

July Re-visioning Workshop

The 2nd workshop in the **Faculty Re-visioning Process** took place this month at the South End Museum, a fitting venue for this journey. It was great to have so many staff members attend these two busy days - 53 on Thursday and 47 on Friday! And, although a lot of work took place over the two days, so did a lot of laughter, sharing and fun.

The next workshop is only scheduled to take place in November - but in the meantime don't forget about your 'homework'...



Above from left: Clyde, Shervani, Carmel, Denise, Michelle, Mpumie & Andre



Sylvan elaborates a point with Paul, Hugh, Skura, Margie, Pam, Ntosh & Tulsi



Basheera, Marinda, Johan listen keenly; Christo and Alette take notes



Cordelia talks from the heart; here with Bill & Les



An animated Noluthando shares with Raj, Pat, Tobeka, , Darrilyn & Ridaa

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THEM?

In the photograph below are two people who knew each other in 1977!
& both attended the July Faculty Re-Visioning workshop.
Hint: they are next to each other ... (see pg 4)



Mid year training in Mthatha

The NPDE team undertook the bi-annual TUTOR TRAINING during the recess. This event usually happens in Port Elizabeth, but as a cost-saver it was moved to Mthatha for the first time (cheaper to move 10 people to Mthatha than 50 to Port Elizabeth!). The training facilities at Triset, set up by local contact, **Douglas Meth**, were extremely well suited to our needs. Our appreciation to **Tulsi Morar** and **Bronwyn Moyes** (Off-Campus Unit) for the excellent travel and accommodation arrangements made.

The NPDE Module Coordinators in attendance were **Dumsa Femele** (Assessment 11), **Joe Slingers** (Professionalism in Education 11), **Cordelia Mazomba** (HIV & Aids Education) and **Neville Rudman** (Teaching Practice – an RPL module). The Tutors were from Qumbu, Kokstad, Lusikisiki and Mbizana. Local (Missionvale) Tutors were trained on a separate occasion. **Logan Athiemoolam** and **Nokhanyo Mayaba** were also present to train ACE (LLT) modules.

It was good to have the Administrative Staff in attendance as well, as this gave them to opportunity to meet many of the people with whom they interact telephonically on a daily basis. **Basheera Brooks** (ACE), **Chantalle Naidoo** (NPDE) and **'Ntosh Yamile** (B Ed Hons) made excellent contributions to the Centre Managers' meeting which was held during the morning on Saturday. It was also good to have **Nolundi Fumba** with us to deal with a variety of examination issues.

We did not just work, though, and much fun was had along the way. Great company, food and accommodation ensured an excellent vibe at training. Providing most of the focus throughout the weekend, though, was trying to find husbands for 'Ntosh & Basheera. We were, however, not successful this time 'round!

We look forward to another successful NPDE semester as we contribute to teacher development in far-off places.



Chantalle, 'Ntosh, Bronwyn & Basheera at the EL beachfront



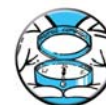
A very animated Cordelia guiding some very attentive Tutors



Dumsa telling the Tutors of the big challenge that lies ahead



Neville at breakfast on Sunday, recovering from a tough weekend



The World Cup has been... and gone, all too quickly! But, in a bid to "keep the flag flying" and maintain the "gees" of the WC, *Football Fridays* are to be replaced by *Value Fridays*, in recognition of NMMU's new values.

We begin with *Diversity Fridays* (August is Diversity Month)... Submit your ideas for celebrating Diversity Fridays to the SOAPBOX (on the staff portal)



International Project on Teddy Diaries

Since September 2009 Tilla, Naydene and Johanna, in collaboration with Prof Claudia Mitchell from McGill University, Canada, have been gathering data in the Langkloof for the **International Project on Teddy Diaries: Textual Display of Children's Everyday Lives**.

At the beginning of June Johanna and Claudia travelled to Scandinavia for a research visit to represent the South African team at a workshop organised and sponsored by Oslo University College. The other workshop participants were: Prof Marit Halidar, Oslo University College, Norway project leader and responsible guardian of the first 'original' data set collected from two suburban areas of Oslo Norway (2004-2006), Prof Randi Wærdahl, University of Oslo, Norway, responsible guardian of the Chinese data set, initiated and collected in Beijing, China (2006), and Prof Eréndira Rueda, Vassar College, NY, USA, responsible guardian of the American data set, initiated and collected in Hudson Valley, New York (2010-2011).



Attending the workshop in Sweden: (front) Profs Prof Randi Wærdahl, University of Oslo and Marit Halidar, Oslo University College, (back) Claudia Mitchell from McGill University, Canada, Johanna Geldenhuys, from NMMU and Eréndira Rueda, Vassar College, NY, USA.

The intention of the work shop was for all partners of the 'Teddy diary project' to come together for the first time to share data, evaluate the quality and comparability of the data sets, plan the project collaboration for the future and start identifying the analytic strands to pursue.

Johanna, Claudia and Eréndira arrived in Oslo on Saturday June 5th and after a city tour departed for the workshop site in Haga, Sweden the next day. The workshop started with a dinner and get-to-know each-other evening since it was the first time that all five participants met. Starting the work-shop with a chance to get to know each other socially worked very well and set a good tone for the work sessions to follow.

Johanna and Claudia presented the context and the gathering process of the South African material and Eréndira did the same for the US data. There was an exchange of material and everyone was given due time to read through or sample read from the material and to summarize their impressions and discuss possible problem statements and comparative potential. The ideas were plentiful and creative. The issues on how to use and share data were thoroughly discussed, and a letter of agreement was drafted and signed by all parties.

