



Faculty of Education Celebrates DIVERSITY MONTH



Photovoice

This year the Faculty of Education hosted a series of events to commemorate diversity month which is held annually at the NMMU. The first event, which was held at the Student cafeteria on the Missionvale campus on the 17th of August, and repeated on the South campus on the 26th of August, was a photo-voice experience for participants to showcase what men could do to stop violence against women. This event was extremely well supported and demonstrated the active engagement of both men and women against gender based violence. The event was co-ordinated by Professor Naydene de Lange and her group of female activists. An article based on the yeoman work of this community of practice was featured in the local newspaper on the day after the event held at the Missionvale campus.

The second event featured a seminar entitled 'Female sexual pleasure and autonomy: What has genital modification/mutilation got to do with it?' was co-ordinated by Dr Mathabo Khau and raised crucial issues relating to genital mutilation.



Schooling then and now



Open Mike Session

The open microphone session held on the 24th of August provided a platform for poets and novice poets from across the institution to showcase their talents in poetry writing and presentation. The session was extremely well attended with an audience of at least 60 students and staff. The talent was phenomenal and the range of themes cut across all aspects of diversity including education, love, conflict and interpersonal matters. The poets were eager and energised to present their poems in the languages of their choice and there was no shortage of participants as they streamed to the front to share their poems with a very appreciate audience. A highlight of this event was the joint presentation by Faculty members Dr Vuks Tshazibana and Dr Katija Adam who conceptualised, wrote and presented their poem entitled Makhulu (a poem written in both English and isiXhosa) to an extremely receptive audience.

The final event, which was held on the 26th of August, was a well-co-ordinated exhibition on education pre-1995 which included a host of exhibits such as learners' reports, photographs, school uniforms and a range of interesting artefacts from a bygone era. The exhibition, which was conceptualised by Professor Pat Bean, demonstrated how a first year education module could be made exciting and how the history of South African education could come alive. A significant feature of this exercise was that first year students were afforded opportunities to work in diverse groups to share education histories across the various segregated education departments pre-1994. The exhibition was very well supported by students and staff from across the institution and was, by all accounts, very well received by all those who were afforded the opportunity to 'call back the past' in the context of a South African educational historical experience.

Both the students and members of staff need to be congratulated for their enthusiasm and commitment to diversity month. They have set a very high standard this year which will hopefully be surpassed in 2016.

By Logan Athiemoolam (Diversity month convenor)

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A Photovoice Experience: What men can do to stop violence against women

By Bongwiwe Mhambi



On Monday 17th August a group of Girls Leading Change engaged other students in a photovoice experience at Missionvale Campus. These education students were at it again – raising awareness of violence against girls and women. Using photovoice to engage the students – men and women – opened up the possibility for the girls to hear what men and other women students though could be done to stop violence against women. Using their hands as focus point of the camera, the students took a photograph, printed it right there and then and wrote a message.

Some of the messages were:

- ▶ *Be the peace she seeks...*
- ▶ *U are a phenomenal woman! Let no-one tell you otherwise!...*
- ▶ *Women are the most precious gifts on Earth Please handle with care!*
- ▶ *You are my rock, I will treasure you like a precious stone...*
- ▶ *The more love you show to a woman the more love back she will give, Spread the love and act against woman abuse...*
- ▶ *Respect yourself by respecting women.*
- ▶ *PEACE... Don't remain silent say no to abusers..."*

The students at Missionvale campus responded positively to the initiative and 69 photos were taken in the lunch hour. Even though the event was focused on male students – getting their viewpoints - the female students also made their voices heard.

A similar event was held on the 26th at South Campus. Here 67 photographs were taken by both men and women students.

Some of their messages were:

- ▶ *Girls shouldn't be hit, not even with a flower 🌸*
- ▶ *I VOW TO HOLD YOUR HAND AND NOT RAISE MINE ON YOU! HOLD HER TENDER*
- ▶ *Respecting women & and making them your partner in everything. It will be to your benefit. Women make success of everything*
- ▶ *MAN-UP, PROTECT WOMEN THOUGHTFUL ACTIONS CAN LEAD TO A BETTER WORLD. THINK!*
- ▶ *My hands shall be a container for empowering...*

This is only a small initiative, but it is a step closer to winning this battle. Also see the Herald of 18 August, Students focus on gender violence.





