RECENT EVENTS

INAUGURAL LECTURE: PROFESSOR DAVID GRAY

The inaugural lecture of Professor David Gray, Head of the School of Physiology, entitled: Birds: The Inside Story, was held on 13 October 2011. This talk focused on studies examining two important and linked areas of avian physiology, namely the regulation of salt and fluid balance (osmoregulation) and thermal biology (fever), both controlled by the same region of the brain, the hypothalamus. The talk focused on the experimental approaches used in addressing the important questions in the two fields of avian physiology and also addressed the issue of the relevance of comparative physiology and what can, and has, been learnt from such studies.

Photograph: Professor Yunus Ballim, DVC (Research), David Gray and Ahmed Wadee, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

FIRST ACCREDITATION OF BCMP SUCCESSFUL

The Faculty received a delegation from the Health Professions Council of South Africa to conduct the first HPCSA accreditation of the Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice (BCMP) degree programme, from 19 to 21 October 2011. The BCMP will produce its first graduate clinical associates in December, so the visit was timely. The visitors met Faculty and University leadership, administration, the BCMP undergraduate committee teachers, students, and supervisors at Kopanong and South Rand hospitals.

The programme received two year accreditation, the maximum possible for a new programme. In delivering verbal feedback to the Faculty, Professor Khaya Mfenyana, Chairperson of the HPCSA panel, commended the programme, inter alia, for the dedicated and passionate staff, the pioneering spirit of the final year Clin A students, the integration of basic sciences and clinical medicine in all three years of the programme, the clinical
exposure of students to patients from year one (which students cited as a highlight of their training), and the relationship between the Clin A programme and North West Province. A full report with a number of recommendations for the programme will follow.

FAREWELL TO PROFESSOR JOHANNES PETRUS REYNEKE

An event to honour and wish Professor Johan Reyneke well on his retirement took place on 20 October 2011 at the Adler Museum of Medicine.

Professor MA Lownie writes: ‘After qualifying as a Maxillofacial and Oral Surgeon at the University of Pretoria in 1979, Johan Reyneke moved to Johannesburg and joined the staff of Wits as a part-time specialist. This link with Wits was maintained for about 32 years during which he served in the Division of Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery.

His particular passion has always been orthognathic and reconstructive facial surgery. He has lectured to undergraduate dental students on an ongoing basis, and designed and implemented a unique postgraduate programme in Orthognathic Surgery. Every registrar qualifying in MFOS at Wits for over a quarter of a century has benefitted from his expert tuition both from a practical and theoretical standpoint. He has also served as a member of staff of the Craniofacial Unit where his experience of having performed more than 7 000 orthognathic surgical procedures has been invaluable. He was one of the founders of the interdisciplinary Orthognathic Clinic at Wits, the first one in South Africa, which attracted participants from other universities in Gauteng.

Professor Reyneke received an Honorary Professorship from Wits in 1990, and was appointed as Clinical Professor (on a visiting basis) of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Universities of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City and Florida, Gainesville, in the USA. He successfully defended his PhD thesis at the University of Tampere in Finland in March 2006. He has published more than 60 scientific articles in refereed journals and authored several textbooks and manuals which are used by MFOS students and specialists all over the world.

His international reputation is evidenced by the frequency with which he is invited to present courses and give talks overseas. He was the first South African to be invited as a keynote speaker to both the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (2006) and the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (2007). He was the President of the SA Society of MFO Surgeons from 1994 to 1998 and President of the College of MFO Surgeons of SA.

He has been a dedicated teacher, mentor and ambassador for MFOS at Wits for 32 years and we wish him well for the future.’

PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH LECTURE

On 9 November 2011 the Health Sciences Research Office hosted the 6th lecture in the Prestigious Research Lecture Series. The lecture: *Target discovery and novel treatment for HIV-1*, was presented by Professor Patrick Arbuthnot, Director: Antiviral Gene Therapy Research Unit, and Associate Professor Caroline Tiemessen, Centre for HIV and STIs, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, National Health Laboratory Service, and Wits. Professor Tiemessen explained how she seeks to understand what confers natural immunity in individuals who are able to resist or suppress HIV infection, and shared some of the groundbreaking work she and her team have published. Professor Arbuthnot described how this understanding can be applied using gene therapy. By targeting and silencing specific genes within the host’s immune cells, the virus’ ability to infect the host can be significantly reduced. It is early days yet, but these investigations hold much promise for the future of HIV treatment and the technology continues to advance at a staggering pace. Dr Makobetsa Khati, Senior Manager and Head of the Emerging Health Technologies Department at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, was the commentator.

