



NEWS

July 2011

Taking Foundation Phase to Higher Levels

Foundation Phase Hub active

Four members of the Foundation Phase Hub (Noluthando, Robin, Margie and Nokhanyo) attended the *Literacy Education Winter School* held at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) from July 11 - 15. This was held in collaboration with the DHET specifically around the Foundation Phase Teacher Education Programme funded by the European Union (EU).

The key focus was on literacy in the Foundation Phase and the following aspects received attention: Research and Theory in Literacy Development, Classroom Practices for Literacy Development, Emergent Bi-literacy, Early Writing Development, Oral Language for developing reading and writing.

Dr Parker provided the keynote at the launch of the EU programme, providing the group with an overview of the project. An in-depth view of the programme was presented by Dr Whitty.

Nokhanyo Mayaba and Robin Notshulwana gave a presentation on their joint research project (Nokhanyo, Robin, Noluthando and Priscilla) entitled, *“Practitioner” is not a dirty word: An inquiry into the Grade R teacher identity in South Africa*. The aim of the study is to explore the formation of a Grade R teacher’s identity amidst the negative public image and status. The presentation was well received and provided a platform for positive feedback and discussion around the issue of teacher identity and the implications of identity on practice.

Margie Childs presented her paper on *“Exploring early literacy practice using the Reading to Learn approach”*. The paper considered how the *Reading to Learn* literacy approach can be used as a tool to teach pre-service students to teach literacy. An argument was made for a carefully scaffolded early literacy approach that brings together reading and writing as components of one process. The paper was well received and participants indicated that they appreciated the opportunity to engage in practical activities linked to the teaching of literacy.

Furthermore, the formation of an *Early Childhood Education (ECE) Association*, which will support the ECE field through research, was unanimously supported by participants representing both the South African Research Association for Early Childhood Education (SARAECE) and the larger ECE community. Robin Notshulwana participated on the ECE task team developing the associations concept and constitution document, and was also selected to continue to serve on the association committee.



From left, Dr Margie Childs, Ms Robin Notshulwana, Ms Nokhanyo Mayaba, Prof Denise Zinn and Dr Noluthando Toni

Interested in joining the FP Hub?

Please email Chair, Noluthando Toni and copy Research & Admin Assistant, Priscilla Gitonga.
All welcome!

Diversity Month

Join the Faculty of Education, CANRAD and the Manyano Community Schools Network for a **colloquium** at the Red Location Museum on 27th August 2011.

Diarise Launch of the *Centre for the Community School*

The newly established Centre in the faculty will focus on developing theoretical and practice-based models of educational improvement that are relevant to the contextual realities of schooling in South Africa. Its research and programmatic activities will inform and support school improvement initiatives in the Eastern Cape and elsewhere in the country. The keynote address will be given by **Prof. Pedro Noguera**, one of the foremost scholars on education and inequality in the United States. His research focuses on ways in which schools are influenced by the social and economic conditions of the communities in which they are located.

Friday, 26 August 2011 at Missionvale Campus Sports Centre from 16h00 – 18h30

Centre for the Community School ... *improving schools and strengthening communities*

Youth World Research Project

The **Centre for the Community School (CCS)** recently introduced *The Youth World Project* to one of the schools in Manyano Network. The project aims to identify how adolescents living in low-income communities are engaging in organizing efforts to reduce inequalities and increase their access to rights and opportunities.

The project is being conducted in six cities across the globe. Groups of five to seven young people, between the ages of 16-20, are selected to attend a 5-day workshop where they tell their stories and identify ways in which they can strengthen the role of youth as agents of social transformation.

The South African 'leg' of the project took place at one of the Manyano Community Schools in Uitenhage, Limekhaya High School, from 11-15 July 2011. Seven youths were selected to attend the workshop.

The workshop began with each participant 'mapping' their life story by locating and highlighting the most pivotal moments in their life thus far. The youths then looked at how adults, their schools and their town had impacted their lives. Participants then told their life stories to a camera through an in-depth interview process.

The young adults then took to the streets interviewing community members and those in positions of power regarding the issue of youth development in their community. They spoke to the local ward councillor, school principal, representative from the police, a soccer coach, a successful business lady in the community and various youths and parents living in the community. The footage will be used to produce a 5-8 minute 'news clip' highlighting the most important issues.



Participants 'mapping' their life story

The group was then asked to address teachers, learners and parents at Limekhaya High School about what they identified as challenges in the community and how these could be addressed.

Project organizers plan to connect these young people to groups in the other five cities across the world to share their work and ideas about how they can make a difference in their communities.

