



Celebrating and preserving the legacy of OR continues ...

The office of the Regional Director

MS MOIPONE MSALESA



Can you believe that we have reached that time where we have to bid farewell to another year and usher in a new one, with all its expectations? I want to take this opportunity to reminisce on what has been a tumultuous year, but turned into quite a productive one for the Gauteng Region and the University at large.

You will agree that the year did not start well, and we had to face prolonged protests and a great deal of uncertainty. I take pride in saying that while the beginning of 2022 may have slowed us down, it most definitely did not stop us. I can safely say we stepped up to the challenge and for that, I'm very grateful to each and every one of you.

Special appreciation to all the line managers with the support of their reportees for responding nominatively and positively to all the strategic documents that we were trusted with including the VC's priority document. The new initiatives that the Region was able to come up with in response are amazing. Thank you, colleagues, for ensuring that Gauteng Region continues to rock!

A number of new staff joined the Region from various regions this year. We welcome each one of you and trust that you are settling in well in your respective spaces. While we celebrate those who joined us, it is also important to note that we had to bid farewell to Mr. Hector Mothudi who has tirelessly and with distinction served the Region in various capacities. We wish him well in his new assignment. I would be failing in my duties if I did not mention Mr Daniel Kekane, Ms Lavania Govender and Ms Lebogang Motshwanedi for their role in HR Advisory, Finance, and Operations. They have made these different moves possible for the Region.

Another milestone for the country is that COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. However it is important for us to always remember that this does not mean that we can let our guard down.

The reality is that COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat to society. Let's continue to take the necessary precautions as we prepare to go to various holiday destinations. However COVID-19 is not going to stop us from keeping our promise or delivering on the University's vision of shaping futures in the service of humanity

Please pause and go through these highlights that allow us to reflect collectively on the achievements of Gauteng. I wish to thank the Communications and Marketing Unit in the Gauteng Region for capturing all these moments and ensuring that the Region remains visible. Of course, the publication would not be possible without all the contributors and news-makers who have ensured that we continue to set the bar high. Well done colleagues, we are proud of you!

Let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a peaceful, productive, better, healthier, and happier 2023.

MC Masalesa, Regional Director: Gauteng Region

SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

GAUTENG OPEN DAY

Gauteng Open Day held at it's new home in Johannesburg. Each year, the University hosts a series of open days at its regional centres across the country, to support potential and current students in making informed decisions about their studies. Gauteng Open Day was held at the JHB Regional Services Centre on 9 & 10 September 2022. The event was a golden opportunity to showcase these new premises to our stakeholders.



The new Johannesburg RSC home, Indoni House, 120 Fox Street, Johannesburg CBD



Team Gauteng and Team DIA ready to wow the students with service excellence



This team is behind the squeaky-clean building



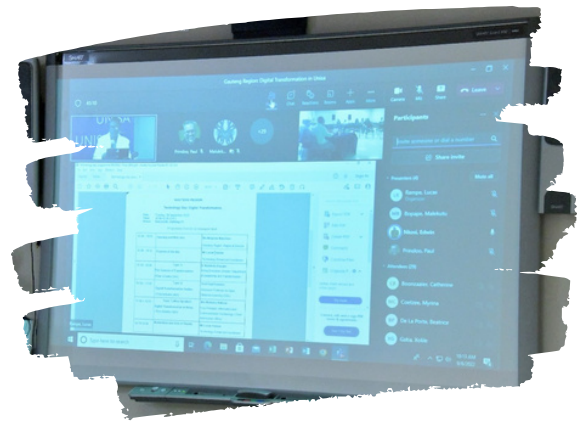
Colleges and support departments made this Open Day a true success

SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS TECHNOLOGY DAY

Technology Day with the theme “ Digital Transformation” gave both the staff and students an opportunity to engage with expert speakers Prof Paul Prinsloo (**who connected through the power of technology from Mauritius**), Dr Malekutu Bopape and Ms Mathabo Nakene, VP: ICT & Chief Information Officer. The latter gave the audience a glimpse into the University’s future plans for technology provision and transformation



From left: Dr Malekutu Bopape: Acting Executive Director: Transformation (Presenter) Ms Moipone Masalesa: Regional Director (Host), Ms Mathabo Nakene: VP: ICT & Chief Information Officer (Presenter) Dr Smangele Ntuli: Head: Facilitation of Learning (Programme Director) Mr Lucas Rampe: Technology Enhanced Learning Coordinator and Project Leader of this event.



