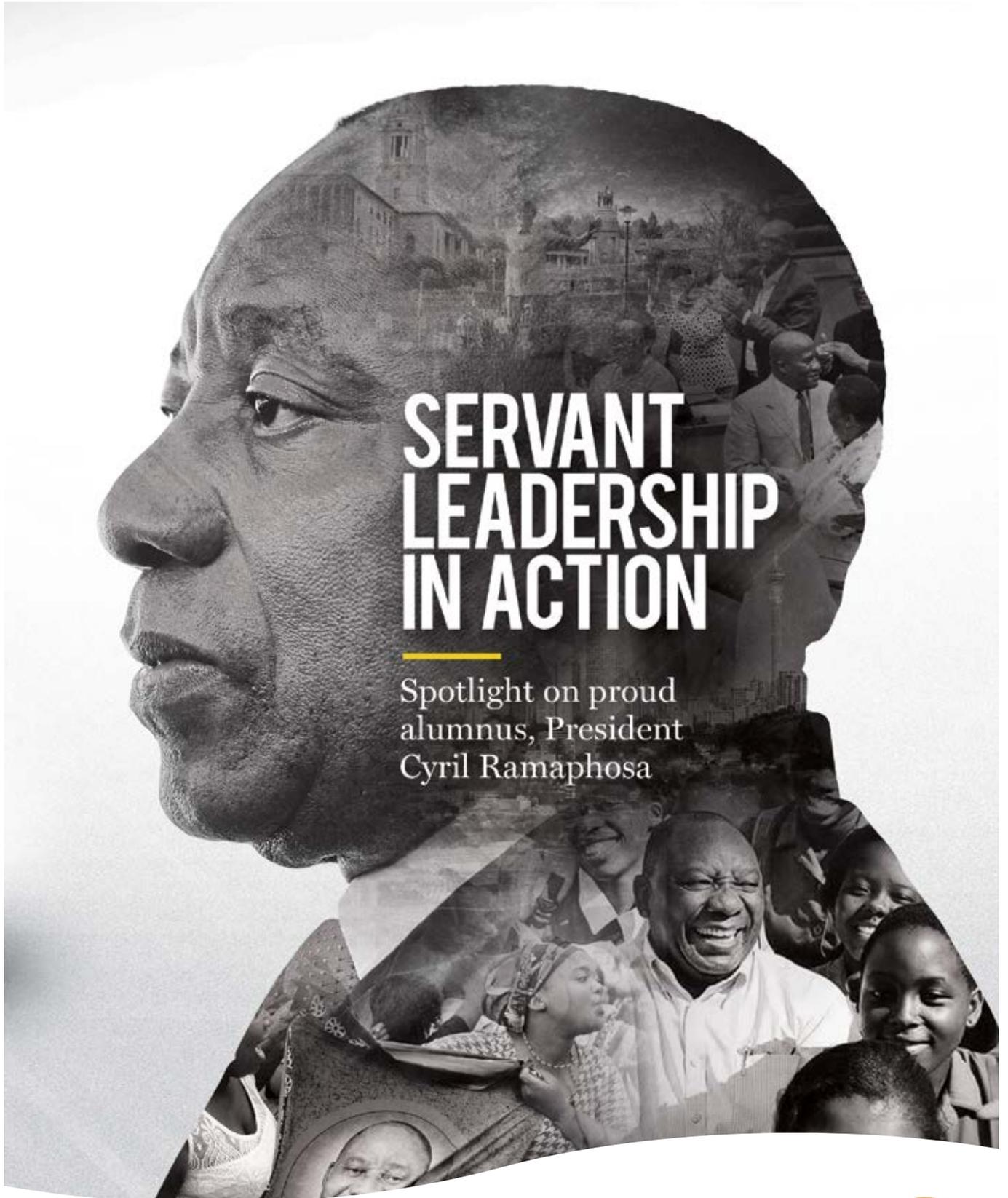


YOU NISA

Magazine for Unisa students, alumni and friends

Issue 2 | 2018



SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Spotlight on proud
alumnus, President
Cyril Ramaphosa

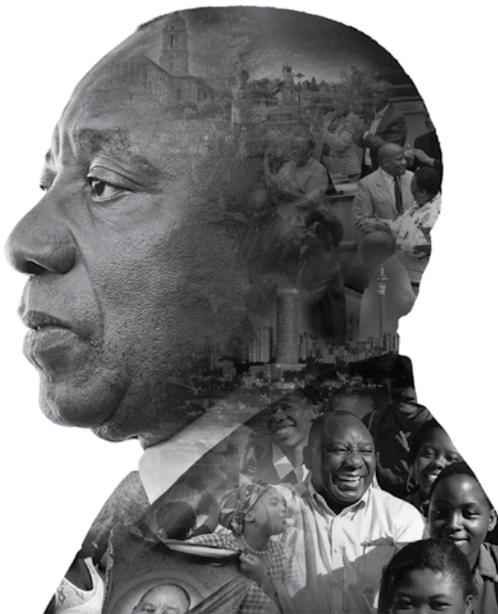
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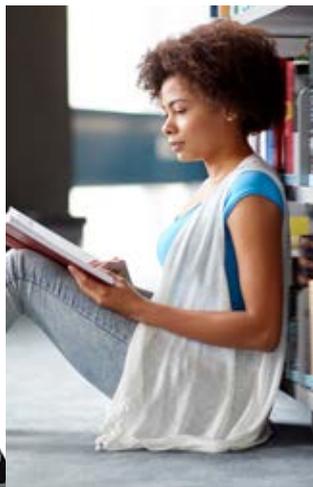
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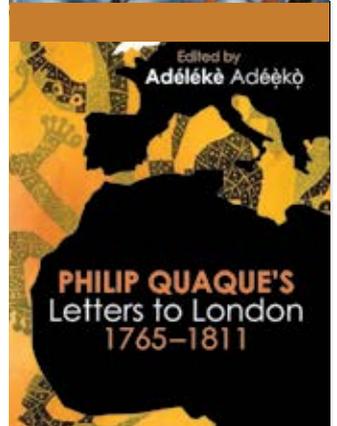
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Editorial

Servant leadership has been the cornerstone of the Unisa philosophy since the founding of this great institution 145 years ago, and the university takes great pride in the way in which its students and alumni make concrete this core value in their personal and professional lives. In this issue *YOUNISA* looks at the way in which President Cyril Ramaphosa, a proud alumnus, leads by serving, and bring you the servant leadership stories of ordinary, yet extraordinary, South Africans as nominated by you, our readers.

It is said that art imitates life, and it is certainly true that the various art forms reflect and comment upon societal change. Two arts experts discuss the role of art in telling our stories, and two cinematic phenomena, controversial for different reasons, are examined.

Once you have gained your passport to the future with a Unisa qualification, the next big step is preparing yourself for career opportunities – but how is this best done? In the final part of this issue, Unisa's Counselling and Career Development team outlines the steps using clear, practical examples.

A number of intensive programmes are under way at Unisa to fully support all South Africa's languages in the academic environment. Starting with this issue, *YOUNISA* will present the editorial in two official languages in addition to English, and **WORDWISE** and selected quotes in articles will also appear in these languages. We start with isiZulu and Setswana, and the other languages will feature in future issues on a rotational basis.

We trust that you will enjoy this issue, and welcome any and all comments and suggestions that you may have (see the **Letterbox** section for contact details).



Ukuphawula KoMhleli

Ubuholi obuhambisana nobunceku sebube yindlela i-Unisa esebenza ngayo kusukela mhla kusungulwa lesi sikhungo eminyakeni eyi-145 eyedlule, kanti futhi le nyuvesi iyaziqhenya ngendlela izitshudeni zayo kanye nabagogoda khona bazisa ngakhona lo mgomongqangi ezimpilweni zabo kanye nalapho besebenza khona. Kulo mqingo, *i-YOUNISA* ibheka indlela uMongameli uCyril Ramaphosa, oziqhenyayo ngokugogoda kule nyuvesi, aholo ngobunceku ngayo, kanti futhi inilethela izindaba zobuholi obuhambisana nobunceku mayelana nabantu baseNingizimu Afrika abangaqavile kodwa abenza izinto ezinkulu kakhulu nabaqokwe yini njengabafundi bebhuku lethu.

Kuthiwa umsebenzi wobuciko ulingisa impilo, kanti futhi kuliqiniso kakhulu ukuthi izinhlobo ezahlukahlukene zomsebenzi wobuciko ziveza futhi zinovo esimweni soshintsho enhlalweni yabantu. Ongoti ababili kwezobuciko baxoxisana nathi ngendima edlwa ngumsebenzi wobuciko ekuxoxeni izindaba zethu, kanti izigameko ezimbili ezihlabahlosile, nezidala umsindo ngezizathu ezahlukahlukene, nazo ziyabhekisizwa.

Uma usulitholile ipasi lekusasa lakho ngokuthola iziqu zase-Unisa, igxathu elikhulu elilandelayo ngokuzilungiselela amathuba omsebenzi owufundele - kodwa lokhu kungenziwa kanjani ngendlela enempumbelelo? Ngasemaphethelweni alo mqingo, ithimba lase-Unisa Labeluleki Kanye Nabathuthukisi Bamakhono Emisebenzi Efundelwe lichaza la amagxathu ngokusebenzisa izibonelo ezicacile, okulula ukuzibona nokuyizinto ezenzekayo. Kukhona nezinhlalo ezimbalwa, ezididiyelwe ngokugcwele, eziqhubekayo e-Unisa ukuze kusingatheke ngokugcwele zonke izilimi zaseNingizimu Afrika emkhakheni wokufunda. Sizogala kuwo lo mqingo, *i-YOUNISA*, ukwethula ukuphawula komhleli ngezilimi ezimbili ezisemthethweni, ngaphezu kolimi lwesiNgisi, kanti okunye okuthile okukhethiwe, okucashunwe kwezinye izingxoxo ezikuleli bhuku, nakho kuzobhalwa nangalezi zilimi. Sizogala ngesiZulu neSetswana, bese kuthi lezi ezinye izilimi nazo zivele emiqingweni elandelayo ngokushintshana.



Tsa botseleganyi

Boeteledipele jwa bodiredi e sa le e le motheo wa ka moo dilo di dirwang ka gona mo Unisa go tswa fela kwa tshimologong ya setheo seno se segolo, dingwaga di le 145 tse di fetileng, mme yunibesiti e ipela ka tsela e baihuti le dialogane tsa yona di tsweleng go tsepamisa ntlhatheo eno ya bothokwa ka gona mo matselong a bona a sebele le a seporofesene. Mo kgatisong eno, YOUNISA e lebelela ka moo Moporesidente Cyril Ramaphosa, yo e leng sealogane sa maloba se se motlotlo, a eteletseng pele ka go direla ka gona, mme e go tlišetsa dikgang tsa boeteledipele jwa bodiredi jwa maAforikaborwa a go ka tweng ke a a tlwaelegileng, fela a gakgamatsa, a a tlhophilweng ke lona, babuisi ba rona.

Gatwe botsweretshi bo bontsha botshelo, mme ke nnete gore mefuta e e farologaneng ya botsweretshi e bontsha le go tshwaela ka diphetogo mo setšhabeng. Baitseanape ba le babedi ba botsweretshi ba buisana ka seabe sa botsweretshi mo go aneleng dikgang tsa rona, mme go sekasekiwa dibaesekopo tse pedi tse di gakgamatsang, tse di tsositseng dipuopuo ka ntlha ya mabaka a a farologaneng.

