

**RHODES UNIVERSITY**

*Where leaders learn*



**Rhodes Communication & Advancement:  
Alumni Newsletter**

December 2017  
Issue 63

***"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change."***

***Carl Rogers***

**Dear Old Rhodians and friends,**

Welcome to the final Alumni e-newsletter for 2017. This year was characterised by notable events and developments at Rhodes University, which you can read all about in this edition. This year has been a journey in exploring sustainable institutional growth, reimagining our practices and engaging in transformation to become an inclusive, engaged institution, while retaining our academic excellence. As we say goodbye to 2017, 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 2018. Enjoy the read.

The Rhodes Alumni Team

**Council Decides on the Name of our University  
Rhodes University stays!**

On 30 November 2017, the Rhodes University Council made a decision regarding the University's name. Out of 24 members of Council who were present and eligible to cast a ballot on this motion, 9 members voted for the motion and 15 voted against the motion to change the name of Rhodes University.

It is necessary to reflect upon the context and process of the consideration and decision by Council on the name of the University. Given the financial strain that the University has experienced over the past two years, following the #FEESMUSTFALL campaign, Council has had to approve a deficit budget for two consecutive years.

Since the issue of the name of the University came to the fore in 2015, strong views have been expressed in support of, and in opposition to, its retention. It cannot be disputed that Cecil John Rhodes was an arch-imperialist and white supremacist who treated people of this region as sub-human. There is also a general consensus that there is not much to celebrate about him and the way he went about doing things.

Rhodes University has, over more than a century, developed a unique identity of its own, which is separate from, and far transcends, the person Cecil John Rhodes. The values that Rhodes University embodies and celebrates are very different to those that Cecil John Rhodes espoused.

Read the full story [here](#)

## Honouring our Own: Old Rhodian Awards 2017

The Old Rhodian Union, founded in 1911, hosted the 2017 edition of the annual awards to recognise outstanding alumni at the Old Rhodian Awards ceremony held for the first time in Johannesburg on Tuesday 28 November 2017.

Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Rhodes Vice-Chancellor welcomed guests from all sectors of the country. Mr Sim Tshabalala, newly appointed sole Chief Executive Officer of Standard Bank and previous winner of the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award gave the keynote address of the night.



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:

### Professor Tony Granger – Distinguished Old Rhodian Award

South African born author and businessperson, Tony Granger has continued the Old Rhodian tradition as a trustee of the Rhodes University United Kingdom Trust. He has a BA LLB from Rhodes. He has written 14 popular books on financial planning and has led from the front, being a former President of the Institute of Financial Planners (IFP) in South Africa and holder of dual CFP status in the UK and South Africa.



### Professor Godwell Nahmo – Distinguished Old Rhodian Award

Professor Nhamo, (a C3 Rated NRF researcher), has dedicated his life since his first enrolment at Rhodes in 2003 to opening up critical research areas in the fields of climate policy, green economy and sustainable development. He has published widely in this space including six (6) books (one co-authored and five edited published from 2011-2016). He has also graduated nine (9) PhDs between 2013 and 2016 and mentored 10 postdoctoral fellows. Prof Nhamo has published many journal articles now numbering 60 since his enrolment as a PhD student at Rhodes in 2003.



### Mr David Abbey – Emerging Old Rhodian Award

David Abbey is widely recognised in the banking and financial services industry for his high intellectual and execution capability, sound business acumen and commercial shrewdness. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant, who qualified concurrently as a Certified Information systems Auditor (a global qualification recognised as the highest qualification for Information Technology and Information Systems professionals). He is a Senior Banker and Transactor in the Acquisition and Leveraged Finance Division at Rand Merchant Bank, Corporate and Investment Bank. Instrumental in the formation of various industry wide initiatives, he received the coveted Rand Merchant Bank Special Service Distinction Award.



### Dr Prudence Ogunlade – Emerging Old Rhodian Award

Dr Ogunlade is Executive Manager in the Office of the Chief Operations Officer at Transnet Freight Rail. She holds a PhD in Chemistry at Rhodes, has studied Programme in Business Management at Unisa and is currently busy with her studies towards a MBA degree. She was attracted to join Transnet in 2014, where her work involved planning and developing integrated capacity creation strategies aligned to the business strategy, in accordance to the state owned entity's Market Demand Strategy. She translated these capacity creation strategies into initiatives with short, medium and long-term focus for expansion of infrastructure, and monitored progress on the implemented initiatives. In 2016, Dr Ogunlade was promoted to the Executive Manager position, and within a year of being promoted, she has initiated the 'I am Accountable' campaign, which instils accountability in the workplace, with the intent of creating a high performance culture.



