

News & Updates

* Welcome to the July Edition of our Faculty Newsletter *

Welcome Prof Denise Zinn

Prof Denise Zinn officially joined the Faculty as Dean on 1st July 2009. The official welcome function for her was held on Tuesday, 21st July at the Indoor Sports Centre. Thanks to the organising committee (Anneline, Tobeka and Laetitia) for the fabulous spread of food and beverages and to Pat, MC, and Prakash, for his welcome speech. ~ Jackie

(see [photo gallery](#) on website)



Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful welcome you extended to me at the special function last night. The occasion was splendidly arranged, Pat was the perfect director of ceremonies, the atmosphere was warm and collegial, and I felt very much at home. To the team who did the catering and aesthetic arrangements, it all looked (and tasted) extremely lovely, so a special word of thanks to you for your efforts. Prakash's speech was thoughtful and meaningful, and very well delivered, and I thank him for that too. What I enjoyed the most though, was the opportunity to meet and chat with so many of the staff in one space, and appreciated the laughter and sense of ease that exists amongst colleagues. I am deeply appreciative of the care you have taken in welcoming me in the way you have.

Lastly, I am also thankful to now have another vase-full of flowers, magnificent strelitzias, and a big bowl of fruit from the function, in my bright and beautiful new office. Thanks for your thoughtfulness in extending the evening for me in this way.

I feel very fortunate to have joined such a team, and look forward to many more shared occasions where we can celebrate our continued development as a faculty.

Sincerely,
Denise



caption?

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2009 Mid Year Training of Tutors (TOT) accomplished successfully



At the "welcome" address by Dr Tulsi Morar to the Centre Managers, Tutors, and Faculty Programme & Module Coordinators



Prof Zinn with Tulsi at her first tutor training session

**** Thank You to all Staff involved ****



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"Page 3" Profile - getting to know each other

Born in Cape Town just before the Group Areas Act was implemented, I was part of a large extended family with grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles all living close by in a very racially mixed community. This changed in the mid 1960's when everyone was dispersed to various places on the Cape Flats and beyond and, as a result, I 'played' in the local library – books and stories took the place of playmates. In the early '70's I attended Livingstone High School in Cape Town, which had a very strong political ethos. It played a formative role in shaping my personal commitment and engagement on social and political reform. Just prior to my enrolling in the school about 10 teachers had either been banned, placed under house arrest, sent into exile, or incarcerated on Robben Island (Neville Alexander, Richard Dudley, Victor Wessels were some of these political icons) and my experiences in this school with teachers of this calibre, rich and educational in the broadest sense, proved to have long reaching impact.

School was a deeply meaningful community for me, which took the place of my disrupted home community, and it was the place where my most lasting friendships, ideas, and orientation to life were formed. It was a place where we were introduced to debate, hiking the Cape mountains, drama and theatre, sport, alternative poetry and films from round the world, all of which encouraged critical and independent thinking. Livingstone High School was also the place I met my husband Allan – we were in the same class from Std 7/Grade 9 (he was the jock, I was the nerd!) – so you can see why I feel so passionate about my old high school! But it was also the place that seeds were planted for me to feel teaching and education as a calling; a space where one could make a contribution to individual lives and society in a way that was rich and meaningful.

Upon completion of my matric, I was awarded one of ten Anglo American Open Scholarships which fully covered all my expenses and enabled me to study at UCT – a combined Arts and Science degree. In compliance with the Apartheid laws, UCT did not allow me to stay in residence, despite the ample Anglo funding for it, and as a result I attended classes but chose not participate in any extramural activities on campus. Instead I was very engaged in all sorts of community organisations – civic, cultural, SACOS sport and political organisations. It was a heady and challenging time; of deep commitment to the political struggle and working towards change.

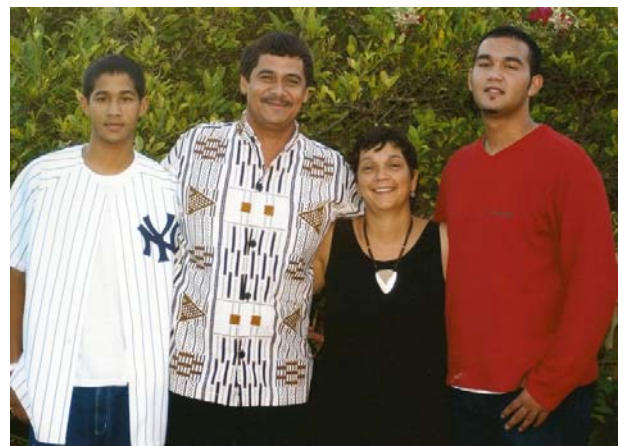
After completing my first degree and teacher's diploma, Allan and I got married in 1980, and we moved to the EC, as Allan was enrolled for a second degree at Rhodes to study Physical Education (Human Movement Science) which he wanted to do as a second teaching subject. I got my first permanent teaching post at St Thomas' High School in PE. During this time, schools were in upheaval and I was very involved with the students' struggles; supporting them to continue educating themselves even while they were boycotting classes, but with a different, broader and more politically relevant 'curriculum', joining them out on the field or school hall.

