

# NEWS

 October Edition

## ACE School Leadership

# Improving our Schools: Mini Conference

A wide range of school improvement projects was competently presented at the recent Mini-Conference held at Missionvale Conference Centre on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October. On this occasion, the 19 presenters were all local in-service educators (principals and senior teachers) who are all registered as 1<sup>st</sup> year students on the ACE (School Leadership) programme. The conference was attended by district officials from Bisho, namely Mr Vazi, Mr Manzi and Mr Mconcywa, who were impressed with the standard of the presentations and indicated that funding would be made available for more students in 2011 who intend to register for the ACE School Leadership programme.

The day's proceedings were compiled and coordinated by **Dr Logan Athiemoolam**, chaired by **Dr Johann McFarlane** and administered by **Ms Basheera Brooks**. The theme of the conference was *'Managing schools in a changing world'*.

At the end of the day, after certificates were awarded to each of the presenters, the occasion ended on a 'high note!' with a sing-a-long (led by Prof Bill Holderness) which celebrated the wide variety of school improvement topics undertaken by the presenters.



Participating principals and senior teachers pictured with Logan, Johan & Bill

*Today we heard what we can do  
To address basic needs, me and you  
Fixing window panes and toilets too  
By Adoons, Fuma and Citashe too.*

*Chris Nazer's project was on the library  
And promoting reading was done by three  
Gcobisa Blouw en die Prinsloo Twee  
And furniture was obtained by Mzoli (Maarman)*

*Then there were projects on technology  
How things have changed, goodness gracious me  
Ludiwe Dingiswayo promoted I C T  
And Internet Access by Mrs Ntamesi*

*Others who worked on technology  
Were Fezile Xaluva & Apollis January Our schools  
have so much electronic gadgetry  
No wonder that they suffer so much burglary*

*But Edwin Draghoener's can deal with burglary  
His project tackled vandalism in the school  
And for Marius Kleyn cellphone technology  
Might even be regarded as a learning tool!*

*Now why are learners often so naughty?  
Shaun Rensburg went deeper than to say they're lazy  
Rod Kleinbooi addressed the issue of absentee  
And Nomkhaya Maneli of the school bully*

*This makes us want to help the poor family  
So Namhla Madolwana looked at vulnerability  
Nokuzela Jindela went beyond her boundary  
In adopting another school without a fee*



**Petro Meiring** (third from left) with her Afrikaans Method students at their recent forum, held to discuss their research project on the interpretations of prescribed Matric 2011 Afrikaans poems.

# NEWS

## Qumbu Outreach Programme

During the course of the year when Nokhanyo Mayaba and Logan Athiemoolam visited the Qumbu centre where the ACE-LLT programme was being offered, they observed that a number of high school learners were milling around the schools. Logan suggested that perhaps they could offer matric intervention classes to assist these matriculants. They jointly agreed that this would be a noble gesture to the community, since the students registered for the ACE-LLT programme were teachers from the region.

In order to implement the initiative Logan contacted the centre manager, Yolisa Dudula, and inquired whether it would be possible to undertake such an outreach programme and what her views were. Yolisa was visibly impressed and indicated that she would be prepared to inform the respective schools and make the necessary arrangements. The principals from the schools in the region were very supportive and informed their learners about the initiative.

Logan and Nokhanyo decided to prepare students for the English first additional literature examination, with Logan opting to prepare all the prescribed poems, whilst Nokhanyo prepared the short stories. A group of about 30 matriculants from the surrounding schools attended the intervention classes on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. These classes could not have come at a more opportune time especially as the teacher strikes had a negative impact on learners' progress during the term.