### Ms Krivani Pillay- Emerging Old Rhodian Award

Krivani Pillay is a highly motivated and passionate journalist with over a decade of experience. Aside from her qualification at Rhodes (Bjourn and Journalism Masters), she has a diploma in European Journalism and Literature from Hogeschool van Utrecht in The Netherlands. She worked with one of the first multimedia teams led by Prof Guy Berger, and the faculty at the University of North Carolina in the United States. In 2005, she was the



recipient of the Vodacom Journalist of the year award in the category of Editor's Choice. As the executive producer for Current Affairs at SABC News, Krivani alongside seven of her colleagues played a key role in initially challenging the SABC over their management's editorial policies, which they felt, undermined the editorial independence of the corporation. As a result, the then COO, subjected them to various forms of intimidation and harassment including initial suspension and then dismissal. They stood their ground and submitted their concerns to Parliament. The Portfolio Committee on Communications vindicated the actions of the SABC 8 – the COO was suspended, and the SABC Board was dissolved.

Other Awardees who could not be present for the Awards Dinner in Johannesburg will be presented with the Distinguished Old Rhodians Award next year.

#### **Professor Chris Brink**

Professor Chris Brink served as Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University in the United Kingdom for 10 years and before that as Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University for 5 years.

As a Rector of Stellenbosch University, he led a transformation agenda that combined teaching quality, social diversity, and promotion of research. He also initiated, with the city's Mayor, a town-and-gown collaboration called 'Reinventing Stellenbosch', aimed at overcoming the divisions of the apartheid era. Chris Brink is a logician with a Cambridge PhD and an interdisciplinary DPhil. He holds Masters' degrees from Rhodes University in both philosophy and mathematics, and a Bachelor's degree in computer Science. His research areas include mathematics, logic, philosophy and computer science, and he has published in all these fields. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. He holds the Freedom of the City of Newcastle and has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law.



#### **Prof Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela**

Prof Gobodo-Madikizela is an author, Professor and holds the Research Chair in Historical Trauma and Transformation at Stellenbosch University. She has been Professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Cape Town. Prof Gobodo-Madikizela has won several awards for her work, including the Eleanor Roosevelt Award (2007), and being honoured among '100 People who Made a Difference' in the permanent exhibit of Hall of Heroes in the National Freedom Centre in Cincinnati, Ohio (2005). In 2010, she received the Social Change Award from Rhodes University 'for contribution made by a leading psychologist toward social transformation in South Africa'. She is the recipient of two honorary doctorates in recognition of her research on victim-perpetrator dialogue – the Degree of Doctors of Laws, *honoris causa*, from Holy Cross College in Massachusetts (2002), and the honorary Doctor of Theology from the Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena, Germany (2017).



#### **Dr Leslie Shone- Distinguished Old Rhodian Award**

Dr Leslie John Shone was known for his personal integrity, exceptional leadership qualities and the ability to deal with people at all levels without pride or prejudice. He has made a significant impact on all major water utilities throughout South Africa and the larger water utilities in Africa. His areas of expertise included Risk Management for Executives, the Benchmarking process, the role of Leadership in Performance Measurement and the role of Leadership in Quality Management, among others. Leslie graduated from Rhodes University in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Diploma in Industrial Organisation and Business Management. The Commonwealth University in London awarded him a Doctorate in Science. Unfortunately, Dr Leslie Shone was ill at the time that he was informed that he had been awarded the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award and has since



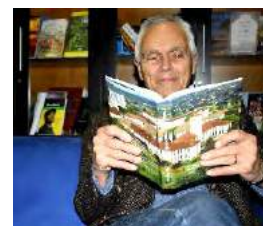
passed away. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends and we will present the award posthumously to his family in 2018.

