



RHODES UNIVERSITY
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The Rhodes University Community Newsletter

Rhodos

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Rhodos: December Edition

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Rhodes Book Launch - Flights of wonder

No less than 16 books were published by Rhodes academics this year. At the annual book launch hosted by the Vice Chancellor, the writers were invited to share with their colleagues what their books are all about, in turn inspiring others to pick up their pens.

“Scholarly books enhance our understanding of the world and frequently break new ground,” said Vice Chancellor, Dr Saleem Badat in his introduction. “I’m sure the writers among us here will all agree that there is something magical in how a book comes together creating a flight of wonder.”

With most of the titles falling under Humanities, Prof Tebello Nykong made sure that the Sciences were not to be underestimated, kicking off proceedings in her inimitable way. She co-edited **Photosensitisers in Medicine, Environment, and Security** along with Prof Vefa Ahsen Gebze from Institute of Technology in Turkey. Joking that scientists are known for being brief, she described photosensitisers as the green things which absorb light during photosynthesis. “As chemists we are designers -we design molecules for different purposes- tweaking them here and there to assist in the treatment of cancer or combating water pollution. In medicine we asked, why are clinical trials so slow? and for the environment, how can we find a simple, cheap way to purify household water?”

As editor of **Press Freedom in Africa: Comparative Perspectives** Prof Herman Wasserman collaborated with his colleagues, including Dr Steven Friedman and former Rhodes professor Guy Berger, in investigating the Media Tribunal and the Protection of State Information Act.

Enocent Msindo of History shared some interesting insights into **Ethnicity in Zimbabwe: Transformations in Kalanga and Ndebele Societies, 1860-1990**.

For the visually appealing **Voices from the Forest** ethno botanist Tony Dold and Dr Michelle Cocks, a bio-cultural diversity conservationist, explores the relationship between the plants and animals of the forest and the customs of Xhosa people. Based on sound research conducted over a period of 15 years, Dr Cocks says “We feel passionately that our research should be made accessible to the general public as knowledge and its processes should not be confined.” The beautiful photographs “capture the intimate relationship people shared with us” and contributes to an interdisciplinary approach to biodiversity studies as “biodiversity isn’t only relevant to scientists linked to people’s heritage”.

Dion Nkomo’s **Specialised Lexicography in African Languages: A model for an Ndebele Dictionary of Linguistic and Literary Terms** is based on his Masters research experiences at the Dictionary Unit of Zimbabwe.

Universal Health Care in Southern Africa: Policy contestation in health system reform in South Africa and Zimbabwe - edited by Greg Ruiters of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and Robert van Niekerk, looks at the commodification of healthcare.

Dr Monika Hendricks represented Prof Laurence Wright and her colleagues from the Institute of the Study of English in Africa (ISEA) in introducing **South Africa’s Education Crisis: Views**

from the Eastern Cape, edited by Prof Wright. The book encompasses at least eight years of research at rural Eastern Cape schools, which she says “clearly shows how the Eastern Cape administration has been imploding before our eyes” over the past few years. She says it was heartening to see how, at a conference held in July, the teachers who are featured in the book got to buy a copy for themselves. “It is important to see what is working, where teachers are being dedicated, because that is surely where we need to make a difference,” she said.

Land Struggles and Civil Society in Southern Africa - edited by Dr Kirk Helliker and Tendai Murisa arose from a network of NGOs based in Zimbabwe at the Institute of Agrarian Studies.

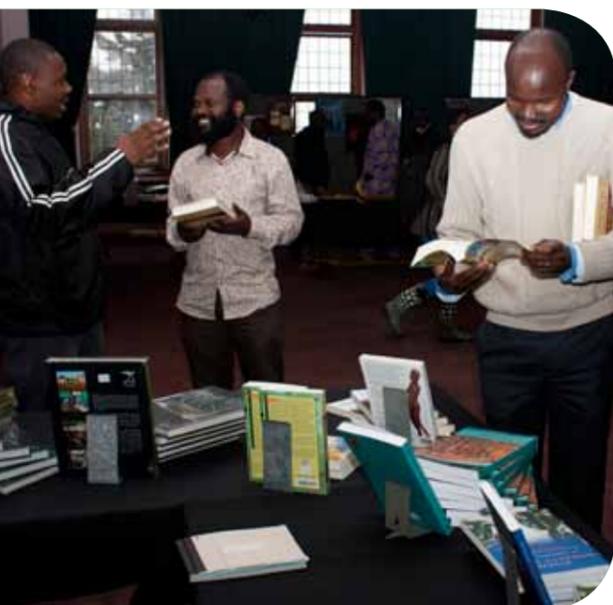
Prof Julia Wells took on a controversial figure in the history of Grahamstown and the Frontier Wars in **The Return of Makhanda: Exploring the Legend**. The seed for the book was sown shortly after moving to Grahamstown in 1993, when she asked a black student about the history of the area. He answered that Makhanda (or Makana) was “a fool as he led his people into battle and they all died for nothing”- referring to how he believed that the bullets of the British would turn to water. But when she got involved with an Arts Festival project with artists at the Egazini centre, different aspects of Makhanda’s story came to light. She now considers him an “early liberation fighter at the heart of the legend” and discusses his demonization, which started as a result of his rivalry with Chief Ntsikana who became applauded for being the first Xhosa Christian.