Photograph: Dr Makobetsa Khati, Associate Professor Caroline Tiemessen, Professor Patrick Arbuthnot.
JAMES HS GEAR MEMORIAL LECTURE 2011

The James HS Gear Memorial Lecture, arranged by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), a division of the National Health Laboratory Service, took place on 14 November 2011. Attendees were treated to a fascinating but also chilling lecture entitled: *Can infectious diseases be eradicated? Lessons from smallpox, polio and rinderpest*, presented by Dr Stefano Tampio, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Attaché to the NICD/NHLS and Professor Barry Schoub, Professor of Virology, Wits, and Consultant to NICD/NHLS.

Dr Tampio spoke about the eradication of rinderpest, a virus which has caused devastating cattle plague and consequently mass human starvation many times in history. It is the second only viral disease to have been wiped out, the first one being smallpox. Professor Schoub spoke about the eradication of smallpox and the fight against poliomyelitis which is still ongoing.

Photograph: Mr Sagie Pillay, CEO of NHLS, Dr Lucille Blumberg, Professor Barry Schoub, Dr Stefano Tampia (with a portrait of Professor James Gear in the background)

CENTRE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES EXPANDS STUDENT SUPPORT

The Centre for Health Science Education's student support officers Laura Arnold and Tatiana Sosznianin work with MBBCh1 and 2 and BCMP1 and 2 students, offering the Learning Excellence Programme so that every student has access to learning, language and study skills. This is done through lectures, tutorials and consultations, focusing on individual and group work so students internalise and apply improved learning strategies. This year these services were also offered to the Nursing Education and Bio-Kinetics Honours students for the first time. During the First Year Health Sciences Working Group the Department of Nursing Education mentioned how beneficial these services have been. As a result of this the Nursing Education, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Departments met with the student support officers and planned to implement the Learning Excellence Programme from of February 2012.

BRENDON BILLINGS LEADS MAROPENG WALKING TOURS

Brendon Billings, Assistant Lecturer, Curator of the Anatomical Sciences Museum and MSc candidate in the School of Anatomical Sciences, has launched a series of themed walking tours at Maropeng which are the talk of the town! The tours, which are held monthly and started in August 2011, have generated the significant media publicity for Wits and Maropeng. Brendon has a special interest in physical anthropology. Brendon says: 'Bones are the fundamentals of human evolution, because they're the best preserved and provide clues which allow us to identify structural and behavioural traits, all of which make it possible for us to piece together elements of the story of human evolution.'

The first tour, *Back to Basics*, highlighted ‘clues’ offered by the fossil records and the ‘detective work’ that is required to reconstruct the history of our species. The talks are followed by a walk through the Sterkfontein cave site and a picnic-style lunch, overlooking the Cradle of Humankind.

For further information visit [www.maropeng.co.za](http://www.maropeng.co.za).
CONGRATULATIONS!

ANDI ESTABLISHES CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCED DRUG DELIVERY TECHNOLOGY and VIRAL GENE THERAPY AT WITS

The African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) has recognised 32 African institutions as ANDI Centres of Excellence in health innovation, among which are the Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform directed by Professor Viness Pillay and the Antiviral Gene Therapy Research Unit directed by Professor Patrick Arbuthnot.

ANDI is based at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its goals are to increase research and development collaboration among African institutions and countries, including through the management of Centres of Excellence in health innovation; fund and manage a portfolio of health R&D projects; support and promote public-private partnerships and new firms within Africa to support the development and manufacture of new drugs, diagnostics and other health products; manage and explore innovative mechanisms to encourage and reward local innovation while promoting access, including research drawing on traditional medicine and intellectual property management; leverage existing capacity to support south-south and north-south collaboration; and promote long-term economic sustainability through supporting R&D and access to health products in Africa.

