

News & Updates

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter for our faculty! There is so much happening in our faculty and often we are not aware of all the diverse happenings, events and achievements. This newsletter aims to address that.

Enrolments soar!

Enrolments have increased dramatically this year:

- B Ed FP, IP & FET increase by over **100%** over last years' figures
- PGCE increases to **85** from the ± 63 last year
- NEW B Ed FET @ George Campus begins with **45** students
- B Ed Hons have over **230** first year enrolments; 1200+ in the programme from EC & KZN

Challenges...

Of course, with the ever increasing enrolments came the challenges of lecture venues and teaching capacity.

Helena, thank you!

ACE: ML

The Limpopo DoE project of training 1,300 teachers in 2009/10 has begun. And, we have just received notification that Mpumalanga DoE has made NMMU the service provider for ACE:ML for a second cohort of 120 teachers ~ Lyn

A bigger NMMU FoE?

The FoE has been awarded **R48m** (DoE efficiency & infrastructure funding) for new buildings, alterations & academic staff. *More details soon!* ~ Pat

NPDE additional bursaries

The NMMU awarded bursaries for **200 new** NPDE students. They are due to start in July 2009. ~ Neville

* NPDE programmes now fall under CPD *

Resource Centre grows

The Resource Centre (RC) extension is scheduled to start soon (shortly we will have to re-name it a *Learning Centre!*).

The RC will expand into what is currently the NPDE office, where a number of workstations and PC's will be built in so as to assist students with their work and increase access to a PC.

I have also secured large donations for the RC from various publishers. ~ Lilda

PGCE - Willows Camp

A highly successful camp was held at 'The Willows' in early February for the 85 new PGCE students.

Thanks to all staff involved ~ Christina

Welcome back!

Three of our colleagues returned recently from a collaborative trip to Germany, visiting our colleagues at the Carl Ossietsky University.

Amidst all the hard work, was sight seeing, indulging in local fare and experiencing bundesliga.

Neville even made it into local press! Take a look [here](#).



*Welcome home Neville,
Mary-Grace and Nokhanyo!*

George pre-service launches!

The new B Ed FET at our George Campus launched successfully with an enrolment figure of ± 45 students.



Ms Paddy Esselaar has been appointed as the full-time PC for the programme on George campus. ~ Pat

Congratulations Lesley!

Prof Lesley Wood has been rated and recognised as a researcher (L category). Reviewers' comments on her work included "outstanding", "rigorous", "insightful", "high quality" and "held in high esteem". She also received a great deal of support for the work she has done and the methodologies she has used.

In terms of the number of rated researchers, the Faculty of Education is now on par with the Faculties of Arts, Law and Health Sciences at the NMMU. There are only about 50 rated researchers in Education in South Africa, so Lesley has joined a distinguished group. Well done Les! We are very proud of you ~ Paul



A BEd (Senior Phase) Upgrading programme in partnership with MCIS and sponsored by SAB, has started in Polokwane with 22 students ~ Jeff

Faculty of Education

Guiding tomorrow



...news & updates continued

Workshops

During February, **Sindi and Vuks** have been conducting workshops on mentoring and coaching for 180 EDOs in two clusters in Mthatha. This is part of a provincial initiative to capacitate EDOs on mentoring and coaching skills so that they can assist school principals in managing and leading their schools.

Feedback has been *exceptionally positive* and follow up workshops will take place in the near future. The last cluster (PE) will have their workshop next week. ~ Alette

Registration...

Many more staff than in the past assisted with the registration process this year, which made life much easier!

In particular, it was nice to see staff working across programmes in order to make the whole registration process work quicker and smoother.

In future, we will still need more staff to get involved but this was a great start. ~ Les M

& ... a special thank you to our dedicated Faculty Officers...

We all know that this is an *exceptionally* busy and stressful time of the year for **Ridaa, Jackie and Michael** – particularly with our increased enrollment and registration figures! – but they trudge on through all the paperwork always with a smile and never a complaint.

We truly appreciate all the hard work, guys!



SAARMSTE conference

A team of staff attended the *17th Annual SAARMSTE Conference* in Grahamstown in January 2009. Papers were presented by **Raj Kurup, Andre du Plessis, Lyn Webb, Jeff Ilsley, Lonnie King, Hugh Glover, Clyde Felix, Percy Sepeng, Les Meiring, Johanna Geldenhuys, and Paul Webb**. Anneline Vermaak, Marilyn Gibbs, Flip Potgieter and Greg Stefanich (visitor science educator from Iowa) also attended. A number of people from other institutions commented on the **positive team spirit and great sense of camaraderie** of the NMMU group. ~ Paul



The TESOL course held in January made local news headlines! Of the 14 participants, 2 were foreign students (from Jamaica and USA) and 4 were returning South

African's from various overseas locations. Read the La Femme article [here](#) ~ Paul



We all bid a sad farewell to Ana at the end of January 2009. Our farewell for Ana was held at Mauro's along the beachfront and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. A picturesque venue, fabulous food and scintillating company...

THANKS for coordinating, Anneline & Val!



remember...

Mike is leaving at end of month...

Farewell on 26th Feb @ Les' house! RSVP Delene *before* Tuesday 24th Feb

"Life is full of beauty. Notice it. Notice the bumble bee, the small child, and the smiling faces. Smell the rain and feel the wind. Live your life to the fullest potential, and fight for your dreams." ~ Ashley Smith