



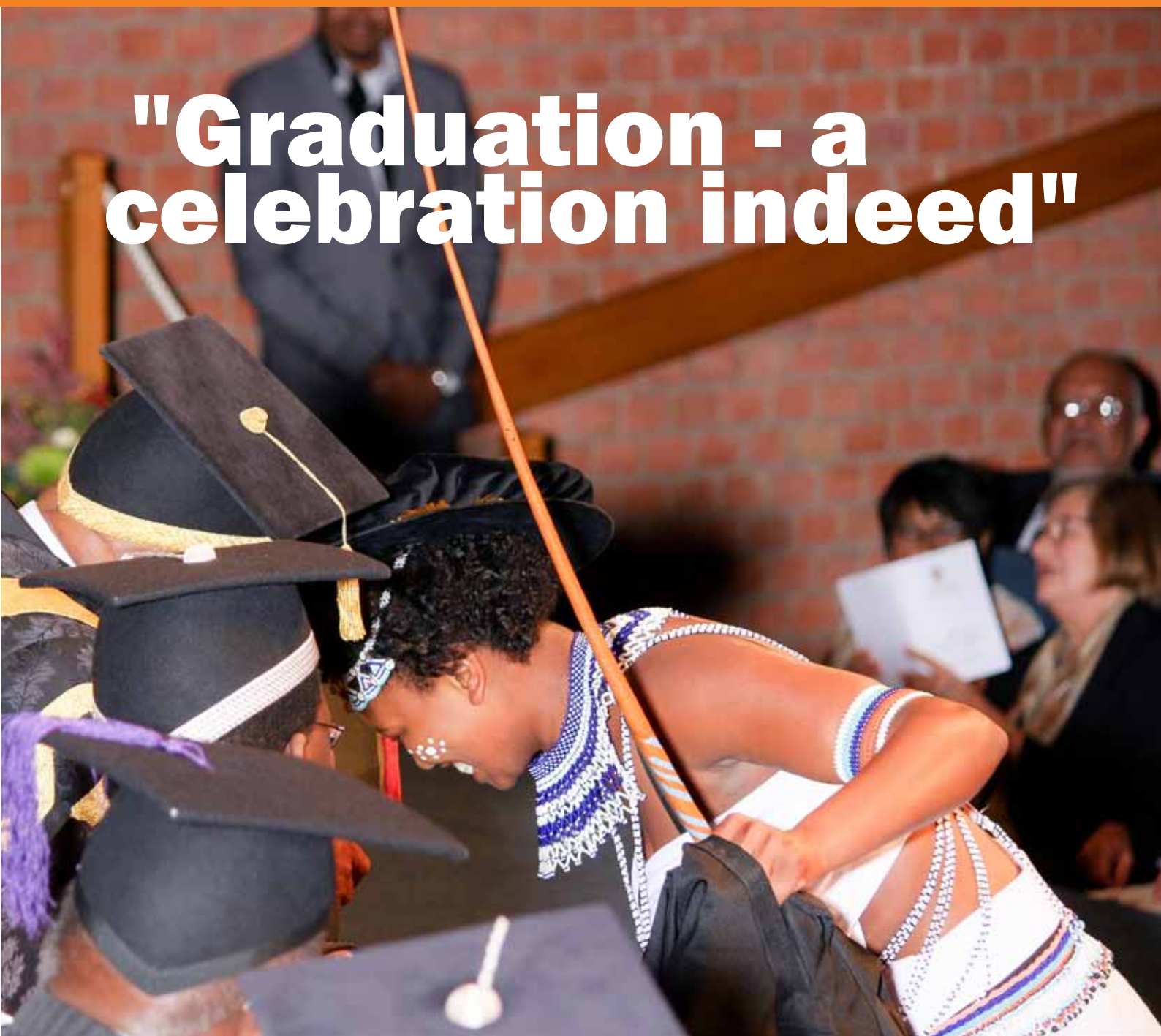
RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

The Rhodes University

Staff Newsletter

First Quarter 2016

"Graduation - a celebration indeed"



Editorial

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A very big thank you to Foto First for the graduation pictures.

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Thank you to departments who supplied their own pictures.

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“RU leading the way, from ECD to degree. Thank you for playing your part.”

The Revitalising Schools Project is turning Grahamstown into a hub of educational excellence and we all have our part to play.



From the Transport Department, Finance Office to the Faculty of Education and Science and the Community Engagement Office, we are all playing our part to change Grahamstown into a hub of educational excellence. Thank you for playing your part.

Grahamstown, has some of the best schools in the country interspersed with some of the most dysfunctional schools educating most of our town's youth. Alongside this we have Rhodes University, our place of work, which produces some of the best graduates in the Country.

“We cannot sit and watch when young people amongst us are condemned to a life without hope; a life of despair because of the failure to provide them with the education they need and deserve,” appealed Dr Mabizela and since his inaugural address, Rhodes University has been driving the revitalizing schools project to change the education experience of many.

From Early Childhood Development to University, from English to Maths and everything in between, Rhodes University staff and students are transforming Grahamstown's Education alongside many community partners.

Edutainer to enhance ECD

Early into Dr Sizwe Mabizela's first term as Vice-Chancellor, in March 2015, he met with alumnus, Mr Chris von Christierson who committed an edutainer, specially fitted as an ECD Self-Contained School to develop an Early Childhood Development Centre. As promised, the edutainers arrived in Grahamstown in March to much excitement.

The original plan was to establish a brand new school, however, Makana Municipality was unable to allocate land and thus the search for a suitable school to develop began. Tyhilulwazi was chosen as it

is well-run, established, has a strong School Governing Body (with solid parent involvement), is based in Grahamstown East, has large enough grounds to develop and was already working closely with the University.

The University's self-funded unit, the Centre for Social Development (CSD) partners with local ECD Centres to ensure training and work with the ECD centres. In addition, we have the Siyakhana at Makhana programme where we have paired up every Hall of Residence with an ECD Centre in Grahamstown.



The 'big' class ready to move into their new Edutainer.

CSD graduates 198 ECD teachers



The Centre for Social Development (CSD), a self-funded unit of Rhodes University, graduated 198 ECD Practitioners and Grade R Practitioners in March.

Parents pave the way for their childrens' success

Mr Mzukisi Madakana, staff member of the Rhodes University Campus Protection Unit believes that parents need to be involved in their childrens' education and support their children in order to see them achieve. Sinazo Madakana, Mr Madakana's daughter is studying at Rhodes this year after having been involved in the Ikamva Youth Programme. Ikamva Youth is a Non-governmental Organisation that specialises in giving academic support to pupils who attend under-resourced schools. The pupils registered with Ikamva meet with tutors and mentors from Rhodes University two afternoons per week and on Saturday mornings to receive academic support in various areas.

Mr Madakana enrolled his daughters in the Ikamva Youth Programme after he went to the Rhodes University Community Engagement Office to find out how his children could get involved. Mr Madakana feels very strongly about supporting his children's academic careers and going above and beyond to make sure they succeed. "Parents mustn't give up, they must try to give their children education because the only weapon that we can use to be successful is education," he says passionately. "If you don't support your children with their education or if he or she loses that opportunity because the parents did not try it means you have killed that child."



Sinazo Madakana with her proud parents.

Vice-Chancellor welcomes local students to Rhodes

Dr Mabizela welcomed students to Rhodes from local under-resourced schools. Many achieved their bachelor matric pass through the local Gadra Matric School (GMS). This year, the GMS was the biggest feeder school to Rhodes University. GMS offers under-performing matriculants a year of intense tuition and a second chance at their matric exams.



The class of 2016 eager to meet the Vice-Chancellor and earn their degrees.

Nine-Tenths of Success is Encouragement

Towards achieving greater schooling equality, Dr Mabizela has initiated four key programmes in Grahamstown as part of the initiative he is driving called 'Reviving Grahamstown Schools'.

The Nine-Tenths mentoring programme was launched in March. The name is from a quote by French poet, journalist and novelist, Anatole France, who said: "Nine tenths of education is encouragement." The programme is based on the mentoring for success model.

"Rhodes University has an incredible human resource of students who are rolling up their sleeves to mentor and encourage Grade 12 learners from two township schools in Grahamstown, Mary Waters and Ntsika. These are our pilot schools from which we will grow the programme," Dr Mabizela explains.

This year we are teaming up 227 Grade 12 learners, boys and girls, from these two schools, with student volunteers through our University's Community Engagement Office.

The Director of the Community Engagement Office, Di Hornby, explains that 114 volunteer student mentors from second year upwards have been paired with the learners: "Each student pairs with two learners, with whom they will have nine one-on-one mentoring lessons during the course of this year."

The mentoring lessons are based on an accredited short course, during which the students are trained to mentor the learners. Rhodes University's Faculty of Education together with GADRA Education - a leading educational NGO based in Grahamstown - designed the short course, which includes a number of modules.



Pairing learners with their mentors at Mary Waters High School.

The Vice-Chancellor is leading this programme, which he regards as central to Rhodes University's transformative agenda and a national imperative.

It starts with the mentors helping the learners to set goals and personal plans, such as aspiring to get into university or college, and what points they need to achieve this. From here the mentors teach the learners effective learning methods.

Throughout the year they go over the

work the learner has completed as part of their matric curriculum, discuss their test results and ways to improve them. They also help the learners to apply for university or college. Encouragement and support is sustained throughout the year.

"We are aiming for an 80 – 90% matric pass rate at these schools and at least 25% of the learners from these two schools achieving a university entrance pass at the end of this year, which equates to about 40 learners," says Ms Hornby. "We want to build the two pilot schools into Centres of Excellence, from which our mentor-based programme can be extended to other schools in Grahamstown, the Eastern Cape and nationally."

"The requirement to rapidly improve our public schools system through affordable, effective programmes is highlighted by the statistic that 34% of South Africa's official population of 54 million is under the age of 15," says Hornby.

First Female DVC appointed at Rhodes University

Dr Chrissie Boughey has been appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs. Boughey's three year appointment, which came into effect on 1 January 2016, comes after she has been acting in the position for 18 months, and marks the first female DVC appointment at Rhodes University. Prior to Acting as DVC, Boughey was Dean: Teaching and Learning.

Boughey has a D.Phil in Applied Linguistics but her interest has always been in the interface of language and learning, and in challenging the so-called 'language problem' in South African universities.

"I don't believe language works as many people think it works. I think it is considerably more complex than a simple process of putting meanings into grammatically correct sentences. The so called 'language problem' is much more difficult to address than, for example, simply allowing somebody to learn in their home language. You've only got to think that lots of home language speakers of English can't write or read academic text," explains Boughey.

