

Why not?

If you tell people that you need to study, they usually say 'Why?' You should firmly respond by saying 'Why not?'. I certainly wouldn't trade my studies for anything. Studying and working are proving to be adventurous, interesting and most enjoyable. I am currently working as a school-based senior administration clerk. As a 33-year-old single mother of two beautiful, intelligent angels, I knew I had to get my degree so that they will comprehend and witness the importance of being a graduate. I enrolled for a Bachelor of Education degree in 2011, and this step boosted my self-reliance, self-esteem and self-determination. I am now at the end of my second year, and my goal is to obtain an honours degree. To my fellow-students I want to say: Remember, it is never too late to reach your destination!

- Nonhlanhla Precious Zondi

Getting back on track with Unisa

I received my first ever copy of *Inspired* recently. It affords me the opportunity to know what is happening in the outside world since I am currently incarcerated at the Mangaung Maximum Security Prison.

I am enrolled for an LLB degree in the College of Law. It is quite overwhelming to study under the tremendously stressful conditions experienced in prison, but I am determined to promote legal knowledge among vulnerable and disadvantaged people, who need to know what their rights are in order for us to build a just society. I believe in wisdom, as wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge successfully to solve problems, to avoid dangers, to attain goals and to help others.

My country is waiting for me as a fellow citizen, and I will make it through Unisa

- Richard K Maebela

Veld inspiration

I've always wanted to make something of my passion for wildlife, but never thought I would be able to do it as a result of financial issues. However, I found Unisa, a place where anything is possible. I can now work as well as study, and maybe one day I will get to go out in the field and work with the majestic wildlife I've always admired. Unisa has given me the opportunity to make something of my life and to make my dreams come true. I am only a first-year student, but I am proud to say that Unisa has enabled me to take a giant leap forward in life. At first I was worried about the difficulties I would face studying through correspondence, but a little hard work combined with the passion of my studies pulled me through to achieve what I wanted to achieve. Just remember, we all have what it takes to be whatever we want; we just have to look within ourselves and not focus on the obstacles surrounding us. What lies ahead of us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

- Julia Eloff

Let's cure continental ills

I greatly appreciated the article on HIV/AIDS in the June issue of *Inspired*. Students, not only from Unisa but from all higher institutions both locally and abroad, ought to be challenged to participate in campaigns that seek to arrest this social challenge that has taken and shaped so many lives. Africa is calling with a loud voice, reminding us that the ills of this continent can be cured. HIV/AIDS has trivialised the importance of life and desensitised us to the tragic. When this monstrous killer shows no respect for the human condition, we are reminded once more to gather the oldest weapons in the arsenal of human values: self-respect, self-control, honesty to oneself and others, courage, love and patriotism. Nothing is impossible when collective effort is applied – it is our responsibility to create a generation free of HIV/AIDS.

- Thabang Motswabangwe

Student learning ambassadors part of Chance 2 Advance success

The Chance 2 Advance (C2A) programme continues to be one of Unisa's most successful community engagement initiatives to date, with enthusiastic participation by both staff and students. The programme, an initiative of the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narend Bajinath, is essentially a wide selection of customised and relevant learning initiatives that seek to encourage and inspire informal learning.

During the course of the year Diepsloot residents turned up in their numbers to attend the more than 100 courses presented by Unisa staff who were ably assisted by student learning ambassadors. On Friday, 28 September, great jubilation filled the air as the community of Diepsloot received their Chance 2 Advance certificates of participation. Despite the threatening weather, hundreds of participants steadily streamed into the venue during the course of the day to collect their much anticipated and highly appreciated certificates.

This year students numbered well over 12 000, and the programme required a mammoth logistical undertaking involving over 54 workshop facilitators who participated in workshops held at 8 strategically located venues across Diepsloot. A total of 35 members of the Diepsloot community

and 10 Unisa students served in the capacity of Chance 2 Advance learning ambassadors. A further 12 members of the community served as safety and security patrollers. Said Dr Genevieve James, Chance 2 Advance project leader: "Having received a taste of the joys and benefits of lifelong learning, the people of Diepsloot are now eagerly anticipating the return of the Chance 2 Advance programme. Unisa's image in the community is at an all-time high with members of the community seeking to register as Unisa students."



Dr James (left) and Prof. Bajinath (centre) with a group of student learning ambassadors