

# Faculty of Education News

It's all Fun & Games,  
Mntase!



On the 22nd September 2023 the Faculty's First Year Experience Programme peer tutors hosted a Games Fun Fest for Education 1st years and staff.

The day's festivities were aimed at bringing together our first year students from across the three undergraduate programmes in the faculty. Teams were randomly put together and each received a road map of game stations they had to follow and complete.

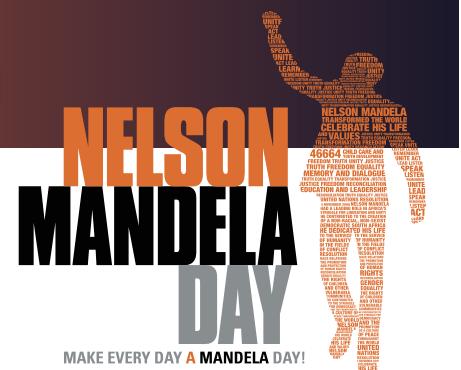
The various game stations tested different levels of team work and called upon intellectual, mental and physical acuity, and how everyone can work together on their team. Peer helpers and senior student volunteers ran the stations and ensured rules were adhered to by all teams.

FYEP peer tutor, Zenzo Nkosi, lead the peer tutors and helpers in planning the event as a whole, including the types of game stations and the logistics and equipment needed to host such an event.

How proud are we of these future teachers! We look forward to future events such as these where fun, collegiality and laughter are the aims of the day.



# A Meaningful Mandela Day Collaboration



## Nelson Mandela University: Faculty of Education and Nelson Mandela Bay YMCA Join Forces for a Meaningful Mandela Day Collaboration

Gqeberha - The annual observance of Mandela Day on July 18th recognizes the life and contributions of Nelson Mandela. The idea of setting aside 67 minutes of one's time to help others is one of the most important parts of Mandela Day. On the day, organizations from diverse industries work together, combining their resources, knowledge, and labour to make a significant impact.

This Mandela Day, the Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela University with the Nelson Mandela Bay YMCA teamed up to revamp the Omega Daycare Centre in Helenvale.

Omega Daycare Centre is more than just a daycare facility; for many residents of Helenvale, it is a refuge that has been a pillar of support for both children and their families since 1969 when it was first established.

Beyond Mandela Day, the Nelson Mandela University, and the Nelson Mandela Bay YMCA both intend to keep up the good job of assisting the communities in the Gqeberha.



# Research Week EXHIBITION

Nelson Mandela University was thrilled to have hosted its second annual Research Week, following the remarkable success of the inaugural event in 2022. This year's Research Week was poised to be an even more illuminating and collaborative endeavour, aiming to foster engagement, synergistic partnerships, and enriched networks that contributed to the thriving research culture within the institution.

The faculty of education was well represented showcasing the post graduate department and its offerings.

The post graduate department is a critical part of the academic community, contributing to the global body of knowledge through research. The faculty of Education is home to leading academics with an impressive number of internationally acclaimed researchers among staff.

Our postgraduate programmes play an important role in further development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills through research and contributions to knowledge creation.

# Strategic Planning Session

## for Nelson Mandela University Faculty of Education and Partnering Public TVET Colleges

Since 2019, the Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela University has hosted and facilitated strategic planning sessions with partnering public TVET colleges. Partnering public TVET colleges are all the colleges that have signed a memorandum of agreement with the university to professionalise their teaching staff.

This year we invited delegates from all partnered TVET colleges ranging from **SDFs, Curriculum Manager/s, HRE officers to any other college staff members delegated by their colleges to a two-day strategic planning session on 17th and 18th August 2023**. Last year this session was held at the university in Port Elizabeth, our host this year was **Mopani TVET College in Phalaborwa, Limpopo**.

We had a successful two-day session, where various issues regarding lecturer development were addressed between DHET, NMU and partnering public TVET colleges, and how the Adv Dip TVET program has impacted their lecturers. It was great to see how well developed TVET colleges are in preparing students to become functional workers in a skilled trade.



# TVET Student Journals

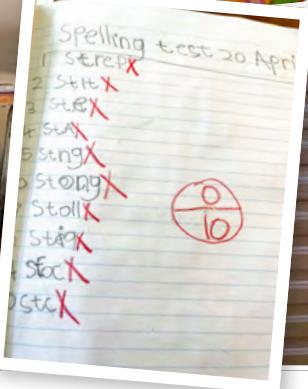
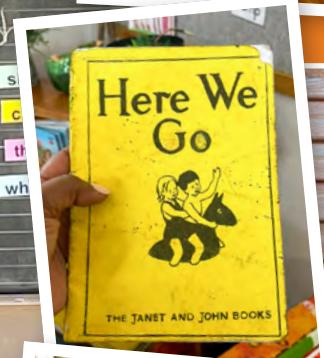


We started off the new season with a Student Symposium for Advanced Diploma in Technical and Vocational Teaching. The Symposium provided an opportunity for all the TVET students to demonstrate their teaching skills and workplace knowledge as vocational and technical educators.