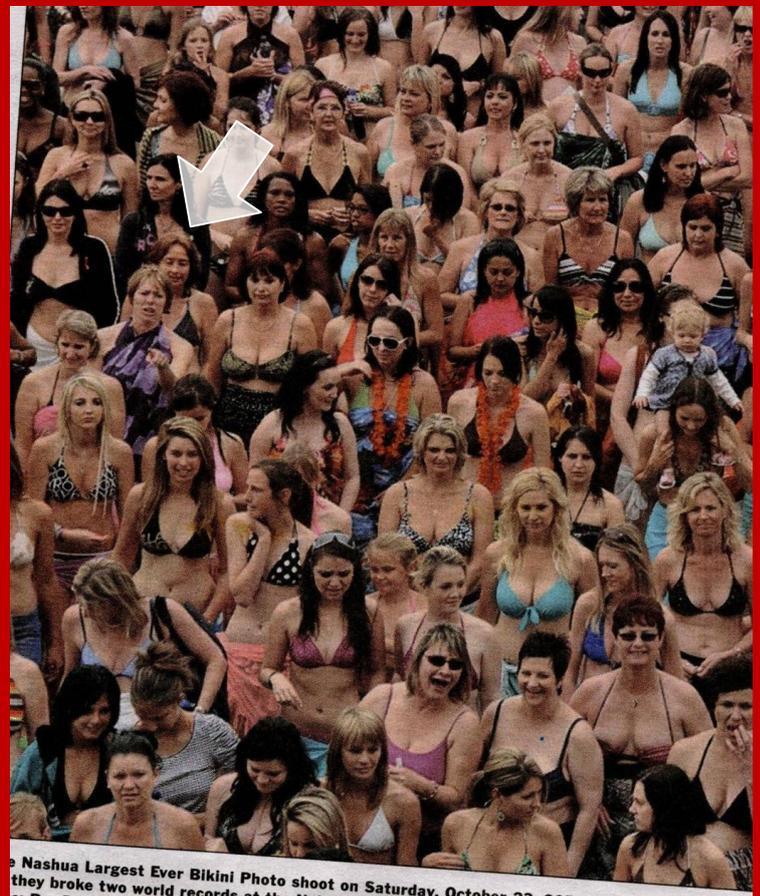
Both the matriculants and Yolisa were very appreciative of the support programme and thanked the lecturers for their efforts to assist them. The learners indicated that they had benefited substantially by attending since they were exposed to matric questions for the first time and had acquired a better understanding of the short stories and poems. Yolisa expressed hope that the programme continues and that it not only focuses on matriculants, but also on grade 10's. Future initiatives in the area would include assistance to teachers to improve their skills in literature teaching by introducing them to other approaches such as drama-in-education and co-operative learning.

It is heartening to note that a number of very dedicated colleagues in the Faculty of Education expressed their desire to be part of the initiative in the future. The team will keep you informed about future ventures which aim to include other outlying areas such as Bizana and Lusikisiki where the ACE-LLT programme will be offered in 2011.



Logan with a group of the Qumbu matriculants

*So, did you brave the weather and don your bikini for the CANSA Bikini Shoot, 23 October? Well, **someone** in our faculty did!*



Nashua Largest Ever Bikini Photo shoot on Saturday, October 23. 905 ladies they broke two world records at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

# NEWS

## Drama in Education

A group of visitors from Oldenburg University and Trainers for Drama in Education & Youth Work recently held a series of workshops at the Faculty and in local communities on drama methods in teaching

The group of Trainers for *Drama in Education and Youth Work* (Wienke Dörfler, Karin Fuhrmann, Gabi Morgen, Jörg Kowollik and Maike Stach) together with Kilian Köbrich from the *Centre for South-North Cooperation in Educational Research and Practice* at Oldenburg University visited the Faculty of Education during October.

They held a workshop on *Drama-Methods in Teaching* and enjoyed an inspiring Workshop delivered on *Drama in HIV and AIDS Education* and *Visual Methodologies in Research* with Monde Wani (well known actor from PE), Dr. Logan Athiemoolam and Prof. Naydene de Lange. The group (esp. Jörg Kowollik) also conducted a workshop on *Drama-Methods in Youth and Social Work* with 17 actors, musicians and community activists who work with children and adolescents in townships all over the Metropole.

This proved to be a very intensive and stimulating experience for all who were involved and perhaps will lead to a new field of activity in the cooperation that already exists between our two Universities. ~ Kilian Koebrich, Oldenburg University



Dinner at Prof Zinn's house;  
catching up after a day of workshops

## Sanpad Research Capacity Initiative (RCI) programme



I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the NMMU Research Capacity Development office (RCD) and the Faculty of Education for giving me the opportunity to be part of the Sanpad Research Capacity Initiative (RCI) programme. The RCI programme is an intensive research methodology course which is implemented over seven weeks during the period of the year. During this period, PhD students are mentored, coached, supported and guided on how to write their proposals.

