

CONCILIO

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



South Campus Newsletter
November 2021



Dynamic leader
joins SRP

Contents

Dynamic leader joins SRP3

South Campus pop-up vaccination site serves local community4

UFS ‘digs for gold’ with its Women’s Forum.....6

Working from home8

Perspectives in Education added to Directory of Open Access Journals 10

South Campus SRC secretary graduates with distinction despite hindrances 11

Keeping everyone on the South Campus safe12

Educational journey started with a UFS bridging course13

New appointments13

Dr Joleen seizes the day during the pandemic 14

Forerunners in online facilitation 16



Dynamic leader joins SRP

By Eugene Seegers

Me Thandeka Mosholi joined the South Campus of the UFS in 2020 as a project manager and was later appointed as the Head: Social Responsibility, Enterprise, and Community Engagement (SRP). *Concilio* caught up with this energetic woman to find out more about her roots, her passions, and the maxims she lives by.

Early days

Thandeka was born in the small town of Odendaalsrus in the Free State but was raised by her grandparents in Klerksdorp. She says, “My grandparents motivated me from a young age and told me that education is the only key to success and that education can change the poverty cycle in communities.”

Following these exhortations, Thandeka registered for an Education Diploma at the then Technikon Free State after completing matric. She later obtained a BTech degree in Education as well as a master’s degree in Education from the Central University of Technology.

Thandeka started her working life at the Hillside View Campus of Motheo FET College in 1998 and was later appointed as Provincial Curriculum Specialist at the Department of Education from 2007 to 2013. In 2014, she was appointed at the Central University of Technology as Work Integrated Learning Coordinator. From 2016 to 2017, she worked as a project coordinator at Marematlou Training Institute, and from 2018 to 2020, she worked at the South African

Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) as Training Manager responsible for the skills development of municipal workers.

‘Remember, don’t be pushed by your circumstances, but be led by your vision’

Recent accomplishments

Since 2021, Thandeka has been the Head of SRP. The SRP unit is responsible for assisting the South Campus with third-stream income through short learning programmes, school partnership programmes, the Internet Broadcast Project, and marketing. All these programmes run on external funding from SETAs, donors, and partnership with the Department of Education.

Thandeka says, “My aspiration for this department is ‘It always seems impossible until it’s done.’” Thandeka’s innovation and passion for the education sector makes it possible for her to enjoy her current position. She adds, “I strongly believe in teamwork, as this increases the success rate of any project.”

Thandeka Mosholi lives by the maxim, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

Photo: Eugene Seegers

Editorial Team



Nelia Oosthuysen
Editor
+27 51 505 1284
oosthcg@ufs.ac.za



Eugene Seegers
Co-editor
+27 51 401 7204
seegerse@ufs.ac.za



Clifford Mokhoke
Graphics and Layout
+27 51 505 1312
mokhokenc@ufs.ac.za

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2022

1 Jan | Sat | New Year’s Day
21 Mar | Mon | Human Rights Day
15 Apr | Fri | Good Friday
18 Apr | Mon | Family Day

27 Apr | Wed | Freedom Day
2 May | Mon | Workers’ Day
16 Jun | Thu | Youth Day
9 Aug | Tue | National Women’s Day

24 Sept | Sat | Heritage Day
16 Dec | Fri | Day of Reconciliation
25 Dec | Sun | Christmas Day
26 Dec | Mon | Boxing Day

South Campus pop-up vaccination site serves local community



Coretha van den Heever being interviewed by Lunga Luthuli at the launch of the pop-up vaccination site.

By Eugene Seegers

The University of the Free State, in collaboration with the Free State Departments of Health and Education, launched a pop-up vaccination site on the South Campus in September 2021. This initiative has brought a much-needed service closer to local communities in the fight to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thandeka Mosholi, Head of Social Responsibility Projects and Community Engagement on the South Campus, says, "We are next to the Mangaung community, and by bringing these services we encourage not only UFS staff and students, but also the surrounding communities to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The institution and stakeholders are saying each person is accountable for their own health."

