

# In-tuition

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## NRF B-rated researcher in Faculty: Inspired and inspiring

Prof Kobus Maree, recipient of multiple awards and Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology, not only published four publications and a DVD in the past year, he has also received a B-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF). He is the highest rated researcher in the Faculty.

Prof Maree has been active in sustained service delivery to impoverished and disadvantaged rural regions and provinces such as the Limpopo Province for a number of years. Moreover, Prof Maree has consistently demonstrated how service delivery and publishing in leading international scholarly journals and related publications can be achieved.

He received his third doctorate, a DPhil in Psychology from the University of Pretoria (UP) in 1997 after having obtained the degrees PhD (Didactics of Mathematics), BEd, MEd and DEd (Career Counselling), HED and BA in Greek/Hebrew/Mathematics. Prof Maree obtained all these qualifications *cum laude*.

His main research interests are career construction counselling for life designing, emotional-social intelligence (including social responsibility), and learning facilitation in mathematics. 'I link research results to appropriate career choices and to life designing,' he said.

Over the years, Prof Maree has written many books. This four latest books were launched at an event in November.

Prof Maree is a former editor of *Perspectives in Education* and of the *South African Journal of Psychology*; the managing editor of *Gifted Education International*; co-editor of the *SA Journal of Science and Technology*; member of the editorial boards of 15 scholarly journals, and a member of several national and international associations and bodies.

Since 2001 Prof Maree has supervised 43 doctoral theses and master's dissertations to completion. He has authored or co-authored more than 120 peer-reviewed articles and 65 books or chapters in books since the beginning of 2002. In 2009, he was awarded the exclusive Stals Prize for exceptional research and contributions to psychology by the *Suid Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns*.



*Prof Kobus Maree - achieving researcher and academic*

He was successfully nominated as an Exceptional Academic Achiever on three consecutive occasions at UP and in 2010 he was awarded the UP Chancellor's Medal for Teaching and Learning.

Prof Maree regularly performs as keynote speaker at events across the world. Recently he was invited to be one of the State-of-the-Science speakers at the International Congress of Applied Psychology, which was the flagship event on the international psychology calendar held in Paris in July. His discussion topic for the event was 'Connecting life-themes to construct self-portraits'.

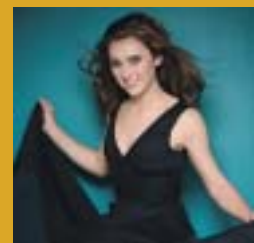
Multiple changes in the world of research are accompanied by increasing challenges and demands. Prof Maree aims to demonstrate that ultimate commitment to a cause constitutes a vital ingredient of success in these rapidly changing times. He is widely known and appreciated for his sense of vision and devotion to a mission aimed at making telling social contributions.



P4 Africa Deans of Education Forum established



P26 Seven new books launched



P36 Ons student op Sarie se voorblad



# WORD FROM THE DEAN

In the past year, there were two things about the field of Education that really stood out for me, regardless of whether I was meeting with deans of education in Canada, the USA, Romania or Kenya, discussing matters of international education in Washington DC, or listening to teachers and principals in South African schools.

First, there is the tremendous amount of commitment and dedication of many individuals who spend their lives in the education sector. You will find teachers, leaders, academics, researchers, government officials, parents and activists across all education sectors who are quite literally dedicating their lives to ensuring that quality education is facilitated for those who are being educated. They spend almost every waking moment thinking about how things could be done better and about how practices could be improved, often with very limited resources at their disposal. They do so regardless of volatility within their various national contexts, shifting international priorities, a rapidly changing work environment, and sometimes despite receiving precious little appreciation from those they serve. They do so with a deep sense of purpose and a talent for finding delight in every day. To me, they are a daily source of inspiration.

Second, I am frequently astounded by the confidence with which some people who know little to nothing about education feel themselves qualified to criticise those who are working tirelessly in the education field. These self-appointed critics often have no professional qualifications in education, nor have they worked in the sector. Yet they offer their 'wisdom' as if they were invited to do so. They comfortably claim to know the solutions to complex educational challenges and they attach blame as if intricate challenges can be accurately understood in a linear fashion. They boast 'expert' opinions ranging from about how universities should function to the language of instruction in Foundation Phase classrooms. They frequently seem to use insightful personal anecdotes to support their sage views and they also seem to lack the insight and awareness that they may perhaps be wrong or wide of the mark.

In this regard, I am reminded of the words of Theodore Roosevelt, used during a speech in Paris in 1910, when he said:

*'It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.'*



*The Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof Irma Eloff*

In the pages of this In-tuition you will find stories of colleagues in the Faculty of Education who are actually in the arena. They work with great enthusiasm and they dedicate themselves to the worthy cause of education. Some of them have spent decades in the field and others are just starting out. All of them are tentative when it comes to their own expertise. They seek to understand before they offer their opinions.

I learn from them every day.

- Prof Irma Eloff



## Editorial

*Annalize Brynard,  
Editor: In-tuition*

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# Memorandum of Understanding signed between UP and UNL

The University of Pretoria (UP) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in Lincoln, Nebraska in the United States of America, signed an Institutional Relations Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Friday, 19 July 2013 at the Principal's Office at the University of Pretoria.

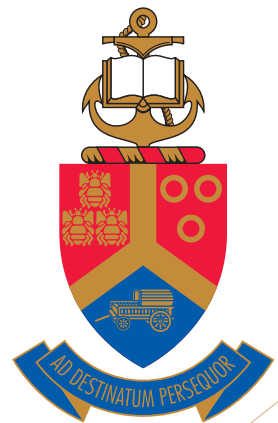
"We are proud to be partnering with UNL and look forward to strengthening the academic ties around education research and postgraduate studies between the institutions," says Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education.

Present at the MoU signing were Prof Stephanie Burton, Vice Principal and Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education at UP, as well as Prof Edmund Hamann, Associate Professor of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education at UNL and Prof Theresa Catalano, Assistant Professor of Second Language Education in Applied Linguistics at UNL. With them were 12 of their postgraduate students who participated in the postgraduate

support sessions in mixed methods, held at the Faculty of Education between 8 and 12 July 2013. Other staff members from the Faculty of Education who were involved in the process of the MoU were also present at the event.

Both universities were inspired by the extensive possibilities offered by the international cooperation and recognised the need to develop and nurture new partnerships and to share human and material resources, with the aim to promote international understanding, contribute to the pool of global knowledge and to advance the development of both countries and the world.

In the spirit of this challenge and responsibility, both institutions acknowledged the similarities in the scholarly pursuits of the two universities and the desire to promote an inter-institutional cooperation, scientific and cultural exchange and mutual understanding and respect between the citizens of South Africa and the United States of America.



*Present at the signing of the MoU were: Prof Theresa Catalano (NLU); Prof Edmund Hamann (NLU); Prof Stephanie Burton, Vice Principal at UP and Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education at UP.*



*Students and other delegates from Nebraska-Lincoln University and the University of Pretoria with Prof Edmund Hamann (middle); Prof Stephanie Burton (to his right) and Prof Irma Eloff (to his left).*

# Africa Deans of Education Forum established in Kenya

On 29 July 2013, the Africa Deans of Education Forum (ADEF) was established on the University of Nairobi's Kenya Science Campus. The event was initiated and hosted by the Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria, Prof Irma Eloff, and the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (and former Dean of Education) of the University of Nairobi, Prof Henry Mutoro. Prof Bob Moon, representing the Open University (United Kingdom) was the distinguished guest at the meeting.

The need to establish a continental forum for deans of education received full support from all attendees, eg deans of education in Africa or their delegated representatives. Transnational initiatives in education research and quality teacher education were discussed. The importance of the 'African voice' within global education discourses was emphasised and potential priorities for such a forum were discussed.

It was decided that the deans will meet annually and that an electronic platform would be created to strengthen ties between African faculties of education. At the next meeting, which will take place in Pretoria, South Africa in mid-2014, organisational and operational structures and future priorities will be discussed.



The first signatories to the establishment of the Africa Deans of Education Forum (ADEF) are:

- Irma Eloff, University of Pretoria
- Henry Mutoro, University of Nairobi
- Honoratha M K Mushi, University of Tanzania
- Joseph Bosire, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology
- Francisco Januário, Eduardo Mondlane University
- Kitila Mkumbo, Dar es Salaam University College of Education, Tanzania
- Amani Ibrahim Abed Alfagar, University of Sudan
- Albert A Saah (on behalf of) IK Dontwi, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana
- Charmaine B Villet, University of Namibia
- Patrick a Kafu, University of Eldoret, Kenya
- Paul Goldschagg, University of the Witwatersrand
- Di Wilmot, Rhodes University
- Elias W Chakwera, University of Tanzania
- I O Saluwo, National Open University of Nigeria
- Denise Zinn, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- David Ngidi, Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT)
- Mopelola Omoogun, University of Lagos, Nigeria
- Martin Dwomoh-Tweneboah, Linfield College, USA, Catholic University of Mozambique
- Kuzvinetsa Peter Dzvimbo, University of South Africa
- Samson Ngunga, University of Nairobi
- Harriet Kidombo, University of Nairobi
- Afful Broni, University of Education, Winneba
- Manie Spamer, (on behalf of ) North-West University
- Ruth Manguthinguri, Mount Kenya University
- Misia Kadenyi, Maasai Mara University

It is envisioned that the forum will span Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone and Arabic Africa. The discussions were facilitated by Prof Kuzvinetsa Peter Dzvimbo, the Dean of the College of Education at Unisa.

## Design education expert at UP invited to Delft

Dr Grietjie Haupt, lecturer in the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education, was invited to present a seminar at the Technical University of Delft (TUD) in its architecture, industrial design and engineering department about her field of expertise, namely design education.

Prof Marc de Vries of TUD invited Dr Haupt in June after he was introduced to the numerous new Design Process models that she has worked on, based on her PhD research. The theme of the seminar was "the cognitive dynamics of socio-technological thinking in the early phases of expert designers' design processes".

The purpose of the PhD research was to explore and describe the manner in which expert designers transform and represent knowledge in the early phases of the design process. This was done by investigating the interaction between stored knowledge and direct perception in the early phases of the design process. The methodological purpose of the study was to explore innovative ways of extending current interactive design cognition theory on research methodology in design contexts, against the underlying context of conventional protocol studies.

The practical value of the study lies in documenting ways of mirroring expert design behaviour in learning environments and problem solving spaces in higher education design curricula. It also provides methodological knowledge on the potential value of employing protocol studies within the context of creative problem solving by studying both verbal and visual representations.

"Based on the findings I obtained, I conceptualised 'intention-permeation' by defining this construct as the penetration of objectively, subjectively or opportunistically selected intentions and their alignment with designers' subsequent

behaviour. I propose 'intention-permeation' as one possibility of accounting for the way expert designers build conceptual and practical bridges between their inner and outer worlds when they solve complex real world design problems," Dr Haupt says.

