



Rhodes Communication & Advancement: Alumni Newsletter

September 2017
Issue 62

“The paradox of education is precisely this—that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated.”

James Baldwin

Dear Old Rhodians and friends

Welcome to the September issue of the Alumni Newsletter. This year has flown by with notable events and developments at Rhodes University, which you will read all about in this edition.

Please remember that the cut-off date for the Online Survey for the Communication, Marketing and Fundraising Strategy is this Monday, 25 September. Please assist us and complete the survey at the following [link](#).

Rhodes University continues to be a vibrant and innovative knowledge institution made up of professionals and thought leaders. Research, teaching, learning and community engagement seek to be alive to the service of social and economic challenges of the local, national, African and international contexts.

The Rhodes Alumni Team

Transformation Summit and Council Feedback

The Transformation Summit held this July, followed six months of intensive internal and external transformation engagements.

The curriculum, income and financial management, institutional identity, student matters, staff and institutional culture all came under intense interrogation and discussions.

The Transformation Summit remitted the matter of the name of the University to Council to design a process, within six months, to arrive at a decision on the future of the name of our University.

The Rhodes University Council has established a seven member *ad hoc* committee to collect information and present back to Council at its next meeting scheduled for 30 November 2017. Other issues, which Council prioritised from the Summit recommendations included Employment conditions, Democratisation of University Governance and a Third Stream Income Committee.



Read the full document [HERE](#)

Alumni Consultations and Survey Results

The largest stakeholder group in the Rhodes University community is the Alumni who play a strategic and critical role.

In order to ensure that the summit was 'inclusive, consultative, open and well publicised', the Rhodes University Council of 2016, the Alumni Transformation Task Team consisting of the Alumni Office, staff and students at Rhodes University interacted with the Alumni in a two-pronged approach; an online survey and consultations.

This allowed our alumni to engage critically and constructively in order to provide meaningful input for the Transformation Summit in July. Consultations were held throughout the country and at events, discussions and observations followed the points below.

1. Social and demographic composition of the student body
2. Transformation of the Curriculum
3. Visual Representation
4. Ceremonies, rituals, practices, customs and traditions
5. Naming of Buildings and the Institution

Lively debates, earnest observations and many valid concerns were discussed under the able supervision of our alumni facilitators at stakeholder events.

An online survey, done with the assistance of Old Rhodian and USA Trust Chair, Donovan Neale-May, via his Marketing Engagement Company, GlobalFluency was sent out to alumni and the results analysed.

[Alumni Transformation Final Report](#)

[Alumni Transformation Survey Report](#)

[Perth, Australia Reunion Consultation](#)

[Cape Town Alumni Transformation Consultations](#)

[Port Elizabeth Transformation Consultation](#)

[East London Consultation](#)

[Durban Consultations](#)

[Johannesburg Consultations](#)



Old Rhodian Bursary Awards

The Old Rhodian Union handed over 28 bursaries to Rhodes students to the value of R217 000.

This year saw an additional annual bursary, the Rosemary Libby Bursary, a generous donation made by Peter Libby, husband to the late Rosemary Libby.

Rosemary acquired a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rhodes University in 1961, and worked as a primary schoolteacher and librarian, providing services for lecturers and students.

Her passion for providing quality education will continue in the bursary created in her honour.

Dr Sizwe Mabizela thanked Mr Libby, who was present during the handover, for his commitment to his wife's dream and for choosing Rhodes University despite the fact that he never studied with the institution.

The Old Rhodian Union celebrates its 106th year in existence and its fundraising efforts have been impressive and are still growing. Photographs can be accessed [HERE](#)



National Arts Festival

The National Arts Festival once again provided an opportunity to welcome back visiting alumni to meet staff members and to catch up with fellow Old Rhodians who were visiting Grahamstown.

The Old Rhodian Union Vice-President, Professor James Gambiza, introduced Dr Peter Clayton, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Research & Development who provided a thorough briefing on the current situation at Rhodes University.

The Old Rhodian Union was founded in 1911 by Professor Cullen Bowles and Sir George Cory to form a link between past and present students and staff of Rhodes University.

The Festival Cocktail Party provides an opportunity for our old and young alumni to come together and to explore the common bond that defines them – their *alma mater*.

Photographs can be accessed [HERE](#)



Old Rhodian Gauteng Association Gearing Up

Three Old Rhodian Gauteng Association members participated in the MTN Walk the Talk with 702, 2017. Pride Jani, Derek Sanhowe and Nozuko Twala were clad in a 'touch of purple' during the 10km walk. Judging by the photographs, the day was a complete success with lots of humour and banter. This will be an annual event with Rhodents joining together as a team and walking as a group.



The Old Rhodian Gauteng Association has three functions coming up:

1. Dischem Old Rhodian Golf Championships – Men & Ladies Champs at Wanderers Golf Club on Saturday, 14 October. Enter as a Four-ball team (find friends) or we will find you a partner. This is a great reunion day for all Rhodents – Competition is Alliance Stableford or Individual Stableford. The participation cost is R350. E-mail Ashlea at ashlea.edwards@live.co.za to book your spot.
2. Rhodes Purple Thursday Reunion – The Rosebank Bowling Club, Hume Road, Dunkeld on the 26th October. Wear your 'touch of purple' and come to this Festive event at a festive venue! There will be prizes for the most outrageously purple dressed Rhodent. Tell your friends and RSVP to t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za so that we can be prepared.
3. The Old Rhodian Bursary Golf Day – to be held at the Royal Johannesburg on Friday, 3 November 2017. This is a brilliant occasion to raise money for the Rhodes Sports Foundation. It is the most prestigious event of the year and the camaraderie amongst the participants makes it very special. R4 500 secures you or your company a Four-ball that includes all your golfing Halfway House, snacks, advertising and splendid prizes. Donations and prizes are also welcome!!! Contact: Terry at ts1704@mweb.co.za or 083 325 0313



Rhodes University Launches Isivivane Fund



Inspired by the Zulu phrase, *ukuphosa itshe esivivaneni*, which means "to throw a stone on the pile or monument", as a way to make a personal contribution to a great common cause by joining together to create a motivational vision for the future, the Isivivane Fundraising Campaign has been launched.

