

ALUMNI



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

NEWSLETTER

Issue 75 | Year-end Review | Dec 2023

**BISHOP
PETER STOREY
HONOURED**

Meet the new
UK Trust Chair
**CAROLINE
ROWLAND**

ON THE BOOKSHELF
Cock tales on the Kowie

Isivivane

**KZN YOUTH'S
DREAMS TAKE
FLIGHT**

**ASSOCIATION OF OLD
RHODIANS AWARDS
31 BURSARY RECIPIENTS**

Celebrating

**120 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE**

RU 120
1904-2024 **YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE**



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

As our alumni, you are encouraged to share the stories which you would like published by sending them to alumni@ru.ac.za or share them via rualumniconnect.ru.ac.za

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Luyanda Bheyile

EDITOR
Ikhona Mvaphantsi
(i.mvaphantsi@ru.ac.za)

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Mandilakhe Kila

CONTRIBUTORS
Anelisa Centani
Chubeka Kulu
Nwabisa Moyo
Tanya Mugwagwa
Siviwe Mxuma
Minentle Njombela
Katlego Nkosi
Zindzi Nkunzi
RUCE
Pat Terry
Vusimzi Tshekema
Carmen Visser

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The next edition of the Rhodes University Alumni Newsletter will be released in July 2024.

ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

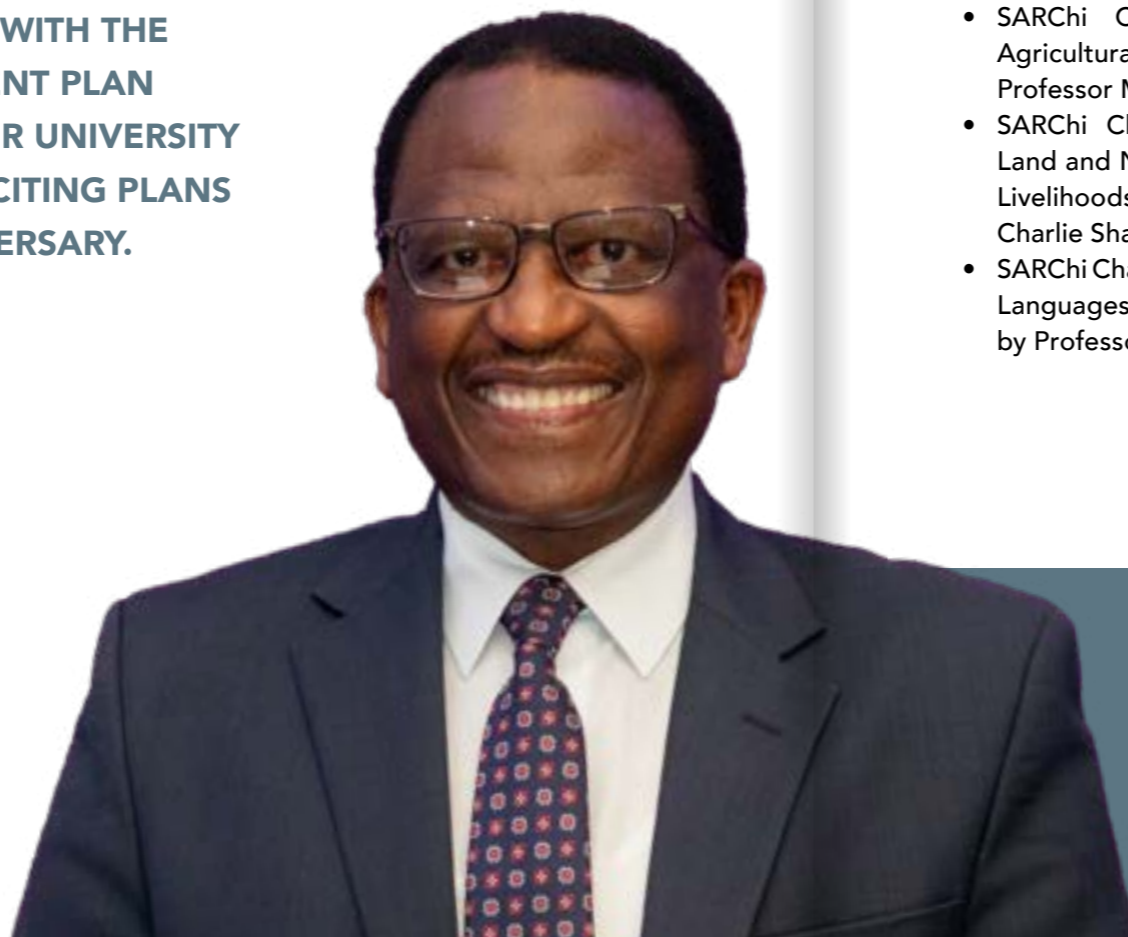
SHAPING OUR WORLD FOR THE GOOD OF ALL MANKIND

IT HAS BEEN A MOMENTOUS YEAR, WITH THE LATEST INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROVIDING THE DIRECTION FOR OUR UNIVERSITY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND EXCITING PLANS UNDERWAY FOR OUR 120TH ANNIVERSARY.

remind our stakeholders that the 120th anniversary is much more than our longevity. It is about celebrating the University's awe-inspiring role in inspiring young people and changing lives.

The University's track record over the past six months is a testament to how it continues to build and mentor much-needed leaders who are making our world a better place.

Our litmus test for our endeavours as a distinct and distinctive institution of higher learning remains: An unwavering commitment to democratic ideals, academic freedom, rigorous scholarship, public accountability and social responsibility.



We are working individually and collectively to consolidate our formidable position as a leading research-intensive university that is a place of hope, a place that inspires imagination, a place that nurtures creativity, and a place of opportunity for all.

Dr Nomakwezi Mzilikazi, an accomplished researcher, scholar and great leader, was appointed early this year as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships to advance our bold research goals.

Our research track record as a powerhouse of research, innovation and intellectual creativity has been recognised with five national SARChi chairs being renewed for another five-year funding period:

- SARChi Chair on Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction, held by Professor Catriona Macleod
- SARChi Chair on Insects on Sustainable Agricultural Ecosystems, held by Distinguished Professor Martin Hill
- SARChi Chair in Interdisciplinary Science in Land and Natural Resource Use for Sustainable Livelihoods, held by Distinguished Professor Charlie Shackleton
- SARChi Chair on the Intellectualisation of African Languages, Multilingualism and Education, held by Professor Dion Nkomo.

This achievement is aligned with our pursuit of a robust postgraduate trajectory, which remains our highest priority. Hence, our academia has been active in growing their intellectual prowess and academic relationships, both here and abroad, across an eclectic range of issues such as education, water, arts and culture, decolonisation, mathematics education, zoology and entomology, and pharmacology.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Drs Tamryn Marsberg and Michael Jukes, whose ground-breaking research culminated in the discovery and patenting of viral-based products which are alternatives to the conventional use of chemical pesticides on citrus, apples, and litchis. Professor Martin Villet, an entomologist who has been honoured in the name of a new species of forensically-significant beetle from the Eastern Cape. Dr Dylan McGarry and the One Ocean Hub have launched an animation film at the UN General Assembly on World Oceans Day, combining arts and science in new mediums to influence ocean governance.

Congratulations to worthy recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Awards: Professor Charles Been, Professor Roy Lubke and Mr Anele Siswana.

Lastly, during 2023, we also said sad, forever farewells to treasured alumni. Sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Prof Sizwe Mabizela, Vice-Chancellor



As part of the Rhodes University team or stakeholder, I thank you for your unwavering commitment to our great university and wish you well for 2024.

CONVOCAATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANTICIPATION AS ALUMNI START 120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THIS IS THE DECEMBER BEFORE THE START OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, WHICH STARTS IN 2024. RHODES ALUMNI COMMUNITIES AND STAFF ARE FINALISING PLANS READY TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sizwe Mabizela and Director of Communications and Advancement Dr Luzuko Jacobs were in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg to introduce the programme for 2024.

Rhodes University was established in 1904 and is the eighth oldest University in South Africa. The University is steeped in the country's heritage and has changed with time. The student body and faculty have become more representative of South Africa and are driving cutting-edge research. It is a true honour to be associated with the University as it goes into its 120th year.

As we end the current academic year and prepare for a milestone year, consider how you could contribute to your alma mater. Many students require financial support, and the University needs tender care, too. As former Rhodians, we could play a small role in a current Rhodian's future. **To contribute, please visit our donations page by clicking on the link.**

www.ru.ac.za/donate



I wish you a peaceful and safe holiday season. I trust you will spend it with friends and family who support and love you – many happy wishes for the 2024 New Year.

Dr Michele Ruiters
Convocation President

ISIVIVANE INSPIRATION

YOUNG BENEFICIARY TRANSFORMS LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH



By Chubeka Kulu, Development Fundraiser, Rhodes University

MEET THE REMARKABLE QUINLAN CAIGER, AN ISIVIVANE AND KISTEFOS BENEFICIARY, WHOSE JOURNEY EMBODIES THE ESSENCE OF INCLUSIVENESS, HARD WORK, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION.

Hailing from the vibrant town of Makhanda, the 21-year-old Computer Science Honours student's life story is a testament to the power of diverse experiences that shape our perspectives.

Growing up, Quinlan was fortunate to have experienced various cultures and living environments, instilling in him a deep appreciation for diversity. He carries this appreciation forward into his life's mission, driven by a burning passion for impactful community work that leaves a lasting legacy.

In his quest to make a difference, Quinlan founded the 'MMYM' Programme, which stands for "Men Mentoring Young Men". This transformative initiative seeks to empower the younger generation by connecting them with older mentors who impart valuable skills and expose them to new experiences.