From the early 1990s, Boughey's research has challenged dominant understandings of language, and the so-called 'language problem'.

From so-called problems to huge challenges, Boughey says that the biggest challenge that needs to be addressed at Rhodes University is the curriculum.

"We haven't had a curriculum review since 2004, and even then, I think that wasn't the sort of review that we actually needed. And since 2004, obviously the place has changed. We have a very different student population, we've had challenges from student and staff about the relevance of the curriculum so we really are at the point where we have to ask very hard questions."

"Over the years, we've done a lot of work on the curriculum thanks to the efforts of staff members in the Centre for Higher



Dr Chrissie Boughey is the first female DVC at Rhodes University. Her three year appointment came into effect on 1 January 2016.

Education Research, Teaching & Learning (CHERTL). Much of this work has focused on pedagogy. However, since last year, we have paid more attention to what it might mean to change the curriculum to reflect the University's location on the African continent. All the work done on curriculum in CHERTL has drawn on critical social theory and has involved asking questions like 'Do you have to do it like that? Where does doing it like that come from, and how does doing it like

I've asked the question, 'Whose attributes? Where do these attributes come from?' If you look in the literature, they come from the world of employment, from the globalised corporate environment. So what does that mean? Is that what we need here in South Africa and what does that mean for the students who you're saying must develop these attributes?"

The first steps in addressing the curriculum is to develop a framework for

"We have some of the best success and graduation rates in the country"

that favour some and disadvantage others?" shares Boughey.

Well known in both national and international forums related to teaching and learning, Boughey is known for sitting on the far left, or being the difficult one in all the national conversations.

"All the universities are now talking about developing graduate attributes. But

curriculum review which everyone can work with regardless of their disciplinary background. "We are already a long way towards developing the framework", says Boughey, "Which we hope will serve before Faculty Boards in the second term this year."

According to Boughey, the overall aim of the review will be to make Rhodes University a place where everyone can

thrive intellectually. "We have some of the best success and graduation rates in the country", says Boughey. "But when you look at who is succeeding really well and who is just getting by, then serious questions need to be asked about what it means to thrive in

people to progress and yet doesn't make them feel as though the whole university is looking at them because they happen to be black and hopefully female," explains Boughey.

Building higher education studies into

"Last year we were successful in getting three nGAP positions funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training."

this University."

Second on Boughey's agenda is changing the profile of academic staff at Rhodes University.

"All the attempts to change the staff profile at Rhodes University have been housed in CHERTL (Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning) from the time the University introduced Accelerated Development posts aimed at fast tracking the careers of young black academics. And of course the Centre works very closely with academics on their teaching, so we have always been aware of the challenges young academics face. Growing a new generation of black academics has to be a priority for the University because the question of 'Who teaches?' goes along with curriculum reform."

Despite the challenges that need to be overcome there are some exciting initiatives in the pipeline.

"Last year we were successful in getting three nGAP positions funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training. These positions allow young academics a six year 'development' period during which they can complete doctoral qualifications and really get to grips with what it means to be an academic in contemporary universities. We have just succeeded in getting another three of these positions funded," shares Boughey.

Funding from the Andrew Mellon Foundation also offers the opportunity for the University to put in place structures which will support young academics in reaching the professoriate. "The big question is how can that be done in a way that actually allows

a bona fide area of academic endeavour.

Boughey joined Rhodes University in January 1999 from the University of Zululand, and was at the University of the Western Cape prior to that. Boughey has also worked internationally, in Spain, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and the Yemen Arab Republic.

When Boughey arrived at Rhodes, CHERTL (Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning) was the Academic Development Centre (ADC). The ADC had been reviewed in 1998 and questions about possibly closing down the Centre had been raised. Boughey interviewed for Director ADC which also required a presentation on the possibilities for an ADC Centre at a University like Rhodes. Boughey gave a number of possibilities but firmly stated that the University had to choose one and be prepared to follow-

"All my doctoral students have done research which aims to challenge the status quo in our universities."

through on the chosen direction.

The Vice-Principal at the time, was very interested in quality assurance and, when Boughey was appointed in 1999, she started to turn the work of the ADC towards institutional development with a special focus on teaching and learning under the auspices of quality assurance. As a result,

the Centre moved away from having a student support role to being an institutional resource.

Boughey was appointed at the Associate Professor level but was not allowed to use the title. When she asked why, the response was, "What on earth are you going to profess in?"

"I had to build higher education studies as a bona fide area of academic endeavour - to build the Centre's scholarship both in terms of research outputs and postgraduate offerings. The Centre now has one of the biggest PhD programmes on the campus. So, from having no presence as an academic entity the Centre now offers a range of programmes and opportunities for research at post-graduate level."

Boughey will graduate her 20th PhD student in 2016. "All my doctoral students have done research which aims to challenge the status quo in our universities", says Boughey. "My hope is that they will all go on to make higher education in this, and other, countries, more equitable than it is now."

Boughey on her hopes for Rhodes University.

"I hope we will be much more conscious not only of our position on the African continent but also in Grahamstown. There's something unique about Rhodes because we pride ourselves on being one of the research intensives in South Africa, and we fit very well with that grouping, no matter what indicators you use, but we are the only one outside a major urban area. We're the only research intensive sitting in a town beset by poverty in one of the poorest provinces in the country. So how can we turn what we are as a University to talk to our location. And that of course involves curriculum as well as the kind of research we do. We have already moved a long way in making research serve our context through 'engaged research' but there is more to be done. I think the only future for us as a University is to take cognisance of our context in more meaningful ways than we have done so far," shares Boughey.

New staff at the MACW bring fresh perspectives

The Masters in Creative Writing course has undergone some changes. Senior lecturer Paul Wessels replaces Robert Berold who retired as coordinator of the course last year. Prolific writer Lesego Rampolokeng, poet and publisher Mxolisi Nyezwa and Chimurenga Associate Editor Stacy Hardy join Paul Wessels in teaching the MA. "Rhodes has scored a coup, having hired two of South Africa's most acclaimed poets," Hardy said of her colleagues Rampolokeng and Nyezwa.

While Hardy, Rampolokeng and Nyezwa have all taught on the course in part-time capacity in the past, this year all three will be more hands on. Their increased involvement means that the boundaries of the course can be expanded.

"The isiXhosa side of the programme is now an integrated part of the course. Students have always had the option of doing their theses in English or Xhosa or a combination of the two, but the aim is for isiXhosa to be given the same

focus as English," Hardy said, explaining their language policy. Former student Mangaliso Buzani won the Poetry Award at the 2015 South African Literary Awards for the anthology he produced during his MA, *Ndisabhala Imibongo*. Buzani is now working as an assistant teacher on the course.

Rampolokeng is one of the most prolific

**"Books teach us to
imagine things, and if
we can imagine things
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differently"**

writers in South Africa, having produced eight volumes of poetry, two novels, two plays and worked in collaboration with William Kentridge, Bobby Rodwell and Robert Colman among others. In 2015 he performed several of his challenging and thought provoking poems alongside South African poet-laureate Keorapetse Kgotsile in the Arc to the

Future poetry festival organised by Rhodes' English Department's Dr Deborah Seddon. Rampolokeng's work pulls no punches, a trait he carries into his teaching work.

Hardy feels that the South African literary scene has stagnated in the last decade, following a promising start in the late 90s that has subsequently died out. "Books teach us to imagine things, and if we can imagine things then we can operate differently," she said. Hardy is also the author of *Because the Night*, a collection of short stories brought out by UK publisher Pocko. She has worked in contemporary art production, and in theatre and film, as well as at Chimurenga, the groundbreaking Pan African journal distributed throughout the continent.

Mxolisi Nyezwa is looking forward to finding new ways in his students' work to negotiate the politically and socially complicated moment South Africa is going through. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the present generation of young poets and artists will circumvent the new horrors that we see every day. Poetry contributes in the healing of sick worlds," he said of his students' work. "The work is a tentative but exciting re-look into

what democracy and living in a society with supposedly one of the most advanced constitutions in the world means," he added, pointing to the necessity of literature in understanding our present realities.

The course is an intense year of investigation in and through language, along with extensive reading and research, followed by the submission of a book-length creative thesis. Nyezwa explained that, "Students are encouraged through the wide reading of writers from many countries to piece together a personal language that connects and speaks of their own sense of history, and their unique experiencing of the world."



Lecturers in the 2016 MA in Creative Writing, Mxolisi Nyezwa, Paul Wessels [coordinator], Stacy Hardy, Lesego Rampolokeng.

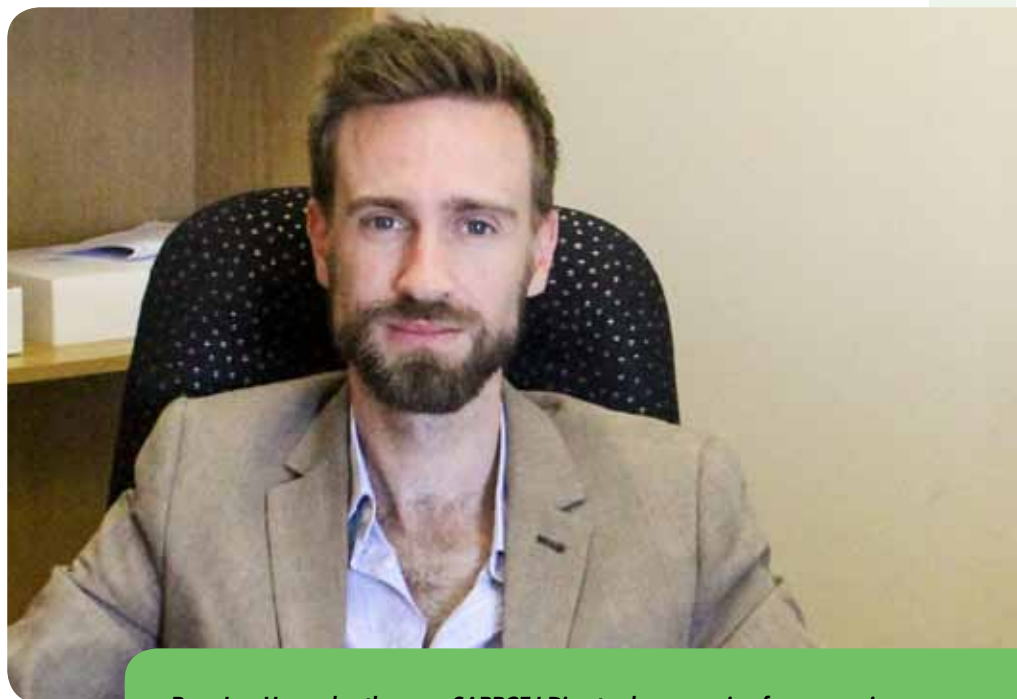
Economics goes back to the people with new South African Reserve Bank Centre for Economics Journalism (SARBCEJ)

Director Ryan Hancocks

Ryan Lee Hancocks new SARBCEJ Director feels his "mission at SARBCEJ", as he puts it, is to instil a passion for economics. "I believe that if you're a functioning human being in today's society then you already understand economics. Economics is a social science in a sense and I would like journalists to know what they're writing about," he explains. Ryan feels that economics journalism should teach journalists how to write about economics in a way that everyone, even those who know nothing about the economy, can understand. "Sometimes I read articles and even with my masters degree I have no idea what they're saying," Ryan says, "it's about journalists taking their education back to the people who don't understand. I want them to start opening up debates and get people to start asking questions about things like tax, budgets, etc."

