



RHODES UNIVERSITY
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The Rhodes University Staff Newsletter

Rhodos

Staff Edition

JULY - DECEMBER 2015



A snapshot of the second half

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Professor Tebello Nyokong does it again

By Anima McBrown

She loves it when it is 25 degrees out; beautiful bright and sunny. "Don't get me wrong, the rain is good – we need rain. But I love sunny days, those are my favourite."

I sit down with the distinguished Professor Tebello Nyokong to talk about yet another two awards she has received. She is high-spirited and eager to indulge me with all sorts of information that does not pertain to her illustrious awards. As a recipient of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Medal for Contribution to Development of Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies, she says that every single award comes as a humble surprise and a great honour.

"I cannot afford to fail or be beaten. My driving force was that I was going to make it against all odds, for the sake of all black people."

She now joins the Club of UNESCO medal laureates. For this Professor Nyokong shares in a very special kind of delight because unlike other awards, UNESCO overlooks the gendered aspect of scientific work and focuses instead on the exceptional quality of research coming out of Africa.

Yet that is not the whole of it because 28

July 2015 brought more recognition for the pioneer and inspiring scientist. The Professor has also received the Regional Winner Award (SA and SADC South) in Education and Training for Africa's Most Influential Women in Business & Government and Titans of Africa. This, as expected, gives her the utmost pride and joy. She is glad to be representing the innovation and progress of African science and technology in its entirety.

I ask the Prof. to share some of what it has taken for her to get to this point, and she willingly opens up about some moments and experiences that have shaped her tremendous journey. One of those includes the time she spent in Canada, studying and working while raising her children. This meant getting up at 4 o'clock every morning.

"It was extremely tough. I was in Canada while my husband was in Lesotho. I was teaching, studying, and bringing up two babies while pursuing a PhD as well. The funny thing is that I never found it overwhelming. I kept a good sense of balance, and made sure to stay organised and extremely focussed at all times."

She recalls another defining moment in her career, when she arrived at Rhodes University in 1992 – a different time to our now all-inclusive and fluidly multicultural contemporary university space. "I had a lot to prove; a lot to fight for... but I remember thinking: I cannot afford to fail or be beaten. My driving force was that I was going to make it against all odds, for the sake of all black people."

Fast-forward to the present day and not only has she moved monumental milestones in the scientific field, but she has also contributed greatly to the education and training of many



a promising young scientists of the future. One of her 'Nyokong babies', Sipheshile Nxele, has just been awarded the SA Women in Science (Masters Fellowship) Award 2015 – in recognition of her outstanding academic and research ability. Nxele will soon be off to France to embark on a six week research exchange experience.

"We are producing future leaders, and leaders are never late. They also have passports, so that they are ready to get up and go lead science all over the world."

"I am very proud of her, because she is determined to succeed." From her students she expects discipline, the ability to speak up/speak out, timeliness and the ability to write. "We are producing future leaders, and leaders are never late. They also have passports, so that they are ready to get up and go lead science all over the world."

On the future of South African science she says the possibilities are endless. She is pleased to be able to say that South Africa's science and technology is an international frontrunner.

7 things you did not know about Professor Nyokong

1. She is working on an autobiography that will share her personal insights into what makes a scientist.
2. She absolutely hates litter and can be found picking it up where and when she can.
3. She regards her students as her role models. She loves how inspiring and hard-working and fun they are. After all, she always wanted to make science fun.
4. She loves Mauritius as a holiday destination.
5. She is currently playing Passenger's "Let her go" on repeat on her phone.
6. She loves love songs.
7. Her message to the students on campus: stop parking in her beloved parking spot, especially during weekends. "It's my spot, and I love my spot".

Changing the face of South African science and technology

By Anima McBrown

Professor Martin Hill is no stranger to award-winning; his accolades include the VC's Distinguished Researcher (2005), Senior Researcher (2013), and Community Engagement (2013) Awards. Yet, when I start our interview with this sentiment, his response cuts straight to the point: "If you set out to win things, then you are playing the game wrong."

Thought to self: this is going to be one of those wonderful encounters where one gets the chance to sit across a table in conversation with an individual who embodies both wisdom and an incredible sense of humility.

"Everyone in the team plays an important role; no contribution is less than the other."

Prof. Hill and his research group – the Biological Control Research Group (BCRG) – represent the kind of thought leaders and ground breakers that our country boasts proudly, especially in science and technology. On 9 July they were awarded the 2014/2015 National Science and Technology Forum's (NSTF) Green Matter Award. Their research focuses on the biological control of invasive weeds and finding alternatives to control and reduce the use of pesticides.

Professor Hill says that there are simple building blocks for the kind of progress his team works towards; namely (i) to do science and to do it really well, (ii) to publish material that has credibility, (iii) the implementation of that work in the field, (iv) and effective community engagement. People often do not get enough insights into how science research is translated from the lab bench into the actual field and this is something the professor hopes to change over time. It is the key to what he calls "engaged research." After all many of the questions his work seeks



to answer are asked by everyday people in the community; people who provide crucial information and data.

His team, which is made up of about 50 members, is a diverse group of science enthusiasts. He acknowledges heartily that every single person he works with has contributed greatly to establishing what constitutes the bigger picture; the "greater good." "Everyone in the team plays an important role; no contribution is less than the other." On his thoughts on the dynamics in his team, the goal is to create a space – as diverse as it is – that allows people to play to their natural strengths. "We work with an inquisitive nature, but as I always say, if it is not fun – do not do it." This is why it is easy to see how and why the BCRG are motivated; they love what they do, and so what they love is what they are inherently good at.

"We work with an inquisitive nature, but as I always say, if it is not fun – do not do it."

But who is the man behind such a phenomenal research team and yet another deserved award? The Professor lets us in. "People might not know that I got married late in life, and I have a beautiful 3-year-old

and 18-month-old." We laugh jokingly with his wife, Dr Julie Coetzee – a fellow scientist in the biological sciences – and one of her colleagues about the children's nursery songs that must compete with Pink Floyd on his car radio. Even with this playful piece of information, the two ladies help shape a transparent picture of a big character with an easy, humble manner. Unlike what may be expected to be quite a guarded and reserved academic way about him, the Professor does truly come across as "the big softie" that he knows his students regard him as. He does not shy away from poking fun at himself either, and shares in playful banter with his students in the corridors at the department.

The Rhodes University family congratulates BCRG again. We look forward to celebrating in more pioneering feats of excellence in science and technology from their department.



Winning the battle against HIV & Aids

By Dave Mann

When current Rhodes University HIV and Aids Advocacy Officer Thandi Mzizi returned to Rhodes in 2011, there was no HIV and Aids Office at all and the only awareness around the topic was being driven by student run groups.

"We certainly have come a long way," Mzizi says with a smile. "I would say we are in the top five in terms of managing HIV and Aids at a University."

A Grahamstown local, Mzizi completed his undergraduate degree at Rhodes University majoring in Industrial Psychology and Sociology before heading off to Stellenbosch University to study towards a MA degree. Now, two years into his PhD in HIV and Aids Management through Stellenbosch, Mzizi is in his fourth year heading up Rhodes University's HIV and Aids Office and he says it couldn't be going better.

"Since we started, we've had a significant increase in staff including a data capturer, an intern, a tester based in the Health Care Centre who is a professional nurse, and an administrator," says Mzizi.