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

## **OR Authors**

#### **Book on the history of Rhodes University published:**

Professor Paul Maylam's book, *Rhodes University, 1904-2016: An Intellectual, Political and Cultural History*, was launched at the university in September. The product of over four years of research and writing, the book provides a critical account of Rhodes' 113-year history. While the author holds the view that there is much in the university's history that is worthy of celebrating, he also maintains that there are aspects of this past that reflect poorly on the institution. Some critics of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the late 1990s have pointed to the failure of the university sector to make any submissions to the commission. This book represents a small attempt to rectify this omission, while drawing out both the positive and negative aspects of the university's history. A number of themes are covered in the book such as, the university's founding as an imperial



university; academic life in the early years and beyond; the infrastructural development of the campus; the changing patterns of student life and culture; the politics of the university with a particular focus on its sometimes undistinguished role during the segregation and apartheid eras; the roles played by anti-apartheid staff and student activists; and sporting achievements over the years. Lastly, the ways in which the university has addressed the challenges of transformation in the post-apartheid era.

The book carries portrayals of some of the most prominent academics and students who have worked and studied at Rhodes. It recounts some of the key episodes in the university's history; and it highlights some of the major trends and shifts that have occurred over time.

There are soft-cover (R220) and hard-cover (R295) versions of the book, which can be purchased at Van Schaik Bookstore in Grahamstown, and at Fogarty's Bookshop in Port Elizabeth. For online orders please contact Bulelani Mothlabane ([b.mothlabane@ru.ac.za](mailto:b.mothlabane@ru.ac.za)).

### *Inspired Success: The 5 Keys To Reaching Greater Heights of Achievement*

- by Njabulo James Nkosi.

Success begins internally before it can be manifested externally. Anybody can be successful but many people fail to achieve success because of perceived challenges and lack of understanding and direction.

This simple and dynamic book is based on real life experiences, as well as through seminars and conversations with two achievers across different industries and occupations. It details the following models to provide direction for reaching greater heights: 1. Understand Success - C.R.A.V.E Success Model

2. Practice Holistic Wellness - A.S.P.I.R.E Wellness Model
3. Realise You Are a Leader - S.I.M.P.L.E Leadership Model
4. Have a Wealth Creation System - B.L.I.S.S.F.U.L Wealth Model
5. Find Your Voice - C.H.A.M.P.I.O.N.S Communication Model



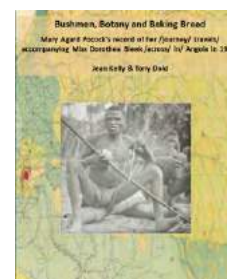
Njabulo James Nkosi is a business consultant, coach, and speaker with Toastmasters International. He was born and raised in Benoni and graduated from Rhodes University. He lives with his two roommates (Mom and Dad) and is passionate about self-improvement, for both himself and others. Buy the Book at Smashwords:

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/735801>

### *Bushmen, Botany and Baking Bread*

- Tony Dold and Jean Kelly

Tony Dold, curator of the Selmar Schonland Herbarium, and herbarium volunteer Jean Kelly, have been working for several years on a book based on Dr Mary Pocock's dairies, drawings and photographs from an expedition across Angola with ethnographer Dorothea Bleek in 1925. Tony has now completed an illustrated manuscript that he wants to publish as a book. Tony has received a quote from NISC for R50 000 to produce a B5 size, soft cover, but elegant book. The book would be of considerable interest to Rhodes University as Mary Pocock was a longstanding staff member, was awarded an honorary doctorate by Rhodes and bequeathed a sum of money to the Botany department. If you are able to assist in helping Tony to finance the book, please contact him at [t.dold@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.dold@ru.ac.za)



## FUNDRAISING AT RHODES

As we come to the end of another year at Rhodes, we are always touched by the amount of support our Alumni gives towards the Rhodes Annual Fund, and our recently launched Isivivane Campaign. The Isivivane Student Financial Aid Campaign is an ambitious 10-year project aimed at increasing student financial aid. Throwing a single stone in a pile appears to have little impact at face value; however, a pile is made up of single stones thrown by multiple people. It is this undisputable fact that has seen Rhodes University's Communication and Advancement division leading from the front in raising funds for the Isivivane Student Financial Aid Campaign. Read more [here](#)



Natasha Joseph, a Rhodes alumnus, embarked on an ambitious one-month fundraising drive for Rhodes University students who had their results withheld due to not being able to keep up with their student fees. She launched a campaign amongst her close friends and those on her social media to raise money, which was shared between seven students. Funds were also raised for the registration fees in 2018 for a returning foreign student. Contributions from her friends ranged from R500 to R15000.