Representing the Department of Health, Papi Mokhele, a professional pharmacist, says, "The initiative is aimed at reaching out to as many people as possible to be vaccinated."

He says, "At the moment, the facility administers only the Pfizer vaccine, and as recommended by the national government, we want to reach herd immunity – about 70% of the population – so that businesses, sporting facilities, and many others can open up and get our lives back to normal."



Thandeka Mosholi with two of the nurses who administered vaccines at the pop-up site



Alice Harmse prepares to receive her first Pfizer injection.

Other facilities recently opened by the Department of Health include the SABC, Hoffman Square, the Majakathata Taxi Rank, the MUCPP Health Centre in Phelindaba, the Puma Garage at Bergman Square, and the Mangaung Outdoor Centre.

On partnering with the UFS, Mokhele says, "The COVID-19 vaccines have been put through clinical processes and quality assurance tests. They have also been approved by the South African Medicines Control Council, and we call on the UFS community – especially students – to register and vaccinate."

Coretha van den Heever, Teacher Trainer in Social Responsibility Projects, was recently vaccinated against the virus and says, "Let us protect ourselves and other people and not be the spreaders of the virus. The UFS and the government have brought the solution closer so that communities do not have to spend a lot of money travelling to get help."

Photos: Eugene Seegers

UFS ‘digs for gold’ with its Women’s Forum

By Eugene Seegers



Dr Maria Madiopé, South Campus Principal, hosted the virtual launch of the UFS Women’s Forum on 6 August 2021. The theme for the event was ***‘Women finding their place in the workplace and society.’*** In her closing remarks, Dr Madiopé referenced her favourite poem, *Still I Rise*, by Maya Angelou, in which the writer speaks about having gold mines “digging in my own backyard”. The Women’s Forum is doing just that, by uniting all womxn at the institution in a common objective.

The purpose of the Women’s Forum is to provide a safe platform for engagement and community for women at the University of the Free State — all women, regardless of their age or sexual orientation. It is a movement for women, by women, and its mission is to stand together for women’s participation on institutional, provincial, national, continental, and international issues of importance.

As an institutional initiative, the forum will partner with the Department of Human Resources (HR) and its Organisational Development and Employee Well-being (OD) division on matters of women empowerment and development.

‘Be an anchor’

The keynote speaker at the launch was the late Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize, Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and People with Disabilities. She said, “This Women’s Forum will help you to stand together to have a common goal: to be an anchor for any woman who walks through these campuses.”

Prof Mkhize also flagged a persistent issue at higher-education institutions. “Violence against women at university is still a problem.”

Deciding to make a difference

In his welcome message, Prof Francis Petersen, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State (UFS), quoted Jane Goodall, “What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

He added, “It is vital that women’s groups within our institution convene to unpack their unique challenges and needs. In doing so, we can be certain that any action taken in this regard is focused and fruitful.”

An institutional movement for empowerment

The forum will not only serve as a platform for dialogue by women but will double as a movement for continuous women empowerment. It will be a safe space where women will celebrate their womanhood without judgement. Furthermore, matters of social responsibility and social justice will be spearheaded by the UFS Women’s Forum. For more information or to sign up, visit www.ufs.ac.za/womensforum

As chairperson of the UFS Institutional Forum, Dr Maria Madiopé initiated the creation and subsequent launch of the UFS Women’s Forum.

