Inside-out Outside-in South African Corrections Interest Group

2017 Annual Report
WORD FROM THE EDITOR

It is that time of the year where we look back and reflect on our 2017 journey. I am proud to present the 2017 year-end “glossy” report. The aim of this report is to provide information on what we as the Inside-out team, in collaboration with our stakeholders (offenders, DCS officials, offenders, students and donors), have been up to in this year. A special thanks to all the contributors of articles and stories that are included in this report.

Enjoy reading!!

Itumeleng Masisi

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EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON, INCLUDING PRISON

Everything happens for a reason, they say, but Psychology lecturer and PhD student Mbongiseni Mdakane is still figuring out the reason behind the 10 years he spent in a prison cell.

“I did introspection while I was there, asking myself why I was where I was; what was the meaning of my being in prison? You could say it was because of circumstances but you never know the real reason until a later stage. Only then can you say, ‘Ah, so this is why it happened’.”

Meanings behind meanings are starting to emerge for Soweto-born Mdakane, who poured his heart and soul into studying psychology as a way to heal. “My heart was broken while I was in prison. All that negative energy…I needed something to focus on, something positive to take my mind off things. Some people drink alcohol as a way of forgetting; I drown my sorrows in academic work. That’s where I find my solace.” It’s clearly an outlet that works. Mdakane completed his Master’s in Psychology cum laude in 2016, and it was the same with his undergraduate studies. This was despite undeniably difficult circumstances.

“I was released from Leeuwkop Correctional Centre on 22 October 2010, a Friday. The previous day, I was writing my exam and feeling so much anxiety. I hadn’t been outside for 10 years and I was worrying about how people would perceive me, and at the same time, I had exam anxiety.” His exam anxiety turned out to be unwarranted. Mdakane passed that test with flying colours and a year later, in 2011, completed his BA Psychology with distinction.

Open and shut, inside and out

Less straightforward was his experience on the outside and the reception he has received as a person with a criminal record for robbery. On the one hand, doors have opened for Mdakane on the strength of his excellent academic record; on the other hand, some doors remain shut.

One of the first to open was that of Professor Eduard Fourie of Unisa’s Psychology department. “Professor Fourie is involved in community psychology and I did a community psychology module in 2010, before I was released. I wasn’t aware of any community except the prison community, so I wrote about that and got 99% for the paper,” he says. “So I came here, to
Psychology, in January 2011 to see him.” One thing led to another. Initially, he volunteered as a peer helper with Unisa’s Career Counselling and Academic Development Directorate. After about seven months, he was appointed on contract at the university’s Finance Department, doing bank reconciliations. He also co-founded and became deeply involved in Inside-Out, Outside-In, a community engagement and outreach project for the empowerment of offenders. Mdakane is probably uniquely qualified to be involved in a project of this kind. While serving his sentence, he became an Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) tutor, trained as a peer counsellor, and completed the larger portion of his BA in Psychology. He also understands all too well the stresses and strains of incarceration. As he used to say to his professors: “At 4pm, when the cells are locked, you go home. We never go home.”

**Taking the past home**

When he did finally go home in late 2010, his past went with him. As an ex-offender, he has so far not been permitted to register as a research psychologist, despite having served his sentence and achieved brilliant academic results.

“It hurts. You have been duly sentenced and served time; you have been incarcerated to pay for your crimes,” Mdakane says. “Having paid, the stigma of a criminal record stays with you, like another form of punishment.”

He refuses to give in to negative thinking. “I just keep moving. Challenges come and go, and I brush them away and forge ahead. And yes, it is possible that an offender can outlive their criminal career and reach the point where crime doesn’t make sense.” Mdakane observes that “recidivism” is a term familiar to most people, meaning the tendency for ex-offenders to reoffend. Much less familiar is the word “desistance”, defined as the cessation of offending or other anti-social behaviour. This contrast was the focus of his master’s thesis, the topic of which was Defying the odds of recidivism: An ex-offender’s narratives of desistance.

Now a Psychology lecturer on contract at Unisa, Mdakane is working on his proposal for his PhD and continuing his work on the Inside-out, Outside-in South African Corrections Interest Group. “There are a multitude of offenders who would like to pursue studies or careers, and we help them do that.” This wide-ranging support includes donating books, holding career expos at correctional facilities and assisting offenders to find funding for their studies, among other things. While his future is still uncertain, there are some things he is sure of. “I know that I love what I am doing and I know my niche area. I have first-hand experience and can share and integrate my life experience with my research experience. What I bring is unique.”

