Hansen hosted a Global Field Exercise in Qwaqwa in August 2022, with Prof Shogo Kudo from Akita International University, and Kanako Matsuyama from the International Christian University and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Ogata Sadako from the Research Institute for Peace and Development. This was the latest iteration in a project on Trans-local Learning that has been continuing since 2017. The main purpose of trans-local learning is to create an iterative learning space to obtain new ideas and perspectives that would help practitioners, researchers, and residents to realise alternative interpretations regarding their communities. A series of Global Field Exercises were held in Qwaqwa and Gojome in Akita, Japan, on the relationship between young return-migrants and sustainable development.

Dr Hansen also visited the National University of Lesotho with a delegation led by Prof Francis Petersen, Vice-Chancellor of the UFS, on 8 September 2022. She presented her work on the political ecology of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area. She also participated in the first Post-Lucid symposium at Lund University in Sweden (online), held from 27 to 28 October 2022, during which she delivered a paper titled 'Producing Space: Human-Mountain Relationships in the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area'. LUCID (Lund University Centre for the Integration of Social and Natural Dimensions of Sustainability) is the Formasfunded research programme under which Dr Hansen completed her PhD.

Department of Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Sciences

Prof Jan Beirlant from KU Leuven visits the department on an annual basis and lectures the Extreme Value Theory Course. He also actively engages in research with the department on the topic of EVT.



Department of Sustainable Food Systems and Development

Texas Tech University, in collaboration with the UFS, continues to enhance the global reputation by integrating international education, research, and engagement on global issues, and by facilitating intercultural understanding for students, faculty, staff, and the greater community. The study abroad programme at the UFS aligns with the mission and goals of Texas Tech University, and the department hosted the Texas Tech nutrition study abroad programme participants. The students were able to experience activities in the Sensory Lab and the Simulation Lab and participated in an excursion to the UFS Paradys Experimental Farm. They received intensive information on sustainable agriculture, food systems, and the nutrition landscape in South Africa.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) wool project continued to flourish in 2022, building on the strong foundation laid in previous years. The focus of the project remains to transform communal wool growers' production from an underachieving enterprise to a profitable, sustainable, and renewable venture to enhance the livelihoods of communal wool producers.

The project has developed a stream of additional income by incorporating a felt product production section from the wool bought from the local community. This part of the project does not form part of the original agreement and is evidence of the growth and interest in the project. To date, seven ladies from the local community are employed on a permanent basis. They perform a variety of tasks, from operating the sewing machines, washing and cleaning of wool, to making felt skins. UFS staff are involved in training the community members and product development.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

The University of Zambia (UNZA), in partnership with the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), invited academic staff and master's and PhD students from across African universities and research institutions to participate in the scientific writers' workshop. The fully funded workshop took place in Zambia from 25 to 28 October 2022. Three of our PhD students, Ms Abongile Mgwele, Ms Jennilee Kohima, and Mr Willoughby Zimunya attended and presented their research at the workshop.

Department of Zoology and Entomology

Ngitheni Nyoka (PhD student) was appointed as Academic Facilitator and Coordinator of the Extended Programme. Sphindile Dlamini (MSc) was appointed as one of the five 'developers' tasked to organise an international online Summer School on Surface Water Monitoring. The Summer School, which took place from 24 to 28 January 2022, was jointly hosted by the University of the Free State, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, and the Dresden University of Technology (Germany).

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Department of Genetics

Dr Soumya Ghosh, a Postdoctoral Fellow, is conducting research on the biodiversity and functionalities of fungi, which includes possible applications enhanced by nanoparticles. Through his extensive international network, he has published more than 20 papers.

Dr Sara Abdulla studies the biodiversity of mushrooms through DNA sequencing. Since the fungal biodiversity is poorly studied in South Africa, her research presented a number of first reports and novel species. Both postdoctoral candidates are hosted by Dr Marieka Gryzenhout.

Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (Dimtec)

Prof Johannes Belle attended the Intra-Africa Regional Cluster Meeting in Johannesburg on 30 November 2022. This meeting brought together the European Union (EU) delegation and their African counterparts to examine the implementation of the various Intra-Africa Mobility projects in Africa – a joint venture between the EU and the Africa Union (AU) to foster the mobility of African scholars in master's and PhD programmes on the continent. Delegates agreed on the key success areas of the various projects, but also noted constraints, such as draconian funding conditions that do not take into account local African conditions, delays in processing student visas, delays in evaluating foreign qualifications for admission to host institutions, and lack of a comprehensive credit transfer scheme among higher education institutions (HEIs) in Africa. The EU has made more funding available for Intra-Africa Mobility and called on HEIs in Africa to form consortiums and apply for such funding. Prof Belle coordinates the FRAME project at the UFS, which is one of the Intra-Africa Mobility projects.

Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences

nGAP lecturer *Ms Neo Mathinya* continued her PhD registered at Wageningen University in the Netherlands under the supervision of Prof Ken Giller and Dr Gerrie van de Ven (Wageningen University) and Prof Linus Franke from SCCS.

PARTNERSHIPS

Centre for Environmental Management

Prof Paul Oberholster is involved in a research collaboration between the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS), the University of the Western Cape, the South African Department of Water and Sanitation, and Ramboll, Denmark, which focuses on the Langebaan Road aquifer and Atlantis aquifer field sites. The Managed Aquifer Recharge in Southern Africa (MARSA) project (consisting of two sub-projects) supports the overall aim of the Danish Strategic Sector Cooperation, as it contributes knowledge to new solutions to mitigate water scarcity in South Africa. Prof Oberholster is the project leader for the MARSA project, which was initiated in 2021. The primary aim of MARSA is to develop managed aquifer recharge (MAR) technologies that allow for a broader span of water resources to be used for MAR, including storm water, river water, saline water, and even reclaimed water (treated wastewater). The research includes development of new monitoring strategies for the technologies and an assessment of the water saving achieved by implementing MAR on a larger scale in South Africa, with the focus on the West Coast District Municipality.

Prof Shola Ololade worked with Dr Bethany O'Shea from the Department of Ocean and Environmental Resources, University of San Diego, California, and Dr Amy Quandt from the Department of Geography, San Diego State University.

Dr Marinda Avenant collaborated with Dr Dirk Jungmann (Institute of Hydrobiology, Dresden University of Technology), Dr Hilmar Boernick (Institute of Water Chemistry, Dresden University of Technology) and Dr Noma Chico (BA ISAGO University, Botswana).

Department of Animal Science

While attending the WCGALP 2022 conference in Rotterdam, *Prof Frikkie Neser, Dr Errol Cason, Mr Michiel van Niekerk, and Mr Matthew Kinghorn* from the Department of Animal Science visited long-time collaborator, Prof Vincent Ducrocq at INRAE.

Prof Arno Hugo is planning a research collaboration with Dr Patrick Bayambas from the EM Gabon University on the effect of diet on lipid composition of earthworms. The aim of this research will be to evaluate earthworms as a feed source for farm animals. This research is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of the Free State and the EM Gabon University in Gabon.

Department of Architecture

The department hosted a successful international PhD symposium in 2022, with academics joining from Adelaide in Australia, Namibia, and New Zealand.

Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry

Prof Dirk Opperman continued his collaborative projects with Prof Frank Hollmann and Dr Caroline Paul from the Delft University of Technology (the Netherlands). The groups bring together different expertise in the field of biocatalysis, including protein structure determination, directed evolution, and process development, and are currently focusing on the application of biocatalysts. Prof Opperman was also a co-investigator in the Global Challenges Research Fund – Synchrotron Techniques for African Science and Technology (GCRF-START) grant between the Diamond Light Source, UK, and various research groups in South Africa.

Dr Carmien Tolmie continued a collaboration with Prof Frank von Delft from the University of Oxford, and the XChem group at the Diamond Light Source, for structure-based drug discovery for novel antifungal drugs. Dr Tolmie and Dr Opperman collaborated with Dr Felix Ferroni from the Department of Physics at CONICET, Argentina, on the structural and functional characterisation of a copper nitrite reductase.

Prof Trudi O'Neill continued to collaborate with Dr Martin Blasco from the Centre for Biotechnology at the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and colleague, Prof Koos Albertyn, on rotavirus protein expression in yeast. She also continued her long-standing collaboration with Dr Nilsa de Deus from the National Institute of Health, Maputo, Mozambique, on rotavirus diversity in Mozambique. Prof O'Neill also collaborated with Prof Martin Nyaga from the UFS Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Unit and Dr Celeste Donato from the Enteric Diseases Group (Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia) on this topic. Second phase funding of the German Research Foundation (DFG)-funded project, titled 'Antigens and reassortant strains for rotaviruses circulating in Africa (AfRota)' was approved in late 2021. AfRota-2 commenced on 1 February 2022. The project utilises the rotavirus reverse genetics system and aims to generate chimeric viruses that can be used in next-generation rotavirus vaccine development. Collaboration with Prof Carlien Pohl on the role of bioactive lipids in infection was also continued.

The Applied and Environmental Microbiology group of Dr Julio Castillo signed a collaborative agreement with the University of Limpopo, (Dr Kgabo Moganedi - Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Biotechnology) on a project titled 'Developing a bacterial consortium for improving the quality of mining-contaminated water'. The group also established a collaboration with the University of Cádiz (Prof Alfonso Corzo) on a project involving bioprecipitation of metallic copper from acid mine drainage in the Iberian Pyrite Belt. The AEMG will be responsible for the bioinformatics analysis. Collaboration continued with Princeton University and New Mexico Tech on the project 'Biogeochemical Processes in a Subsurface Hypersaline Environment near the Abiotic Fringe Zone', and with Ritsumeikan University (Prof Hiroshi Ogasawara) on the project titled 'Drillhole investigations of earthquake physics and deep life in fault zones in South African mines.'

In addition, the AEMG still collaborates with Golder Associates to analyse data collected from the pilot-scale BDAS system (acid mine drainage treatment) installed at Parys Mountain Mine and Cwm Rheidol Mine.

Dr Frans O'Neill from the Biotechnology division continued his collaboration with Prof David Marais (UCT) on phytosterols in selected South African fauna, and Dr Dee Blackhurst (UCT) on reactive oxygen species in rotavirus-infected cells. The continuing interdisciplinary collaborative effort centred on rhinoceros also includes other researchers from several departments within the UFS Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences as well as Health Sciences. He is part of an interdisciplinary project with Dr Angelique Lewies from Cardiothoracic Surgery, looking at developing a cardiac organoid model for drug screening and disease modelling. He is also collaborating with Dr Fanie Steyn of AniPharm (Pty) Ltd on the production of equine chorionic gonadotropin, and with Dr Martin Blasco of the INTI Centre for Biotechnology (Argentina) on receptorbased assays.

Prof Carlien Pohl from the Biotechnology division has been appointed as visiting academic in the School of Physical Sciences at the University of Kent. This forms part of her collaboration with Dr Jennifer Hiscock regarding the development of novel antibiofilm compounds.

Department of Chemistry

Prof Von Eschwege continued collaborating with the Laser Research Institute in the Department of Physics at Stellenbosch University (femtosecond laser spectroscopy), and the University of Pretoria Faculty of Health Sciences (fine particulate matter in atmospheric pollution), together with universities in Sweden. He also started collaborations with the University of Botswana in Gaborone, the Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, and the University of Yaoundé, Cameroon. He appointed a research fellow from the Federal University Oye–Ekiti, Nigeria.

Prof Brink continued collaborating with Prof John Helliwell from the University of Manchester. Their research practice of promoting the sharing of raw diffraction images correctly stored in repositories and linked to the publication to ensure the safeguarding of metadata was highlighted in June 2022 by the International Union of Crystallography data-sharing policy as a mandate for all IUCr journals. Additional collaborators involved in the research projects include Dr Colin Levy and Dr Mathew Cliff (Manchester Institute of Biotechnology), Prof Dirk Opperman (Biochemistry, UFS), and Prof Ted Kroon (Physics, UFS). An interdisciplinary collaboration with Prof T Makhafola (Central University of Technology) and Prof Nick Gerasimchuk (Missouri State University) is continuing.

Dr Ernie Langner collaborated with members of COST Action CA21101 COSY – Workgroup 3: A European Collaborative project. Dr Langner also collaborated with Prof Dusko Dudic (University of Belgrade, Serbia) on ZIF nanoparticles in composites with sensing abilities.

Prof Erasmus collaborated with Prof JW Niemantsverdriet from SynCat@DIFFER in the Netherlands, working on Frustrated Lewis Pairs. Dr Müller also collaborated with Prof Niemantsverdriet.

Prof Moskaleva collaborated with researchers from the NAGOCAT research unit, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). She also collaborated with Prof R Ramakrishnan from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Hyderabad, India, jointly funded by the NRF and DST (India), on combustion chemistry and data science; with Prof Zhi-Jian Zhao from Tianjin University, China, funded jointly by the NRF and MOST (China), on the development of efficient Cu-based catalysts for CO2 (photo-)electro reduction; and with Prof María-Pilar de Lara Castells from CISC, Madrid, on a Spanish National Research project with the focus on the computational studies supported subnanometric clusters of coinage metals; and with members and co-leaders of Working Group 3 of COSY Action CA21101 COSY – a European collaborative project.

Prof Conradie collaborated internationally with Prof Abhik Ghosh (Department of Chemistry and Centre for Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, University of Tromsø), Prof JH Potgieter (Wits and Manchester Metropolitan University), Karl M Kadish (University of Houston), Prof Elisa Tomat (The University of Arizona), Prof Sanjib Kar (National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) and Homi Bhabha National Institute, India), Dr Jean Jules Fifen (University of Ngaoundere), and Prof Fridolin Nya Tchangnwa (University of Maroua).

Dr Bonnet and Dr Wilhelm continued collaboration with Prof Sophia Khom-Steinkellner from the University of Vienna and Dr Lucie Rarova from Palacky University in the Czech Republic.

Prof Azov started a new collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium, funded by the joint NRF/FWO grant, aimed at the synthesis of unnatural amino acids containing donor and acceptor groups for materials and biomedical applications. He also participated in a large international collaboration involving scientists from several universities (Leipzig University, Purdue University, PNNL) related to the gas phase chemistry of dodecaborate. In addition, he collaborated with Prof Vande Velde (University of Antwerp) and Dr M Zeller (Purdue University) on crystallography of organic molecules.