Prof Paul Prinsloo: Research Professor in Open Distance Learning (ODL) presenting online from Mauritius



Question and Answer session



SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

WORKSHOP SERIES ON ROBOTICS

"Lest no one is left behind"

The Region ran robotics workshops at the computer labs in various centres, in collaboration with CSET's Unisa Science Engagement Centre (USEC). The workshops focused on an introduction to robotics and programming, staff and students found them very interesting.



Dr Patricia Gouws
Senior Lecturer (School of Computing)
USEC Project Coordinator



Staff members from Florida coding Robots



Participants at the Sunnyside Campus



Vaal Staff members during the Robotics session



Participants at Ekurhuleni Campus



Participants at Johannesburg Campus

SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

HEALTH IS WEALTH

On 6 October 2022, a virtual Substance Abuse Awareness Day was organised by Johannesburg RSC in collaboration with Higher Health, Tranquillity Rehabilitation Centre and Student Affairs. They raised awareness about substance abuse, its effects on people's lives and how to fight addiction.



Johannesburg – students consulting with a health professional

The Counselling Unit hosted Wellness Day Campaigns in Sunnyside, Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg centres aimed at the health and wellness of students and empowering them to know their health status. Free HIV testing and health screenings for students and staff were provided with referrals where needed. Various health specialists were in attendance, such as an optometrist, physiotherapist, dietician, audiologist, and foot specialist to name a few.



Staff and students visiting health stalls in Sunnyside



Aerobics session in Ekurhuleni



Sunnyside Wellness Day

RADIO-AS-A-SERVICE

Unisa Radio in collaboration with the Gauteng Region held interviews with different stakeholders including **academics, student counselling, DSAR and ADOVH**. Radio-as-a-service (Raas) covered events such as **Gauteng research seminar, Gauteng Open Day, Technology Day and 16 Days of Activism**. The purpose of Raas is to break boundaries, reach out to students across the borders and improve the delivery and communication of the different services Unisa offers to students.



UNISA | university of south africa

SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS



SAFETY MATTERS

The Gauteng OHS Committee continues to strive to improve OHS practices and systems in the region, to ensure a safe environment for staff, students, and visitors.



In line with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993, the Vaal RSC conducted an evacuation exercise on 26 October 2022. All went well and staff members know how to react should the need for evacuation arise. Ekurhuleni RSC had a site meeting on 3 November 2022 with Protection Services and Fire Advisor, Jacob Mofokeng to assess emergency exits, signage, and fire equipment in preparation for the emergency exercise planned for early 2023. Florida RSC intends to conduct such an exercise before the end of 2022 to make sure they are equipped to deal with emergency evacuations.

THE CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION UNIT HOSTED A STUDENT MOOC REVIEW



PARTNERSHIPS

International Literacy Day

The Region and our partner, the City of Johannesburg held a joint International Literacy Day commemoration in September.



Gauteng does benchmarking at our sister region

With only our second Mremorial lecture and the first face-to-face approaching; the Regional Director, Ms. Moipone Masalesa deemed it appropriate to draw on the lessons learnt by our experienced sister region North Eastern, hosting its 13th E'skia Mphahlele Annual Memorial Lecture on 8 September 2022. Accompanying her was the Chairperson of the Regional Quality Assurance Committee, Ms. Pat Lethole, the Project Leader of the OR Tambo Annual Memorial Lecture, Dr Bunki Pitsoane and from the Communication and Marketing Unit, Ms. Mary Marodi.



Gauteng Quartet with Prof Itumeleng Mosala, the main speaker and catching up with the VC, Prof Puleng LenkaBula



The National Open University Nigeria (NOUN) visits UNISA and the Region

A delegate from NOUN was hosted at the Florida Regional Service Centre. The specific purpose of the visit to the Region was to discuss the Regional Model, the administration of the Regional Service Centres and the support services offered at these centres.

PARTNERSHIPS

Chancellor's Golf Day 2022

In partnership with the Directorate: UNISA Foundation and Alumni Relations, the Region held a beautiful Chancellor's Golf Day on 14 October 2022 at Copperleaf Golf Course, Ernie Els Blvd, Copperleaf Golf and Country Estate Centurion. This was after a break of two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic which saw contact sports and events being curbed.

The Chancellor, Dr Thabo Mbeki endorsed the day's play with a ceremonial tee off.

