

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH IN AFRICA  
RHODES UNIVERSITY  
P. O. Box 94  
GRAHAMSTOWN 6140  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TELEPHONE: 0466038565  
FAX: 0466038566  
E-MAIL: C.LEFF@RU.AC.ZA

© ISEA, RHODES UNIVERSITY, DECEMBER 2009  
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT PERMISSION  
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ISEA



## CONTENTS

Board of Management	5
Staff	6
Conspectus	8
Staff News	9
Donors	10
ISEA Publications	15
The DALRO Poetry Prizes	18
Other Publications	18
Conferences and Public Lectures	22
Research	22
Secondary Schools Language Project	23
Campus Creative Writing Programme	24
Wordfest 2009	25
Distinguished Visitors	30
Graduate Supervision and Examining	30
Degrees in Progress (Staff)	30
External Responsibilities	30
Conclusion	31



## **ISEA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

- The Vice-Chancellor (ex-officio)
- \* Prof F Hendricks (Dean of Humanities) Chair
- \* Prof L S Wright (Director)
  - Dr S Fourie (Rhodes University Council)
- \* Department of English Language and Linguistics: Prof R D Adendorff
  - Dictionary Unit for South African English: Ms E J Wolvaardt
  - National English Literary Museum: Mr M M Hacksley
  - Anthropology: Prof R C G Palmer
  - Drama: Prof G E Gordon
  - Education Faculty: Prof G Euvrard
- \* Department of English: Prof P S Walters
  - Journalism and Media Studies: Prof G J E G Berger (Alt. Ms A Garman)
- \* School of Languages: Prof R H Kaschula
  
- \* Member of Executive Committee

## ISEA ANNUAL REPORT JAN – DEC 2009

### STAFF

#### Director

Prof L S Wright, BA Hons (Rhodes), MA (Warwick), D Phil (Oxon)

#### Alan Macintosh Research Fellow

M G Hendricks, BA, HDE (UCT), BA Hons, MEd (Rhodes), PhD (Witwatersrand)

#### Honorary Professor of Poetry Rhodes University

Prof C M Mann, BA (Witwatersrand), MA (Oxon), MA (London), Hon DLitt (Durban-Westville)

#### Research Officers

M Mbelani, BA (Educ) (UNITRA), BEd (UNISA), ACE (ELT), MEd (Rhodes)

N C Fulani, BEd Hons (Rhodes), SPDT (Cape College)

B Seobi UED (Taung College of Education), DipEd Guidance (RAU), MA (Columbia College) (temporary appointment)

#### Research Associates

R S Berold, BSc (Eng) (Witwatersrand), MA (Cantab)

Dr W R Quince, BA, HDE (UNISA), MA, PhD (Southern Illinois)

Prof B M Pearce, BA Hons (Natal), MA (London), MA (Natal), PhD (London)

Prof D L Schaffer, BA Hons (Natal), MA (Leeds), PhD (Natal)

#### Visitor

H M Slinger HDE (Natal), TLSO (UNISA), LTCL (London), Dip. Television (Natal Technikon)

#### Secretary, Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa

Professor Emeritus EE Baart, BSc Hons (Rhodes), PhD (Liverpool)

#### Co-ordinator Creative Writing Programme

R S Berold, BSc (Eng) (Witwatersrand), MA (Cantab)

#### Editor: English in Africa

Prof M J Marais, MA (UPE), D.Litt et Phil (RAU)

#### Co-editor: *English in Africa*

Dr J V Starfield, BA Hons (Wits), MA (SOAS, London), PhD (Wits)

#### Editor: New Coin Poetry

C A Warren, NDipLIS(PETechnikon), BA(Hons)(UNISA)

**Editor: Shakespeare in Southern Africa**

C J Thurman, BA Hons (Rhodes), MA(London), PhD(UCT)

**Editor: Shakespeare Society *Occasional Papers and Reviews***

H M Slinger HDE (Natal), TLSD (UNISA), LTCL (London), Dip. Television (Natal Technikon)

**Administrative Officer**

C Leff, BA (Witwatersrand)

**Publications Officer**

B Cummings-Penlington

**Secretary**

N Kelemi

**Clerical Intern**

S Cassels

## CONSPECTUS

This report covers the period from January to December 2009.

Landmarks for this year include the following (further detail is included in the body of the report):

- From 2010, Wordfest will have a presence on the main programme of the National Arts Festival. Our deep appreciation goes to Festival Director Ismail Mahomed for this initiative.
- A major 4-year teacher education programme funded by the ZENEX Foundation commenced in January. The programme sees a cohort of 37 English teachers from the King William's Town and Queenstown Districts studying towards a B.Ed. The programme has been undertaken in cooperation with RUMEP, the Rhodes University Maths Education Project, which will be working to upgrade mathematics education in the same schools.
- At the same time, a cohort of twenty English teachers from the eastern part of the province has started a two-year ACE (ELT) programme, funded by the provincial education department. It is hoped that the Province will fund some of these to continue to complete a BEd.
- A broad-based regional steering committee has been established to see to the formation of a professional association of English teachers in the Eastern Province. The Association will be open to all English teachers in the province, and will be launched at a conference which will take place in April 2010. Eventually it is hoped that the Association will expand in scope to include all language teachers.
- Work has commenced on a collection of essays based on experience of English education at secondary level in Eastern Cape Schools. The book is designed to contribute to the project of improving the quality of education available to rural communities.
- An important three-year drive to enhance the electronic footprint of ISEA periodicals nationally and internationally has been completed. *English in Africa's* long-standing listing in the *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences* is to be withdrawn after 2009, following insistence by the publication's funders that the scope of the bibliography be confined strictly to the social sciences. The journal has successfully applied for inclusion in the South African Department of Education listing while the process of applying for ISI listing is under way.
- A concerted effort to support the Rhodes eResearch Repository project has to date resulted in 50 ISEA publications being lodged in the facility.
- Congratulations to Mxolisi Nyezwa who has been awarded the English Academy's 2009 Thomas Pringle Award for Poetry for his poems 'My friends



who lived with me’ and ‘8 poems from Malikhanye’, published in *New Coin*. Interestingly, ‘8 poems from Malikhanye’ was a runner up for this year’s DALRO Prize (see page 19).