The ANDI centres of excellence are spread across the five sub-regions of Africa and are conducting research and development; and innovation activities on drugs, diagnostics, vaccines, medical devices and traditional medicines. They will implement ANDI projects and capacity building on the continent.

Photographs: Professors Viness Pillay and Patrick Arbuthnot

MTN/CARTE BLANCHE AWARD TO PROFESSOR PETER BEALE

In August 2008, George Mazarakis, Executive Producer of Carte Blanche launched the ‘Making a Difference’ campaign and set an ambitious target of raising R20 million for charity to celebrate 20 years of broadcasting. The recent award ceremony commemorated achieving a target of 80 million rand sponsored by companies and corporate institutions and donated to child care projects predominantly paediatric surgical and medical facilities in state hospitals but also other very deserving child projects. The Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic and Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospitals became beneficiaries of the ‘CB20’ campaign. These hospitals have benefited from the campaign by the sum of R45 million which has transformed the way the paediatric wards in these hospitals work. Not only are there two state-of-the-art endoscopy theatres, there are also extensions to the neonatal ICU at ‘Bara’ and Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Hospital, new ventilators, operating tables and so much more! And the Carte Blanche Making a Difference Trust keeps on growing!

This is a far cry from the Surgikids Fund, set up by Professor Peter Beale, Head of the Division of Paediatric Surgery, in 2007, which raised more modest amounts of money for paediatric surgery in Johannesburg. Professor Beale then worked alongside the Carte Blanche team and was the recipient of an award for his contribution which made the campaign such a roaring success. The plaque reads: ‘For his fearless contribution to surgical patients and guidance to the Making a Difference team throughout the campaign’.

We were delighted to see Professor Peter Beale featured once again on Carte Blanche (16 October 2011), receiving the award from the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi.

(Photograph courtesy of MTN/Carte Blanche)
YEZABANTWANA WEEK

Professor Beale also runs Yezabantwana (For the Children) Weeks approximately four times a year, doing at least 80 additional operations in paediatric surgery at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital each time. The Weeks are arranged in order to operate on children wait-listed for surgery who wait for at least six months to have their operations as they are usually not critical cases. The intensive week of operations reduces the case load significantly. A follow up clinic was held on 1 November 2011 where the children were treated to ice cream while a clown, Ronald McDonald, performed for their entertainment.

Professor Beale says that he is immensely grateful to sponsors for their support of these weeks and the staff who willingly donate their time and hard work to make these weeks possible.

Photograph: Dennis Mavropoulos of Hermes Cone and Snack Manufacturers who sponsored the ice creams for 700 children (and adults!!) with nursing staff and children from all the paediatric wards and Ronald McDonald.

SIYAKHANA RECEIVES TWO GDARD AWARDS

The Siyakhana Initiative's Permaculture Food Garden has been awarded ‘Best Innovation Project’ and ‘Overall Community Project Winner’ at the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's 2011 MTK Awards.

The Awards acknowledge, reward, and highlight initiatives in Gauteng which seek to: promote sustainable use of natural resources; encourage communities in their duty to care for the natural resource base; promote income generation activities using natural resources sustainably; encourage community initiatives and innovations on best natural resource management practices; and share technologies and experiences on natural resource management.

Siyakhana staff members Mhlangabezi Vundla, Community Engagement Manager (pictured above) and Luxon Mudzimiri, Permaculture Specialist received the awards on behalf of Siyakhana.

The Siyakhana Initiative for Ecological Health has also been awarded a 2-year research grant by the Gauteng Department of Economic Development. The research project, entitled Productivity and Sustainable Natural Resource Management in two Emerging Urban and Peri-Urban Conservation Agriculture Projects will measure the production outputs of conservation agriculture projects in Gauteng. One project is the Siyakhana Permaculture Garden, the other a peri-urban production site linked to a multi-facility feeding scheme and an on-site food processing facility.

The research will adopt a holistic assessment framework, evaluating design, organisational structure, management and governance processes, and agricultural inputs, with a strong emphasis on optimising conservation agriculture and sustainable natural resource management.

