**RECENT EVENTS**

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES TEACHING AND LEARNING SYMPOSIUM**

The Faculty’s 3rd teaching and learning symposium, entitled “Conversations in the complexities of learning”, took place on 18 April 2012. The symposium was opened by the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ahmed Wadee. Professor Dilip Menon from Wits’ Centre for Indian Studies in Africa and Dr Jacky van Wyk from the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine at UKZN were the invited speakers.

Professor Menon described the status given to language in India – of 200 languages, 22 are regarded as “official”. Every school-going child is expected to learn three languages – English, Hindi and the regional language. He defined communication as what the other person understands. Dr Van Wyk considered the qualities of the millennium student. A panel discussion with six students from different degrees in the Faculty was chaired by Dr Lionel Green-Thompson from CHSE. Areas of learning explored by the panel were concepts that help learning, what hinders learning and the need for constructive feedback. Professor Di Manning closed the symposium.

**MEDICAL SCHOOL GARDENS REVAMPING CELEBRATIONS**

To honour Wits University and the Faculty of Health Sciences, Johannesburg City Parks generously supported the Faculty in revamping its medicinal plant gardens. Towards the end of April and early May, the JCP deployed several workers to the Faculty who uplifted the current medicinal plants, treated the soil with 700 bags of compost and carefully redesigned the gardens. Together with several additional species of medicinal plants which the JCP donated to the Faculty, they planted over 400 plants during that period. In addition, several invasive plants were identified and removed. The Faculty can now boast over 40 species of medicinal plants.
All of this culminated in a celebration on 3 May in the gardens of the Faculty, which included the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the event and the symbolic planting of trees by the Dean, Professor Ahmed A Wadee, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Partnerships, Professor Rob Moore and Councillor Theresa van der Merwe, Whip Section 79 Community Development and Proportional Representative Councillor (PR Councillor) of the City of Johannesburg.

The Faculty wishes to convey its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Parks Tau, for this enormous gesture and the JCP: Urshula Naidoo, Alan Buff, Johan Bezuidenhout, Fouch Fouche and Mercedes Radebe for their expertise in bringing this project to fruition. We hope that the garden will spring to colour after the winter and attract birds and butterflies.

WORLD MALARIA DAY SYMPOSIUM

Photographs: Microscope and Software demonstration by Wirsam Scientific; The symposium speakers: Professor Lucille Blumberg, Dr Eunice Msiani and Professor Lizette Koekemoer

The Malaria Entomology Research Unit (MERU), a unit within the School of Pathology housed at the NICD hosted their first annual World Malaria day symposium on 25 April 2012. The symposium comprised of three lectures; the first by Dr Eunice Msiani of the Department of Health who covered the progress towards malaria elimination. Professors Lucille Blumberg and Lizette Koekemoer from the NICD discussed the issues of drug resistance and insecticide resistance respectively. The day was rounded off by a collaborative display between MERU and the Parasitology Unit, both forming part of the NICD’s Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical and Hospital Infections (COTHI), with sponsored stands by Alere Healthcare, Wirsam Scientific and Whitehead Scientific.

A gigantic mosquito, sponsored by Alere Healthcare was a highlight of the proceedings.

FAREWELL MAUREEN SCHNEIDERMANN

A farewell luncheon was held for Mrs Maureen Schneiderman on 19 April 2012. Maureen worked for many years as the Administrative Officer in the School of Anatomical Sciences before joining the Faculty Office to ‘help out’ for a short while and stayed for eight years! We wish her well in her retirement. Hamba Kahle Maureen!

Photograph: Henda van der Walt, Sandra Benn, Reverie Kuschke and Maureen Schneiderman
CONGRATULATIONS!

PROFESSOR PHILLIP VALLENTINE TOBIAS RECEIVES DOCTOR SCIENTIAE (HONORIS CAUSA)

We are thrilled on behalf of the Faculty to congratulate Professor Phillip Tobias, Honorary Professorial Research Fellow, Member of the Institute for Human Evolution, School of Anatomical Sciences, on the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate of Science on him by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth. The ceremony took place on 18 April 2012. He was unable to receive the award in person for health reasons.

Part of the citation for the award reads: ‘Phillip Tobias is one of the most prolific scholars of South African science on an astonishingly diverse plethora of topics. He has produced over 1 130 publications of various kinds on predominantly physical anthropology and human biology of hominids and the various peoples of Sub-Saharan Africa. He has studied the Kalahari San and the Tonga of Zambia and Zimbabwe in particular. He has covered palaeo-anthropology, -neurology and -demography and in so doing has been one of the major contributors to our understanding of human evolution.

His illustrious career is typified by the initiation of the research and excavation of the Sterkfontein caves where over a third of all known early hominid fossils has been found. The site is now a World Heritage Site.