Dr Alba Gomez-Arias and Prof Walter Purcell signed a collaboration agreement with Dr Julio Castillo and a consortium including the University of Huelva (Dr Manuel Caraballo), the University of Aveiro (Prof Victor Ferreira), the Basque Centre Materials (Dr Roberto Fernandez), the National University of the Altiplano in Puno (Dr Charango Munizaga-Rosas), and the Central University of Technology (Dr Maleke Maleke) for a project titled 'Mine tailings reprocessing, revalorisation and risk reduction through sequential innovations in metal recovery, geopolymerisation, ceramics, and sealing processes'. The project is funded by the ERA-MIN3 programme, supported by the European Commission's Horizon 2020. Three PhD students are expected to graduate from this project.

Department of Computer Science and Informatics

Prof Eduan Kotzé continued to work with Prof Walter Daelemans in the Computational Linguistics and Psycholinguistics Research Centre (CLiPS) 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. Dr Burgert Senekal from CSI and Dr Oluwafemi Oriola (from Nigeria) continued their fellowship with Prof Eduan Kotzé's research group. Prof Paul Kogeda of CSI collaborated with Dr Vitalis Ozianyi from Strathmore University, Kenya, on water resource management - in terms of the detection and prediction of water leakage. They engaged in a South Africa-Kenya joint science and technology research collaboration.

Prof Kenneth Holmqvist from Sweden continued his fellowship with CSIs Prof Pieter Blignaut's eyetracking research group.

Department of Engineering Sciences

The department established researcher/student exchange with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. This collaboration was strengthened in a paper submitted on the stochastic nature of the South African power grid, co-authored by Dr Leonardo Gorjão and Dr Jacques Maritz.

An international academic collaboration was also established with the Department of Electrical Engineering in the Faculty of Khorramabad at the Technical and Vocational University (TVU), Iran.

The international industry Research and Development collaboration was reconfirmed with Schweitzer Engineering Labs (SEL) in the United States of America Grid protection department.

Department of Genetics

Prof Grobler worked with Prof Frank Zachos (Natural History Museum, Vienna) on mammalian genetics, and with Prof Jess Jones (Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech University, USA) on genetic connectivity in marine and freshwater mussels.

Department of Geography

Melissa Hansen coordinated the Japan Sustainability Science project, together with Prof Shogo Kudo from Akita International University. The project-based collaboration sought to explore the relationship between migration, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development in the rural mountain towns of Phuthaditjhaba in the Eastern Free State and Gojome in the Akita province in Japan, through a 'trans-local' learning approach. In addition, the project aimed to contribute to the development of the Qwaqwa Campus as a sustainability science hub and to foster the development of inter- and transdisciplinary research. The project sought to propose 'trans-local' learning - which connects different locations in order to learn from each case study - as a new approach in social learning for sustainability. The project also explored the relationship between migration and sustainable development, with a focus on the entrepreneurship of young migrants in the two different locations.

Dr Jay le Roux continues involvement in the South African Land Degradation Monitor (SALDi) project, in collaboration with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany, to explore a wide range of methodological approaches to assess land degradation and its dynamics over various spatial and temporal scales. Also, he and Ms Marike Stander continues collaboration with the Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University in China, focusing on fingerprinting techniques (identify tracer(s) for erodible soils) and modelling of soil erosion processes in a research catchment in Ladybrand, within the Welbedacht Dam catchment. Research includes identification of sediment sources by using composite fingerprinting technology, as well as the effects of changing soil erodibility on slope erosion using rainfall simulators.

Department of Geology

The staff of the Department of Geology continues to maintain active collaboration and expand their collaborative spheres with researchers from the following institutions:

- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)
- Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Ivestigaciones Cientificas (Spain) – collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- Associacao para a Investigacao e Desenvolvimento de Ciencias (Portugal) – collaboration in EUfunded SEMACRET project
- Berkeley Geochronology Centre*
- BEAK Consultants Gmbh (Germany) collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minieres (BRGM) – collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- Czech Geological Survey collaboration in EUfunded SEMACRET project
- Deutsche Lithium GmbH (Germany) collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique) collaboration in NRF-funded project, Spatial Analysis of Geothermal Resource Occurrence Controls and Prospectivity
- Friedrich-Alexander University, Germany
- Geological Survey of Finland collaboration in EUfunded EIS project
- Geological Survey of Sweden collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- German Research Centre for Geosciences GFZ Potsdam, Germany
- Gispo Ltd (Finland) collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- (International) Berkeley Geochronology Centre
- (International) Natural History Museum, London
- (International) Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)
- James Cook University, Townsville, Australia
- Keliber Technology Oy (Finland) collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- Korzinsski Institution, Chernogolovka, Russia
- Louisiana State University, USA
- Luleå University of Technology (Sweden) collaboration in EU-funded EIS project
- Museum of Natural History, Sweden
- McGregor Museum
- Natural History Museum, London, UK
- University of Oulu (Finland) collaboration in EUfunded SEMACRET project
- Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
- Polish Geological Institute collaboration in EUfunded SEMACRET project

- SHRIMP Centre of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing, China
- University of Colorado
- University of Idaho
- Université de Lille, France
- University of Exeter, UK
- University of Leoben, Austria
- University of Hamburg, Germany
- University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan
- University of Vienna, Austria
- Natural History Museum in London
- Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- University of Oslo, Norway
- University of Turku (Finland) collaboration in EUfunded EIS project
- University of Zambia collaboration in NRFfunded project, Spatial Analysis of Geothermal Resource Occurrence Controls and Prospectivity
- Zavaritsky Institute of Geology and Geochemistry, Russia

Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

Dr Elizabeth Maritz extended her collaboration outside the department, continuing with an interdisciplinary study on the application of graph theory on travelling wave fault location detectors. Together with Dr Moslem Salehi from the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Technical and Vocational University (TVU) in Tehran, Iran, a paper was published in IEEE Access.

Prof Tomas Vetrik undertook research visits to Qatar and Slovakia where he collaborated with various researchers on aspects of graph theory, while Prof Johan Meyer continued a long-standing collaboration with Prof Carl Maxson from Texas A&M University in Texas, USA.

Prof Johan Meyer published a paper with collaborators from the Department of Mathematics at the Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, in India. He also collaborated and published a paper with a former colleague, Dr Ben-Eben de Klerk, who is now working in the private sector.

Prof Tomas Vetrik continued with various international collaborators in 2022 – with researchers from India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

Dr Christian Budde collaborated internationally with researchers from Germany and the Netherlands and nationally with researchers from the North-West University in Potchefstroom and from Stellenbosch University.

Dr Yibeltal Terefe published with researchers from Cameroon and Botswana.

Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry

Prof Dirk Opperman continued his collaborative projects with Prof Frank Hollmann and Dr Caroline Paul from Delft University of Technology (Netherlands). The groups bring together different expertise in the field of biocatalysis, including protein structure determination, directed evolution, and process development, and are currently focusing on the application of biocatalysts in green chemistry. Prof Opperman, together with research groups from Norway (University of Bergen and NORCE), the United Kingdom (Exeter University), France (CEA) and Kenya (University of Nairobi), continued their collaborative project 'ThermoK', an ERA-NET cofund on Food Systems and Climate (FOSC), to develop biotechnological routes to upcycle waste products and promote a circular economy.

Dr Carmien Tolmie continued a collaboration with Prof Frank von Delft from the University of Oxford, and the XChem group at the Diamond Light Source, for structure-based drug discovery for novel antifungal drugs.

