

Intersexuality means that gender, like race, is neither black nor white

by Gavin Chait

"I keep telling you guys my aim is to become a legend," said Usain Bolt, after smashing the world 200 metres record and becoming the first man to hold the 100 and 200 metres sprints in both the Olympics and the Athletics World Championships.

Competition at international sporting events is fierce and the pursuit of an edge, sometimes measured in hundredths of a second, leads some to cheat. Steroid abuse aims to increase the strength, speed and endurance of what is natural. But the androgens created by the body are not set to any standard. Some people do genuinely produce more than others. Figuring out what is normal and what is not is difficult.



Caster Semenya

And, sometimes, something else is going on...

Read more... <http://www.africagenome.com/genetic-politics/intersexuality-means-that-gender-like-race-is-neither-black-nor-white.html>

Extract from a lecture delivered by Dr Wilmot James, MP: *Charles Darwin, Human Difference & the Story of Caster Semenya*, Wednesday 2 September, at UCT's New Learning Centre, Anzio Road, Observatory

"Am I Victorian to argue that the characteristics of Caster Semenya's sex-determining genetics are surely not a subject for public discussion? It is private information and it should stay that way. The public has no right to such highly personal information".

Read more... <http://www.africagenome.com/genetic-politics/caster-semenya-the-public-discussion-of-a-private-matter.html>

The Darwin Trail Map: Official launch Sunday 27 September

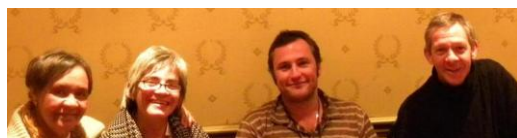
Retrace Charles Darwin's visit to the Cape – 31 May to 18 June 1836

Using Interactive Telematic Technology through Stellenbosch University (a virtual teaching system which beams lessons out to learners through satellite broadcasting), the map will be presented to ten schools. These schools will also be sent hard copies of the map. We are very grateful to the Western Cape Education Department and Stellenbosch University for allowing us to use lesson time to present this valuable resource.

See map... <http://www.africagenome.com/downloads/DarwinMap.pdf>

South African Monitoring and Evaluation Conference

Six staff members from five partner organisations (including AGEI) and the SEEDS programme manager attended the bi-annual SA Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) conference held in Johannesburg recently. In addition to listening to presentations from M&E practitioners from across the globe, a paper on the process of developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the SEEDS initiative was also presented.



From left: Ursula Seegers (ELRU), Bev Barry (Learning Cape), Adam Cooper (EMEP), Mike Erskine, Manager: SEEDS Education Initiative, University of Stellenbosch

I was delighted to attend the 2nd Annual SAMEA Conference. The theme, being "Values in Evaluation", provided a platform for interaction and information sharing among those interested in monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The sessions were very informative and with the newly acquired knowledge I can now use the appropriate methodology for my Evaluative Research assignment and confidently assist with the M&E of the Teaching Biology Project.

Melody Williams, TBP Co-ordinator

Skin – the movie – showing as part of the Tri -

Continents Film Festival on September 24, 2009 at Cinema Nouveau at the V&A Waterfront



Ten year-old Sandra is distinctly African looking. Her parents, Abraham and Sannie, are white Afrikaners, unaware of their black ancestry.

They are shopkeepers in a remote area of the Eastern Transvaal and, despite Sandra's.

mixed race appearance, have lovingly brought her up as their 'white' little girl.

Sandra is sent to a boarding school in the neighbouring town of Piet Retief, where her (white) brother Leon is also studying, but parents and teachers complain that she doesn't belong.

Skin is a story of family, forgiveness and the triumph of the human spirit.

Read more... <http://www.skinthemovie.net/>

Teaching Biology Project (TBP)

The third TBP conference will run from 28 September – 1 October and is primarily for Life Science teachers from outside the Cape Town district.

Ian McCallum, medical doctor, psychiatrist, Jungian analyst and specialist wild life guide who was the opening speaker at the July conference will be with us again. In addition to talking about the Evolution of the Triune Brain, he will be facilitating a discussion about skin colour with the delegates after they have watched the movie **Skin**, which premieres later this year.

For more TBP information go to: www.teachingbiologyproject.org.za