

NEWS

May Edition



FEEL it ... it is HERE!



OPEN DAY 2010



Staff & students unite! Muriel, Delene, Hlumisa, Carmen, Basheera, Samantha, Sherwin, Shanice, Cordelia work together at open day



Lincoln, 3rd yr IP student, assists at the stall



Pumela helps an interested learner



Pumela, Mpumie & Lincoln (3rd yr IP) Friendly smiles only at the Faculty of Education Stall



Basheera and Carol with interested learners and their parents

How2 Buddy 2011

STAFF nominate students who you think will make good Buddies for your programme.

STUDENTS are invited to apply online



GOOD LUCK Mary-Grace on her 1st Comrades!
Sylvan will be shouting from the side this year

George Open Day

In order to evaluate the success of this event, 81 research questionnaires were completed to assess the way in which learners perceived Open Day and the way in which it was promoted.

Some of the feedback so far confirms the success of the Open Day... and of our Education Team. Well done!

Most popular fields of study as indicated by the respondents: Education

Stalls mentioned by judges (interactive): Faculty of Education

Well done & thanks to Paddy, Muriel, Helena, Jackie E-G, Carol & Nonnie.

Special thanks to Grg FET students: Charl Joubert, Deirdre Joorst and William Truter.



Helena, William & Paddy hold the faculty flag high at the George Campus Open Day

NEWS

CEC 2010 CONVENTION & EXPO

I was privileged to attend The **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2010 Convention and Expo** in Nashville, Tennessee from 21-24 April 2010 with Eileen. Because Eileen is a member of the Board of Directors of the CEC we enjoyed VIP treatment (this is why you should know the right people!).

The CEC was founded in 1922 and has since played a leading role in advancing special needs education for learners with exceptionalities, meaning learners with gifts and talents and/or disabilities, and for those who serve them.

The CEC convention was very well organised, with vibrant knowledgeable and professional presenters. The programme consisted of 384 pages, was attended by 6500 delegates and offered more than 200 exhibitions of educational materials and technology. It was held in the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Centre (where we stayed), which was something special to experience. It is the largest combined hotel and convention centre, under one roof in the world (36 acres!).

Our presentation: *'Empowering South African teachers to serve diverse learners in inclusive classrooms'* was successful. We had a lot of interest in our session, which was a blessing, since this granted me the opportunity to network - I met quite a few delegates who would like to conduct combined research with me. I also attended sessions on Inclusive Education, Diversity and Universal Design for Learning.

I attended the social events of the more than 16 divisions of the CEC where I was introduced to Jacqueline Mault, President of the CEC (*pictured alongside*).



I was amazed to find that delegates experience the same problems as us with inclusive education. For instance, that the teachers do not receive enough support from their Education departments, they struggle to cope with the diversity of learners in their classrooms and some felt that teacher assistants do not work. I also noted with interest that they experience the same issues as we do regarding teacher training, e.g. how to select students who would become diligent and committed teachers? How we could train teachers in such away that they will be able to teach in inclusive settings and be able to handle a diverse group of learners?

I was also surprised to learn that the academics from different parts of the world struggled with the same issues as we do, for instance to get the balance right between teaching, research and community service and also to find a good workable workload formula.

Thus our problems are not unique, but in more than one sense, universal. We do indeed live in a global village, where our questions are mostly the same and therefore we might find the answers to them in collaboration with each other.

~ Christo (& Eileen)

Research Briefs

"THE TUESDAY SEMINAR"

Dr Lyn Webb and Lesley Foster spoke at "The Tuesday Seminar" on 11 May on *POWER AND IDENTITY – using poetry and music to explore perceptions among multilingual teachers*.

MATHS & SCIENCE GROUPS/HUBS RESEARCH SEMINARS

All are invited. The presentations are held at Missionvale on Mondays at 08:30 to 09:30. The next presentation is 19 July with Jeff Ilesley [*'Dancing Raisins'*] ~ *Andre*

RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES (*Naydene de Lange*)

What is it? A series of research seminars held monthly to enjoy, appreciate and share faculty research expertise. *Who is invited?* All staff and postgraduate students. *When?* Friday afternoon 1430 – 1600. *Where?* Umveleni Room, South Campus. *First seminar?* 27 August 2010 with Prof Nonnie Botha - "The matter of doctorateness".

