



2019  
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
AWARDS**  
AND GALA DINNER

Programme & Awards

2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2019  
Oppidan Dining Hall



RHODES UNIVERSITY  
*Where leaders learn*



*We rise  
by lifting  
others.*

Robert Ingersoll




### **Still I Rise**

Maya Angelou - 1928-2014

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.



# Welcome, Namkelekile!

We are delighted you have agreed to celebrate with us this evening. The Annual RUCE Awards & Gala Dinner is one of the highlights on the Rhodes University calendar, a time we gather to acknowledge and mark the dedicated service and learning of our student volunteers and our community partner organisations.

You have all been invited to this celebration because of your commitment to social justice and to the transformation of our university and community. We therefore acknowledge and thank each one of you for the part you have played this past year. You have delighted and inspired us with your energy, there are extraordinary stories of service to be told in all corners of this city, we will share some tonight and others we will continue to share on social media weekly. It is critical that the momentum of this “movement for public good” grows if we are to turn our city around and position it as a prosperous city of education excellence.

Rhodes University Community Engagement sees itself as fostering excellence at the intersection of academic and civic engagement. Working purposefully to tease open this space, provide structure and create an enabling environment where community partners, students and academics can collaborate in new and exciting ways. It has been an honour working with you all this year, this city has all the social capital it needs to be great.

There has never been a more critical time for positive action than now. This is our city and we have what it takes to make it great – LETS DO IT!

**Di Hornby**  
**Director**  
Community Engagement  
Rhodes University





## RUCE AWARDS 2019 PROGRAMME

**Welcome Drink:** Sherry and Grapetizer

**18:00 Starters served:** Benita Bobo (MC)

18:00 Welcome: Dr Mabokang Monnapula-Mapesela (DVC: Academic & Student Affairs)  
18:05 Introduction of speaker: Leboghang Nkambule (SRC CE Councillor 2020)  
18:10 Guest speaker: Mr. Allan Magubane  
18:25 Vote of thanks: Ubenathi Sisusa (SRC CE Councillor 2019)

**18:30 Main course served,** (Amalahle Band plays)

18:45 Highlights and Summary of 2019: Benita Bobo  
18:50 Student Leader certificates: Unathi Mabukane and Anna Talbot

*Already have certificates from entry, stand for names and applause at this point*

19:00 Volunteer Manager certificates: Nosi Nkwinti  
19:05 Parent Engagement Programme certificates: Thandiswa Nqowana  
19:10 Vuka! Makana: Top Achievers: Nosi Nkwinti & Unathi Mabukane

**19:15 Dessert served**

19:30 Society/Sports Club of the Year: Nosi Nkwinti & Anna Talbot  
19:40 Residence/Hall of the Year: Nosi Nkwinti  
19:50 Community Partner of the Year: Unathi Mabukane  
20:00 Student Researcher of the Year Award: Joana Bezerra  
20:10 Gold Award for Excellence in Community Engagement: Benita Bobo and Anna Talbot  
20:20 Student Volunteer of the Year Award: Benita Bobo and Anna Talbot  
20:25 Vote of thanks to Bra' Pat (Transport Manger): Di Hornby  
20:30 Thank you and closing of ceremony: Di Hornby

*Photos of Award Winners with the DVC & Guest Speaker:*

1. Student Leaders
2. Volunteer Managers
3. PEP

*Amalahle Band plays and end of ceremony*



## **MENU**

### **STARTER**

Spring rolls  
with homemade sweet chilli sauce



### **MAIN COURSE**

Grilled Rump steak  
with butternut and carrot puree,  
dauphinoise potato,  
roasted vegetables and Jus

### **VEGETARIAN**

Butternut Ravioli  
with  
creamy roasted red pepper  
and garlic sauce



### **DESSERT**

Malva Pudding with custard and ice cream



### **DRINKS**

Brampton OVR - Red blend  
Brampton Sauvignon Blanc  
Flavoured water





## ECP STUDENTS 2019

Adams	Lynn	Hawu	Nomandla
Alexander	Cynthia	Hjul	Karl
Aphane	Praise	Holman	Matthew
Arineitwe	Charles	Jamabo	Miebaka
August	Lebohang	Jika	Zenande
Bablin	Elisabeth	Kabeya	Sacree
Basvi	Tazodzwa	Kalinjani	Namhla
Beja	Sibusisiwe	Kandetu	Vendjihimisa
Belwana	Nosipho	Kanosvamira	Peter
Benza	Bennita	Khanyayo	Nombulelo
Bester	Chante	Khoza Lungelo	Wiseman
Bhala	Sibonokuhle	Khutswane	Atlegang
Bhero	Regan	Kuhamba	Zama
Bokhe	Witness	Kumbaca	Sibusisiwe
Bonhomme	Lyndre	Lebese	Mamontoeli
Borchard	Shaurissa	Linda	Singatha
Brown	Yolanda	Mabasa	Xiletelo
Buka	Them bani	Mabukane	Unathi
Carolus	Samantha	Machiwenyika	Tinashe
Cezula	Lukhanyiso	Mackelina	Herschel
Chiloane	Lebohang	Madakana	Sinazo
Chithambo	N'lamwai	Madywabe	Lungisa
Chiyoka	Jordan	Mafu	Kwakhanya
Choma	Mmashego	Mafu	Pumela
Cuntsulana	Asakhe	Magidi	Mpho
Daniels	Sinovuyo	Maharaj	Malika
Dindili	MLungisi	Makhabane	Basetsana
Dlamini	Lulama	Makhanye	Samkelisiwe
Dube	Llucia	Malatsi	Agnes
Dzhombere	Faresani	Malikhetla	Mantone
Eapen	Pamela	Malinga	Nonjabulo
Fumanisa	Lineo	Mambu	Msimelelo
Gasura	Joseph	Mamphey	Maame
Gaushe	Ikho	Maneya	Panashe
Gayiza	Mihle	Manhanzva	Nyashadzaishe
Gcumisa	Zandile	Manquma	Sigcobe
Giyama	Siwongiwe	Mansoor	Talha
Govender	Britney	Mantshiyose	Abenathi
Govender	Gabriella	Maqizana	Yandisa
Gutschner	Sarah Lia	Marais	Volenta
Guzi	Sandisiwe	Masibigiri	Jessica
Gxekwa	Nosipho	Mast	Isabelle
Gxotani	Sikelelwa	Masuku	Siyabonga
Harker	Azelea	Matolengwe	Siyanda

