

## **Dr. Mawdsley takes Leave in South Africa and Australia**

During Fall Semester 2007, Dr. Mawdsley had the opportunity to conduct research at North-West University, Vaal Triangle, South Africa with colleague, Dr. Elda de Waal, and then at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia with colleague, Dr. Joy Cumming. Both universities were able to cover most of the expenses associated with accommodations and travel.

As Visiting Professor of Education Law in South Africa, Dr. Mawdsley spent 6 weeks developing two research areas with host, Dr. de Waal: a comparative review of the use of symbolism in the U.S. and South Africa, with special focus on the use of language under the South African Constitution as a symbol for the protection of culture; and, a comparative examination under common law and the respective constitutions of the two countries of rights of privacy for students and teachers in South Africa and the U.S.

As the Sir Alan Sewell Visiting Professor of Education and Law in Australia, Dr. Mawdsley developed over a period of 9 weeks a number of research themes with host Dr. Cumming: a comparative examination of educational malpractice as a remedy for ineffective instruction in the two countries; the considerable differences between the two countries in conducting student searches; and, a comparison of parental responsibility in education for the intentional destructive actions of their children.

This collaboration has represented over 5 years of past collaborative research and writing efforts and continues into the future with joint presentations at the South Africa Education Law Association (SAELA) and Australia/New Zealand Education Law Association (ANZELA) Conferences in fall, 2008.