SUNRISE SOCIETY HOSTS INNOVATIVE COMPETITION TO IMPROVE LITERACY

THE SLSJ ANNUAL NATIONAL SEMINAR

ASPIRING ECONOMISTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY IN ITALY

STUDENT DEFIES DEVASTATING INJURY TO EXCEL IN KARATE
To any South African still grappling with the complex task of defining an identity that espouses the values of all the citizens in the country, Heritage Day is undoubtedly one of the most important days in the calendar, and the numerous events which have happened and are scheduled to happen in and around campus attest to that value. The day was especially declared a public holiday in 1996 by the then president, Nelson Mandela to encourage the celebration of the diverse cultural traditions and beliefs that make up the nation of South Africa.

The proposition by the Braai4Heritage organisation to declare the national holiday National Braai day in 2007 raised a few South African eyebrows and the idea was indeed initially snubbed by the National Heritage Council as trivializing the intention behind the conception of the holiday. The council however later endorsed the idea and in 2007, September the 24th was declared National Braai Day. The idea was initiated and fostered with the outlook of rivalling some of the biggest global days of celebration like St Patrick’s Day in Ireland and Queen’s Day in the Netherlands and according to the Braai4Heritage organisation, was premised on the fact that there is one heritage common to all South Africans; to gather around fires and braai.

Perhaps it is my narrowed view that imagines that greater social cohesion, the deeper understanding of our individual cultures, and the integration of our diversities to form a unified world view will require a little more contemplation than is possible over a braai stand. Perhaps I might be a little too cynical when thinking that braaing might start to overshadow the significance of the Holiday envisioned in Nelson Mandela’s pronouncements.

But, my sentiments certainly did not stop people from expressing their appreciation of Heritage month.
On 24th of August 2013, Sunrise Organisation successfully conducted a Spelling Bee competition at the Alice campus. The objective of the competition was to improve the contestants’ vocabularies and spelling of English words, and to assist in developing and ensuring the correct usage of the English language and learnt concepts. This involved giving contestants words to spell and the person who spells the most correct words declared the winner.

Sunrise Organization is a voluntary organization made up of university students who are dedicated to raising the levels of education in the Eastern Cape, particularly poor communities and intends to develop a generation of students who promote academic, social and environmental responsibility. The organization promotes leadership skills and the social intelligence of students in order to inspire and equip them to shape the world they would like to live in and to take responsibility for their communities. In addition to the Spelling Bee competition, Sunrise also work in collaboration with the Student Counselling Unit (SCU) in conducting workshops that are based on training students for the outside world. These workshops are; leadership workshop, time and stress management workshop and career guidance workshops.

South African Young People Need To Revisit Black Consciousness Movement

Thursday the 12th of September marked the 36th anniversary of Steve Biko’s death while in police custody at Pretoria Central Prison after being arrested for alleged terrorism. Biko, now dubbed one of the Legends of Buffalo City Municipality (BCM) was a brilliant young man with great ambition for black people of South Africa who left behind a repository of knowledge and wisdom towards their emancipation in his much appraised book, I write what I like and his documented work and activities in the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM).

His legacy still bears significant relevance in the country, which latter 20 years since the dawn of democracy, is still struggling to heal the wounds left by the apartheid regime. Political expert, Aubrey Matshiqi aptly emphasised this when he said: “today more than ever, South Africans need to revisit the Black Consciousness Movement which aimed to empower black people.”

We claim Biko as one of our own because his roots span the Eastern Cape Province. He was born in Queenstown, lived in Ginsberg and studied in Alice at Love Dale High School (now Lovedale RFT College) and grew to become one of the country’s most enthusiastic intellectuals, who was challenging national issues well before the age of 30.

My question is how many Steve Biko’s do we have today? How many of us are following what the Black Consciousness Movement was fighting for? How far are we as a country in terms of empowering black people especially the young people? Those are a kinds of questions we should be asking ourselves as the current generation of students; to enable us to close the gap between the goals of reconciliation and the reality of reconciliation.