Welcome!

Dr Deirdre Geduld ...



The School for Initial Teacher Education (SITE) welcomes **Dr Deirdre Geduld** to their academic staff.

Deirdre is a committed educator who was in the teaching profession for 19 years until she joined us as lecturer.

Dr Kathija Adam ...



The School for Continuing Professional Development (SCPD) welcomes **Dr Kathija Adam** to their academic staff.

Kathija brings a wealth of experience and expertise in her areas of expertise; science, mathematics and technology education.

Ms Ndileka Jacobs ...



CERTI welcomes Ms **Ndileka Jacobs** as CERTI Administrator.

Ndileka can be found in the office 060110 on extension x4625.

Achievements



At the recent Academic Awards Dinner **Heloise Sathorar** received the prestigious *Rupert Gesinstigting Award*. This award acknowledges academic excellence at Master's level as well as the significance of the contribution that her current Doctoral research on *Entrepreneurial Intentions* will make.

Pictured alongside is the VC, Prof Derrick Swartz, handing over the award to Heloise.

We are so proud of you Heloise!

Miss Tarryn Govoni (Baccalaureus Educationis) received the NMMU Council's award for the *Best Initial Degree* in the Faculty of Education for 2011. Tarryn is pictured receiving the award from Prof Derrick Swartz. *Well done Tarryn!*



Conference News Conference News Conference News

The Learning Conference

Prof Johanna Geldenhuys and Dr Sylvan Blignaut attended the 18th International Conference on Learning held at the University of Mauritius from 5 to 8 July 2011. The Learning Conference is held annually in different locations around the world, each selected for the particular role education is playing in social, cultural and economic change.



Johanna and Sylvan in Mauritius

The International Conference on Learning is for any person with an interest in, and concern for, education at any of its levels and lifelong learning in any of its sites, from home to school to university to the workplace.

Delegates from 43 countries attended the conferences to deliver papers in one of the following streams: curriculum and pedagogy; teacher training and development; student learning, learner experiences, learner diversity; educational leadership and management; equity, social justice and social change; organisational learning, organisational change technology in learning; maths, science and technology learning; community, culture and globalisation; and arts, drama and design.

Prof Johanna Geldenhuys presented a paper entitled *The Implementation of Inclusive Education in South Africa: The experience of a school management team* in the Educational Leadership and Management stream, while Dr Sylvan Blignaut's paper entitled *The Inclusion of Social Justice in Teacher Education in South Africa*, was included in the Equity, Social Justice and Social Change Stream. Both papers were well received and interesting ideas exchanged.

Equal Education Conference

The Centre for the Community School and sixteen representatives from the Manyano Community Schools Network attended the 'People's Summit for Quality Education' hosted by Equal Education in Cape Town.

The reason for the conference was to bring together important stakeholders in South Africa's education system to discuss the challenges the system is facing together with ideas on how to combat these problems. Teachers, principals, learners, parents, school governing body members, teacher union representatives, government officials, and academics were all in attendance.

The conference delivered many thought-provoking presentations highlighting issues such as mother tongue instruction, early childhood development, libraries, extra-curricular programs, schools-community collaboration etc.

Discussion groups and question-and-answer sessions were also held and were incredibly beneficial as they gave the attendees a platform to share their work and give feedback on the issues they were facing on the ground.

One of the major outcomes of the conference was the launching of the *Education Charter Campaign*. This Charter is seen as a means to unite the movement for quality and equal education in South Africa. The drawing up of the charter will be an inclusive process and would take forward the work started at the conference.

Selected representatives from the Manyano group will share their experiences and learning on a 'Voices in Education' panel being organized by the Education Faculty as part of its Diversity Month activities. The event takes place on Saturday, 27 August at Red Location Museum.

Oldenburg ties continue...

Three staff members (Lyn, Raj and Heloise) recently joined a long list of Oldenburg Alumni when they visited Germany as part of the DAAD partnership between our faculty and the University of Oldenburg. The intrepid trio started their German idyll with a weekend exploring the beauty of Berlin with the help of Christa and Jürgen. Highlights were touching the infamous Berlin wall and viewing the city from the top of the Dom (Cathedral) at Museum Island and from the top of the Berlin Communications Tower.

