

NEWS

2013 Registration

January 2013



Above: Dr Margie Childs assisting first year students at B Ed Registration that took place on the 30th of January 2013 at the NMMU Sports Centre.

Below: George registrations also ran well this year, with an able team from both PE and George campuses, from left, Abrie, Muriel, Suz, Ridaa, Melanie, Mary-Anne, Logan and Pam



Teacher Practice Indaba

A Teaching Practice Indaba was held on 8 February where some deep and critical thinking was undertaken specifically around the questions: What is this thing called 'Teaching Practice' and 'Why should it be included in an undergraduate teacher education curriculum?'

The "Reconceptualising Teaching Practice" project will be a year-long and it is envisaged that this indaba will be followed by more opportunities to interrogate this important component of teacher education collectively.

Let's find opportunities to celebrate life, work, community

2013 staff welcome

At a recent faculty event, staff were welcomed back to the beginning of a new academic year. In her welcome speech Executive Dean, Prof Denise Zinn, highlighted several projects that will be high on the faculty's work agenda for the year ahead, in addition to our core foci of teaching and learning.

These project areas include:

- Faculty Curriculum Renewal project –



... THIS is the year that the ACTUAL programmes need to be conceptualised, and the content and pedagogy and all related curriculum concerns need to be outlined and created..." As Prof Zinn elaborated, "We have to have as our primary focus not the 10% for whom things are working alright – they will succeed no matter what we do – but the 90% for whom no solutions have yet been found, THAT has to be our raison d'être, our reason for being and doing what we do, not just in our faculty, but in the university as a whole. And this will drive our re-curriculation efforts in our programmes this year and for the next few years to come, will inform our teaching, learning, research and engagement in the faculty"



- Teaching Practice, with an indaba in early February (see below)
- Conceptualising and planning our new FP MV building
- The refurbishing of the HMS building, hopefully for occupation by 2014

Following a few days later, was the Welcoming Ceremony for first year students and their parents, held on Saturday 26 January 2013. The faculty had a full hall of students and their parents (see photo below) who were welcomed by the VC, the Dean and the Director of the School for Initial Teacher Education, Prof Alette Delpont.



BRIEFS

Farewell to Ndileka

Colleague, Ndileka Jacobs, leaves the faculty this month to join Student Governance. We wish her well in her new position and look forward to hearing her news soon.

ERSC journal

Our faculty journal, Educational Research for Social Change (ERSC) Vol.1 No. 2, has been published and is available online at

<http://ersc.nmmu.ac.za> or ersc.nmmu.ac.za

The co-editors (Dr Andre du Plessis and Profs Naydene de Lange and Lesley Wood) express hope that the journal will go from strength to strength and will create a platform for development and publishing opportunities for all interested academics locally as well as worldwide.

HESA HELM Scholarship

Our congratulations to Dr Andre du Plessis who has been selected as one of 25 academics nationally to attend this prestigious leadership programme. Andre remarks, "I am extremely proud to represent the NMMU and the Faculty of Education on this prestigious journey and hope that what I learn I will be able to 'plough back'".

Officiate at international test!

Sherwin King was selected to officiate in a scoring capacity in the Test Match between South Africa and New Zealand from 11th January 2013 to 15th January 2013.

We are proud of you, Sherwin!

Welcome to our faculty!

Dr Kyung-Hwa Yang

I am a new postdoctoral fellow in the Faculty. I was born and raised in South Korea; studied film and video production and computer science in Chicago and worked as a multimedia specialist at the University of Chicago in the United States; completed a doctoral program in education at McGill University in Canada; have taught intense media production courses (video production and photography) to graduates of the Odyssey Project (a Chicago-based Bard College that offers socioeconomically disadvantaged adults free, yearlong college courses in the humanities); and now, I am in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. I will be working on a participatory archive of participant-generated videos in the context of HIV and AIDS education research with Dr. Naydene de Lange. I am enthusiastic about sharing my knowledge of media production with learners in all ages and allowing them to voice their concerns and experiences through media production. On the side, I enjoy (slow) jogging, hiking, and traveling. I like to play the flute (although not all people like to listen to me playing). I also enjoy listening to jazz and classical music.