Student movements such as the Student Representative Council (SRC) should be platforms that encourage students to change their communities and cultivate a better life in the country.

Long live the spirit of Steve Biko long live!!!

Zusakhe Noganta

Student Society Raises Consciousness About The Environment

In promoting environmental greening and the reduction of carbon foot, the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) UFH Branch planted 20 trees around the Golf Course Community Hall on the 28th of September, as part of an ongoing community engagement project. GSSA has specifically focused its community engagement initiatives on the Golf Course area as it is less vegetated and highly exposed to erosion, in an effort to encourage local scientists and non-scientists to take special interest in its environmental greening programs, which will operate annually.

The Geological Society of South Africa (the GSSA) was established on the 4th of February, 1895 and is one of the oldest scientific societies in South Africa. It is a society that exists for geologists and earth scientists with an interest in Africa, and southern Africa in particular, and has over 2 500 members and student members.

At UFH, the society promotes the study of the earth sciences and looks after the interests of earth scientists by providing forums and events where geologists and members from related disciplines meet and share ideas, discuss advances in the science, emerging technology, and new geological models and ideas.

The event was supported by numerous societies and Departments and the contribution of all the parties enabled the project’s success. Among the contributing Departments were: the Department of Geology, the Department of Chemistry, the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology and the Department of Computer Science. In addition to the support received from within the University, GSSA also received support from local businesses, Standard Bank, Champs and Link Pharmacy who donated trees towards the project.

The Organisation has pledged to monitor the planting of trees and their upkeep.

Siphoesile Makhwaza

Mandela’ Receives Standing Ovation and Rave Reviews at the Toronto International Film Festival

The long-awaited film titled Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom premiered at the Toronto film festival, which received an unprecedented eight-minute standing ovation coupled with rapturous applause at the Festival venue, the Roy Thomson Hall.

Producer Anant Singh, who owns the rights to the autobiography on which the film is based, remarked that though the making of film was a long journey, the work that went into its production was well worth it. Singh began communicating with Mandela while he was still in prison and acquired the rights to the autobiography in 1996.

The film, which is scheduled to be released in South Africa in November features British actors; Idris Elba, who plays Mandela, and Naomi Harris who stars as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

The University of Fort Hare is very proud to have produced this great world icon, shabhongi ngenhlayi ngsi futhi wethu...

Zusakhe Noganta
WSU students return to school

The six-week long protest by the National Education, Health and allied Workers’ Union (NEHAWU) ended with a concession from the Walter Sisulu University (WSU) management that would “see workers receive a 5% annual increase backdated to January 1”, the union said in a statement issued by NEHAWU on the 18th of September.

Part of the settlement included among other things, the appointment of an audit firm to conduct further audits on the process of migration into new salary scales and a once-off offer to staff to migrate to a preferred retirement fund to enable staff to make an informed choice,” NEHAWU said.

The highest cost of the strike however was borne on the students of the university who missed 6 weeks of lecture time. Some first year students expressed regret at having chosen to study at the university as their schooling careers stood in jeopardy. Being back at school is a great relief to most students and lecturers at the University had prepared a strategy for students to quickly recover the lost time.

Zusakhe Noganta

Student defies devastating injury to excel in Karate

Sandile Mhambehlala developed a passion and love for semi-contact (Shotokan) Karate when he was introduced to the sport in 2004 at the age of 12 years while living in Port Elizabeth. He spent years of training, dedication and hard work perfecting the art of Shotokan Karate, attending a number of tournaments around the Eastern Cape and various countries, until he graded his yellow belt under the late Sensei Xola Konto.

In 2008 he attained a dangerous spine injury while participating in a tournament and decided to stop Karate until his passion was rekindled in 2010 when he moved to Alice. He decided to join the UH Kyokushin Karate team and his dedication to full contact Karate motivated him to move from Shotokan to Kyokushin Karate.

