

RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn



Rhodes Communication & Advancement: Alumni Newsletter

March 2017

Issue 61

***“Learn from life, learn from our people, learn from books, and learn from the experience of others.
Never stop learning.”***

Amilcar Cabral

Dear Old Rhodians and friends,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2017! We have started the year on a positive note with orientation and registration getting off to an amazingly seamless start. Rhodes Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, welcomed the first years in his address at the Monument.

“Learning at Rhodes University is a shared responsibility between the student and the academic staff. Our responsibility – yours and ours – is to enhance the already pre- eminent standing of our university as an outstanding institution of higher learning and academic excellence”.

The Rhodes Alumni Team

Rhodes welcomes their new Director for Communications & Advancement

Former Parliamentary spokesman, Luzuko Jacobs hit the ground running. “I have accepted my role in this institution fully aware of the multi-pronged challenge,” he said.

Born and bred in Seymour in the Eastern Cape, Luzuko studied for his undergraduate and Honours degrees at the University of Fort Hare. He then completed his Masters degree in Journalism at Rhodes where he graduated cum laude in 2000. He has always known that he wanted to be in the academic space and the opportunity to come back to Grahamstown has presented him with an opportunity to study towards his PhD. Although he says he is deferring his PhD for another year while he settles into his new position, he is looking forward to commencing studies next year. He looks forward to building relationships with the Alumni.



Luzuko Jacobs

Read the full story [here](#)

All things bright and beautiful

The first month of Rhodes University's new academic year went off to an amazingly seamless start. Students, parents, young siblings and their pets came in numbers for registration. The process was so impressively well organised that classes commenced as scheduled on the third week of February.

Approximately 1 494 new students so far have been registered, but the figure is likely to increase as more registrations happen over March.

Emotions ran high for those parents who came to register for the very first time in their family lives. Some came from as far as Johannesburg, Tanzania and Stellenbosch seeking what they call, "a serene studying environment to ensure big city lights do not distract our children".

Many parents accompanied their children to ensure they get first-hand experience of the life their children will be living for the next three to four years. It was touching to hear how some parents were envious of the opportunity their children have to attend an institution of this calibre.

The highlight of the weekend for Old Rhodians was the Orientation Cocktail Party. The event is specifically aimed at new students who have a family connection to Rhodes. It also gives their Old Rhodian relative and the student the unique opportunity to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, and other members of staff on a more personal level.



New and returning students with their families

Some expressions from both parents and students

- The upkeep of the campus is commendable
- The best place to shape the activism of young minds
- The most diverse environment to raise broad thinking children
- The state of the art Library is an investment
- The quality and quantity of research is ideal for building the South African economy
- The campus reminds me of the poem "All things bright and beautiful"

Please [read](#) VC Address to new Students and Parents 2017

Nominate Distinguished and Emerging Old Rhodians!

We know that you know of Old Rhodians who the University could honour for their individual achievements and selfless service to human kind. The Old Rhodian Awards recognise the leading role models of our University and celebrate their achievements over the Founders' Weekend in August. Nominate them for either the Distinguished or Emerging Old Rhodian Awards.

The Distinguished OR Award honours Old Rhodians who have reached exceptional heights in their career over an extended period.

The Emerging OR Award honours those who are 40 years old or younger, have excelled early in their career and show potential for continued success. The closing date for nominations is the 15th June 2017.

For more information on the criteria and information on who the previous recipients were, please [click here](#). Please download the nomination form below and email to t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za

[Old Rhodian Awards Nominations](#)



Caroline Rowland

RU Chancellor:
Judge Lex Mpati
(Ret.)

Mbusowemvelo
Mtshali



Sherwin Bryce-Pease

Tanya Accone

Nondumiso Hlopho

RU calls for donations

In February every year, every university Vice-Chancellor writes to the alumni and friends of the university requesting donations.

They never forget to add 'Remember, donations are tax deductible in terms of section 18A of the income tax act'. Today the tax benefit of up to 41% if the donation does not seem to hit the spot. It is sad to see the reaction in social media, "What? Students burn the universities and now you want donations? Are you joking?"

It is a great pity that so many are missing the most important point in the #FeesMustFall crisis. This debate is not about a small minority of students who have resorted to violence. It is about the very future of South Africa.

National Treasury studies reveal that South Africa has to create 9 million new good jobs in the next 50 years or there will be social chaos. Then all will be losers, rich and poor alike.

"To maintain a competitive edge in a rapidly transforming knowledge economy, countries need to invest more in quality education. Not even minimum wage schedules can multiply wages by factors of five or ten: to achieve that level of progress, education and technology are the decisive factors."

