

NEWS

April 2015



Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

for tomorrow

2005-2015



Autumn Graduation 2015

Graduation ceremonies are public celebrations of milestones achieved where graduands, their families and the institution, collectively share in the triumph of those who have worked hard and succeeded. Adding to this sense of pride was the fact that this year's graduation ceremonies coincided with our university's 10th year anniversary.

A total of 352 undergraduate and postgraduate students were capped this year at graduation ceremonies on both the George and Port Elizabeth campuses of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. This number was significantly less than the previous year's autumn graduation figures when a total of 1025 Education students graduated.

The lower numbers can be attributed to the fact that in 2014 373 students graduated during the newly initiated summer graduation in December, a first for both the Education Faculty and the NMMU. Without last year's summer graduation, there would have been a total of 725 students graduating in April 2015.

Seven Doctoral students and 42 Master's, Honours and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) students, as well as with 83 Advanced Certificates in Education (ACE) and 220 National Professional Diploma in Education (NPDE) students, walked across the stage in this year's autumn graduation.

Prof Paul Webb, acting Dean of Education said "It was most gratifying to see the last cohort of the National Professional Diploma in Education (NPDEs) students walk across the stage as the NPDE was established over a decade ago as a special programme to assist teachers who did not possess the necessary qualifications to study and qualify as a professionally qualified teacher". The majority of the NPDE students came from Bizana, Lusikisiki, Qumbu, Kokstad, Mthatha, and Port Elizabeth and travelled great distances overnight by bus to attend their graduation ceremony, which Prof Webb feels shows how much they value their qualification. The staff members in the Faculty of Education are also especially proud of their colleague, Dr Elsa Lombard, who was among the seven Doctoral students who graduated this year.

Ginique Brown

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Design and Layout: Kelley Felix



BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING)

Maeve Anthony; Mirvan Aspeling; Phaezle August; Samantha Boesak; Lauren Booyen; Brigitte Bruinders; Kahreema Campher; Annica Coetzee; Hughbery Conradie; Biancha De Koker; Jacobus De Wit; Verushca Farland; Pieter Grootboom; Estrulita Hardnick; Daphnè Joseph; Melissa Joubert; Sylvester Juthe; Lolenthe Lekay; Larochele Mc Kirby; Mercia Morris; Anand Naik; Lauren Nelson; Apton Potgieter; Jannelie-Mercia Ruiters; Livio Santi; Shane Sauls; Roelof Steyl; Enverino Swartz; Neil-Burton Treurnicht; Ronsard Van Der Merve; Lyndon Volkwyn; Sulène Wannenburg; Veronique Williams & Tantaswan Xabendlini. CUM LAUDE: Petula Booyen. POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (FET): CUM LAUDE: BUWA, Sinethemba Buwa.

The George Campus Graduation held on 10 April 2015 saw a total of 35 teachers graduating of which 34 received B Ed degrees and one student a PGCE. This number represents a marked increase from the 22 who graduated in 2014 and six in 2013. Six George Campus PGCE students also received their qualifications at the Summer Graduation held in PE in December 2014.

The graduates were honoured at a function held on 09 April to celebrate the excellence of the Faculty of Education, George Campus. Significantly, all but one of the graduates found employment as teachers in schools across the country.

One of the most remarkable achievements of the 2014 graduate group is their contribution to research. In 2014,

one 4th year research project was presented as an oral paper at a symposium at WITS University and two more abstracts have been accepted for a conference in Italy in July 2015. These accomplishments are further testament to the holistic development of pre-service teachers within the Faculty of Education.