- A drive to increase subscriptions to *New Coin* is under way. The magazine does not exact page charges from contributors, and increasing the number of subscribers would be a preferable option to maintain financial viability. The subscription list is dangerously depleted.
- Despite funding delays, Wordfest 2009 was a very successful component of the National Arts Festival, evidencing growth in the number of book launches and in linkages with appropriate media. A wide-ranging meeting with local, provincial, national and international stake-holders was held in September to conceptualise a range of futures for Wordfest, and further discussions with the University about how best to enhance the stature and footprint of the event are in process.
- The proposed Masters degree in Creative Writing in the Institute has been approved as part of the University’s programme mix by the National Department of Education. The proposal has subsequently been submitted to SAQA and the HEQC for approval as a probationary degree offering. Once this approval has been accorded, uptake predictions can be confirmed and bursary funding secured.

## STAFF NEWS

The Director was given the Vice-Chancellor’s Distinguished Senior Research Award for 2009 and has been elected to membership in the South African Academy of Science. He completed 25 years of service to the University, and a celebration took place in the Institute on 1 April, with a presentation by the Vice-Chancellor.

In March we were delighted to celebrate the marriage of Beverley Cummings, our Publications Officer, to Tom Penlington of the Rhodes University Mathematics Education Project (RUMEP). We wish them every happiness in their future life together.

We welcomed two new staff members to the Secondary Schools Language Project: Ms Ntombekhaya Fulani to the post of Research Officer and Ms Philomina Aziakpono as Assistant Coordinator. They each contribute to the ZENEX-funded 4-year BEd programme. Ms Aziakpono will be leaving early in 2010, following her husband’s appointment to a position in the Western Cape. Ms Audrey Seobi’s temporary appointment in 2008 was extended for a further year to enable her to continue supporting the cohort of ACE (ELT) students funded by the Eastern Cape Department of Education.

We look forwards to welcoming Dr Eva Yerende as a visiting senior research fellow in the Institute for the first four months of 2010. Dr Yerende will contribute to our in-service teacher education programmes, provide an external evaluation of the Institute's educational interventions, and join the research effort focused on data collected from the Secondary Schools Language Project. She will also deliver a keynote address at the 2009 conference for English Teachers. Her visit is funded by the United States, and we are deeply appreciative of this support. Her visit has been facilitated by the Regional English Language Office, in particular by Eran Williams and Francina Magoro, to whom we are indebted.

Dr Jane Starfield of the Department of English at the University of Johannesburg was appointed Co-editor of *English in Africa*.

Professor Mike Marais has indicated his intention of relinquishing his position as editor of *English in Africa* after the first issue of 2010. The position was advertised and Dr Jane Starfield has been appointed to the position.

Ms Samantha Cassels was appointed as a clerical intern and has filled the position with distinction. She will replace Ms Philomena Aziakpono as Assistant Coordinator on the Zenex programme from January 2010.

## **DONORS**

Financial support from the following sources is acknowledged with gratitude:

The Arts and Culture Trust

DALRO

The Donaldson Trust

Eastern Cape Department of Education

Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture

Exclusive Books

Faculty of Humanities, Rhodes University

Grahamstown Training College Fund

National Arts Council

National Department of Arts and Culture

National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund

PanSALB

Rhodes University Joint Research Council

Rhodes University

United States Regional English Language Office

The ZENEX Foundation

## TEACHER EDUCATION AND ACE (ELT) PROGRAMMES



A group of BED teachers with their classroom libraries and mobile boxes donated by the ZENEX Foundation



A group of ACE teachers with their classroom library books donated by Biblionef

## SCENES FROM RURAL SCHOOLS

The Institute has been working with language teachers in rural Eastern Cape secondary schools since the mid-90s. This experience is to be captured in a book written in cooperation with colleagues from the Faculty of Education.



## STAFF NEWS



Above: Professor Laurence Wright receiving the 25 year long-service award from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Saleem Badat, 1st April.

Below: In 2009 Laurence celebrated not only the long-service award but also the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Research Award for 2009 and election to membership in the South African Academy of Science





New ISEA staff member  
Ms Ntombekhaya Fulani  
Secondary Schools Language  
Project Research Officer



New ISEA staff member  
Ms Philomina Aziakpono  
Secondary Schools Language  
Project Assistant Coordinator  
taking minutes at a Networking  
Steering committee



Ms Audrey Seobi continued  
supporting the cohort of ACA (ELT)  
students funded by the Eastern  
Cape Department of Education



Co-editor Dr Jane Starfield  
succeeds Professor Mike Marais as  
editor of *English in Africa* after the  
first issue in 2010



Samantha Cassels was appointed  
as a clerical intern, and will be  
replacing Ms Philomena Aziakpono  
from January 2010



Bev Cummings and Tom Penlington  
celebrating their marriage,  
14th March

## ISEA PUBLICATIONS

### PERIODICALS

The Director, Beverley Cummings-Penlington, Carol Leff, Eddie Baart, Nomangesi Kelemi

#### **Expansion of electronic publishing partnerships and distribution:**

An important 3-year drive to enhance the electronic footprint of *English in Africa* (EiA), *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* (SiSA), and *New Coin Poetry* (NC) has recently been completed.

