



# NEWS

May 2012

*Education indicated as one of the most popular career and study fields*

## Open Day extravaganza

The NMMU hosted the annual Open Day marketing events in both Port Elizabeth and George during April. Both events proved extremely successful, attracting large numbers of prospective students, parents, teachers and general public. The events are held to offer those attending an opportunity to get a taste of student life, to meet academic staff and current students, and to gain vital information about possible study options.

The **8<sup>th</sup> Open Day in Port Elizabeth** was held on Friday and Saturday, 11 and 12 May 2012, with an estimated 7 000 people attending over the two days. The Education stall was manned by an enthusiastic student and staff team – who were kept very busy and on their toes by a constant stream of keen and curious learners looking for information on the B Ed programmes. It was pleasing to hear that in the post event analysis, Education was one of the career and study fields singled out as most popular!

The **George Open Day** was held a week after the PE event and, despite the cold, an estimated 700 learners, parents, educators and other interested persons attended during Friday and Saturday morning at the NMMU's George Campus at Saasveld.

Our Education staff and students ensured that the Faculty of Education was well represented at this Open Day... planning and preparing a myriad of interactive activities and dramatic skits to highlight teaching and the education programmes on offer. They were awarded **The Most Interactive Stall** prize! *Well done, we are proud of you all!*

During a structured survey over these two days, Education was indicated by learners as the most popular career & study field!



**Most interactive stall Winners!** Education students participating in the marketing event, from left, Catherine Peake, Kevin Fuchs, Adri Botha, Dwain Samuels, Sannette Barnard, William Truter, Melissa Joubert and Siviwe Sawuti



(from left) Tammy, Liliitha, Basheera, Thea and Erica at the PE Open Day

Online educational research journal goes live

### Educational Research for Social Change

Our faculty journal, Educational Research for Social Change (ERSC), was published online on Friday, 27 April 2012.

It is envisaged that this online journal will create a platform for development and publishing opportunities for all interested academics both locally as well as worldwide.

The journal is co-edited by Dr Andre du Plessis, Prof Naydene de Lange (NMMU) and Prof Lesley Wood (NWU).

Visit the journal at <http://ersc.nmmu.ac.za> or [ersc.nmmu.ac.za](http://ersc.nmmu.ac.za)



## Experience graduation

This year, the Education graduation session was attended by a special group of visitors from Sakhisizwe High School. Given a special welcome by the VC, Prof Derrick Swartz, the Grade 12 learners were excited about being able to attend the graduation session with their principal, Mr Qunta, and to experience the joy and celebration in the culmination of such academic achievement.

Meeting with the group after the session Education Dean, Prof Denise Zinn, spontaneously took off her dean's gown and cap and gave it to one of the students to wear, announcing "... and perhaps here is a future dean?". She is pictured below with the learners and (front from left) Mr Ridaa Salie (faculty officer), Mr Qunta (principal) and Jackie Hay (faculty admin).



**Relationship building ...** Prof Denise Zinn (Dean, below 2<sup>nd</sup> left) motivated Department of Education subject advisors, directors and specialists at a breakfast hosted by Marketing and Corporate Relations on campus linking them with our relevant academic departments to use NMMU expertise. The advisors shared their challenges and needs with our deans and academics responsible for school outreach programmes. Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage district office directors Dr Nyathi Ntsiko and Nosiswe Bashman (centre) also attended the event. Prof Zinn is joined by MCR colleagues, Christell Feyt (left) and Joanne Daniels (right)



## briefs

### 2012 Research Seminar Series

A panel of colleagues presented this month, the title of their presentation "*I imagine a situation if all of us lecturers in the faculty could come together and start conversing about this point...: Integrating HIV and AIDS into the curriculum.*"



**The panel...** From left, Dr Lyn Webb, Ms Tobeka Mapasa, Dr Les Meiring, Prof Naydene de Lange, Ms Nokhanyo Mayaba and Ms Ronette Wood

### Farewell to Lesley...

The faculty bid farewell to Prof Lesley Wood at the end of April. Lesley leaves the NMMU to join the University of the North West; however, she will in contact with the faculty as research associate.