Quinlan's motivation is clear:

“My initial idea for the project was to teach younger boys things that I wish I had known at their age,” he said.

With the unwavering support of friends, family, and professionals, this inspirational programme has been running for over two years, conducting weekly sessions at Makhanda's Eluxolweni Child and Youth Care Centre. It provides guidance and mentorship to 20 to 25 boys annually, ranging from ages 6 to 18, in pursuit of the Centre's mission to nurture schooling and life skills development.

The impact of MMYM transcends generational boundaries, offering a wide array of sessions facilitated by experts, including the Rhodes University's Squash team and the National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA). These experiences have left an indelible mark on the boys – fostering personal growth and expanding their horizons.

In recognition of his dedication, Quinlan received the Student Volunteer of the Year Finalist Award at the Rhodes University Community Engagement Awards dinner this year. He views the award as a testament to the programme's collaborative spirit and its profound impact on these young lives.

Quinlan's journey exemplifies the transformative power of a committed student with a heart for community service. Through MMYM, he has breathed renewed hope into the hearts of young boys in Makhanda and inspired a ripple effect that extends to community groups like Rotary Clubs, as well as future generations.

Now, as we witness the incredible impact of students like Quinlan, we invite you to support Rhodes University's Isivivane. This initiative strives to raise funds for student financial aid, ensuring that deserving students like Quinlan can continue their journey of excellence.

TOGETHER, LET'S NURTURE A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVENESS, EXCELLENCE, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.

Your contribution matters – join us on this heartwarming journey of empowerment and change.

To donate, please click below to visit the Rhodes University Donation Page.

www.ru.ac.za/donate

Together, we can inspire tomorrow's leaders and make a brighter future for all.

ISIVIVANE INSPIRATION

KZN youth's dreams take flight through Isivivane

IN THE HEART OF WESTMEAD, A SMALL TOWN NESTLED WITHIN PINETOWN, KWAZULU-NATAL, A REMARKABLE YOUNG MAN NAMED NTOBEKO DAVID MFEKA WAS BORN.

His story, set against community challenges of poverty, alcoholism and teenage pregnancy, is nothing short of inspirational.

At the tender age of 19, Ntobeko embarked on a journey of hope and determination to pursue a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting at Rhodes University. His family, a single-income household, relied on his mother's modest salary to make ends meet.

Yet, from a young age, Ntobeko's heart was captivated by the world of business and commercial concepts, and he harboured a burning desire to uplift the youth of his community.

Despite the odds stacked against him, Ntobeko was determined to succeed. Throughout his high school years, he remained steadfastly committed to his studies, culminating in an outstanding performance in his matric year. His potential was evident, but the barrier of university fees threatened his future success.

It was at this critical juncture that Ntobeko Mfeka became a beneficiary of Rhodes University's student financial aid campaign, Isivivane. His

unwavering dedication to academic excellence did not go unnoticed, and he was chosen for the prestigious Bank Seta Bursary. This bursary, covering tuition, accommodation, and textbooks, was a dream come true for Ntobeko and his family. When asked about his guiding motto in life, Ntobeko shared the words of Leslie Brown: "If you do what is hard, your life will be easy, but if you do what is easy, your life will be hard." These words serve as a constant wellspring of motivation, guiding his decisions and providing strength during moments of doubt.

As a young South African, Ntobeko firmly believes in the proactive potential of his generation to challenge the status quo and strive for excellence. He recognises the power that young voices carry, acknowledging that their fight for a better South Africa is essential. With a reassuring message, he urges his fellow students:

"The future is yours, build it."



Ntobeko expresses profound gratitude for the life-changing support he has received: "The Bank Seta bursary has made a tremendous impact on my life. From 2022 to 2023, it has allowed me to pursue my studies with freedom, unburdened by financial worries. I am profoundly grateful to have been chosen!"



Regardless of the size of your contribution, each one plays a pivotal role in transforming the lives of more young individuals, turning their dreams into reality. Together, we can make a difference.

To contribute to Isivivane, Unlocking Futures, and other Priority Projects, please click the link below and join us in this heart-warming journey of empowerment and inspiration.

www.ru.ac.za/donate

ISIVIVANE INSPIRATION

BURSARY RECIPIENT PURSUES HER DREAM CAREER

by Tanya Mugwagwa

YAMKELANI SOPAPAZA OVERCAME MANY OBSTACLES TO GRADUATE THIS YEAR WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PHARMACY WITH THE HELP OF THE ISIVIVANE FUND.

"I did not have a bursary when I started my studies, despite having done so well in my matric year," Yamkelani says.

"My mother worked hard and participated in various stokvels to pay for my tuition. I did my best to alleviate the burden on her. I tutored and undertook community engagement work and put this towards my fees."

Yamkelani also received a bursary from Hillensberg Trust, which allowed her to complete her studies with flying colours.

"I will never forget the day I was selected for funding. I was attending a microbiology lecture when I got the email. For the first time, I experienced the smell of a new textbook," she explains.

Yamkelani expressed her pride in being a science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduate.

“

"When women occupy these spaces, we can change the narrative that women are inferior to men. We can step up and advance our country and Africa," she says proudly.

Yamkelani is a passionate advocate of the upliftment of young women and girls.

"Dream big dreams, ones that scare you and pursue them despite what anyone thinks," she advises.

Yamkelani holds a Bachelor of Microbiology and Biochemistry and a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Rhodes University. She works as an intern and is in the process of attaining her certification as a pharmacist.



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HELP US BUILD A LONG-LASTING IMPACT ON YOUNG LIVES BY DONATING ONLINE HERE,

www.ru.ac.za/donate

OCTOBER 2023 GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

THE UNIVERSITY'S SECOND GRADUATION FOR MASTER'S DEGREES AND PhDs THIS YEAR TOOK PLACE ON 13 OCTOBER 2023. THE MAJORITY OF THE GRADUATES WERE FROM THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCE.



Women graduates comprised over 60%; international graduates made up almost 30% of the total.

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BISHOP PETER STOREY HONoured AND 200 GRADUATES CELEBRATE







LEGENDARY FREEDOM FIGHTER BISHOP PETER STOREY RECEIVED A DOCTOR OF LAWS (HONORIS CAUSA), WITH 200 GRADUATES TAKING THE STAGE TO RECEIVE THEIR DEGREES.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sizwe Mabizela says Bishop Storey's "sustained and distinguished contribution as a fearless and leading figure in the anti-apartheid struggle and as a champion of nation-building following the 1994 democratic elections has spanned more than six decades."

The University says Bishop Storey's impact can be traced to his profound contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle in the 1960s. His other contributions include his chaplaincy to the Rivonia Trialists on Robben Island, his activist ministry resisting the District Six removals, and turning the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg into a famous focus of mass democratic protest in the 1970s and 1980s.

He also reached maximum prominence within and outside South Africa as the President of the South African Council of Churches and Methodist Bishop of Johannesburg before and during the State of Emergency and through the transition to democratic elections.

FOR MORE ON THE CELEBRATIONS, GO TO:

-  Rhodes_Uni
-  rhodesuniversity
-  school/rhodes-university
-  rhodes_university/

THE ASSOCIATION OF OLD RHODIANS AWARDS 31 BURSARY RECIPIENTS IN 2023

By Carmen Visser

THIS YEAR THE 112-YEAR-OLD ASSOCIATION OF OLD RHODIANS, WHICH ADMINISTERS BURSARIES FOR CHILDREN OF OLD RHODIANS AND CURRENT UNIVERSITY STAFF MEMBERS, GRANTED 31 BURSARIES WORTH R325 000.



The Association of Old Rhodians President Professor Rod Walker and a bursary recipient, Winnie Lubisi.
Photo: Vusumzi Tshekema.

At the bursary function, which took place in August, President of the Association of Old Rhodians, Professor Rod Walker, explains that the Association aims to sustainably provide bursaries to Rhodes University students to ensure that present and future students are financially supported in their studies.

In 2000, Association bursaries worth R80 000 were granted.

Professor Walker emphasises the awards are based on academic performance and financial need. He explains that MySchool bursaries are awarded to the students studying education, which aligns with the MySchool programme.

He encourages all to apply for a MySchool card to raise funds for the Association. The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sizwe Mabizela, agrees.

He explains a competition will be held with all graduates during the 120th birthday in 2024. The alumni will compete to raise the most funds for the Association.

The Association bursaries continue to assist many students financially throughout their undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

A 2023 recipient, Kyra Chikwaha, explains that her fees to Rhodes University were piling up after her guardian was retrenched during COVID-19.

She admits her guardian's emotional motivation letter must have convinced the committee to grant her the bursary.

Now a third-year student at Rhodes University, she says her guardian has been a fantastic role model and encouraged reading and learning.

The Association of Old Rhodians is the new name of the Old Rhodian Union which was renamed in September 2023.



**31 BURSARIES
R325 000**



COMMENTARIES

The bursary means a lot as it celebrates me for my academic track record and my family, who laid the foundation for me to follow.

My motto is always to try rather than not. I want to make the most of my life and do good rather than regret it later. It led me to make SRC and take the step to move far away and study at this prestigious University.

VARSHAN PILLAY



MEET CAROLINE, THE NEW UK TRUST CHAIR

**CREDITED BY THE
OBSERVER AS BEING
ONE OF THE 10 MOST
INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE
IN LONDON'S BID
TO HOST THE 2012
OLYMPIC GAMES,
CAROLINE ROWLAND
IS THE FOUNDER
AND EXECUTIVE
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
OF NEW MOON AND
THE NEW CHAIR OF
THE UK TRUST.**

In June this year, Caroline Rowland was unanimously appointed as the new Chair of the UK Trust, and she has hit the ground running.

