



Lentšú La Sechaba

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Educating one smile at a time:

Community engagement project (JMD 351) at Edendale Preparatory School 2018

During the first semester of 2018, third-year students from the Department of Early Childhood Education (ECE) actively participated in a community engagement project at Edendale Preparatory School.

Zoë Zeghers, Emile Gouws, Tamzin Neville, Elsa Etokabeka, Engela Ebersöhn & Megan Bezuidenhout
(Third-year students from the Department of Early Childhood Education)



Behind the learners: Miss Zoë Zeghers
The focus of the project was on assessing the school readiness of children in the Foundation Phase (Grade 1-3). For eleven weeks, the students made resources to serve as tools to assess underdevelopment of perceptual skills. Students were allocated two to four learners to assess their skills such as gross motor, fine motor, laterality, auditory and visual discrimination, and the effect underdevelopment of these skills has on learning.

In the context of most of these learners coming from poor socio-economic backgrounds, distributing them into small groups exposed them to research-based assessment strategies to identify their specific learning



challenges. It also exposed them to play-based intervention opportunities. This experience assisted students in applying their theoretical knowledge to generate a constructive practical experience which will assist them in their teaching practice during the final year of study and beyond. There was a joyful and highly energised atmosphere at each session over the course of the programme, and many special bonds were formed between students and the learners of Edendale Preparatory School. The sessions proved to be valuable, as struggling learners were able to work with students focusing solely on their perceptual skills development. On 11 September 2018, third-year students presented the Methodology of Learning

Support: Learning Readiness JMD351 module at the University Social Responsibility (USR) Day. The resources used for the project were displayed and the students had an opportunity to speak about their experiences/insights gained both in class and during assessments. Students received positive feedback and were commended for the excellent work that went into this community engagement project. The project was a humbling, innovative opportunity that exposed the soon-to-be teachers some of the realities awaiting them as they prepare to educate young minds.



Dr Nkhensani Susan Thuketana with her students participated in the University Social Responsibility (USR) Day, 11 September 2018. From left: Ms Elsa Etokabeka, Miss Engela Ebersöhn, Dr Susan Thuketana (Lecturer), Prof Chika Sehoole (Dean: Faculty of Education), Gernia van Niekerk & Miss Megan Bezuidenhout.

Engaging with Swartdam Farmers

Dr Munetsi Tagwireyi (Veterinarian: Department of Production Animal Studies)



With the realisation that our normal primary animal health outreach projects in Makapanstad and Ratjiespan were not reaching all our farmers or having the impact we had hoped, we consulted with Dr Rebone Moerane, the Head of Department for Production Animal Studies, and went back to the drawing board to try and find ways to better serve and educate the farmers on primary animal health care issues. We came up with an idea of combining our normal outreach projects with additional animal interventions comprised mainly of vaccinations, information and discussions sessions with local farmers. The purpose of this was to improve the coverage of clients serviced and the effectiveness of the outreach programme, thereby exposing the students to more hands-on learning and preparing them for their Compulsory Community Service (CCS).

Our days started early, with a 48 km drive to Swartdam in order to reach the dip tanks by 06:00, where hundreds of cattle had converged. Together with the dipping foreman and the Animal Health

Technician of the area, Mr Maime, we set out to see if the cattle races were in working order, fixing what we could and taking inventory of the drugs we had versus the number of animals that had turned up. After a short demonstration on how to properly vaccinate cattle and how to mark and identify them using ear tags and notches, the students quickly took over the operation. Their ability to learn quickly and a strong work ethic allowed us to vaccinate all the animals within a few hours. Animals that had other basic ailments like pinkeye or traumatic injuries were also treated on the spot. After a tedious session of chasing after animals, vaccinating and treating them, everyone took refuge from the blazing sun under the big trees and had a much-needed drink of water. Then the students quickly engaged the local farmers in candid and constructive discussions on primary animal health issues such as the common diseases in the area, their treatment and traditional veterinary interventions and norms. Client communication is one of the important facets of being a good



this engagement allowed students to do this and get insights into what farmers believe and some of the notions they have. Apart from learning how to effectively communicate with the communities that they serve, the students were provided with an opportunity to share information with local farmers.

