



# NEWS

April 2011

Celebrating our collective achievements as a faculty

## Graduation 2011

by Executive Dean, Prof Denise Zinn

Another joyous graduation has come and gone, but the afterglow is still with us! It was a special graduation this year, with the inauguration of a dynamic new Chancellor, Santie Botha, six honorary doctorates, including former dean Wally Morrow, and a bumper number of doctoral degrees, to which the faculty contributed handsomely. How fortunate we are that celebrations can continue into a wonderful extended period with Easter Holidays coming up this weekend.

As always, the graduation ceremonies were warm and welcoming occasions filled with sense of achievement and pride. The hard work to get there was forgotten, and we all basked in the light shining from the graduates, their proud loved ones, and their teachers and colleagues.

Most memorable for me were the smiles that lit up the faces of our new graduates, in particular our new doctors. The images of **Dr Chris Dali**, **Dr Pam Austin**, **Dr Issa Griesel**, **Dr Les Meiring** and **Dr Percy Sepeng** walking up to the podium, exuding 'that glow', walking confidently and with wide grins across the stage to be capped and hooded, while academic colleagues on stage all rose in acknowledgement, remains my favourite graduation 'snapshot' in my mind. What a magnificent picture you all made!



Celebrations! New doctors, from left, Dr Chris Dali, Dr Issa Badenhorst (nee Griesel), Dr Percy Sepeng, Dr Pam Austin and Dr Les Meiring



Colleagues and new doctors, Dr Didi Geduld and Dr Virginia Didloft pictured with Prof Denise Zinn (centre)

Of course, no less heart-warming were our two new doctor-teachers, currently at the same primary school (*nogal!*) getting capped, Dr Didi Geduld and Dr Virginia Didloft, as well as the gracious Dr Grace Ntaote, who drove all the way from Lesotho with her retired-teacher mum and aunt, to attend the graduation. And then there was our own administrator Debbie's husband, Dr Marius Botha, to complete a set of no fewer than **9 doctorates** this year.

Again, Prof Paul Webb tops the supervision list with three doctoral graduates, as well as one Masters graduate (Mrs Nicky Daniels, *cum laude*). Well done Paul! But also well done to all the supervisors: Prakash, Johan, Bill, Lesley and Christo, for your work to support and get our new doctors to this high point in their lives.

We can all feel justifiably proud of our **collective achievements as a faculty**. As one of smaller the faculties, we produced the largest number of graduates, no fewer than 1,456 graduates this year. This was 27.09% of the total in the university, 3% more than Business & Economic Sciences, which is the largest faculty (almost three times our size) which produced the second highest number of graduates, 23.65%.

A special word of thanks needs to go all our part-time teachers and tutors, particularly those working in our Centres around the province and country. These achievements would not have been possible without you. We thank you!

So, well done faculty of education, staff and students, and congratulations! Enjoy these moments of celebration.

Research Method and Pedagogy Workshop- using Participatory Visual Methodologies

## Using drawings, photovoice and participatory video

A successful workshop, *Research Method and Pedagogy - Using Participatory Visual Methodologies*, was hosted on 4 and 5 April 2011 at the North Campus Conference Centre. This was funded by the HEAIDS programme in collaboration with the HIV and AIDS Education Research Chair.

Higher Education South Africa has initiated the third phase of their HEAIDS programme and includes supporting the Community of Practice. Dr Noluthando Toni welcomed all on behalf of the Education Faculty.

Prof Catherine Burns delivered a powerful and thought provoking keynote address, *"Putting us in the picture -- persuasion and plausibility in HIV/AIDS higher education"*. This set the scene for discussions around pedagogies and methodologies which could be persuasive.

Naydene, with team members of the HIV and AIDS Community of Practice, Claudia Mitchell (McGill University), Relebohile Moletsane (UKZN), Jean Stuart (UKZN), Linda Theron (NWU) and Lesley Wood (NMMU), engaged the 45 participants, all working in the field of HIV and AIDS education – and coming from various Higher Education Institutions - in using drawings, photovoice and participatory video.

The final presentation by Managa Pillay, Programme Manager, HEARD, UKZN, on behalf of DBE Director of Health Promotion, explained the rationale and the content of the draft *"Integrated Strategy on HIV and AIDS 2012-2016"*.

Cordelia Mazomba had the following to say of her experience in participating in the workshop: "I have gained rich information and practical ways of using visual participatory methods that can be of help to my teaching methods as well as to my students when dealing with HIV and AIDS issues in our classrooms. Being with the team changes the way I see things ..."

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The two day workshop focussing on visual participatory methodologies heralded in the work of the Unit for Visual Methodologies for Social Change.

### Graduation 2011 Brag Column

NPDE (FP)	128
NPDE (IP)	64
NPDE (SP)	60

B Ed (FP)	58
B Ed (IP)	33
B Ed (FET)	10
B Ed Upgrading (Maths & Science)	82
B Ed Upgrading (Math)	19

ACE: ML	507
ACE: HAT	30
ACE: SNE	67
ACE: SL	25
ACE: MST	22

PGCE	83
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B Ed (Hons)	252
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M Ed	7
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D / PhD	9
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,456</b>
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### Getting local school kids to *Move-It!*

*"Move-It, Moving Matters®"* is a South African programme designed to ensure that all children engage in age-appropriate and enjoyable physical activity during Physical Education periods. Such mobilizing initiatives, designed to advance the psycho-social and motor-physical development of school going children, are desperately needed.