One of our partners; Siyaphumelela, under the KRESGE Foundation funded a student journal project where students showcase their writing abilities.



# Beacons of Hope & Possibility



I teach literacy methodology in English to Foundation Phase pre-service teachers. Our programme requires our 4th year students to be in schools for 3 out of 5 days a week for their last year. This is a good model as teaching is a profession that benefits from an apprenticeship model, and many education systems do the same around the world. However, South African education comes with a particular context of crisis, rooted in inequality, that complicates notions of apprenticeship and mentorship. With this brief article I want to share and acknowledge the efforts of our programme and our students in trying to do things differently in order to serve our children better.

I warn my 3rd year literacy students about the inherent tension that exists with SBL (school-based learning). We want our students exposed to a variety of classrooms and various conditions. Part of the logic is that they will get experience of teaching in schooling contexts, part of it is the opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt in lecture rooms for three years, and part of it is to learn from other teachers. However, what tends to happen is that our students are expected to assimilate to the school culture and practices. In terms of literacy, this assimilation is generally one of failure. 8 out of 10 of our learners cannot read for meaning in any language by Grade 4. This is a systemic Foundation Phase failure. In most classrooms, in most languages, our children are not learning literacy. There are no libraries, no relevant, exciting reading material in various languages, inadequate or no support for teachers, etc.

This sets up a tension between our programme and school realities. Our BEd Foundation Phase literacy programme envisions the normative child in South Africa as African-language speaking, bi- or multilingual, and our contexts as print scarce and not conducive to learning in general. So we teach our students to develop and support literacy acquisition using multilingual pedagogies and to create conducive environments to support learning.

Our BEd FP literacy curriculum is based on the principles of multimodality, multilingualism, and social-cultural approaches to literacy learning. It is based on sound research on the elements of



literacy development as well as the conditions required for optimal literacy acquisition. Both of these are important. Literacy is more than technical skills of decoding and handwriting. It involves motivation, pleasure, purpose, meaning making, risk, and many things we don't measure and assess.

Some of the things we teach in the university lecture rooms are not welcomed in school classrooms and there aren't any serious engagements on the level of pedagogy between the university and schools.

To complicate matters further, our children and classrooms in Foundation Phase are still recovering from the disruption of Covid. Learning losses, particularly in literacy, are large. In the classroom children struggle to sit and listen for any length of time, they struggle to take turns, etc. Resources (like stationery) are fiercely guarded and lessons are regularly disrupted by arguments (and tears) as the consequences of losing resources are higher for families and school communities that have little to spare.

Our current 4th year students spent 3 of their 4 undergraduate years online. Apart from a month in 2020, they had the dubious honour of being the ones most exposed to faculty's learning curve for online pedagogies. I took my modules on to WhatsApp where I could voice note, share PowerPoints, PDFs, videos, links, pictures. We made videos talking through lectures. When it became safer, I called for face to face workshops on children's literature, storytelling, reading aloud. They got 3 years of content with little opportunity for embodied practice. Teaching is performative. 'Knowing' goes beyond understanding, it is also gained through practice. It has been difficult and the cost shows in how many students I have 'lost' from 1st to 4th year.

This year I have 5 SBL students in various schools across the Bay. I have been inspired by our students. Beyond the technical, tickbox requirements of SBL they have truly embodied the kinds of teachers our children need. Lessons are taught in English medium schools, in classrooms filled with isiXhosa speaking children, in ways that affirm children's linguistic knowledge and use it to build English knowledge. They have employed pedagogies of fun, filled with stories, games, humour, excitement. It was clear to me, the obvious love for teaching and children that came through clearly in their interactions with their classes. Our student teachers have not assimilated in ways that harm our children. They are able to critically assess what happens (and doesn't happen) in classrooms and build their practice around what they know is needed. It hasn't always gone according to plan. There have been maths lessons that confused vertices and edges, lessons on time that had us scratching our heads in confusion, and Grade R lessons that amount to herding cats. But the 4th year is for learning, for practicing, for trying things out. And what I have seen this year is hopeful and exciting.