Funded by the Higher Education HIV and Aids programme (HEAIDS), Mzizi and his staff have done well to both create awareness about and destigmatise HIV and Aids in the university space. Most notably, Rhodes University is the only university with a HIV and Aids peer educator body comprised of both staff and students.

"I would say we are in the top five in terms of managing HIV and Aids at a University."

With their own CD4 count machine allowing for CD4 count results in 20 minutes, and qualified nurses at the Healthcare Centre trained and qualified to initiate anti-retroviral therapy without having to refer people to Settler's Hospital or other local clinics, the Rhodes HIV and Aids Office certainly is doing well.

Mzizi explains that it wasn't easy reaching this point, with the office spending much of its earlier days looking to other universities for

guidance. In 2012, Mzizi and his team visited UCT, CPUT, and Stellenbosch University. Last year saw them travelling to the University of the Free State, University of Pretoria, and Wits as well as the Constitutional Court. "We went to all of those institutions to learn from them and share with them and then come back and implement new ideas so that Rhodes could become the best," says Mzizi.

Mzizi stresses that while Rhodes University certainly has changed in terms of HIV and Aids awareness on campus, there is still a widespread stigma around HIV and Aids. Looking forward, Mzizi and his team would like to see more academic staff at Rhodes becoming involved in issues around HIV and Aids on the campus.

"That old mindset is still there. People tend to think that each and every individual who is accessing our services is HIV-positive. There is still a stigma attached to this office," Mzizi says before adding, "I think we can do more with support from the academic side. We have students, staff, and management as peer educators, but not a single academic peer educator."



Inter-Departmental olympics success

Staff and Students from Departments across campus competed for the Inter-Departmental Olympics Trophy on 23 August 2015.

The event was hosted by the Squash, Pool and Chess Clubs and is set to become part of the annual calendar. Teams consisted of three staff members and three students who battled it out in a very unique triathlon of squash, chess and pool.

The Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science took first place, followed by the Physics Department in second and Computer Science took third place.

(right) The victorious team from left, Murray Duncan, Nyiko Mabasa (cheer leader), Yusuf Omdien, Wilbert Kadye, Matt Parkinson (absent: Justin Kemp, Willem Malherbe)



New Assistant Sports Manager with exciting plans under his belt

By *Phiwokuhle Mandisa Dhlamini*

The unique characteristics that make up Grahamstown such as its potholes and laid-back atmosphere that can occasionally turn to dead silence are not always easy to adjust to.

This is evident in the way that new Assistant Manager at The Rhodes Sports Administration, Emlyn Gallant marvels at the culture shock of living in this small town having come from his hometown of Port Elizabeth where he lived, studied and worked his whole life before coming here.

However, he is quick to mention that everyone here is “so nice” and the broad smile across his face immediately suggests that this overshadows the downsides.

Gallant’s rich background in sports appears to have prepared him adequately for this new post. He started playing karate and

partaking in other martial arts in his first year in high school and has never looked back since. Having spent his first year studying analytical chemistry at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the sports bug had bitten and he found himself switching to sports administration after an illness forced him to miss his final exams. He then spent 15 years working at Eastern Province Cricket where he attributes his newly-found interpersonal and organisational skills.

“Of course one is bound to encounter some challenges along the way, but this has helped to build my character as I can now interact with people with different personalities, class and lifestyles,” he said.

He has big and exciting plans for the Sports Administration. One of them involves ensuring that students can gain immediate access to sports fixtures and results through

popular social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

When it comes to his plans to tackle Grahamstown’s weather and quietness, he simply shrugs his shoulders and, with an optimistic smile, says “We’ll just have to wait and see.”



Rhodes departments prove size really doesn't matter

By Thandi Bombi

Department of Physics and Electronics

The Department of Physics and Electronics may be small in stature but they have recently proved that size does not matter when it comes to the big bang.

This unique department, in that it is one of the few departments that offers both Electronics and Physics, was accepted as an associate member of the ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) collaboration project at the CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in June 2015.

“...we are studying the properties of the entire universe when it was 10 microseconds old.”

“The LHC is at the moment the biggest scientific experiment on the planet,” said Dino Giovannoni. “In 2019 they are doing a shutdown for ALICE and part of the shutdown is that they are going to replace a lot of the electronic and data processing systems and we are tasked with replacing one of the

detectors during that shut down.”

The point of the LHC is that through colliding large nuclei at speeds close to the speed of light, the resulting temperature and energy density from these nuclear collisions are high enough to create a *quark-gluon plasma*. “About 10 microseconds after the creation of the universe, it was a *quark-gluon plasma*,” said Giovannoni. “So by studying this through the ALICE experiment we are studying the properties of the entire universe when it was 10 microseconds old.”

The Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department is another one of Rhodes small treasures participating in exciting things.

“The Department is involved in projects that are international in scale and on the cutting edge of science,” said Head of Department Denis Pollney. “We are involved in some big science projects, using some of the biggest computers in the world and collaborating with leading international experts to study fundamental questions.”

Gravitational waves, which is one of their most prominent research projects, carry information about the most remote

places in the universe, such as the centres of galaxies or the time just after the big bang. “These are predictions of Einstein’s theory of relativity, but they have never been observed,” said Pollney. “Einstein’s equations are very geometrical in nature, solving them requires taking abstract mathematical notions of curved spacetime and making those ideas concrete.” Pollney went on to explain that he and Professor Nigel Bishop are taking the equations of general relativity and using them to model the collision of black holes.

“These are predictions of Einstein’s theory of relativity, but they have never been observed.”

“These are objects which are so dense that the spacetime around them is curled up and light can’t escape. When they merge, they produce a massive explosion of gravitational energy.”

No matter how small, Rhodes University Departments are confidently contributing in leading research that will one day answer the questions of our very large universe.



Campus cupcakes to satisfy a passion for baking

By Dave Mann

Most South African Universities, Rhodes included, don't offer courses in consumer studies or hospitality. This hasn't stopped third year BA student Nomalotshwa Mavundla from pursuing her dream of owning her own restaurant one day, which she is working towards through her small business of selling cupcakes around the Rhodes University campus.

Run in partnership with her boyfriend, Sociology Masters student Robert Walaza, the business started this year with Mavundla baking 24 cupcakes every second day, selling mostly to academics and Rhodes staff at the library and Alumni House division.

Mavundla has always had a passion for baking. Growing up, she would spend weekends baking with her mother. In high school she was awarded top practical student of the year in Home Economics. After baking for enjoyment in her Grahamstown digs, it was Walaza who pushed her to start selling her cupcakes.

"I've been baking since I was a kid and since then I've just never stopped," explains Mavundla, "I always used to have baking around the house and Robert was just like 'You know what? I think we should capitalise on this.' It's always been an idea, but I'm not really good with people per say, I'm more business minded than I am social so I was like okay 'I'll bake and he'll sell.'

Armed with a small carry bag filled to the brim with cupcakes, Walaza who has now come to be known as 'The Muffin Man' and spends his free time on campus, selling Mavundla's cupcakes to peckish staff and the occasional student. The two bake and sell a variety of cupcakes including vanilla, chocolate, and cappuccino with varying types of icing.

"We noticed that people don't eat breakfast and so during tea break in the mornings, a muffin might come in handy, just to fill up your stomach until lunch," says Walaza. "Love is a motivation so we get motivated when people start loving our cupcakes."

Mavundla echoes her partner's statement

in explaining that while she does consider this to be a business venture that she takes very seriously, her love for baking and running a business is the primary motivation.