Unisa Chancellor's Stakeholder Engagement Golf Day 2022



Unisa Chancellor's Stakeholder Engagement Golf Day 2022



The Chancellor's ceremonial tee off



Team Gauteng ready to serve

Unisa Chancellor's Stakeholder Engagement Golf Day 2022



Prizes given to the winners while the VC, Prof Puleng LenkaBula looks on



Mr Peter Modiselle, Johannesburg Regional Service Centre Manager welcoming guests

PARTNERSHIPS

A beautiful tale of a young partnership; told even better in pictures.



Honourable Judge Tshifhiwa Maumela delivers keynote address



Vice Principal, Prof Thenjiwe Meyiwa welcoming the guests



Regional Director, Ms Moipone Masalesa setting the scene



The Programme Directors, Prof Puleng Segalo & Dr Smangele Ntuli



The Registrar, Prof Steward Mothata giving closing remarks

2nd Oliver Reginald Tambo Memorial Lecture

PARTNERSHIPS



The student leadership represented the student community well



The A-TEAM that put all the puzzle pieces together into a success story



O & A Tambo Foundation Acting CEO: Ms Natasha Allie



Unisa jazz band kept the audience entertained



Dr Khwezi Mabasa, Mr Irfaan Manger & Dr Khulu Mbatha respond to the main speaker.



2nd Oliver Reginald Tambo Memorial Lecture

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Mandela Day commemorated

A Mandela Day celebration was hosted at Ramoshidi Secondary School, Seabe Village in Mpumalanga. The event was a collaboration between Gauteng Region Counselling Unit and Tirisano Community Projects.

The event aimed to present career talks to Grade 10 - 12 learners and motivate them to pursue different careers. This also included a girl and boy dialogue, raising awareness about GBV, drug and substance abuse and general crime prevention. Our external stakeholders included Tshwane University of Technology, Fly Zulu - a company promoting pilots and online engagements, and Sello Shrinkage, which donated incentives for learners.



Talks with the learners by Dr Enid Pitsoane, Ms Sheron Masekoameng from Tirisano and SAPS representatives



Achievement Awards Ceremony

An Achievement Awards ceremony was hosted at the same school. Gauteng Region Counselling Unit offered support to the school by donating trophies, medals and certificates for the top 3 learners in each grade. The aim was to encourage, acknowledge and celebrate their achievements.



Dr Enid Pitsoane and the school principal, Mr Mashao presented the awards.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

A university committed to building social cohesion

Unisa is committed to supporting social prosperity and growth in the local, national and international communities in which it operates. A certificate ceremony was recently held at Gauteng Region's Ekurhuleni Service Centre, honouring women who attended classes and received training in various skills.



Some students came to the event wearing clothing they designed and sewed themselves

Together, building stronger communities

The certificate ceremony was a historic moment for the Unisa Women's Forum (UWF) and all its collaborators, namely, South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), Chance2Advance (C2A), the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET), marking the success of a pilot study for the Engaged Scholarship Project since the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement. The project's purpose is to upskill communities, the Ekurhuleni campus being a pilot site, and to ensure that surrounding communities attain sustainable development in key areas of need, such as soft skills, computer skills, sewing, crop farming and cooking skills. The training of the Daveyton community was made possible by collaboration between various partners. Unisa's Department of Life and Consumer Sciences led food security, sewing and hospitality training. Chance2Advance focused on providing training on mental health issues, financial skills, human rights and disability issues. The CSET presented training in computer skills, facilitated by the School of Computing.

ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Shaping futures in the service of humanity

Prof Puleng LenkaBula, the Principal and Vice Chancellor of Unisa, felt that the ceremony was an impactful moment in the university's history since it touched directly on the University's vision of shaping futures in the service of humanity. She expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the UWF, SAWID, the colleges and all partners. The VC said to certificate recipients: "Once we invite you to the doors of learning, the horizons of experimentation, spaces of meaning-making, inventions, impacting society through your knowledge immediately open for you." She continued: "At Unisa, we encourage lifelong learning. Education is not separate; it should be part of us to assist in solving societal problems, including poverty, inequality and gender-based violence, that our country is facing." She added: "We encourage you to look at Unisa as a partner and as an institution committed to fighting the challenges of colonialism that made it difficult for us to recognise our dreams and aspirations."



Prof Puleng LenkaBula, the Principal and Vice Chancellor of Unisa



Dr Enid Bunki Pitsoane, Head Counselling Gauteng Region, Moipone Masalesa, Gauteng Regional Director, Prof Puleng LenkaBula, Unisa Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Vhahangwele Lethole, Manager of Ekurhuleni Regional Services Centre : Gauteng Region



Student receiving her certificate from Prof Puleng LenkaBula

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

"Thinking in community"

Unisans contribute lessons in shaping futures with eco-systemic living

On 9 July, Unisa staff members (from academic and professional support) presented a joint paper at an international conference on systems thinking. The paper was entitled: "Towards eco-systemic living: Learning with indigenous leaders in Africa and Indonesia through a community of practice: Implications for climate change and pandemics".