Matsepe	Kefuoe	Nogoqa	Babalwa
Matshidiso	Solofelang	Ntlakaza	Zuko
May	Lian	Nyanhete	Catherine
Mbili	Obonabulumko	Ogle	Asandra
Mbilini	Nqobile	Okeke	Chiamaka
Mbongwa	Cebisile	Owusu-Bempong	Ama
Mchunu	Siphelele	Parawira	Tanaka
Mekuto	Siyolise	Payi	Gwen
Mfeka	Nomvelo	Pearse	Asher
Mgoqi	Hlumisa	Pillay	Celine
Minde	Leah	Platana	Nanza
Mkhunyane	Thuliswa	Qubanisa	Wendy
Mnkandla	Nobesuthu	Radebe	Kholeka
Mnyephika	Zenande	Ramatsabana	Phatsimo
Mondile	Queenie	Ramphela	Letumile
Monyatsiwa	Ludzi	Rasimphi	Liivha
Moodley	Krystal	Richardson	Perryr
Moropane	Tumisho	Roth	Jessica
Motloung	Anele	Saba	Mpho
Mpepo	Ntombizodwa	Same	Nkosinaye
Mphahlele	Machego	Samela	Uthandile
Mphahlele	Mashienyane	Schafli	Sasha-Lee
Mpogeng	Lehlogonolo	Sebudi	Itumeleng
Mthembu	Nompumelelo	Segapo	Kagiso
Mthethwa	Sifiso	September	Zizipho
Mudau	Thanyani	Shangase	Windy
Mundoma	Rumbidzai	Sibanda	Bathabile
Munsamy	Tyrel	Sibanda	Mzwanele
Mutsau	Natasha	Siboza	Pearl
Muza	Chido	Sidziya	Zenande
Naidoo	Kelisha	Sigwela	Olwethu
Namba	Lindeka	Sikhakhane	Anetta
Ndamase	Samkelisiwe	Simpo	Hazel
Ndlole	Avuma	Singh	Variksha
Ngalonkulu	Sihle	Singo	Bertha
Ngqinambi	Akhona	Sisusa	Ubenathi
Ngqokoto	Bona	Sitole	Sivuyile
Ngubo	Sanele	Skeyi	Sinoxolo
Ngwadla	Aphelele	Sobololo	Zizipho
Ngwarai	Joshua	Sokkie	Taylon
Ngwenya	Nkosinomsa	Speelman	Thulani
Njanje	Idris	Stamper	Sindisiwe
Nkone	Pinky	Sukazi	Tholinhlanhla
Nkosi	Paulina	Tapfumaneyi	Pronalis
Nkosi	Tshepang	Terry	Mario
Nkuna	Bongekile	Tlali	Zanele



Tshabalala	Nompumelelo
Tshiunza	Ilunga
Tsope	Lindiwe
Tyolo	Khanyisa
Valela	Mandilakhe
Van Heerden	Samantha
Vena	Sive
Vilanculos	Secheni
Williams	Sinovuyo
Windvoel	Sanele
Xoki	Yibanathi
Yeates	Julian
Yedwa	Sesonasipho
Zabo	Athule
Zatu	Zozuko
Zondi	Nokwanda
Zungu	Popsz

## ECP STUDENT LEADERS

Carolus	Samantha
Cezula	Lukhanyiso
Chiyoka	Jordan
Cuntsulana	Asakhe
Khanyayo	Nombulelo
Kholeka	Radebe
Kwakhanya	Mafu
Lian	May
Magidi	Mpho
Malikhetla	Mantone
Maqizana	Yandisa
Masuku	Siyabonga
Mfeka	Nomvelo Precious
Mnkandla	Nobesuthu
Mudau	Thandanyi
Ndlole	Avuma
Ngubo	Sanele
Ogle	Asandra
Sebudi	Itumeleng
Segapo	Kagiso
Sisusa	Ubenathi
Sukazi	Tholinhlanhla
Tapfumaneyi	Pronalis

Tshabalala	Nomumelelo
Valela	Mandilakhe
van Heerden	Samantha
Vena	Sive
Vilanculos	Oscar
Yedwa	Sesonasipho

## ECP VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

Dayisi	Siyaxolisa
Dingana	Sindi
Frans	Mpumi
Hobongwana	Diliza
Khubeka	Mpumi
Magobiane	Nwabisa
Makeba	Ntombekaya
Makinana	Mpumi
Makombe	Nolubabalo
Mdaka	Veliswa
Mkalipi	Madoda
Moyikwa	Moyikwa
Mpiyame	Linda
Nduna	Maso
Ngcangca	Margaret
Ngeju	Thozamile
Ngqwala	Nosi
Nqowana	Thandiswa
Ntshingana	Sanele
Sewry	Joyce
Swaartbooi	Lindisipho
Talbot	Anna
Torp	Kjetil
Weaver	Kim

## ECP PARENT LEADERS

Nomangesi	Precious Mdoda
Zongamele	Victor Mzileni
Mpumelelo	Wellington Dywilili

**BUDDINGQ 1 SEMESTER**

Adams	Lesedi
Benge	Amia
Benjamin	Jonathan
Daries	Mikaela
Gawe	Thozama
Harker	Azelea
Hlela	Nomonde
Jilana	Anelisa
Khorombi	Sheralyn
Khumalo	Nosihle
Klaas	Busisiwe
Kunene	Noluthando
Lebetla	Maneo
Lekoma	Bame
Lishi	Lutendo
Lupindo	Gugu
Makoba	Fransien
Maphumalluma	Asandiswa
Mbiyoza	Zenande
Mkalipi	Ngawethu
Mosito	Karabelo
Msimang	Asante
Nchee	Moliehi
Ncube	Melinda
Ncula	Samantha
Ndzengu	Nobathembu
Nodo	Aphele
Ntlakaza	Zuko
Paulo	Fretson
Rowley	Beth
Shlembe	Sindiswa
Simanga	Joy
Smayile	Sinovuyo
Thiam	Bouso
Vangile	Velisani
Whitfield	Kyle