"I've been baking since I was a kid and since then I've just never stopped,"

"It's always been a passion, even the calculations," says Mavundla. "I grew up in a

day so I mean it's dedication, but it's also just loving it completely."

With Walaza concluding his Masters degree at the end of this year, Mavundla is looking at the option of selling to Rhodes University residences, with a sales rep in each res.

"I can't hold down the business side, the baking side, and the selling side you know so I don't think I will struggle or limit myself to stopping, but I have hope," concludes Mavundla. "This year has been a trial run and there's been a really positive response so I'm



very business minded family. Working out the costs, how it's going to work out at the end of the day, that doesn't take the passion away from me, it's just another strength for me. I wake up early in the morning to bake every

hoping that I'll be able to expand on what I've been doing this year by selling to the residences."

Dude The Cat

by Mako Muzenda

He is a child to many parents across the staff of Rhodes University. From the Education Department and John Kotze residence, to the Fees Office and the Postgraduate Funding Office, Dude has claimed Rhodes campus as his personal kingdom, and he's placed his pawprint in the hearts and minds of the people and places he's graced with his presence.

Dude the cat is as much a part of Rhodes life as the students and teachers. No one is quite sure when he strolled onto campus, but his first parent, John Gillam, is sure he first met Dude in 2009. Unlike the graceful feline he is today, Dude was a feral creature when he first came across Gillam on the stairs of the Rhodes Administration building. "He used to hide the other side of the security gate and eventually allowed me to stroke him through the bars, then when he realised tummy rubs were lekker, then he came out and flopped onto his back," Gillam says, reminiscing on their first encounters. However, Dude soon realised that there were others around Gillam who were just as caring, and most importantly, had better food. So Dude extended his kingdom beyond the confines of Gillam's office, and found more parents to take care of him.

Dude's new terrain included the Psychology Department, where he found another parent in the form of Rika Ferreira. He already knows his way around the Department, strolling in to the happy greetings from staff and students. Ferreira's office is his choice of residence in the building, and when he gets to her door, Dude

calls for her to open and let him in. The grey and black feline has gotten very comfortable in Ferreira's space. "During winter he loves to pop into my office and use one of my chairs as his personal bed. He happily sits there for most of the day until I ask him to leave." Ferreira keeps some snacks at the ready for whenever Dude saunters in, echoing the old adage, "dogs have masters. Cats have staff."



Dude's staff is more than happy and willing to serve their feline master. They've all had good times with him: from feeding him little nibbles, to stroking his mane, and surrendering their chairs for his comfort. All the people that have encountered Dude all agree that one person has gone above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to taking care of the cat. Dora Norton, who's just retired from the

Fees Office, has had a special and longlasting experience with her feral friend.

Norton originally blessed Dude with the name Uggi, because when she first met him, the cat was "small with brown hair, and he was very scared." Norton would feed Dude through the security gate of the Fees Office, and a bond of trust formed between the two. As soon as she arrived for work, Norton would

call out for Dude, and he'd come running to see her. "About two weeks later, he just came to the office all by himself." In winter as the weather gets colder, Dude sat by the closed door, meowing and pawing until Norton got up to open the door for him. Nice and warm in his carer's office, Dude would install himself in a customer's chair and fall asleep. However, Norton's relationship with Dude hasn't always been as full of love and warmth. One incident comes to mind, when Norton took the cat to the veterinary surgeon in order to have him neutered. "I don't think he was very impressed with me when he woke up and found that there is now a body part missing."

With Norton's retirement, there is now a need for a new parent to step up to the mantle, and join Dude's staff. As much as they have cared for the cat, the relationship is not one-sided: Dude has a special place in all their

hearts, even when he personifies the image of the haughty, condescending cat. At the end of the day, as small as he is, he is a part of Rhodes University. Norton reflects on her time with Dude, and leaving him here as she moves away. "I just love this cat so much. I wish I can take him home with me, but Rhodes is his home."

NEHAWU: uniting Rhodes' staff one membership at a time

By Phiwokuhle Mandisa Dhlamini

The National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) Rhodes University branch expanded its doors to accommodate all staff members. This follows a recognition agreement that the Union signed with the University in the spirit of reaching out to all staff members ranging from housekeeping to members of the University's Senior Management.

NEHAWU's full-time shop steward Mr Zakade Alfred Vena, explained that this is especially necessary in advancing the transformation narrative surrounding the University.

"We are hoping that this new agreement will also invite members of different races to join us and run for the different leadership positions within the union such as that of senior shop steward amongst other posts," he said.

Vena excitedly points at a black board in their conference room outlining the union's agenda from a meeting they had just held.

Their decision to stand in solidarity with the Black Student Movement appears at the top of their list in bold letters.

"The aim is not to threaten or intimidate people in authority, instead we want to be a part of the change that this University is yet to experience through resolving and engaging in certain discussions rather than ignoring them," he elaborates.

In essence, Vena says, this is one of the advantages that have come about as a result of the Recognition Agreement. Members of NEHAWU can now rest assured that all grievances raised during their frequent meetings will be brought to the attention of the University's Management. However, these do not necessarily have to be issues that directly affect Rhodes staff members as they are also highly invested in promoting the social wellbeing of students.

The new style of operating seeks to bridge the gap that alienates Rhodes workers from students by encouraging collective support from both parties that affect them

respectively.

Vena also highlights that recruiting members from different areas of expertise such as researchers and Heads of Department would help the Union gain momentum insofar as ensuring that they delegate certain tasks to members who have the skills that they lack. He points out that the Union would benefit a great deal from having members from the Law Faculty, for example, who are well versed in matters relating to Labour Law, thereby adding to the union's growth. This ties in perfectly with the Union's aim to create a more diverse and stronger organisation with an open platform upon which certain ideas and suggestions can be shared and executed.

Staff members who wish to join NEHAWU can do so at any time through the Union's open door policy which serves the same purpose as warm open arms in that they welcome all without hesitation or discrimination. However, staff members will be informed of any recruitment events in due course.



Dr Ngqwala inaugurated to the Academy at age 29

Dr Nosiphiwe “Nosi” Ngqwala, lecturer in the Faculty of Pharmacy was inaugurated as a new member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) at its annual Awards Ceremony in Stellenbosch on 14 October 2015. ASSAf honours the country’s outstanding scholars by electing them to Membership of the Academy.

A researcher working with the Environmental Health and Biotechnology Research Group (EHBRG) in the Department of Pharmacy, Dr Ngqwala supervises Masters and Honours students.

Hailing from Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape, she has a deep-rooted love for South Africa and is passionate about the society, which has motivated her to finding solutions for the economic, environmental and social problems affecting South Africa.

Dr Ngqwala is the Vice Chairperson of Young Water Professionals (YWP) in the Eastern Cape. This programme is focused on bringing people working in, or interested in, the water sector together in a meaningful way. Dr Ngqwala is an active member of the Activate Innovation Leadership Program, a national network of young leaders equipped

to drive change for the public good across South Africa.

Nosi is passionate about making a difference within and outside her Department. This is evidenced by her working with Enactus-Rhodes, Namibian society, Scifest Africa and three of her students received Investec Top 100 Awards.



Dr Ngqwala, third from left.

New buildings equal more interdisciplinary learning

By Tsholofelo Tselaemang

2016 will mark a new chapter for Rhodes University’s Science and Humanities Faculties. This is all thanks to the new Life Sciences Building as well as the new School of Languages Building.

