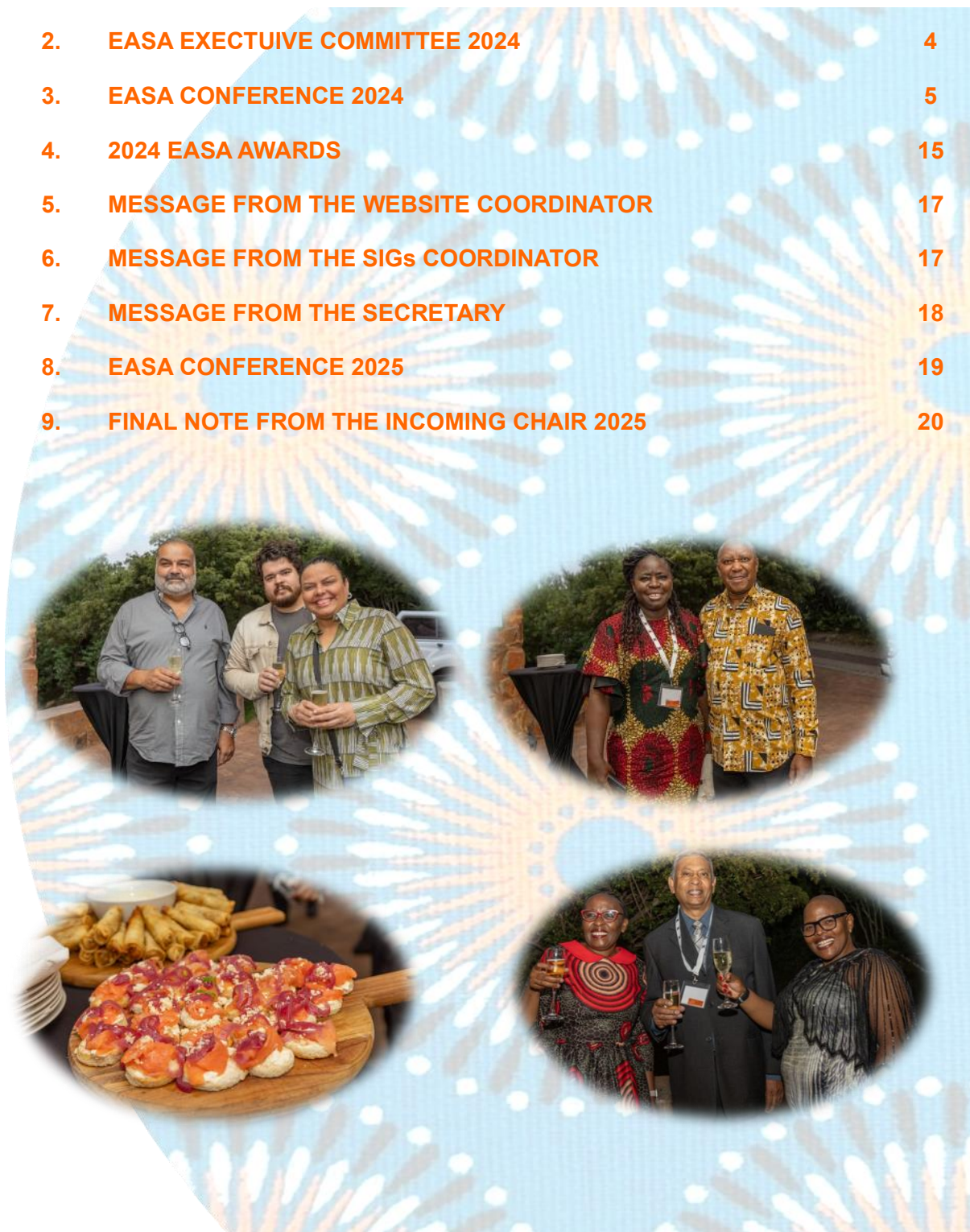


EASA Newsletter #1 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON



Dear EASA Members,

It was an honour to serve as the Chairperson of EASA for the 2023 term. As winter approaches, it has already been six months since our conference at Mount Grace Hotel & Spa, Magaliesburg. The EASA 2024 annual conference, hosted by the University of Johannesburg from January 14 to 17, explored our roles as academics in the educational landscape under the theme "THE CRADLE, EVOLUTION, AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION." We extend our heartfelt thanks to Prof. Maximus Sefotho, the conference chairperson and member of the EASA Executive Committee, along with his team for their dedicated efforts in organizing the conference. We also appreciate the support from Narina Basson and Marian Louw from Event Behella as conference administrators. The event featured engaging presentations, robust discussions, networking opportunities, and meaningful interactions. The EASA awards were presented during the award ceremony at the conference.