**BUDDINGQ FULL YEAR**

Harris	Megan
Hlabangane	Zandile

Jager	Herschelle-lee
Jantjies	Geradon
Kekana	Vanessa
Kipury	Sirayion
Magengelele	Mihle
Majezi	Bulumko
Malinga	Thembelihle
Mbethe	Moroosi
Mini	Sifanelwe
Ngcingane	Tuleka
Phewa	Zama
Pitcairn	Timothy
Samela	Uthandile
Shirima	Sharon
Williams	Roche
Zulu	Ruth

**BUDDINGQ LEADERS**

Ahrends	Zoë
Chakabuda	Tatenda
Dabengwa	Ayanda
Kruger	Thomas
Kymdell	Tanya
Mlambo	Hlengiwe
Smith	Emily
Timmer	Paige

**9/10ths STUDENT LEADERS**

Hadebe	Luyanda
Innocentia Lishi	Lutendo
Klaas	Sibusiso
Magwala	Anam
Mdunana	Busisiwe
Michelle May	Andisiwe
Moloto	Katlego
Ncula	Samantha
Nkosi	Lungile
Pule	Kagiso
Reid	Megan
Sathekge	Kgaugelo

## VUKA! MAKANA INITIATIVE

Deutschmann	Cindy
Gaybba	Richard
Mashile	Dimakatso Cleopatra
Mdoda	Nomangesi Precious
Samela	Uthandile

## CERCO SHORT COURSE

Sisusa	Ubenathi
Harker	Azelea
Sikhakhane	Anetta
Carolus	Samantha
Ramatsabana	Phatsimo
Makhanye	Samkelisiwe
Naiboo	Kelisha
Terry	Mario
Yedwa	Sesonasipho
Mekuto	Siyolise
Madywabe	Lungisa
Mphahlele	Mashienyane

## TUTOR TRAINING SHORT COURSE

Williams	Sinovuyo
Ngqokoto	Bona
Rasimphi	Liivha
Eapen	Pamela
Njanje	Idris
Skeyi	Sinoxolo
Gunuza	Sive
Khoza	Lungelo
Maqizana	Yandisa
Nkosi	Tshepang
Sitole	Sivuyile
Mbongwa	Cebisile
Ramphele	Letumile
Mpofu	Mbali
Moropane	Tumisho
Dube	Lucia
Qubanisa	Wendy

## 9 TENTHS MENTORING SHORT COURSE

Banda	Michelle
Banjatwa	Mbeko Maud
Barnabas	Andisiwe
Batyi	Axola
Bopape	Tebadi
Chauke	Masego
Chetty	Celine
Chigwedere	Samantha
Chikwezero	Candy
de la Fontaine	Benjamin
Duxbury	Theodore Orlando
Evans	Nicola
Faku	Zikhona
Gower	Sarah
Gqubule	Khanyisile
Hadebe	Luyanda
Hlabangane	Zandile
Hlwitana	Ntomboxolo
Holwana	Lisakhanya
Iheanetu	Chidinma
Jaca	Likhaya
Jokazi	Liyabukwa
Kabane	Zolani
KaMawabo	Thembani Nkazilo
Kanase	Mpolise
Khanyayo	Nombulelo Patience
Klaas	Sibusiso
Kweleta	Thabiso
Kweliti	Alizwa
Lerotholi	Moeketsi
Lishi	Lutendo Innocentia
Lukhele	Nonhlanhla
Machiha	Nigel
Madondo	Nkosinathi Emmanuel
Magengelele	Mihle
Magwala	Anam
Makhetha	Relebohile
Manciya	Avela
Masabalala	Phumelela Zizipho Nangamso
Masango	Naledi
Masoabi	Ntseka Thomas
Matsoso	Lineo Manthatisi
May	Andisiwe Michelle
Mayekiso	Sinovuyo

Mbiyo	Esihle Siyamthanda
McCann	Claire
McPherson	Ts'episo
Mdunana	Busisiwe
Mes	Nike Francis
Mfenyana	Anelisa
Mhlungu	Nelisa Nicole
Mnamata	Sesona
Mnqwazi	Sihle
Moffat	Rachel
Mokotedi	Relebohile
Moloto	Katlego
Mphaphuli	Mashudu
Msane	Andile Nomvelo Fidelia
Musiyandaka	Tariro
Ncula	Samantha
Ndlovu	Genesis
Nkosi	Lungile
Nojekwa	Pelokazi Lulutho
Ntene	Mookho
Nxumalo	Nhlanhla
Nyarashe	Siphosethu
Nyumka	Zikhona
Ochieng	Daniella
Oladipo	Kemi
Paliso	Andisiwe
Pongco	Siyamthanda
Ramoroka	Kgaugelo
Rankhumise	Lerato
Raphela	Nkhame Lydia
Reid	Megan
Roboji	Milisa
Rubushe	Somilangaye
Rulumeni	Linda
Sathekge	Kgaugelo
Seabela	Shatadi
Segapo	Kagiso
Shabangu	Hycnt
Sithole	Tariro
Stevens	Chris
Timana	Nwabisa
Tukulu	Namhla
Tyhomfa	Yamkela
Venkatasamy	Celine
Xhegwana	Sithembele Isaac
Zulu	Londeka

## SQM VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

Bentele	Vathiswa
Booi	Busisiwe
Che	Luleka
Davis	Essie
Frans	Nompumelelo
Goliath	Benecia
Hlwempu	Nomazwi
Kotelo	Lungelwa
Magadla	Tembela
Marthinus	Christelle
Mati	Siphosethu
Roberts	Berenise
Sandi	Pamella
Shelle	Noluthando



## CITATIONS



### SOCIETY/SPORTS CLUBS

#### Canoe Club

As newcomers to the Community Engagement scene, the Canoe Club has been on a learning journey this year. Their journey can be summed up in a quote from one of their committee members saying, ‘ for the first time in my stay at Rhodes I felt like an active member of the community this year’. They’ve been at the forefront of encouraging other sports clubs to dig deeper and do more. The Canoe Club hosted community clean ups that brought several civil organisations together and have consequently challenged other clubs follow their trend. The club has also established a relationship with Nombulelo High school geography pupils. Together with these pupils they go paddling at Settlers dam and expose the learners to the practical element of geography.

