

RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn



**Rhodes Communication & Advancement:
Alumni Newsletter**

September 2018

Issue 65

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” – Nelson Mandela

Dear Old Rhodians and Friends

Rhodes University’s Community Engagement division recently held a week-long trade event in honour of Madiba’s centenary birthday, during Trading LIVE for Mandela Week between 18-24 July. The 151 successful events that were run over six days included participation from Rhodes University and 70 different organisations in the broader Grahamstown, including schools, businesses and non-governmental organisations.



On 14 August, a Trading LIVE storytelling exhibition was held at Eden Grove, to showcase some of the trade stories captured by the Journalism Department’s 3rd-year students through [video](#), radio, photography, and an 8-page insert published in Grocott’s Mail.

With August being Woman’s Month, a number of activities took place at the University. The Equity & Institutional Culture Office organised the Silent Protest, which launched on 3 August, with a T-shirt distribution, a Die-In in memory of those who passed away as a result of gender-based violence, and a Breaking the Silence vigil in the evening.



The following week, a series of talks and discussions took place both at the University and at Nombulelo Secondary School. These included Professor Pumla Gqola, Mx Andile Gaeleswe, Advocate Nicola Turner, Dr Benita Moolman, Dr Thulane Gxubane, Mx Lisa

Vetten, and Captain Majova.

To end off the week, visual artist and India-based women's rights activist Mx Aquí Thami, was sponsored by the BACK.TALK Womxn's Collective, to host a poster-making workshop for interested students who wanted to reflect on or process their own experiences with gender-based violence.

Sadly, this time coincided with the death of one of Rhodes' beloved BA Law students, Khensani Maseko, who took her own life on 3 August, following a rape she had reported to the University on 30 July.



An academic shutdown took place over two days, during which students were encouraged to reflect on Khensani's death and to attend the various talks and workshops the University had planned for that week. A commemorative march to The Monument took place on 7 August, where students assembled and expressed their thoughts about Khensani's death and the scourge of gender-based violence in our communities.

Khensani's funeral, which was attended by Dr Mabizela and representatives from the Rhodes University SRC, took place in Johannesburg on 10 August.

The Rhodes Alumni Team

Call for nominations: Distinguished Alumni Awards

The closing date for the 2018 [Distinguished Alumni Awards](#) nominations is 1 October 2018. These awards acknowledge alumni role-models in their professional accomplishments, personal successes, services to society, and support of the University.

The [nomination form](#) can be downloaded and emailed to alumni@ru.ac.za

faxed to +27 46 603 8744, or posted to:

Distinguished Alumni Award
Alumni Relations Office, Rhodes University
PO Box 94
Grahamstown
6140

15 Rhodes alumni make M&G's Top200 list

At a Gala dinner on 28 June, the *Mail & Guardian* announced a list of 200 Young South African Achievers. Of these, 15 are graduates of Rhodes University, some currently registered for further degrees. Of the 15, 13 hold postgraduate degrees from Rhodes, and 10 were funded through the Postgraduate Financial Aid Office at Rhodes. This speaks volumes to the value of a Rhodes postgraduate qualification, and the financial support that our graduates receive to enable them to achieve high recognition. Read more [here](#)



Reunion time

This year has been a bumper reunion year as Rhodes University and its alumni gather all over the country (and the world!) to discuss the implementation of our first-ever Institutional Development Plan, and share the remarkable news of several brilliant accolades the University has achieved over the past few years. Its clear Rhodes University is moving from strength to strength.

Australia

A reunion event was held for our alumni in Australia on 10 May in Perth. Dr Sizwe Mabizela was able to virtually attend the reunion via a live video conference call. He thanked the Western Australia reunion organisers, Shirley Andres, Greg Biegel, Craig Hardman, Gail Mosdell and Ian Rogers, and expressed his gratitude to all attendees. Click [here](#) to view the photographs.



Durban

Durban-based Old Rhodians had two reunion events, a luncheon and a Cocktail on 3 August. Rhodes University Chancellor, Judge Lex Mpati presented the 2017 Distinguished Old Rhodian Award to Mr Robby Shone on behalf of his father, the late Dr Les Shone. Click [here](#) to view the photographs.



Upcoming

The next Old Rhodian [reunion](#) takes place in Cape Town on 12 October in the form of a legacy luncheon and an evening cocktail. These will be preceded by a Donor Dinner on the evening of 11 October, hosted by Chancellor Lex Mpati.



