

# CONCILIO

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA  
QWAQWA CAMPUS/-KAMPUS



South Campus Newsletter

February 2017

## Digitising the ACT

Online learning is fast becoming the most convenient and affordable way to study. The South Campus of the University of the Free State (UFS) has become the first university in South Africa to launch an online course for current teachers to upgrade their qualifications; the Advanced Certificate in Teaching (ACT), 100% online.

The digitisation team of the ICTISE Unit (ICT Innovation in School Education) on the South Campus is responsible for converting the existing ACT modules from a blended format to an online format. With a blended format students' study material is delivered to them and they attend contact sessions. With an online format all lessons and study material are online. The advantages of online learning far outweigh that of blended learning as it is much more interactive. Lessons are converted to video which allows for differentiation. This means that students can access the lessons repeatedly, as often as they need to.

The content of the modules is made more user-friendly and the UFS guides the students in maintaining a sustainable time structure. Tutors are always available and WhatsApp groups facilitate the process as well. Discussions or communication between students situated remotely is made possible, adding to an enriched student experience. Immediate feedback on activities serve as a diagnostic tool as well as motivation for the students.



Upgrade your teacher qualifications

## Advanced Certificates in Teaching

**Now 100% online**

**Teachers: advance from  
REQV 13 to REQV 14**

**Apply Today!** Classes start 16 January 2017.

For more information visit:

**<http://www.ufs.ac.za/ACTonline>**

Kindly email [Online@ufs.ac.za](mailto:Online@ufs.ac.za) or SMS +27 82 548 2493 for a personal response

<http://www.ufs.ac.za/ACTonline>

*Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.  
Inspireer uitnemendheid. Verander lewens.*

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SOUTH CAMPUS/SUID-KAMPUS



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UFS·UV

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Videos of lessons are recorded at the Ideas Lab Studio or on-site at schools. Students are expected to complete a unit which consists of two lessons per week. There are “*think about your learning*” activities after each lesson and “*after readings*” to ensure that students have grasped the material. Students are rewarded with points for their participation, which also serves as motivation for them to continue.

In these and many other ways the online ACT is specifically designed to suit students' unique needs and make their studies a satisfying and rewarding experience. ■

Sarietjie Musgrave (Digitising ACT)

## Applications & Registrations | 2017 DEADLINES

ACT	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Last day of applications to reach UFS	6 February 2017	9 April 2017	12 June 2017	
Last day of payment	28 February 2017	29 April 2017	30 June 2017	
Processing at UFS finalised	10 March 2017	12 May 2017	14 July 2017	
Classes start	3 April 2017	17 July 2017	2 October 2017	

NPDE/ACE	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Last day of payment	10 December 2016	18 February 2017	9 June 2017	No registrations for fourth term
Processing at UFS finalised	16 January 2017	6 March 2017	30 June 2017	
Classes start (control day)	18 February 2017	24/25 March 2017	29 July 2017	8/9 September 2017

## Important dates

### UPP programme

- **30 November 2016:** Final date to return your application to the University Access Programme Office.
- **23 January 2017:** The Humanities (Communication Science/Anthropology, Communication Science/Political Science, Communication Science/Psychology, Communication Science/Sociology, Anthropology/Political Science, Psychology/Sociology)
- **23 January 2017:** Education (Primary Teaching Option, International students will only be able to register on the 26th January 2017).
- **24 January 2017:** Natural and Agricultural Sciences (Chemistry/Mathematics Combination, BAgric (Agricultural Sciences))
- **25 January 2017:** Economic and Management Sciences (Introduction to Human Resource Management/Individual Differences, International students will only be able to register on the 26th January 2017).
- **26 January 2017:** All International students (all study options).
- **3 February 2017:** Orientation and Information session. Compulsory for all students. Parents are welcomed to join the session.

# LIBRARY EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY



Entrance: south campus

The South Campus library recently purchased three tablets. A tablet is one of the most fun, user-friendly devices to work on. It is a very helpful device to search information on in the library, which makes it perfect for students. On regular PCs or laptops you can show people a book record or a database search. On a tablet, you can physically hand them the record or the search and allow them to view it, interact with it, and make it their own. The physical act of handing someone information should not be discounted.

Tablets are much more intimate than computers and bring information down to a very personal level. The library strives to continuously improve in its service to staff and students. To help the library build a substantial collection of books, you can request the Campus Librarian to order books you may need.