The periodicals are now available online through EBSCO (on Academic Search Premier), through Gale Publishing (on Academic OneFile), through the Literature Resource Centre on the Thomson Gale (Cengage) platform, through Chadwyck-Healey (ProQuest), through African Journals Online (AJOL) and through Sabinet Online publishing products (SACat and SA ePublications). From 2010 full back-runs of EiA will be digitally archived by JSTOR (our international archive) and the Sabinet Gateway project (our South African archive) will archive all three periodicals, with a moving wall of 5 years. Through EBSCOhost Connection, the periodicals are linked to major search engines, including Google. The periodicals have an online presence in secondary and tertiary institutions in the United Kingdom through the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC). ISEA has indicated willingness to participate in the South African SciELO-type platform initiated by ASSAF. Negotiations are under way to include selected material from EiA in the Aluka project developed by JSTOR to capture work related to the apartheid struggle in a major database.

The impact of this initiative has been to enhance the international presence and availability of South African academic output without succumbing to the current trend towards offshore publication or distribution. The principle behind the exercise has been recognition that while gradual migration towards electronic publication is inevitable and on ecological grounds to be welcomed, unthinking submission to hegemonic domination by American and European academic publishing and distribution conglomerates should be countered where possible.

The periodicals earn welcome revenue shares through this international sales network.

- English in Africa* 35.2 (October 2008). Ed. Mike Marais. pp.172.  
*English in Africa* 36.1 (May 2009). Ed. Mike Marais and Jane Starfield. pp.98.  
*English in Africa* 36.2 (October 2009). Ed. Mike Marais and Jane Starfield. pp.122  
*New Coin Poetry* 45.1 (June 2009). Ed. Crystal Warren. pp.102.  
*New Coin Poetry* 45.2 (December 2009). Ed. Crystal Warren. pp.101.  
*Writing is Fun* 9 (October 2009). Ed. Monica Hendricks and Philomina Aziakpono. pp.8.  
*Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 21 (2009). Ed. Christopher Thurman. pp.110.  
*SOSSA Newsletter/OPAR* (December 2009). Ed. Hildé Slinger. pp.16.

**English in Africa 35.2** carried articles by Michael Wessels (on the Trickster in /Xam narratives), Margaret Lenta (on sentencing slaves at the Cape), Ashlee Polatinsky (on Cameron's *Witness to AIDS*), Maria Olaussen (on Paton's *Too Late the Phalarope*), Anthony Vital (on Gordimer's critique of ecology), Dirk Klopper, Hermann Wittenberg (both on Coetzee) and Haidar Eid and Khaled Ghazel (on Pontecorvo and Ousmane), with reviews by Dan Wylie and Tania Zulli.

**English in Africa 36.1** was guest edited by Sam Tlhalo Radithalo, and carried obituaries for Es'kia Mphahlele and Don MacLennan by Jane Starfield and Gareth Cornwell, respectively. The focus issue on the work of Njabulo Ndebele included articles by Ntongela Masilela, Rob Gaylard, Antjie Krog, Pumla Dineo Cqola and Helene Strauss (on Nyoka's *I Speak to the Silent*) and a review by Damazio Mfuni.

**English in Africa 36.2** carried articles by Liz Stanley and Andrea Salter (on Schreiner's letters), Elwyn Jenkins (on a neglected children's novel by Nellie Fincher), J. C. Peters (on Ivan Vladislavić), Eckard Smuts and Ian Glenn (on Coetzee), a review article by Malvern van Wyk Smith (on the new edition of *Le Vaillant*), and reviews by Travis Mason and Dan Wylie.

**New Coin 45.1** ran poems by Kevin Hollinshead, Dudu Saki, Clive Lawrance, Damian Garside, Sarah Frost, Ingrid Andersen, Karin Schimke, Kyle Steven Allen, Natalie Railoun, Ross Flemming, Arja Salafranca, Haidee Kruger, Jane Caroline, Peter Midgley, Robert Szabo, John Carse, Allan Kolski Horwitz, Grace Kim, Danie van Jaarsveld, Delia Nzekwu, Brian Walter, Lungelo Mbatha, Beverley Rycroft, Ken Barris, Rosemund Handler, Robert Edward Bolton, Mandy Mitchell, Elizabeth Trew, Denis Hirson, Anna Varney-Wong, Corinne Knowles, Liesl Jobson, Tendai Mwanaka and Vonani Bila. The issue also carried a review by Anton Krueger and three by Moira Richards, a memorial address by Ben MacLennan for his father, the late Don MacLennan, and further poems commemorating Don MacLennan by Dan Wylie, Brian Walter, John Forbis, Harry Owen, Norman Morrissey, Jeanette Eve and Quentin Hogge.

**New Coin 45.2** carried poems by Wanda Miles, Megan ven der Nest, Carol Leff, David Priilaid, Kobus Moolman, Gail Dendy, Lucas Zulu, Luisa Soares, Ryan Eric Lamb, Liam Kruger, Genna Gardini, Dawn Garisch, Marelise van der Merwe, Mari Ballott, Peter Horn, Ben Schermbucker, Dudu Saki, David wa Maahlamela, Tendai Mwanaka, John Eppel, Anton Krueger, Brett Beiles, M. Soga Mlandu, Ernest Zitha, Lindsay Wagner, Brent Meersman, Paulette Coetzee, Basil George, Mandy Mitchell, Sabata-Mpho Mokae and Andile Ecalpar Nayika. The cover text featured Ryan Eric Lamb's "Goodbye goldfish".