“The department will be more spatially integrated, we are currently separated by a floor,” commented Dean of Humanities, Professor Tom Martin, about the new Languages building. This will allow for interdisciplinary course offerings and research, which will benefit the University as a whole. This encouragement of interdisciplinary work will also benefit students who may want to study two language subjects; the new building encourages this interaction across subjects, he elaborated. The new building will house the African languages, German, Chinese Studies, Classical Studies, Greek and Afrikaans departments.

The construction is projected to be

completed and ready for occupation on 28 January 2016. The project provided a few challenges, Deputy Director of the Infrastructure and Operations Division, Dawie Van Dyk explained: “you get all of these surprises when you start working on it.” One of these, was having to accommodate and integrate the old Oakdene postgraduate residence, which has historical value, into the new building without making any changes to it. With this came, having to navigate the differences between the way the old Oakdene building was constructed and the modern way of constructing buildings.

The construction of the new, six-storey Life Sciences building had a few problems too; the main one being its high water table, Van Dyk explained. This was further fuelled by “heavy rains in the beginning of 2014 when the construction started and this caused delays,” the Deputy Director said.

Van Dyk said cheerfully that “the progress that has been made is good- we have a good construction team and consultancy team for both buildings.”

Commenting on the new Life Sciences Building, Dean of Science, Professor Tony Booth, explained that the building “is designed for the new student and will re-invent how we study.” The Department of Zoology and Entomology will occupy the new building. The space left behind by Zoology and Entomology will accommodate the Biotechnology Innovation Centre and allow Microbiology and Biochemistry space to expand. Both of these buildings are expected to be completed by the beginning of the academic term next year. Whether more construction takes place on campus would depend on whether enough funding is received, Van Dyk shared.

The Deans with new buildings

Prof Tom Martin – Dean of Humanities

By Anima McBrown

Perhaps the first thing you will notice about Professor Tom Martin are his striking blue eyes, and by the time he has uttered a sentence or two you are also sure to pick up on his distinctive accent.

Prof. Martin left the University of New South Wales, in Australia, to join Rhodes University almost two decades ago – in 1998. He was in the Philosophy Department for 16 years before becoming the Dean of Humanities. Something many people might not know is that he holds a degree in science (BSc). His interests in and eventual move to the world of the Humanities was made because of his passion for exploring things that are beyond the empirical. “I started becoming more interested in questioning not just the things I see, but how I see them as well,” he says.

On some of the areas within the Humanities Faculty that the Prof. views as important target areas for the work he wants to achieve as Dean, he highlights ensuring a greater prominence and recognition for the success of the Arts as one of the main priorities. “The creative arts and the languages need their standing to be increased”. Professor Martin would like to see a slight but significant recalibration in the full recognition of the Faculty’s outputs, together with more research initiatives and subsidies. “Don’t get me wrong; the ball is already rolling on this – it just needs to be kept rolling,” comments the Prof.

One of the other important aspects which the Professor talks about has to do with communication channels. He would love to see different possibilities and opportunities being opened up; to allow greater exploration of the influences and collaborations that other faculties in the University could have with his own. He does not want the Humanities to become an isolated space on campus, but rather to incorporate its vibrancy so that it is part and parcel of the University’s pulse and pace.

He also speaks about problem areas; challenges which must be addressed and which he hopes to have an impact on during



his term as Dean. One such problem is that of the still prevalent, racially skewed success rates of undergraduates. He comments that the numbers reveal the major, oftentimes deep underlying inequalities and imbalances which exist in student performance across the board.

For the Professor the key is not just to have more black students passing, but to ensure that more of those passes are distinctions. “I would like to see higher proportions of black students doing exceptionally well, so that they can feed into the higher percentages of black scholars and academics – who are definitely in need in the country.” Martin notes that it is undergraduate success that will allow the emergence of more pioneering front-runners; scholarship holders who will get even more chances to (i) travel, (ii) learn at other

institutions, (iii) get exposed to other ways of thinking, (iv) gain invaluable experience, and (v) be prepared to sow back into the wealth of South African education and training. This is something that will then go on to stimulate the overall growth and prosperity of our country as well.

It is clear that in the four years that are left in his term as Dean of Humanities, Professor Martin is set to be the catalyst in important new transformative projects; such as curriculum reformation and assessment restructuring. The Professor wants to see greater critical reflection on the use of assessment tools that can empower the Faculty to produce more high-achieving BA graduates – leaders with the power to initiate change and add to South Africa’s growing potential.

Getting to know our favourite “generalist”: Prof Tony Booth

By Anima McBrown

Professor Tony Booth is a tall, slender figure; a friendly face that does not immediately suggest ‘science’ – whatever that face is supposed to be. Before we start the interview, he proclaims cheerfully that he considers himself a generalist: someone who obviously cannot be great at everything, but is definitely good at many things.

The new Dean of Science holds a BSc (Hons) and a PhD (Rhodes). He has specialised in ichthyology (which deals with the study of fish – from guppies to great white sharks) and biometry (an interdisciplinary field that marries biology and statistics). His research interests include work in the area of invasion biology, fish ecology, and population dynamics.

He is proud that Rhodes University still enjoys its special recognition as one of the only tertiary institutions in the country that gives its students multiple combination options.

He admits that he gets bored quite easily; he must allow himself a lot of options when it comes to varied interests and involvements. Perhaps this in itself makes a stunning commentary on his thoughts about interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary studies. The Professor believes that it is a great benefit for students to try and model their university courses and majors along diverse lines. He promotes the idea of being able to mix and match course syllabi, so that a student can enjoy a combination like biology and maths, botany and computer science – or even botany and psychology. He is proud that Rhodes University still enjoys its special recognition as one of the only tertiary institutions in

the country that gives its students multiple combination options.

As the Dean, Booth jokes about having to attend too many meetings. His colourful personality and relaxed manner makes it easy to believe that the open-door policy he maintains with his students is one which enhances a good relationship between him and the young people whose lives he is shaping, and changing. He is committed to making a difference and being actively involved in incorporating a stronger student voice and presence; he wants to see student initiatives, engagements and interactions increase over time.

One of his major goals is to save R10 million annually on student fees. Although this might seem like a mountainous task, he explains it lucidly. For Prof. Booth the priority is to make sure that he can see his students through to completion in record time. “It is about speeding up the process.” He continues with the notion that what is key is “making sure that students are coming in and sailing through without having to repeat or extend their studies” – as this impacts on their finances and causes immense strain. So if 100 students, who have to pay R100 000 per year for their studies, are able to complete their academic year and progress without any delays, that amounts to a staggering R10 mil saved – in the case where 100 students would have had to repeat a specific year of study. He clearly has the makings of a philanthropist as well.

Professor Booth is made more of a “big softie” by the fact that his six year old son has taught him an incredible amount of humility and patience. One of his favourite quotes comes from a scientist he greatly admired, the late Peter Humphrey Greenwood, who said: “Take your work seriously, but never take yourself seriously”. Booth tries living by this sentiment. He shares that besides his work in the sciences, he is also an avid home brewer of beer, and what he terms a “beginner cheese maker”.

He imparts that the qualities a good scientist and science student has are: diligence, attention to detail and the ability

to tap into broader interests. It is deans like Professor Booth, leaders moulding leaders, who make the university space truly progressive.