Dr Haupt is continually working on the refinement of the Design Process model in which expert design cognition is mapped onto the Department of Basic Education model of designing. The initial model was conceptualised in 2010, for which she received an Education Innovation award. Since 2011, based on this model, she has been teaching problem-solving and design-cognition skills to third-year mining engineering students as preparation for their fourth-year design projects.

The model has proven to be applicable on all levels of design education. It led to the conceptualisation of multiple related and specialised models that visualise hierarchical thinking patterns and multi-directional thought processes during the early phases of the design process.



Dr Grietjie Haupt

## Faculties of Education at Alberta and Pretoria explore research collaboration

The Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta was established as the first Faculty of Education in Canada in 1942. This Faculty, which is committed to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge about teaching and learning and is held in high regard worldwide for the quality of its research, encourages professional educators to continue to question, reflect, seek knowledge and be open to change throughout their careers. Currently more than 25% of all deans of education in Canada are alumni of the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta.

During a recent visit to Alberta, the Dean of the Faculty of Education at The University of Pretoria, Prof Irma Eloff, was struck by the similarities between the two faculties of education. Both have been in existence for more than seven decades and they have similar numbers of undergraduate and postgraduate students. More interestingly, the areas of research expertise of the two faculties also appear to be similar, even though they respond to educational challenges in two hemispheres and on two continents.

During meetings with the Dean, Dr Fern Snart, and the Associate Dean for International Initiatives, Dr George Richardson, the representatives of two faculties explored ways in which collaboration between their institutions could be strengthened.



*Dr Fern Snart, Dean of Education at the University of Alberta, Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of Education at the University of Pretoria, and Dr George Richardson, Associate Dean of International Initiatives at the University of Alberta.*

Prof Eloff also met with Alberta colleagues who are working in a variety of fields, eg Drs Lynette Shultz and Ali Abdi (Policy Studies and Diversity), Dr Cathy Adams (ICT Education), Dr Carol Leroy (Language and Literacy), Dr Jacqueline Leighton (Educational Psychology and Assessment), Drs Elaine Simmt and Florence Glanfield (Mathematics Education).

For the immediate future, both faculties will seek to increase postgraduate co-supervision of students, possible collaborative research projects, postdoctoral fellowships, external examination and staff and student exchanges.

## Building global partnerships in education research

The Faculty of Education is increasing its focus on research and the pursuit of knowledge in education and educational processes by partnering with global research societies and organisations. The dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof Irma Eloff, recently met with Dr Felice J Levine, the Executive Director of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and Dr Shirley Malcom, Head of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programmes of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), in Washington DC. During their discussions, the importance of implementation research in education was explored and the notion that teachers should become teacher researchers was emphasised.

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), established in 1916, strives to advance knowledge about education, encourage scholarly inquiry related to education and promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.

AAAS, which was founded in 1848, is the world's largest general scientific society and, with an estimated total readership of one million, has a larger paid circulation than any other peer-reviewed general science journal in the world. The directorate, headed by Dr Malcom, offers AAAS



*Dr Felice J Levine, Executive Director of AERA, Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of Education UP, and Dr Shirley Malcom, Head of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources Programmes (AAAS).*

programmes in education, presents activities for underrepresented groups and promotes public understanding of science and technology.

To take the discussions that were initiated in Washington forward, Dr Levine will be visiting Pretoria later in 2014. Critical areas in which global partnerships in education research can be developed will be discussed with leading researchers in Pretoria.

## Pretoria-Fordham scholarly collaboration strengthened

The University of Pretoria's Faculty of Education is strengthening its ties with the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University. The Dean, Prof Irma Eloff, recently visited the Lincoln and Rosehill Campuses at Fordham in New York to meet with leading Fordham scholars in the field of education, the arts and humanities. Mutual areas for long-term academic collaboration were explored.

Literacy, languages, school psychology, education leadership, special education, early childhood education, social justice and mathematics education all have teams of expert researchers at Pretoria and Fordham. Post-doctoral opportunities, scholarly visits and student exchanges in these fields will form the basis for further collaboration. Currently Prof Ronél Ferreira is already leading a project on food and nutrition, while Dr Vanessa Scherman in collaboration with Fordham researchers is exploring an international study on bullying .

Like the University of Pretoria, Fordham University encourages interdisciplinary research. Jennifer Latham, Assistant Vice-President for International programmes at Fordham, has indicated that numerous international internship opportunities are available for students. Students could, for instance, become involved in UN projects through Fordham's Academic Impact Initiative.

Dr James Hennessy, the Dean of the Graduate School of Education at Fordham, has pointed out that since issues of quality in teacher education seem to become increasingly global, multiple opportunities exist for collaborative research. The Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Associate Vice-President for Research at Fordham, Dr Nancy Busch, has long-standing ties with Pretoria and has led numerous initiatives to strengthen collaboration between Fordham and Pretoria. Dr Booi Themeli, who is involved with the Graduate Program in International Political Economy and Development, also met with Prof Eloff. Dr Themeli has assisted various student groups who have either visited South Africa or have spent time at Fordham in recent years.

'I was first encouraged by Prof Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo, at the time a member of the UP Executive, in 2008, to explore collaborative academic ties with Fordham,' Prof Eloff said. 'This has been, and continues to be a rewarding partnership. I believe that investing in this long-term partnership will yield positive outcomes and benefit for academics and students on both sides.' In the future, even more academic collaboration will therefore be sought between the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Education and the New York Fordham Graduate School of Education.



*Right: Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria, with Dr James J Hennessy, Dean of the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University, New York and left she is with Dr Booi Themeli.*

## Chicago professor lectures at Groenkloof Campus

The Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (SMTE) and the Centre for Evaluation and Assessment (CEA), in collaboration with the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) and the ZENEX Foundation, coordinated a series of lectures on key issues in mathematics education at the University of Pretoria's Groenkloof Campus in June 2013. These lectures were presented by Prof Zalman Usiskin from the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP) and Mrs Karen Usiskin, a publisher of mathematics materials.

The series of lectures focused on teaching mathematics in primary schools. The first lecture, titled *'What primary school teachers need to know about the mathematics they teach'*, focused on the teaching of mathematics in the foundation phase. The second, *'The Transition Years, Grades 6 to 9: What mathematical development should take place over these years'*, focused on the intermediate phase, while the third, *'The Shape of Geometry and the Geometry of Shape'*, concentrated on mathematics teaching during the senior phase. An additional lecture on *'Educational materials from a publisher's perspective: Factors that affect the product'*, was presented by Mrs Karen Usiskin.

Participants from various institutions, including schools, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), universities and education departments attended the lectures and engaged in discussions.

Prof Zalman Usiskin is an Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Chicago, where he was an active faculty member from 1969 to 2007. He is still employed by the University as the overall director of the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP), a position he has held since 1987, and is one of the Principal Investigators of the Center for the Study of Mathematics Curriculum.

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His research focused on the teaching and learning of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, with particular attention to the application of mathematics at all levels and the use of transformations and related concepts in geometry, algebra and statistics. His broader interests cover all aspects of mathematics education K-12, with particular emphasis on matters related to curriculum, instruction, and testing; the selection and organisation of content; the teaching and learning of mathematics; international mathematics education; teacher education; the history of mathematics education; and educational policy.



*Prof Johann Engelbrecht; Prof Zalman Usiskin; Mrs Karen Usiskin and Prof Irma Eloff.*

# Student Achievements

## Education student at Commonwealth Games

Ruan Marais, a second-year Education student and a lifesaver who has earned national colours, competed in the Commonwealth Games held in Australia from 3 to 9 September 2013. He is member of the South African Protea team of 20 lifesavers who represented the country at the pool championships.

Ruan's interest in lifesaving began at the age of seven. At sixteen he was already a qualified lifesaver, patrolling dams and municipal swimming pools as part of his community work. In 2011 he participated in the Commonwealth Games in Durban, where he won one gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The 2009 Commonwealth Games in Canada saw him winning two gold medals and one silver medal for South Africa. This year Ruan participated in two individual items,

namely the 50 m manikin-carry without fins and the 100 m rescue medley. He also participated in six group items.

He is currently ranked fifth in South Africa for lifesaving and holds six South African lifesaving records.

When he is not swimming and saving lives, Ruan is studying towards a BEd degree in Further Education and Training with Mathematics as his main subject. He says that education is his calling, while lifesaving brings excitement to life. 'I can apply my lifesaving skills anywhere and would like to use my experience to empower others. Sport is wonderful - it's something you can do until you're a hundred years old!'

This spirited student believes that South Africa is at a stage where the importance of education is realised. He wants to contribute to providing



*Ruan Marais*

quality education through sport, since one can learn a lot through being active. He believes that 'you learn social skills, competitiveness, motivation and personal goal setting through sport'.

## Wanique Williamson a born leader

Community upliftment and strong leadership have become important factors in building a thriving South Africa.

Wanique Williamson, a final-year BEd student in the Faculty of Education is a woman with many talents and an achiever in various fields.

She was selected to participate in leadership programmes such as the Golden Key International Honours Society, the Tuks Top Junior and Senior, and UP Enactus, a global non-profit organisation. Students who join the Enactus programme are encouraged to develop programmes for needs they have identified in communities. Wanique finds

her involvement in the leadership programme rewarding because it brings her into contact with people who share her passion for improving communities.

The UP Enactus group won the annual national Enactus competition and will be representing South Africa at the World Cup event in Mexico, where they will meet directors and CEOs of major companies, such as Harmony Gold, Sasol, KPMG and Absa, where she acted as judge throughout the competition.

Wanique was the top student in the Faculty of Education in 2011 and is currently the ambassador for a non-profit organisation in her community. She is a born leader in the field of community engagement.



*Wanique Williamson*

## Sfiso Sokhela in favour of change

'Be the change you want to see in the world. As a future teacher, this tells me that we shape the future of our country by the simple acts of caring, nurturing and teaching. I have loved every moment of studying at the Groenkloof Campus and I couldn't be more grateful,' said Sfiso Sokhela, a dynamic leader and student in the Faculty of Education.

Sfiso is very positive about the Faculty of Education and said: 'The Faculty of Education is like no other. The lecturers are more than willing to support you and enable you to be a great teacher. It is like a family and they know how to get the best out of you. You matter to each and every lecturer.'

Some of Sfiso's personal achievements include being the chairperson of Huis Kiaat and a member of the HK, and the chairperson of the Edu-Cantare Choir. He has also served as the Treasurer of STUKU, the student culture branch of the Student Representative Council (SRC). Sfiso is enthusiastic and enjoys every minute of his life as a student.

He had the following to say about his plans for the future: 'My plan is to continue being part of this family by completing my honours and master's degrees, and hopefully a doctorate while teaching. I hope that my kids can also come to study at this amazing place someday. Education is the key to the world and teachers are the locksmiths that shape the keys.'



