

News & Updates

MARCH EDITION

CONGRATULATIONS to our successful faculty Doctoral candidates

As a faculty, we have several **g-o-o-d** reasons to be proud...

Andre du Plessis, Raj Kurup, Mary-Grace Villanueva and **Lyn Webb** all successfully achieved their doctorates and will be graduating in April 2010. Congratulations to each of you on this momentous achievement.

We are proud of you!

However, this is not the only thing these four colleagues have in common... All four of them completed their doctorates with the same promoter... **Prof Paul Webb**. A remarkable achievement, yes, but this is not all... Paul also has M Ed student, Joyce Stewart, graduating next month. *Bravo Paul!*



Prakash publishes



Working with Common Ground Publishing, Prakash recently launched his book *Innovative Strategies to Develop Better Schools*, the manuscript of which was peer-reviewed prior to publication.

"Better schools prepare better learners! Can anyone dispute this? Hence, innovative strategies in education are presented in this book with the primary purpose of developing better schools..."

Visit <http://thelearner.cgpublisher.com/> for more information.

Iron(wo)man becomes Irongran!

Lesley Wood's first grandchild, Rachel, arrived safely on the morning of Saturday 13 March. Both new mom, Stacy, and daughter are doing well. *Congrats!*



Stacy, Rachel & Les in the operating theatre



Rachel & Granny!

EARTH HOUR 2010 Saturday, 27 March 2010, 8:30pm – 9:30pm

"We have only one planet. Given what we know about climate change today, it would be foolish not to act. Earth Hour 2010 gives an opportunity to the people of the world to unite in a call for action on climate change and to take the lead by making changes in their own lives." – Dr Morné du Plessis, CEO, WWF SA

For Earth Hour 2010, WWF calls on all South Africans to switch off their lights on **Saturday, 27 March**... the time to act on climate change is **NOW!**



SWITCH OFF FOR
EARTH HOUR 2010.



...KIDNAPERS TOTTERING ...MILK ...BERG ...PARLOURNES ...

<http://www.earthhour.org.za/>

Language Methodology Workshop

On 11 March the PIMA 303-students attended a workshop, conducted by Rikus van Rooy, from Die Burger in Cape Town, and Jeanne Biesenbach (photo left), a teacher, on the application of the newspaper in the intermediate phase language classroom.



The students participated in a variety of activities that were designed to make them aware of the value of this resource. They not only had the opportunity to design Afrikaans (home language & additional language) activities by using the newspaper and additional resources, but also participated in a competition to create an original headline. The students participated enthusiastically in all the activities and produced impressive products – some of the most creative in the country, according to the visitors, who visit a wide variety of schools and tertiary institutions in South Africa.



Each of the students received an attendance certificate as well as a gift satchel with stationery and resource books that they will be able to use in the classroom.

Thank you to the Die Burger-team for not only the valuable ideas that were shared, but also the gifts that are always very popular.

~ Darrylin Bradley (PIMA 303-Lecturer)

NEWS from George 2010 Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge - Schools Competition

A few of the George education students volunteered to mark out tracks and act as marshalls at the 2010 Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge - Schools competition. This was the warm-up event which was held on Friday the 19th February, the day before the Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge which took place on the Saturday.



B Ed FET student, Jaques Wolmarans, with the contestants lining up in their wheelchairs.



2nd year Education students left to right: Philip Jansen, Pieter Grootboom, Jaques Womarans, Ashwin Meyer, Nadia Jasson, 2 Sports Mgmt students, Charis Williams and Meashane Holmes

It is also worthy to note that both Meashane and Jaques were commended, together with Nina Hanekom who was not at the race, for being among the top 15% at NMMU with their results at the end of 2009! As far as I know they were the only education students in George who were notified. ~ Paddy Esselaar

Getting to know each other: Prof Naydene de Lange



It was a happy occasion to be returning to the Eastern Cape for the third time! Born in Graaff-Reinet a long time ago, to an Afrikaans-speaking mother and an English-speaking father, we soon moved to Port Elizabeth where I spent my early childhood years. We then moved to South-West Africa (now Namibia), where we stayed for 4 years before returning to Port Elizabeth, where I continued my schooling, matriculating at Andrew Rabie High School in the 70's.

After matriculating, I was very pleased that the University of Port Elizabeth had started offering a BAED degree for primary school teachers, I jumped at the opportunity to read for the degree. Once qualified, I took up a position as a Standard Two teacher at Outeniqua Primary School in George. An excellent principal mentored and moulded me as young teacher. Three happy years were spent in George until my handsome prince whisked me back to Port Elizabeth to marry him in 1981.

