



Newsletter

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We're on the move!

SIYAYA, music group of Guguletu's J.L. Zwane Centre, has received an amazing opportunity to be true to their name and be on the move. The Signature Trust of British American Tobacco South Africa approved a grant of R1 865 000 towards their music programme, with the promise of extending the funding over the next 2 years. The main focus of the grant will be to fight HIV/AIDS through purpose-driven music. Messages of hope and education on issues such as HIV/AIDS have been very successful through using the performing arts. Through groups such as Siyaya there's an incredible opportunity to communicate the risks linked to contracting HIV/AIDS. There is no greater medium than music to convey this message to an entire generation, especially the youth. Lots of people are tired of listening to lectures and talks saying the same things in the same way, and this method offers the promise of new results. However, many of the musically talented young people in South Africa's townships lack the training



Siyaya at the J.L. Zwane Centre in Guguletu, doing what they do best.

and opportunities to realise their full potential. To address this deficiency and spread the message of the behavioural risks associated with HIV/AIDS, Siyaya was formed last year out of unemployed young people. To take their message to communities, from townships to rural areas, they needed funding - for training, equipment, costumes, transport to get them to the places where they could perform in order to earn money for other needs. With the transport problem, BATSA

also helped in donating a bus. In a short period of time, director Bongani Magatyana and his group have already become very popular, in Guguletu and at the places where they started performing, such as the African theme Moyo restaurant at the Spier Wine Estate near Stellenbosch. With the type of support they received from BATSA, commitment from the members and the support of the community and others, these talented people can only go from strength to strength.

ILO's Franklyn Lisk joins African Centre

MAKING a difference is what it's all about. Also for Dr Franklyn Lisk (photo), ILO director on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. He will soon be joining the African Centre as extraordinary professor. He believes he "needs a break" from a work life filled with pressures



which often lead to limited results on people's lives. "It would be nice and satisfying to use my knowledge, experience and contacts in a more productive way of direct benefit to my continent and people," he says. Lisk will be teaching and doing research. His strengths in community mobilisation and developing governmental and social partnerships will undoubtedly also be handy.

Lisk, born in Sierra Leone, was educated in the UK, Belgium and France. He has a long history of working at the UN worldwide, in various reporting and management positions. Before that, he taught at UK and US universities. Now he's returning to his academic roots, and the African Centre can only be grateful and excited at the prospect of tapping such knowledge and experience.



Facing HIV asks holistic approach

THE 15th international AIDS conference has come and gone, but what will we have hoped to achieve when the world meets again in Toronto in 2 years? Bangkok 2004 presented no dramatic breakthroughs, but it did get back to basics and the need for a holistic approach. There is no single strategy to address HIV/AIDS. It requires prevention and treatment, activist pressure and government commitment, research, involvement, and a human rights-based approach. An integrated approach is essential. As Prof Denis Altman, president of

the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific, said: "The greatest tragedy of HIV/AIDS is that we know how to stop its spread, yet in most parts of the world fail to do so." Facing up to HIV/AIDS requires humane and effective measures. Any temptation to dismiss HIV as restricted to groups such as gay men, sex workers and injecting drug users is to miss a crucial point. Many men who have sex with men, or visit sex workers, return home to a female partner. Where women are unable to negotiate the when and how of sex, the

chances of infection rise sharply. Prospects for an HIV vaccine are also distant. According to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative major development challenges still outweigh the progress. Prevention and treatment must therefore be expanded. The more people who have access to prevention, the fewer will need treatment. At Toronto 2006 the numbers will tell whether the world was capable of new levels of openness, honesty and innovation. *(Edited version of an article by Sue Valentine in Health-e)*

Firms must stop ostrich tactics

AFRICAN Centre M.Phil student Jenny Terwin (photo), from the Bureau for Economic Research (BER), presented a poster on the business impact of HIV/AIDS at the 2004 conference.



