



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Rhodes Communication & Advancement: Alumni Newsletter

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Issue 66

*“Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.”
Martin Luther King, Jr*

Dear Old Rhodians and friends,

Welcome to the final Alumni newsletter for 2018. We have had a very busy, yet extremely successful year filled with academic, research and institutional accomplishments at Rhodes University.

As we say goodbye to 2018, we welcome the New Year warmly and hope that our Old Rhodians will continue to prosper and inspire our upcoming graduates.

From the Alumni Office, we wish you peaceful holidays and we look forward to returning for a prosperous 2019. Enjoy the read.

The Rhodes Alumni Team

Institutional Development Plan

A first-ever Institutional Development Plan was adopted by Council at its last meeting in June this year. This re-imagining of our University is anchored on four pillars. These, in brief are:

1. Sustainability
2. Simultaneous local responsiveness and global engagement
3. Advancing social justice
4. Advancing the public good purpose of higher education

Seven strategic goals have been identified to drive the expected developments at Rhodes University in the next five years in order to advance the academic project. Aligned to the goals are predetermined objectives and measurable performance indicators. Annual targets have been set respectively for each performance indicator.

The foundation for all planning and all policy development is built around a vision to enhance the standing of our University as a truly exceptional institution of higher learning and academic excellence. We seek to uphold the institutional plan in order to continue growing the legacy of Rhodes for the benefit of Makana Municipality, the Province of the Eastern Cape, South Africa and the continent of Africa.

Read the full IDP [here](#)

Honouring our own: Distinguished Alumni Awards 2018

The Old Rhodian Union (ORU), which was founded in 1911, has wasted no time in discussing and implementing some of the recommendations that affect our ongoing involvement with alumni and support of students. In doing so, we have discontinued the bronze statuette of Physical Energy as an award given to recipients of the Distinguished Old Rhodian Awards. In its place, the ORU Award Committee is looking for input from the University Community and will seek to replace the award with a meaningful symbol that is inclusive and reflective of our re-imagined future.



Furthermore, we have changed the name of the ORU awards from Distinguished Old Rhodian Awards to Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The President of the ORU, Professor Rod Walker, hosted the 2018 edition of the annual awards to recognise outstanding alumni at the Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony held in Johannesburg on Thursday 22 November 2018.



Rhodes Chancellor Judge Lex Mpati welcomed guests from all over the country. Vice-Chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela offered his congratulations to the two awardees of the night: Mr Xolani Maxwell Boqwana and Professor Emeritus Pat Terry, who attended the dinner with their families and friends and who were enthusiastically supported by fellow Old Rhodians



The awards honour Old Rhodians who, through their individual achievements, continue to enhance the reputation of the University. This year's nominees and awardees have been of the highest calibre and are true game changers in their respective industries.

The Awards for the night were as follows:



Mr Xolani Maxwell Boqwana

Mr Xolani Maxwell Boqwana is an internationally-respected lawyer, having occupied leadership roles in the legal profession at home and abroad. Max was elected by the Attorneys Profession to guide and lead the progress of negotiations and drafting of the Legal Practice Act, which is intended to contribute to the struggle of transforming the profession as well as bring about more equality amongst legal practitioners. Max was appointed by the Minister of Justice as a Judge of the High Court and is committed to the development of progressive jurisprudence as envisaged in our Constitution. Currently, Max is also serving as the CEO of the Thabo Mbeki foundation, a Foundation set up by the former President in 2008, to pursue the ideals of Africa's renaissance.



Professor Emeritus Pat Terry

Professor Pat Terry is an international author who has made major contributions in the disciplines of Computer Science and Information Technology. Throughout his life, Prof Terry has become increasingly well-known for his work in the areas of compilers and computer languages. He served on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) group responsible for standardising the Modula-2 programming language. It was at the meetings of this committee that a serendipitous contact was established with a fellow Modulan, one Randy Bush, which led to Prof Terry's involvement in the establishment of the first email and networking connections between South Africa and the rest of the world. His reputation as a dedicated and demanding lecturer is legendary among generations of students.

The following two awardees could not attend the dinner and will be presented their Award in 2019:

Dr Georgina Kemp

Dr Georgina Kemp (nee Cundill) has a global reputation for her work in sustainability and climate change, a well-established and internationally-recognised expertise in natural resource management and climate change adaptation research, as well as an expertise in action research, research impact and working to close the gap between science and policy. She has 12 years of direct experience in research, stakeholder engagement and/or research management in Africa, South Asia and Latin America. Dr Kemp has a strong track-record co-ordinating, supporting, monitoring and offering technical guidance for a portfolio of research projects that seek to ensure that research influences policy and practice in developing countries. She has strong capabilities in supporting and providing intellectual leadership in collaborative research processes involving multiple partners, particularly consortium-based projects that strive for impact and learning.



