



SEEDS NEWS

SYSTEMIC EDUCATION & EXTRA-MURAL DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

SUMMER 2010

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**Koninkrijk
der Nederlanden**



GOLD peer educators showing all of us how to plant, nurture and benefit from **SEEDS!**

Editorial

In recent times (before the now traditional January hand-wringing over matric results), searching questions have been asked of the lack of impact of many of the multitude of interventions (both government and non-government) in the education sector. Such questions are fully justified. It is quite apparent that no-one working in this sector can continue with business as usual, given the obvious lack of progress that we are making.

The SEEDS consortium was established in the belief that working with each other, rather than competing for the same resources, makes much sense. We are under no illusions as to the complexity of the task we have set ourselves. Different agenda's, project outcomes, methodologies and, lest we forget, egos all contribute to ensuring a challenging and stimulating environment! But what a wonderful opportunity the SEEDS community has. For the next three years, SEEDS partners have been given license to explore synergies and collaborate with each other on projects. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that these projects have such impact that they can continue to grow and be replicated long after our very generous Dutch support comes to an end.

This quarterly publication will share what we do, learn and achieve on our journey together.

Mike Erskine
Programme Manager

Ambassador and Rector put pen to paper

The official commencement of the SEEDS Programme which will mean huge development of and support for education in the Western Cape and other provinces – pictured here putting their signatures to the SEEDS Donor Agreement are Ambassador Rob de Vos of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Prof Russel Botman, Rector of Stellenbosch University. The Dutch government is providing funding to the tune of R150m over four years, and Stellenbosch University is the appointed fund-holder. The four universities in the Western Cape, together with six NGO's, form the SEEDS consortium which started its work in 2009. SEEDS focuses on four key areas of education, namely Maths and Science, HIV/AIDS prevention, rural multi-grade education and schools as hubs of life-long learning. (See the list of partner organizations overleaf).



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SEEDS partners



The partners at the signing ceremony were: Prof Nhlapo (UCT), Jonny Gevisser (EMEP), Emmanuel Mushayikwa (MSEP, UCT), Mrs de Vos, Ambassador de Vos (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – EKN), Wim Schippers (EKN), Prof Botman (SU), Cornelius Hacking (EKN), Prof Mazwi-Tanga (CPUT), Wilmot James (AGEI), Kosie Smit (IMSTUS, SU), Gareth Rossiter (SAILI), Freda Brock (ELRU), Susannah Farr (GOLD) and Vera Adams (Scifest).

FOCUS AREA: MATHS & SCIENCE

Africa Genome Education Institute (AGEI) & UWC Ph:021 683 5814 (AGEI); 021 952 7519 (UWC) Web: www.teachingbiologyproject.co.za www.uwc.ac.za	Teacher training and resource provision (Natural Sciences and Life Sciences)	FET
Early Learning Resource Unit (ELRU) Ph: 021 762 7500 Web: www.elru.co.za	Teacher training, resource development & provision	Pre-school and Foundation Phase
Institute of Maths and Science Teaching Stellenbosch University (IMSTUS) Ph: 021 808 3483 Web: www.imstus.sun.ac.za	Post matric programme; In service training and resource provision; ACE in Maths	GET and FET
Maths Science Education Project (MSEP) – UCT Ph: 021 650 3582 Web: www.sdu.uct.ac.za	In-depth support to selected Dinaledi schools	Gr 8 – 12
Science & Industrial Leadership Initiative (SAILI) Ph: 021 763 7110 Web: www.saili.org.za	Learner placement and support	Gr 7 – 12
Scifest Africa Ph: 046 603 1152 Web: www.scifest.org.za	Advocacy through theatre, workshops and presentations	GET and FET

FOCUS AREA 2: MULTI-GRADE EDUCATION

Centre for Multi-Grade Education (CMGE) – CPUT Ph: 021 873 7691 Web: www.cmge.co.za	Teacher training, resource provision	GET
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FOCUS AREA 3: SCHOOLS AS HUBS OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Extra-Mural Education Programme (EMEP) Ph: 021 448 0660 Web: www.emep.org.za	Develop schools as hubs of life-long learning	GET, FET
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FOCUS AREA 4: HIV/AIDS PREVENTION & RISK REDUCTION

GOLD Peer Education Ph:021 685 5038 Web: www.goldpe.org.za	Peer education programme	Gr 8 – 12
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Congratulations Scimathus

Stellenbosch University launched the SciMathUS Post Matric Programme in 2001. This was initiated to address the situation of too few black students entering tertiary education for training in the natural sciences, applied natural sciences and the economic and management sciences.

Students from disadvantaged schools who demonstrate potential are selected for the Programme and registered as special day students at the University.

The Programme is managed by IMSTUS (IWWOUS) and is located on the main campus of Stellenbosch University.