The students said their goodbyes to the farmers, who asked them to continue with such interventions. The afternoon concluded with farm visits, and after a long and busy day we only managed to get back to campus after 18:00. The Table below highlights the number of animals that were vaccinated.

Day	Cattle vaccinated for lumpy skin disease	Heifers vaccinated for contagious abortion	Animals receiving primary animal health care	Farmers engaged with in discussions
Day One	945	81	6	22
Day Two	682	65	7	18

Table 1.1: Number of vaccinated animals

Community engagement programmes to aid high school students in Physical Sciences

Alexander Wrbka (Chemistry Honours Student 2018)

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today" Malcolm X.

The University of Pretoria-Stellenbosch University Community Outreach Initiative (UP-SUNCOI) was spearheaded by the University of Pretoria's own Department of Chemistry in an attempt to bridge the learning gap in Grade 11 and 12 students. A new concept can often be very difficult to come to terms with. You are told that a hydrogen bond is usually formed between an oxygen and hydrogen atom, and without this type of interaction, you would not exist today. So, what does that actually mean? How do we know this if we can neither see a bond nor an atom? This is where practical demonstration comes in to save the day. Something seen will always be an image longer lived than something read. The Department of Chemistry at the University of Pretoria aimed to address this by conducting a variety of experiments which try to mimic the theory work that the students would be facing in order to prepare them for some of the most important exams they will have to deal with. By providing a safe and secure working environment with the proper tools, students were able to conduct a series of experiments in order to better understand the theoretical work being taught to them. These experiments ranged from the different types of bonding/interaction between atoms and molecules to the aroma released when producing esters. This project was offered at Prosperitus Secondary School in Eersterust, which did not have proper tools to showcase all the theory to the learners.

The project proved to be a success, with everyone involved (either planning the day or taking part in it) having walked away



University of Pretoria demonstrators assisting learners during chemistry experiment

with some very valuable knowledge. Learners were given the opportunity to experiment with the different theoretical backgrounds that they were being taught so as to visualise the reactions and hopefully gain a deeper understanding of chemistry as a whole. The learners also had a lot of fun, as evidenced by the looks on their faces when something happened in their experiment that was totally unexpected. A community could truly benefit from more projects like this. Chemicals and lab equipment are quite expensive nowadays, which means that many high schools are unable to squeeze the practical demonstrations into their budget. This is the main reason why community engagement projects such as this are of importance, to get learners interested in science through a deeper understanding of the work itself. This is not only beneficial to the learners, but also to the staff, who really go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of these learners.

The UP-SUNCOI project was the first time I took part in a community outreach programme. I can honestly say that I do not regret placing my name on the sign-up sheet. I chose to tutor first year students at the University of Pretoria because I wanted to carry on making a difference just as I hope I did on the UP-SUNCOI day. I wanted to be part of their foundation for science as I am quite passionate about it myself. I wanted to inspire them to work hard to achieve their goals from the start. In short, it was a day filled with loads of fun with a lot of new experiences. As the day came to an end, I spoke to a few learners about how they found the experiments, and the remarks were all positive. Most learners said that they wished more institutions would allow them and other high schools in their area the opportunity to make use of their facilities so that they could gain more hands-on experience with chemistry.

Throughout the day, there was always someone ready with a camera to capture the highlights. These moments clearly do say more than a thousand words. The majority, as you can imagine, took place during the experimental procedures. I still remember students awestruck as they mixed two colourless liquids together, that alone did not smell all too great, but when mixed, filled the air with scents of bananas, bubble-gum or even mint. Other experiments focused more on showcasing the theoretical part of chemistry, such as the inter- and intra-molecular bond types. Unfortunately, there was no sweet scent in the air, but it was worth noting that most learners, through being shown what these forces are and what they can do, could bridge the gap between their classroom and the labs.

