

News & Updates

November Edition

2009 Overseas Exchange Presentations and Displays

The annual Faculty of Education **Exchange Students Seminar and Exhibition** was held on Wednesday 4th November. All the BEd FP, IP and FET students who went on exchanges in 2009 set up displays and did short presentations describing their experience.



Melanie & Yolande (Wilmington USA)
at their display



Kelsey at the Norway display



St Patrick's Day in Belfast!
(Megan, Mariska, Craig, Tracy)



Melissa & Hlumisa went to Mississippi State



Lee-Ann and Tania presenting on their experience at St Cloud State

Farewell Muki...

Dr Muki Moeng leaves the faculty and institution this month. Muki has been appointed as Director: Teaching, Learning and Academic Development and Support (an equivalent of HEADS) at North West University. She will be based at the Potchefstroom campus, but will be overseeing the three campuses – Potch, Mafikeng and Vaal.

Congratulations Muki! We will miss you a lot but know you are eagerly anticipating this new and exciting challenge. Keep in touch!

Photo: Muki, Tilla and Noluthando celebrating their news of their PhDs



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... Welcome Naydene!

Prof **Naydene de Lange** joined the Faculty in November as the CERTI: HIV & AIDS Research Chair. A welcome function for her was held at Paul's house (see the photo's below). Naydene's office can be found in Building 11, ground floor. Welcome, Naydene - we hope you will be very happy here!



From left: Johanna, Tilla and Naydene

**** REMINDER ****

Muki's Farewell Party

Date: Friday, 11 December

Time: 16:00

Venue: Prof Zinn's home

Kindly **RSVP** to Delene Botha
on / before **27 November 2009**

Staff Moves

Thanks to all for the cooperative spirit with which you have approached this situation. I trust your new 'homes' will be filled with PEACE!

Reminder... the moves will take place on **9 and 10 December**. Please plan accordingly.

~ Alette ~

Great achievement

Michelle Myles (CERTI) has been awarded her **M Phil** from the Department of Ancient Studies, University of Stellenbosch. She has fulfilled the requirements for the degree and will be graduating soon. Well done! ~ Paul

Photo's from the 'Education Conversations' final event last month



Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes Univ,
Professor Saleem Badat



Graeme Bloch, Education Officer
at the DBSA and author



Colleagues enjoying a meal together after the function

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"Page 3" Profiles - getting to know each other



'Ya-Ya' Carmel with her first granddaughter, Safiyya (pronounced "Sa-fee-ya") Mahomed.

CONGRATULATIONS!



RETIREMENT TEA PARTY!

Delene's mom, Daphne Hiscock (second right) and Tilla's husband, Eben Olivier (third right), both celebrated their retirement at a function held for staff on 12 November 2009.

Reasons to be Proud



Congratulations to Mark Farnham (2nd year B Ed FET) and his team who won Third Place at the recent National Innovation Competition awards function. Their submission, which is entitled "Smart Ball", won them R20,000 and the opportunity to compete nationally against other HEI's next year.

The National Innovation Competition (NIC) is the Innovation Fund's competition for promoting technological innovations at South Africa's Higher Education Institutions (HEI's). The Competition aims to promote entrepreneurship among the youth through commercialization of students' technological inventions facilitated by a business plan.

Students were required to submit a 10 page business plan, including a financial forecast. The top three teams from the NMMU will go through to the national phase next year, where they will compete against other HEI's in the country.



The Team, from left, **Mark**, Mawande Mendu (Team Leader) and Vuyokazi Mendu here with Professor Thokozile Mayekiso (DVC RTI) and Jacqueline Barnett (Director: Innovation Support & Technology Transfer)

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Strategic Retreat 10 & 11 November 2009

Twenty-two members of the Extended Faculty Management Committee attended a Strategic Retreat at The Plantation, just outside Port Elizabeth, on the Sardinia Bay Road.

This Retreat was guided skillfully and sensitively by experienced facilitator, Ilze Olckers. Over the two days she successfully held the tensions between being operational and relational, dealing with past and future issues and focusing on both process and outcomes. The participants experienced a range of strategies to help them connect to their context, work holistically / transformationally, connect to their practice and plan the way forward. These strategies included journaling and freedom writing as well as various forms of conversations: *courageous, café, agreement and commitment*.

Particularly pertinent to the designing of a new structure were the Café Conversations in which members interacted freely at a number of tables, each of which posed one of the following questions:

- Q1: Do we need Schools? If yes, which and why?
- Q2: Do we need Departments? If yes, which and why?
- Q3: Do we need Programme Coordinators? If yes, where and why?
- Q4: CERTI: What is its role? How might we have a new vision of its role? Where?
- Q5: Core Cross-Cutting Committees to create and maintain Coherence? Which?

In the closing session, participants were invited to spend a few minutes 'looking beyond everything they knew' and to describe the view they saw. These 'beautiful dreams' or 'magnificent views' were read aloud as 'gifts' in the closing session of the Retreat. One such sharing follows:

THE FACULTY ORCHESTRA

A symphonic sound of great beauty -
facilitated by the eliciting hand of the conductor
who knows what beauty can be produced
because the vision is clear, the score is written
and the players give of their best –
not in competitiveness,
but in listening to one another,
blending,
and enjoying being part of a greater whole –
a serving and beauty-creating community.

~ Submitted by Bill