**Shakespeare in Southern Africa 21 (2009)** featured an edition of Nathaniel Merriman's 1857 lecture 'Shakespeare as bearing on English History' by Laurence Wright, together with articles by Daniel Roux on *Othello*, Malvern van Wyk Smith on the early modern image of Africa and Africans in Shakespeare, and Eugenie R. Freed on Shakespeare's Venice; essays by Michael Williams on Shakespeare and Byron, and Solomon Iyasere on Emilia's place in *Othello*. Scott L Newstok interviewed Welcome



Msomi, author of *Umabatha*, and the volume carried theatre reviews by Ashlee Polatinsky, Brian Pearce, Simon van Schalkwyk, Kevin Goddard and Justus Baleka, with book reviews by Timothy Hacksley, Frances M Ringwood, Annie Gagiano and Victor Houliston.

**Writing is Fun 9 (2009):** Monica Hendricks and Philomina Aziakpono, with Beverley Cummings-Penlington, edited this year's issue of the Secondary Schools Language Project broadsheet which carries material produced by English teachers and learners in Eastern Cape secondary schools. It is hoped that this publication will eventually transform itself to become a newsletter for the proposed Eastern Province Association of English Teachers.

#### RE-PUBLICATIONS FROM ISEA PERIODICALS IN 2009

**English in Africa:** The following work is to appear in the Chelsea House series Modern Critical Interpretations:

Foley, Andrew. "Considered as a Social Record": A Reassessment of Cry, the Beloved Country." *English in Africa* 25, (October 1998): pp. 63-92.

Medalie, David. "A Corridor Shut at Both Ends": Admonition and Impasse in Van der Post's *In a Province* and Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country*." *English in Africa* 25, 2 (October 1998): pp. 93-110.

Watson, Stephen. "*Cry, the Beloved Country* and the Failure of Liberal Vision." *English in Africa* 9, 1 (May 1982): pp. 29-44.

In addition, several excerpts from *English in Africa* articles will appear in *Burning a Hole on the Page: A Reader's Guide to 70 South African Writers*, by Robin Malan, forthcoming from Shuter and Shooter.

**Shakespeare in Southern Africa:** The following article will appear in the Chelsea House Modern Critical Interpretations series, in the volume on *Julius Caesar*:

Visser, Nicholas. "Plebeian Politics in Julius Caesar." *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 7, 1994. pp. 22-31.

The following pieces are to be reproduced by Gale Publishing in the series *Shakespearean Criticism*:

Pearce, Brian. "Hamlet the Actor." *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*, 19, 2007: 63-69.

Voss, Tony. "The Performance of Jaques," *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*, 19, 2007: pp. 49-62.

Wright, Laurence. Review of *As You Like It*, *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*, 19, 2007: pp. 81-82.

## THE DALRO POETRY PRIZES

First Prize: Kobus Moolman for 'Anatomy'

Second Prize: Kelwyn Sole for 'Steps'

Third Prize: Mxolisi Nyezwa for '8 poems from Malikhanye'

The awards for the 2008 DALRO poetry prizes were judged by Liesl Jobson, who writes:

It is a humbling experience to judge poetry especially when one is presented with so fine a line-up of excellent work. Kobus Moolman's epic poem, 'Anatomy', is an extended meditation on the body as the place of fragmentation and reconnection, depersonalisation and reintegration. The formal progression of a shaped parabola underpins this work, yet Moolman also succeeds in mimicking the misshapen corpus by contracting each sub-section. The chorus-like repetition of key images and questions layer the work and contribute to its cohesion. 'Anatomy' is searing, honest and brave. It opens to the reader in progressively intimate revelations that enable one to experience the narrator's visceral reality.

'Steps' by Kelwyn Sole is a mature, elegant and finely polished work. He demonstrates absolute trust in the reader's capacity for sophisticated interpretation. Mxolisi Nyezwa's 'Eight Poems from Malikhanye' is a timely expression of discontent and betrayal at a personal and political level. His rich and detailed imagery and the driving rhythm serve the expansion and depth of this poem.

The following poets are commended for their work: Ken Barris, Robert Berold, Alan Finlay, Thandi Sliepen, Len Verwey, Tendai Mwanaka, John Forbis, Gail Dendy, Rosamund Stanford.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Leff, C. *Flashes*. Grahamstown: Aerial Publishing, 2009. pp.35.

Wright, L. ed. 'South African Shakespeare in the Twentieth Century.' *The Shakespearean International Yearbook*, 9. General Editors Graham Bradshaw and Tom Bishop. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2009. pp. 171.

### Contents:

Laurence Wright, 'South African Shakespeare in the Twentieth Century'

Peter Merrington, 'Loyal Memory: The Tercentenary in Colonial Cape Town'

Victor Houliston, 'The Merchant of Venice in the City of Gold'

Deborah Seddon, 'The Colonial Encounter and *The Comedy of Errors*'

Rohan Quince, 'Shakespeare on the Apartheid Stage: the Subversive Strain'

Laurence Wright, 'Umabatha: Zulu play or Shakespeare translation?'

