



Opvoedkunde Vereniging van Suid-Afrika
Education Association of South Africa

EASA CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2012 ELDRIE GOUWS

EASA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2012

It was my privilege to be EASA's chairperson during 2012. I am grateful to the EASA Executive Committee for their selfless dedication to education research in South Africa, their expert inputs and in supporting me as chair.

I would like to express my appreciation to each 2012 EASA executive committee member:

Linda Theron (North-West University) – Past President.

Lesley Wood (North-West University) – Incoming President.

Liesel Ebersöhn (University of Pretoria) – Editor SAJE

Anne-Mari Dicker (Unisa) – Secretary

Raj Mestry (University of Johannesburg) – Treasurer.

Naydene de Lange (*Nelson Mandela Metropole University*) – Additional member.

Aslam Fataar (*Stellenbosch University*) – Additional member.

Lebo Moletsane (*UKZN*) – Additional member.

It was a privilege to work with this team. Their dedication to EASA is remarkable.

EXCO meetings

Three Executive meetings were held in 2012, the first one at the beginning of the year during the EASA conference at Mpekwani, the second one in March, hosted by University of South Africa and the third one in October, also hosted by the University of South Africa.

These meetings are crucial to the smooth running of EASA. I wish to thank each member for fulfilling their respective roles with enthusiasm, and for their commitment for the present and future of our association.

I also wish to thank the Deans of the Education Faculties to which the Executive members belong, for sponsoring the travelling to and from the executive meetings.

I wish to thank the dean of the College of Education at Unisa, Prof Peter Dzvimbho, for his financial support in hosting the meetings at Unisa.

CONFERENCE 2012

Our 2012 conference was hosted by Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Faculty of Education at Mpekweni Beach Resort from 17-20 January. A wide range of papers were presented covering a selection of topical and relevant issues pertaining to the conference theme *Criticality, creativity and connections: in Pursuit of Educational innovations*. The keynote speakers presented by Proff Odora Hoppers, Naude and Vally enabled delegates to ponder over key issues and concerns affecting education in South Africa.

Prof Naydene de Lange and her team succeeded in hosting a conference of a high standard in a very beautiful setting. It was well orchestrated and brought together a group of researchers, academics, and scholars to debate relevant educational issues. Experienced and emerging researchers commented on the worth of these debates for their thinking on education. In this regard, on behalf of the EASA executive committee, I would like to express our appreciation to Professor Naydene de Lange and her team.

Conference motions

The interest group meetings were replaced at the EASA 2012 conference by Programme Curriculum Review meetings; therefore, no motions were put forward at the 2012 Annual General Meeting, and hence there were no follow-up or reports.

Election of incoming chair

One EASA member, namely Prof Lesley Wood from NMMU, was nominated for election as Incoming Chair, 2012, and during the Annual General Meeting she was unanimously chosen.

Awards

In continued recognition of South African and EASA researchers' contributions to education, EASA made three awards. For their exceptional contributions to the theory and practice of education, EASA awarded the medal of honour to Prof Naydene de Lange (NMMU), the research medal to Prof Raj Mestry and the emerging research medal to Dr Carien Lubbe de Beer. We also acknowledge the contribution and dedication of all EASA members and trust that these awards will serve as future motivation.

2011 Conference Proceedings

The EASA 2011 Conference proceedings were launched at the 2012 conference. We thank the Editors Prof Charl Wolhuter, Prof Johann Dreyer and Dr Anne-Mari Dicker for their hard work and dedication. We also thank Van Schaik publishers for their contribution in printing the conference proceedings.

2012 Conference profit

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University was able to present the EASA treasurer with a profit following the 2012 conference in Mpekweni Beach Resort. We appreciate this gesture immensely and it will definitely benefit all EASA members. Much appreciation to all concerned – especially to Naydene de Lange and her team.

2013 EASA conference

During our AGM meeting 19 January 2012 at Mpekweni Beach Resort EASA members supported the idea to forfeit the EASA conference in 2013 in favour of a SAERA founding conference.

Newsletters

Under Lesley Woods' skilful leadership two EASA newsletters were drafted and circulated.

WERA

As founding members of WERA, EASA has continued to be active members of WERA. Please see the EASA newsletters of 2012 for full details of the benefits of our WERA membership and future WERA initiatives that will be of benefit to EASA members.

Prof Liesel Ebersöhn is EASA's representative to WERA (2010-2012) and attended the WERA council meeting in April in Vancouver (Canada) and the fourth WERA council meeting in New Orleans on 13 April 2011. She also attended the WERA focal meeting in @@@@). Prof Liesel Ebersöhn complied with a request from the WERA President to co-chair a WERA-task force on 'Poverty and Opportunities to Learn'. Congratulations to Liesel on this prestigious accomplishment. I would like to thank Liesel on behalf of the EASA executive and the members for the time and money she has spent representing EASA at WERA and doing us as an organization proud! Prof Lesley Wood from North West University will be our representative for the period 2013-2015. We thank Lesley for her willingness and I know that she will be a worthy successor.

SAERA

2012 saw a culmination of the rigorous discussions about the possibility of a national education research association that commenced in 2010. Under my chairpersonship the steering committee hosted a successful workshop with a number of organisations on 22 February 2012 at Unisa. The main outcomes of the education organisations represented at the workshop were to continue discussions on the formation of SAERA and to host a conference in January 2013. I am pleased to say that with hard work we as a steering committee, myself as chair, Aslam

Fataar, Maureen Robinson, Shireen Motala and Ari Naidoo managed to organise the SAERA 2013 conference starting tomorrow 28 -30 January 2013.

South African Journal of Education (SAJE)

EASA EXCO honoured Prof Philip van der Westhuizen for his invaluable contribution as editor of SAJE over 10 years at a luncheon in May 2012. He was presented with a medal inscribed with the following words “In recognition of unparalleled scholarly service to EASA. We salute Philip for his vision and dedication for having built SAJE up to its present stature of internationally recognized and impactful journal.

Prof Liesel Ebersöhn the new editor of SAJE officially launched SAJE at the University of Pretoria in April 2012. Under the skilled leadership of Prof Liesel Ebersöhn SAJE continued to grow from strength to strength. I refer you to the repost of Prof Ebersöhn.

• Membership

Dr Anne Mari Dicker, our new secretary, continued the hard work initiated by EASA’s former secretary, Dr Esmarie Strydom, and EASA’s membership list was further updated. Members were removed from the current list if they had failed to pay membership fees for two or more years despite multiple, urgent reminders. EXCO members worked hard to recruit new members. The end result is a healthy, paid-up membership tally of 160. I want to thank all EASA members who paid their membership fees.

• EASA newsletters

The EASA tradition of sending out two electronic newsletters continued in 2012. Prof Lesley Wood facilitated the creative compilation of two detailed newsletters. These newsletters were sent out electronically to all members, but can also be found on the EASA website.

Closing remark

It was a privilege having the opportunity to chair EASA in 2012. I have learnt so much from the members of EASA, EASA's EXCO, and academics in other South African education associations. Our organisation has entered a new era. I challenge all Easa members to reflect, critically, on our own role in building EASA as THE education organisation in South Africa.

IN CONCLUSION: I wish Prof Ronel Ferreira of University Pretoria, the chairperson of 2013, well in leading the Education Association of South Africa. Prof Ferreira, you have the challenge to take our organization to the next level: we have entered a new era.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FE Gouws." The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

Prof FE Gouws

29 January 2013