



cals news

Centre for African Literary Studies

“Collecting the best in African Literature”

Newsletter

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Editors Preamble

The Centre has been involved in a number of projects and activities that are aimed at the promotion of African Literature and Creative Arts and the Centre's collection. This sixth issue, details some of the most exciting events that were held at the Centre, as well as structural changes that occurred within the centre. The newsletter also includes a description of the library, recently acquired collections and book launches, as well current and future projects.

This year has been both busy and challenging to the country as we were hosting the 2010 World Cup, and to the centre, due to staffing issues. In spite of such challenges the CALS team did not want to be left behind in the spirit of the 2010 World cup buzz. A World Cup display was mounted to coincide with one of the most exciting events held at the Centre: the visit by students from the Drake University: United States.

The positive response received thereafter is proof that the centre is doing something right. It also gave an opportunity to create relationships with the international community and government departments who supported the visit.

Another event that showcased the team spirit that prevails amongst the Centre's staff, was the 2010 Time of the Write author visit, which was a huge success, as it included members of the public, and such high profiled authors like Pro William Gumede who wrote **“Thabo Mbeki and the Battle for the Soul of the ANC.”**

This event also gave the CALS team an opportunity to do image building and branding. This included, creating a new banner, and redoing the centre's logo,

The dedication of the Centre's staff continues to contribute significantly to the success of CALS.

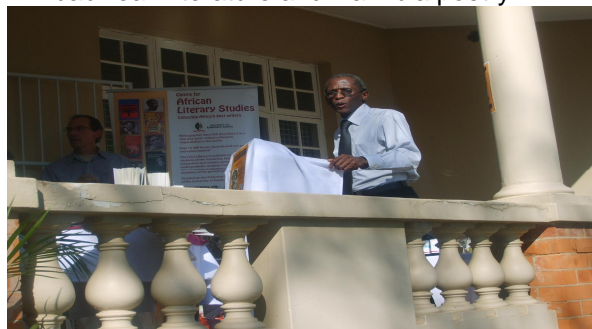
The Library

The 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.

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DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT

The Centre of African Literary Studies welcomes the appointment of **Prof Mbongeni Malaba** as the Acting Director from the 1 July 2010. He brings with him extensive experience and knowledge, of the Literature Studies, in English, African Literature, and Creative Writing. In addition to being an English Professor, he has worked for various African Universities, including Namibia, and Zimbabwe, and he has published a book entitled Charles Mungoshi Collected Essays, co-edited, with Prof. Dr. Geoffrey Davis, Zimbabwean Transitions Essays on Zimbabwean Literature in English, Ndebele and Shona. He has published widely in internationally renowned journals on Shakan literature, South African and Zimbabwean literature and Namibia poetry



Prof Malaba, speaking at the book Launch (see pg3)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

RICHARD PRIEBE COLLECTION

CALS has recently received a collection of some of the best material from **Professor Richard Priebe** of the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The Launch of this valuable collection will be held on the 13 October 2010 at the Centre, and a number of dignitaries from different fields of Literature, including representatives from the Virginia Commonwealth University, are expected to be part of this event.

The Priebe collection which will be processed and made part of the entire CALS collection, in due course, covers African literature and ancillary subjects such as art and history; folklore; Caribbean literature; and African-American 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, among several areas. It also contains rare tapes, magazines and folkloric material.

OPEN DAY PARTICIPATION

CALS took part in the University Open day activities where we had a stand with Poetry for Aspiring Poets as a theme. This was an opportunity to introduce pupils to the centre and its roles in creative writing and poetry. Most of the learners were curious about such fields, and we are planning to run poetry writing competitions in the near future, and the Open Day was an opportunity to market the idea to the pupils who might even come to study at UKZN in the near future.



High School learners behind the CALS Open Day stand, with Mr Masango (CALS Staff member)

WEBSITE UPGRADE

CALS website, has been given a much needed upgrade, which was in line with the newly revamped University website, launched on the 24th August 2010. Mr Jeff Nyoka, worked with MR Bharat Ramkissoon of the Web Management Department, who gave him training on using the SITE-Infinity program, to upgrade the Centre website. Our website includes pages, on past and future events, news, a pictorial tour of CALS, and other African Literature related links. It can be accessed at url: <http://cals.ukzn.ac.za>

LITERARY EVENTS

❖ TIME OF THE WRITER AUTHOR VISIT

CALS hosted authors from the 13th Time of the Writer festival which is organised by the Centre of Creative Arts. The authors held a discussion on the theme titled: *"Lost Voices-Promoting and Preserving African Writing"*. The event held on the 13th March saw a number of students, academics and some members of the public interacting and participating in a robust debate about the state of education and literature in South Africa. After recounting his touching life story which involves his escape from a war torn country to enrolling at UNISA, one of the authors from Sudan **Aher Arop Bol**, encouraged students to focus on their studies and to play a role in preserving oral history through creative arts and education.



L-R-Mr Jeff Nyoka(CALS Staff member) Prof William Gumede-author, Mrs Ashnee Peters (CALS Staff Member), and Aher Arop Bol-author.

❖ DRAKE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT

Another successful event was the visit by students from the Drake University, IOWA, US, on the 26 May 2010. This visit played a huge role in marketing the Centre to an international community. It coincided with the World cup season. After a seminar presented by Prof Malaba on *"The Role of Literature in the Anti-Apartheid Movement"* followed by refreshments and a tour of CALS, the students were gifted with Vuzuzelas and other branded juice bottles, both sponsored by the Department of Sports and Recreation, and the UKZN Corporate relations respectively. The emails and postcards that followed the visit are testimony of how the students enjoyed their visit, and they highly recommend their fellow citizens to visit our country and the centre.



Drake University Students with Their Vuzuzelas

BOOK LAUNCH

On the 12 August 2010 Prof Bernard De Meyer launched a book he co-Authored with Dr Neil Ten Kortenaar, titled: *Changing Face of African Literature*, at the Centre, as part of our mission to expand our collection in the field of African literature. Some of the dignitaries, included the DVC of Humanities, Prof Joseph Ayee, who emphasized the value added by such academic writing on literature, Ms Nora Buchanan who is the Director of Libraries and some visitors from France.



Prof Joseph Ayee: UKZN's DVC: Humanities



- ❖ Hosting the British council sponsored World Word SSA Language and Literature Workshop :30th September -1st October 2010
- ❖ The Launch of the Richard Priebe collection :13th October 2010

******We would like to thank our funders, members and users for their sustained support.******

WORKSHOPS

The Center, hosted a number of Business English Workshops during the month of August 2010.

SEMINARS

The Acting-Director of CALS, who is also the Head of the English Department, conducts seminars on a regular basis at the Centre. Recently the Centre has hosted a series of these post-graduate research seminars, run by the English Department during the course of the year. The English Honours module on *Contrasting Images of Africa* is also held at the Centre.

As part of social responsibility and community outreach activities, the Centre intends to host a variety of seminars focusing on Creative Writing and Poetry, and this will be an opportunity to introduce the members of the public to African Literature.

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