It showed how HIV/AIDS has affected business in South Africa, and assessed business's response. HIV/AIDS is undoubtedly a bottom line issue, as it impacts on production costs and consumer markets. More than 33% of the companies surveyed indicated that HIV/AIDS has reduced productivity or increased absenteeism, and raised the cost of employee benefits. However, only 25% of all the firms

surveyed have implemented an HIV/AIDS policy, while less than 20% have a VCT programme, or provide care,

treatment and support. Employers are doing slightly better on the less resource intensive side, such as awareness programmes. The response needs to be speeded up, Jenny says. With rising HIV prevalence and clear evidence of the impact of the epidemic on business, companies should not be lagging behind with regard to the implementation of programmes.

AIDS scientists 'laughed at SA'

AIDS activist Zackie Achmat said government had to choose between Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang or world support. He called her questioning of nevirapine at the conference "a side-show" and "a tragedy". He said they wanted to discuss "real problems", not nevirapine. "All of us knew from the outset that a minority of women and children would develop resistance." Researchers from Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital showed that

a short course of AZT and lamivudine would reduce resistance. Achmat said scientists were not confused, but were laughing at the whole of South Africa.

Stephen Lewis, UN special envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, it was ironic that SA was not leading the way for its neighbours regarding treatment. He said poor countries don't have the money or infrastructure of SA, but are determined to respond to a pandemic that is decimating their populations.

Bangkok snapshots

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan chided world leaders for not doing enough to combat history's biggest epidemic. There has been progress, "but we are not doing nearly enough. We need leaders everywhere to demonstrate that speaking up about AIDS is a point of pride, not a source of shame."

The HIV/AIDS pandemic ravaging South Africa cost the economy more than \$70bn in the 10 years to 2002, according to an ILO report. This was mainly due to deaths, absenteeism and lower productivity.

The number of African children who have lost parents to AIDS will surge by more than 50% from the current 12.3 million, according to UNAids, the children's agency Unicef and USAID. "The orphan crisis is arguably the cruellest legacy of this pandemic," Unicef executive director Carol Bellamy said. A "tidal wave of orphaning" is taking place in parts of Africa and other regions, particularly Asia, she said.

AIDS slashed the life expectancy in some African countries to just 33. These countries suffered dramatic reversals in human development since 1990, a decline largely attributable to the pandemic, the UN Development Programme said.



Wait, see, the-e-e-re I am! Staff members and students get together for a giant group picture at this year's PDM winter school in Stellenbosch.

'Collaboration is the way forward'

THE impact of HIV/AIDS is multi-dimensional and reaches beyond health. Managing the disease in the workplace is a major challenge and a collaborative effort from all stakeholders is the way forward. These words from Medunsa's Sphiwe Madiba in her session on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the global health, education and welfare sector can easily be seen as the golden thread running through this year's PDM winter school.

From all over, 241 students gathered in Stellenbosch at the end of June. Through a hectic week they got feedback on the modules they completed so far, in-depth discussions on selected course topics and challenging talks by specialists. A topic that received a lot of attention, is stigma and its link to fear, denial and isolation. Jason Wessenaar, representing Policy Project, explained how a workplace policy on HIV/AIDS was not only useful on securing rights and fighting discrimination, but could also address stigmatisation. He referred to aspects such as a stigma audit, involving people living with HIV/AIDS and attitude change. As Sphiwe said, despite the interventions, we should always remem-

ber that HIV/AIDS is first and foremost felt at the individual level. According to IDASA's Mary Caesar we need an integrated, rights-based approach to ensure good governance of the epidemic. As always, the winter school was about having fun, too. Students (and staff!) were treated to a

cheese and wine function as well as an in-house barbecue, where they were entertained by the live (and lively!) music of Siyaya. Very few people remained sitting . . . After all, even though we're dealing with a serious topic, the commitment of making a difference must give us joy as well!

