

NEWS



March/April 2013

Prof Pedro Noguera

New York University addressing all our future teachers!

During March, all our B Ed FP, B Ed IP, B Ed FET and PGCE students had the opportunity to attend plenary lectures by esteemed visiting scholar from New York University, Prof Pedro Noguera. Prof Noguera delivered three addresses to groups of approximately 500 students respectively. These lectures took place during lunch hour in Building 123 and were attended exceptionally well. Our students, from first year to fourth year, were clearly captivated by Prof Noguera's compelling talks as he motivated and challenged them as future teachers to, courageously and creatively, change the current realities in South African schools.

His core theme was 'When good intentions meet reality'. During each lecture, Prof Noguera focused on a related sub-theme. These were:

- Principles of pursuing equity and excellence for all South African children.
- Teaching to make a difference in disadvantaged schools.
- Dealing with the realities of race and difference in South African schools.

In his lecture on equity and excellence, Prof Noguera urged our student teachers to see the development of their learners in a holistic manner, understanding their culture and lived realities, in order to develop a clearer sense of how to teach and reach them.

Equity, he defines as, 'giving learners what they need so that they have the chance to be successful'. This implies that teachers must constantly challenge the present social and economic constraints and not become complacent. Failure should not be an option, hence learners who do not achieve competence should be given additional time and support. Teachers need to take responsibility for their learners' learning, and be able to adapt to the learning needs and styles of their learners, and not the other way round. 'Assessment' should be used to diagnose learner needs and improve learning, and 'discipline' be implemented to build character and promote self-discipline, and not to punish. It is also the teacher's responsibility to create conditions that build character, promote healthy development, and foster resilience. Ultimately, teachers should be advocates for their children.

This means that they should nurture strong relationships with their learners in order to improve their behaviour and achievement. To make this happen, Prof Noguera encouraged our students as future teachers, not to operate in isolation, but to reflect on their practice constantly, learn from each other and foster good relationships with parents.

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Addressing the **unique realities of the current South African society**, Prof Noguera argued that more often than not, education contributes to the reproduction of inequality, rather than reducing poverty and promoting mobility, it. In order to make a difference in the lives of our children, Prof Noguera thus urged our students to focus on ‘the right’ questions, for example,

- Instead of focusing on how to raise learners’ achievement, we should rather ask: How can we get our learners excited about learning?
- Instead of focusing on how to prepare our learners for exams, we should ask: How do we prepare our learners for life? What will they need to know to be successful in South Africa and in the world?
- Instead of asking how to cover the curriculum, we should ask: How will I make what I teach relevant and meaningful to my learners?



Prof Noguera also addressed the notion of race and difference in South African schools. He believes that ‘the past isn’t in the past’, and observes that the current South African society still carries with it profound elements of European colonialism and apartheid, for example in the form of distrust and distance between people. He firmly holds that education is well located to facilitate healing of past injuries. However, this implies that our students, as future teachers, need to understand our country’s colonial and apartheid history, if they are to begin helping to create a different future. He thus sees teachers as the ‘midwives’ of the new South Africa.

Effective teachers need to be able to teach across race, class and cultural differences. This means that many teachers will have to unlearn personal biases and be familiar with their learners’ cultural resources and affirm their learners’ cultural identities. In this regard, Prof Noguera challenged our students to consider the following provocative questions:

- How will white teachers who teach privileged white children prepare them for a more integrated and pluralistic society?
- How can white teachers work as bridge builders in non-white schools?
- What are the particular responsibilities of teachers of colour?

In order to teach cross-culturally, Prof Noguera advised our students to steer clear from the tendency to adopt a ‘colour blind’ attitude towards their learners. They need to avoid ‘racialising’ their learners, in other words, stereotyping them according to race or culture. Furthermore, we all need to be aware that bias may affect our interactions with our learners. Hence, it is important to understand ourselves and our learners, so that relationships between teachers and their learners are not affected by race or cultural differences. Prof Noguera believes that, ultimately, good teaching means that learners are in control of their learning .

The massive turnout of our students, enthusiastic participation and reflective comments afterwards clearly indicate that our students as future teachers benefit significantly from experiences such as these, where they are exposed to the views of international educationists. More opportunities for such events will definitely be explored in the future.



Prof Pedro Noguera

Student Feedback



“ I loved yesterday’s plenary session.....
....He was so incredible that
I cannot describe it.”

“Everything he said made so much more sense and we all could relate to what he said...

He challenged me personally to think about education and the other things he talked about. I really wish we could have more lectures from him.”



“Yes indeed!!!!
Great session.
I enjoyed it so much.
Learnt alot and it was so inspiring.”

“Very wise words indeed.
Prof Noguera gave
great lecture!”