In recent years, EASA has solidified its position as a leading educational association in South Africa and established connections with international researchers in the field. Our primary focus remains on providing a secure platform for scholars in education to present their research, receive constructive feedback, and build networks for collaborative work to advance education in our country. This year, we have made efforts to involve more community stakeholders, including schoolteachers and principals. We are proud that our past Chair, Prof. Liesel Ebersöhn, is now the President-Elect of WERA. We congratulate her and wish her success in her new role. Our members also have access to Doctoral and Early Career (DEC) networks. In November, I represented EASA at the World Education Research Association (WERA) conference in Singapore and attended the council meeting.

The continued growth and success of the Association can be attributed to the unwavering commitment of the Executive Committee, who have diligently worked across various portfolios, as detailed in this newsletter. We are excited to welcome Prof. Candice Livingston as our new incoming Chair, who will also be responsible for the newsletter. Special thanks to Prof. Johnnie Hay, our secretary, who is the cornerstone of the committee. We also commend Prof. Ronel Ferreira and her team for maintaining the high standards of our internationally accredited South African Journal of Education (SAJE) as a leading journal in education research in Africa. Prof. Raj Mestry, our Treasurer, has managed the association's finances exceptionally well. Dr. Tony Mpsi now oversees our Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and we anticipate fruitful collaborations and partnerships from these SIGs. Our website has been kept up to date through the hard work of Prof. Elize du Plessis, and Dr. Eugene Machimana, who has taken over this portfolio, is doing an outstanding job. We appreciate his efforts in ensuring all relevant information is visible and current. Information about the Association's operations, activities, and membership details is available on our website. We would love to hear from you.

Our international presence is upheld through our membership in the World Education Research Association (WERA), with Prof. Ruth Mampane representing EASA on the WERA Council and Prof. Maximus Sefotho overseeing Internationalization and Postgraduate Student Development. We also welcome Prof. Micheal van Wyk as an additional member of the Executive Committee.

I am proud to welcome Dr. Fumare Khanare as the Association's Chairperson for 2024 and wish her the very best in this role. I look forward to seeing you at the conference in 2025.

Thank you, everyone!

Kind regards,

Prof Elize du Plessis – Outgoing Chairperson



EASA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024



EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA CONFERENCE 2024

THE CRADLE, EVOLUTION AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

14 – 17 JANUARY 2024

MOUNT GRACE HOTEL AND SPA

MAGALIESBURG



Prof Maximus Sefotho

Chair of the EASA Conference

2024

The EASA Annual Conference for 2024, organised and hosted by the Department of Educational Psychology Education at the University of Johannesburg's Faculty of Education, at the stunning backdrop of the Mount Grace Hotel & Spa, the conference showcased a diverse range of themes that captivated participants from various corners of the globe. The

success of the conference was strengthened by fostering a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. As participants returned to their respective institutions, the insights gained from these transformative discussions will certainly influence innovative strategies and approaches in the ever-evolving field of education.

THE UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Prof. Maximus Monaheng Sefotho – University of Johannesburg – Chair of LOC
- Prof. Boitumelo Molebogeng Diale - University of Johannesburg
- Dr. Veronica Dwarika - University of Johannesburg
- Dr. Suraya Naicker - University of Johannesburg
- Mr. Linford Molaodi - University of Johannesburg
- Dr. Kathleen Fonseca - University of Johannesburg
- Prof. Joseph Divala - University of Johannesburg
- Prof. Uleanya Chinasa - University of Johannesburg



