

News & Updates

Welcome to our 2nd monthly newsletter! this has been one **bizzy** month...

CONGRATULATIONS! a bumper crop of new qualifications in FoE

Well done to our colleagues, and their promoters, on their achievements!

M Ed

D Ed

PhD



Carmel



Nokhanyo



Muki



Noluthando



Sindi



Shervani

* new staff members *

Basheera Brooks

Paddy Esselaar (George)

Elsa Lombard (welcome back!)

Melissa May

Cordelia Mazomba

Felicia Mngxekeza

Heloise Sathorar

Ronette Wood

B Ed @ George progresses well

The 45 students enrolled for the B Ed programme in George are doing well. Service learning has begun and they all seem to be keen! A well-adjusted group and I expect them to make good teachers. ~ Paddy

Photo: Paddy during group work in English



Two new SMIS projects

2 new projects began earlier this year under the CERTI SMIS project banner: Key Teachers: Mathematics Grade 11 and Key Teachers: Mathematics Grade 7. Lucille Mather is the new facilitator for the Grade 11 teachers and Percy Sepeng will be focussing on the Grade 7 teachers. ~ Vernon

RCDF

The Research Capacity Development Forum (RCDF) recommenced this month (Thurs 26 March) with a presentation by Neville, Nokhanyo, Malise and Mary-Grace on their Oldenburg tirp. ~ Tilla

Additional research funding

We recently received **R48 000** from the OT&E office for **Muki, Tobeka and Chris**. Congratulations to all three of them! Muki and Chris to allow time for them to write articles and Tobeka to proceed faster with her studies.

At this rate we will move up the research rankings even faster! ~ Pat

The NRF awarded an amount of **R25 000** to **Logan** for the International Travel Grant. Conference Title: *International Drama in Education Research Institute* - University of Sydney, Australia. ~ Margie

Ridaa's 'stork party' success!

To say he was **surprised** would be **AN UNDERSTATEMENT!**



Thank You to all who contributed to this success

~ Gish, Sherwin & Jackie



http://www.earthhour.org.za/sign_up.php Sign up now and become part of what could be the single most powerful demonstration of global solidarity on any matter in the history of the planet. By signing up, you are pledging to **switch off your lights on Saturday, 28 March 2009 at 8:30pm**. Your name will form part of a 1 billion-strong petition that will be sent to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen at the end of the year to put pressure on world leaders to pass legislation on climate change.

news & updates continued

Service Learning Programme (SLP)

The SLP was introduced for the 1st time in 2007. All 1st year pre-service students in the Faculty of Education must complete a service learning of 25 hours at an institution in the Nelson Mandela Metropole.

One of the main reasons for introducing this programme is to combine service tasks with structured opportunities that link the task to self-reflection, self-discovery, and the acquisition and comprehension of values, skills, and knowledge content. It is not community service per se, but it uses community service as the vehicle for the attainment of the student's academic goals and objectives.

This year **311 B Ed students** are involved, of which **77 are FP, 132 IP and 102 FET**. Students are placed in a specific time period (term) due to numbers. The students are involved in a diversity of tasks at a number of institutions, e.g. HIV/Aids care centres, centres for abandoned children and babies, orphanages, centres for mentally retarded adults, tutoring grade 12 learners at 2 high schools whose pass rate is very poor, etc.

The following few centres/places are worth mentioning: Aurora Special Care, House of Resurrection, Khayaletu Youth Centre, Mordecai Centre, Sithemba Care Centre.

Each student must submit a well structured portfolio after completing the 25 hours service learning. Successful completion of the Service Learning is a prerequisite to obtain the B Ed degree after four years of studying. ~ Johan Roux



Kwa-Magxaki high school



Cheshire Home Summerstrand

Visiting Americans from Seattle

The Faculty hosted a group of 4 doctoral students and 2 professors from the University of Washington in Seattle from 15-21 February. The programme included visits to 5 schools (one township school, three Northern areas schools and one ex-Model C school), discussions with various interested groups at the South Campus, presentations at NMMU educational/school management lectures, a meeting with a group of principals participating in the Principals for Excellence Project run by the GMSA Foundation. Social activities included being hosted by faculty staff members at their homes, as well as a memorable visit to the Addo Elephant Park. ~ Johan M

Prof Portin: "Many thanks to each of you for the privilege of spending some time with you and interacting about our educational interests. We value our link with NMMU and the many friends we have in Port Elizabeth."