Prof Trudi O'Neill continued to collaborate with Dr Martin Blasco from the Centre for Biotechnology of the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and colleague, Prof Koos Albertyn, on rotavirus protein expression in yeast. She also continued her long-standing collaboration with Dr Nilsa de Deus from the National Institute of Health, Maputo, Mozambique, on rotavirus diversity in Mozambique. Prof O'Neill also collaborated with Prof Martin Nyaga from the UFS Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Unit and Dr Celeste Donato from the Enteric Diseases Group (Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia) on this topic.

Second phase funding of the German Research Foundation (DFG)-funded project titled 'Antigens and reassortant strains for rotaviruses circulating in Africa (AfRota)' commenced on 1 February 2022. The DFG-funded project includes researchers in Germany (Prof Reimar Johne and Dr Alexander Falkenhagen, Federal Institute of Risk Assessment), Mozambique (Dr De Deus), and South Africa (Prof Albie van Dijk, North-West University).



The project utilises the rotavirus reverse genetics system and aims to generate chimeric viruses that can be used in next-generation rotavirus vaccine development. The first annual meeting of AfRota2 was held from 14 to16 September 2022 in Maputo, Mozambique and included student participation from the consortium members.

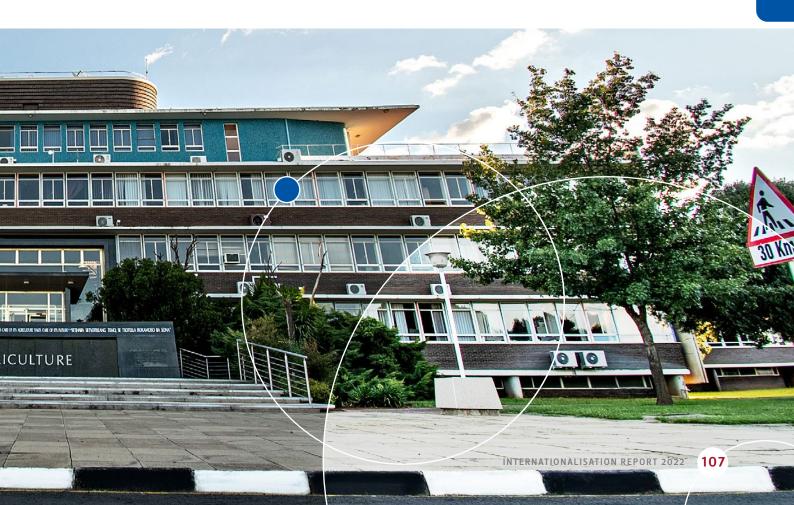
Prof Pohl-Albertyn and Prof O'Neill collaborated with Dr Ulrich Desselberger from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, on a Frontiers in Physiology research topic titled 'Significance of cellular lipids for viral replication and pathogenesis.'

The Group has established a collaboration with the University of Cádiz (Prof Alfonso Corzo) on a project involving the bioprecipitation of metallic copper from acid mine drainage in the Iberian Pyrite Belt. The AEMG will be responsible for the bioinformatics analysis. The collaboration continued with Princeton University and New Mexico Tech on the project 'Biogeochemical Processes in a Subsurface Hypersaline Environment near the Abiotic Fringe Zone', and with Ritsumeikan University (Prof Hiroshi Ogasawara) on the project 'Drillhole investigations of earthquake physics and deep life in fault zones in South African mines'.

Dr Julio Castillo, together with Dr Alba Gomez-Arias and Prof Walter Purcell (UFS Department of Chemistry), signed a collaboration agreement with a consortium that includes the University of Huelva (Dr Manuel Caraballo), the University of Aveiro (Prof Victor Ferreira), the Basque Centre for Materials (Dr Roberto Fernandez), the National University of the Altiplano in Puno (Dr Charango Munizaga-Rosas), and the Central University of Technology (Dr Maleke Maleke) for a project titled 'Mine tailings reprocessing, revalorisation and risk reduction through sequential innovations in metal recovery, geopolymerisation, ceramics, and sealing processes'. The project is funded by the ERA-MIN3 programme, supported by the European Commission's Horizon 2020. Two PhD and two master's students are expected to graduate from this project.

Dr O'Neill is collaborating with Dr Fanie Steyn of AniPharm (Pty) Ltd on the production of equine chorionic gonadotropin, and with Dr Martin Blasco of the INTI Centre for Biotechnology (Argentina) on receptor-based assays.

The Veterinary Biotechnology Group continued their collaborative projects with Dr Asgar of Saife VetMed in India on various potential commercial products. There was also continued collaboration with Dr Gavakar of Ventri Biologicals, the largest poultry vaccine manufacturer in India, on the development of effective vaccines against infectious coryza.



Department of Plant Sciences

Dr Minnaar-Ontong collaborated with Syngenta on breeding for resistance to Sclerotinia diseases in soybean, with other breeding companies from industry, and researchers from the University of Manitoba, Canada, and the University of Nebraska, as well as the USDA, USA.

Dr 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 are currently supervising an MSc student in the project. She also collaborated with Prof Brigitta Tóth from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, and their work produced one publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Dr Joubert and Dr Jackson collaborated with Ms Hanlie Grobler from the Centre for Microscopy at the UFS and Prof Beverley Glover from the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Cambridge on the project titled 'The role of flower structure in the diversification of the genus Nemesia (Scrophulariaceae)'. This project yielded novel insights into the developmental mechanisms that produce different spur shapes and the role of spur variation in the evolution and diversity of Nemesia.

Prof Labuschagne collaborated with colleagues at the University of Córdoba, and CIMMYT in Mexico, Zimbabwe, and Kenya, as well as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria.

Dr Van der Merwe continued her collaboration with Prof Qiuying Zhang from the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, on a project focusing on breeding for resistance to pod shattering in vegetable-type soybean.

Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (Dimtec)

Prof Pasztor from the National University of Public Service, Hungary, visited DiMTEC on a staff mobility programme in July 2022. As a way of fostering internationalisation, the visit was beneficial to the centre, as Prof Pasztor will be co-supervising one of DiMTEC's PhD students with Dr Kunguma.

Prof Johannes Belle, Prof Abiodun Ogundeji, and Dr Tlou Raphela travelled to the National University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary, in July 2022.

DiMTEC also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UK-based Institute of Risk Management to conduct a one-day workshop on 4 November 2022. The workshop, presented as a hybrid event, was hosted on the Bloemfontein Campus for the physical attendees.

Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences

Dr Elmarie Kotzé and Prof Johan van Tol are involved in the supervision of two PhD students on a cotutelle agreement with the University of Burgundy, Dijon, France, working on soil and water-related research in the montane fire climax grasslands of Cathedral Peak in the Drakensberg, South Africa. Prof Johan van Tol continued to collaborate with researchers at TU Dresden (Germany) where a jointly supervised MSc student graduated in 2021. Prof Van Tol is also actively collaborating with researchers from USDA-ARS in Texas to improve model predictions, following a hydropedological approach. A joint paper was published in 2021. Prof Linus Franke, also from SCCS, initiated collaboration with Solynta BV in the Netherlands and Zylem SA in South Africa to study the performance of hybrid potato varieties.