Education is the only hope for South Africa. Universities have to create the leadership that can somehow create the good jobs that will make a better life for all. There just is no other solution on the table. The crisp issue in the #FeesMustFall debate is Section 29 of the constitution.

Everyone has the right—

(a) To a basic education, including adult basic education; and

(b) to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible.

#FeesMustFall-for-all (including the wealthy) is not achievable or desirable in South Africa today. The cost of doubling the current post education budget of R68 billion per annum as recommended by the Commission of Enquiry into Higher Education cannot be achieved without increasing State borrowing or reducing delivery to other needy South Africans. That would fly in the face of the constitution.

Read the full article by Prof Matthew Lester [here](http://criticalthought.co.za) at criticalthought.co.za



Professor Matthew Lester

Funding Dreams – Securing Futures

The FeesMustFall movement protests of 2015 and 2016 have highlighted a stark tertiary education reality; students from impoverished circumstances need external financial support in order to study, excel and work towards being the future of this country.

Rhodes is blessed to have staff, alumni and convocation who give unconditionally, thus making dreams become reality for the students.

It is worth mentioning that Rhodes University has a high percentage of giving from staff, not only through the Annual Fund but also directly to students. Rhodes University staff support these students because they can see the difference that their donations make on a daily basis.

The year 2017 has been a productive year and we would like to introduce you to some of the Old Rhodians who have made it possible for us to welcome students from various family backgrounds.

John and Ros Houmoller, who live in the United Kingdom have for the second year in a row paid fees for two students, twin brothers; Thabo and Thabiso Ngoxo. The Houmollers asked that students from the Eastern Cape wanting to study for a science, mathematics or business degree, who had excelled academically in Grade 12, be shortlisted as potential recipients. The twins, who matriculated through the Gadra Matric School in Grahamstown, are both academically inclined and display remarkable musicality as well.

When approached for input in the awarding of the funding, Ashley Westaway of Gadra recommended that the bursary should be shared between the brothers, as it would be an impossible task to determine which brother was "more deserving".

The brothers are now in their second year of study and look forward to meeting their benefactors in March.

Thank you to all the members of staff, alumni, convocation and corporates that have already contributed to R1.6 million in the first two months of 2017.

Contact annualfund@ru.ac.za or visit our Giving page [here](#) to find out how you can contribute

Grahamstown College Fund opens their pockets deep for student funding



The Grahamstown Training College Fund (GTCF) has added an additional R52 000 to the half a million they have donated to Rhodes University since 1993. The Fund was established in 1977 by the Sisters of the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord with the capital sum received from Rhodes University for the purchase of the St Peter's Campus.

The Fund makes annual grants to institutions and NGOs for educational purposes and currently supports the Department of Music and the Institute for the Study of English in Africa (ISEA) at Rhodes University.

Emeritus Professor Paul Walters (OR), the Chair of the Fund for the past twenty years or so, was born in Port Elizabeth, grew up in Johannesburg and later attended Rhodes University in 1962. He graduated with a BA (Honours) in 1965 and a PhD in 1970.

He taught in the United States and Pietermaritzburg before returning to Rhodes in 1979.

He was the first incumbent of the HA Molteno Chair, and has served as Director of the ISEA, National Director for the Molteno Project, and (and more recently) as Head of the Department of English. He was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997 together with Professor Hennie van der Mescht. He has also served as Public Orator under the former VC and distinguished OR David Woods. This included 10 orations in the Rhodes's Centenary Year.

Walters is married to June, daughter of another distinguished OR, the late Archbishop Emeritus Philip Russell MBE, and the couple have four sons, all of whom hold Rhodes degrees. They have six grandchildren and recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with the whole family present in Grahamstown.



Professor Walters is currently a Lay Minister and additional Church Warden at the Grahamstown Cathedral. He ensures that all the Fund's cheques are hand delivered, making him a welcome sight at the Alumni House.

Rosemary Libby's Legacy of Education Bursary

The memory of Rosemary Libby (née Shaw) lives on at Rhodes through a bursary, which has been generously donated in her name. Rosemary acquired a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rhodes University in 1961, and worked as a primary school teacher and librarian, providing services for lecturers and students. Her passion for providing quality education will continue in the form of a bursary created in her honour. Peter Libby has donated R500 000 and a further bequest of R500 000 to commemorate his wife.

Theirs was not the traditional marriage between two Rhodents who met while studying. Peter met Rosemary on a train in 1963, while they were travelling from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg. The pair married on 19th December, 1964. Rosemary was entitled to wear the Godlington Veil, which is held in Albany Museum, on her wedding day. She looked lovely in the veil.