The manner in which the committee and the members have embraced and lived community engagement principles, particularly mutuality has shown their growth as a student group. The club has had a highly successful year which they believe ‘adding Community Engagement to [their] agenda’ has been key.

#### Sailing and Kite surfing Club

The Sailing and Kitesurfing club has established themselves as a meaningful partner with Eluxolweni Shelter for boys. In the first half of the year they committed to refurbishing the library and with this goal completed much earlier than anticipated they decided to build on their success.

The Club, now facilitates weekly reading sessions with the Eluxolweni boys and has started regular soccer training sessions. These training sessions have resulted in the boys competing against St Andrew’s teams. With this solid relationship settling down, the club embarked on another task. They accepted a challenge from the Canoe club to clean up an area of Makhandla. They did this, and realizing how much waste had piled up they, again, took the goal and extended it. They now do regular beach clean ups whenever they go on sailing and surfing trips.

The committee has shown unity and support for the projects they have undertaken and have sought ways to maintain the relationship into the new year and beyond. The club has found value for its members by including Community Engagement into their agenda. This year has been a learning curve for them and one that they have wholeheartedly embraced: evident in their approach in forming relationships and identifying a sustainable projects and their dedication and persistence.

### **Enactus**

Enactus Rhodes University is a society of students, academics and business leaders who use the power of entrepreneurship to change and transform lives of people in our communities. The overarching goal for Enactus is to achieve the triple bottom line of social responsibility, economic development and environmental sustainability. Enactus has established a relationship with the Assumption Development Centre as their key community partner. Enactus has hosted business training workshops in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency and the Assumption Development Centre (ADC) to empower local entrepreneurs and the ADC with skills they will need for the projects and businesses to be successful. The society started a project called ShuCliniQ which provides services such as cleaning of shoes, educating people on foot diseases and providing shoe repairs. This project reduces the usage of water by providing a dry cleaning of shoes, the operations of this project started at Rhodes University and this project aims to grow and impact the larger Makhanda community. Enactus also works with the Kuyasa Special Needs School, the main aim of this intervention is to empower the school learners with entrepreneurship skills and Resume writing skills and assisting them with selling their craft such as bead work and mats which they produce from using recycled papers, bottles and plastics.

### **Sudo Society**

The Sudo Society is a computer society at Rhodes University, they have formalised a partnership with the Joza Youth Hub. The society has at minimum spent three hours a week, often considerably more in the Joza Youth Hub Computer Labs. Currently there is no public access to the internet in Joza so this service of maintaining labs and internet is critical to school going pupils for homework and school projects. The society has repaired computers which are broken, installed needed software and problem-solved a myriad of technical problems which occur in their network and relatively old computers. Sudo Society has continued being part of initiatives to expand internet connectivity at the Joza Youth Hub and building stronger relationships with schools in underprivileged areas of Makhanda/Grahamstown. The society has actively participated in these initiatives, offering technical expertise, creative ideas and numerous working hours. The society has sent its representative to important events in the organisation such as special community events, workshops and annual general meetings in support of the NPO's working in the Hub.



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

### **Nelson Mandela Hall**

Nelson Mandela Hall has a team of dedicated Community Engagement Representatives that understand what mutually beneficial partnerships means and are the only Hall to have appointed a Hall CE rep which holds the CE Reps team together. They have also mastered the joint planning, joint execution and joint evaluation of the community partner's framework. They are a dedicated, committed and active team that was able to tackle a number of goals with their Community Partner, CM Vellem Primary. They also respectfully involved and engaged parents with great caution as to not cross any boundaries and were mindful of the school's protocol. Activities included supplying water to the School, facilitating sporting activities, organizing an environmental day with a cleaning up campaign and running a sanitary pad initiative. In their efforts to embrace diversity they also visited the elderly at the Brookshaw Old Age Home with the CM Vellem Primary School children which was a great success.

### **Allan Gray House and Prince Alfred House**

Allan Gray and Prince Alfred House have worked tirelessly this year in making sure they continue with their commitment to their community partner, the Noncedo Pre-School. They have shown resilience by remaining active even when the other residences in the Hall decided to drop out. This did not discourage them, rather inspired them to work as a team to realise some goals set by the Noncedo Pre-school team. The goals realized for the year included school readiness activities, writing a funding proposal, a talent show for the children, a fun sports day, a tour to the Albany Museum and the sharing of some fundraising strategies. A comment made by one of the CE reps was: 'Our passion and desire or rather our love for Community Engagement kept us going.' The work of these two Houses is commendable and their contribution to the Noncedo Preschool children and staff has made a meaningful difference.

### **St Mary's Hall**

With the new partnership between St Mary Hall and Little Starz of Hope, St Mary's Hall has risen against all odds to make their community partner feel comfortable and welcome in the partnership. St Mary's Hall has achieved all the goals they have jointly planned with their partner for 2019 which is commendable. The highlights of the year are; a fun day for children which was organized by the CE Reps and the Partner, preparing a garden and planting seedlings at the school, an educational outing with the school children to Botanical gardens and painting of the outdoor area at the School. These were the four goals identified by the partner and jointly achieved by the pre-school and St Mary's Hall.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

### **CM Vellem Health Promoting Primary School**

CM Vellem is a key partner to several programmes in the Community Engagement Division. CM Vellem is the pool from which children attend the Joza Chess and Reading Club, they're an



active partner in Siyakhana e Makana (working with Nelson Mandela Hall for 5 years) and have recently been included in the Budding Q early literacy programme.