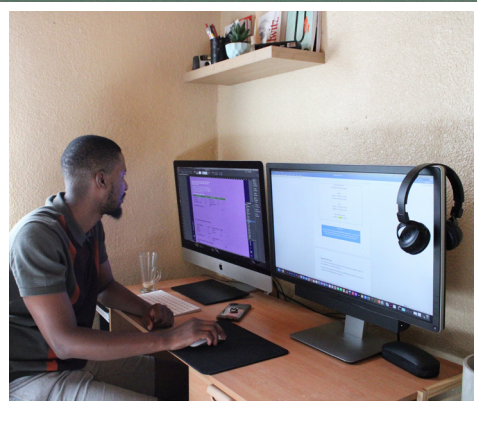
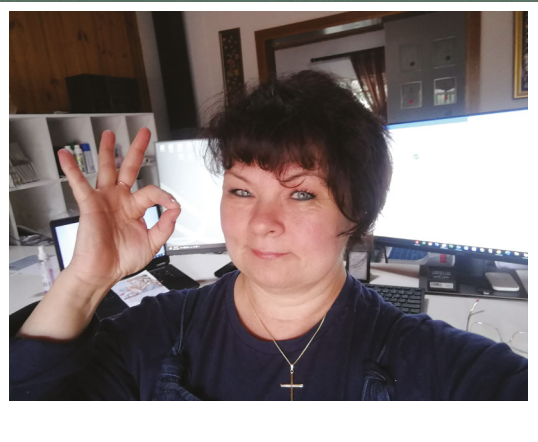
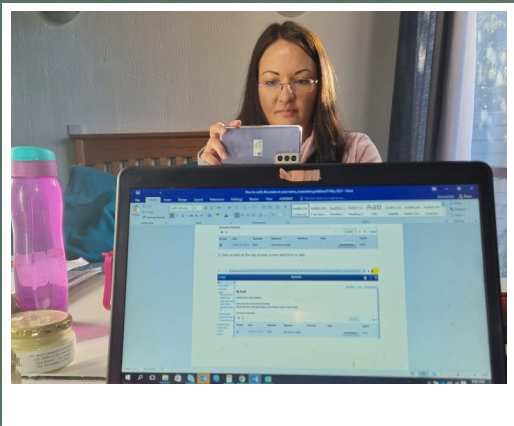
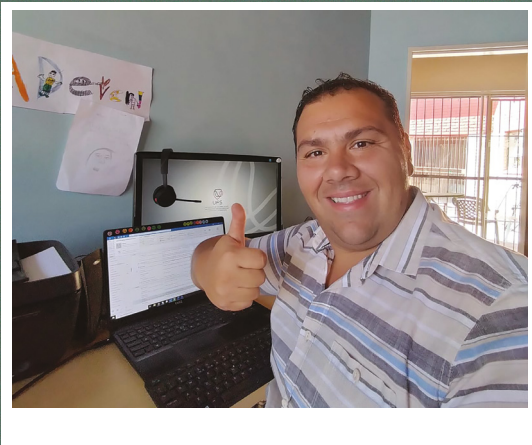
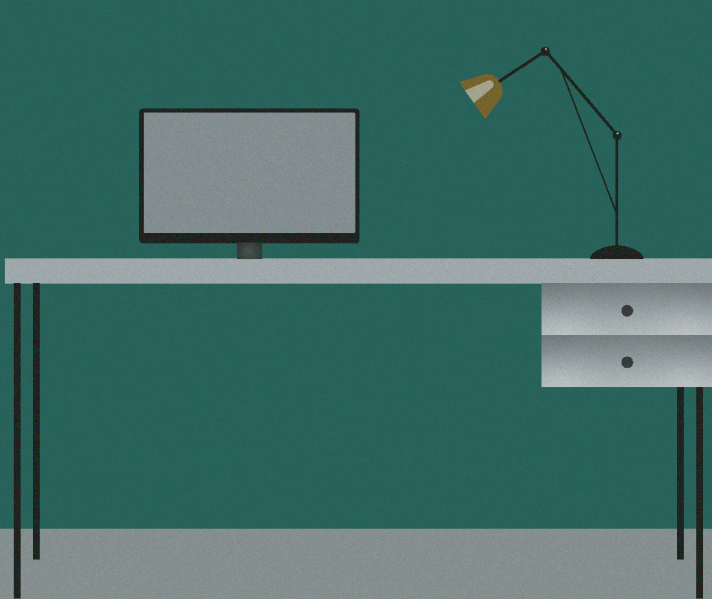
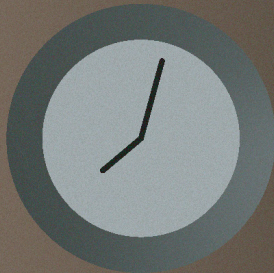
Photo: Supplied

“If you rise, make sure you rise with another woman.”