The community engagement project was an overall success with glowing comments from both learners and teachers who attended the day. The learners were given various experiments to perform along the lines of the syllabus they were being taught to give them a better idea of the concept that the teacher wanted to convey. We, as staff and tutors from the University of Pretoria, were honoured to play a role in the foundation process for prospective scientists of tomorrow.

UP Law Clinic: Inspiring learners

Roxanne Dickson (Candidate Attorney)



Miss Roxanne Dickson & Miss Jane Khoboko

The University of Pretoria Law Clinic assists hundreds of indigent persons by providing legal services free of charge. In doing so, the Law Clinic assists in ensuring access to justice, as legal representation is unattainable for many people in South Africa who cannot afford costly legal fees. The Law Clinic assists many different types of people from all ages, races and backgrounds, in a wide variety of matters ranging from criminal law to civil law, such as labour matters, evictions, matrimonial law, maintenance, children's court and more. The Law Clinic allows final-year students to gain valuable practical insight into legal practice, while providing Candidate Attorneys with in-depth experience in legal drafting, litigation, consultation with clients, mediation and more.

Apart from assisting indigent persons with legal representation and teaching final-year students, the Law Clinic is also involved in other outreach programmes. The staff at the Law Clinic are often

invited to speak at outreach workshops such as the Junior Jurists outreach programme, run by law students at the University of Pretoria. These workshops are run for the benefit of underprivileged high school learners from schools in Mamelodi, Soshanguve and Atteridgeville, who have an interest in pursuing a career in law.

On 8 September 2018, Candidate Attorneys Jane Khoboko and Roxanne Dickson were invited to speak to a group of high school learners from Edward Phatudi Comprehensive School, Atteridgeville. At the beginning of the presentation, Roxanne asked the learners, "who here wants to have a career in law?" There was silence as one or two learners in the group raised their hands. After discussing the candidate attorneys' experiences at the Law Clinic and in court and the many career opportunities a law degree can provide, the learners had an abundance of questions. At the end of the presentation, when asked who had changed their mind and now wished to pursue a career in law, all the learners raised their hands as high as they could. There was only positive feedback from this experience, and many of the learners who felt unsure about their future careers left with a newfound ambition to study law. This is a prime example of how the Law Clinic assists in bridging the gap in legal education and promotes access to justice and to the profession.



GauFestival: Music

As community partners to the University of Pretoria, about 200 squatters and disabled people were given an opportunity to attend GauFestival at the Brooklyn Theatre. The music festival was coordinated by Jean-Pierre Verster, Community Service Worker GPO, GauFestival, Director: Brooklyn Theatre, in collaboration with the Unit for Community Engagement.

Keep that gold shining

Thabang Ngwenya (COO & co-founder of Keep That Gold Shining and Bachelor of Engineering Student)



From left, standing (white T-shirts): Mr Derick Ncube, Mr Zamakuhle Mahlaba, Miss Monica Lamula, Mr Steven Sithole & Mr Ayanda Sithole
Kneeling: Mr Papa Mphahlele

Keep That Gold Shining (KTG) is a non-profit organisation established in 2014 by students in South Africa. In 2015, KTG started a project called the Mathematics competition. The primary objective of this programme was not for the learners to compete with each other but for them to become motivated through the concept of competition.

A further objective is to change the perspective of the townships and rural learners towards their studies. Most of the learners lack the motivation to work hard, and some do not believe in themselves or their ability to do well in certain subjects like Mathematics. University students who performed very well in high school and who can motivate the learners to do well in their studies are invited to become part of the programme.

Meeting successful students from their own townships and rural areas gives learners motivation and hope.