In **‘Adolescence’, pregnancy and abortion: Constructing a threat of degeneration** Catriona Macleod of the Psychology department explores the “somewhat more muted narratives” of young women of school-going age who fall pregnant. Questioning the accepted assumption that such pregnancies are “a disaster”, causing health problems and lowering the socio-economic status, abortion is depicted as “psychologically damaging”. “This perception persists despite the research that compares teens with older women of similar socio-economic circumstances and shows negligible differences- sometimes swinging to the positive side.”

Prof Dan Wylie introduced **“No other world” Essays on the life-work of Don MacLennan** which he co-edited with MacKenzie as well as a volume of his poetry called **Sailor: poems for my father**. Asking the rhetorical question: of what value is literature? He admits that in terms of solving the practical problems of the world, it’s “completely useless”. But if you take into consideration how we all grapple with the same problems and celebrate similar joys, “every poem is about being a loving person in relation to others”. In **Sailor**, the “somewhat troubled, amicable relationship” with his father is explored, who was a marine engineer who ended up in land-locked Zimbabwe. After reading a moving poem from the volume, he says he had two fathers, his “non-biological father” being the late Prof Don MacLennan. Describing him as “a mentor and gifted teacher who taught me a lot about life, love and almost everything I know about poetry,” he ended off by saying poetry is essential in helping us understand ourselves and each other. “It’s the power of language, the poetry in words, the flesh, blood and breath of it...”

The writers of **Prosecuting the Child Sex Offender; Management, Fourth South African edition** and **The Columbia Guide to South African Literature in English since 1945** were not available to speak.

A copy of each of the books will be displayed at Alumni House as well as be included in the University Library’s collections.



30-year promise culminates in distinctive publication

It was the word ‘banishment’ that captured VC Saleem Badat’s curiosity as a student. The word led him from the UCT banned books section to the doorstep of anti-Apartheid activist Helen Joseph in Norwood, Johannesburg, in 1982.

“Are you interested in banishment?” asked Joseph. Badat replied that he was so interested that he was willing to abandon his MA on forced removals to write about it. Having won her over with a promise to do a study on banishment, Badat received countless documents and lists lovingly compiled during Joseph’s journey through Apartheid South Africa to visit banished people, a cause that had always been close to her heart.

Badat spoke with warmth about the encounter with Joseph at the launch of *The Forgotten People: Political Banishment under Apartheid*, the book that was published 30 years after he had made his pledge. At the intimate ceremony in Eden Grove on 16 October, guests and dignitaries, undeterred by the persistent rainy weather, mingled around gourmet snacks as Badat signed copies of the unique manuscript.