We wish you all the best in your new endeavours!



**Au revoir ...** (from left) Prof Naydene de Lange, Prof Nonnie Botha, Prof Lesley Wood and Prof Paul Webb at her farewell

### ... and to Asanda from the CCS

Asanda Mgongo, who worked with Dr Al Witten in the Centre for the Community School (CCS) (pictured alongside), left the faculty at the end of April to take up a new career opportunity in Cape Town. We wish you well for the future Asanda!



## What can a teacher do with a cell phone?

This is the question two groups of rural teachers - one from the Vulindlela district of KZN and the other from the Eastern Cape - have been exploring in the context of making cellfilms (mobile phone films) on issues related to their own teaching circumstances.

Professor Naydene de Lange, Research Chair in HIV and AIDS Education, is working with the five teachers here who come from the Colleen Glen Farm School. They attended a 2-day workshop in April to learn about how they could use their own cell phones to produce documentaries and dramas in their classrooms and communities.

During the first phase of the project, the teachers work in their own schools and communities. However, in the second phase, the teachers from KwaZulu-Natal will visit and network with the PE teachers, thereby enabling the development of new networks with other teachers who are also producing and investigating cellfilms.

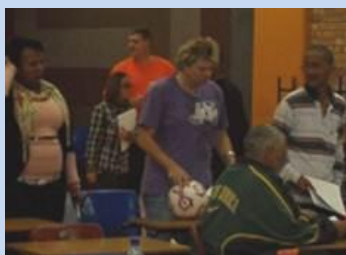
The project is headed up by Prof Relebohile Moletsane, the JL Dube Chair in Rural Education (UKZN), and Prof Claudia Mitchell, the James McGill Professor, from McGill University in Canada, and funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



*Professor Claudia Mitchell (far right) joined the two day workshop and worked with Prof de Lange (centre) in engaging with the participating teachers during their two day workshop*

## Vocational programme – VEOP fun!

In an exercise aimed at ensuring more interactive classrooms, the VEOP students (un- and under-qualified lecturers from the two local FET Colleges) were given the opportunity to engage in the concept of integrating theory and practice. They had to identify 8 principles of good dribbling in soccer from their prior learning. Much discussion followed and the challenge for them now is to transfer these interactive methodologies to their own subjects. This section will also look at integration practices across outcomes, across subjects, as well as integration with the workplace and the community.



## For your Diary - Upcoming Events

### Provoking Provoking Scholarly Dialogues

The inaugural lunchtime series begins on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 12:05 – 13:00 in the New Committee Room (building 11) with a skype discussion on his paper, “*Is there an historical mission for teacher education? Or is it too late?*” with Prof Hans Smits of University of Calgary, Canada.

*Enquiries: Dalene Swanson*

### Promoting reading & writing

RASA have a number of upcoming events to promote reading and writing:

1. Alison Bowen, a Reading Recovery Specialist from New Zealand, will speak on Saturday 09 June from 10:00 in N2
2. Invitation to a 3-day Writing Institute hosted by the US Embassy and NMMU with Cheryl Logan from 27 to 29 June.
3. National RASA Conference, 12- 14 October, Durban.

*Enquiries: Eileen Scheckle*

### Curriculum Renewal Process Workshop

A workshop on the Curriculum Renewal process has been scheduled for 11 and 12 June 2012 to which all faculty members are invited to attend. The focus of this workshop will be the phase of “taking stock: questioning the current system”.

*Enquiries: Alette Delport, Dalene Swanson, Kathija Adam, Heloise Sathorar*

### Symposia: Inspiring student & in-service teachers

The faculty will be hosting this symposium on 03 August at the South Campus Auditorium.

The aims of the conference are to provide an opportunity for teachers to think about what teaching and learning within the information society and generation Y requires; to inspire teachers to think in new ways about teaching and learning; to promote the Education Faculty and NMMU; and to explore how historic civilisations in Africa influenced modern society’s usage of knowledge in education.

The target audience are faculty colleagues, in-service teachers, student teachers, Department of Education Officials and any other interested persons.