This nomination is particularly special because recommendations came from 3 different students, each from different volunteer programmes that CM Vellem participates in. Volunteers appreciate the reciprocal nature of the relationships that have emerged with Teachers at this school and feel that their effort is meaningful. The quantum of this work needs a champion; which CM Vellem has found in Ms Mpumie Frans, a dynamic teacher at the school. She has been a Community Engagement stalwart, encouraging and coaching our volunteers for several years. Volunteers speak highly of the lengths she goes to ensure every meeting is attended, every event is a success and everybody is cared for. Similarly, as a division we've relied on her for expertise in multilingual storytelling and to be a role model to fellow volunteer managers. She is respected for the way she listens and contributes, genuinely and thoughtfully.


This nomination is for the School but particularly recognizes the extraordinary leadership of Mpumie Frans, always building teams and surrounding herself with people, the time she selflessly dedicates to community engagement, the encouragement and inspiration she imparts to students and the tireless work she has contributed to making her corner in Makhandla very bright.

### **Awarenet**

Awarenet is an ICT Programme with the aim of supporting learners and equipping them with research skills at the Joza Youth Hub, as well as helping local school teachers and RUCE volunteers gain experience in creative teaching methods, project management and working with ICT as an educational tool. Thanks to the efforts of a strong leadership team and committed group of student volunteers, Awarenet has seen improvement in interactions between student volunteers and learners due to the relationships they have built throughout the year at sessions reaching over 35 learners weekly and over 300 on special occasions such as lab workshops, which has led to high team morale as well as compliance from learners, this is evident from what the team has achieved such as learners editing and presenting their own video presentations. The site's biggest highlight for the year has been securing funding for both their School Corporation Programme which focuses on empowering school teachers through computer literacy, and for their core learning programme for learners as well.

### **Inkululeko**

Inkululeko is a holistic education programme dealing with over 30 learners who meet with volunteers 3 times a week, with an aim to guide learners through the maze of high school positioning them well for their future career paths. The student volunteers engage with learners in meaningful ways to stimulate conversation and interest in their studies, bringing relevance to education. Inkululeko has had a hugely successful year due to collaborative efforts and partnerships with various stakeholders such as Ikamva Youth, Awarenet and Home of Joy, despite challenges that the site had faced previously. The Inkululeko team did not only



overcome challenges such as not having enough volunteers, but went on to excel and go beyond the call of duty, organizing information sessions such as a Career Day as well as NSFAS Applications Drive to equip their learners who are to enter university next year, and launching a successful pilot programme at Kutliso Daniels Secondary School with the hopes of improving the school's pass rate.

## **STUDENT RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR**

### **Nosiseko Mtati**

Nosiseko Mtati is conducting her MEd research part-time while she is also the Catchment Co-ordinator of the Tsitsa Project. In this dual role, she not only conducts community engagement research to build new knowledge (as described above), but also actively practices leadership in community engagement through her role as Catchment Co-ordinator. After supporting the work of the Tsitsa Project as a community engagement officer, she chose to do a second Masters as she became more committed to the social side of the work. Ms. Mtati often works 'behind the scenes' of the Tsitsa Project in an ethical and socially responsible way, to prepare the ground for the wide range of researchers who work with communities in the Tsitsa catchment. She has become a role model for many participants in the Research project, and her insight, advice and leadership are sought after within the project team. Ms. Mtati has demonstrated a deep sense of commitment, humility and care in her work with the communities in the Tsitsa river catchment. Her academic research as a young scholar is innovative, relevant and builds much-needed knowledge to support community engagement in the context of natural resource management.

### **Samuel Motitsoe**

After successfully obtaining his MSc here at Rhodes University, in 2016, Samuel Motitsoe joined the Department of Zoology and Entomology as an nGAP Lecturer and started his PhD study. Samuel is in his final stages of his PhD, which quantifies freshwater ecosystem recovery and restoration following the biological control of invasive alien aquatic weeds in Southern African. In his commitment as a young academic, he has developed and taught a vocational course in Entomology 3 on freshwater ecology. Apart from his official teaching and research interests, Samuel has been involved in several community engagement outreach programmes around water quality, environmental education and stewardship with Makhandha High School Biology Interns and Rhodes University MBA students. Between 2015 and 2019 Samuel hosted almost 100 high school interns from schools in Makhandha who are introduced to the field of invasion biology and freshwater research. Further, he takes MBA students from the Rhodes Business School and introduces them to the field of freshwater ecology. Through his career path, Samuel has showed that research, teaching and community engagement are the three main key areas of communicating research, dissemination knowledge and transformation.

### **Sustainable Land Management GEF5 Team**

Ms Francis, Mr Duma and Mr Falayi are all equally and passionately giving of their time, knowledge and skills to a Global Environment Facility (GEF5) Funded Sustainable Land

Management (SLM) Project being implemented at Machubeni communal lands, Eastern Cape. Ms Francis has provided training and knowledge to more than 25 community champions in the practice of conservation agriculture and all of them have improved vegetable production and diversity in their home gardens thereby contributing to food security of each household. Through her efficient and responsible work ethic and lively and friendly nature, Buhle has demonstrated that she is passionate about conservation agriculture, rural livelihoods resilience and youth development. Mr Duma has provided training and knowledge to more than 25 community members in the practice of simple, cheap and effective land rehabilitation techniques and he successfully led a group of 30 'Land Conservation Activists' who have implemented erosion control work over more than 50 hectares of land across the five project villages. Mr Falayi is working on improved and polycentric governance of natural resources across the GEF5 Project villages. He has been responsible for successfully putting in place and leading a multi-stakeholder forum which has contributed to improved decision making and coordination of resource management and rehabilitation activities in the five project villages. As a team, they strive to promote land restoration and foster sustainable agricultural practices with communities.

