

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

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Dean: Faculty of Education



The Faculty of Education is committed to the implementation of the University's strategic framework, including the pursuit of hopeful pedagogies. The successes of the past year have once again demonstrated the Faculty's pursuit of excellence in the fields of research, teaching and learning, and community interaction. The Rector's Awards for excellence that were made to the Dean, the Faculty Manager (Mr Chris Liebenberg) and the Administrative Officer to the Deputy Deans (Mrs Sally le Roux) confirm the excellence of the Faculty's performance.

The Faculty is well under way to achieving its strategic research objectives for 2016. The number of staff with doctorates has increased to 73,3%. There again was steady growth in research outputs in 2010. Profs Doria Daniels (C3) and Jan Heystek (C2) received NRF ratings for the first time, while Prof Chris Reddy (C3) and Dr Berte van Wyk (C3) received NRF ratings on re-evaluation. At present, 27,27% of the academics in the Faculty have NRF ratings (two Bs, nine Cs and one L). Prof Eli Bitzer received an award for the best paper at the congress of the South African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR). Prof Lesley le Grange received the Rector's Award for Excellence in Research. A total of 11 PhDs were awarded this year – the second most in the Faculty's history to date.

In 2010 the Faculty had the biggest enrolment in the history of the BEd programme. As a result of limited capacity and the requirements of quality assurance, it was decided to make the BEd programme a selection programme as of 2011. In the light of the HOPE Project, the initiative to bring about greater access for learners from previously disadvantaged environments was continued, and good progress was made in relation to the diversity targets. In order to provide support, particularly in Mathematics and the Physical Sciences, Winter and Spring Schools were once again held during the June and September vacations, and support was also provided during the weekly Saturday Schools, which were attended by 48 learners. A great deal of success was achieved, since 17 of these learners will be admitted to the BEd programme in 2011. The Faculty's good pass rate was maintained in all its teaching programmes.

The Faculty's management also designed a strategy to promote the University's HOPE Project. Under the banner of a pedagogy of hope, the Faculty is trying to bring its teaching and learning programmes into line with a neo-Freirean idea of hope. Contributing to this will be a special edition of the *South African Journal of Higher Education*, 25(1), which will be published in 2011.

The University's resolve to pursue a pedagogy of hope was unreservedly embraced by the Department of Curriculum Studies in terms of its own vision and mission statements, as is further evidenced in a set of forthcoming publications and community interaction projects. Three projects in communities are the Keep Books Literacy Project (Dr Renée Nathanson), Media24 Rachel's Angels Reading Teaching (Dr Michael le Cordeur) and the Rietenbosch Wetland Restoration Project (Prof Chris Reddy; see page 50).

The Department of Education Policy Studies, consisting of five academics, published more than 15 accredited articles and two books – one by Prof Yusef Waghid, entitled *Citizenship education revisited: pedagogical encounters* (Sun Media Stellenbosch, 2010), and the other by Prof Aslam Fataar entitled *Education policy development in South Africa's democratic transition* (VDM Publishers, Frankfurt). Two accredited journals, the *South African journal of higher education* and the *Southern African education review*, are edited by department members. The quality and volume of the Department's academic publications make it a leading centre for the study of education policy in the country.

The Department of Educational Psychology appointed Dr Ronelle Carolissen, who was also nominated for a HELTASA National Excellence in Teaching and Learning award, as associate professor. Marietjie Oswald received her PhD and Prof Daniels spent a month as visiting professor at Kenya's Tropical Institute of Community Health at the Great Lakes University. Prof Daniels was one of the main speakers at the Institute's seventh annual scientific congress, *Innovations towards the achievement of MDGs*.

The Department of Sport Science is committed to making its expertise and strengths available to serve the community. Physical education and school sport are supported as a mighty transformative tool for lifting the quality of life of less privileged learners. Students in sport science offered coaching in five different sports at Klapmuts Primary School and helped people with physical disabilities to achieve wellness and fitness. The Department was overjoyed to receive a Dartfish contract valued at \$42 000 per annum. The biokinetics students were involved with the Maties Rugby Club and Medi-Clinic hospitals.