



# NEWS

May 2014



## OPEN DAY Your future looks good from here

The NMMU Open Day has become a monumental part of the university's annual marketing initiative. Each year the various faculties and departments use the exhibition as a platform to communicate with potential students and share information about programmes on offer.

This year, the Port Elizabeth Open Day took place on the 9th and 10th of May in the South Campus Indoor Sport Centre. Over 4500 prospective students and parents visited the expo with the hopes of finding their career paths. The Education Faculty stall was well attended with 10% of students attending expressing a keen interest in becoming educators.

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The George Campus Open Day was held on 16th- 17th May 2014. A total of 750 learners and parents visited the two day expo, which included learners from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and North West province. The expo also hosted a special Friday live broadcast from Eden FM community radio station, sharing the excitement of the day with the surrounding George community.

The faculty marketing team gathered a database 407 high school learners that are passionate about education and want to enroll for teaching qualification. The marketing committee will be liaising with these learners via bulk texting throughout the year in order to wish them well with their exams, inform them of the application process and extend information about faculty events.

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Many staff members and students contributed to the Open Day by sharing their knowledge and teaching experience with learners attending...

Here are some insights from Faculty of Education Marketing student assistants of how they experienced the two day event.

“ To me Career Open days are always great opportunities to mix and mingle with young learners from different schools. It is a great time to share insight and advise where possible. Some come with no idea what they want to do and I take the opportunity to give them counsel on how to choose the right path for their future.

Khuselo Minnie



“ This was my first experience of Open Day. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would encourage other senior students to be part of the marketing team. I feel that as a senior student in the Education faculty, it is important to be a part of this marketing of Education as we have the means to encourage prospective Education students.

Ginique Brown



“ Working at Open Day was amazing for me; I met new people and made friends. It was very interesting to see matriculants who were very eager to find out more about the programs offered in the faculty of Education, and the bursary, they had so many questions. I cannot wait to see them next year.

Sandiswa Macubeni



“ It was my first time attending the event as a student. The love and support that my colleagues showed on that day was really wonderful. This is the experience I want to share and definitely be part of next year.

Bongani Meleni



“ I had a great time interacting with our possible future teachers. It was really refreshing to see that we have so many young people still interested in becoming teachers. It was also a great experience being able to share my love for teaching.

Lauren Geduld



Dr Brigalia Bam (center), flanked by youth panellists (from left), Nombuyiselo Duma, Awonke Kampie, Lauren Muller and Rochelle van Rooyen, listening attentively to the audience's comments and questions.

## George youth commemorate “Oom Bey’s” legacy with NMMU and Dr Brigalia Bam



Dr Brigalia Bam, keynote speaker commemorating the work and life of Dr Beyers Naudé at the NMMU/Kagiso Memorial lecture.

The main hall at NMMU George Campus was filled beyond capacity recently with senior learners from high schools in and around George, students from both NMMU and South Cape College, as well as educators, lecturers, members of the business community and the public who had gathered at the campus for the Dr Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr Brigalia Bam. The lecture – the first in a series of three commemorating the life and work and promoting the uplifting values that the late Dr Beyers Naudé lived by – was hosted by NMMU in partnership with Kagiso Trust.

Dr Brigalia Bam (the last Chancellor of UPE, before the merger which saw the creation of NMMU) spoke fondly and eloquently about Dr Beyers Naude's legacy - twenty years into democracy. This was accompanied by a dialogue/debate with four well-versed and opinionated youth panellists representing a diversity of perspectives, and a question and answer session with young people (learners and students) participating from the ranks of the audience.

Attendees to the occasion were greeted by the beautiful voices of the NMMU George Campus Choir which set the tone for what proved to be a very successful and thought-provoking evening of debate and deliberation. An expo on the life and work of Dr Naudé also complemented the proceedings of the evening.

George Marketing Team

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Guests to the recent Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture hosted by NMMU in partnership with Kagiso Trust were welcomed by the exquisite voices of the NMMU George Campus Choir, seen here with the keynote speaker, Dr Brigalia Bam and the NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson .



Powerful team... Panel members Lauren Muller and Awonke Kampie with Dr Brigalia Bam (centre), Shalom Khandanisa (facilitator and NMMU alumnus), and fellow panellists, Nombuyiselo Duma and Rochelle van Rooyen.



The evening's key role-players: Dr Brigalia Bam (center) with the delegates from Kagiso Trust, CANRAD (NMMU's Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy, represented by Director: Allan Zinn), panellists and the NMMU George Campus Principal Prof Quinton Johnson (back center), alongside Dr Bam and Dr Bridget Johnson (far right) .