Fa o setse o iponetse lekwalo la gago la mosepele go ya kwa isagong ka borutegi jwa Unisa, kgato e e kgolo e e latelang ke ya go ipaakanyetsa ditšhono tsa tiro – fela seo se ka dirwa jang botoka? Mo karolong ya bofelo ya kgatiso eno, setlhopho sa Unisa sa Tshegetso ya maikutlo le Tlhabololo ya tsela ya tiro (Counselling and Career Development) se tšhagisa dikgato ka go dirisa dikai tse di bonolo e bile di dirisega.

Go na le mananeo a le mmalwa a a tseneletseng a a tswelletseng kwa Unisa go tšhegetsa ka botlalo dipuo tsothe tsa Aforikaborwa mo seemong sa dithuto. Go simolola ka kgatiso eno, YOUNISA e tlaa tšhagisa tsa botseleganyi ka dipuo tse pedi tsa semmuso go tšaleletsa mo sekgoweng, mme dinopolo tse di tlhophilweng le diathikele di tlaa tšhagelela ka dipuo tseno. Re simolola ka seZulu le Setswana, mme dipuo tse dingwe di tlaa refosana go tšhagelela mo dikgatisong tsa isago.

Re dumela gore le tlaa itumelela kgatiso eno mme re amogela ditshwaelo dipe fela le ditshitshinyo tse le ka neng le na natso (Lebelela karolo ya **Letterbox** go bona dintlha tsa go ikgolaganya le rona).



Letterbox

We look forward to your thoughts on topics covered in YOUNISA.

Email your letter to younisa@unisa.ac.za, or post it to the following address:
YOUNISA, Department of Institutional Advancement; PO Box 392, Unisa, 0003

Two movies, **Black Panther** and **Inxeba (The Wound)** recently made waves at South African cinemas with viewers either loving or hating each (see our in-depth articles on pages 18 and 20). We asked you, our readers, to send us your opinions of the movies and received a major response – clearly, cinema is alive and well. Here are the best letters received.

Black Panther

You can have your cake AND eat it

I have never been on a roller-coaster but I know what it feels like riding one having seen *Black Panther*. The movie contained many lessons, and one in particular stood out for me: for years and years, there has been a common belief that technology and culture are like cat and dog. We thought that we cannot have it both ways, that one must fall if the other were to rise. However, *Black Panther* proves the opposite: both culture and technology can rise in harmony!

> **Monwabisi Zungu**

A force, or forced?

The underlying story of *Black Panther* that African individuals who live in America have deserted their motherland and are following different cultures, is flawed. The truth is, African individuals in America were forcefully and without choice brought to that country. Secondly, the female characters' hair choice is blatantly one-sided. Women in Africa love their hair, so why do 90% of the female characters have short hairstyles?

> **Enrico Baartzes**

African in every sense

Black Panther is a work of art that clearly displays that black excellence is not limited to sport. The movie keeps you entertained from the word go and its creators went to extreme lengths to ensure that the characters bond with the African culture, through language, demeanour and morals. What stood out the most for me was the loyalty demonstrated to the throne, and the idea of an African country possessing something the whole world seeks.

> **Vanessa Banjatwa**

To whose benefit?

We cannot celebrate the symbolic significance of a movie of which the financial proceeds go to white people. As much as *Black Panther* is of historical importance in terms of how black people view themselves and their strength, we need to guard against corporations like Marvel who purports to have grown a conscience all of a sudden, making financial success out of our desperation for affirmation and validation by white people. The biggest winner in this case remains the corporations that produce and distribute movies.

>Ntshala Mahase

Pride and passion

As a life-long Marvel fan I anticipated the release of *Black Panther* with great excitement. As a woman of colour you can imagine the pride that I felt knowing that black cinema is alive and flourishing. Some reviews claim that the movie and ideologies behind the movie are just "mind colonialism in disguise". WRONG. *Black Panther* brings representation, empowerment, honour, strength and success for black communities all over the world. I hope that everyone gets to see this movie. Wakanda forever!

>Kayla Desiree Jacoby

Inxeba: (The Wound)

A cultural insult

Inxeba is an insult to the Xhosa nation. For those of us who have gone through the process of initiation it is clear that the movie presents a picture that differs totally from what really happens at initiation schools. It degrades our ancient and sacred culture and traditions that have been practised for years.

>Khanya Ndabankulu

Emotional rollercoaster

Inxeba is set around the Xhosa coming-of-age ritual of male circumcision. It explores the story of forbidden love and how masculinity and culture get in the way of true love. Like all stories about forbidden love, it takes the viewer on an emotional rollercoaster journey filled with struggle, which culminates in death. It will have you laughing awkwardly yet also deeply saddened while feeling that you are peeking into the lives of characters who are going through the challenges of manhood and self-realisation. It is a beautifully South African-made film, and the performances of the actors are authentic and real.

>Lethabo Nkomo

Positive controversy

Inxeba is what the South African film industry needed: a film that entices black South Africans to consider their cultures and sexualities South Africa is still struggling when it comes to sexuality, and *Inxeba* educated us about those who face sexuality problems within the spaces of culture. Among those spaces there are dark secrets that are reality in the current South Africa. As a movie that takes us on a journey of being gay and Xhosa it is very controversial, but controversy sparks conversation.

>Mmabatho Nkoana

Cultural violation

My opinion is that *Inxeba* violates the culture of the AmaXhosa and the dignity of all Xhosa men. The movie accurately reflects the language and attire that is used during the initiation process, yet also shows homosexuality which is totally prohibited in the mountains. When you tell a story you shouldn't compromise the dignity of other people. My opinion is that the movie is not good for society.

>Mduduzi Hlatshwayo

Honest reflection

Inxeba brings to the surface a reality within the African community that is left to the periphery of society in the most provocative way. Provocative because initiation in the AmaXhosa culture is historically and traditionally a sacred solemn custom which holds reverence within the community. Homosexuality is a phenomenon which contradicts the prescriptive cultural imperatives on AmaXhosa men. The movie has consequently brought this difficult subject within the mainstream discourse to honestly reflect and deliberate on the intersection between culture and sexual orientation and most importantly engage robustly around questions of the inherent patriarchy which is present in African cultures.

>Kabelo Meko

Authors of the letters published here will each receive a branded item from the Unisa Shop.





WORDWISE:

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

In WORDWISE, we take a look at interesting words or concepts in the world of academia and broader society.

Servant leadership is an ancient philosophy. There are passages that relate to it in the Tao Te Ching, attributed to Lao-Tzu, who is believed to have lived in China sometime between 570 BCE and 490 BCE. While servant leadership can be found in many religious texts, the philosophy itself transcends any particular religious tradition.

While servant leadership is a timeless concept, the phrase servant leadership was coined by Robert K. Greenleaf in *The Servant as Leader*, an essay that he first published in 1970. In that essay, Greenleaf essentially defined servant leadership as a philosophy and set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better organisations and ultimately creates a more just and caring world.

Sources: *The Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership and Wikipedia*

WORDWISE:

UBUHOLI OBUHAMBISANA NOBUNCEKU

Kwingxenywe Ephathelene Namagama, sibheka amagama ahlaba umxhwele noma imiqondongqangi ezikhungweni zezifundiswa kanye nasephakathini wonkana.

Ubuholi obuhambisana nobunceku wumgomo wempilo wakudala. Kunezindawo okukukhulunywa ngobuholi obuhambisana nobunceku kuzo kwi-Tao Te Ching, kaLao-Tzu, okukholelwa ukuthi wayephila eChina esikhathini esiphakathi kuka-570 BCE no-490 BCE. Ubuholi obuhambisana nobunceku kutholakala nakwezinye izincwadi zezenkolo eziningi, yize lo mgomo wempilo wona uqobo lwawo ungaphezu kwanoma iyiphi enye inqubo yezenkolo.

Yize ubuholi obuhambisana nobunceku kungumqondongqangi okukudala ukhona nongebekelwe mgomo wesikhathi, umushwana othi 'ubuholi obuhambisana nobunceku' waqanjwa ngu-Robert K. Greenleaf kwi-eseyi ethi *The Servant as Leader*, ayishicilela ngo-1970. Kuleyo eseyi, uGreenleaf uchaza kabanzi ubuholi obuhambisana nobunceku njengomgomo wempilo kanye neqoqo lezinqubo okucebisa izimpilo zabantu, kwakhe izinhlangano ezingcono, nokugcina ngokwakha izwe eliqotho nelinakekelayo.

Imithombo: *The Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership and Wikipedia*

WORDWISE:

BOETELEDIPELE JWA BODIREDI

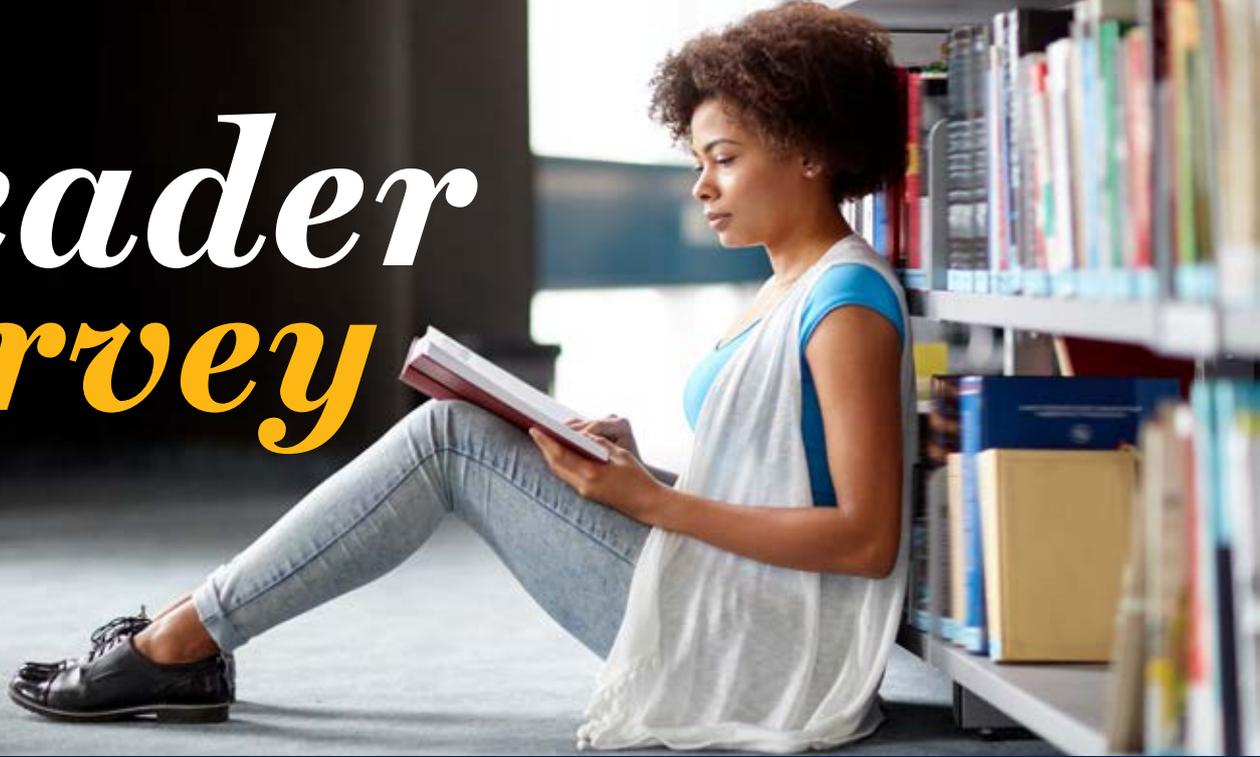
Mo WORDWISE, re lebelela mafoko a a kgatthisang gongwe megopolo mo lefatsheng la dithuto le mo setšhabeng ka kakaretso.