The structured 10-month Programme accommodates up to 100 students per year and creates the opportunity for students to gain entry to university, following a year of intensive tuition in Mathematics, Science or Accountancy, as well as Academic Language, Study and Thinking Skills; Computer Literacy; and Statistics and Introduction to Financial Accounting (for students who take Accountancy).

Success of the project can be measured by the learners improved results. The 2009 cohort of 87 learners showed the following improvements to their matric results"

So, what happens to the students once they leave Scimathus? Well, some of them become doctors!



From left to right: Berenice Coetzee (BSc Physiotherapy) with Bongiwel Tyhala and Pumza Ghu (both MBChB) – former Scimathus students who graduated last year.

Subject	Pre results	Post results	% change
Accountancy	55%	74%	19%
Science	42%	52%	10%
Mathematics	47%	62%	15%

Bearing in mind that nationally Science marks declined in 2009, this is a wonderful performance, with no less than 6 of the 13 Accountancy students receiving distinctions! The 6 students who wrote the old Science curriculum exams improved their results from an average of 39% to 63%.

The GOLD effect

A PEER, "D", 18, AND IN GRADE 12 WRITES:

Over the past few years I've been watching these guys called peer educators to see what I can learn from them. Being surrounded by negativity like poverty, drugs, alcohol abuse, gangsterism and everyday crime, I was desperate for something positive to give me hope and to motivate me to continue with my school career. I recall meeting a guy named Peter Jansen who's also part of this Gold programme and how he slowly but surely became my friend and role model. He came from almost the same background as I, but yet he's so positive about tomorrow. I learnt a lot from just observing how this guy overcame his everyday challenges, how he confronts his enemies (like drugs, alcohol, gangsterism) and how he stood up for young people. His involvement, attitude and outlook on life rubs off on me in such a way that I can proudly say today I'm the Chairperson of the SRC at my school, President of Interact, a social club at school, where Peter is also the Vice-president.

My dream is to pursue a career in Public Relations after school and to further develop my leadership and people skills. I'm grateful for the impact that a handful of learners called peer educators could have on my life especially Peter, PJ as I know him. I wish there could be more of them.

■ "D" came from a very disadvantaged family and Community with limited or no resources and opportunities.

Upcoming events

MARCH EVENTS

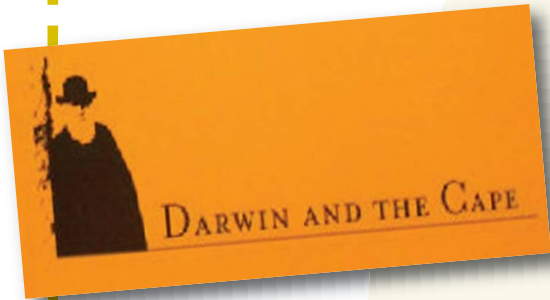
- | | |
|--|--|
| 15 – 19 Scifest lecture tour | CONTACT
Bridget Nash 046 603 1106
bridget@scifest.org.za |
| 20 Scifest teacher workshop (MTN Science Centre) | |
| 21 – 24 International Multi-grade Conference
CPUT, Wellington | Desiree Chinamasy
021 873 7691
www.cmge.co.za |
| 25 – 29 Science week, Grahamstown | www.scifest.org.za |
| 29 – 01 Teaching Biology Project Conference | Melody Williams
www.teachingbiologyproject.org.za
021 683 5814 |



Launch of 'Darwin and The Cape'

Nelson Mandela Science Lecture

Charles Darwin, Africa, and Human Evolution



The Africa Genome Education Institute (AGEI), in partnership with the Iziko Museum, held the opening of the 'Darwin and The Cape' exhibition at the Iziko Museum in Cape Town on 23 November. AGEI was instrumental in securing Professor Chris Stringer, research leader in Human Origins at the Natural History Museum in London, to be the guest speaker and to officially declare the exhibition open.

Furthermore, on 24 November the Nelson Mandela Science Lecture was held at the University of the Western Cape in Bellville and we were honoured to have Professor Chris Stringer deliver a presentation at this event as well. Over 200 people were in attendance and the event was a huge success!



From left: Profs Raj Ramesar, Chris Stringer and Brian O'Connell attended the Nelson Mandela Science Lecture.

Darwin 200 Foremost experts at symposium at UWC

Internationally renowned biological science scholars and researchers from over 20 countries gathered at UWC for the Darwin 200 Symposium on Human Evolution in October last year. The Symposium and workshops formed part of the greater Biological Sciences Congress held at the campus.

The aim of Darwin 200 was to celebrate the impact of Charles Darwin's ideas on current scientific knowledge. The programme covered the latest research on Human Genomics, Archaeology, Anthropology, Palaeontology, Genetics and Geographic research, with some of the world's foremost experts contributing to the symposium.

