

NEWS

Jan /Feb 2015



Seated (from left): Prof Andrew Leitch (DVC: Research and Engagement NMMU); Prof Paul Chepkuto, (DVC: Administration, Planning and Development Moi-U); Prof Denise Zinn (DVC: Teaching and Learning NMMU); and Prof Nathan Ogechi (DVC Student Affairs Moi-U) Standing (from left): Prof Bernd Siebenhüner (DVC UOL); Dr Susan Kurgat (Project Coordinator Moi-U); Dr Julius Tanui (Project leader Moi-U); Dr Marcella Mwaka (Dean's representative, Moi-U) and Prof Paul Webb (Project Leader NMMU)

Centre of Excellence in Education

The newly established East and South African-German Centre of Excellence for Educational Research Methodologies and Management (CERM-ESA) hosted its first onsite staff development workshop on "Research Supervision of Higher Degrees in Education" at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University from Monday the 19th to the 25th of January 2015. The focus of the workshop was on research capacity development, innovation, networking, quality assurance and evaluation, as well as on assisting Moi University to develop an academic programme for a Research Master's programme.

A total of 47 delegates from the five partner universities attended the event, including top management officials from Moi University, namely Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) for Administration, Planning and Development, Professor Paul Chepkuto, and DVC Student Affairs, Professor Nathan Ogechi. The Moi University delegation team also met with NMMU DVC for Teaching and Learning, Professor Denise Zinn; DVC for Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch, Faculty of Education's acting Executive Dean, Professor Paul Webb and University of Oldenburg's Vice Chancellor, visiting scholar and project leader, Prof Bernd Siebenhüner, at a 'meet and greet' session in Professor Leitch's office.

The five partner universities selected in 2014 to establish an "East and South African-German Centre of Excellence in Educational Research Methodologies and Management" are the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa), Moi University (Kenya), Oldenburg University (Germany), Uganda Management Institute (Uganda) and the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). The birth of CERM-ESA follows a bid won by NMMU's Distinguished Professor, Paul Webb, together with Professors Bernd Siebenhüner and Karsten Speck of Oldenburg University.

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The trio presented a proposal to establish the Centre on behalf of the five participating universities to a Commission of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) members and African advisors in Bonn, Germany. The project has a budget of 1.3 million Euros and will run for four-and-a-half years in its first phase. The CERM-ESA faculty is made up of academics in the Faculties of Education in all partner universities.

Besides attempting to strengthen post-graduate research supervision,

CERM-ESA serves the national and Pan African imperative of producing more individuals with doctoral and Master's degrees and improving education research quality in East and South Africa.

When asked about what hope the Centre will bring, Prof Webb mentioned the need for an "improved postgraduate success across Africa and the development of African solutions for African problems in education". Dr Florence Sajjabi of Uganda Management Institute (UMI) said the workshop was particularly important for UMI since they had just started the process of supervising Doctoral students.



Kholisa Papu



Welcome to 2015

The Education Faculty strives to create instances in which the humanity of individuals is celebrated. This humanity is fostered through engagement with others, activities in the classroom, interaction with students and collaboration with colleagues. These opportunities are encouraged through events like the Welcoming Breakfast when new staff members are received into the faculty and existing staff review the year past.

This year, the Welcoming Breakfast celebrates a renewed vision and continued purpose for the Faculty. Acting Dean Professor Paul Webb expressed his confidence in the academic and administrative staff who are tasked with preparing a successful team of educators.

The function, hosted in the newly built boardroom in building 11 welcomed the New Year with a spirit of warmth and excellence planning for the new projects underway. We wished

Marilyn Gibbs and Deon Swartz well as they begin their sabbaticals, and welcomed Carmel Mohamed and Prof Johanna Geldenhuys back from their 2014 Sabbatical.