Keith Arnolds

MERIT AWARDS



George Merit Awards

Campus Principal: Prof Quinton Johnson; 3rd year student: William Truter; 2nd year students: Walt Bohme; Lezaan Fourie (Top 2nd year student); 3rd year students: Precious Mahlangu; Catherine Peake (Top 3rd year student); Monique Marx; Kellina Pillay; Acting Dean: Prof Paul Webb



George Merit Awards

Campus Principal: Prof Quinton Johnson; 4th year students Livio Santi; Brigitte Bruinders; Petula Booyen (Top 4th year student); Samantha Boesak; Maeve Anthony; Jannelie Ruiters; Acting Dean of Education: Prof Paul Webb



George Merit Awards

Campus Principal: Prof Quinton Johnson; PGCE: Livhuwani Malaba; 4th year students: Roelof Steyl; Neil-Burton Treurnicht; Sulene Wannenberg; PGCE: Sinetemba Buwa; Acting Dean of Education: Prof Paul Webb

Endurance is the key to success

“Education is the key to success” is a popular quote by the late Nelson Mandela. Many still believe that education is the key to solving one’s problems but my life experience has taught me that endurance is the key to success.

I have recently graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree, Further Education and Training from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and I am very proud to have come this far. But in my heart, I know that my greatest achievement, even greater than this qualification itself, was my ability to endure. Obtaining a degree requires a lot of discipline, commitment and diligence towards one’s studies. That is hard enough for many students but studying is even harder when almost every area of your life is a struggle.

I have spent the 27 years of my life without both parents, I have lost five friends in one year as a teenager, I was involved in two car accidents and survived, I have suffered severe depression, I have starved without food nor money nor transport fare and I have received more from friends and family, more than I have given. I have failed modules, took longer to complete my qualification and have considered quitting varsity because holding on to education and life was a burden. The cost I had to pay for my education was more than the cost fees and textbooks. The cost I had to pay was perseverance, prayer, hopefulness and relying on my friends and family to be a support system.

Countless times, I have entered Ms Mary-Ann Lauf’s Student Support Office for counselling, guidance and hope, because the journey was too long and often impossible to bare alone. Many people, students, lecturers and administrative staff have encouraged me to hold on by their kind words and willingness to listen. Without endurance, I could not have attained this academic qualification and success could not have been possible.

The blessing of my grandmother Rose Bruntjies, who has been my parent and mentor since the loss of my parents, has made an indelible mark in my life. Without her and my uncles and aunts, I could not have become the person I am today. It has always been her prayer that God spares her so that she can see my brother and I growing up. With my graduation, that prayer has been answered and all my achievements are a gift to my grandma. Grandma gave me something she never had, an education and for that reason, I felt that I had to endure until I had completed my degree. Endurance is the key to success!



Edward Brentjies, B Ed (FET) graduate



Edward Brentjies



Teaching 'Difference'

Prof Naydene de Lange and Dr Mumbi Mwangi share a smile after the presentation

Hosting research seminars has become customary in the Faculty of Education. On April 22nd, Dr Mumbi Mwangi, a visiting Carnegie Fellow and Professor of Women's studies at St Cloud State University, presented on 'Teaching 'Difference': Critiquing the Feminist Rhetoric of "Safety" in the Classroom'. In critiquing the feminist discourse of "safety" in the classroom, Dr Mwangi drew from three intersections of feminist pedagogy: (i) teaching and scholarship (ii) research and scholarship and (iii) activism.

Her central argument on teaching 'difference' in a feminist classroom was that teaching cannot be "sanitised" and if feminist pedagogy is to contribute to social change,

students need to be taught within their cultural and historical settings.

Cultural and historical spaces are sites of difference and they are vulnerable spaces that cannot be negotiated without challenging people's comfort zones. 'Vulnerability', 'trust' and 'disclosure of self' become central principles in teaching 'difference'. "A transformative classroom is a classroom in turmoil", said Dr Mwangi. If there is to be any transformation in people's lives and experiences, difficult dialogues must be had. Further, in questioning the notion of a 'safe space', Dr Mwangi argued that "no education is neutral, we either teach for something or against something".

Her inspiring presentation was based on her auto-ethnographic study of teaching women's studies to women of colour at a North American university. Before working at St Cloud State University, Dr Mwangi completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education at Kenyatta University, Kenya, and later obtained her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Education with a minor in Women's Studies from Iowa State University.

