

UNIT FOR OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING

The BUZZ @ UODL

Quarterly Newsletter



Motivation for the month

Believe, Inspire and Activate! The best is yet to come ...

- YRM

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Our first edition has taken off!

We are pleased to introduce "The Buzz @UODL" newsletter which will be circulated quarterly.

We will share our successes, important information and highlights that sets us apart from other distance institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected various sectors. I am in awe at how our staff persevered during this time, thus ensuring that the Unit continued providing essential services to our stakeholders.

It is an honour to be entrusted with leading the UODL and I look forward to walking this path with my team.

Dr Joany Fransman



Bon Voyage & Congrats!

Congratulations to Professor Michael Temane, the previous Acting Director of UODL, who has now been appointed the Deputy Registrar of the North-West University. We wish you well with your new journey!



MEET OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

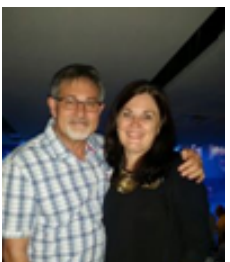
Inspirational messages from our leaders



Dr Joany Fransman
Acting Director

"Success is the maximum utilization of the ability that you have" - Zig Ziglar

"Success for leaders can be defined as the maximum utilization of the abilities of those working with them"
- John Maxwell



Dr Almero Kok
Academic Manager: Natural and Agricultural Sciences and Law. Acting Director: Operations & Administration

Dream it. Wish it. Do it.



Ms Khumo Shopo
Academic Manager: Health Sciences

"One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest."
- Maya Angelou



Dr Susan Greyling
Academic Manager: Education

"But Jesus looked at them and said, With men this is impossible, but all things are possible with God."
[Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2.]
Matthew 19:26 AMPC

“
*Our leadership
are just like you
and me, humane
and
approachable.
Together we all
are one ...*

“
*We are
passionate about
everything we
do!*”



Dr Petria Theron
Academic Manager: Theology

You cannot do your work without good relationships.

We are dedicated and committed to our NWU Distance Students who deserve our best service!



Mr Zanele Jack
Manager: Learner Support Centres

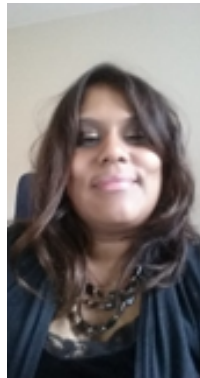
If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore.



Mr Ben Schutte
Acting Manager: Quality Office

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together”

- Vincent Van Gogh



Ms Zanobia Kanjee
Acting Manager: e-Learning

A quote that resonates with me is the following by Henry Ford, “If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself”.

Each unit under the UODL umbrella should continue to work together and support each other. We may be individual divisions but we do have common goals. Together, we can reach great heights!



Mr Motlatsi Mojahi
Acting Manager:
Projects & Tender Management

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparations, hard work and learning from failure.



UODL'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- To be the leading tertiary distance education provider in South Africa.
- A preferred Institution amongst students, lecturers and alumni.
- Priding itself in support and academic excellence.
- To become community conscious and embrace social justice issues.

Strategic Statement

We are striving towards

- A prestigious educational institution with an exemplary and innovative teaching and learning approach, coupled with top notch technological support and an unwavering commitment to service and academic excellence.
- Encouraging a culture of caring and sharing the knowledge gained, enabling community consciousness and a greater awareness of social justice challenges.