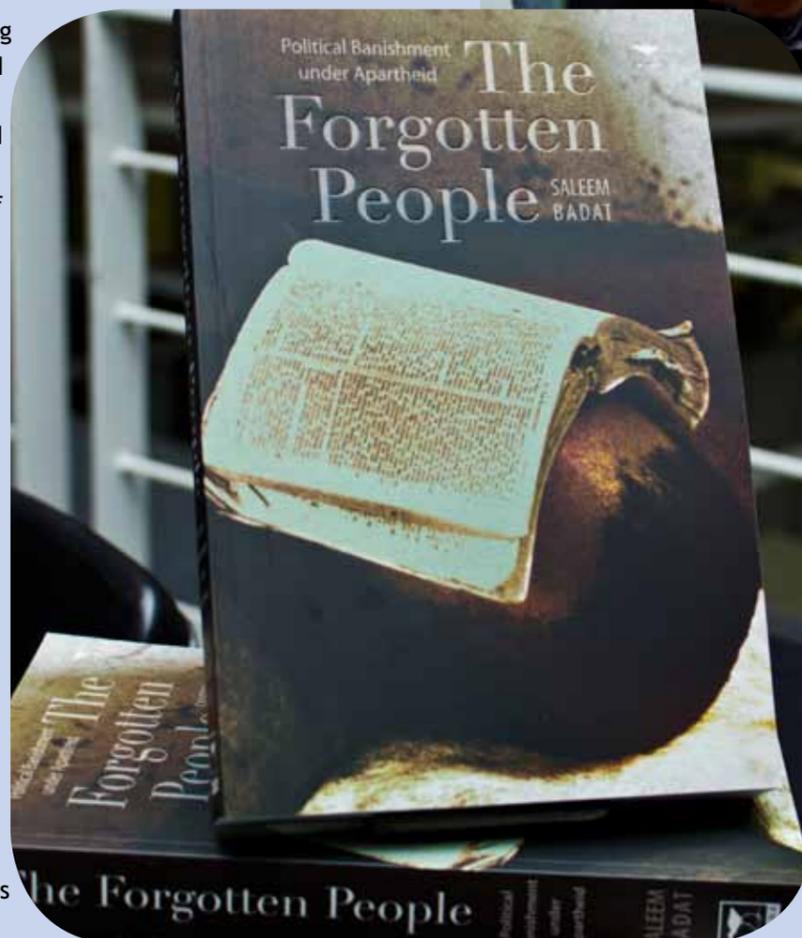
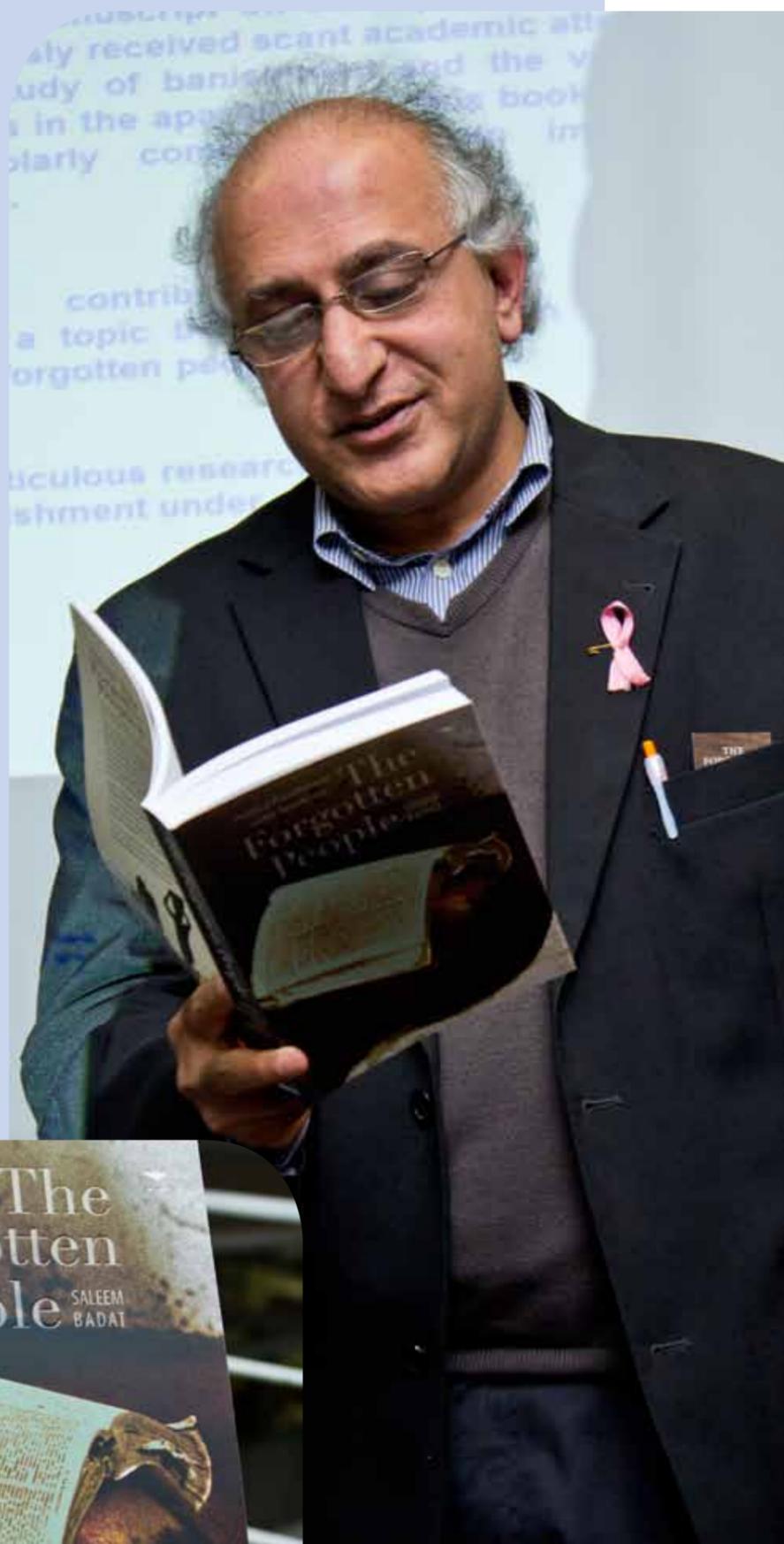
The first scholarly study of its kind, *The Forgotten People* explores the hitherto overlooked matter of Apartheid opponents who were, according to Joseph, ‘punished within the law but outside justice’ and were made to suffer ‘a slow torture of the soul, a living death.’ Those who objected to injustices such as bantu chief systems, bantu education and pass laws extended to women, were ‘plucked’ from their families and moved to desolate, isolated places for unlimited periods of time.

