

# NEWS



September 2013

## NMMU Teaching, Research and Engagement Awards



Photographed from left to right is: Prof Paul Webb, Prof Naydene De Lange, Dr Kathija Adam, The Dean Prof Denise Zinn, Dr Logan Athiemoolam, Prof Alette Delpport, Dr Nokhanyo Mayaba and Dr Deidre Geduld.

A VERY PROUD moment for the faculty was the NMMU Teaching, Research and Engagement Awards evening. Held as an acknowledgement of the excellence of the academic staff at NMMU, and recognition of those who have done outstanding work. We did sort of take a large proportion of the awards!

The awards went to:

- NMMU Distinguished Teacher Award: **Dr Logan Athiemoolam**  
[This award is conferred for a period of 5 years!]
- NMMU Engagement Award: **Prof Paul Webb**
- NMMU Research Excellence Award: **Prof Naydene de Lange**
- Faculty of Education Excellent Teacher of the Year Award:  
**Dr Kathija Adam**
- Faculty of Education Emerging Excellent Teacher of the Year Award:  
**Dr Deidre Geduld**
- Faculty of Education Researcher of the Year Award:  
**Prof Naydene de Lange**
- Faculty of Education Emerging Research of the Year Award:  
**Dr Nokhanyo Mayaba**

...continued on page 3

### WORD FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

It is Spring! Time to wonder anew at the way nature and life recycles and renews itself in the most glorious way – with many lessons for our species. Another hard term drew to a close, with students going on Spring Recess week, and staff got to take a bit of breather from lectures and school visits.

A warm welcome to Dr Dave Edley, who has joined us in the place of Prof Dalene Swanson. Dr Edley brings a wealth of experience having been SG of the Education Department in the province, and knows the schooling system inside out – knowledge and experience that we will find very useful in all our various programmes and interactions in the Faculty.

Our curriculum renewal work continues, with all teams working hard to provide both the best renewed conceptualisation of the B.Eds, PGCE, Honours and new PGDE programmes. Dr Edley, in collaboration with Mr Nofemele and Prof Delpport, have had a hard look at the problematic Teaching Practice (TP) component of our programmes. We are in the process of re-thinking how to redesign this component, both for the new programmes, but also for more immediate revision of the TP as from next year. Discussion forums are being set up to get the views of different stakeholders to test some of the proposals which are emerging.

I also met and discussed a variety of topics with the various programmes' student reps. It is important to us to have open communication channels, and hear students' voices coming through clearly at many different levels in the faculty.

Warmest Wishes  
Denise Zinn





# Global University Project

## Visit Gothenburg

Prof Nonnie Botha and Mrs Carol Poisat visited Gothenburg under the auspices of the Global University Project from 7 – 15 September 2013. The project aims at further developing and strengthening links between the NMMU and the Gothenburg University and is headed by Prof Lars Gunnarsson and Dr Kerstin von Bromssen.

The object of Prof Botha's visit was to explore some dimensions of Master's and Doctoral education in the Faculty of Education at GU, thus identifying possible best practices that could enhance this area in the Faculty of Education at the NMMU.

Mrs Poisat visited the university as part of the Administrator Exchange within the Global University cooperation between the two universities and focused on the administration of Masters and Doctoral Programs and included several meetings with people responsible for these activities in the Faculty of Education and at other parts of the university.

One of the highlights of their visit was attending the defence of a doctoral thesis. This visit brought to them many new insights on the master's and doctoral programmes. Some of these might help to address some challenges experienced in these areas in our Faculty, or they might enhance existing practices.



The doctoral defence. The opponent (left) uses a power point slide to explain the context of her question to the doctoral candidate (right). Some of the members of the evaluation committee are visible towards the left front of the audience.



Carol and Nonnie in front of the Pedagogen (Faculty of Education building)



Goodbye



Dear colleagues

Thank you for the really lovely farewell tea on Wednesday, which I really enjoyed.

Thank you, Eileen, for your caring, thoughtful speech, and Paul, for your kind words. Thank you, Carol, for all your dedicated efforts to prepare everything and make it so nice, and for your kind words too.

Thank you for the lovely gift that I will enjoy wearing when I am in the UK, the beautiful flowers, and the delicious eats. It was wonderful!

Thank you to everyone who could attend, and to those who were unable to but sent kind emails. I have respected and appreciated your friendship, love and support, and I thank you for this.

I wish you the best for a happy and fulfilling future. Do stay in touch.



Sala kakuhle, lekker bly, stay well!  
Dalene

UNAKO this year is hosting its second annual spelling bee competition for grade 12's, 2 (Wednesday) October 2013, at the Missionvale Campus Indoor Sport Centre (NMMU) from 9am till 5pm. There are 65 high schools across metro located in the townships areas invited to take part; each school is going to be represented by two learners who have won the internal- school spelling bee.

...continued from page 1



The keynote address at the truly splendid Awards Evening was delivered by Mr Ahmed Essop, CEO of the CHE. He emphasised the importance of the core function of Teaching, as the foundation for success in the other 'missions' and domains of higher education's work. Yet, this often is overshadowed by the focus in many institutions on acknowledging and encouraging research excellence mainly. The critical issue of how we conceptualise our curricular content, our pedagogies, our assessment practices, the integration of our engagement activities, and the overall coherence of our curricula for student success is going to be under the spotlight a lot more than in the past, so our curriculum renewal work is exactly where we should be focussing our attention!

