

# NEWS

June 2011

Year long revisioning journey yields inspirational faculty pathway aligned to NMMU V2020

## New Faculty Vision and Mission

The final re-visioning workshop in the series of five facilitated workshops was held in early June at the Missionvale VIP Lounge, and facilitated by Ilze Olckers. To mark the workshop as the final in this process, participants were able to journey through a 'memory room' which was populated with materials gathered during the previous workshops and included items such as poems, photographs, mind maps, quotes, cartoons and the like.

The Re-Visioning Journey, which the faculty has been collectively engaged in over the past year, yielded a clear and inspiring new Vision and Mission for the Faculty based on 'harvesting' from the past year of shared ideas, debates, passions, inspiration and commitment of all who participated in the journey. And, the majority of staff in the faculty has consistently and enthusiastically been involved.

The new Vision and Mission will inform the faculty's strategic direction going forward and its operational plans over the next few years, and aligns to the University's Vision 2020. A result of great team effort over the past year, Executive Dean, Prof Denise Zinn, acknowledged the staff commitment to the process, "Many thanks for your enthusiastic and committed participation, and I look forward to the continuation of our journey together as we seek to live our vision and mission in the faculty".

### The New Vision:

**To be a dynamic community of teachers, leaders and scholars in education, committed to creating a vibrant, socially just and democratic society.**

The **New Mission**, which captures how the faculty plans to work towards this vision:

### We are committed to cultivating

- **Passionate, engaged, knowledgeable, effective, and compassionate teachers, researchers, and leaders who are**
- **Critical thinkers, and**
- **Agents of hope, change, and social justice**

### Through

- **Practicing humanizing pedagogies,**
- **Establishing collaborative partnerships with relevant stakeholders, particularly students, schools, communities, alumni, and governments,**
- **Using future-oriented technologies creatively, and**
- **Bringing the classroom into the world and the world into the classroom**



Group work session in action



One on one discussions: Marinda and Vuks

During the workshop, the Dean also delivered a short presentation on her goals and vision pathway for the faculty which she had in mind when taking on the Deanship two years ago. Each Director of School (Dr Noluthando Toni, Prof Alette Delpont and Prof Nonnie Botha) also spent a few minutes each presenting their strategic goals and objectives for their respective schools.

Photo Gallery: <g:/drive/photo archive/Workshop Day 1 and 2>

Showcase of expertise, energy and enthusiasm

## First Faculty HUB Colloquium

A colloquium was held on Friday, 10 June 2011 at which the existing HUBs in the Faculty of Education could present an overview of their activities to date as well as their plans for the future.

The Dean, Professor Denise Zinn, welcomed all those present and gave an overview of how the HUBs came into being. Professor Nonnie Botha (Director of School for Education Research & Engagement) then presented a brief background and introduced the presenters. All of the registered HUBs were represented at the colloquium and, although the audience was relatively small (21 attendees), there was some lively participation and passionate discussion.

The participating HUBs and presenters were *Science Education* (Ms Elsa Lombard), *Mathematics Education* (Prof Hugh Glover and Dr Andre du Plessis), *Multi-Disciplinary Approach to School Improvement and Development* (Ms Ronette Wood), *Humanising Pedagogy* (Dr Carol Rodgers), *Improving Literacy for Grade 8 Senior Learners* (Prof Denise Zinn) and *Blended Learning* (Dr Leslie Meiring).



Dr Carol Rodgers presenting for the Humanising Pedagogy Hub



A very apt vote of thanks was given by Mr Vernon Naidoo (CERTI)

The *Humanising Pedagogy* HUB, who meets regularly and is quite active, as well as the *Blended Learning* HUB, who has a crucial role to play in the institution, have not yet been officially tabled at a Faculty Management Committee meeting. They intend to let this happen soon. The Faculty's seventh HUB, *Foundation Phase Teacher Education* with Dr Noluthando Toni as convenor, was established very recently.

"The variety, depth and extent of the individual HUB activities and envisaged plans for the future were quite an eye-opener in terms of the expertise, energy and enthusiasm in the Faculty. The mainly-untapped resource that is embodied in the HUBs was most definitely show-cased at this colloquium and everybody is looking forward to see the nature of their future developments", observed Prof Nonnie Botha.

It is envisaged that a similar occasion will take place towards the end of 2011, with this becoming an annual event.

### Taking project management to the extreme!



Potholes in Kirkwood township in front of Moses Mabida High School. Colleagues, Vernon Naidoo and Philile Lobese have to go super slow over and through these potholes to get to the various schools in the area as part of the DG Murray Trust Project.

### Presentation to the teachers of Sundays River Valley



The teachers and principals of the Sundays River Valley schools (Addo, Kirkwood and Paterson) listen attentively to a presentation on the DG Murray Project.

Project manager, Vernon Naidoo, commented, "The schools have really embraced the Project - we are even holding workshops during the school holidays. This is exciting! Thank you to the DoBE Uitenhage District for opening the doors for us."

## Locating the Social...

Colleagues, Ms Mathabo Khau and Prof Naydene de Lange (see the photo alongside), participated in the *Locating the Social: 1<sup>st</sup> International HIV Social Science and Humanities Conference* in Durban earlier this month (10-13 June 2011).