*Nadeema Musthan*

# Do not suffer alone student!

## Mental health awareness

On Tuesday the 8th of August 2023, Life Skills students together with their lecturer, Dr Msutwana, engaged on an awareness exhibition teaching about mental illness. This stemmed from a discussion held in class around which topics or issues students could bring awareness on to fellow students. Students gave suggestions and presented compelling arguments on their topics of choice and to be fair, a decision to vote on these was reached. Consequently, the first-year students voted on Moodle to choose their preferred topic from the two they finally decided on. There was no outright winner from the cast votes and Dr Msutwana made the final determination to do mental health awareness and resolved to conduct another exhibition on the second topic later in the year.

The day started with the fourth-year Life Skills students setting up the foyer for the exhibition. They enthusiastically put up the posters, pictures, brochures, handouts that Dr Msutwana prepared beforehand. They also wrote brief messages of hope, encouragement, support, and upliftment on stickers and hung them on the wooden display boards. This action by the seniors could be seen as goodwill which was ushering the juniors well and successfully into higher education.

By Dr Veronica Msutwana

**1** Students Kirsten Manasse (left) and Danel Coetze (right) with Dr Msutwana (centre) are one of those who were instrumental in providing some content adapted and used in this exhibition. The other three students worth mentioning here are Thanduxolo Zulu, Francisco Prins and Lerato Mohlotsana.

**2** Ms Lulutho Dingiswayo, Emthonjeni Wellness Centre counsellor.

**3** Some of the first-year Life Skills students on the day.



# Mental health awareness



- 4 The Life Skills fourth-year group  
5 Scenes of students on the day





# Nyt Shift

Monday & Tuesday

19:00 - 21:00

*With*

## Loyiso



Produced by Loyiso Nimrod Manzana



f @madibazradio    @madibazradio    @MadibazRadio    @madibaz\_radio    069 885 3970

# CONGRATS Loyiso

4<sup>th</sup> year SP-FET phase student Loyiso Manzana makes the final cut in the recently announced show lineup of our campus radio; Madibaz Radio.

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Catch Loyiso Manzana on the “Nyt Shift” every Monday & Tuesday between 19:00 PM - 21:00 PM.

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# Happy International Dot Day!



Dot Day is celebrated internationally.

It is inspired by the book "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds.

In the story we meet Vashti. She tells her teacher she can't draw. Her teacher inspires her to make her mark. Vashti develops confidence and creativity through the dot art work.

The PIEA300 students have set up activities on and off campus. They are working in schools, after care centres, retirement homes, orphanages, in the corridors of South Campus and in the residences.

They are celebrating innovation and community, of using talents to make the world a better place.

By Dr Margie Childs



## What is DOT DAY?

Dot Day is a celebration of creativity and art. A celebration of innovation, of community - locally and globally - a celebration of "dot connecting." Dot Day is a celebration of great teaching and inspired learning. Self-discovery and self-expression. It is a celebration of bravery - of vision - seeing the possible - seeing the solution before it even exists. Dot Day is a celebration of impact - a time to think of how we all can make our mark.

It is a day to use our energy, talents and time to make this world a better place. It is a day to make the world a more colorful place. Dot Day invites you to create bravely. It is a gallery of inspiration. A global festival of humans being amazing human beings. A celebration of human potential. A reminder to think of each day as a **NEW** day... a blank page... a chance to make it the best day yet.

A chance to splash, shine, share and inspire. Dot Day can be today, tomorrow, next week... it can be **EVERY** day!

- PETER H. REYNOLDS

[www.InternationalDotDay.org](http://www.InternationalDotDay.org)

# AFRIKAANS LITERARY CONFERENCE

# AFRIKAANS LITERARY CONFERENCE

From 23-25 August Rhodes University's School of Languages hosted the bi-annual conference of the Afrikaanse Letterkundevereniging. The conference was held at the South End Museum in Gqeberha. Dr Dewald Koen presented a paper titled: "Die mystical komvandaan": 'n Bespreking van herkoms en identiteit in Ronelda Kamfer se *Kompoun* (2021).

In Diana Ferrus's poem "Ons Komvandaan" she writes: "And when they landed here, / far from family ties - / what were their thoughts?" (2005:3). This question by the poet-speaker not only emphasizes the traumatic history of slavery in the South African context but in the poem itself also raises several questions about identity and origin and the lived experiences of individuals that arise from it as part of global history.

In her Jan Rabie & Marjorie Wallace lecture entitled "Like a cow pole on the farm" (2018), Kamfer joins Ferrus's poem "Komvandaan" when she notes that "if you don't know where you come from, you're going to think you come from nothing". In the paper, origin and identity are discussed through various characters and themes in Ronelda Kamfer's debut novel *Kompoun* (2021). The paper briefly explores the influence of the past on the characters' identity formation through their family ties, gender, patriarchy, matriarchy, race, and origin in South African society.