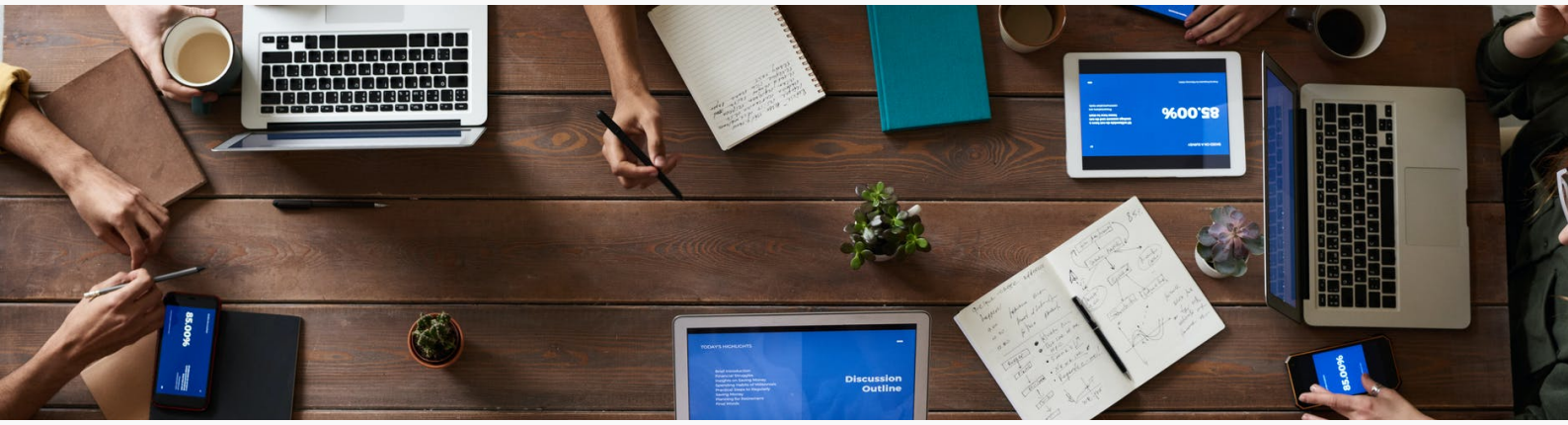
- To provide the best possible platforms to share knowledge with students.
- Equipping distance students with quality education, that is innovative, relevant, and allowing them to share and pay forward the expertise gained.

We aim to achieve

Our brand value and promise

Inspiring the nation through our students, instilling visions of Hope and a deep set of values to pave the way for a better future for all.

“
We learn and grow each day... always wanting to do better for all our stakeholders ...



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OUR COLLEAGUES



Sylvia Selebatso
Registration Division

What motivates you?

Life itself motivates me as it is a wonderful gift from God. Success, love, empowering and caring for other people physically and spiritually, especially my colleagues are also important factors in my life.

What do I enjoy about my role?

I'm passionate about my work and the relationship I have with my bosses, colleagues and students is wonderful. I take pride in doing my work confidently through dedication, devotion and discipline. I enjoy my work every day here at NWU UODL because it always feels like my second home. I enjoy the great degree of freedom and control. I do my work to my level best without being discouraged. I always learn new things in the office which helps to grow my skills and builds my professional character greatly, in order for me to be a better and responsible employee.

Most importantly my joy becomes complete when I meet the expectations of students, because they are the reason for my work and their satisfaction is my goal at the workplace.

Lastly, my message to the staff

I would like to express my gratitude to UODL, I am humbled and honored to be part of this wonderful family. I am grateful for all your help, continued support and cooperation as it has really made me a better employee. The role NWU UODL plays in my life is invaluable.



Steve Williams
Assessments Division

What motivates you?

Knowing that when I wake up in the morning I am going to contribute something positive towards our students, making their lives comfortable during their academic year so that they can achieve positive results at the end of the year with my help and commitment.

What do I enjoy about my role?

I play a very important role at the UODL as I'm the last line of defense to improving the lives of our students. When I'm done with my work I can guarantee that student's will receive their results at the end of each semester because it's my responsibility to submit marks of each semester to our data office after the processing of all assignments, portfolios and exams. I enjoy my role because I know effectively and efficiently to receive their results on time.

What is your message to the staff?

I would advise our staff not to forget the golden rule, "do not do unto others that you do not want to be done unto you". We should put ourselves in the students' shoes before getting impatient. We as staff must never forget that the students make it possible for us to earn a living by paying their tuitions fees. There is a saying in business that says-the customer is always right and we must not forget to treat them with the respect that they deserve. I want to congratulate my fellow staff members for the stellar job throughout the lockdown. Let's keep it up!



Lizel Kleinschmidt
Contact Centre

What motivates you?

I'm driven primarily by my desire to learn new things—big or small—and take on new responsibilities so that I'm constantly growing as an employee and contributing more to my team and organization.

What do you enjoy about your role?

I love talking to people. And I find it incredibly gratifying to make sure they feel heard and their problems are resolved.