- Dr. Fumane Khanare - University of Johannesburg
- Dr. Roxanne Bailey - University of Johannesburg
- Prof. Candice Livingston - Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- Dr. Chiedu Eseadi University of Johannesburg (PDRF)
- Dr. Vera Victor University of Johannesburg (PDRF)
- Dr. Charity Onyishi University of Johannesburg (PDRF)
- Dr. Ossita Osai University of Johannesburg (PDRF)
- Dr. Jabulani Mpofo University of Johannesburg (PDRF)

THE CRADLE, EVOLUTION AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION and sub-themes:

- Neurodiversity and social justice in Education
- ICT's and the 4IR Educational landscape
- The SDG's for Education
- Trauma and School violence/ school safety
- Lifelong learning and Resilience in Education
- Community partnerships through engaged scholarship
- Future-fit leadership in education
- Ethical considerations in the landscape of education



Mr Silas Pillay, who is the Director of Academic at a NPO called The Love Trust, was the Programme Director and he performed exceptionally well. He kept the audience captivated with his finesse in addressing conference. His charm in bringing the playful child in adults rendered the conference very friendly and entertaining.

CONFERENCE GLIMPSES





The 2024 EASA conference was preceded by a pre-conference workshop conducted by a very renowned Professor Michael van Wyk from Unisa. Prof. van Wyk and his research team presented on a research project titled "AURORA" (Addressing Women's Underrepresentation in Higher Education). The presentation on Career Timeline Mapping as a Research Strategy was the highlight of the workshop. Prof. van Wyk encouraged others to think of conducting pre-conference workshops in future. EASA could take advantage of the richness of the expertise from legends in the association to share their knowledge beyond the conference presentations.



Professor Petersen welcomed the delegates to the conference venue on behalf of the University of Johannesburg. The Dean indicated the importance of the role played by EASA the education system of South Africa. She extended her appreciation also to delegates who came from different parts of the world who came to support their counterparts in enhancing education for humanity.



*The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education –
Professor Nadine Petersen*



*Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and
Internationalisation –
Professor Sarah Gravett*

The EASA Annual Conference for 2024 was opened by Professor Sarah Gravett, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation at the University of Johannesburg. Prof. Gravette's research focuses on the evolving educational landscape in a rapidly changing world, with a particular emphasis on teacher education and development. Prof. Gravette informed the delegates that the conference themes were framed around the theme of neurodiversity. The faculty opened a Centre for Neurodiversity@UJ in 2022.

THE CENTRE SERVES AS:

- Assessment Centre for Neurodivergent People – Screen, Identify, Assess and Support and psychoeducational assessment of learners with neurodiverse needs. This is executed by our Honours, Masters and Doctoral students under the supervision of qualified and registered educational psychologists.
- Training of parents, teachers and communities on neurodiversity.

- Community Education and campaigns in understanding disabilities in general and neurodiversity in particular.
- Reach out to communities that do not have psychological services as part of addressing the SDG3.
- Collaboration and engagement with community and stakeholders.
- Research to support our practice – this is done through research work of our Masters and Doctoral students, our Post-doctoral Research Fellows (PDRF) and our staff members.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Guest Speaker: Dr. Pali Lehohla – Former Statistician General



Dr. Lehohla delivered a very didactic speech enshrined in satire and deep philosophical interpretations of the South African education system. The general message emerging from statistical analysis was that the education system of South Africa is at the precipice and disparities of Metric Graduates' attainment of bachelor's degrees still prevalent. A lot still awaits to be done.

Keynote Speaker: Prof Josef De Beer



Prof. de Beer emphasised the importance of the indigenous knowledge systems through juxtaposing the 21st century cutting edge research and indigenous knowledge systems. The transition from current emphasis on knowledge to knowledge, skills, values and character as well as attitude resonates with indigenous knowledge systems education.