Scientists such as Giorgio Bernardi of Italy, Aaron Klug of the UK, Takashi Gojobori of Japan and Manfred Keyser of the Netherlands gave presentations, while our very own much respected and admired, Phillip Tobias gave a dinner address entitled: "A life of illness: How did Charles Darwin cope?"

Congratulations to Lorna Holtman and her team at UWC for organising such an outstanding symposium and to Lorna for being elected to the IUBS executive committee and as Vice-President of the Commission for Biology Education.



Prof John Buckeridge, RMIT University, Australia and outgoing President of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) with Dr Francis Thackeray, Director of the Institute for Human Evolution at the University of the Witwatersrand and Professor Emeritus, Phillip Tobias, FRS Honorary Professorial Research Fellow, School of Anatomical Sciences University of the Witwatersrand Medical School.



With Prof Loma Holtman, Director of Postgraduate Studies, UWC (middle) is (left), the in-coming President of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), Prof Giorgio Bernard - Director of the Laboratory of Molecular Evolution Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Napoli, Italy and (right) Prof Yves Coppens, famous French anthropologist.



Van Kaapstad na Denemarke. Siphosile Shumane (14) van die die Hoërskool Harry Gwala en Zuko Sifumba (13) van die Hoërskool Pinelands is Saterdag by die MTN Sciencentre in Canal Walk as Suid-Afrika se verteenwoordigers gekies om in Augustus aan die Bright Green Youth-konferensie in Denemarke deel te neem.

Foto: MICHAEL ELLIS

Kaapse jonges dra wetenskapfakkel

MARLENE NEETHLING

Kaapstad

Twee tieners van hoërskole in Kaapstad is gekies om later vanjaar saam met sowat 500 kinders van oor die wêreld heen aan 'n konferensie oor klimaatsverandering in Denemarke deel te neem.

Siphosile Shumane (14) van die Hoërskool Harry Gwala en Zuko Sifumba (13) van die Hoërskool Pinelands sal Suid-Afrika in Augustus by die Bright Green Youth-konferensie in Sønderborg verteenwoordig.

Zuko en Siphosile is Sater-

dag by die MTN Sciencentre in Canal Walk uit 'n groep van 25 gr. 8-leerders gekies wat aan die SAILI Comets-program deelneem.

Dié program van die SAILI (Scientific and Industrial Leadership Initiative) behels ekstra wiskunde- en wetenskapklasse oor naweke vir leerders wat uitblink op dié gebied in hul onderskeie skole.

Nie Zuko of Siphosile was al op 'n vliegtuig of buite Suid-Afrika gewees nie.

Siphosile, wat nie die trane van blydschap kon terughou toe haar naam gelees is nie,

meen die konferensie gaan die ervaring van 'n leeftyd vir haar wees.

Mnr. Gareth Rossiter, direkteur van SAILI, meen die 25 kinders is werklik slim, geestig en skerp met baie potensiaal. "Dit is baie moeilik om uit so 'n uitsonderlike groep die beste twee te kies".

Volgens me. Julie Cleverdon, direkteur van die MTN Sciencentre, is die fokus van die Bright Green Youths-konferensie so gerig dat die kinders konkrete, praktiese idees sal uitruil en kreatiwiteit onder mekaar sal stimuleer.

Developing Extra-Mural Opportunities

Last year 152 principals, deputies, and educators from 19 Western Cape schools partnered with the Extra-Mural Education Project (EMEP), and started their respective institutions on the road to becoming Community Hubs of extra-mural activities.

Of the many highlights last year, the formation of an "EMEP Period" at our partner schools ranks high. Schools have structured their timetables to make room for an hour-long period once a week for all learners to participate in an activity of their choice that enriches their school experience.

In addition to improved coaching and management practices in sports, arts and dance, some innovative examples of extra-mural activities include social, nature lovers, weightlifting, drama and chess clubs; environmental projects such as greening, food gardening and waste awareness; story-telling and film-making; career days; self-defence classes and academic support.

The learners are benefiting from the chance to bond with their teachers and schools, as well as experiencing new learning opportunities, that they wouldn't otherwise have. Ms Amsterdam of FJ Conradie in De Doorns told EMEP staffers about a child who came to her saying, "I am so happy to be able to play with toys and games in the extra-mural period! When asked why that was so, he responded, "I don't have any toys at home!"



Learners from De Heide Primary School, Bedadsorp having fun and learning new skills in their extra-mural sessions!"

Educators and members of School Management have also reported a significant boost in their motivation and confidence levels, as well as improved practices both as educationalists and change agents. As one trainee put it: "The most significant change in me was that I felt empowered to bring about change in our school ... and able to get more educators and other role-players on board. What surprised me most was the willingness of the other educators to become involved."