Ah. Perhaps this is why it all happened.

First published on Unisa Intcom by Clairwyn van der Merwe
During the 2017 Research & Innovation Week at Unisa, Inside-Out hosted an information session targeted at correctional officers, focusing on how Unisa can assist in officials acquiring formal qualifications. The invited guest speakers from Unisa’s Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme and the Corrections Management department, as well as the invited correctional officials from Baviaanspoort, Leeuwkop and Kgosi Mampuru Correctional Facilities, and other attendees of the workshop introduced themselves and shared their personal and professional backgrounds with the group, as well as their expectations of the workshop. The aim of the workshop as an information sharing platform was elucidated, with Bongi Mdakane explaining its purpose: providing information on the RPL programme in general, for all attendees, and presenting correctional officials specifically, with the information to explore courses and related RPL mechanisms on offer through Unisa’s Department of Corrections Management that could further their educational opportunities. The first session began with Miss Mpho Mathane, a RPL representative from the College of Human Sciences introducing attendees to RPL through an informational video. She then shared more details concerning the RPL programme and explained the distinction between RPL for access versus RPL for accreditation, after which the correctional officials and other attendees had the opportunity to ask questions. Most questions involved queries on the practical processes of application for RPL, the relevant channels to negotiate and which relevant RPL coordinators to contact. Miss Mathane’s RPL colleagues from other departments also explained relevant procedures within their disciplines.
During the second session, Dr Francois Louw and Dr Phumudzo Muthaphuli discussed the courses offered by Unisa’s Department of Corrections Management in the College of Law, which are available for correctional officials to further their education. They also explained that RPL can assist with the attainment of these higher education qualifications, based on their years of experience within the Department of Correctional Services (DCS). The attending correctional officials and other guests then had the opportunity to ask questions, mostly regarding the types of DCS employees who could benefit from such an initiative, which was followed by an account from Dr Louw on the information sessions he offers, relating to the subject of RPL and courses available at Unisa’s Department of Corrections Management, at various correctional facilities in Gauteng which will culminate in a published document on the topic. The facilitators then wrapped up the workshop, and attendees were asked to share their experiences of the event. The correctional officials present expressed their inclination to share the information they garnered from the workshop, concerning RLP, with their colleagues at work and to utilise in their own capacities. The RPL representatives expressed interest in working with Inside-out to possibly host workshops at correctional facilities in Gauteng in the future, to generate awareness and comprehension amongst correctional officials and offenders regarding their options to further their studies through RPL at Unisa. It was also mentioned that representatives from Unisa’s Registration and Student Funding departments should also attend to address the concerns raised by the correctional officials on the challenges they faced when applying for admission.

By Bianca Parry
The psychology and spirituality project is a study of the Department of Psychology and the Research Institute for Theology and Religion. The study is conducted by Mbongiseni Mdakane and Professor Christina Landman. The study emanated from the post graduate study topic of one of the researchers and during the 2016 Unisa Research and Innovation Month held at Muckleneuk campus, the organisers invited a group of offenders and professionals from the Department of Correctional Services for a round table discussion on the role of psychology and spirituality as support systems during incarceration. In October of last year, the study received ethical clearance from the ethics committee at Unisa’s Department of Psychology and in May 2017, the study has received ethical clearance from the Department of Correctional Services. Harold Ncongwane joined the research team earlier this year, and the study has also created placement opportunities in the first semester for two Marc students, Thanda Mathabela and Tanya Pieterse.

A total of 18 Interviews have been conducted to explore the experiences of inmates using religion and spirituality as a support system. 12 more interviews will be completed by end of 2017. The research team is currently analysing the data with the possibility to publish the results in various journals. As a result of findings in the research project, the research team decided to establish a platform for a dialogue among inmates which takes place once in every month. The dialogue aims to promote conversations about issues such as meaning, moral maturity, culture, reason and faith, natural laws vs spiritual laws and forgiveness. Spiritual dialogue is structured around 10 sessions which infuses both spiritual development and psychological theories. The spiritual dialogue and research project are intertwined and inform each other. In other words, the dialogue emanated from research, while the dialogue also informs areas to explore in the research project. The research team recently introduced the Books Project in the dialogue where participants are given books to read and write reflections on the book. The books are donated by the Inside -Out Outside in project.