On 22 and 23 November, the same events will be taking place in Johannesburg, open to all Gauteng-based Old Rhodians. Click [here](#) for more information.

Save the date! 1980 to 1995 Graduates. A 'back to campus' reunion is being planned from 28-30 June 2019. If you have not received your save the date invitation, please email t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za

Old Rhodian Union bursaries

Twenty-eight hard-working students received bursaries totalling R225 000 from the Old Rhodian Union this year.

Traditionally, the Old Rhodian Union has exclusively funded undergraduates, but thanks to alumni signing up for the MySchool card and designating Rhodes University as a beneficiary, the bursaries now extend to postgraduates as well. The University is currently receiving approximately R1500 per month from this initiative, at no extra cost to the cardholder.

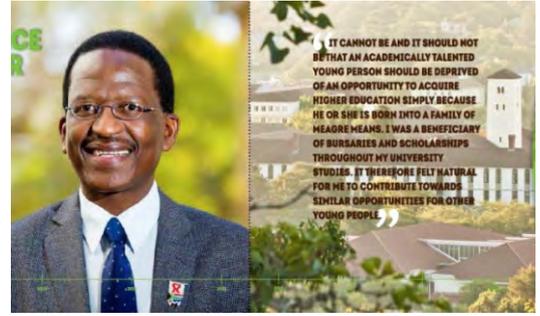


If you wish to help us increase the monthly donation amount, please click [here](#) to easily apply for a MySchool card.

Ways of Giving survey

Rhodes has put together a survey about the fundraising process we currently use. We are always looking for ways to make our systems easier and more user-friendly. Whether you have financially-supported Rhodes in the past or not, please take a moment to complete the short survey. We are open to all feedback and suggestions from you, our alumni, about how best to ease the donor process. It is mostly multiple choice and will take less than 5 minutes of your time. Please click on the link to access the survey.

<http://survey.ru.ac.za/index.php/388437?lang=en>



BANKSETA sponsors Rhodes students

The Banking Sector Education and Training Authority (BANKSETA) has donated nearly R5.8 million to assist 50 Rhodes University commerce and science students with full tuition for 2018.



The funding covers tuition fees, accommodation and a book allowance, which amounts to approximately R100 000 per student.

Since its inception last year, the Isivivane Fund has helped over 100 academically-talented but financially-struggling students further their education. If you want more information about how you can donate to a worthy student's studies, please click [here](#)

Telethon and Online Giving Campaign

The university launched the 2018 telethon, from 27-31 August, to update the alumni database and provide a brief introduction to our exciting fundraising campaign. The 2018 Telethon supported the Isivivane Fund, our Student Financial Aid Campaign, which aims to raise funds for both undergraduate and postgraduate bursaries. The calls were made by our students who sacrificed their spring vacation to be part of this exciting initiative. The students thoroughly enjoyed speaking to our alumni and often the phone calls lasted over half an hour in exchanging news and stories between the current and older Rhodent. We are still gathering pledges and donations and the final result will be posted soon.



We have also registered the Isivivane Fund on GivenGain and should you wish to donate on that platform please follow this [link](#)

To read more about the Isivivane campaign, please click [here](#).

New SRC inauguration

The new Student Representative Council members were announced on 17 August, at an inauguration event at Eden Grove. Student participation in this year's elections exceeded the quorum of 2274. The presidency had a narrow victory with Samkelo Mngadi exceeding his vice president, Khakha Mpfu, by only 62 votes.

Our beloved SRC liaison officer Eric Ofei, who has been actively involved in student governance for 12 years, also hung up his robe and sent well wishes to the incoming council.



Death of an esteemed Council Member

A memorial service was held for Neville Errol Woollgar, Vice-Chair of the Rhodes University Council on 3 August at the Rhodes Chapel.

Neville served on our Council for 43 years as the Vice-Chair of Council and Chairperson of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee of Council. During this time, he contributed his time, expertise, and resources as a trustee of the Pension and Provident funds, on the Audit Committee, the Joint Planning Committee, as a Council representative on Senate, and through his personal contributions and the support of individual students by the BK Trust of which he was the founding chairman.