Sondle Sonke



Open Mike Session

On Monday 24th August 2015, the Sondle Sonke Poetry project hosted an open mike session for aspiring poets. Professor Logan Athiemoolam explained that “the participants were absolutely amazing and the quality of some of the poems were fantastic! Basically, what is apparent is that there is a yearning desire amongst fledgling writers, to share their work with others, and the audience in attendance was also a very receptive one”. More than 60 students attended the session, many of whom participated. Thanks to Dr Adam and Dr Tshazibana for their lovely poem entitled ‘Makhulu’ – this was well received as the theme resonated with the audience. The range of poems, the diverse languages used and the themes fitted in well with diversity month.



Schooling then and now

Diversity month events included an Exhibition of Professor Patrick Bean's first year's students' work on the 26th August 2015. The exhibition features projects that form part of the module, combining of artefacts and historical accounts centred on the theme of Schooling then and now. The project uncovered interesting experiences of the past.





Values in Education

By Robin Notshulwana

The excursion August 19, 2015 formed part of our first year educational module called Values in Education, however, the broader intention of the 'project' was thought of as being infused throughout the entire B.Ed. programme. On objective of this activity was to facilitate our (staff and students) continued interrogation and understanding of the sociopolitical nature of education; to uncover our own perceptions and ideological understandings of structures and how oppression historically and currently reinforces and perpetuates inequality in order to develop our abilities to teach in a just and democratic way.

We hope this experience and ones to follow will broaden students understanding of the scope of teachers work and the educational landscape of South Africa, provide an experience for students to draw on when theory, concepts or methods are discussed throughout their B.Ed. programme and finally provide an opportunity for students to enter into spaces that are unfamiliar in order to create discomfort and possibly stimulate the shift in their own personal identities and build resilience, creativity and dare to think and be different for the improvement of a truly just and democratic citizenry.



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The students had a rich and career affirming experience, some of them had this to say...

"I realized the real importance of my job today...it goes far beyond the curriculum and learning how to read, write, do math or learn Afrikaans, it reaches into learning about life, how to love after not seeing any good examples of it (for some) and how to have morals and respect and pride. It scares me that my journey is not even half of what I think it will be, but I am ready to take the challenging, yet rewarding career."

"I think my perspective used to be very one-dimensional, however, it has changed... the improvisation and just utter joy I saw in these educators is what I hope to be and do."

"I realized that not all schools are going to be the same as the schools I went to."

"This experience was an eye opener and it made me realize I have a long way to go in overcoming language barriers and cultural difference."





SODLA SONKE INITIATIVE

POP UP SHOP

By Jackie Hay and Mary-Anne Laufs

The Admin Forum Committee has organized and run the Sodla Sonke Pop Up shop for the month of August. Due to popular demand, the shop will remain open until Friday 4 September. This venture enabled people to purchase items that would usually be pricey, while giving others the opportunity to get rid of unwanted items in a thoughtful way.

The Admin Forum would like to thank all colleagues, family and friends that made contributions to the shop. Without these contributions this venture would not have

been possible. It is so encouraging to see how willing people are to assist. The staff have all worked extremely well together and have experienced a great amount of pleasure in participating in this very time consuming project.



We have exceeded our goal of R10 000.00 and are excited about how much this will help our own students in the beginning of the next tough academic year. The items that have not been sold in the shop will be donated to another worthy cause - The Animal Welfare shop.

We would like to wish all other groups success in their Sodla Sonke project.

DREAMS OF A FEAST A Poetry Anthology in support of the Sodla Sonke Initiative

By Kathija Adam

Sodla Sonke [all shall share, all should eat] was adopted by the NMMU faculty of education as a community initiative to raise funds to support our students who experience challenges at the beginning of each academic year. The faculty works together in teams [including academics, administrative staff and students] to develop initiatives that will raise the required funds. In June, the group nominated to work together decided on developing a series of workshops that invite education students and faculty to write poetry in community. In this way, the anthology entitled "Dreams of a Feast" was born.

