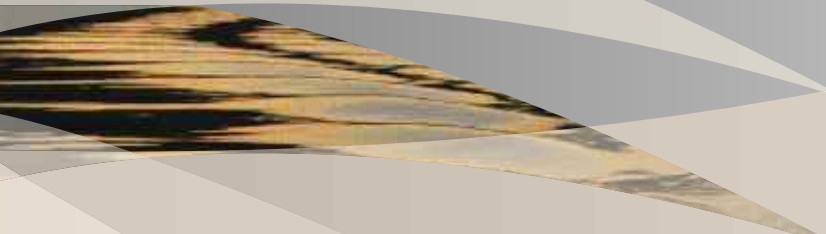




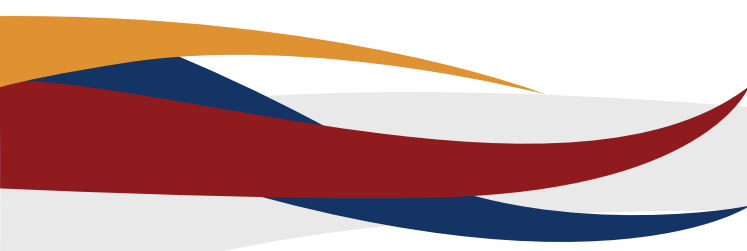
VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
ANNUAL **REVIEW 2011**



UNISA | 
university
of south africa

Vice-Chancellor's Annual Review Contents

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A new decade





Principal and Vice-Chancellor's Message

The dawning of a new decade in 2011 coincided quite aptly with a critical milestone in the history of the University of South Africa. As the newly inaugurated Principal and Vice-Chancellor, I embarked on a transformational agenda aimed at ensuring that Unisa realises its undoubted potential to be a dynamic, engaged, high-performance African university.

To that end we began the year by embedding the notion and practice of servant leadership, supported by our 11 Cs plus 1 and a statement on transformation. These were unpacked by the institution and crafted into our *Unisa Charter on Transformation*, which provides a clear and visionary exposition of an institution that understands that in order to fulfil its mandate, it must have people at its centre and ethics at its foundation. We are serious about becoming a warm, caring and inclusive institution, and as part of this we initiated a number of projects in 2011 aimed at realising and developing the potential and the careers of our staff. This is an ongoing process.

We also began to articulate more practically and realistically what it means for Unisa to be an engaged institution in the South African context. Unisa cannot operate in isolation but must become an integral part of the system within which it functions, and be responsive to its needs. And so we have embarked on a dedicated process of stakeholder engagement aimed at drawing in the public and private sectors to contribute to, and participate in, the fullest expression of education that produces quality graduates who can move into their fields of endeavour with confidence and aplomb.

A significant part of this has meant ensuring that critical focus areas such as teaching, research, and science and technology are promoted

vigorously and in a spirit of innovation. With this in mind we adopted a new institutional structure in 2011 that included, amongst others, the College of Education and College of Graduate Studies, and new portfolios of Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovation, and Institutional Development. It was extremely rewarding to see the enthusiasm with which the changes have been acknowledged and driven. Our staff and the institution have received many accolades which bear testimony to the enthusiasm and professionalism with which our journey to relevance and academic excellence has been embraced. We look forward with excitement to the further fruition of these initiatives in the years ahead.

Higher education in the 21st century is a daunting and challenging endeavour, with new challenges and demands at every turn. If Unisa aims to remain relevant and effective, we will have to ensure that we deliver a quality service to our students and our stakeholders. While our staff and students deserve warm and sincere thanks and congratulations for the way in which they have taken up the challenges presented to them in 2011, we must simultaneously acknowledge that our service levels must improve continually if the phrase *high-performance* is to have any future relevance. This is an emphasis and impetus that will be driven even more firmly in 2012.

This report provides an overview of many of the highlights and initiatives that I have alluded to. I share them with delight, pride and appreciation, as well as a very heartfelt *thank you*.

Professor Mandla Makhanya
Principal and Vice-Chancellor: University of South Africa

Servant leadership implies a move away from an autocratic and hierarchical mode of leadership to one that is based on teamwork and community.



Leadership



In January 2011, Professor Mandla Makhanya took up office as the eighth Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Africa and the institution's second since the merger. Professor Makhanya's appointment was followed by a raft of new appointments, particularly at top management level, which were occasioned primarily by the retirement, pending retirement and expiry of contracts of top management staff. Daunting as this seemed, it also provided an excellent opportunity to restructure the university in line with the vision that Professor Makhanya had shared with staff prior to his appointment.

The outcome was a substantial restructuring and the appointment of a large number of new staff in top and executive management positions in the university.

Unisa's strategic visionaries

Chancellor

Judge Bernard Ngoepe

Entering the second year of his five-year term as Chancellor, the internationally esteemed Judge Ngoepe continued serving with distinction as titular head of the university.

Chairperson of the Unisa Council

Dr Mathews Phosa

Drawing on his extensive business and political experience, Dr Phosa ensured that Unisa's executive body remained on course in its quest to ensure that all strategic objectives and targets would be met.

Executive



Executive management at a glance

Principal and Vice-Chancellor – **Professor Mandla Makhanya**

Pro-Vice-Chancellor – **Professor Narend Bajjnath**

Vice-Principal Academic: Teaching and Learning – **Professor Rita Maré**

Vice-Principal: Advisory and Assurance Services – **Professor Divya Singh**

Vice-Principal: Finance and University Estates – **Professor Kobie Kleynhans**

Vice-Principal: Institutional Development – **Dr Molapo Qhobela**

Vice-Principal: Operations – **Professor Barney Erasmus**

Vice-Principal: Research and Innovation – **Professor Mamokgethi Setati**

University Registrar – **Professor Louis Molamu**

(Pictured below from left to right)



The year 2011 has undoubtedly been very dynamic, yet successful, and one cannot but marvel at the tremendous capacity that this institution has to adapt, and to do so quickly and successfully.



University Highlights 2011

2011 Highlights

In 2011 Professor Mandla Makhanya, newly appointed Principal and Vice-Chancellor, set the tone at Unisa with a fresh strategic vision made tangible by a number of initiatives. It was indeed a year of note for the institution, and this section reflects on a number of significant developments and events.

January **Student funding bolstered**

Following a major increase in funding applications from students qualifying for such assistance, Unisa, via its Directorate of Student Funding, added R38 million to the kitty. This cash injection made it possible to assist thousands of students in coping with the financial demands accompanying tertiary study – a matter which continues to receive the highest possible priority.

February **Charting a fresh course**

Attended by a host of luminaries, among them Dr Mathews Phosa, Chairperson of the Unisa Council, Judge Bernard Ngoepe, Unisa Chancellor, and former President Thabo Mbeki, the inauguration of Professor Mandla Makhanya as the institution's eighth Principal and Vice-Chancellor featured many highlights, including a stirring rendition of the anthem *Ahom! Unisa* by the group ZG Sweet Melodies from Soshanguve.

In his inaugural address Professor Makhanya identified some of the pragmatic, philosophical, academic and policy challenges that Unisa and many African universities face, and outlined his vision of applying alternative strategies to triumph over these.

Performing the investiture of Prof. Mandla Makhanya (Principal and Vice-Chancellor) are Judge Bernard Ngoepe (Chancellor) and Prof. Louis Molamu (Registrar)



Life is a work of art

With so many members of staff caught up in the daily grind of institutional matters, it is easy to lose sight of the beauty and potential of Unisa and its people. Speaking at the 2011 academic opening assembly, Unisa's Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, drew on the analogy of the unique art of a mosaic and reminded the Unisa community of the possibilities that shine through, despite its composition starting from broken pieces.

Agreeing to disagree – constructively

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Narend Bajjnath initiated the ground-breaking *Inviting Dissent* series of conversations, thus providing staff with a platform to engage critically with academic theorists, analysts and thinkers on issues impacting higher education praxis nationally and internationally.

Guest speakers at the first of these seminars included National Research Foundation A-rated academic Professor Alan Weinberg and Dr Greg Graham-Smith, both from Unisa's Department of English.

Convocation chair has a head for figures

Dr Claudelle von Eck was appointed as the new Chairperson of Convocation. She is the chief executive officer of the Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa and has also served as a member of the Unisa Council.

May Actuating the African renaissance

Hosted by the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI), the annual Thabo Mbeki lecture was delivered by the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Benjamin Mkapa, on 25 May 2011.

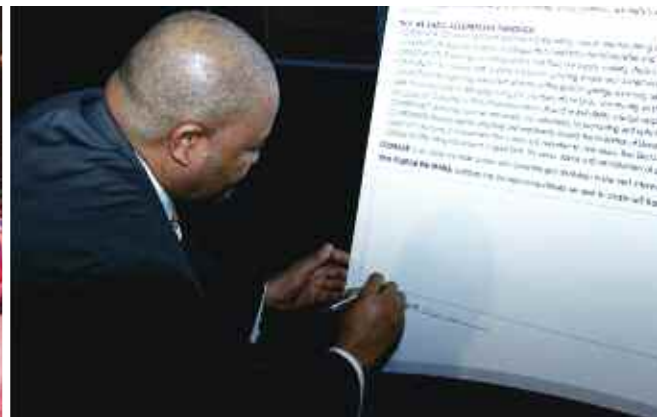
The lecture was concluded with a Q&A session which brought a new energy to the night as former Presidents Benjamin Mkapa and Thabo Mbeki answered questions relating to conscientising young Africans, capacity building, leadership on the African continent, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, economic development, transformational leadership, women in power and the dependency syndrome.