RESOURCE WEBSITE

Andre du Plessis has created a website to support our MEd Scaffolding Group students. *Let's see whether we can grow this to build capacity on various levels ... to the benefit of all of us and of our students.* <http://tutor.nmmu.ac.za/med/index.htm>

AMESA DAY CONFERENCE

Percy, Hugh and Andre each presented at this conference. Percy's topic: *Tesselations and Transformations*. Hugh's topic: *Transformations, Gr 12*. Andre's topic: *Action Research, Gr 4-6*.

SOUTH AFRICAN PhD PROJECT CONFERENCE

Rekha Mahadev, a PhD candidate under Naydene de Lange, attended this conference which aimed to encourage and direct potential PhD candidates to suitable programmes and provide peer and mentor support networks for their studies. *"Absolutely rewarding. ... The conference created a space for international networking with other researchers... I benefitted significantly from the experience."*

2010 HEFAC CONFERENCE

Ridaa with colleagues
Renette Strydom & Adi Smith.



SOCIAL DIARY

Graduation Party! A celebration in honour of our colleagues who graduated this year was held recently, with each receiving a gift in acknowledgement of their achievement and their future contribution to the field of Education. Colleagues who graduated last year were also celebrated. An evening of festivity and fellowship was enjoyed by all.



The Dean acknowledges our Fulbright Scholar, Dr Eileen Raymond, who leaves in June 2010



Lighting to their success... Noluthando (2009), Raj (2010), Nokhanyo (2009), Heloise (2010), Andre (2010), Mary-Grace (2010) and Shervani (2009)



Percy, Vernon, Tilla & Naydene



Plotting to take over the world...



Eileen with Mary-Grace & Hans (her partner)



Skura, Nokhanyo & Cordelia enjoying the function



Denise, Johanna & Laetitia talk with hands



Flip, Paul & Logan chat over snacks & wine



Noluthando, Johan, Issa, Eileen & Alette catch up



'Die Manne' se tafel



Hester, Gish, Charles, Ridaa & Val chat

For more pictures, visit the [g/drive/photo archive/faculty grad party...](#)

Faculty Re-Visioning Workshop (20-21 May 2010)

We are on a journey of transformation – the first workshop of our faculty re-visioning took place this month. Watch this space for further development!



Noluthando & Naydene ... Teaching us the 'Bus Stop' – just to make sure we are revived and rearing to go for the afternoon session (next time, guys, it will have to be the Diski!)

Exercising our writing by Bill

Two suggestions for developing our writing skills while participating in the Faculty's ongoing revisioning process.

We have been given (and can still obtain) copies of Jonathan Jansen's book entitled *Knowledge in the Blood*. We can all read, discuss and critically analyse this writing as well as his popular weekly (Thursday) column in *The Times*. Of course Jansen's is but one of many writing styles, which has a particular audience and function in mind. Our intention will be to develop writing styles and competencies for a range of different purposes and audiences, and in ways that express our individuality.

During July, we will be finalizing our new Vision for the Faculty. How about submitting a single sentence that captures what you consider to be an appropriate and comprehensive expression of our Faculty's *raison d'être* (reason for being). By way of starting the process, here is the one I offered at the May Revisioning Workshop:

'Our Faculty's Vision is to explore and practise exemplary, values-inspired, contextually-relevant education for personal, professional and social development.'

Jackie H will look forward to bringing all the 'offerings she receives' to our Faculty's next gathering on 14-15 July!

Donation of textbooks from Heinemann publishers

The Resource Centre received a **huge donation of textbooks** from Heinemann Publishers earlier this month - 126 books! There are Afrikaans and English books for Grades 7 to 9 in the following Learning Areas: Life Orientation, Economic and Management Sciences, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Technology, Arts and Culture, Mathematics. ~ Lilda



HIV109 students being shown the resources that Missionvale Campus has to offer



Can you believe a year has gone by already?



Imtiyaaz Salie turning one



Safia Daniels-Smith is also one!

CONDOLENCES Sindi recently lost a brother and, soon thereafter, a sister-in-law. Our thoughts & prayers are with you and your family