It is an anthology that pieces together, using poetry the hidden story of the struggles faced by many of our students as they strive for success. It captures how they grapple with obstacles along the way and how they are often misunderstood as being a burden on the system. A system which sets standards that negate the human experience and is instead entirely outcomes driven. This story, however, does not end in tragedy, but is a praise-song for those who beat the odds when fortune is not

in their favour. This is a story about hope, sacrifice and, above all, friendship and sharing together. This is a story about making futures in where there is loss in the counting of the many regrets but rather a record of opportunities and making the most of the blessings bestowed as we embrace our collective agency. This idea is borne from a symbiotic faculty culture, that those that give and receive can learn from each other and benefit from each other, each bringing their unique perspectives in communion, thus broadening the horizon for all.

In working together, not only did we harness creativity but also critical awareness of harsh realities leading to the development of a critical consciousness that challenges by some must be shared by all. Central to our work as teachers (veteran and novice) is the development of the human being in the midst of all of the realities that impact the work of teaching and learning. Equitable access and equitable success requires more of us as teachers and leaders and this experience allowed us to think together of ways in which we may take collective responsibility.

Though this work represents a collective effort, Mr Brian Walters, Prof Logan Athiemoolam, Dr Margie Childs, Dr Cossie Rasana and Ms Kholisa Papu are acknowledged for their work in helping me drive this project by giving of their time to facilitate the poetry workshops, and Ms Gishma Daniels-Smith and Ms Mary Anne Laufs without whose support this work would have not been possible.

A snippet of the poem by Taryn Isaacs de Vega puts our message in perspective:

*"Through our humanity we are a family
Via our intercontinental bond we are joined
By our African heritage, we are one
One continent, one nation, one people
Sodla sonke
All shall share, all should eat"*



Girls Leading Change



A time to tell 'Our Stories'

By Bongzi Maame

The GLC was brought together in 2013 to start a dialogue with policy makers at our higher education institution in addressing sexual violence. As part of the process we participated in a workshop on Friday and Saturday 20-21 August, 2015, at The Chapman, where the girls began the process of sharing their own personal stories with one another and documenting these stories for their next big project - publishing a book, entitled, 14 Times a Woman. The GLC, with Prof De Lange and Prof Moletsane from UKZN, are working on the book, purposed to share our stories, to encourage other young women to do the same in their own ways, to inform men of the lived realities of young women in today's society, and in the process encourage policy makers to take note of these realities and to initiate change in creating a more equitable context for girls and women. Throughout the workshop

the underlying theme was looking into our own personal experiences over the years, thinking about how they have impacted and shaped our lives as young women, and beginning a healing process. The workshop was an "emotional cleanse" for the girls and everyone walked out re-energized knowing that they are the change they want to see.

Lelethu and Zikhona off to Durban to speak at the Agenda Feminist Dialogue at Durban University of Technology

By Lelethu Mlobeli

Excitement as we got up early to catch our first flight! Zikhona Tshiwula and I flew to Durban on the morning of 19th August to participate in a Feminist Dialogue hosted by Agenda and a DUT Leadership programme. We were collected from the airport like VIPs! The Feminist dialogue programme of the day enabled me to have a clearer picture of the importance of our work as Girls Leading Change with Profs De Lange, Moletsane and Mitchell. Having to engage with university girls in a similar project just like ours (GLC) at Durban University of Technology (DUT), and listen to women academics on Sexual abuse and Climate Change, made me see and experience the importance and urgency of these projects and of the agenda 'against sexual violence'. Zikhona and I participated in a panel discussion with students from DUT – all with different views on Sexual violence. I got really nervous when I had to present my piece. Our work was well received and it opened up space for dialogue around sexual violence on university campuses. The day was a steep learning curve but a wonderful experience! Tired, but excited, we caught our flight home! We enjoyed our day.





Inspiring Computer Programmers

By Dr Ronald Beyers

Nationally and globally a desperate shortage in software development skills is being experienced. In contrast to well-known professions such as Engineering, Accounting and Medical, it is very difficult for learners at school to have a correct perspective on programming as a career. This is worsened when they are in schools where IT is not offered, and in a region where very few programmers actually work. A lack of exposure often leads to learners with potential not to choose IT as a career.

