



# NEWS

October 2011

Mutual and reciprocal learning in hospitable Zanzibar

## Envisioning Africa without HIV & AIDS

**HIV and AIDS Education Conference, Zanzibar, 27-28 September 2011**

This conference - an outcome of the tri-partite meeting (UDSM, NMMU and Carl von Ossietzky University) held at UDSM in September 2010 - provided a much needed platform for the in-depth exploration of how education could act both as a prevention agent for HIV and AIDS, and as a means of mitigating the impact of the pandemic. Unlike most HIV and AIDS conferences, this was focussed solely on the relationship between HIV and AIDS and education and was attended by participants who have first-hand knowledge and experience of the pandemic on the continent. Delegates came not only from institutes of higher learning, but also from schools, community agencies and governmental agencies.

One of the highlights of the conference was an address by Dr Mohammed Dahoma, the Director of Preventive Services in the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar. Although Zanzibar has only 1% prevalence of HIV, the government is active in prevention to ensure that this figure does not rise.

The delegates (*pictured alongside*) from South Africa, Tanzania and Zanzibar engaged in deep discussion of issues around the theme, *envisioning Africa without AIDS*. For many of the Tanzanian delegates, this was the first time that they had been exposed to participatory methods of research but they would like to learn more about how they could be used to prepare teachers and community workers for HIV prevention. Similarly, the South Africans learnt much from the community work being undertaken in Tanzania. Mutual and reciprocal learning thus took place, something that is sometimes missing in larger conferences. The whole conference was a learning experience which enriched the professional development of all who attended.



Personal relationships were also enriched through the social activities. Warm Zanzibarian hospitality created a relaxed and fun atmosphere for the delegates to unwind and cement newfound friendships. Much networking, and dancing, took place at the conference dinner!

Proposed outputs of the conference include forming a committee from the University of Dar Es Salaam and NMMU to organise another, similar conference in the future. Profs de Lange and Wood will also travel to Tanzania to give workshops on visual methodologies for post-graduate students at UDSM and other organisations. Dr Kitila Mkumbo will also travel to Port Elizabeth in November to attend the SAHARA conference at NMMU.

A **Faculty Curriculum Colloquium** was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October, where perspectives from three different layers of stakeholders (faculty staff, students and principals) were shared on curriculum. Facilitated by Trisha Lord and Candice Smith along *thinking environment* principles, the daylong event proved most significant, the outcomes of which will form the basis of the re-curriculation work going forward.

more in next month's edition

During the recently held **student governance elections**, two Education students were elected by their peers to represent them on the SRC.

**Dwain Samuels** (B Ed FET, *pictured alongside*) was elected on to the SRC in George as Academic Officer: "I am a SASCO member and have been serving the organisation on the Branch Executive Committee for this past year. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my fellow students in such an important office as Academic Officer".



Prof Pat Bean, Head of Programme for B Ed FET George, commented "Student governance plays (should play) a critical role in higher education and we are proud that a prospective teacher has been acknowledged by his peers to represent them."

On South Campus, **Mthunzi Dingela** (B Ed FET) was elected as Faculty Rep for Education. Congrats Mthunzi!

## A month rich with international collaborations

# Renowned visiting scholars

The faculty has been honoured to have two visiting scholars during October, Prof Anne Hickling-Hudson of Australia and Sheila Graham from Jamaica. In amongst their programme of various faculty related events, student lectures and research meetings, they each delivered a public lecture and actively participated in the Faculty Curriculum Colloquium.

**Prof Hickling-Hudson** is an Associate Professor in the School of Cultural and Language Studies in Education at Queensland University of Technology. Widely published, she is a pioneer in using postcolonial theory as a technique of comparative education. Her research focus is on analysing educational policy and national development, teacher education and the intercultural curriculum. She has been deeply involved in socio-educational reform, curriculum design and the education of teachers in decolonising societies. She worked with the late Paulo Freire to prepare teachers in the Caribbean for educational change. Since 1991, she has designed and implemented university courses to prepare educators for teaching and has helped promote indigenous studies in teacher education.



**Sheila Graham** is joint Founder and Artistic Director of *The Area Youth Foundation (AYF)*, a non-governmental, charitable organization whose unique methodology harnesses the expressive arts as educational, social, cultural development tools to:



- Stimulate personal development and behaviour change
- Impart useful skills which enhance opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship
- Carry out programmes for violence prevention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Carry out programmes in marginalized communities for the promotion of social cohesion

Through the training process participants have generated a range of creative products, including songs, music videos, musical dramas, video documentaries. These products have been presented live and on screens and stages in Jamaica, the US, UK and Italy.

## German delegation visit

A German delegation from the Oldenburg University recently visited NMMU, and the Faculty, as part of the DAAD partnership between the two universities. One of the events on the week long programme of activities was a presentation on the *Inequalities in the German education system* by Anke Wischman and Lalitha Chamakalayil, who feature in the picture below with colleagues Heloise and Logan who attended the presentation.



Heloise (far left) and Logan (far right) pictured with Anke (second left) and Lalitha (second right) of Oldenburg University.

## Global University Project

Nonnie visited the University of Gothenburg (UG), Sweden earlier this month with Dr Blanche Pretorius (Director: Research Capacity Development) as part of the *Global University Project*.

The purpose of the visit was to explore some of the research strands of the project, which was initiated by Prof Lars Gunnarsson and Dr Maren Bak of UG during a visit to NMMU in February 2011 to establish the basis for the project.