## 2008 DALRO POETRY PRIZES



Left to right: Kobus Moolman received first prize, Kelwyn Sole received second prize and Mxolisi Nyezwa received third prize. Mxolisi Nyezwa also received the English Academy's 2009 Thomas Pringle Award for Poetry

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS



Laurence Wright with the volume *South African Shakespeare in the Twentieth Century*



Above: Carol Leff at the launch of *Flashes*, her first collection of poetry, 4th September

- Robert Gordon, 'Iago and the *Swart Gevaar*: The Problems and Pleasures of a (Post)colonial *Othello*'
- Natasha Distiller, 'Tony's Will: *Titus Andronicus* in South Africa 1995'
- Rebecca Fensome, 'Giving place to Shakespeare in Africa: Geoffrey Haresnape's *African Tales from Shakespeare*'

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS

- Quince, Rohan. 'Shakespeare on the Apartheid Stage: The Subversive Strain.' *The Shakespearean International Yearbook 9*. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2009. pp.87-104.
- Wright, L. "'Most fearful hard work": Gwen-Ffrangcon-Davies, Marda Vanne, and the "Good Companions" in South Africa.' *Women in Shakespeare*. Ed. Krystyna Kujawska Courtney and Katarzyna Kwapisz Williams. London: Routledge (forthcoming).
- '. 'David Lurie's learning and the meaning of J M Coetzee's *Disgrace*.' Forthcoming in *J M Coetzee's Austerities*. Ed. Michael Neill and Graham Bradshaw. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2010.
- '. 'Irony and Transcendence on the Renaissance Stage.' Forthcoming in *World as Stage/Stage as World*. Ed. Christopher Wortham and Brett Hirsch. Los Angeles: Brepols/UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.
- '. 'South African Shakespeare in the Twentieth Century.' *The Shakespearean International Yearbook 9*. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2009. pp.1-28.
- '. 'Umabatha: Zulu Play or Shakespeare Translation.' *The Shakespearean International Yearbook 9*. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2009. pp.105-130.

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Aziakpono, P. and Bekker, I. 2009. 'The attitudes of isiXhosa-speaking students towards various languages of learning and teaching (LOLT) issues at Rhodes
- Hendricks, M. 2009. 'Grade-appropriate literacy and South African grade 7 learners' classroom writing in English.' *Early Child Development and Care*. 179.3: 271-284.
- Mann, C. 2009. 'Seeing the Cosmos in a Grain of Sand. Part One: the Micro-cosmos.' *Current Writing*. 20. 2 (2008):108-126.
- '. 2009. 'Seeing the Cosmos in a Grain of Sand. Part Two: the Macro-cosmos.' *Scrutiny*2. 14.1 (2009): 103-113.
- Mbelani, M. with S Murray. 2009. 'Seeing is natural, but viewing is not: teaching visual literacy in a rural classroom.' *Education as Change* 13(1): 53-65.
- '. 2008. 'Winds of change in teacher classroom assessment practice: a self-critical reflection on the teaching and learning of visual literacy.' Submitted to *English Teaching: Practice and Critique*.

Wright, L. 2009. 'Nathaniel Merriman's Lecture: "Shakspeare as Bearing on English History."' *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*. 21 (2009) 1-21.

-----, 'Third World Express: trains as 'revolution' in South African poetry.' Forthcoming in *Literator* 31.2 (2010).

## REVIEWS

Wright, L. 2009. Claire and John Saunders, *Shakespeare's 100 Greatest Dramatic Images*. 134pp. Grosseto, Italy: Pari Publishing, 2008. Forthcoming in the *English Academy Review* (Issue 1, 2010).

## POETRY IN BOOKS

Mann, C. 2009. 'Gone Swimming.' In *A-Z of African Writers*. Ed. R Malan. Pietermaritzburg: Shuter and Shooter: 51.

## POETRY IN PERIODICALS

Poems published in an accredited academic journal are indicated by an asterisk:

Leff, C. 2008. 'springlove' *New Coin Poetry*. 44. 2 (December 2008): 68.

-----, 2009. 'sweet water' *Sharp! NMMU Journal* (2009): 23.

-----, 2009. 'ancestral voice' *New Coin Poetry*. 45.2 (December 2009): 16.

-----, 2009. 'sweet water' *New Coin Poetry*. 45. 2 (December 2009): 17.

Mann, C. 2009. \*'Three Variations on the Theme of Prayer.' *English Academy Review*. 26.1(2009): 87-91.

-----, 2009. \*'Prodigal Sons.' *English Academy Review*. 26.2 (2009): 90-91.

-----, 2009. \*'The Fathers and Sons Cricket Match.' *English Academy Review* 26.2(2009): 91-92.

-----, 2009. \*'The comrades marathon.' *Literator*. 29.3 (December 2008): 231-2.

-----, 2009. \*'To J... among the galaxies.' *Literator*. 29.3 (December 2008): 233.

-----, 2009. \*'A poem to Christ near Winchester.' *Literator*. 29.3 (December 2008): 23-234.

-----, 2009. 'The Magic of Motse.' *The Spire*. Ed. M Whisson. February: 7.

-----, 2009. 'A Poem to Christ near Winchester.' *The Spire*. Ed. M Whisson. March: 5.

-----, 2009. 'The Metamorphoses of Energy.' *The Spire*. Ed. M Whisson. May: 13.

-----, 2009. 'The Fathers and Sons Cricket Match.' *The Spire*. Ed. M Whisson. August: 11.

## POETRY IN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Cummings, B. 2008. 'Wordfest.' *Wordstock*. 4 July.
- Mann, C. 2009. 'The comrades marathon.' *The Natal Witness*. 22 May.
- , 2009. 'The comrades marathon.' *Cape Argus*. 23 May.
- , 2009. 'The comrades marathon.' *Grocott's Mail*. 8 September.
- , 2009. 'The comrades marathon.' *The Witness*. 9 June.
- , 2009. 'It's Country Cricket Time Again.' *Grocott's Mail*. 8 September: 4.
- , 2009. 'Doubting Thomas.' Christians-at-Rhodes handout. 15 May. n.p.
- , 2009. 'In Praise of Good Administrators.' *Grocott's Mail*. 27 November: 5.

## LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS

- Mann, C. 2009. 'Can we get past race?' *Mail & Guardian*. 2 October. Johannesburg: 20.