Scifest Africa Project Manager, Bridget Nash, reflects on their work in 2009

a whirlwind of a year

From Bubbz the Clown and visits to the MTN Science Centre to Professor Ynot, who closely resembled Einstein, and the tale of PJ from the magical educational theatre piece *The Square Root of Dreaming*, this has been a whirlwind of a year for Scifest Africa and our SEEDS partners!

By November last year we had completed nine tours in the Western Cape, which include a mix of science show tours, workshop tours, lecture tours and an educational theatre tour. These have been facilitated by organisations such as the MTN Science Centre, Living Maths, ORT-Tech, the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory, the South African Astronomical Observatory, and the educational play which was created and toured by Ubom! Eastern Cape Drama Company.

We have taken fun and exciting science and Maths shows to a total of 61 schools, approximately 5 000 learners and 120 teachers. Our visits have always been well received, with the principals, teachers and learners expressing appreciation at us coming all the way from Grahamstown, Cape Town, Hermanus and

Sutherland to visit them at their school.

On more than one occasion our facilitators have been begged for the science shows not to end in order to be shown more demonstrations, as the learners are hungry for practical education and to watch chemical reactions taking place before their very eyes. Seeing the reactions of the learners when something new is revealed to them, be it in the form of an impressive bang or a fellow learner sitting on a seat of nails and not being injured, is a wonderful aspect of our visits to these schools.

It is especially rewarding when the teachers commend us on the show or workshop and thank us for helping to inspire them and give them a hand in the classroom.

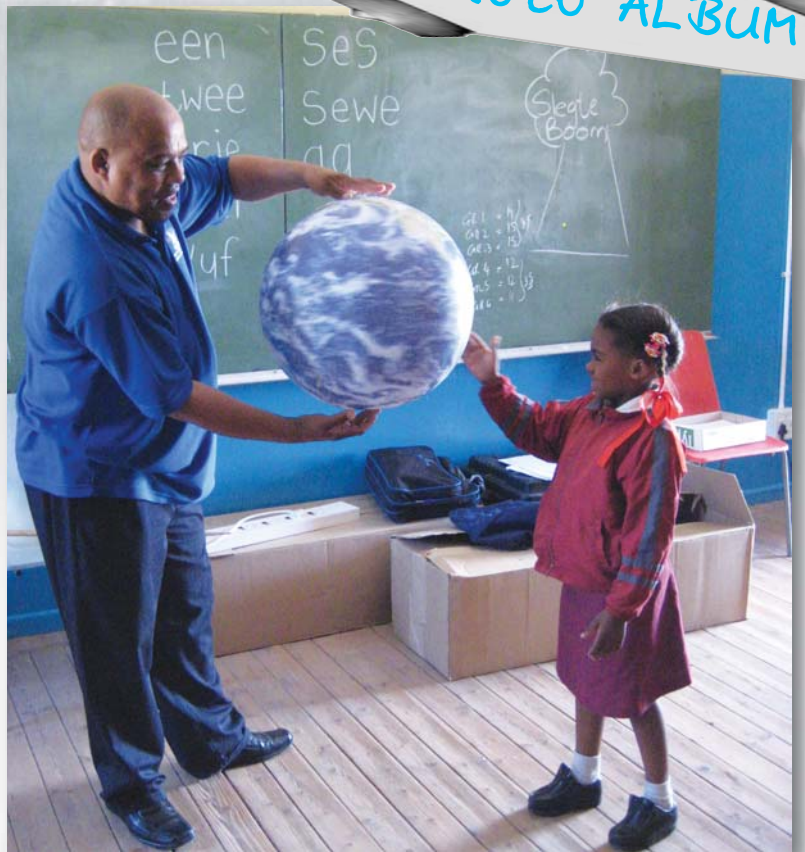


All in all it has been a wonderful year of adding some fun to the education system, and meeting principals and teachers that are trying to make a difference at their schools and the learners that pass through their classrooms.

We are looking forward to this year and how the next nine tours will add value to the education system in the Western Cape. We would like to thank Mike Erskine and all the SEEDS partners for helping us make this year the success it has been.



GOLDVision: The message speaks for itself.



SCIFEST AFRICA: Karel Klein of the South African Astronomical Observatory and a young learner from Driefontein Primary School share some thoughts on our solar system during a Scifest workshop.



Facilitators Advocacy Training.



SAALI: MEC Donald Grant met with SAALI learners Zuko Sifumba and Siphosihle Shumane and with Fikiswa Majola, their chaperone, at the MTN Science Centre before they set off to the "Bright Green Youth" camp on climate change in Denmark in August last year.



Left and above: Peer educators on camp.

Photo ALBUM



MSEP Camp.



GOLD staff and students.



EMEP learners from De Heide Primary School, Bedasdorp having fun.



Yellowwood School Scifest.