



# Friday Feel-Good News FACULTY OF EDUCATION

3 March 2023

## First-year R&O Programme 2023

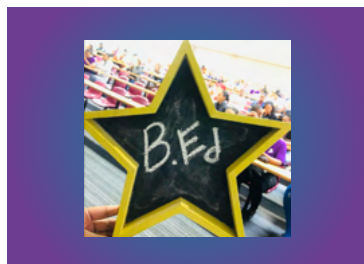


as well as our executive dean, Prof Lloyd Conley, were present on the Potchefstroom Campus to share valuable insights on sailing more effortlessly through troubled waters.

Seeing that a student's transition into higher education is extremely important, these were definitely two productive days to help students connect with their institution and, most importantly, their faculty as a whole. Academic success and throughput at large commence with a successful orientation programme.

**O**n 16 and 17 February 2023 our faculty presented a very successful R&O Programme. The excited faces of first years starting their four-year journey in the Faculty of Education could be seen everywhere. Students across all phases were entertained by an action-packed programme, allowing them first-hand experience of navigating their study journey successfully.

Speakers from the administrative support staff, SAC members, programme coordinators and leaders,



**Feedback from Mahikeng Campus**  
We commenced the second day of our orientation on a high note. A word of congratulations to our R & O inter-faculty debate winners. Our faculty won the first place!



Staff on Vanderbijlpark Campus

**Feedback from Potchefstroom Campus**  
Students deemed the R&O Programme to contribute to their knowledge on the overall structure and support provided to them and laughing faces left the venues, ready for 2023!



## Workshop on sustainable research capacity building

The School of Professional Studies in Education at the Mahikeng Campus (MC) held another successful workshop on sustainable research capacity building (RCB). The workshop was chaired by Mr Matthews Makunye, acting deputy director (MC). The motivational opening for the day was delivered by Prof Washington Dudu, Deputy Dean: Research and Innovation. Prof Charl Wolhuter shared his wealth of knowledge about building and maintaining international collaborations as well as do's and don'ts in academic publications. Other colleagues addressed the topic of sustainable engagement in the following research activities: research writing (Dr Darrell de Klerk), postgraduate supervision (Dr Joyce Dhlamini), and impact factor and visibility (Dr Jan Khumalo and Prof Ewelina Niemczyk). The overflow of insightful and stimulating discussions after each presentation proved the vitality of RCB workshops and justified the need for similar workshops in future.



Back row: Prof Dumsani Mncube, Prof Ewelina Niemczyk, Dr Joyce Dhlamini, Prof Washington Dudu, Mr Matthews Makunye and Dr Aloysius Seherrie  
Seated: Dr Jan Khumalo, Prof Charl Wolhuter, Dr Darrell De Klerk and Dr Celestine Mayombe



## Two-day workshop on mediation, parenting plans and the voice of the child



Dr Wanda van der Merwe, Mrs Jolene Jansen van Vuuren, Mrs Marici M Corneli and Adv Chris Maree

The Educational Psychology subject group at the North-West University (NWU) is passionate about supporting and guiding individuals over their lifespan, understanding that the people in our communities often experience challenges and trauma and need support. Some of the major crises that are often experienced in a child or a family's life is the contact that a child has with their parents after the family has dissolved during and after a divorce or separation of the parents. After this traumatic event, support has to be given to the child and their families.

The Educational Psychology subject group hosted a two-day workshop in collaboration with Family Assist to equip us as lecturers in supporting

and teaching students about the legal matters of mediation and parenting plans, and of facilitating interviews with children by raising awareness regarding the voice of the child. The workshop focused on the Children's Act 38 of 2005, sections 33 and 34, which were explained and discussed in depth, the understanding of parenting plans as a legal instrument, influencing the contact that children have with their parents, identifying and assisting with parental alienation and exploring the world of the child through using the voice of the child tools. The informative workshop was presented by Adv Chris Maree, Marici M Corneli, Neritha Klue and Jolene Jansen van Vuuren.



## SDL members receive awards from the Education Association of South Africa(EASA)



The Research Unit for Self-Directed Learning congratulates Dr Anita Lubbe and dr Marisa Verster with their joint EASA Postgraduate Doctoral Medal awards for 2021. They received these awards at the January 2023 EASA conference in Cape Town. Professor CP van der Westhuizen also received the EASA Research Medal for 2021 during the same conference. We wish them all the best for their future research endeavours.