Department of Zoology and Entomology

Prof Liesl van As continued to collaborate with colleagues from the Okavango Research Institute situated in Maun, Botswana. This institute forms part of the University of Botswana, where she is also collaborating with Prof Maxwell Barson (Parasitologist) from the Department of Biology.

Dr Ellie van Dalen collaborated with Ms Corné Mostert, Product Manager for ecto-parasiticides, (liver fluke products) and marketing at Virbac RSA (Pty) Ltd, to present an online training session involving representatives of the company FIVAS, in Zimbabwe. An in-house video was produced for use in this presentation to virtually explain procedures to be followed during tick collection and initial field determination of possible tick resistance to the remedy being used. After the training session, the possibility of follow-up sessions was requested, which will probably take place during 2023.

Dr Ed Netherlands has a continuous collaboration with Prof Stephen A (Ash) Bullard from Auburn University, USA, where Dr Netherlands also holds a Graduate Faculty Research Fellow position at the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences in the USA.

In October 2022, a consortium of five institutions – the Dresden University of Technology (Germany), the Arava Institute (Israel), the University of Wroclaw (Poland), the University of Salerno (Italy), and the UFS (with Dr Patricks Voua Otomo as Principal Investigator), submitted a 1,2 million Euro proposal in response to a call by the European Joint Programme Initiative (JPI) on 'Water4All'.

In December 2022, *Dr Otomo* helped broker the Memorandum of Understanding between the UFS and Ecole de Management / EM-Gabon University. The signing ceremony was presided over by the UFS Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Francis Petersen.

Prof Aliza le Roux strengthened her international collaboration through the NRF-KIC grant, which supported a visit by Dr Nick Friedman from the Leibniz Institute for Biodiversity Change. She also continued to work on papers with various collaborators from the University of Michigan and with Clara Grilo from the Federal University of Lavras, Brazil. As leader of the women's mentorship programme for the Mountain-to-Mountain partnership with Appalachian State University, she led a team of mentors and mentees from the UFS to Boone in the USA for an excellent leadership summit.

Dr Nontembeko Dube continued her collaboration with Dr Osariyekemwen Uyi from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia.

Prof Peter Taylor collaborates actively with Prof Catrin Westphall and Prof Reinhard Rotter from the University of Göttingen and Prof Ingo Grass from the University of Hohenheim, Germany, through the South African Limpopo Landscapes Network (SALLnet) of the SPACES project. In 2022, the collaboration entailed co-authored papers and book chapters (five in press and accepted), three cosupervised PhD students registered in South Africa and Germany, and Prof Taylor's participation in the final stakeholder workshop at SALLnet. Prof Grass will host a current PhD student of Prof Taylor in Germany through a DAAD fellowship. Prof Taylor is a partner of the USDP Mountain Research Staff Doctoral Programme (between the UFS, University of Venda, and three US institutions). Through this partnership, he has developed a new collaboration with Prof Kyran Kunkel from the University of Montana, and they have submitted joint funding proposals to a number of funding agencies, including the Hoheisen Charitable Trust, which is still awaiting outcome. Prof Taylor's long-standing collaboration with Prof Monadjem from Eswatini continues through co-supervision of two PhD students and one co-authored paper in 2022.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

The NAS strategy has been fully implemented, and internationalisation is a high priority for the faculty.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONALISATION

In the **Department of Chemistry**, Prof Wijnand Swarts' research group researched gold-metallocene complexes intended for heterogeneous catalysis in collaboration with Syngaschem BV at DIFFER, Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands. Kinetic studies involving the reduction of nickel and copper tripeptides with complex cyanides of iron, tungsten, and molybdenum were conducted. Ferrocene-containing phthalocyanines with liquid crystalline properties and polymers with biomedical applications were studied. Prof Swarts received an international research award from Syngaschem BV at DIFFER, Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands.

Also, in the **Department of Chemistry**, Prof L Moskaleva's research is focused on surface reactivity of solids at the atomic level using firstprinciples quantum-chemical methods, molecular dynamics, statistical theory, microkinetic modelling, and thermodynamics. Prof Moskaleva received an NRF grant for 2021-2023 within the IRG - India/ South Africa Research Cooperation Programme for her project 'Extremely Large-Scale Modelling of Elementary Processes in Hydrocarbon Combustion using High-Throughput Atomistic Simulations and Data Science' in collaboration with the group of Prof R Ramakrishnan from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Hyderabad, India. She also continued a collaborative project within the NAGOCAT Research Unit, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Prof Karel von Eschwege from the **Department of Chemistry** has collaborations with the Laser Research Institute in the Department of Physics at Stellenbosch University (femtosecond laser spectroscopy), the Department of Chemistry at the University of Pretoria (Langmuir–Blodgett single molecular layer thin films) and its Faculty of Health Sciences (fine particulate matter in atmospheric pollution), together with universities in Sweden.

In the **Department of Chemistry**, the research of Prof André Roodt's group on medical aspects of pharmaceutical model compounds, in collaboration with Prof Roger Alberto (University of Zurich, Switzerland) and Dr Gerdus Kemp (PET Laboratories and Klydon, SA), continued. Similarly, the group's collaboration on model homogeneous catalysts continued with Prof Vadim Boyarskiy from the Saint Petersburg State University and Dr Fanie Otto (SASOL). In addition, the research on environmental chemistry, i.e., hydrogen generation and carbon dioxide utilisation in collaboration also with Prof Roger Alberto (University of Zurich, Switzerland), proceeded very well. Prof Roodt continued collaboration with Prof Houcine Naili from the University of Sfax in Tunisia, and with Prof Felix Zelder at the University of Zurich on reaction mechanisms on chemosensing. co-supervising a Swiss PhD student.

In the **Department of Chemistry**, Prof Alice Brink collaborated with Prof John Helliwell from the University of Manchester. Additional collaborators involved in the research project include Dr Louise Natrajan (University of Manchester), Dr Simon Tanley (University of Manchester), Dr Colin Levy (Manchester Institute of Biotechnology), Prof Dirk Opperman (Biochemistry, UFS), and Prof Ted Kroon (Physics, UFS). A collaboration with the Department of Pharmacology, the University of Pretoria, and the University of Missouri (USA) is continuing, as well as an interdisciplinary collaboration with Prof T Makhafola (Central University of Technology). She also collaborated with colleagues in the department, namely Profs Venter, Visser, Roodt and Drs M Schutte-Smith and E Muller.

Prof Wijnand Swarts from the **Department of Chemistry** collaborated internationally with Prof Hans Niemandtsverdriet of Syngaschem BV at DIFFER, Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands.

Prof Jeanette Conradie from the Department of Chemistry collaborated nationally with Prof M Landman and Dr F Malan from the University of Pretoria, Dr Gurthwin Bosman and Dr Christine M Steenkamp from the Laser Research Institute, Department of Physics, Stellenbosch University, and Dr CGCE van Sittert from North-West University. She also collaborated internationally with Prof Abhik Ghosh (Department of Chemistry and Centre for Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, University of Tromsø, Norway), Zachary Tonzetich (University of Texas at San Antonio, United States), Prof Penny Brothers (University of Auckland, New Zealand), Prof JH Potgieter (Wits and Manchester Metropolitan University, UK), Karl M Kadish (University of Houston, Texas, United States), Carl Wamser (Portland State

University, Oregon, United States), Todd Harrop (University of Georgia, Athens, United States), Prof Elisa Tomat (University of Arizona, Tucson), Prof Sanjib Kar (National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar, Khordha, India and Homi Bhabha National Institute, Training School Complex, Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai, India), Dr Jean Jules Fifen (University of Ngaoundere, Cameroon), and Prof Fridolin Nya Tchangnwa (University of Maroua, Cameroon).