***– Charlotte Mannya-Maxeke
(7 April 1871 to 16 October 1939)***

Working from home

During the global COVID-19 outbreak, colleagues started working from home. Resourceful South Campus staff members set up their ‘hoffices’ (home offices) in such a way that they were still able to deliver and excel on goals and outcomes.



Perspectives in Education added to Directory of Open Access Journals



By Cornelle Scheltema-Van Wyk

Perspectives in Education (PiE) is one of the University of the Free State's (UFS) accredited academic journals. Hosted on KopsieJournals with eight other accredited titles published by the UFS, *PiE* is a fully open-access journal, which means that all articles are freely available on the internet immediately after publication. A professional, peer-reviewed journal, *PiE* represents a variety of cross-disciplinary interests, both theoretical and practical, seeking to stimulate important dialogue and intellectual exchange on education and democratic transition with respect to schools, colleges, non-governmental organisations, universities, and universities of technology in South Africa and beyond.

Moving to the South Campus for Open Distance Learning

The March 2021 issue looked at the seismic disruptions brought about by COVID-19, and the global challenges for education systems to promote and continue meaningful learning. Schools and colleges across the globe were closed, and teachers, students, schools, universities, and education planners had to create contingency plans. In the scholarly community, COVID-19 unsettled what we know, how we come to know, and how we should proceed from here onwards. It was the opportune moment for re-invigorated interrogation, rethinking discussion, and replanning education. An opportunity to rethink teaching and learning, the organisation of educational institutions, and the structure and workings of education systems, as well as to reflect once again on the objectives of education, and the interrelationship between education and society.

The issue features many national and international authors – from the UFS to authors from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Israel, Brazil, and Haiti. Its diverse content comes from a relatively new editorial team. Prof Jan Nieuwenhuis' first issue as editor-in-chief was published in 2020. The move to the South Campus for Open Distance Learning was accompanied by the journal's application to be included in the internationally renowned accreditation list, *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*. The DOAJ has strict inclusion criteria, and to be included on this list is a mark of a high-quality open-access academic journal.

Just over a year after moving, *PiE* is now included in the DOAJ list and appears on four accredited lists (also DHET, IBSS, and Scopus). The journal has firmly cemented its place in the field of education and is broadening the reach of research for the South Campus and the University of the Free State.

A cover image of the March 2021 edition of the *Perspectives in Education* journal

Apology for omissions

Concilio wishes to express its apologies to Isabella du Preez and Precious Kubheka for omitting their names from the list of staff members who are currently pursuing studies, which appeared in our previous edition. Isabella is pursuing her Master's in Higher Education Studies, and Precious is currently studying towards an MEd in Higher Education.

South Campus SRC secretary graduates with distinction despite hindrances

"I am enthusiastic and eager to learn or to better myself."

By Eugene Seegers

On 20 April 2021, 693 South Campus students graduated, with 213 of them achieving distinctions. One of these is the newly elected Secretary of the ISRC on the South Campus, Adelia Chauque. During her journey as a student, Adelia says that she had numerous obstacles to overcome. For instance, she mentions that her "biggest challenge was completing my tasks with an unstable data connection during the pandemic". Despite this impediment, Adelia managed to excel in her studies and obtained her qualification with distinction.

Adelia says that her family was her biggest support system. "Due to the network problems I faced, my family had to drive me around until we found a stable connection that enabled me to write my tests." Other support came from the university itself. "I received a lot of support from the academic adviser, Mr Chwara Shuping," she says. "Although he couldn't arrange for me to return to campus, he called regularly to ensure that I was still academically active."

After overcoming these hurdles, Adelia is continuing her academic journey. "I am enthusiastic and eager to learn or to better myself. Due to that, I am furthering my studies by enrolling in a second degree programme in Administration majoring in Industrial Psychology. I am very ambitious, in the sense that I strive for perfection and consistency with an organised and maintainable future, therefore being a part of the SRC enables me to assist students and myself with a secured and comfortable learning environment to achieve our goals at the institution."