The main goal of this campaign is to secure a considerable amount of funding from the community of Rhodes and beyond to ensure that no capable but financially needy student, which includes the 'missing middle', is refused entry to the university.

At Rhodes we strongly believe that students with the academic ability to succeed should not be prevented from realising their full potential by their finances. The university is committed to giving students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to access a Rhodes education and we appeal to you to join hands with us in making this a reality as we embark in this journey.

The Isivivane Campaign is a 10-year-project with a R1 billion target. Already part of the Isivivane Fund, are our Annual Fund Donors, who through their philanthropism to Rhodes University over the years, inspired us to reach higher and further.



Rhodes University is proud to be the place where dreams are made and lives are changed for the better. Our campus is comprised of vibrant students who are given the necessary academic support in the environment that is conducive to good scholarship and collegiality. Add to the contributions and donate [NOW](#) to the Isivivane Fund. For further information, please contact Qondakele Sompondo at q.sompondo@ru.ac.za

[Isivivane Brochure](#)

Alumni in the News

Your success out there in the world is also ours at Rhodes, which is why it is important for us to know your latest career news; appointments, achievements and philanthropic deeds. Keep us updated and keep your eye on our headlines to see what amazing things Old Rhodians are doing.

Sim Tshabalala made us proud with his appointment as the sole Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Standard Bank, the biggest assets bank in Africa. [read more](#)



Johanna Mukoki won yet another Businesswomen's Association of South Africa (BWASA) award.

St Claire Adriaan, well known for his teaching and expertise in education in the USA, speaks out on the arrest of Romula Avelica-Gonzales, arrested by federal immigration officials whilst dropping off his daughter at a school where St Claire is Principal.



Golda Schultz is making her Metropolitan Opera debut under the baton of esteemed conductor, James Levine as Pamina in Mozart's Die Zauberflöte.



Trevor de Kock has been appointed as the Director: Financial Management by the African Development Bank.

Alumni in the News [Link](#)

Old Rhodian Authors

A sincere Thank You to all authors who send their books to us. The topical subjects of the books are diversified, a true reflection of the different areas of interest and expertise that our Old Rhodians have.

The latest books donated to us include:

Voices on the Wind by Cecil Yasbek which gives the reader rich insight into the Lebanese community of early nineteenth century South Africa.

It's all in Your Hands by Mark Norrish is a reflection of his life philosophy " family, myself, sport, wine and business."

Sustainability, Climate Change and the Green Economy, edited by Godwell Nhamo brings together insights on the nexus of the four concepts embedded in its title.

The Baronet and The Savage king by David Hilton-Barber is a story begging to be told. The concession to mine gold at Tati was granted to a British baronet, Sir John Swinburne, by King Lobengula, the last King of the Northern Ndebele people.

The wartime Diaries of WD Terry – A Safrican At Cambridge, edited and introduced by Laurence Wright, is a fascinating study of a young Elsie Ballot scholar who read English at Cambridge between 1938 and 1965. He went on to be an influential Senior Lecturer at Rhodes University from 1956 to 1965.



Read more [HERE](#)

RU General News

Rhodes Appoints New Registrar

For the first time in its 113 years of existence, Rhodes University has appointed a female to the position of Registrar. Professor Adele Moodly is expected to start in her new position in October.

Having held a number of senior leadership positions in over 20 years spent in the higher education sector, Prof Moodly brings with her a wealth of academic, leadership and managerial experience.

Prof Moodly succeeds Rhodes' long serving Registrar, Dr Steve Fourie, who retires after over 20 years in the position.



Transforming education through educators

The Inaugural Lecture by Professor Di Wilmot titled *Transformative Teacher Education in a time of crisis* proved to be a timeous and relevant presentation of critical research on education.

Highway Africa deals with accountability and local governance

The Rhodes University Highway Africa Conference hosted by the School of Journalism and Media Studies in partnership with Corporate South Africa was well attended by media players and government officials, sharing their insight on how to operate as partnerships towards social accountability.

VC's Teaching Award winners present four lectures

Rhodes University hosted four 2017 Vice Chancellor's Senior Distinguished Teaching and Research Award lectures: – Professor Martin Hill, Dr Gladman Thondhlana, Dr Dion Nkomo and Professor Julie Coetzee.



SRC women ready to lead from the front

The inauguration of Nhlakanipho Mahlangu as the second black female President of the Rhodes University Student Representative Council (SRC), marked a historical breakthrough towards the end of a culture of lack of female leaders in student governance.

Rhodes Business School launches TV Channel for business empowerment

In a ground breaking move, the Rhodes University Business School launched a television channel, which offers lectures in Economics 1, Commercial Law, Entrepreneurship and financial planning.



Read the full stories [HERE](#)

Send us your news and your pictures

We know you are doing amazing things out there. So please send us your news and a high quality jpegs for the institutional publication Rhodos Magazine and other publications to alumni@ru.ac.za

We would also like to start a Snippets Section, which will feature news of weddings, births and life changing events. Rhodents have expressed their interest in keeping up to date with their fellow alumni.

If you are willing to mentor a student or a recent graduate, please contact Terry at t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za

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

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

[Alumni in the News](#)

[General RU News](#)

[USA Trust Web Site](#)

[UK Trust Web Site](#)

[Old Rhodian Authors](#)



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