*Enquiries: Andre du Plessis, Vuyani Matsha, Ndileka Jacobs*

<http://www.nmmu.ac.za/helpingteachers/>



**ITS YOUR CALL**

THEY CALL ME A "WORDPOTTER"

FOR WHEN I START I NEVER PAUSE

UNLESS INGCUKACA INDIPHOSE

BAGAETSHO GABAMPITSE KGWAFELA KA PHOSO

KE BUA PUO PHA, ESENG KAE KEARE FA

ETSE YANA KA DIJO, KETLA TSHOLA KERE JA

UZAUTHI SHU! NDITHI GA

NG'BONE INJA NGITHI SA

MHLAMBE MHLAMBENI OR MAYBE PERHAPS

MOHLOMONGWE DITSHWANA FELA LE MESKIN

YOU WERE ONCE TOLD YES BY THE OLD

THIS IS NOT JUST FOR THE BOLD

OR THOSE IN THE CITY OF GOLD

IT IS FOR THOSE WHO DESPITE THIS COLD

NEVER KEEP THEIR ARMS FOLD

NOR LOSE HOPE TO HOLD

FOR THEIR FUTURES TO BE MOULD

WHAT'S IN THEIR MINDS CAN NEVER BE SOLD

NDIBOLEKE UMLOMO NDITHETHE NENDLEBE

KANA NNA GAKEATLA, KE TLISITSWE

THAT'S WHY I COME LIKE RAIN

TO TRY AND TELL YOU AGAIN

THIS HAS TO STAY IN YOUR BRAIN

ITS NOT FOR ME BUT FOR YOU TO GAIN

AND THAT'S WHY IT SHALL REMAIN

I LEAVE YOU NOT LOVING IT BUT IN DEEP PAIN.

by **PRECIOUS MAHLANGU**  
(Wordpotter) 16.05.2012

Education student NMMU George



*I am Precious Mahlangu, currently I am a first year student in the Faculty of Education. Wordpotter is my poetry name, which simply means I turn word into clay. Poetry is a part of me; one thing I believe is naturally in me. I am an introvert, grew in a nuclear family with a selected number of friends, I only found interest in reading and writing as a child. I started reciting my work in 2005. Unfortunately none of the schools I went to realised the importance of art, especially poetry. South Africa has a spectrum of different cultures and languages. In most cases I use more than one language in my poems, Setswana and English being the most dominant. I have written more than 100 poems, 30 short stories and dialogues. As an artist I am not writing to or for myself but for the world to know and see, that's why I would like to have some of my work published, done at schools, heard by the world but beyond all this, I would like my writing to change people's lives. I do not really like to talk about my background but was raised by a single mother who installed in me great values. She strived to provide all the things a child might need, she taught me the importance of being humble, grateful and to respect people of all kinds. My mother is one of the good reasons you will find my studying like tomorrow shall never come to pass.*

## B Ed Honours Cook Up!

Head of Programme, Dr Kathija Adam, hosted a novel sharing evening with the B Ed Honours team. The purpose of the evening was to begin 'taking stock', to look at both what is currently done and where the programme will be in the future.

The team soon discovered that whilst they did not have to sing for their supper, they did have to cook it. Soup *Ala DiNtosh*, Master Chef Tshazibana chopping onion and unknown green things 'his way', Sylvan's *Salad Extravaganza* and Randi's *Crème de la Crème* Desert special! (see photo's alongside)

The evening proved successful with open and unreserved sharing of joys, successes, frustrations and challenges, as well as exposing vulnerabilities. As Kathija remarked, "I think we all grew closer and connected on a common purpose through last night. I believe that this is a good starting point for all that we need to do ahead".

And, whilst not every aspect was covered, the current curriculum map had many lessons for the team. Discussions were held around a number of aspects of the programme, such as, the purpose of what a Honours Programme should be, questions around admission criteria, module outcomes as featured in the 2012 brochure to be updated or changed, are we providing a good quality programme at the Off-campus centres, nature of the programme specialisations require different sets of offerings.

Current MC's also shared important information with colleagues to improve the quality of the current programme offering in Semester 2.