June Unisa boasts two new colleges

Unisa's tally of colleges reached seven following the establishment in June of the College of Education (CEDU), previously part of the College of Human Sciences, and in the latter part of 2011 the College of Graduate Studies (CGS).

Headed by Executive Dean Professor Kuzvinetsa Dvzimbo, CEDU was established in response to the ever-growing need for qualified teachers in South Africa. The college focuses on science, mathematics and technology education, improving upon the teaching of languages and early childhood development, while the total

From left to right: Professor Mandla Makhanya (Principal and Vice-Chancellor) shares his vision with staff members at the academic opening | Prof. Mandla Makhanya signing the Transformation Charter | Accomplished academic Brenda Gourley receiving her honorary doctorate | Former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano flanked by Prof. Mandla Makhanya (left) and Judge Bernard Ngoepe (right) | Entrepreneur extraordinaire Raymond Ackerman | Word wizard Don Mattera



offerings of the college target early childhood development and primary, secondary, further and higher education. The college includes an Institute of Higher Education, and specific priority is given to e-learning.

Steered by its Executive Dean, Professor Greg Cuthbertson, CGS was established to increase innovative research by promoting inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches and by providing a supportive and enabling research environment across the whole university. The college provides a central hub for master's and doctoral support within Unisa, South Africa and Africa.

Towards a new DNA for Unisa

The launch of the Transformation Charter on 27 June 2011 marked an important incremental step in Unisa's evolution. The charter represents the voice of all staff members who contributed through discussion of the core principles (11 Cs + 1), and management as well as members of staff showed their commitment by publicly signing the Transformation Charter at the launch. The charter draws on management and staff affirmation that the context of transformation in Unisa is of unprecedented political and social change following the advent of democracy in South Africa.

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, is firmly committed to employment equity within the university's broader transformation agenda. Speaking at the launch of Unisa's Employment Equity Forum by the Directorate: Employment Equity and Transformation in August 2011, Professor Makhanya clarified the roles and responsibilities of delegates from departments and colleges. During 2012 members of the forum will receive training in this regard.

Honouring African titans

The great and the good in South Africa and around the globe have been honoured by Unisa with honorary doctorates for more than 100 years. Joining this illustrious assembly during the autumn graduations of 2011 were academic Brenda Gourley,

statesman Joaquim Chissano, entrepreneur and philanthropist Raymond Ackerman, publisher Mothobi Mutlootse, jurist Dikgang Moseneke and poet Don Mattera.

International accolade for community development initiative

The Sunnyside Service Learning Centre's Bright Site Project achieved second place in the prestigious MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship at the Talloires Network Global Leaders Conference held in Madrid, Spain. The project, which is driven by Unisa's Department of Social work, encourages students to learn while they serve their communities.

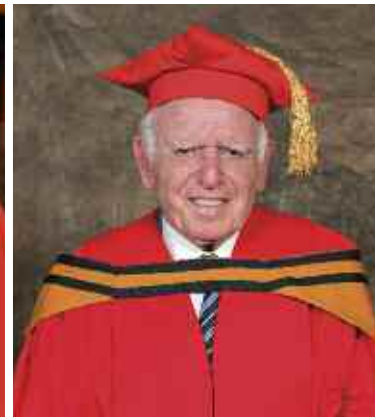
August

Culture, language and Es'kia Mphahlele celebrated

The months of August and September were lively ones for Unisa's Limpopo region as many events drew crowds in celebration of education, culture, and preeminent author Professor Es'kia Mphahlele. Taking centre stage were the second Es'kia Mphahlele Memorial Lecture on 2 September, the third Es'kia Mphahlele Reading and Writing Workshop on the same date and a cultural festival for schools on 31 August.

A collection second to none

The Unisa Art Gallery has grown to be a significant exhibition space in South Africa and is privileged to own a most relevant collection of contemporary South African art. Its history is as rich as its magnificent pieces. An exhibition was held on 10 August 2011 to celebrate the official opening of the new Unisa Space Art Gallery and 50 years of art collecting.



September

A world of opportunities in teaching and learning

Unisa's first Teaching and Learning Festival reflected on the institution's journey from providing distance education towards becoming an open distance learning institution, and celebrated innovative practices in teaching and learning.

Fostering language appreciation

The 9th Annual Unisa Language Festival, organised and hosted in Pietermaritzburg by the College of Human Sciences, was themed *Tolerance of others through communication and understanding of other languages and cultures*.

October

Gala dinner honours greats

Unisa has an important role to play in Africa's journey to prosperity and will continue in its endeavours to facilitate Africa's renewal. This was highlighted at the 2011 Chancellor's Gala Dinner held on 20 October 2011, at which the university paid tribute to three South African educators, Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Mr Selaelo Seboni and Professor Kadar Asmal (posthumously), for their exceptional contributions to education and research development in Africa.

The theme of the event was *Investing in education for Africa's development*, and it celebrated Unisa's achievements over its long and illustrious history. It also celebrated achievements to come. Until now Unisa has played a vital role in advancing education on the continent; the focus now moves to the role it can play in ensuring Africa heads confidently into the future.

Democracy chair debuts

Announcing the Brigalia Bam/WIPHOLD Chair in Electoral Democracy in Africa, the first academic chair of its kind in South Africa and on the continent, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, said universities and their partners ought to engage in educational investment to secure Africa's sustainable development.

The purpose of the chair, funded by Women Investment Portfolio Holdings (WIPHOLD) over a five-year period, and situated in the Department of Political Science, is to promote and advance electoral studies in research, tuition and training, as well as contribute towards the overall establishment of a democratic culture in South Africa and on the continent.

November

High-tech launch reflects core characteristics of new portfolio

Using innovative technology, a hologram and a three-dimensional origami fashion show, the launch of Unisa's Research and Innovation Portfolio under the leadership of the Vice-Principal: Research and Innovation, Professor Mamokgethi Setati, provided staff and guests with a taste of what is in store for the future of research at Unisa. The portfolio aims to ensure an increase in excellent research and innovation at the university.

From left to right: Attending the official opening of the Art Gallery were Prof. Mandla Makhanya (Principal and Vice-Chancellor), Prof. Karin Skawran (First Head: Department of History of Art and Fine Arts) and Bongani Mkhonza (gallery curator) | Some of the artwork displayed at the official opening of the Unisa Art Gallery | Klitsgras Drumming Circle provided unique entertainment at the launch of the first Teaching and Learning Festival





2011 marked a dedicated and concerted focus on embedding the three pillars of sound corporate governance at all levels and across all echelons of the university.



Enhancing our Institution

Human capital investment extends not only to education and training – aspects such as career planning and recognition of achievement are equally important. In 2011 the Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor spearheaded a concerted drive to engage in open and frank discussions with staff as a means of establishing career baselines from which they can progress in a planned and incremental manner with the support of management, particularly with regard to required training.

The institution also acknowledged the loyalty, commitment and excellent performance of staff through the presentation of a number of long service, top performer and service excellence awards.

Many exciting people investment initiatives were under way across the institution, and a number of these are featured in this section.

Restructuring for excellence

A change in leadership at Unisa and the injection of new blood into the management cohort presented opportunities for reviewing and restructuring the institution. The new Unisa structure was approved by Council in April 2011 and implemented in July 2011. The purpose of aligning the structures was to improve performance and the sustainability and growth of the organisation by addressing a number of identified shortcomings.

Human capital

Embedding ethical servant leadership

In 2011, the Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor began a strategic campaign on being an ethical university. The programme includes the appointment of Ethics SA to conduct an ethics climate study at Unisa and assisting the institution in charting a programme of action that will ensure that Unisa becomes an ethical university.

Unisa takes this national obligation very seriously and to ensure implementation, the synergy between ethics and the subject curriculum has been entrenched in the Curriculum Policy of the university.

As part of the ethics drive, the Human Resources (HR) Department conducted a total of 36 ethics training sessions which were attended by 1 053 staff members. An ethics programme was also offered online, and 1 100 staff members registered for this.

Good governance prioritised

2011 marked a dedicated and concerted focus on embedding the three pillars of sound corporate governance at all levels and across all echelons of the university. In an attempt to accentuate the strategic importance of the initiatives, the Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor took responsibility for this project to mould a culture of ethical servant leadership, to highlight the imperatives of good co-operative governance (i.e. partnerships and stakeholder relations), and to implement the values of sustainability in all its facets.

None of the three pillars is novel to Unisa, but what set the initiatives of 2011 apart was the emphasis on corporate governance as a fundamental transformation opportunity for the institution. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal's initiatives sought to propel the university to reflect on issues of culture, diversity and the understanding of differences in the context of the ethics discourse.

The importance of sound governance was emphatically prioritised when the Council approved the proposal that a Compliance Department be established at the institution to ensure that there was holistic evaluation of legislative, regulatory and policy compliance.

