

NEWS

February 2011

Tapping into staff and student creative talents and skills

FUN EXTRAVAGANZA!

The staff-student fun day, held as part of the conclusion of the 2011 First Year Orientation, proved to be an unforgettable and exhilarating experience for all involved... participants and spectators! First year Education students, guided by their *How2* student leaders, were tasked to put together short 10 minute sketches incorporating song, dance, music, rap, etc that would be performed at the extravaganza. Not to be outdone, Logan lobbied staff to put together an act incorporating an Adam Small skit, as well as singing some 'golden oldies'.

The faculty staff ensemble performed first; kicking off with Logan and Darrylin's hilarious and scintillating performance in the Adam Small sketch, which virtually brought the house down, and followed by rousing renditions of 'Country Road', 'My Way' and 'Daar kom die Alibama'. Sindi then took the floor and got the whole crowd singing 'Shosholozu' and Miriam Makeba's 'Click Song' – rousing stuff indeed! The first years then took the stage, presenting in their groups with their *How2* leaders. We were entertained! Skits... poetry... song... dance...



"The day was an absolutely awesome and unforgettable experience for all of us and, for me personally, it is a day that will be indelibly imprinted on my memory for years to come. We had such a fun-filled day that we all left exhilarated and enriched by the experience," remembers Logan. Everyone participated in the true spirit of having fun and, in leaving the function, felt rejuvenated, revitalised and inspired.

Acknowledgements and praise in particular to Lucretia (2nd year B Ed student and *How2* leader), Logan and Marinda for their organising. And, to our staff cast: Carmel, Marrison, Annaline, Heloise, Darrylyn, Issa, Helena, Robin, Laetitia, Sindi, Lawrence and, last but not least, Charles. Thanks also all staff and students who gave their support in the audience. "It is amazing how music has the power to bring people together and to uplift our spirits!" -Logan.

PGCE Orientation Camp 2011

The PGCE Orientation Session for 2011 was held at the Xanadu/Melodi Clubhouse on South Campus. Seventy prospective students attended the orientation, of which 67 students ultimately registered for the PGCE qualification.

Students were registered at the orientation and they were introduced to the various aspects and requirements of the PGCE programme in an inter-active way. Reflection on the evaluation forms completed by the students on the last day of the orientation reveal that the students benefitted from their orientation experience and gained the necessary insight to tackle the programme with confidence.



The photo alongside shows some of the students attending a session facilitated by Mrs Carmel Mahomed.

This annual event is one of the highlights of the PGCE qualification and definitely adds to the high pass rate of students enrolled for this qualification. ~(Dr) Christina Jordaan, PGCE: HoP

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Oldenburg experiences

Excerpts from Cordelia Mazomba and Thandi Hlam's exchange experiences in Oldenburg during January 2011

CORDELIA MAZOMBA

My visit to Oldenburg University in Germany was an eye-opening life experience that helped me to see things differently for the better. I am able to share with my student teachers how best they can develop their learners to think creatively, to take control of their learning through exposing learners to variety of activities and to equip them with effective problem solving skills. I also saw the importance of a learner centred approach.

I was touched by the way the German government is taking responsibility in compulsory education for all, from kindergarten to tertiary education. Learners and students get bus and train tickets which are incentive for all school going children. Those that cannot make it to tertiary education are channelled to vocational schools for skills development programmes.

Having met the wonderful team (Prof. Wolfgang Nitsch, Killian Koebrich, Malve, Tina Serve, Dr. Ben Khumalo-Seegelken) and experienced their hospitality, I am motivated to ensure that I help our international visitors and make them feel at home. We were even invited to an international photo shoot programme where we met students that come from different countries; it made me feel that one is never old to be educated. It also made me think of our country's young people and how can we make them see the importance of education.

I am now a changed person and I am looking forward to rise above everything to motivate young people to make sure they seize the opportunities and get educated. Through education one can have a voice, liberated from cultural oppression and be a change agent.



THANDI HLAM

During my stay in Germany, I participated in a number of activities such as school visits, Maths Education Seminars, Action Research Seminars, Meetings, Maths workshops, etc.



An experience that stands out for me is a mathematics workshop with GR teachers who teach emigrants' children with different home/1st languages. Due to their diverse backgrounds, learners in their classrooms are different in many ways: cultural differences; language differences; German is their additional language; and religious differences, etc.

Teachers at the workshop were given opportunities to share their classroom experiences. They were also advised or given suggestions on how to address challenges facing both individual teachers and learners in their respective classrooms. The facilitator, Angela, was not the only source of knowledge. Participants were encouraged to share as to how they handle similar challenges in their own classrooms.

Emphasis was put on the fact that mathematical terms have fixed definitions, while language used in daily life has an assortment of meanings. Thus articulation of words can be a problem. Learning environment is also important. A variety of activities should be used to build meaningful conceptual understandings.

According to Angela, a number of research findings advocates for building the learner's home language first, followed by 1st additional language, once the home language is developed. A number of research studies attest that children with high competency in both home language and 1st additional language are those who learn in the home language first. This resonated with me due to the current focus in FP on mother tongue language.