Kholisa Papu



Dr Mwangi (seated centre) flanked by some of the students and staff attending the presentation.

Honours Research Programme



As part of the honours programme, students participate in the Research in Education module presented by Drs. Kathija Adam and Elsa Lombard. This module was previously presented as a semester module but this year, it had been condensed into a week block session offered in the second week of April 2015. The group consisted of full time and part time students which created a diverse group, with experienced and beginner educators, and recent graduates who enrolled for the course. A student, Mary Cherry, shares these sentiments saying it was a pleasure seeing the diverse group in one room sharing the same passion for education.

The purpose of the Research in Education module was to train and equip students for future endeavors in research and thus, prepare them for continuation into masters and doctoral studies.

The focus of each session was to develop the students thinking processes and perspectives on education, as well as their role as a prospective researcher in education. Some of the participants shared their experiences:

- Sheree Auld, said after completing this block session, she felt much more capable with research methodology than she initially felt.
- Vera Jewell expressed that she was encouraged to continue in her studies as a researcher.
- Thozamile Sazona said this was a start of a journey towards working on a master's research project the following year.

One of the sessions included post-graduate speakers, namely Amina Brey and Kholisa Papu, who shared about their experiences in order to encourage and motivate the Honour's cohort. The students felt that their perspectives, which were similar to their own, alleviated the overwhelming feeling that came with being an early researcher. The students also benefited from the presence and assistance of two PhD students, Ms Veronica Msutwana and Mr Henry Ssembatya. The students were also fortunate to have Drs. Lyn Webb, Mathabo Khau, Vukile Tshazibana and Clyde Felix, faculty members who completed their research and gave feedback on each student's research idea... Collectively, the students appreciated this kind of support.

Kholisa Papu & Ginique Brown



An Affirmative 'No!' to Xenophobia

With the latest happenings in the country, the question has been asked, are South Africans for or against xenophobia?

This question was answered on the 23rd of April when a silent march against xenophobia was held on the grounds of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

It was evident that the staff and students of NMMU were enraged at the thought of attacking a fellow African. In his speech, Professor Derrick Swartz, the Vice Chancellor of NMMU expressed that we ought to stand up against such cruelty to human beings and that any xenophobic attack occurring within NMMU boundaries is to be reported and dealt with immediately.

With the theme "I am African before I am South African", approximately 3000 people participated, including staff members and students from the Faculty of Education who came in full support. Tramaine Fortuin, a BEd Foundation Phase student was asked about his view on xenophobia and he explained that "xenophobia is wrong and inhumane. I think that xenophobic discussions should be a part of the curriculum. This way we are able to get the views on others' opinions and work through xenophobia together". Tramaine went on to say that NMMU represented the voice of its students and "I haven't seen other universities quite as involved with (preventing) xenophobia as NMMU has been. It has made me proud to be an NMMU student". Many would agree with Tramaine, taking into consideration people's rights and humanity as a whole. Xenophobia is wrong and we say "No, No, No!"



Girls Leading Change and Faculty of Education students, Bongwiwe Maome (left), Sandisiwe Gaiza and Elethu Ntsethe and together with visiting Carnegie fellow and Professor of Women's Studies at St Cloud State University, Dr Mumbi Mwangi join the NMMU Student led initiative, a Silent March against Xenophobia on 23 April 2015.

Diondra Ownhouse



Ixesh'le2 tutoring programme



High school learners flock to Kwamagxaki High School to learn and revise their matric syllabus under the guidance of Education students majoring in business management and economics. The Ixesh'le2 tutoring programme was initially founded by two education students, Monwabisu Bebeza and Dalindyabo Makhallima in January this year. Since its inception, the programme is growing in numbers. Student teachers are volunteering in numbers and transport has been organised from the Faculty of Education for a small number of student teachers. More support for transport is needed. Currently four teachers visit Kwamagxaki High weekly, with 14 more who would like to join when transportation is possible.