Allan Zinn (left, Director of NMMU's Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy) and NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (right) with the distinguished speaker, Dr Brigalia Bam (centre) who delivered the first of NMMU's 2014 Dr Beyers Naude Lectures at NMMU George Campus recently.



Panellist, Lauren Muller (right), and Dr Brigalia Bam sharing a light moment after the dialogue session.



## 2014 Committee



From Left: Armand Gerber (Music and Arts Officer), Adri Botha (Deputy Chairperson), Michelle Bruce (School Liaison Officer), Rochelle van Rooyen (Chairperson), Lezaan Fourie (Secretary), Kellina Pillay (Events Planning Officer) and Marinda Prinsloo (Treasurer).

## You can be the difference!



The Faculty of Education Support Office, Administrators and Academic staff have together raised funds to assist students in need. So far this year, roughly sixty packs have been handed over to students who found themselves in desperate need of assistance (we hope that this number will increase in the future). This initiative is now being extended to include any students who feel able to get involved by donating non-perishable food items and/or toiletries. These welcomed donations may be dropped off at Ms Laufs' office (060105).

## In Brief

SuperEd events 2014



No Shoes Day  
18 March 2014



Hug a Tree Day  
26 March 2014



Workers Day  
6 May 2014





# A time to celebrate

Taryn Isaacs

The faculty gathered after the quarterly board meeting to celebrate the achievements of its staff and students. The dinner hosted at Rendezvous on the 23rd May welcomed members to celebrate the major milestones that have been reached over the past term. These accomplishments include the 9 Phd's candidates who graduated with Doctoral Degrees in Education. The graduates and their supervisors were presented with gifts of candles to represent the light that they bear to the world. Additionally Dr Clyde Felix obtained his PhD from Rhodes University.

Many other important moments were noted at the event, such as the end of the Deans' 5 year term in the Faculty. Professor Zinn expressed a sense of gratitude to the staff for their hard work and support in building the Education Faculty at NMMU.

Other celebrations included the personal endeavours of staff members, noting the marriage of Jackie Hitchcox to Ian Smith on the 10 May 2014 and the marriage of Taryn Isaacs to Jade De Vega on 1st May 2014.

Both couples conveyed sincere thanks for the generous gifts received from their colleagues.

The final celebration of the evening featured staff birthdays in the month of May, including the 65th birthday of Dr Mbokodi. The birthday celebrants were presented with magnificent birthday cakes, later enjoyed by the staff present. The evening can be deemed a success, with many staff members in attendance.



# Remarkable

Congratulations to Prof Naydene De Lange for supervising three PhD candidates to completion in 2014.

Their names from left are Dr Cheryl Kader, Dr Thoko Mnisi, Prof De Lange and Dr Rekha Mahadev.





# Girls leading change

The 'Girls leading Change' – a group of second and third year education students - were at it once again, moving a step closer in leading policy change 'from the ground up', when they met with the DVC Research and Engagement, Prof Thoko Mayekiso and the Dean of Education, to present the findings of the "Digital media for change and well-being: Girl-led 'from the ground up' policy-making in addressing sexual violence at a South African university". The much anticipated meeting with Prof Mayekiso and Prof Zinn, along with several other members of the faculty of education happened on 5th of May 2014. In an attempt to get the leaders and policy makers of NMMU briefed on the project and the findings, we held a presentation where we explained the context for exploring sexual violence, the purpose of the project, the process of generating the data, and the findings.

We discussed how we got to make the cellphlms, policy posters and the action briefs and also spoke about our experiences of participating in the project. We also highlighted the importance of sharing our work with university leaders and policy makers. The boardroom was filled with emotion and a sense of excitement about the project when the DVC, the Dean and the faculty staff commented on the project and gave some thoughtful suggestions on how to move the project forward. They commended the girls for leading change - their willingness to put in hard work for the betterment of girls and women, the university and the society as a whole. This set in motion the wheels of change towards equality for all - women and men - the wheels that 'the girls leading change' - together with the NMMU - will be turning well into the future.

