

Life Sciences

10 Year CELEBRATION



The year started with a lot of firsts. This was a rather novel and challenging experience for me, a teacher of over 30 years experience. It was my first year at the Milnerton campus of Abbotts College. The first time I met most of the students. The first group of Grade 12's I would be preparing as the first candidates to study the new curriculum in the FET phase of the Life Sciences Learning Area.

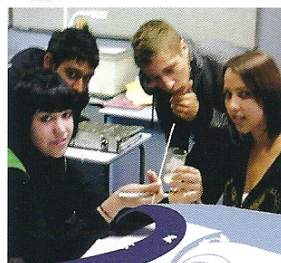
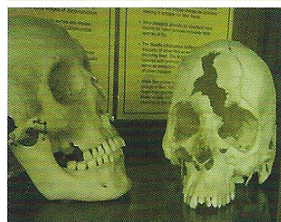
Fortunately, I found the Grade 12's a very enthusiastic group that enjoyed a challenge. One of their first tasks was to research the structure and then build a model of the DNA molecule. They then had to tackle questions like: How does DNA control the structure and functioning of cells? This was followed by the interesting topic of genetics and genetic engineering. On a lighter note we even explored how a tobacco plant could be made to glow by inserting the genes of a glow worm into its cells. The students also managed to extract DNA from a banana during a practical class.

There was even greater interest as we covered all aspects of human reproduction and the questions just never stopped. Other topics covered were environmental issues and the theory of evolution. We were very privileged to have two fascinating lectures by Mr Albert Van Zyl on the topic of Human Evolution. He is an Archeologist (currently on our teaching staff) and has worked on many excavation sites both here and abroad.

The grade 12's also visited the Tygerberg Medical School and had the opportunity to visit the Anatomy Museum as well as to attend a demonstration of human anatomy by a medical student on one of the human cadavers.

The Grade 12's were always ready to debate and question any controversial issues. It was stimulating teaching such an interested and lively group of young people.

Ingrid Frauenknecht



Comments from Grade 12 's on their excursion to Tygerberg Medical School

Mika: I found it interesting to see how the organs we have studied looked in reality. It was a shock to see the damage smoking does to the lungs.

Noellene: We never knew that tendons are stronger than bones

Udeshan: It was disturbing to see the adverse effects drugs can have on an unborn foetus.

Linda: It was very interesting to see the things one learns about as well as to see the effects of a mother on tik on the foetus she was carrying.

Kelly: The highlight of Life Sciences this year was our excursion to Tygerberg Medical School. This was a most amazing experience and puts thing learnt in biology into perspective.