His published works include biographies of anthropologists as well as aspects of the philosophy and history of science. The list of his achievements and awards is exhaustive and includes being nominated for a Nobel Prize on three occasions.

[S]cience owes much of what we know about human evolution to Phillip Tobias. His name is synonymous with anthropology in Sub-Saharan Africa and he is one of a quartet of palaeoanthropologic doyens of the subcontinent.

It is perhaps the greatest tribute to Phillip that his name should be associated at various levels with “Mrs Ples” (Australopithecus africanus), “Littlefoot” (the most complete Australopithecus specimen ever found), the “Taung child” (Australopithecus africanus) and “Dear Boy” (Australopithecus boisei) – the most famous of hominids that pique curiosity about our origins on the African continent.

In recognition of his work in establishing South Africa as the “Cradle of Humankind”, his devotion to humanity and for raising the profile of southern Africa and its people in Science and Society, it is an honour for NMMU to confer the degree of Doctor of Science (honoris causa) on PHILLIP VALLENTINE TOBIAS.’

HONORARY DOCTORATE TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GLENDA GRAY

We are thrilled on behalf of the Faculty to congratulate Associate Professor Glenda Gray, Director: Perinatal HIV Research Unit, who is to be awarded a Doctor of Science, honoris causa, from Simon Fraser University (SFU), Canada during a graduation ceremony in June. The university, made up of eight Faculties, has been ranked as one of Canada’s top three comprehensive universities for nearly 20 years. The university is recognising nine distinguished people, among them a former Indian president, with honorary degrees.

SFU comments: “Glenda Gray [is a] South African pediatrician acclaimed for her pioneering work in the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission and her visionary leadership of the Perinatal HIV Research Unit, one of Africa’s leading HIV prevention and treatment research and clinical-care centres.”
The Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) was founded in 1967 by Professors Tobias, Muller, de Boom, Allan, Wells and Ted Keen, and represents the many anatomy departments of southern Africa. The Society aims to promote excellence in research and education and each year a conference is held at a different location, hosted by a different anatomy department. They are particularly organised to allow students and junior staff members to gain experience in conferencing by sharing and presenting their research in a number of research fields including, clinical anatomy, genetics, histology, anthropology and neuroscience.

During the annual ASSA meetings staff and students share their research and compete in the various competitions. One such competition is the Bob Symington Award which is presented to the best young presenter at the Congress. It was established in 1984 in honour of Professor Bob Symington’s contributions to the Society’s young researchers. The Antoinette Kotzé Prize for best first time presenter was established in 1985 in honour of Mrs Kotzé who sadly passed away in a motor car accident while transporting members of the Organising Committee of the Annual Congress.

This year the 40th Annual Conference of ASSA met at the new School of Medicine, University of Namibia, Windhoek, and two staff members and three students from the Wits School of Anatomical Sciences attended. Candice Small, Jacqueline Gil and Stacey Lander, students in the School, each gave an oral presentation. Candice Small won the Bob Symington Award. She presented results from her honours project in a presentation entitled: “Reconstructing the subpubic angel from individual os coxa and its effects on race and sex estimation in South Africans”. Stacey Lander won the Antoinette Kotzé prize with a presentation entitled: “The Effects of Various Preparation Techniques on the Histological Structure of Bone”. Staff members from the School also participated in the conference: Mr R Ndou delivered two oral presentations and Mrs D Brits a poster presentation. The School is very proud of these students and staff members!

WELCOME TO THE 2012 MEDICAL STUDENTS’ COUNCIL!

The President of the MSC writes: ‘The Medical Students’ Council is both excited and nervous as we embark on our journey. The committee consists of 6 members: Zahraa Khotu (President), Creaghan Eddey (Deputy President and Academic Officer), Alex Griffiths (Secretary), Niara Langenbach (Treasurer), Amilcar Juggernath (Arts and Culture) and Tiago Soares (Sports and Entertainment).

The aims of our committee for the year 2012 are numerous. Importantly, we aim to interact with students to solve academic, social and environmental issues as well as providing a platform for students to become involved with culture and sport. To achieve this we hope to reintroduce the student magazine and host various events throughout the year, the first of which is Sports Day. Furthermore we hope to engage with and foster good relations with the Faculty to create a passage for communication and change. As the oldest student council at Medical School we also wish to lend a hand to other less recognised student councils so that we may build a strong student body.

A university can not exist without students and thus it is vital that we make the voice of the students heard. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable year.’ We wish the MSC well during its term of office!
INVITATIONS!

Meeting the Makers

Contemporary Craft in KwaZulu-Natal

From the beautifully rendered work of unknown crafters to commercially produced products from internationally acclaimed talents, Meeting the Makers is a cross-section of the kind of creative talents that are found in the diverse physical and cultural landscapes of KZN.