Neville is survived by his beloved wife, Bev, his two children, three stepchildren, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Old Rhodian Authors

The latest books donated to our Alumni House bookcase include:

Bitter Aloes by Marion Baxter

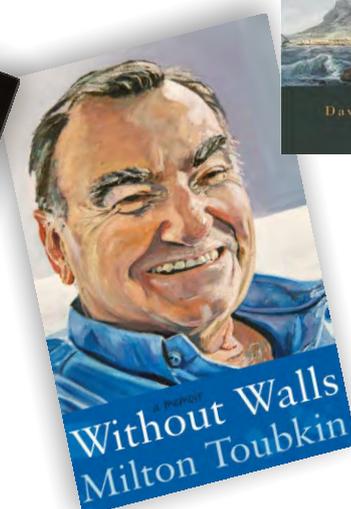
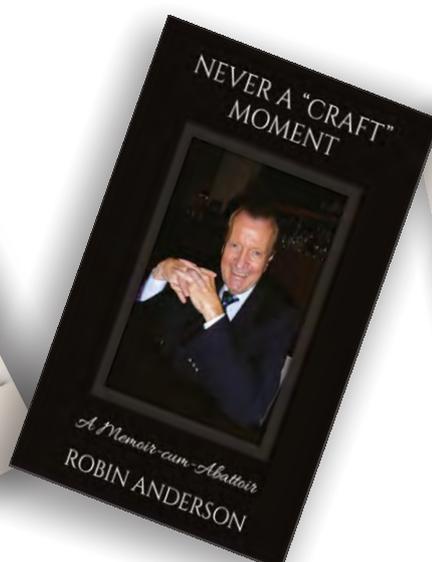
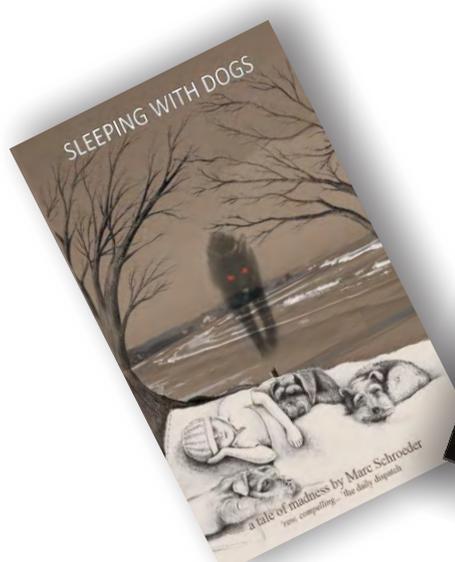
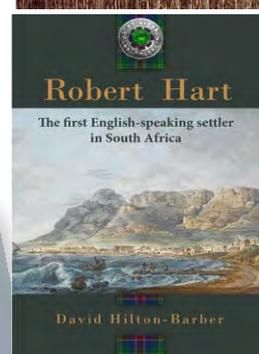
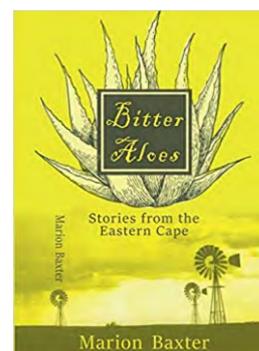
Baxter passed away from advanced breast cancer in July 2002, leaving behind a stack of neatly-filed manuscripts in her small Rhodes University office. This collection of stories was on the top of the pile.

The Wool-Classifier, the Shearers and the Golden Fleece by Errol Knott Moorcroft

These heart-warming, amusing, and sometimes tearful stories follow the experiences of a young student at an agricultural college in the Karoo.

Robert Hart: The first English-speaking settler in South Africa by David Hilton-Barber

The name of Robert Hart is almost unknown, yet he appears to be the first English-speaking South African. Hart arrived with the British troops under Sir Home Popham in 1795, when the Dutch East India Company's rule was breaking down completely.



Without Walls by Milton Toubkin

This memoir explores the huge impact that Milton had on the international educational system in London as a result of founding Southbank International School with his colleagues. A unique biography that will appeal to readers interested in education, and those who enjoy memoirs.

Never a "Craft" Moment by Robin Anderson

A menu of magical memoirs and acerbic abattoirs accompanied by a cocktail of acidic pollutants and a frank behind-the-scenes look at the so-called glamorous world of interior design.

Sleeping with Dogs: A Tale of Madness by Marc Schroeder

This novel follows the East Londoner's life – from his childhood days attending Selborne Primary School and College to his crazy student life at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, and even his adult life as a financial analyst.

Read more [here](#)



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

[Alumni in the News](#)

[General RU News](#)

[USA Trust Web Site](#)

[UK Trust Web Site](#)

[Old Rhodian Authors](#)



Click [here](#) for an online application form if you do not have a MySchool Card linked to Rhodes University. All revenue goes towards an Old Rhodian Bursary