Curriculum Renewal

Prof D Zinn

As the last term came to an end, on the 26 March, the Faculty held another Curriculum Renewal workshop to continue to chart our way forward. It was an interactive and quite dramatic programme, and over 40 people participated. For those who could not attend, a video of the proceedings will give you a sense of what happened. It concluded with an emerging framework for curriculum development that will guide the work on actual programmes during the next few months. Some timeframes have been set up, and we hope that this next term will see people 'getting down and dirty' as you wrestle with what the programmes need to contain, how it needs to look, what the pedagogies need to be, and how we, as staff in the faculty, embody, integrate and enable what we are trying to put in place. The notes from this workshop will be circulated to all soon.



Education Society on George Campus

Super Ed—Beyond the call of Duty is a society recently established by the 2nd year B Ed students at the George Campus. Their mission is to link schools in their communities to the Education students at Saasveld Campus, “We want to be involved in the happenings of the schools and lend a helping hand wherever we can. We plan to go Beyond the Call of Duty and make a difference in the children of our community in any way possible.”

They are currently implementing a career guidance course at Parkdene School, which aims to assist Gr 9 Learners in making good subject choices, as well as informing learners of the different careers available and the requirements needed to pursue those fields of interest. They also aim to host a Learning Style Workshop to assist learners with study methods.

Super Ed also supported the SAVE (Society Against Violence Everywhere) initiative by wearing black in protest against violence, and hosted a No Shoes Day on 11 April, which encouraged students to go shoeless for a day and donate a pair of shoes for the less fortunate.

Members of Super Ed: Chairperson: Rochelle v Rooyen, Deputy Chairperson: Dean Langeveldt, Secretary: Precious Mahlanga, Treasurer: Adri Botha, School Liason Officer: Michelle Bruce, Executive Member and Founder: Siviwe Sawuti



Super Ed supporting the SAVE campaign

Super Ed excelled at Awards Evening

The Education Faculty excelled at the 2013 Special Awards Evening held recently at our George Campus. We are proud of you all! Congratulations on receipt of your Merit Awards.



Prof Jean McNiff

Seminar on the power of action research.

Towards an inclusive definition for action research

Impact of history on current schools of thought on action research / different genres of action research and their related philosophical bases.

Possible uses of action research in various disciplines.

Establishing rigour and academic integrity in action research.

Important aspects to keep in mind when making choices in action research.



REASONS TO BE PROUD

Well done to our NMMU Education Foundation Phase top achieving athlete at the SA Under 23 Athletics Championships in Pretoria held last week.

Ischke Senekal (below) – took gold for Shot Put (15.26m) and silver for Discus (48.70m)

CONGRATULATIONS ISCHKE!!!!



BRIEFS

Dr Chris Dali was invited to present to a group of international students recently. His presentation, entitled “Service-Learning & Social Justice: An attempt to remove the ‘dis’ from dissatisfaction with SA Education System”, gave a broad overview of the SA educational system and some of the challenges and dissatisfactions facing it as well as the theoretical frameworks around service learning and social justice. The session was a success, “Their questions on the presentation and inputs made the whole seminar vibrant and alive” remarked Chris.



CONGRATULATIONS

How I met my wife...

by: Anathi Jindela



We met in 2008 in the NMMU Choir, at first it was just a singer (the soloist) and a dancer (choir members) eventually the way we looked at each other and understood each other has developed into a bigger picture. One of the most important things I've heard in my love life is that Love can only grow and deepen through understanding. You can never get to the point where you think you know everything about your partner, "no woman is that simple". She is a complex person that even she doesn't understand. As a young man with her, I've learn that I need to love her and get to know her with patience and determination.



Yes we became lovers and our love grew further until we finally decided to be together for the rest of our lives. Against all odds we did it! (Got married).

"There is no greater love story than two people publicly devoting themselves to each other for the rest of their lives". The mirage of "true minds" - combining us into something that people can treasure for generations is both a privilege and an honour.

Groom: Anathi Jindela (NMMU-Faculty of Education Staff & Face of the NMMU Choir)
Bride: Pondy. Boo
Date: 21-03-2013

Congratulations to Tashriquah Dolley for completing her first 2 Oceans Half Marathon!



WORKING WORLD EXTRAVAGANZA 2013

Working World Extravaganza, at the Feathermarket Centre in Port Elizabeth, from the 9th-12th of March 2011.

The objective of the WWE exhibition is to provide Eastern Cape Grade 12 learners with exposure to various career opportunities and options when they have completed their high school education.

The career expo is also open to parents and educators, as people who are in regular contact with the learners, so that they can assist learners in choosing the correct career paths and educational options.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all staff and students who joined in and helped at the stall.



Miss Tobeka Mapasa (seated) and students Qaqamba Tungata (right) and Sandiswa Macubeni (left) at the Education Stall.



Grade 12 Learners being informed about Education with the help of Qaqamba Tungata and Sandiswa Macubeni.