This research project presents an opportunity to train Wits student researchers in this emerging field. For each year of the project two Honours, Masters, or PhD student researchers will be trained to conduct research on food garden production inputs, outputs, efficient workflows, and effective skills transfer. The students will be advised by experienced food security researchers from the Siyakhana Initiative to increase their skills and knowledge related to agricultural research.

To learn more about Siyakana's work please visit [www.siyakhana.org](http://www.siyakhana.org)
FRIEDEL SELLSCHOP AWARD TO DR LOIS HARDEN

Dr Lois Harden, a lecturer in the School of Physiology, was awarded the Friedel Sellschop award from the University. This is the University’s premier award to recognise and encourage exceptional young researchers.

Dr Harden obtained her PhD in 2008, following which she applied for, and was subsequently awarded, a prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship to undertake a postdoctoral scholarship for 18 months in Germany. On completion of her postdoctoral studies this year she has returned to the School of Physiology to continue her research in the field of immunology and physiology, which focuses on understanding immune-to-brain signaling during infection and inflammation.

MEDAL FOR EDUCATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION (SAOA) AWARDED TO PROFESSOR EMERITUS EINHARD HW ERKEN

Professor Emeritus Einhard HW Erken was awarded the Medal for Education of the South African Orthopaedic Association by the President of the SAOA, Professor Mthuzi Ngcelwane, at the SAOA Congress at Sun City on 7 September 2011.

In the citation for the award, Professor Ngcelwane mentioned the following (abbreviated): Professor Erken built up the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits from its head-deprived status in 1986 when Professor Solomon left for the UK. He was Head of the Department for many years prior to his retirement, after which he was invited back as Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery to further postgraduate orthopaedic education and has been posted at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital since 2006.

Professor Erken was a founder of the South African Paediatric Orthopaedic Society (SAPOS) in 1987 and was President of this Society until 2001. He was President of the College of Orthopaedic Surgeons in CMSA from 1992 to 2002. He fought to unify the examination for MMed(Orth) and FCSOrth (SA) and the Higher Diploma of Orthopaedic Surgery which was achieved.

He was a member of the EXCO of SAOA from 1992 – 2001, and also Co-founder and Vice-President of the South African German Orthopaedic Foundation (SAGOF) in 2001. He was Editor-in-Chief of the *South African Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery* from 1991 to 2002, which was accredited by the Department of National Education (DNE) in 1992 and has been Chairman, Advisory Editorial Board, *J Bone & Joint Surg* African Edition from 2006.

Photograph: Professors Mthunzi Ngcelwane and Einhard Erken

INVITATIONS

The Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Research Office is proud to host Professor Leigh Hale as part of its Alumni Diaspora Programme

Associate Professor Leigh Hale graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy from UCT and an MSc (Neurorehabilitation) from Wits. She later attained her PhD from Wits, with a dissertation entitled 'The problems experienced in Soweto after stroke'. After doing clinical work in both the public and private sector, Leigh started teaching neurorehabilitation at Wits. In 2000 Leigh moved to New Zealand and took up a lecturing post at the University of Otago’s School of Physiotherapy in Dunedin. Her passion for the physiotherapeutic rehabilitation of people with neurological dysfunction has led Leigh into a research career focused on conducting clinically-applicable research in neurological rehabilitation. Leigh’s visit is co-hosted by the Department of Physiotherapy.

Please join us for Leigh’s Faculty lecture, which aims to stimulate thought around the questions researchers ask.

“Let me tell you what I want, what I really really want”... What is truly meant by evidence-based practice?

Date: Tuesday 22 November 2011
Time: 13:30-14:30
Venue: Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Medical School Campus
Info: Philippa.Mckechnie@wits.ac.za
Faculty of Health Sciences Honours Celebration

Professor Ahmed Wadee, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences invites you to join him at the Faculty’s Honours Celebration

At which the Faculty extends its good wishes to members of staff who are due to retire or who have retired during the year, to honour those recently promoted, to recognise those with special achievements, and those that have provided excellent service to the Faculty and to welcome new senior appointees.

