

## CAMP for CHANGE - A Roots-driven Rural Development Conference

We at the GRCF have always believed in constructive conversation, and this year, we are proud to announce, that together with UNISA's Department of Geography, we will be creating an opportunity where role players across all fields, will be brought together, to engage in purposeful conversation regarding shifts in the field of development.

For the past couple of years, the GRCF have been using an approach that follows on the philosophy of being a responsive grantmaker, and being led by what our communities are prescribing to us. We have found that this approach has been adopted by many other role players in the field, especially organisations that work on grass-roots levels, and have thus decided to create an opportunity for all stake holders to take part in this conversation, and hopefully share their ideas, thoughts, challenges and suggestions.

This conference will be hosted over three days, from 10 – 12 October 2011, at the Bakgatla resort in Pilanesberg, which falls right in the centre of one of the areas that we work in, and would therefore be accessible to a lot of our community members too. Our aim is to bring people from all spheres together to participate in this conversation, from government, to corporate and business, the private sector, Academia, NGO and community development practitioners, as well as the communities that we serve.

Given the above said information, we found that this conference has multiple aims, and would therefore host a number of panels, and discussion forums over the three days, and will also include a field trip into one of our communities where this approach have been implemented in our assessment and grantmaking processes.

We wish to invite all interested parties to attend this conference, and to share in our learnings, experiences and challenges, in order to debate on how we move people to action and create a sense of ownership and pride in what we have, and how we use it. As Hero from Mathopestat so aptly put it: *"We are rich, we just didn't know it"*.

*For more information, or to register for this conference, please send an email to [uaar4@unisa.ac.za](mailto:uaar4@unisa.ac.za)*

10 – 12  
October  
2011



UNISA

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agriculture and  
environmental science

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The first conference alert can also be downloaded from our website on <http://www.grcf.co.za/?p=461>

*Making Rustenburg the place we love to call home*

## UNISA's Department of Geography, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences in collaboration with the GRCF plans to Launch a Short Learning Program (SLP) on CAMP for C In 2012!

Breaking  
News!

Unisa's Department of Geography have been involved with the Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation since 2007, as a partner in their Community Engagement Program. Through this partnership, the academics in the Department were able to enter communities at grass-roots level, not only to undertake research, but also to understand the various approaches and techniques used by community empowerment organisations and community grantmakers to effect real change in the everyday lives of the communities that fall within their mandate. With this valuable experience and in consultation with the GRCF, the Department has decided to bring together the collective knowledge of philanthropy, communities and academia in the development of short learning programmes (SLP). The relevant documentation for these programmes has been developed and will be processed through the University approval process within the next few weeks for full implementation in 2012.

The first SLP, which will be presented for the first time in 2012, will be on CAMP for Change, (Community Asset Mapping Programmes for Change) and (Community Action Mobilization Programmes for Change). The focus will be on the approach that can be followed by participating stakeholders to support roots driven change projects.

The purpose of the second SLP will be to share the knowledge and skills of existing Community Foundations that will enable relevant stakeholders to create and maintain a Community Foundation or Community Grant-making Organisation, not only within South-Africa, but also within the African context.

Says Melanie Nicolau, Chair of the Department of Geography: "This is a wonderful opportunity for the Department, not only because we are expanding our range of offerings to potential students in this field, we are truly able to commit to UNISA's vision, of being the African university, in service of humanity". She further explains, that these SLP's will be offered as part of their community engagement initiatives, and any financial profit made will not benefit the individual academics, but rather the various organisations participating in the presentation of the programme as well as the communities that are used as case studies in the actual teaching of the programmes. She added that the benefit for the Department would be in terms of the research outputs of the individual academics participating in the community engagement project.

The Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation wishes to extend an open invitation to all other community grantmakers, community foundations and development organisations in South-Africa, and the rest of Africa, to participate in this exciting development in our field. There will be opportunities for knowledgeable individuals from such organisations to present lectures and write study material for the SLPs and any benefits from such activities will be distributed amongst participating organisations.

"This is a huge breakthrough for us," says Christine Delpont, COO of the Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation, "finally, we are able to pool assets from Africa, FOR Africa. For me, this is what epitomises true community mobilisation, and makes me proud to be part of this African community".

For more information, or to get involved, please contact Christine directly on +27 14 592 1525, or [christine@grcf.co.za](mailto:christine@grcf.co.za)

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## STAFF NEWS



*Meet Sanah Nhlapo and Bonolo Mmokele, two of our leading ladies!*

**Bonolo** was born and raised in Zeerust in the North-West province, and have been living in Rustenburg since 2001. She studied in Johannesburg, and got involved with the GRCF in 2007 doing an internship with us as a receptionist. Since then Bonolo has been promoted to a Program Assistant, and has proven herself to be a valuable asset. Bonolo says she loves working at the GRCF, because she has a true love for the communities that we work in. When asked what she would change about the world, she explains that the world doesn't need to change, as it is perfect and beautiful just the way it is. She would, however, like to see that people change their negative mindset and attitude about our world, and a perfect day for her, is when she has brought hope and a smile to a person. She likes CD's and DVD's, and one of her favourite works is Bishop TD Jakes' Grasshoppers don't eat Grapes. Her resilience and enthusiasm towards life is captured by her life motto: "Failure doesn't mean I'm wrong, it only means I've missed the mark, and need to try until I get it right".

**Sanah** has been with the GRCF for the past 11 months now, and has been appointed as a Program Assistant, specifically applied at our Environmental project that we're busy launching. She was born and raised in Mathopestat, one of our communities where we did a pilot program on community asset mapping, and roots driven rural development. She has two children, Thandi (10), and Siyabonga (6). Sanah loves working with the GRCF because she gets an opportunity to be part of an organisation where people are being given opportunities to have their voices heard. For her, women issues lie close to the heart. She says her perfect days are spent making a difference in people's lives, and showing respect to others. She enjoys reading books by Joyce Meyer, Joel Outshine, and was captured by Barack Obama's My father's Dream. Her motto is to always have a smile, bring hope, and help others believe in themselves.