

News & Updates

* Welcome to the **June (b-r-r) Edition** of our Faculty Newsletter *

Follow up Values / Leaderful Practice Workshop

A follow up Values and Leaderful Practice workshop was held on 28th May 2009 for all staff. Staff attended either the morning session or the afternoon session. Feedback on both sessions was sent out and is available on the g/drive.

The team building exercise "Mine Field" got the memory cells working and generated much fun and team spirit! ~ Pat



Visiting colleagues from the University of North Carolina Wilmington

Prof John Fischetti of the Dept. of Educational Leadership at Watson School of Education, UNCW is currently visiting us with 10 of his PhD candidates.

They are here to spend some time in local schools, to see the various CERTI projects in which the faculty is involved and to have interactive sessions of sharing ideas with faculty academics.

The American PhD candidates are either school teachers or school principals.

~ Vernon

Official welcome for new Dean

The official welcome for the new Dean, Prof Denise Zinn, has been proposed for Tuesday, 21st July.

Confirmation of date, time and venue as well as any other information will be sent out from the organising committee soon. ~ Pat

welcome!

news & updates continued

Muki Moeng & Barney Pityana

At a recent high profile conference on the topic of what a 'comprehensive university' is, which was initiated by Prof Barney Pityana, Dr Moeng's thesis was well quoted. In fact the model that she has conceptualised is being mooted as the model that should be used in the construction of the organisational culture of the Comprehensive. This is indeed a huge accolade for any academic in a crucial area such as the positioning of the Comprehensive University in the higher education arena, particularly in view of the fact that literature in this area is still on the developing curve.

Well done to you Dr Moeng, your expertise in this area comes at a crucial time in SA history. I guess that is the whole point about really cutting edge research. It makes me think about some of the findings of a report done by Prof Ben Parker, some years ago, about the nature of research in education, and the need to move beyond our current epistemological impasse in this area. ~ *Shervani*



Walmer Township Dinner

Organised by Vernon and Flip of CERTI, the evening was once again a great success! The venue, three-course meal and great South African beverages were thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially by our visitors from the States.

Funds raised will assist the Trust to run their Crèche and to purchase materials to make pottery, which they sell and in so doing become self sustainable. ~ *Vernon & Flip*



snow in PE!

Oldenburg visitors in July

Prof Dr Corinna Hoessle and Dr Katja Reitschert from the Carl Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany, will be visiting our Faculty in July as part of the TERDAL agreement. Katja will be here from 14 to 25 July and Corinna from 20 to 26 July. Their personal areas of expertise are Biology Education and Life Sciences Education.

A programme will be arranged for them in line with their requests; activities will include school visits, research seminars, and meetings with academics and discussions on joint research, publications and a colloquium. Academics who wish to discuss joint research or exchange ideas with either or both of them must please book a with Carol ~ *Nonnie*



Au revoir

Charne Reed, here whilst Gish is on maternity leave, is moving to a post in Pharmacy from 01 July. Charne, we share your joy, but will sorely miss your warm smile & cooperative attitude. Thanks for being such a star! Join us for tea & scones, 30 June @ 10h00 in tea room. ~ *Alette*

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Open Day George 2009



Muriel and Paddy



The Faculty of Education open day stand

Farewell
to Michael Goromondo

Mike is also not going too far... He moves to a permanent post in Exams from 01 July. All the very best for your new position and keep in touch with us here in Education! ~ *Ridaa*

news & updates continued

“Page 3” Profile - getting to know each other

Like many other black children who spent most of their childhood in previously disadvantaged communities under the cruel and brutal Apartheid Nationalist Government, I spend most of my memorable puerility in the poor village of Cyferskuil (near Bela-Bela) in the, then, Bophuthatswana homeland. After obtaining my Std 10 certificate at Utsane High School in 1993, I enrolled for a Teachers Diploma at one of the now defunct Colleges of Education. I began teaching in 1997 at Mafikeng but resigned my permanent position at the end of 1997, enrolling fulltime at the then University of Bophuthatswana (UNIBO), where I met my future wife, and better-half, Pauline, in a Math II lecture room while she was doing her B Sc degree.



In February 2000, I moved to Pretoria and joined Reitumetse High School. We got married in 2002 and the following year I became a Father for the very first time! We were blessed with a wonderful but temperamental, funny and humorous little boy, Resego (meaning we are fortunate).

I left teaching in February 2005 for the NGO Maths Centre for Professional Teachers (MCPT) in Johannesburg as a Provincial Project Coordinator. I got a promotion in 2006 and moved to MCPT (North West province) based in Potchefstroom where I worked as a National Project Coordinator rolling out Maths, Science and Technology projects to Dinaledi High Schools in all provinces, except the EC and WC provinces.

My friends regard me as a risk taker – and I understand why. I left my family behind and moved to PE in July 2007 to join the NMMU (SMATE department of FoE) as an Associate Lecturer, under the decisive leadership of Dr. Jeff Ilesley (who has contributed SO much to both my professional and personal development). Highly motivated and talented colleagues in my department assisted me in special ways and to such an extent that I managed to secure a promotional post of Lecturer within a few months spent at NMMU.

After Pauline accepted an IT Consultant position at Rhodes University in September 2007, my family moved to Grahamstown, but during mid-2008 she joined NMMU (North Campus) as a Lab Technician and now enjoys her new role as ICT Technician. On the 2nd of January 2008, I was (once again) a proud father when we welcomed our second and last new member of the family – a beautiful little girl, Neoentle (meaning a wonderful gift).