Prof Moskaleva from the **Department of Chemistry** continued international collaboration with researchers from NAGOCAT, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). She also started collaborative research on combustion chemistry and data science with Prof R Ramakrishnan from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Hyderabad, India, jointly funded by the NRF and DST (India).

Dr Ernie Langner from the **Department of Chemistry** has a national collaboration with Dr Kobus van der Walt (Central University of Technology) on the development of polypropylene powders for laser sintering. He also had an international collaboration with Prof Hans Niemantsverdriet of Syngaschem BV at DIFFER, Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands, on CO2 adsorption.

Drs Bonnet and Wilhelm from the **Department of Chemistry** continued collaboration with Prof Steffen Hering from ChanPharm, an Austrian pharmaceutical company. Drs Bonnet and Wilhelm collaborated with Dr Leon van Kralingen from the Wattle Industry, Pietermaritzburg, on projects involving the derivatisation of wattle tannin extracts for industrial applications, and with Dr Richard Burghoff from the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research, UKZN (grant received from Forestry Sector Innovation Fund). Dr Bonnet/Wilhelm collaborated with Dr Chika Chukwuma from CUT, Bloemfontein, on anti-diabetic phytomedicines and synthetic molecules.

Prof Azov from the **Department of Chemistry** has started a new collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium, funded by the joint NRF/FWO grant, aimed at the synthesis of unnatural amino acids containing tetrathiafulvalene electron donors and various electron accepting groups for materials and biomedical applications. He also participated in a large international collaboration involving scientists from several universities (Leipzig University, Purdue University, PNNL,) related to the gas-phase chemistry of dodecaborates and collaborated with Dr M Zeller (Purdue University) / Prof Vande Velde (University of Antwerp) on crystallography of organic molecules.

Dr Johanes Belle from the **Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC)** was appointed as part of the international team of 16 members for thematic theme 4 on Nature Based Solutions (NbS) to organise the Global Platform (GP) for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia from 23 to 28 May 2022. The GP2022 is the highest platform constituted by the United Nations to evaluate and advise on the commitment of nation states regarding disaster risk reduction issues. Dr Belle was the only member from Africa.

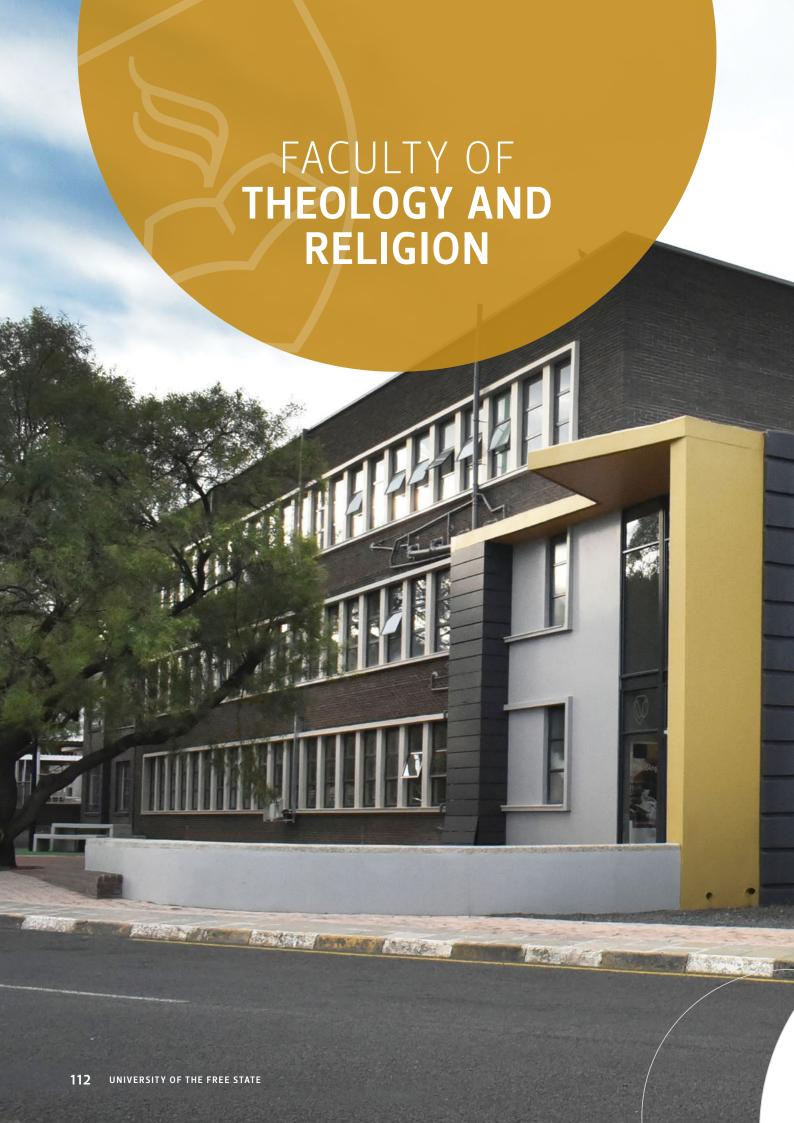
The Institute for Groundwater Studies water research laboratory also recently obtained ISO 17025 accreditation from the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) for all methods used in IGS. This accreditation indicates that the laboratory adheres to all the conditions and requirements as stipulated by the body via the international standard. ISO 17025 is complementary to the generic quality management system standard ISO 9001. The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), based in Switzerland, created the industrial standards.

European PIs and collaborators in a BiodivERsA project funded by a European Union Horizon2020 grant and DSI came together for a site visit, led by Dr S Steenhuisen (**Department of Plant Sciences**), to their experimental setup on the Amphitheatre plateau in the Maluti–Drakensberg (19 March 2022).

Prof Kahilu Kajimo-Shakantu from the **Department** of Quantity Surveying and Construction Management was invited as a panellist to discuss issues and solutions on smart cities in Africa at the International Conference on Development and Investment Infrastructure. Prof Kajimo-Shakantu also delivered the presidential address, looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the construction and industry responses at the 15th Built Environment Conference hosted by the Association of Schools of Construction of Southern Africa.

Dr Thulisile Mphambukeli from the **Department** of Urban and Regional Planning was invited by His Excellency/Mr Ambassador Dr Nirmal Kumar Bishokarma, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to South Africa, to discuss potential collaboration between South Africa and Nepal.







Dean Prof Rantoa Letsosa



Faculty Internationalisation Coordinator Prof Lodewyk Sutton

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Department of Old and New Testament Studies

Prof DF Tolmie: Read a paper on the spirituality of the Letter to the Galatians at a conference of the International Colloquium for the New Testament at Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, on 14 June 2022.

Dr D Pietersen attended the Global Network for Digital Theology Conference 2022 related to the theme 'How Theology and Faith Practices Shape Digital Culture'. The conference was held online 7–9 July 2022. He has a book in progress with international publishers – Wipf and Stock Publishers. He is also a team member of the Planning Task Team for the Merensky' Inspired Social Sciences Research Initiative Trans and Multi-Disciplinary, including but not limited to Missiology, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Gender Studies.