Introduced as a ‘thorough, meticulous piece of research’ by History Head of Department, Paul Maylam, *The Forgotten People* is set in both a global and historical context, starting with Adam and Eve’s exclusion from the Garden of Eden. It is a major contribution to South African historiography as it looks critically at the lack of recognition of obscured practices like banishment, even during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings. The book not only rescues forgotten banished people from oblivion, challenges amnesia about Apartheid in both the old and new generations.

Maylam commended Badat for the feat of writing a book based on sources who were scattered and not always readily available, and added that the book took 30 years to write because “the VC had other jobs along the way.” To the amusement of the audience, he also suggested the possibility of the VC winning the VC award and giving himself the medal.

The importance of *The Forgotten People* lies in its uncovering of the hitherto neglected group of Apartheid opponents who have received no reparations for their unfair punishment. Their plight was visually illustrated in a preview of *Thrown Away*, a documentary concluding the launch and based on Badat’s book.

Amina Cachalia, who was Helen Joseph’s compatriot and journeyed through the country with her, retraces their journey in the 1980s to family members of the banished. The 17-minute preview brought to life the poignant memories, sentiments and anecdotes touched upon by Badat. It also succeeded in complementing the uniqueness of a 30-year promise sparked by Badat’s curiosity about banishment and which has finally come to fruition.



Dr Badat at the launch of his book, *The Forgotten People*.

Don Maclennan's life and work remembered

Poet, writer and literary critic, Don Maclennan's life and work have been encapsulated in a volume of essays, with contributions by among others Joan Meterlerkamp, Malvern van Wyk Smith and Harry Owen. At the launch of 'No other world' - essays on the life and work of Don Maclennan at Rhodes University recently, his colleagues and friends paid tribute to him, which "probably would have annoyed him," quipped his close friend and colleague, Prof Dan Wylie, a co-editor alongside Prof Craig MacKenzie, who teaches English at the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

The two friends and poets both sharing a love of rock climbing, which has a particular resonance for Wylie, who says Maclennan "taught me a crucial lesson in climbing, poetic wisdom and solace in love and other crises". They particularly enjoyed climbing Maclennan's beloved Kompassberg near Nieu-Bethesda where, according to his wishes, his ashes were scattered by his family after his passing.

Fondly holding a well-worn climbing hammer (which is used to knock a piton into a crack in the rock, onto which the climbing gear is clipped) he shared with the gathering how the hammer is symbolic of the man himself. "Surprisingly, Maclennan didn't use many climbing metaphors in his poetry, so I am going to make up for it by using several at once," he said, expanding on "the vigour of his symbolic penetration of his critique and his critique of other's poetry; his insights into life and people with uncanny, sometimes painful accuracy" as well "a certain fidelity to old-fashioned values".

The idea for the volume arose from a colloquium held at Rhodes on the first anniversary of his passing, inviting contributions from among others, his close friends Harry Owen and John Forbis and Nimi Hoffmann, a former student who translated his volume *A Necessary Salt* into German. The colloquium coincided with the launch of his final volume, *Dress Rehearsal*, which he was editing in the hospital after he suffered from a stroke shortly before his death.