By Harold Ncongwane
Our journey with the Inside-out team started before we knew about the placement opportunity they offered for MA in psychology with specialization in research consultation (MARC) students. After being selected for the MARC program, an invite was sent to Master and Doctoral students interested in conducting correctional related studies to attend a workshop at Zonderwater Correctional Facility. We were both interested in the workshop, however only Tanya was able to attend. We then received another invite to launch of the Inside-out Books Project and we were delighted to attend the event and to donate books. This sparked a greater interest in the Inside-out projects and we later jumped to the opportunity of being part of the team as placement candidates. On our first day of practical placement the Inside-out team welcomed us with training on how the Books Project operates and everything involved. We were fortunate to be involved in the Books Project. Books donated cover diverse genres, from Shakespeare to Barbara Cartland, different languages from Latin to Cape

“During my placement I engaged with so many people, and built great relations and networks. I learnt, time and self-management skills, team work and perseverance. This placement also gave me an opportunity to challenge and deal with stereotypes I had with corrections. I hope I have made valuable contribution in this programme and I will never forget an awesome, humbling, supportive time I had at Inside-Out. Once again I appreciate this opportunity and I learned more than anticipated and am so grateful” –THANDA
Dutch, from Bibles to books for leisure, to books for secondary and tertiary studies. These books were donated by various people and organizations all over the country and our involvement included: managing the book store, scanning books, selecting and packing books for donations at Baviaanspoort Maximum prison, Zonderwater Spirituality Project and Father’s day initiative.

During this placement, one of the valuable experiences we gained was being involved in populating contents of the Inside-Out Outside-In Wiki for Corrections Wiki. The Wiki designed by Prof Martin Terre Blanche (and his team) as an Open Education Resource (OER) on how to approach the project, the way forward and roles and responsibilities was initially challenging but a very enriching experience. The processes, research and scanning for appropriate information added tremendously to our own knowledge base. We were also involved with the research project on Psychology and Spirituality as support system during incarceration. Our engagement with the offenders, working in the correctional environment, and to share the knowledge and expertise of this team were so enlightening, and it is an experience I will always treasure. These sessions and informal discussion were valuable learning curves where much were learned of the research processes, qualitative research, data gathering, interviewing skills, ethics, etc. The psychologist, social workers and other correctional officers at this facility were so helpful and are indeed gifted in the services they deliver. A positive and exciting outcome of these interviews was the introduction of the “Spirituality Dialogue” group that transpired as a need from some of the participants to continue to learn and talk about this topic. A need for books relating to spirituality and psychology were also voiced and we were able to deliver a collection of books that were greatly appreciated, and used to facilitate discussion topics for the upcoming sessions.

“By Thanda & Tanya
On the 29th and 30th of June Unisa hosted the 5th South African Students’ Psychology Conference, a biennial platform that affords students from across Africa an opportunity to participate as active contributors to the discipline of psychology. Inside-out was pleased to be involved in the event by hosting a day long symposium, where all things related to corrections were discussed. This included updates on the latest corrections related research conducted by our members and on the group activities including the Fatherhood and Books projects.

The team also hosted a Roundtable discussion on Ethical Considerations in corrections research and were honoured to be joined by Derrick Thulane Ndlovu from Zonk’izizwe Odds Development and Zamani Ndlovu from YipSA, who provided invaluable feedback on NGO’s involvement in the corrections environment. Below is the layout of the oral presentations shared by students and colleagues during the symposium and the topics covered during the round table discussion:
Mbongiseni Mdakane: Defying the odds of recidivism: ex-offenders’ narratives of desistance

Bianca Parry: The Motherhood Penalty: Exploring the Mothering Experiences of Incarcerated Women in South Africa as a Pathway to Crime

Gloria Makhuza: The reintegration experiences of South African female ex-offenders

Tanya Pieterse: Female correctional officers: adversity and life risk in maintaining an environment conducive to rehabilitation

2. SHOWCASING Inside-out Outside-in Projects:

- PowerPoint presentation of the Wiki and Books project by Tanya and Thanda
- PowerPoint presentation of the fatherhood project by Itumeleng Masisi
- PowerPoint presentation of the Spirituality project by

3. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON ETHICS

- Mbongiseni Mdakane: Experiences of conducting research in and out of prison
- Bianca Parry: A newbie’s experience of applying for ethical clearance with the Department of Corrections
- Gloria Makhuza: Reflections as an MA student conducting corrections related studies with ex-offenders
- Lontinah Nchabeleng: Reflections on the process of applying for ethical clearance
- Tanya Pieterse: The process of getting acquainted with the ethics around corrections during Proposal Development

4. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION BY TWO NGO’s CONDUCTING WORK IN

- Derrick Thulane Ndlovu from Zonk’izizwe Odds Development
- Zamani Ndlovu from YipSA

By Bianca Parry
Since its launch in early November 2016, the Inside-out Outside-in Books Project has gone from strength to strength, with the first six months of 2017 seeing the project receive numerous donations, modifying the cataloguing and distribution systems, event facilitation, and most importantly, providing close to a thousand books to Correctional Centres across South Africa. We have captured over 2 000 books on our system and continue to receive donations from individuals, families as well as organisations such as the Rotary Club. Since December 2016, Inside-out has delivered books, magazines and journals to the libraries at Kgosi Mampuru, St Albans, Baviaanspoort and Zonderwater Correctional Centres.

By Bianca Parry
The love for reading and learning prompted me to contribute books for the project and that I saw it as a chance to share/impart knowledge with those who are in prison. I also see it as our responsibility as society to assist in rehabilitating those that incarcerated and reading is one of the tools as when you read, you gain wisdom and start to think in a different way. - **Joshua Nyamande**

**Advocate Ronelle Ferguson** from the Pretoria Society of Advocates, and their Social Responsibility Committee, decided to dedicate the proceeds of their collection of books for **SA LIBRARY WEEK 2017** to the Inside-out Books Project. They generously collected and donated a total of 234 books, which are destined for delivery to libraries at Baviaanspoort, St Albans and Zonderwater Correctional Centres.
On 7 September 2017, Unisa Library in collaboration with the Inside-out Outside-in Books Project, visited Losperfontein Correctional Facility on the outskirts of Brits, North West Province. Losperfontein is a male-only medium correctional facility and boasts a multitude of agricultural activities surrounding the centre. As part of community engagement, the aim of our visit was to create awareness around the importance of correctional education, as well as to instil a culture of reading and writing during incarceration. A variety of reading material was donated as a gesture to showcase examples of the resources available at our disposal as well as to offer support to Unisa students. The information focused on Unisa’s library services and the recently signed MoU. What this MoU implies is that Unisa library is also mandated, through the signing of the MoU, to support inmates who want to pursue their studies.

Unisa library event coordinator, Natalia Molebatsi who is also a poet took to the stage to entertain the residents and further offered her assistance with the outsourcing of reading material, especially for conducting research in a digital world, which also requires the training of students to use Unisa library online services. The event also saw inmates showcasing their own talents. Log on to https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/bookweek-inmates-unisa-librarians-share-their-love-of-books-11120782 for the video clips. They shared their poetry skills through performances, and stated that poetry and discussion clubs would not be possible without books. The event went a long way to serving both the mandate of the university as well as providing great publicity and profiling of the institution.

By Mbongiseni Mdakane
FATHERS’ DAY EVENT AT ZONDERWATER CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

On 20 June 2017, the Inside-out team together with the Fatherhood Support Group at the Zonderwater Correctional Centre, celebrated Father’s Day by facilitating an event that spoke to the importance of the support group and the effect it has had on the lives of its members, as well as on their children on the “outside”. The aim of the fathers’ day is to continue conversations that we have had with the group of fathers since 2016, and to give them fathers’ day gift parcels of books, magazines, beanies and scarfs from our donors. Many touching stories were shared by the fathers, confirming that the work done by the men and their social work team is an invaluable contribution to the establishment, and maintenance of healthy paternal relationships with their families. All this was in preparation for the fathers’ day held on the 14th of July, were fathers will spend time with their children and loved ones.