*Sfiso Sokhela*

## Seminar for science and mathematics education presented by renowned US academic

Prof Wolfgang Christian, chair and Brown Professor of Physics at Davidson College in North Carolina, USA, presented seminars on Easy Java Simulations for science and mathematics education at the Groenkloof Campus on 9 September 2013.

Prof Christian has taught at Davidson College since 1983 and is a fellow of the American Physical Society. He is the author or co-author of nine books, which include books on computational physics and physics education. He has been the books editor of the APS journal *Computers in Physics*, is former chair of the American Physical Society Forum on Education and is a member of the Committee on Undergraduate Education of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Prof Christian's research interest is in the area of computational physics and instructional software design and he has led dozens of national faculty development workshops in this area. This interest builds on the successful establishment of the Davidson Physics Computation Center (PCC) and the hosting of the Computational Physics for Upper Level Courses conference at Davidson College.

He and his students have won numerous software awards in the annual Computers in Physics and the Computers in Science and Engineering



*Prof Wolfgang Christian with Dr Trisha Salagaram of the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*

software competition. Prof Christian is currently working on multi-media physics curricular development using the World Wide Web, and on open-source programme development using the Java programming language.

## Prof Rika Joubert appointed as Adjunct Professor at University of Kentucky

Prof Rika Joubert of the Department of Education Management and Policy Studies has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Kentucky, USA from January 2014 to July 2015.

This is a part-time appointment and while Dr Joubert will be involved in the University of Kentucky's research projects and postgraduate studies, she will still be working at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Education. She will regularly travel to the USA and will appear as a guest lecturer upon request.

Dr Joubert has visited the University of Kentucky (UKY) on a number of occasions for her own research, particularly in the field of education law and educational leadership. UKY is a partner in the International Symposium on Education Reform (ISER) group, which also includes the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, the East China Normal University in Shanghai and the University of Pretoria.

UP's Faculty of Education will benefit from Dr Joubert's appointment through her exposure to the teaching of and research on education law and educational leadership at master's level. UKY is a leading university internationally when it comes to the use of technology to teach education law. According to Dr Joubert, UKY uses the internet, social media and blogs to keep teachers up to date with the latest on education law in schools.

Dr Joubert pointed out that there are important similarities between the state of Kentucky and South Africa: 'Both areas have students who live far from the university and, as is the case in South Africa, country districts form a large part of the state Kentucky.'

Dr Joubert and Dr Jean van Rooyen are organising next year's ISER Symposium, which will be held in South Africa and will be attended by representatives of the UKY.



*Prof Rika Joubert*



# Indiana and Pretoria explore partnership possibilities

A high-level delegation from the Indiana University in the USA visited the University of Pretoria. Indiana University, a major multi-campus public research institution, is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and is known as a world leader in the fields of professional, medical and technological education.

Since its establishment in 1820, Indiana University has been committed to expanding its range of educational opportunities.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen existing ties between IU and UP. Indiana University has previously collaborated with UP's Faculty of

Law and the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) and is seeking to broaden its collaborative partnerships within UP.

In the field of education, opportunities for collaboration around languages in education, as well as the use of information technology will be investigated. Due to IU's emphasis on diversity and friendly, collegial environments, the Dean of the Faculty of Education at UP, Prof Irma Eloff, is keen to pursue further ties with IU within the context of academic freedom.

A former UP researcher and staff member at the Faculty of Education, Prof Erna Alant, is now a faculty member at Indiana University.



*Idalene F Kenser, Dean of the Kelley School of Business; Eric de Haan, Director of International Alumni Relations; Laurie Burns McRobbie, First Lady and Senior Advisor of the IU Foundation, Adjunct Faculty School of Informatics and Computing; Michael A McRobbie, President; Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education, UP; David Zaret, Vice President; Shawn Reynolds, Associate Vice President of International Partnerships and Ryan Piurek, Assistant Director of University Communications.*

## Fulbright scholar in Education Management

Prof Jenny Lee, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from the University of Arizona in the USA, seen here with Prof Chika Sehoole, Head of the Department of Education Management and Policy Studies, and Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education. Prof Lee is on a one-year research visit sponsored by a Fulbright Fellowship. She is working with Prof Sehoole on a project that focuses on the experiences of international students studying at South African universities.



*Prof Chika Sehoole with Prof Jenny Lee and Prof Irma Eloff*

# Education confers 356 degrees at Spring Graduation

The Faculty of Education conferred 356 degrees at its Spring Graduation Ceremony, held on 4 September 2013. The degrees included 10 doctorates and 15 master's, 321 honours and 10 bachelor's degrees. One student received a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, and another a Postgraduate Certificate in Education. The Advanced Certificate in Education was awarded to a total of 98 students.

Dr Grietjie Haupt, a lecturer in the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education, completed her PhD thesis entitled 'The cognitive dynamics of socio-technological thinking in the early phases of expert designers' design process' under the supervision of Prof Ronél Ferreira.

Dr Babajide Gboyega Abidogun completed a PhD thesis entitled 'Teachers' experiences of using Yoruba as a medium of instruction in primary classes: implications for learning' under the supervision of Dr Nkidi Phatudi, and Jorge Jaime Dos Santos, working under Dr Pieter du Toit, was awarded a PhD for his thesis on 'Promoting critical reflection for academic professional development in higher education'.

Prof Chika Sehoole acted as supervisor for Dr Kiptoo Lelei Kiboiy, whose thesis dealt with 'The dynamics of student unrest in Kenya's higher education: the case of Moi University'. Prof Cycil Hartell supervised two theses, one by William Louw on 'Community-based educational programmes as support structures for adolescents within the context of HIV and AIDS', and the other by Dr Momo Andrew Sekopane on 'The moral development of adolescents orphaned by AIDS in child-headed households'.

Dr Barbara Adrienne Meltz completed her PhD thesis, 'The understanding and practice of inclusive education in a Jewish community school in South Africa' under the supervision of Prof Chaya Herman, while Prof Jan Nieuwenhuis supervised Dr Albertina Maitumuleng Ntho-Ntho's thesis entitled 'School principals mediating change: the case of religion in education'. Prof Johannes Slabbert supervised Dr Selma Schiller's thesis on 'The acquisition of essential characteristics required for a contemporary graphic design career' and Dr Chesterton Earl Smith's thesis 'Understanding organizational culture in district offices' was supervised by Prof Johan Beckmann.





# Building partnerships in Romania



*The University of Pretoria delegation at the University of Babes-Bolyai in Cluj-Napoca with the Rector, Prof Ian-Aurel Pop.*

The Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof Irma Eloff, recently accompanied the Vice-Principal for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Stephanie Burton, on a multi-institutional visit to Romania. The UP delegation also included the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, Prof Elsabé Loots, and Dr Yolanda Spies of the Faculty of Humanities.

While in Bucharest, the UP delegation met with the rector of the University of Bucharest, Prof Dr Mircea Dumitru, and also visited the Scoala Natională de Studii Politice si Administrative (SNSPA) and the University of Economic Studies. In Cluj-Napoca, the delegation visited the University of Babes-Bolyai and explored opportunities for collaboration with Prof Ovidiu-Gabriel Iancu, the Vice-Rector for master's and doctoral studies at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. One of the highlights of the visit was the inauguration of the Centre for African Studies at Babes-Bolyai. The creation of EARTH (European and African Resource for Transcontinental Higher Education) was discussed at this inaugural meeting.

Prof Eloff also met with the Dean of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Prof Felezeu Calin, the Vice-Dean, Prof Rusu Alina Simona and staff members; Dr Mădălina Sucală of the Department of

Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy; Dr Oana A David, Executive Director of ICI and President of IACBC; Dr Laura-Elena Runceanu from the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy; and Dr Adriana Baban, Head of the Department of Psychology. The Faculty at Babes-Bolyai, which was established in 1997, provides training in psychology and educational sciences for industry, health sciences and teachers from a wide variety of disciplines. It offers programmes in Romanian, English, German, Hungarian and Ukrainian. The Faculty strives towards achieving a balance between teaching and research. Areas of expertise include health psychology, curriculum development, cognitive-behavioural approaches and community health and education. Educational counselling, early childhood education and secondary education are currently also priority areas.

The Faculty will host a Conference on Problematic Education in June 2014 and is involved in the International Conference on Resilience which will be hosted in Timisoara in May 2014. There will also be a conference in Cluj-Napoca on stress and coping.

'Romania is a country of great promise and the challenges we are facing in education provide numerous springboards for international research projects and staff exchanges', says Prof Eloff.



*Prof GH Vlad Nistor, the President of the Senate of the University of Bucharest; Prof Liviu Papadima, Vice-rector, International Relations and Institutional Communication, Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of Education, UP; Prof Dr Mircea Dumitru, Rector, University of Bucharest; Prof Stephanie Burton, Vice-principal, UP; Prof Elsabé Loots, Dean of Economics and Management Sciences; Dr Yolanda Spies, Faculty of Humanities, UP and Venita Smit, First Secretary, South African Embassy, Bucharest.*



*Prof Irma Eloff with the Dean of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Prof Felezeu Calin and colleagues from the Faculty at the University of Babes-Bolyai in Cluj - Napoca.*



*Prof Irma Eloff, Dean: Faculty of Education: UP; Venita Smit: First Secretary of the South African Embassy in Bucharest; Dr Liliana Popescu, Pro-Rector, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest; Prof Stephanie Burton, Vice Principal at UP; Prof Elsabé Loots, Dean: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and Dr Yolanda Spies, Faculty of Humanities at UP.*



*Prof Irma Eloff; Prof Stephanie Burton; Prof Ovidiu-Gabriel Iancu, Vice Rector at Alexandru Ioan University of Iasi; Prof Elsabé Loots and Dr Yolanda Spies.*

## Visitors from Japan at Early Childhood Education

The Department of Early Childhood Education recently hosted two academics from Japan. Prof Hideaki Shibuya from Tokyo Gakugei University and Prof Kazuto Kogawa from Tokyo Women's College of Physical Education were at the Faculty of Education in August and September 2013.

These academics were the guests of Prof Cencil Hartell, Head of the Department of Early Childhood Education and are members of the Africa-Asia Dialogue that includes representatives from 17 universities in 13 African countries and 13 universities in seven Asian countries. The purpose of their visit is to establish a working relationship with the Department of Early Childhood Education that will involve both research and staff and student exchange. They will also visit private schools in Pretoria to interview principals and teachers on 'quality in education' in private schools.



*Prof Cencil Hartell and Prof Irma Eloff with Prof Hideaki Shibuya and Prof Kazuto Kogawa*

## Virginia delegation learns about education in South Africa

A delegation from Alexandria, Virginia in the USA recently visited our campus under the leadership of Daniel A Domenech, the Executive Director of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA).