Keynote Speaker: Dr Emile Gouws



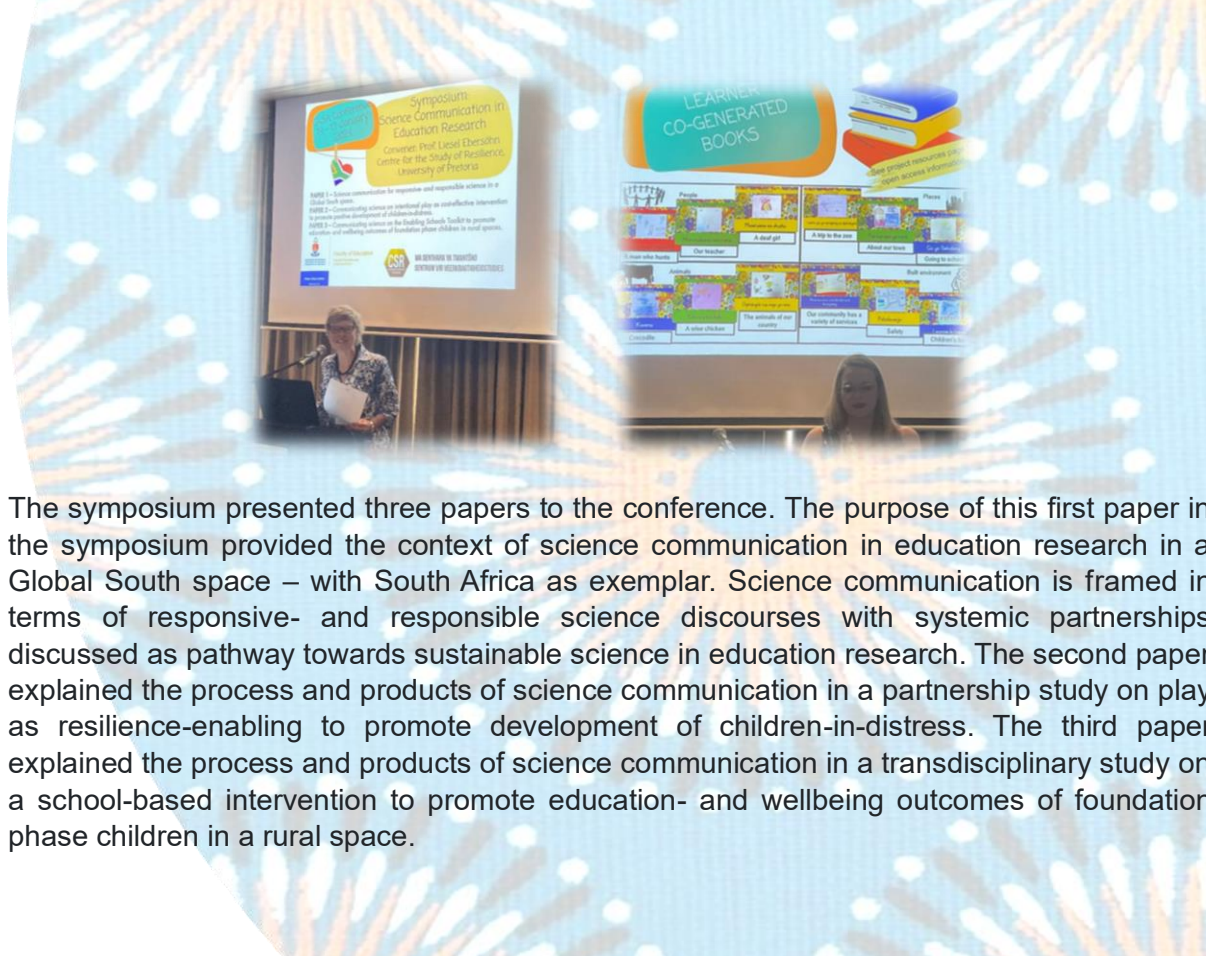
Dr. Gouws was a strong voice of advocacy for neurodiversity and is positioned to contribute to the newly developing field of neurodiversity through presenting research papers at conferences and finally publishing them. He will continue to play a critical role of autism self-advocacy and participating in research related to the field. His believe in neuroplasticity will help illuminate better understanding of neurodiversity for support of autistic students in HEIs and in society generally.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS: UMALUSI & SAQA

The UJ LOC decided to invite key stakeholders in the education system of South Africa. Both Umalusi and SAQA sent representatives to present the work they do to the EASA conference delegates. Valuable lessons were learned, and areas of further engagement identified. Dr. Mohale presented the NQF architectural framework that guides the education levels in South Africa. The broad mandate of Umalusi was presented to conference. The critical role played by Umalusi was illustrated as well as roles and responsibilities of all role players of the council. Dr. Mohale informed conference of the place of Umalusi within the SADC, in Africa and internationally for benchmarking and good practice. Notably, Umalusi holds conferences which may be relevant to associations such as EASA. The information shared opened many avenues for future consultation and meaningful engagement. Dr. Makhapa Makhafola represented and outlined the responsibilities of SAQA at the conference. Dr. Makhafola highlighted requirements for the registration of qualifications. The information on verifications as well as foreign qualifications was invaluable.