Farewell to a Visionary

On the 20th February 2015 the Education Faculty took the opportunity to bid Professor Denise Zinn farewell. Professor Zinn, former Dean of Education, officially started in the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning in 2015. The cocktail function at Rendezvous café celebrated the journey from 2009 – 2014 with great company, fond memories and alluring anecdotes of days past. Director of SITE Professor Aletta Delport reminded us of the impact made during this time.

An excerpt from the Vote of Thanks delivered by Professor Delport on behalf of the Education Faculty.

“Thank you, Denise, not only for helping us to expand our vocabularies, but also for prompting us to deepen our thinking by applying our minds and by questioning our assumptions.

Thanks you for provoking our critical consciousness and critical awareness, not only of ourselves, but essentially of our fellow South Africans, and especially the learners in our schools – and the stark realities of their contexts.

Thank you for prompting us to revisit our identities and reconstruct these within the context of post-apartheid, post-conflict South African society.

Thank you for reminding us of the importance of teaching and learning, always underpinned by and grounded in meaningful, rigorous and relevant research.

Thank you for challenging us to grapple with our humanity – and how we can contribute towards the humanisation of society.

And then, perhaps most important of us, thank you for leaving behind a faculty-owned, evocative, relevant Vision and Mission – that will provide the guiding light for the future and keep us committed to contributing to the improvement of education in South Africa, especially in those areas where it is needed most.

Denise, we know that your heart will always be in education (and that we will always be your favourite faculty...). As such, you will always be connected to our faculty. We believe that the solid foundation, the strong community, and the clear direction that you are leaving us with, will enable us to continue as enthusiastic, committed and focussed travellers on the road – one that, as you always remind us, we are constantly creating together as we...”





Science without Borders

My colleague, Esmé Hoch and I (Johannes Mathys Beukes) were given the opportunity to go on an experience that changed every view we had about teaching. We visited several rural schools in Cofimvaba together with our Science lecturer, Dr Ron Beyers to do two science demonstrations. One demonstration was on renewable energy and the other, on Lego Blocks.

With the renewable energy demonstration we showed the learners about wind, water and solar power, even using hydro fuel cells to generate electricity. This demonstration was repeated several times so that the learners can understand the process. With the Lego Blocks, from the Lego Charity organization, we did several activities to improve the learner's social skills, mathematics, language, memory, following instructions, hand and eye coordination and even balance. The biggest realization to me was how the learners, were so enthusiastic to come to school and learn what we had to show them. For Hoch, "it was so encouraging to see the hopeful smiles on the learner's faces whilst we did the lesson. It was an experience I will never forget, and will certainly take into my classroom one day".

The point of the trip was to get the learners to see more than what is just in front of them and that are able to become anything despite their surroundings and circumstances. After every day I felt fulfilled that I made a difference and that I just didn't touch one child's life, but many. As we reflect on this experience, we agree that to educate, teach, change and influence a child's life is the reason one should want to become a teacher.



Written by Johannes Mathys Beukes and Esmé Hoch, 3rd year students.



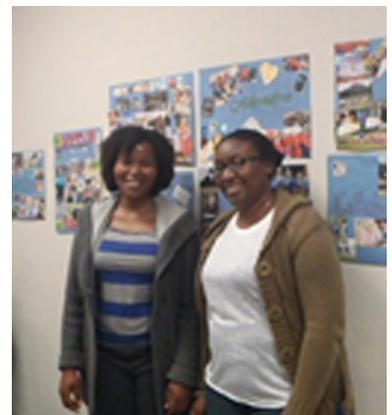
A 'byte' into the visual

On the 11th of November 2014 all were invited to take a 'byte' into visual methodologies and pedagogies for social change. The presenters were Naydene De Lange, Mathabo Khau, Robin Notshulwana, Christina Jordaan, and Margie Childs. They each presented how they understood and used visual participatory methodologies to facilitate positive change. Naydene gave an introduction to the methodologies – which include drawing, collage, photovoice, participatory video (and cellphilm). This was followed with Mathabo speaking about drawing and how it can be used in lessons of sexual identity, Robin speaking on using photo-elicitation in gender identity work, and Christina speaking about using photovoice in sexuality education.