The paper was based on the community engagement project led by Vho-Patricia Lethole and Professor Janet McIntyre, with the support of Professors Norma Romm and Akwasi Arko-Achemfuor, including colleague Dr Enid Pitsoane, and indigenous leader Vho-Mphatheleni Makaulule at the forefront of discussion and action in the community of Tshidzivhe



Vho Pat Lethole, Project Leader (standing, far left); Dr Enid Pitsoane, Vho Hector Mothudi, Vho Fhatuwani Makahane – Gauteng Region with the Tshidzivhe and Bamboo Project participants in focus group in Thohoyandou, VENDA

11th Annual Gauteng Research Webinar 2022

The Gauteng Region Research and Innovation Committee (GRIC) has outdone itself with a high-level annual research webinar themed **"Sustainable collaboration in learner support services - a multidisciplinary approach in higher education"** delivered virtually on Thursday, 18 August 2022. With her presentation entitled "Unisa Engaged", the main speaker Dr Genevieve James - known for her passion for engaged scholarship and collaborations was in her element.

"There is power in coming together, there is power in unity and there is power in collective action towards the transformation of the academy as well as development."



Dr Genevieve James
Head: Community
Engagement & Outreach
Division

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Research Writing Retreat

GRIC held a first-of-its-kind research writing retreat on 8 - 11 November 2022 at the Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre, and Spa. Gauteng Region was responding to the VC's niche' areas of research and innovation. Nine staff members from Gauteng Region participated in the workshop; they were required to have put together 70% of their proposed research papers for further support and guidance from three academics at Unisa. Professor Nomanesi Madikizela-Madiya from the College of Education facilitated the workshop. Dr Bothwell Manyonga who is the Senior Researcher at the Institute for Open and Distance Learning (IODL) and Dr Akintolu Morakinyo who is the Postdoctoral Fellow under the Unisa Unesco Chair on Open Distance Learning, participated as critical readers to proposed research papers. Gauteng Region is positive that these papers will be published in accredited journals from 2023 onwards.



Gauteng Region staff with the workshop facilitators

Other research highlights from Counselling Unit

- All counsellors attended the 2022 annual South African Association for Counselling Development in Higher Education Conference in September, in order to present their research papers and benchmark their services
- Dr Enid Pitsoane presented a paper in November at the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (Deasa) Conference in Namibia. on "A Systemic Action Learning Approach to Support a Green Circular Economy: Implications for Climate Change and Sustainability"
- Ms Mamashu Mabowa presented a paper at the Forum of African Psychology in Cameroon on "Career Counselling from an African Perspective".
- An article was published in August, in collaboration with Ms Lethole and academics from Adelaide and Venda University on climate change, entitle "Ecocentric Living: A Way Forward Towards Zero Carbon. A Conversation about Indigenous Law and Leadership Based on Custodianship and Praxis".



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Ms Portia Kgatshe,
Deputy Secretary: Johannesburg
RSRC. graduated with a Bachelor
of Arts (Health Sciences and Social
Services) at the recent spring
graduations.



Ms Vutivi Ngwenya,
Former Chairperson of
Johannesburg RSRC graduated
with a Bachelor of Science in
Mathematics and Applied
Mathematics

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES

PERSONALIA

“Give and take is fair play”



Welcome

The Region welcomed Ms. Ntombizodwa Madima (Sunnyside) back home from a secondment within the institution. We also welcomed a new family member, Ms. Sandra Sondhlane from the North Eastern Region, now based at the Vaal RSC.



Ms. Ntombizodwa Madima



Ms. Sandra Sondhlane

Goodbye

Then, we had to bid farewell to one of our own, Mr Hector Mothudi as he spreads his wings elsewhere in the institution.



Mr Hector Mothudi

STAFF YEAR-END CELEBRATIONS 2022



WHAT 2023 HOLDS FOR US

"The future belongs to those who prepare for it"

The regional management held a strategic planning session on 22 and 23 November 2022, in preparation for the 2023 academic year.



It's time to get excited because Unisa turns 150 years in 2023





Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Season's greetings to each one of you! It is that time of year when we kick off our shoes, reflect on the successes of the past year and set our goals for the new one. May this occasion brings you new joy, new happiness and new hope. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season!

MC Masalesa
Regional Director
Gauteng Region

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