Date: Wednesday, 30 November 2011
Time: 14:30 for 15:00
Venue: Adler Museum, Medical School

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FREE ENTRANCE & REFRESHMENTS

3rd Annual PSYCHIATRY FILM FESTIVAL
24, 25 & 26 November 2011
ALL WELCOME!

Programme:

Thursday, 24 November - 19:00
"Two Beds"

Friday, 25 November – 19:00
"When Love is Not Enough"

Saturday 26 November – 12:00
"Away From Her"
15:00
"Matchstick Men"
19:00
"Black Swan"

Bookings, Enquiries, Telephone: 083 397 0247
E-mail: psychiatrympowered@gmail.com
Wits/Claude Leon Foundation Scholar Lecture

Growing old in rural South Africa

Presented by:
Margaret Thorogood

Wits/Claude Leon Foundation Distinguished Scholar & Honorary Professor

Margaret Thorogood is Professor of Epidemiology, University of Warwick and holds an honorary professorship with the School of Public Health at Wits University. She brings to Wits considerable experience; she has supervised to graduation over 60 higher degree students, and is the author of over 150 peer reviewed articles, predominantly in her focus areas, cardiovascular epidemiology, with a particular emphasis on the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. Eight of her publications are related to research in Africa.

Her work in South Africa has been focused on the largely neglected health needs of the older population and on the emerging epidemic of the chronic diseases of ageing (particularly hypertension and stroke). She led the SA Stroke Prevention Initiative (SASPI) research team, which demonstrated the large and unmet health burden of stroke in the Agincourt research site. She is also an active member working on the World Health Survey Study on Global Aging and Adult Health (SAGE) project which aims to improve the empirical understanding of the health and well-being of older adults (50 plus) and ageing in developing countries through provision of reliable, valid and cross-nationally comparable data for examining health difference across individuals, countries and regions, plus providing validated health measurement methods.

In this lecture Professor Thorogood will describe some of the health and social issues facing older people in rural South Africa. Despite the ravages of the AIDS epidemic, the population is ageing, and experiencing the diseases and conditions associated with old age. Older people nevertheless report a good quality of life.

Date: THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER    Time: 16:30
Venue: Adler Museum, Wits Medical School, 7 York Road, Parktown
COURSES

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Is pleased to announce that it is offering a short course in

Research Ethics: Conducting Research Responsibly

**Dates:** 20 - 24 February 2012  
**Venue:** Wits Faculty of Health Sciences, 7 York Road, Parktown

**Cost:** R2 500

Closing date for applications is **10 February 2012**.  
Successful candidates will receive a Certificate of Competence upon completion.

**Enquiries and/or Registration:** Jillian Gardner, Postgraduate Academic Coordinator, Tel: 011 717 2719; Email: Jillian.Gardner@wits.ac.za OR Diana Govender, Administrator, Tel: 011 717 2635; Email: Diana.Govender@wits.ac.za

For more information: [http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/health/entities/bioethics/10059/courses.html](http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/health/entities/bioethics/10059/courses.html)

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RESEARCH METHODS COURSE IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH; HIV AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

The objectives of the course is to strengthen the research capabilities of participants and through this to increase research capacity in the African region; provide skills in research methodology allowing participants to initiate research, participate in research and to critically appraise research findings; familiarize participants with the major SRH/HIV issues affecting the African Region; create a network of alumni to facilitate information exchange and research collaboration in the African region.

The course will run in mid-August 2012 (exact dates to be released shortly) for three weeks in Johannesburg, South Africa. Please note that daily attendance is compulsory.

The minimum criteria to apply:

- A medical degree as a minimum level of acceptance or relevant other first degree, at good honours level
- Experience in the field of sexual and reproductive health/HIV
- Applicant is conducting research or planning to conduct research in the area of sexual and reproductive health/HIV
- Willingness and ability to apply their knowledge in their current work situation and future career

Applicants in possession of a Masters in Public Health are considered to be overqualified and therefore not eligible to apply.

Closing date for applications: **2 March 2012**. Late applications cannot be accepted.

