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**Rhodes Alumni Development (RAD) e-newsletter**

December 2014

Issue 55

*“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.” - Sydney J. Harris*

Old Rhodians and Friends

Welcome to the final alumni e-newsletter for 2014. This year may be flying by at breakneck speed but it's brimming with notable events and developments at Rhodes – many of which are covered in this e-edition. We hope that you enjoy what you read within it and that you're as inspired by the many facets of the Rhodes spirit at work, as we are. Thank you for your support and your interest. The Purple Legacy thrives through you!

Best Wishes

The Rhodes Alumni Team

## **Our New Vice-Chancellor**

The University is in the safe hands of our new Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, a leading scholar with impressive and extensive publications and who has been at Rhodes as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic & Student Affairs since 2008. His first challenge was to tackle the water crises and we are proud to announce that since the water outages in 2013 and earlier this year, a great deal has been done to ensure that Grahamstown and the University has a reliable supply of municipal water. The inauguration of Dr Sizwe Mabizela as Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University will take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. We will keep you informed on the details.

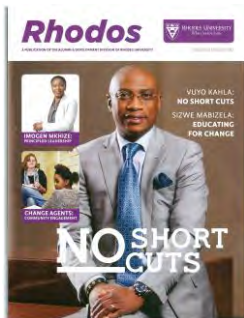
**Rhodes has just the man to figure it out**

**Close look at progress in G'town water issue**



## The Latest Rhodos Out Now

From the national and international achievements of our academics and students; to pioneering Rhodes practices and initiatives that positively impact local communities; to philosophical reflections on democracy 20 years on and the change of guard in some key positions at Rhodes – including a fond farewell to outgoing Vice Chancellor, Dr Saleem Badat and insight into the vision of the new chair of the Rhodes Council, Mr Vuyo Kahla, – the latest edition of the Rhodos publication is a revelation! Access it online at the link below:



If you are on our hard copy mailing list and have not yet received your copy in the post; or would like a physical copy of the publication, please contact us: [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za)

[Read more here](#)

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## Outstanding Old Rhodians Awarded

As always, the Old Rhodian Awards are a renowned occurrence on the Rhodes annual event calendar. The Distinguished Old Rhodian (DOR) Award honours Old Rhodians who have reached exceptional heights in their career over an extended period of time, while the Emerging Old Rhodian (EOR) Award honours those who are 40 years old or younger, have excelled early in their career and show potential for continued success.

This year, six outstanding alumni were awarded:

1. Leading jurist and trailblazing legal thinker, Judge Jos Jones (DOR)
2. Pioneer of online leadership communications and financial services executive, Mr. Lincoln Mali (DOR)
3. Business leader, multi-company director and good governance advocate Ms. Imogen Mkhize (DOR)
4. Marketing communications, reputation management practitioner and strategist of international repute, Mr Rich Mkhondo (DOR)
5. Award-winning corporate social responsibility innovator and active promoter of women in chartered accounting, Ms Konehali Gugushe (EOR)
6. Multiple media awards winner and acclaimed radio personality, actress, singer and Idols judge, Ms Unathi Msengana (EOR)

We wholeheartedly congratulate all of these outstanding alumni on their awards and thank them for their immense contributions both to Rhodes and to South Africa through their incredible lives and work!



Click [here](#) to read more about this year's outstanding winners.



## Fabulous Old Rhodian Events

**Successfully Completed:**

### College House Centenary Celebration

College Knights from around the country and the globe converged on Grahamstown over the weekend of 12 September in a homecoming to remember – celebrating 100 years of College House and the multifaceted achievements of its alumni! Apart from the emotional reunions and jubilant celebrations however, those present also took the time to launch the College House Centenary Fund. The purpose of the fund is to create ongoing financial resources for the upkeep and maintenance of College House and Founders Dining Hall as well as a bursary scheme for the knights of the future.

One of the most poignant aspects of the celebration was the absence of Dr Alistair Carnegie, who was to attend, but tragically passed away prior to the event. He was represented by his loving wife, Phoebe, and fondly remembered by those present - as were the countless others who have made College House the legendary residence it has become for a century and counting!

Click [here](#) to read the full story Full Story

Click [here](#) to visit College House Centenary Fund

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## Onward and Upward With Purple Power



Besides the university's official events held throughout the year, 2014 saw our volunteers in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth holding Purple Thursday Gatherings. On the 31st October, all 4 Cities held a National Purple Thursday Gathering and Skyped each other. Swaziland has also joined in and held their first Purple Thursday Celebration on the 27th November. Please contact [t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za) if you would like to hold a Purple Thursday Gathering in your area.