### **GOLD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (TOP 10)**


#### **Sam Ncula**

Sam is passionate about education. She has been a mentor in the 9/10ths mentoring programme since its inception in 2016 and was selected as a leader in 2019. She has also joined the Budding Q early literacy programme this year. As a leader she radiates energy and friendliness. She is reliable, respected and organized and has often offered up solutions or ideas to the betterment of the programmes.

As a mentor and volunteer she has experienced a variety of educational contexts, and has approached each situation with compassion and understanding. She has a deep understanding of community engagement. Her relationships are meaningful and whole, well-considered and bi-directional. Sam goes above and beyond the expectations of her, often using her own resources and time to ensure her mentees realise their full potential against all odds. She will organize tutoring for them, or access the guidance and motivation they need. Recently she and a co-leader have embarked on a campaign to motivate mentors by reuniting mentees who are studying at Rhodes with their mentors and making short videos to share on social media.

Sam challenges the norm and tackles challenges in a practical manner. Her input has been useful in shaping and informing the Nine Tenths Mentoring Programme. Her approach to volunteering is one that demonstrates individual and group learning and growth.

Sam works hard to connect to each of her mentees personally and creates a unique experience for each of them, every session. It's notable to mention that all Sam's mentees have substantially improved their matric results each year (moving up at least one level of pass) and she has managed to maintain a relationship with all her mentees. That translates to



consistent engagement with 8 mentees, and this number grows! Her investment in building and sustaining deep and meaningful relationships as part of human development is very significant and we applaud her practice.

### **Claire McCann**

Claire McCann started volunteering at GADRA Matric School in 2016 as a History tutor. She carried this responsibility effortlessly. Her group of learners worked very well under her guidance. In 2017, she joined the GADRA Mentoring Programme, she demonstrated incredible commitment in her responsibility as a mentor. Her consistency led to her being endorsed as a mentor and student leader of the GADRA Mentoring Programme in 2018. Based on the excellent track record of volunteering and leadership skills, in 2019 she was approached to be a student leader of the successful Grade 12 mentoring programme, Nine Tenths. She humbly declined the offer, but rather applied and was accepted as a mentor in the same programme. Claire displays a great sense of humility at all times. She deliberately makes an effort to understand the context in which she works in, and thereafter immerses herself fully in the work. She carries within herself a sense of Ubuntu, a true understating of what community engagement means. She has maintained an excellent track record of attendance throughout the years. This year yet again, she maintains 100% attendance in all volunteer activities. Her two mentees have benefitted tremendously from her support. Both Grade 12 learners are undoubtedly on a positive academic trajectory, one of whom has been able to submit a strong Rhodes University application for 2020 studies.

### **Sive Vena**

Sive has been a student leader in the Engaged Citizens Programme for the past 3 years. His leadership is quiet and gentle, yet impactful. As leader he thinks creatively and has managed to balance all his commitments with integrity. In 2019 he accepted a co-leadership position in the Scout Group and has worked well with Itumeleng Sebudi to create meaningful volunteer experiences for their peers. Together they make a strong team of well-organised and passionate leaders; who can be relied on.

Sive works tirelessly to form close relationships in the spaces he works. He makes every effort to understand the lives and context of the young boys he's worked with as a way to improve projects with them and to coach other volunteers in the group. This is evident in the relationship that he has with his peers and boys alike. He is respected for the ideas he brings to the table and his ability to adapt and learn on the go. His interactions and work he has produced with fellow volunteers and scouts shows his understanding of community engagement to be full and broad. Sive lives the philosophy of the Scout Group (his partner site); he is 'open-hearted (avoiding closure), open-minded (welcoming the unexpected) and open-hearted (valuing diversity and difference)".

### **Megan Harris**

Megan joined Budding Q on a quest to align her interests in education with a practical element; volunteering. She volunteers at CM Vellem, in one of our largest groups of children. Despite the

challenges that came with such big numbers, Megan was able to problem solve and ensure that all children in the group were included. She showed a full understanding of the programme, from the week-by-week content to the role volunteers played in ensuring the impact of the project was realized.

Megan has an honest opinion on the development of children and the improvements needed in the programme. This opinion is valued by programme coordinators and taken into consideration more broadly. She also takes it upon herself to think creatively about how to implement her own ideas.


She took bold steps to take on leadership responsibilities, going above and beyond what is expected of volunteers and similarly was dynamic enough to follow somebody else's lead. Megan has a gentle command with children and is respected amongst her fellow volunteers. Each week she is well-prepared and open to the experience. The enthusiasm and care she brings to each session is admirable and appreciated by teachers and children.

### **Sanele Ngubo**

Sanele is the student leader of the Parent Engagement Programme (PEP). This year Sanele was part of a group of 7 tutors, and their volunteering was structured such that each tutor had their designated subject to tutor, each tutor would then be responsible for the preparation of their session and progress tracking. Sanele has introduced additional assistance for learners and parents involved in PEP. He has done this by taking part in an academic/ career guidance workshop during the first term, where different industry leaders were invited to share their experience in their various fields of study, profession or service sector with Grade 11 and 12 learners as well as their parents. Sanele was not only a speaker at this critical event, but also helped the coordinator of the program with finding more professionals in different fields to give a motivational speech. In 2019 Sanele also took part in an application day hosted on campus by PEP where parents and learners were assisted by volunteers to do their application for university. Sanele has participated in various other volunteering spaces within and outside of Rhodes University, through mentorship, presenting on opportunities Rhodes offers for matric learners, exam preparation and facilitating the graduation screening. Sanele was voted the "2017 Volunteer of the Year" and he continues to participate in community engagement offering service at the highest level.

