



Photo: T du Plessis

From the Office of the Dean

Dear ACE and NPDE students

Congratulations on deciding to study at the University of the Free State! You have chosen wisely.

The ACE and NPDE are Education programmes seated in the Faculty of Education at the UFS. However, the programmes are managed by the School of Open Learning and all your questions should be directed to us. We function as a coordinating centre for all activities that seek to harness open learning principles and methods to broaden access to higher education opportunities for all South Africans.

We are committed to providing excellent tuition and service to you and should you experience any uncertainties, please do not hesitate to contact us. As in-service teachers you have the responsibility to also provide excellent tuition to your learners. As you know, the ACE is going to be phased out and replaced by an Advanced Certificate in Teaching (ACT) in the near future. This does not mean that the ACE that you are currently enrolled for will be worthless. Your ACE will be recognised alongside the new ACT and you will also be

able to proceed to a more advanced qualification after completion of the ACE. It is on the same NQF-level and will be fully recognised by the Department of Education for all purposes. NPDE students are also aware that the qualification will be phased out as from 2014 - so this is your last opportunity to study such a qualification. In future all teachers who need to upgrade their first qualifications will have to enrol for a BEd. We have a record of thousands of successful NPDE students at the UFS and we trust that you will soon be added to the list of students with a NPDE to their credit!

Please be assured of our commitment to you, our students. We wish you the best of luck with your studies!

Prof Daniella Coetzee

Dean: School of
Open Learning



STUDENT FORUM

Dear student

I would like to welcome you to the 2nd term of the academic year and I hope that you are working hard to achieve the goals that you have set for yourself.

Since the School of Open Learning is a distance learning institution, we saw it fit to create a mechanism through which the Open Learning students can easily communicate with us.

The Student Forum has been established to enable students to share their experiences (positive or negative) and to ensure that their concerns are not only heard but addressed as well.

Our unique environment is one in which each person's role is important, whether that person be a student, facilitator or center coordinator. I would like to encourage you to use the platform efficiently by voicing your concerns/views to your student representative. Congratulations to all the elected student representatives, I look forward to working with each one of you.

In addition to the Student Forum we are introducing this newsletter (Concilio - to bring together in Latin). The newsletter will function as a two-way street between students and staff at the School. We aim to connect all the Open Learning stakeholders by reporting on interesting events and people while at the same time encouraging each of you to share your stories with us.

I trust that you will find the newsletter useful and informative!

Kind regards, Lerato



Getting to know Bongie

Ms Bongie Sefoloko is one of the School of Open Learning's many facilitators. We got to know her a bit better.

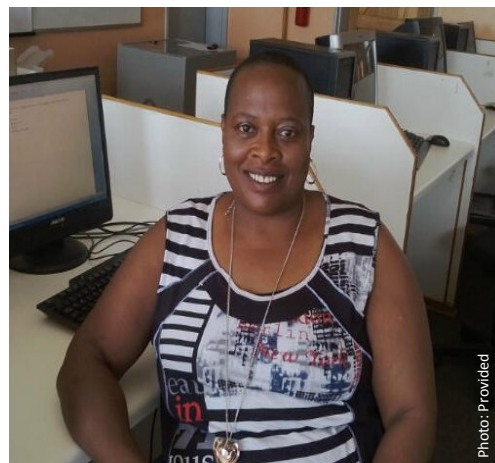
Bongi, how did you become a facilitator at the UFS?

In October 2011 I saw vacancies for facilitators being advertised on the notice board in the Maluti District Department of Education. I applied and was appointed! In February 2012 I attended facilitator training in Mtata and started facilitating in April.

What are your passions and what inspires you?

I am very passionate about teaching, especially teaching adults. I like to read and I have a great thirst for knowledge. The more I know, the more I can teach my students! The modules I teach are my source of inspiration. They are perfectly designed to develop the best teachers and are so informative.

Your job is to teach, but what have your students taught you?



My students are very engaged, keen to learn and always prepared to work hard. This has taught me to work harder myself. They have inspired me to become a lifelong learner and in doing so enable myself to set the standards for my students even higher.

What do you do to unwind?

After a day of hard work I take a nap for an hour or so and then I exercise. I normally take a long walk and then do some exercises in my house. I prefer reading the newspaper to watching television.

What everyone's talking about: UPL 101

Mr Lembethe is a NPDE student in Senior Phase Mathematics and Science at the Ladysmith center. He shares his experience with the UPL 101 module:

When I first started to attend UPL 101 class, I found it different from other modules because it had to do with the student teacher him/herself. My perception was that it was less important to those who have been teaching for years like me, but after I attended a few lectures, its importance became clear. In terms of fears of failing, I didn't feel any because I knew that in order to pass I had to be honest and provide a true account of my individual experience. In order for other students to do better in this module they need to be positive, be honest and also consult different sources, including their colleagues. My overall feeling about this module is that it is a must-do module because it enables one to find the teacher within him- or herself.

By: Mr SP Lembethe

DON'T FORGET!

Deadline for applications to write the Additional Exams due to timetable reasons:
9 May 2014

Final day to query Semester 1 class marks: **3 June 2014**

Deadline for applications to write the Additional Exams due to illness and unforeseen circumstances:
6 June 2014

Main Mid-year Exams:
4 - 13 June 2014

Additional Mid-year Exams:
21 - 25 July 2014

Final day to query Exam marks:
29 August 2014

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have news that you would like to share, please send it to:
duplesist@ufs.ac.za

Editorial Team:

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Going the distance