In true Oldenburg style we were treated to a jam-packed programme of meeting academics with common research interests, visiting schools and presenting lectures. Wiebke gave us freedom of the city by showing us how to buy bus and train passes and she escorted us to schools and meeting venues, providing a translation service during lessons. There were also meetings with German entrepreneurs, a delegation from the Ministry of Science and with officials in the Oldenburg Mayor's office. It was not all work though. We were treated to lavish dinners by our host, Wolfgang, and explorations over weekends took Heloise and Raj to the nearby cities of Bremen and Hamburg whilst Lyn toured Sweden.

The three of us stayed in Helga Lowin's ground floor flat and were welcomed as part of the family - picnicking on the beach at Dangast at sunset. The Oldenburg experience is one to cherish...



Well spent 67 minutes...

Beralu Bean participated eagerly in the 67 minutes campaign on Monday 18 July. She helped to clean up the stretch of beach from Pipe to Flat Rocks. As this is a doggy-friendly beach, Beralu had a keen interest in looking after this stretch of the local coastline. The primary aim of Mandela Day is to encourage individuals to take action to help change the world for the better. Beralu was convinced that both canines and humans could work together to make a difference to an area used by young and old, creatures furry and not so furry.



Beralu is an Australian Shepherd. She is proud to belong to a breed of working dog. She is very eager to please and is quick to understand what is required of her. She is also highly energetic and can often be seen running down to the beach or along the golf course. At home she loves to play and often invents her own games.

On Mandela Day, Beralu scampered up and down the sand dunes searching out pie packets, chicken boxes, slap chip containers and other interesting left behinds. She proudly brought each of the treasures she found to be put in the black rubbish bag. Beralu was ably assisted in her 67 minute endeavour by Pat and Margie.



Gishma, Vernon, Kathija and Jackie H spent a few memorable and happy hours with the house family at **Bethel Safe House** in Bridgemead on Monday 18th July.

We were joined by Lunga, a 3rd year NMMU Law student, and Wendy Bezuidenhout, a PGCE student and the home fund raising manager.

In addition to our donations, Wendy had secured a large product donation from a local food bank (see photo).



Gish with Leroy, Lunga and Hope, Wendy and Lizette, Jackie, Keith and Mandy (house mom & dad) and Faith

International experience

The following students were selected to for the 2011 international student exchange programme:

Natalie Wood, Gothenburg – Sweden

Shanice Masher, Gothenburg – Sweden

Astara Hodson, St. Cloud – USA

Sindiswa Dwala, St. Cloud – USA

Sihanka van Winkel, Wilmington North Carolina - USA

Lerato Mehlwana, Wilmington North Carolina - USA

Casey Howe, Mississippi - USA

Lindsey Muniz, Mississippi - USA

A powerlifting champion!

Education student, **Jacques Fourie**, was officially selected to represent South Africa at the 3rd *IPF World Sub-Junior & Junior Men's & Women's Bench Press Championships* held in May 2011 in Sölden, Austria.

Power lifting consists of three things – the squat, dead lift and bench press.

Jacques qualified 5th in his class at these world championships; and is top in South Africa. He also received his national colours.



Jacques is sponsored by NMMU and SA power lifting

Congratulations!

Mary-Anne and Hendrick welcomed baby Chris to their family. He was born on Friday, 01 July at 22h40, weighing in at a healthy 3.33kg!



July Tutor Training success

by Neville Rudman

The training this semester took on a whole new look with a number of new inputs aimed at better preparing our Tutors for the challenges that face them at our off-campus centres.

During last semester I conducted some research with regard to the approaches used by our Tutors when teaching adults. This should be seen against the background in which our Tutors teach children during the week (most of them are school teachers) and on Saturdays they deliver our NPDE programme to adult teachers.

The data I 'harvested' from the questionnaires they completed formed the basis of our first session. Judged by the responses from our Tutors, it was a very worthwhile session, and it is something I intend developing further over the next semester.

One of the highlights was a presentation by Dr Carol Rodgers on the new humanizing approach in our faculty. Again, the manner in which our Tutors responded, the stories they told, gave me a clear indication that our Tutors are very open to this kind of intervention. A big thank you to Carol, who added much to our training experience! I do believe, Carol, you have started a conversation that will have a very positive effect on the delivery of the NPDE across the province. Thank you for that!

In closing, I should like to thank Elsa Lombard, Chris Dali, Zanele Mofu, Sindiswa Tyala and Christina Jordaan, our Module Coordinators, for their efforts in preparing our Tutors for the next semester.



Yolisa and her team get stuck into the material



Elsa looking very happy about PNF104



Zanele Mofu creating a numeracy challenge with matches



No conference can be a success if you don't go shopping at the University Shop!



Sherwin & Basheera take time out from the hard work



Tutor making a serious point during lunch!



diversity