A pilot project was conducted in the computer laboratories of the NMMU Department of Computer Science in Port Elizabeth over 5 days during the July recess where 16 learners were drawn from surrounding disadvantaged schools with strong Mathematics and Computer Application Technology skills. They participated in this pilot project as a precursor to a possible roll-out of the project across the province and possibly through additional CoLabs to other parts of the country. The 5 day pilot was a hands-on, practical experience. In the first 4 days the students were introduced to logic and simple programming concepts using Duplo, Scratch and the Lego programmable (NXT/EV3) Brick with Dr Ron Beyers. On the last day the learners were introduced to C# programming with Prof Jean Greyling. The short term objective of the pilot project was to introduce programming to learners from schools which do not offer IT as a subject - with the purpose of inviting them to consider a computing qualification after they matriculate. Longer term objectives include introducing primary school children to programming and capacitating more schools to offer IT as an NSC Grade 12 subject. The scope of the project will possibly widen to include IT educator training at schools. The broader vision is the possible roll-out the project throughout the Eastern Cape and to other provinces.

The current project coordinators included the Eastern Cape eSkills CoLab - ICT for Rural Development - based at Walter Sisulu University, the NMMU Computer Science Department and Education Faculty and the Young Engineers and Scientists of Africa group (YESA).



CANRAD CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON NON-RACIALISM



by Logan Athiemoolam

The first international conference hosted by CANRAD with the theme *Non-Racialism in South Africa- Past, Present and Future: Debates and Controversies*, was held from the 27-29 August 2015 at the NMMU North Campus Conference Centre.

The conference, which was attended by at least 100 delegates, showcased the work of academics in the field of non-racialism from a range of South African Higher Education Institutions as well as colleagues from the United Kingdom, Argentina, Switzerland, Sweden and Zimbabwe.

Keynote addresses were presented by Professor Crain Soudien from the University of Cape Town who presented a paper entitled 'The

debate around race and its use', Professor Alison Drew from the University of York (UK) who presented a paper under the conference sub theme of race and racism in contemporary social theory and political discourse and Dr Shirley-Ann Tate from the University of Leeds (UK) who presented a paper entitled 'I can't quite put my finger on it: Racism's touch'.

Colleagues from the Faculty of Education, who participated in the conference, included Professor Logan Athiemoolam who presented a paper entitled 'Reliving forced removals in South Africa through a theatre-in-education production' and Dr Mathabo Khau who presented an insightful paper entitled 'Aren't I an academic? Intersections of race, class and gender in Higher Education' Dr Muki Moeng (executive dean of the Faculty of Education) and Ms Nadeema Mushtaan also participated by chairing plenary sessions.

The conference succeeded in bringing together colleagues from across a range of both national and international institutions to share their experiences on some of the challenges encountered at their institutions, and to reflect on how institutions could be transformed to cater for greater diversity.

MINI-DANCE COLLOQUIUM



The mini-dance colloquium, which was hosted by the Faculty of Arts in association with the Department of Arts and Culture on the 21 August 2015 at the NMMU North Campus Senate Hall, aimed to gather information and discuss issues of bridging the gap between dance/arts and the academia within NMMU.

The following papers were presented at the Colloquium:

- ▶ Objectives and purpose of the colloquium with respect to dance at NMMU- Professor Boswell (Dean of Faculty of Arts)
- ▶ Dance genres – Overview of dance in the Eastern Cape – Ms Nicki Rayepen and Ms Aarti Narotam (Department of Arts and Culture)
- ▶ Humanising Pedagogy – Professor Andre Keet (UFS and researcher in CANRAD)
- ▶ Creative arts students and the challenges they face – Mrs Mary Duker (Director of School of Music, Art and Design)
- ▶ Research Methodologies in setting up and arts college (private sector) – Mrs Marlene Thomasse- Pieterse (Principal and owner of Stageworld Theatre Schools)
- ▶ Feasibility of arts in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro – Mr Monde Ngonyama –(General Manager of the Opera House)
- ▶ Vision of Arts at NMMU – Professor Denise Zinn (Deputy Vice Chancellor)

Logan Athiemoolam also presented a paper at the colloquium entitled 'using arts based approaches in the university classroom: My personal journey' in which he provided an expose of his use of arts based methodologies in his classes over a period of 11 years at the NMMU. The colloquium resolved to systematically work on the creation of arts based modules that would feed into the design of an envisaged Performing Arts programme that would be offered by the NMMU in the foreseeable future.