Ryan grew up in Port Elizabeth and did his Bachelor of Economics and Honours in Economics between 2002 and 2005 at Rhodes University. During his time at Rhodes he entered student politics, becoming SRC treasurer in 2003 and 2004. He was always a hard worker making it onto the Dean's list in his undergrad degree.

During his time at Rhodes University, Unilever selected him as one of the top five students in economics and offered him an internship. He became Demand Planner at Unilever straight after university in



Ryan Lee Hancocks, the new SARBCEJ Director has a passion for economics.

December 2005 and worked in the position until early 2008. Ryan decided to further his studies after his experience at Unilever and did a Masters in Economics between 2008 and 2010. "It was different to go from working and then coming back to studying so I just treated it like it was a business and it worked out well for me," Ryan says.

When he finished in 2010 he was offered a scholarship with CEJA (now SARBCEJ) to do a Post Graduate Diploma in Economics

"I always enjoyed writing so it was quite a nice space to be in"

Journalism, "I always enjoyed writing so it was quite a nice space to be in," he says.

After finishing at Rhodes in 2011, he

started at MSCI Inc in Cape Town, working as Associate Risk and Portfolio Management Analyst. However, he felt limited in the position and says, "It was a very regulated sphere and I felt the industry was a bit soulless."

After two years he moved to Media24 when he was headhunted for a position in their distribution and logistics division, On The Dot. Here he worked as the Operations Manager for Digital from 2014 until he got the Director of SARBCEJ post. "I loved my job at Media24 and wouldn't have left it for anything other than the Director of SARBCEJ post. My best memories are at Rhodes and I have always been spouting out propaganda about Rhodes to everyone," Ryan says excitedly.

Ryan is currently teaching the PGDip in Economics Journalism as well as Masters with an Economics Journalism specialisation. For more information on these courses you can contact the post graduate coordinator, Siphokazi Maneli, s.maneli@ru.ac.za.

Food Services Award Winners for 2015

Kitchen of the Year Award – Founders Hall

This award is assessed in a number of areas including hygiene, food cost, staff attendance, student feedback, admin feedback, supplier feedback and innovations that the dining hall introduce. This is monitored throughout the year.

Hygiene Award – Founders and Nelson Mandela Halls

A hygiene award is made to a small kitchen and a large kitchen and is audited three times a year by an external cleaning company.

The Halaal kitchen was also awarded an award for their continuously impressive hygiene standards of never going below 90%.

Health & Safety Compliance in fourth term of 2015

Wardens had the highest compliance of health and safety reporting in 2015 with a 91% compliance rate (179 out of a required 196).

Housekeeping had a 47% compliance rate.

Laboratory had a 37% compliance rate.

Fourth term (2015) reports from Geology, Botany. Total 2 (of 13 required) = 15% compliance.

- Food Services: Average for 2015 health & safety reporting (total 16, of 44) = 36% compliance.
- Maintenance: Average for 2015 health & safety reporting (total 9, of 40) = 22% compliance.
- Fine Art Sculpture, Printing/Graphics, Grounds. Total 3 (of 10 required) = 30% compliance.
- Office: 21% compliance.
- Fourth term (2015) reports from Economics, Psychology, Law, Business School, Maths, Politics, Statistics. Total 7 (of 42 required) = 17% compliance.

Housekeeping Achievements in 2015

- Drostdy Hall was awarded the most improved Hall.
- The best residences was awarded to Nelson Mandela Hall.
- Miriam Makeba Hall's best cleaner was Dorothy Bentele of Piet Retief.

100% attendance Award

The following staff members in Food Services had 100% attendance in 2015.

Vuyelwa Hlazo
Nobulali Ngwendu
Cikizwa Bodla
Thandiwe Fejela
Delphine Kivitts
Buyelwa Gxoyiya
Kutala Tshongoyi
Khunju Menze
Thozama Kiswa x 2
Funeka Koliti
Vuyelwa Jacobs
Tina Botha
Laetitia Ngeju
Nonkululeko Pini
Carolyn Gongqa
Shirley Liwana
Tyler Mpetsheni
Ntombekhaya Nyeka
Nomfundo Jack
Ntombekhaya Ndibaza
Lungelwa Gwente
Francis Cannon
Cynthia Yaka
Linda Boo
Nyangayethu Soxujwa
Mampho Onceya
Thandiswa Maqanda
Ntombekhaya Budaza Mtati
Ismail Mansoor
Jameela Yasini
Hombakazi July
Cheryl Simpson
Patrick Mfecane
Thelma Zono
Mavis Mkathali
Thozamile Ngwane
Lush Mhleli
Lulu Ndzipo
Zolile Mfabana
Precious Mfabana
Siasanga Nkuna
Xolani Mtati
Siyabonga Nelani

RU WATER-WISE

Grahamstown's water supply continues to be unreliable due to various factors: infrastructure and operational issues, unreliable rainfall patterns and intermittent droughts. Various parts of Rhodes University campus may have problems with water service delivery. In the event of water cuts, please note that emergency water supplies can be provided on campus (see below).



Management appeals to **staff** and **students** to be part of the solution: please use water **responsibly** and **sparingly**, and observe water-wise practices.

- ◆ Repair leaks: **Report all leaks immediately.** A dripping tap or leaking toilet can waste more than 1000 litres per month. To check for toilet leaks: place a drop of food colouring in the cistern – if it is leaking, the colour will show up in the toilet bowl.
- ◆ Switch off taps: **Switch off when not in use.** A running tap - while you clean your teeth, rinse veggies, wash dishes, etc - can waste a lot of water. NB: in the event of a water cut, please ensure taps are kept closed!
- ◆ Reduce toilet flush: **Place a full plastic bottle in the toilet cistern.** This reduces the amount of water flushed.
- ◆ Use low-flow showers: **Shower for 5 min using low pressure** or a low-flow showerhead. This helps use less water.
- ◆ Only wash essential items: **Avoid washing non-essential items** such as cars, paving, etc. This helps reduce wastage of valuable water.
- ◆ Only do full loads of laundry: **Do laundry only when there is a full load**, to save on water use. Use a water-saving / eco-friendly washing machine.
- ◆ Re-use grey water: **Use grey water from basins and showers** to flush toilets and water plants.
- ◆ Rainwater tanks: **Filtered rainwater** is suitable for cooking and drinking. More info at www.ru.ac.za/greenliving/action/waterwise/rainwater

Reporting leaks:

- ◆ Rhodes University: Engineering Section: **046 603 8238** / speed dial **5231** (Dave Martin)
(also for emergency water supplies on campus)
- ◆ Makana Municipality: Engineers Dept: **046 603 6063/6136** / Ntombi Tshicilela: **046 603 6068**
Fire Dept/after hours: **046 603 6000** / **080 111 4444**

Rhodes scientists contribute to gravitational waves detection

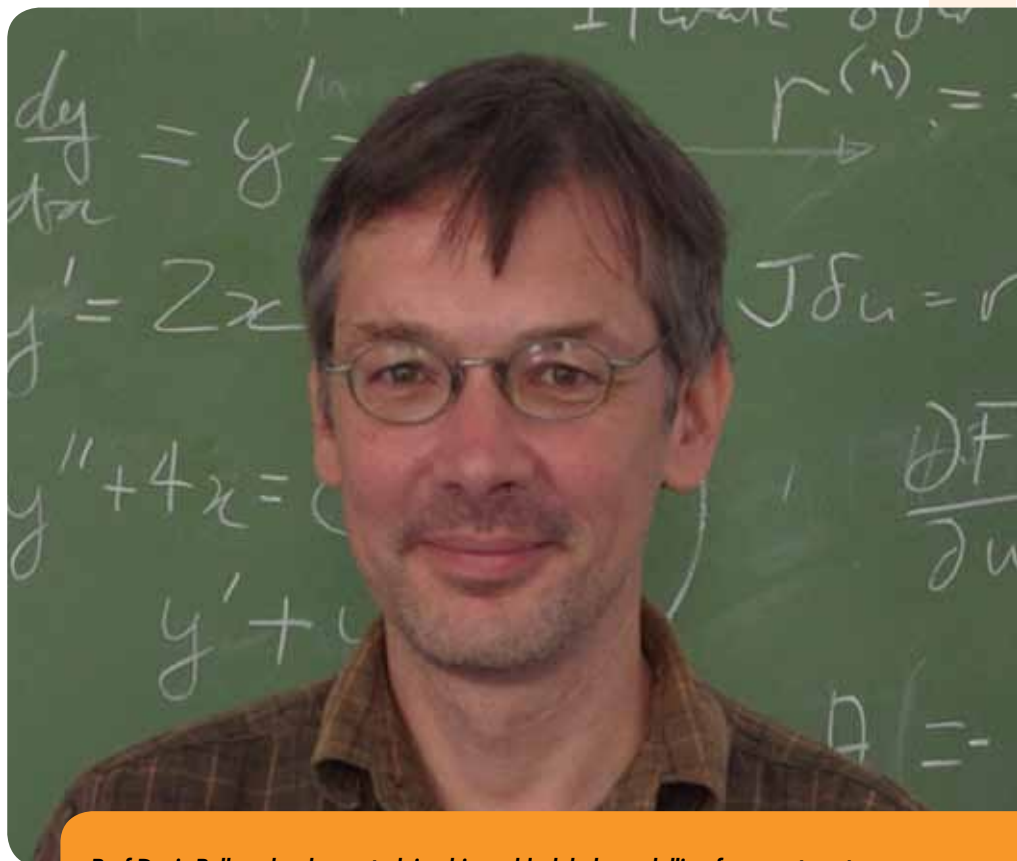
Local scientists in the Rhodes University Mathematics Department happen to make up South Africa's first gravitational wave research group, and have been developing the theoretical models that contributed directly to the detection of gravitational waves earlier this year. Prof Pollney, who has been working on binary black hole modelling for over twenty years, explains what these gravitational waves are and the Maths models that his Department have been developing which have contributed to the detection.