Let's talk about it

Following career conversations conducted with approximately a third of Unisa's staff population and the analysis of the data thus gained, HR devised a unique career enabler model which will be utilised to address the actions necessary to enhance the eight career anchors (technical/functional, general managerial, autonomy/independence, security/stability, entrepreneurial creativity, sense of service/dedication to a cause, pure challenge and lifestyle).

HR also developed an integrated talent management plan, the implementation of which is a continuous process that will focus on attracting talent to the university, and retaining, developing and deploying that talent.

Experience shared is experience gained

In 2011, the College of Human Science Mentorship Programme and Leadership Programme continued to excel in their focus on transferring knowledge and skills from accomplished academics, thus ensuring the provision of structured and

consistent support to young academics. These programmes also served to improve the university's equity profile and expanded the pool of astute scholars. A structured one-year mentorship programme was launched in the College of Economic and Management Sciences, and 22 mentors and 22 mentees participated.

Channelling young energy

Unisa's flagship programme in support of its development and retention strategy, the Young Academics Programme, completed its fourth successful year. To date, 80 young academics have participated in the programme. A new format was introduced in 2011. The programme focused on self-mastery, understanding and managing the self, and the three pillars of academia.

Consistent achievers recognised

Accelerated Professional Excellence (APEX) is a strategic initiative which is linked to the Integrated Performance Management System (IPMS) and is aimed at promoting and rewarding sustained performance excellence at Unisa. The awards recognise consistent meritorious performance by full professors at Unisa in the following areas: tuition, research, community engagement and outreach, and academic citizenship.

At the 2011 Academic Opening Assembly, seven professors received the prestigious APEX awards for 2010: Professor Themba Dube (Mathematical Sciences), Professor Maria de Witt (Teacher Education), Professor Jackie Heaton (Private Law), Professor Roshana Kelbrick (Mercantile Law), Professor Anthony De Villiers Minnaar (Criminology and Security Science), Professor Malose Mphahlele (Chemistry) and Professor Petrus van Dyk (Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies).





*2011 was the year of ODL at Unisa,
and initiatives in this regard,
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Teaching and Learning

Open Distance Learning

In distance education, interest in the concept open distance learning (ODL) has seen tremendous growth, especially in developing countries. ODL essentially seeks to reinforce traditional ways of organising education by means of innovative technologies and methods. 2011 was the year of ODL at Unisa, and initiatives in this regard, as well as other major teaching and learning initiatives, are bound to change the face of the institution in years to come.

Celebrations and accolades **A brave new world**

Themed *A new world: curriculum, pedagogy and technology in transition*, Unisa's first Teaching and Learning Festival, held in September 2011, brought together a large contingent of international speakers and workshop facilitators. The festival was organised by the Institute for Open and Distance Learning, one of the constituent institutes in the newly established College of Graduate Studies.

Tuition champs get just deserts

At the 2011 Academic Opening Assembly the Excellence in Tuition Award was presented to Annelien van Rooyen (School of Accounting Sciences), Anna de Jager (School of Environmental Sciences), and Dr Hester Nienaber (School of Business Sciences). This award focuses not only on study packages, but on the entire teaching process and practice. Each of the winners submitted a portfolio of evidence that indicated the teaching processes, procedures and practices followed in a specific module or programme.

ODL hits its stride

The ODL implementation plan is nearing completion, and 2011 saw the following highlights:

- New generic admission requirements were introduced.
- Higher certificates were submitted to the Department of Higher Education and Training for accreditation from the Council for Higher Education to further facilitate admission into higher education.
- A conceptual model for student support was introduced, paving the way for the introduction of e-tutors.
- Senate accepted an information and communication technologies strategy for enhanced teaching and learning.
- Senate approved an ODL pedagogy.
- A framework for student success, retention and throughput was rolled out.

Sleeker curriculum to be more relevant

Curriculum renewal remained high on the agenda in 2011, and over the past few years more than 100 qualifications have been submitted to the Council for Higher Education for accreditation. Many of these qualifications will be offered for the first time in 2012.

At the same time more than 400 qualifications will be removed from the programme and qualification mix in years to come. Introducing new qualifications and phasing out the old reflect the fact that the transformation imperative is a high priority. This is a continuous process to ensure that Unisa's programme and qualification mix remains relevant, and that the institution's qualifications set a standard against which other qualifications can be benchmarked.

Signature courses to provide distinct identity

With the assistance of Global Ecology, an organisation based in the United States and steered by Dr Sabine O'Hara, the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor is spearheading the development of six signature courses, one per college, which will establish Unisa's distinct identity and global reputation.

This extensive and far-reaching Signature Curriculum Project will run until 2014, is consistent with Unisa's definition of graduateness and takes due cognisance of national development goals. The project involves course design, online teaching and staff development and training, and will have a potentially huge impact on the way Unisa thinks about its key ideals: Africanness, multi-, trans- and inter-disciplinarity and access with success.

In October 2011, a Global Ecology team visited Unisa to share experiences, concepts and skills concerning the design of signature courses.

Taking aim at enrolment targets and experience

In 2011 the Unisa Council approved an enrolment plan in response to the 2013 Ministerial Enrolment and Output Targets. The approved response accepts that Unisa will have to manage its growth in future; plans are under way to deal with this. The enrolment plan also indicates that Unisa is well on its way towards meeting targets for course success rates and graduation rates.

The Council also approved the Experiential Learning Policy, which replaced the Work-Integrated Learning Policy. The new policy allows for flexibility in designing programmes that facilitate experiential learning and aligns these to the open distance learning model.

College initiatives

Tutoring taken to new levels

- While the country desperately needs more people qualified in science, mathematics and technology, these subjects are considered by many students to be "difficult". With a view to addressing this, the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) implemented an e-tutoring process and training programme as part of their Science Foundation Programme (SFP) in 2011 to facilitate the academic development of students whose prior learning has not been adequate. The colleges were awarded R11 million by the Department of Higher Education and Training to run the SFP, which is being revised to align it to Unisa's open distance learning principles. The colleges will apply for further funding during the first quarter of 2012.
- E-tutoring was implemented successfully in one module offered by the College of Economic and Management Sciences (CEMS). The results and recommendations of this pilot study were integrated into a comprehensive tutor model that was approved by the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee.



- The Tutorial Services, Discussion Classes and Work-Integrated Learning Directorate presented a highly successful tutor development workshop at the Ethiopia Regional Centre in February 2011. The programme included training on the processes, procedures and systems used to manage tutorial services.

Profiling graduates

What defines the ideal graduate, one who will be an asset to society? Of course, academic prowess is of key importance, but graduates also need other qualities and competencies if they are to become model corporate citizens.

To this end two modules offered by the College of Human Sciences (CHS) were included in the BSc curriculum, namely Philosophy of Science and Critical Reasoning. A start has also been made on the redevelopment of End-user Computing as a signature module which all CEMS students will be expected to take. As signature module it will be a carrier of many elements of graduateness.

Cutting-edge methodology pioneered

The School of Arts in CHS showcased their first practice-led DLitt et Phil in Arts in September 2011. Practice-led methodology accepts that the practical component is the core of the academic research, and it is evaluated as such along with a thesis. The perspective acknowledges that the artwork “translates” meaning in and knowledge of the world in a unique and specific way that is not directly translatable in any text and has to be present as research in its physical form.

The showcase event in question was the *TRANSCODE* art exhibition presented by the Unisa Art Gallery and curated by Gwen Miller, DLitt et Phil student and Visual Arts lecturer at the institution. “This curated exhibition, which will be assessed by examiners, implies that I conceptualised the exhibition to be a research project and invited other artists to make new art, thinking with me through their art and researching the concept from their different ideological interest angles. My own artworks form an important part of the visual research which will be documented in a catalogue to be published in 2012,” she said.

CA shortage addressed

The School of Accounting Sciences in CEMS achieved the best results in the QE1 (the examination for chartered accountants – CAs) yet: 61% of students passed in 2011 compared to 41% in 2010. The number of CAs produced by Unisa was one of the factors contributing to the positive accreditation report the institution received from the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Big comeback for African languages

South Africa’s rich cultural diversity is reflected in its treasure chest of indigenous languages, yet, for a variety of reasons, interest in studying these languages has waned to the extent that the Department of African Languages’ enrolment figure dropped to a paltry 3 000 in 2006.

Happily 2011 presented a completely different picture – owing to viable strategies employed by CHS and major support from the university, enrolment figures passed the 18 000 mark.

Sound support

Remarkable study material statistics

In 2011 the Department: Study Material, Publication, Production and Delivery ensured the editing, typesetting, printing and delivery of study materials for over 3 000 modules to some 385 000 students. Over 700 000 registration parcels were despatched, and 1 million ordinary mail items were processed on a monthly basis. The despatch facility housed 18 000 different line items which included books, study guides, tutorial matter, CDs and DVDs.