Our faculty helps advocate, manage, mentor and deliver this programme in local schools. In 2010 **Ronette Wood** received training and was introduced to role players, sponsors and sponsored schools. In 2011, Dr Christina Jordaan came on board and enabled five current PGCE students to undergo the training. These students have since engaged with the roll out of the programme at four New Brighton primary schools and will continue to assist with the mentoring and monitoring of progress throughout the year. "Not only is it an incredibly exciting process for these learners, but it is also an invaluable and enriching experience for our students", says Ronette.

Programme aims of *Move-It, Moving Matters®* include facilitation of development of fundamental movement patterns which establish the base for all sport and physical recreation activities, self-awareness, problem solving and social cooperation. Participation in the creative and stimulating physical challenges ensures systematic growth and development of a child's motoric competence. The end goal is to raise young people's sense of achievement, attainment of personal goals and enjoyment of participation in activity, thus establishing it as a way of life.



B Ed (FET) student, **Benjamin Ekron** (far right), recently participated as part of the NMMU Rowing Club in the USSA Sprints Regatta at Van Der Kloof Dam. He was chosen to official Grudge (half colours) crews to represent USSA. *Well done!*

## Swedish exchange students

Benjamin Knutsson (Göteborg University) brought a group of students to PE and NMMU for an international exchange experience during late February and early March, and hosted by Prof Pat Bean of the faculty.

The main aims of their visit being to view several of the local schools and collect data in these schools for each of their various research projects via interviews, questionnaires and observations. The group of students was also very keen to "give something back" to the participating schools and so they delivered a small presentation at the schools on Sweden and Swedish schools.

A joint seminar was held with current B Ed student teachers where teaching, studying and related experiences were discussed and shared. The group also shared a presentation on the Swedish school system and teacher training in Sweden.



*The group enjoying a balmy PE afternoon at St Georges Park*

The visiting students also managed to fully utilize the wonderful South African weather – fitting in a few visits to local attractions.

## Africa Higher-Ed ICT Conference 2011



**Dr Andre du Plessis** (left) attended the Africa Higher-Ed ICT Conference 2011 held from 30-31 March in Johannesburg. "I felt proud to be from the NMMU and felt I could stand my ground firmly within the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) field".

The conference was attended by Department of Higher Education (DoHE) officials, including the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Honourable Prof

Mkize, and presenters came from as far afield as Oxford, Mauritius, Egypt and Lebanon, as well as several from UCT and UFS. Attendees came from all over Africa, including South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Egypt, Lebanon, and Egypt.

In addition to chairing the conference, Andre presented an introductory presentation, *Why ICT should be used within Schools and Higher Ed Institutions* (for which he received high praise from the deputy minister during her introduction). He also presented an internet based ICT Strategy that he developed, which was well received.

## BRIEFS

### Research Seminar Series 2011

**Prof Naydene de Lange**

(pictured alongside with PhD student, Leanne Naidoo)

delivered her presentation this month. Her topic was "Photovoice: A visual participatory methodology"



where the use of *photovoice* was explored as one of the various visual participatory methodologies used in working with children and adults in exploring issues around HIV and AIDS. The importance of visual ethics in research was also discussed, as was the possibilities and challenges of doing visual research explored.

### Awarded Erasmus Mundus

**Marelize Marx** (our B Ed dance and music lecturer) was recently awarded this travel scholarship. She will be jetting off to the Czech Republic in September to continue with her PhD studies. Marelize was also awarded a NRF bursary to continue her PhD (with Prof Alette Delport) which focuses on the transformative potential of dance education in order to promote social cohesion.

### Proud mom!



**Prof Alette Delport** with her son Gerrit, who graduated with his PGCE, Cum Laude! He is currently teaching at De Kuilen High School in Kulsrivier, Western Cape. *Congratulations!*

### Welcome Joy Turyagenda!

**Ms Joy Turyagenda** officially joined us on 01 April 2011. Joy's teaching includes Computers in Education, Literacy for educators and CAT Methodologies. Her main research interests are around teaching and learning with a special focus on e-learning and integration of computer education





## onedaywithoutshoes - staff & students give generously **120+ pairs collected!**



We chose the **Ubomi Obutsha Centre** (in Kwazakhele) as beneficiary of the donated shoes. Established in 1998, they are a community support centre which has an aid network to 12 other community centres around the metropole. Pictured above, with several of the children who attend their daily EduCare Centre, are: Thango (Project Admin), Vernon, Jackie, Mark (Project Director) and Nondo (Project Manager). Visit their website [www.ccmp.org.za](http://www.ccmp.org.za) for more details



*B Ed students putting their best (bare)foot forward as part of the global initiative, One Day Without Shoes*



*Education Faculty staff at the Missionvale Campus... join feet in support! From left: Debbie, Asanda, Ntosh, Basheera, Chantalle, Neville, Vuks, Vernon, Philile and Clyde*



*Linda Mani (left) flew the faculty flag high at a recent Staff Variety Concert – her group taking first place!*