"Gravitational waves are a prediction of Albert Einstein's. His theory of general relativity is a theory of gravity, but it is one which is built on geometry, the study of shapes and surfaces. Relativity is a radical departure from the old idea that gravity is a force that pulls things to Earth. Instead, according to Einstein, a heavy object distorts the world around it, stretching space and time like a ball on a rubber sheet. When a football arcs in the air and comes back to earth, it is actually following the straightest possible path within a spacetime that is curved," shares Pollney.

Therefore when heavy objects move in space, they distort the space fabric and send ripples through space but these move at the speed of light which makes measuring them very difficult. Scientists have built measuring devices in the world for exactly the purpose of analysing these distortions of spacetime. The LIGO instruments (Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory).

"What has energized the astrophysics community most of all has been the event which created the wave that was caught by LIGO. Every gravitational wave signal carries the fingerprint of the source which created it. And this wave was so large that the pattern was unambiguous," states Pollney.

Black holes are another outrageous prediction of general relativity and this is the special focus of scientists working at Rhodes.



Prof Denis Pollney has been studying binary black hole modelling for over twenty years.

Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) awarded R13 million to lead international project

The Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) at Rhodes University has been awarded R13 million to lead a project on learning-centred transformation in social-ecological sciences (SES). The Rhodes University group is one of three to receive this funding.



Prof Heila Lotz-Sisitka who is heading up the project.

Rhodes Law students to represent Africa in Geneva

The Rhodes University European Law Students Association (ELSA) Moot team, consisting of four final year LLB students, won the African Regional Round of the European Law Students Association (ELSA) Moot Court Competition on 1 April 2016. Nkosazana Lulu Dweba, Steph Stretch, Declan Williamson and Moya Vaughan-Williamson will be representing Rhodes University and Africa, in Geneva in the final oral round where they will argue against the other regional winners. Ten teams competed in what was only the third African Regional Round of the competition, hosted this year, for the first time, at Rhodes University.

Vicky Heideman of Rhodes' Law Faculty, organised the African Regional. Heideman lectures at Rhodes on international trade law with an interest in WTO law in particular, and her students were very grateful for her support in the competition, though she was not able to coach them due to her role as organiser. "Vicky is really enthusiastic, trade is her thing," Stretch commented. Heideman noted the strength of the team, and is hoping that Rhodes will make the semi-finals in Geneva this year, where the team will argue the same question they were posed in the regional round. "It's great that we are going through again. It shows that Rhodes has a consistently high standard for mooting, as well as some very talented and dedicated students," she said.

Scientists in the making

The Chemistry Department was once again invited to present "A Pollutant's Tale" to the grade 1-3 learners at St Andrew's Prep. It was a very good culmination of their science week and many of the learners were dressed as scientists, in "lab coats" (some were lab coats, and others were clearly Dad's old white shirt), with "safety glasses". One boy also sported a "moustache" and some had gelled their hair to show they had been "in an explosion". It is interesting to see what the image the learners have of a scientist. The Rhodes students were most impressed with the scientific knowledge that these learners had – obviously a job well done by their teachers. "I just love

the enthusiasm of these little people, to learn more" said Mrs Joyce Sewry.



Another Accolade for Distinguished Prof Nyokong



Rhodes University's Distinguished Professor Tebello Nyokong was awarded the African Union (AU) Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government on 30 January, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AU Kwame Nkrumah Awards are given annually to African scientists who have distinguished themselves in the fields of science, technology and innovation.

Institute for Water Research (IWR) turns 25



Prof Tally Palmer and Prof Denis Hughes.



Field trip fun: Ms Notiswa Libala and Ms Pindi Ntloko.

It was an exciting start to 2016 for the Institute for Water Research (IWR) with the celebration of 25 years of the IWR's existence. On 28th January we hosted our Open Day and with presentations from various current and previous staff members looked at the history of the IWR and the future of this institute. A lot of work has been achieved over the years and IWR had six PhD students graduate in 2015. Over the years IWR has contributed to the development of SPATSIM and WQSAM and made significant input to national policy and been part of international fora on water quality and quantity across the globe.

This year IWR has 23 post graduate students researching areas from hill slope seeps, to hydrological modelling to the learning centred approach to catchment management for in building capacity of stakeholders to participate meaningfully in water (and natural) resources management. These are all critical if South Africa, indeed Africa, is to continue to be a leader in various water related fields.

The IWR welcomed its new director of the Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality (UCEWQ), Dr Nelson Odume, as Prof Tally Palmer stepped down from this position to focus her energy on students and research in the Eastern Cape.

Other noteworthy achievements for the IWR are the National Research Foundation Bursaries received by two of our PhD students, Ms Notiswa Libala and Ms Pindiwe Ntloko. Both hail from the Eastern Cape and we congratulate them on this achievement.

During January and February 2016, Prof Tally Palmer, with Ms Libala and Mrs Margaret Wolff, facilitated five catchment management forum workshops across the Eastern Cape in partnership with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). This important relationship with the DWS continues to grow and strengthen. The IWR extends its congratulations to the team at DWS that are making such great strides in the implementation of the Catchment Management Agency for the Mzimvubu to Tsitsikamma Water Management Area. This will be the third of nine CMAs established in South Africa.



Graduation 2015.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BOOK AWARD

Prof Anthea Garman, Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the School of Journalism and Media Studies



Prof Anthea Garman was awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Book Award for her book titled, *Antjie Krog and the Post-apartheid Public Sphere: Speaking Poetry to Power*, published by the UKZN Press.

Garman argues that debates are evidence of a deep anxiety about authority and legitimacy, and uses Antjie Krog, a South African poet, journalist and author who has shared her ideas for four decades.

"The book investigates and puts forward an understanding of how Krog as a white Afrikaner comes to have a platform in public, despite dramatically shifting social and political circumstances," noted Dr Boughey in her graduation citation for this award.

Prof Garman was awarded her PhD degree by the University of the Witwatersrand, in 2009, for her thesis entitled *Antjie Krog: Self and Society, the Making and Mediation of a Public Intellectual in South Africa*. Her book is a reworking of this study.

"Going into my PhD study I did want right from the outset to produce something that would find its way into the wider world and not just stay within the scholarly community. I hoped that the subject matter would have wider resonance," shared Prof Garman.

"The Vice-Chancellor's Book Award seeks to recognize a recent book published by a current staff member, that advances knowledge and understanding, and brings undoubted credit to the University by virtue of the contribution it makes to scholarly literature, or the discipline within which it is authored," explained Dr Boughey.

Prof Garman's research is in the areas of media and citizenship, identity issues in the Global South, and the role of media in culture and social change in post-apartheid South Africa. She teaches writing and editing, and media studies and is the editor of *Rhodes Journalism Review*, and has guest edited the *Journal Ecquid Novi - African Journalism Studies*. She co-ordinates the annual Think!Fest public lecture series of the National Arts Festival, and she authors a popular blog *Writing Across Genres*. She leads a research project under the title *Media and citizenship: between marginalisation and participation*, and collaborates internationally.

"It confirms my place in this community of scholars. It shows me that I have value here at this University, but it also gives me a powerful sense of belonging in this world more generally. Because I came from another profession and started to become a researcher in the middle of my life these validations are important to me," shared Prof Garman on this recognition.

Vice-Chancellor's distinguished award for community engagement

The multi-disciplinary team from the Siyahluma project, Dr Sharli Paphitis, Dr Lindsay Kelland, Prof Catriona Macleod and Mr Ryan Du Toit were awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement for their work in providing menstrual products at a much cheaper price, while creating jobs and education to women and girls in the Eastern Cape.

"Siyahluma is an exceptional program that exemplifies how research, teaching and learning, and community engagement can be harnessed to better understand and move towards resolving social inequality in

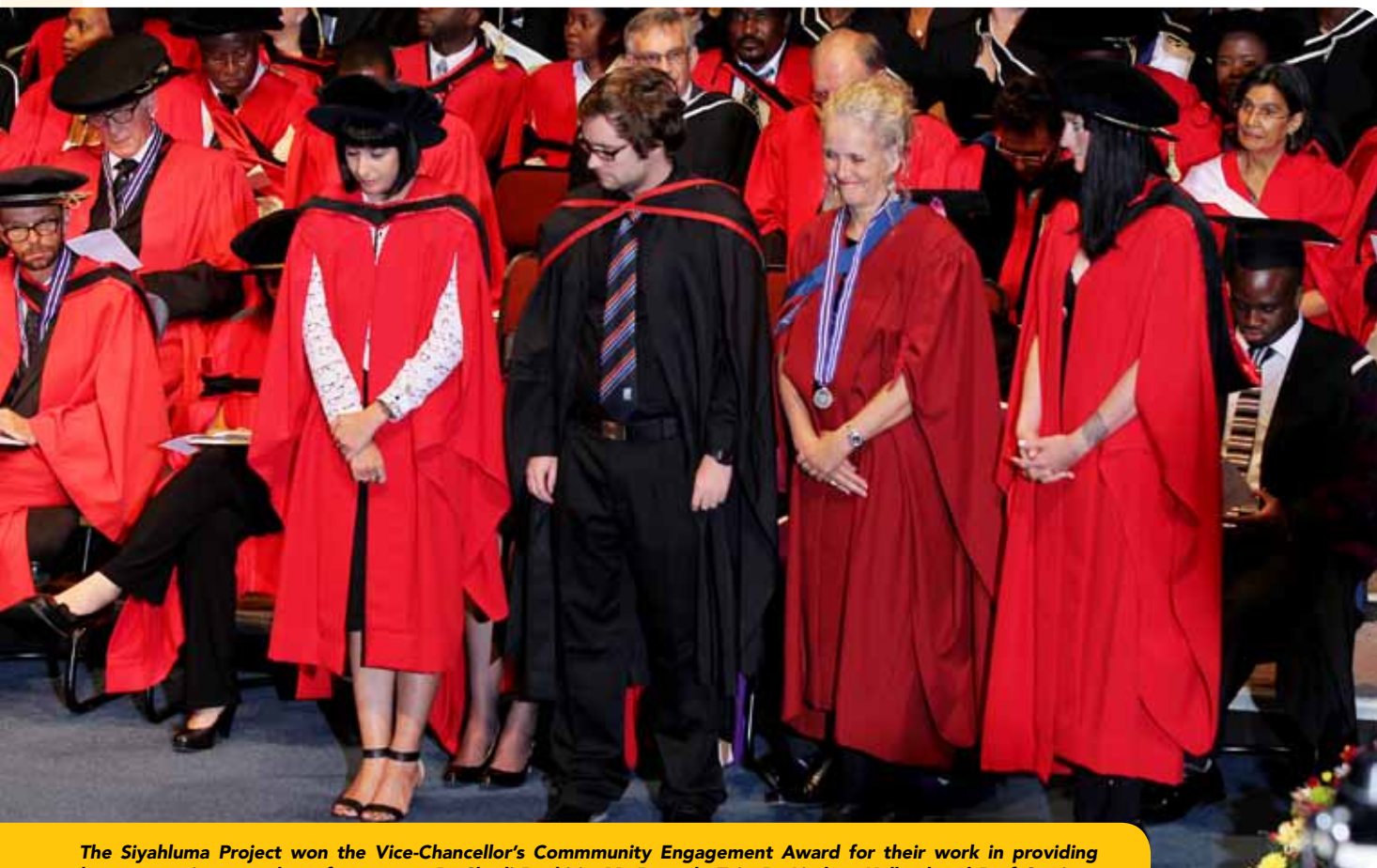
South Africa," shared Di Hornby, Director of Community Engagement.