5 facts that prove Prof Booth truly is a “generalist” – and that it rocks:

1. The prof loves cooking, gardening and working with his hands, making him a winning handy man around the house.
2. Even though from Zimbabwe originally, he is also proficient in Afrikaans and IsiXhosa (having done Xhosa 1, 2 and 3).
3. He listens to a lot of rock, jazz and classical music (a clear indication of his multifaceted frame of mind and the diverse approach he recommends to his students as well).
4. He is a big U2 fan.
5. If he wasn't in the sciences, he would probably be a tradesman, builder or welder (anything that requires him to use his hands to create things).

New Natural Sciences building roof wetting ceremony

By Thandi Bombi

On Tuesday 22 September 2015 Rhodes University held a Roof Wetting ceremony for the new Life Sciences building adjacent to Barratt lecture theatre. The ceremony which was held in the freshly painted building was attended by various academic staff, sub-contractors and the workforce that built the building.

To begin the proceedings the MD of CM Heunis Contractors, Neels Heunis, welcomed all guests in attendance and briefly explained the order of proceedings before introducing Rhodes University Executive Director of Infrastructure Operations and Finance, Dr Iain L'Ange to talk about the project.

"A very warm welcome to you all on this very auspicious, somewhat delayed milestone. I have been asked to say a few words about this Life Sciences Building," said L'Ange. "Let me start by referring to the roof wetting ceremony of the Eden Grove building many years ago. At that time that building was the biggest building in the history of Rhodes University and it was confidently asserted that that was probably going to be the last big project at the University." L'Ange went on to proudly explain that the Life Sciences Building is an even bigger project and that Rhodes has once again defied the odds, "If you look around you we are in by far, the largest project ever undertaken by Rhodes University both in terms of floor space as well as cost."

The building which cost 111 million rand to build is only phase one of the project. "This building is going to house two highly productive academic departments in terms of both research and student output and throughput rates," said L'Ange. "At the same time this project also frees up space in the currently very cramped Biological Sciences Building on campus and so allowing some more very highly productive departments to expand."

"This building is going to house two highly productive academic departments in terms of both research and student output and throughput rates,"

L'Ange then paid tribute to the former Dean of Science Professor Ric Bernard, for his vision and leadership in getting the project off the ground. L'Ange also paid tribute to Professor William Froneman and Candice Marshall for their commitment and dedication to the project. "I also need to acknowledge on this occasion and pay tribute to the Department of Higher Education and Training for the award of the funding for this building without which we would have battled to make

this building fit for purpose in terms of its design and specifications."

Filling in for Vice-Chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela who was unable to attend the ceremony, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Chrissie Boughey then said a few words. "On behalf of Dr Mabizela I would like to offer thanks to everybody who has been involved in this construction," said Boughey. "This Building truly is a spectacular new space for our scientists to work in." Boughey once again thanked everyone involved, "thank you for all the effort that you've put into it because it is certainly worth it to see it here now."

"This is a huge project in a small town and it has significance for the small town because it has brought employment, it has also allowed people to be trained on the job," said Boughey. "So to all those people who have worked and received certificates for their training a very big congratulations to you all on your achievements and very best wishes from the University on being able to take them forward into your future to develop more skills and grow in yourselves."

After Boughey spoke, there was a presentation of certificates to those in the workforce who had attained special training. The widow of Alfred Botha was then handed a deferred compensation cheque after losing his life to cancer in the duration of the project.

To end the proceedings Norman Tshobo, one of the men from the workforce, said a prayer thanking the Lord for the wonderful opportunity this project has been.



Africa is at risk of internet security

By Sanele Ntshingana

Professor Barry Irwin declared that Africa is at risk of internet security in his Vice-Chancellors' Distinguished Research Award lecture on Wednesday 12 August.

"In my view, Africa as a whole is currently at risk. We have IP addresses, huge amount of bandwidth coming in and we've seen probably a hundred following increasing bandwidth blending on African continent in the last couple of years" he argued.

Professor Irwin warned that the risk is likely to double in the next two to three years, mentioning that this was largely prompted by the inadequacy of skills in the continent to deal with this problem.

"What we don't have in Africa as a whole is enough skills that you go about building networks that are defendable and that can be monitored. That I think is a continental challenge that we have."

Prof Irwin presented these alarming facts as part of his presentation of the work he

has done in developing research across the fields of Passive Internet Traffic analysis, the application of network Telescopes along with other Information Security related research.

He explained that Africa had escaped a lot of the previous scourges of internet activity and crime ware services; largely because there was nothing interesting in Africa until Telkom inserted high speed fibre on the ground in 2010, which increased the risk.

"The fibre goes around earth 10-12 times, and that's a lot of fibre to go down."

As a result of this and many other things, Professor Irwin stated that his research group's direction has since shifted from looking at a lot of passive monitoring to now active monitoring national cyber defence.

"We are still discovering stuff in the telescope from 10 years ago and we're still finding new things" He stated.

Professor Irwin's initiative, the Security Networks Research group at Rhodes University was described by the Deputy Vice

Chancellor: Research and Development, Dr Peter Clayton as one of the largest and most active groups at the university.

Dr Clayton further described Prof Irwin as a significant influence as a scholarly voice.

"His publications to date have attracted close to 300 citations in the works of other authors." He said in his introduction.

Professor Barry Irwin is widely regarded as one of the leading specialists in South African information Security. He is one of the few South African academics who are qualified as a certified Information Systems Security Professional by the International Information Systems Security Certificate Consortium.

Concluding his lecture, Professor Irwin enthusiastically demonstrated his love of research and passion for discovering new stuff.

"You don't know whether something would be worth looking at until you look at it. Just because you don't know whether it's a good idea doesn't mean it not worth doing" he concluded.

Who needs African psychology when we are happy with psychology in Africa?

The Rhodes University Psychology Department hosted Professor Kopano Ratele on 30 September 2015 to discuss, "Who needs African psychology when we are happy with psychology in Africa?"

Photo (from left): Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Prof. Lindy Wilbraham, Prof. Kopano Ratele, Dr Peter Clayton.



Health Promotion Project for staff

By Pumla Kalipa

The Faculty of Pharmacy recently held a Health Promotion Project that was carried out by the Department's third year students in conjunction with the institution's support staff. The project served to promote health in the workplace for the Grounds and Gardens and Dining Hall staff in a fun, interactive and informative manner.

The Health Promotion Project was overseen by Prof Sunitha Srinivas.

Tina Chigumete, a first year Masters student was part of the team of students who created informative role playing performances that would educate the support staff on health risk factors that are caused by improper diets and harmful physical activities."

"My project is on the workplace and health promotion, where we're promoting health in the workplace. What we are trying to achieve is that by the end of this project, we should have an initiative that has been started for the support staff and with the support staff," Chigumete says.

"We work on with a collaborative

approach whereby the support staff tell us what they want to know regarding health risk factors and based on the topics we give them, they choose what they would like to learn about," she said.

According to the Faculty Manager of Pharmacy, Niall Borland, the project is chiefly directed at the support staff due to the lack of basic and comprehensible health information that is available to them.

"The Health Promotion Project is about reaching out to the local community and the immediate local community," Borland says.

"The immediate local community we have here is the support staff at Rhodes, and particularly the lower grade support staff. I think that this is where a lot of education needs to happen around particular health matters," he said.

Although the students dealt with alternating health topics, the Associate Professor of Pharmacy, Prof. Sunitha Srinivas explains that the project is not created to frighten its target audience, but to empower them with knowledge.