**Port Elizabeth Reunion Luncheon** on the 18<sup>th</sup> July at the Humewood Hotel – attended by 36 Old Rhodians representing various generations and hosted by Dr Peter Clayton. Click [here](#) for the pictures

**Cape Town Reunion** on the 3rd of October at the Atlantic Imbizo at the V&A waterfront - attended by over 80 Old Rhodians and the Luncheon - around 20 of our mature Old Rhodians enjoyed a scrumptious lunch.

Click [here](#) for the Cape Town Reunion pictures and click [here](#) for the luncheon pictures

**UK Lunch and Reunion** on the 8th of October at the Victory Services Club - there was a turnout of about 14 Old Rhodians that enjoyed an intimate lunch with Dr. Clayton. **Reunion** - On the same day, Caroline Rowland, hosted a successful Reunion at Soho House.



Click [here](#) for UK Reunion pictures and click [here](#) for the luncheon pictures

**Durban** - On the 17th October Durban hosted their Luncheon and Reunion at the Benjamin Hotel. With 13 attendees, the lunch was very intimate and well enjoyed. Reunion - 90 enthusiastic Alumni of all ages attended the event. Special mention for our Durban Old Rhodian Coordinator, Bertie Wicks, who sadly passed away on the morning of the reunion. Bertie was a passionate Old Rhodian and will be sorely missed. Our condolences to his family and friends.



Click [here](#) for Durban Reunion pictures and click [here](#) for the luncheon pictures.

**Jozi** on the 7 November Johannesburg marked the last Alumni event of the year, with Dr Sizwe Mabizela hosting his first event as the new Vice-Chancellor. Luncheon - around 45 Old Rhodians attended the luncheon at the Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club where they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Reunion - As always been the case, the Johannesburg reunion has always been well attended; roughly 130 Old Rhodians attended the event at The Johannian, St Johns. On the same day, Ms Kone Gugushe was awarded with the Emerging Old Rhodian Award.





Click [here](#) for the Johannesburg Reunion pictures and click [here](#) for the luncheon pictures.

## A Night at the Opera – UK

An initiative of the Rhodes University Trust UK, this glorious gala operatic performance took place at Cadogan Hall in London on Tuesday 4 November. It featured some of South Africa's greatest operatic rising stars, including the 2014 Standard Bank Young Artist winner for music, the well-known baritone Njabulo Madladla along with South African pianists Ben Schoeman and our Old Rhodian, Terence Marais.

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## Guest Lecture by Old Rhodian, Marguerite Poland – UK

This event was specifically arranged for our Club 1904 members on the 18th November. Marguerite has researched and written extensively about South African's participation in WW1 and is a wonderfully gifted public speaker. Part of a South African group visiting France to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War, she outlined Rhodian involvement in WW1 via the stories of 4 Old Rhodians. If you have not yet joined the 1904 Club please read more about it [here](#).

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## Happy 100th Birthday Lawrie Shuttleworth!

It's a year of celebrations this year with Rhodes turning 110 years old, College House celebrating its centenary and Old Rhodian, Lawrie Shuttleworth joining the centenarian club by celebrating his 100th Birthday on the 18th November. Lawrie enrolled at Rhodes University in 1933 for a BComm degree which he completed in 1935 majoring in Actuarial Science. He has kept up with his alma mater and varsity friends and we send him our heartiest congratulations and warm wishes on this auspicious occasion!



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## Newsworthy Alumni

Whether it's the launch of alumnus Graeme Joffe's fiery and gloriously quirky daily sports e-newspaper, called "SportsFire Daily", which also courageously exposes fraud and corruption in SA sport; or Rhodes' strong presence in the Mail & Guardian list of top 200 young South Africans for 2014; or Rhodes University students coming out tops with six Mandela Rhodes Scholarships, together with higher dimensions in travelling with flair and a host of other accolades and heart-warming stories; Rhodes alumni are making headline news constantly and we are delighted for all of them!

Click [here](#) for the alumni stories making big waves in the news.

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## Rhodes In the News

Rhodes University's accomplishments that are capturing the headlines.

Be it Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor - launching the new Rhodes University/ Department Of Science and Technology (DST) Centre for Nanotechnology Innovation: Highway Africa - the largest media conference in Africa or the 6th annual South African interdisciplinary postgraduates' conference for postgrads from across the country or the Reading Association of South Africa's national literacy conference or the Women's Academic Solidarity Association National Women's Day colloquium - Rhodes University is hosting some of the most ground-breaking gatherings of great minds in the country right now.