A highlight was attending a postgraduate supervision workshop by Prof Gina Wisker, University of Brighton. Gina is an internationally renowned scholar in this field. Nonnie and Blanche, both seasoned supervisors, were enriched by the workshop content.



"It is foreseen that existing cooperation will continue and be expanded to include new areas of interest..." observed Nonnie.

Faculty of Education academics are free to become involved as allowed by their work schedules, research interests and expertise.

## Passionate about Art

Paul Blake, Manyano School Network

**Avela Grootboom** is 15 years old and is in Grade 7 at Charles Duna Primary School. He was one of six winners of the art competition that was held recently for the launch of the Faculty's Centre for the Community School. He won R300 for himself and R1000 for his school!

Avela has been living at the Sinethemba Children's Care Centre since 2002. The Centre looks after HIV/AIDS orphans, abandoned children, street kids and abused children. Signoria Qolani is in charge of the centre and she, along with the help of seven others, takes care of the 52 children who call Sinethemba home.

Avela is extremely passionate about art and hopes to one day have his own business where he can sell his artwork. He is also interested in technology especially relating to cars and computers. He felt extremely proud when he received the art competition award and he will be putting the money towards his Grade 7 farewell outfit.



Avela with a postcard copy of his winning drawing

## briefs

### Can values promote good teaching in education?



**Dr Pam Austin** presented on the above at the October session of the research seminar series.

Her presentation was based on how her research study emerged as a result of concerns regarding the apparent low self-efficacy amongst initial teacher education and the lack of values in contemporary society.

She further discussed whether a values-based approach to education would be able to promote self-efficacy amongst students. Prof Naydene de Lange commented, "...a wonderful presentation with very important implications for faculty."

### Motherwell career evening

A career evening was held recently at Raymond Mhlaba Indoors Sports Centre to which all top achievers from township high schools, their parents and principals were invited.

Prof Derrick Swartz addressed the learners, whilst academic faculties enjoyed the opportunity to interact with these learners.



Representing the faculty were (from left) Ms Helena Oosthuizen, Prof Denise Zinn (Dean), Ms Thandi Hlam, Dr Pam Austin and Ms Mpumie Maliti

### A ferry to school!

Natalie Wood (left) and Shanice Masher (right) pictured on their way to the Lindholmen School where they assisted with maths classes during their exchange programme in Gothenburg, Sweden.

They had to take the ferry to school every morning - the face brick building on the right hand side behind them is the school.



### Celebrating 'Bosses Day'

Admin staff arranged a surprise breakfast for faculty DoSs and HoPs



### New additions...

Two colleagues celebrated the arrival of grandchildren in October. Congratulations to Grandpa Bill and Oupa Neville!



Kempie arrived early!



Bill & Ros' first grandchild

### Welcome Vuyani!

The faculty welcomes new staff member, **Mr Vuyani Matsha**. Vuyani joins the ITE School as lecturer and will have Maths Literacy as a teaching area in 2012.

## Community engagement initiatives making an impact

# “Please come back!”

The faculty’s Centre for Education Research, Technology and Innovation (CERTI) have a number of funded projects and community engagement initiatives actively working with school communities and beyond. There are a variety of events happening at any one time, from short learning programmes (SLP), school visits, workshops and strategic planning sessions, and in which a number of faculty staff participate and share their expertise.

### **Financial Management SLP**

Dr Issa Badenhorst, of the ITE School, recently conducted school visits as part of the short learning programme she offers within the *DG Murray Project*, Financial Management. These visits were conducted at schools in the Addo, Kirkwood and Paterson districts.

She met with each Principal and his/her management team to review their financial records, specifically showing them how to correct any mistakes they may have made on these records. CERTI project manager, Vernon Naidoo, commented, “We found that the time spent at each school is too little. Some schools are begging Issa to come back again!”



Issa with one of the school management teams

### **Language and Literacy workshop**

An inspirational Language and Literacy workshop, conducted by consultants Brian Walter and Viv England, was held for the staff of VM Kwinana. The teachers had requested such a workshop be held on language and literacy, and almost the entire staff was present for the workshop duration.

### **Maths Reasoning SLP**

Maths Teachers from the Sundays River Valley Circuit attended a *Maths Reasoning SLP*, part of the DG Murray Project, during the recent school holidays. As part of the programme they received a NMMU bag and Word Sum books. The course was conducted by Di Mason.



Two participants of the Maths Reasoning SLP with their NMMU bags

### **Sundays River Valley Schools**

The Sundays River Valley Schools, also part of the DG Murray project, recently selected the team (pictured below) that will be assisting with the facilitation of the *Strategic Planning Sessions*. The team members consist of Dept of Education officials, NMMU Faculty of Education staff and facilitators/mentors working within the DG Murray project. They will be working with 21 schools in the region, with the first strategic planning session scheduled for early October.



## Certificate Ceremony

A certificate ceremony for the *Integrated School Development and Improvement DG Murray Project* was held on 22 September.

The ceremony acknowledged the successful participants of the following programmes offered within the project:

*Scientific Literacy SLP, Mechanics SLP, Mathematical Reasoning SLP, Financial Management SLP, Language & Literacy Training Programme, Action Research Training Programme and Computer Skills Training Programme.*



Pictured above at the ceremony is Prof Paul Webb, CERTI Director, and Ms Ndileka Jacobs, CERTI Administrator.