"In Health Promotion the focus is not on the disease, it is not a disease model, it is a

health model where you talk about how do I prevent the disease, and when I have not managed to prevent the disease and have it, how do I manage it," Prof. Srinivas said.

"It is also service learning for the students. So they are serving the Rhodes Community by serving the support staff, and they are learning at the same time," she said.

Grounds and Gardens employee and truck driver, Fezile Diko, believes that the lessons he has gained from the project will not only make him change his own diet, but his family's as well.

"The project was good because we learnt a lot and some of the things that we learnt were things we didn't understand. We have children who like to eat everything, and we also eat everything. So now we have to learn to minimize the food and sweets at home because there are things like diabetes which can kill us," says Diko

The positive response that the support staff had in response to the Health Promotion Project proved that health education at the workplace for the lower grade staff is not only a missing factor, but a topic that the workers are eager to learn about.



Department of Political and International Studies

Thinking Africa Teach-Ins

Transformative curriculum and transformative intellectuals in modern democracy

By Thandi Bombi

Juliet Perumal, Professor and the Head of Education Leadership and Management at the University of Johannesburg presented a Teach-In lecture at Eden Grove Red lecture theatre at Rhodes University on 9 September 2015.

This presentation formed part of the Teach-Ins planned as part of a project of the Department of Political and International Studies called *Thinking Africa*.

The Department of Political and International Studies holds annual colloquiums on themes related to African Studies and this year's colloquium was on the theme *Pedagogy of Place- Curriculum Transformation*.

Perumal, who was scheduled to give a lecture titled *What is the colour of Poverty* decided because it is not completely clear what the colour of poverty is, that it would be better to change the focus of her discussion. "Although I can answer a few questions about the colour of poverty, I will be talking about transformative curriculum and the role of the transformative intellectual in modern democracy," she said.

To start off the lecture Perumal read a letter from a survivor of the holocaust. "My eyes saw what no person should witness," she read. "Gas chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians. Infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot by high school and college graduates. So I am

suspicious of education." This reading served as her starting point at interrogating whether education is a good thing.

"It is important to ask who teaches what, to who, how and why, and also how our curricular decisions are fueled with political allegiances," said Perumal. "Is this frame of education and the curriculum an un-neutral phenomenon?" she asked.

"I think the onus is left to us as the transformative intellectuals to see how we can interact with science in this narrative by ensuring that our stories are told."

Perumal went on to distinguish between different conceptions of curriculum, "There is a tendency for us to think about curriculum in very technocratic terms," she said. "We think about it as Policy documents." Perumal went on to explain that a critical conception of curriculum rescues the notion curriculum from that technocratic notion and provokes us to think about it as something that is enacted. "So these policy documents needs to be implemented within particular contexts,"

she said. "And how then do these contexts reframe and provide a reinterpretation of the enactment of curriculum?"

To answer her question Perumal spoke about abandoning the dehumanizing effect of the technocratic notion of curriculum because of it being highly prescriptive in that it robs one of the ability to respond to it. She then suggested that one should consider the critical conception of curriculum because it focuses on those it is intended, it lends itself to conceptual integration and understanding various micro variables.

The micro variables she then went on to explain as being framed by issues of the time, political dispensations, power and class dynamics and the fact that curriculum only focuses on mind and completely negates the body, spirit and soul.

To conclude her lecture Perumal spoke about decolonizing curriculum. "Within the African community there is a tendency for us to be over-reliant on western texts and yet we have a whole lot of things happening here that are worth turning into theory," she said. "I think the onus is left to us as the transformative intellectuals is to see how we can interact with science in this narrative by ensuring that our stories are told."

Perumal went on to add that as Africa we should ensure that we do not become recolonized by offering ourselves as subjects to our experiences through the lens of the west.

Transformation of the university space

By Tsholofelo Tselaemang

"Why is my curriculum white?"

This was the title of the Teach-In lecture delivered by doctoral researcher in the School

of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford, Adam Elliott-Cooper, on 10 September 2015. The lecture was a part of the Political and International Studies

Department's annual Thinking Africa Teach-In.

The doctoral researcher outlined two reactions to the topic of decolonising institutions of higher learning; a liberal, on one

hand, and a social justice one on the other. The former, he said, would argue that there is constant intellectual exchange between the literature and knowledge produced in Europe and that produced in other countries. The social justice explanation, on the other hand, highlighted that the default relationship between universities and the colonized is exploitative and should be addressed.

"We're not necessarily asking about reading lists, but rather why is the ideology of white hegemony being reproduced," Elliott-Cooper commented about the lecture not being an attack on white people but whiteness in institutions of learning.

Universities, according to Elliott-Cooper, are monuments of the empire. The relationship between, the colonised and the coloniser, he said, had always been one of exploitation. "Oxford is the most well-resourced college in

the world because it was left most of Barbados in someone's will," he said laughingly. That showed how the very structures of universities had been built on colonization. Oxford, then, is a celebration of empire and the exploitative relationship between the coloniser and colonized. He noted that it was important that this relationship become one of knowledge

**"We call for
decolonisation
because it's justice"**

and intellectual exchange instead.

Chair of the lecture and 2014 Mandela Rhodes Scholar, who is also a part of the Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) Oxford movement, Ntokozo Qwabe, also shared his views on

the matter. He made it clear that it was important to bear in mind that "the South African constitution aspires to create a non-racial society but it is exactly that- an ideal. Society first has to be non-racist before being non-racial." He maintained that conversations about whiteness could not be had when in a society that is supposedly non-racial.

Elliott-Cooper and Qwabe both spoke of the slow, and sometimes non-existent, response from the officials at institutions of higher learning to demands made by movements such as the Black Students Movement (BSM), Open Stellenbosch, RMF and others.

"We call for decolonisation because it's justice," Qwabe stated, "we need to be able to interrogate our own positions in these institutions."

Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford comes to Rhodes

By Jane Berg

Taking the popular politics from South African campuses to the "epicentre of colonial nostalgia" was matter for discussion at the Teach-In at Eden Grove Red hosted by the Politics and International Studies Department on 11 September 2015.

Ntokozo Qwebe and Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh addressed a lecture hall near filled to capacity, not a common sight during a Friday lunch hour. The already topical subject matter, institutional transformation, had doubtless been given additional zest by the Black Student Movement (BSM) and National Education, Health Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) protest two days before.

Ntokozo Qwebe, dubbing himself a "problematic chair", opened the lecture by introducing himself in isiXhosa, saying that he had promised someone he would do so in the BSM Commons the previous day. Qwebe argued that this was not the time to be "pulling punches" and that it was "time to talk hard truths."

The hard truths were delivered by Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh, who in reading towards his DPhil in International Relations at Oxford found himself enmeshed in the resistance to the colonial legacy.

"Student activism and the interconnection between activism academia were not new to



(left) Ntokozo Qwebe and Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh discuss their role in organising the Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford protest at Eden Grove Red, September 11, 2015, at the Annual Teach In hosted by the Department of Political and International Studies. Photo: Jane Berg.

me," said Mpofu-Walsh. "But nothing could prepare us for what happened when we began Rhodes Must Fall at Oxford."

Both Qwebe and Mpofu-Walsh noted the trepidation they had felt in speaking into this space – Qwebe had been attending the university on the Mandela-Rhodes Scholarship – facing the question: "What are you guys going to be able to tell Oxford?" said Mpofu-Walsh.

In the end they were inspired by, "the epitome of the rational world of Oxford panache", the Oxford Union Society Debating Chamber.

