



THE HOURGLASS *Connecting with Caversham*

June 2006

The first six months of 2006 have been a frenetically busy time at Caversham. Perhaps this seems at odds with the image of peace and tranquility that you hold of this special haven. As those of you who have been on a residency know so well, being a place for quiet reflection is one of Caversham's many important functions, with the pervading sense of peace underpinning the inherent creativity.

Behind the scenes a veritable mountain of work goes into the preparation for each workshop and residency. Take a deep breath and read through the details of activities undertaken so far this year!

Seven Accreditation and Course Development workshops were held aimed at identifying, evaluating, designing, developing and adjusting CCAW courses to meet NQF requirements.

Four Succession–Visioning Residencies aimed at developing leadership skills in and through the arts for the development of “Creative Catalysts” contributing towards the establishment of community-based Creative Centres

Two Partner–Leadership Development Fellowships were held which involved Crafters from both rural and urban areas and with community outreach coordinators from the Centre for Criminal Justice UKZN. The aim of these was to contribute towards leadership skills development and to explore value-added partnerships

Three Art/Craft Dialogue Workshops involving learners and artists at Rorke's Drift were facilitated by Gabi Nkosi. These were to share printmaking skills which can add value and uniqueness to established craft orientated processes

Two Specialist Residencies aimed at developing skills and introducing new techniques in printmaking and book binding for educators

One 12-week Caversham Research Intern Fellowship for M'Afrika Mtiya, one of the group of young leaders who participated in the first Caversham Succession Residency. This Research Internship provides an opportunity to continue building capacity for unique contribution through onsite interaction and a mentorship programme

Eight Partnership Development Meetings/Workshops were held:

- Two with Themba Mzimela from the **Morris Webb Race Relations Unit (MWRRU)** aimed at affirming areas of mutual contribution in developing Community Creative Leadership
- One with Winnie Kubayi at the **Centre for Criminal Justice (UKZN)** to explore contributions that CCAW could make to rural-based paralegals
- Two Visioning workshops/meetings with **Media in Education Trust (MiET)** which contributed towards planning and preparation for their 10th Anniversary celebrations and future partnership development
- Two workshops/meetings with **Vega School for Branding and Communication** establishing the framework for CCAW/Vega Partnership
- One meeting with **Roderick Sauls of art @school** to explore areas of partnership

Twenty seven activities, each having positive impact in many people's lives. Well done, Caversham.



N E T W O R K I N G

Extending the Vision

There have been gratifying direct results of 2006 Residencies to date. Four Creative Centres have been established, confirming that Caversham has an impact far beyond its immediate environs.

Hlanganani Creative Centre at Rorke's Drift, established by **Sbongile Mthiyane and Phindile Manyoni**, is the venue for children and adult art-based programmes. The Centre provided the focus for a highly successful Youth Day Celebration which involved the entire community. This has also resulted in a mutual commitment to explore and build stronger partnerships with Arts & Craft centre in areas such as printmaking. Read more in *The Individual as Inspiration*

Ikhayaletu and a centre yet to be named, are two Creative Centres being formed in Mtubatuba inspired by **Memorial Mnguni and Khululiwe Mabanga**. This is part of the Umkhanyakude Development partnership with Morris Webb Race Relations Unit. These serve the rural and urban communities of KwaMsane.

Emitshatshaneni Creative Centre is based in the rural area in Matatiele. Space has been given by a local school. Workshops at this Creative Centre will be facilitated by **Geoffrey Lebenya and Busisiwe Maphasa** who were both Fellows at the May 2006 Residency. This Creative Centre will serve as a forum where youth, especially orphans, can meet, be motivated and feel they are part of society.

Jabula Creative Centre has continued to impact on the Lidgetton community and provides a model for broader application. We have had very rewarding results watching young people begin to realise their potential. A notable example is a grade 11 pupil, **Senamile Zuma**, who is becoming an accomplished poet. See *Writing as Inspiration* for proof of this. Printmaking workshops continue to be very popular and we thank **Daniel's Flooring, Pmb**, for their generous donation of Marley tile off-cuts for use in these workshops.

art @ school partnership, based in Cape Town, grew out of the commitment and vision of **Roderick Sauls and Siphon Hlati**. A 2004 Caversham initiative contributed towards the initiation of this dynamic intervention. It continues to work with schools faced with a prevalence of gangsterism, through introducing the arts as an important contribution to the learning environment and cultivating positive growth in life skills. Reinforcing our partnership, in June Roderick and Siphon ran a skills transference workshop on paper lithography at Caversham.

