



CONFERENCE FEEDBACK 2010

From 12-14 January 2010, the annual EASA conference was hosted by the School of Educational Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Vaal Triangle Campus, North-West University. EASA has a history of excellent conferences and the Vaal Triangle Campus perpetuated this tradition in style. The conference took place at Quest Conference Centre in Vanderbijlpark and was well attended (154 delegates registered). Conference delegates included representatives from Departments of Education, academics and researchers (from 13 Higher Education Institutions in South Africa, one in Botswana, and one in Mozambique), students, and practitioners (principals and teachers). The mix of delegates appositely reflected the conference theme: Partnerships in Education: Research and Practice.

Researchers from all over South Africa and from neighbouring African countries presented papers that highlighted the crucial need for partnerships between universities, schools, communities and government in order to transform education in our country and in Africa. The theme of partnerships was thoroughly unpacked in a diversity of papers that included titles such as 'University and provincial education districts in concert for sustainable empowering learning environments' (SMG Mahlomaholo) to 'Care for us, do not merely control us: Partnering with learners in the quest for psychological well-being in schools' (AE Kitching & V Roos) to 'The influence of management practices on effective collaboration and partnerships with teachers' (B Grobler & R Mestry).



Michael Ungar delivering his keynote

Prof Michael Ungar (Dalhousie University, Canada) and Prof Jean Baxen (Rhodes University) provided the keynote addresses. Michael's keynote, 'Pathways to



Resilience: How Collaboration between Educators, Mental Health Counselors, Child Welfare Workers and Correctional Officers Help Young People Thrive’, provided evidence of the benefits of partnerships and urged expanded understanding of, and commitment to, multi- and transdisciplinary partnerships.

Jean challenged conference delegates towards critical reflection and a fresh way forward in her keynote entitled ‘Transforming institutional spaces through research for social justice’.



Conference delegates were eager to discuss Jean Baxen's keynote with her

In addition to these thought-provoking key-note addresses and stimulating parallel sessions, delegates engaged in lively debate and challenged one another to pursue research foci that would strengthen partnerships and galvanize education practice.

The conference included informal opportunities to network at a traditional braai along the banks of the Vaal River on the beautiful Vaal Triangle Campus, NWU, and again at a stylish gala dinner held at Quest Conference Centre.



These informal events as well as the formal conference program were organized by Dr Esmarie Strydom and a small team of supporters (Ria Booyse, Elsa Fourie, Louisa Meyer, Linda Theron). There was loud praise from the conference delegates for the expert and elegant organization of the EASA conference 2010.



2010 AWARDS

The 2010 conference departed from tradition in that EASA decided to honour more researchers than previous years. In honour of his exceptional contribution to research theory and practice, Prof Jan Nieuwenhuis (UP) was awarded a medal of honour.



Prof Saartjie Gravett (UJ) was awarded a medal of honour for her outstanding contributions to education research.



Prof Lesley Wood (NNMU) received the EASA Research Medal: Young Researcher.



Prof Trudie Steyn (UNISA) received the EASA Research Medal.



Christien Vorster's many selfless hours of dedication to SAJE administration tasks was also celebrated.



The recently appointed rector of the North-West University's Vaal Triangle Campus (VTC), Prof Thanyani Mariba attended the gala evening as guest of honour. Prof Tinie Theron, dean of the Faculty of Humanities, VTC, attended the gala evening too.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

EASA members are reminded to forward their nominations for research medals to the Chairperson (Prof Liesel Ebersöhn) by 31 July 2010. The categories include: EASA Research

Medal Emerging Researcher; EASA Research Medal, Medal of Honour and **SAJE editor**. Complete information is available at <http://www.easa.ac.za>

EASA 2011 CONFERENCE

The 2011 EASA conference will be hosted by UNISA at Sun City from 11-13 January. The scintillating theme is "**Beauty and the beast: towards turning the tide in education**" (see the conference call at www.unisa.ac.za/easa2011 for a detailed exposition of this theme). The organising committee includes Prof Eldrie Gouws, Prof Johan Dreyer and Dr Anmarie Dicker – we are in talented hands!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Final date for submission: 27 September 2010. Abstracts are to be submitted to Ms Petra Lawson at Petra.Lawson@nwu.ac.za on the abstract submission form.

2010 AGM

Prof Chris Reddy concluded his year as chairperson of EASA at the 2010 AGM. He made special mention of EASA's affiliation to WERA and Prof Philip van der Westhuizen's sterling role in this regard. He highlighted the multiple benefits to EASA members of WERA affiliation. As in previous years, Prof Raj Mestry reviewed EASA's financial position: EASA members are urged to **pay their membership fees** (a mere R300). Prof Philip van der Westhuizen reviewed

the continued success of SAJE and emphasized the prestige of SAJE's inclusion in the Social Science's Citation Index.



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT 2010

The 2010 management team consists of:

Chair: Liesel Ebersöhn (UP)

Deputy Chair: Linda Theron (NWU)

Outgoing Chair: Chris Reddy (US)

Secretary: Esmarie Strydom (NWU)

Treasurer: Raj Mestry (UJ)

Editor SAJE: Philip van der Westhuizen

Co-opted member: Eldrie Gouws (2011 UNISA conference organizer)

Additional member: Naydene de Lange (NMMU)



FAREWELL TO PROF TILLA OLIVIER

Prof Tilla Olivier, who has devoted many selfless years to the executive committee of EASA and the editorial board of SAJE (2002-2010) is retiring from academia in August 2010. EASA's executive said a regretful farewell to Tilla during their meeting in April 2010.



WERA

The **World Education Research Association (WERA)** came into being on April 18, 2009. WERA is an association of national, regional, and international specialty research associations. Its express aim is to further education research as a scientific and scholarly field.

EASA is one of the founding members of WERA. This privileges EASA members who consequently have access to WERA's considerable networks and resources. For detail on WERA see

<http://www.weraonline.org/>



Conference nostalgia