The Chamber was hosting a debate on colonial reparations, and already having planned to hold up placards stating 'brutality will not be debated' and 'who will speak for me', the protest was given an unexpected catalyst. Qwebe discovered that the themed

cocktail for the evening had been called, 'The Colonial Comeback', with an illustration of black hands in chains.

"From the moment we tweeted that, before we walked into Chamber, we had ignited a conversation which was carried across the UK" said Mpofu-Walsh.

Mpofu-Walsh stated that the example of Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford showed "how in different parts of the world people are actually listening to us."

He warned against allowing bureaucratic processes to postpone the pursuit of justice and act as a veneer for genuine engagement.

Mpofu-Walsh went on to discuss what he saw to be some misunderstandings about the Rhodes Must Fall debate.

Firstly, the idea of the protests as violent,

"if anyone has been violent it is the university administration" he countered.

Secondly, he lodged a critique at the movement itself, for obscuring the role of the

"Nothing could prepare us for what happened when we began Rhodes Must Fall at Oxford."

state in aiding and abetting white supremacy.

"It's easy to bash an old dead colonial" said Mpofu-Walsh, "rather than the state, which is enmeshed in the university structure, and creates an atmosphere of impunity for the powerful."

"There is a fundamental difference between

the African National Congress and the liberation movement, and I don't know why it's so difficult for us to say that," said Mpofu-Walsh.

Lastly, he advocated that those involved to note the importance of the protest as a historical moment.

"What you are doing is important for the trajectory of South Africa and possibly the world," said Mpofu-Walsh.

Mpofu-Walsh and Qwebé stated that they will continue their protest when they return to Oxford after the current vacation. The Annual Teach-In is a week of public lectures hosted by the Department of Political and International Studies, their aim is to touch on an issue of concern which affects the lives of Rhodes students.

Lis Lange: Thinking Africa

By Thandi Bombi

Vice-Rector Lis Lange, who is an Academic at the University of the Free State (UFS) presented a teach-in lecture at Eden Grove Red lecture theatre at Rhodes University on Wednesday 10 September 2015. This presentation formed part of the teach-ins planned as part of a project of the Department of Political and International Studies called *Thinking Africa*.

The Department of Political and International Studies holds annual colloquiums on themes related to African Studies and this year's colloquium was on the theme *Pedagogy of Place- Curriculum Transformation*.

Lang whose lecture was titled; *through the looking glass, Curriculum review at the University of Free State*, which focused of what UFS has done in terms of curriculum review and how it looks from the side of those have to access learning making progress or not making progress.

Lange introduced arguments that she came up with after engaging with the concept of curriculum transformation at UFS "The main issue here is that under conditions in which academics refuse to change the only way to move the curriculum discussion is for students to take it into their hands," said Lange. "I cannot say that this will happen but curriculum reform can't happen without the students

being very involved in the process."

Lange went on to explain the current demographics at UFS and the possible reasons why a curriculum review is so vital. "UFS is an institution that is a historically Afrikaans institution and it started off with very few people and all of them were white," said Lange. "Now there are approximately 31000 students and now the majority of the students are black." Lange went on to explain that every module is taught in both English and Afrikaans and that has led to teachers having to repeat lectures daily. "The preferred language of instruction given the large number of black students is English," added Lange. "What is very interesting about our academic policy is that in practice what happens is that the language policy divides the students across racial lines."

Once Lange outlined the importance of the curriculum review she explained that UFS started a curricular review on the Department of Humanities. The review which focused first on the technical aspects given that all universities need to comply with particular policies. "We looked at the structure of the curriculum and the framework that we developed was focused on specific questions," said Lange. The questions, she explained, ask to what extent in the faculty teachers teach according to the state of their discipline, how UFS compares to other universities and to what extent the teaching was facilitating consciousness of the issue of

epistemological access. "The most interesting element we found was that our curriculum was permeated by a sense of hierarchy and order and that was what was being transmitted to the students," said Lange.

Lange explained that from the process of curriculum review they learned of underlying issues that make change difficult. "There are some issues that emerge from this that are conceptually fundamental to understanding universities like UFS," she said. "I think that one of them is that different spaces are very different and the traditional culture matters a lot."

Lange then brought up the RhodesMustFall movement, "I believe RhodesMustFall taught me as an academic that unless we engage with a curriculum review from the point of view of a student in the curriculum and classroom then we are not going to move anywhere," she said. Lange explained that there are many forms of recognition and one of them is the issue of language. "When you divide us as students between Afrikaans and English and the English students happen to be black there is something that is not working."

Lange concluded her presentation by explaining that there is a need for intellectual participation and emotional participation because emotions only does not work. "If we do emotions only we will not change the curriculum," said Lange. "We also need to interpret and express and theorize the problems that give rise to the emotion."

Fishing for fun may be no small fry

By Jane Berg



The first nationwide study on the economic potential of recreational fishing has begun in South Africa, with Rhodes University Ichthyologists leading the investigation.

The economic footprint of this sector has hitherto been poorly understood, with most scrutiny directed towards the commercial sector. However, with an estimated 800,000 anglers and a tackle industry worth above R200 million, the impact of recreational fishing could be a bigger haul than we can yet imagine.

According to lead investigator Dr Warren Potts from the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science at Rhodes University the project, "will bridge the information gap and provide the necessary data for policymakers to make informed decisions in fisheries management."

Possible outcomes could be strategies to enhance retail sales, job creation and evaluate tax revenues. Professor Melville

Saayman states that, "the total impact of angler spending contributes not only to the fishing tackle industry, but hospitality, tourism and, importantly, informal economies, such as bait sellers."

Vital opportunities may be lost if this sector is not effectively considered, states Aidan Wood, a representative of the South African Consolidated Recreational Anglers Association; for example, "in decisions around rights allocations, industry restructuring, and the distribution of resources between fishing sectors" said Wood.

Potts joins researchers from five different institutes which will team up with industry and government representatives over the course of two years utilising internationally accredited techniques by experts from North West University. These include surveys, to be completed by anglers on costs such as travel expenses, charter hires, fuel and outdoor equipment. Several masters' students will be included to develop case-studies which will be used to provide additional information and contextual detail.

The 2012 Status of the South African Marine Resources report by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has shown that wild fish stocks are in decline both locally and globally.

"As wild stocks continue to decline, aquaculture is growing more rapidly than all other animal food producing sectors - and recent figures from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicate that around 80 million tonnes of fish and seafood are caught globally each year," the DAFF has commented.

DAFF representative, Tembaletu Tanci has expressed his hopes that this research will aid government in their Ecosystem's Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

"Within the EAF, our mandate is to protect the integrity of our aquatic ecosystems, and concurrently ensure social and economic benefits" stated Tanci. "To achieve this we need a comprehensive picture of the economic activity generated by recreational fishers, a key stakeholder in these resources."

Trees honour recently retired

By Jane Berg

Dedicated employees of the University were thanked at an Arbor Day ceremony on the lawns west of Helen Joseph Annexe, on 1 September 2015.

Academic and support staff were personally thanked for their tireless service by Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Dean of Teaching and Learning Chrissie Boughey and wished well in their years of retirement to come.

Each staff member stepped up to an applauding audience of their peers and a short speech was read by Boughey describing their tasks, work ethic, and the memories they had made at Rhodes.

Behind the speakers, a row of young saplings with brass plaques waited, and after the handshakes and hugs each member of staff unveiled their tree.

