Flagship and other special community engagement projects:

Mandela Month Celebrations
At the Mandela Day initiative of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Mimosa Mall Centre in Bloemfontein on 31 July and 1 August 2013, the School of Nursing and the School of Medicine jointly held an exhibition on living a healthy lifestyle. Pamphlets were provided to the public and blood pressure was taken on volunteers.

As part of the Mandela month celebrations, students of the School of Nursing participated in the development of an activity park at a site in Heidedal. The community attended a celebration day in July, during which the park was officially opened.

Transnet Phelophepa health train
As part of the partnership agreement that the UFS School of Nursing has with Transnet-Phelophepa, fourth-year nursing students were sent for experiential learning placements on the train in January 2013.

During this two-week placement from 21 January to 01 February 2013, nine students were exposed to the community members of Colesberg and Kakamas. The clinical placement coordinator of the SoN accompanied the group during their first week of placement.

Partnerships and participation:

Each service learning module at the School of Nursing has a partnership agreement with their respective partners. The partnership pool includes a number of service sector and community partners as suggested by the triad partnership model. Most of the partnerships are in the Heidedal area with the purpose to make a bigger impact on a specific community. The partners are:

- REACH Heidedal (NPO)
- Grade 1 learners at Olympia Primary School in Heidedal
- Primary Health Care Clinics (Opkoms, Thusong, Mmbana, Freedom Square, Langenhovenpark)
- Senior citizen facilities in Bloemfontein
- MUCPP Community Health Centre
- Heide Secondary School in Heidedal
- Families of Phase 7 Mangaung
- Lekhulong Secondary School: partnership formation in process
- New Horizon Support Group Heidedal
- Talitha Cumi Kidz Heidedal
- Talitha Cumi Babies Heidedal
- Transnet: Phelophepa Train
Community Service Learning modules and other forms of Community-Based Education (CBE)

Undergraduate programme:
**First-years: General Nursing Science, VRT116/128 and VRP114/124**

In the first semester, students completed a community survey and presented their findings in the Norman Doubell hall in Heidedal. Health-related activities associated with the survey took place in an open area in front of the Norman Doubell Hall in Heidedal. Pedestrians were invited to visit the students’ exhibitions. In the second semester the developmental milestones, vision and hearing of more than 160 grade 1 learners were assessed. Booklets containing fine and gross motor skills developed by the students were given to each family.

**Second-years: Community teaching tool, VRP 214 & VRP 224**

Second-year nursing student groups were allocated to a specific primary health care clinic or old-age home, and attended the placement site on Mondays and Wednesdays every month of the academic year. The student groups developed a community teaching tool related to curriculatate content and community relevance. They explained and donated the tools to relevant communities for educational use.

**Third-years: Nursing practical wound care project, VRP 324**

Third-year nursing students formed groups of six each and identified patients in the community with chronic wounds. They treated the patients’ wounds for six weeks and kept record of each visit’s findings. Formative and summative evaluation took place in the form of written report, demonstration of the wound care skill and presentation of the projects. This wound care module is integrated with the research methodology module to enhance learning and research skills.
Fourth-years: Psychiatric Nursing, NPP404
The service learning component within this module focuses on the development of life skills for primary school children. This year the learning needs of the children at REACH who came for afternoon care were evaluated. Group activities were planned accordingly. An example of such an activity was where the children made diaries with personal messages and dreams included to promote self-knowledge.

Fourth-years: Postnatal home visits, VRP 404
Students under the supervision of an advanced midwife visited mothers within the first 10 days after birth at their homes throughout the year. During these visits the focus was on challenges relating to mother and baby.

A group of Midwifery and Psychiatric Nursing lecturers took part in a benchmarking visit to KwaZulu-Natal from 21-25 October 2013. Observation of community projects in Coffee Bay, Pietermaritzburg and Dundee took place. Information gathered through this visit will inform CSL activities at the School of Nursing in future.

Post-basic programme:

Nursing Education, OVP104
In this module, registered nurses further their studies in the field of nursing education. Authentic learning takes place through integrating theory into practice in the community, by empowering health care workers with competence and skills related to community health needs. This module was showcased at the 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service-Learning in June 2013 with the title: “The service learning journey among students and communities in a triad partnership”.

Community Health post-basic programme, GMP 105
Students evaluated pre-school children for school readiness as part of their academic outcomes and compiled activities for the parents to stimulate the development of the children. The aim is to foster community participation and empowerment. Through these activities children have a better chance to be ready for school.

Child health, KDP105
This module was offered for the first time during the second semester of 2013. The partnership with REACH was extended to include students who enrol for this module. Students registered for this module are professional nurses that specialise in Child Health Nursing. The service learning component focused on children with special needs and equipping community workers with palliative care skills towards ill children.
CE and SL research initiatives and outputs:

- Master’s study completed with distinction:
  “Experiences of parents regarding a school readiness intervention for pre-school children by community health nursing students”

- Article accepted for the Stellenbosch conference publication:
  Title: “Students, academics and community as voyagers on a service-learning journey”

- UFS, CE NRF research book publication: Knowledge as Enablement (inclusion of chapter by SoN)

- Community Engagement and Service Learning Conferences attended:
  - Hong Kong: The 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service Learning (three lecturers, two paper presentations)
  - Potchefstroom: CE Symposium (two lecturers and one student, one paper presentation and one panel discussion representative)
  - Stellenbosch: The 5th International Symposium on Service-Learning (five lecturers, two poster presentations)

- Two lecturers at the School of Nursing and the REACH partner received a Vice-Rector’s Award for Community Engagement in recognition of outstanding service, commitment and excellence in the field of Community Engagement

Volunteer projects by staff and students in the faculty:

- Two lecturers of the School of Nursing are involved on a voluntary basis at Lebone Village.

- Baby hats and kangaroo care wraps were supplied for Neonatal Intensive Care Units at Pelonomi and Universitas Hospitals.