A special thanks to Mabora Thupana, a post graduate Environmental Sciences student at Unisa, who donated her own beautifully hand knitted items to the cause. As she knits beanies, scarves and many other items to sell in support of her studies, we were particularly grateful for her contribution. If you are looking to purchase any of her quality hand crafted knitwear for winter, please contact her at maborawrites@gmail.com

By Bianca Parry
Since its inception on 5 October 1994, International Teachers’ Day has celebrated the role and impact of educators on their students and learners. This year, it was the pleasure of the Rotary Club of Jeffrey’s Bay (PE) to host 12 teachers from the St. Albans Correctional Services. A relationship between the two groups began late 2016 when Unisa student and Rotarian Jacqui Pirzenthal was invited to attend an open day and workshop by Professor Eduard Fourie of Unisa. Jacqui Pirzenthal, who is a student in the Department of Psychology is studying towards her MA degree. Her current working title is *Old and incarcerated: the needs of the elderly offender and ex-offender*. Jax, as she is affectionately known among her colleagues forms part of the Inside-out team and is also credited for being the face of Inside-out in Jeffrey’s Bay, Port Elizabeth. Following from her tremendous work, the Rotary Club became invested in the Inside-Out Outside-In Books project. With the support of the organisation, almost 900 books were gathered and donated to the St. Albans education centres.

To honour the educators of St. Albans, the Rotary Club of Jeffrey’s Bay invited them to the charming beach town. After eight months of planning, the Club was thrilled to honour the efforts and hard work of 12 teachers who attended. The educators participated in a seminar about recognising and attending to compassion fatigue and burnout, presented by Rotarian and traumatologist Maryke Pretorius.
UNISA PhD candidate Mbongiseni Mdakane was invited as guest speaker and gave a presentation, focusing on the importance of educating incarcerated individuals to elevate them both intellectually and morally, in the hopes of reducing recidivism after their sentence ends. They left with a new perspective on protecting their mental wellbeing, as well as the long reaching effects and positive change their efforts can result in.

Following that, they were treated to lunch at the Marina Wharf restaurant, followed by a boat cruise through the canals of the Marina Martinique. The group was also entertained by local hip-hop dance crew The Flame Boyz, an ongoing project supported by Rotary and currently competing in the top 21 of SA’s Got Talent. As C.S. Lewis said: “The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts”. The Rotary Club of Jeffrey’s Bay felt honoured to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts made by the teachers of St. Albans Correctional Services, and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Inside-Out Outside-In Books Project.

By Jacqui Pirzenthal and Mbongiseni Mdakane, First published in M&D Newsletter (Vol 6 no 3 of 2017)
**MOU BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

The event was a short meeting attended by the executive members of the management of Unisa including Professor Makhanya; DCS, Unisa staff members and the media. Both parties described the day as a momentous day that has been long overdue. This partnership was aimed at offering access to people in prisons so that they can improve their lives.

In realising this, a total of 14 hubs will be established around the various correctional centres, if not already (details not supplied of the exact locations). During his address, Professor Mandla Makhanya made several references to the late State President Mr Nelson Mandela; his journey as a Unisa student and that he hoped the signing of the agreement will yield tangible results. He further warned that the MoU should not gather dust and be seen as just fulfilling a need or gap.

Recognising the immense wealth of talent inside prisons, Professor Makhanya highlighted the importance of giving recognition of those skills by credentialing their talents into certificates. The challenge for both parties, going forward, is to ensure that this arrangement will increase the number of offenders studying at Unisa. Gender-wise, a discrepancy was also noted between male and female offenders studying at Unisa. Surprisingly, numbers suggest that there are more female offenders studying at Unisa compared to male offenders. Representatives from the DCS also shared similar sentiments referring to the importance of education as per the recommendations of the White Paper on Corrections. Establishing Unisa hubs inside correctional centres was deemed as a necessary need in the fulfilment of rehabilitation efforts. Specifically, this is envisaged to assist offenders in the following areas: on-line registration, communicating with e-tutors and lecturers, accessing study material, accessing the library as well as the submission of assignments.

By Mbongiseni Mdakane
Zonk’izizwe Odds Development (ZOD) is an NGO that was founded by offenders in Boksburg Prison and still continues, to service ex-offenders as a support group. Derrick Thulani Ndlovu, director of ZOD and friend of Inside-out, invited Mbongiseni Mdakane as guest speaker at the organisation’s monthly meeting. The meeting was held on Wednesday 16 August 2017. The day of the meeting coincided with what is known as ‘the roll call’, where a large number of ex-offenders, together with members of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) attended to group sessions. There was a blend of old and new participants with a shared status of being ex-offenders.