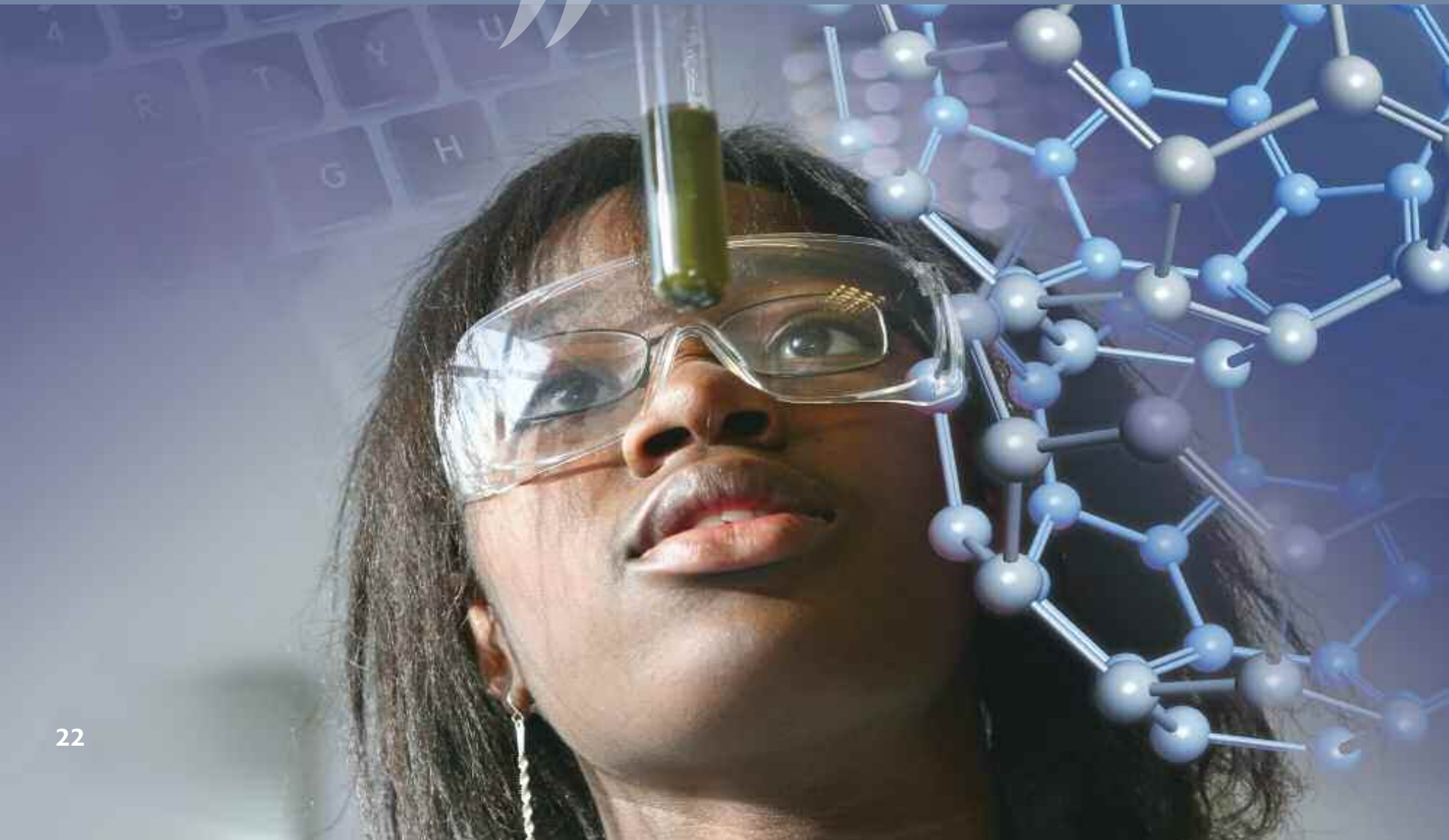
Measuring up to the multilingual challenge

The Director of Language Services, Rose Negota, visited the Director-General for Translation at the European Union (EU) during October 2011 to obtain insights into how that unit renders language services to institutions of the EU and how implementation of multilingualism is managed to ensure all languages are treated equitably. Touching base with international best practice organisations adds great value to the directorate and its language practitioners who work in Afrikaans, English, Sesotho and isiZulu, editing and translating more than 60 000 pages of tutorial and other texts each year.

Books on wheels

In 2011 the Unisa Library became the first academic library to offer mobile library services to clients who cannot visit the main facility or its branches. In the pilot project two mobile units serviced the North-Eastern (Polokwane) and Cape Coastal (Parow) regions. Based on the success of the pilot project, five additional mobile libraries have been approved for 2012.

*Our research outputs
are improving steadily
and plans are under way
to accelerate
these significantly.*



Research and innovation

Research

Research efforts were bolstered by the launch of Unisa's Research and Innovation Portfolio, headed by the Vice-Principal: Research and Innovation, Professor Mamokgethi Setati. The primary responsibility of the portfolio is to advance the realisation of excellent research and innovative solutions that address important national and global questions, and to contribute to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of South Africa and the African continent.

Facilities

A huge investment in infrastructure on the Florida Campus will ultimately provide high-tech facilities to boost hands-on research endeavours at the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET). University Estates reports that construction amounting to a staggering 21 000 square metres of additional space is progressing well, and that state-of-the-art science and engineering laboratories, as well as new horticultural facilities, will be ready for occupation during the course of 2012.

Accreditation and accolades

Confirmation of excellence

In 2011 research at Unisa went from strength to strength. During the course of the year nine members of staff were newly rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and seven were re-rated. Among new staff joining the organisation, five were NRF-rated. Unisa currently boasts 120 NRF-rated scientists, of which 20 are B-rated.

Research activities and outputs reached new peaks at the College of Human Sciences (CHS) which produced 403 accredited units – by far the most of all colleges. CHS moreover boasts the two staffers with the highest and second-highest NRF ratings at the institution (an A and a B1).

A victory for all

In a proud and defining moment for Unisa, Professor Mamokgethi Setati received the TW Kambule Award in recognition of her innovative research on teaching and learning mathematics in multilingual classrooms. The award was presented by the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, during the National Science and Technology Forum's annual NSTF-BHP Billiton awards ceremony.

Cream of the research crop

The Chancellor's Prize for Excellence in Research serves to recognise and reward the most important research outcomes produced by academics.

This prestigious prize was awarded to the following achievers at the 2011 Academic Opening Assembly:

- Professor Francis Anim (School of Agriculture and Life Sciences)
- Professor Karin Barac (School of Accounting Science)
- Professor Sonja Bosch (School of Arts)
- Professor Leslie Brown (School of Environmental Sciences)
- Professor Mariette Coetzee (School of Management Sciences)
- Professor Pieter Craffert (School of Social Sciences)
- Professor Themba Dube (School of Science)
- Professor Willem Fouché (School of Economic Sciences)
- Professor Eleanor Lemmer (School of Education)
- Professor Johan Prinsloo (School of Criminal Justice)
- Professor Alan Weinberg (Department of English Studies)

In addition, Professor Alan Weinberg of the Department of English Studies was the proud recipient of the Special Chancellor's Prize for Excellence in Research in recognition of attaining an A2 NRF rating – the first in the post-merger Unisa and the only A-rating in the university.

Less lip service, more action

The Unisa Women in Research (UWiR) annual lecture and awards ceremony for 2011 were held on 25 August. The UWiR aims at encouraging and supporting the participations of women in research, and the awards were given to women who demonstrate outstanding leadership in research in four categories: research leadership, developing researcher, resilience in research and youngest PhD staff member.

Per category, the inspiring women who received the awards were as follows:

Research leadership

- Professor Helene Gelderblom, CSET
- Professor Elizabeth Kempen, CAES
- Professor Eleanor Lemmer, College of Education (CEDU)
- Professor Susan Scott, College of Law (CLAW)

Developing researcher

- Nadia Ferreira, College of Economic and Management Sciences (CEMS)
- Juanida Horne, CLAW
- Edinah Mudimu, CEMS
- Sibongile Sindane, CHS

The Resilience in Research award went to Dr Liza-Ceciel van Jaarsveldt (CEMS), who completed her degree whilst receiving chemotherapy for breast cancer. Dr Van Jaarsveldt also received the Youngest PhD award.

At the launch of the Research and Innovation Portfolio, from left are Prof. Mandla Makhanya (Principal and Vice-Chancellor), Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize (Deputy Minister: Higher Education and Training), Dr Phil Mjwara (Director-General: Department of Science and Technology), Prof. Mamokgethi Setati (Vice-Principal: Research and Innovation), Dr Molapo Qhobela (Vice-Principal: Institutional Development) and Prof. Louis Molamu (University Registrar) | Textiles for a new age: Guests experienced a sensory feast at a 3D origami fashion show where models showcased the latest in textile technology



Research events

Managing the most valuable property of all

In 2011 CLAW's Department of Mercantile Law established a Chair in Intellectual Property (IP) Management funded by the Technology Innovation Agency. It is clear from recent policy and legislative interventions that the development and nurturing of local expertise in IP management are of national importance, and the establishment of this chair offers Unisa a unique opportunity to play a leading role in the newly emerged sub-discipline of intellectual property law.

Professor Joseph Straus, of the Max Planck Institute in Munich, Germany, has been appointed as the first incumbent of the chair. Professor Straus is highly respected by his peers, he is an undisputed international leader in the field of intellectual property law and policy, and his academic citizenship is exemplary. He will undoubtedly play a decisive role in the teaching and research activities of the group of Unisa academics working in intellectual property law.

Transformation by enlargement

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and National Research Foundation (NRF) Chair in Development Education held its fourth international retreat, entitled *Transformation by Enlargement: from Africa to Humanity!*, in November 2011.

The gathering was convened by the chair's incumbent, Professor Catherine Odora Hoppers, and the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.

Members of the extended management of Unisa, leaders from the DST and NRF, leading international scholars (Distinguished Fellows), custodians of indigenous knowledge systems (Circle of Elders), representatives from African and South African universities, members of the South African Higher Education Community Engagement Forum, young Unisa academics and postgraduate students of the chair attended and made contributions towards developing new strategies for rethinking key tenets of the transformation of the academy and new models for postgraduate leadership building in Africa and beyond.

Exxaro chair more relevant than ever

For the past few years the Exxaro Chair in Business and Climate Change, located in the Institute for Corporate Citizenship at Unisa, has assisted in giving direction on how to respond to and mitigate the effects of climate change. The aim of the chair is to deliver relevant, cutting-edge research, academic programmes and advocacy-oriented community engagement programmes of value to the business community, government and the public.

2011 was a red-letter year for the chair with South Africa hosting the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol.

Before the conference, the programme manager of the chair, Professor Godwell Nhamo, initiated a series of internal and external public lectures as part of the chair's advocacy-oriented community engagement and academic citizenship programmes.

At the UWIR annual lecture and awards ceremony, (standing from left to right) Prof. Susan Scott, Dr Liza-Ceciel van Jaarsveldt, Nadia Ferreira, Prof. Elizabeth Kempen, Prof. Eleanor Lemmer, Edinah Mudimu, Juanida Horne and Sibongile Sindane; (seated from left to right) Prof. Narend Bajinath (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Prof. Sarojini Nadar (Guest Speaker and Director: Gender and Religion Programme at UKZN) and Prof. Tinyiko Maluleke (Director: Research)



One of the flagship projects for COP 17 was the publication of a book entitled *Green economy and climate mitigation: Topics of relevance to Africa*. The book, which is a product of inter-disciplinary work at Unisa, was launched during COP17 in Durban.

Honouring research with research

In September CAES presented the 3rd Professor Humphrey Memorial Lecture and Student Symposium. The late Professor Godfred Humphrey was renowned for his drive and passion for research, and the event served to showcase the diversity of research projects postgraduate students in CAES are undertaking. The four departments of the college were well represented through oral and visual presentations that reflected researchable issues in South Africa.

Getting SET

CSET held a well-attended open distance learning (ODL) conference in June 2011. The aim of the conference was to bring together researchers and experts in the area of open and distance undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and learning across science, engineering and technology (SET) disciplines to

- share exemplary and interactive SET teaching and learning practices in ODL
- reflect on effective use of technologies in SET teaching and learning
- showcase innovative SET study materials, course design, assessment and feedback practices
- discuss the trends towards distance hybrid-learning
- reflect on the current status of ODL research in SET

Selected papers are being prepared for a special edition of *Progressio*, the South African journal for ODL practice.

Drawing the top minds in physics

The Department of Physics in the School of Science hosted the 56th South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) Conference in June 2011. The conference was attended by more than 400 delegates from around the world. The department also hosted the conference winter school, which focused on computational physics and high-performance computing. The department, in collaboration with Unisa Press, will publish a special edition of the proceedings of the conference – an initiative that is a first for the SAIP conference.

Taking a fresh look at consumers

Building a new identity was the theme of the 10th International South African Association of Family Ecology and Consumer Science (SAAF ECS) conference, which brought together consumer scientists and other specialists from related disciplines. Hosted by Unisa's Department of Life and Consumer Sciences during March 2011, this platform looked to rejuvenate the spirit of consumer science.

Delegates from Canada, Malaysia, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Sweden and South Africa attended the conference and the foundation for great academic discourse was laid.

Changing behaviour to save lives

CHS hosted the first ever bi-annual National Research Conference on Social Behaviour Change towards Sustainable Prevention of HIV, STIs and TB in Africa in October 2011.

A hundred delegates attended the conference and a variety of topics were addressed. More than 20 speakers from sub-Saharan Africa examined social behaviour studies in order to gain insight into the multi-dimensional nature of social behaviour change. The conference was an integrated academic response to the AIDS pandemic across the African continent, and aimed to create a vibrant research environment where researchers could collaborate and develop relevant solutions within the African context.

Developing researchers at Unisa

Capacity boost at CEMS

As part of a CEMS initiative to build a supportive and enabling research environment, the college embarked on an intensive process to build research capacity through training interventions and workshops. More than 400 CEMS staff members attended a variety of research-related training courses and workshops during 2011.

Hands across the water

The knowledge and experience gained from visits funded by the Unisa International Fellowship Programme (UIFP) serve not only to enhance the institution's body of knowledge and research expertise, but also boost the experience and self-awareness of staff in relation to global higher education dynamics.

The exchanges, managed by the International Relations and Partnerships Directorate at Unisa, make it possible for Unisa staff to study systems, practices and methods closely at exemplary and partner institutions, and bring experts from our partner institutions to Unisa to share in our expertise.

In 2011 the following persons received the fellowships:

- Dr Wei Hua Ho of the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department (School of Engineering) visited the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.
- Lisa Janakk of the Directorate Learner Support (Parow Campus) visited Long Island University in the United States.
- Sithabiso Mabaso of the Department of Human Resources (Directorate: Organisation Development; sub-directorate Human Resource Information Serv-

- ices) visited the University of Maryland University College in the United States.
- Dr Zanetta Jansen of the Department of Sociology visited Beijing University in China.
 - Dr Azwy Tshivhase of the Directorate: Curriculum and Learning Development visited Athabasca University in Canada.
 - Dr Jeanette Botha, attached to the Office of the Principal, visited the Centre for Distance Education of the University of London and the Open University, both in the United Kingdom.
 - Prof. David Modise, Dr Salome Mahlo, Simeon Maake and Thomas Mukwevho of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences visited the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in the United States.
 - Prof. Veeredhi Vasudeva Rao, principal and professor of mechanical engineering at the Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology in India, arrived towards the end of 2011 to take up a fellowship at CSET.

Research initiatives

Getting to grips with poverty

A colloquium on establishing the Archie Mafeje Institute for Applied Social Policy on the Family and Poverty (AMIFAM) took place in July 2011, and the event included in-depth strategy discussions. The late Professor Archie Mafeje was the quintessential social scientist and an extraordinary mind that had emerged from Africa.

AMIFAM will be an African knowledge production and application hub that aims to conduct applied research into the discourses of the family, family life and the impact of poverty in South Africa and beyond. The institute will purposefully provide relevant knowledge on the impact of social policies and practices within government and non-governmental bodies. This, in turn, will create valuable opportunities for social and economic interventions to promote the wellbeing of South African and African families, positively contributing towards the growth and development of the continent.

Most significantly, the institute will be multi- or inter-disciplinary in nature and will therefore draw interest from all seven colleges, plus the schools and other centres at Unisa.

Flagship fleet expanded

CEMS grew its research flagships from 9 in 2010 to 13 in 2011, with the ODL flagship being particularly successful. The flagships are as follows:

- Computability, complexity and randomness in decision sciences
- Macro- and micro-econometric modelling
- Demographic modelling and analysis
- Research competencies in the economic and management sciences
- Personal finance
- Growth, poverty and policy modelling

- Performance metrics
- Business and climate change
- Millennium development goals
- Role of internal and external auditing
- Cooperatives and economic development
- Youth research
- Open and distance learning

The research done by these research flagships covered three of the five Unisa niche areas. On 5 August 2011 CEMS hosted its first research flagship seminar with the well-known economist Mr Mike Schüssler as the keynote speaker. No less than 29 research papers by researchers attached to the CEMS research flagships were delivered.

The magnificent six

The six research flagships of CSET continued to go from strength to strength in 2011. These are the following: Topology, Ecotoxicology, Human Computer Interaction, Water Research, Open Distance Learning, and Fuel Cell and Nanotechnology. These flagship projects held a number of seminars and hosted a number of visitors. Three of the flagships (Water Research, Ecotoxicology, and Fuel Cell and Nanotechnology) are of particular significance in that they are concerned with environmental sustainability in one way or another.

African language development gets tech muscle

Setswana, isiZulu, isiXhosa and Sesotho sa Leboa went digital with the launch of WordNets for these languages at Unisa. WordNets, or electronic lexical databases, provide African language specialists with an invaluable technological development tool.

Development of the African Language WordNets commenced in 2008 and is managed jointly by the Department of African Languages at Unisa and the Centre for Text Technology (CTeX^T) at the North-West University. Prior to this launch, WordNets for isiZulu, isiXhosa, Setswana, Sesotho and Afrikaans were introduced, and more African languages will be added in future phases.

Hot spring secrets rising to the surface

A research team from the Department of Environmental Sciences at Unisa, the Council for Geoscience and the University of Pretoria has started a three-year study into South Africa's hot spring resources. Hot springs have the potential to provide energy, may be used as water sources for irrigation and may promote health tourism. Backed by a R2,3 million grant received from the Water Research Commission, the study will focus on learning more about the geology, geophysics and geochemistry of the country's hot springs. The research team will investigate the living organisms that might be found in hot springs and explore the alternative uses of hot springs.

Unisa remains mindful of its important role in building ongoing, permanent relationships with the community to make a positive difference right down to grassroots level.



Community Engagement Building relationships

As a leading national educational institution, Unisa remains mindful of its important role in building ongoing, permanent relationships with the community to make a positive difference right down to grassroots level.

Chance in a million

Unisa's Chance 2 Advance (C2A) programme is a major community learning initiative. Driven by the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Narend Baijnath, the programme seeks to raise awareness of the inherent human capacity to learn. In 2011, the C2A programme was successfully launched in Pretoria, Polokwane and Durban (Oakford, Wentworth and Isnembe). The programme involves the development of learning opportunities that are relevant, practical and geared for public consumption to achieve purposeful, positive and productive change. Each programme is tailor-made in dialogue with local communities to cater for specific community needs.

During the course of 2011 the C2A programme offered over 100 free, relevant workshop choices and more than 15 000 people participated in these workshops. Marginalised communities are the primary dialogue partners and participants in this project. Given the lack of learning opportunities in economically depressed communities, the project uses a campaign methodology to promote a culture of learning through relevant and creative informal learning interventions.

This engagement initiative continues to be extremely successful in mobilising communities to regain the joy of learning and to appreciate the empowerment it brings.

Illuminating collaborative project continues to shine

Having garnered a major international accolade (see the report on page 11), the Department of Social Work's Bright Site project continued building a sound collaborative partnership between Unisa and community stakeholders in 2011.

Students have been allocated to the Bright Site Service Learning Centre, and these students render services such as casework, group work and community work through the various organisations under the supervision and guidance of the Bright Site project. In this way they provide services to the community while the capacity of existing organisations is strengthened.

Research opportunities are offered to all academic staff at Unisa, and the research conducted by students focuses strongly on issues within communities. Currently, the project is functioning in Pretoria and Durban, and further expansion to Polokwane is in the pipeline.

Living on the edge

MathsEdge, an academically inspired initiative of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET), focuses primarily on the development of mathematical science, engineering and technology education in South Africa, and hopes to contribute to a brighter future for high school learners. 2011 was a busy year for this CSET community engagement flagship project. The project team visited most of the regional centres and engaged with schools there. It also participated in some C2A activities and in five science festivals, where team members interacted with a substantial number of learners.

Unleashing girl power

A visit to nine schools in Atteridgeville by the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) as part of the GirlPower initiative saw Professor Mamokgethi Setati, the Executive Dean of CSET, and her staff members sharing their skills in teaching mathematics, science and computer application subjects.

Professor Setati stressed that the event was just one example of CSET's commitment to the development of women in the high-priority fields of science, technology and mathematics.

Reclaiming the role of women

The newly established College of Education (CEDU) at Unisa is actively engaged in a number of community projects, and it is not surprising that Keikantsemang Ziphora Moichela, a lecturer in the Department of Teacher Education, was the winner of the 2011 Unisa Woman of the Year Award for her transformative leadership and her engagement in a community project aimed at the advocacy and promotion of women's rights, specifically in reclaiming the role of women in the history of South African education.

Early excellence

Many CEDU community projects are centred on areas in which there are critical skills shortages. A case in point is the Unisa Centre for Early Childhood Education (UCECE) on the Sunnyside Campus, which has recently become a centre of CEDU.

The historic preschool on the Unisa Sunnyside grounds not only provides much-needed early childhood education (ECD) within that neighbourhood and community, it also offers trainee teachers and academics in the Department of Teacher Education opportunities for piloting and practising play-centred approaches for ECD, Grade R and inclusive education, all of which will enable children to reach their full potential. UCECE also acts as a research site for improving early childhood education in South Africa and the rest of the African continent.

The preschool is also home to the award-winning Bright Site project, reported on elsewhere in this publication.

Terrific texts

A team of language experts, comprising mainly staff from CEDU, was involved in the development of the Department of Basic Education's workbooks project which has produced 300 workbook titles for approximately nine grades, in eleven languages. The project will result in the distribution of some 50 million workbooks to schools in 2012. These books are aimed at improving the teaching of mathematics and literacy in 11 home languages, and in English as a first additional language.

Change takes root

In October 2011 a conference entitled *Camp for Change* brought together 160 delegates from all walks of life to discuss and debate the field of roots-driven rural development, and to establish a way forward for all stakeholders. The conference was organised by the Department of Geography in collaboration with the Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation.

The three-day conference provided an invaluable opportunity for all stakeholders to have fruitful conversations, to discuss future opportunities and to streamline efforts.

What makes a man?

In March 2011 the Communication and Marketing Division of the College of Human Sciences (CHS) partnered with Tracker, *The Star* newspaper and Metro FM for the *Men in the Making* initiative.

The primary objective of the project was to help raise responsible young men by introducing them to role models, career guidance, mentoring, guidance and support, life skills development and moral regeneration. Furthermore, the initiative aimed to acknowledge the boy-child to the same extent that the girl-child is currently acknowledged in South Africa, and to address the particular challenges faced by young men.



*Unisa students hold the dreams,
aspirations and future
of the university and
Africa in their hands.*

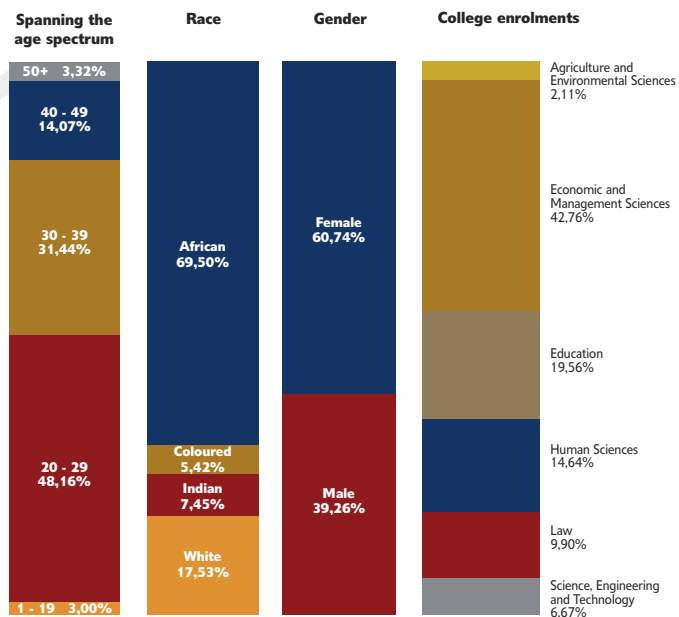


Transforming higher education Students

As South Africa's most productive university, Unisa accounts for 12,8% of all degrees conferred by a total of 23 public universities and universities of technology, as was reported in the 2011 edition of South Africa Survey issued by the SA Institute for Race Relations. This, combined with the fact that Unisa has increased its African student population to the extent that they are now in the majority, leaves no doubt that Unisa is the university contributing most to the transformation of the South African higher education landscape. According to provisional figures, Unisa's headcount was 347 755 in 2011 – a considerable increase compared to 2010 (308 785)¹.

Student profile

As an open distance education provider Unisa attracts students from across South Africa, and also from Africa and other parts of the world. The university is fortunate to have a diverse profile with students from different age groups, nationalities, genders and cultural backgrounds.



Most Unisa students (48,16%) fall into the 20 to 29 age category. Concerning race and gender, African students (69,50%) and females (60,74%) make up the bulk of the population.

The College of Economics and Management Sciences (CEMS) drew the most enrolments (42,76% of the total) in 2011, while the newly formed College of Education (CEDU) got off to a good start with 19,56% of enrolments. Most enrolments (38,81%) took place in Gauteng.

¹ The statistics in this section are provisional, and were extracted on 13 February 2011



Enrolments per region

Cape Coastal
13,76%

Gauteng
38,81%

KwaZulu-Natal
22,35%

Midlands
8,10%

North-Eastern
12,13%

Unknown
4,84%

Student representative council

e-Lectons

By implementing the power of technology, Unisa became one of the first universities in South Africa to offer an electronic voting system for a student representative council (SRC) election.

A secure and convenient way to cast votes, Unisa's new system allowed students to vote electronically via their web-enabled phones or computers with an internet connection during the 2011 SRC elections.

For those unable to take part in this exciting electronic process, the option to vote in person at relevant regional offices was still available.

Heart-to-heart and mind-to-mind

A number of important issues were raised when the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, and the SRC met on a number of occasions during 2011.

The primary aim of the meetings, which were facilitated and organised by the Student Affairs Department, was to create a platform for Professor Makhanya and the SRC to engage on matters of a strategic and student governance nature.

Founder and managing director of Exactech, Antonio Pooe (Photo courtesy of SAB KickStart) | Soaring to new heights: Major Catherine Labuschagne | TV presenter Dalen Lance is currently studying towards his Master's in Business Leadership



These meetings allowed the SRC to raise issues of governance importance which needed management's attention in service of students and, on the other hand, they enabled the Principal to identify and proactively address issues that affected students.

Student achievements

"Unisa students hold the dreams, aspirations and future of the university and Africa in their hands," said the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, when he addressed students early in 2011.

Our students are second to none when it comes to excelling in all walks of life, and in this section we take a look at a number of our brightest stars.