Meeting other PHD students from different South African Universities, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania was an experience that cannot be easily forgotten. I hope I will be able to pass on to others the research skills that have been inculcated to me throughout the programme. ~ Nokhanyo Mayaba

**Good Luck!** to all the Education students for their upcoming exams



## Research Briefs

### SEMINAR SERIES



October's seminar drew on one of our newly graduated PhD colleagues, **Dr**

**Raj Kurup**, who shared with us not only his work, but also some reflections on his doctoral journey. The title of his presentation was "*Impact of an INSET programme (BED - NMMU) on teachers' views of the Nature of Science*".

### ONE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

Our very own Prof **Naydene de Lange**, HIV/Aids Research Chair (Faculty of Education), will be delivering her PROFESSORIAL INAUGURAL LECTURE in November. The title of her lecture will be: "*Researching to make a difference in the age of AIDS*". Lets show our support!

Details:

Monday, 15 November 2010 from 17:30 at the Conference Centre, North Campus.

**Gish** begins her maternity leave at the end of October. We wish her well and trust she will enjoy her time with the newest addition to their family. But, we will miss you!



# NEWS

The importance of inter-country exchanges

## Visiting Dar-es-Salaam and Oldenburg

In September, I travelled with Profs Denise Zinn and Lesley Wood to Tanzania to take part in tri-partite meeting of academics from the University of Dar-es-Salaam (UDSM), the NMMU and the University of Oldenburg (UOL). Also present were Dr Christa Haendle (UOL) and Dr Kitila Mkumbo (UDSM) and Mr Kilian Koebrich (UOL) who both visited the NMMU recently. Amongst other things we discussed how the South-South agreement between the NMMU and UDSM could play itself out within the field of HIV & AIDS Education and Research. We also discussed how HIV & AIDS education could be integrated by teacher-educators into the university curriculum. Furthermore, we explored what HIV & AIDS materials could be used in teacher training at UDSM, as it has elected to introduce HIV & AIDS into its programmes. We all agreed that a key challenge is to create opportunities for collaboration that will not only benefit individuals, but will also lead to faculty development. Hence, the key focus of the tri-partite alliance is exchange in teaching, curriculum and module development.

Dr Mkumbo ensured that we saw something of Dar-es-Salaam in the evening and also enjoy Indian and African cuisine. Dar-es-Salaam has a perfect stretch of coast with white sand and azure blue seas, lovely markets and the most hectic rush hour traffic! There is a possibility of UDSM hosting a conference at nearby Zanzibar in September 2011! The focus will be HIV and AIDS.

After the meeting in Tanzania, I flew to via Amsterdam to Oldenburg in Germany to spend a week visiting the Education Department at the University of Oldenburg. I was hosted by Prof Wolfgang Nitsch; energetic, enthusiastic, wise and witty. I was treated to a walking tour through the older part of Oldenburg, with Prof Wolfgang as guide. Other activities included observing a Drama and Theatre Education Programme where 15 junior school learners presented a play which they had developed. I also observed Jorg Kowollik working with a group of senior learners. I visited a vocational high school, similar to our FET colleges, where I observed two lessons, utilizing participatory teaching and learning methodologies. The Resource Centre at the University, which houses Teaching Boxes created by students, around subject themes such as air, magnetism, to mention a few, go out on loan when teachers require them. From an HIV perspective I was interested in Teaching Boxes around the themes of sexuality, death and dying, and so on. I also visited the Helene Lange Comprehensive School (they have an exchange partnership with Westville High, Gelvandale Secondary School and Lawson Brown), observed a Science lesson and also met with teacher Christa Beime. We discussed the existing school-school partnership and how it could be strengthened.

A farewell dinner at the Alibaba Restaurant with Prof Nitsch and Petra Schwarzer (a teacher of English in another Vocational School) concluded a busy, but happy time in Oldenburg. I came away realizing the importance of inter-country exchanges in building networks and friendships, and extending the horizons of staff and students through mutual learning. I am very grateful for the opportunity provided to me to spend time at UDSM and at the University of Oldenburg.

Although of German descent, I cannot speak German! Thus a challenging part of the visit was the use of German at most of the meetings. This required Prof Nitsch to act as translator, infusing his own sense of fun into the translation! I also realized that there is only one thing to be afraid of in Oldenburg... Cyclists in the bicycle lane on the pavement!

~ Naydene



Dar-es-Salaam Back, from left: Prof Naydene de Lange, Dr Christa Haendle, Mr Kilian Koebrich and Dr Kitila Mkumbo. Front, from left: Prof Denise Zinn and Prof Lesley Wood