Peter studied at the Southampton Technical College between 1957 and 1962, where he qualified as an aeronautical engineer. He worked in manufacturing in South Africa and Botswana,



Peter Libby and his late wife Rosemary

before retiring as an independent management consultant in 2002. Rosemary and Peter had two children in the 1960s. Ian owns an accounting company and resides with his family in Brisbane, Australia. Beth resides in Randburg, South Africa with her family, and is studying to become a teacher. She has always been inspired by her mom.

The Libbys have attended Rhodes legacy luncheons and reunions in Johannesburg since 2010. Their generosity has been ongoing in the form of donations towards the Annual Fund as well as the Pocket Money Fund.

Peter has bequeathed the bursary in memory of Rosemary, who passed away on Good Friday, 25 March 2016, leaving her gift of education for the benefit of future generations. A donor paver in Rosemary's name will be placed in front of the main administration building, in honour of the Libby's generous donation towards ensuring that the legacy of education lives on.

The Give5 Campaign is growing

After a successful O-Week programme, during which Alumni Relations served 2 437 glasses of purple lemonade to first years at the Purple Chill Stations, we are ready for Give5.



Give5 is a fundraising campaign run by students to raise money for fellow students.

This year's one-week campaign runs from the 22nd of March until the 2nd of April with the ceremonial Fire Walk planned for the 31st of March 2017.

We hope you will Confront Your Fears, and Conquer the Coals with us this year as we raise funds to assist recipients of the Pocket Money Fund. The Fund gives students a R200 allowance per month for 10 months a year.

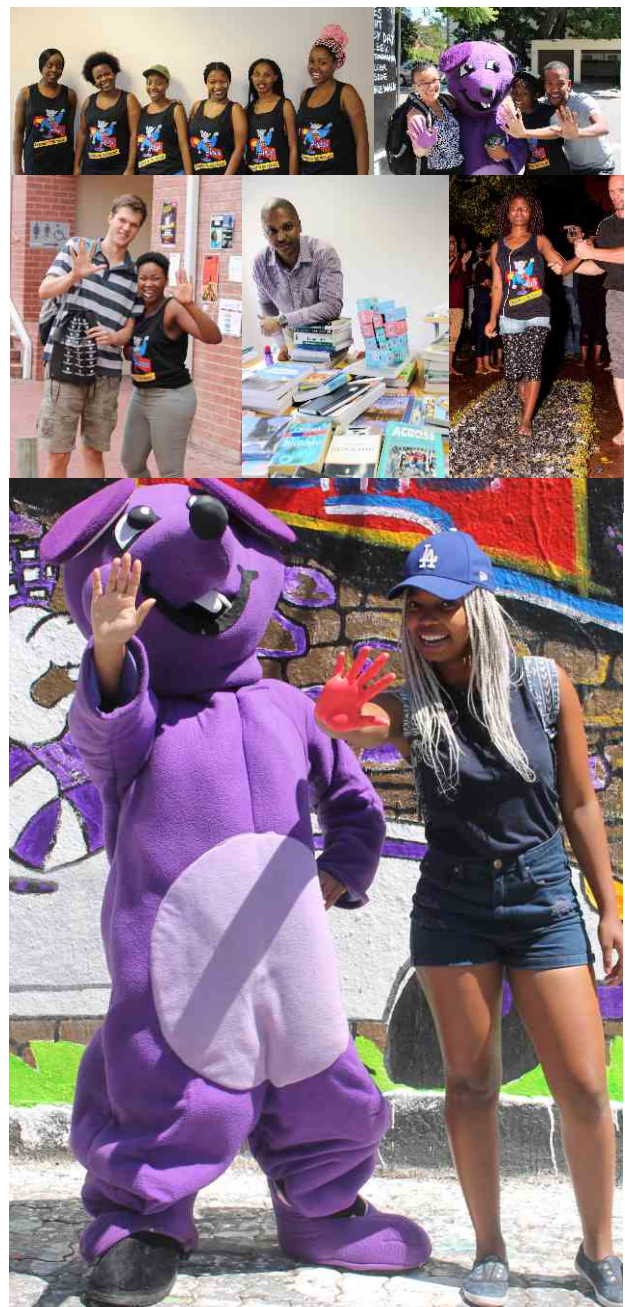
Last year, the students and staff, raised more than R 80 000 during the one week campaign. Although Give5 runs throughout the year, the one-week campaign is vital, as it brings in the bulk of the money raised for this project. The waiting list for the Pocket Money Fund is growing and give5 has started a Toiletry and Non-perishable Collection to further alleviate financial stress.