Mhambehlala has spent sleepless nights and long days of tough training to become a true Kyokushin legend under the instruction of one of the best and internationally recognised African instructors, Sensei Konto. Under the watchful eye of his instructor, he has defied odds to be one of the best karatekas in Fort Hare. He has won several tournaments both in Kumite (Fighting) and Kata (Basic Skills) under his weight category. He currently holds an Orange Belt and is a proud Fortharian whom has a weight of 56.2kg and fights in the division of men under 60...

Privilege Cheteni

The SLSJ held its annual national seminar at Buits in the North West, which was themed: The Implementation Gap: the disjuncture between the Constitution and reality. The UFH branch, which comprised Sinazo Makaula (BCom Law student at UFH), former treasurer of SLSJ National, flew to Johannesburg alongside students from other institutions across the country.

Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting Function

The Post Graduate Diploma in accounting students attended their year-end function on 13 September. This was a wonderful celebration of a good but tough year with excellent entertainment provided by the students.

There was a choral group, poem, game show and awards all ably hosted by Trymore and Labosa of the PDGA class.

Congratulations must go to the recipient of the student-voted lecturer of the year, Daylan Staude. The students presented Daylan with a trophy and a medal in recognition of his contribution to them during this year.

The department wishes the students all the best with their preparation for their upcoming examinations, and ultimately with their Board Exam early next year.
HERITAGE DAY
A POEM BY DIVARIS NCUBE

The echoes of the drums can be heard from the mountains in the South
Sweet melodies flow from the mouth
It is the sound of the celebration of our people
All for one in our diversity we dance
Upholding the various traditions and beliefs which we embrace
On this day with pride we light the embers
A day unlike many it is the 24th of September
The past we do not relive but for the future we gear up
Our nation strives on the unity of our people
Those that are like flowers in a world where thorns strive
We fight to retain the fruits of our past
We bind as one to protect the treasure that is our heritage
We are a multicultural nation
Our power is in the heat of that drum which makes us one

JOKE OF THE WEEK
A mother took her little boy to church.
While in church the little boy said, “Mommy, I have to pee.”

The mother said to the little boy, “It’s not appropriate to say the word ‘pee’ in church.
So, from now on whenever you have to ‘pee’ just tell me that you have to ‘whisper’.”

The following Sunday, the little boy went to church with his father and during the service said to his father, “Daddy, I have to whisper.”

The father looked at him and said, “Okay, just whisper in my ear.”

DISCOVERY LEARNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Discovery is offering an opportunity for 25 of South Africa’s brightest young minds to join their contact centre learnership in Cape Town, Sandton or Port Elizabeth.

The Learnership programme consists of structured learning components combined with practical/workplace experience which totals to 1,350 learning hours. The qualification is Unit Standard Based and the programme is registered with the Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (InSeta) and will be accredited by the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA). The focus of the Learnership will be on providing services in a contact centre environment.

Please note: This opportunity is being advertised in accordance with the company’s Employment Equity initiatives.

Key Outputs
GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING TO THE DISCOVERY LEARNERSHIP

Please ensure that you apply for only 1 of the Learnerships advertised and that you meet the minimum criteria in order to be eligible for the Learnership.

You must have a valid SA ID
Please also have your Matric subjects and symbols on hand as you need to input this information on your application.

THE LEARNER WILL ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS FROM THIS PROGRAM:

- Competences: Strong English communication skills • Self-motivated with a desire to learn • Good interpersonal skills • Basic computer skills

- Qualifications & Experience

  Candidates must:
  • Be South African Citizens
  • Hold a valid & recognised Matric with Maths (Minimum D Symbol) & English (Minimum C Symbol on Standard Grade) and a 2nd Language (Minimum D or Level 4)
  • Learners must have achieved at least two languages at Matric (Minimum D Symbol or Level 4)
  • Not be engaged in past matric studies or formal employment
  • Not have completed any previous Learnership
  • Be between the ages of 18 and 30 years
  • Have effective communication skills in the English language
  • Possess basic computer skills
  • Express a keen interest in administration, contact centre and customer service

How to apply for Discovery Learnerships

Cape Town – to apply online. (6 Vacancies) – Closing date: 31 January 2014
Sandton – (9 Vacancies) – Closing Date: 30-Nov-2013
Port Elizabeth – (10 Vacancies) – Closing date: 31 January 2014