Bongiwe Maome



Insert: Dr Margie Childs, Dr Christina Jordaan, DVC Prof Mayekiso, FoE Dean, Prof Denise Zinn, Prof Relebohile Moletsane and Prof Naydene de Lange together with the 'Girls leading change' team: Sonwabe April, Sandisiwe Gaiza, Zethu Jiyana, Melissa Lufele, Bongiwe Maome, Bongiwe Mhambi, Lelethu Mlobeli, Asisipho Mntonga, Takatso Mohlomi, Wandiswa Momoza, Happy Mthethwa, Elethu Ntsethe, Zikhona Tshiwula, Thina Kamnqa

# Bringing Formal Learning to an informal environment, MXit for learning



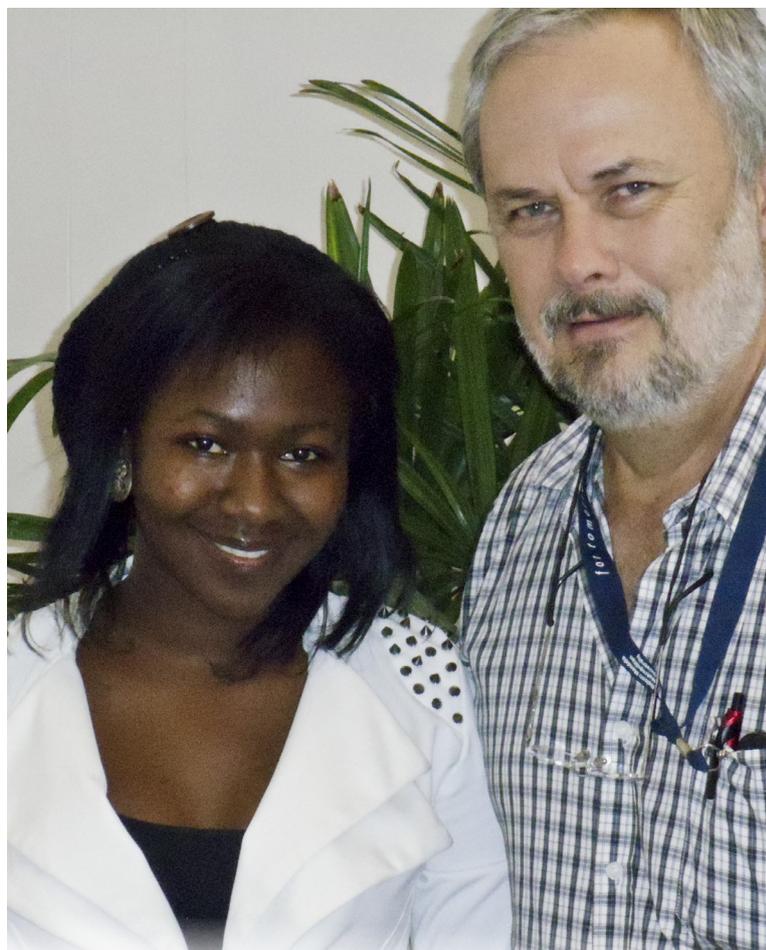
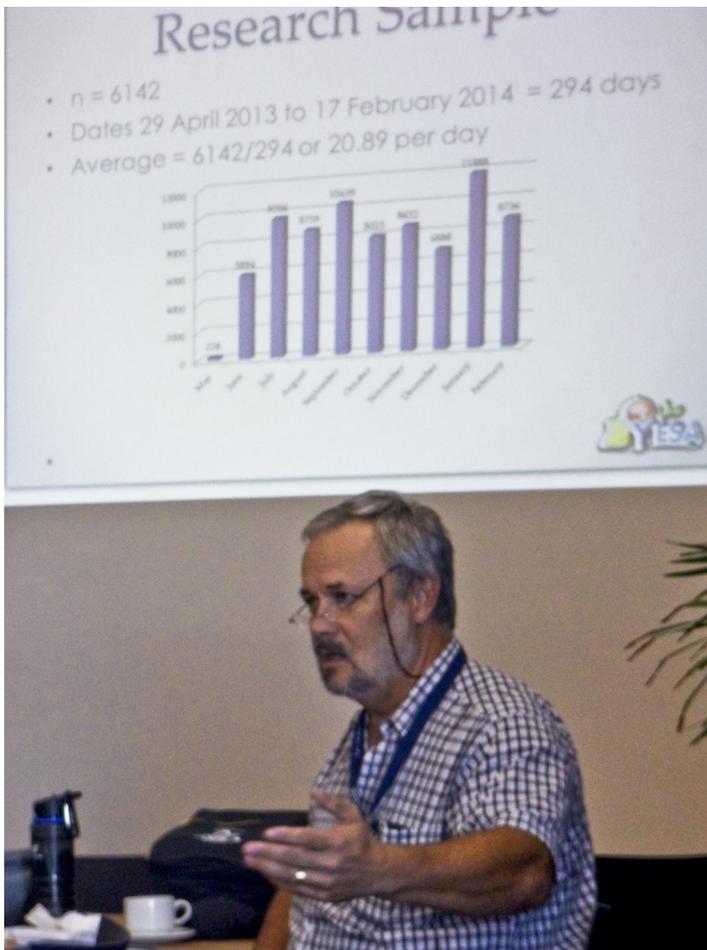
The Faculty of Education’s seminar series has provided a platform for yet another innovative project for teaching and learning where lecturer, Dr Ron Beyers presented on how he brings “formal learning to an informal environment,” said Rumbi Maisva, a Bachelor of Commerce Information Systems and Auditing student who also works with Ron on this initiative.