As guest speaker for the day, the topic on criminal desistance is one that interests many people in as far as research findings coupled with my personal experiences are concerned. Thus, my presentation centred on ways in which one can circumvent the myriad of challenges associated with reintegration while maintaining sound relations with the outside community. Furthermore, we discussed how social bonds like employment and family relations can be enhanced given the structural limitations at our disposal. It seemed that each one of us presented with a unique story as individual ex-offenders and this also included the processes that we normally go through as we transition from offender to ex-offender status. Much of the stories narrated touched on the challenges encountered during this period. These include, among others, house arrests, lack of job opportunities as well as putting up with environments that encourage rather than discourage criminality. One of the resolutions that was proposed during the meeting was to introduce an ex-offender indaba where different role players consisting of a multidisciplinary and intersectional team can collaborate on issues affecting ex-offenders. Earmarked for early next year, this is one platform that can help address challenges faced by ex-offenders with the hope of creating a dialogue comprised of both genders and it is intended to encompass a variety of topics that could lead to potential research areas that were initially not discernible.

By Mbongiseni Mdakane
1. Sibulelo Qhogwana (2017, completed) **Supervised by Prof Puleng Segalo.** "We are human too": a narrative analysis of rehabilitation experiences by women classified as maximum security offenders in the Johannesburg correctional centre.

2. Johanni Beukes (2017, currently in examination). **The relationships between moral competence, frontal systems functioning and ethical position in South African white collar offenders. Supervised by Dr Catherine Govender.**

3. Rachel Willemse (PhD). The experience inside South African prison and the impact on the well-being of the correctional officer. **Supervisor: Mbali Dhlomo-Sibiya**


5. Ute Sinkala (PhD). Examining the demographic, mental health, as well as personality profile of persons convicted of violent homicide and manslaughter and incarcerated at Windhoek Central Prison in Namibia. **Supervisor: Mbali Dhlomo-Sibiya**

6. Lontinah Nchabeleng (Masters). Young adult male ex-offenders' experiences of the transition from incarceration to the estranged family in a rural community. **Supervisor: Masefako Gumani**

7. Bianca Parry (PhD). The lived experiences of incarcerated women in relation to mothering and familial responsibilities. **Supervisor: Puleng Segalo**


9. Jacqui Pirzenthal (Masters). *Old and Incarcerated: The needs of the elderly offender and ex-offender.* **Supervisor: Eduard Fourie**

10. Ashika Singh (Masters). *High risk juvenile offenders in South Africa. Who are they? Supervisors: Lu-Anne Swart and Ashley Van Niekerk*

11. Janeen Prinsloo (PhD). The development of an integrated neuropsychology, community psychology and criminology model to assist the rehabilitation of offenders. **Supervisor: Martin Terre Blanche**

12. Tanya Pieterse (Masters) *Lived Experiences Of Female Correctional Officers In A South African Correctional Facility. Supervisors: Eduard Fourie and Bianca Parry*

13. Ntuli Thandeka (PhD). *The efficacy of rehabilitation programs in a Super Maximum Correctional Centre; A psycho - rehabilitation perspective. Supervisor: Nico Van Zyl*
14. **Bongi Mdakane** (PhD). *How much punishment is enough: criminal record as death sentence?* **Supervisor: Eduard Fourie**

15. **Paisley Duister** (Masters). *The lived experiences of single mothers of offending youth.*
    **Supervisors: Eduard Fourie and Bongi Mdakane**

16. **Lizle Reyneke** (PhD). *A psychobiography of Andre Stander.* **Supervisor: Eduard Fourie**
INSIDE-OUT OUTSIDE-IN DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Very early on the development of Inside-out Outside-in prison interest group, the team members saw the potential to engage online communities as an opportunity to reach students, researchers, academics and other citizens interested in the world of corrections. With this in mind, diverse forms of online participatory initiatives were created which included a website, blog and Facebook page. With the inception of the Books Project, another online platform was created which allowed the team to capture books efficiently and to keep record of books donated to Inside-out and books donated to different correctional centres.

Our website is a digital portal that connects users to our blog, Wiki and Books Project. It also allows interested parties to contact us and joining the Inside-out community engagement project. Visit our website on http://insideoutoutsidein.co.za/

By Bianca Parry
CONCLUDING NOTE

The Inside-out Outside-in South African Corrections Interest Group would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all the role players that participated in the different initiatives and events during the year 2017. The pictures in the report were taken by members of Inside-out and Unisa media and news.

The team at Unisa: