

## *Welcome*

Welcome to the 2017 Gala Dinner and Awards Evening, the highlight of the Community Engagement calendar at Rhodes University. Tonight is indeed a special night for us as we recognise the contribution of Rhodes University volunteers and community partners in building a new, more just and caring Grahamstown community.

It is, it is said, easy to sit up and take notice. What is difficult is standing up and taking action. This evening, we are celebrating the fact that individuals in our community stood up and took that action. We are celebrating a new generation of citizens who ask questions and commit themselves to finding answers, citizens with empathy for others, who understand their context and pursue social justice.

*Halala Volunteers, siyanibulela ngokuzinikezela kwenu kumsebenzi wokuzisa umahluko eRhini!*

And to the community partner organisations,

*“Sithi Viva kuni ntozakuthi, nisebenzile nazinikela ekuphuhliseni isizwe sethu, sibamba ngazo zombini, Sithi nangomso.”*

Diana Hornby  
Director  
Community Engagement  
Rhodes University  
Grahamstown



## **RUCE AWARDS 2017- PROGRAMME**

17:00 St Michael's Marimba Band plays, students arrive and collect certificates

17:30 Other guests arrive

18:00 **STARTERS SERVED** (MC:Thobani Mesani)

18:00 Welcome: Di Hornby

18:10 Introduction of speaker: Unathi Mabukane

18:20 Guest speaker: Mr Luzuko Jacobs

18:35 Vote of thanks: Ashley Zikhali

18:40 **MAIN COURSE IS SERVED** (Amalahle Band plays)

19:00 Highlights and Summary of 2017: Benita Bobo

19:10 Student Leader and Senior Mentors certificates:  
Benita Bobo and Anna Talbot

19:20 Volunteer Manager certificates: Nosi Nkwinti

19:30 Parent Engagement Programme certificates: Thobani Mesani

19:40 **DESSERT SERVED**

19:50 Student Researcher of the Year Award: Jo Bezerra

20:00 Society/Sports Club of the Year: Nosi Nkwinti

20:10 Community Partner of the Year: Nosi Nkwinti

20:20 Residence/Hall of the Year: Benita Bobo and Anna Talbot

20:30 Gold Award for Excellence in Community Engagement:  
Benita Bobo and Anna Talbot

20:40 Student Volunteer of the Year Award:  
Benita Bobo and Anna Talbot

20:50 Vote of thanks to Community partners and drivers: Di Hornby

21:00 Thank you and closing of ceremony: Dr Sizwe Mabizela

21:00-21:30 Amalahle Band plays and end of ceremony

## MENU

### STARTER

Homemade Thai vegetarian spring rolls  
with a sweet chilli Thai sauce



### MAIN COURSE

Chicken Roulade  
served with Herb Infused Mashed Potatoes,  
Seasonal Vegetables and Jus



### VEGAN

Wild Rice Stuffed Butternut  
served with Herb Infused Potatoes,  
seasonal vegetables and Jus



### DESSERT

Chocolate Mousse  
with Vanilla Ice Cream and Raspberry Jelly

### VEGAN

Gourmet fruit salad



Wine and flavored water will be on the table.  
Juice will be on a separate table.



## ENGAGED STUDENTS 2017

Adams	Perry-Mason
Africa	Kristen
Arineitwe	Charles
August	Sibulele
Babeli	Nompumelelo
Banjatwa	Mbeko
Batayi	Yanga
Beja	Sibusisiwe
Beukman	Akissi
Bhebe	Paidamoyo Michel
Bhebbe	Nonceba
Bokete	Jessica
Boko	Vuyo
Bokolo	Obonayo
Capitaine	Carl
Cele	Nokwanda
Ceruti	Katherine
Chikomba	Tanaka
Chikwezvero	Candy
Chinomona	Nyashadzashe
Chiyoka	Jordan
Chonco	Nompumelelo
Chung	Won Suk
Cuntsulana	Asakhe
Daries	Mikaela Ann
Dimingo	Grace
Douglas	Gino
Dyantyi	Hlumela
Eapen	Pamela
Ebineng	Duduetsang
Faku	Zikhona
Farquharson	Rebecca

Farquharson	Emma
Fasi	Khanya
Forster	Shaan
Francis	Gladys
Funani	Zikhona
Gaushe	Ikho
Gcakasi	Monis
Geswendt	Brad
Gidlana	Lusanda
Gumede	Zolani
Gumede	Vangile
Hadebe	Luyanda
Hanjahanja	Shalom
Hartley	Gemma-Mae
Hawker	Nosiphiwo
Hawu	Nomandla
Hlela	Amanda
Hussey	Megan
Ikwen	Emmanuella
Jack	Siphokazi
Jali	Siphokazi
Joseph	Silke
Kalo	Loretha
Keele	Tshepo
Kepe	Amanda
Kessy	Lisa
Khumalo	Mbali
Khumalo	Naphtali
Klaas	Zandile
Kom	Nelisa
Koos	Boitshoko
Kubheka	Ntuthuko
Kweza	Zimkhita
Lambane	Andrew

Letsoalo	Neo	Maseko	Zinhle
Lubenye	Zizipho	Mashike	Nthatisi
Lupindo	Nommiselo	Masiiwa	Ruvimbo
Luvuno	Khwezi	Mateza	Onke
Mabasa	Tshikani	Mathebula	Lungelo
Mabaso	Vutomi	Matlhake	Tina
Mabunda	Makungu	Matlou	Gauta
Madikwa	Esona	Matsepe	Lehlohonolo
Maditse	Kgopotso	Matsheka	Keletso
Madliki	Thembela	Matsoso	Lineo
Mafu	Pumelela	Maumo	Goodness
Magadani	Ipfi	Mavatha	Sanele
Magangana	Mlungisi	Mayekiso	Sinovuyo
Magwa	Sipelele	Mbanjwa	Mbalenhle
Maharaj	Malika	Mbedu	Zovuyo
Mahlangu	Nikelani	Mbilini	Sakhumzi
Makasi	Mfundo	Mccann	Claire
Makhaye	Thandokuhle	Mdlalo	Liyabona
Makhetha	Relebohile	Mdletshe	Halala
Makonza	Khanya	Mdunana	Busisiwe
Makowe	Natasha	Meintjies	Kayla
Makwarela	Zwikhodo	Methula	Mpumelelo
Malaza	Ziyanda	Mfenyana	Anelisa
Malesa	Mahlatse	Miller	Laura
Malinga	Zodwa	Minde	Leah
Mamphey	Nicole	Mkhaliphi	Nonkululeko
Manciya	Avela	Mkoko	Yandiswa
Mandlati	Sibongile	Mkulembe	Angela
Maneli	Sihle	Mlamla	Nomangwane
Mangozhe	Varaidzo	Mnandi	Thandokazi
Manquma	Apumelele	Mnqwazi	Sihle
Manyonganise	Joshua	Moffat	Rachel
Marata	Anthony	Mohlahatsa	Toale
Marx	Daniel	Moila	Manthipe

Mokoena	Karabo	Nkuna	Nthabiseng
Mondi	Lilodwa	Nogantshi	Sinokuhle
Moss	Thulisa	Nomatyane	Ndyebo
Moteane	Baitsheki	Norongo	Siviwe
Motloung	Karabo	Nqabeni	Mkhuluwa
Motloung	Lefapa	Ntetha	Sive
Mpinana	Yolanda	Ntlakaza	Zuko
Mpofana	Khonaye	Ntloko	Ekhona
Mqoqi	Zikho	Ntsieni	Ronewa
Mqwebedu	Nokuzola	Nyundu	Khanyisile
Msimango	Nthabiseng	Pach	Olivia
Msweli	Rosa	Panya	Wanda
Mthombeni	Nokubongwa	Pather	Micaela
Mthonti	Siphiwokuhle	Paul	Bernice
Mtotoba	Ntlelo	Phala	Kgetjepe William
Muller	Sven	Plaatjies	Devron
Muronda	Natalie	Platz	Marika
Mvenganya	Bulelani	Qubenge	Sinesona
Naidoo	Prenesa	Ratazayo	Zenande
Naidu	Aaron	Roeber	Christine
Ncala	Nonduduzo	Rozani	Esona
Ndamane	Nosimo	Sacha	Karabo
Ndindwa	Anathi	Sathekge	Kgaugelo
Ndlovu	Valerie	Selwana	Violet
Ndou	Ntanganedzeni	Seshoka	Letty
Ndovela	Sipho	Shongwe	Zodwa
Ngcweleshe	Mbali	Sibanda	Mzwanele
Ngobeni	Sherly	Sibutha	Yandisa
Ngqeme	Thandiwe	Sihlali	Zafika
Ngubo	Sanele	Sikweza	Sisipho
Njaza	Zilungile	Singh	Variksha
Njoli	Anitha	Singizi	Ethel
Nkala	Zusiphe	Sisusa	Ubenathi
Nkasana	Nyameka	Sithole	Sandra

Sithole	Sithembele
Sobopha	Siyabonga
Soldati	Mondekazi
Sombava	Ongezwa
Speelman	Thulani
Stamper	Sindisiwe
Stewart	Laurence
Tapa	Siphokazi
Teyi	Zintle
Thagakane	Gaobotse
Thakersee	Vikas
Thomas	Aviwe
Thusi	Ayanda
Tom	Phiwokuhle
Tsatsire	Sive
Tshemese	Kuhle
Tshezi	Amanda
Tshona	Kutala
Tshotwana	Anam
Tukulu	Namhla
Valela	Mandilakhe
Van Heerden	Samantha
Vedan	Eshlin
Vele	Hulisani
Vena	Sive
Vicentini	Isabella
Vilakazi	Nomfundo
Vutula	Naledi
Warner-Rousseau	Elizabeth
Whiteley	Zondre
Yedwa	Sesonasipho
Zono	Nomathamsanqa
Zumani	Vuyolwethu

## SVP STUDENT LEADERS 2017

Adams	Perry-Mason
Babeli	Nomphumelelo
Bokete	Jessica
Cele	Nokwanda
Daries	Mikaela Ann
Dyanty	Hlumela
Ebineng	Duduetsang
Jack	Siphokazi
Joseph	Silke
Khumalo	Hlengiwe
Mamphey	Nicole
Mbilini	Sakhumzi
Ndungane	Silubonile
Ngubo	Sanele
Njaza	Zilungile
Ntlakaza	Zuko
Ramagogodi	Ofentse
Selwana	Violet
Sibutha	Yandisa
Sikweza	Sisipho
Tom	Phiwokuhle
Valela	Mandilakhe
Vena	Sive
Yedwa	Sesonasipho



## 9/10ths MENTORS 2017

Arnold	Shannon
Asiya	Khanya
Baba	Thulisa
Birkner	Ryan
Bunzi	Zukile
Cele	Nokwanda
Chele	Neo
Dixon	Heather
Fellows	Tamika
Friedemann	Megan Oriole
Guerra	Cassandra
Gule	Sonwabile
Gumede	Vangile
Hlalukana	Nosipho
Khambule	Nelisa
Khetsi	Diana
Klaas	Sibusiso
Klaas	Busisiwe
Lever	Aviva
Lungile	Nkosi
Mabukane	Unathi
Madzivire	Shamiso
Magazi	Vuyelwa
Magengelele	Nwabisa
Magangca	Lerato
Magwala	Anam
Majali	Athini
Makeba	Zikhona
Makhwaza	Ayanda
Makoni	Andrew
Malesa	Thato
Malesa	Mahlatse
Maluleke	Vukosi

Mankantshu	Buncwanekazi
Mashate	Fredy
May	Aviwe
Mbano	Benevolence
Mhlaba	Maliviwe
Moholi	Buhle Marcia
Mokwele	Kwena
Mosweu	Molebogeng
Ncula	Sam
Ndebele	Buhle
Ngobe	Angela
Ngubane	Kwanele
Ngwenya	Thozama
Nkunzi	Zindzi
Nkunzi	Zintle
Ntanta	Sazile
Ntsikeng	Moroesi
Nyenzane	Yolanda
Phakade	Siphumelele
Ponono	Ayabonga
Puwaai	Anesu
Ramafalo	Felicia
Ramagaga	Keorapetse
Roboji	Milisa
Rulumeni	Nkosazana
Shumba	Marilyn
Silosini	Thandokazi
Skoti	Athenkosi
Tendayi	Elizabeth
Tom	Phiwokuhle
Tsoeu	Nthabeleng Glanda
Vellenu	Emmanuel
Williams	Diana
Zumana	Anelisiwe



## isiXHOSA SHORT COURSE 2017

Dimingo	Grace
Makoni	Danai
Garekwe	Warona
Ralekhetla	Mateboho
McCann	Claire
Muronda	Natalie
Thelejane	Likonelo
Bezerra	Joana



## TUTOR TRAINING SHORT COURSE 2017

August	Sibulele
Batayi	Yanga
Batyi	Usisipho
Butler	Adam
Chung	Won Suk
Fasi	Khanya
Hawu	Nomandla
Lubenye	Zizipho
Luvuno	Khwezi
Mabunda	Makungu
Magutshwa	Thabiso
Magwa	Sipelele
Mandlati	Sibongile
Manquma	Aphumelele
Martin	Joshua
Maseko	Zinhle
Mashigo	Karabo

Mathebula	Lungelo
Maumo	Goodness
Mavatha	Sanele
Mlamla	Phatiwe
Mosila	Mahlatse
Mpinana	Yolanda
Mthonti	Siphiwo
Mtotoba	Ntlelo
Myoyo	Vuyo
Ndindwa	Anathi
Ndovela	Sipho
Ngobeni	Sherly
Phala	William
Rozani	Esona
Seshoka	Letty
Sikweza	Sisipho
Tapa	Siphokazi
Tshemese	Kuhle
Valela	Mandilakhe
Vangile	Velisani
Wagenaar	Emma
Zumani	Vuyolwethu



## **VOLUNTEER MANAGERS 2017**

Baduza	Gugulethu
Baliso	Khayakazi
Bentele	Vathiswa
Canca	Monica
Frans	Nompumelelo
Hlwempu	Nomazwi
Hobongwana	Diliza
Jilana	Xoliswa
Joni	Vatiswa
Kotelo	Lungelwa
Magadla	Tembela
Makinana	Nompumezo
Makombe	Nolubabalo
Maloni	Lungiswa
Marsh	Shiloh
Mente	Thembisa
Mesani	Thobani
Mkhaliphi	Madoda
Motsisi	Tumi
Mtwalo	Sanelisa
Ngcangca	Margaret
Pona	Nombulelo
Shelle	Noluthando
Talbot	Anna
Torp	Kjetil
Trompetter	Leesa
Zondani	Sister



## **PARENT LEADERS 2017**

Ngoqo	Babalwa
Nzuzo	Matthews
Mdoda	Precious
Mgqobhele	Nomthandazo
Nzuzo	Matthews
Mhleli	Luleka
Yako	Siphokazi



## **9/10ths STUDENT LEADERS 2017**

Dixon	Heather
Khambule	Nelisa
Klaas	Busisiwe
Mabukane	Unathi
Maluleke	Vukosi
Mashate	Fredy
Mbano	Benevolance
Ndebele	Nobuhle
Ngwenya	Thozama
Ntsikeng	Moroesi
Ramagaga	Keorapetse
Tom	Phiwokuhle



**S@M PARTNERSHIPS  
2017**

Allan Webb Hal  
Luzuko Pre-School

Courtenay-Latimer Hall  
Boy Boy Mginywa Pre-School

Desmond Tutu Hall  
Future Kids Pre-School

Drostdy Hall  
Noncedo Pre-School

Founders Hall  
Siyazama Pre-School

Hobson Hall  
Sibanye Special Day Care Centre

Jan Smuts Hall  
Nokwandile Day Care Centre

Kimberley Hall  
Gladys Williams Creche

Lilian Ngoyi Hall  
Raglan Road Day Care Centre

Miriam Makeba Hall  
Shaw Hall Day Care Centre

Nelson Mandela Hall  
CMVellem Primary School



Oakdene Residence  
CSD Toy Library - Joza Youth Hub

Oppidan Hall  
CSD Toy Library - St Mary's DCC

St Mary Hall  
Little Flower Day Care Centre

Victoria Mxenge Residence  
Ikhaya Losizo





*Our nominees have all be exemplary in bridging the gap between academia and community development. Each of the finalists has dedicated their lives to research that is mutually beneficial and contributes to the body of knowledge that informs community engagement practice. Their work has been pivotal in connecting various stakeholders in Grahamstown and has proven to be sustainable. The Community Engagement Division recognises the unique work that each of the finalists has done.*

## **STUDENT RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR 2017**

### **Bennett Ryan**

Ben Ryan is a 2nd year PhD candidate in the Human Kinetics and Ergonomics (HKE) Department. The aim of his research is to develop a conceptual model of soccer talent identification and development, using Makana as a case study. Through Ben's involvement with community engagement, service-learning has become an integral part of the HKE Department. Ben has developed and implemented different community engagement projects, such as the Sakhulutsha Youth Academy and the Sakhulutsha project, and he has been a constant presence in trading live, national science day, and Eskom expo events, promoting the role of community engagement in the HKE context.

### **Thandiswa Nqowana**



Thandi Nqowana is a Masters student in Pharmacy with a project that is a part of the Epistemic Justice and Engaged Research project. Being from Grahamstown herself, she truly understands the value of community engagement. She has been on both ends of Rhodes University community engagement partnerships and she has come to Rhodes University committed to sharing her passion for science through community engagement. Her research takes her to 3 township schools in Grahamstown, where the learners play an active role in a project that is about our community. Through her research Thandi is not only turning science into an accessible and interesting subject to the learners involved, with applications in the daily lives and not farfetched in labs or environments that are unknown

to them; but she is also transforming students into agents of change in their communities and citizens more in tune with their space and resources.

### **Cathy Gush**

Cathy Gush is a mature Masters student who is using activism and her work experience in literacy development at Makana. Through her participatory action research, Cathy creates valuable theoretical, methodological and practical bridges between literacy and media students and journalism. The Intsomi Reading Programme involves around 200 households and despite being a new project, it is already having a positive impacts beyond the educational sphere, improving relationships and showing that community engagement is much more than education o. It is hoped that Intsomi Reading Programme participants will be at the forefront of developing endogenous communication strategies, messages and channels that will encourage ongoing dialogue around literacy issues, particularly in more marginalized communities in Makana.





*2017 has been a year of growth for our community partners. We proudly recognise the work and relationships that continue to develop each year. This award goes to community partners that has collaborated well with student volunteers and the Community Engagement division and has made notable impact in the targeted community through sound Community Engagement Principles.*

*In particular, this year we recognise the importance and impact of partnerships between Residences and local Early Childhood Development (ECD) Sites. All of our finalists are partners in the ECD Residence Reading programme and Siyakhana @ Makana (a project planning and co-management programme that all residence partake in yearly).*

## **COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR 2017**

### **Sibanye Special Day Care Centre**

At Sibanye Special Day Care Centre, commitment to volunteerism is only one of the key components of the day. Love and support are just as crucial in building a relationship with the learners with special needs, the staff and the volunteers. Here the extra mile is not supplementary, it is a must, pushing the volunteers everyday to be better citizens and people in their community. For the volunteers, the saying “it takes a village to raise a child” truly made sense.

### **Siyazama Pre-School**

Siyazama takes in children from 0 to 6 years and prepares them for school. With a vegetable garden of their own that serves the school and the community, Siyazama ensures the food security of children in the centre and in the surrounding households. The Siyazama staff worked tirelessly with students, always encouraging and supporting initiatives proposed and introduced by the Rhodes volunteers. Siyazama guided the volunteers in reaching their goals, working together with the students throughout the year. A true partnership fuelled with respect, love and commitment.



*“We are grateful of the attitudes of both the staff and the teachers of the site for support and love that they have shown to our volunteers since they are mostly first years. Also love shared by us and [the] children is something that I celebrate every day.”*

## Home of Joy

For more than two decades of existence Home of Joy provides love, shelter and a sanctuary for the children of Grahamstown. Margaret Ngcanga who is the caregiver and “mother” of 25 children who live in her home in the hearts of Joza Township, is an inspiration to everyone and especially to our student volunteers who get to witness and experience the amazing work mama Margaret does. At the beginning of this year, the Rhodes University rugby team partnered with Home of Joy, interacting with the children and donating a cheque of R 15 000 as part of the Varsity Sports Social awareness programme. Amongst other things happening at mama Margaret’s home the following programmes have been championed by the student volunteers; Delinquency Prevention Services; Teen Pregnancy Prevention; Drop-Out Prevention; Job Programs for Youth; Boy Scouts; Girl Scouts; Big Brothers/ Big Sisters and homework clubs.

This year Home of Joy celebrated its 23rd Anniversary and with the help of student volunteers this event was a success and a testament of the great work mama Margaret does. Long live Mama and continue to be a gift to the children and the youth of Rhini.





*Substantial work has been done by residences to continue growing partnerships and consequently the impact and reach that residence community engagement initiatives have in our community. Our finalists have all shown collegiality and collaboration as well as focussed, well-organised engagement activities. Community Engagement in halls is a valuable, and ever-growing space of community engagement and we congratulate all the nominees for the enthusiasm in which they approach their various projects.*

## **RESIDENCE/HALL OF THE YEAR 2017**

### **Oppidan Hall**

Throughout the year, the Oppidan Hall has organized training as well as other community engagement meetings, giving clear and inspirational presentations that captivated the students involved. The Oppidan Hall has also worked with the Centre for Social Development Toy Libraries, achieving what some would believe were impossible goals. They are building relationships with new stakeholders, being creative with initiatives – such as the new garden and the building the climbing tower competition - and being agents of change in our Grahamstown community. The Hall also participated in Trading Live for Nelson Mandela week, taking learners for an educational trip to the SPCA.

### **Desmond Tutu Hall**



Despite the challenges in the beginning of the year, Desmond Tutu Hall has a lot to be proud of. The hall rose above the difficulties, guided by great leaders who never lost motivation. The Hall managed to achieve two goals this year, the first being organising a sports day, and the second being school readiness through having consistent volunteers participating in a reading programme. The reading programme was well received by the teachers at Future Kidz (their partner site), and the goal of organizing a sports day that took place at Rhodes University campus enabled more participation from the Hall's students.



## Miriam Makeba Hall

The passion and persistence of the Miriam Makeba Hall was a visible throughout the year. The key for the success was communication, with different posters about their events and one on one invitations to events. The community engagement representatives managed to build a good relationship with their community partners, which enabled them to have a truly beneficial partnership between all involved. The volunteers end the year having learned by experience the difference between engagement and charity and are now agents of change in their community, changing the perception of other students about engagement.





*This year the nominations that were submitted were strong. To be awarded this prestigious award a student should have a good, working relationship with their partner organisation/s, should promote the principles of community engagement through their practice and show dedication, creativity and leadership initiative that their programme demands of them.*

*The selected finalists are a passionate group of student leaders who have all devoted immense amount of energy to creating sustainable relationships at their various volunteer sites. They have been an exemplary embodiment of Community Engagement. The Community Engagement Division values their investment in our community!*

## **Gold Awards for Excellence in Community Engagement 2017**

### **Hlumela Dyantyi**

Hlumela has been consistent and committed in her volunteering. The role of volunteerism in her personal development shines through her work. Hlumela is always willing to go the extra mile and she never shies away from a challenge. She has consistently participated in Trading Live for Nelson Mandela Week, an annual institutional event. She has also been an active volunteer in the ECD Residence Programme and has been a commendable student leader for GADRA in 2016 and Digital Storytelling in 2017. Her commitment and motivation inspires everyone who works with her.

