

News & Updates

February Edition

HUBS

What is this thing called a HUB?

hubs, hives, incubators
a starting place for new life,
a place to hatch
then
busy as bees, beautiful as butterflies,
able to fly
finding own resources, growing up
giving back, asking new why's?

but on another track
wheels and axles, all aligned?
staying grounded, in touch with what's real
while keeping it all going round and round

yet other views
a safe place
a place to grow
a place to initiate
a place to innovate
with room to make mistakes
a sharing space,
common interests in a common space
a space to become, a space to be,
a space to see what before we didn't see
a bounce, a spark, a shadow, a doubt
What is this thing called a hub?

Let's continue to find out?

~ Denise

Already the first brainstorming session (12th February 2010) has generated LOTS of discussion, and great enthusiasm. Some of the questions / concerns / issues / thoughts raised at this first meeting include:

Is it/will it be **compulsory** to belong to a hub?

creativity

how **many members**
must be in a hub?

Structure?
formal/rigid vs informal/loose?

not a **ONE** size fits all

Planning is vital

How will we be given the space / time
to **set** these up?

Boundaries?

what ideas **currently** exist for
creation of a hub?

How will a **hub** be
formed/constituted?

align **passion** with **need**

Financing?

aligned where in faculty structure?

how
are faculty
external
people going to be
involved?

emerge vs impose

Visit the [g/drive/HUBS/...](#) for meeting minutes, notes, ppt docs & readings of interest

news & updates continued

Conference News



Tilla and Muki (now from the NWU) attended the **World Universities Forum** in Davos, Switzerland from 9-11 January 2010 to present a paper called *A Comprehensive University: Constructing an organizational identity*. The presentation was well attended and received a lot of attention and feedback.

The conference brought to the forefront the relevant debates concerning education and related research projects at universities across the globe. The gathering of scholars, practitioners and administrators from different continents and countries created an environment conducive to the rethinking of learning and education, and the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and skills. The conference presented an outstanding scientific programme, covering several aspects of University education.

And, as can be seen from the photos, their snow experiences were also thoroughly enjoyed!



On the Road ... to the Transkei

Thanks to the capable tour-guiding provided by Neville, I was afforded the opportunity recently to see part of the Transkei region up close and personal. The scenery of course is amazing, with beautiful green hills rolling on for miles. But it is the people of the Transkei that made the trip a memorable one: learners, educators, and centre tutors. Small communities perched on hilltops give a hint of the challenges these citizens face daily, from transporting water to making their way on foot to school and town.



We visited 4 schools on Thursday and Friday, both primary and secondary. I appreciated the chance to see the conditions under which so many of our rural educators must work to educate the next generation. They were amazed to hear that I too live in a very rural part of America! It is of course one thing to hear about class sizes of 50 or more, but quite another to see 120 secondary learners in one classroom! As we prepare our NMMU pre-service educators, it is important that we are able to help them plan for environments that will likely have too many learners and too few resources. It also is critical that we continue to advocate for more adequate provisioning of South African schools, particularly in the rural areas. When we engaged with these learners, it was clear that many of them were eager to learn: it is the environment that eventually dims many of those lights of hope one sees in the eyes of primary learners.

On Saturday we visited our NPDE centre in Bizana, where we found full classes of older educators seeking to upgrade their original preparation. While there, I had the opportunity to visit and chat with a couple of our tutors about what they do in their classes. The support provided by Neville and his team is so critical in providing consistency in our programs across the miles. While observing classes, I realized that all of us are challenged by the task of enriching the perspectives of current teachers who work hard all week and then come to our classes in the evening or on the weekend. The challenges associated with ongoing teacher development and support are incredibly important... and difficult.

Thanks, Neville and Alette, for making this trip possible. I have learned so much, and it will indeed inform the remainder of my time here at our PE campuses. ~ Eileen Raymond

Learn@NMMU
Faculty of Education

On the 16th February, we reached an all time high **hit count** on LEARN: **10 869!**
If you are not yet part of the 'on line revolution' but are keen to get started... come & see me (Jackie H)

the love in our lives
begins with us *louise hay*

news & updates continued

Where are they now?



Mr **Eugene Marais**, PGCE 2008, is at Victoria Park High teaching English, Mathematical Literacy and Mathematics. He is viewed by his colleagues as a “fine, well spoken young gentleman”.

He is an enthusiastic cricket and soccer coach as well as a supporting member of VP staff at their MAD meetings.

Eugene is engaged to Jessica Davis (pictured left).



R van der Merwe (left), B Ed IP 2009 class, is also at VP teaching Mathematics and Accounting.

He is quickly becoming known for the motto: ‘wie nie leer nie, kom nie deur nie!’

Research Seminar **Theoretical and Practical Guidelines for Getting Published**
(Larry D. Yore & Sharyl A. Yore)

Earlier this month, CERTI was privileged to host Larry and Shari Yore, editors for the *International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education*.



On 8 February, the knowledgeable duo from the University of Victoria, Canada, facilitated a workshop entitled, “Writing to Become a Member of the Mathematics and Science Education Discourse Communities: Bridging the Gap between Authors and Readers.”

During this workshop, postgrad students and staff had the opportunity to gain valuable insight on the theoretical and practical guidelines for getting published. For those of you who missed the workshop, be sure to check out the Yore’s presentation and literature on the faculty g/drive/research seminars/... ~ Mary-Grace

Interested in evolution? Or how learners talk about evolution? If so, don't miss Clas Olander's (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) research tea and discussion on Monday, 1 March, 09h00 – 10h30 in the Umveleni Room. Hope to see you there!

Butler's School Supplies

An exhibition of teaching aids and display material will be set out in the **Resource Centre** on 1st March 2010 from 10h00 – 14h00.

Butler's School Supplies is a new PE based family business catering to the needs of both learners and teachers from grade 1 – 12.

Many of the items available will relieve you of the hours taken up in making up your own material. Most of the material is available in both English and Afrikaans. ~ Lilda

THONTSI SAYS:

YOU can play an important part in saving water by using these water saving tips in your home:

- Turn the tap off while: brushing teeth/shaving/washing
- Use a glass of water to rinse when brushing teeth
- Share a bath. Let young children share a bath
- Shower instead of bathing
- Use bathwater to water gardens/ grass
- Use watering cans instead of buckets/hoses
- Close taps
- Replace leaking washers
- Wash fruit/vegetables using a bowl and not a tap
- Store drinking water in the fridge instead of using a tap
- Rinse dishes in the sink not under a tap
- Place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water

Welcome!

I would like to welcome **Mr Sikhumbuzo Nofemele** to the Faculty and, more specifically, to the ITE School.

Sikhumbuzo officially joined us on Monday 01 February as both Lecturer and Site-based Learning Coordinator. He has taught for 28 years, spending the last 12 of those as the Principal of Lungisa High.

I wish him all the best and trust that all of us will contribute in making the transition bearable. ~ Noluthando

Skura can be found in office 06 00 03 and his telephone extension is 4661.