Praise for the PDM and winter school

Thank you to the team at Stellenbosch for hosting a successful winter school. I am grateful for the opportunity of gaining some insight into the lives and experiences of people living with HIV and AIDS. I have certainly been inspired and challenged. - **Trisha Chetty**

I found the work many of the PDM lecturers are doing incredibly inspiring and I look forward to also making a difference. - **Margaret van Steenderen**

I was encouraged and impressed by Prof Jan du Toit's involvement in community projects. This is real application of the course theory and he's ploughing it back in our communities. - **Mendisa Ncute**

The winter school programme in Stellenbosch was excellent and I shall always tell people about it. It was intellectually stimulating and at the same time taught us that we all belong to the human race and need to join hands against HIV and AIDS. To all the lecturers and support staff, thank you so much. - **Moeletsi Leballo**

Being a member of the PDM community has enlightened me better than I could imagine. I think my fellows also share the same sentiment. - **Sipho Nxaba**

The winter school gave us a chance to play, dance and sing together just like innocent young kids. We really had fun. - **Nicolette Matross**

Fresh snapshots

Today 900 South Africans will die of an AIDS related illness. The Actuarial Association of South Africa says although HIV/AIDS figures are 33% lower than originally estimated - 3,83 million compared to 5,3 million - the virus is still the biggest cause of death in the country. The death toll is expected to reach a peak of 1 100 a day in 2014. The new figure is based on more information being available.

A new chapter in the HIV/AIDS battle was written at the University of KwaZulu-Natal when the medical faculty opened a computerised library and research facility. It has been designed to become a central information resource for researchers, scientists and health professionals determined to gain a clearer understanding of HIV/AIDS.

African countries are losing the war against malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB, despite more financial support from the Global Fund, World Bank and Western countries, an AU report says. Most countries have no antiretroviral programmes or anti-discriminatory laws. According to UNAIDS, countries with prevalence rates of 20% and above will see their gross domestic product reduced by an average of 2,6%. The UN estimates 16 million people will die in the next 20 years, compounding high levels of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Too many churches still regard AIDS as "God's retribution" rather than a human disease and fail to provide support, Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane said. "Christianity has too often espoused a destructive theology that links sex, sin, guilt and punishment. The church must take much of the blame for stigma and its attendant problems of fear, denial and silence. We must take the lead in overturning these distortions."

Call for new work practices

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) called on governments, employers and unions to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS by changing workplace attitudes and practices. Most of the people living with HIV are in their economically productive years. Women comprise more than half of that almost 40 million and often also have to generate income and care for their families. "Many women experience sexual and economic subordination in their personal relationships and at work," said the ILO report. Women face problems that perpetuate gender inequality and increase their vulnerability to HIV:

discrimination, unequal property and inheritance laws, less access to work, education and credit. The report suggests that employment policies and practices be reviewed to address gender inequality. Discrimination at work should be opposed and equal opportunities promoted through education. Some 28 million working people will have died from AIDS by the end of next year, holding back economic growth in some of the world's poorest nations, the ILO said. Sub-Saharan Africa will have lost 12% of its work force to the disease by 2015 based on current infection rates.



Claire Malunga of the ILO, the African Centre's Renice Williams, Anja Karsten and Prof Jan du Toit, and Dr Franklyn Lisk, ILO director.

Centre hosts international workshop

FOLLOWING the successful end of 2002 workshop in Douala, Cameroon, on the workplace management of HIV/AIDS, the African Centre is again partnering with the ILO, as well as GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit) for such a gathering. This time it will happen in Stellenbosch, focusing on Africa's English speaking countries. The workshop is planned for 29 November to 1 December, and will culminate in a gala event on World AIDS Day. In terms of the ILO's focus on

government, employers and trade unions, the workshop will be attended by representatives from these 3 groups from 14 countries. The focus will be on HIV/AIDS impacting on economic and social development, building partnerships between the public and private sector and implementing and monitoring workplace interventions. Apart from work, delegates will be treated to the Cape's culture, food and natural resources through sightseeing trips - on the whole, an opportunity not to be missed!



AFRICAN CENTRE FOR HIV/AIDS MANAGEMENT

Newsletter compiled by Amelia Burger of Platform Communication & Training. Please send any news or events you want mentioned in a future newsletter or on the Centre's website to aids@sun.ac.za
Tel: +27 21 808 2964
Fax: +27 21 808 3015
www.aidscentre.sun.ac.za