FUNDERS AND DONORS

We once again thank our funders and donors, all of whom are highly valued, for their continuing support of and contribution to the Caversham's Vision.

They are:

**W.K.KELLOGG FOUNDATION
THE NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
THE ARTS AND CULTURE TRUST
FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
JOHNSON & JOHNSON
BUSINESS ARTS SOUTH AFRICA
VEGA SCHOOL OF BRANDING & COMMUNICATION
DANIEL'S FLOORING (PMB)**



I N N O V A T I O N Continually evolving

An exciting and successful innovation was the pilot project undertaken in partnership with the **Centre for Criminal Justice**. It once again affirmed the relevance of Caversham's Hourglass Process. This residency gave four paralegals/outreach coordinators the opportunity to reflect on their personal lives as well as the contribution they are making to society — allowing them space and time to re-energise their lives in order for them to continue to contribute positively in their chosen field. The direct creative result of this residency was a booklet entitled *Evidence of the Spirit in Law*, bearing witness to their endeavours.

Winnie Kubayi, Director of Centre for Criminal Justice (CCJ):

"Thank you very much for affording the Centre for Criminal Justice's Community Outreach Coordinators an opportunity to be involved in the Caversham Centre Based Residency Programme. Caversham is doing splendid work with its programme. The coordinators who participated wrote about it enthusiastically in their bi-monthly reports and stated that they are keen to apply the knowledge they have acquired. The time spent at Caversham has been of inestimable value in their personal growth and development. Their enthusiasm about the new information that they were given at the Caversham Centre and their enjoyment of the whole experience tells me that they have been personally empowered"

As always Caversham remains concerned with the HIV/Aids pandemic. A young Aids activist, **Clement Ntuli**, spent two days at Caversham, doing a presentation which led to vigorous discussion of a topic that touches the life of this nation. Clement has written a play of his life story which was presented at UKZN as part of his Masters Degree. While at Caversham, he also produced drawings and prints.

In a break from our fine arts tradition, Caversham ran a workshop with crafters from Mtubatuba. This was highly successful and resulted in the establishment of **Ikhayaletu Creative Centre** as well as another yet to be named Centre.

Look out for further exciting innovation in our next newsletter regarding our partnership with **Vega School of Branding and Communications, Durban**.

I N S P I R A T I O N

Inspiration in the Individual and the Individual as Inspiration

INSPIRATION IN THE INDIVIDUAL **M'Afrika Mtiya**

In March, the Caversham staff, — the essence behind each event being so rewarding for participants — welcomed M'Afrika Mtiya as a Research Intern. M'Afrika was a Fellow from the May 2004 Succession Pilot Residency. This new programme began with a 12 week stay and aimed to explore other opportunities for those coming out of the CCAW Leadership programme. It recognizes that while not all Fellows are suited to establishing Creative Centres, they can play an important supportive role within the arts arena. M'Afrika participates and contributes to a wide range of CCAW activities and has developed a particular interest in assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of creative-based programmes. This has resulted in vigorous debate around increased effectiveness of the models we use and has led to improvements. His generous nature compliments that of Gabi and provides Fellows with another source of





understanding and explanation beyond the formal dialogue of the working day. This provides an essential bridge where further explanation and problem resolution is needed. This complimentary role is one of the benefits offered by the Residency model which integrates focused teaching with social interaction.

uM-Afrika Mitiya - Affirming the Inspiration

After nineteen months of digesting, relating and learning from Caversham's ethos and values, I found relevance and practicality, through self belief, attitude and determination. This became a journey that went beyond my expectations.

Since the vision is based on 'sharing', CCAW gave me a chance to participate in exploring and assembling different ideas to be transformed into models that would help individuals. In this case the Centre became the laboratory for creativity. That led to me bringing another individual as a 'substance' to share and experience the creative process that undertakes to provide meaning and relevance in peoples' lives using the Centre's methodology as a tool. This allowed me to play a role of mentoring and inspiring other souls to be inspirational to others. The success of this affirms not only the CCAW programmes, but myself as well. Working with different people, being the helping- hand in making others realize the impact they carry when sharing their personal testimonies, affirms the fact that we human souls are unique in different ways and have important roles to contribute to others, meaningfully.

