

News & Updates

Welcome to the April (graduation) edition of our Faculty Newsletter

Celebrating graduation in FoE

Congratulations to all our staff members who graduated in April 2009!

PhD	Sindi Mbokodi Shervani Pillay
D Ed	Noluthando Toni Muki Moeng Sharon Townsend
M Ed	Nokhanyo Mayaba Carmel Mahomed
B Ed Hons	Melissa May
B Tech BA	Ntosh Yamile



From left: Dr Muki Moeng, Dr Shervani Pillay, Ms Nokhanyo Mayaba, Dr Sindi Mbokodi and Dr Noluthando Toni



Dr Sharon Townsend & Christo, her promoter

A Faculty's annual graduation serves as a window into the "academic soul" of that faculty and we were privileged to have three such windows during the April 2009 graduation. **Congratulations** to our colleagues on their achievements. **You make us proud!** As a faculty we should also give credit to their *supervisors* (Tilla, Alette, Prakash, Susan, Johan McF, Paul) – your continued support and expertise played a major role in both the candidate's and the faculty's success.



At our 2nd graduation session the faculty presented an Honorary Doctorate to **Rev Paul Verryn** (see photo left) for his commitment to humanitarian values and the promotion and teaching thereof. Thanks to Tilla for acting as Rev Verryn's host and to Bill for originally initiating his nomination.

We also started a practice (to be fully implemented next year if the new Dean agrees) where Programme Coordinators or HoD's read the names of 'their' students at the graduation ceremony. We received *many positive comments* for this practice. Thanks to all the PCs and HoDs who participated!

You would also have noticed how **s-m-o-o-t-h** the proceedings of getting graduates out of their chairs, to and across the stage went... Jackie E-G and Bronwyn assisted with this at all three sessions. Thank you!

A large number of our students received their certificates, diplomas and degrees. And, **EVERYONE** in the faculty deserves recognition for this achievement! It was SO rewarding to look through our three graduation windows to see the successful outcome of years of hard work and a faculty that has grown in academic stature, and now matches any of the other NMMU faculties. ~ Pat

NPDE	118	BEd Hon	152
ACE	412	M Ed	16
BEd	290	PhD/DEd	7
PGCE	64		
Total	884	175	1059

BY CHANGING OUR LIVES, WE CHANGE THE WORLD ...

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news & updates continued

Masilingane Symposium

The Masilingane Project culminated in a symposium held at the end of February 2009. Participants in the project (principals and teachers from impoverished local areas) delivered presentations on their action research.

Posters of their action research were also displayed for attendee's to examine. A book, collating all of their individual action research projects undertaken in their respective schools, was developed and printed. ~ Les



Les with 10 of the 13 participants



Learners who performed a skit on HIV & AIDS

NASOU donates to RC

NASOU publishing house generously donated books to our Resource Centre recently. Do pop by and see what we have in your learning area.

~ Lilda



IRONMAN SOUTH AFRICA

NELSON MANDELA BAY
SOUTH AFRICA

Swim 3.8 km
Cycle 180 km
Run 42.2 km



Well done Les!

Environmental awareness fun in George!

Recently, I invited the local officer for WESSA, Lorraine McGibbon, to talk to our students. She gave them a game to play to see just how aware they were of the dangers to the environment.

I am emphasising the environment for two reasons. Firstly, Saasveld is very environmentally conscious because of the School of Natural Resources on campus. Secondly, environmental awareness is a growing interest in school curricula. Last term, one of the Nature Conservation lecturers addressed the students. Lorraine's talk was a follow-up to the presentation by our Nature Conservation colleague.

I was glad that Lorraine suggested this competitive activity as the students really entered into the spirit of things! There were 3 teams who had to identify pictures in order to build the full story. You can see the larger picture in the photographs above. Naturally each team wanted to win so we had the runners racing down to present the correct card – nearly overwhelming Lorraine! She will have another session with them in a month's time when they will do an audit to investigate their "footprint" as regards water usage, rubbish generated, electricity used, etc. ~ Paddy



baby boom!