Prof Sutton delivered the paper, 'A Literary Spatial reading of Song of Songs 6:1–12' at the Tyndale Fellowship Conference on the theme of the Megilloth: Papers on Ruth, Esther, Lamentations, Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes that were read from 22 to 24 June 2022 in the UK.

In June 2022, a special Festschrift from the faculty was presented in Nijmegen, the Netherlands to Prof Kees Waaijman, Professor Emeritus of Radboud University in the Netherlands, and a Research Fellow of the Department of Old and New Testament Studies for more than 15 years. It was a supplementum edition of *Acta Theologica*, titled 'In the Divine Presence', and contained contributions on spirituality by many leading scholars from all over the globe. The volume was presented to Prof Waaijman by *Prof Pieter de Villiers*, Professor Extraordinaire in our faculty, and one of the editors of the book.

The conference of the International Organisation for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) is held every three years. This year it was hosted by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland, from 8 to 12 August. *Prof Sutton* was responsible for organising the workshop on 'Violence in the Psalms' at the conference and delivered a paper with the title 'Mouths at War – Reading the Direction of Violence in Psalms 57–59'.

Prof Tolmie and Prof Sutton attended the Society of Biblical Literature's annual conference in Denver, USA, 20–24 November.

Department of Historical and Constructive Theology

Ms N Mlambo was on research leave for three months at Lund University in Sweden, from which she received a bursary. At Lund, she took part in several seminars.

Prof H van der Westhuizen was on sabbatical leave for six months, half of which was spent at the Research Centre International and Interdisciplinary Theology (FIIT), University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Prof H van der Westhuizen was invited to participate in the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Department of Practical and Missional Theology

A new research publication on *Spiritual formation* in *local faith communities*, a product of the international collaboration between colleagues from Australia, USA, the Netherlands, Scotland, and South Africa.

ISERT conference in Assisi (Italy) 19–22 June 2022: Prof WJ Schoeman: 'Evaluating township congregations in challenging times – a South African perspective' (paper).

Dr J Meyer: Research visit to KU Leuven, Belgium, and VU Amsterdam, to complete research and network with scholars. April 2022.

Dr Martin Laubscher delivered a presentation at the Annual Academy of Homiletics in Louisville. He presented a paper titled, 'An international (South African) response to Dr Julio Adam's 'Preaching and decoloniality in the Brazilian context – An attempt'. He also delivered a paper at the 14th International Conference of Societas Homiletica in Budapest, Hungary in August ('Barth on 'Preaching toward truth'?').

Dr Eugene Baron visited the Protestant Theological University (the Netherlands) and Abo Academie (Finland) on invitation in the second half of 2022 as a research fellow. He also attended the African Leadership Symposium in Oslo, Norway, and participated in a Belgian research group on the themes of 'radicalisation and violence'.

Dr Joseph Pali presented a paper on 'The role and response of churches beyond the COVID-19 pandemic' at the General Synod, Morija (Lesotho).

In collaboration with Prof Chris Hermans from the Radboud University in the Netherlands, Prof Schoeman co-edited a book, titled *Resilient Religion, Resilience and Heartbreaking Adversity* (2022) by Lit Verlag (Zurich), to which several of the department's scholars contributed. As such, Dr Martin Laubscher published a chapter titled, 'Resilient preaching? A critical appraisal of Johan Cilliers' trilogy on 'grace', and Dr Juanita Meyer contributed a chapter titled, 'Surviving my story of trauma: a pastoral theology of resilience'.

Department of Religion Studies

Dr Mwansa Claude Kimpinde from the department is collaborating on an article with the Centre for Black Theology at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

In July 2022, *Dr Joel Mokhoathi* attended an international conference of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence on 'Medialities'. The conference was cohosted by the University of Bayreuth and the Rhodes University African Studies Centre in Grahamstown. In September 2022, Dr Joel Mokhoathi also attended an international conference on 'ProMores' as a keynote speaker at the University of Pretoria. The conference was hosted by the Faculty of Systematic and Historical Theology.

INTERNATIONAL STAFF EXCHANGES

Department of Old and New Testament Studies

In October, Research Fellow *Prof Stefan Fischer* from the University of Vienna in Austria visited the department and gave a public lecture on the topic of 'The Book of Job and Abraham's Sacrifice (Gen 22) – A Comparison'. The lecture took place in the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the UFS and had excellent attendance and a fruitful question and answer session afterwards.



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

Department of Old and New Testament Studies

Dr D Pietersen submitted a manuscript, 'Dialogical, online teaching and learning platforms in Higher Education: Socially just and decolonised' to the International Journal of Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Higher Education. This is specifically in the area of teaching and learning.

Prof Sutton has been invited by Dr D Firth from Trinity College Bristol to attend the Annual Postgraduate Research Conference for their doctoral students' research and proposals from 16 to 22 June 2022 in the UK.

Prof Sutton completed the CREST Online Training Course for Supervisors of Doctoral Candidates at African Universities (presented at Stellenbosch University).

The department hosted several public lectures this year, organised by Prof Sutton. The first of these was an online series of lectures on the topic of Old Testament Hermeneutics. This included Prof Louis Jonker from Stellenbosch University, who spoke on Contextual Hermeneutics and the Old Testament; Dr Jill Firth, Lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia, on Feminist Studies and Hermeneutics in the Old Testament; and Prof Elizabeth Mburu, Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek at the International Leadership University, the Africa International University, and the Pan Africa Christian University in Nairobi, Kenya, who spoke on African Hermeneutics.

Department of Practical and Missional Theology

Dr Mias van Jaarsveld was awarded his PhD degree in March/April 2022 as outcome of a Joint Doctoral Degree Programme between the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands and the University of the Free State.

Department of Religious Studies

Prof Hendrik R Pieterse, Associate Professor of Global Christianity and Intercultural Theology, (Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, USA, gave an annual lecture in his master's module THEO – 650 Intercultural Theology.

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The faculty appointed *Mr Lethabo Machabaphala* as Marketing Officer at the beginning of 2022, who will collaborate closely with Student Recruitment Services on international marketing. Apart from Prof Miller-Naude from the Department of Hebrew who actively recruits international students for the programmes in Bible translation through association with Bible translation organisations around the world and specifically in Africa, no faculty-specific international marketing campaigns are planned.

While the Faculty Admission Committee is aware of the expectation to admit more international students, the number of international undergraduate applicants is low and the evaluation process for international postgraduate students is very slow due to the SAQA verification process.

PARTNERSHIPS

The faculty is in the process of creating two new MOUs with the SANDF and the ACRP.

FACULTY INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

The faculty adopted a new Strategic Plan this year. Based on this plan, a process of developing a strategy for internationalisation is underway.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONALISATION

The year 2022 ended with a planned educational study tour to Egypt, organised by *Prof Sutton*. The purpose of the tour was to educate and create an opportunity, especially for undergraduate students, to visit Egypt as one of the most prominent countries in the Bible. The students and other people on the tour experienced the historical, social, and geographical context of Egypt first hand. Thirty-one people (local and international) attended this tour.



SECTION 4 DATA ON INTERNATIONALISATION

The UFS adopts a vision of comprehensive internationalisation, with a specific focus on research and innovation. The university 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.