Tech passion earns prime partnership

College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) third-year Information Technology student Rendani Nevhuladzi's passion for computers and technology earned him the distinction of becoming the first Unisa Microsoft Student Partner (MSP).

The MSP programme recognises students who are passionate about technology, love to share their knowledge and want to develop skills outside their field of study. As MSP Rendani will draw on his enthusiasm to foster computer literacy and skills within the Unisa student community.

Star-student status for stellar achiever

For Durban Unisa student Prisha Govender accounting is more than just a subject she has to pass – it is her passion, one she has decided to turn into a career. At her graduation in May 2011, Prisha not only received her BCompt degree, *cum laude*, she was also awarded CEMS star-student status based on her exceptional performance during her studies. From 2008 to 2010, she passed 34 modules, of which 32 were obtained with distinction. In the final year of her studies, she obtained 90% for three subjects and above 95% for another three subjects.

Minister lauds anti-fraud mastermind

References to Unisa students crop up in many places but not many rate a mention as an "inspiring example" in the annual budget speech of the Minister of Finance, as Antonio Pooe did in 2011. Speaking to the nation, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan singled out Antonio's company as one of "thousands of small and micro-businesses that have taken root and fill a vital place in our economy".

Antonio is a PhD student at Unisa studying information systems, and also the director and founder of Exactech, a company that specialises in digital forensic investigations, IT security, and fraud prevention solutions.

Rendani Nevhuladzi is Unisa's first Microsoft Student Partner | Star student Prisha Govender | BCom student Kirti Hansraj earned her national colours at the Karate South Africa trials in 2011 | During one of the meetings between management and the SRC: (standing from left to right) Ngwako Mokgotho (Secretary-General of the SRC 2011), Nhlamulo Siwela (SRC President 2011), Lizette Le Roux (Acting Director: Student Development) and Sanele Mavuso (Deputy SRC President Internal Affairs 2011); (seated from left to right) Prof. Mandla Makhanya (Principal and Vice-Chancellor) and Convy Baloyi (Dean of Students)



Supersonic skills applied to studies

Unisa BSc student, Major Catherine Labuschagne, was the first female in the world to fly a supersonic Gripen fighter jet. Catherine, who has been with the South African Air Force (SAAF) for 13 years, says that flying the Gripen has definitely been her ultimate goal.

Enrolled for a general BSc at Unisa, Catherine says that she wants a formal degree, and a broader background in and knowledge of a scientific field.

Dashing Dalen does the MBL dance

With over a decade in the entertainment industry under his belt, Dalen Lance, presenter of e.tv's reality dance contest, *Step up or step out*, is the ultimate package – a combination of striking good looks, a sophisticated sense of style and an unsurpassed level of entrepreneurial spirit.

On his decision to enrol for a Master's in Business Leadership (MBL) at Unisa, Dalen comments that the qualification would augment his current business skills, give him a holistic perspective on the business environment and unearth any shortcomings he may still have in the business world.

Spinmeister sets sights on sports marketing

Robin Peterson has become a household name in South African cricket, especially after a sporting career high when he opened the bowling with Dale Steyn during South Africa's third match at the 2011 Cricket World Cup in India. And with his sporting dreams being realised with every match, Robin has not lost sight of his education through Unisa, which he plans to pick up in the near future.

Enrolled for a marketing degree, Robin chips away at the course material whenever time allows. He hopes that the qualification will open doors to the sports marketing field, which is his passion. He says that Unisa provides the perfect balance between concentrating on his cricket career and managing a degree at the same time.

Karateka Kirti packs a powerful punch

BCom student Kirti Hansraj earned her national colours at the Karate South Africa trials in 2011. This diminutive dynamo explains that it requires hard work, dedication, training and self-discipline to become a great karateka (expert practitioner of karate), and she applies the very same values to her studies. Her passion for economics and accounting, and her ambition to be an auditor, made BCom a natural choice of study for her.

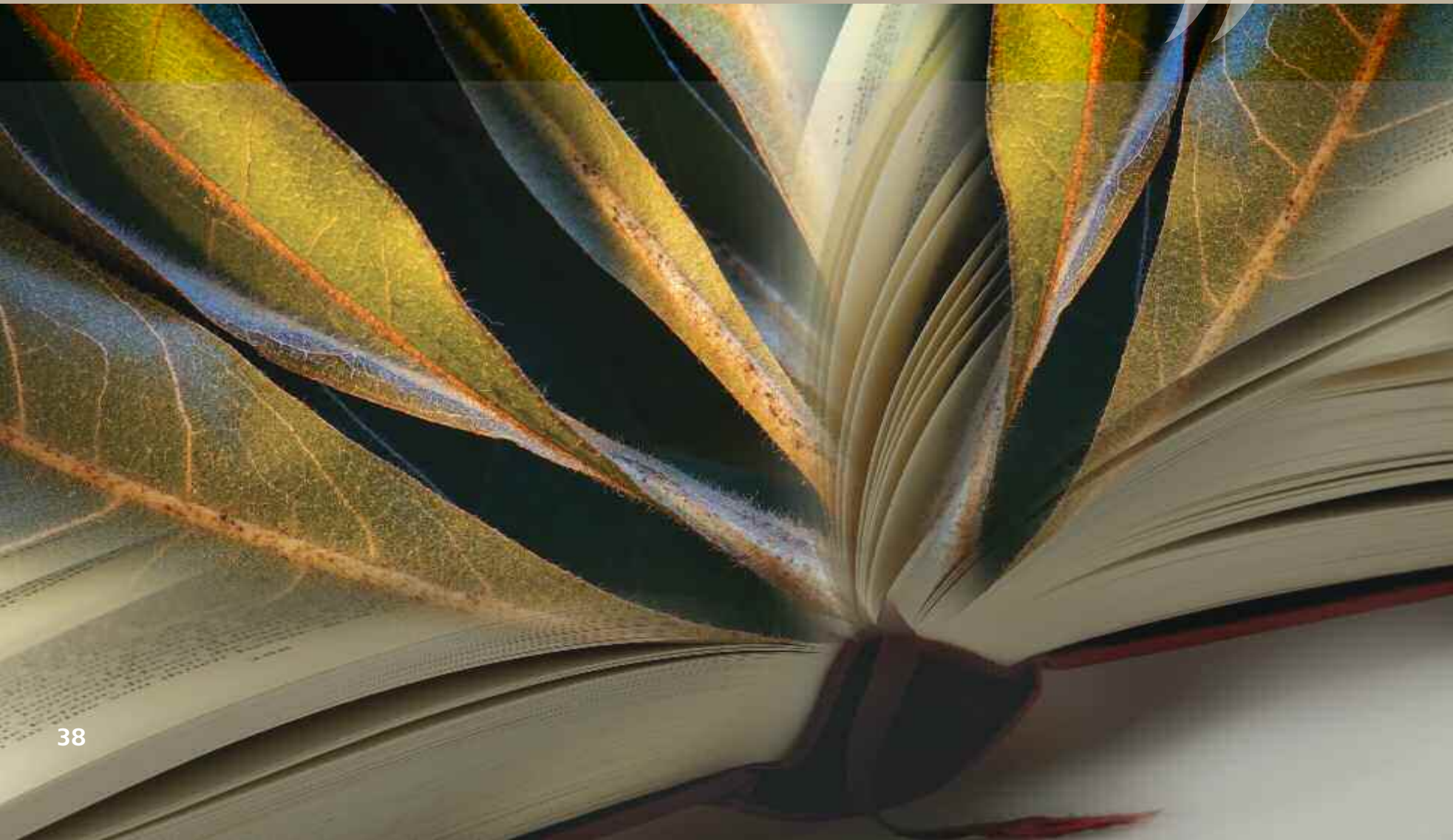
Working as a financial consultant for a car dealership in Durban adds to her career experience but also keeps her very busy. She says that Unisa is her institution of choice, since the university makes studying more accessible and allows her to set goals and realise ambitions much sooner than expected.

Robin Peterson attributes his career success to hard work and sacrifice





The year 2011 has marked a broadening of Unisa's sustainability awareness in all of its facets – from ethics and governance, through to our responsibility as the stewards and guardians of our planet and our universe.



Connect Public Engagement and share

Mindful of the fact that public engagement is a key way in which Unisa can have a mutually beneficial relationship with civil society at large, the institution is constantly seeking ways in which its staff and students can connect and share their work with the public. 2011 saw a number of successful initiatives aimed at sharing knowledge, expertise and skills.

African engagement

Ensuring best-of-breed thought leaders

The launch of the short courses programme offered by the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute marked the genesis of an innovative programme for breeding African thought leaders. In his address, the institute's patron, former President Thabo Mbeki, said that the intention of the programme was to produce a special breed of thought leaders who would be able to change the continent. He added that the decision to partner with Unisa was based on the wide footprint it has on the continent, which will make it possible to reach the continent at large.

The voice of a continent

The *Africa Speaks* lecture series, launched by the College of Human Sciences (CHS) in 2009, aims to expose young academics to the importance of African scholars and intellectuals whose exceptional research plays an essential role in understanding important issues pertaining to the African continent. Furthermore, *Africa Speaks* seeks to create a platform where research on African issues and the African Diaspora can be developed and nurtured.