### **Asakhe Cuntsulana**

This is Asakhe's 4<sup>th</sup> year volunteering at Access Music Project (AMP). At AMP, he is a volunteer marimba teacher, teaching primary school marimba bands. Officially, he volunteers once a week, but more frequently than not he attends two or three times a week to work with his group of learners. Over the past 2 years, Asakhe has served as the volunteer leader for AMP and during this time he has shown great initiative at organising the other volunteers, setting up a WhatsApp group for communications, reminding volunteers of deadlines, checking in with them, and motivating them. This has made a significant difference to the AMP team. He has made himself available to new volunteers to assist them with practical input on marimba



repertoire and marimba teaching, and to assist them with challenges they are facing. He often approaches the AMP staff with good ideas for how to improve the marimba programme and the volunteer partnership, and they have taken much of his advice on board. Asakhe is undoubtedly an inspiring and passionate marimba teacher, who cares for his learners and gives the most of himself to see them grow. He is patient and humble and has a great way of working with young people. He has initiated several of his own projects under the volunteering banner. He does all this while not only volunteering at AMP, but also volunteering for a number of other schools / projects in town (engagements which were not organised through the university but of his own accord).

### **Mandilakhe Valela**

Mandilakhe Valela has been a volunteer since his first Year at Rhodes, which was 2016. He started off by being involved in Nokwandile Day Care Centre, participating as part of Jan Smuts Dining Hall Community Engagement program. In 2017, he became more involved as the Student Leader in the Student Volunteer Program while volunteering at Ikamva. As a Student Leader, Mandilakhe had the primary task of forming effective relationships with different Stakeholders which included but not limited to Site Managers, Student Volunteers, Community Engagement, and the Learners. In 2018, he continued with the responsibility of being the Student Leader in the Engaged Citizen Program, assisting with the recruitment and registration of new volunteers. Mandilakhe did well to present in the Community Engagement Symposium on the topic 'The Peaks of Student Volunteerism: A Student Leaders Perspective'. In 2019, as a Student Leader he worked very closely with other Student Leaders from different Projects, offering support and collaborating with them in their different Programs. Mandilakhe also presented in the 2019 Community Engagement Imbizo, on the theme 'Reimagining South African Public-School Education System'. He also organised a Career Day for the Community Partner Organisations and other important Stakeholders.

### **Sibusiso Klass**

Community engagement has become a part of Sibusiso's life. Initially, Sibusiso started out serving as part of her Residence's Community Engagement Programme volunteering at Samuel Ntsiko Primary School as a maths tutor. This sparked her interest and she went on to serve in the Parents Engagement Programme for Primary School. Sibusiso has also volunteered at Noncedo Pre-School where she supported literacy, involving herself in story telling, reading and comprehension of the stories shared. She was called on to join the Nine Tenths Programme when there were a few vacancies for Mentors, she relished the challenge. In her first year as a Nine Tenths Mentor, her two grade 12 mentees got accepted at Tertiary institutions, one at Rhodes and one at Lilitha College, a fine outcome for her efforts. Sibusiso then went on to take a leadership role in the Nine Tenth Mentoring Programme in 2019. Being a student leader and having mentees has allowed Sibusiso a chance to grow in the community engagement space. Sibusiso has always been dedicated to the education of youth in Makhanda.

**Uthandile Samela**

Uthandile is an exceptional volunteer, always consistent, passionate and creative. She immerses herself in the experience and is often heard to state that volunteerism is a way of life, a form of servanthood. In her time at Rhodes she has served on a number of initiatives. She is a volunteer in the Budding Q Literacy Programme, she found it very fulfilling working closely with the student volunteer leader and pupils. She also volunteers at Fikizolo, working with Grad 7 pupils but her most fulfilling experience has been working with the CozNest Day Care Centre. She reports that the preschoolers create a happy environment where they all laugh a lot, engage in the small things like tying shoelaces and knowing one's body parts, how to dream big and hug tight. Over and above the programmes she has worked in, she has also contributed 25 hours to the Vuka Makana Programme.

Uthandile believes that community engagement is all about relationships and connecting firstly with yourself as a human being and listening and learning from the wisdom of those around you. In other words, from the bus driver, the team itself to the partners as well as all the children she works with, she has a knack of connecting meaningfully with everyone. She is a great team player, sometimes leading and sometimes following but always alert and open to opportunity. The unity formed among everyone including the student leader has made a significant impact when working with the children. Uthandile reports that she has benefitted much from the time spent in community projects which has broadened her thinking, improved her time management and built a passion for service.

**Lukhanyiso Cezula**

Lukhanyiso has been in the Engaged Citizen Programme for two years as a student volunteer for Ikamva Youth where he assists learners from grade 10 - 12 with assignments, tests and examinations and also helps them to understand subject-specific key concepts. He was elected as the student leader in Ikamva for 2019.

In 2018 he also served in a leadership role in another Community based organization, the Assumption Development Centre (ADC) in Joza. As the Community Engagement officer of Rhodes Rotaract Club he assisted young children with homework and reading for meaning.

Lukha is also the current Community Engagement Officer of the Rhodes Marimba Society. He is a firm believer that only a life lived serving others is a life worthwhile and that we are members of the greater community before we are students, hence he has immersed himself fully in community engagement at Rhodes University due to principles that were instilled in him at home such as compassion, collaboration and honesty.



A very special thanks must go to our Donor Partners who have invested heavily  
in our shared vision, thank you!

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## Niven Trust

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## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

### PARTNERSHIPS

- GBS Mutual Bank funded the Nine Tenths Programme and sponsored 7 of the Missing Middle students at Rhodes. They also funded the installation of 28 water tanks, providing much needed water to 22 Pre-school Centre's in Makanda. Community Members, Pam Sande and Cindy Deutschman led this initiative.
- The Transnet Foundation and Kingswood College have enjoyed a five year partnership educating vulnerable pupils. The first three pupils registered at Rhodes in 2019 and are coping well.
- The Standard Bank, Tutuwa Trust has committed to three years funding for projects in the VC's Education Initiative. The Niven Trust and the Davies Foundation have remained consistent partners.
- The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust have funded transport for student volunteers for the past 3 years.

### SOCIAL INNOVATION HUB

The Rhodes University Social Innovation Hub was launched in June this year, as a result of a partnership between 5 EU Universities and 6 South African Universities. This hub is purpose-built to help bridge the digital divide in our country and capture and share social innovation globally through storytelling.