Margie also presented on participatory video where the audience was given a glimpse into the world of cellphilm. The audience was treated to a touching cellphilm called "Cold nights" by one of Margie's students, Nwabisa Holby, deepening our understanding of "complicated lives of children". To wrap up the presenters promised another session in 2015 where the audience will be given a hands on experience with some of the visual participatory methodologies. Special thanks to Vimbiso and Veronica (right) for setting up the venue and exhibitions.



Left to right: Vimbiso Okafor, Dr Christina Jordan, Prof Naydene de Lange, Dr Margie Childs, Ms Robin Notshulwana, Dr Mathabo Khau



Insert: Doctoral student Ms Veronica Msutwana and HIV/AIDS Research Assistant, Vimbiso Okafor

Eileen Scheckle

2015 EASA CONFERENCE CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



The Annual Conference of the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) was held at the Legend Golf and Safari Resort near the town of Mookgophong (formerly Naboomspruit) Limpopo from the 11th to the 14th of January 2015. The conference which was hosted by the Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria, had the theme 'celebrating excellence in education: A strong and enduring education system in the first 20 years of democracy'.

The keynote speakers namely Dr David Osher, vice president of the Air Institute (USA); Professor Mokgadi Moletsane, Deputy Dean of Research and Student Support at the University of the Western Cape and Professor Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria, focused their presentations on the positive features of the education system over the past 20 years.

The following papers were presented by NMMU colleagues at the conference:

- Role of conflicting values in teaching experiences of South African educators in Saudi Arabia – Dr K.V. Arnolds
- An analysis of pre-service teachers' role plays on religious issues in classroom contexts by using critical discourse analysis – Dr L Athiemoolam & Prof KEE von Bromssen
- Poor learner performances in South African schools: A situated exploration – Prof PAD Beets, Prof S Bignaut and Prof L Ramrathan
- Understanding current teacher implementation of Zimbabwe's primary schools AIDS curriculum: A Case Study – Dr S Musingambwi & Prof S Bignaut
- Youth participation in social media: A reflective tool for social agency- Mrs M Geldenhuys & Prof N de Lange



The conference, which brought together academics from a range of universities across South Africa, also acknowledged the research contributions of Professors Aslam Fataar, Irma Eloff and Dr Brigitte Smith by awarding them with medals at the Awards ceremony and gala dinner.

Logan Athiemoolam

Transforming the Research and Pedagogy Landscape for African Scholars through Participatory and Visual Arts-based Methodologies



On the 28th and 29th January 2015 Mathabo Khau was invited to Dar-Es-Salaam in Tanzania by AKU IED EA to run workshops as part of their Research Seminar Series 2015 together with Drs. Marriote Ngwaru and Shelley Jones. The theme of the workshop was on promoting the use of participatory and visual arts-based methods as research and pedagogical tools. The workshop explored what participants would do in situations where they wanted to explore and understand the lived realities of people who could not communicate in their language or were not literate enough to respond to their questions.

On the first day, participants were introduced to the visual turn and why participatory visual methods are important in transforming research and working together with participants to generate data in relation to their lived realities, while at the same time transforming their understanding of their situations. The participants interrogated their researcher selves in terms of how they perceived themselves as researchers through the use of drawings.

During the discussion of the drawings, Dr Khau emphasized the importance of privileging the voice of the person who produced the drawing in explaining the meanings they attach to their depiction. This, she argued, is because each drawing can mean different things to different people depending on their cultural and social capital. The discussion then went on to how the researcher can make meaning of the meanings made by the owners of the drawings.

On the second day Dr Khau worked with the participants to interrogate their understandings of research through the use of photo-voice. She firstly outlined the ethical issues involved in working with photographs for research purposes and the importance of ensuring that consent is obtained before taking any photographs of people. The participants were advised to opt for photographs that do not show any identifying features of people, or staging scenes that can then be photographed. The last activity for the second day involved the participants producing a short video on "The challenges of being a research student at AKU-IED". One group of participants dramatized their experiences, and then the audience had to interrogate the issues portrayed in the drama and come up with a solution to the presented challenges. This proved to be an engaging experience for students and staff in terms of exploring possible solutions to the challenges portrayed.