1 Dr Koen presenting his paper. Shane Haynes (BEd SP/FET 3) kindly assisted with the PowerPoint presentation.

2 Dr Koen and Mrs Nomfanelo Sikrweqe (Afrikaans lecturer at Walter Sisulu University).



# COLLEAGUES PRESENT PAPERS AT LITASA CONFERENCE



The LITASA (Literacy Association of South Africa) conference, which was hosted by the NMU and Rhodes from the 8th to the 10th of September at the 2nd Avenue Campus, proved to be a resounding success, as delegates from across the country shared their insights, experiences and concerns related to literacy development from early childhood literacy to primary, secondary and higher education. Colleagues from the Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela University, who are members of LITASA, namely Ms Nadeema Mushtan (who served as the chair) and Dr Eileen Scheckle, together with administrator Ms Basheera Brooks, students from the Faculty of Education and other support staff did a splendid job in ensuring that the conference was a great success. The standard of the presentations was phenomenal and the delegates, who attended, lauded the organisers for the excellent organisation, range of workshops and presentations included in the programme, and the additional functions including the cocktail event and the book launch at the South End Museum.

Colleagues who presented papers at the conference from the Faculty of Education included Dr Margie Childs who presented a paper, titled "An arts-based account of learning from a parent-child story creation initiative", which was very well received, Professor Logan Athiemoolam who presented a paper, titled, "The value of tableau vivant for enhanced literacy practices through embodied learning" and a joint paper by Professor Logan Athiemoolam, Mr Thato Moshesh and Mr Bruce Gordon, titled, "The value of moviemaking for the development of multi-literacies: Reflecting on experiences" which was lauded for the movie-making process aimed at building social cohesion amongst the staff.



# BRICS PARTNERSHIPS



Prof Logan Athiemoolam and Dr Walters Do Nubia represented the Faculty of Education at the meeting of rectors from over 70 Brazilian universities (ABRAUM) at the Ocean Sciences Campus in August. These visits by delegates from various BRICS countries to South African universities were part of the additional partnerships on the sidelines of the BRICS summit that was held in South Africa in August this year.

## Casual Day

Casual Day was acknowledged on 01 September 2023 and the faculty showed their support to this initiative by donating the equivalent R value of 60 stickers. This went to our Universal Accessibility & Disability Service Dept.

The proceeds from donations are channelled directly to non-profit organizations and schools who are making a tremendous impact in the lives of children and adults with disabilities in communities all across South Africa.

These include access to education, assistive devices, job placement, inclusive employment and enterprise development, skills development, advocacy, human rights, youth and women's programs, and vital support and training for those affected by Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



## Staff Music Group

A group of colleagues are starting a staff 'music group'!

We (faculty) have a vibrant and colourful history of entertaining musically at various faculty and institutional activities and engagements, and even impromptu! This keen group of colleagues would like to stoke up the creative juices again and have this vibrancy added back into our working and learning spaces.

Please let Dr Logan Athiemoolam know if you are interested to join in and he will include you in the group for meet ups, practices and performances!

# Post Graduate Induction programmes

A couple of Post Graduate Induction programmes have been held this quarter

The workshop held on Friday 4th & Saturday, 5th August 2023 covered a range of topics around qualitative and quantitative research methods (what is data, data collection and data analysis). They also discussed NECT research methods.

The programme held on Friday 25 & Saturday, 26 August 2023 covered the topics Methodological alignment, Proposal Defence presentation and preparation, Strengthening literature and Ethics processes and problems.

Keep an eye out for information on other post graduate workshops and activities!



## Entrepreneurial Future Educators!

Siyambulela Gobane is a 4th year SP / FET student majoring in Science. He started his own water business where he provides safe and healthy water to drink around NMB. The water is purified in Summerstrand and then distributed across the metro to his clients.

To view his work please do check out the company Instagram account @golden\_drop\_h2o



## Poem Submission

### Circle of Life

Footprints in the sand  
Reflect the journey of life at hand  
Young and Old, Big and Small  
In the end, we are all connected  
The Circle of life can be tragic and cruel  
But it is a journey which lingers true  
Be it a person, plant or animal  
Life is something tangible  
As long as one can breathe and break  
We are all capable to create  
A life filled with warmth and joy  
Is something possible, as long as we try to  
become complete

Hannah Reid - 220226830 PMEH400



# Farewell Carol

Dear Colleagues

As I leave for my retirement today, I'm leaving with a beautiful memory of NMU and the wonderful workers I had the privilege of working with for 16 years. Thank you for making my stay an enjoyable one.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

*"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else"*

~Fred Rogers





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