Dr Clive Julian Shiff

South African-trained Dr Clive Shiff is one of the most experienced full-time researchers and lecturers in America's entire health sector. He has been a key member of teams that have crushed the tsetse fly as a public health threat in Southern Africa. In his current role at St Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Dr Shiff has lead key research in the relationship between bilharzia (now called Schistosomiasis) and bladder cancer and remains an investigator at the Malaria Institute in Mchika, Zambia. Dr Shiff initiated a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in collaboration with five of his colleagues, to support science and scientific training in Zimbabwe at the Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI). Formed in 1995, the BRTI has not just survived but has grown into a vibrant and strong Zimbabwean institution that has made a significant contribution to health and development.



For more details on the recipients, please click [here](#)

For photos of the event, please click [here](#)

Reunion Season

This year has been a bumper year, jam-packed with alumni events! We had an Orientation Cocktail Party for Old Rhodians, a Perth Reunion, RUMEP's 25th anniversary, the July Festival Cocktail Party, the annual Convocation and Alumni Luncheon, our Durban Reunion and we ended the year holding our Cape Town and Johannesburg events.

We presented Prof Chris Brink with his Distinguished Old Rhodian Award, which he won in 2017, at this year's Cape Town Donor Dinner. Hosted by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr Peter Clayton, the evening was highly informative with Prof Brink giving a thought-provoking speech on two key questions any university should always ask about its academic work. Click [here](#) for the acceptance speech



Click [here](#) to browse through other photographs of the Alumni events.

2019 Reunion events already in the planning!

Hobson House 50th Reunion

The 1969 members of Hobson House are planning to come back to campus on 8 March 2019 for a fun-filled day of reunion events. However, we are still trying to trace a few members of the 1969 Hobson House intake. Please email t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za if you can help us track them down.

Pharmacy Class of 1969

Celebrating 50 years since they graduated, the reunion will be taking place in Cape Town on the weekend of April 5/6, 2019. Please contact Steve Bardwell at stevebardwell@gmail.com or Jeremy Seigel at the.seigels@mweb.co.za for further details.

1980 to 1995 Back to Campus Reunion

Thapelo Pisto (1987) and the members of the 2019 Reunion Committee are planning a 1980-1995 Reunion, back on campus, from 28-30 June next year. The reunion will take place at the start of the National Arts Festival next year, and planning will need to be done in advance. Please email t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za for any enquiries and suggestions. Please remember that we do not have all of your contemporaries' contact details, therefore, please help in ensuring that they contact the Alumni Office to be put onto the mailing list.

Our Alumni Fundraising Drives

Our alumni are doing amazing work and have not forgotten to pass on the gift of graduation to new generations of students.



Ntombesizwe Scholarship

Alumnus Mr Zukisa Pityana took the opportunity to introduce the Ntombesizwe Scholarship to our guests at our Cape Town events this year.

He explained Henry David Thoreau's quote as saying, "Youth gets together their materials to build a bridge to the moon or maybe a palace on earth; then in middle-age, they decide to build a woodshed with them instead." The Ntombesizwe Scholarship is a story about 16 young professional Rhodes Alumni that have decided to start building a bridge to the moon. They have come together to provide full funding in 2019 for one black female student from Makhanda who falls into the 'missing middle' category, within the fields of Commerce, Science, Law and Pharmacy, for the duration of her undergraduate degree at Rhodes University. They aim to provide young and experienced mentorship, vacation job programmes and graduate programme placement. Zukisa concluded that there can be no progress without sacrifice. "To build this bridge to the moon we need your financial assistance to ensure we can build the female leaders of tomorrow. We need to give back to the community of which we are beneficiaries."



Natasha Joseph Fund

Natasha started a fund last year, where instead of her friends giving her birthday presents, she asked them to rather donate to Rhodes University. The purpose of the drive is to help students who have had their results withheld due to financial straits. The criteria is set to help students who owe R5600 or less on their accounts. We all understand the stress of the final countdown to exam results with parents or guardians struggling to pay that last amount off. Last year, the fund helped seven students and this year, with a generous donation of \$5000 from a fellow Old Rhodian, they will be able to help a lot more students!

Sutherland Old Rhodian Bursary Day

Our OR Gauteng Golf Club held the annual Sutherland Old Rhodian Bursary Day on 16 November. Under the leadership of Terry Sutherland, approximately R80 000 was raised to be donated towards the Sports Bursary.

We invite you to join our alumni in making these funds even greater. The fundraising drives are in line with the University's fundraising campaign Isivivane, which aims to increase funding for students. If you would like to be part of the Isivivane campaign, please find Ways of Giving [here](#). No amount is too little. Choose which project you would like to contribute to and email Luyanda Bheyle at development@ru.ac.za. To pay online via credit card, please find the link [here](#).