Dr Mathabo Khau



The day ended with a group photograph of the participants with Dr Khau



Encouraging scholarship

Seminar Series

Our Faculty is committed to encouraging scholarship and the public sharing of knowledge through the Seminar Series and Postgraduate Weekends. This year Dr Kathija Adam launched this year's seminar series with her presentation titled "Language demands on teachers and learners in multilingual South African classrooms" on Wednesday, 18 February 2015. Thirty colleagues from various Departments within the university attended this stimulating session.

Postgraduate seminar

On Friday afternoon, 20th February 2015, the first postgraduate seminar of 2015 was held, inducting postgraduate students into postgraduate research. Six Master's candidates and one doctoral candidate attended and enthusiastically participated in the session. The focus of this seminar was on what it means to do a masters and a doctoral research project, the complexities of developing a postgraduate identity, and the learning through 'threshold crossings'. Ms Amina Brey, a doctoral candidate who was in the 2014 cohort, shared her experiences of doing a doctorate and how she negotiates the process of doctoral learning. There are still 6 more postgraduate research seminars to come and each candidate is expected to engage critically with their postgraduate studies.

Research Supervision Community of Practice

The need to strengthen postgraduate research supervision is a key 2015 project of the Faculty of Education. Establishing a 'Research Supervision Community of Practice' with the Faculty of Education academic staff is one such initiative, facilitated by Prof Naydene de Lange and Prof Paul Webb. On Tuesday, 17 February 2015, 22 academics, and also visiting Fulbright scholar, Dr Eileen Raymond, and Ms Hanna van Lingen from Student Counseling, gathered in the new SERE space and engaged in a dialogue about postgraduate supervision. Participants engaged with the notion of developing postgraduate students who are 'scholars before researchers', drawing on Boote and Beile's article. Some of the questions posed to the community were:

- How important is the literature review?
- How do you assist or facilitate the development of a scholarly literature review?
- How does our Faculty's postgraduate research contribute to scholarship?





The New Resource Centre

Students, staff members and external stakeholders have expressed excitement and delight upon visiting the New Resource Centre premises in building 11. The Centre has been operational since the 9th February 2015 in order to cater to the needs of all students, especially the first years finding their way.

Decorated in light tones with colourful furnishings, the centre is eye catching and reflects the youthful nature of the student body. The RC is now able to cater to a larger capacity of students in any of the lounge, computer, indoor group work or outdoor working areas. The RC is a space of connectivity and progress for the FOE students. And as a creative common, all Education students are welcome to use the space between 7:45 and 16:00 daily, for studying, working on projects, preparing lessons and accessing technology.

The RC also has a Moodle online database of teacher resources such as Teachers guides, eBooks and Caps documents for all subjects (Grade R-12). Visit the Moodle Education Resource Centre by following the link provided

<http://learn.nmmu.ac.za/course/view.php?id=1711>

Taryn Isaacs De Vega



Welcome



Welcome to Mrs Diondra du Preez the third year Public Relations student, interning with the Education Faculty in 2015. We wish her well for the year of marketing the faculty.

Proud to Announce

We are proud to announce that this year we are hosting the 6th Annual HEAIDS HIV and AIDS Education Community of Practice on 16 - 17 March at North Campus Conference centre. The theme for the 2015 colloquium is "Closing the Gap: Integrating HIV and AIDS in the Higher Education Curriculum."

The HEAIDS HIV and AIDS Education CoP is an initiative emanating from the recommendations of the HIV and AIDS in Teacher Education Project (2007-2010). The COP was launched in 2010 at a colloquium hosted by the HIV and AIDS Education Research Chair and supported by HEAIDS. The CoP draws together teacher educators from the 25 higher education institutions. The teacher educators are nominated by their deans, who also fund their travel and accommodation. This is supported by the Education Deans Forum and reflects the education deans' commitment to the integration of HIV and AIDS into the teacher education curriculum. Prof Paul Webb, acting Education Dean, will welcome the CoP members to NMMU.