The learners of Magxaki High are very happy with the service offered by Ixesh' le2. Learners are attending classes voluntarily without being pushed by teachers because they realize the importance of these Saturday classes. Learners from other schools are also attending after hearing about the excellent service offered by Ixesh' le2. The programme's name, is short form of ixesha lethu, a Xhosa expression meaning our time. The programme will expand as learners have requested assistance with consumer studies and tourism as well. So far, we have managed to recruit other relevant people who can assist with these subjects.

Over the past month, the organisation has progressed and grown, with transportation being the next area to be tackled. We are still trying to find the support as we are really in need for it.

Written by Monwabisu Bebeza, Founder and Education student



The arts for a humanizing pedagogy



Teacher Heaven, a theatre production written by BEd Honours student, Ms Shanna Vermaas will be performed at Madiba Day on the 11th May 2015. With the central theme of Humanising Pedagogy this play uses the art of drama, to represent and build a constructive consciousness within a school and university space. The intention of the play is to create awareness for the meaning of Humanising Pedagogy, especially within a school-context in South Africa. The play will mimic the style of a flash-mob.

Shanna was interviewed about her play in order to understand her vision behind it. The inspiration for Teacher Heaven began as an impromptu skit during a workshop weekend for Research Education, a module from Shanna's Honour's degree. They were looking at humanizing and dehumanizing experiences and were asked to dramatize it. She did not enjoy doing the expected, and so instead of imitating a classroom environment, she chose a different setting, the teachers' waiting room in heaven. After the skit, she was approached by Dr Adam and asked to 'flesh it out', add some arts and culture into the project and script it for a small production.

Shanna thinks fellow educators will understand the frustrations and situations expressed in each scenario. She is hoping that future educators will find encouragement from the scenarios and that other people will become more aware of the life of teachers in general. There is no specific audience, but the aim is to create awareness for anyone and everyone who is prepared to listen and to take note.

She is exceptionally nervous to showcase her play, because she has never written or produced a play before. Shanna says "I know it doesn't have to be perfect, it is not a major production, but I still have those butterflies in my stomach."

The main message she would like current and future teachers to walk away with is for them never to lose hope - despite all the challenges faced, to remain true and to just give it their best. She says that aim is not to tick those boxes, but to inspire a passion for learning.

Shanna was asked to describe her play in three words, her answer: "Purposeful. Enjoyable. Inspiring." A call went out for fellow BEd students to participate and now we look forward to seeing a production written and acted out by our own students.

Student Poetry

BEING

Remember those solid walls
around me
Well yes they're plummeting down
They didn't crumble so easily
I'm finally growing into my own being
I was so down I had no view
Now I'm in a new world of learning
I know who I am

I'm standing in a world
Where there are interactions
Between me and it
I feel a certain connectedness
Relation and community
Like I'm part of something bigger
I can feel the connections
With myself with you with them
with the world

I can see the Humanising
In this class
Such teaching has built me
Into whom I can be

I've found me
Everywhere I'm looking now
I'm surrounded by self-awareness
I feel respected I feel included
Learning has never built me this
high

I'm here recognise me
See me for who I am
Acknowledge me
See me I'm here
Can you see me?....