On Thursday, 10 June, all the participants returned to Oslo by car, stopping for lunch in the fortified town of Fredrikstad. The intensity of talk and exchange during travel and lunch was a good sign that the discussions at this workshop were the beginnings of a well-functioning group. As this workshop was a little out of the ordinary – close to a 'research lock-in' – it seemed to be a fruitful way to intensify discussion and really get to know research colleagues in a short period of time.



~ Johanna

Research Briefs

INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION UNIT (ICEDU)

A unit for research and engagement activities that are related to intercultural education was recently established. The objectives of the unit are to:

1. Contribute towards awareness and improvement of intercultural development for University staff and students as well as members of the community, nationally and internationally
2. Provide opportunities for staff and students, initially at the NMMU and later also nationally and internationally, to become involved in research and developmental projects in intercultural education
3. Raise the profile of the Faculty and the University, initially through research and subsequently also through community engagement in intercultural education

Reminder:

PLANNING MEETING (with an aim to developing a framework for unit activities) on **Monday, 2 August 2010 from 1100 – 1200, venue TBC.**

~ Nonnie

RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Don't forget... First seminar:
27 August, 1430 – 1600,
Umvelani Room, South
Refreshments will be provided.

~ Naydene

'Proudly South African' at the XVIII International AIDS 2010 conference in Vienna

... away with beetroot and lemons!

What a relief to be able to feel "proudly South African" at the recent conference in Vienna! South Africa, as host for the 2010 FIFA world cup, has been the focus of attention of the world and "the fever" was still lingering at the conference in Vienna. This was evident from the many plenary speakers encouraging the South African government to continue the change of approach to HIV and AIDS using the same gusto, commitment and funding that it had during FIFA world cup. The Minister of Health, Dr Motsoaledi, did us proud by clearly indicating that the government was committed to this new change of direction of approaching HIV, and by pointing out all the successes we have had. I felt more proud when the findings from the CAPRISA 004 trials on microbicides from University of KwaZulu-Natal were presented and which indicated a 39% success rate in preventing HIV infection. Although this requires further research and more funding, it is a great step towards enabling women to take up their "rights" and allowing them to make decisions about safe sex and their own health.

The theme of the conference, "Rights here, right now" - and in the context of countries cutting their contribution to the Global Fund - had Bill Clinton argue for more money to be invested "right now" in order to avoid greater expenses around caring and supporting infected persons in the future. Bill Gates argued for innovative prevention methods and highlighted circumcision as one such method. He referred to Swaziland, and how it was taking the circumcision approach seriously, as currently the country has a life expectancy 32 years. Other plenary sessions addressed issues around advances in ART treatment; managing patents; vertical transmission; positive health, dignity and prevention; HIV, drug policy and harm reduction; universal access to treatment; violence against women; "rights" issues, to mention a few.

The conference always has a strong activism aspect to it. Seeing many protest marches for rights around various issues, such as Treatment Right Now; banks paying a 'Robin Hood tax'; taking HIV action in Eastern Europe; releasing two medical doctors (brothers) who were imprisoned in Iran; access to housing; needle substitution; the rights of sex workers; the rights of men having sex with men, and so on. A big march for rights saw thousands of conference participants take to the lovely streets of Vienna with placards, whistles, vuvuzelas and colourful t-shirts with various slogans, culminating with a concert by the singer and AIDS activist, Annie Lennox. Our YAHANET (Youth, Arts and HIV AIDS Network team) also participated in the march for rights (see *photograph alongside*).



The 25 000 delegates from all over the world participated in both the Youth Pre-conference (YouthForce) and the main Conference. Plenary sessions, parallel sessions, poster sessions, workshops, and symposia allowed for much sharing of research. The Global Village allowed for various organizations to showcase their work, ranging from the support of orphans, working with women, and working with youth. YAHANET – the booth we (Claudia Mitchell, Katie MacEntee, John Murray and Lucas Labacher – all from McGill University Canada and Naydene from NMMU) set up – showcased a webtool for youth for arts and HIV (www.yahanet.org) – and provided the conference delegates with an insight into a visual arts-based tool, using photographs to put a "rights message" across. We used a set of four simple instructions: (1) use your hands to show a message about the conference theme "rights here, right now"; (2) take a photograph of your hand(s) with a digital camera; (3) have the photograph printed on the spot with a portable printer; and (4) write your message on the photograph. The messages, written by delegates from all over the world and in many languages (English, French, Russian, Japanese...) spoke of a range of issues: "Join hands to make a difference", "Inequality sucks" and "Make it happen!" The photo messages were displayed in the booth all week. The set of more than 250 photo messages will be uploaded onto the YAHANET website and will extend the usage of the webtool. This participatory arts-based work drew many positive comments!

The XVIII International AIDS Conference was focused around six tracks, i.e. basic science; clinical sciences; epidemiological and prevention services; social and behavioural sciences; economics, operations, research, care and health systems; and policy, law, human rights and political science. This on the one hand highlighted the importance of the biomedical aspect of HIV and AIDS and how treatment is seen as prevention, and clearly requesting the up scaling of ARVs. On the other hand the notion of a combined approach of the biomedical, behavioural and structural aspects in the fight against HIV and AIDS was argued for in one of the plenary sessions. The conference was dominated by the biomedical community and in my assessment the conference needs a louder voice from the social sciences - and education in particular. Hence, there is certainly a need for a larger representation from the education community if we are to ever bring about much needed social change. ~ Naydene

[Answer: the Teacher is ... **Johanna Geldenhuys**; and **Ilze Olikers** is the pupil seated to her right! *Thanks for sharing, Johanna*]