Boeteledipele jwa bodiredi ke mogopolo wa bogologolo. Go na le dikgaolo tse di buang ka boeteledipele jwa bodiredi mo Tao Te Ching, tse di tlotlang Lao-Tzu, yo go dumelwang a ne a nna kwa China golo gongwe magareng ga 570 BCE le 490 BCE. Boeteledipele jwa bodiredi bo ka fitlhelwa mo dikwalong di le mmalwa tsa sedumedi, le fa mogopolo ono ka bo ona o le kwa godimo ga ditso dipe fela tsa sedumedi.

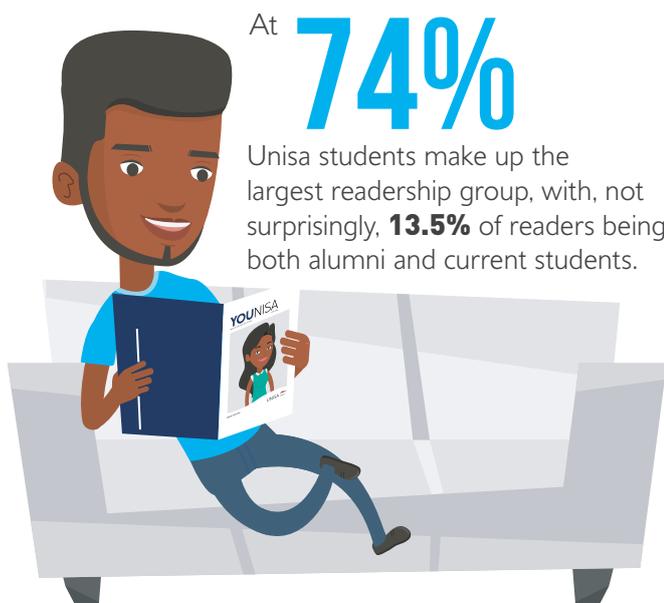
Le fa boeteledipele jwa bodiredi e le mogopolo o o nnelang leruri, mafoko a 'boeteledipele jwa bodiredi' a tlamilwe ke Robert K Greenleaf mo *The Servant as Leader*, tlhamo e a e phasaladitseng la ntlha ka 1970. Mo tlamong eo, Greenleaf tota o tthalositse boeteledipele jwa bodiredi jaaka mogopolo le diragatso tse di humisang matshele a batho, di aga ditheo tse di botoka mme kwa bokhutlong, di tlhama lefatsheng le le dirang go feta go kgathala.

Metswedi: *Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership le Wikipedia*

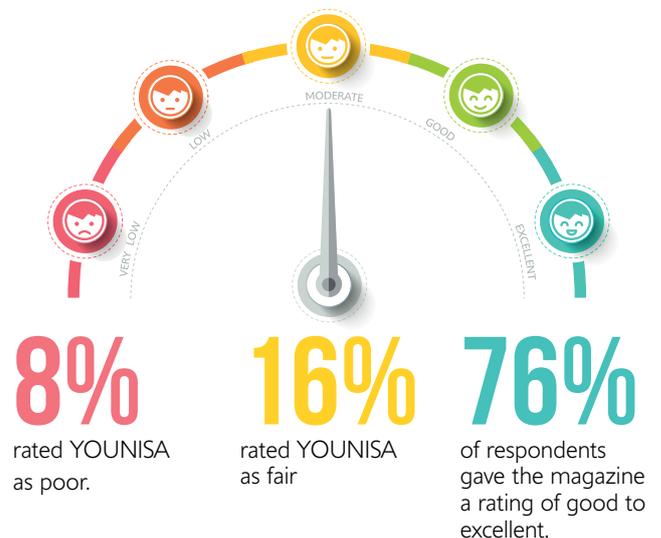
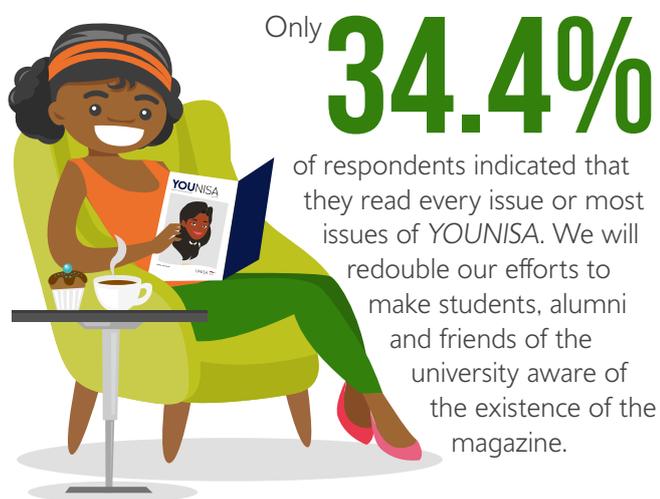
Reader survey



We asked you, our readers, to share your views of YOUNISA. We received 105 replies, and here are some of the highlights:



The relevance of YOUNISA to our society and the times we live in was rated highly by respondents, with **68%** of readers indicating that this was indeed the case.



Pleasing though some of the results are, there is room for improvement and we thank you for your inputs in guiding us to bringing you an even better magazine!

In memoriam: Hamba kahle, Mam' Winnie

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, iconic anti-apartheid campaigner and 'Mother of the Nation', has passed away at the age of 81. According to a statement released by her family, the former wife of Nelson Mandela died after a long illness, for which she had been in and out of hospital since the start of the year. She succumbed peacefully on 2 April surrounded by her family and loved ones, and was laid to rest on 14 April.

Unisa is proud to have hosted Madikizela-Mandela at one of her final public appearances when she attended the graduation of her granddaughter, Zoleka Mandela, in March (see the article on page X). In a message of condolence to her family, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Mandla Makhanya spoke of her role as family nurturer and said how he had been struck by her humble strength and the true love she felt for her children and grandchildren.

In a broader context, Madikizela-Mandela is one of the greatest icons of the struggle against apartheid. She kept the memory of her imprisoned husband Nelson Mandela alive during his years on Robben Island and helped give the struggle for justice in South Africa one of its most recognisable faces.

'All South Africans are indebted to Mama Winnie, whether they acknowledge it or not,' said Nelson Mandela Foundation Chairman Professor Njabulo Ndebele. 'From the witness of her life, we knew we could stand tall; we knew also we could falter and stumble. Either condition was an affirmation of life.'

Unisa will miss her. And the country and the world will miss her. Hamba kahle, Mama.



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Unisa Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Mandla Makhanya, at the graduation of her granddaughter Zoleka Mandela in March 2018.



SA's new first citizen will lead by serving

Newly elected President Cyril Ramaphosa, a proud Unisa alumnus, personifies the very essence of servant leadership through actions rather than words.

“ We are at a moment in the history of our nation when the people, through their determination, have started to turn the country around. ”



© Government Communication and Information System 2018

Named in 2007 as one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people worldwide, Ramaphosa has always led by example, taking up positions such as Secretary General of the ANC, Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly, the Deputy Chairman of the Commonwealth Business Council, and Deputy President of South Africa.

As reported on IOL on 16 February, President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address was hailed as a success by many, but the part that really resonated with South Africans from all political persuasions was when he quoted 'the late great Bra Hugh Masekela'.

The President said: 'In his song, "Thuma Mina", he anticipated a day of renewal, of new beginnings. He sang:

I wanna be there when the people start to
turn it around
When they triumph over poverty
I wanna be there when the people win the
battle against AIDS

I wanna lend a hand
I wanna be there for the alcoholic
I wanna be there for the drug addict
I wanna be there for the victims of violence
and abuse
I wanna lend a hand
Send me.'

President Ramaphosa added: 'We are at a moment in the history of our nation when the people, through their determination, have started to turn the country around. We can envisage the triumph over poverty, we can see the end of the battle against AIDS. Now is the time to lend a hand. Now is the time for each of us to say "send me".'

President Ramaphosa obtained his BProc degree from Unisa in 1981. He was also awarded the Graduate School of Business leadership's (SBL's) prestigious Leadership in Practice (LIP) award for 2007. The award, an initiative of the Unisa SBL Alumni Association, recognised Ramaphosa's exceptional leadership in South Africa. It paid tribute to his skills as both a negotiator and strategist, qualities that helped pave the way for

a peaceful transition to political democracy in South Africa. He also played an active role in the promotion of economic democracy through his commitment to the trade union movement.

In accepting the award at a gala dinner in April 2008, Ramaphosa said leaders who stood the test of time were those who subjected themselves to recall. Paying tribute to 'the best leader I've ever had the privilege to work under, Nelson Mandela,' Ramaphosa warned that good leaders never surged ahead without the views of others. Mandela, he said, always sought the views of those around him before embarking on an action.

The LIP award was not the first time the university honoured him for his outstanding leadership qualities. The Department of Business Management in Unisa's College of Economic and Management Sciences recognised him as Leading Industrialist in 1997.

During a media conference prior to the LIP award dinner, Ramaphosa was quizzed on the leadership crises in Southern Africa. He said that leadership always faced challenges and he firmly believed that there were always solutions. In responding to a question on what advice he would give to both young and older people faced with deciding their future or what changes to make in their lives, he said, 'everyone has a gift and it is important to discover that gift, no matter what it is, and to do it with passion and to the best of one's ability'.

Wise words with which to start a presidential career. Unisa salutes Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, fifth President of South Africa.

Celebrating your servant leaders

We asked you, our readers, to tell us about the servant leaders in your lives who inspire and lead by example. Here are some of their stories.

Sparking a desire for education



Prof. Reginald Wilfred Nel

Bachelor of Laws student **Gino de Peers** writes that Professor Reginald Wilfred Nel is a true reflection of servant leadership. 'I joined Riverlea URC in 2009 where Professor Nel was the Minister (Reverend)', says Gino. 'At the time he had an MTech Degree in Theology. His vision for the congregation was to grow leaders. This vision encompassed being involved in community ministry but also developing oneself by obtaining a formal qualification by all means necessary. Through his servant leadership and encouragement, a number of the congregants thereafter graduated through various Institutions.

'Even though he is no longer in Johannesburg we will always remember to get an education and protect it with all we got. For that I am saluting Professor Nel and ultimately hoping to don the red regalia some day!'



A humble servant leader



Ms Neo Moono

Agnes Motsamai, a BA Community Development student, writes that Ms Neo Moono is an amazing woman who practises servant leadership in all she does. 'She empowers others in the best way she can, and when she is in a position of power or opportunity she uses it to uplift other people, for example by finding job opportunities,' says Agnes. 'She works so hard and has achieved a lot, but remains so humble. 'I spoke to her this January, just sharing my money woes and that I cannot register this year. Immediately she deposited the money into my account for registration. She is just a great woman, not just to me. Anyone who has come across her, can attest to this.'