## INTERVIEW

- Wright, L. with Pearce, B. "'Intellectual challenge is as necessary as breathing": an interview with Laurence Wright.' *English Academy Review*. 26.1 (2009): 72-86.

## CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC LECTURES

- Hendricks, M. 2009. 'Resisting performativity: sustaining a longitudinal education research project.' Kenton Education Conference. 5-8 November, Stellenbosch Techno-Park.
- Mbelani, M. 2009. 'Getting visual literacy right: A challenge for English FAL teachers.' Reading Association of South Africa Conference. 16-18 October, Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand.
- Wright, L. 2009. "'Most fearful hard work": Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, Marda Vanne and the Good Companions in South Africa.' Wartime Shakespeare in a Global Context. University of Ottawa. 18-20 September. Paper delivered in absentia.
- , 2009. 'Archdeacon Merriman and the Cattle-killing.' Grahamstown Historical Society, 17 October, Diocesan School for Girls.

## RESEARCH

- Ntombekhaya Fulani has started work on an M.Ed degree comparing potential literacy development in currently available English and Xhosa textbooks at Grade 4 level.
- Madeyandile Mbelani published a research article with Sarah Murray. He is currently developing a PhD proposal to investigate the role of visual literacy within the English (FAL) curriculum in a rural context.

- Monica Hendricks continues her work as part of the ABLE (Additive Bilingual Education) research project. By the end of 2009, she will have collected three years of classroom writing in English from two learners at Sosebenza Community School in Tarkastad. This data set will enable her to analyse the literacy development of these learners within the Intermediate Phase. This is a potentially significant contribution as there are very few longitudinal education research studies in South Africa. She intends to continue tracking the writing of these two learners in the Senior Phase, and to explore their evolving identity as bilinguals. As the subjects are a boy and a girl there is a gender comparison available, an important factor to be considered when the learners enter adolescence. From an initial tongue-tied shyness in English, the learners have become more comfortable and relaxed in the presence of the researcher, and their English has developed significantly during the three years of the Intermediate Phase. A perfectly bilingual learner in a higher grade acts as an interlocutor in these interviews.
- Research into the impact of the ISEA's ACE (ELT) intervention is under way. The HSRC benchmark post-test has been conducted with the Grade 11 learners in the districts of Fort Beaufort and King Williams Town. Once the tests have been marked and entered into the database, the results have to be analysed against the pre-test results of the Grade 10 learners gathered in 2007.
- Laurence Wright continues research into the reception of Shakespeare in South Africa. His edition of the second of Nathaniel Merriman's Shakespeare lectures appeared in *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* (2009), together with a collection of essays entitled *South African Shakespeare in the Twentieth Century* in *The Shakespearean International Yearbook* for 2009, which he edited. A chapter on Gwen-Ffrangcon-Davies and Marda Vanne is forthcoming in a book on women and Shakespeare and a further chapter on J M Coetzee's *Disgrace* will appear in 2010.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS LANGUAGE PROJECT

Monica Hendricks, Deyi Mbelani, Khaya Fulani, Boitshepo Seobi, Philomina Aziakpono and the Director, with contributions from Mary Louise Peires, Lynette Paterson and Nicci Hayes

Of the 37 teachers who registered for the ACE (ELT) course in 2007, 31 wrote their final examinations in December 2008. 28 graduated and one student is on an extended DP. The ZENEX Foundation hosted a very pleasant and much appreciated graduation luncheon for the graduating class, including those students who were not funded by ZENEX.

The project had a new intake of 20 ACE and 37 BEd in-service students in January this year, funded by the Eastern Cape Education Department and the ZENEX Foundation, respectively. Because of the increase in student numbers from 37 last year to 57 in the new intake, and to help in managing these two courses, we have appointed two new

staff members: Ms Ntombekhaya Fulani as school support facilitator for the BEd students and Ms Philomena Aziakpono as assistant co-ordinator for the BEd. Ms Boitshepo Seobi continues as school support facilitator for the ACE students in the Eastern part of the Province.

To enhance the variety and depth of inputs our students experience in ISEA programmes, a number of external facilitators have been invited to contribute to specific sections of the programme. In particular, we are grateful for the participation of Ms Mary Louise Peires, Ms Nicci Hayes and Ms Lynette Patterson.

On 10 October the ISEA convened a meeting of the Steering Committee to set the date and plan an English teachers' conference for 2010, as well as the next issue of *Writing is Fun*. The conference will be open to all English teachers in the province, but funding is currently available only for teachers currently on ISEA teacher education programmes. Plans are in motion to secure funding for one-day attendance by representatives from several educational districts. A sub-committee has been delegated to draft a constitution for the proposed Eastern Province English Teachers' Association comprising Ms Pindela, Ms Makubalo, Ms Cawe, Mr Setsubi, Mr Bam and Ms Tshangana. The Association is to be launched during the conference, which will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

#### **DINALEDI PROJECT**

An ISEA-led team (including Deyi Mbelani, Monica Hendricks, colleagues from the Rhodes Education Department and a desk-top publications specialist) has been invited by the Zenex Foundation to revise the Dinaledi Pilot English programme materials that were designed in 2007. The hand-in date for the revised version of the materials is 30 October.

#### **RESEARCH PUBLICATION**

Work has begun on a proposed collection of essays capturing the experience of ISEA researchers working at the project of improving the quality of English education available to citizens in the rural Eastern Cape.

#### **CAMPUS CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME**

Facilitators: Robert Berold, Crystal Warren, Mindy Stanford and Dudu Saki.