The Siyahluma project brings together researchers and local NGOs in order to address the menstruation-related challenges faced by school-going girls, most notably a lack of access to reliable and hygienic menstrual products and a lack of access to reliable information about menstruation.

There is a gap in the research on this topic in South Africa and a lack of sustainable community development and capacity-building in the Eastern Cape. The project's successful collaboration with key community-based partners highlights the

benefits of forming relationships and taking a participatory approach to solving community-based issues. This partnership resulted in jobs being created and creative educational interventions which effectively created safe informative spaces for the discussion of female menstruation for both sexes.

The Siyahluma research team project comprises a partnership between Rhodes University Community Engagement (RUC), the Allan Gray Centre for Leadership Ethics (AGCLE), and the Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction Research Unit (CSSR) and was formed in 2013.



The Siyahluma Project won the Vice-Chancellor's Community Engagement Award for their work in providing low-cost sanitary products for women. Dr Sharli Paphitis, Mr Ryan du Toit, Dr Lindsay Kelland and Prof Catriona Macleod.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH MEDAL

Prof Adrienne Lesley Edkins, Associate Professor and SARChI Chair in the Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology

Prof Adrienne Edkins was awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Research Medal for her research which advances the fundamental understanding, in the fields of cell stress biology and cancer biology, addressing issues of foundational importance to human health, and to breast cancer studies in particular.

"Her publication and postgraduate supervision record is stellar, particularly considering that she is at a relatively early stage in her academic career – she already ranks amongst the most productive researchers at Rhodes University," shared Dr Clayton in his citation of her award.

"We are doing fundamental research that is aimed at understanding processes in cells and how these processes contribute towards the development of a cancerous state. We can then use this understanding of the biology of cancer to try to identify specific biological entities or processes that could be good targets for drug development and start to find inhibitors that might later be developed into drugs," explains Prof Edkins.

In 2011 she was appointed Director of the Biomedical Biotechnology Research Unit (BioBRU) alongside her teaching role in the Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology. She quickly established a highly productive research team, which is currently 20 strong, including 3 post doctoral fellows and 9 PhD candidates, and she has supervised or co-supervised 8 PhD and 22 Masters graduates to completion.

Prof Edkins has won competitive research grants from the MRC, CARISA, CANSA and the NRF, including a major NRF equipment grant. Moreover, she has translated these grants into publications and postgraduate training, and into collaboration opportunities



Prof Edkins is congratulated by the Chancellor, Justice Lex Mpati on her fine achievement.

with leading researchers both national and international (such as with Prof Didier Picard, University of Geneva, through an NRF-Swiss Collaboration Grant).

In 2015 Prof Edkins was awarded the prestigious National Research Foundation SARChI Chair in Molecular and Cellular Biology of the Eukaryotic Stress Response, enabling her to devote her working time to research and postgraduate students.

Her publications include two edited books, 6 book chapters, 26 journal papers, and a large range of conference and other presentations. Her review of cancer stem cells and metastasis (Lawson et al., 2009) has attracted a high number of citations, including from top international researchers in the field of cancer biology.

In addition to her research contributions, Prof Edkins promotes the public understanding of science, and has excelled

in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She was nominated for a teaching award in 2014.

"I feel extremely privileged to receive this award and I am very grateful to my colleagues who nominated me," shared Prof Edkins.

Two of Prof Edkins' students, Ms Natasha Boel and Ms Ianthe Wingate received their MSc in Biochemistry with distinctions. Another of her students Ms Michaelone Vaaltyn has overcome great challenges to achieve her degree. Despite coming from an educationally poor background in Grahamstown and having a child during her undergraduate degree, she graduated with her MSc and is now reading for a PhD on a prestigious NRF fellowship. "She is a model of what hard work and dedication can achieve, despite coming from a disadvantaged background," shared Prof Edkins.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED SENIOR RESEARCH MEDAL

Catriona Ida Macleod, Professor & SARChI Chair in the Department of Psychology

Prof Catriona Macleod was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Research Medal in 2015. In the graduation ceremony of 31 March 2016, she was also presented with the VC's Community Engagement Award for her involvement in the Siyahluma Project, which has only happened once before at Rhodes.

A reviewer of her award described Prof Macleod as "the most eminent critical feminist psychologist in South Africa."

Her work is in the areas of critical health psychology, feminist psychology, and theoretical psychology. Her research is acknowledged as being methodologically sophisticated, and simultaneously rooted in down-to-earth real-life issues, mostly of a social justice nature. This is evidenced by her inclusion in the recipients of this year's Community Engagement Award.

Prof Macleod was also a recipient of the VC's Book award in 2012, which places her today amongst this university's most celebrated researchers through the VC's awards.

She has published widely, in top international journals as well as local forums. Her worldwide standing is evidenced in her B1 rating from the National Research Foundation, a recognition category for researchers who are recognised internationally for the high quality and impact of their research outputs; a Distinguished Publication Award in 2011 from the International Association of Women in Psychology for her book: 'Adolescence', pregnancy and abortion: Constructing a threat of degeneration (London: Routledge); her appointment in 2013 as Editor-in-Chief of *Feminism & Psychology*, a top-tier international journal; and her selection as

convenor of the International Conference of Critical Health Psychology (ISCHP) in 2015.

As well as her current Editor-in-Chief role, her contribution has been sought for editorial roles in other journals and book projects, including the journals *Gender & Society*, *Australian Psychologist*, and the *Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology* in the international publishing space. Nationally, she has served as Associate Editor of *Psychology in Society*, and on the editorial board of the *South African Journal of Psychology*.

Prof Macleod graduated three PhDs and one master's graduate at this year's graduation.

In her personal life, Professor Macleod is the mother of two wonderful sons, the partner of a very supportive man, and a cancer survivor.

In 2013 Prof Macleod was awarded the prestigious National Research Foundation SARChI Chair in Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction, enabling her to devote her working time to research and postgraduate students.

"I am grateful for the acknowledgement of peers, and see this as a celebration of the work conducted by everybody involved in



the CSSR including students, post-doctoral fellows, research associates and collaborators. As a group of researchers, we are passionate about what we do, and I think that this shines through in the research that we produce," shares Prof Macleod.

The 2015 Senior Distinguished Teaching Award

Associate Professor Catherine Foxcroft Department of Music & Musicology



Prof Catherine Foxcroft was awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Senior Distinguished Teaching Medal.

"This award is presented annually to an academic with 10 or more years of experience who is able to demonstrate to a Committee of peers from this University that their teaching is truly exceptional," explained Dr Boughey.

Prof Foxcroft's teaching takes place in one-to-one situations as she sits beside her students as they practise.

She explains that because of the one-to-one nature of her teaching it is personal and intense, and involves much more than simply preparing a young person to perform a set of pieces for an examination since essentially it is aimed at 'developing a young musician'.

As a renowned concert pianist and chamber musician who has performed in places such as Germany, Norway, Italy and Greece and who has been a finalist or semi-finalist in international piano competitions in the Czech Republic, the United States, as well as in Greece and Italy, she is able to prepare her postgraduate students for these experiences in their own careers.

The provision of feedback in each class is

crucial for her students to develop. "In order for a student to mature artistically enough to be able to think independently and creatively, I believe it is crucial to encourage him or her to express their opinions of how they would like the music to sound," she explains.

She allows her students the freedom to select pieces to play that they love for "If you love a piece of music, you'll play it well" she explains.

Prof Foxcroft has introduced a very popular semester-long course called 'Music, Health and the Brain'. Topics in this course include Music and Emotion, Music and Meaning and Music and Identity.

"I believe the more passionately a point is argued, the deeper the learning associated with the topic. I therefore generally allow strong disagreements between students to be debated to the end. Music enjoyment is strongly biased by personal preference (personal relaxation is caused by heavy metal vs trance vs classical vs indigenous music vs blues) with the result that there is room for great diversity in opinion. It is exhilarating to witness students' acceptance of each other's preferences as they encounter totally different preferences to their own which are argued with equal passion," explained Prof Foxcroft.



Prof Catherine Foxcroft receives the Vice-Chancellor's Senior Distinguished Teaching Award.

The 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award Winners

Dr Jennifer Williams & Ms Tanya Poole Department of Physics and Electronics & Department of Fine Art

Dr Jennifer Williams and Ms Tanya Poole were jointly awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. In the Award processes, the Committee evaluating candidates was unable to make a distinction between the two individuals whose teaching was judged to be of the same exceptional order. A decision was therefore made to make a joint award for 2015.

"The Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Medal is presented annually to an academic with fewer than 10 years of experience who is able to demonstrate to a Committee of peers from this University that their teaching is truly exceptional," explains Dr Boughey.

Dr Jennifer Williams of the Department of Physics and Electronics is a joint recipient of the

2015 Distinguished Teaching Award along with Ms Tanya Poole of the Department of Fine Art.

Many people view Physics as a complex and obscure area of study. Dr Williams points out that "everyone does Physics constantly – even the act of walking is full of Physics."

Dr Williams' approach to her students is not of her wanting to teach them Physics but rather to help them learn the subject. Her classes are spaces for discussion and questioning but, to allow for this to happen, students have to work independently to lay the groundwork for what will happen there. This requires that they are able to read and learn from their textbooks, something Dr Williams noticed many struggle with.

"Teaching students how to read the text book is a problem for me, since I don't know

how myself, since first year is all easy to me and on reading [the text book] I understand it! Perhaps a good exercise for me would be to set myself something difficult to learn from a text book and try to see how I do it?" explains Dr Williams.

It is this dedication of trying to understand her students' perspective that has contributed to her receiving this award.