### **Phiwokuhle Tom**

Phiwokuhle has been described by her peers as a caring and energetic person. She currently volunteers as part of the Fort England Buddy Programme under Rhodes Psychology Department, while also volunteering at the Jabez Aids Centre (where she is a student leader) and for the Nine Tenths mentoring programme (where she is a senior mentor). Her compassion and enthusiasm make her a great leader and

mentor. One of the examples of her commitment can be seen in the improvement in the marks of one of her mentees, who went from a Diploma level pass with 23.9 Rhodes University points to a Bachelor level pass of 35.4 Rhodes University points.

### **Lethabo Jessie Ditshego**

Jessie is dedicated and fearless, always with a smile that shows happiness and enjoyment. As the Community Engagement Representative for the Oppidan Hall, she has been energetic, hands-on and has used creativity to overcome challenges that she has faced while volunteering at the Centre for Social Development Toy Libraries. She is reliable, committed and leads by example, and has achieved so much in so very little time. It is typically a challenge encouraging Oppidan students to get involved in activities, due to the lack of contact with them, however Jessie has worked tirelessly and effectively and has had significant involvement from many students over many events.

### **Bulelani Mvenganya**

Bulelani has been a dedicated Community Engagement Representative in Founders Hall, and a dedicated student volunteer as part of the Student Volunteer Programme. As part of his role as a Community Engagement Representative, Bulelani managed to successfully recruit students from his hall to participate in the reading programme with their partner organisation, Siyazama Pre-School. He has also actively participated in this programme, ensuring he visits the site at least once a week to do reading with the learners and work with their community partner on their goals. Bulelani has also been actively involved in the Founders Hall community engagement programme (Ubuntu Knowledge) and has been an active and dedicated volunteer at Home of Joy. During Trading Live for Nelson Mandela week, Bulelani participated in many trades, encouraging his fellow peers to participate with him.



## **Nomphumelelo Queen Elizabeth Babeli**

Queen has been a very dedicated and active participant in community engagement at Rhodes University. She has served as a student leader for Home of Joy, and Children of the Soil, and now serves as the student leader for Creative City. Queen has also been an active participant in the 9/10ths Mentoring programme. Community engagement has had a positive impact on Queen's academic outcomes, as through her experience in community engagement she has become a critical thinker, has a greater sense of understanding, problem analysis, and problem-solving, amongst other skills. Queen reports having a sense of personal identity, and has been able to build on her leadership and communication skill which have boosted her confidence and motivation levels.

## **Sanele Ngubo**

Sanele is the student leader of the GADRA mentoring programme for the second consecutive year. Student leaders need to be organised, reliable and creative. They take on duties which require them to be aware of the ethical responsibilities they have with their community partner. With dedication, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm, Sanele ensures that his group of 30 mentors are always on track and motivated. A proactive student, he is always at the forefront of initiatives to promote student agency in community engagement. Sanele does not see community engagement as an extra activity, community engagement is at his core. This year, Sanele attended and presented at the annual Rhodes University and Durban University of Technology Community Engaged Learning Symposium to further his understanding and critical engagement with issues around community engagement


*“Sanele lives community engagement and is a true agent of change.”*

## **Sesonasipho Yedwa**

Sesona has been involved in a number of community engagement initiatives this year and in all of them has displayed diligence, dedication and resilience. He is currently serving, for his second consecutive year, as a student leader for Inkululeko. He is a community engagement representative in Desmond Tutu Hall and is a community engagement representative for the Every Nation Church Society. Despite being involved in different programmes, he has managed to be equally dedicated to all of them, without any of the programmes being neglected, which speaks volumes of his sound leadership and time management skills. Despite experiencing challenges at Inkululeko this year, Sesona has managed to persevere and make the best out of the circumstances and has gradually developed a good relationship with the site manager and his team of volunteers. This has been translated through seeing an improvement at the organization overtime. In his capacity as community engagement representative, Sesona has managed to work well with all his partner organisation, and has been able to develop good relationships with Sakhuluntu Cultural leader Vuyo Booi and Reverend Lewis Williams, site manager of Future Kidz. Moreover, Sesona has also worked well with his colleagues, both at Desmond Tutu Hall and at Every Nation Church Society, which shows that he is indeed also a team player.

## **Unathi Mabukane**

Unathi has committed herself to working others even before she became a Rhodes University student, and this hasn't changed during her three years in the university due to her passion and consistency. In her first year, Unathi volunteered at GADRA Education as a Mathematical Literacy tutor. In her second year she joined the 9/10ths Mentoring Programme as a mentor, and this year she has taken on the role of a student leader in the programme. In this position, Unathi has given input on how to improve the programme and has consistently tried to convey the importance of the programme to other mentors through her dedication, relationships with both mentors and mentees as well as Mary Waters High School where she and her team mentor, give feedback and participate in strategic meetings. As the incumbent SRC



Community Engagement Councillor we are confident she will continue with her great work due to her humility and love for the Grahamstown community.

### **Gauta Matlou**

Gauta is a dedicated postgraduate student who has volunteered assisting young budding scientists with the Eskom Expo Projects. These young learners need a lot of direction and guidance in their scientific method, which is where the Expo Mentors step in and assist. Gauta assisted 5 learners for the Regional Expo with the typing and the printing of their projects and has built a solid relationship with TEM Mrwetyana. Gauta has also been a dedicated volunteer with Children of the Soil where he volunteers teaching primary learners on food security through home based gardening. Gauta's peers elected him to be the site leader and during this time he managed to steer his team to accomplish all goals for the year. Gauta also played a key role during Trading Live for Nelson Mandela Week. Gauta also serves as the Bapedi ba Rhodes Society community engagement representative.

### **Moroesi Ntsikeng**

Moroesi has been involved in multiple community engagement programmes throughout her years at Rhodes University. She has been part of Ithemba Counselling initiative run by the Psychology Clinic since 2016, and this year she has been voted as the best Thomas Pringle's Community Engagement and Transformation Representative. Through this position, she has had the experience of working extensively with over 70 Thomas Pringle House students in various projects that include increasing interest and participation in community engagement. Furthermore, she has been part of Siyakhana@Makana, a project that aims to build meaningful relationships with community-based organisations while gaining a better understanding of community development processes. Moroesi has integrated community engagement as a critical part of her learning experience at Rhodes University. In the beginning of this year she was appointed as a senior mentor for the 9/10ths Mentoring Programme. She was assigned to mentor two

Grade 12 learners and help lead a group of 13 mentors. She has been reliable, effective and a systematic leader. Her group has been one of the successful of the six groups. Her extensive experience of working with fellow Rhodes University students has prepared her for the demanding mentor's responsibilities. She has carried this responsibility effortlessly.

### **Sakhumzi Mbilini**

Sakhumzi has been a volunteer on Ulwazi for 2 years and has committed to attending every session since he became a volunteer. Sakhumzi has been a facilitator for his group for 2 years and has provided valuable feedback in how Ulwazi currently integrates the curriculum into the lessons. He joined the committee in November 2016 and has made many changes and attempts to help Ulwazi to become more efficient. He has since become the vice-chairperson of the programme and the student leader. He attends all of his sessions and makes sure every week lessons are prepared for volunteers to use for the week. As a student leader he has ensured the smooth functioning of the Ulwazi committee, ensuring that all goals are accomplished. He has been very committed to the programme by finding new ways to keep the children interested and how to integrate 'programming' in to the curriculum. Sakhumzi has worked tirelessly to ensure that all reports are compiled and submitted on time.

*"We have worked very well with Sakhumzi as he has truly been the most committed to the programme and making sure it is a success."*



