



Photo: T du Plessis

MEET THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

From the left: Lourette Wilson, Varsity College registrations, Yolanda de Klerk, NPDE registrations, Jimmy Liebenberg, NPDE registrations and Rikus Maritz, ACE registrations.

Letter from Simoné Nel - Head of the Marks section

When I look back on the almost 11 years of working at the School of Open Learning's Marks Section, I see growth, hard work, growth, hard work and more growth. Starting out with only 1 lady capturing students' tests, assignments, practicals and examination marks, we are now a formidable all-ladies team. Meet the 4 Musketeers of Marks at SOL, South Campus: Marique Plekker, Juanri Burger, newbie Kenosi Mocwana and myself, Simoné Nel.

As a team, we are responsible for the marks administration of our NPDE (National Professional Diploma in Education), ACE (Advanced Certificate in Education) and LLB Varsity College students.

I believe that through the School's unique approach to combined open/distance/contact learning we help manage the empowerment of under- and unqualified teachers, managing 46 different study centres around South Africa.

Through these methods, addressing our social responsibility towards the community has also been realised.

The newly formed partnership with Varsity College/UFS LLB is also a fresh and exciting phase of the School's young existence. Currently we are reaching 7 Varsity College campuses nationally.

Working with adult learners, as well as students, has its own set of challenges, but is equally rewarding.

Making the most of each day is what we strive to do. My motto is, "it's not the hours you put in, but what you put into the hours".

Being part of the UFS South Campus, looking at the new faces entering our gates every semester, seeing new lecture halls being erected, awarding diplomas, certificates and degrees to their proud owners; these sure are some exciting times! *watch this space*

Much love, Simoné.



We spoke to the Coordinator of the Bethlehem Centre, Mr Carlo du Toit, who has been praised for his diligence and punctuality to hear how he does it. This is what he had to say.

“All our facilitators are handpicked and we strive to be as professional as possible in fulfilling our mandate as an Open Learning Centre.” The facilitators he works with are requested to report any and all problems to him immediately, which allows him to deal with problems beforehand, he says.

He also mentioned that all the facilitators know that they should submit marks no later than three days after it was received. He makes use of a strict filing system to make sure that all important documents are kept together and in order.

All facilitators are encouraged to ask for assistance from more experienced facilitators should they need it.

He added that he takes great pride in his work and that the working relationship between him and his facilitators is one of mutual respect.

Getting to know Sannah

Getting to know Sannah Xaba, wife to Nhlanhla Xaba and mother of three.

How did you manage to finish your qualification in 4 years without any additional years?

I am a hard worker and I always aim high. I managed to succeed in four years because I simply believed that it had to be done. I was committed to not disappointing myself or those who supported me at work and at home. I persevered because I want to make a change in society through teaching.

What inspired you to receive 15 distinctions during your years of study?

I never study to simply pass, but rather to show complete understanding of the subject at hand. I fall in love with it. When I struggled with something I was not afraid to phone my facilitator and ask for help. It is also very important to surround yourself with like-minded people who are committed to achieving success in their studies as well.

Are there any study tips that you can share to assist other students?

I maintain a balanced diet and drink plenty of water. Distinctions are possible if you commit yourself. Extra classes are always beneficial.

How do you find a balance between family, studies and work?

I do tomorrow's work today. Once I get allocated a task, I start immediately. Sometimes I do work weeks in advance.

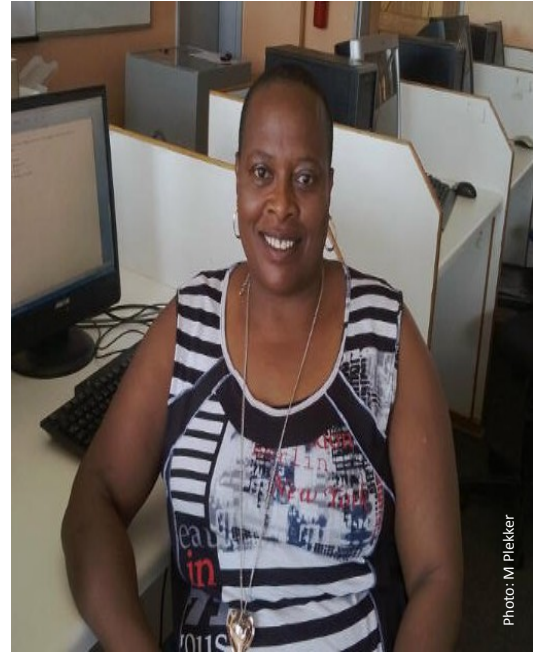


Photo: M Plekker

Although this might put pressure on my family, I always remind them that I love them and that they are my strength. My husband, as well as my principal at work, is always supportive of me, which helps me to find a balance.

What do you do to relax?

Reading the Bible relaxes me, and when I feel tired I sleep, regardless of what time of the day it is.

What would say to motivate other students to work harder?

Try and network with students who did your modules before you. Keep your books where you can see them and fall in love with your subjects. Do not harbour negative feelings towards your studies. Keep your study area clean and tidy at all times. Recite your studies with your children and try to make it fun. You will not regret compromising the present's luxuries for the future's success. We all fall down, our hardships define us, and if I can do it, so can you.



Photo: Provided

DON'T FORGET!

Final day to query Semester 2 CASS marks:
10 October 2014

Main Year-End Examinations:
15 October—24 October 2014

Deadline for applications to write in the Additional Year-End Exam:
31 October 2014

Marks available online:
28 November 2014

Final day to query Main year-End exam marks:
28 November 2014

Additional Year-End Exams:
15 January - 28 January 2014

Marks available online:
27 February 2014

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have news that you would like to share, please send it to:
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