The programme started in 2015 in the townships of Soshanguve. Learners from Grade 10 and 11 are assisted with Mathematics and Physical Science. In 2016 and 2017, KTG partnered with the Gauteng Department of Education in the Tshwane North District, and with Mpumalanga province, and the programme was rolled out to five schools, namely Soshanguve Secondary School, Botse Botse Secondary School, Makhosini Combined Secondary School (in Soshanguve) and Makgetse High School in Hammanskraal (Gauteng) and Mayflower Secondary School (Mpumalanga).

Each year more than 50 students enrolled in the compulsory undergraduate module, Community-Based Project (JCP) Module of the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (EBIT), assist in this programme. Most of the students who opt for the Mathematics and Physical Science tutoring projects are those who are passionate about the subjects. These students provide learners with great self-study methods, inspiration and general University exposure. KTG is currently running mentorship programmes at one of the residences of the University of Pretoria called Tuks Naledi. The organisation also serves as a marketing voice in rural secondary



White T-shirt: Mr Hasane Sambo teaching learners

schools for the EBIT weeks, and as a recruitment structure for Junior Tukkie, where it identifies students with 70% averages to join the society. KTG has partnered with one of the leading radio stations in South Africa to host winter ~~school~~ summer school for Grade 7 learners.

University Social Responsibility (USR) Day

Prof Cheryl de la Rey, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria, visits the stall of Legal Aid South Africa during the USR Day (11 September 2018).

The University Social Responsibility Network (USRN) was launched on 9 October 2015 in Hong Kong. It emphasises collaboration, coalition building and networking among members and with other networks and alliances. The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the 14 founding USRN-affiliated universities



From left: Mr Peter Hlongwane, Prof Cheryl de la Rey (standing), Ms Lindo Mhlambi & Mrs Kate Mnisi (seated)

worldwide and currently the only African USRN-affiliated institution. Prof Norman Duncan, Vice-Principal: Academic, visits the stall of the Department of Chemistry during the USR Day.

A USR Day was held at UP in September, where each faculty had an opportunity to showcase one module. The formation of the USR Network is based on the belief that universities have an obligation to work together to address the economic, social, cultural and environmental challenges in the world and to find solutions to make our world more just, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable.



From left: Gernia van Niekerk, Prof Norman Duncan & Prof Marilé Landman

Economic and Management Sciences



From left: Rebecca Mashigo, Stephina Hlatshwayo, Rosina Tloubatla, (Anonymous), (Anonymous), Mrs Gladys Phele, Mrs Ria Cawood

Education



Ms Delene Human

Engineering, Built Environment & IT



Front left: Cathlin Vorster (JCP 2016 student) & Brandon Boodhai (JCP 2016 student) Back left: Mr Mpho Mashaba (JCP Mentor), Dr Martina Jordaan (Course Coordinator), Mr Thabo Ntsoane (JCP Mentor), Prof Cheryl de la Rey & Mr Solly Manaiwa (Course Administrative Official)

Humanities



From left: Dr Richard Mthethwa & Mr Siphso Sibanda

Law



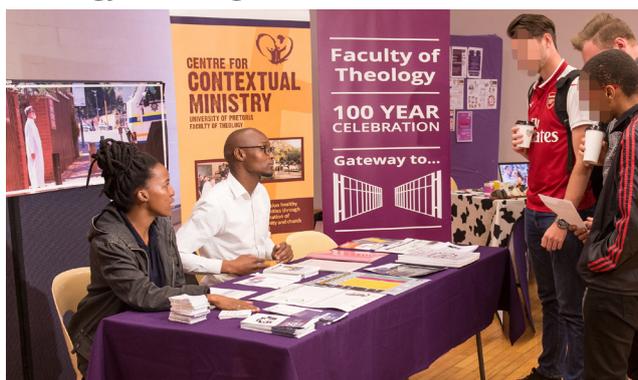
From left: Dr Onkgopotse Madumo, Sarisa van Niekerk & Fezi Mbatha