Please note: The cost of attending interviews and any relocation cost is for the account of the candidate. Discovery will not reimburse any costs incurred.
STUDENT PROFILE

The university of Fort Hare has a remarkable reputation for producing outstanding individuals who, not only change the world, but also inspire others to tread in their footsteps. We caught up with 3rd year BSc-agriculture student, philanthropist, motivational speaker, honorary character award recipient, UFH most inspirational woman of the year award winner (2012), former debate society president (2nd female president in the history of the society), hiker and more recently – writer, Xatyiswa Maqashalala, who is an epitome of such individuals of high calibre that the university proudly calls its products.

Q: Who is Xatyiswa, and what is it exactly that makes you stand out?
A: Well, as you might know or rather – many might know is that I am physically challenged. I don’t like to call it a disability because disability implies that you can’t do anything for yourself. I am able to do anything I want to do. In fact, I’ve done quite a lot of things that one might deem impossible for someone in my physical state. So it’s for this reason that I don’t consider myself disabled. If I had to tell you who Xatyiswa is, you would need more than just a magazine page to fit the description (giggles). Above all, I’m a people’s person. I love people and I think that more than anything, people see are merely reflections of my attitude and a general positive outlook on life.

Q: What is the inspiration behind the positive aura that overweights everyone in your presence?
A: First of all, we don’t know what your problems are because you look like everyone else. With me it’s different; everyone can see what my weaknesses are. Staying positive all the time is just my way of saying to people; you can triumph over your problems. The bad does not have to outweigh the good. Who you are or how you are does not have to be aligned with your overall view at life. You have absolutely no control over what life throws at you, but what you do have control of, however, is your attitude towards it. What people see are merely reflections of my attitude and a general positive outlook on life.

Q: Any last words to our readers?
A: Your opinion of yourself matters more than anyone else’s. People will come in and out of your life but through it all, the only person you will remain with is yourself.

ASPIRING ECONOMISTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY IN ITALY

Three aspiring Economists from the University, Nomtha Vellem, Azania Yokwana and Loyiso Maciko, will soon be landing on the European continent to pursue their passion for Economics. The students have been awarded various scholarships to study at the University of Bologna in Italy towards Master’s degree programs in Economics. The scholarships are the result of a partnership, EUROSA III, which is jointly coordinated by South African and European universities. The Internationalisation Office, headed by Mr. Arthur Johnson administered the dissemination of information to staff and students which resulted in the awarding of the scholarships to the students.

Azania Yokwana is from a rural town in Enkanga in Umdlande and at age 22; she already holds a Bachelor of Economics degree and an Honours degree in Financial Markets from UFH and has been accepted for a two year full scholarship to study towards a Master’s degree in Economics and Market Policy at the University of Bologna. Yokwana emphasises the importance of diligently pursuing her studies in Economics, a subject she has been interested in since she was introduced to it in High School, as her intention is to be to be a distinguished academic in the field.

Loyiso Maciko will be pursuing a Master’s degree in Economics and Market Policy on a full scholarship in Bologna. Maciko asserts that the EUROSA III scholarship is one of many opportunities available to students to pursue at UFH, adding that students need to be inquisitive and actively search for opportunities that will enhance their future prospects. He believes that there is a need for more young people who are educated and socially responsible to plough knowledge and resources back into the communities they come from. Maciko is the recipient of a BCom Management and Economics degree as well as an Honours degree in Financial Markets and is currently studying towards a Diploma in Higher Education and Training at UFH.

Nomtha Vellem, who has been accepted into a 6 month program at the University of Bologna, studying towards a Master’s degree in Quantitative Finance, is currently in her second year of the Master’s degree program in Economics (by research) at UFH. Vellem, who was born in Butterworth, comes from humble beginnings and has always had an interest in business and commercial subjects. She holds an Undergraduate degree in BCom (General) and an Honours degree in Financial Markets from the University of Free State and UFH respectively and hopes to study towards her PhD in Economics upon attaining her Master’s degree.