Now in its 13th year, the ISEA creative writing course is as popular as ever. Thirty people did the course this year, some of them for the second or third time. The course runs for 16 Thursday evening sessions and is open to anyone in Grahamstown, not only Rhodes students. The range of applicants is extended thanks to the Grahamstown Training College Trust Fund, which provides bursaries for aspiring writers who could otherwise not afford the fees.

Participants gain confidence as they learn to overcome their inhibitions and write spontaneously in a range of genres. At the same time they learn to give and receive constructive feedback and edit their work.



Given the diversity of age, culture, and interests of the students, it is always a challenge to create writing exercises that cater for and encourage different styles and genres. But it seems to have worked this year. The 2009 edition of *Aerial*, the course publication, is going to be worth reading.

## **WORDFEST 2009**

Chris Mann (Convenor), The Director, Nomangesi Kelemi, Carol Leff, Zelia Cobus-Milborrow and others (see page 27).

Wordfest 2009 took place as planned from Saturday 4 July to Friday 10 July during the National Arts Festival. Fears that the global recession would diminish attendances proved to be unfounded.

Since the inception of Wordfest, unpredictable funding has taxed staff to the limit. Planning and securing authors for the event has proved at times almost impossible as funds sometimes arrive just before the event begins, or are not paid until months after the event. I am pleased to report that following representation the National Arts Council has now agreed to provide the core funds of Wordfest on a three year cycle.

Wordfest is positioned on the fringe of the National Arts Festival which limits its profile. I am pleased to report that this will change from next year when at the invitation of Ismail Mahomed the National Arts Festival Director the main events of Wordfest will be positioned on the Main.

This year the keynote speakers were Mandla Langa who launched his Commonwealth Literature Prize novel and William Gumede the political historian with a fresh interpretation of the causes of some of the problems besetting the new government. The Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes welcomed guests to the opening with an emphatic address, drawing attention to some of the new initiatives at the university and how Wordfest promoted these as an outreach project of the university. The packed venue was also addressed by the Eastern Cape's MEC for Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture who enthusiastically emphasized her support for Wordfest and in particular its developmental aspects. We were delighted to welcome the Poet Laureate Professor William Kgotsitsile as one of the guests of honour and also pleased to welcome former Wordfest employee Mandla Matyumza now director of the Centre for the Book in Cape Town as well as author and TV personality Denis Beckett.

As usual a wide variety of authors and publishers participated, from the Eastern Cape as well as from different parts of South Africa. Thirty two new books were launched written in four different languages. The launch of Thando Mgqolozana's book about initiation rites received widespread national coverage.

There was the usual 'buzz' in the venue as readers, writers, publishers, retailers and educationalists met up. Although attendances at the live events remained relatively small, Wordfest reached a large radio audience. This year improvements were made to our electronic media coverage which further increased the listenership.

Over fifty radio interviews took place, in a variety of SA languages, reaching a total audience of over 17 million people. The interviews were broadcast on both national and community radio stations.

The extensive involvement of community radio stations is an expression of one of our aims, namely to be a multilingual festival of languages and literatures with a developmental emphasis. Other developmental aspects included workshops on writing and project management, the continued contribution of feeder Wordfests at the district level throughout the Eastern Cape, the Family Literacy project, the nascent high school programme and the Wordfest WordBuzz programme for disadvantaged youngsters. This was organized by a team of local and Swedish volunteers through the good offices of the Centre for Social Development at Rhodes.

Improvements were also made to WordStock, the daily literary newspaper. Book reviews were commissioned earlier in the year than usual and their quality drew favourable comment. Our partnership with Cue the festival newspaper led to improvements to layout and distribution although a number of distribution problems need to be improved next year. An innovation this year was the Classic Lecture Series drawing on great works of literature from different eras and cultures as was the involvement of a team of four management interns all doing English Honours at Rhodes.

‘Open Mike’ was quieter than last year although the entrance fee was removed to encourage attendance. The isiVivane street-parade was joined this year by staff and supporters from Blindlib. The Director of the latter in his speech at the opening said earthily that Wordfest was ‘bakgat’. Young singer song-writers performed original material in different South African languages on a platform beside the restaurant during meal times and in the early evening and added much to the ambience.

### **WORDFEST EASTERN CAPE**

Wordfest Eastern Cape again attracted over 120 writers. The programme is now organized by a management team drawn from the writers themselves. The programme was packed and in fact overfilled with readings, workshops, lectures and book launches. There were renewed requests from writers to spend more than three days at the festival. An innovation this year was a programme for SeSotho-speaking writers.

Over R100 000 is channelled each year to emerging bed and breakfasts in Grahamstown East. Once again during the evaluation session conducted at the end of the festival a number of Eastern Cape writers expressed anger and disappointment at service levels.

The absence of ‘brown’ writers among the Eastern Cape group is again noted with regret. We are still far from achieving full language diversity due largely to administrative constraints. We simply do not have the staff at present to implement the range of events in different languages that a fully diverse Wordfest requires.

We were pleased to renew our contract with Exclusive Books who again set up a retail outlet in the venue. Their revenue dropped by 15% which was acceptable given the

recession. Improvements were made to the speed of service at the Readers' and Writers' Restaurant and to the menu and this led to an increase of revenue.

After Wordfest a number of evaluations were as usual held at the convenor's invitation and independent from him. These turned up a number of suggestions for improvement. Most of these related to operations. One group for example was concerned at the quality of the writing and suggested a screening committee. All groups put forward some wonderful new ideas for which unfortunately we do not at present have the funds or staff. The convenor's Wordfest email correspondence for example numbers over four thousand individual items.

