



cals news

Centre for African Literary Studies
“Collecting the Best African Writing”

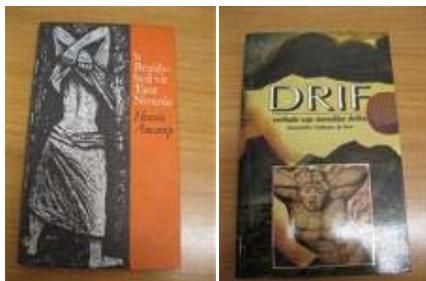
Newsletter

July 2011 - December 2011

From the Editor

In this eighth issue, we celebrate the launch of the Afrikaans Department and Van der Berg Collection, the completion of processing of the Richard Priebe Collection and the archiving of the Gillian Stead Eilersen Collection.

The newsletter includes a brief description of the library, portrays the various efforts of the CALS team, and highlights the diverse events and activities that the Centre has hosted. We would also like to thank our donors, Board members, users and CALS staff for their sustained support.



Recent donations from Professors Dietloff van der Berg and Bernth Lindfors

The Library

The CALS Library is available to staff and students of the University and of other South African tertiary institutions, international researchers and visitors, and members of the public. Its acquisitions can be viewed

at the website below and through UKZN's iLink catalogue.

cals.ukzn.ac.za

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The Afrikaans Department and Van Der Berg Collection

CALS has sought for some time to secure the valuable collection of books and journals housed in the UKZN Afrikaans Department Collection. CALS has a small collection of Afrikaans literature and will now have a very fine one which spans the drama, poetry and fiction of several decades including the notable Sestigers. The collection was moved to Gate House in October and Colleen Vietzen has already processed several shelves of items.



PGDIS students, Celani Zwane and Lungisani Mngoma arriving at CALS with a load of books from the Afrikaans Department Collection.

CALS has also acquired the personal collection of Professor Dietloff van der Berg, Afrikaans/Nederlands and Vertaling/ Translation Studies, School of Language, Literature and Linguistics. He has authored several papers on translation, including "Translating in the cultural and linguistic melting pot of post-Apartheid South Africa" in a book published by St Jerome Publishing in 2004.



Barbara Gentil, temporary librarian/archivist, overseeing the move of the Afrikaans Dept Collection to the CALS stacks for processing.

The collection has now also attracted a further donation of Afrikaans literature from Dr Estelle Liebenberg-Barkhuizen, the paper conservationist at the Alan Paton Collection and Struggle Archives.

This collection was launched on 8th December 2011.



Professor van der Berg giving his address at the launch.



Dr Vanessa Everson enjoying the display of items from the new collection.



Professors Christine Stilwell and Mbongeni Malaba with Miss Colleen Vietzen at the launch.

Gillian Stead Eilersen Collection

Two large boxes of Gillian Stead Eilersen's research materials and correspondence on Bessie Head have now been inventoried and placed in the correct archival folders and boxes in the controlled atmosphere stack room. The records will appear on iLINK soon. CALS now has a system for taking forward the processing of the unpublished documents which will also serve as a first step towards digitising some of this material.

Dr Gillian Stead Eilersen of the Odense University, Denmark, offered CALS research material she collected for her book *Bessie Head: Thunder behind Her Ears* (launched at CALS in June 2007). Dr Eilersen

wrote: "I would like to offer your centre these papers for several reasons: Head was born and spent most of her childhood in Pietermaritzburg; I did too and not only is the then University of Natal my own *alma mater*, but I began what I suppose could be called an academic career at 'Hags' (Old Building), barely a stone's throw from the present location of CALS." Her files consist of:

- Copies of Bessie Head's correspondence and copies of letters from most of her important correspondents, arranged chronologically, taken from the files of the Bessie Head Papers in Serowe;
- Critical essays written about Bessie Head (1974-1987, 1988 – 1995, 1996- about 2000);
- A collection of Head's own articles and short stories as copied from typescripts in Serowe;
- Reviews i) of Head's own writing ii) of *Thunder behind Her Ears*;
- Dr Eilersen's own extensive correspondence with publishers and friends of Bessie Head in connection with the research for the biography;
- A photo collection

Richard Priebe Collection

The cataloguing and classifying of the monographs has been completed and they are now reflected in the UKZN catalogue and are available for use on the shelves at CALS. Some duplicated items have been sent to other UKZN libraries, but will bear the Priebe Collection bookplate.

This is a collection of literature from Professor Richard Priebe of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and former president of the African Literature Association (ALA). The Priebe Collection covers African literature and ancillary subjects such as art and history; folklore; African-American and Caribbean literature. The collection is unique in its holdings of popular writing from Ghana. Its other unique feature is African Narratives of Childhood, a project Professor Priebe's scholarship has focused on over the years.