Making education a priority



Ms Lerato Mungoni, third from left

Bachelor of Laws student **Dumisani Mkhize** writes that Ms Lerato Mungoni is a servant leader second to none. 'She is the founder of a non-profit organisation based in Chiawelo in Soweto,' says Dumisane. 'She ensures that young kids in grade 6 and 7 are taught English and Mathematics. I am one of the teachers within the organisation and assist when I find time. To me Ms Mungoni embodies the characteristics of a true leader because she is all about investing in the young

and making education a priority. Kids improve in English and Mathematics through her assistance to the learners that attend every Saturday. She sells sweets and chips to get money to print things that are needed to assist the organisation. She is a phenomenal woman indeed, and have gathered around her a team of amazing young people making a difference in our society.'

Practising what she preaches

Devarshinee Chetty, a Master's in History student, says that Ms Rene Moses embodies the principles of servant leadership. 'In the photo she is leading a camp of children from grade 2 to 6,' says Devarshinee. 'Ms Moses is the head administrator at Every Nation Church in Cape Town, and will soon be ordained as a pastor. She uses her position to help people find jobs by allowing them to use laptops with free Wi-Fi at the church. She will give the clothes on her back if she could. I have seen her on the stage preaching, yet she will not hesitate to drive a homeless person, which she met while having a meeting at a beachfront restaurant, to a shelter.'



Ms Rene Moses

Going the extra mile



Ms Nonkululeko Mashele

BA Social Work student **Senzekile Gungu** writes that studying at Unisa can be very challenging, especially if one doesn't have the necessary support. 'My servant leader is Ms Nonkululeko Mashele,' says Senzekile. 'She is a qualified social worker who obtained her degree from Unisa. Although she has a very busy schedule she tries to find time to assist me and my study partner with our report writing and assignments, as we are student social workers. She goes the extra mile, informing us about how to go about looking for work after completing our studies.'

The heart of a true servant

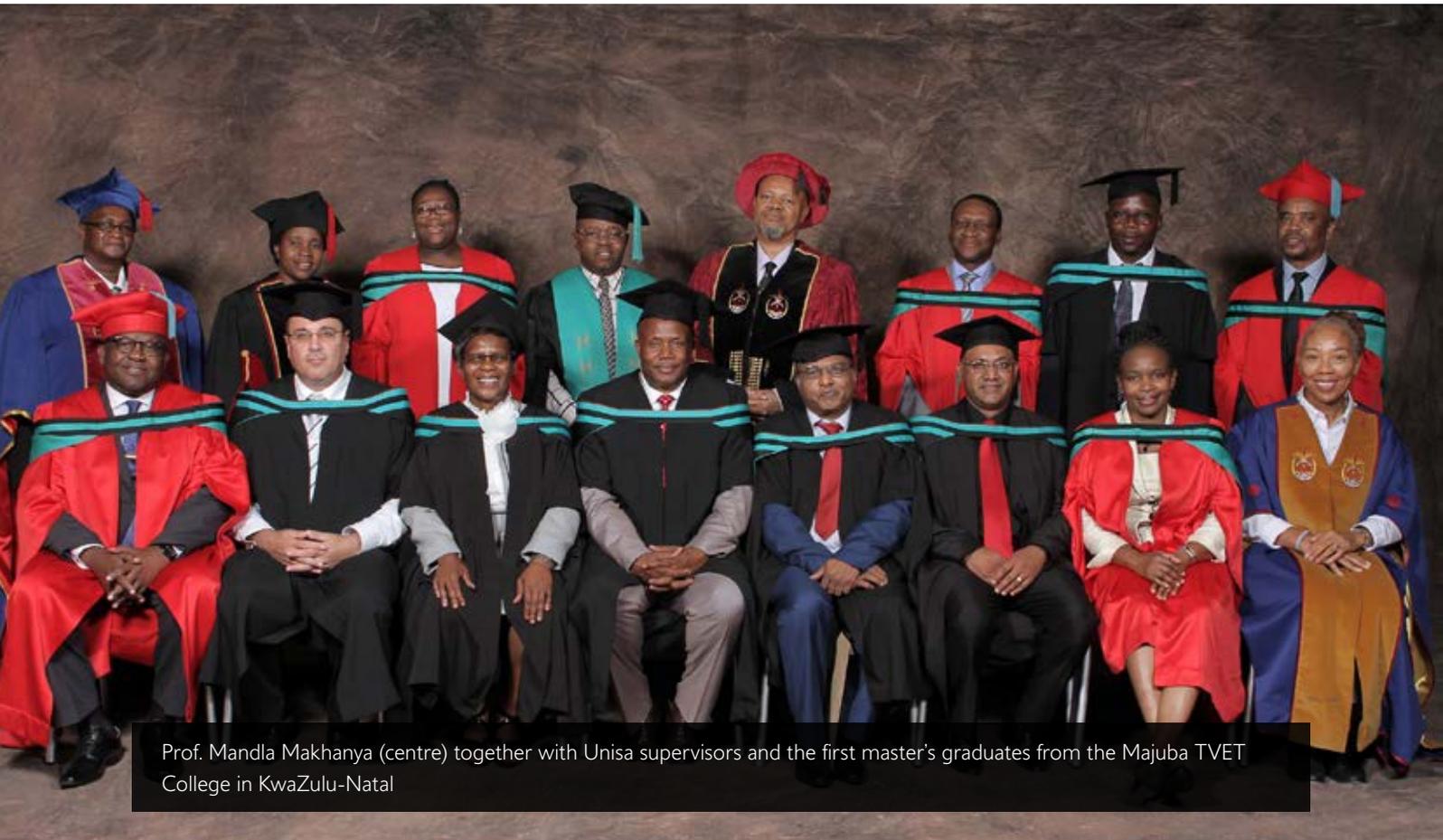


Mr Wezile-Lennox Baliso

Unathi Baliso-Thango, a PhD Management Studies candidate, writes that Mr Wezile-Lennox Baliso has over many years demonstrated the principles of leadership with the heart of a true servant. 'He is 72 years old and has inspired people to follow him by being the light and carving the path,' says Unathi. 'He has consistently made a choice to serve others, and that service came from the heart. His servant leadership is based on teamwork and community; he built by hand a community church, has inspired many collaborative efforts to revamp the hall in the community and is still mentoring many other developing leaders.'



Partnering in the spirit of servant leadership



Prof. Mandla Makhanya (centre) together with Unisa supervisors and the first master's graduates from the Majuba TVET College in KwaZulu-Natal

Unisa/Majuba TVET partnership bears fruit - By Busi Mahlangu

A Unisa intervention saw the Majuba Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) College in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, identify 50 of its lecturers to participate in a pilot project to study a Postgraduate Certification in Education (PGCE) with the university. The exciting project, the first of its kind, was led by Unisa's College of Education. The project was completed successfully within a record time of two years in 2015 when 47 members graduated with the qualification. They had received ongoing support from Unisa supervisors through contact sessions and colloquiums in order to be empowered with journal writing, research and publishing skills.

Based on the success of the PGCE pilot project, Unisa then extended the project to master's level. Ten of the 47 teaching staff members from the PGCE project who already held honours degrees registered for master's degrees in Education Management, Adult Education and Maths Education. Nine completed their studies within two years beginning in 2016 and obtained their degrees.

According to Professor Sello Mokoena, project leader, Unisa started another master's series in April 2018 with 34 members from TVET colleges in the Free State and North West Provinces.. The project is set to conclude at the end of 2019.

“ The project was completed successfully within a record time of three years in 2015 when 47 members graduated with the qualification. ”

Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the master's students, Unisa's Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mandla Makhanya, said that it is through partnerships such as this that Unisa stays true to its vision of being *the African university shaping futures in the service of humanity.*

Donating to Unisa has now become easier

Unisa has expanded its online donations platform. Previously powered only with a credit card facility, the platform has been loaded with an electronic funds transfer (EFT) option, which is now available to use. Virtual Card Services powers donating to Unisa at your secure leisure and convenience.

By visiting www.unisa.ac.za/donate anywhere and at any time, you can donate however much you want or choose any of the stipulated amounts to advancing research and innovation, creating the next generation of academics, plugged in students, and student access and success. The platform also allows you to donate your money to any other areas of need, including the Unisa Alumni Association and the Unisa Principal's Bursary Fund.

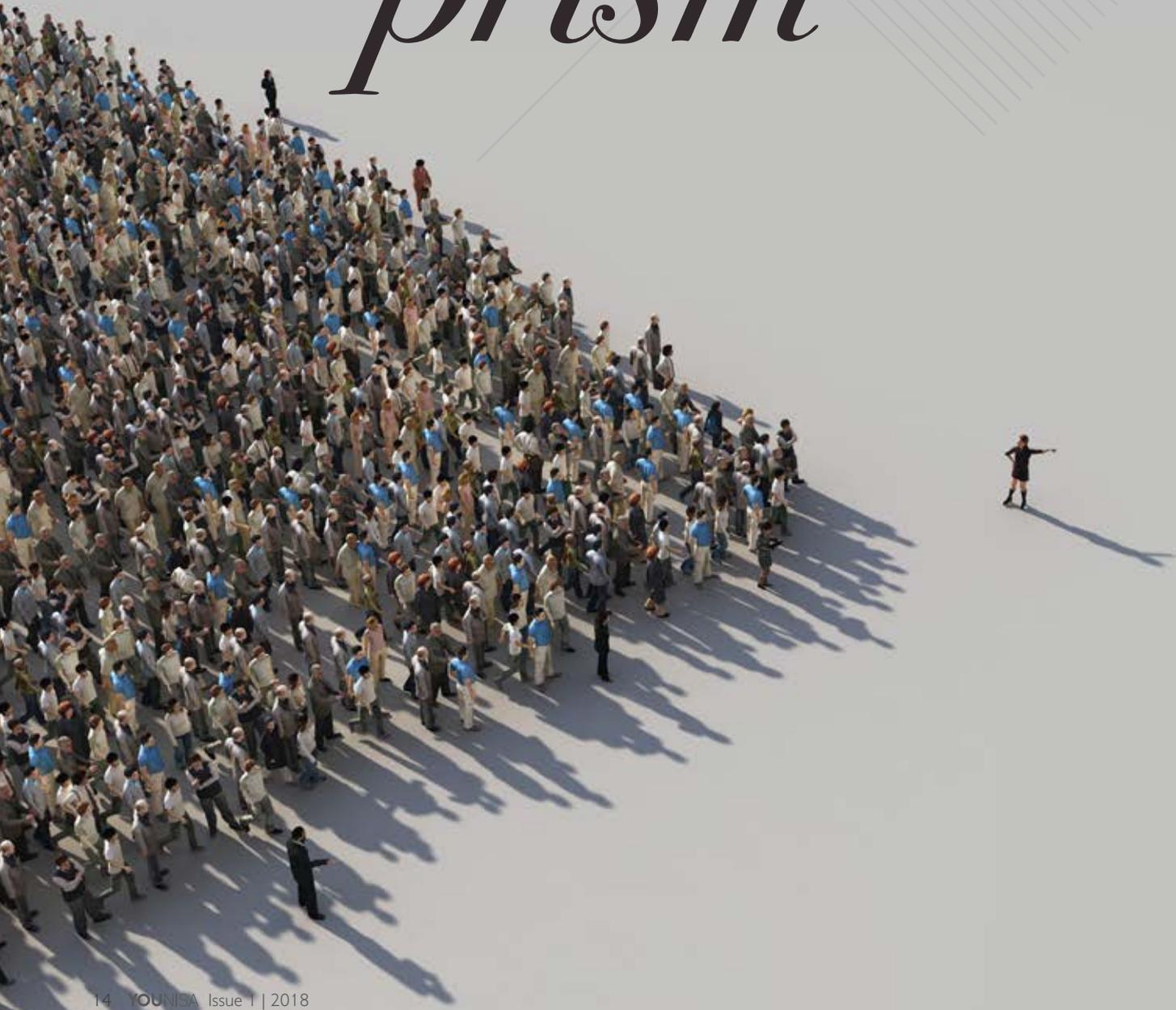
The donation platform is easy to use and easy to navigate. By a click of a button you can join the donate movement to help the university shape futures and define tomorrow.