Application forms and more information about the course are available on [www.wrhi.ac.za](http://www.wrhi.ac.za)

Please contact the course coordinator for more information on eligibility and course fees: researchmethodscourse@wrhi.ac.za or +27 (0) 11 358 5312
FACULTY VACANCIES

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg: Faculty of Health Sciences

ASSISTANT DEAN: STUDENT SUPPORT (PART-TIME)

The Faculty invites applications to the position of Assistant Dean in the Office of Student Support. This is a part-time position in the Faculty of Health Sciences and is envisaged as being in addition to the incumbents existing University or joint post.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A member of the joint/permanent staff of the Faculty who is currently at the level of Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, Adjunct Professor or Full Professor.
- Knowledge of higher education structures and policies.
- Knowledge of procedures and processes governing Faculty and University Committees.
- Knowledge of rules and regulations governing student qualifications offered by the Faculty and University.
- Knowledge of broad and specific career options that our qualifications provide.

DUTIES:

- Report directly to the Dean of the Faculty.
- Oversee all functions of the Office of Student Support.
- Represent the Office of Student Support on various Faculty and University Committees such as: All Undergraduate Committees; Relevant Curriculum Co-ordination Committees; The Teaching and Learning Committee; The Advisory Committee on Admissions Policy; The CHSE Board; The Quality Assurance Committee; The Deanery.

REMUNERATION: The position carries a responsibility allowance.

TO APPLY, please submit a covering letter, together with a detailed CV to Mr R Madhoo at:

Roshan.madhoo@wits.ac.za

CLOSING DATE, for submission of applications: 7 December 2011

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FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE

STEVE BIKO CENTRE FOR BIOETHICS

LECTURER AC 08

100% APPOINTMENT – 3 YEARS FIXED TERM CONTRACT

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics has undertaken pioneering work in Bioethics, including establishment of flexible delivery of on-line modules and the development of wide ranging curricula for medical, dental and the allied health professional students. The Centre seeks to fill the position of a Lecturer on a 3 year fixed term contract post.

Requirements: A PhD in Bioethics, or Applied Ethics; Teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and research experience with an appropriate publication record in the field of Bioethics, or Applied Ethics. A track record of generating research funding is also recommended.

Duties:

- Teach and coordinate courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- Supervision of postgraduate students
- To conduct and co-ordinate research
- To participate fully in the activities of the Centre and the School, as well as research and community outreach programmes

The incumbent will be directly responsible to the Head of the Centre in all matters relating to Centre duties and will be involved in Centre administration.

Telephonic enquiries may be directed to Professor Ames Dhai on 011 717 2718 or Amaboo.Dhai@wits.ac.za and written applications, including a covering letter, comprehensive CV and three contactable references (email addresses and telephone numbers to be included), must be forwarded to Ms Rose Mohale, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, 7 York Street, Parktown. Applications can be e-mailed to Rose.Mohale@wits.ac.za or faxed on (011) 717 2759. CLOSING DATE: 30 November 2011
And finally ...

A word from Marietta Neumann and Sarah Kalonji, two GEMP 1 students, who have initiated a paper saving initiative. Please think about the initiative and save trees!

**Paper doesn’t grow on trees**

**Facts:**
- 1 sheet of white paper weighs about 5g
- 1 ton of white paper uses up 24 trees
- For 1 month's worth of lecture notes for one class, **14 trees are cut down**
- Almost 1 entire tree per lecture is **wasted** if presentations are printed with 1 slide per page instead of 6

Calculations made assuming that:
- the trees are a mixture of hardwoods and softwoods with an average diameter of 15 to 20 cm (courtesy of conservatree.org)
- on average there are 4 lectures in one day, and there are 300 students per class
- on average lectures notes are 50-60 slides long

**How to save paper:**
- Print double-sided
- Always print presentations with 6 slides per page, unless requested otherwise
- Never print presentations with 1 slide per page unless explicitly requested
- Delete "Thank you for listening" slides at the end if they will require a new page (this is the case where they are the 13th, 25th, 37th, 49th slide etc.)

**Why do we need trees?**
- they counteract global warming by producing oxygen and removing carbon dioxide from the air
- they clean the soil and prevent erosion
- they are also the natural habitat of millions of animal species

NEXT ISSUE OF HEALTH SCIENCES REVIEW: 9 December 2011