One of the highlights of my professional career was when I accepted the Best Maths Teacher Award in 2001, Tshwane North district. I'm now settled at Missionvale Campus and passionately involved in SMIS community outreach projects (under CERTI) at both learner and teacher level. One of these projects (LoLT), launched in May 2009, is linked to my PhD research project.

As a former professional soccer player, I spend some of my free time watching soccer and coaching under-9 years old boys residing in the area.

Itumelle matsatsi a gago a boikhutso (Enjoy your recess) ~ Percy (aka Lopez)

FMFS Project

Pam Spady conducting a Family Maths/ Family Science workshop at Sivuyiseni Primary School for Foundation Phase teachers on the Builder Kit. ~ Vernon



Visit to the new Mandela Bay Stadium

Faculty staff development excursion... staff were given the opportunity this month to visit the new Mandela Bay Stadium for a guided tour, followed by a wine tasting with cheese & biscuits at Kings Court. Thanks Anneline; organiser extraordinaire! ~ Pat



news & updates continued

Writing-based approach to improving literacy instruction and learning

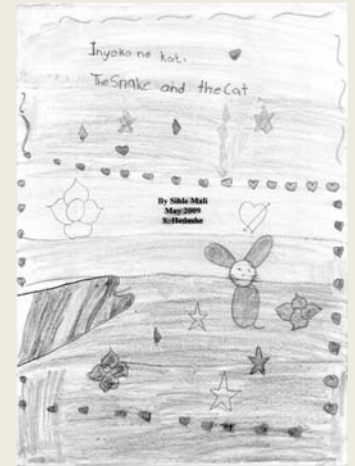
At John Masiza Primary School in Walmer Township, a writing-based approach to improving literacy instruction and learning has been instituted in 2009. At the Foundation Phase, five teachers have been involved in a participatory action research project being conducted by myself, currently affiliated with the NMMU Faculty of Education as a Fulbright Scholar (U.S. Department of State) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. I have been present at the school each day this term and have worked collaboratively with the teachers on developing and implementing ideas for improving literacy learning through writing.

During February and March, the children were engaged in writing Language Experience stories in IsiXhosa and English. Language Experience is a technique in which the children discuss an idea for a story or a common experience, and then collaboratively dictate a version that is written on chart paper in both languages. These very brief stories can be read over and over for reading practice and development. A collection of Language Experience stories created by the children was informally published by NMMU and all students in the five participating classrooms were provided with copies.

Since April, the children have been engaged in writing their own stories. All of the third graders in two classrooms (84 children total) have written and illustrated their own stories in IsiXhosa and the stories have been translated to English. A process was used in which students developed story ideas, wrote first drafts, improved upon and edited their drafts, and illustrated the final products. Each story includes an "About the Author" page with a photograph and student-written description of the author. In first grade, there is a current focus on writing sentences in IsiXhosa and illustrating those sentences. In second grade, students are working collaboratively in small groups on writing and illustrating stories in both languages. In all cases, the student-written products will be used for reading practice in the classroom and at home.

The teachers have formed a strong collaborative team during their work together this term and plan to continue using writing to support reading instruction in the future. The Principal, Allen Makinana, and the Heads of Department for Foundation Phase have been involved and supportive throughout the project. This group is currently working on the development of plans for expanding the project in the future.

There is no library in this school and there exists a great need for children's books to provide reading practice for and help the children become familiar with the conventions of written language. The school is seeking support from an NGO to create a library for the school in an unused space, and donations of books for the library in IsiXhosa and English are being actively sought. ~ Mary Alice



New recruits!

The intrepid lunch-time-crafters have a few new recruits in their midst...



Noluthando and Issa... now taking orders ☺

PC hints 'n tips

Templates and corporate ID documents

Any official documentation and correspondence should be set up on official NMMU corporate ID layouts/templates.

Official NMMU documents and templates (e.g. letter heads, fax, memo, powerpoint templates, invites, etc) can be found on our intranet (staff portal).

1. Open Internet and browse to staff portal
2. Go to the menu item 'Communications'
3. Choose Corporate ID
4. A menu list will appear with links to the appropriate pages with templates
5. Browse to chosen page for your required layout

Remember: most official admin templates can be found in our g/drive/forms & templates. Hard copies are also available from Pumela in the DC. ~ Jackie H

news & updates continued

Kinkelbos School donation

On Wednesday 24th June, Lyn Webb, Ntombxolo Majombozi and Flip Potgieter of the Department of Educational Maths and Juliette of OfficeWize, donated to the teachers and pupils of Kinkelbos Farm School school desks, teachers chairs, senior and junior chairs, glue, crayons, pencil crayons, rulers, erasers, maths sets, pen sets, calculators, big buckets of poster paint with brushes and paint trays and paper, reams of photostat paper, flip files, A4 work books, A4 school jotters, posters and... to top it all off... about R15 000.00 of school textbooks and teachers' manuals for grades 1 – 9! A most incredible donation received with much joy and gratitude ~ Nicola Broadbent, Chairlady Sunshine Coast Charity Trust and Parent from Laerskool Nanaga Primary.



New textbooks! Excitement!



New stationary! (with Lyn and Juliette)



Happy-smiley faces in Grades 4 – 9



Grades 1 – 3 & new books; Juliette, Ntombxolo, Flip and Lyn

To read the letter from Nicola and see all the photo's – go to <g:/drive/CERTI/Kinkelbos Letter to Maths Dept.pdf>

2009 Academic Awards

Congratulations to Corita Steyn (a B Ed FP graduate) on obtaining her First Degree Award at the recently held Academic Awards Dinner. ~ Nolutando



for those colleagues going on leave ...
have a restful and restorative time ...
safe journeys ...



I don't think of all the misery but of the beauty that still remains. Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*