Unisa Institutional Advancement

Disclaimer: All funds raised are administered by the Unisa Foundation.



Society *through the* *arts* *prism*



Telling our stories through art

A recent College of Human Sciences event focused, among others, on discussing the telling of African stories through art. Two of the panellists, **Dr Same Mdluli**, Manager of the Standard Bank Gallery, and **Bongani Mkhonza**, Curator of the Unisa Art Gallery, focused on the visual arts scene in this context.

Dr Mdluli and Mkhonza spoke on art collections and never underestimating the power of telling African stories through art. They both reflected on how to make the work of those in art spaces relevant. Here is what they had to say.

Allowing new voices to speak

Mdluli said that she has for some time now been pondering how to bring about change in institutions such as art galleries. 'In the time that I was at the Wits Art Museum, items from the Anthropology Museum migrated into the fine arts space, and they required a different kind of contemplation,' she said. 'As an art historian I had to figure out how to deal with these objects that carry so much loaded history. In the programme for the exhibition schedule there was a gap and we decided to take a different approach. Instead of having the usual senior curators or research scholars curate the exhibition, we asked the workers who work in the museum – and who have done so for many years – to tell us what they would like to be exhibited. We centred it around the idea of what the concept of African art means to each person.' The result was very interesting, said Mdluli. 'Each person would go into the storeroom, pick an object and tell a story around that object that relates to their background. We eventually put it up into a very coherent exhibition given that there were so many different voices. We also created an interaction wall where we posed the same questions to viewers and audiences – what does African art mean to you? What was your first encounter with something called African art?'

Mdluli concluded by saying that part of her current position as curator and manager of the Standard Bank Art Gallery is to look at ways in which the collection can be used to tell authentic African stories. 'There are concerns that certain publications perpetuate the myths and misconceptions around this form of art. Part of my work is interrogating what has been written about these objects, and finding ways to add new voices to open the collection, as it were.'



“ Each person would go into the storeroom, pick an object and tell a story around that object ”

Image: Art Times

Notable through absence



“ I initially thought it was a good thing, but when I looked deep into what it meant to be included, more questions arose. Into which culture are we being included? ”



Mkhonza said that Unisa is very proud of its art collection, which is one of the most dynamic in South Africa. 'Our collection is linked to curricula at the university, and can be seen as an extensive library of art works.' Drawing on his own experience, Mkhonza said that having grown up in rural KwaZulu-Natal he always wanted to become an artist, but there were no galleries in his area. 'I had to rely on images on television and in movies, and those available in the very small local library to form an opinion of what art is,' he said. 'When I went to the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the late 1990s, the curriculum was strikingly different to what I thought art was. Overwhelmingly European in nature, only about 1% of the curriculum reflected African art, and then only what was known at the time as San rock art. Contemporary African artists were notable only through their complete absence. There was nothing that reflected my culture.'

Following his studies Mkhonza worked at the Durban Art Gallery, experiencing again the almost total exclusion of African art from collections and exhibitions. 'This is why, when I started working at the Unisa Art Gallery, I commenced researching the presence or absence of blackness in art collections and exhibitions,' says Mkhonza. 'This evolved to visiting art collections and studying policies that govern how gatekeeping is done at art galleries and museums. I looked at the history of apartheid and racism and how policies can talk to equality and inclusion. After 1994 South African collections finally started to transform towards greater representativeness. I initially thought it was a good thing, but when I looked deep into what it meant to be included, more questions arose. Into which culture are we being included? Which is the dominant culture? When you talk about equality, who are you trying to equate your humanity to?'

Mkhonza said that this made him question how art can be collected to reflect blackness. 'I started looking at what can be done to include new voices to fill up the gaps of absence,' he concluded. 'We should never underestimate the power of telling stories, but should take care not to be absorbed by the culture dominant globally. We should rather change the geopolitical space in which we centre ourselves, in other words, Africa, and project that to the world.'



Do you think that South African art reflects our society, or even brings about change?
Share your view in an email to younisa@unisa.ac.za.

Black Panther – Hero or zero?

While the success of *Black Panther*, the latest superhero blockbuster from the Marvel stable, cannot be denied – at the time of writing this article it has already topped \$1 billion at the global box office – fans and reviewers differ sharply on the validity of its depiction of black empowerment and the extent to which it really challenges racist narratives.

Writing in the *Cape Argus* (18 February 2018), Theolin Tembo describes *Black Panther* as ‘a movie that highlights all the best parts of being African, and even gives you hope for an Africa that doesn’t exist today, but could in the future. The movie is an enigma, because not only do you get a variety of complex characters with an enthralling villain, you also have a movie where a majority of the cast and actors on screen are undeniably black.’ Tembo concludes that the movie is a major milestone for black representation on the silver screen, and ‘leans into its Africanness.’

Writing in the *Pretoria News* (21 February 2018), Azad Essa does not agree. He contends that ‘at its core, [*Black Panther* is] an African neo-liberal fantasy parading as a “woke Af” film about revolution and decolonisation’. Essa goes on to say that the future that the *Black Panther* envisions for Wakanda (the mythical African country in which the movie is set) is one that the colonising powers can gladly live with. ‘In this world, throwing money at “causes” and “development” can solve everything. Relentless technological growth, which results in surveillance, military technologies and biopolitics that far surpass anything the CIA could have imagined, is an aspiration. We cannot forget that technology undergirds the neo-liberal order, and not only cements its economic and social compulsions, but also its inherent authoritarianism.’

To this, Alease A Brown, writing in *The Conversation* (13 March 2018), adds that ‘Hollywood has historically adhered to a racist narrative that portrays black people as inferior. Black people dare not believe that they are being presented with a film that proves that Hollywood now, suddenly, holds them in high esteem. Though the *Black Panther* film is sumptuous, it is a Trojan Horse. Black people must be careful lest black joy at the gift of the film, blinds to the destructive ideologies embedded within it.’



“Kgolo ya thekenoloji e e sa khutleng, e e dirang gore go nne le dipatlisiso, dithekenoloji tsa sesole le bayopolotiki tse di potileng ka kwa sengwe le sengwe fela se CIA e ka bong e kile ya se akanya, jaaka thotloetso.

So which is it: hero, zero, or a mixture of the two? *YOUNISA* approached knowledgeable Unisa students and staffers for their views.

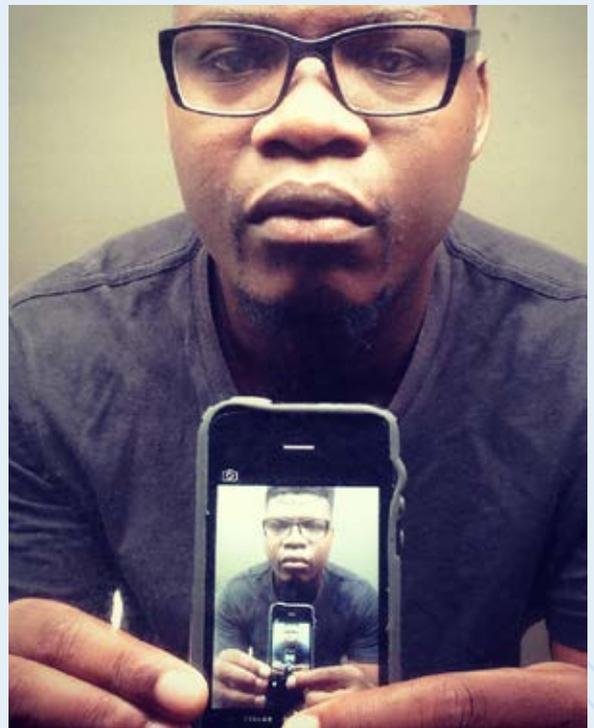


A movie of many layers

'From a decolonial interpretation of *Black Panther* in terms of "the last shall be first and the first last", the movie is an embodiment of hope for black people who were previously colonised by the Europeans, thus placing them last,' says **Zingisa Nkosinkulu**, a PhD Fine Arts Student, visual/graffiti artist and decolonial curator. 'The movie is a good testimony to the rich historic culture and identity of African people that was distorted, stolen and destroyed by colonisers as means to westernise the rest of the world. It is packed with many layers of contextual and philosophical meanings that give different readings and interpretations of the future of black people in general and African people specifically.'

Burdens and gems

'I asked a friend of mine, Mpho Moshe Matheloane, who happens to be a long-term reader and collector of *Black Panther* comic books, his thoughts on the "Reification of Wakanda",' says **Lawrence Lemaoana**, Junior Lecturer in the Department of Art History, Visual Arts and Musicology. 'His response was "It's easier to think about Africa from place of fiction than many places of reality."' His response came after he wrote a *Mail & Guardian* article, which anticipated the release of the film, titled "A superhero worth the wait". The article placed the movie in a historical perspective, referencing the comics, of course, and the implications of such a story in a genre that is dominated by white male geeks. The object of contestation here is "imagination", the tool that allows black people to exist outside of their material condition. What burdens the story of *Black Panther* is its close link with history within the realm of imagination. That is, it is a fictitious narrative that allows people to feel good about themselves and how they have been portrayed. However, there were rare gems in the movie such as complex black characters who have a rich and layered back-story.'



Blockbuster with a difference

'*Black Panther* is a typical American blockbuster, but what is different is how it accurately portrays African women,' says **Kgaugelo Pule**, Social Media Coordinator in the Department of Institutional Advancement. 'The women in it represent beauty, wisdom, intelligence and protection. They are not afraid to stand up to power or speak truth to patriarchy. They know who they are and are neither afraid of nor challenged by the status quo.'

Inxeba:

The Wound debated at Unisa

By Rivonia Naidu-Hoffmeister

In March the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology hosted a thought-provoking discussion on the controversial local film, *Inxeba: The Wound*.



Providing some background on the movie, the department's Professor Chris van Vuuren said the film tells the story of a gay factory worker who travels to the rural Eastern Cape to oversee the Xhosa initiation process only to have his 'secret' discovered by one defiant initiate.

'It depicts the coming-of-age story of an unapologetic and fearless gay city boy, and tells the story of a love affair between two men during the Xhosa traditional initiation ritual. It has drawn wide criticism from Xhosa-

speaking people in particular, some of whom argue that some of the practices in the film are presented in a distorted and inaccurate way.'

Professor Van Vuuren said some of the criticism came from the Congress of Traditional Leaders who complained that the film is culturally insensitive and that it distorts the Xhosa tradition of circumcision. 'Their concerns were also echoed by traditional leaders from other communities who practice male initiation ritual such as the Ndebele and Sotho speaking communities.'

Unusual backlash

He said *Inxeba* might not be for everyone, but there are many young South Africans, particularly from the black queer community, who have every right to watch and engage with it because it reflects something of their own experience. 'The media backlash against *Inxeba* seems to be proportionally larger than media response to Mandela's *Long Walk To Freedom* and it can be speculated that the film presents a homophobic subtext.'

Traditional leaders have called for the movie to be banned and for film-makers to issue a public apology for portraying their traditions as "barbaric". 'Traditionalists argue that the film provides a platform for attack on the notion of "tradition" and "culture"; said Professor Van Vuuren, adding that they also argue that the aspects within the ritual domain of secret knowledge is sacrificed in the process.