Wylie said the volume "feels like a Grahamstown effort" and thanked the contributors, especially Maclennan's wife of many decades, Shirley, who wrote the biographical essay as the opening chapter. "Poetry is a tough nut in our curious world," said Wylie, referring to how the manuscript was rejected by three publishers, purportedly because it wouldn't be profitable enough. He lauded Robin Stuart Clarke of Print Matters, who personally invested so much in getting it published, urging people to "buy as many copies as possible - I don't want him to crash and burn!" Wylie laments the lack of South African studies of poets and their work, who are "profoundly under-represented in syllabi, let alone criticism". He says Maclennan is one of many grossly under-represented writers, both nationally and internationally.

Reading from the introduction, he summed up how many feel who knew him: "Maclennan may well be remembered in the short term as a teacher, guide and unshakeable friend, rather than purely as a writer. For many of us who lived and wrote alongside him during his 43-year sojourn in Grahamstown, the friendship and the writing were inseparable."

Bringing the title of the volume into context, he quoted Maclennan when he wrote: "Here or nowhere is the whole fact. 'There is another world, but it is in this one.'

"This volume is an attempt to ensure that Don's friendship does not remain buried," he concluded.

Prof Craig MacKenzie met Maclennan in 1971 while completing his postgraduate studies at Rhodes. "He awakened in me an enduring love of the written word," he says. His favourite quote of Maclennan's is: "Poetry is a net of thought cast out to catch what can only be sensed in the corner of the mind." The self-same quote has been embedded in a granite plaque at the UJ Theatre, alongside quotes by South African poets in four languages. MacKenzie recalls that this news was met with "a mixture of pride and derision, after which he proclaimed: 'Immortality at last!'"

Copies of the 'No Other World' can be purchased from www.printmatters.co.za and Van Schaik's Books, High Street.



Prof Dan Wylie at the Don Maclennan book launch.

Dr Peter Clayton, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Development, delivered a pithy introduction, mentioning how Maclennan (1929-2009) lectured at the Rhodes English department from 1966 to 1994, after which "he checked out, but never left," teaching for at least another decade after that. Describing him as "a proud maverick - the kind of teacher no student ever forgets," he recalled how he and Wylie used to share a garden and how Dr Clayton would often find Maclennan either "arguing [with Wylie] or picking him up to go climbing".

RU hosts Pharmacy Conference

The Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University recently hosted 130 delegates from universities across South Africa and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry for the 33rd Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa (APSSA) Conference. Delegates representing the University of the Western Cape, North-West University, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of the Witwatersrand, University of KwaZulu-Natal and Tshwane University of Technology attended the annual event which is hosted at different universities around South Africa. Rhodes University has played an important role in the history of the Academy and hosted the inaugural conference in 1979 and the 25th Anniversary meeting in 2004.

The aim of this year's conference, under the theme "From Innovation to Commercialisation - Advancing Practice" was to bring together academic research and industrial thought and process, linking innovation and commercialisation to obtain best practice. According to Head of Department of Pharmacy, Professor Rod Walker, industry support is crucial to the success and effectiveness of pharmacy research and the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes has long had a strong emphasis and impact on industrial pharmacy. "Interaction with industry is very important to us. We would like to build on these interactions and integrate them into our research programmes. This gives us a great opportunity to interact with industry and create possible synergies and partnerships," he said, adding that the success of Rhodes alumni in the industry is indicative of the strength of programme.

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences was established in 1979 with a mission to advance pharmaceutical sciences in South Africa, promote research and education and provide expert opinion by providing a forum for free interchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge and skills by means of meetings and conferences. Keynote speakers this year included Professor Richard Haynes, Dr Tim Rennie and Professor Roger Verbeeck.

A number of competitions form part of the conference, including the Young Scientists competition, Pharmacy teacher of the year award and best publication awards. Wayne Mentz of North-West University won the young scientist award, which was sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, with runners-up Razia Gaida of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Karin Roos of North-West University. As part of the competition postgraduate students registered with the academy give presentations on their research within different disciplines of the pharmaceutical sciences. The presentation must be the participant's first podium presentation at a conference and the presentation must be based on the work undertaken for the participant's first postgraduate degree. This year saw 22 postgraduate students enter, up on 2011 figure of 16. Following the presentations, participants were cross questioned by judges who were drawn from the keynote speakers and represented a broad range of disciplines, including pharmacology, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmaceuticals and pharmacy practice.