Dr Mayaba has had another co-authored article, with her as Lead Author, published in an accredited journal. EASA has also selected her for their Postgraduate Medal of Honour, for her doctoral work. Well done of these additional achievements, Nokhanyo!

Up for a Healthy Challenge

Breakfast Run\_ 14 September 2013



Annually, Peer Helping and Student Counselling, Career and Development Centre (SCCDC) host a 4.5km breakfast run to promote wellness among students and staff at NMMU. This year, the race was held on South campus, runners taking off from the Xanadu/Melody (XM) Clubhouse to the Sports centre and up entrance of the Grysbok trail and back, past the Security centre up to the Rag Farm and back to XM Clubhouse.

The day was mild and good for running for all age groups. There were approximately... participants from the NMMU community and learners from nearby schools. Among those who were "up for a Healthy Challenge" were six of the Faculty of Education's staff and postgraduate students Dr Logan Athiemoolan, Dr Mary Grace Villanueva, Dr Kay Yang, Kholisa Papu, Brendaline Plaatjies and Carmelita Cornelius. Mary Grace's daughter, Emerson and her friend also took part in this race.

Dr Athiemoolan made the faculty proud when he won one of the two prizes for 'mature' runners, finishing before Lungsi Ntlokwana of SCCDC.

The number of FoE members and their children participating in this race confirm the 'dynamic community of teachers, leaders and scholars' that this faculty seeks to curve. Prof Sylvan Blignaut, Prof Denise Dean, Jackie Hay, Dalene Botha, Tash Dolley and other faculty members also participated in the Human Race, to celebrate our common humanity as people of different backgrounds, creed and colour.

The Human Race



Photographed at the Human Race event from left to right is: Mr Alan Zinn, Tash Dolley, Sherwin King and Prof Denise Zinn.



Information and Communication Technology

# Principals undergo ICT Skills Training



Since August 2012, the principals of the Manyano Schools Network started a skills program aimed at improving their communication ability using ICT.

Participants started by learning the basics of how a computer works, followed by keyboard and mouse skills.

Internet browsing and the creation of email accounts for each principal followed. For many it was the first time to send and receive an email.

The training continues this year with topics including the use of a data projector, how to scan and manipulate images and documents as well as using a digital camera.

The overall aim is to get the principals to adopt the effective use of ICT and to become confident computer end users.

Apart from some stiff fingers at the start the participants were eager to get over their "phobia" for computers.

# 'Secretaries Day'



The past month was filled with celebration, as hard work done by so many people was acknowledged in public celebrations!

Wednesday the 4th of September was 'Secretaries' Day', which we have now chosen to celebrate annually with a special event for all the administrative assistants in the Faculty, to say thank you to them for the work they do.

A wonderful lunch together at the Kelway confirmed the spirit of camaraderie that exists amongst our administrative staff in the various schools and centres, and we were happy to extend that collegiality to the administrative staff at CANRAD. A lovely little African violet gift symbolised both the heartfelt gratitude for the work the administrators do, as well as the thanks we give for the start of Spring, and the renewal of energy in all living systems.

# Lunch with the Dean

Faculty of Education Students Reps



# BHP Billiton Certificate Ceremony

By: Kholisa Papu



Language teachers who were part of the recently implemented BHP Billiton sponsored project received recognition of their attendance and completion of the project tasks at a gathering held on Missionvale Campus on August 28, 2013. The project was implemented by the School for Educational Research and Engagement (SERE) in the Faculty of Education.

The project was established to improve the teaching of science, mathematics and language & literacy in primary schools in the Uitenhage district of the Eastern Cape province. Language teachers in the programme worked on strategies to improve the teaching of both reading and writing, from Foundation Phase to Senior Phase. The languages focused on were Afrikaans, IsiXhosa and English.

As part of the programme, the teachers attended workshops, they were visited in class, and later, asked to make presentations relating to their use of strategies to teach writing. All participating schools, from Uitenhage, Despatch and Rocklands, were selected by Circuit managers from the Uitenhage District Office of the Department of Education, who were also partners in the project.



## CCS-Manyano SGB Capacitation Programme

On 7 September 2013, the Centre for the Community School (CCS) hosted a second School Governing Body (SGB) training/workshop at Missionvale Campus. This workshop forms part of a going SGB capacitation programme developed by Mr A.A. Jindela of the Centre for the Community Schools.

Fourteen Manyano Schools (SGBs) gathered together in Missionvale Campus – CCS for the second SGB training/workshop aimed to build the leadership capacity of SGBs to support the effective functioning of community schools and take action in support of school improvement and the development of their communities.

To deepen the understanding of the active roles that SGB members must play in school governance. Also to empower them with interpersonal skills and practical knowledge on roles and responsibilities necessary to govern their schools effectively. Most of all, to support SGB members in identifying and addressing the challenges that hinder them in their roles and responsibilities.