The UFS considers its diverse university community as a core resource to incubate intercultural and international competencies and produce new knowledge, thus aspiring to excellence in all aspects of its internationalisation process.

In 2022, as in the past, this aspiration was reflected in deliberately attracting and recruiting the most brilliant minds across the globe, as well as a concerted effort to provide excellent support to its international students and staff. It was also reflected in the high and growing number of international collaborations with institutions and individual scholars from diverse regions across the world.

The UFS had 975 registered international students in 2022, representing around 3% of its total student population.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY REGION

Registrations by residency

The vast majority of international students registered in 2022 (825) hailed from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, while 118 came from non–SADC countries in the rest of Africa, and 32 from various other countries spread out over the globe.

Although the numbers were in all cases slightly lower in 2022 than in immediately preceding years, the proportional spread reflected a similar distribution trend to the previous three years.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Residency > Nationality > Home Language	Registrations	Registrations	Registrations	Registrations
NSADC	181	140	143	118
SADC	1 288	1048	924	825
ZAF	53	57	36	32
Total	1522	1 2 4 5	1 103	975

GRAPH 1: Registrations by residency [2019 - 2022]

Registrations from Global South

The majority of international students from African countries were from Lesotho, with Zimbabwe contributing the second largest number.



GRAPH 2: Registrations from Global South

Registrations from Global North

In 2022, the largest number of international students from the Global North were from the United States of America (USA) and Germany.

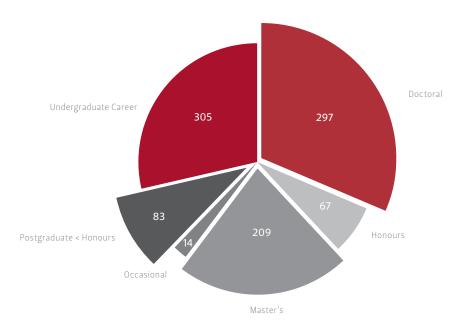


			Grand Total	30
	Japan	1	O United States of America	6
	Ireland	1	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4
0	Germany	6	Taiwan	1
	France	3	Republic of Korea	2
	Australia	2	Netherlands	4

GRAPH 3: Registrations from Global North

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REGISTRATIONS BY LEVEL OF STUDY

The greatest proportion of the 2022 international student cohort was made up of undergraduate students (31%), with doctoral students only slightly less, forming the second largest group (30%). All levels of study showed a slight decrease from numbers recorded in 2021.

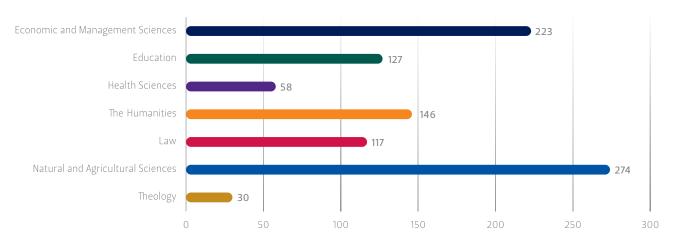


GRAPH 4: 2022 International students by level of study

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REGISTRATIONS PER FACULTY

The largest number of international students (274) in 2022 was registered in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, with the second largest number (223) in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, with The Humanities (146) 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.

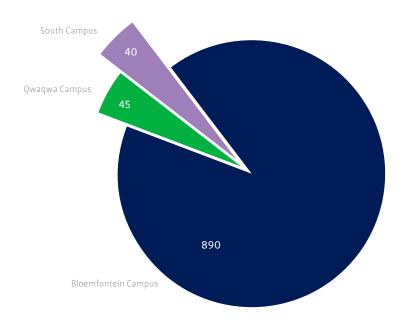
The smallest number of international students (30) were registered with the Faculty of Theology and Religion, one of the UFS' smallest faculties.



GRAPH 5: 2022 International students per faculty

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PER CAMPUS

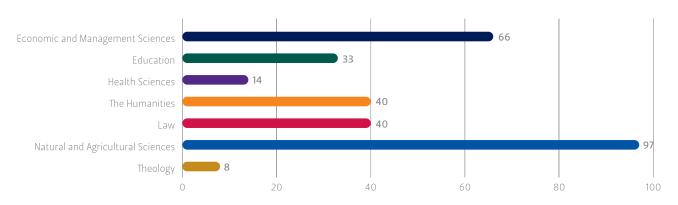
Of the 975 registered international students in 2022, 890 students were based on the Bloemfontein Campus, 45 on the Qwaqwa Campus and 40 on the South Campus. This geographic spread makes sense in light of the fact that the Bloemfontein Campus is the largest of the UFS's three campuses, hosting all seven faculties, while the other two campuses have smaller faculty representation, with selected, specialised academic offerings.



GRAPH 6: 2022 International students per campus

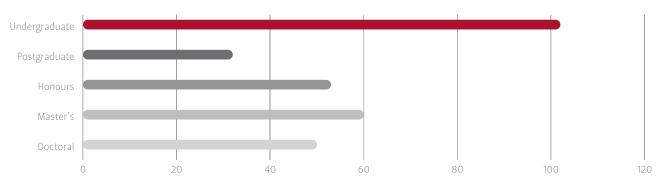
INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES

Close to 300 international students graduated in 2022, with the biggest group of graduates recorded in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.



GRAPH 7: 2022 International graduates per faculty

Most of the 2022 international graduates received undergraduate degrees, with doctoral degrees making up the second largest group.



GRAPH 8: 2022 International graduates per qualification level





South Africa

GRAPH 9: 2022 Postdoctoral fellows by nationality

OVERVIEW OF UFS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The UFS collaborated with 2 811 international institutions in the period 2020–2022, while UFS scholars' collaboration with international counterparts produced 3 549 co–authored publications over the same period.

The greatest number of collaborations was with European-based institutions, with Asia-Pacific institutions forming the second largest group.

The largest number of co-authored publications was produced via collaborations with African institutions, which included those in South Africa.



GRAPH 10: Collaborating institutions and co-authored publications (2020–2022)

163

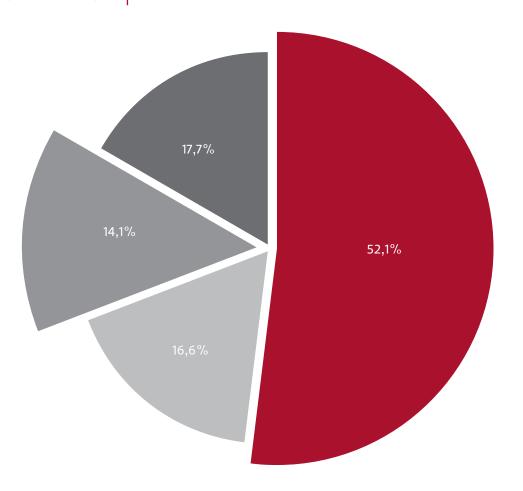
126

S. America

SCHOLARLY OUTPUT

From the graph below, it is clear that the largest number of scholarly outputs in 2022 originated from international collaborations.

International collaboration	52,1%
Only national collaboration	17,1%
Only institutional collaboration	14,1%
Single authorship (no collaboration)	16,6%



GRAPH 11: Scholarly output by international, national and institutional collaboration







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