This is an extract from a letter written by a 22-year old recipient:

"Last year, a few days before my 21st birthday I could not celebrate. My results were withheld because my student account was in arrears. I spent my special day crying in my mother's arms. I do not know if there is a word in the dictionary that can express how grateful I am that this year will be different. You have given me hope and I am more determined to be successful and have the same positive effect on someone else's life.

The Annual Fund is part of the Isivivane family and every gift received has made a big impact in creating transformative change at our University and the Makana community. We are incredibly grateful for your donations that go towards helping our current students reach their dreams. Old Rhodians portrayed remarkable support and mentorship towards current Rhodents' financial aid needs this year and we hope this will inspire similar camaraderie within the Rhodes family and philanthropy towards academically strong and deserving students at Rhodes.

Contact Qondakele Sompondo at [q.sompondo@ru.ac.za](mailto:q.sompondo@ru.ac.za) or visit our Isivivane page here to find out how you can contribute.

<http://www.ru.ac.za/isivivane/>

## The Power of Bequests

We are most appreciative to have received a number of bequests and memorial contributions and we strive to cherish your legacy by proving the value of the Rhodes education: Where Leaders Learn. The Rhodes University Bequest Association was launched in 2002 And to date an amount of over 48 million has been deposited through bequests left to Rhodes University.

The programme is ongoing one with our alumni and we currently have 87 confirmed bequests. What is a bequest? A bequest (or legacy) is a disposition in a will of money and/or property left to a named beneficiary, such as Rhodes University. The bequest may take various forms such as:

- A percentage of your estate – a good option, since it is difficult to predict the nett value of your estate at the time of your death. This way you ensure that all your beneficiaries receive the shares you intended for them.
- The residue – this is the balance of your estate after all costs, debts, and bequests have been paid.
- The proceeds of a life insurance cover – these may be made payable to Rhodes University by means of a cession in favour of the University.
- Your entire estate.

A bequest may be made subject to whatever conditions you like. Thus, the bequest may be utilised to fund a Scholarship or a Bursary in memory of yourself or a loved one. Please contact Terry! Mc Carthy if you are interested in making a bequest to Rhodes University at [t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za) No matter how modest the amount, you are giving tomorrow's leaders an opportunity to benefit from your vision, planning and generosity, and the ability to compete in the increasingly competitive global market.

## Rhodes Squash Club has a New Year Wish

The Rhodes Squash Club has big ideas for 2018 and but they need support to achieve these objectives. We are looking to restore the club to its original glory of being one of the biggest clubs on campus. To do this we need your help to host the 20th annual Rhodes Open, a tournament that sees top players coming from all over the country. This is the only tournament of its kind in the Eastern Cape and a proud tradition for the club.

We also seek to increase the awareness of squash amongst students and school kids alike through open day workshops to build skills at all levels and build passion for the sport. We also plan on increasing our community engagement in partnership with the Student Sports Council and the SPCA.

Any donations or sponsorship for the club or the Rhodes Open would go a long way in helping us achieve our objectives for 2018.

For Sponsorships, please contact [t.mccathy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccathy@ru.ac.za) and for any donations, you can donate online [here](#) or you can find our bank details on our Rhodes Giving Website [here](#)



A huge thank you from the Rhodes Squash Club

## Law clinic needs help to connect with community

The Rhodes University Law Clinic, a non-profit-making organisation, is calling out to alumni to assist in making the much-needed free legal advice available to the Eastern Cape community. Established in 1979 as part of the Faculty of Law, the Clinic depends on outside funding for its existence.

The clinic focuses on the provision of free legal services to the indigent people of Grahamstown and the surrounding areas who cannot afford to pay a private practitioner, thereby increasing access to justice to the poorest of the poor and creating a greater respect for the rule of law.

The community outreach projects include community based workshops and a weekly one-hour long show on Radio Grahamstown to assist callers with pressing legal matters in the comfort of their homes. Sadly, this platform has not been sustainable owing to the economic barriers of the people that need free legal advice the most.

We are appealing to those with contacts or means to assist in securing an airtime sponsor for the legal experts to afford the community the chance to interact on the show even if they cannot afford to make studio calls. With the help of a donor, the station, for the duration of the hour-long show, can call back citizens to discuss a way forward to their issues. This is a system commonly used by commercial radio stations to ensure shows are interactive.

The legal advice given on the show ranges from issues relating to domestic violence, property, wills, lease agreements, and child custody among other pertinent and common legal matters.  
For donations, please contact [t.mccathy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccathy@ru.ac.za)

## Rhodes Achievements

### Rhodes research output for 2016 impresses

Rhodes University's 2016 Research Report captures impressive research outputs and activities by every department. There is a yearlong time lag with official research reports as data on publications must first be collated and submitted to the Department of Higher Education & Training.