Allan spent a significant period of time detained in these turbulent years of the '80s. As we got more involved in teaching and community and political activities, we decided to remain in the EC. Allan went on to teach at Bethelsdorp Senior Secondary and I moved to Chapman High School. Influenced by our formative years in Cape Town we sought to emulate the level of commitment, sacrifice and progressiveness of our own high school teachers and approached teaching in an engaged and holistic manner encompassing such activities as drama, debate, sport, extra classes and academic support for students who needed it, etc.

And, our family grew. Marc was born in 1983 – whilst I completed my Honours in English Language and Literature – and Ricky was born in 1988. In 1990 Allan applied for and was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at Columbia University in the USA. At around the same time, I applied for a Harvard Fellowship, which I won and utilised to study for a Master's in Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education in Boston. In my second semester, I was invited to complete my doctorate at Harvard, funded by them as well. Whilst studying here, I taught various courses at Harvard, Clark and Dartmouth Universities, and also supervised School Based Learning/Teachers in Training.

We returned to South Africa at the end of 1996. As teacher education became 'rationalised' (closure of colleges, smaller intakes into teacher education at universities) it was quite difficult getting a job in teacher education (even with a Harvard degree!). I worked in an educational NGO in Cape Town for a while and then got a post as a senior lecturer at Rhodes University's East London campus. I left Rhodes to come back to PE to do educational consulting with the Tertiary Education Linkages Project, funded by USAID, and worked with 17 HEI's, supporting innovative and equity-related capacity development projects. In 2006 I joined the University of Fort Hare as Executive Dean of Education. Allan in the meantime had been appointed as Project Coordinator of the hugely successful *Imbewu Project*, in which 1,500+ schools and the EC provincial DoE participated. All of these combined experiences have contributed to an extensive knowledge of education and schooling in the province, on which I am able to draw in my work as Dean of Education.

In my spare time I enjoy the beauty of our environment, walking on the beach and hiking in the forests when we can find the time (and I feel fit enough!). I love good movies, reading, cooking and am quite a 'foodie' – exploring exotic and creative food experiences -- and time spent with family and friends enjoying these pleasures. More and more (as I get older, I guess) I prefer being in quiet spaces more than being in the middle of a 'buzz'. I am really looking forward to being home again here in Port Elizabeth, which has a bit of everything I enjoy about life! ~ Denise



news & updates continued

The Fish From 8 July – 13 July, I hiked my fifth Fish River Canyon in Namibia. I did this with my twins and my two sisters and their families. Margie (who celebrated her birthday on the first night down in the Canyon), Pat, Piet Roodt and Martin Oosthuizen (CPID) were part of the initial group - but split off as they walked faster than the Delpert clan.

The Fish River Canyon is in the southern part of Namibia and the second largest canyon in the world. It is a deeply dissected area sculpted over millions of years by forces of nature – glaciers, water, temperature extremes and wind. The route follows the flow of the river and covers approximately 80 km if one takes the shortcuts on the last two days – which we of course did! It takes about four to six days to complete.

The terrain is very rugged and consists of boulders (some 'as big as houses'), sand, stones - and some gravel paths towards the end. The river has to be crossed approximately 25 times. There are NO facilities. One sleeps under the stars and on the sand wherever you want to, and has to carry EVERYTHING you may need in your backpack. Accidents and serious injuries may become crises, but we have always been very blessed in this regard.

The silence and peace of the place is amazing. It was thus once again a detoxifying, therapeutic, healing and rejuvenating experience – a spiritual journey during which one becomes intense aware of an almighty and caring Creator God. You leave the Canyon a different person.

Although I was telling myself that it was my last Canyon – getting too old – I am not so sure anymore... ~ Alette



Alette, Margie & Pat



Alette with Pietman & Gerrit

2nd Semester begins...

... & once again our sincere **thanks** to faculty *Timetable Designer* Extraordinaire, Helena... you are the best!

Reminder:

the timetables can be found on <g:/drive/timetables/2nd Sem 2009/> ...

Our very own Tyger Woods?



Pat congratulates Neville on winning Walmer Country Club's 'C Division' Golf Championships

CARBON FOOTPRINT

As part of an institution with a **vision to be a dynamic world-class university striving for a sustainable tomorrow** - we need to let our actions speak as we endeavour to reduce our **CARBON FOOTPRINT**.

Please visit the recently set up **website** (via Staff Portal) which provides information on how we can reduce our **carbon footprint** and **make a difference**. The website is intended make things easier and to share information, ideas and tips. The site also includes articles by some of our academics on research currently being conducted.

Every little bit counts so let's all do our bit!