Daniel A Domenech has served as the Executive Director of the American Association of School Administrators since July 2008. He has more than 36 years' experience in public education and has served as a school superintendent for twenty-seven of those years.

He was accompanied by Ms Anne M Byrne and Dr Amy F Sichel. Ms Byrne, who hails from Pearly River, New York, USA is the president elect of the National School Boards Association and has been a school board

member for 32 years. Dr Sichel is the Superintendent of Schools in the Abington School District (ABS), Pennsylvania, USA. She has been the education leader of the district for the past 13 years and has worked for the district for the past 37 years in various positions related to education. Her areas of expertise are educational leadership, school psychology, counselling and special education.

Some of the issues discussed during their visit were student achievement; community engagement; teacher preparation; evaluation; the organisation of the education system; the South African education system; key areas of innovation within the education system; and areas of education concern.



*Mrs Gloria Ledwaba; Dr Judy van Heerden; Dr Laurel Becker; Prof Irma Eloff, Dean; Mr David Luthago; Daniel A Domenech, Executive Director of the School Superintendents Association (TSSA); Amay F Sichel; Ms Jeanne Meiring, Ms Yolandi Woest; Mrs Alta Niemann and Anne M Byrne.*

## Research Group on inequality established

During a the Grulac Conference in October of which the Faculty of Education was part, a research group was established. The purpose of the research group is to integrate shared education research capacity for evidence-based ideas for education challenges with origin in inequality.

The research will include inequalities originating from post-colonialism, emerging democracies and economies, multi-sectoral transformation. The focus would be on transformative insights, rather than reproducing the hegemony of Global North thinking. The South-to-South transformative insights may be harnessed by making use of inclusive participatory methodologies; a focus on where adaptation (resilience) in education has transformed or mediated against the effects of inequality (where high risk leads to high performance and social cohesion) as well as looking at past patterns of success and failure in education by taking cognisance of Indigenous Knowledge Systems as context of education.

A first deliverable will be integration of thoughts from the South-to-South Research Group on Inequality and Education into the World Education Research Association (WERA) White Paper on Poverty and Education.

Prof Liesel Ebersöhn of the Faculty of Education was tasked by WERA to Chair the Task Team to develop said White Paper. The White Paper will be presented at the WERA Symposium, in Philadelphia in April 2014.

Currently Global North voices are dominating the development of the White Paper whereas knowledge pertaining to Inequality and Education resides in the Global South.

In the development of the White Paper (which has been taking place since the beginning of 2013) the abundant knowledge from Latin America has been difficult to access due to language barriers.

The South-to-South Research Group will be well-placed as a platform for integrated Global South scholarship regarding Inequality and Education. As a first research initiative the WERA White Paper can provide evidence-based scholarship on education and inequality for peers and policy makers. From this first deliverable additional joint research inquiries may be explored.

# International focus on DETA Conference

The 2013 DETA Conference was presented by the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Education in partnership with the University of Nairobi on the latter's Kenya Science Campus at the College of Education and External Studies in Nairobi from 29 July to 1 August 2013. The conference was preceded by a workshop on the use of open education resources (OER) and mobile technology to support education and teacher development in Africa. Prior to the main conference, the first African Deans of Education Forum (ADEF) was held with the purpose of facilitating dialogue on critical issues in research and teacher education among the leadership of African faculties of education.

Professor Antony Melck represented the University of Pretoria's Vice-Chancellor at the opening ceremony and was the host at the conference dinner organised by UP for all the delegates.

The objectives of the conference were: 'To contribute to the debate on teacher education in Africa and to build capacity for the delivery of teacher education programmes in Africa'.

The Steering Committee for the Conference consisted of representatives of the University of Pretoria and the University of Nairobi and was co-chaired by Dr Johan Hendrikz (UP) and Prof Henry Mutoro (University of Nairobi). Most of the work (prior to and during the conference) was done by staff of the Distance Education Unit of UP's Faculty of Education.

The Dean of the Faculty, Prof Irma Elof, attended the conference and played a leading role in the final panel session.

The conference was attended by more than 200 delegates from 24 mainly African countries. Plenary sessions were presented by Prof Bob Moon, emeritus professor of Education at the Open University, UK, Dr Bakary Diallo, Rector of the African Virtual University, Prof Florida Karani, Professor of Education at the University of Nairobi, and Prof Asha Kanwar, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL).

UP's Faculty of Education, through the Unit for Distance Education, has been presenting DETA conferences every second year since 2005. The first was held in Pretoria, the second at Makerere University in Uganda, the third at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, the fourth in Maputo and the fifth in Nairobi. Although the leadership comes from the University of Pretoria and most of the organisation and work is also done by UP members of staff, the decision to cooperate with an African University for every conference has had very positive results. In Africa, UP is seen as a leader in the field of education, an institution that is willing to share its expertise and one that is prepared to extend a helping hand to other faculties in Africa. Many postgraduate students, often staff of other universities, are drawn to UP because of these conferences.



*Dr Sharon Mampane; Dr Ina Joubert; Dr Judite Ferreira-Prost and Mrs Gloria Ledwaba*



*Dr Vimbi Mahlangu; Dr Agnes Mohlakwana and Prof Chika Sehoole*



*Dr Johan Hendrikz with Dr Ruth Aluko and Mrs Mamello Matima*



*Education delegates at the DETA conference in Nairobi, Kenya.*

## CEA attends 5th IEA International Research Conference

Prof Sarah Howie (Director), Dr Surette van Staden (Senior Researcher) and Mrs Karen Roux (Junior Researcher) of the Centre for Evaluation and Assessment (CEA) attended the 5th International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) International Research Conference held in Singapore at the end of June 2013. The conference was hosted by the National Institute of Education (NIE) at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. The aim of the IEA International Research Conference is to provide an international forum for researchers working with IEA data to exchange ideas and information on critical educational issues.

Dr Van Staden presented a paper entitled 'Factors That Affect South African Reading Literacy Achievement: Evidence from pre-PIRLS 2011 Using Aspects of Carroll's Model of School Learning'. The paper was co-written with an expert in evidence-based education, Prof Roel Bosker, from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. This presentation aimed to identify factors that predict reading literacy achievement among Grade 4 learners in South Africa by utilising aspects of Carroll's model of school learning.

The paper drew on the pre-Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (prePIRLS) 2011 data, which place South African Grade 4 learners' results substantially below the international centre point. Dr Van Staden and Prof Sarah Howie are the joint National Research Coordinators (NRC) for PIRLS in South Africa. PIRLS 2011, conducted by the IEA, was attended by representatives from 48 countries and 9 benchmarking participants.

Mrs Karen Roux, an MEd student in Assessment and Quality Assurance in Education and Training and a junior researcher at the CEA, is currently researching the relationship between parental factors and learner achievement in reading literacy by drawing on PIRLS 2011 data.

*From Left: Mrs Karen Roux (CEA), Dr Surette van Staden (CEA), Dr Hans Wagemaker (Executive Director, IEA) Prof Lee Sing Kong (Director, NIE) and Prof Berinderjeet Kaur (National Institute of Education, Singapore) with some students from Singapore in red.*



## Lecturer delivers paper at Ballad Conference

The 43rd International Ballad Conference of the Kommission für Volksdichtung was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa from 13-19 October 2013. The main theme of the conference was 'Social issues in songs and ballads' and presentations also covered subthemes such as status, social customs, singing and society, slavery, subservience, spirituality, sexuality and more. The countries that were represented were Austria, India, Albania, Sweden, Scotland, France, Turkey, Germany, Kenya, Slovenia, Wales, Russia, Canada, Zimbabwe, the USA, Belgium, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands and South Africa.

Dr Riekie van Aswegen of the Department of Humanities Education presented a paper entitled 'Folk music as choral repertoire: The pitfalls and bridges of cultural diversity', which was very well received. The paper dealt with challenges and benefits relating to transcriptions and the authenticity of folk songs; the influence of choir competitions on folk music performances and new South African compositions; and the role of folk music and choral singing in the transformation process in South Africa.

Dr Van Aswegen also composes choral works and children's songs. Two of her songs have been included in the new FAK songbook and she recently completed a commissioned choral work for the Super 12 choir competition for primary schools.



*Dr Riekie van Aswegen*



# Spotlight on role of language in educational development

Dr Alta Engelbrecht of the Department of Humanities Education represented the Faculty of Education at the 10th International Language and Development Conference held at the Lagoon Beach Hotel in Cape Town from 14-17 October 2013.

The conference series offered a forum for the discussion of change and of issues relating to the role of language in development, especially in the development of education.

The theme for this year was 'Opportunity, equity and identity beyond 2015'. The conference, hosted by the British Council, had a distinct African flavour, with African storytellers, jazz bands and plenary sessions during which issues relating to multilingualism and an African cultural renaissance were discussed.

2015 is the end date for the realisation of the internationally agreed-upon Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The conference focused on MDG 2: Achieving universal primary education; MDG 3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women; and MDG 8: Developing a global partnership for development.

Representatives of ACALAN, the official language agency of the African Union, PRAESA, which is a multilingual education project at the University of Cape Town involved in the intellectualisation of African languages, and the European Union contributed immensely to the intellectual success of the conference.



*Dr Alta Engelbrecht*

# Academic also focuses on human rights



*Prof Carien Lubbe-De Beer*

Prof Carien Lubbe-De Beer from the Department of Educational Psychology, who represents PsySSA on the International Network on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Matters in Psychology (IPsyNET) hosted by the American Psychological Association, has been involved in an African LGBTI Human Rights project for the past three years. One of the objectives of this project was to establish a Sexuality and Gender Interest Group.

This interest group has now grown to an official division. The establishment of the Division was approved by the PsySSA Council at a meeting on 24 September 2013 and confirmed during the PsySSA AGM at the Congress. Prof Carien Lubbe-De Beer who, together with Prof Juan Nel from Unisa, laid the foundations for the establishment of the Division, has been nominated to serve as Acting Chair of the PsySSA Sexuality and Gender Division.

PsySSA has also adopted the Sexual and Gender Diversity Position. This is the culmination of the hard work of individuals from five African countries over the past two years and also the proud first product of this Division.

# Postdoctoral fellows in the Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education currently has three postdoctoral fellows completing their studies under the capable supervision of Faculty staff members. Dr Tilda Loots, Dr Diana Breshears and Dr Samuel Kolawole Adeyemo are researching various aspects within the discipline of education. The most recent edition of *In-tuition* focused on Dr Samuel Kolawole Adeyemo.



Dr Tilda Loots

**Dr Tilda Loots**, part-time lecturer in the Department of Educational Psychology, is conducting postdoctoral research that forms part of a long-term collaborative partnership project (Flourishing Learning Youth, FLY) undertaken jointly by rural Mpumalanga schools and the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Education researchers and students under the leadership of Prof Liesel Ebersöhn.