Journals

Fiona's focus is now on the cataloguing of all the journals at CALS. Fiona has been trained in descriptive cataloguing using *Workflows* in the UKZN libraries cataloguing module.

■ New Staff Members

■ Darlene Holtz Centre Administrator



Darlene joined CALS on 1 July 2011. She brought a wealth of experience with her from her previous positions in Information Studies and the Faculty of Law. Darlene has a good working knowledge of libraries and the UKZN system and made an immense contribution to the systems and services at CALS. She went for training on website construction and maintenance and is responsible for the CALS website. She has overhauled the website and provides regular updates.

■ CALS Interns



Kerisha Chanderdeo

In 2011 the CALS interns were Ms Kerisha Chanderdeo, and Ms Mayezana Madida. They were mentored by people of the calibre of Miss Colleen Vietzen, former Campus Librarian (now part-time Librarian at CALS) and Mrs Fiona Polak (Librarian) who is experienced in Special Collections work.



Mayezana Madida

Both Kerisha and Mayezana were awarded the Jim Milton Scholarship for excellent academic achievements in Information Studies in 2011. We hope to have them back at UKZN postgraduates in 2012.

Visiting Academics

The New Race Politics in the US: is Obama just the Beginning?

Professor Kerry Haynie Associate Professor, Political Science, Duke University; Associate Department Chair; Co-Director, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Gender, in the Social Sciences gave a lecture at CALS on 24th October 2011. The lecture was congruent with the wider role of the forthcoming Centre for African Studies



Professor Kerry Haynie



Dr Kirsten Nieser and Prof Kerry Haynie at the lunch held after his lecture.

Professor Shane Graham

On the 12th September Professor Shane Graham (Utah State University) known for his work on Peter Abrahams and Langston Hughes visited CALS.

Dr Lynda Spencer

Dr Lynda Spencer from University of Stellenbosch gave a paper at CALS on Chick Lit in relation to four Southern African novels as part of the English Studies Seminars.



Dr Spencer enjoying her first experience of the CALS collection.

Steve Kerchoff

Other visitors included Mr Steve Kerchoff, Information Officer at the US Embassy in Pretoria and staff from the US Embassy in Durban.

Institutional linkages

Msunduzi Heritage Forum

Mrs Fiona Polak attended the Msunduzi Heritage Forum at Msunduzi Museum (September 2011).

UKZN Special Collections - Open Day

An Open Day to promote UKZN Special Collections (6 October 2011) took place at the Killie Campbell Africana Library. CALS was represented by Mrs Polak and Professor Stilwell who did a presentation on CALS.



Staff of the UKZN Special Collections centres, L-R Mr Karunanda Chetty (Gandhi-Luthuli Centre), Ms Joyce Myeza (Head, Special Collections), Ms Yvonne Winters (Campbell Collections), Dr Nora Buchanan (Director, UKZN Libraries), Prof Christine Stilwell (CALs), Mrs Jewel Koopman (Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives)

UKZN Graduate programmes

CALs continues to play a valuable role in Postgraduate programmes mainly and is also linked to various undergraduate programmes at UKZN. The most regular postgraduate links are with:

English Studies –

Prof Mbongeni Malaba holds an Honours module on Imaging Africa at CALs. Dr Jill Arnett holds weekly seminars.

Information Studies –

In 2012 this programme will have two doctoral students in Information Studies attached to CALs, one working on Special Collections (Mr Aubrey Chaputula) and the other on heritage and archive issues in relation to CALs (Mrs Fiona Polak).

In 2011, five Information Studies Honours students did their compulsory research bibliographies in CALs's topics. In 2012 10 Library and Information Science (LIS) Honours students will be doing bibliographies on CALs' topics such as African literature in the diaspora and so on for linking to the website.

CALs employs promising Post Graduate Diploma in Information Studies (PGDIS) students as interns and mentors them through all the various functions of a special library within a big university system.

CALs also employs PGDIS students when possible to move physical collections for CALs.



Pgdis class of 2011 with Information Studies staff.

In 2011 the PGDIS class produced their materials development posters and pamphlets in relation to CALs. These were on display at CALs.



PGDIS student, Kerisha Chanderdeo with her 'Essentially African' poster designed for CALs.

CALs Celebrates Christmas



CALs staff and intern, Mayezana Madida, celebrated a successful year at a Christmas lunch on the verandah of Old Gate House on 1 December 2011.

CALs wishes all readers a peaceful festive season and a fine new year.

Upcoming News

Centre for African Studies in 2012

The Centre for African Studies (CAS) is poised for takeoff in 2012.

CAS is to become a centre of excellence for the production and dissemination of African scholarship and knowledge through quality teaching and cutting edge research.

The Centre for African Literary Studies (CALs), the Campbell Collections (Durban) and the Alan Paton Centre and Struggle Archive (Pietermaritzburg) will form the special collections component of the UKZN libraries supporting the work of CAS on the five campuses.

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