**A TRAINED LIBRARIAN IS A POWERFUL  
SEARCH ENGINE WITH A HEART!! ■**

*Lianda Coetzer*



Tablets in the library available for students

## WATER RECYCLING SYSTEM at new residence on UFS South Campus saves litres

In an effort to reduce wastage and facilitate recycling of one of South Africa's most precious resources, the toilet system at the new residence on the South Campus of the University of the Free State (UFS) will make use of grey water.

The project's design has already been approved, and is currently being implemented. Maureen Khati is the project manager, and the engineer who developed the system is Eon Kruger, Assistant Director of Facilities Planning. Domani building contractors and Henri Pretorius of Topology Architects were also involved with the implementation of the 13-month long project.

### How it works

The system comprises two separate sewage lines: the first removes so-called "black water", which cannot be recycled. The second diverts "grey water", which is processed by means of a bio-filtration system, and utilised as recycled water.

The purification system has a capacity of 30 000 litres. Of that, only approximately 13 000 litres will be used for flushing toilets. The rest will be channelled into irrigation.

With the successful completion of this project, five similar systems will be undertaken on the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses.

The system has been functional since the new South Campus residence has been operational and inhabited. ■

*Eugene Seegers*



# STEM School in the pipeline for UFS South Campus

**W**ith so many challenges facing our current educational system, the UFS South Campus turned its attention to the possibility of establishing a STEM school on campus.

The school has been a dream for two years and the campus principal is currently focusing on a proposal to attract funds and stakeholders. The school concept design is already in place. Various investigations, correspondence with colleagues abroad, a visit from Dr Stephanie Pace Marshall and, now recently, a visit to STEM schools in the USA, have been nurturing the dream.

*"STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons, as students apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise enabling the development of STEM literacy and with it the ability to compete in the new economy." (Tsupro, 2009)"*

We believe that through the UFS STEM School, the South Campus will cultivate creative, problem-solving (young) scientists within the Free State and South Africa, to ultimately improve the human condition. The school will be open to all deserving and interested learners.

The school will also serve as a Student Teacher training facility where future undergraduates will be schooled in project-based education and the STEM core.

Furthermore, the school will be a platform to various community projects.

We are planning to open the UFS STEM School in 2018 as part of the UFS South Campus EduVillage.

*"Education is a social process; education is growth; education is not preparation for life but is life itself." – John Dewey*

Watch this space! ■

Simoné Nel



The USA Group with Dr. Marshall

## FASSET students on South Campus urged to 'POSITION THEMSELVES FOR SUCCESS'

Students are rewarded for their hard work, dedication, and academic excellence.

On 12 August 2016, 125 FASSET-funded students on South Campus were rewarded for their first-semester efforts during a ceremony "to celebrate hard work, dedication, and excellence", according to Lerato Sekonyela, who chaired the event. FASSET is the Finance and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority. This sector is the largest employer of people with financial skills. "One of FASSET's many objectives is to develop the competence of employees, resulting not only in an incredible level of training, but also in an improvement in the quality of life for many," according to Tshagofatso Setilo, Manager: University Preparation Programme at the South Campus.

Jean Grundling, Academic Head at South Campus, welcomed students, as well as the guests, tutors, and facilitators present, saying, "This is a milestone in your learning journey." Quoting the words of Nelson Mandela, "A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination", Grundling added, "Never stop learning, but also look at the compassion in your hearts."

Tania Lee, projects director at FASSET, explained how funding is obtained from the financial sector. Ms Lee also expanded on the various projects FASSET is undertaking; from the lowest level, where schoolchildren are

provided adequate career guidance, through TVET support by means of learnerships, to a full bursary scheme planned for next year.

Ms Lee advised: "Position yourself for success." Using an analogy from an athletics event at the recent Rio Olympic Games, she exhorted students to take up a position like a runner in a relay race, poised and ready to sprint off after receiving the baton. She urged: "Aspire to become the heroes for our country." ■

Eugene Seegers



Boniswa Segoe with Tshagofatso Setilo at the FASSET prize-giving. Boniswa received two separate accolades on the day for her academic achievements. Photo: Charl Devenish