Clockwise from top left: Ntando Sindane (College of Law student), Prof. Chris van Vuuren (Department of Anthropology and Archaeology) and Rantsu Moraka (University of Pretoria)

People as property?

From the University of Pretoria, Rantsu Moraka said coloniality inscribed gender on black people so the divide-and-conquer could begin. He posed the question what happens when a person is reduced to property, and said that this is what black people have been reduced to for more than 400 years. 'How did black people come to live out western subjectivities? What is the gender history of blackness? This movie showcases western gender norms. The gender we see here is from the colonial world.'

He added that the movie highlights how they (the colonisers) got Africans to fight wars about issues that has nothing to do with their true history. 'The terms gender, man, women, gay, are incoherent to African cultural order. From the precolonial history of Africa there is empirical proof that gender was abstract to African culture. The problem is that the west can only understand African culture from their lens.' He said *Inxeba: The Wound* was compelling for him not for

its gender politics but because to destabilise the idea of gender is interesting. 'We need to be much more critical about gender, define gender on our terms, using our own devices. This movie is colonialism at its most advanced level.'

Culture as money-spinner

Ntando Sindane, a Unisa College of Law student, said the movie is nothing but art using our sacred culture to make money. 'How is culture commodified? When you take culture and make it commerce, you are making it the colonialism of knowledge. We are told this movie is about educating society on culture, about the LGBTQI community. Remember when you want to educate, you don't commodify at the same time,' he said, adding that when the colonisers arrived, they removed African knowledges as forms of knowledge.

The discussion with the audience echoed the sentiment that South Africa has been built on the erasure of all that is African. The general conclusion was that we need to find our authentic voice.

GRADUATES OF NOTE



Unisa is equally proud of ALL its wonderful graduates who skilfully balance work, family and studies to gain the key to success – a world-class tertiary education. The three recent graduates featured here are interesting for entirely different reasons, and that accurately describes our student population: unique human beings united in their quest for higher education.

Never take things for granted

**By Kgaugelo Pule*



Richard Ruati

When civil war broke out in December 2013, South Sudan descended into a state of emergency. The war was brutal, there was conflict everywhere, a deadly crisis reigned and ethnic cleansing was the order of the day until the war ended. Innocent civilians, many of whom were women and children, paid the highest price. South Sudan's civil war resumed in 2016 with serious abuses against civilians by both government forces and opposition fighters despite a peace agreement signed in August 2015.

The war was terrible but out of the ashes has emerged a strong Unisan. His name is Richard Ruati and he lives in Juba, South Sudan. He went through major difficulties during his studies. Often he struggled to get his prescribed books due to non-existent postal services so the books would be flown from South Africa to Dubai and then South Sudan at a very high cost. He would then have to beg NGOs to help him use their internet connectivity so he can complete his assignments. The task of handing in assignments on time was even more onerous as Sudan has poor postal infrastructure. He wrote his examinations in Uganda, because in his war-torn country there were no examination venues.

Solid support structure

Richard had a good support system in the form of his lecturers from the Department of Communication Science at Unisa, and many in the department helped him navigate through his studies. One such lecturer was Dr Christo Cilliers who had met Richard in 2008 at a media training session. Richard then enrolled to study at Unisa in 2012. Dr Cilliers became the go-to person for Richard

when he had issues. 'I followed issues up on his behalf, and helped him to get feedback or speed up the process if there was a delay or if he had a problem in receiving material, or getting assignments on time,' says Dr Cilliers.

Richard pursued his studies no matter the cost, as he wanted to be part of the change in his country. His examination scripts would get lost numerous times but he was given many opportunities by his department. Despite much fear and trembling, Richard never gave up even though things looked bleak. He finally completed his BA in Communication Science after four years and graduated on 8 March 2018.

'I believe that we meet people for a reason. Richard was put on my road, and I was put on his road. I avoid sending students from point A to point B, and always try to help. I have a passion for helping others and I would like to believe that I played a small part in helping Richard to get his degree. Also, Richard only came this far because he never gave up – he persevered,' says Dr Cilliers.

There were many other staff who went the extra mile to help Richard, like undergraduate course coordinator, Ms Annelize Vermeulen, and Professor Elize Terblanche, also a module coordinator for Communication Research.

Wise words to Unisans

What kept Richard going was the inspiration of Unisa alumnus Nelson Mandela and the former president of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who studied during difficult times and still completed their degrees. 'I want to be part of the leaders who will influence the communication sector. Education is important, you'll be able to mentor others and spearhead communication and the information drive of any country,' says Richard. His encouraging message to current and prospective students is that the sky is the limit.



'Those who have not joined Unisa, it is time for them to join. As young people it's our time to shine. You don't have an excuse not to make it in life,' he concludes.

Having spent a few minutes with this young man, I was truly convinced that if people put their minds and hearts into something, they will succeed.

Committed to making the FI concession a success

** By Kirosha Naicker*

Chairperson of Unisa's Tshwane Regional SRC, Tokologo Monene, is setting a good example for fellow Unisa students. She recently passed the FI concession with a distinction, her qualification was audited successfully and she is now a LLB graduate. The FI (final year) concession is a mechanism instituted by the university to assist qualifying students to complete their qualification.

First step of a major journey

At one point, Monene wasn't sure if this day would ever come. After applying to Unisa she learnt that she did not meet the requirements to enrol for an LLB, which was the degree of her choice. 'It was a traumatic experience for me because I wanted to study towards an LLB and subsequently join the great legal minds that the country has produced. Coincidentally, Unisa, as part of its packages within the Faculty of Law, had a Diploma in Law, which I then enrolled for and later managed to register for my LLB. Quite frankly, it was a great mission for me to eventually do my LLB, but worth all the sleepless nights,' explains Monene.

She completed her Diploma in Law in record time, and then began with the LLB, which was more of a continuation for another three years (2015-2017). Monene maintained discipline and focus on her journey on a fulltime basis for the first three years before she joined student activism on campus. 'In 2015 I continued with my LLB. Subsequent to that I made a decision to join and participate in student politics and various other activities on campus, which immensely contributed towards being appointed to my current seat in the SRC,' she says.

Monene completed both her qualifications in record time, despite the institutional activities which she participated in. 'I must mention that I came to Unisa fresh from school, and self-study was not really a method I was used to. But I learnt that I can be disciplined and focused enough to study alone, submit assignments and pass.'



Tokologo Monene



Always remain focused on the set objectives, and not the challenges that come with it because the challenges are temporary.'

Juggling act

Today, Monene takes great pride in her academic strides of the last semester of her LLB degree. She was enrolled for her final eight modules and had two months to study before her examination. The dates were paired closely together and she also had SRC duties to execute. 'I had sleepless nights, a bad diet and no social life, but I ate, breathed and slept books. In the midst of it all, I achieved what I set out to do,' she says with a smile.

Monene's advice to Unisa students is simple: 'Keep your head up, fix your eyes on where your goals reside and focus on those goals. There will always be challenges along the way, you will tremble on some, trip and fall on others and jump over many, but never lose sight of your goals. Always remain focused on the set objectives, and not the challenges that come with it because the challenges are temporary.'

Mama Winnie and Madiba's granddaughter: 'Mandelas are human beings, too'

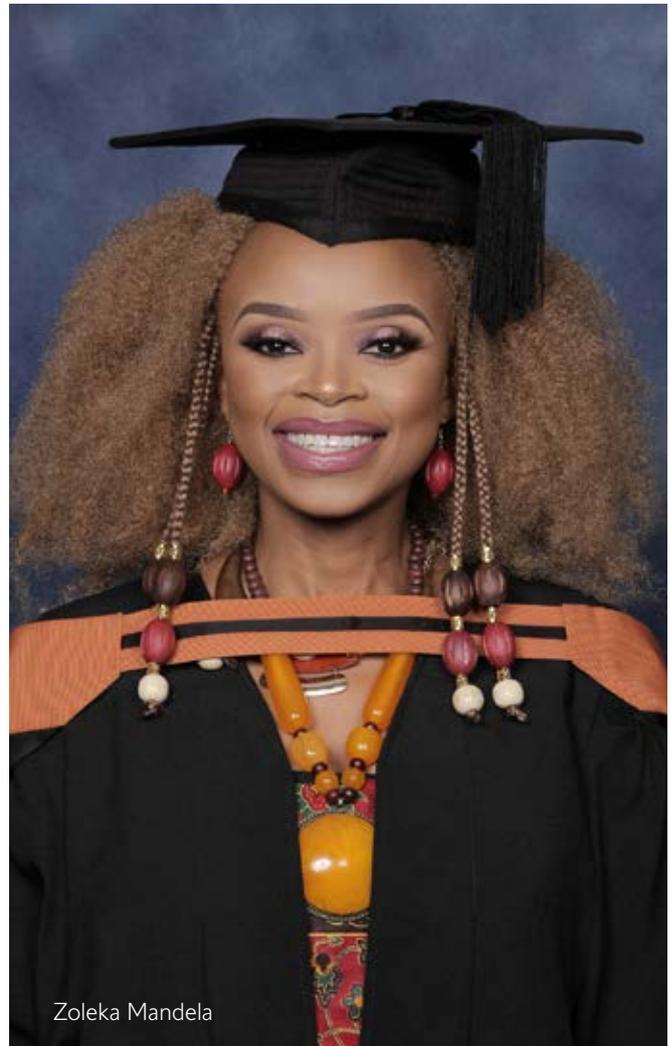
** By Rivonia Naidu-Hoffmeister*

As Zoleka Mandela walked across the graduation stage, her grandmother, Mama Winnie, watching proudly from the audience, it appeared as if fate had destined this year for her graduation as this is the year her grandfather would have celebrated his 100th birthday. 'I didn't get a chance to make my grandfather proud of me,' she says, 'but I do believe that there's always an opportunity for second chances; I'm at that place in my life right now.' As a journalist one covers many stories, but the best and most life-inspiring interviews are the ones with people who have overcome all kinds of obstacles to achieve their life goals. Zoleka is one of those people.

Yes, you might know her as the granddaughter of the recently deceased and much-mourned mother of the nation, Winnie Madikizela Mandela, and the former president, the late Nelson Mandela, but listening to her life story on the night of her graduation at Unisa highlighted just how human she is in a world where people often forget that. 'Mandelas are human beings, too,' she says.

Due to her addiction to alcohol and drugs, it took Zoleka 17 years to complete her BA degree, something she is unashamed of and wants to share with the world. The mother of four children, two of whom have passed away, says her grandparents always instilled in them the value of education and therefore completing her degree, irrespective of how long it took and all the challenges that stood in her way, was incredibly important to her. She acknowledges that she was very privileged to have had access to education that many South Africans yearn for. 'I had the opportunity to go to school, and to drop out for the reasons that I did, it saddens and pains me. My hope is that my journey can inspire others; it is never too late to rewrite your life story.'

Zoleka emphasises that this degree is just the beginning for her and that she intends on enrolling for her honours. 'It is important for me to learn from the lessons that my grandparents have imparted; the work I do now, should speak to their legacy.'



Zoleka Mandela



'It is important for me to learn from the lessons that my grandparents have imparted; the work I do now, should speak to their legacy.'

Asked what her advice would be to women who feel that they can't make it, Zoleka says it is important for them to know that one can overcome even the most unbearable things. 'It is never too late to rewrite your life story,' she says, 'and there's always a whisper of hope if you listen hard enough. We all deserve second chances.'