In Port Elizabeth, I taught at Hendrik Verwoerd Primary School (now Newton Park Primary School) for a few years. I subsequently obtained a B Ed Hons at UPE, and then I was seconded to the Port Elizabeth Teachers' Training College where I lectured in Gifted Child Education until 1992, when the College was closed down. After completing my M Ed degree, I settled down as a stay-at-home mum to raise my two sons, Heinrich and Edrich.

However, this was disrupted by an invitation to teach at Vista University. Teaching at Vista allowed me to experience the diversity and richness of the people of South Africa and also provided me with the opportunity to enrol for a doctorate at UPE – with the lovely Tilla Olivier and Lukas Meyer as my promoters.

Becoming a bit adventurous, our family set off for Durban in 2003, allowing me to take up a position in the Education Faculty at UKZN. Unfortunately, my prince passed away in 2004, after a short illness. Settling in KwaZulu-Natal, the epicentre of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, as well as meeting Canadian academic, Claudia Mitchell, a visual participatory researcher, facilitated a shift in the focus of my work. My new research interest combined HIV and AIDS with visual participatory methodologies, focusing on social change. This has resulted in me extending my horizons, to working with women and girls in Mozambique, Rwanda and Ethiopia, addressing poverty, gender and HIV and AIDS issues. Working in Rwanda in November 2009 afforded me the opportunity to visit the Kigali Memorial Centre – a memorial to the lives lost in the 1994 genocide – a visit that had a profound impact on me.

I am grateful to be returning to Port Elizabeth, flying from the Durban 'nest' and leaving my two lovely sons behind, to continue my work here at NMMU as HIV and AIDS research chair. We as family have always enjoyed the outdoor life! Recently, we spent Christmas Eve on *The Whale Trail* with friends as the picture shows! (I am on the left next to Heinrich and Edrich). Trekking with the Gorillas in Rwanda was another recent highlight for me (I am getting more adventurous!). A benefit of returning to Port Elizabeth is being able to walk along the best beach in the world – Sardinia Bay!



"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Martin Luther King

Inge, Neville's daughter, recently got married... doesn't it look like so much fun? Congratulations Inge & Adrian!



Perspectives in Education

Prof Naydene de Lange is one of two guest editors for the guest issue of *Perspectives in Education*, June 2011. The title is *Rural education and rural realities: the politics and possibilities of rural community-based research in southern Africa*.

"This special edition calls for participation from academics, teachers, student teachers and community activists engaged in work in rural areas who, in their submissions, will aim to shift contemporary understandings of rurality in relation to the issues, challenges, and opportunities that arise from working, living, and being in rural communities."

Just another day with Johan & the PGCE's



Research Seminar

"learning through talking"

with Goran & Klaus (Göthenburg)



On the Road Again... to the Karoo!

This month, I've been on the road again with Laetitia and JC Greyling to visit the Aberdeen Primary School and our extension centre in Graaff Reinet. My first observation was that driving north through the Karoo makes the Transkei look like an urban area! ... so many miles of open land, the occasional herd of goats, and precious few structures. Aberdeen and Graaff Reinet reminded me so much of the many small towns throughout our American South.

At Aberdeen Primary, we met with one of our doctoral candidates, Andre Boucher, who is investigating the experience of educators in an ordinary primary school on the way to transitioning to a full-service school as proposed in Education White Paper 6. We had the opportunity to sit in on six classes at the school and were able to provide the teachers with feedback on the practices we saw in their classes that would be useful to them in achieving that goal. I was also able to provide them with some direction for the next steps of becoming more flexible and inclusive, using the principles of Universal Design for Learning that we are using as a framework in the revised PGED 301 modules here at NMMU. It was gratifying to have the opportunity to take this concept out to our rural in-service teachers.



After a full day at Aberdeen Primary, we drove on to Graaff Reinet and up to the overlook in the Valley of Desolation Park (so aptly named!) where I got to see quite a bit of wildlife, including quite a gang of our "favourite" monkeys! We don't have THOSE at home in the States!

On Saturday, I sat in on and co-taught Magda Smit's PRED 208 class, a module I am also teaching on campus. The topic for this session was "Second Language Learning" which I had just taught the week before. My session at Missionvale had been the most engaged class I have been part of here, and the students at Graaff Reinet were similarly engaged by the topic. The discussions of both groups of students confirmed for me the centrality of our multilingual experiences in determining the effectiveness of school learning. The question remains, how do we make this linguistic diversity that is present in some way in every South African classroom work for us, not against us? How do we use our linguistic diversity as an asset and not a barrier? This question will require all of our energies, both on campus and in local schools, to answer.

Thanks to Laetitia for inviting me along to see yet another slice of life in this diverse province and country! ~ Eileen