Funding from the *Daily Dispatch* was withdrawn at the last minute due to the impact of the recession on that company. The core funding came from the National Arts Council and supplementary funding was received from the National Department of Arts and Culture. The Eastern Cape Government again funded Wordfest Eastern Cape and Rhodes once again provided substantial support-in-kind. Exclusive Books provided book-tokens which proved invaluable in supplying honoraria for book reviewers and lecturers and providing books for the Word Buzz reading and writing programme for youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds. Wordfest would like to thank these sponsors and donors most sincerely for their continued support.

Thanks are also due to the Chair Professor Wright as well as to Carol Leff and Nomangesi Kelemi of the ISEA who do so much each year to make the event a success as well as to Mary Fike, Kim Nell and Samantha Leighton of the Rhodes Finance Division for their substantial contributions. Kate Axe, the National Arts Festival Fringe manager and the NAF director Ismail Mahomed are thanked for the courteous and efficient way they handled our many requests.

The convenor would also like to thank the short-term part-time contract staff whose skills and enthusiasm make such a difference, namely Zelia Cobus-Milborrow, Lorna Wilson and her team in Eden Grove, Sonwabile Mfecane, Maphaseka Wagner, Thembile Matiwane, Fundile Paqa, Mike Loewe and the WordStock team, Brian

Garman and the Cue team, Khaya Thonjeni and his team of radio journalists, Karen Jeynes, the staff of Exclusive Books, Yolisa Madola, Robert Berold, Sandile Diko, Dudu Saki, Cathy Gush of the CSD and a team of volunteers namely Andiswa Songongo, Sipho Mfazwe, Annelisa Songongo, Thumelo Tameko, Lungelo Madeli, Annelie Gustavson and Hanna Wadefalk, (the latter two from Sweden), the management interns Clea Schulz, Deva Lee, Thandile Njovane, Zoe Hinis, then Carolyn Stevenson-Milln, Simon Wright, Charmaine Avery and the Rhodes conferencing and catering staff as well as Godfrey Mona, M S Bucwa, Mcoseleli Dukisa, Nthabiseng Naketsana and the rest of the planning team from the Eastern Cape Government's Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture.

Ningadinwa nangomso!

Chris Zithulele Mann: Convenor

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS LANGUAGE PROJECT



Ms Gail Campbell, CEO of the ZENEX Foundation, addressing guests and students at the April 2009 ACE graduation luncheon



Some of the 28 ZENEX-funded ACE graduates from the King William's Town and Fort Beaufort districts

## WORDFEST 2009



## **DISTINGUISHED VISITORS**

Dennis Beckett (author)

William Gumede (author)

Professor Keorapetse Kgotsitsile (Poet Laureate)

Mandla Langa (author)

Godfrey Mona, Director, Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture of the Eastern Cape.

Ms Xoliswa Tom, MEC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture of the Eastern Cape.

Dr Brian Willan, independent scholar and Sol Plaatje's biographer.

## **GRADUATE SUPERVISION AND EXAMINING**

- Laurence Wright assisted with an external review of the UCT English Department (21-23 October 2009).
- Laurence Wright examined a PhD for UCT: Sarah Rowan: "The Efficacy of Song Itself": Seamus Heaney's Defence of Poetry'.
- Monica Hendricks is external examiner for the NMMU BEd Hons module: Teaching in a Multilingual Context and for two modules: Grammar in Context and Theory and Practice of English Teaching for the ACE at Wits.
- Monica Hendricks examined two MEd theses for the Aga Khan University, Institute for Educational Development, Dar es Salaam.

## **DEGREES IN PROGRESS**

Ms Ntombekhaya Fulani is working on her MEd.

Mr Deyi Mbelani is preparing a PhD proposal.

## **EXTERNAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Director serves on the English National Language Body, on the Council of the English Academy of Southern Africa, and on the General Executive of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa.

Monica Hendricks serves on the Board of the Masifunde Education and Development Trust.

Chris Mann serves on the Board of the Donaldson Trust, is Secretary/Treasurer of the Masikhulisane Trust, and Secretary of Spiritfest.

Deyi Mbelani serves on the conference organising committee for the Reading Association of South Africa (RASA).

## **CONCLUSION**

2009 has been a challenging year, particularly in regard to the larger numbers participating in our English teaching upgrade programmes. We are greatly indebted to all those who participate in the delivery of these programmes, especially for the travelling involved and the time spent away from home. The ISEA's commitment to in-school support and engagement adds value to our teacher education efforts. Wordfest is making great strides, and we hope that the constraints imposed on the initiative through frail and uncertain funding delivery mechanisms in major national funding agencies will be a thing of the past. The campus creative writing programme goes from strength to strength in its own unique way. The continuing popularity of the programme and the abundant positive testimony from past students speak eloquently of the quality of input, care and engagement which the team puts into each year's work. We very much hope that the national accreditation process for the Creative Writing MA will reach a satisfactory conclusion next year. The robust performance of our well-established periodicals is due in no small measure to the willing service of editors who devote countless hours of intellectual energy and no small measure of tact and emotional intelligence to the task of serving the South African academic community and the far-flung readerships these publications attract. We are grateful to all the editors, to the researchers, the reviewers and to the production and distribution staff.

We are deeply appreciative of the level of cooperation evident among the English-related initiatives at Rhodes, including particularly the English specialists in the Education Faculty, Sarah Murray and Prof Hennie van der Mescht, and the Director and staff of the National English Literary Museum.

With the timetable pressures occasioned by next year's World Cup bearing down on us, it remains for me to thank all members of the ISEA team, the research associates, teachers and facilitators; the scholars, editors, writers and poets; the administrators, the cleaners, the referees, the examiners, the technical staff; together with the management, financial and administrative teams of Rhodes University, for enabling the Institute to flourish and make a salutary impact on educational and human challenges out of all proportion to its core size.

**Prof L S Wright**  
**Director**

**December 2009**