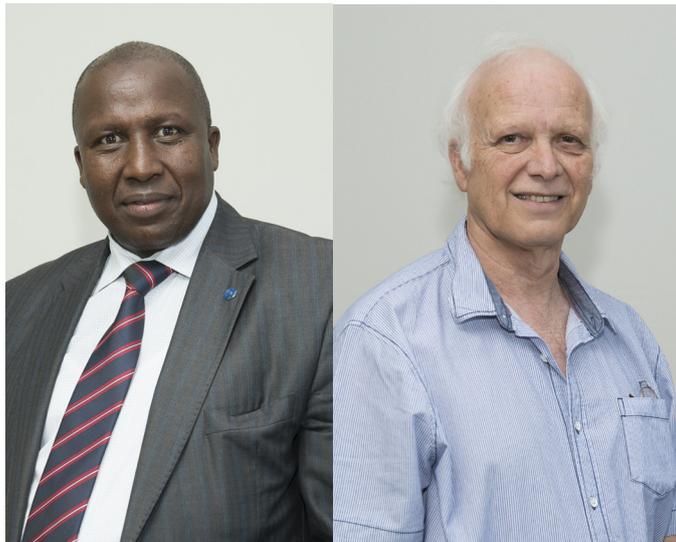


Halala is a Xhosa term that is used to express excitement and congratulations for achievement or in a celebratory event. The term is used in this month's Briefs' section to congratulate some of the Faculty's achievements.

Advancement

Halala to Drs André du Plessis and Kathija Adam who have been invited to participate as fellows in the South African Teaching Advancement at University (TAU) Fellowships Programme in 2015/6. TAU, which is run by the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) aims to contribute towards the enhancement of teaching and learning by supporting the development of a cadre of academics across institutions and disciplines as scholars, leaders and mentors in their fields and to contribute towards the definition of what teaching excellence means in varied institutional settings. NMMU and the Faculty of Education is indeed proud and honoured that André and Kathija have been selected to be fellows in the launch edition of the prestigious TAU programme.

(Adapted from NMMU Communiqué, Reasons to be Proud, 19 Feb 2015)



Development

Halala to Faculty of Education's alumnus, Dr Julius Tanui who was appointed as the Project Leader of the newly established East and South African-German Centre of Excellence for Educational Research Methodologies and Management (CERM-ESA) at Moi University, Kenya. Dr Tanui completed his Doctoral degree in Education in 2011 under the supervision of Professor Paul Webb, who is also CERM-ESA's project leader at NMMU. Tanui's doctoral thesis was a case study of the Nandi Hills and Nandi forests in Western Kenya where current institutional resources, Geographic information Systems and remote sensing as well as local knowledge were used to develop community environmental education.

Now, as CERM-ESA's project leader, Tanui's key responsibilities are overseeing all aspects of the project at Moi university, for example operational issues and administration, staff and student accommodation, travel and academic programme development. We wish the two, together with their colleagues on the CERM-ESA project success on yet another partnership. Halala!

International Award

Halala for Cellphilm award!

At the 2nd International Cellphilm Festival held on 29 November at McGill University in Canada, Nwabisa Holby's cellphilm was announced the winner in the category: international cellphilms! She put South Africa and the Education Faculty on the map with her cellphilm, Cold nights, made as part of her assignment in Dr Margie Childs' module.

Prof De Lange accepted the prize on her behalf. At the 1st International Cellphilm Festival held in 2013 'Girls leading change' took prizes as winner and runner-up!



Proposal Defence

Halala to all the Master's and Doctoral students who have successfully defended their research proposals in 2014 and early this year. Our Faculty looks forward to the next group of postgraduate students who will be defending their proposals during the course of this year.