2016 was a good year for Rhodes University with a record-breaking graduation, papers, journals and books published and acknowledged by international audiences. Some of these publications attract subsidisation from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and are an important source of income for the university.

The report profiles the Top 30 researchers, records broken by PhD graduates from 2016, the Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research awards, explores Human Geography and the retrieving and re-publishing of isiXhosa writings, among other research related profiles.

To access the full report, please click on the [link](#)



### Rhodes Fieldlab Prototype Wins another National Award

Once again, the dynamic duo Masters students Charles Faul and Lucas Lotter's Fieldlab, a mobile lab-in-a-box prototype, won a half-a-million rand first prize in the Innovation Hub's GAP-Biosciences national awards on Thursday, 16 November 2017.

The innovators from the Biotechnology Innovation Centre under the supervision of Professor Janice Limson were also awarded the Best Prototype at the Department of Science and Technology's National Innovation Bridge in 2017. This was the first-ever public launch of technologies developed by the Rhodes University Biotechnology Innovation Centre. They beat 300 innovations and bagged a R50 000 in prize money. The prototype received a special mention by Minister Naledi Pandor during her Innovation Bridge address.



### RU Centre for Biological Control, a National Asset

Widely regarded as the number one Entomology research unit in the country, the Department of Zoology and Entomology launched its groundbreaking Centre for Biological Control (CBC) on Thursday, 2 November 2017.

Biological control at Rhodes University dates back to the 1970s, with highly successful programmes. In 2002, stakeholders in teaching, research and implementation of biological control combined as an informal research team; the Biological Control Research Group (BCRG) where work began in search of alternative techniques to deal with the negative effects of insecticides on public health by using biologically based techniques against threats to agriculture, veterinary and humans.

The Centre houses two Mass Rearing facilities: the Waainek Mass Rearing Facility and the Uitenhage Biological Control Facility. It also houses a Quarantine Facility for research into host-specificity and fecundity of potential biological control agents. There are 35 staff members and 25 postgrad students working at the facilities. The Centre will service relevant stakeholders by making biological control agents available free to researchers, implementation officers, reserve and water quality managers, farmers and concerned members of the public who want to get involved in preserving biodiversity and controlling invasive species in their local natural environments.



## Exclusions a Result of Criminality

Rhodes University notes with deep concern the gross misrepresentation of facts and attempts at manipulating public opinion by some of the students who have been excluded from the University for committing criminal acts.

A former Rhodes student, Ms Noxolo Mfocwa, who herself was excluded in 2016 for a period of three years, reduced on review from four, for punching a female constable in the face, kicking, scratching and swearing at her, among other transgressions, has been making false and self-interested claims regarding her matter and about an unrelated matter involving two other female former students who were recently excluded permanently.

For the full story, click [here](#)

## In Memorium

2017 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](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) if any Old Rhodian passes away.

Rhodes Staff: Prof Emeritus TVR Beard, Prof Emeritus Wesley Kotzé, Ann Catherine Marjorie Torlesse, Mike Oelschig, Anne Warring (1986.

Old Rhodians: David Warwick Brokensha (1940, Margaret Frances (Gough Geldenhuys (1941, Rex Frampton Pennington (1942, Dr Abraham Faure (1942, David Martin Morrell (1946, Richard Ernest Mogg (1953, Jonas Christian Andersen (1954, Prof Josua Andries Nell (1955, Dr Donald Johnson Allen (1957, Judge John Godfrey Foxcroft (1957, Colin George Rushmere (1958, William John Munro Lightfoot (1960, Dr Leslie John Shone (1960, Dr Francis Mark Chutter (1962, Priscilla (Blagden Hall (1966, Deborah Mary (Johnson Longhurst (1967, Stephen John Adie (1973, Rev Dr Iain Stewart Maclean (1977, Jerome Matthew Shaw (1982, Conrad Gerg Karl-Heinz Spingles (1981, Mary Elizabeth Humphreys (1991, Earl Simon Hodges (2000, Lara Bianca Rijs (2002, Lethukuthula Kumalo (2013.

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](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za)

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

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[USA Trust Web Site](#)

[UK Trust Web Site](#)

[Old Rhodian Authors](#)



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