She took over from Dr Geoffrey de Jager, who was Chair of the UK Trust for nearly 30 years. Caroline has been a trustee of the US and UK trusts for several years, and one of her immediate objectives is to give the UK board of trustees a complete overhaul to bring in new talent for fundraising and partnerships, PR and communication, education, research, and community engagement and strong financial governance.

As a seasoned marketing guru, Caroline is the most sought-after creative partner for cities and countries campaigning to host major events.

New Moon has established a strong reputation for helping brands secure lucrative contracts by telling their pitch story persuasively and effectively. Today, the company employs 16 people and operates from the heart of London's Soho.

As a trustee of her alma mater, Rhodes University, Caroline contributes her time and experience to help create education and employment opportunities for young people in Southern Africa.

RHODES UNIVERSITY TRUST UK

Claire Davies, *Secretary*
17 Leopold Walk, Cottenham,
Cambridge B24 8XS
E: alumni@ruktrust.com
T: +44 (0)7588 208 851

Caroline is passionate about education, entrepreneurship and projects that elevate humanity and philanthropy. The outgoing Chair is delighted that Caroline has taken on the new role and expresses his confidence that she will do a tremendous job for the University.

His sentiments are echoed by the Director of Communication and Advancement, Dr Luzuko Jacobs, who says Caroline is a fantastic and wise leader and a great ambassador for Rhodes University.

CONVOCATION APPROVES REVIEW OF ORU CONSTITUTION AND NEW NAME FOR ORU

AT THE 2023 AGM, TWO MAJOR CHANGES WERE APPROVED BY THE CONVOCANTS.

The first change was to review the Old Rhodian Union (ORU) constitution to pave the way for the establishment of regional chapters.

Secondly, the union will now be known as the "The Association of Old Rhodians".

The review of the constitution was necessitated by the need to strengthen awareness and advocacy for the University and create a formal structure that enriches the University's alumni networks.

President of The Association of Old Rhodians Professor Rod Walker strongly believes that the revised constitution is a step in the right direction and will enhance the association's fundraising efforts. It will also mobilise the University's alumni to contribute to various key initiatives and projects.

The changes have been well received by the alumni community following calls to action at the University's affinity events in Johannesburg and Durban.

Director of Communication and Advancement Dr Luzuko Jacobs is optimistic that the regional chapters will provide an important interface between the University and its alumni.

It will also enable Old Rhodians to reconnect with one another and create strong professional networks.

Should you wish to be part of the founding structures, please send your motivation and indicate the region to: alumni@ru.ac.za



HISTORY MADE AS THE SRC ALUMNI BOARD LAUNCHES

By Katlego Nkosi

NOSTALGIA AND INNOVATION INTERTWINED AS CURRENT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) AND SRC ALUMNI GATHERED TO LAUNCH THE SRC ALUMNI BOARD ON 12 AUGUST 2023. THIS HISTORIC MOMENT SAW A FUSION OF PAST AND PRESENT, BIRTHING A NEW ERA FOR PRESERVING THE SRC LEGACY.

The SRC Alumni Board is co-chaired by the 2021 SRC President, Lebogang Nkambule, and the 2019 SRC President, Samkelo Mngadi. The tentative steps for setting up the Board were taken in 2018/19.

Disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board reconnected in 2021, resulting in the SRC Alumni Board Policy taking shape. The vision of this Board is clear: to create and maintain a community of alumni elders and former and experienced members of the Rhodes University SRC that support the current SRC through advice, mentorship, expertise, donations, and fundraising.

Reflecting on the SRC legacy and advancing the future, Student Development and Support Officer Eric Ofei introduced the slogan driving this initiative. "We are retired but not tired" – a phrase brought forward by Rolihlala Mabaso, President of the 2017 SRC, that sets the tone and standard for the continued successful collaboration within the SRC culture. "This sentiment is a profound idea that speaks to our journey, commitment, and aspirations. It underscores that stepping back from

an active role is not a retreat into complacency. Instead, it is an evolution into a new phase of contribution. One driven by experience, insight, and a desire to empower those following in our footsteps," elaborates Mr Ofei.

“The current SRC President, Avuxeni Tyala, concurs: “The most essential part is continuity. Just because you are passing the baton does not mean your mission is done. A perfect example of this is everybody sitting in this room - the alumni network.”



She also mentions the importance of creating a safe space: "We have become more epithetic. We have become more individualistic. More, 'this is not my struggle, this is your struggle', and it is because of that lack of continuity. We are an institution of support. We are because of the foundation that has been set."

The theme of giving back is emphasised during the address by the Manager of Alumni Relations and Stakeholder Engagement, Luyanda Bheyile. He gives enlightening examples of the inspiring work done by Rhodes University alumni, mentioning a few projects in the making, including the formalising of the Alumni Chapters and a recent initiative, being the establishment of the iHlumo Scholarship, spearheaded by a group of former SRC members, to fund an undergraduate student. This scholarship aligns closely with the core values of Rhodes University's responsible citizenry ethos.

There was a tangible sense of optimism in the future of the Board and the alumni network as Bheyile's presentation drew to a close. "At this stage, you are the torchbearers of the legacy of this important

initiative. As we reminisce about the memories we've created, let us not forget the responsibility that comes with our achievements.

"We are privileged to have had access to an exceptional quality of education Rhodes University has to offer. With privilege comes the duty to give back. We have to support future generations of students, to open doors for those who come after us, and to create a world where everyone has access to the transformative power of education."

Proceedings of the launch included energetic, interactive activities that continued a collaborative culture between the current and alumni SRC members. Discussions about the future of the SRC Alumni Board took place, with presentations on how to broaden the network and offer support.

Further plans are to improve the policy and ensure collaboration with the Unit of Alumni Relations and Stakeholder Engagement. This collaboration plans to reach a wider pool of SRC alumni to strengthen the diversity of the Board and the Association of Old Rhodians.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



IN THE HEART OF A BUSTLING UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, WHERE ACADEMIC PURSUITS OFTEN TAKE PRECEDENCE, POSTGRADUATE STUDENT CHUMA SONGELA, WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED HIS MASTER'S IN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, BROUGHT LIFE BACK TO A FORGOTTEN GARDEN AT THE GAVIN RELLY POSTGRADUATE VILLAGE (PGV).

Songela says: "The garden idea came from Professor Laurence Juma. Dean of Law and PGV Warden Juma pointed out the garden space and here at PGV and offered it to students to take up the project and rehabilitate it together with the house."

Songela recognised the space's potential and ability to provide fresh and healthy vegetables while serving as a therapeutic escape from the demands of academic life.

"I needed something that went beyond academics and books and where I do something with my hands," he explains.

Songela's journey with the garden began as a personal endeavour. He borrowed tools and planted the first crops. However, he soon realised that this project had the potential to become a communal effort.

"People also saw its potential and started to contribute," he says proudly.

It was this collective spirit that transformed the garden into a community project.

Today, the PGV garden is a thriving community space, providing students access to fresh and healthy vegetables.

"The garden is significant in that it helps the community in general. If you can't afford certain things, the garden allows people to come and take what they need," says PGV head student Ms Mantsane.

Ms Mantsane believes the garden project teaches people the importance of growing their own food, especially in today's challenging economic landscape.

PGV housekeeper Nozipho Sofisa has played a pivotal role in the success of Songela's garden project by procuring seeds.

CHUMA SONGELA'S POSTGRADUATE GARDEN FLOURISHES INTO A COMMUNITY PROJECT

By Anelisa Centani

WHERE
ARE
THEY
NOW?

ALUMNA BAGS TWO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS

RHODES UNIVERSITY ALUMNA TULISA MONDLIWA, HAS RECEIVED GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION AND A BOOST FOR HER AFRIKARE BEAUTY PRODUCT BUSINESS.

According to the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) Chief Director of Communications, Mvusiwekhaya Sicwetsha, the awards recognise top-performing women contributing to economic development and job creation through the agricultural sector.

Mondliwa has a BSc in Geography and Chemistry and a Postgraduate Diploma in Enterprise Management. She was the overall winner in the WEA and the agro-processing category and walked away with R60 000 in prize money.

The Afrikare founder says she could not have ventured into business without acquiring her Rhodes University qualifications.

She says a chemistry degree helped her understand which ingredients were clean and which were not in the beauty space. The Business School taught her operations management, sustainability, and awareness of climate change.

“These came in handy when I opened my Afrikare business,” says Mondliwa.



Rhodes Business School Director, Professor Owen Skae, says it is gratifying that a programme that we are so passionate about has contributed in a small way to Tulisa's success.

“Tulisa epitomises what is so powerful about our diploma when it is combined with knowledge and skills from a qualification, in this case, a BSc that enables a business idea to be born, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Enterprise Management that crafts a business model that brings it to life.”

Mondliwa produces shampoos, hair and body butter, hair and body oils, beard oil and butter, candles, lemon serum and scalp rubs. She says her business targets environmentally conscious people.

FOR MORE ON HER PRODUCTS, VISIT THE AFRIKARE FACEBOOK PAGE:

www.facebook.com/AfriKareSA

WHERE
ARE
THEY
NOW?