PC hints 'n tips

LEARN... The faculty's electronic teaching and learning platform.

Learn@NMMU

Colleagues who do yet use this in their teaching but are interested in getting started – contact myself or Les M. It really is a fantastic tool which gives added dimension to your module delivery.

Those who are currently using LEARN, great!, please encourage your colleagues. For administrative support or ideas to use within your own site(s); contact Les M or myself. ~jackie h

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CONFERENCE NEWS



BARCELONA, Spain

Prof's Tilla Olivier and Lesley Wood attended the **16th International Learning Conference** in Barcelona, Spain from 1-4 July and presented a paper on the use of video documentary making as a tool to raise teacher awareness about the importance of involving parents in their educational interventions.

They are pictured here (left) with Prof Naydene de Lange from UKZN (who will shortly be taking up the new Chair in HIV/AIDS Research at NMMU) and Dr Thabi Ntombela of the HSRC.

Christina also attended this conference, which was held at the University of Barcelona. Over 800 delegates from all over the world attended. She delivered a research paper on: *Sex, sexuality and communication - A thematic analysis of the perceptions of the South African youth on sexual language*.

She received very positive feedback and has subsequently started another paper for possible publication in an accredited journal on the youth and sexuality.



SYDNEY, Australia



Logan attended and presented a paper at the **6th International Drama in Education Research Institute** at the University of Sydney (left) in Australia from the 14th to the 19th of July 2009. IDIERI is the pre-eminent drama education research conference held triennially in centres of excellence for drama education throughout the world.

The theme was *"Drama Research Futures: Examining our past, critiquing our present, imagining tomorrow"*, where the shifting conditions in schools and society in general were examined and the traditions of drama education and applied theatre in the field explored.

Logan's paper, entitled *"The relevance of drama in education on the basis of practitioner centred action research: a case study"*, focused on the use of drama as a tool to overcome the indifferent attitudes of students towards the lecturer, their peers and the social conditions in society at large. His paper was well received by those who attended his session and they were particularly impressed by the approaches and strategies that he implemented to foster sound inter-ethnic relationships amongst his diverse group of learners.

GOODBYE!

We bid a sad farewell to **Tracy** this month. Tracy moves back to her profession (nursing) at Greenacres Hospital from 01 August, doing Clinical Teaching. Whilst she will be sorely missed by Tulusi and the rest of the faculty (*how well we all know that exuberant laugh!*), we know that she is so excited to be getting back to nursing and teaching. **All the best, Tracy!**



Basheera presenting Tracy with her gift and card



Ntosh & Tracy

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Action Research Workshops with Jean Mc Niff

ACTION RESEARCH UNIT: Professor Jean McNiff (right) paid another visit to the Faculty at the end of July to hold a selection of workshops and one-on-one interviews with colleagues on action research. Jean is a world renowned leader in the field of action research of the practitioner self-enquiry genre. This genre is an ideal approach to improving your teaching and simultaneously generating research output.

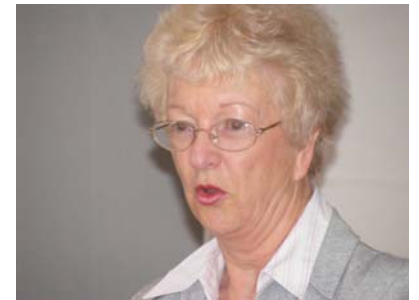
Her interactive workshop, held on 28th July, was attended by 26 colleagues from a wide variety of faculties, units and departments. The main focus in this workshop was on ways to validate the findings and claims generated by the research. Another workshop delivered by Jean was to Masters and Doctoral students on "How to do an AR thesis / dissertation". ~ Lesley W



Colleagues at the inter-faculty workshop



Lesley introducing Jean



Jean

An Example to us All

July brought us the "67 minutes campaign" which called for individuals to give 67 minutes of their time on 18th July to community service in acknowledgement of Madiba's birthday. **Jason Wright** embodies this sentiment.

Jason, a 3rd year B Ed IP student, is a **police reservist**. He gives 16+ hours of unpaid service a month to the Kabega Park Police Station and surrounding communities.



"Being a law abiding citizen and helping the fight against crime in my community is one of my priorities. And so, in joining the SAPS as a reservist, I found a great way to assist the Neighbourhood Watch in that I can support my community directly at no cost to myself."

"There are not many negatives to the job, but one is putting your life on the line for the community who do not always appreciate the service we give. Yet when something goes wrong, who are the first ones they ask for help from?"

"I had to undertake comprehensive training and pass a fitness exam and psychometric testing before being accepted as a Reservist."

Also, see the recent article in The Herald regarding the absorption of Reservists into the SAP service. <http://www.theherald.co.za/article.aspx?id=450911>



Charne gets a drukkie from Alette at her farewell tea held earlier this month

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bronwyn during this painful period as she deals with the tragic and sudden loss of Derek, her brother-in-law.