## ERASMUS PLUS MOBILITY

Erasmus Plus is a mobility grant for academics and students to network internationally while conducting research, teaching and furthering their qualifications (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/about-erasmus/what-is-erasmus>). It is not a research project in the conventional sense where a project application is submitted, but a networking opportunity to mobilise scholars, promote collaborative research and seek seed funding for future research endeavours. Erasmus Plus has a long history of scholarly excellence and promoting academic leadership to deepen transdisciplinary networks to advance knowledge about, with, and through humans and the more than human world.

After a keynote address delivered by Petro du Preez at the 2021 annual conference of the International Seminar on Religion, Education and Values (<https://www.gu.se/en/pedagogical-curricular-professional-studies/isrev-2021-key-note-speakers#Petro-Du-Preez>), Professor Dzintra Ilisko of the Daugavpils University in Latvia approached Petro to participate in Erasmus Plus mobility activities as from September 2022. The Daugavpils University

is located 33 km from Belarus, 25 km from Lithuania, and 120 km from the Russian border. The scholarly partnership between Prof Ilisko and Petro stretch over two decades and has yet again been strengthened through this initiative. Petro has been invited as a long-term guest lecturer at the Daugavpils University and has also been appointed to the editorial board of the UNESCO-supported journal, Discourse and Communication for Sustainable Education.

As part of collaboration between Petro and Prof Ilisko, one academic and two postgraduate students from the NWU will be invited to participate in and benefit from this mobility grant. So far, Ms Erika Potgieter has been identified as a PhD candidate who can benefit from the grant. In January 2023, a transdisciplinary group of Latvian researchers came to visit South Africa to further expand networks and seek research opportunities. The purpose also included further expanding the networks beyond the NWU. To date, Stellenbosch University has also been included in the next Erasmus Plus funding round.



From left to right, back row: Dr Rolands Moisejevs; Dr Uldis Valainis; Prof Lesley Le Grange (Stellenbosch University); Petro Du Preez; Prof Juris Soms; Ms Liene Leikuma-Rimicāne.  
From left to right, front row: Ms Inese Hodanova; Ms Erika Potgieter; Prof. Dzintra Ilisko

## Educational Psychology had “Par-Teas”!

After a productive 2022, the Educational Psychology subject group came together for their annual farewell functions with their community partners. These thank-you celebrations started early on 28 October at the Laerskool Stilfontein, where we gathered with the principal, Mr Riaan Grovè, Mrs Elmarie Deal and Ms Chantel la Grange to end a successful school year. On 5 December 2022 we met with our other partners to have a wonderful function celebrating the collaborative community partnerships between the Potchefstroom Hospital and NG Welfare. Sister Selina Seobi and Sister Oumatjie Makhoere, the social worker, Mrs Maureen Sekano, all from the Potchefstroom Hospital, and the NG Welfare social workers Mrs Retha Erasmus and Mrs Suene Human were with us to celebrate a year of hard work. All these professionals play an integral part in developing and growing our BEd Honours in Educational Psychology students by assisting with the students’ practical training on their path to becoming registered wellness counsellors of the Association of Holistic Practitioners and Supportive Counsellors (AHPSC).

For Educational Psychology lecturers, practical hours required by the ASCHP mean intense training and supervision. This task is made easier by the insights and knowledge from our community partners, resulting in a truly collaborative experience benefitting our students and ourselves in keeping up with the communities in our environment.

After this collaborative exposure, the BEd Honours in Educational Psychology students are equipped to go into their own communities and promote community wellness by independently functioning as registered ASCHP wellness counsellors, which is a much-needed focus in the South African context.



Educational Psychology Lecturers with Potchefstroom Hospital and NG Welfare Staff



Educational Psychology Lecturers and Students with Laerskool Stilfontein Staff

## COMBER starts off the new year with a conference and two workshops

*COMBER’s extraordinary professor, Mary Brydon-Miller (University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA), an international collaborator in Prof De Sousa’s NRF project, presented a paper with Prof De Sousa at the 5th Global Change Conference at the University of the Free State from 30 January to 2 February.*

*Prof Brydon-Miller then facilitated a hybrid community-based research (CBR) workshop with Prof Lesley Wood on 9 February, at which participants gained knowledge about the importance of ethical principles when doing CBR. Prof Brydon-Miller emphasised the importance of working with participants when doing CBR.*