GRADUATE APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

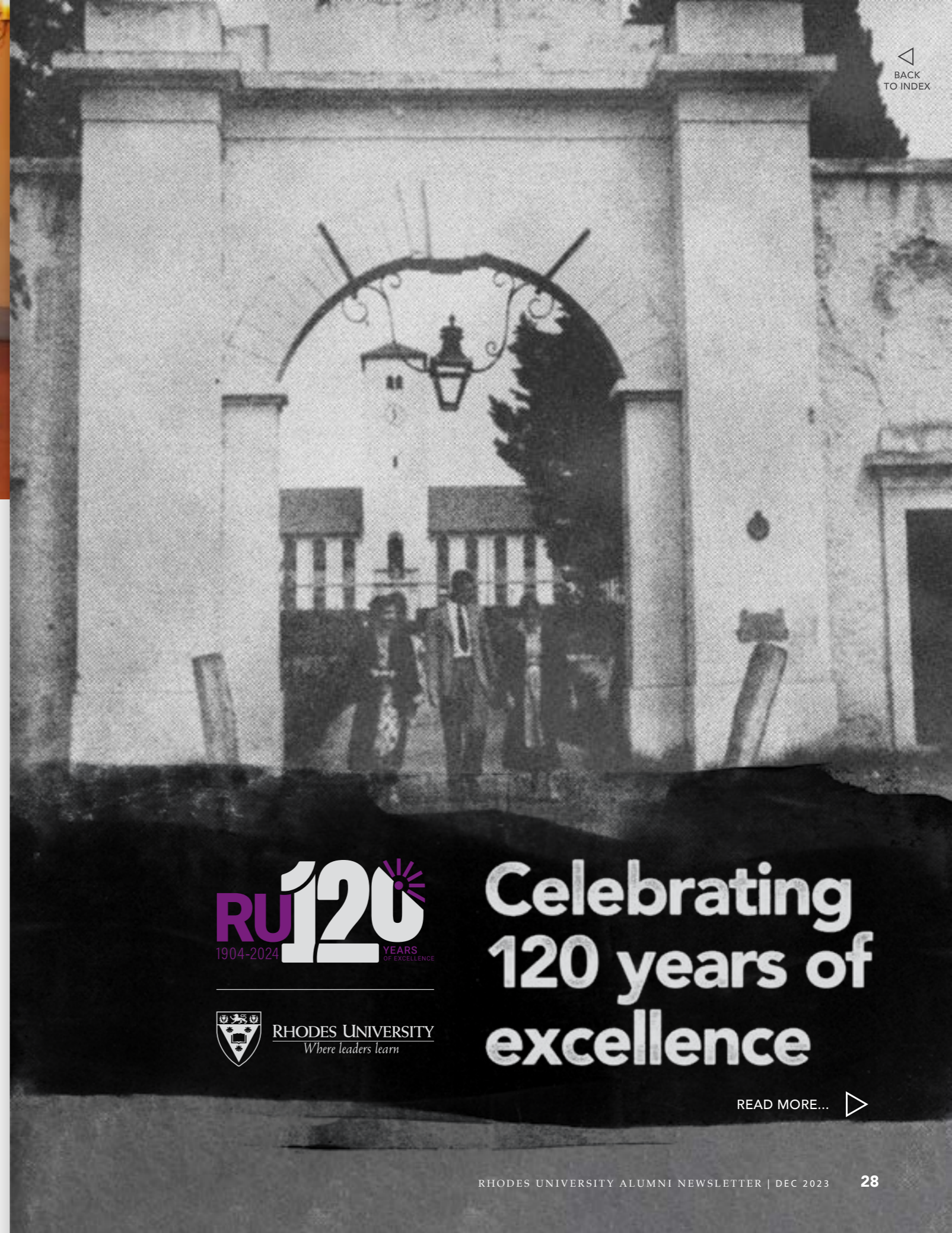
**DR LINDIWE
MSENGANA-NDLELA,
RHODES UNIVERSITY
BCOM AND UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION DIPLOMA
GRADUATE WAS
APPOINTED THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH
AFRICA AMBASSADOR
TO THE HELLENIC
REPUBLIC.**

She presented credentials to the President of the Hellenic Republic, HE Ms Katerina Sakellaropoulou, on 13 October 2023.

She holds a PhD degree from Warwick University in England, a Master in Business Leadership (MBL) degree and a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree from the University of South Africa, a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree and a University Education Diploma (UED) from Rhodes University.

Before being appointed ambassador, Dr Msengana-Ndlela was an advisor to the Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation and Foreign Affairs, and Higher Education and Training, Science and Technology.

She is an Adjunct Public Policy and Leadership Professor at the University of Cape Town's Nelson Mandela School of Governance.



RU 120
1904-2024 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Celebrating 120 years of excellence

READ MORE...



THE STRATEGIC THRUST

REUNI+E

A call through generations.
Re-live prestige.
Take stock and reflect.
Thought leadership.

RECONNECT

Reinvigorate our connection to our alma mater.
Strengthen our network with each other.
Build a collaborative edge.
Deepen connection with society.

REiMAGiNE

Envision a new path to RU150 - The Rhodes University we want.
Invest in a resilient future-focused brand.
Build an engaged and engaging network.
Pursue growth and sustainability through targeted investment.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Amplify Rhodes University voice in social commentary and public domain.
- ✓ Showcase academic, research and community engagement accomplishments.
- ✓ Resource mobilisation.
- ✓ Infrastructure development.
- ✓ Campus beautification and modernisation.
- ✓ Brand development and positioning.

HIGHLIGHTS

1ST & 2ND QUARTER



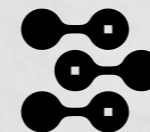
PROJECT LAUNCH ACTIVATION



Journalism Summit



Education Summit



OPENING OF THE R90M INSTITUTE FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY



DOHA DEBATES

SYMPOSIUM: Intellectual History of Rhodes University
Professor Emeritus Paul Maylam

Graduation Grand Ball to present RU Lifetime Awards

Inaugural Vice-Chancellor's dialogue

Host leadership development summit for provincial high school SRC leaders

Opening of the R200 million Chemistry/Pharmacy building

Inter-varsity/community sports festival

Makhanda Community Orchestra

3RD & 4TH QUARTER



National Arts Festival community parade



ALUMNI DINNER



Law Faculty Homecoming/ Reunion



ILAM 79th anniversary conference



CANTERBURY AND HOBSON HALL RESTORATIVE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS COMPLETION

Symposium: 30 years of democracy in South Africa – the scorecard, where to from here

Graduation Grand Ball/Lifetime Achiever Award

HonDoc Music Festival

Rhodes University/Mandela University/ Makhanda Community Orchestra performances

Re-naming of the Great Field/Knocking on Heavens Door group homecoming

90th anniversary of the RU Rowing Club

READ MORE...

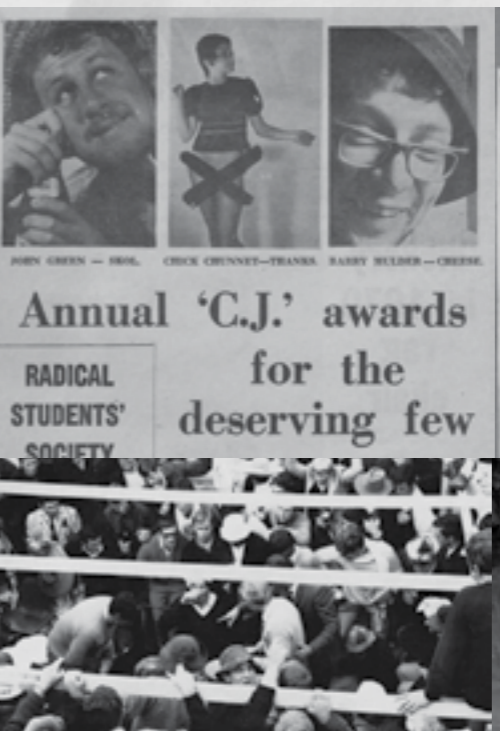
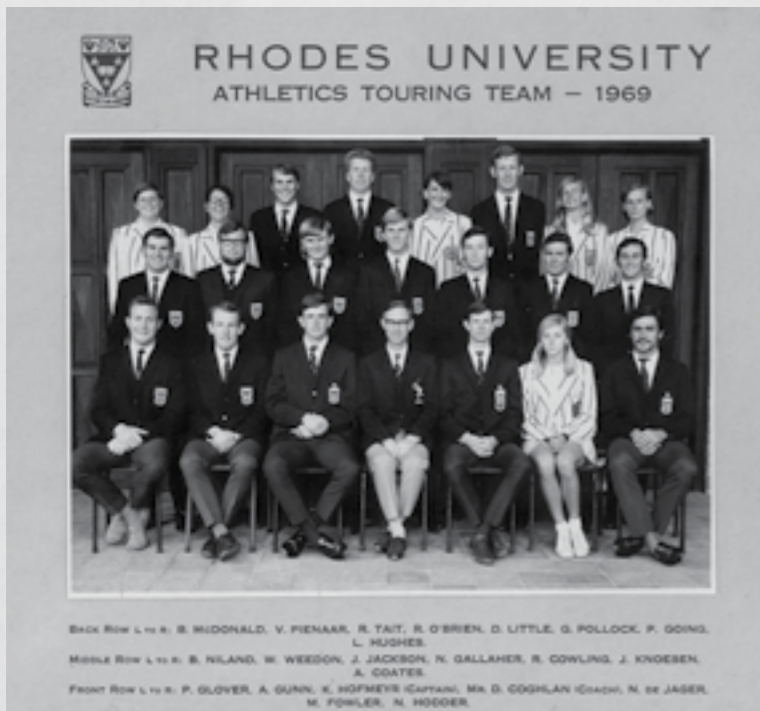


Photo credit: KoHD Alumni

LOOKING BACK TO THE YEARS 1965 - 1975

#120yearsofexcellence

READ MORE...

BACK TO INDEX

RHODES UNIVERSITY BUFFALOES (STAFF) 1978

Back Row - L-R: M. MORGAN, L. MONTGOMERY, W. EDWARDS, N. MULLIGAN (Chair), B. YANTZ, V. BIRNIE, G. LAWRENCE.
Middle Row - L-R: W. GIBSON, K. COCKIN, P. SPENCER, J. BETHA, M. MULLIGAN (President), K. BONDANI, M. NEMARA.
Front Row - L-R: S. MORGAN, K. BACLA, Z. MONTY (Capt), S. RAGO, Z. BLANCK, V. BUIZEL.



ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL * 1970 * 30 CENTS

RHODENT

IN THIS ISSUE * THE GIRLS OF RHODES
* FACT * FUN AND BITS MORE

RHODES UNIVERSITY Thomas Pringle House 1975

OR's Invade Assocom

Three senior executive officers of Assocom's (Associated Chambers of Commerce of South Africa) Board of Management elected in October are Old Rhodians.

President is Bill Yeoward (1958) who as Nedbank's group Liaison executive works under the chairman and chief executive handling marketing and public affairs policy. He served on the local Chamber of Commerce committee in Cape Town and as chairman in Johannesburg before being appointed to the executive two years ago. He is also a member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council and the Council for the Promotion of South Business. Bill won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford while at Rhodes University.

RHODES UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC CLUB - 1970 WINNERS STIRK BOWL (21ST OCCASION)



Rhodent judged best Rag Mag

R1:00
The Alternative
Rhodent
1983

At the second annual meeting of the National Rag Organisations of SA held in Johannesburg in August, our own Rhodent was judged the best rag magazine. Basic theme of the magazine was that teacher

E.T., at the height of its popularity early in the year. Congratulations to editors Mike Vincent and Justin Nofel, and illustrator Mike Souter.

Alumni Golf

Old Rhodians bring on or near the Red who enjoy the opening and so all continue to be forth while playing golf, are invited to Hill Country. Years of our Johannesburg office (1983-1985) whether they are available for the time of the year. This is on Saturday morning, 27 February 1984 and is an "Old Rhodian" golf day. Central area that particularly on the occasion of Old Rhodians, did and among golf of varying handicaps, get together for a morning's pleasant and friendly golf. Players meet at intervals of about 15 minutes to play accurately golf against alumni from Wits, Tshwane, Natal and Matsi. The best players are chosen to represent Rhodes at the Interuniversity Golf Tournament held annually between an afternoon.

Getting down are great occasions, with sponsored prizes and a chance to play good golf in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Contact Contact if you would like to be put on the golf mailing list.

Back Row - Left to Right: G. POLLOCK, B. BRITS, W. JACKSON, R. COWLING, F. BAILEY, E. LEACH, A. COATES, C. BARBER.
Middle Row - Left to Right: J. HALL, M. BARNES, R. O'BRIEN, V. PRINSIPAAL, P. GOING, L. RABLOFF, L. HUGHES, S. GRAY, N. LOGAN, R. JARDINE.
Front Row - Left to Right: D. V. COORLAN (Chair), W. WEDDING, P. OLIVER, S. NISLAND, PROF. E. MOUNTAIN (Pres.), A. GUNN (Capt), K. TAIT (Sec.), N. de JAGER, N. HODDER, D. BARNES (Chairman).
(1* Captain) (1* Secretary)

Pretty as a Seed Catalogue

From Rhodes, there are 100 of the most beautiful seed catalogues that you can find. They are available in a variety of languages and are available in a variety of languages and are available in a variety of languages.



RHODES NEWSLETTER

Old Rhodian Union December, 1983

BUTLER RECEIVES FESTSCHRIFT

The presentation associated with the 50th anniversary of the English Department at Rhodes University was held in the English Department on 19 October 1983. The presentation was made to Professor Butler by the English Department, including members of the department, including the English Department, including members of the department, including the English Department, including members of the department.

Hugh Chapman Scholarship

The Hugh Chapman Scholarship is available at Rhodes. It can be held for one year or two years. It is available to students who are studying for a Bachelor's degree in the Faculty of Education. The scholarship is named after Hugh Chapman, a former student of Rhodes University who was a prominent figure in the field of education.



Photo credit: KoHD Alumni



Law was first taught at Rhodes University one year after the University was founded in 1904, with Rhodes appointing the first ever full-time Professor of Law in South Africa.

Since then, graduates at this historically small Faculty have gone on to prominent careers in legal practice, the judiciary, commerce, journalism and academia, in South Africa and other countries.

The Faculty has created a group on the RUALUMNICONNECTED platform to connect and drive engagement leading up to the reunion next year.

The Faculty looks forward to welcoming its graduates back to campus to reconnect and to celebrate the Faculty's legacy of small-group, high-quality education in its idyllic St Peter's campus setting.

PLEASE ACCESS THE LINK BELOW TO RSVP.

RSVP



Construction is on track for the R90 million state-of-the-art building that will house the global Institute for Nanotechnology Innovation (INI).

The official launch is set for the first quarter of 2024.

HOW THE VISUAL IDENTITY TO HELP CELEBRATE 120 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE WAS CREATED

1. INITIAL EXPLORATIONS

Students from the Journalism and Media School senior design class created many exploratory designs to create a positive, affirming, simple, memorable logo that stands out in a crowded visual space and can be distinctly associated with Rhodes University.

2. WHITTLING DOWN

Most logos were rejected because they didn't meet the previous criteria and/or did not work together with the University branding. Four proposals were eventually chosen for presentation to the committee, two of which they selected for further tweaking.

3. PENULTIMATE SELECTION

The edited logos were presented to the committee for discussion, and one of those was chosen for presentation to the University for final approval.



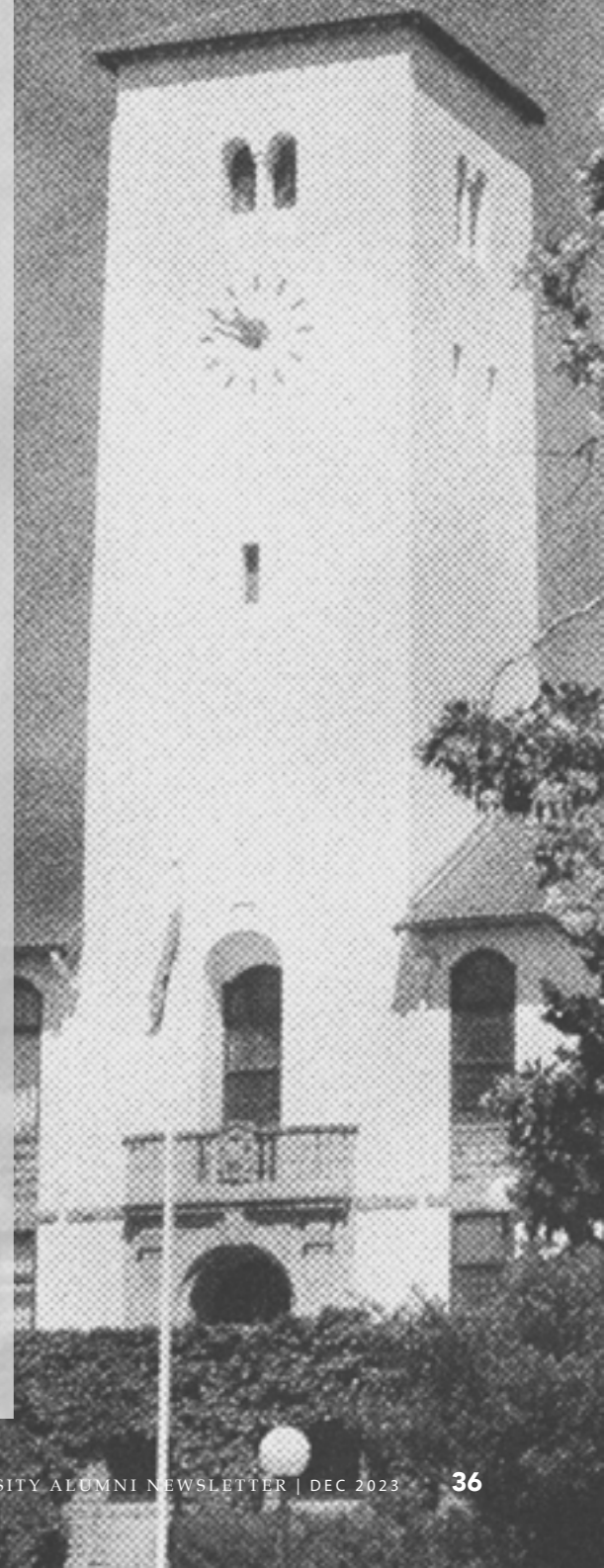
The logo's design draws inspiration from the building with the clock tower and the life-cycle sculpture. The shape of the "1" in the "120" is drawn in part from the main administration building and the clock tower, while the open-top zero imitates the life-cycle sculpture, which describes an incomplete circle – representing Rhodes University as an ongoing project; one which is 120 years old but is still growing and developing.

It is also an open and inviting space. In the logo, we have used a shape that mimics the clock from the clock tower to complete (but not close) the number.

This shape can be interpreted as the clock symbolising the passing of time or the sun rising, which is universally understood as a hopeful sign.

BE PART OF IT

ru120@ru.ac.za
(046) 603 8646



UNIVERSITY HONOURS THREE OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

By Siviwe Mxuma

ANELE SISWANA, CHARLES BREEN, AND ROY LUBKE ARE THE UNIVERSITY'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI FOR 2023.

These alumni, chosen by the Association of Old Rhodians selection committee, are exemplary individuals who embody the values of Rhodes University: excellence, leadership, and service. They have excelled in their professions and significantly impacted society.

The Association of Old Rhodians President Professor Rod Walker explains: "Rhodes University prides itself in producing leaders and well-rounded and noble individuals.

"Our three distinguished winners for this year truly reflect this ethos. They have contributed to the generation of knowledge and have inspired a new cohort of academics in the field. Mental health is one of the key focus areas for the University, and it is heart-warming to note that one of the recipients this year is championing this worthy cause."



Mr Anele Siswana

Pioneering mental health advocate

Anele, a distinguished graduate in clinical psychology from Rhodes University, stands as a thought leader and trailblazer in psychology.

