

News & Updates

 October Edition

Representing the Faculty at the recent Staff Association Tree Planting



Girl Power: Carol, Sindi, Delene and Muriel get down 'n digging, supervised by Marilyn!

ACE SML Mini Conference (integrating Language and IT Skills)

Dr Logan Athiemoolam organized a mini-conference for principals currently involved in the ACE SML programme to provide them with a platform where they could present their various initiatives undertaken at their respective schools to their peers and other interested people for the purposes of their own growth and professional development. The conference also aimed to provide authentic learning experiences for the students so that they could highlight critical issues affecting their schools at large which could lead to wider debate and discussion on the strategies that could be implemented to address key challenges facing education in South Africa at present. The theme of the conference was "Managing Schools in the 21st century".



These conferences which have been held since 2007 have proven to be very successful and popular amongst students as they have served to provide excellent forums for principals where they are afforded opportunities to share common challenges, solutions and experiences. In 2008 three groups of principals from PE, Graaff Reinet and Kokstad shared their experiences by means of their newly acquired skills in power point to their peers, members of the Faculty and Departmental officials. This year 22 students (photo above) from Port Elizabeth presented a range of interesting papers by means of power point to a supportive audience of faculty members, their peers and other invited guests.

The conference was a great success as the students succeeded in incorporating their power point skills into their presentations in novel and creative ways and the issues that emerged from the conference led to interesting discussions and sharing of ideas and strategies for the improvement of teaching and learning. Thanks to Prof Bill Holderness who ended the conference on a high note with a song that he specially composed for the occasion.

news & updates continued

Conference News

Profs Webb and Wood from the Faculty of Education and Ms E Scheckle from the Faculty of Arts attended the AIDS IMPACT conference in Gaborone, Botswana from 22-25 September 2009. They presented two papers at this international conference.

Prof Wood presented a paper (together with her student Linda Goba from the DoE) entitled: "Addressing OVC related challenges in the classroom: educator perceptions of the effectiveness of training interventions".

And, the three of them also presented a paper on which they collaborated entitled "Disclosure of persons other than sexual partners: choices and patterns in a South African township." ~ Lesley

From left: Paul, Eileen and Lesley at the conference



Family Maths Family Science Workshop

The final FMFS workshop for 2009 was held on Monday 26th October at the Missionvale Conference Centre. Despite the inclement weather, 20 teachers from the participating schools attended. The new kit was introduced and the activities explained and demonstrated. All schools will update their FMFS resources with a Traffic & Road Safety Kit.

Kama Primary School scheduled the required parent-pupil workshop for this kit for just two days later. Jackie Hitchcox and I attended this session, which proved extremely positive. An enthusiastic group of Foundation Phase teachers, parents (24) and Grade R and 1 pupils took part in this lively session. Despite the challenges represented by the lack of venue space, the teachers adapted the activities well, thus enabling the learners and their parents to participate in all the activities. Songs were integrated throughout adding to the enjoyment and fun.

Creating their own robots with the resources supplied in the kit seemed to be one of the favourite activities of the day, along with the car ramp and dinky-cars (see photo's below).



* CONGRATULATIONS *

David and Carolyn - married on 17th October



May you share many years of wedded bliss!

I interviewed two parents to gauge their impressions of the workshop and to see whether they felt benefit is derived from participating in such a project. Both were very positive and indicated that both themselves and their children benefit and are able to apply the activities and inherent lessons into their daily lives. They also felt that the workshops have an impact on their children's attitude to learning. ~ Pam Spady, Project Consultant

news & updates continued

"Page 3" Profile - getting to know each other

Hello, my name is **Michelle** and I am the admin assistant to Professor Paul Webb of CERTI. A bit of background on me... I was born in Lusaka, Zambia many, many moons ago and my family moved south to Port Elizabeth. My schooling was at Holy Rosary Convent – yes, believe it or not – and then Pinelands High in Cape Town. I have worked mostly as a secretary or PA at universities, but also in the corporate environment for Directors and Chairmen of large corporations.

I have a BA degree with majors in Archaeology and Ancient History from UNISA, which I completed while working full-time at Wits, and have recently submitted my mini-thesis for MPhil in Ancient Studies done through Stellenbosch University. At the end of 2007 I travelled to Europe on a tour organised by the Department of Ancient Studies, Stellenbosch. We visited many sites that I had studied over the years and had always dreamed of going to. I enjoyed (very much so) the local wines and cuisine! Although I was horrified when I had to pay E25 for a bottle of House Red! Pompeii and Herculaneum were amazing; and I noticed that they are still excavating large sections so I have applied to go on a dig sometime in the future.

I live on a smallholding in Little Chelsea with my 7 dogs, 4 horses and a brat of a donkey (see evidence below). What keeps me busy... reading, teaching, riding my horses and showing my dogs. What do I have planned for the future? Most definitely not a PhD, I am aaaaaall studied out!



Silent Wings & Me at PE Riding Club



Luna, the Australian Shephard



Pesteum, Italy 2007 – finally!