Adelia balances her responsibilities in the portfolio Policy and Transformation on the South Campus SRC by having a schedule planned that ensures she does not fall behind. She concludes, "During the morning I attend my prescribed lectures to ensure I will continue to slay academically. Then I am visible at the SRC office from 12:00 to 16:30. After hours, I contribute my time to study, but I remain available to students who prefer texting." The university is keen to see the heights to which Adelia will attain in the coming years.

Adelia Chauque obtained her qualification with distinction in April 2021.

Adelia Chauque, Secretary of the South Campus SRC.

Photo: Supplied





Keeping everyone on the South Campus safe

By Eugene Seegers

Protection Services is the face of the University of the Free State. All staff, students, visitors, and other external stakeholders receive a warm welcome from the well-trained security staff at the entrance gates before gaining access to the campus.

However, these hard-working staff members also face many challenges, especially regarding COVID-19 regulations and UFS protocols, which everyone visiting the UFS needs to comply with. With proper training, though, our security personnel deal with such issues in a professional manner to ensure that problems are addressed

effectively. This conveys a positive image to the campus and external communities.

Stephen Matthews, Head of Protection Services on the South Campus, says, "I really want to thank all our security staff for the positive attitude they demonstrate; it is contagious, and it embodies the core values of Protection Services. It is not always easy, but we are compelled to stay calm even during heated debates at the gate with our clients, because we know that we carry the image and reputation of the university. If you have passion for what you do, you will always overcome the challenge."

Stephen Matthews heads Protection Services on the South Campus.

Photo: Jury Nel

Educational journey started with a UFS bridging course

By Dr Mantoa Molete

I was born and bred in a township called Thabong in the Free State. I was raised by my single mother. She brought up me and my two other siblings while she was unemployed. We lived in a green shack with a big giraffe on the door in a place called Stratighting. Later, we got a four-room house from the government. My mother and I used to sell food at a bus station called Mothusi; we sold chicken, juice, and buns to passengers travelling to different parts of the Eastern Cape, as well as those going to Mozambique. It was through this money that I could afford my own things and help with household responsibilities.

I matriculated in 2005, but my results were not so good. So, I first did a diploma in dressmaking. Then, in 2008, I went to Goldfields TVET College to do a bridging course, which was a collaboration between Goldfields and the UFS. In 2009, I enrolled at CUT for a National Diploma in Language Practice. After that, I did my BTech, my master's, and then my doctorate.

I became an employee at Goldfields in 2013 and worked there as a lecturer until 2017. In 2018, I was appointed at CUT's Welkom Campus as a lecturer in the Department of Communication Sciences and currently still work there. I offer English Literature and English Communication courses.

My educational journey has taught me that anyone can become who and what they want to be.

Dr Mantoa Molete started her higher-education journey with a bridging course offered by Goldfields TVET and the UFS.

Photo: Supplied



New appointments

Mrs	PM	Masuelele	02/01/2021	Ms	PP	Zwezwe	04/01/2021
Mr	EM	Gqamane	03/01/2021	Ms	LJ	Mokgapa	04/01/2021
Mr	MP	Miya	03/01/2021	Miss	NB	Kubheka	04/01/2021
Miss	P	Aba	03/01/2021	Ms	SS	Tlhapane	04/01/2021
Miss	TY	Radebe	03/01/2021	Mrs	NS	Breedt	04/01/2021
Mrs	CP	Ngwenya	03/01/2021	Mr	K	Kodisang	04/01/2021
Mr	SWM	Mtungwa	03/01/2021	Miss	M	Bosch	04/01/2021
Miss	NP	Mntambo	03/01/2021	Mr	TJ	Ratshijana	04/01/2021
Ms	LD	Molefe	04/01/2021	Mrs	JS	Oosthuizen	04/01/2021
Miss	PT	Mathekga	04/01/2021	Miss	TT	Tshabalala	05/01/2021
Dr	PBN	Maseko	04/01/2021	Ms	NG	Zwane	05/01/2021
Mr	P	Ngidi	04/01/2021	Mr	T	Pillay	01/08/2021
Mrs	NL	Matsuma	04/01/2021				



Dr Joleen seizes the day during the pandemic

By Eugene Seegers

Shortly before the world first became aware of the stirrings of a pandemic that would shut down the entire globe, Joleen Hamilton donned a significant red gown as she prepared to cross the stage to receive her doctorate. This was the final graduation of 2019 — and the decade — and the last time an in-person graduation ceremony would be held until restrictions were lifted.