Dr Loots explained that 'The postdoctoral research provides me with an opportunity to further deepen my expertise in the field of the asset-based approach, psychosocial support and community engagement. It also provides me with an opportunity to share my research findings through relevant articles and publications'.

The broad focus of the FLY research project is to generate knowledge on ways to promote resilience in resource-constrained rural schools. FLY is theoretically underpinned by the asset-based approach and comes to life through Participatory Reflection and Action (PRA) methodology. Within the broader FLY project, Dr Loots' postdoctoral study focuses on long-term higher education community engagement partnerships with rural schools.

Tilda Loots started her academic journey with a B Primary Education degree at the University of Pretoria in 2000 and completed a BA Hons degree in Psychology (*cum laude*) in the same year - a tough but rewarding experience. She subsequently completed a BEd Hons Educational Psychology degree (*cum laude*) at the Rand Afrikaans University in 2002, and an MEd Educational Psychology at UP in 2005.

She received her PhD degree in Educational Psychology from UP in 2011, when she also received the award for the best completed doctoral research conducted by a student at UP's Faculty of Education at the Research Indaba. Her research focuses on asset-based psychosocial support, school-community partnerships and resilience in dealing with stressors. As part of her PhD studies, she was granted a postgraduate bursary for study abroad, which enabled her to visit the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University in the USA.

Tilda authored and co-authored a number of chapters in books and several journal articles. In addition to fulfilling her lecturing duties, she also works as a contractor for the Sanlam Group and has a private practice as an educational psychologist.

**Dr Diana Breshears** is currently researching identity issues of individuals in lesbian/gay-parented families in South Africa. Diana completed her undergraduate work at California State University-Stanislaus, earning her BA in Communication Studies in 2005. From there she moved to Colorado, where she was awarded an MA degree in Speech Communication at

Colorado State University in 2007. This was followed by a PhD in Communication Studies with a specialisation in interpersonal and family communication, completed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2011. For her dissertation entitled 'A dialectical analysis of discourses surrounding children's experiences of parental disclosures of homosexuality' she received the 2012 Sandra Petronio Dissertation Excellence Award from the Family Communication division of the National Communication Association.

Diana's general research interests include the communicative creation and maintenance of identity among individuals with non-traditional, stigmatised familial identities. Her current postdoctoral research is specifically focused on identity issues experienced by individuals in lesbian/gay-parented families in South Africa.

She notes that while there is much international literature regarding the experiences of lesbian and gay parents and their children, little is known about families in South Africa.

"South Africa provides a unique context because, despite the increase of this type of family and the rights and protections guaranteed by South African law, cultural attitudes toward same-sex-parented families are not as progressive. As in many other countries, there is a culturally deeply rooted stigmatisation attached to homosexuality and same-sex-parented families in South Africa."

She has two broad goals for her research. Firstly, she wants to establish an understanding of the experiences of lesbian and gay parents and their children in South Africa. Secondly, she specifically wants to explore these families' experiences in the school context, and how teachers and administrators can create a supportive, affirming learning environment for children from these families.

Diana received a research grant from the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society (WFI) at Villanova University's Department of Communication for research on creating school environments that communicate support for children from lesbian/gay-parented families in South Africa (2012-2013). This funding has allowed her to travel across the country to meet her participants face to face to learn more about their experiences. The funding will also allow her to present her findings to schools in the form of brochures and workshops to help improve educators' understanding of the needs of this unique family form. After completing her postdoctoral studies, Diana plans to seek a faculty position at a university and continue her research on non-traditional families.



Dr Diana Breshears

# Creative characters emerge in story writing competition

Doodle the Firefly, Peter and the little yellow fish, and the jumbled-up bunnies... These are just a few of the weird and wonderful characters that you will find between the pages of story books, written by first-year Education students who participated in the Department of Early Childhood Education's (ECE's) annual story-writing competition, driven by Oxford University Press (SA).

Each first-year student was tasked with writing an authentic children's picture book as part of their first-year early literacy module, presented by Dr Ina Joubert. While every entry received a prize, special prizes were awarded to the best story books, as evaluated by Ms Magda Scheepers from Oxford University Press.

The three stories that stood out amongst the numerous exciting entries this year were Refiloe Lekhoane's wrote *Malankani the silly little giraffe*, Alessandra Manca's *The little tree that wanted to be different* and Rebecca Stewart *Blue's big adventure*.

Dr Joubert said that she received many wonderful entries for the competition this year, some with really relevant and educational themes, such as the endangerment of rhinos. The books were displayed in the library's extensive junior section. Mrs Sonja Delpont of the library assisted with the competition and second-year student Lisbé Buitendag helped with the preparations. She also acted as master of ceremonies at the awards which ceremony was held on 23 May 2013.



# Top achievers in Education honoured

The Faculty of Education honoured its top student achievers for 2012 at a special function held at the Groenkloof Campus on 6 June 2013. Each achiever received a certificate and prize money.

Amor Etsebeth received the Achievement Vice-Chancellor and Principal award, as well as the BEd Further Education and Training: Natural Sciences award. Maryke Taljaard was the top achiever BEd Intermediate Phase, Herné Labuschagne in BEd Senior Phase/BEd Senior Fase and Megan Struthers in BEd Early Childhood Development and Foundation Phase.



*With the Dean, Prof Irma Eloff were: Amor Etsebeth; Maryke Taljaard; Herné Labuschagne; Megan Struthers; Venise Joubert; Bernise Willemse and Lené Hattingh. Monette Fourie could not attend.*

The BEd Further Education and Training: General award went to Venise Joubert, the BEd Further Education and Training: Economic and Management Science award to Monette Fourie and the BEd Further Education and Training:

Human Movement Science and Sport Management award to Bernise Willemse. Lene Hattingh was the top achiever in Teaching Practice.

## 'Re-a-bua' roll out on campus

The University will be rolling out a series of dialogue sessions titled 'Re-a-bua', which means 'We are talking', with the purpose of creating a platform for open dialogue between staff and students where issues relating to diversity and transformation can be discussed in a facilitated and psychologically safe environment. The pilot sessions were held on the Groenkloof Campus in September 2013.

*Seen here attending a session are Ms Vanessa Winter of DiversiT, who facilitated the session; Ms Jeanette Schoeman, HR Business Partner in the Faculty of Education; Ms Mando Mabuza, Transformation Manager; Dr Vimbi Mhlangu; Prof Everard Weber and Dr Keshni Bipath of the Department of Education Management and Policy Studies; Dr Sonja van Putten of the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education; and Prof Max Braun, Acting Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education.*



# Dean awards Faculty of Education staff

In August 2013 Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education, awarded staff members for outstanding achievements in specific areas. The event took place in the Dean's Boardroom and was followed by a cocktail function.

Lifetime Achievement Award  
Prof Billy Fraser, Acting Head of the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education

International scholarship  
Prof Saloshna Vandeyar, Head of the Department of Humanities Education

Excellence in Executive Office Management  
Ms Rose Tibane

Excellence in distance education  
Dr Ruth Aluko

Excellence in student support:  
Ms Betty Ncobo

Excellence in student bursary support  
Ms Vida Moses

Excellence in departmental office management  
Ms Adrie van Dyk

Excellence in graduation ceremony organisation  
Ms Hannie de Weerd

Excellence in interdisciplinary collaboration  
Mr Tebogo Tsebe

Positive attitude and resilience  
Ms Zama Khumalo

Excellence in Music Education  
Ms Ronel de Villiers

Excellence in Applied Scholarship  
Dr Gerrit Stols

Scholarship in Mathematics Education  
Dr Caroline Long

Excellence in academic citizenship  
Dr Estelle Gaigher

Research productivity  
Dr Rian de Villiers

Innovative scholarship  
Dr Ronel Callaghan

Leadership in curriculum development  
Dr Marie Botha

Indigenous knowledge scholarship  
Dr Teresa Ogina



Front, from left: Dr Teresa Ogina, Prof William Fraser, Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof Saloshna Vandeyar and Ms Betty Ncobo  
Back, from left: Ms Rose Tibane, Dr Estelle Gaigher, Ms Ronel de Villiers, Dr Rian de Villiers, Ms Zama Khumalo, Mr Tebogo Tsebe, Dr Ronel Callaghan, Dr Ruth Aluko, Dr Marie Botha and Ms Vida Moses

## EASA Executive meets at Groenkloof

The Executive Committee of the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) had a meeting on Groenkloof Campus in September. They are from left back: Prof Raj Mestry (University of Johannesburg), Dr Anne-Mari Dicker (UNISA), Dr Dipane Hlalele (University of the Free State), and in the front: Prof Liesel Ebersohn (University of Pretoria), Prof Dinah Magano (UNISA), Prof Ronel Ferreira (University of Pretoria), Prof Lesley Wood (North West University), Prof Eldrie Gouws (UNISA) and Dr Ruth Mampane (University of Pretoria) (absent: Prof Linda Theron, North West University, and Dr Cindy Ntombela (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal).



# Postgraduate research indaba inspires students and staff

The Research Indaba of 2013 once again offered staff and postgraduate students an opportunity to listen, share and learn. The event took place on 27 September 2013 and was attended by 150 people. The theme of the Indaba was 'Researching teaching and learning AND teaching learning research'.

The Indaba was opened by Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education, who then introduced Prof Veronica McKay, the Deputy Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education at Unisa, and keynote speaker. Prof McKay shared insights from the high-impact Kha Ri Gude project on literacy.

One of the main presenters of the event was Dr Gift Nyanhi of Unisa.



*Prof Irma Eloff with Dr Gift Nyanhi and Prof Veronica McKay*

After many rigorous assessments by reviewers from different departments of the Faculty of Education, the following winners were announced:

- MEd (Novice Research) - Niekie Blom - 'Investigating the vertical thinking processes of Gr. 9 design and technology learners during problem solving activities'
- MEd (Research in progress) - Marisa Leask - 'The nature of teaching English in rural schools as a second language in Grade 3: A concurrent embedded mixed-methods study'
- MEd (Completed research) - Opeyemi Adebajji - 'The acculturation of immigrant children in the Foundation Phase: influence on academic performance'
- PhD (Novice research) - Marlize Malan van Rooyen - 'Indigenous pathways to adaptive coping in rural communities'
- PhD (Research in progress) - Phetolo Setlhare - 'Development of a programme accreditation system to address quality in tertiary education institutions in Botswana'
- PhD (Completed research) - Dr Grietjie Haupt - 'Educational implications of research on design cognition of expert designers'
- Best Presentation - Dr Maximus M Sefotho - 'Career construction for Haphapreneurship: Alternative framework for persons with disabilities in the 21st century world of work'
- Best methodological research - Donna Hannaway - 'The influence of ecosystemic factors on black student teachers' perceptions and experience of early innovative presentation/childhood education study'



*Prof Irma Eloff congratulates from left Niekie Blom, Donna Hannaway, Dr Grietjie Haupt, Phetolo Setlhare and Marisa Leask*

## Unit for DE staff on association boards

Dr Johan Hendrikz, Manager of the Faculty of Education's Unit for Distance Education, was re-elected as the Honorary Treasurer of the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA). This was announced at DEASA's 48th annual general meeting, held in Botswana on 22 September 2013.