What is your message to our staff?

When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too. - Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist



Magna Heyman
e-Learning Division

What motivates you?

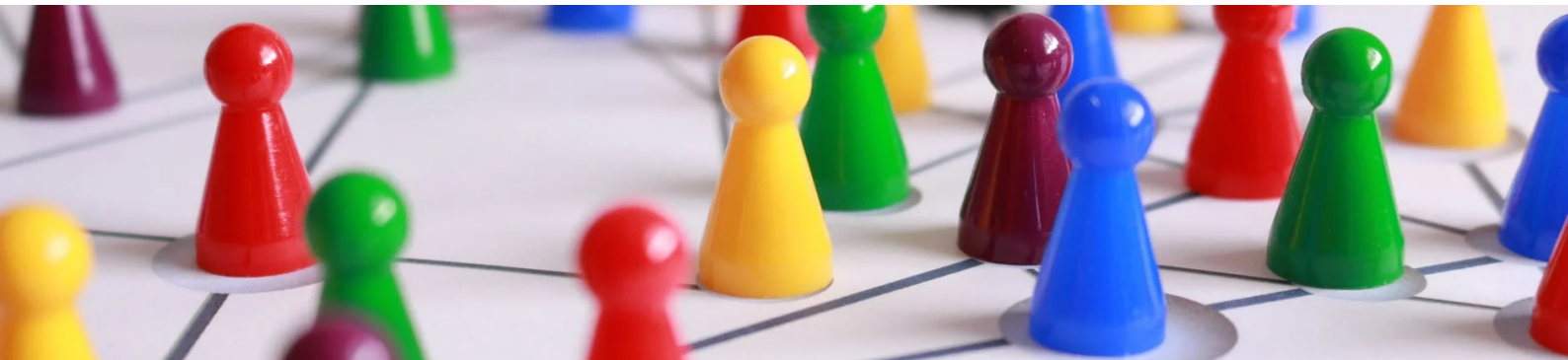
Good quality coffee, the knowledge that every day is a blessing and the satisfaction of completing a goal.

What do I enjoy about my role?

I'm allowed to be creative. I'm constantly encouraged to be multi-skilled and working with people on all different levels, from different departments gives me the opportunity to learn interesting things from them.

What is your message to our staff?

There is strength in unity; when you have teamwork, kindness and collaboration, wonderful things can happen.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

In our next edition, we would like to introduce an "Employee of the Quarter" section. How will this work you may ask?

It's simple. Your line manager will be asked to submit a motivation for one of their employees and the EXCO Committee will review these and select the employee deserving of this recognition.

So continue to shine brightly and who knows, your light may just ignite!



WHAT'S THE BUZZ AT THE UODL?

Highlights

First ever Virtual Graduation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an online graduation ceremony was held for all NWU students.

Strategic & Business Continuity Planning

Management dedicated January 2021 to strategic and business continuity planning. These sessions were successful and culminated with the development of the UODL's 2021 Strategic Plan. The business continuity and strategic planning workshops held with the leadership team and other relevant stakeholders created the perfect platform for our leaders to share best practices. Open discussions were encouraged to plot the necessary steps in steering towards outcome-based resolutions and providing clear direction for the unit.

Our staff going the extra mile!

Our registration and assessments divisions have been working overtime to ensure that our students needs are met timeously.

Writing on the wall

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown us a curve ball. We have learned valuable lessons during this time and it has created a sense of urgency to become more proactive. We will see an adjustment to all our strategies and operations to cater for any such disruptions thus ensuring business continuity and optimal service delivery.

Projects

Our leaders are committed and geared to focus on improving UODL's overall service and support to all stakeholders and streamline processes and procedures using Business Process Mapping.

The unit will embark on a series of cost saving exercises and special projects that will be highlighted in our future editions.