Supi



Penny & Lets Get Loud



Penny & Michelle, my niece



The biggest (English Mastiff, Ruby) & smallest (Border Collie, Sapphire)



Crystal, Luna & Topaz



Dulce (16) & Foxie (11)

The
'Old Girls'



Warlord!

news & updates continued

Theatre-in-education presentations

In his quest to provide novel learning experiences for his students and to tap into their creative potential Dr Logan Athiemoolam has integrated aspects of drama and theatre-in-education into his modules. The students have responded very well to the integration of creative arts into the modules and enjoyed the experiences tremendously. The entire process, however, is a continuous learning experience with action and reflection constituting the major hallmarks of the ongoing cycle.

The aim of the entire process is to open up the minds of students to multiple perspectives and interpretations of reality so that they are able to transcend their narrow, tunnel vision perspectives to acquire a better understanding of the ways in which diversity manifests itself in society at large and to expose them to more novel and creative ways of teaching and learning that will make lessons exciting and interesting for their learners. It is with this background in mind that he introduced his PIME303 (English Methodology) students to the text "Whitney's Kiss" by Onne Vegter, which is based on a grade 7 learner's first relationship with an older boy, her first hand encounter with HIV & AIDS and the effects thereof on both her own life and that of her family's. The students were required to create their own authentic, original dramatic presentations based on the text.

The students showcased their presentations to an audience of interested students and staff members on 23rd October incorporating, song, dance, music and tableaus in their performances. The presentations were very well received by the audience and the students were commended on their interesting and novel interpretations of the text, their amazing talent and the amount of effort they dedicated to their performance. The students who participated indicated that the opportunity to participate in dramatic performances improved their self esteem, unleashed their creative potential and afforded them opportunities to showcase their talent. Many of them indicated that they would definitely implement drama-in-education in their classes in the future.



INVITE to the 2009 Exchange Students Seminar and Exhibition

The annual Faculty of Education Exchange Students Seminar and Exhibition will be held next week in Building 11 and all are welcome to attend. The BEd FP, IP and FET students who went on international exchanges in 2009 will have displays and do short presentations.

DETAILS

Wednesday, 4 November 2009 @ Building 11 (ground floor) foyer for exhibits and 110G05 for presentations. 09h00-14h00

PROGRAMME

- 09:30 Displays open
- 10:00 Welcome and Announcement of 2010 opportunities and Procedure
- 10:30 Mississippi
- 10:50 St Cloud
- 11:10 Wilmington
- 11:30 Belfast
- 11:50 Trondheim
- 12:15 Discussions and questions
- 14:00 Displays close



news & updates continued

Isiphi HIV & Aids Project - donations

It is with with hope that you are all well. I would like to thank all the students who took the initiative and bought tickets for the Education Ball that took place on the 15/10/2009. The event was a success and that could not have not been without you. Also, a special thanks to Prof Denise Zinn for her assistance. Prof Zinn was our Guest Speaker for the evening and presented a wonderful speech, which I'm sure many of us who were there learnt something from. Once again, thank you Prof.

Teachers In Practice is calling for **donations** that will go to Isipho. By donation I mean: food (eg. tinned stuff), old clothes, blankets, towels, stationary, educational materials, paints, mattresses, sponges, etc. Anything that one can bring. We are doing this to give back the little we have back to our communities. I will put a marked box around the Education reception office for donations. The donations will go to Isipho early next week so please do the best you can, even if it's just one pair of shoes or one old towel. The little you give has an enormous impact on someone else's life.

We are members of the community before we are students and teachers.

~ Loyiso Mashawa, SRC Rep: Education



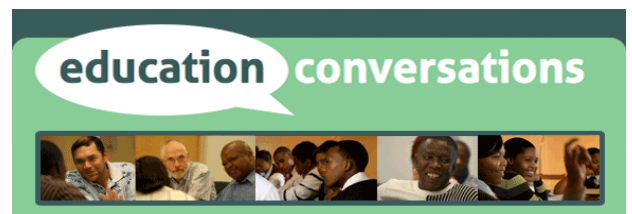
FIXING SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS

What can we all do to ensure that our schools deliver the best possible education and opportunities to our children?

The final event in the Education Conversations programme was held on 19th October in Grahamstown. It was led by Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, Professor Saleem Badat.

Several faculty staff members attended the event, including Tilla, Alette, Marilyn, Christo, Laetitia, Eileen, Lonnie, Tulsi, Cordelia, Clyde, Johann, Bill, Daphne Ffolliott (School Principal/NMMU Council Member).

The discussions focussed on the *Education Roadmap* and *10-Point Plan* as well as other answers to fixing South African schools. Professor Badat was also joined by Graeme Bloch, Education Officer at the DBSA and author of *The Toxic Mix: What's wrong with South Africa's schools and how to fix it*. This discussion, which included the perspectives of learners, teachers, principals and governing bodies from the schools in and around Grahamstown, aimed to help us all think about our individual responsibility to improving schools in South Africa.



Wishing all of our students the
BEST OF LUCK
in their upcoming exams