Imtiyaaz ('Baby Salie') was born on the 14th April 2009 weighing 3.16kg



baby boom!



Carol is proud aunty to a gorgeous nephew who already loves kisses!

baby boom!

And... Gish was SURPRISED with her stork party!



news & updates continued



We bade farewell to Dr Vusi Msila during early April. Vusi joined the University of Johannesburg where he has been promoted to Professor in their Faculty of Education.

Dr Msila will be missed by his colleagues for his contributions both to our Faculty and, more specifically, in the Curriculum Policy, Development and Management programme. He will be missed for his prolific research outputs over the last few years - he has certainly raised the bar regarding this important focus area of our institution. As a colleague, I valued the long conversations we usually had about research related matters and the importance to contribute in this area. In his own quiet and unassuming way he has demystified research and pointed the way for others to follow.

Dr Msila has a varied academic background and is also a former Fulbright scholar. His academic expertise covers the important areas of Educational Management and School Leadership as well as Curriculum Policy. At present he is part of the Zenex/ACE national research team of five led by Prof Tony Bush, which is a project of the National Department of Education. The NMMU loses an academic of note who will be difficult to replace. We wish him everything of the best for his future. ~ Sylvan



I AM A TEACHER John Wayne Schlatter

I am a teacher.
I was born the first moment that a question leaped from the mouth of a child.
I have been many people in many places.
I am Socrates exciting the youth of Athens to discover new ideas through the use of questions.
I am Anne Sullivan tapping out the secrets of the universe into the outstretched hand of Helen Keller.
I am Aesop and Hans Christian Andersen revealing truth through countless stories.
I am Marva Collins fighting for every child's right to an education.
I am Mary McCloud Bethune building a great college for my people like a hall of fame for humanity... Booker T. Washington, Buddha, John Dewey, Leo Buscaglia, Moses and Jesus.
I am also those whose lessons and character will always be remembered in the accomplishments of their students.
I have wept for joy at the weddings of former students, laughed with glee at the birth of their children, and stood with head bowed in grief and confusion by graves dug too soon for bodies too young.
Throughout the course of a day, I have been called upon to be an actor, friend, nurse and doctor, coach, finder of lost articles, money-lender, taxi driver, psychologist, substitute parent, salesman, politician, and a keeper of the faith.
Despite the maps, charts, formulas, verbs, stories and books, I have really had nothing to teach, for my students really have only themselves to learn, and I know it takes the whole world to tell you who you are.
I am a paradox. I speak the loudest when I listen the most.
My greatest gifts are in what I am willing to appreciatively receive from my students.
Material wealth is not one of my goals, but I am a fulltime treasure seeker in my quest for new opportunities for my students to use their talents and in my constant search for those talents that sometimes lie buried in self-defeat.
I am the most fortunate of all who labour.
A doctor is allowed to usher life into the world in one magic moment. I am allowed to see that life is reborn each day with new questions, ideas and friendships.
An architect knows that if he builds with care, his structure may stand for centuries. A teacher knows that if he builds with love and truth, what he builds will last forever.
I am a warrior, daily doing battle against peer pressure, negativity, fear, conformity, prejudice, ignorance and apathy. But I have great allies: intelligence, curiosity, parental support, individuals, creativity, faith, love and laughter all rush to my banner with indomitable support.
And who do I have to thank for this wonderful life I am so fortunate to experience, but you the public, the parents. For you have done me the great honour to entrust me with your greatest contribution to eternity, your CHILDREN.
And so I have a past that is rich in memories. I have a present that is challenging, adventurous and fun because I am allowed to spend my days with the future.
I am a teacher...and I thank God for it every day.

Another Fullbright visitor

Eileen Raymond, Associate Dean at the School of Education and Professional Studies, SUNY Potsdam, NY joins us in July 2009 for a year. We feel privileged that Eileen has chosen NMMU and our faculty as the location for her projects. Lesley Wood has already made some excellent suggestions on academic activities for Eileen to become involved with and we are also hoping that she will host one or more workshops to present her ideas on universal design for learning. ~ Pat

Mary-Alice Barksdale (current Fulbright) will report on her project in the next edition