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*Our students
study to acquire
knowledge...*

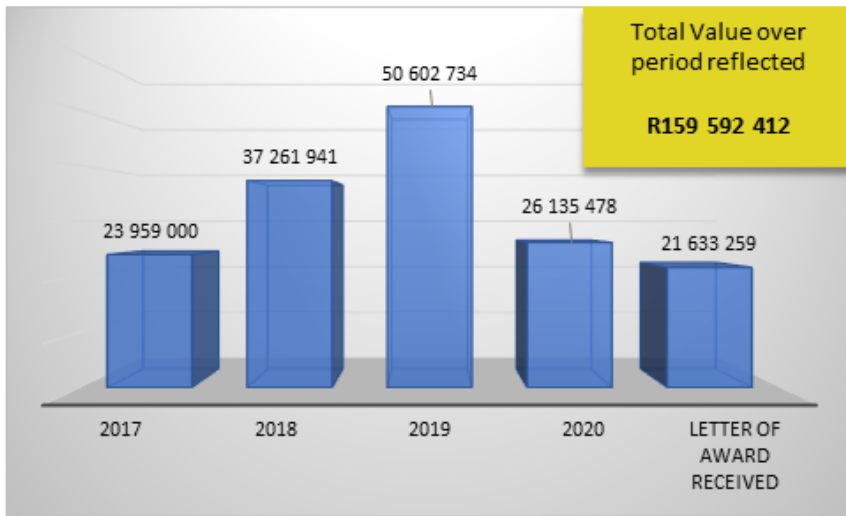
*We observe to
acquire wisdom
and are
proactive in our
actions.*



Crunching numbers

Projects & Tender Management

This division continues to secure funding contracts for bursary students for the Education programmes. It is UODL's largest income stream and we have no doubt that they will thrive in their efforts to create a greater awareness of our student offerings and services.



Did you know?
 UODL has **99 employees** who continue to strive towards service excellence

Farewell

You will be missed!

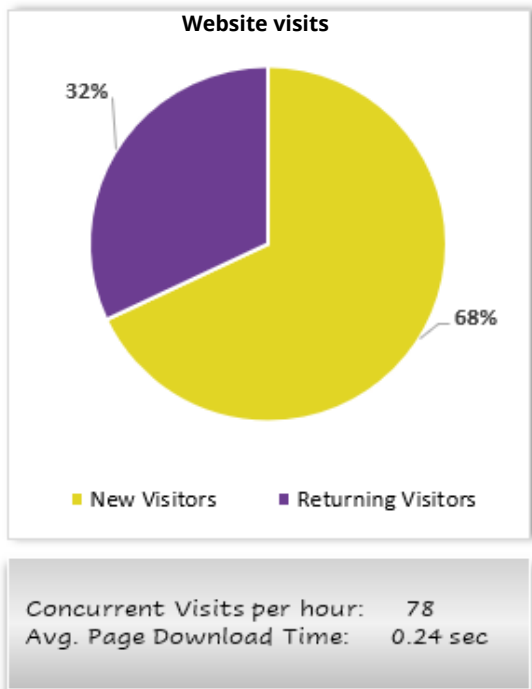
We would like to bid farewell to the following members of the UODL family:

Jason Beukes , Alison Cloete, Karien Jagals, Charmaine Coetzee, Estie Theron, Almarie Botha, Kitty Jacobs, Maureen Snyman, Megan Swarts & Mzwekhaya Feleni (Muzi)

Thank you for your contributions over the years. We wish you all the best with your future endeavors.

UODL Website

We are pleased to see the number of visits to the UODL website during January and February 2021. Our website is very stable and can handle the high traffic volumes.



Web Visits: Location

Visitors: Top 3 Countries

- South Africa
- Namibia
- United States

Visitors: Top Provinces

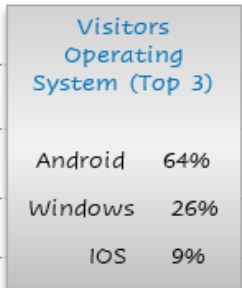
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Western Cape

New Visitors: 83,876

Page Views: 549,628

Average session duration: 04:53 minutes

Bounce Rate: 34%





MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

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*Transparency
in all that we
say and do is our
winning
ingredient at
UODL*



You do not have to be rich, talented or even perfect to make a difference... All you need is to care and just be yourself.

You spoke... we listened... you asked... we actioned...

All with the aim of creating a positive buzz at UODL!

Yaseen Yaya Rassulmia
Special Projects
(Directorate)

We value your input!

We would like to hear your comments, thoughts and suggestions for our new publication. Kindly [click here](#) to submit your contributions. We look forward to hearing from you!