Sanet Deysel

I started off as a foundation phase teacher before my interest in special needs and barriers to learning lead me to teach at Cape Recife for 10 years. This was the most wonderful (and tough!) learning curve shared with a dynamic group of multi-disciplinary stake holders. My passion for learners with specialized needs was reinforced through studying for the Further Diploma in Education (Remedial Education) at UPE.

I resigned from teaching in 2005 and started a flourishing remedial practice from home catering for children with different barriers to learning, including Afrikaans as first additional language. I was also involved at a private special needs school where I did remedial and taught Afrikaans. An advertisement in a local newspaper in 2008 drew my attention and I applied for the position as independent remedial therapist at Sunridge Primary School where I could live my passion and dream of practising what I was taught! New ventures in the form of part-time lecturing at NMMU soon followed in 2010 and so my further studies were sparked. Today I'm thrilled and excited to be a part of the education faculty on a daily basis as I can now share experiences and learn from fellow colleagues, as well as students. To do, every day, what you're passionate about is a privilege and a blessing and I'm looking forward to nurturing this challenge and growing as a whole person! biggest thing for me is: being a MOM – love being a mom!! Love, adore my 2 children – son (age 13 – started high school this year) and my little “surprizie” – my daughter who turned 4 yesterday!!



Nadeema Mutsha

My passions are fairly simple: my family and friends, teaching, stories of all kinds and children. It is no accident then that I am a teacher, a storyteller and a community activist, as this allows me opportunities to bring everything I love together. I am very interested in exploring/understanding/developing children's writing, biliteracy development, using stories to teach, creating alternative spaces and methods around developing various literacies and doing all of this with like-minded, passionate & inspiring people in communities & schools.



Dr Laurie Schick

I am a Fulbright scholar participating here in the Faculty of Education on projects related to teaching and curriculum development in the areas of multimodal, multicultural, and content-based literacy. After receiving my doctorate in Applied Linguistics from the University of California, Los Angeles, I became an Assistant Professor in TESL/Linguistics in the Department of English at Oklahoma State University (OSU). As the Coordinator for the MA-TESL and Certificate in TESOL programs on the Tulsa campus I have helped to train teachers working in R-12, post graduate, and community schools in the U.S., and teachers planning to teach in countries around the world. I also teach courses in the Ethnography of Communication, Discourse Analysis, language varieties in the U.S., and Language Socialization, the latter of which is my main area of research. In addition to my academic experience, I have worked in local communities to foster cross-cultural communication and improve literacy and other communication skills especially among disadvantaged and multilingual youth in Los Angeles, which is where I was born and raised and have spent the greater part of my life. In addition to LA and Oklahoma, I have lived for three years in the other windy city, Chicago, and another three years in Japan. In my free time I enjoy listening to international music, but especially music from different parts of Africa. I am lucky to have seen in live performance artists such as Vusi Mahlasela, Hugh Masekela, Sibongile Khumalo, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and the Soweto Gospel Choir. Great memories, but I hope to make new great ones during my stay here.

Turning the Tide on HIV and AIDS: A faculty Photovoice event

Dr Kay Yang (postdoctoral fellow)