Ms Poole was overseas for the graduation period.

"Teaching has always received enormous attention from academics at Rhodes University and the institution is fortunate to employ many individuals whose work in this area can only be described as truly distinguished," shared Dr Boughey.



Dr Jennifer Williams acknowledges all her colleagues on stage at the 2016 Graduation ceremony where she was awarded her Distinguished Teaching Award. Ms Tanya Poole was away over the Graduation period.

It's Dr Chief Technical Officer now

Dr Sagaran Abboo, who was born and raised in Grahamstown, has accomplished both his dreams, to study further and obtain his Masters and PhD all while doing his lifelong dream of working at Rhodes University. "I always wanted to work at Rhodes University when I was younger because, at the time, this was one of the more liberal universities and they were also quite cosmopolitan," said Abboo. "I knew for a long time that this was the kind of environment I wanted to be in."

Abboo looks at Biofuels as an alternative to Fossil Fuels, in his PhD thesis and goes further by introducing second generation fossil fuels as a more sustainable energy source. "We have gone into researching second generation biofuels, where we don't use food but we rather use waste products," said Abboo. "In our case we used fruit waste and for my specific case I looked at apple pulp." Abboo went on to explain that they discovered that if they add enzymes to apple pulp, it breaks the pulp down and forms sugars that can be fermented to form Bio-fuels. "We designed a bio-reactor and we did parallel studies where we found the cocktail of enzymes that work in a synergy because it is very important to get the correct amount of enzymes to break down the apple pulp," Abboo explained.

Abboo was attracted to this project because of its applied nature. The completion of his PhD has led him to want to pursue an academic career. "I would like to take on an academic or research career," he said. "I enjoy working with instrumentation and doing research, and I enjoy teaching students so I would love to start lecturing on analytical methods using highly sensitive and complicated instruments."

"I dedicated my thesis to my mom because she would always encourage me and say it is never too late to get your degree," said Abboo who successfully completed his PhD while performing his normal



Dr Abboo never gave up on his goals of obtaining a PhD while working for Rhodes University.

"I dedicated my thesis to my mom because she would always encourage me and say it is never too late to get your degree,"

duties as a Chief Technical Officer for the department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology at Rhodes University. "Although now she has passed away, she was my biggest inspiration and motivation." he said. "She always encouraged me like a mother does, she always made me reach for the highest stars."

The journey to Abboo finally graduating

in his red gown has been a long and tedious one for him but he says perseverance is what got him through it all. "I did my schooling when the country was still divided which means you have to be motivated," he said. "It is for this reason that I think being motivated and never giving up on your goals, perseverance and resilience is what you need in your tough times to keep going." The red gown is definitely something to chase, it is so surreal that it has a magic feeling as though one has become part of academia he shares.

Abbo believes that life is not all that bad and that tough times teach us lessons we need to learn but what got him to the point where he is now is never giving up. "We all fall off the wagon at some point so you can give yourself time but you need to pull yourself together because that is the only way to succeed."

30 lecturers graduate from Rhodes

Thirty students graduated as higher education teachers or lecturers, with a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education from Rhodes University on Friday, 1 April 2016.

"If you think about it, the people who teach our pre-primary children need to have a teaching qualification, but with university teachers it's assumed that once you have a disciplinary degree, you are automatically going to be a good university teacher. We like to call them teachers and move away from calling them lecturers because then it implies a certain pedagogy," explains Prof Lynn Quinn who is the Head of the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning (CHERTL).

This year's group of 30 to graduate with a postgraduate diploma from Rhodes is the largest cohort for the Centre to date, and is made up of staff from Rhodes University, the University of Venda and Mangosuthu University of Technology.

Rhodes University was one of the first institutions to offer development opportunities for academics in their role as teachers and are leaders in this relatively new field of teaching and learning in higher education. There is a huge need for academic staff development at institutions of higher learning.

"Our first graduates were in 2004 and we've had in excess of 90 Rhodes staff members who have done the course and approximately 60 of these are still at Rhodes," says Dr Jo-Anne Vorster who teaches on the postgraduate diploma along with a number of other colleagues, Dr Southwood, Dr Belluigi, Dr Hlengwa and Dr Skead.

"We have fewer pure scientists who do the diploma. I think there's a belief that because we are not science educators that we wouldn't know how to help them teach their disciplines. I think this is incorrect as I believe we are capable of understanding different

disciplines and a big focus of the course is for people to be able to apply what they learn to their specific contexts, be it disciplinary or institutional. We offer them concepts, theories and ideas from research on higher education. We don't impose on academics how to use those tools, they have to figure it out in relation to their own contexts" says Prof Quinn.

"What is interesting is that colleagues learn from those in different disciplines, ideas that they hadn't imagined could work and yet they do," shares Dr Vorster.

An example of this was seen when a Fine Art lecturer and Chemistry lecturer sat in on each other's lectures, as part of the course, and they both felt that they learnt different teaching styles and methods from the other that they could go and apply in their own

"Our first graduates were in 2004 and we've had in excess of 90 Rhodes staff members who have done the course and approximately 60 of these are still at Rhodes,"

classrooms.

"The Department of Higher Education and Training Teaching Development Grant money in the last few years has allowed for more academic development in higher education which has made it possible for more lecturers to qualify as teachers in their respective disciplines."

CHERTL also offer a Post Graduate Diploma for Academic Developers, to allow for more institutions to offer teacher development opportunities for their academic staff in order to improve the quality of teaching in the higher education sector.

"This is also a way of addressing our concern to grow the field of higher education studies in particular academic staff development. It's about trying to improve the quality of teaching across the sector,"

suggests Prof Quinn.

Social justice, redress and equity are the principles upon which the work of CHERTL is founded. Although they believe this has served them well, the Centre's own self-reflections have led them to question why they have been slow at pushing a stronger curriculum transformation agenda.

"I think part of the *modus operandi* has been out of a great respect for academics. We don't ever want to go in there with a 'we know better than you and we are going to tell you what to do attitude.' But we've realised that maybe we need to push a little harder and start asking more challenging questions," states Prof Quinn.

"We've been focussing on transforming the teaching and learning aspects, the pedagogy aspects, trying to get more students access to powerful disciplinary knowledge through more effective learning processes.," offers Dr Vorster.

"We've always left the curriculum content as the lecturer's domain. The student protests have done us a huge favour and really pushed us into thinking differently. It has made us realise that we can't be so respectful anymore and we need to be asking the harder questions," shares Prof Quinn.

"It's both the 'what' and 'how' that need attention and not just the 'how'," states Dr Vorster.

According to Prof Quinn, "In our earlier work we were most concerned that we don't just give students formal access to higher education but also epistemological access. In other words, access with success. Now, however, we have begun to also encourage lecturers to think about what knowledge is included in their curricula."

The current cohort of Postgraduate Diploma students are thus better equipped to think more critically about all aspects of their role as teachers in higher education.

A family's love of languages



Paul Mason who teaches fiction on the MA in Creative Writing and husband of Carol Leff in the Institute for the study of English in Africa was awarded his PhD. Leff's daughter, Nathalia von Witt was awarded her MA in African Languages with distinction, supervised by Prof Maseko and Dr Nkomo. Von Witt went up the ranks as a second language speaker of isiXhosa and is currently in Vietnam.

Critical Studies in Sexualities & Reproduction (CSSR)



Dr Tracey Feltham-King, Professor Lisa Saville Young, Professor Catriona Macleod and Dr Malvern Chiweshe. Three PhD students supervised by Prof Macleod graduated, one of the three was co-supervised by Prof Saville-Young. Prof Macleod also supervised one Masters student, who graduated with distinction, and two honours students. She received two VC's Awards, the VC's Distinguished Senior Research Award and was part of the Siyahluma Group who received the VC's Community Engagement Award.

Human Kinetics & Ergonomics



Dr Jono Davy was awarded his PhD. Celebrating here, at the graduation luncheon, with Prof Candice Christie, HOD of the HKE Department. Three MSc students graduated with distinction, Matthew Clark, Natalie Ross and Justin McDougall. Justin is the son of June McDougall who is the office administrator in the HKE Department.

Toast to all the supervisors



Prof Tebello Nyokong toasted to all the supervisors at the Graduation PhD luncheon, you were there through the dark times despite being ignored through the good times, she shared. 'Congratulations to all the supervisors!'

Admiration for disabled graduate

Ms Thembelihle Ngcai was determined to walk across the stage at her graduation ceremony in which she was conferred a Bachelor of Journalism Degree on Friday 1 April. The 21-year-old, whose strength and mobility is severely limited due to spinal muscular dystrophy, was determined not to use a wheelchair during her graduation.

After being capped by Chancellor, Lex Mpati, Ngcai's legs would not carry her the few metres to where the registrar was waiting. Graduation usher Alex Kawondera, who had accompanied Ngcai across the stage, was ready and waiting to assist. To unrestrained applause, Kawondera gently picked her up and carried her the rest of the way.

"It's been a long, difficult journey. I just wanted to brave it out and walk at my own graduation. The university was game and determined to make it happen for me," shared Ngcai.

But Ngcai didn't quite make it. In a heart-stopping moment, Ngcai indicated to Kawondera. "I told him my legs were going to give in," Ngcai said.

"I was supposed to hold her hand and walk with her across the stage. When she indicated to me she was going to fall I naturally just picked her up and carried her to the registrar. It was really nice to help," explained Kawondera.

Ngcai said just a year ago she would likely have been able to negotiate the distance across the stage. But the progressive hereditary disease is taking its toll and she has been told paralysis is the likely prognosis within the next nine years.

"I put a message out on social media for everyone to pray that I would have the strength to walk across the stage at my own graduation. It felt so good having the strength to walk, even if it was just for a little way," said Ngcai.

Dr Tafara Marazi graduated with his PhD in Sociology



Dr Tafara Marazi graduated with his PhD in Sociology. Dr Marazi is visually challenged and successfully completed his doctoral thesis on the survival strategies that the elderly employ in rural Zimbabwe. Dr Marazi was supervised by Prof Helliker who graduated four PhD students along with two full thesis Masters students.

Ngcai leaves behind something of a legacy at Rhodes for her activism to make the institution more accessible to the disabled.

Dr Tafara Marazi graduated with his PhD in Sociology on Friday 31 March, having joined the Sociology Department in 2008. Dr Marazi is visually challenged and completed his doctoral thesis on the survival strategies of the elderly in rural Zimbabwe.



Graduation usher, Mr Alex Kawondera, carries Ms Thembelihle Ngcai across the stage at graduation where she qualified with her BJourn Degree.