# SOUTH CAMPUS HOME TO NETBALL CHAMPIONS

The Health and Wellness Division of the UFS annually hosts a netball tournament for all UFS staff members. In 2015, the South Campus 'meerkatte' fought their way to the final, eventually claiming victory over UFS Finance to take home the cup. South Campus Principal, prof Daniella Coetzee-Manning, supported the team through each game, fuelling the team's motivation and adding to the excitement. Congratulations, Meerkatte! ■

Ingrid Kluyts



The winning squad with South Campus Principal, Prof Daniella Coetzee

## IMAGINE ICT ACADEMY

From its inception, ICTISE's vision has been to provide innovative technology and development of ICT skills to schools and education in the Free State and other provinces around South Africa. Over the years, we have become aware of some schools taking initiative and investing in technology to provide resources and ICT skills development for their teachers, principals and learners, but at many schools this is truly lacking. The ICT gap contributes a major deficiency towards the success of our workforce as well as students entering tertiary education.

Realising the need for ICT proficiency skills development, the University Management and HR approached ICTISE during the last quarter of 2015 with the request to provide training of these ICT skills to support staff and service workers at the three campuses. Many of the service workers have never owned nor worked on a computer or laptop. Through ICTISE they could learn how to develop their operational and navigational skills (keyboard and mouse) and do an introduction to MS Word – so that they could learn to write a cover letter and set up a CV – as well as a range of other Microsoft applications. When new staff apply to the University, many lack the experience or skills that are desperately needed, especially in management or supervisory positions. Whether a letter or report needs to be created, or Excel

spread sheets and pivot tables, or just providing a professional-looking presentation using PowerPoint, there is a great need for further training of UFS staff. With the University changing from GroupWise to MS Outlook, Ideas Lab was asked to assist with the training of staff, and so in 2016 the "Introduction to Outlook" started with 2 hourly sessions to teach staff the basics.

With this in mind, a decision was taken by UFS Management, towards the end of 2015, to start a Microsoft Imagine Academy at the South Campus that would be able to provide a full curriculum for teaching technology courses and learning tools that help students who are educators to achieve success. The Imagine ICT Academy will provide students who are in education, as well as UFS support staff and service workers, with the possibility of receiving fundamental technology skills. Furthermore, staff and students will also have the chance to participate in technical courses to enhance their chance of pursuing careers in IT. Whether the UFS staff member/student would like to receive a certificate of attendance, certificate of completion of a course, or participate in writing an International MS exam, this can be achieved through the Imagine ICT Academy, now registered as a Certiport Test Centre.

Any queries about the different exams or possible training, please do not hesitate to send an email to Glynis Jaeschke, using the following email address: [jaeschkegj@ufs.ac.za](mailto:jaeschkegj@ufs.ac.za) ■

Glynis Jaeschke



One of the 1st service worker, Introduction to Computers courses in 2015.



# FIRST RESIDENCE FOR UFS SOUTH CAMPUS

The South Campus of the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein now has its own student residence. Completed in June 2016, the new residence can accommodate 250 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate students.

The residence has 270 beds, with 20 single-bedroom flats and 12 additional single rooms in the corridors. Each of these single-bedroom flats has a kitchen, lounge, and a bathroom. There are 146 double rooms with 17 kitchens overall, each corridor has one kitchen. The residence also has a gazellie, a conference room that can accommodate 50 people, as well as eight laundry rooms with a drying area.

“Students at the South Campus have, up until now, been commuting from the Bloemfontein Campus and residential areas around town. We are extremely proud that accommodation will now be available to our students on the campus. Although the official opening of the residence is said to take place early in 2017, some students have already moved in,” says Prof Daniella Coetzee, Principal of the South Campus.

The residence was built at a cost of R57 million, which was funded by the UFS and the Department of Higher Education and Training.

## Residence accessible to differently-abled people

The UFS strives to cater for differently-abled people by making all its buildings accessible to them. This residence is no exception, as it has two rooms available on the ground floor of Block C for differently-abled students. These rooms accommodate two students per room.