We have three lab facilities: a fixed lab at RUCE, 2 Semi-fixed labs in Joza (ADC and JYH), and a mobile pop up lab. These 'third' spaces have successfully served community partners, academics, RU students and school pupils.

In only 6 months we have accomplished the following: held 11 digital story telling circles, hosted 7 Train the Trainer workshops, facilitated 72 digital literacy classes, produced 30 digital stories, hosted 2 public story telling nights, published 21 profiles of social innovation in our city and produced two digital storytelling course modules - currently being used by the 11 university partners.

\*Approximately 70 people move through the RUCE Social Innovation Hub each week.



## **ENGAGED RESEARCH, SERVICE LEARNING AND THE SCHOLARSHIP OF ENGAGEMENT**

The number of research outputs from the Community Engagement Division has been growing exponentially over the past four years. Our researchers are publishing in high impact international Journals and presenting at prestigious international conferences. Over the last academic year RUCE researchers and scholars have produced 5 accredited journal articles and chapters, as well as 16 conferences presentations. All of this highlights the growing expertise in the emerging discipline of the Scholarship of Engagement at Rhodes University, which is now recognised as a National Leader for engaged research.

2019 was a particularly exciting year with the first two Masters Students supervised in RUCE, Thandiswa Nqowana and Mateboho Ralekhetla, successfully completing their MSc degrees using engaged and participatory methodologies. The graduation ceremony was also an important time at which the Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Award Medal for Community Engagement was awarded to a pioneer of engaged research, Prof. Tally Palmer.

### **SERVICE LEARNING**

RUCE has also continued to pioneer new ways of strengthening Service-Learning (SL) within Rhodes and across South Africa. This year, RUCE launched a new accredited online Community-Based Service-Learning course. This course has successfully equipped academics with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to create sustainable courses in partnership with community based organisations in order to improve knowledge exchange programs at the university and foster a new generation of engaged Rhodes graduates. Central to the growth in SL has been the funding granted by the Rhodes Central Budget this year, 22 projects have been funded.

Community Engagement was integrated into the Rhodes Teaching and Learning Policy for the first time. RUCE organized a highly successful IMBIZO at NELM in May this year.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMES**

### **ENGAGED CITIZENS PROGRAMME**

Tonight 198 student volunteers have met the required standard and will be recognized for their commitment to the Makanda community. This is the first year they will be receiving a University accredited short course certificate for their voluntary service.

- 4 of our ECP student leaders presented papers at our annual Community Engaged Learning Imbizo

- Sesonasipho Yedwa (last year's Student Volunteer of the Year), presented his volunteerism-based academic research paper on using organisational psychology for the public good at the Rhodes University Postgraduate Conference, a topic he intends on continuing with at Masters Level.
- The following NPO's partnered with Rhodes Divisions to host special events: Sibanye and RU Equity & Institutional Culture Division, kamva Youth and RU Student Affairs Division and Inkululeko and RU Career Centre.

### **SIYAKHANA@MAKANA (S@M) PROGRAMME**

Over a 400 students in Rhodes Residences participated in S@M led by 56 CE Residence Reps, the amount of work done by the students and their S@M partners in achieving the goals set by their partners is to be commended. Each community partners sets 3 goals for the year, the Residences plan and execute the programme together.

## **VC'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE**


### **BUDDING Q**

Budding Q is an early childhood literacy programme aimed to develop the fine and gross motor skills children need for emergent literacy. The beginning of the year baseline assessments confirmed the shocking state of literacy in our city. Budding Q is locally designed to address this fact. We partnered with SEVEN Grade R classes. Our students, particularly the community psychology honours students are key to the programme's success and they rose to the occasion, reflecting deeply, critiquing carefully and committing wholeheartedly to make the programme run smoothly. We are proud to announce that 54 of our volunteers will be awarded 'committed volunteer' certificates this year.

### **NINE TENTHS MENTORING**

A highly successful partnership with GADRA education, Faculty of Education, Ntsika, Mary Waters and Nombulelo Secondary has resulted in another outstanding year. Tonight, we are awarding 90 RU mentors short course certificates. This qualification demands high levels of commitment: over 100 hours of work! This is the most we've awarded in any year and a testament to the dedication to the programme and commitment to reviving Grahamstown/ Makhanda's schooling.

This year the programme re-introduced a second Mary Waters Cohort, making 2019 a bumper year, reaching 196 learners mentored by 105 RU volunteers. Currently the Grade 12's in the



programme have produced 74 Bachelor passes, all of who have applied to Rhodes University (15 already accepted).

Nine Tenths is a TEAM effort. Mentors, Mentees, the Management Team, particularly Ashley and Babsy from GADRA for crunching numbers and serving the tough love children often need, the schools and their amazing teachers that drive the functional aspects of the programme, and their principals that are dedicated and persistent. We would like to take a moment to appreciate one of our amazing principals, Nicci Hayes, who will be leaving Nombulelo this year, she has been extraordinary in this leadership role.

### **PARENT ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

- This programme targets Grade 1-6 staff at Rhodes and their school going children. Parents (the staff) select the content of their workshops and pupils enjoy academic support weekly.
- Weekly Saturday classes for Grade 11 and 12 pupils, tutored by Rhodes volunteers, lunch prepared by parent Precious Mdoda.
- Of the fourteen Grade 12's on the programme, 7 have applied to Rhodes (3 already accepted).
- Parents have enrolled in computer classes twice weekly in the Social Innovation Hub, being computer literate has helped support their children.
- Hosted a Careers Afternoon with the parents and learners, where people from different fields gave speeches and insight on how to get into the respective field.

### **INTSOMI READING PROGRAMME**

This programme targets Grade 1-6 staff and their young children (0-14 years) to promote early literacy by providing reading packs for staff to take home to their children and by providing workshops around the importance of a culture of reading in the home. Highlights this year include an Intsomi Family Day for parents and children in June, publication of the first Intsomi newsletter and a service learning project with 3rd year RU TV Journalism students.

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE...

collectively, we shape and inspire &

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