Natural & Agricultural Sciences



Centre: Prof Marilé Landman

Theology and Religion



From left (seated): Mr Timson Mahlangu & Ms Shakira Qwabe

Veterinary Science



Facing audience: Ms Nabeelah Rajah

University of Pretoria Community Partners: USR Day

Consiba



From left: Rebecca Mashigo, Stephina Hlatshwayo & Rosina Tloubatla

Eleos community centre



From left (behind the table): Eliot Mphasha, Mrs Gladys Phela & Mrs Ria Cawood

Legal Aid South Africa



From left: Ms Lindo Mhlambi, Mr Peter Hlongwane & Mrs Kate Mnisi

Hatfield City Improvement District (CID) - Hatfield Campus Village



Henriette Vorster

Lesedi la Batho: Light for the People



From left: Ms Chrisna Groenewald, Ms Mary Lant, Ms Daphne Markwat & Ms Harriët Trip

Stanza Bopape Health and Community development



From left - behind a table: Ms Martha Ngwetshane & Ms Sibongile Masina

Visit the **UP Community Engagement Management System (CEMS)** on the portal for updates on community engagement running projects and opportunities.

To the Community Engagement Community of the University of Pretoria.

It is a pleasure to introduce our first COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. On this platform we will aim at sharing and covering some Community Engagement activities from all Faculties and Student Organisations which will be handled by Dr Eugene Machimana. We will also communicate important dates to remember and notable issues on this platform.

Farewell to Prof Wendy Kilfoil, former Director of the Department of Education Innovation, who is retiring.



Prof Wendy Kilfoil & Prof Norman Duncan during the last CE Forum meeting (1 October 2018)

A friendly welcome to Prof Gerrit Stols and Dr Eugene Machimana who recently joined the Department of Education Innovation and Unit for Community Engagement respectively.



Prof Gerrit Stols
(Director of the Department for Education Innovation, 1 October 2018)

Prof Gerrit Stols was appointed Director of the Department for Education Innovation following the retirement of Prof Wendy Kilfoil. Previously he was the Head of the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education. In 2015, he spent some time as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Great Falls (UGF) in the USA, where he assisted with the internationalisation of the UGF's teaching programmes. Between 2011 and 2013, and again in 2016, he assisted the Naruto University of Education in Japan with the training of mathematics teachers and course facilitators. Prof Stols was a member of the Ministerial Task Team that developed the Mathematics Teaching Framework for South Africa. He has published a range of articles in national and international journals and has supervised a large number of master's and doctoral candidates to the successful completion of their studies.



Dr Eugene Machimana
(Senior Education Consultant: Curricular Community Engagement, 1 August 2018)

Dr Eugene Machimana was appointed Senior Education Consultant: Curricular Community Engagement in August 2018 after the retirement of Ms Mary Shibambu in July. Previously he was Senior Lecturer and Faculty Community Engagement Chairperson at the Faculty of Veterinary Science. In 2017 he received the Best PhD Abstract Award. In 2018 he was awarded the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) postgraduate medal. Dr Machimana worked in the NPO sector for over a decade, holding various positions related to community development such as the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPASA), loveLife, the Student Development Advisor with the Rural Education Access Programme (REAP), Equal Opportunity Foundation (EOF) in Cape Town. His research interests focus on global citizenship, cognitive and social justice and HIV/AIDS. In 2015 he visited the University of Alberta in Canada to further his research in global citizenship and presented papers on Community Engagement. He also attended the Centre for Global Citizenship Education & Research (CGCER) International Conference. He has presented and chaired sessions at the World Education Research Association (WERA) International Conference.

Important dates:

- This year we will hold University SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WEEK from 6-12 OCTOBER 2019 in the AULA to showcase UP's social responsibility. All Faculties are invited to exhibit their work done through their CE modules during this week. Preparation of the posters, photos and material will be done throughout the year. Professional photographers will accompany lecturers to take the photos according to policy and regulations. It is envisioned to produce a coffee table book from the material used in the exhibition sponsored by our various business partners.
- CASUAL DAY will be celebrated on Friday, 6 September 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Gernia van Niekerk

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