Another staff member who serves in the Unit, Dr Ruth Aluko, was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Distance Education and Open Learning in South Africa (NADEOSA) on 3 October 2013. Dr Aluko is a researcher and instructional design supporter in the Unit.



*Dr Johan Hendrikz*

## Mobile learning expert at Faculty

Prof John Traxler is the world's first professor of Mobile Learning and the Director of the Learning Lab at the University of Wolverhampton. He visited South Africa during July 2013 as a guest of UNISA. Prof Traxler was hosted by the Faculty of Education at UP on 18 July 2013 for an interactive morning workshop on mobile learning. The workshop was attended by approximately 40 participants from faculties at the University, Education Innovation, CE@UP, Unisa, TUT and the school environment. During this inspiring question-and-answer workshop, Prof Traxler shared some of his knowledge of mobile learning developments the world over.



*Prof John Traxler (left) with Prof Irma Eloff, Dr Gerrit Stols and Dr Ronel Callaghan*

## Literacy discussed at Kenya conference

Dr Ina Joubert and Mrs Gloria Ledwaba, lecturers in die Department of Early Childhood Education, presented a paper at the recent Distance Education and Teachers' Training in Africa (DETA) conference, held at the Nairobi University in Kenya. The presentation was entitled 'Teaching Literacy in the Foundation Phase Programme through distance education: Perspectives of first-time distance education lecturers'. Dr Nkidi Phatudi contributed to the paper, but could not attend the conference.

Dr Joubert announced that the Faculty of Education hopes to introduce a BEd degree in Early Childhood Education in the near future.



*Mrs Gloria Ledwaba and Dr Ina Joubert*

## Interaction with Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique

Dr Cristina Tembe, seen her with Dr Pieter du Toit from the Department of Humanities Education, is an alumna of the University of Pretoria who was involved in the signing of the professional development agreement between the University of Pretoria and University of Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique. Dr Tembe graduated under the supervision of Dr Du Toit and when she recently visited him at the Faculty they discussed options for further collaboration and the role one could play in mentoring colleagues. They considered new ways in which practice could be transformed and appropriate principles could be applied to develop authentic mentors.

The professional development of academic staff in higher education forms the core of the field of expertise shared by Dr Du Toit and Dr Jorge Fringe, whose professional development formed part of the agreement between the University of Pretoria and the Eduardo Mondlane University. Dr Fringe recently visited Dr Du Toit to investigate the possibility of continued professional development of academic staff.

As part of the agreement between the two universities, Dr Du Toit presented several professional development workshops at the Eduardo Mondlane University over the past few years, with the focus on innovating teaching practice and the use of action research as an appropriate process for monitoring such innovations. The workshops included a focus on peer mentoring, an aspect of the work that aroused Dr Fringe's interest and gave impetus to his PhD study. With a view to strengthening the future informal collaboration between the two universities, the notion of establishing 'communities of higher education practice' has become a priority.



*Dr Pieter Du Toit and Dr Jorge Fringe*



*Dr Pieter du Toit and Dr Cristina Tembe*

# Mental Health Day celebrated

To celebrate Mental Health Day, a research seminar was held at the Groenkloof Campus on 11 October 2013.

The theme of the seminar was 'Connecting psychologies towards synergy' and it was attended by University representatives and several organisations in the field of psychology.

Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education, welcomed the delegates when the proceedings were opened. Colleagues from all three UP academic department, involved in the training of psychologists attended seminar.

The presentation by Leon de Beer and Chanelle Albertyn from the South African Federation of Health focused on 'NGO's Partnering with University's to expand collaborative focused research', and Prof Deo Stumpfer spoke on 'Advance Age, contentiousness, fitness and a call to action'. This was followed by round-table discussions. The seminar was organised by Prof David Maree from the Faculty of Humanities Education and Mr Tebogo Tsebe from the Faculty of Education.



*Group Discussion*



*Mr Tebogo Tsebe*



*Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education, welcomed the delegates*

## International Literacy Day celebrations

International Literacy Day was declared by Unesco in 1965 and is celebrated annually on 8 September. Dr Nkidi Phatudi, a lecturer in the Department of Early Childhood Education, assisted with organising a Literacy Day at the Itireleng Primary School in Temba, Hammanskraal, and brought Pearson Publishers to the school.

Dr Phatudi started a community reading project at the school in 2011, following the termination of the Edcon-funded Literacy Project at the school. This year she participated as a guest speaker. Her message was that learners should be encouraged to take reading seriously as it provides the key for unlocking information contained in books, magazines and the electronic media. It is also plays a vital role in ensuring a promising, rather than a bleak future. The Department of Early Childhood Education was also represented by Dr Ina Joubert, Ms Gloria Ledwaba and a second-year Literacy student.

The day was dedicated to showcasing children's ability to read and engage in debates with one another. Learners from Grade R to Grade 6 participated by reading aloud to the audience in both Setswana, the language of the immediate environment, and English. They also engaged in dialogues and debates and dramatized some favourite Bible stories they had been told.

To add flavour to the day's activities, traditional Setswana dances were performed to the loud cheering of the audience, which consisted of fellow learners at the school. Dr Phatudi commented, 'The enthusiasm with which these activities were carried out by learners. The patience exercised

by the audience shown by learners demonstrated a sense of commitment towards making certain that they too wanted to read with fluency and proficiency'.

According to the representatives of the Department of Early Childhood Education, the Literacy Day was an incredible experience and offered an excellent opportunity to celebrate and take stock of both positive and negative aspects that should be considered while ensuring that children are sufficiently literate to become independent learners.



*Dr Nkidi Phatudi and Ms Gloria Ledwaba inspire learners to read*



## Dr Gerrit Stols

Dr Gerrit Stols of the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education has recently received a C2 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

In 2002 Dr Gerrit Stols left the teaching profession for a lectureship at the University of South Africa. He spent three months at the University of Georgia in the USA where he completed his doctoral studies. He was also invited to visit Naruto University of Education (Japan) in November 2011, 2012 and 2013 for about a month each year to train mathematics course facilitators and to take part in a research project about teachers' perceptions about effective mathematics teaching. He gave seminars at the University of University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Stellenbosch, and Naruto University of Education in Japan. Dr Stols authored or co-authored more than twenty study guides, school textbooks and manuals of which some are used by different organisations and institutions around the globe. He developed a website for teachers to improve their use of technology in schools. In 2012 the Gauteng Department of Education approached him to present a series of workshops to Gauteng mathematics teachers about the integration of technology in their classrooms. The Vodacom Foundation sponsored this project. Other workshops about the use of technology were presented in Potchefstroom, WITS, Maties, NMMU, UP, Kruger Park, Kroonstad, Durban, Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, and in Goudini.

His research focuses on the relationship between theory and practice in terms of the use of technology in mathematics education. Some of the articles published are the result of the research done in my classroom to improve my own teaching. It is important to understand how technology improves students' understanding and achievement therefore he received a Research and Development grant to investigate the geometric cognitive growth of pre-service mathematics teachers in a technology-enriched environment, as opposed to that of students in a learning environment without any technological enhancements. He also developed a model for understanding the use of ICT in the classroom. This research combines the constructs of Theory of Planned Behaviour, Technology Acceptance Model, and Innovation Diffusion Theory as an attempt to explain factors that influence mathematics teachers' use of dynamic geometry software in their classrooms. His research thus lies predominantly in the intersection zone of geometry, the use of technology and education. However, he also published articles where only the use of technology and geometry intersect. He and a colleague published an influential article in an international forensic journal where they used transformation geometry and dynamic geometry software to reconstruct distorted bite marks using affine transformations.



## Prof Ronél Ferreira

Prof Ronél Ferreira received a C3 rating from the NRF. Prof Ferreira's research interests include psychosocial support within the context of vulnerability, HIV&AIDS, asset-based psychosocial coping and resilience, and the use of participatory action research in combination with intervention-based studies to improve community-based coping, and health and well-being of resource-constrained communities. She has been co-leader of the STAR (Supportive Teachers, Assets and Resilience) project since 2003, as well as of the follow-up project, SHEBA (Supporting Home Environments in Beating Adversity) since 2011.

Prof Ferreira is Head of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Pretoria. She is also theme leader of the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Well-being. Her research accomplishments are signified, amongst others, by her being the recipient of the Samuel Henry Prince Dissertation Award of the International Sociological Association (2009), the Young Researcher Award of the University of Pretoria (2009), the Young Researcher Award of the Education

Association of South Africa (2007), and the Faculty of Education (University of Pretoria) Best PhD Dissertation Award (2006).

In 2012, she was visiting professor at both Fordham University (USA) and Providence College, Road Island (USA). She is associate editor of the Global Journal of Counselling and Guidance since 2012, and co-editor of the South African Journal of Early Childhood since 2010. She serves on the editorial boards of Educational Research for Social Change and the South African Journal of Education. In January 2013 she was elected as incoming chair of the Education Association of South Africa.



## Dr Salomé Human-Vogel

Dr Salomé Human-Vogel from the Department of Educational Psychology received a C3 rating.

She has an interest in the factors associated with individual differences in self-regulation of behaviour in academic contexts, but also including interpersonal contexts, thus her research programme focuses on identity-related commitment as a self-regulated process. Essentially, she examines the determinants, correlates and consequences of commitment as a self-regulatory process. As such, she argues that self-regulation in the longterm can only ever attain coherence and consistency if commitments are identity-relevant. Coherence and consistency in self-regulation is critical for longterm goal setting and goal maintenance. Dr Human Vogel's vision is that commitment as a theoretical construct will be recognised as a core ingredient in understanding human behaviour in the longterm, particularly intentional and future-oriented human behaviour.

She joined UP in 2001 as a lecturer in the Department of Educational Psychology and obtained a PhD in 2003 and thereafter she published consistently in national and international journals. She has supervised several Masters dissertations and Doctoral theses to completion and teaches under-graduate, Honours and Masters level courses in learning and development, and family-oriented intervention. She enjoys doing clinical supervision of Educational Psychology Masters students' practical work.



# Seven books and DVD launched

On 6 November 2013 the Faculty of Education launched seven new books written by a number of productive staff members.

The book *Internationalisation of African Higher Education: Towards Achieving the MDGs*, co-edited by Prof Chika Sehoole, Head of the Department of Education Management and Policy Studies and Jane Knight, aims to change the minor role that higher education, especially its international dimension, is given in the discourse on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa. The book argues that international higher education and new knowledge must go beyond economic purposes and serve the human and social development needs of the continent.