Record Number of Graduations for Student Bureau

Student Bureau has set the record for staff who have children graduating in one department with three of their dedicated staff members seeing their children graduate in 2016. Rhodes University's Bulelwa Mdoko, Nocawa Mzembe and Adri Saayman are delighted that after seeing their children work hard through the years, as Rhodes University staff members they get the opportunity to hood their children at the graduation.

Bulelwa Mdoko who has been working at Rhodes University as an Administrative assistant for 19 years said that the news that her son is graduating made her very emotional. "When I found out my son is graduating I cried," said Mdoko. "I even

"When I found out my son is graduating I cried,"

posted a status on Facebook saying that by the grace of God, he is finally graduating." Mdoko went on to explain that it has been a long journey with a lot of suffering which makes this moment more special for her and her son Simamkele Gayika.

Gayika, who graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science had difficulty during his studies after falling very sick in his second year. "I suggested that he deregisters from some subjects in order to cope but he worked hard and he still passed that year," said Mdoko. "He has been inspired deeply by the passing away of my mother in 2013, she called him to her death bed and told him that he must work hard to get this degree even when she is not there to see it." Mdoko explained that as soon as he found out he was graduating he called her and told her that this is dedicated to her for all her support and the next one will be his.

Adri Saayman, who has worked at Rhodes for four years said that this time was very emotional for her family too. "We had a very sad story last year, my sister passed away and

she was actually my son's mentor who said he should go and study," said Saayman. "While doing her PhD she suddenly past away. So on the one hand, my heart is very sore because she can't join us but on the other hand, I could see where he was going and I always said to him, you must keep her in your mind."

Saayman expressed her gratitude towards Rhodes University for enabling her son, Werner Saayman who graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Information Systems, to study with the 75% rebate she and her husband receive as employees of the University. "Most parents won't get the experience of having a child in varsity because it is quite an expensive thing to do but working at Rhodes gives you that opportunity for your children and that makes a big difference," she said.

"I invited my parents because this is their first grandchild that is graduating and this is just as exciting for them as it is for us," said Adri Saayman. It is such an exciting moment for me as a parent because I have two other children who are disabled and they will never get to go that route of even going to school or to graduate so I am so proud of him."

"I invited my parents because this is their first grandchild that is graduating and this is just as exciting for them as it is for us,"

Nocawa Mzembe, whose daughter graduated with a Master's in Sociology says that she had to convince her daughter to apply to Rhodes and not any other University. "When I started working here in 2005 I knew that this is where I wanted my daughter to get her education," said Mzembe. "She said she did not want to go to Rhodes because she had dreams of studying outside of Grahamstown

and I said 'Nope! you must come to Rhodes because I have benefits here.'" Mzembe went on to explain that after her first graduation she was very happy because her daughter, Ziyanda Ntlokwana was the first person in the family to graduate.

Mzembe said that her daughter's many graduations have given her the chance to be proud of her in many ways. "What really excited me as a parent and staff member was

"What really excited me as a parent and staff member was that in 2013 I was the first parent to hood my daughter at her graduation,"

that in 2013 I was the first parent to hood my daughter at her graduation," she said. "This time around I wanted to get a comfortable seat in the audience and watch the beautiful ceremony from a different point of view. I am very proud that my little girl has made all of this possible."



Beatrice the Brave

Rhodes University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on renowned Southern African human rights and media freedom lawyer, Dr Beatrice Mtetwa on Friday, 1 April 2016.

"Severe human rights violations have become so much a part of daily life in Zimbabwe and other African countries that people don't even react anymore when another person goes 'missing' or is tortured or killed. People become tired of hearing about yet another case of inhumanity and this is the danger," she explains.

Practising as a human rights lawyer in Zimbabwe today is a hazardous profession. In 2011 Mtetwa and several of her colleagues in law were brutally assaulted by the police after they gathered in Harare to present a petition to the then Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Patrick Chinamasa, in protest against the detention of fellow human rights lawyers Andrew Makoni and Alec Muchadehama.

For her courage and commitment, she

has received numerous human rights awards for her work and has been named as one of the world's great leaders by Fortune Magazine, but she believes that what she is doing is what any lawyer should be doing.

"The very fact that it is not safe for me to practise law here is a large part of why I have remained in Zimbabwe. I need to continue doing my work here to make the country a safe place for everyone. I need to continue bringing cases of human rights violations and media freedom violations to trial so that they remain in the public eye and there is a record of them."

"The very fact that it is not safe for me to practise law here is a large part of why I have remained in Zimbabwe."



Dr Beatrice Mtetwa with her honorary doctorate. She was acknowledged for her bravery in fighting for human rights despite the hazardous nature of practising law in Zimbabwe.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs, Dr Chrissie Boughey, Chancellor, Justice Lex Mpati, Honorary Doctorate, Dr Beatrice Mtetwa, Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research & Development, Dr Peter Clayton.

The Gift of our Common Humanity

On Friday the 1st of April, Rhodes University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, founder and leader of Gift of the Givers.

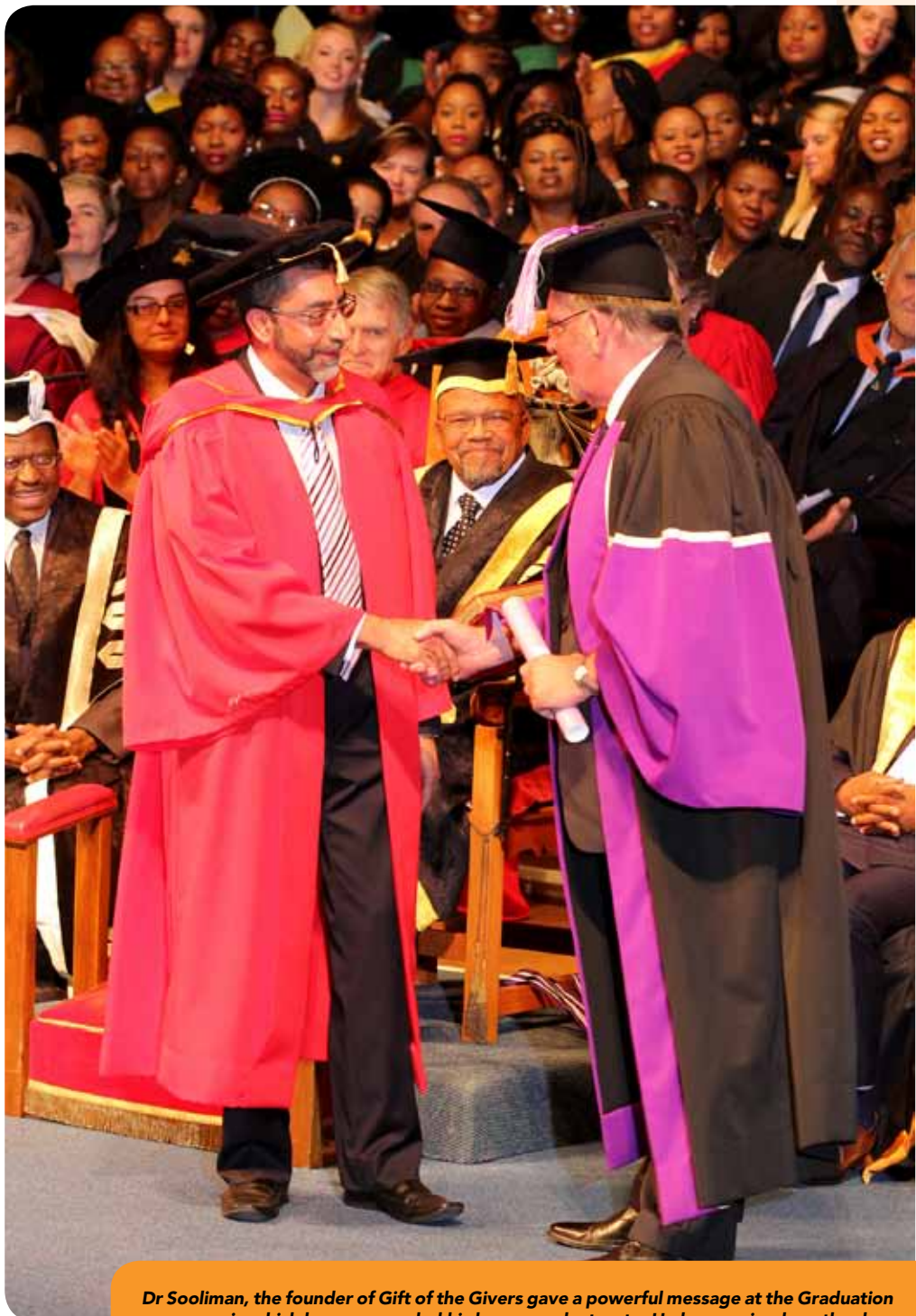
In the midst of disaster, drought, floods, famine, disease, death and destruction you will find Dr Imtiaz Sooliman.

The founder of the international relief organisation, Gift of the Givers, qualified in 1984 at what is now the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and has devoted his life to courageous, selfless, dangerous work in crisis zones across the world.

Syria, Pakistan, Palestine, Japan, Indonesia, Haiti, Bosnia, Somalia, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Zimbabwe ... since 1992 when he founded Gift of the Givers, Dr Sooliman and his team of 200, including search and rescue personnel, doctors (including trauma, emergency and primary health care specialists), nurses, and allied medical personnel (including dietitians, dentists and trauma counselors), have served in 41 stricken countries. They offer emergency medical response, fully equipped mobile hospitals, food, shelter, clothing, blankets, reassurance and care to millions of people. Financially, this amounts to R1.5 billion rand in aid over the 24-year period.

The problems we are facing, he explains, are because "many people in South Africa, as has happened all over the world, have lost their way. People become greedy and self-centred, which, in turn, creates strife, war and disaster," he explains.

"I do have faith that we can turn this around, but the switch has to come from all of us. We have to understand that we need to heal ourselves and this requires of us to strive for honesty and integrity and to develop the desire to help other people," he shares.



Dr Sooliman, the founder of Gift of the Givers gave a powerful message at the Graduation ceremony in which he was awarded his honorary doctorate. He has received another hon doc from NMMU and is due to receive another from Fort Hare.

A Cat Who Got Lucky With Words

Rhodes University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on internationally acclaimed South African poet and author, Mr James Matthews on the 31st of March.

At 86 he remains young at heart, and amusing. He uses words like 'Cool' and 'Cat' that completely suit him and he wears leather jackets and berets.

Butterflies, he says, "are independent and free. They are like me. If it's a nice day I sit outside and read, I do what I like to do."

"Butterflies are my totem," he explains. "The butterfly's presence is in my heart and because of this, I face mortality brim-filled with delight."