Zoleka has nothing but praise for Unisa, commending its 145-year commitment to shaping futures in the service of humanity. 'I dropped out of my studies 17 years ago. Unisa afforded me the opportunity to care of for family and complete my degree. I am thankful for that opportunity to study,' she concludes.



New Ekurhuleni alumni chapter convenor elected

A new convenor and a new committee to serve the alumni chapter of Ekurhuleni were elected on 16 March 2018 at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg. Neo Tsebe, an alumna of Unisa, was ecstatic at the realisation that she had been elected to the position of convenor. She graduated with an Honours BCom Internal Audit qualification in May 2013, and currently works as an auditor at a multi-national audit firm.

Who is Neo Tsebe?

Neo was born in Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria, in the late 1980s. She is a sister, daughter, grandchild, avid reader, lover of life, liker of things, and lover of trees, cooking and baking. She credits her grandparents who raised her with unconditional love for instilling much of her values and shaping her into the person she is today.

A testimony of how Unisa shaped her future

'The experience of studying at Unisa is a confidence booster,' says Neo. 'Whilst there are many institutions of higher learning, nothing compares to obtaining your degree at a well-respected and internationally recognised institution. I believe that as a Unisa graduate I can achieve anything I set my mind to. The open, distance, and e-learning (ODEL) experience honed my leadership and time management skills. This came with the responsibility of having to sacrifice time to study, submit assignments and prepare for exams while having a full-time job. The honours qualification that I have continues to add immense value to my practical work as an auditor and opens doors whenever I want to enter the market.'

Her leadership style

'Being the firstborn of three children and the first grandchild of ten makes me a natural-born leader,' says Neo.

'I am a role model and an advisor to my siblings and cousins. I also lead from the front, a skill I learnt while I was a lecturer. I take time to consult with my colleagues when leading projects at work.'

What are her other passions in life?

'I believe in following your dreams and not being afraid to be who you are and standing for what is right, even if you stand alone,' says Neo. 'I am passionate about education, women's rights, social justice and, particularly, the rights of the LGBTQI community. Other than reading novels by Dr Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Chinua Achebe, NoViolet Bulawayo and Tsitsi Dangarembga, I can also be found exploring the wild outdoors on hikes, cooking or attending camping music festivals.'

Neo shares her vision for the chapter

'This is a position I understand serves to mobilise alumni to support the university and its developments,' says Neo. 'My vision is to see the Ekurhuleni chapter feeling engaged and excited to be a part of a bigger network of alumni. I am keen to see this chapter meet and raise the bar for an alumni chapter. My vision is also to be part of an alumni chapter that engages with its community and one that aids in supporting current students through mentorship and tutorial support.'



New convenor elected for the Botswana alumni chapter

Alumni in Botswana gathered in numbers to attend the Botswana alumni chapter and convenor election meeting for 2018. Sakarea Kenewang was elected as the new convenor for the Botswana chapter. He is no stranger to the current committee of the chapter as he has been an active member for a few years. Other new committee members include Ntokozo Solomon, Kagiso Kwadiba and Tlotlo T Modisaeman. To contact the new convenor, please email him at sakarea.kenewang@gmail.com.

Gauteng alumni chapter holds first meeting

The Gauteng alumni chapter held its first meeting on Friday, 13 April 2018 at the Sandton Convention Centre. In a move to resuscitate the chapter, alumni from Johannesburg gathered on this day to share in developments at the university.



Join Unisa's global alumni community today! Visit www.unisa.ac.za/alumni for more information.



Vice-Chancellor leading international Higher Education association

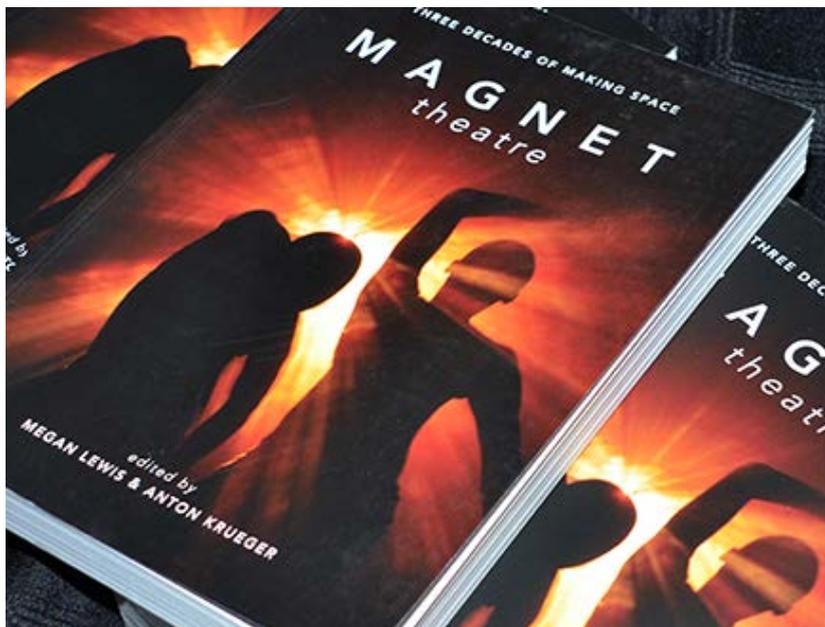
Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Unisa Prof Mandla Makhanya is no stranger when it comes to wearing multiple hats at any given time. He has proven that a leader can do a great deal, and do it well, now more so as he sets out to tackle his new role as Head of the International Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association (HETL), an association of educators, by educators, for educators.

Chance 2 Advance initiates 2018 service in Orange Farm



The Chance 2 Advance programme began its 2018 activities in the community of Orange Farm. This initiative sought to provide high quality community learning opportunities for the purpose of community empowerment. The programme was hosted in collaboration with World Vision South Africa. The Orange Farm programme specifically focused on

workplace readiness. Critical and indispensable skills required for the workplace such as understanding the world of work, administrative skills, conflict management, cultural diversity, how to use the internet for work and life, learning how to become a top performer in the workplace, and customer service were among the themes explored.



Magnetising book attracts award

The Hidding-Currie Book Award for Academic Excellence 2017 was bestowed upon book editors Professor Megan Lewis and Dr Anton Krueger at a ceremony in March 2018 for their work *Magnet Theatre: Three decades of making space*, which was published by Unisa Press and international co-publishers, Intellect. The book met the Hidding Currie Award criteria, which are academic work of the highest quality that contributes to the understanding and development of the discipline, and the work addresses a specific need in society.

Africanising and indigenising the curriculum in an ODeL context



The College of Education's (CEDU's) Teaching and Learning unit recently hosted a seminar for academics, students, and researchers in order to discuss and debate Africanising and indigenising of the curriculum in an open, distance, and e-learning (ODeL) context. Professor Meahabo Mogano, the current CEDU Manager for

Tuition and Learner Support, as well the seminar coordinator and programme facilitator, explained that this important event was an opportunity to engage with relevant scholars and stakeholders. 'Decolonised education is a present-day education issue that needs to be addressed in a practical manner,' she said.



Bite-sized news snippets from *your* university

Gung ho about robotics in Grahamstown



Inspired towards Science, Engineering and Technology (I-SET), a community engagement flagship project of Unisa's College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET), was invited to the 2018 Scifest Africa held at the Grahamstown Foundation Monument. The festival ran from 6 to 13 March 2018 with the aim of creating public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and innovation. The I-SET team proudly represented Unisa at this event by facilitating workshops at which learners from many Eastern Cape schools as well as other provinces were taught about robotics.

Heart of the community celebrated

The Sunnyside Learning Centre celebrated the 2018 South African Library Week on 20 March 2018. The aim of the event was to celebrate libraries and their role and function. Under this year's theme, 'Libraries: Heart of the community,' the Sunnyside Campus community was entertained with poetry. The keynote address was presented by internationally acclaimed poet and entrepreneur Thabiso 'Afurakan' Mohare who is the CEO and co-founder of Word n' Sound Literature. The company uses digital platforms to create cultural awareness about the decolonial agenda around libraries, books and spoken word poetry, among other issues.



Internationally acclaimed poet and entrepreneur Thabiso 'Afurakan' Mohare (CEO and co-founder: Word n' Sound Literature) (second from right) with some aspiring Unisan poets



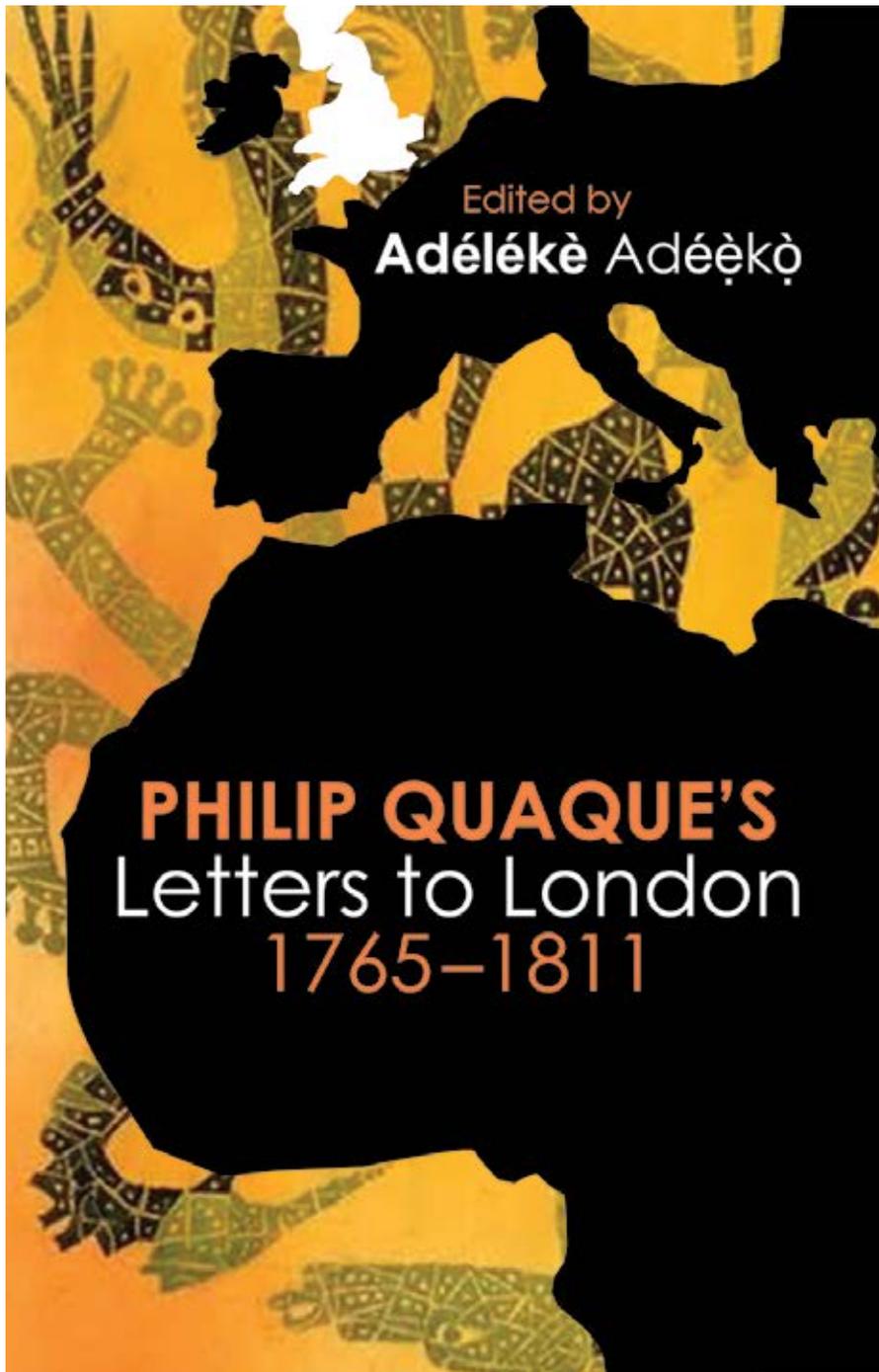
Rethinking a new Africa

Delivering the Archie Mafeje Memorial Lecture at Unisa, eminent African scholar Dr Ibbo Mandaza said that Archie Mafeje had influenced in no small measure the subsequent generation of African scholars towards a greater understanding of Southern African society. The lecture marked the 11th year since the passing of Professor Archibald Monwabisi Mafeje with the theme: 'Rethinking intellectualism, intellectual spaces, and methodologies'. Presenting his address, Mandaza said that the memorial lecture should be used to both consider how to intensify the struggle to overcome these challenges through an organised strategy, and reflect on this giant (Mafeje), his contribution to intellectualism in Africa and beyond, and the enduring relevance of his intellectual interventions in the contemporary political economy of Africa in general and Southern Africa in particular.