On January 23, 2013, Naydene, Vimbiso Makamure (Dr de Lange's research assistant), and I invited the faculty to participate in a photovoice event near the staff room in Building 6. This event was organized to offer the faculty an opportunity to create photo messages on how to turn the tide on HIV and AIDS and to share the messages with one another, as well as to meet and greet me! Between noon and two o'clock, 30 faculty members and two students participated in the event. Using a digital camera, each participant created a visual message, combining hand and text in a photograph, on what the faculty can do to turn the tide of the HIV and AIDS pandemic. This event brought to the fore that staff and students alike have key roles to play in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Among the written messages the theme of collective action stood out: "Together we can overcome it", "Let us take hands in the fight against HIV!", "Let's come together to touch the lives of others, so that we can make a difference", and "Please let's walk together." All these messages were expressed with two hands. The second strongest theme was abstinence: "Abstain till marriage. Be faithful to your partner", "Stay safe, one love", "Love one partner only", and "Wait until marriage!" A number of participants promoted knowledge-based protection and education: "Only through unity and enlightenment can we conquer", "Passport to safer sex! Where are yours? (holding condoms in a hand)", "Collaborate to educate", "Protection", and "Knowledge". Many participants expressed the necessity of care directly or indirectly. The direct messages include: "Please pass me your concern and care and love", "Let's use our gifts to share and care", "Beware and care," and "Prayer for the affected." Some chose not to use hands and used their ear and mouth instead in order to deliver the messages, "We must listen" and "Speak up", respectively. The other messages include "Open up. Get tested", "Love yourself enough to care" and "Aluta continua! [Struggle continues!]"

It is impossible for me to present in this brief report all the messages and creativities expressed in the individual photos. The best way of appreciating them may be to come by the staff room, where all the photos will be displayed until the end of February of 2013. Please come to view all the photo messages created by colleagues and reflect on our role in 'turning the tide' of HIV and AIDS.



NPDE training of tutors

Neville Rudman (Head of Programme: NPDE)

As for previous semesters, two sets of training were conducted: on 05 January (in Kokstad) for all Tutors from Qumbu, Bizana, Lusikisiki and Kokstad, and on 12 January in Port Elizabeth for Missionvale and Graaff-Reinet tutors.

The modules we trained:

PNFIS303 Teaching & Learning Strategies 111	Dr Chris Dali
PNRL301 Classroom Assessment (RPL)	Mr Neville Rudman
PNFP207 LAS: Life Skills	Ms Sindiswa Tame-Gwaxula
PNFP306 Literacy	Ms Randy Foli
PNIS308 LAS: Mathematics 11	Dr Lonnie King
PNIS311 LAS: Economic Management Sciences	Prof Patrick Bean
PNIS209 LAS: Technology 1	Mr Emile McKay
PNIS210 Life Orientation 1	Mr Keith Arnolds

As part of our orientation session at the start of the training we reflected on a number of issues that are pertinent to delivery in the rural (off-campus) environment, viz., profiling the typical rural student with his/her unique challenges, understanding the differences (if indeed, there are differences) between teaching adults as opposed to teaching children and how one creates a safe environment in our lecture venues, a focus on our humanizing approach.

I am satisfied that the team of Module Coordinators will maintain good standards and ensure the credibility of our off-campus offering in the NPDE.

In this, the last year that the NPDE is being offered, we have about 650 students in the field, being serviced by more than 70 tutors. Ensuring smooth administration, which includes the movement of material, tests and assignments from centre to MC and back in the shortest possible time, managing transport arrangements, arranging teleconferences when required, managing student registrations and RPL exemptions and dealing with the myriad of student issues that crop up takes a very special skill – in this regard, Sherwin King makes an invaluable contribution.

And finally, the Centre Managers and their assistants provide excellent support for our students and are in actual fact the face of the NMMU in the rural context – we value their work!

My NPDE training notes

Five days into the year of 2013
Leftovers of the New Year's roast still in the fridge
Families still rejoicing their togetherness
Lazily considering new resolutions

But ... 40+ educators meet in Kokstad
Study manuals replace beach balls
Fly in, drive in, taxi in
All on time to start

Programme slick and effective

Circles of tutors and MCs meet to deliberate
Commitment is required
Experiences are shared
Relationships grow
Two hours fly past
Commitment is unquestionable

The experience was as good as a holiday!

Prof Pat Bean



WELCOME 2013