Ron invested his personal time and funding into the project, Speak to Prof Ron, using MXit to reach learners across the globe. Ron initiated the Young Engineers and Scientists of Africa (YESA) programme while based at the Meraka Institute in 2006 to create a pipeline for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation (STEMI).

Users from the MXit community of practice submit STEMI related questions and receive answers on their cell phones. In this respect, MXit can be said to provide some kind of distance education which is readily accessible to MXit users wherever they are in the globe. This puts at an advantage, learners in underprivileged communities who might not have android or smart phones but have other simpler phones. Moreover, MXit provides a cost effective platform for this kind of question and answer service. This MXit e-learning portal currently reaches over 65 different countries globally, rendering time zones irrelevant.

For her Honours project, Rumbi is currently working on automating the Speak to Prof Ron MXit System to lighten Dr Ron Beyers’ work load. Rumbi aims at providing an automated help desk that will work as a back-end system, receiving the questions posed by the learners and extracting a list of questions that are similar to the question being asked. The automated helpdesk will work more like a search engine, for example, the Facebook Help Center in that a list of suggested questions will be sent to the learner and the learner can chose the question that best resembles what they asked. Then an answer is returned for the question selected by the user. Rumbi hopes to complete this project by October 2014.

Article by Rumbidzaishe Maisva, Student  
(Bachelor of Commerce Information Systems and Auditing)



# Work Intergrated Learning (WIL) in #schools Through the eyes of student teacher @aminapeterson17

Amina Peterson, FET Phase student, shares her classroom experiences via social media platforms - these images and her story have been inspired by her Instagram account.

What can a new teacher expect in the teaching field? Is the question on many lips, from my own experience: "A whole lot of the unexpected" is my only answer. As a new teacher at Sancto High School in the Northern areas of Port Elizabeth, a school honoured with ATKV "Ster Skool" status.

While being induced into this new environment after being an NMMU Bed (FET) student from 2010 – 2013 included a transition that was a rollercoaster of adjustments and emotions ranging from bad to good and eventually the best. Being a teacher is nothing like studying to become one, theory and practical is worlds apart. In the Classroom nothing usually goes to plan as you are dealing with learners from different socio-economic backgrounds; learning abilities and individual talents.

My learners are the reason I wake up daily and they make me aspire to be a beyond exceptional teacher, benefitting them in the process. Knowing each of my 248 learners personally is no easy task but a challenge I quite enjoy, I've gotten to know them better, while dealing with where their academic performances. Together with a few learners I embarked on the #100HappyDays challenge as a source of intrinsic motivation and we are having an amazing time trying to forcefully remain happy despite our daily obstacles. I am thoroughly honoured to be a teacher at such a prestigious institution, working with academics whose hearts and souls belongs to teaching. In the words of Aristotle: "Those who know, Do – Those who understand, Teach"

Amina Peterson



aminapeterson17 Grade 8B - My Natural Science class #100HappyDays #Teacher #Learners #SanctorHighSchool #LovedOnes #Life



11 likes  
aminapeterson17 Rode past school after work and my kids made me stop as they were screaming for me #100HappyDays #NMMU #Graduation #2014 #SanctorHighSchool #Teacher #Learners #LifeOfATeacher #Day52



12 likes  
aminapeterson17 This man - Is the reason I am such an amazing teacher, I would never in my life dream of disappointing him. Sir; You were born to be a principal and an outstanding leader #100HappyDays #SanctorHighSchool #Teacher #Learners #Principal #SterSkool #Academics #Memorable #Day88



gracekelley87, jessicatar5, naadirah61, shenaaz\_a, awatif\_human, ag\_jappie, misstayba\_adam, aadilah\_wassin  
aminapeterson17 Sancto High School at NMMU U19 Soccer tournament - Really was an awesome afternoon/night★ #100HappyDays #NMMU #SanctorHighSchool #Soccer #Teacher #Learners #Colleagues #Friends #InstaPhoto #Day91



gracekelley87, naadirah61, sue\_aadx, shenaaz\_a, awatif\_human, razonelly, aadilah\_wassin  
aminapeterson17 No wonder we have Ster-Skool status - So proud to be associated with Sancto High School. Well done to my Grade 8Bs tonight at the Spelling Bee, Ma'am is super proud★ #100HappyDays



# READING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Reading Association of South Africa has had a busy start to 2014. In February we hosted a Shine workshop and are delighted that Walmer Angels have established a Shine chapter at Walmer Primary School working with early literacy support. In March Jacqui Dornbrack from UCT offered Writing to Learn (WTL) workshops in East London and at our AGM in Port Elizabeth, which was attended by teachers and some of our Education students.