As a registered clinical psychologist, Anele's journey has been characterised by a relentless commitment to transforming mental health care and making it more accessible to all South Africans.

A Rhodes University Master of Arts (MA) graduate in clinical psychology and a Nelson Mandela University BPsych (Counselling) alumnus, Siswana has enriched his academic credentials and diversified his knowledge by obtaining a higher certificate in Theology through Theological Education by Extension College (TEEC). His journey has taken him from the Fort England Psychiatric Hospital in Makhanda to the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital in Gara-Nkuwa, Pretoria.

He has emerged as a prominent brand influencer and a corporate wellness consultant.



Professor Charles Breen

Outstanding botanist and environmentalist

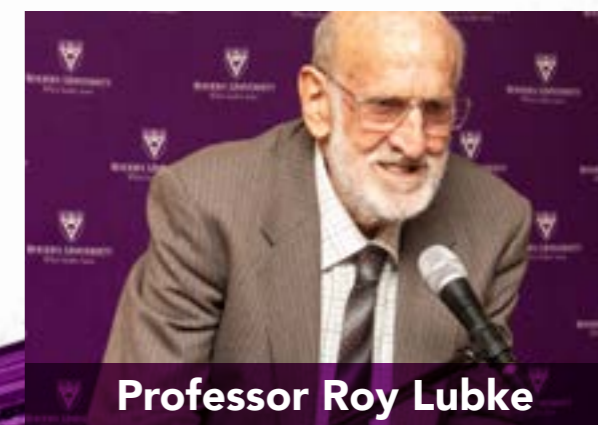
Charles Breen, an esteemed alumnus of Rhodes University, obtained his PhD in Botany.

After joining Indiana University and spending one year as a postdoctoral fellow, he returned to South Africa. He joined the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a senior lecturer in plant ecology, a project that became a world-renowned aquatic ecosystem. Breen's contribution to the project has received worldwide recognition from scholars in the field.

His peers regard him as the authority on social and ecological issues and praise him for his sharp mind, creativity, unsurpassed innovation, and visionary leadership and thinking.

Breen has also contributed extensively to various communities and societies through environmental workshops, the establishment of advisory committees and as a member of review panels for various South African ministries and state-owned enterprises.

“Their psychology, entrepreneurship, and accounting achievements underscore the University’s commitment to nurturing leaders who drive positive societal change. As we celebrate these exemplary alumni, we are reminded that dedication, innovation, and resilience can lead to remarkable success and profound impact, echoing the values Rhodes University holds dear,” says Professor Sizwe Mabizela.



Professor Roy Lubke

Pioneer of environmental impact assessment

Roy is a proud Old Rhodian and influential citizen of Makhanda who embodies the spirit of Ubuntu in the true sense of the word.

Lubke has dedicated nearly 50 years of his professional career to Rhodes University and is regarded as a pioneer of environmental impact assessment in the Eastern Cape and South Africa.

He has written numerous consultancy reports and publications on biodiversity, coastal ecology, conservation of endangered plant species, subtropical thicket and savanna vegetation, reclamation and stabilisation of mine dumps, coastal drift sands and riverbanks.

He is an active member of local and international professional conservation societies, some of which he has been a member since 1962. He is one of the founding members of the South African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Scientists.

INVESTEC CELEBRATES TOP COMMERCE EXTENDED STUDIES ACHIEVERS

By Carmen Visser

INVESTEC HONOURED THE COMMERCE FACULTY'S TOP ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS WHO HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE EXTENDED STUDIES PROGRAMME.

At the dinner, Dean of Commerce Professor Dave Sewry thanked the event's sponsors, Investec and the commerce extended studies programme staff of the College of Extended Studies Programme (CESP).

"This award dinner is a "celebration of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, a celebration of CESP, and a celebration of top academic performance."

Commenting on the faculty's impact, Prof Sewry says one in every six Rhodes University students is at the Commerce Faculty.

Professor Sewry encourages faculty students to stand tall and work hard. "Your capacity to achieve is not in question," he explains and "brag a bit".

Commerce student Keanu Theron says the extended studies programme has helped immensely with his studies.

Fellow student Bulelwa Busakwe explains that being part of CESP was "a privilege. I didn't know I would get all I needed through it," she says.

Head of Investec Corporate Social Investment Setlogane Manchidi points out the high level of gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa. As a father of daughters, he admits to having ever-persistent worries about the dangers of GBV and urges all to make a change. He admits: "We must make this country work and have lost the 'Nelson Mandela Way'.

Furthermore, he reminds the students about their families who rely on them from back home: "Your achievements are not yours alone," he explains.



THE ACHIEVERS:

Top in 2020

- Itumeleng Malesa: 82%
- Mihlali Lutya: 80%
- Shane Marais: 80%
- Nonjabulo Phoswa: 78%
- Puseletso Matlhake: 78%
- Somila Galeni: 78%
- Nomkhosi Sigudu: 78%

Top in 2021

- Fundiswa Tshali: 83%
- Varshan Pillay: 81%
- Dale Pote: 80%

Top in 2022

- Munashe Sithole: 84%
- Dikgang Makgatho: 84%
- Mihle Notholi: 82%
- Matt Bouwer: 82%
- Tshepang Motsepe: 80%

Top in 2023

- Zintle Kave: 86%
- Ntokoza Maduma: 82%
- Lonwabo Mngqibelo: 81%

JMS HONOURS THREE LEGENDS WITH MURAL PAINTING

By Nwabisa Moyo

THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES (JMS) UNVEILED ITS MURAL, CELEBRATING AND HONOURING INDUSTRY LEGENDS.

The mural depicts the legendary former South African Broadcasting Corporation isiXhosa newsreader Dr Noxolo Grootboom, former Daily Dispatch editor Donald Woods, editor of South Africa's first indigenous language newspaper John Tengo Jabavu, ground-breaking woman writer Phyllis Ntantala-Jordan and the photographer whose famous book, House of Bondage helped to topple apartheid, Ernest Cole.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sizwe Mabizela says: "The unveiling of the mural is part of the celebration to honour journalists and media practitioners who have served the profession with great distinction."

He encourages people to pledge their commitment and support a free, independent press as the cornerstone of our institutional democracy.

JMS Head Dr Jeanne Du Toit says the role of journalism is more important than ever as South African storytellers have been uniquely placed to invent traditions of journalism that respond well to contemporary challenges.



"The mural celebrates storytellers and the roles that they have played throughout colonisation, democracy, and the roles of future graduates. It commemorates the Eastern Cape's rich media history."

Guest at the unveiling, Dr Grootboom spoke of the historical role played by radio in the preservation of indigenous languages, saying that "with the demise of indigenous languages, we need to create a climate and a space conducive enough to re-inject and keep the love, the passion, respect of indigenous languages burning in our youth."



UNIVERSITY HONOURS RENOWNED ISIXHOSA WRITER

By Zindzi Nkunzi

UNIVERSITY HAS HONOURED THE LATE SEK MQHAYI, ONE OF THE GREATEST ISIXHOSA WRITERS IN HISTORY, AS THE INSTITUTION CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF THE WRITTEN ISIXHOSA LANGUAGE.

The author of the first extant novel in the Xhosa language, 'Ityala Lamawele,' is remembered for his stories, poems, and cultural interest.

language was preserved. Universities must take it upon themselves to do everything in their power to ensure that the legacy of Mkhayi lives on."

isiXhosa is spoken as a first language by approximately 10 million people and a second language by 11 million. The book was first written down and published on the banks of the Tyhume River in Dikeni (Alice), Eastern Cape. SEK Mqhayi was one of the well-known authors who contributed to the growth of the language.

Mqhayi's writing ranged from isiXhosa dramas and novels to biographies and history. He was also a forerunner to democracy, a visionary with ideas for his country that only came to fruition 50 years after his death.

Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Prince Zolile Burns-Ncamashe, says: "We are privileged that we could honour Mqhayi because of his immense contribution to isiXhosa literature. He took so much pride in this language and wanted to make sure that the

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sizwe Mabizela says: "It's so important that the institution ensures that isiXhosa is given the prestige it deserves by ensuring that our students take pride in their language."

Original article by SABC news: <https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/rhodes-university-honours-renowned-xhosa-writer-late-sek-mqhayi/>

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RESHAPING THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITIES

By Zindzi Nkunzi



Professor Sioux McKenna
Director of Postgraduate Studies

A RECENT BOOK AWARD LECTURE WAS HELD IN HONOUR OF FORMER DEPUTY-VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR CHRISSIE BOUGHEY AND THE DIRECTOR OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, PROFESSOR SIOUX MCKENNA, FOR THEIR COLLABORATIVE BOOK, "UNDERSTANDING HIGHER EDUCATION: ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES".



"We are all part of the system and continue to be, but with the engagement of critical pedagogy literature, we started to understand that universities are deeply political, and the university system serves to reproduce social inequalities in many devastating ways," Professor McKenna says.

Published in 2021, the book draws on the South African context, looking at the shifts in higher education worldwide in the last two decades.

The book responds to the calls for institutional transformation by arguing for a social account of teaching and learning that contests dominant understandings of students as "decontextualised learners" premised on the idea that university is a meritocracy.

Additionally, it argues for alternative ways of seeing higher education that can inform practising policy in South Africa and beyond.

In the journey to find alternative ways to understand higher education, Professor Boughey states: "We should be at the forefront of ideas about a new higher education system."

Professor Boughey points out that over time, the purpose of contributing to developing a skilled workforce has become dominant to the extent that the other purposes are now mostly overlooked.

Internationally recognised for her research on the aims and purposes of higher education, Professor McKenna shares that "over the years, the efficiency agenda meant that the importance of the academic development shifted from making students fit into making students complete in regulation time".