SYMPOSIUM

Science Communication in Education Research symposium: Centre for the Study of Resilience, University of Pretoria



The symposium presented three papers to the conference. The purpose of this first paper in the symposium provided the context of science communication in education research in a Global South space – with South Africa as exemplar. Science communication is framed in terms of responsive- and responsible science discourses with systemic partnerships discussed as pathway towards sustainable science in education research. The second paper explained the process and products of science communication in a partnership study on play as resilience-enabling to promote development of children-in-distress. The third paper explained the process and products of science communication in a transdisciplinary study on a school-based intervention to promote education- and wellbeing outcomes of foundation phase children in a rural space.

The Department of Higher Education and Training symposium



Dr. Setschedi provided context to the presentations of centres of excellence:

- UP Centre for Visual Impairment Studies – Ronel Ferreira
- Wits Centre for hearing impairment - Claudine Storbeck
- Centre for Neurodiversity @ UJ – Tumi Diale
- UCT – Division of Disability Studies – Theresa Lorenzo/Maximus M. Sefotho

EASA AGM

The EASA Annual General Meeting was held following the Guest Speaker. Generally, this meeting should be attended by all members registered for the particular year. However, there appears to be little appetite for attendance. Perhaps EASA needs to revisit its strategies for the invitation, marketing and the aims and objectives of the meeting. Members do not seem to engage the association's performance and analyse and discuss its future strategy. Members do not appear to take advantage to question the board, get answers for unsatisfactory performance and challenge them on the direction and sustainability of the association, as well as its continued relevance to the South African Society. EASA is strongly encouraged to use the AGM effectively as a reflective exercise. The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are also not doing well. There is need to revisit strategies used to manage these interest groups throughout the year.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION



*Brother and Sister from Colombia – Afro-descendants Familia sin duda
Advocating for African-centered education*



Dr. Diane Rodriguez, friend of education in South Africa



*Helen Osieja
Sweden*



The USA Team

Ubuntu, African-centred leadership

GALA DINNER

“If music be the food of love play on”



Courtesy of Prof. Ronel Ferreira, the band set the tone for a very jovial evening.







2024 EASA AWARDS



2024 Research Medal: Prof Marien Graham



2024 Medal of Honour: Prof Labby Ramrathan



2024 PhD award: Dr Tanja Coetzer and Dr Mathelela Mokgwathi



Prof. Mdu Ndlovu Vice Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies gave closing remarks for the conference. Prof. emphasised the importance of publications post conference. However, he strongly warned against authors falling prey to predatory publishing houses and journals. Prof. Mdu thanked the delegates and their respective institutions for their support. He also thanked EASA for affording UJ an opportunity to host the 2024 conference. He wished all delegates safe returns to their respective destinations.



Organizing and coordinating the conference, with support from Narina Basson and Marian Louw from Event Behella as conference organisers



EASA WEBSITE



The Education Association of South Africa (EASA) website is regularly updated to ensure that both members and the public are informed about the latest developments. We encourage all EASA members to visit the website and contribute new information, such as details about published journal articles, upcoming conferences, and vacant positions. A new section on Postgraduate Development and Internationalisation has also been added recently. We would greatly appreciate it if you could submit materials related to:

- Dissertations
- Thesis
- Community projects and
- Journal articles.

For more information on how to join EASA, please click the link provided <https://www.easa.ac.za/membership/online-membership/>. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the EASA website.