## A one-of-a-kind newly installed water system

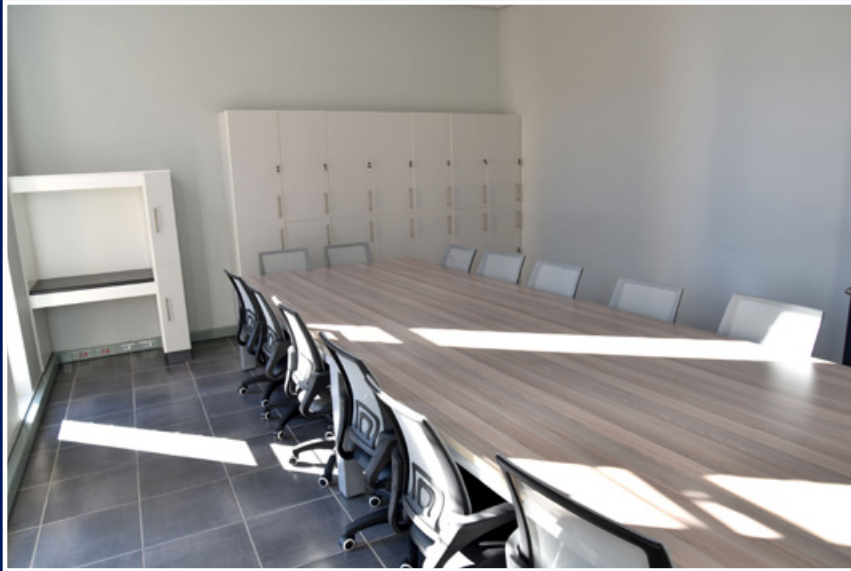
The residence is also the first at the university that has a grey-water system installed. Grey water is made up of bath, shower, and bathroom sink water. The water will then be reused for toilet flushing as well as for irrigation purposes on the campus. ■

Lerato Sebe



The residence has 146 double rooms with 17 kitchens overall, each corridor has one kitchen. The residence also has a gazellie and a conference room that can accommodate 50 people.

Photo: Charl Devenish







# Madiba Day



3-7 August 2016  
from 10:00  
for 67 minutes

DURING THIS WEEK THE LIBRARY WILL WAVE ALL FINES FOR OVERDUE BOOKS IN EXCHANGE FOR ANY NON PERISHABLE FOOD THAT WILL BE DONATED TO THE NO STUDENT HUNGRY PROGRAMME.

Where: Issue desk inside the Library

Lianda Coetzer



For Madiba Day this year, the South Campus Library collected food to make a contribution to the University's No Student Hungry Campaign. Students' fines on late books were cancelled in return for non-perishable food items. This was a great initiative and shows the South Campus' commitment to supporting students in innovative ways.



## MPUMALANGA PROJECT

The ACT (Advanced Certificate in Teaching) is currently running in Mpumalanga as a special project in collaboration with the Mpumalanga Department of Education, who approached the UFS and asked that we train 5000 practising teachers. 2500 students were registered in 2016 and the remaining 2500 will be registered in 2018. Each teacher in the programme received a bursary, which includes a laptop, from the Department. At the moment, 13 learning areas are presented, namely EMS Senior Phase, English FAL Senior Phase,

Foundation Phase, Life Orientation Senior Phase, Life Sciences FET, Maths Senior Phase, Natural Sciences Senior Phase, Physical Sciences FET, Social Sciences Senior Phase and Mathematics FET. The classes are presented by 143 tutors at 11 venues throughout Mpumalanga, namely Bethal, Baberton, Ermelo, Nelspruit, Middelburg, Piet Retief, Sabie, Witbank and Witrivier. Classes are presented during school holidays to accommodate teachers. ■

*Sandra Plekker*



# READ ALOUD DAY

On 24 February it is 'World Read Aloud Day' and this year the Library of the South Campus joined in the celebrations by hosting a story hour for Grade 1 learners at the Lourier Park Combined School in Bloemfontein.

It was with great excitement that the 67 Grade 1 learners gathered in the school hall for the story hour. The children sat quietly and listened to the stories read by Mrs Coetzer, the Campus Librarian. After the children listened to a few stories, they were given the opportunity to recall the stories and say what they had enjoyed most about them.

A book donation of 20 children's books was made to the school. Mr Beharilal, author and publisher, shared the story of developing the "Thembi and Themba" series with the LIASA Free State members during the May Seminar of 2015 and donated a set of "Thembi and Themba" books, as well as three other titles to the FS Branch to use as they see fit.