Wild Plum, Cape Beech, Real Yellowwood: only trees indigenous to South Africa were chosen for the ceremony. Although, due to the recent rains the ground was considered too soggy for transplanting that day.

"A tree is something for the future," said Boughey, reflecting on the chosen symbol. "You finish your work here and then you go, but the tree still gives shade and succour and lets you take it into the future; so I think it's a lovely gesture."

"I feel so proud today for Rhodes" said Queenie Sakata, who has worked at the University for 28 years. "For myself, I'm playing big, like Mandela."

Sakata began her employment at Rhodes as a Room Attendant and was promoted in 1994 to Senior Room Attendant, the only woman in her section at that time.

Boughey said that, "her energy, her warm smile and dedication to her peers was always something for other staff to aspire to".

At this Sakata chuckled, "I didn't know I was good at Rhodes" she said. "But I bought a house in Extension six. I live there with my five grandchildren".

Some of the members of staff were accompanied by their families. Nirati Mthwa attended with her mother Minah Mthwa, who has worked at Central Cleaning Services since 1998. Nirati is a student staying at Walker House, in the final year of her studies in Sociology and Psychology.



Brass plaques of trees to be planted in remembrance of dedicated employees recently retired at Rhodes University. The tree planting ceremony took place on Arbor Day September 01, 2015, on the lawns west of Helen Joseph Annex at Rhodes University. Photo: Jane Berg.

"My mother worked here and it helped me a lot, she was the reason I got into Res," said Nirati.

"The event is such an honour, I'm sure I'll come back and water the tree from time to time since I'm here and she's not," Nirati said.

Also attending with his mother was Chris Soba Yeni who is employed at the Rhodes Physics and Electronics Department as a technical officer.

"I feel honoured to be here. My mother started work here when I was twelve and her work is what put me here today and gave me the opportunity to work for Rhodes," said Yeni.

Yeni hopes that one day he will at an event like this again, with a tree of his own to be planted.

Professor and Makana Councillor Julia

Wells had a Real Yellowwood planted in memory of her years at the History Department, she said: "Its humbling to see all the different roles that come together to make the University function. And also the sense of loyalty, because if any University wants to succeed it needs to inspire that, and I think Rhodes does."

Former Dean of Humanities Professor Fred Hendricks gave a speech thanking Dr Mabizela and the University on behalf of the guests. In his speech he encouraged the University to take a more integrated approach to future development.

"I would like to thank all of you for your contribution to the University. I hope your tree connects you to it even though you are retired," said Hendricks.



Minah Mthwa and her daughter Nirati Mthwa. Photo: Jane Berg.



Thembikile Kwayi unveils the tree to be planted in remembrance of his employment at Rhodes University. Photo: Jane Berg.



Vuyiswa Papu unveils the tree to be planted in remembrance of her employment at Rhodes University. The tree planting ceremony took place on Arbor Day September 01, 2015, on the lawns west of Helen Joseph Annex at Rhodes University. Photo: Jane Berg.



Makhaya Ngxitho unveils the tree to be planted in remembrance of his employment at Rhodes University. The tree planting ceremony took place on Arbor Day September 01, 2015, on the lawns west of Helen Joseph Annex at Rhodes University. Photo: Jane Berg.



Vuyiswa Papu unveils the tree to be planted in remembrance of her employment at Rhodes University. Photo: Jane Berg.



Thobile Ngqoyiya unveils the tree to be planted in remembrance of his employment at Rhodes University. Photo: Jane Berg.



Vuyiswa Papu unveils the tree to be planted in remembrance of her employment at Rhodes University. The tree planting ceremony took place on Arbor Day September 01, 2015, on the lawns west of Helen Joseph Annex at Rhodes University. Photo: Jane Berg.

It's time to diversify teaching methods

By Tsholofelo Tselaemang

"What does paying lobola have to do with teaching Chemistry?" This was the title of Dr Eleonora Goosen's award lecture at the Eden Grove Blue lecture theatre on 26 August 2015. She is the recipient of the 2014 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Teaching award.

The Pharmacy Faculty member encouraged her colleagues to ensure that the teaching methods used in universities are cognisant of the student body. It is important, she said, that teaching methods take the diverse experiences and backgrounds of the students being taught, into account. "If we accept students into higher education institutions we have the responsibility to create spaces that will assist them to be successful," she said.

"If we accept students into higher education institutions we have the responsibility to create spaces that will assist them to be successful."

She introduced "The Makoti Theory", which she had used in her classes. The theory uses the payment of lobola to explain the pairing of two atoms. Goosen used it to explain the joining of a hydrogen atom with a positive charge and an oxygen atom with six electrons or negative charges.

According to "The Makoti Theory", the hydrogen atom could be thought of as the

bride who was positive about the marriage. The oxygen atom could, in turn, be thought of as the groom and the electrons surrounding it, the lobola. The hydrogen and oxygen atoms come together, as the bride and the groom do. This leaves the groom (oxygen atom) positive about the whole exercise.

"It's very hard to know what it's like to learn in another language when you have never had to do that."

According to the award recipient, a curriculum comprises not only the 'what' of teaching but the 'how' as well. The way in which new information is presented to students impacts whether they understand or not. She used the example of teaching in a language that is familiar to one but foreign to their students, saying; "it's very hard to know what it's like to learn in another language when you have never had to do that." It is because of this that diversity should be embraced: teachers should listen to their students' stories and get to know their world. This was something that she had learnt from her teachers.

Having a diverse group of students will influence the contributions that can be made to the Sciences. "It can only benefit us," she added.

Chrissie Boughey, Dean of Teaching and Learning at Rhodes University, quoted one of Dr Goosen's students as saying: "there were times this year that you were the only reason we stayed at Rhodes." The Distinguished

Senior Teaching Award is awarded to a "lecturer who is an exceptional teacher in his/her discipline" and this can definitely be said of Dr Goosen if her students' comments are anything to go by.



ELRC turns 25



Back left: Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka (Rhodes University); back middle: Mr Andrew Skudder (Executive Director, Murray & Roberts Limited); back right: Prof. Rob O'Donoghue (Rhodes University); front left: Ms Donique De Figueiredo (Murray & Roberts); front middle: Prof. Pat Irwin (Rhodes University); front right: Dr Eureta Rosenberg, Green Skills Programme Coordinator and Rhodes University Research Associate

VC's Forum



A VC Forum was held on 2 December 2015 for all staff to reflect on 2015 and imagine how 2016 will look. Dr Mabizela described 2015 as a watershed moment for our Country. He anticipates that 2016 will be a difficult and challenging year but that it will also be filled with incredible opportunities.

SARChI Chairs



Rhodes University was awarded three more DST/NRF SARChI chairs on 2 September 2015. The new chair holders include: Dr Adrienne Edkins, Prof. Ruth Simbao and Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka. This brings to 14 the number of chairs awarded to Rhodes University through the SARChI programme.

Sisulu House unveiling



Max Sisulu addresses staff and students at the unveiling of Sisulu House, Desmond Tutu Hall on 13 October 2015.

University marches against shortage of funding in Higher Education



Rhodes University staff and students marched in solidarity with the Higher Education sector in protest against the shortage of funding in Higher Education on 21 October 2015.

Photo by Anele Muekula, courtesy of Grocott's Mail

Staff children's end-of-year party

The staff children's end-of-year party which took place on 5 December 2015 was filled with lots of fun.