Kind regards

Dr Eugene Machimana – Website coordinator

MESSAGE FROM THE SIGs COORDINATOR



Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a forum for members who are experts and active practitioners in their core areas, whether subject-specific or interdisciplinary. The primary goal of SIGs is to transform practice through professional learning opportunities that showcase leading, evidence-based practices. Additionally, SIGs aim to create research and research opportunities around practical problems. SIGs maintain a strong presence year-round via our website and social media, playing a key role in organizing professional learning events with the EASA EXCO, including our annual conference and special interest webinars, seminars, and workshops. They also foster collaboration

among postgraduate students and supervisors to pursue new knowledge, relevant research, and societal contributions.

EASA currently has six SIGs:

- Curriculum Studies, Philosophy and Sociology of Education, and Research Methodology.
- Education Management, Leadership, Law, Policy Studies, Comparative and International Education.
- Human Development in Education: Educational Psychology, Early Childhood Education, Movement Education, and Inclusive Education.
- Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education.
- Self-directed Learning.
- Social Sciences in Education: Languages, History, EMS, and Creative/Performing Arts.

For more information, visit the EASA website at www.easa.ac.za. SIG leaders (chairpersons) are elected at the EASA annual conference.

Dr Tony Mpisi – SIGs Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



Dear EASA members and stakeholders

It is a pleasure to report that a large number of new EASA members joined our January 2024 Conference – welcome to you! You may know by now that if you paid the full or daily registration fee, you are automatically an EASA member for 2024.

Members that joined us over and above the 2024 Conference, since June 2023 are:

- Dr MM Mahome – TUT
- Dr Sue du Plessis – UNISA
- Nicola Vermooten – AccessEd
- Fairuze Khan – WITS student
- Alana Daries – UJ
- Dr O Colling Potokri – UJ
- Prof Liesel Ebersohn - UP
- Dr Maryke Mihai – UP
- Mr David Maclean - Education Advisory (PTY) Ltd
- Dr TLB Manzini – UNISA
- Dr Alta Vos – UP
- Dr Maxwell Jnr Opoku – UKZN
- Prof Clinton van der Merwe - UP
- Dr Wadnazai Mkwanzani - UFS

Please also note that per EXCO decision, any new member who wishes to join after July 2024, only need to pay R225 for his/her 2024 membership.

We urge stakeholders whose membership has expired, to pay the annual R450 fee as soon as possible – or then the R225 fee after the 1st of July. Please liaise with me about this – then I can also provide you with proof of membership.

Kind EASA regards!

Prof Johnnie Hay – Secretary

EASA 2025 CONFERENCE NEWS

SUN CITY RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE NEAR RUSTENBURG

SOUTH AFRICA

19TH TO THE 22ND OF JANUARY 2025



The EASA 2025 conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria. The conference will be held at the Sun City Resort near Rustenburg, South Africa from the 19th to the 22nd of January 2025. The theme of the EASA 2025 conference will be '***Learning on the Rising Tides: Inspirational Approaches to Education, creativity, harmonious Collaboration, and Deeper Social Connections.***' The sub-themes include Community engagement (CE) and teacher learning through collaboration. Community-based participatory research,

socially responsive community engagement, parental involvement, transdisciplinary, teacher education and higher education, innovative pedagogy, language, resilience, early childhood education, multilingualism, linguistic diversity, language planning and policy, teaching with technology (with the focus on AI, 4IR, online, hybrid and blended learning. Abstract submissions will open in July 2024. Additional information and announcements will be available on the EASA website and via email communication.

Prof Funke Omidire: Chair of the LOC for the 2025 EASA conference.

FINAL NOTE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR 2025

RISING TIDES



Like the tides, we must rise and fall, learning to navigate life's ebb and flow with grace and resilience

The theme of the 2025 EASA conference is 'Learning on the rising tides' and highlights the dynamic nature of education amid rapid changes and challenges. As technology, the environment, and society evolve, adaptability and innovation in teaching are crucial. This theme emphasizes the need for lifelong learning and collaboration in order to navigate challenges and opportunities, aiming to create a more inclusive and forward-thinking educational landscape. I would like to encourage members to register for the 2025 conference and join in the discussions surrounding educational issues in South Africa today.

I would also like to thank Prof Elize du Plessis for her leadership and welcome Prof Fumane Khanare as the Chair for 2024.

Prof Candice Livingston – Incoming Chair 2025