*Financial Management in Education in South Africa*, which addresses the latest developments in the field of financial management in South African public education from both a legal and a financial perspective, was edited by Dr Jean van Rooyen, Executive Manager of the Interuniversity Centre for Education Law, Education Leadership and Education Policy (CELP) and a lecturer in the Department of Education Management and Policy Studies.

Prof Kobus Maree of the Department of Educational Psychology launched three publications and a DVD. The first, *Complete your thesis or dissertation successfully: Practical guidelines*, offers a wealth of highly practical information for use in planning, writing and defending a thesis or dissertation,

and seeing it through to publication. The second, *First Steps in Journal Article Writing*, is a comprehensive, encouraging volume for anyone interested in scholarly writing. His third book, *Counselling for Career Construction*, harnesses the power of stories to yield an innovative, inclusive and context-rich perspective on career development and counselling for the digital age, while the DVD, entitled *A Guide to Reflective Career Counselling*, contains two case studies that demonstrate the reflective career counselling process.

Prof Ina Joubert (editor), Prof Rinelle Evans and Dr Judy van Heerden, launched their book, *Literacy in the Foundation Phase*, which also has an Afrikaans version, *Geletterdheid in die Grondslagfase*. This revised book offers a theoretical background to language development, while the inclusion of a CD using the Grade 1 font strengthens the content that deals with teaching handwriting.

The last book to be launched, *Creating a safe and effective classroom*, was written by Prof Rika Joubert and Dr Sakkie Prinsloo of the Department of Education Management and Policy Studies. It focuses on the significance and the application of human rights in the field of education, especially in creating safe, disciplined and effective classrooms, and provides in-depth discussions on school safety, discipline and bullying. The authors also provide guidelines for the creation of a classroom environment that is conducive to a culture of teaching and learning.



Prof Rika Joubert



Dr Vimbi Mhalangu and Dr Sakkie Prinsloo



Dr Jean van Rooyen



Prof Kobus Maree



Dr Sharon Mampame, Dr Mammie Sehoole, Dr Agnes Mohlakwana, and the Dean, Prof Irma Eloff



*Dr Ina Joubert viewing Van Schaiks Books*



*Prof Rinelle Evans and colleagues*



*Prof Ronél Ferreira with Prof Kobus Maree and Prof Tjeerd Plomp*



*A marvelous Group of Editors and Authors with Prof Irma Eloff*



*Dr Jean van Rooye, Prof Rika Joubert and Ms Cilla Dowse*



*Dr Ina Joubert*

# Research support sessions held on campus



*Dr Shawn Ginwright addressing the researchers*

The annual research support sessions were held on Groenkloof Campus in September where more than 150 postgraduate students benefited from the outstanding presentations that were made.

The keynote speaker was Dr Shawn Ginwright who is a leading national expert on African American youth, youth activism, and youth development who joined the California Endowment's Board of Directors in May 2013.

In 2011, he was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Senior Specialist award by the State Department for his outstanding research and work with urban youth. He has advised the Ford Foundation, Spencer Foundation, and The Heinz Endowments on philanthropic strategies to support young people in urban communities. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning (CIRCLE) at the Johnathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University.



A resident of Oakland, Dr Ginwright received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. His research examines the ways in which youth in urban communities navigate through the constraints of poverty and struggle to create equality and justice in their schools and communities.

He is the author of *'Black Youth Rising, Activism and Radical Healing in Urban America'*, *'Black in School? Afrocentric Reform, Black Youth and the Promise of Hip-Hop Culture'* and co-editor of *'Beyond Resistance!: Youth Resistance and Community Change: New Democratic Possibilities for Practice and Policy for America's Youth'*.

He has published extensively on issues related to urban youth in journals such as *Social Problems*, *Social Justice*, *Urban Review*, and *New Directions in Youth Development*. He is a highly sought-after speaker to national and international audiences.

## UP staff warms up with Winter Mini-Olympics

The Winter Mini-Olympics, held at Groenkloof Campus on 7 June 2013, was an event filled with fun sports and a wonderful spirit. The purpose of this event, which forms part of the UP Corporate Wellness Programme, was to make staff members more aware of their wellness and the measures they can take to enjoy better health.

Each staff member had to participate in one sport. The options were football, volleyball, a team relay (wellness race), netball and table tennis. Teams were encouraged to design their own clothing kits for participants and to come up with memorable team names.

The Winter Mini-Olympics featured a number of events with a difference, such as 'tyre shuffle', during which a pyramid constructed from five tyres had to be moved from one point without causing it to collapse. 'Build the puzzle' was another fun event during which a large seven-piece puzzle had to be built. Although this event was thoroughly enjoyed, the effort to fit the pieces together did cause considerable frustration. The 'spider's web' item required teams to help each other to pass through a web made of rope without touching the strands. Another game, 'blind man walking', was built on trust and participants were blindfolded and had to do certain activities while being talked through them by a team member.

Other fun games at the Winter Mini-Olympics were 'potato on spoon', 'musical chairs', and 'count the matches'. Zumba-dance fitness lessons



*Staff team winners from the Faculty of Education*

were presented every half hour for spectators, participants and all those who wanted to keep warm in the cold weather or needed to lose a few kilos.

The Winter Mini-Olympics was packed with entertainment and informative activities for everyone-from over-enthusiastic spectators to over-anxious participants. The main goal of the Mini-Olympics is participation. Anyone can participate and no one is excluded. The activities allow staff to compete in a safe environment, have fun and be physically active.

## Staff members participate in ISER 2013

The Department of Education Management and Policy Studies participated in the 9th International Symposium on Educational Reform (ISER) held in Jyväskylä and Helsinki, Finland, from 10 to 18 June 2013.

The conference, attended by Prof Rika Joubert, Dr Jean van Rooyen, Prof Johan Beckmann and Adv Justus Prinsloo was titled 'Mind the gap: Creating social justice through education policy'. Prof Beckmann and Adv Prinsloo read a joint paper on the training of role players in disciplinary hearings, Prof Beckmann read a paper on the ownership of schools, and Prof Joubert and Dr Van Rooyen read a paper on promoting social justice through reflective principal training.

Prof Beckmann was one of the four directors who started the ISER in 2004. His collaborators were Prof Lars Bjork from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Prof Jukka Alava from the University of Jyväskylä in Finland and Prof Junhua Zhang from the East China Normal University in Shanghai. In recognition of their contributions, Profs Beckmann and Alava (who are both retiring) were presented with the Director's Leadership Award for outstanding performance in furthering international research, education and cultural understanding.

Prof Joubert and Dr van Rooyen are stepping into the shoes of Prof Beckmann as Directors of ISER and will organise the 2014 symposium, to be held in South Africa from 4 to 10 June 2014.

Members of the conference delegation visited the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare in Helsinki. Adv Prinsloo and Prof Beckmann also paid a short visit to Trondheim in Norway and had discussions with the County Education Council about possible cooperation between the County and South African schools in the field of vocational education. A European Policy Network on School Leadership (EPNoSL) seminar was held concurrently with the first two days of ISER and Dr Keshni Bipath and Dr Sharon Mampane accepted invitations from the chairperson of EPNoSL to work with this influential group in the future.



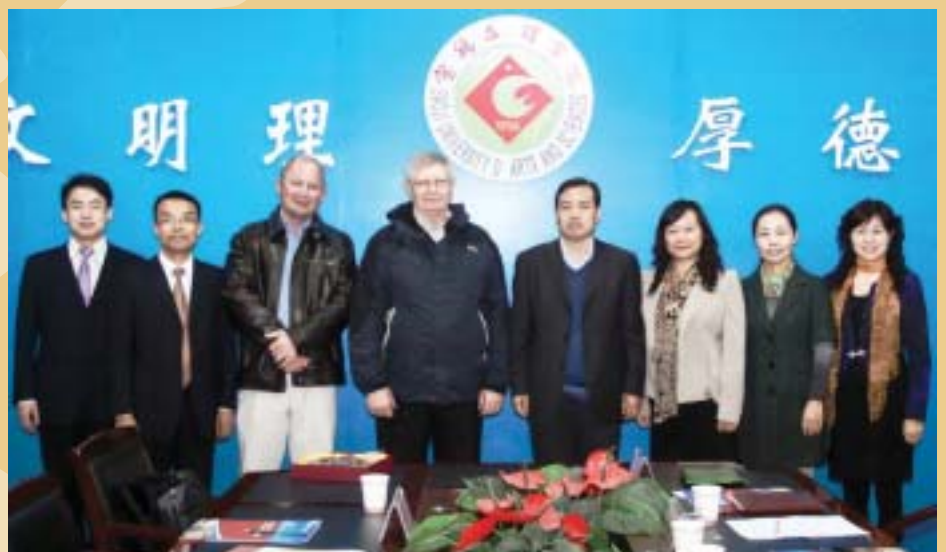
*Prof Johan Beckmann (third from the right) with staff of the Institute of Educational Leadership at the University of Jyväskylä enjoying a café learning session during the ISER conference. From left to right are Mr David Nkengbeza, Dr Pekka Kanervio, Dr Seppo Pulkkinen, Mr Mika Risku (Director designate of the Institute) and Ms Tian Meng. Mr Nkengbeza and Ms Meng were students in a master's programme in which Prof Beckmann lectured at the Institute and are currently both PhD students there.*

## International ties with China strengthened

Prof Johan Beckmann, retired Head of the University of Pretoria's Department of Education Management and Policy Studies in the Faculty of Education, recently visited the Baoji University of Arts and Sciences (BUAS) in China.

Since 2001, the number of students at BUAS has grown remarkably from 5 000 to 22 000. This is due to the positive evaluations the provincial and national governments, which led to better funding. The institution, which also trains teachers, will soon be presenting master's degrees in Geography, Science and Culture (languages).

'There is a strong possibility of an agreement between BUAS and the Faculty of Education at University of Pretoria, which will also focus on student exchange programmes,' said Prof Johan Beckmann.



*From left: Xing Yin (Foreign Affairs Office); Liu Quanding (Vice-Director of the Foreign Affairs Office); Mr André du Plessis (Head: Willowridge High School, master's student at UP and member of the UP delegation); Prof Johan Beckmann from the Department of Education Management and Policy Studies, Faculty of Education at UP; Yang Zijuan (Vice- President); Wang Yongjun (Director of the Party Committee Office) and Vice-Director of the President's Office and Director of Foreign Affairs Office); Li Jingyi (Vice- Director of the Academic Office Affairs Office); Li Yun (Principal of the high school attached to BUAS)*

# Flight, fight or flock?

When you are threatened, the only response is fight or flight, right? Not so, says Prof Liesel Ebersöhn of the Faculty of Education, who believes that human beings also use flocking behaviour to work together towards a common good.