Matthews does not regard his writing success as any big deal: "I'm just a cat who got lucky with words, I'm not into this ego stuff," he says.

He discovered he could write during his teenage years. While attending Trafalgar High School in District Six in Cape Town, his teacher, Ms Meredith, gave him 21 out of 20 for a story he wrote about a tramp. "She told the class 'James is a writer,'" he recalls.

Matthews' writing career developed as an inadvertent gift following an accident at the age of 14 when he fell and hit his head against a cement floor. It ended his schooling as he could not remember what he was studying and he has suffered from lapses ever since.

His messages against apartheid were conveyed through his first book, which he self-published in 1962, called 'The Park and Other Stories.'

Matthews' acute vision of social and political conditions in apartheid South Africa, and his rage against injustice, earned him the title of "dissident poet".

"In protest poetry words are merely words. As a dissident poet, my words were bullets," is a widely quoted Matthews' comment.

Matthews says it is up to the younger generation to actively contribute to transformation in South Africa. "It's your time. You must get together, speak, fight, use your vote to change things and get the problems solved. It's your time. To put it another way, I have an iPad but when I look at it, it has a blank look."



Mr James Matthews was awarded an honorary doctorate from Rhodes University for his powerful poetry writing against the brutalities of apartheid.



It was all applause for Mr Matthews who received his honorary doctorate from Rhodes University at the ripe young age of 86.

Environmental Pioneer, Social Justice Leader

Rhodes University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on environmental pioneer and social justice leader, Ms Jeunesse Park, at the graduation ceremony on the 31st March 2016.

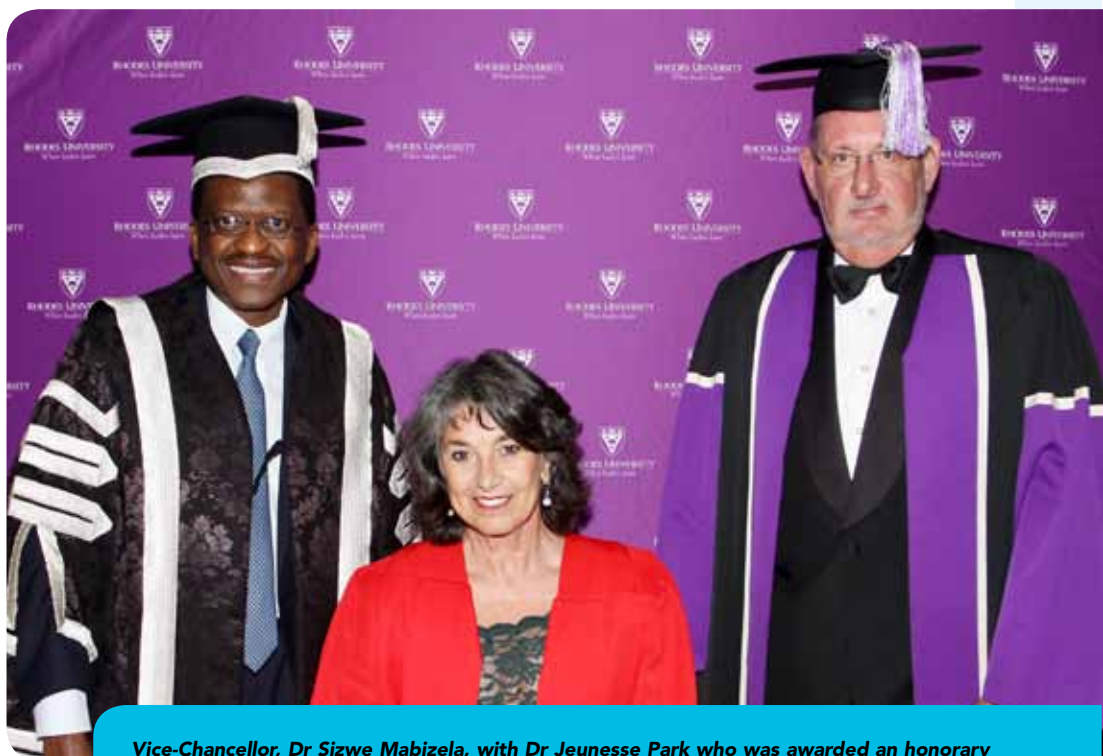
The founder of Food & Trees for Africa started as a woman alone, working from her garage in 1990 on her goal to plant trees and food gardens in South Africa's townships.

She has devoted her life to improving other people's lives and to helping people to understand climate change and the primacy of the natural environment: that human beings, irrespective of whether they live in a city or in the rural areas, cannot survive without a healthy natural environment.

In 2011, her work attracted the attention of former United States Vice-President and Nobel winner, Al Gore.

He had seen a video of Park speaking about her work after she won the United Nations Environment Programme Sasakawa Award for Climate Change (one of her many local and international awards). He was so impressed with her commitment and drive that he contacted her and in 2011 he trained her as the first African Climate Leader. She has since served as a mentor for his international training.

"The world today understands the reality of climate change but it was not until the early 2000s that this happened. Before then it was regarded as the imaginings of hippie tree-huggers, which is what I was called," recalls Park, who urges people to put effort into thinking and acting ahead of their time irrespective of what others might think of them.



Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, with Dr Jeunesse Park who was awarded an honorary doctorate from Rhodes University and Registrar, Dr Stephen Fourie.

Park, as always, is now busy with a new project. She has turned her attention to developing a global urban environmental programme for cities and their communities, called Nature4Cities.

Nature4Cities will be launched this year as a global and local collaborative 'city and science' leadership network aimed at inspiring city leaders and citizens to embrace the natural environment. Joburg, Durban and Cape Town are part of this.

The single biggest problem in South Africa today, according to Park, is the lack of quality education:

"All of us have to commit to achieving a better quality of education for all, from early childhood development through to higher education. The education crisis is one of the key reasons why South Africa is at such a desperate low right now," she explains.

These initiatives are all inter-linked, says Park who sits on the board of Solar-Aid a leading international charity offering solar solutions to issues such as climate change and global poverty in Africa.

"South Africa is bathing in sunshine and yet so many people, especially in the rural areas, including schools, do not have electricity or cannot afford it. It is a no-brainer for South Africa to invest in de-centralised renewable energy instead of pursuing its obsession with nuclear and shale gas, which is so ill-advised and will cost more than we can ever imagine, both monetarily and in terms of people's health."

"I'm hoping that the work we will achieve through the Nature4Cities initiative will help to swing mindsets in South Africa and around the world, and get people at all levels working towards a better life for all and a healthier planet."

How Society Works and How To Change It

On Saturday, 2 April 2016 Rhodes University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Professor Edward Webster. Prof Webster is an internationally recognised sociologist.

For five decades he has tirelessly pursued better conditions for workers; decent wages and the education of workers. He has helped to shape global labour studies and pioneered the academic study of the Sociology of Work and Labour in South Africa.

His social awareness developed early roots in his heart home, the Eastern Cape, where his parents were teaching at Healdtown when he was born. Situated near Fort Beaufort and founded by Methodist missionaries in 1855, it based its teaching approach on the ethos that all people, given the chance, would succeed.

"My mother Enid taught english and music and my father Lionel taught maths and science," Webster explains. "Their pupils included Nelson Mandela and Robert Sobukwe (who later founded the Pan Africanist Congress). Robert was a star English pupil who achieved the highest marks in the Cape Province – schools throughout the Cape wrote the same exams at the time."

Lionel went on to teach science and chemistry in the Education Department at Rhodes University, and Edward, fondly known as Eddie, enrolled at Rhodes in 1961 to study history.

Webster's political consciousness expanded and he became SRC President in 1964, but it was his experience as a rugby player that really drew him into active anti-apartheid politics.

"At the start of the 1965 season the Bantu Administration Department (or not of BAD as we used to call it) banned black people from watching rugby on the Rhodes Great Field on



Prof Webster was awarded an honorary doctorate for pioneering the academic study of sociology of work and labour in South Africa.

the grounds that it was a 'white area'."

Webster explains that black people from the townships of Grahamstown were their keenest supporters and he called for a one-day protest sit-in on the library steps. "The over one hundred students who participated sang 'We Shall Overcome' the signature song of the civil rights movement in the United States. It was my first open anti-apartheid act and one of my fellow rugby players called me a communist."

From then on Webster wanted to understand "how society worked and how to change it".

"I see the embryo of a new South Africa in our students but at the same time I see the downside of decaying public facilities and abuse of power.

It is going to be a difficult decade of

active citizenry and young people entering the economy who are at risk of inheriting a broken system.

"I do believe there is still a basis for a richer, more diverse, more economically stable national project but it is going to require national concentration to pull us back from the edge of conflict and what is beginning to look like a failed state."

Webster's hope for South Africa is derived from "the ordinary people in this country, the hardworking people who are making a way for themselves and their families". He explains: "It was ordinary people who broke down apartheid and these are the people who are creating a new culture, what Steve Biko called a joint culture."

Graduation - one big celebration

Graduation given life: Graduate performs a Xhosa dance

Twenty-two year-old, Tolakele Talitha Silo, recently entertained the graduation audience by performing a Xhosa traditional dance (Umxhentso) before being conferred a Bachelor of Arts degree (IsiXhosa and Journalism and Media Studies) at her graduation ceremony on Saturday 2 April 2016.

When her name was called, her family (who were in on the performance) ululated and called out the family's clan names as she danced on the stage, whip in hand, to the surprise of hundreds in the hall who cheered and applauded her.

Silo grew up in a village called Ndibela in Mthatha, just a few kilometres from Madiba's homestead. "Growing up, I have always been surrounded by people who embraced cultural things and who brought me up to question and ridicule people who lose their cultural values and African education because of Western education," shares Silo.

She says she has always wanted to teach people to take pride in who they are - their identities.

"The idea of graduation is not an African concept but when such ideas are put into practice in African countries, that ought to be done in a way suitable for Africans. South Africa, as a Rainbow Nation, is a country characterised by diverse traditional dances, music, poetry and all other forms of art in its celebratory events," she explains.

One reason for her performance was to welcome people to the Xhosa-dominated Eastern Cape, the home of Rhodes University.

"Personally, there was a point where I could not leave my home for school without my mother having to knock on every loan-shark's door to secure me the education I wanted, then, why not dance when all is in order?" asks Silo.

A reason to dance indeed.



Ms Tolakele Silo recently performed a Xhosa traditional dance at her graduation ceremony.



Ms Lindiwe Tsope, Ms Lolu Ncukana and Ms Ofilwe Seleka celebrating at the graduation garden party.



Rhodie made an appearance at the 1 April Graduation ceremony. He thought he was getting a degree, but it was only April Fool's.