Third Times the Charm – Cofimvaba Experience

By Esme Hoch

During the second week of the new semester, we went to Cofimvaba again. And what an experience! This is my third time going with Dr Ron Beyers to Cofimvaba, doing sessions about the Hydrogen fuel cells and green energy.

I had the privilege to host my own sessions this time: I played with Lego alongside the children! The whole idea behind this initiative is to help learners with various subjects, like Mathematics, English, Technology whilst also working on social skills, motor skills, and communication skills. I went along with Dr Beyers, Melissa Gerber and a student outside of university. I never thought that it would be such a good experience the third time around. But I have to say, I have learnt more this time than the previous two.

It is still heart breaking to see the conditions in which these children function and live, but the energy and motivation to learn is so much more than in a normal school. I could see how Melissa's eyes opened when she saw how many learners in South Africa actually live in these types of environments.

The student from outside university also gained a lot of perspective. On the first day whilst doing a Lego session, one of the girls attracted his attention. She was quiet, sullen and wanted to play with the Lego, but struggled to follow instructions. So he decided to work with her and play alongside her. And what progress he made. She apparently came from a home where abuse was the keyword of the day, so she was naturally very quiet. But when he worked with her, she came alive. She communicated, she played with her other friends and she built the most amazing structures. Although there was a language barrier, she understood the hand signals that he used. Afterwards, she came to him and handed him a small, used pencil and three seeds. We asked the teachers what this meant, and they said that the seed meant growth, and the pencil meant that it was her only possession at school.

So whether an education student or not, you can bring a smile to others, even with the smallest gesture. And that is what makes educating learners so special to me. It is not always rewarding in the ways you want it to be, but trying to make a change and light up a learners life, can be the greatest reward of all.





Catching the shuttle to MV

True to her word, Dr Muki Moeng, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, took a shuttle bus from South Campus to Missionvale Campus recently with faculty PR intern, Diondra Ownhouse. Dr Moeng had decided to try out the inter-campus travel service offered to students after speaking with Education students about the relocation of the Foundation Phase programme to the Missionvale Campus. Transport concerns was a key point raised by students in the meeting, so Dr Moeng decided to try out the inter-campus bus service to see how efficient and effective a mode of transport it is for our students. This trip was not pre-arranged with the shuttle service. “At exactly

9am the bus drivers phone beeped, he started up the engine, closed the door and we were off!” she said. No delays and seating was available for the majority of users although, by the time the bus left Pier 14, there were a few standing passengers. The journey took one hour from South Campus to Missionvale and is a reliable transport mode for our students. The faculty is in discussions with institutional support in terms of the transport needs of our students from 2016, however we also require input from our students. To this end, an online survey has been designed and made available to students to complete which will assist in us identifying any gaps in service and special needs for our programme offering on MV Campus. (<http://learn.nmmu.ac.za/course/view.php?id=2307>)

Dr Moeng is taking another trip on Monday 14th September, 9am. Join her!



Halala to the Students in Sports



Congratulations to Monique Janse Van Rensburg, a 5th year BEd Honours student won her age division at the Durban 70.3 (Half-Ironman) recently.

She came first in the 18-24 age group, completing her first ever half ironman in a time of 5:09. Monique has now qualified to participate in Australia on 4 September 2016, where she will be representing RSA. Well done Monique!





New Look for the FOE



The Faculty of Education has brightened up its dreary halls. Colourful representations of students in the form of airflow banners have been erected in building 6 and building 11 along with exhibitions of student's work. Thanks to Professor Bean, Mrs Robin Notshulwana and the first year students for the exhibitions in building 11 and special thanks to the marketing committee for aesthetically enhancing our environment.



Presenting Education to Pearson High



By Diondra Ownhouse

On the 20th of August, the Faculty of Education presented at the Pearson Career Evening where Grade 11 and 12 learners attended various sessions to discuss the myriad of courses on offer at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Banners were up, the brochures were handed out and the interest to study Education was spectacular. Fifty learners attended the presentation with their parents and showed genuine curiosity in a career as educators.

Both Mrs Geswint and Dr Morar assisted during the presentation and answered questions from eager learners pertaining to modules, funding as well as the sporting side to teaching. Students showed interest in hearing more about the exchange programme and also how playing sport would help them in securing funding toward higher education.

Special thanks to Mrs Geswint for her tremendous help and Dr Morar for his assured presence.