In her guest lecture titled 'Adding "flock" to "flight and fight" as responses to persistent adversity: A honeycomb of resilience where supply of relationships meets demand for support', which she presented at the College of Education (CEDU) on 20 August 2013, she shared insights about her research, which centres on resilience studies. This research is carried out by the ERA Unit for Education Research in AIDS, which she heads, with many master's and doctoral students contributing. This partnership in local research puts forward indigenous alternatives for existing - mostly Eurocentric - perspectives on resilience studies. Communities living in rural parts of South Africa, such as Limpopo or Mpumalanga, increase their chances of coping and flourishing by making use of their collective resources. Not only the teachers, but also the school leadership and the community-based partnerships that exist within the school, work together to achieve a better future for those in the community who are living with significant hardship. The lack of resources does not appear to be hindering the collective group as teachers continue teaching despite a lack of some of the teaching tools. By making use of the relationships that exist in the group, the school teachers are able to access the resources of others where they are not available to a specific individual.

This networked linking of people to each other benefits the collective and can be called flocking. Like a honeycomb that nourishes and chicken-wire that protects, the tendency to flock together under solid leadership that uses networks within a community means that an entire community may benefit from holding hands and working together to pool that which they have access to as individuals.



*Dr Narainsamy Naidu, Prof Liesel Ebersöhn and Dr Hermien Olivier*



## New homes for the Groenkloof Campus bats

Hundreds of Egyptian free-tailed bats, which lived in the crevices of buildings at the University of Pretoria's Groenkloof Campus, have been given homes of their own in bat houses on the campus.

In a relocation project that has been ongoing for six years, fourteen bat houses that can each accommodate up to 150 bats were built on the campus. Some houses were put on the 2m-high free-standing poles while others were placed on the roofs of campus buildings.

Nigel Fernsby, a city bat expert with almost 20 years' experience, relocated some of the bats by hand while others flew out at night. Fernsby, who over the past six years has closed crevices with a total length of more than a kilometre, said, 'We had to be very careful not to harm them,' and added that not a single bat was harmed throughout the eviction process. According to Fernsby, thousands of bats live on the Groenkloof Campus during the summer months, but in winter the numbers decrease to only a few hundred as many migrate to warmer areas as far away as Lephalale. He emphasised the fact that bats cause no harm and are not dangerous.

Read the articles about Groenkloof's bats that appeared in Beeld and Pretoria News, or watch the video filmed by eNuus.

# Discussion forum with Philip Altbach on trends in global higher education

The Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof Irma Eloff, was invited to participate in a discussion forum on *'Trends and massification in global higher education: Implications for Africa and the imperative for collaboration with industry and business'*. Prof Philip Altbach, research professor and Director of the Center for International Higher Education in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College, led the discussion at the Howard College Campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Global trends in higher education, such as massification, differentiation and the creation of academic systems that rank and group higher education institutions, were discussed. The effect of massification on

quality in higher education and its impact on declining outputs were interrogated. The discussion also included the international movement of talented researchers and students and the effect this has on national agendas. Prof Altbach pointed out the fact that many tertiary institutions have significantly improved their career offices in recent years in order to establish stronger links between universities and industry. 'As chairperson of the International Advisory Council of the Graduate School of Education at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, prof Altbach brings interesting perspectives to our discussions on the role of universities in Africa', said Prof Irma Eloff. 'It is a privilege to sit around a table with him.'



Prof Irma Eloff (Third from left) and participants in the discussion forum with Prof Philip Altbach.

## External review at Early Childhood Education



The team involved in the external review in the Department of Early Childhood Education front from left:

Back: Tumi Sithebe of the Quality Unit at UP; Prof Cycil Hartell, Head of the Department of Early Childhood Education; Prof Irma Eloff, Dean of the Faculty of Education; Prof Hasina Banu Ebrahim from the University of the Free State.

Front: Mr Owen Sebastian Margadie from the Fred Magardie Primary School; Prof Juan Bomman, Department of Communication Pathology at UP and Prof Ann Farrell, Queensland University of Technology.

## Lecturers invited to Italy for graduation and conference

Dr Ina Joubert and Ms Annalie Botha, lecturers in the Department of Early Childhood Education, were recently invited to attend the graduation ceremony of Early Childhood Education students at the Modena and Reggio University in the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy. Both were asked to deliver short addresses to the students. In true Roman tradition, the parents of the students who attended the ceremony had the opportunity to place wreaths on the graduates' heads.

Dr Joubert and Ms Botha also presented papers at the International Conference on New Horizons in Education (INTE), which was held in Rome during June. The conference, hosted by the University of Sakarya in Turkey, was attended by participants from 38 countries, including presenters from South America, Slovakia, Portugal, and Turkey.

Dr Joubert, who chaired the session, has been invited to serve on the advisory board for the next INTE conference and the online Tojned Journal, which reports on conference proceedings.



Ms Annalie Botha and Dr Ina Joubert



Ms Annalie Botha with an Italian student

## Students reach out to communities

Third-year students in the Department of Early Childhood Education are involved in exciting community outreach projects as part of the JLO 310/320 module.

Seventy students conducted an evaluation study at seven informal Early Childhood Centres in Olievenhoutbosch, focusing on the educational situation of the learners and extending a helping hand to the untrained teachers and caregivers.

At the Nantus Primary School in Eersterust, where most of the learners experience socioeconomic challenges and come from needy households, thirteen students did school-readiness tests on three Gr 0 classes with 45 learners each and three Gr 1 classes with 46 learners each. The results of the tests administered by the students helped the teachers to better

understand the children, none of whom had ever been tested before.

At the ECHO Children's home in Villieria, thirteen students offered career counselling to thirteen learners and helped them with formulating a future vision.

Students also assisted four nursery schools that were experiencing difficult socio-economic circumstances, focusing on the emotional development and school readiness of the children.



## Tuks Creative attends two international creativity conferences

Twenty students in the Department of Early Childhood that are members of the Tuks Creative Student Organisation presented papers at two international creativity conferences held at Klein Kariba in Bela-Bela in October 2013.

Members of the Tuks Creative team are able to attend these two international creativity conferences every year thanks to a sponsorship received from the South African Creativity Society and Kobus Neethling. During the conferences, people from all over the country come together to explore new and creative ways of enriching their lives. The energetic Tuks Creative team entertains the attendees and receive a lot of praise from national and international creativity gurus for their hard work and their ability to create an atmosphere of excitement.

At the previous conference delegates and students alike gained valuable insight into their own creative capabilities. In addition to a wealth of information, the students received training in skills ranging from body language instruction to thinking preference identification, which will come in very handy in their future professions.





# Delegation from China on campus

A delegation of the Northeast Normal University (NENU), Changchun City, China is visiting the Department of Educational Management and Policy Studies. The delegation and the Department is planning a collaborative research project on principal leadership.



Front from left:

Dr Vimbi Mahlangu, Department of Education Management and Policy Studies (EMPS); Prof Chika Sehoole, Head: EMPS; Prof Irma Eloff, Dean: Faculty of Education and Mr Xia Liaoyuan, Deputy Director of the Division of International Cooperation and Exchange at the Northeast Normal University.

Back from left:

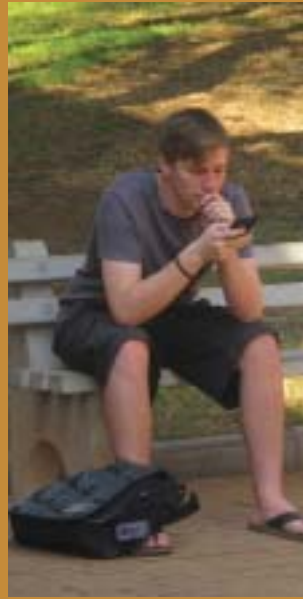
Prof Yang Yingxiu, Dean: at the School of Education, Northeast Normal University; Dr Anges Mohlakwana, Department of EMPS; Dr Teresa Ogina, Department of EMPS; Dr Xia Xue, Lecturer in the Department of Education Administration; Dr Sharon Mampane, Department of EMPS; Dr Christina Amsterdam, Department of EMPS; Mr Eric Eberlein, Department of EMPS; Mr Yang Jian, Programme Officer at the Division of International Cooperation and Exchange, Northeast Normal University and Prof Chen Xin, Deputy Principal at the School of Education, Northeast Normal University.

# School principals from Kenya visit campus



A group of school principals visited the Faculty of Education in October to discuss the methods of teaching and education South Africa. Here Prof Irma Eloff and Dr Teresa Ogina speak to them.





# Opvoedkundestudent sprankel op Sarie se voorblad

'n Derdejaar-Opvoedkundestudent aan UP het op die voorblad van die vrouetydskrif Sarie se November-uitgawe verskyn nadat sy die tydskrif se voorbladgesigkompetisie gewen het.

Marike Nel, wat in Pretoria gebore en getoë is, is deur 'n vriendin se kêrel aangemoedig om vir die kompetisie in te skryf. Sy en twee vriendinne was van plan om sommer net vir die pret in te skryf, maar op die ou end het net Marike die sperdatum gehaal.

Marike sê dat sy nie verwag het om te wen nie, 'maar ek het gehoop dat indien iets wel gebeur, ek ander daardeur sal kan inspireer en 'n verskil kan maak.'

Noudat sy die kompetisie gewen het, is dit Marike se grootste droom om ander te bemagtig om hul drome te verwesenlik en in hulself te glo. "Ek sou daarom baie graag eendag 'n organisasie wou stig wat mense op straat sal help deur hulle op te lei om werk te kan kry sodat hulle selfonderhoudend kan raak en vir hulself kan sorg."

Wat haar eie toekoms betref, wil Marike graag by 'n laerskool in Pretoria of Kaapstad skoolhou nadat sy haar graad behaal het. Verder sou sy ook eendag haar eie handwerk- en geskenkwinkel wou oopmaak en televisiewerk doen. Dis egter nie haar enigste ambisies nie.

"Ek het verlede jaar deelyds grimering studeer en is nou 'n gekwalifiseerde grimeerkunstenaar. Ek doen op 'n vryskutbasis grimering en hare vir troues, matriekafskheidsfunksies en fotosessies. Ek is ook 'n gekwalifiseerde NBI-breinpraktisyn wat mense se breinprofiel toets en aanlegtoets doen en ek wil hierdie vaardigheid graag by my skoolwerk inkorporeer. Verder is ek ook deel van die TUKS Kreatief-organisasie."

Volgens Marike hang haar toekoms af van watter geleentheid oor haar pad kom. "Maar ek het baie planne, indien dit in God se plan en wil val. Ek is opgewonde oor wat die toekoms moontlik kan inhou."



## Groenkloofkampus - waar almal wil wees