In April, Beverley Naidoo, author of young adult novels like *Journey to Jo'burg* and *The other side of the truth*, and more recently *Death of an Idealist*, about the death in detention of Neil Aggett, spoke to learners and the public at Exclusive Books. RASA also took her to Grahamstown where she meant the Upstart group of young learners and poets.

RASA members from NMMU, Rhodes, East London and Queenstown are working together to organise the next RASA conference to be held at Rhodes in September. The second call for papers is out and for enquires about the RASA conference, and maybe submitting a paper or poster to present, email [rasaconference2014@gmail.com](mailto:rasaconference2014@gmail.com).

The RASA journal *Reading and Writing* is now accredited and welcomes manuscripts dealing with any aspects of literacy. Go to <http://www.rw.org.za/index.php/rw> to find out more or to read the latest literacy research.

Eileen Scheckle



## A CHILD WHO READS

There is not a single thing that one can teach a child that has such prevailing value as to teach a child to read.

No matter how poor a child who reads is a well educated child.

No matter how bad the education a child who reads is a nurtured child.

No matter how degraded and depraved the surroundings a child who reads has a moral framework.

No matter how lonely or rejected a child who reads has many friends.

No matter how intolerant a society a child who reads will be a child who understands.

No matter how mean and aggressive a neighbourhood a child who reads will be a generous child.

No matter how impoverished and destroyed the area a child who reads lives in luxury.

No matter how dangerous a neighbourhood a child who reads is in a safer place.

No matter how mentally challenged a family a child who reads will become an intelligent and informed child.

Poem by Antjie Krog

(from her speech delivered at UWC Principals' Evening, April 2006)

## On our Facebook site:

One of our literacy greats has gone RASA joins others who recognise the power of the written word, to mourn the passing of Maya Angelou, author, poet and screenwriter. Angelou's life and writing is a triumph of the human spirit and is a lasting tribute to the efficacy of writing both for individual healing and for spiritual trans-national connection. A phenomenal woman whose voice lives on in her writing. Read her!

# Leave your Mark What does Freedom Mean to You?



“Leave your Mark” seems to be the main message surrounding this year’s Freedom Day celebrations within the Faculty of Education. On 27 April 2014, The Super Ed Student Society pinned up two colourful posters with the words “Leave Your Mark: What Does Freedom Mean to You?” in an attempt to “challenge” the ‘born free’ generation of South Africans to remember their national/personal history and “reflect” on what Freedom Day means to them, explained Khuselo Minnie, Anna Latola and Heloise Sathorar who are students and lecturer in the Faculty of Education.

Accompanying the title were bold foot prints and blank white spaces to be populated by students and staff’s ideas of what freedom means. The foot prints are scattered through the poster in different directions to signal the advancement of democracy in all spheres of life for the benefit of all people. Collectively, the Super Ed Society represented the meaning of freedom in strong visual imagery such as covering the ‘freedom fist’ with the national flag of democratic South Africa to re-sound the words of the Freedom Charter, “South Africa belongs to all who live in it...” (The Freedom Charter, 1955).

As these student teachers journey through their academic careers, they are challenged to leave a democratic mark of education, social justice, critical thinking, vision, hope, leadership and yet again, ignite their own students to be custodians and protectors of freedom and democracy.

Kholisa Papu

To some of the born free students freedom means:

The ability to express yourself without fear of judgement...

Anne

I can learn and study in my own Mother tongue, an African indigenous language

Zizopho

Freedom allows me to open minds

Anonymous

## DEBATE

On the 26 May 2014 there was a faculty debate, where it was expected that two teams were to go head to head and debate about the topic: There is a growth of inequality with in the educational institutions, in terms of social standard, resources etc. As much as the event was advertised there was poor attendance by the education faculty students. The purpose of this debate was start a platform where education students can express and critically discuss the issues that we are going to face in the work place and not only that, but also the issues we are currently facing within the university and the faculty. The other purpose was to improve our communication skills, discussion skills and also to create a common ground for us as education students. After the debate/ discussion as I invited external people from other faculties I asked one student about their view on the debate/discussion, they said they were so motivated and impressed on how the other students expressed themselves.



# OPEN DAY 2014

## Your future looks good from here