We will be most grateful for any monetary contribution towards the fund, or gifts in kind such as toiletries, stationary, clothes, coffee and tea.

Email annualfund@ru.ac.za for further information and please drop items off at Alumni House for the students to gain easy access to them. Please consider supporting Give5 2017 and join us in our determination to help our students raise as much money as they can to ensure that fellow students can cover basic essentials.

Watch the Oppidan Press YouTube below to see how innovative and passionate our students are about give5.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXuiJL2cgPw>



Give5 has been well received by students over the years

The Rhodes University Transformation Agenda

The University continues to engage in open discussions with all of its stakeholders about transformation at Rhodes University in the sincere interest of "fostering an institutional culture which promotes tolerance and respect for fundamental human rights and creates an appropriate environment for teaching, research and learning".

A statement inviting the Rhodes University Community to participate in a transformation summit that would 'consolidate and provide impetus to the University's transformation journey and devise a less cumbersome process to address demands regarding the name of the University' was sent out by the Chair of Council on 8 June 2016.

It stated that the process and the event of the summit should be 'inclusive, consultative, open and well publicised' (Rhodes University Council, 2016). The Alumni are a strategic and the largest stakeholder group in the Rhodes University community and play a critical role in the institution. Due to the geographic location of Grahamstown, among other factors, to hold the consultative process only on Campus would result in our alumni not being adequately engaged and represented in the process.

This would be an untenable situation. Constructive and meaningful input can be generated by implementing innovative ways to afford our alumni reasonable opportunity to be part of the process and thus contribute to the "crafting of the institution's transformation journey."

Transformation of institutions in the post-apartheid political and policy environment involves highly emotive issues. The manner in which these issues are addressed must be systematic, responsible and fair. Affording our alumni the opportunity to be consulted and to give input to this process is paramount. Alumni consultations will be held locally and internationally to ensure that the data collected for submission at the Transformation Summit truly reflects the views of our alumni.

Please keep an eye on our website and your inboxes for our communications/survey in this regard. Please contact t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za if you are able to volunteer your services in your area. Help is needed to find venues and to implement the correct format of the consultation, resulting in accurate output data being submitted to the Alumni Relations Office.

Purple Celebrations 2017

Rhodes University remains keen to support its alumni reunions in various places. The Alumni Office will support this through the database and will assist in sending out invitations and taking RSVPs. This year, the theme for all of the reunions will be Alumni Consultation on Transformation and the Future of the Institution's Name.

We have had a call from an Alumnus living in Dubai to start the process: Please email t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za if you are living in Dubai so that we can start preparing an accurate guest list.

Perth, Australia - 9th May 2017

Where: Claremont Yacht Club

When: Tuesday, 9th May 2017

Time: From 5.30pm to 8pm

Costs: \$20 per head cover charge.

Speaker: Professor George Wells is on sabbatical from Rhodes University and will be visiting Perth, Australia. Prof Wells is a graduate of Rhodes University. He completed his PhD degree in Parallel and Distributed Computing at the University of Bristol. He is a Sun Certified Java Programmer.

Organisers:

Working with the team at the RU Alumni Office your local organisers are:

Andrew Burnett – burnetts@westnet.com.au

Kevin Cockcroft – kjcaust@optusnet.com.au



The Purple shall govern!

Thursday is the day for Rhodents to unite and to accentuate the pride in being part of one family.

The university is composed of a unique blend of students, alumni and staff with many different points of views and as can happen within all families, disagreement occurs. Purple Thursday is designed to bridge these factors.

Every Thursday the university unites in wearing a touch of purple to show their pride in being part of the same family. We can have dissent and conflict, but within the academic space that we have created, imagination, discussions and agreements to disagree are encouraged with respect and acknowledgment of each other's common bond – Rhodes University. Become part of the purple movement by wearing something purple every Thursday.

Send us your news and your pictures

We know you are doing amazing things out there. So please send us your news and a high quality jpeg of yourself for the Communications and Advancement Division Rhodos Magazine, to alumni@ru.ac.za

We look forward to receiving your news and seeing you soon in person at one of our events. Please remember to send in your new contact details to alumni@ru.ac.za

The links below give you all the ongoing access you need and more:

[Alumni in the News](#)

[General RU News](#)

[USA Trust Web Site](#)

[UK Trust Web Site](#)

[Old Rhodian Authors](#)



Click [here](#) for an online application form if you do not have a MySchool Card linked to Rhodes University. All revenue goes towards an Old Rhodian Bursary