Grateful thanks to:

Prof D Zinn, Dr N Toni, & Prof N Botha for the opportunity to visit Oldenburg University

Prof W Nitsch and your entire team for planning and providing unforgettable experiences, not forgetting Killian for allowing us to use his personal skype account to be in contact with our families

WELCOME

Philile Lobese who is assisting in CERTI on various projects with Vernon and Paul. He is based at Missionvale Campus.

Mellanda Busolo, Naydene de Lange's new research assistant.

Asanda Mgongo our friendly receptionist at Missionvale and PA for BEd(SP) and ACE(MST) programmes.

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First inter-institutional SLP



A Short Learning Programme (SLP): **HIV and AIDS for Teachers - Introductory Course** was completed on earlier this month (8 - 9 February) when Dr James Lees and Prof T Vergnani from UWC presented their module to participants. The module focussed on personal awareness of

how the pandemic affects teachers and therefore what and how they teach around HIV.

The first module, *Improving teaching around HIV and AIDS*, was presented in August last year by Profs Lesley Wood, and masters student, Ms Melissa May. Prof Bill Holderness was also involved in the presentation and design of the module.

This is the first inter-institutional SLP offered by the Faculty. But, since the whole course is now registered at both institutions, it will be offered independently in the future.

MACAIDS Capstone Conference 2011

Prof Lesley Wood met up with four NMMU doctoral students, who are being promoted by Prof Naydene de Lange, at the recent MACAIDS Capstone Conference at the Victoria and Albert Waterfront in Cape Town.



(left to right) Thoko Mnisi, Cheryl Kader, Lesley Wood, Shomane Pillay and Fumane Khanare

The conference was attended by the MACAIDS Fellowship team from Columbia University, New York and UCLA, representatives from the HSRC (South African administrators of the programme) and from MACAIDS and HIVOS, as well as the fellows from the four cohorts that have completed their prevention projects.

Each fellow presented their project, as well as enjoying stimulating conversations around prevention of HIV.

The fellowship programme has now come to an end in its present form, but investigations are ongoing for a continuation under the auspices of the HSRC. The fellows from the four cohorts graduated and initiated a network for continued collaboration. Some of the fellows have been funded for continuation of their projects by HIVOS, so Prof Lesley Wood will be working together with teachers from the metro to foster gender equity in schools, under the banner of the *Masilingane Project*.

Briefs

Research Seminar Series 2011

The Dr Carol Rodgers presented at the first Faculty Research Seminar Series on 16th February. Her title, "From 'teaching as research' to 'researching teaching'".



Prof Naydene de Lange and Dr Raj Kurup (seminar series organisers) with Dr Carol Rodgers (right)

Collaborations with East Africa

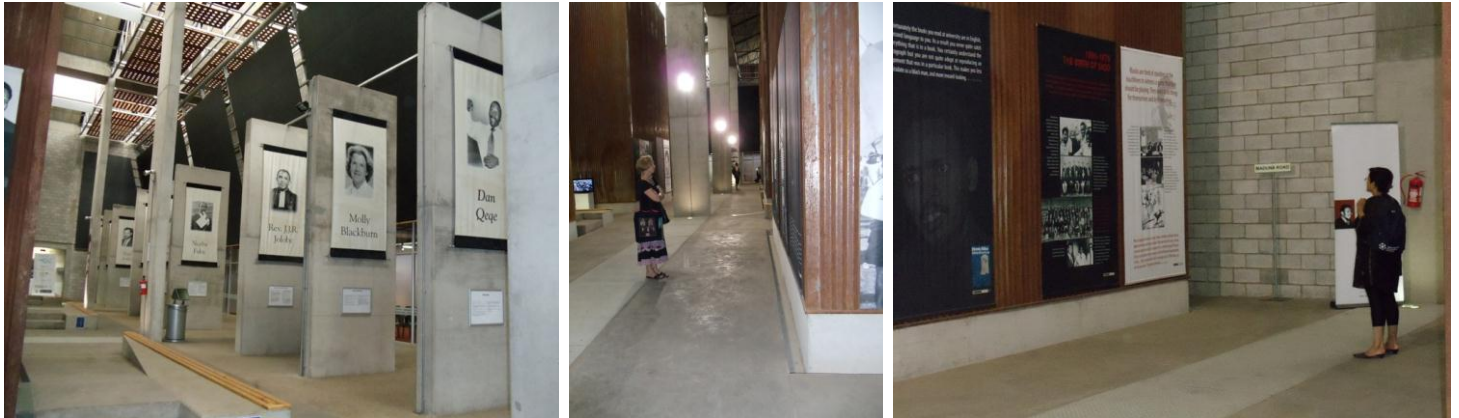


Profs N de Lange (middle) and L Wood (left) hard at work with a colleague from Dar Es Salaam, Dr K Mtembo (right), analysing drawings that were done by Masters students at the university of Dar Es Salaam during a workshop conducted by the NMMU delegation there last October. The data will be used to write three articles to be submitted to accredited journals.

This team is busy organising a conference in Zanzibar in September 2011, themed around HIV and AIDS in education. All NMMU faculty members will be notified when abstract submission is open.

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The 4th Faculty Re-visioning Workshop with Ilze Olckers – February 2011 Hosted at the Red Location Museum



The fourth faculty re-visioning workshop was held in early February at the Red Location Museum in New Brighton. The museum proved to be an appropriate space for the workshop, providing a moving experience for all who participated.



Café Conversations



... five tables, five topics, 20 minutes for each conversation ...