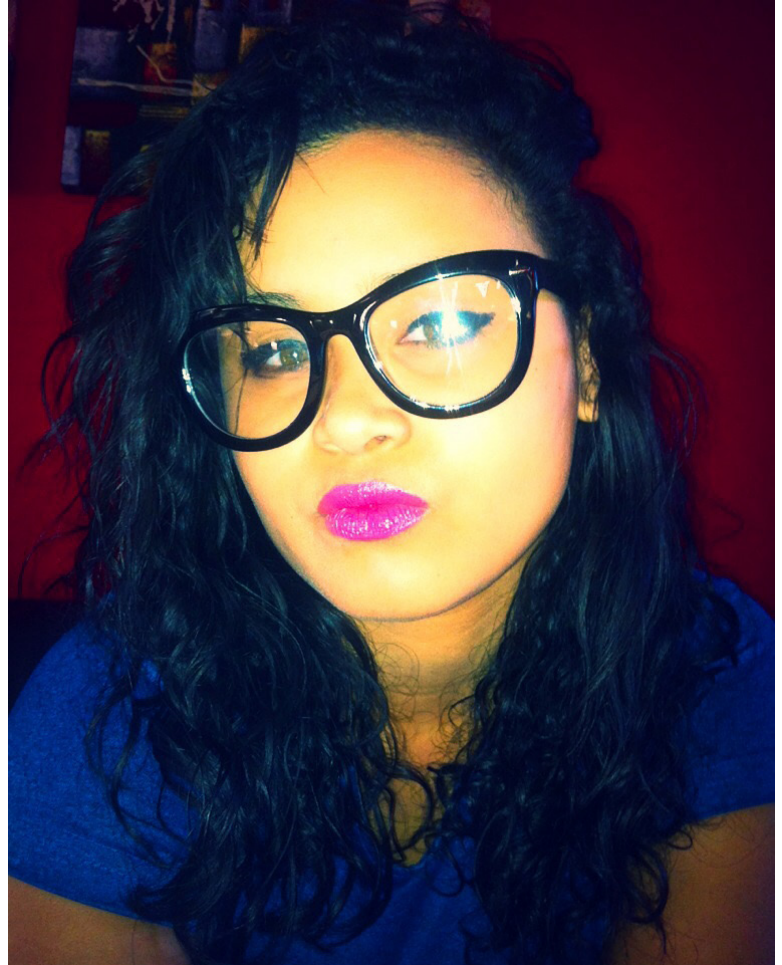
MELAPHI MASONLELE
213239205

(PGED 302 IP LANGUAGE GROUP
2015)

Musical Hit for Education Student

With their hit single, J 'Adore, Tiffany Oosthuizen, first year Education student and the late Neelan Munnik, also known as 4our7 (Four Seven), are toping the musical charts both nationally and continentally. This sultry soul house jam was signed with the national music producers and entertainment house, Soul Candi late in 2014. The song was released on all platforms on 19 January this year and it reached more than 3 000 likes on YouTube within a few hours of its release. Three months later, this song sits on 60 508 views on YouTube. J 'Adore has enjoyed the first spot on Metro FM's musical list and it was the 11th most played song in Africa on the Entertainment Monitoring Africa list, at least two months after its release.

The song's music video, which was recently shot here in Port Elizabeth, also featured on Channel O, Trace and MTV Base's 'DAT NEW NEW'. The music video was also shot in the late Neelan Munnik's street and inside his parents' house in order to pay homage to a musical genius who passed away at the tender age of 19 in December 2014 due to a car accident.



Tiffany Oosthuizen



"Neelan had always said that the song was going to be a hit and he envisioned this way before I saw it as a possibility," says Tiffany. Neelan played the song for well-known national DJ, Euphonic and the rest was history, remembers Tiffany fondly.

Tiffany also explains that she is very honoured to see the music she made with Neelan come this far. "It's still unreal hearing it on some of the biggest radio stations and watching the video on MTV Base", says Tiffany who was born and bred in Port Elizabeth and matriculated from Saint Thomas Senior Secondary School.

Apart from making music and performing on shows, Tiffany also teaches drama at her former high school. The teaching profession will benefit from Tiffany's passion as she enrolled for a Maths and Science Education qualification in order to invest in a more "sustainable and stable" career. Children, and the ability to impart knowledge and make a difference reside in Tiffany's heart, beside the love for music and the arts. As a student teacher, Tiffany would love to incorporate music and arts in her teaching. Halala Tiffany!

Kholisa Papu

J'dore music video played on MTV base's DAT NEW NEW

Autumn Graduation 2015



Prof Naydene De Lange with graduates



Beverley Merle Berry (NPDE:IP)



Sarelene Adams, Linda Jordaan, Rochelle Du Pont (NPDE)



Alicia Philander (NPDE) and family



Jacqueline Cloete (MEd), Noluvuo Mtshizane (NPDE), Wanita McGrath (MEd)



Congratulations to Dr Elsa Lombard.