Dr Joleen based her doctoral thesis on research she did while serving as a mentor to Mathematics teachers at schools in Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu as part of the Schools Partnership Project (SPP). Her thesis proposes a new framework for optimising Mathematics teaching environments in high schools in these townships. Go to www.ufs.ac.za/drjhamiltonphd to read the full thesis.

Joleen spearheaded a project to assist high-achieving Maths and Science students from the Mangaung township through an initiative called *Creative Clubs*, which was funded by the Manufacturing, Engineering, and Related Services SETA (MerSETA). Unfortunately, the global pandemic has put a severe crimp in these activities and prevented all face-to-face classes. But Joleen did not let this setback deter her

from her purpose of transferring knowledge to the next generation of learners, students, and educators.

Dr Hamilton was instrumental in a large variety of educational activities during the lockdown. In partnership with Hercules Dreyer, she helped develop the short course for teachers, *Harnessing Social Media* — an online course of which she serves as academic coordinator.

Another programme is in tandem with the North-West Province's Department of Education, aimed at Grade 7 teachers; it is titled *Numbers, Operations, and Relationships*, and its goal is to improve number sense among these educators, which number almost 600. The course is offered via Blackboard, over WhatsApp and email, with

WhatsApp being the main communication channel. The project started in August 2020 and continued into 2021. In August this year, Joleen and other colleagues from the South Campus travelled to North-West to offer in-person training to these teachers.

Another MerSETA-sponsored course offered in partnership with the Free State Department of Education is the *Euclidean Geometry* short learning programme. Last year, 80 teachers participated, with another 64 joining in 2021. The course follows a blended approach, with study material being couriered to participants, and communication and assessment taking place via WhatsApp and WhatsApp groups. At the beginning of October this year, a five-day workshop was presented in Parys. The most important concepts of geometry were highlighted once again, but in addition to the content, the pedagogical approach and methods of making the classwork meaningful were reiterated.

In collaboration with her colleagues Charlene Afrika (who heads up the administrative team), and facilitators Matheko Thamae and Coretha van den Heever, Joleen also helped present four in-service training workshops (MerSETA-sponsored) as face-to-face classes for Gr 8 and 9 teachers. These focused on improving teachers'

content knowledge and methodology.

In addition to all these varied activities, Joleen has been lecturing second-, third-, and fourth-year Education students on the Bloemfontein Campus. These classes have all been presented online, with assignments submitted via Blackboard. Also, she has taken on the role of study supervisor, and is at present supervising four master's students, and co-supervising another four master's and one PhD student. When not occupied with any of these activities, Joleen serves on three special interest groups (SIGs): Maths Education, Educational Leadership and Management, and Science and Technology Education.

It is clear to see that Dr Hamilton has a profound, profuse, and prolific passion for anything related to quality education. Her work bears testament to this and serves as an example of an educator who truly cares about her subject and her students.

Read more about Creative Clubs and other South Campus initiatives at <https://www.ufs.ac.za/odelsc>

Dr Joleen Hamilton is passionate about transferring knowledge to the next generation.