The exhibition promotes selected crafters from the province who are producing high quality, sustainable objects that bridge the divide between traditional craft and so-called ‘high art’ and showcases the richness and variety of contemporary craft production in KZN, while at the same time providing crafters with much needed income from the purchase of their work.

In South Africa, and specifically KwaZulu-Natal, a great many people earn their livelihood from crafts. The items on display are excellently constructed, visually outstanding, and have a sense of originality that makes them shine compared to the usual array of craft that can be found at local markets and curio stores.

The catalogue which accompanies the exhibition offers some insights into the issues which currently concern crafters and craft making. In rural areas this often involves problems of accessing materials and markets. Photographs illustrate the environments and conditions under which craft is produced. Many of the individuals are people living with HIV/AIDS. This is sometimes a salutary lesson in how the human spirit is capable of producing beauty in the face of dismal odds.

All items are for sale. Catalogues are for sale at R150 per copy. The exhibition can be seen at the Adler Museum of Medicine from 3 May to 30 June 2012. It is featured as part of WALE which runs from 9 to 12 May 2012. Museum hours Monday to Friday 09:00 to 16:00.

2012 WITS HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH DAY AND PG EXPO: REMINDER!

The 2012 Wits Health Sciences Research Day and PG Expo presents a unique opportunity to share our research activities with each other (and with visitors), and we would love for you to participate!

The Research Day Organising Committee is now calling for abstracts. These can be submitted by staff or postgraduate students in the Faculty of Health Sciences, whether the research has been published or not. Research may be presented as either a poster or an oral presentation. Substantial prizes/travel awards will be given for the best poster, best oral presentation and best student oral presentation in each of the five thematic areas: Infectious Diseases; Diseases of Lifestyle; Education, Policy and Systems; Molecular and Comparative Biosciences; Clinical Sciences and Therapeutics for Health.

Further information on each theme can be found online at www.witsresearchday.co.za where you can also submit your abstract for consideration by the scientific committee.

The deadline for abstract submission is 21 May.

Please note that registration is a separate process – please complete an online registration form, even if you do not wish to present.

If you would like your School/Department/Research Entity to host a stand as part of the Postgraduate Expo, please contact Ms Mandisa Habana (Mandisa.habana@wits.ac.za). For any other queries, contact Mr Moraba Meela (Moraba.meela@wits.ac.za or 011 717 2023).
COURSES

Workshops / Seminars offered in May/June 2012

15 May 2012
Preparing and giving a good lecture
14:00-15:30 CHSE Boardroom

23 May 2012
PBL Facilitators Workshop
08:30-14:00 CHSE Boardroom

25 May 2012
Journal Club
12:00-13:00 CHSE Boardroom

26-28 June 2012
Health Science Educators Course
08:15-16:00 (Daily) CHSE Boardroom

29 June 2012
Journal Club
12:00-13:00 CHSE Boardroom

Please contact Norman Motlhabani for bookings: 011 717 2329 or gobotsamang.motlhabani@wits.ac.za and Professor Patricia McInerney for more information: 011 717 2073 or Patricia.McInerney@wits.ac.za
THE ABC OF QUALITY CONTROL
The ABC of Quality Control course is gaining momentum in Johannesburg and is highly recommended for new sites. We are happy to run this course in other provinces but need a minimum of 15 candidates to make it viable. Certificates are valid for 3 years.

GCP REFRESHER/UPDATE: afternoons from 13:00 – 16:00
Private Candidates: R950 incl VAT          WHC/Wits Candidates: R650 incl VAT

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<th>JOHANNESBURG</th>
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<th>20 August</th>
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GCP BASIC: 1 ½ Days – day 1 08:30-15:30  day 2 08:30-12:30
Private Candidates: R2100 incl VAT          WHC/Wits Candidates: R1540 incl VAT

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<th>JOHANNESBURG</th>
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GCP FOR AUXILIARIES: 1 day from 08:30 – 16:00 – these are the non clinical staff who require GCP
Private Candidates: R1650 incl VAT          WHC/Wits Candidates: R1100 incl VAT

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<th>JOHANNESBURG</th>
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‘ABC’ OF QUALITY CONTROL: 1 day from 08:30 – 16:00
Private Candidates: R1650 incl VAT          WHC/Wits Candidates: R1100 incl VAT

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<th>JOHANNESBURG</th>
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<td>CAPE TOWN</td>
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For further information please contact: MELODY MADDOCKS Tel: 011 274-9256   Fax: 011 274-9257;
WITS HEALTH CONSORTIUM (Pty) LTD, 8 Blackwood Avenue, PARKTOWN. VAT REG NO: 4310171493

And finally ... some adverts we enjoyed:

Email: adler.museum@wits.ac.za