Naydene, Lesley Wood and Kitila Mkumbo read a paper, *Drawing AIDS: Tanzanian teacher perceptions*, and presented a poster, *Teachers don't know... what the drawings show*.

Mathabo presented "*We are also human...*" *Self-Study and autoethnography as tools for HIV research in the caring professions*.



## Values and Virtues Conference

Prof Lesley Wood and Ms Tobeka Mapasa attended the *Values and Virtues Conference* at York St John University in the beautiful city of York, United Kingdom, from 1-2 June.



From left: Prof Lesley Wood, Prof David Maughan-Brown (DVC Academic of York St John, ex-UCT) and Ms Tobeka Mapasa

Tobeka presented a paper on her doctoral thesis, for which she received many compliments. Her paper focussed on her values-based self-inquiry into her supervision of undergraduate students, a topic that resonated with many of the academics attending the conference. The living theory that she is busy developing will provide much needed insight into how we can improve our practices in this area.

Prof Wood presented a paper entitled "*Creating a living curriculum: an insider approach to curriculum development*".

## Eclipsing Expectations in Turkey

Sabancı University's School of Languages in the town of Tuzla on the outskirts of Istanbul in Turkey held its 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Language Education from the 2-4<sup>th</sup> of June. The conference was attended by 350 delegates from across the globe and included a number of papers presented by students' who reported on their own cognitive experiences during the processes of learning a second, and sometimes third, language.

**Dr Logan Athiemoolam** presented a paper at the conference entitled '*Using Drama-In-Education to Make Students' Voices Heard*' which showcased his action research project that demonstrated how students' inherent talents in drama, dance and music could be used to make their voices heard. The paper aimed to demonstrate how by tapping into the students' innate talents they could make remarkable progress both verbally and academically thereby unleashing their creative voices. The process of unleashing their creative voices eclipsed this lecturer's expectations, which was in keeping with the theme of the conference, *Eclipsing Expectations*. Logan's paper was very well received as many present had not yet experimented with creative approaches, but tended to use the traditional teacher centred approaches.

A highlight of the conference was the direct satellite link with Howard Gardner, Harvard University, who presented an inspiring, thought provoking paper on multiple intelligences, a field in which he is a prolific and leading exponent.



Logan (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) with fellow delegates in Turkey

## BRIEFS

### Research Seminar Series 2011

**Dr Chris Dali** presented at this month's research seminar, his topic being "*Relevance of emotional intelligence to develop the work-integrated learning competencies of school principals for collegial leadership*". His vibrant presentation explored the perceptions of urban, suburban, rural and farm school principals on the Advanced Certificate in Education: School Leadership (ACE SL) programme offered by the faculty. One of the recommendations of his research (i.e. to develop a WILCs model that could be utilised by professional development programmes to enhance collegial leadership) was also examined.

### Celebrating staff successes

**Logan Athiemoolam** completed his Honours in Psychology last year. Congratulations! He has also indicated his willingness to be available in assisting students who may need counselling.

**Marilyn Gibbs** is studying towards a MBA part-time and recently passed all three of her trimester 1 modules with distinctions. Marketing Management 89%, Accounting 93% and Quantitative Statistical Methods 79%. Well done Marilyn!

## Off campus Action Research

### Students in Qumbu and Bizana present Action Research Papers

Students from Qumbu and Bizana currently pursuing the ACE-LLT programme of study presented short action research papers on their research in language related issues at mini-conferences organised at both off-campus sites in May.

They presented their research papers to an audience comprising their peers, facilitators and the module co-ordinator. Their presentations were assessed by the module co-ordinator, Logan Athiemoolam and Joe Slingers, an external examiner, who also co-ordinates other language related modules that constitute the programme.

The students presented papers of a high standard and gave a very good account of themselves in spite of the fact that the majority of them had no prior experience in making such presentations.

The mini-conferences were very well organised and co-ordinated by both the centre managers Yolisa Dudula (Qumbu) and Yolisa Magidela (Bizana) and the tutors namely Mandisa Ntengwana and Berrington Gcobingca. The latter also made a concerted effort to ensure that the students were adequately prepared for their presentations.

The mini-conference at both centres was a great success thanks to the support from centre-managers and tutors responsible for facilitating the research module namely 'Introduction to Research in Classrooms'.

~ Logan Athiemoolam



*Qumbu team, from left, Logan, Yolisa Dudula, Joe and Berrington Gcobingca*



*Bizana Team, from left, Ayanda (tutor), Joe, Mandisa, Yolisa Magidela, Vuyo (administrator) and Logan*

## Writing retreat



*Colleagues who attended the Writing Retreat (25-28 May 2011) at the Zuurburg Inn. Front, Naydene, Sindi and Christina. Back, from left, Alette, Noluthando, Shervani, Nonnie and Elsa*

### Keen to become a teacher!

*This Father, Mr Gerald Armoed, brought his son by bus (his car is broken) from East London to PE just to attend the Education Faculty's stall at the recent Open Day. They were keen to obtain all the necessary information on studying towards becoming a teacher. Perhaps you'll see his face in your class next year?*