Photo: Johan Roux

Forerunners in online facilitation

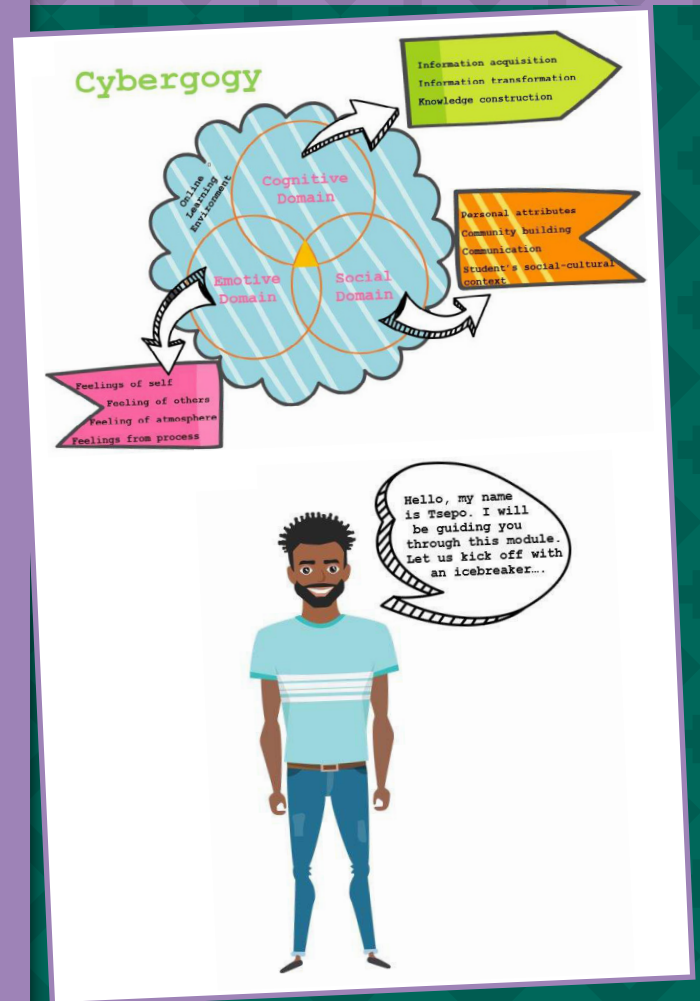
By Eugene Seegers

As the pandemic started to put its bite on the global education sector, most institutions moved their programmes to fully asynchronous, with some opting for a blended approach as the restrictions were lifted during lockdown.

But the almost instantaneous move online necessitated a jump in thinking as well as teaching approach. Who, though, would train the lecturers?

Seeing this need, the South Campus sought ways to address the demand, starting on their own doorstep and later expanding. *Concilio* spoke to Lizelle Human-Eksteen and Isabella du Preez, who designed and developed the learning programme *Training for Online Facilitators*. Lizelle is a subject-matter expert in online facilitation, while Isabella is an instructional designer at the IDEAS Lab, both on the South Campus. The aim was to create a 'once-off' fully online programme to be delivered multiple times with little effort.

Isabella explains, "The programme follows the principles of 'andragogy' — adult learning and teaching — since our audience consists of adults and is tailored to suit their specific needs." She adds, "This is a prime example of two departments pooling their efforts and resources to produce a world-class, pioneering product." Lizelle wanted the programme to be grounded in sound academic principles, and thus chose cybergogy as an 'umbrella' theory. She explains, "Cybergogy facilitates learning through technology – which involves the acquisition of information, transformation of that information, and then knowledge construction. Cybergogy does more than focus on the cognitive domain. It also affects the emotive and social domains, thus having a more lasting impact on our students."



The learning programme takes on a more informal, conversational style, addressing the student personally through a narrator named Tshepo, who resonates with the intended audience and thus makes for a personalised experience. Even the theme (colour, logo, fonts) was selected to further this 'relationship' with the virtual tutor. Another important component for the designers was 'interactivity', which is evident in their selection and use of multimedia, learning activities, discussion forums, resources, and more.

The learning programme also takes cognisance of the various learning styles of people and offers innovative ways to cater for kinetic, auditory, and visual learners. Throughout the design phase, two questions were constantly asked: 'How will the students experience it?' and 'What did I need when I was learning this?'

Participants in this programme are furthermore supported socially through forums and collaborations, which not only reinforce cognition and memory, but also foster a sense of belonging, thus building a community of practice (another underlying principle of andragogy).

The forward-thinking and pioneering spirit of this learning programme is yet further proof of the value that collaborations of this nature have, and what the South Campus has to offer the wide world out there.

Photos: Supplied