The book has been critically acclaimed and commended by several role players for this monumental research, describing the book as very insightful, informative, and an excellent analysis and critique of higher education.

UNIVERSITY DISCOVERY GAINS GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Submitted by RUCE

GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH BY RHODES UNIVERSITY PHD GRADUATES, TAMRYN MARSBERG AND MICHAEL JUKES HAS LED TO THE PATENT OF VIRAL-BASED PRODUCTS, MULTIMAX AND CODLMAX, AS ALTERNATIVES TO CONVENTIONAL CHEMICAL PESTICIDES ON CITRUS, APPLES, AND LITCHI.



Dr Michael Jukes, one of the University's researchers behind MultiMax and CodlMax, in a laboratory at the Centre for Biological Control.

One advantage of these products is that the pest is controlled without the knock-on environmental harm. The products help to control the codling moth and can be incorporated into control programmes alongside other products to mitigate resistance development. Farmers could use an expanded range of options to control pests and prevent resistance development as part of an integrated pest management strategy.

A global patent for the novel biopesticides is now complete, and work is underway to register and commercialise the products in various jurisdictions across the globe.

The genesis of the scientific odyssey goes back to 2013 when Tamryn, then a PhD student in the Zoology and Entomology department, began rearing the litchi moth, *Cryptophlebia peltastica*, for her research. This is when she discovered a novel baculovirus.

By coincidence, in July 2014, the department's Polish collaborators, Prof Bogusław Szewczyk and Dr Łukasz Rąbalski, were asked by the University's Centre for Biological Control (CBC) to help identify a separate novel virus that had been detected in false codling moth, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*.

From 2015 to 2017, Michael Jukes from the Biochemistry and Microbiology department and Tamryn, Bogusław and Łukasz researched these novel viruses extensively. They discovered they were a single virus, the Alphabaculovirus *Cryptophlebia peltastica* Nucleopolyhedrovirus (CrpeNPV).

Years of inspired research led to the realisation that CrpeNPV had significant potential as an environmentally friendly biopesticide.

After the product was first patented, the team worked on patenting the virus discovery globally. Since then, the virus has been registered and commercialised. The first shipment of MultiMax and CodlMax was sent to South African farmers in South Africa in August 2023.

"We are working with partners on the continent, North America and Europe to gain more registrations of the CrpeNPV," says SARCHI Research Chair in Entomology and Director of the CBC at Rhodes University, Distinguished Professor Martin Hill.



The revitalisation of public education in Makhanda

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO REVERSE A DOWNWARD TREND? IN MAKHANDA, VICE-CHANCELLOR SIZWE MABIZELA DECLARED, AT HIS INAUGURATION, THAT RHODES UNIVERSITY WOULD BE "OF AND FOR THE CITY", GATHERING THOSE WHO COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN AN INTERVENTION KNOWN AS THE VC'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE.

Director of Community Engagement Di Hornby explains how the initiative was a multi-stakeholder endeavour from the start, including various academic departments at Rhodes University, GADRA Education (as a key stakeholder), education NGOs and schools, and the local Rotary clubs that have been involved.

The flagship intervention, the 9/10ths mentoring programme for matrics, takes its name from Anatoly France: "Ninety-tenths of success is encouragement."



While successful, the programme revealed an inescapable truth: Many education deficits happen much earlier.

The international early childhood literacy study found that only 19% of Grade 4 learners in South Africa could read for meaning. Children were entering Grade 1 unprepared, meaning teachers spent the first six months of Grade 1 on school readiness work.

The VC's Education Initiative (VCI) Committee recognised that interventions were needed.

Several new interventions were conceptualised across the city in the early childhood development and primary school spaces. These were aimed at Grade R to Grade 3 literacy, maths and school readiness.

The outcome of the interventions has been startling. The 2023 literacy outcomes report for public schools in Makhanda notes that 40% of Grade 4s can now read for meaning, an

increase of 21%. The Makhanda Matric results for 2022 returned an 85% pass rate, and there were 305 bachelor passes from public schools, with two out of every three bachelor passes coming from no-fee paying schools.

With these major advances in public education, the VCI Committee is raising its vision to a higher level and breaking new ground in the education sector.

Professor Sizwe Mabizela will convene a Makhanda Education Summit in January 2024, where stakeholders will plan how to make education a unique selling point in the city, moving towards the emergence of a leading education city in the country and Africa.

The success of the VC's Education Initiative is due to quality community-university partnerships, all working towards a shared goal. For this reason, we invite our Alumni to come on board and be part of the journey towards a city of education excellence.

IDP SPELLS OUT STUDENT EXPERIENCE, ACADEMIC SUCCESS GOALS

2023 MARKED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) FOR 2023 TO 2028 TO RHODES UNIVERSITY FOLLOWING ITS APPROVAL IN DECEMBER 2022 BY THE COUNCIL.

In his IDP Foreword, Vice-Chancellor Professor Sizwe Mabizela explains that the IDP (Umkhombandlela) places the student experience and academic success at the core of everything the University does.

“Through our teaching, research, community engagement and extracurricular or co-curricular activities, we are committed to producing:

- outstanding graduates who are curious and innovative, analytical, articulate, resilient, balanced and adaptable
- graduates with a lifelong love of learning
- graduates who are knowledgeable and skilled
- graduates who are critical and democratic citizens and ethical leaders who are committed to the values of human understanding, social justice,

- human development and service to society
- graduates who are committed to human rights and environmental justice
- graduates who will not be content with only seeing our society or the world as it is but can imagine a better society and a better world and can work with courage, dedication and conviction to improve our society and the world.”

He explains that the University’s approach to learning and teaching, research and community engagement endeavours to nurture students’ curiosity and develop appropriate skills to question accepted wisdom, challenge orthodoxy, contest the status quo and develop well-considered solutions to challenges that face humankind.



BACK TO INDEX

“We have also committed to providing a safe and nurturing student support system, and a diverse array of residential, sporting, cultural and leadership opportunities that foster the all-round and holistic development and growth of our students as global citizens who can participate actively in efforts geared towards improving the human condition locally and globally.”

MABIZELA SAYS THAT THE EIGHT STRATEGIC GOALS THAT WILL DRIVE THE EXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS ARE:

GOAL 1 Ensure quality scholarly teaching and learning to enable students to access powerful knowledge, engage in their learning and become critical problem solvers who are socially responsible global citizens.

GOAL 2 Promote access to Rhodes University for academically qualifying students and create academic conditions which enable them to thrive and succeed.

GOAL 3 Create an engaging and transformative student experience that promotes holistic development, growth and academic success.

GOAL 4 Maintain and strengthen Rhodes University’s standing as a research-intensive university.

GOAL 5 Ensure financial and environmental sustainability practices through good governance, effective leadership and prudent resource management.

GOAL 6 Attract, develop, and retain quality staff.

GOAL 7 Invest in appropriate physical infrastructure, equipment and digital technology.

GOAL 8 Position and promote Rhodes University as an institution for the public good.

RHODES UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023 - 2028

[Download your copy here](#)

On the Bookshelf:

COCK TALES ON THE KOWIE

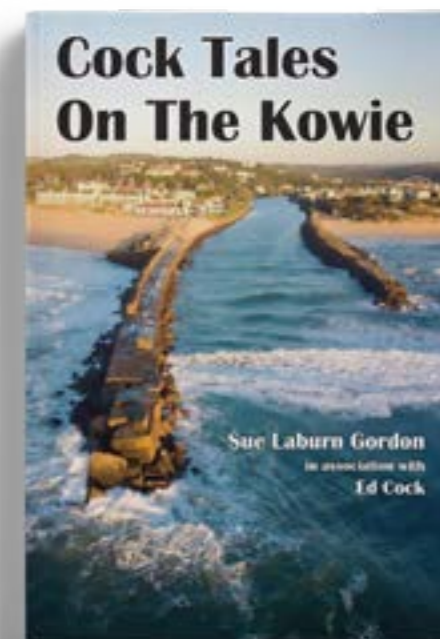
SUE GORDON AND HER HUSBAND NEVILLE PURCHASED COCK'S CASTLE (RICHMOND HOUSE) ON THE TOP OF WESLEY HILL IN PORT ALFRED IN 1999.

Sue Gordon, in association with Ed Cock

For Sue, this was the beginning of a fascinating journey into the history of the house and its original owner and builder, an 1820 Settler leader, entrepreneur, politician, and, most famously of all, the man who shifted the Kowie River and created a harbour, the Honourable William Cock.

Sue began collecting artefacts, stories and documents about the house and William Cock, and in 2007 established the Richmond House Museum in the grounds of Richmond House.

Then, ably assisted and encouraged by fifth-generation William Cock, a descendant of local dairy farmer Ed Cock, she began the monumental task of researching the history of the house and the Cock family. This eminently readable and meticulously researched book is the result.



“Cock Tales” offers the reader, whether descended from the 1820 Settlers or otherwise, a sense of place and circumstance, a fascinating glimpse into our collective past and a most welcome addition to the existing body of literature on the 1820 Settlers.”

Pat Irwin, Professor Emeritus in Education, Rhodes University

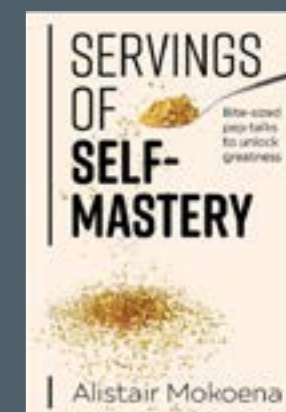
SERVINGS OF SELF-MASTERY

Dr Alistair Mokoena

Alistair Mokoena’s *Servings of Self-Mastery* is packed with bite-sized motivational gems and tools to unlock our potential and thrive. Mokoena says that self-mastery is the pinnacle of self-effectiveness. It is the reset button that puts you back in control of your life and helps you make healthy choices in both your personal and business life.