Couple this with Rhodes students, staff and alumni attaining various national and global honours in fields as diverse as sustainable fuels, dramatic arts, accounting systems, river resource management and rowing and you have a host of newsworthy developments to read about and enjoy in the Rhodes News section of the University website.

Go to [Rhodes Latest News](#) and enjoy your adventure into the cutting edge of the Rhodes learning experience.



## Rhodes Annual Fund

The constant achievements of our alumni have proven beyond doubt that a Rhodes education is a vital gateway to success. We believe that this gateway must be opened to more and more students, regardless of a lack of access to funding. That is why the Annual Fund exists – to give students who could otherwise not afford to study the gift of a Rhodes education.



### Why I give to Rhodes University.

Ultimately, it is only through the generous contributions of our alumni that this fund is possible - which this year is being backed by a series of fabulous end of year fundraising events.

These events include:



**Give5** - In the previous issue of this newsletter we wrote about the roaring success of the Annual Fund Give 5 campaign - an initiative by students for students - which has raised over R100 000 this year alone. Its purpose is to help support those in the student body with the least access to financial resources. The Give 5 initiative is strongly supported by alumni of Rhodes and local business in Grahamstown. So thank you to those of you who have contributed, as well as to GBS Mutual Bank for topping the fund up with R10 000 and all those businesses whose sterling contributions make the initiative the success that it is.

Go to [Give5 2014](#) to find out more about the Campaigns successes this year.

**A Fundraising Telethon** from late September into early October 2014, where countless students gave of their time - phoning Rhodes alumni and facilitating generous donations by many alumni to the Annual Fund.

Thank you so much to all of you who contributed so graciously and to the students who inspired you!



**Unathi Msengana's Benefit Concert**, on Friday 3 October, where Unathi received her Emerging Old Rhodian Award for 2014 in an emotional handover, while generously donating all concert proceeds to the Annual Fund – in a most musically inspiring night indeed!

Thank you Unathi for a breath-taking night!

**A musical extravaganza concert by the Rhodes Music School** took place on the 23rd of October – sharing the Rhodes musical experience with the Grahamstown community while raising money for the annual fund.

Thank you to those who supported the music concert!

**The Johannesburg Gala Fundraiser** - due to unforeseen circumstances the Johannesburg Gala Fundraiser had to be postponed to June 2015. Be on the lookout for the notice of the date. This promises to be a splendid affair and it would be wonderful if you could join us.



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## Rhodes University Chamber Choir (RUCC) US Tour 2015

The RUCC plans to celebrate more than 60 years of existence, with its first overseas concert tour in over a decade. The purpose of the proposed tour to the USA is to “introduce the world to the wonders and diversity of South African music”. It will do so through a multicultural choir presenting compositions in various official languages and in a wide range of musical idioms. Ultimately, it promises to be phenomenal - especially given the choir’s proudly South African focus and the plethora of cities it will visit, from Washington DC to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Haven, New York and Boston in early December 2015.

Understandably, such a tour takes a year of fundraising and planning, which has already begun in earnest. And if any alumni are interested in offering assistance - either financial or with contacts in the USA - kindly contact the choir’s director Dr Andrew-John Bethke on [ajbethke@gmail.com](mailto:ajbethke@gmail.com)

Let’s bring South African musical magic to the USA through the RUCC.

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## Old Rhodian Authors

Our Old Rhodian Authors continue to delight and surprise us with their generous donations of their published books to the Old Rhodian Bookcase in Alumni House. We have ordered our third bookcase in anticipation of next year’s influx. Click below and explore our latest offerings.

[Latest Books Donated to the OR Author’s Bookcase](#)

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## In Memoriam 2014

2014 thus far has been a year of exceptional progress and achievement at Rhodes! Sadly, it has also been a year where several of our beloved alumni have passed on – always remembered in our hearts. For our obituary section, please access the following [link](#)

Our deepest condolences to their family and friends. Rhodes will always fondly remember its own with love.

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## Onward and Upward With Purple Power

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. It’s just one more way we use the power of purple to connect with you. But you don’t have to wait for the next edition to stay connected. The links below give you all the ongoing access you need and more!

[General RU News](#)  
[Alumni in the News](#)  
[USA Trust Web Site](#)  
[UK Trust Web Site](#)



We look forward to seeing you soon in person at our reunions and events. Please remember to send in your new contact details to [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) if they have changed, to ensure you’re invited to the events held in your area.

Together let’s keep the Rhodes spirit and Purple Legacy alive!

**Contact us: [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) | Tel: + 27 46 603 8887 | [www.ru.ac.za/alumni](http://www.ru.ac.za/alumni)**