Alumni in the News

Our alumni are making waves wherever they are. From Zama Katamzi-Joseph receiving the 2018 Sunanda and Santimay Basu (International) Early Career Award in Sun-Earth Systems Science, to Athambile Masola who opened an all-girls, low-fee private school, to the appointment of Charles Russon to head Absa's Corporate and Investment Bank. Read what Sibokaliso Mavuka, Zak Hawa and Noxolo Mafu and many other alumni are achieving. Please click [here](#)



Faculty News

Rhodes Achievements

- Associate Professors Caroline Khene and Brett Pletsche have been announced as the winners of the 2018 Vice-Chancellor's Research Award.
- Dr Siphokazi Magadla and Dr Karen Ellery were the winners for the Distinguished Teaching Awards.
- Associate Professors of the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning (CHERTL) have received one of the 2018 National Teaching Excellence Awards by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the Higher Education Learning & Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA).
- UNICEF'S Global Innovation Centre partners with Rhodes Biotechnology Innovation Centre to working on new tests for HIV, pregnancy and malaria, which could revolutionise the way women and children are checked and treated for some of the world's most life threatening diseases and complications.
- Rhodes University's Biomedical Biotechnology Research Unit celebrates 10 years.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) have appointed Rhodes University Head of Entomology, Distinguished Professor Martin Hill, as one of its South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI)



Read more about our news at Rhodes [here](#).

Call for Applications: The Open Society Investigative Journalism Commemorative Fellowships

To mark its 25th year in South Africa, the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, in partnership with the University of Witwatersrand and Rhodes University, is launching a special programme to grow the next generation of investigative reporters. Five Fellowships will be offered each year for three years. Four are reserved for South African residents, and the fifth is open to candidates from the rest of Africa.

Read more [here](#)

Old Rhodian Authors

A Rhyme and a Reason by Vincent Higgins

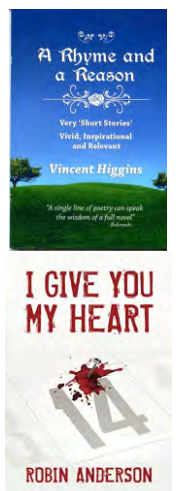
From the beauty of the sunrise to the ugliness of anger. All these poems tell a story that is relatable, understandable and thought-provoking.

I Give You My Heart by Robin Anderson

A chance meeting through the unsavoury village shopkeeper Jago Peters sees the beginning of an unfathomable relationship between the loutish teenager Frank Frear (that's 'fear' with an additional 'r') and the younger, sophisticated Marcus Healan.

What's In It For Me? by Mark Norrish

Visually appealing, part anecdote, part wit, this refreshing and juicy book delivers a healthy dollop of



entertainment along with sage advice. The middle is distinctly playful yet shows a serious backbone, while the finish reveals a healthy dose of common sense. Perfect for dipping into on its own, it also pairs superbly with a glass of your favourite wine – you’ll definitely want more.

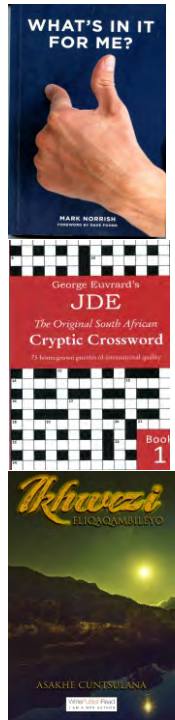
***JDE: The Original South African Cryptic Crossword* by George Euvrard**

JDE is the first South Africanised cryptic Crossword in the classic English tradition, and is published weekly in the Grocott’s Mail and the Mail & Guardian. Be prepared for words like windgat and hamba ka’hle and where river might mean Nossob! Detailed explanations of every clue and solution are provided.

***Ikhwezi Eliqaqambileyo* by Asakhe Cuntsulana**

Asakhe Cuntsulana was born on 04 April 1997, in Qwaninga Village in Willowvale. He started writing and performing poetry in 2015 when he would do praise singing during assembly at his school. He is currently doing a BMus degree at Rhodes University and performed praise poem for the Vice Chancellor during the 2017 and 2018 graduation ceremonies. He is a young author, artist and creative inventor of words into poetry. Asakhe is currently in a process of publishing his first ever collection of Xhosa poetry book via Smashwords.

Read more and find details on where to buy – click [here](#)



In Memoriam

2018 has seen the passing of many of our beloved staff members and well-known alumni. They will forever be in our thoughts and remembered for their deeds. Please do notify the Alumni Office at alumni@ru.ac.za if any Old Rhodian passes away.

Please click [here](#) to read the notices and obituaries

We look forward to receiving your news and seeing you soon in person at one of our events. Please remember that if you have moved, 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



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