The Read Aloud Day celebrations was the ideal opportunity to donate the books to Mrs Tsatsane, HOD for Foundation Phase Learners at the Lourier Park Combined School. The school has a functional school library where the books can be borrowed by the learners. ■

*Lianda Coetzer*



Principal of Lourier Park Combine School receiving book donation from Mrs Coetzer



Mrs Coetzer, Campus Librarian reading to children



Mrs Coetzer donating the Thembi and Themba books donated by Mr Manichand Beharila Literacy Service to teachers of the Lourier Park Combine School



Grade 1 children listening to the stories



# Meet some South Campus #PeopleOfKovsies

What could be better than one picture telling the Kovsie story? A stack of pictures, each worth a thousand words. #PeopleOfKovsies was initiated to showcase the positive vibe on and about our campuses.

Our #PeopleOfKovsies photographers approach students, staff, alumni and visitors, getting them to pose for the camera in their favourite fashion, whether it is pouting, pointing, or smiling. Participants also have the opportunity to share a brief message with the Kovsie community, and these photos, along with their captions, are then shared on our social media platforms, and, in some cases, even used on campus billboards and in our publications.

We want everyone to be part of our #PeopleOfKovsies “snapshot-and-quote” collection, which helps to reveal the essence of exactly what that indescribable #KovsieFeeling is. The photos on this page are all of our very own South Campus students. ■

*Eugene Seegers*



“There is a saying that goes: ‘Only those who chase their dreams are the ones who catch them.’ From the moment when we were first welcomed at the official orientation, I was focused on my goal.

For someone who hails from a township stricken by poverty, crime and unemployment, to consistently perform at this level, it affirms that your past does not determine your future.

I am quite aware that the race is not over yet, but has just begun. In the words of Steve Harvey, I say, ‘He ain’t through with you yet!’”



#PeopleOfKovsies: “The support I get from my family, and to wake up every morning and have the opportunity to study.”



#PeopleOfKovsies #SouthCampus: “It’s exciting learning new things and once I move over to Bloemfontein Campus, I will have the necessary background knowledge to continue my studies.”



#PeopleOfKovsies: “The passion you have for something always gives you that extra drive to succeed.”



# Champion teachers in the district assist learners

Lelanie de Wet and  
Eugene Seegers

**T**he Monyetla Bursary Project, in partnership with the University of the Free State (UFS) and other sponsors, presents an annual Winter School for Grade 12s on the South Campus. In addition, a Saturday school for Grade 12s has been in operation since 2007.

Chris Grobler, a science teacher at Navalsig High School in Bloemfontein, is the organiser of both schools. He says, "I saw it as a tragic state of affairs that those offering bursaries and the bright learners from our formerly disadvantaged schools were not meeting up with each other."

The first year saw 300 learners attending, with five subjects being presented. This tally has since grown to 650 learners each

Saturday, with 11 subjects being presented, including Business Studies, Computer Applications Technology (CAT), Geography, Maths, and English.

"Our vision was to get champion teachers in the district to assist learners to qualify for university bursaries," says Grobler. The project has succeeded in attracting educators with extensive experience as chief markers or even subject advisors in the Department of Education.

## Wider reach

"This year, the 1 200 learners at the Winter School hail not only from the Free State but also from as far as North-West, Gauteng, and the Eastern Cape." Grobler says, "We are very pleased about this, as it means that the image of the UFS is being carried further afield."

Lesego Modisele, one of the visiting learners from Parys, says, "I like how they brought in

teachers that are heads of their subjects, who are very experienced and help us a lot. They explain how exam papers are set and which important things to focus on."

By means of the Schools Partnership Programme (SPP), 250 learners from Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo have also been assisted. Katleho Setloho, who was one of these students, is currently a medical student at the UFS.

A special feature included in this year's programme is interpreting services in South African Sign Language (SASL) for Deaf students. As an added bonus, a disc of the sessions in SASL is being compiled for English, Mathematics, and CAT, with plans for it to be distributed to the deaf community in the rest of South Africa via the UFS. ■



Roald Rautenbach presents the Computer Applications Technology (CAT) class while Peet Jacobs interprets in SASL. Video recordings are also made for later distribution. Photo: Eugene Seegers

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

A warm welcome to all the new members of the South Campus team!



Mrs JJ Heyns  
Formal Programmes



Ms B Gadinger  
Curriculum  
Design and  
Development



Ms JT Teise  
Curriculum



Mrs DL Setlhare  
IDEAS LAB &  
ICTISE



Mrs KT Takang  
IDEAS LAB &  
ICTISE



Ms MO Booysen  
Support Services  
and Operati



Mr AS Hlabane  
Curriculum Design and  
Development



Mr MB Hlalele  
Curriculum Design and  
Development