2011 saw Professor Achille Mbembe and Professor Tukumbi Lumumba-Kasongo delivering thought-provoking keynote addresses; Professor Mbembe on *The Crisis of Elections and the Future of Democracy in Africa* and Professor Lumumba-Kasongo on *Knowledge Production in Africa: Questions of Epistemology and Research for Social Transformation in Africa*.

Ensuring that democracy rules

To assist in building and enhancing capacity for the effective and responsible management of elections in South Africa and the rest of Africa, a new short learning programme (SLP) on the management of democratic elections in Africa was presented for the first time at Unisa in August and September 2011.

The Management of Democratic Elections in Africa project (including the SLP) is a partnership between Unisa and the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development, it is expected to run over a five-year period.

The first sponsored pilot sessions during August and September were a great success and were well attended by participants from various parts of the continent.

Calling developing countries to action

The regional launch of the 2011 World Drug Report took place at Unisa on 27 June 2011 and included presentations by Mandiaye Niang, the Regional Representative of the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Southern Africa, and Pitsso Montwedi, Chairperson of the Central Drug Authority (CDA).

Representing Unisa on behalf of Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, the Registrar, Professor Louis Molamu, drew attention to the global picture, which continues to look disconcertingly bleak, especially as there are indications of an increase in drug use in developing countries. He said that the report should be seen as a call to action, and went on to re-affirm Unisa's commitment to fostering a cross-cultural and cross-national understanding of drug-related issues.

International engagement

Major boost for mathematics, science and technology teaching

The Institute for Science and Technology Education made another giant stride towards addressing the problems of mathematics, science and technology education in Africa and the rest of the developing world, through the second edition of its international conference. The conference, themed *Towards effective teaching and meaningful learning in mathematics, science and technology*, attracted participants from South Africa, India, Ethiopia, the USA, Nigeria, Botswana, Russia, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Singapore.

Giving peace a chance

The notion of peace as a means to stop HIV/AIDS was explored during a thought-provoking discussion when Unisa hosted Argentinean social activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Patricia Perez.

Ms Perez, who is also the chairperson of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW Global), spoke on the *More peace, less AIDS* campaign initiated by the ICW in an effort to strengthen the actions taken against AIDS and to provide a social response to the pandemic.

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Patricia Perez



Also speaking at the event, Unisa's Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, said that Unisa is committed to ensuring that its tuition, research, development and community engagement are fully rooted in and responsive to the contextual and global realities which shape and undergird people's lives.

Serious about sustainability

A task team in the Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor was appointed to consolidate and drive initiatives framed by Unisa's philosophy on environmental sustainability.

Several initiatives were introduced but the highlights for 2011 include the development of the Going Green website which captures all the activities pertaining to the environment being undertaken by Unisa staff. Over 500 activities have been recorded and the website serves as the institutional barometer of its commitment to environmental sustainability. In addition, it has a carbon calculator that allows any staff member or student to check and measure their carbon use on any activity.

The research into Unisa's carbon footprint in respect of travel and energy usage is well under way and Unisa will have to make some careful decisions on its business practices when the results are published.

The reduce-reuse-recycle waste management project was implemented and will be rolled out from January 2012.

New building guidelines that are aligned with the principles of the Green Building Council of South Africa have been drafted by University Estates. These guidelines will ensure that building practices at the university are conducted in a manner that is friendly to the environment.

Unisa had two stalls at the COP17 Conference to showcase the academic and research activities and community engagement initiatives carried out by the university in respect of environmental sustainability. Publications produced by the Unisa Press on this very important and relevant subject were displayed at COP17.

Growing the green revolution one step at a time

In endorsement of the global Going Green movement, the College of Economic and Management Sciences (CEMS) launched its Going Green initiative during 2011. The initiative is aimed at implementing sustainable green practices and creating a network of peers within the university and also in collaboration with industry stakeholders and students willing to share ideas. Speaking at the launch, Executive Dean of CEMS, Professor Hellicy Ngambi, said that the initiative will witness a shift in the manner in which CEMS and the Unisa community conduct business in an epoch that demands environmental responsibility from individuals, corporations and nations.

Masi Makhalemele (Director: Mercy AIDS Foundation) commended Unisa for hosting Ms Perez | Encouraging a green revolution at the CEMS Going Green launch



Soon-to-be-seminal texts examine climate change

CEMS, in collaboration with the Institute for Corporate Citizenship, the Exxaro Chair in Business and Climate Change, the Institute for Global Dialogue and the Africa Institute for South Africa, launched three books during December 2011. These books deal with strategically mainstreaming climate change in all spheres of people's lives.

Green economy and climate mitigation: Topics of relevance to Africa, edited by Prof Godwell Nhamo, *Overcoming barriers to climate change adaptation*, edited by Dr Lesley Masters and Lyndsey Duff, and *Energy transition in Africa*, edited by Dr Thokozani Simelane and Mohamed Abdel-Rahman, deal with different challenges regarding climate change and how the many countries of the world can save the planet we share.

Fine-tuning our green focus

Unisa experts from a variety of fields and high-level external stakeholders attended a roundtable discussion on higher education and Unisa's strategic directions on climate change. The discussion formed part of the *African intellectuals, knowledge systems and Africa's futures* programme.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Makhanya, said he had identified climate change as a discourse that Unisa should engage in after exploring ways in which higher education in South Africa could engage issues such as the relationship of

Africa's humanity, ecology and futures within research, innovation, curriculum, teaching and learning. The discussion resulted in the formulation of key strategic directions on issues of climate change, higher education and the road toward the Conference of Parties (COP17) held later in the year.

Arts and culture

Sculpting an African dialogue

An exhibition featuring the work of Professor Pitika Ntuli, internationally acclaimed South African sculptor, poet, writer, and academic, opened at Unisa's Art Gallery on Africa Day. The event featured traditional Ndebele dancers, spiritual blessings by sangomas, and warm praise by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Paul Mashatile.

Said Professor Ntuli: "I have exhibited my artworks throughout the world, never in my native land, yet all my work owes its being to the soil that nourished me: the faces of my people, the voices, the movements, the cries, the laughter. Their struggles and triumphs are the words; the images I use to enter into conversation with the rest of the world. They are my weapons in the fight against the obliteration of our knowledge systems."

A sound celebration

Launched in September 2011, *Viva! musica*, a book and accompanying CD, is a celebration of musical talents in South Africa and of Unisa's role in nurturing and promoting these talents – from budding musicians basking in the limelight for the

Prof. Pitika Ntuli explains the concept of his art work Triangular Trade to Minister of Arts and Culture, Paul Mashatile



first time to many of the world's most prominent conductors, composers, soloists and performing musicians.

Viva! musica is an ebullient, colourful portrayal of the creative energy that the university's contribution to music has helped generate – indeed, viva, musica, viva!

Piano trio slug it out for top spot

A packed ZK Matthews Hall came alive on 16 July 2011 at the finals of the 4th Unisa National Piano Competition when the audience had the honour of seeing music maestro, Alexander Rahbari, on the podium with the Unisa Symphony Orchestra.

After three gruelling rounds and two eliminations, young pianists Jan Hugo, Megan-Geoffrey Prins and Olga Rademan performed their final pieces with the Unisa Music Foundation Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Rahbari.

Hugo, at 20 the youngest of the three finalists, was awarded the first prize of R60 000, as well as the special prizes for the best rendering of a South African composition, the best recital in the third round, and the best performance of a concerto in the final round. 21-year-old Prins – the first instrumentalist of colour to be a prize-winner in a Unisa national music competition – was awarded the second prize of R40 000, as well as the special prize for the best performance of a baroque work in the first round. Rademan, 23, won the third prize of R25 000. All three winners automatically qualify to participate in the 12th Unisa International Piano Competition in January 2012.

Criminality under scrutiny

Drug report paints bleak picture

The Southern African launch of the 2010 Annual Report of the International Narcotics Control Board at Unisa in March 2011 showed that the fight against drugs is an ongoing battle that all continents continue to face.

The report warns of the serious threat posed by increasing cocaine trafficking through Africa to Europe, and voices concern about the increase in the abuse of almost all types of drugs in Africa over the past few years.

Issuing a red card to corruption

Advocate Vusi Pikoli, previously head of the National Prosecuting Authority, and Advocate Thuli Madonsela, the Public Protector, spoke at a presentation entitled *The freedom of the public protector from political parties' influence*, an event hosted by Unisa's Department of Philosophy and Systematic Theology in April 2011.

Advocate Pikoli addressed guests on the role of each citizen, private and government sectors, and civil society in ensuring a corruption-free country. He urged guests to give corruption the red card.


Advocate Madonsela examined factors that are globally recognised as collective guarantors of the independence of the institution of an ombudsman.

Pictured at the launch: Frankie Mojapelo (Unisa Foundation and Alumni Relations Directorate), Prof. Kobie Kleynhans (Vice-Principal: Finance and University Estates and Chair: Unisa Music Foundation), Prof. Mandla Makhanya (Principal and Vice-Chancellor), Patricia Lawrence (Director: Unisa Foundation and Alumni Relations) and John Roos (Deputy Director: Unisa Music Foundation)



*Towards the African university
in the service of humanity*





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