*The programmes that we have conducted have been very effective and remarkable. To mention a few, a fellowship held in March 06, Theme: **Building Bridges**, is one of the residencies which shaped effectiveness in co-facilitation - individual participation to group participation; and an informed guidance on facilitation based on vision and theme. Moreover, it has provided me a chance to improve on critical thinking, uniqueness in leading, sharing, responsibility and critical observation. This has enabled me to notice growth on different tasks within the fellows. From these subtle lessons, I am now able to interact and transform challenges into opportunities using creativity, allowing the task to be a process rather than a once-off objective. This became one of the wonderful experiences I had and I hope it will remain evident to me.*

I have also participated in other exciting initiatives that bear hope beyond Caversham. To list a few: the 'Hlanganani Creative Centre', which is an inspiration to the community of Rorke's Drift; and the 'iKhaya lethu Creative Centre' in Mtubatuba, which became a vision based in need for the young within the community. Through determination we have managed to ensure support by making follow up visits (site visit) to those initiatives, to make sure that projects are initiated and continue to function with the ability of sustaining themselves. During the period, the model evidenced itself to be an innovative 'Process' that allows growth rather than a finite product. This has strengthened the vision of the fellows in many different ways.

As the Centre encourages sustainability in building 'the Inspiration in the Individual and the Individual as Inspiration', I urge all those who have been touched by this awe-inspiring, stimulating molecule to maintain the capacity and remain inspirational individuals. As a symbol of appreciating the remarkable inspiration contributed by different people in my life, I shall, through determination and dedication take the lessons learned and touch each and every soul on my journey.



INDIVIDUAL AS INSPIRATION:

Hlanganani Creative Centre at Rorke's Drift was the inspiration and dream of a young woman born in the area. **Sibongile Mthiyane**, together with her friend **Phindile Manyoni** were identified to attend a leadership residency at Caversham, where they expressed their wish to establish a creative centre at Rorke's Drift. They had realised the need for such a centre for both children and adults, after witnessing a very elderly man walking kilometers every day to watch the children engage in creative activities. Sibongile's initial wish had been to establish the centre within the local pensioners' home, in order to facilitate contact between the elders and the children, with all the richness that such contact could generate. This was not possible, but the centre is housed in the local school and is thriving with Caversham's support, enriching the lives of those who attend. Sibongile & Phindile have returned to Caversham on a Succession Residency, bringing 3 members of the Rorke's Drift community with them, and so extending the impact of Caversham even further.

Writing as Inspiration:

In this newsletter, we take the opportunity to share the writing of two people with you, Sonto Nene who took part in the Paralegals residency, and Senamile whom we mentioned earlier under the Jabula Creative Centre.



Sonto Nene

Sonto was born into a family of 12 children in Danhauser in 1956. Since the death of her dearly loved and respected youngest brother in 2001, Sonto's family has experienced the loss of a family member every year. She therefore starts every year in fear, with the expectation of losing another. In 1997 she joined the Centre for Criminal Justice, qualifying as a Paralegal in 2001. During the reflection period at Caversham, she experienced peace and a renewed sense of purpose in her life. Here is the poem she wrote. Thank you, Sonto, for allowing us to share this.

PEACE

*A gift of silence
The most wonderful
And most precious gift
I've ever had in life*

*I never dreamt and thought
That one day I will be
Stepping my foot at Caversham
The place of joy and happiness*

*One cannot see it
And one can never understand it
Until granted the opportunity
It is amazing and challenging*

*To have this gift
In life I never realized
That my soul was still crying
For my parted beloved ones*

*Through reflection my soul got peace
I gained the courage
To face life with no fear*

*I learnt to face
The daily challenges
Thanks to Caversham
The place of peace, joy and happiness*



Senamile Zuma

Senamile is 16 years old and a confident and enthusiastic participant in weekend creative workshops run by Gabi at Jabula Combined School. She is particularly gifted in the arts of story-telling, writing and performance. Her writings show her concern with social and family issues as well as the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In this issue we treat you to one of her English poems. Thank you, Senamile and keep inspiration alive.

Together

*Not so long ago
African men had to carry passes
Every where they went
But because of our African heroes who stood up
And fought against apartheid
Today we are free*

*We now call ourselves the rainbow nation
Because we attractively black and brown and white*

*Tambo did it
Biko did it
Mandela did it
They did it*

*We can also do it
We can stand up and fight against Aids*

*We can make it
We must do it
We will do it*

*You and I
Together.*

C O N T I N U I N G T H E C O N N E C T I O N

As you all know, dialogue is fundamental to Caversham, so please contact us. Let us know where you are, what you are doing, how connecting with Caversham has affected your life. If you have ideas or writings to share, questions to ask, or simply want to renew contact with the inspiration that is Caversham, please contact us on:

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