Dr Alistair Mokoena is Google’s Country Director in South Africa and was named South Africa’s Best Advertising and Marketing Leader by the Global Brand Awards. He completed his BCom (Law) and LLB at Rhodes University.

He is an Extraordinary Professor of Practice in Digital Marketing and Technology at the North-West University Business School and a member of the Council at the University of Johannesburg. He mentors small businesses and is a regular keynote speaker at conferences.





DURBAN COMES OUT TO SUPPORT THE CITY'S ALUMNI CHAPTER

DURBAN-BASED ALUMNI CAME IN NUMBERS TO RECONNECT AND GET AN UPDATE ON IMPORTANT MATTERS CONCERNING THEIR ALMA MATER.

Dr Benita Bobo, an alumnus who called for the formation of the alumni chapters, shared a touching story on why forming alumni chapters would benefit the alumni and students.

She explains: "When I came to study at Rhodes University in 2010, I was a part of what is called 'the missing middle'. I was not poor enough to qualify for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme nor rich enough to study at Rhodes University.



“I came from a rural community of Ngqushwa who was raised by a single parent. I had to pay 50% of my fees and residence. It amounted to R50 000; my mother could only raise R15 000.”

Dr Bobo says when she arrived at Rhodes University, it was the last day to pay the fee, and she could not register.

"The Vice-Chancellor's personal assistant asked what was happening. I explained, and she arranged for me to meet with the then Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, Professor Sizwe Mabizela [now Vice-Chancellor]," she adds.

She says Professor Mabizela asked her why she wanted to study at the institution. She explained that she would be the first person in her family to attend university.

"Professor Mabizela said it was unfair that I could not study because I do not have the means. He went

to the fees office and told them that he would pay R10 000 for me. I still have the printout of the student account fees with the note 'Prof Mabizela said he would pay the R10 000'."

32-year-old Dr Bobo studied Bachelor of Social Sciences majoring in Psychology and Linguistics, honours in Psychology, Master's in Sociology and PhD in Psychology.

Another alumnus, Lucky Mtolo, who studied Bachelor of Pharmacy, echoes the sentiments of Dr Bobo.

"We are sending out a strong call to Rhodes University alumni to form vibrant alumni chapters," he says.



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ALUMNI REUNION EVENTS

CAPE TOWN



At this year's reunion cocktail in Johannesburg and Cape Town, first year students for 2024 and their parents joined after a session with the Student Recruitment office and Registrar.

It afforded parents and potential students an opportunity to get information on the University first hand on what to expect. For Johannesburg, there were over 230 guests.

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JOHANNESBURG





RHODES UNIVERSITY CROWNED EASTERN CAPE INTERVARSITY CHAMPIONS

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE EASTERN CAPE INTERVARSITY, RHODES UNIVERSITY EMERGED VICTORIOUS AT THE 2023 TOURNAMENT, BEATING THE NEAREST COMPETITOR AND TITLEHOLDER BY 16 POINTS, NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY.

The tournament saw Rhodes University, Nelson Mandela University, the University of Fort Hare (UFH) and Walter Sisulu University (WSU) competing in football, basketball, rugby, volleyball, golf, Blackpool, chess, and choir.

Rhodes University, the overall winner, dominated rugby, football, and basketball (men and ladies) teams.

Rhodes University Sports Manager Frans Mamabolo attributed the win to the strategy and planning:

“It is always good to see the plan and strategy coming to fruition. Our goal was to be the best in the province and maintain the top-eight spot in the country. The victory belongs to all.”

Rugby captain Simelela Mbanzi says he trusts the win will boost the team’s confidence going into the Varsity Shield’s promotional relegation.

Ladies basketball captain Asekhona Zondi says: “One thing that has always been our strength is our attitude towards sport and how we always give it our all.”

Football captain Kwenza Hadebe says the home-ground advantage was pivotal in their win.

Rhodes University Sports Council Chairperson Sue Smailes says the achievement will help students believe in themselves and their peers and think that anything is possible. “Purple blood was proudly evident.”

Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sizwe Mabizela, who attended all the games, says: “We are immensely proud of them. Winning the 2023 InterVarsity has been a tremendous achievement, which has come as a result of hard work, dedication and discipline.”



OVERALL RESULTS

1st place

Rhodes University
237 points

2nd place

Nelson Mandela University
(221 points)

3rd place

Walter Sisulu University (207 points)

4th place

University of Fort Hare (159 points)

Be a game-changer!

YOUR SUPPORT CAN TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF STUDENT-ATHLETES AT RHODES UNIVERSITY.

Help us enhance sports facilities, strengthen high-performance codes, and expand our development programme. Join the Rhodes Sport movement and make a lasting impact through sports!

www.ru.ac.za/donate

In memory

MISSED AND NOT FORGOTTEN

Professor Cliff Moran



Emeritus Professor Cliff Moran completed his undergraduate degree in entomology from Rhodes University in 1958 and his PhD in 1967. He began lecturing in entomology in the Department of Zoology of Entomology in 1962 and was promoted to Professor in 1979. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Science between 1983 and 1985.

He joined the University of Cape Town (UCT) as Dean of Science in 1986, a position he held until his retirement in 1998. In 2005, Rhodes University awarded him an honorary doctorate for contributing to South African entomology.

He was awarded an A-rating from the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) from 1992-1996, was considered a leader in the biological control of invasive alien plants globally, and was often invited to give plenary papers on his research at international conferences.

After retirement, he received a Research Fellowship in the Department of Biological Sciences at UCT. He continued researching, reviewing and undertaking assessments for many local and overseas individuals, organisations and journals.

PG Joubert

PG Joubert had a long-standing relationship with Rhodes University, first as a student when he completed his BA DPMW and later as a trustee.

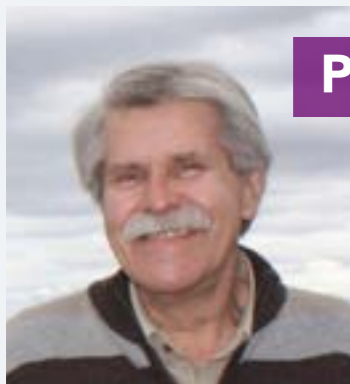
During this time, PG developed a formidable business career for which he was named one of South Africa's top five business people of the Year by Sunday Times in 1991.

He was deputy chairman, chairman, CEO and director at some of South Africa's leading companies, including Nedcor, Afrox, Munich Reinsurance Company, Impala Platinum Holdings, Murray and Roberts, and Old Mutual, amongst others.

He later shared his business acumen, insight and wisdom as a trustee with the University of Cape Town.

PG also completed an advanced management programme at Harvard in the early 1970s.

Patrick Phillips



Patrick joined Rhodes University on 1 April 1988 and retired on 31 July 2011 after 23 years of service. Patrick Phillips was part of the recruitment team headed up by Annette Orsmond. Together, they ran an efficient and effective recruitment and selection section for Rhodes University.

Patrick, or Paddy, as his close friends called him, served the University with distinction and had a very dry sense of humour. Colleagues remember him as professional, dependable and kind.

Dr Raymond Ackerman



Founder of Pick 'n Pay and one of the University's esteemed honorary doctorate recipients. Dr Ackerman was conferred with a Doctor of Laws (LLD) (honoris causa) by Rhodes University in 1986 in recognition of his role as a foremost entrepreneur, a committed humanitarian and the immense contribution he made to business and society.

His association with the University extends over several touchpoints. In 1988, the Raymond Ackerman Chair in Business Administration in the Department of Management at Rhodes University was established.

The Raymond Ackerman Academy for Entrepreneurial Development has nurtured numerous emerging business proprietors.

The Ackerman Fund was established in 1988 to advance the academic project, including teaching and learning, research, networking (inter-institutionally and between the Department and leading members of commerce and industry), and international collaboration. Many staff members have benefitted, and numerous initiatives have been launched through the Fund's financial support.

Ian Macdonald

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy Ian Macdonald came to Rhodes University as a student in Divinity in 1958. He was immediately confronted by the moral, social and political challenges of being a student in early 1960s South Africa.

Ian's then best friend, Dunbar Moodie, at the time, recounts: "Macdonald, with typical intellectual consistency and integrity, eventually dropped theology and faith altogether". Ian stepped into student politics and became SRC President".

He completed an honours degree in Philosophy in 1962 and achieved a master of arts at the University of Kansas before returning to Rhodes as a lecturer in 1966. A senior lectureship followed in 1971, and a full professorship in 1984. He had a passion for rugby and played hooker, became a coach and eventually chairman of the Rhodes University Rugby Club.

He also served as the President of the Philosophical Society of Southern Africa and a member of the board of Philosophical Papers, the international journal published by the Rhodes Philosophy Department.

David Gain

David Gain, a professor of Classics, joined Rhodes University in 1978 after completing his PhD in London and a short period at the University of the Witwatersrand.

His son, James, told me that David Gain has passed on following a battle with leukaemia. He retired early in 2000 but continued living in Makhanda (Grahamstown), where he actively participated in the bridge-playing and choral-singing communities. David was also an active participant in the Rhodes University alumni structures.

All his children are alumni of Rhodes University. His ex-wife lectured in the Faculty of Pharmacy under her maiden name, Dr Ann Kench.

Contributor: Professor Emeritus Pat Terry



RHODES UNIVERSITY
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Alumni and Stakeholder Relations

**+27 (0) 46 603 8887
alumni@ru.ac.za**

ALUMNI HOUSE
Communications and Advancement Division
Rhodes University
Lucas Avenue, Makhanda, 6139
PO Box 94, Makhanda, 6140

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