Sporting Achievements

Halala to JC Chantler, an Education Student, who achieved 2nd place in the Senior Men's Unequipped Bench Press category with a bench press of 140kg. Well done!

FROM PHD TO ARTICLE WRITING



Shomane Pillay, Fumane Khanare, Mart-Mari Gelderhuys and Avie Cherrington

Four doctoral students - under the supervision of Prof. Naydene - retreated to Makaranga Garden Lodge (with its beautiful Shona sculptures), in Hillcrest, KwaZulu-Natal for a three day writing workshop 10-13 December 2014, with the intent to transform an aspect of our PhD theses into an article. An article is required when submitting a thesis.

On the first day we decided on an angle from which to write our articles. We then formulated our abstracts and considered appropriate titles! The content of the article included the following: why the study was done; the research question; the methodology; the findings and implications; and of course the significance of it all. We were reminded to familiarise ourselves with the guidelines for authors of the journal in which we wanted our articles to be published. We learnt that "Google is our friend"! POn the second day we went to explore the journals that would best suit our field of study. Abstracts were written and titles formulated, which were later shared within the group. This collaborative engagement enabled strengthening of the articles core argument (as promised in the abstract) and the refining of the titles to be more 'catchy'. The third day continued with further sharing of ideas and polishing our academic writing.

We would like to express our gratitude to the faculty ERTI Committee for providing funding towards this opportunity and to Prof. de Lange for facilitating this writing workshop as it created a safe space for writing, networking and learning from each other. The experience was a fruitful one as we came away with an article in the making and also with relationships cemented for further collaborative writing.

The Shona sculpture with the four figures entwined represents us on our doctoral journey... realising that our togetherness is a powerful source of support and encouragement on our doctoral journey.



Orientation Programmes

South Campus was abuzz with first year students taking part in the Orientation two weeks prior to the start of the new academic year. The programme focused on students learning various tools and skills on how to succeed in their journey as an undergraduate and young adult. Orientation included larger sessions with students from other faculties and smaller one-on-one sessions with an Education How2 buddy. The How2 buddies who facilitated this programme on behalf of the Faculty of Education were senior students.

The emphasis on this orientation programme was not only knowing the location of important landmarks, but also making the best of one's experience as a student of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

The sessions throughout Orientation included the "Champions Within" dialogue workshop where the students participated and discussed the value of having the mindset and approach to education,

much like Madiba and were inspired to act and think like him and work towards a "champion" approach on their studies and life.

The smaller contact sessions with their How2 buddy was a great opportunity to connect for both the first year students and senior student, sharing knowledge and experience of life on campus. The students discussed subjects related to the faculty and student life and were encouraged to ask questions as well.

Students also took part in fun activities during the contact sessions which included a full tour of the campus and a "selfie" scavenger hunt where groups of students had to find various places around campus and take photographs of themselves. The students thoroughly enjoyed getting to know their campus in this way.

Throughout the orientation, most of the students felt at ease for their first week of lectures. And to an extent the senior students felt rewarded as we supported the next generation of graduates into the start of their university careers.



Ginique Brown

Faculty of Education Presents at Exhibition

The annual CEIA Exhibition was hosted from the 16th to the 20th of February 2015 at the Nelson Mandela Bay Science and Technology Centre in Uitenhage and at the Nongoza Jebe Hall in New Brighton.

Various institutions including Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, The University of Fort Hare and the Career Exhibition and Information Association (CEIA) partook in this informative event.

The exhibition was aimed at grade 11 and 12 learners in order to expose them to career opportunities by providing sufficient, comprehensive and helpful career information.

The Faculty of Education was present in introducing these learners to the world of teaching and the various programmes that it has to offer. These students were also informed of the different qualifications, requirements and information about bursaries.

The Faculty of Education hopes to equip students with the information shared and wishes every student well with choosing their career path.



Diondra du Preez

First Year Activity

Registration



PGCE Camp



How to programme