New insights into the clash of tradition with religion

New from Unisa Press is *Philip Quaque's Letters to London, 1763-1811*, by Professor Adélékè Adéèkò. Quaque was the first African Anglican missionary and wrote a series of letters to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in London, from 1763 to 1811 telling of his successes, trials, and hardships during his time at Cape Coast Castle.



This new edition of his letters has been widely hailed as offering fresh insights into, among others, early colonial contradictions from an African perspective. Simon Gikandi, Robert Schirmer Professor of English at Princeton University, wrote that '[t]here are many reasons to welcome Adélékè Adéèkò's new edition of the letters of the Reverend Phillip Quaque: the letters bring new insights into the contradictions that defined the encounter between Europeans and West Africans in the modern period, and of Quaque's complicated life as he tried to negotiate his role as a subject caught between the aspiration to be modern and the brutality of the slave trade. Adéèkò's careful editing of the letters makes them accessible to modern readers and ensures that the troubled and troubling voice of the African will become central to our understanding of the "Black Atlantic".'

Tejumola Olaniyan, Louise Durham Mead Professor of English and African Cultural Studies at the University of Wisconsin Madison, labelled the book '[a]n accomplished literary study, taking Quaque most seriously and paying very close attention to his language – the tenor, tone, even identifying different dramatis personae of many Quaques in the letters occasioned by circumstance, and richly speculating on the meaningful relationships among and between all these literary strategies.'

To order this book, email Laetitia Theart: theartl@unisa.ac.za. For more about Unisa Press's offerings, visit www.unisa.ac.za/press

Connecting with others to build a professional network



Networking can be used to reinforce and maintain professional relationships. People in your network may be able to give you job leads, offer you advice and information about specific employers or industries, and introduce you to others so that you can expand your network. Networking involves the cultivation of trust and confidence. Making “contacts” without following up or genuine interest will most likely lead to dead ends (and a large collection of worthless business cards). An initial meeting or contact with someone does not establish a connection unless there is a follow-up of some kind.

Steps for successful networking

1. Know who you are.
2. Always keep your CV up to date and be ready to send it at any given moment.
3. Do career research.
4. Build relationships over time.
5. Prepare questions.
6. Be proactive.

There are many ways one can build and maintain a professional network such as participating, volunteering, presenting and speaking about yourself in a professional manner, and updating your networks, to name just a few.

Individuals in your professional network will also be able to act as your referees. A referee is an individual to whom information about a candidate is referred, especially for decision about employment or academic admission. Your relationships with your referees are therefore vital in your career development. Most people focus on presenting their accolades, qualifications, skills and experience and spend little time choosing a suitable person to be their referee. Choosing a suitable referee

can make all the difference in landing a job that is perfect for you or getting admission to further studies.

Referees can provide additional information to others about your behaviour at work, their observations of your skills and knowledge, as well as your potential. Such information strengthens the information you wrote on your CV and that you share during an interview by giving someone else’s word that your claims are truthful.

Asking someone to be your referee is a process of negotiating your relationship with this person. Your referees are part of your professional network and can have a very positive impact on your career and academic development. Asking someone to be your referee does not mean it’s a lifelong relationship if it’s not being negotiated from both sides. It is therefore important for you to keep in touch with your referee to build the relationship you want. You need to consider that your referee is supporting your application and his or her integrity and judgement can be questioned if the information provided does not match with how you present yourself. It is therefore important for you to think about how you will enable this person to be able to comment positively about you and your performance.

from the experts



The following are ways in which you can help your referee you know you better:

1. Find a way to express your individuality.
2. Show interest in your work.
3. Take on challenging assignments as this will help your growth.
4. Engage with your referee at all times.
5. Be actively involved in the activities that are assigned to you by your potential referee.
6. Ask your referee for feedback about you so you know where to improve next. When asking for feedback, be specific on what you need feedback on.

7. Keep your referee informed about your progress, changes, and achievements happening in your life.
8. A potential employer may ask both you and your reference about your perceived weaknesses. Tell your referee about any steps you've taken to improve your performance.

Who should you ask to be referee?

Your referee could be a manager (or previous manager), lecturer, colleague, or teacher. Usually your first referee will be from your university. This would be your module lecturer if you interacted with him or her and built a positive relationship. Such an individual will be able to comment on your academic results and performance. It would be helpful if they knew you well enough to be able to comment on your personal attributes as well.

Your second referee would usually be an employer for whom you had worked. In case you have not worked formally, it is advisable to do volunteer work within the field you wish to work in, or engage in community initiatives with others. This will enable you to identify individuals who you may approach to ask to be your referee.

Presenting yourself to others

Learning how to present yourself effectively to others is a very important part of preparing yourself for opportunities. This includes how you present yourself online (e.g. through social media and professional platforms such as LinkedIn), as well as how you present yourself through your CV and during interviews.

Your CV

Your CV is the first chance you could use to make a good impression on a potential employer. Your CV should not, generally, be longer than two pages, so make sure that you tailor it specifically to the job you are applying for and include the skills, qualifications and experience that are most suited to the job.

A well-written CV may gain you access to numerous opportunities. Most importantly it should deliver exactly what it is designed for - opening the door to the interview rooms. With many employers, the decision to interview or reject a candidate is purely made on the strength of the CV. The one thing that most job seekers have in common when it comes to writing their CV, is the difficulty in selling themselves. Remember that the recruiter or selector only has your CV to base his or her decision on.

To read more about effective CV writing and to download the CV self-assessment sheet, visit <http://bit.ly/2pLyVnX>.

Interview skills

Preparing yourself for interviews includes getting to know more about the organisation you are applying to, as well as yourself and the value you are proposing to the employer. There is a balance between preparing well for the interview and also being yourself during the interview. If you over-prepare, you may not be able to show your interviewers who you are. If you underprepare for the interview, you may give the impression that you are not really interested in the organisation or what they have to offer.

Preparation also involves thinking about why you are applying for a specific position and what you can offer and contribute to the organisation. It is also important to think about how you meet the requirements of the position in terms of skills, abilities and competencies, and be able to provide examples of how you can contribute to the organisation. Learn more about the interview process and how to prepare here: <http://bit.ly/2Gd5NQR>.

Social media and your career

How you present yourself and interact with others online can have a positive or negative impact on your career development. It is important that you think about your online presence, especially on social media, and how you can utilise social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook to establish a positive professional image to others.



How can you identify opportunities?



How you present yourself and interact with others online can have a positive or negative impact on your career development. It is important that you think about your online presence, especially on social media, and how you can utilise social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook to establish a positive professional image to others.

Making effective career decisions includes having enough relevant and reliable information available, combined with your ability to integrate the information with what you know about yourself, your career vision and goals. Your career research will connect you to others who will help you to:

- answer questions you have regarding your career planning;
- expand your understanding of the opportunities related to your career vision;

- identify “hidden” career paths that you did not think of previously; and
- think about how you could plan to pursue specific opportunities.

Think about what you still need to find out: what questions do you have? You will use these questions as a starting point to structure your research. Examples of questions include: “What can I do with a major in...?”, “How much do ... earn?” or “What must I study to be ..?”

Keep track of your research by making notes about what you learn and what you still need to find out. It is also important to evaluate the information that you are finding: who wrote the information (person/organisation)? Which country does the information relate to? When was the information last updated?

Study and career advice

from the experts

Some of the ways you can use to identify opportunities include the following:



1

Search. Use a search engine such as Google to search for information related to your field of study. For example, search for "job titles related to IT".



2

Career information websites. Once you have a list of job titles related to your field of study, you could use specific websites to focus on reading more about what people in these fields do and the requirements. Specific websites include the Unisa Counselling and Career Development website (<http://bit.ly/2gGjtWn>) where you can search for career information related to specific fields of study; as well as the National Career Portal site (<http://ncap.careerhelp.org.za/>) with an alphabetical list of job titles and related information.



3

Job search portals. You may not be looking for a job now, but job search portals allow you to access information about requirements for specific jobs, as well as salary information and which organisations are recruiting in this field. Some job search portals include indeed, PNet, Careerjunction, and Careers24.



4

LinkedIn. Create a profile on LinkedIn (if you have not done so already) and use this platform to connect to others professionally. The LinkedIn alumni search can help you to identify Unisa alumni from your field of study for you to learn more about possible job titles and employers.

Remember that your career is a journey and that each of us have a different experience of our journey. The most important thing is that you are actively and consciously paying attention to your career development. At times you might feel that you are far from your destination, but that is when you need to realise that you are closer to your career goals than you may think. We encourage you to plan and enact your future today by thinking differently about how you will overcome challenges and find, create or use resources to create your own community of practice to think and act like the professional you want to be.

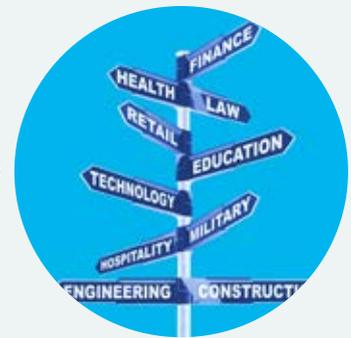
Talk to others (informational interviewing). Have conversations with people who work in an industry or for a specific organisation to explore your career options, to expand your network, to build confidence, to access information and to identify your own strengths and areas of development.

5



Attend a careers fair. Speak to representatives from organisations at Unisa Careers Fair events. Visit the DCCD website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/counselling>.

6



Volunteer. Volunteering will enable you to develop work-related skills and knowledge, and to expand your professional network.

7



Join a professional organisation. Membership of a professional organisation linked to your field of study will enable you to access a professional network, as well as possible training and mentoring opportunities.

8



Now is the time
to lend a hand.
Now is the time
for each of us ”
to say “send me”.

- President Cyril Ramaphosa

Se ke nako ya go
thusa. Se ke nako
ya gore mongwe le
mongwe wa rona a re
“roma nna”. ”

- President Cyril Ramaphosa

Manje sekuyisikhathi
sokuxhasa nokubamba
iqhaza. Manje
sekuyisikhathi
somuntu nomuntu
ukuthi athi “thuma
mina”. ”

-uMongameli uCyril Ramaphosa