Generous donations of books from NG



New Generations publishing house generously donated a box full of books to our Resource Centre. Included were books for *Life Skills, Literacy, Numeracy, EMS, Natural and Social Sciences, Business Studies, Accounting and History*. Some are in Afrikaans, others in English and even some in isiZulu! From Gr R to 12! ~ Lilda

Laurie, one of the students: "... it is so difficult to try to put into words the power of the experience Thank you again for this experience that certainly has changed and challenged my leadership, my learning, and above all, my life."



We bid farewell to Mike who, after more than 17 years with the NMMU, is beginning a new phase of his working life. Part of his legacy is that of the electronic online learning system, **LEARN**. Mike pioneered this form of teaching and learning in the faculty and many modules are now being presented using some elements of this. We will miss the passion with which he both promoted and maintained **LEARN**. Over the years Mike has made meaningful contributions in the teaching and learning of Geography as well as managing and streamlining our site-based learning (Teaching Practice). We wish Mike well for the future. ~ Les



"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." W.B. Yeats

news & updates continued

Oslo ... here we come!

In celebration of a decade of fruitful academic partnership between South Africa and Norway, the Norwegian Ministry of Education & Research offered research grants for 4 researchers, 2 from Norway and 2 from South Africa, to pursue research on education and gender. **Laetitia and Pam's** applications were successful and both received the *South African Oslo Celebration Grant*. Laetitia's research study focuses on 'barriers to learning' in education, and Pam's on promoting mathematics education according to the Family Maths equity principles. They left PE on 21 March to spend 2 weeks at University of Oslo initiating their respective research interests, with a follow up visit later this year. The research studies will result in published papers in accredited journals. ~ Pat

Did you know?

... that Valerie celebrated her 35th year of service in the Faculty this year?

Val began her career at, the then, UPE on 1st March 1974!

and, lucky for us, she has been here ever since.



Science Literacy short learning programme (SLP)

The Science Literacy SLP kicked off on Wednesday last week at the Missionvale campus. This time, the SLP aims at increasing the available capacity to present scientific literacy strategies to teachers, to spread the model into schools, etc.

The first contact session of the scientific literacy SLP was held on Wednesday 18th March with 17 participants, i.e. Jeff, Raj, Elsa, Marilyn, Helena (Sci & Tech Education), Percy & Lyn (Mathematics Education), Nokhanyo and Mary Alice (Language & Literacy Education), Nicky Daniels from the Bayworld Museum, Keith Wessels and Andre van Heerden from the provincial DoE, Sam Skead (headmistress, Montessori School), and Brian Walter, Pam Spady and Les Foster (consultants). All will work with teachers and schools as part of the practical aspect of the SLP. ~ Paul

27% increase in enrolments

As at 20 March 2009, our enrolment figure stood at a total of 3180 (distance & contact) registered students. This required of everyone that bit extra in terms of processing all the applications, accommodating on timetables & in venues, providing many with bursaries, and now having to teach and assess more, and larger, groups.

However, one thing that is *impossible* to miss is that the NMMU Faculty of Education has grown into a formidable unit where dedicated and competent academics and administrators work side by side to achieve such a phenomenal success like this 27% growth.

We (FMC) are well aware that the increase in numbers brings added workloads and responsibilities – but please be assured that we will ensure the faculty attains all the benefits (a larger 2010 salary budget, increased 2010 operational budgets, etc) it is entitled to as a result of such growth. ~ FMC

The **School Leaders Support Project** was approved by the FMC; to fall under CERTI and with myself as project coordinator. *"An exciting & much needed initiative!"*

Les Wood has offered to introduce Action Research methods to participants as this is a good way of getting school leaders to identify issues of concern, act on them in a reflective way, and share their experiences. ~ Johan M

condolences

To our dear colleague and friend, Alette, on the loss of Piet.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Pietman, Gerrit, Wakkie and the rest of your family during this difficult time.

Prof Wally Morrow, former Dean of Education at UPE, died peacefully on 11th February 2009. His wife, Diana, asks that donations be made in his memory to either a Hospice (St Francis in PE) or the NMMU Education Faculty (so we could set up something in his memory). The FMC considered Diana's request and a proposal by Pat of an *Annual Wally Morrow Memorial Lecture* was accepted. Margie was nominated as coordinator of the first public lecture (scheduled for Feb 2010).

account details for donations:

bank: **ABSA** branch code: **630117** account name: **Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University**
account number: **404 879 3247** reference number: **4055-Morrow (very NB!)**