



## this issue

NBT Logistics P.1  
Did you know? P.1  
Research and Presentations P.2  
Brown Bag Series P.3  
Just for Fun P.3

## DID YOU KNOW?



...that CETAP administers a number of educational tests other than the NBT?

These include:

- ⇒ Academic Literacy Test of Academic Potential
- ⇒ Advanced Academic and Quantitative Literacy Test
- ⇒ Mathematics Achievement Test
- ⇒ Mathematics Comprehension
- ⇒ Placement Test in English for Educational Purposes

Visit our website for more details:

<http://www.cetap.uct.ac.za/cetap/academic-testing>

## NBT Logistics

*Estelle Murray*

A good news story from our Logistics Department:



Rodgers Maringa is our site co-ordinator at Giyani Science Centre, Limpopo.

On 13 August a parent contacted our helpdesk to tell us they were lost.

We told them to go to the nearest garage and advised Rodgers that we had given them his number and that the mother will be contacting

him, advising at which service station they are.

Rodgers went to the service station to collect the writer.

The parents thanked us for such an amazingly helpful, polite and kind person. They were very grateful for the service and the kindness shown by Rodgers.

# Research and presentations



**Kabelo Sebolai** presented at the CHED Research Seminar series in August. The title of his paper was “Distinguishing between English proficiency and academic literacy in English”.

The presentation focused on showing that academic literacy is a kind of language ability that is uniquely required for coping with the discourse demands of academic education. It drew attention to the difference between this and the kind of language ability required for conversation in social settings and which is commonly called language proficiency. The difference in student performance on two tests intended to measure the two kinds of language ability was used as the basis for the argument pursued in the presentation. This argument was that while there was an overlap between the two kinds of language ability, each was different as a function of the contexts in which it occurs.

**Robert Prince** had two papers accepted for presentation at two international conferences recently.

➡ The latest paper was “Assessment for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: a choice between assessments?” which he presented at the 42nd Conference of the International Association for Educational Assessment (IEAE) in Cape Town this month and will be published through the conference organising committee.

This paper investigated the theoretical and empirical differences and similarities between the school-leaving National Senior (NSC) assessments and the higher education entry level National Benchmark Test Project (NBTP) assessments. It argues that these two assessments should be seen as complementary. “The major challenges facing South African Higher Education are the appropriate placement of students and the creation of effective teaching and learning spaces. Using the results of both the assessments in a complementary way is the most productive approach for the placement of students and for effective curriculum development in South African Higher Education”.

➡ The earlier paper “Quantitative Literacy Practices in Civil Engineering Study: Designs for Teaching and Learning” was presented by his co-author, Zach Simpson, at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Designs for Learning in Copenhagen.

In this paper, the NBT Quantitative Literacy framework (Frith and Prince, 2006) is applied to graphical procedure used during undergraduate civil engineering courses throughout South Africa. Through this application of the framework in this context it is demonstrated that “such graphical procedures constitute quantitative literacy events in which students engage in various quantitative practices, the implications of which inform designs for learning in civil engineering in several key respects”.

➡ Robert and Nadia Hartman from Health Sciences EDU attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Siyaphumelela conference in June and co-presented the Academic Development Forum on the 11<sup>th</sup> August “Where is AD (and broader CHED) in wrap-around student support: what are the possibilities and limits of data analytics?”. This presentation drew on the Siyaphumelela conference and the proceedings and resources can be accessed here: <http://www.siyaphumelela.org.za/get/resources.php>



## NBT-by-numbers



Facebook followers



Twitter followers



Institutional reports distributed this year



Writers so far this year

## Brown Bag Series

Natalie le Roux



The CETAP brown bag research seminar series was initiated to find a space for staff to share research ideas and thoughts with colleagues in the department. The name “brown bag” refers to an informal meeting or presentation generally held during lunchtime and participation is on a volunteer basis.

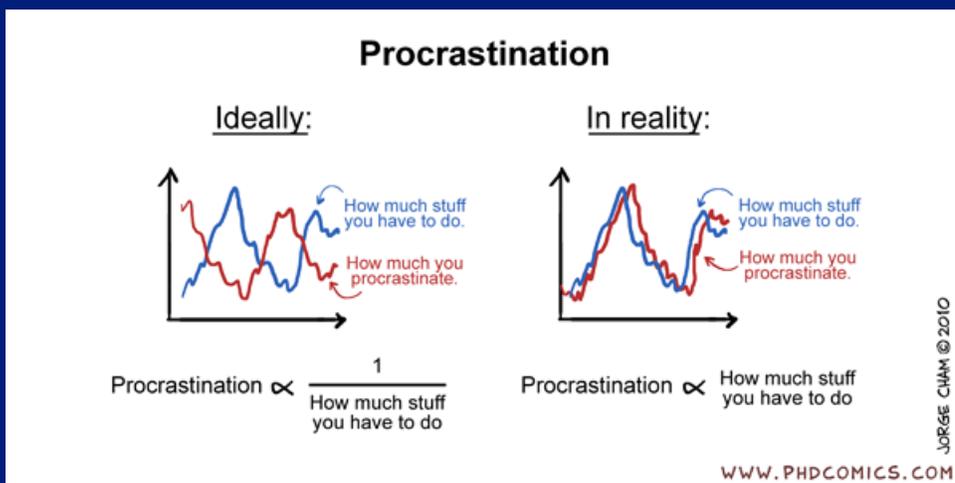
These seminars are not only an informal space for sharing of research ideas, but also a place for skills development and learning. Each staff member is given the opportunity to be the facilitator and naturally to present their work.

The series encourages engagement and participation and therefore presentations are limited to 20 - 30 minutes. The rest of the hour is spent on questions and discussion arising from the presentations.

The seminars take place on the third Thursday of every month. There have been five seminars to date. The inaugural seminar in April 2016 was presented by CETAP’s statistician, Darlington Mutakwa, on “*The applications of Item Response Theory in NBT Research.*” Janine Dunlop presented the “*The role of the University of Cape Town Libraries in support of researchers’ scholarly use of social media*” which formed part of her Master’s degree and another presentation on “*Monitoring social media NBT statistics*”. Natalie le Roux presented on the “*Implications of the unintended consequences of high stakes testing*” and an introductory seminar of the “*Psychological and educational testing: the differences and similarities*”.

The series is currently for CETAP staff only but in the future invitations may be extended to include other departments in CHED.

## Just for Fun



## Staff News



...to the August babies,

- Melissa Peters: 9 Aug

## Writers' Retreat

Naziema Jappie, Kabelo Sebolai, and Darlington Mutakwa are attending the CHED writers' retreat during the week of 29 August. We wish them a fruitful and productive time.

Centre for Educational  
Testing for Access and Placement

Level 4, Hoerikwaggo Building  
University of Cape Town  
[www.cetap.uct.ac.za](http://www.cetap.uct.ac.za)

Telephone: +27 (0)21 650 5462  
Fax: +27 (0)21 650 5466

Send submissions to:  
[janine.dunlop@uct.ac.za](mailto:janine.dunlop@uct.ac.za)  
by the 20th of each month