*A hybrid proposal-writing workshop for new postgraduate students and their supervisors was presented by Prof Lesley Wood on 10 and 11 February. A total of 12 students and 15 supervisors joined the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to welcome new postgraduate students to provide them with the opportunity to meet their supervisors and to enable them to successfully submit research proposals before July 2023. The feedback from the participants was positive during and after both workshops.*



Prof Mary Brydon-Miller and Prof Luíza de Sousa at the Conference dinner in Bloemfontein

## Japanese collaborator visits the NWU and project school

Prof Yutaka Nakamatsu, dean of the Faculty of Education at Kogakkan University in Japan, visited the NWU from 20–24 February 2023. His visit is part of an international collaboration in a National Research Foundation (NRF) project with Prof Luiza de Sousa (PC) as the project leader and Dr Irene Muller (VC) as a project member. This is his second visit to the NWU, but a first for the Vanderbijlpark Campus.

Prof Nakamatsu, together with his students Tomomi Sawa, Yuki Okumura and Miyu Tanaka and translator Yuko Nakamatsu, demonstrated his new team-teaching style (Lesson Study Approach, LSA) with pre-service teachers as part of their work-integrated learning. His new team-teaching style incorporates the advantages of both cooperative teaching and individualised teaching. The Japanese team demonstrated a visiting science lesson using the team-teaching style developed by Kogakkan University that uses a lead pre-service teacher (LPT) and experiment-guiding pre-service teachers (EPT). A group of fourth-year Vanderbijlpark Campus and Potchefstroom Campus students in the BEd Intermediate Phase, majoring in Natural Sciences, and PGCE Geography students on the Potchefstroom Campus attended the presentation and discussion. The project aims to take the learnings of LSA and apply them to the methodology of Geography Education and Natural Science Education.

The Japanese delegation also presented their team-teaching style to the teachers at Platinum Village Primary School in Rustenburg, who have already received training in LSA.



Dr Irene Muller (front) from the Vanderbijlpark Campus with the Japanese delegation and students



Mr Yuki Okumura teaching the Natural Science students



Mr Yuki Okumura teaching the Geography students



NRF project members with the Japanese guests.

L-R: Dr Anette Hay, Mr Yuki Okumura, Assistant Professor Tomomi Sawa, Dr Schalk Raath, Prof Luiza de Sousa, Prof Yutaka Nakamatsu, Dr Pieter Swarts, Ms Miyu Tanaka, Mrs Yuko Nakamatsu



A group photo at Platinum Village Primary in Rustenburg

## Edu-HRight congratulates Prof Shan Simmonds

- Prof SR Simmonds has been invited to provide a presentation at the SASUF (South Africa Sweden Research Forum) at the UWC on 27–31 March 2023. The SASUF is also an opportunity for collaboration with Swedish and South African universities.
- Prof Simmonds was involved as a principal investigator in a Norwegian Research Council grant application entitled “*Reimagine ethics education teaching sustainability*”. The outcome of the application will be realised by September 2023.
- Prof Simmonds is the South African representative on the WHEM network. The network has had a stream accepted at the GWO conference in June 2023 in Stellenbosch. This is a prestigious opportunity for collaborating, as it involves convening the stream and being directly involved in the organisation of the conference.
- Prof Simmonds has been invited to visit the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam (the Netherlands) to be part of research collaborations and to be involved in a module on “wild pedagogies”.



## Congratulations to Prof Ewelina Niemczyk (Edu-HRight member) as a newly appointed associate fellow at the University of Westminster in London and editor-in-chief of SARE

On 17 February, Prof Niemczyk accepted an invitation to become a member - an associate fellow at the Research Centre of the University of Westminster in London (for details follow: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/research/groups-and-centres/centre-for-law-society-and-popular-culture>). Prof Niemczyk said: *“I think this is another important link to foster sustainable collaboration between our institutions/units.”*

Prof Steve Greenfield (professor at Westminster Law School and extraordinary professor at Edu-HRight) added: *“We are keen to develop and promote international collaborations and you would be a great asset in developing work with NWU colleagues.”*

During the last general meeting that took place at the conference of the Southern African Comparative and History of Education Society (SACHES), Prof Niemczyk was appointed the new editor-in-chief of Southern African Review of Education (SARE), taking over from Prof Azeem Badroodien from UCT. SARE is a DHET-accredited journal providing a forum for critical discussions about education in the southern African region from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, and for the dissemination of current research and comparative findings. It has a broad, cross-disciplinary audience of scholars, researchers and practitioners in the field of education.