Dr Jacques Joubert of the University of the Western Cape was named



Staff and students from the Pharmacy Faculty at the Conference.

Pharmacy Teacher of the Year, which was sponsored by Johnson and Johnson, while Best Publication awards were made to Professor Brian Harvey of North-West University in Pharmacology, Dr Yahya Choonara of Wits for Pharmaceutics, Professor Ilse Truter of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University for Pharmacy Practice and Dr Jacques Joubert for Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

There was a strong Rhodes University contingent in all categories, including Tawanda Dube, Chiluba Mwila, Chiedza Zindove, Tendai Charakira and Farai Mhaka entering the young scientists competition; Catherine Luyt, Sonal Patel and Ayesha Fauzee reading papers relating to their PhD research; and from members of staff Dr Eleonora Goosen, Dr Bhupesh Samant and Professor Roy Jobson. In addition, Prof Walker was elected to the executive committee of the Academy for a two year term that is effective immediately.

As part of its community engagement initiatives the academy encouraged all delegates to donate R50 to Gadra Education Matric School (The Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association), a Grahamstown-based public-benefit organisation which provides key education services and advocates for transformation of the school education system. It was founded in 1957 and is Grahamstown's oldest non-governmental organisation. According to Professor Walker, community engagement forms an integral part to the Academy and the approach of the Faculty and is something they want to consolidate in the future. The R7 500 raised during the conference will be used to provide financial assistance to three Gadra Education learners who show potential in science and would like to pursue undergraduate studies in the pharmaceutical sciences at Rhodes University.

Sponsors for the event included Adcock Ingram, AMCHEM, Apollo Scientific, Biogaran SA, Boehringer Ingelheim, Brookfield Engineering Laboratories, Cipla Medpro, Lasec Group, Microsep, Monitoring and Control Labs, Pharma Dynamics, South African Association of Pharmacists in Industry, Separations and SPEC PHARM.

According to Prof Walker, "By all accounts the meeting held at Rhodes University was once again a success and showcased the town, the University and associated facilities and was the second conference hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy in 2012 that in June/July welcomed the second annual meeting of the South African Society of Clinical Pharmacy."

VC Distinguished Research Award

The 2011 recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, Dr Samantha Vice, delivered an inspiring lecture, which focused on how to live a value-oriented life in post-apartheid South Africa, where the personal and the public, the past and the present are deeply entangled.

Her inspiring lecture was entitled "Living with the Past: Value, Hope and the Challenge of Cynicism" and functioned as a companion piece to her acclaimed paper "How Do I Live in This Strange Place?".

The paper entitled *How Do I Live in This Strange Place* was a critical exploration of the contemporary role of white South Africans today. It led to a fascinating and critical national debate on whiteness in 2011.

In her lecture recently, Dr Vice argued that a hopeful attitude is "a moral choice to take a stand on the idea of a shared future", to display a trust in the rule of law, democratic ideals and the notion of partaking in the responsibility for creating a shared future.

She interrogated the idea that our internal character is influenced by the context in which we find ourselves, and, in turn, influences that context.

She looked at two complex attitudes, those of cynicism and hopefulness. Dr Vice described these as dimensions of the self which act as filters and alter our perception of the world and outlined her theory on how these attitudes can be relevant in post-apartheid South Africa.

She said cynicism presupposes that all action is self-motivated, often resulting in the absence of the charitable impulse. In a transitional society, cynicism can be seen as a reasonable response, with the empty rhetoric and lack of progress provoking a world-weariness in both the less privileged and the privileged alike.

Cynicism acts as a self-protective mechanism due to its disengaged and suspicious nature. Hopefulness, as an alternative way of being in the world, expects, said Dr Vice, to see what is good, and therefore finds the good in the world more readily.

She further said integrity is a value most humans would acknowledge aspiring to; a short definition encompasses wholeness of the Self and an adherence to core beliefs and values.

Within this somewhat stilted meaning, dictators such as Hitler or Stalin could be said to be men of integrity, said Dr Vice. Cynicism seems a natural fit within such a narrow definition, however, it enables the view of the future to be construed only in terms of the past which has, as Dr Vice, pointed out, troubling political implications for a young democracy such as South Africa.

She said, if one thinks of integrity in a deeper sense, as being open to imaginative reinterpretation, hopefulness becomes an essential element of the integral life; a person of integrity can acknowledge that she may be wrong and can therefore be patient in her interpretations.



Dr Samantha Vice at her Distinguished Research Award Lecture.

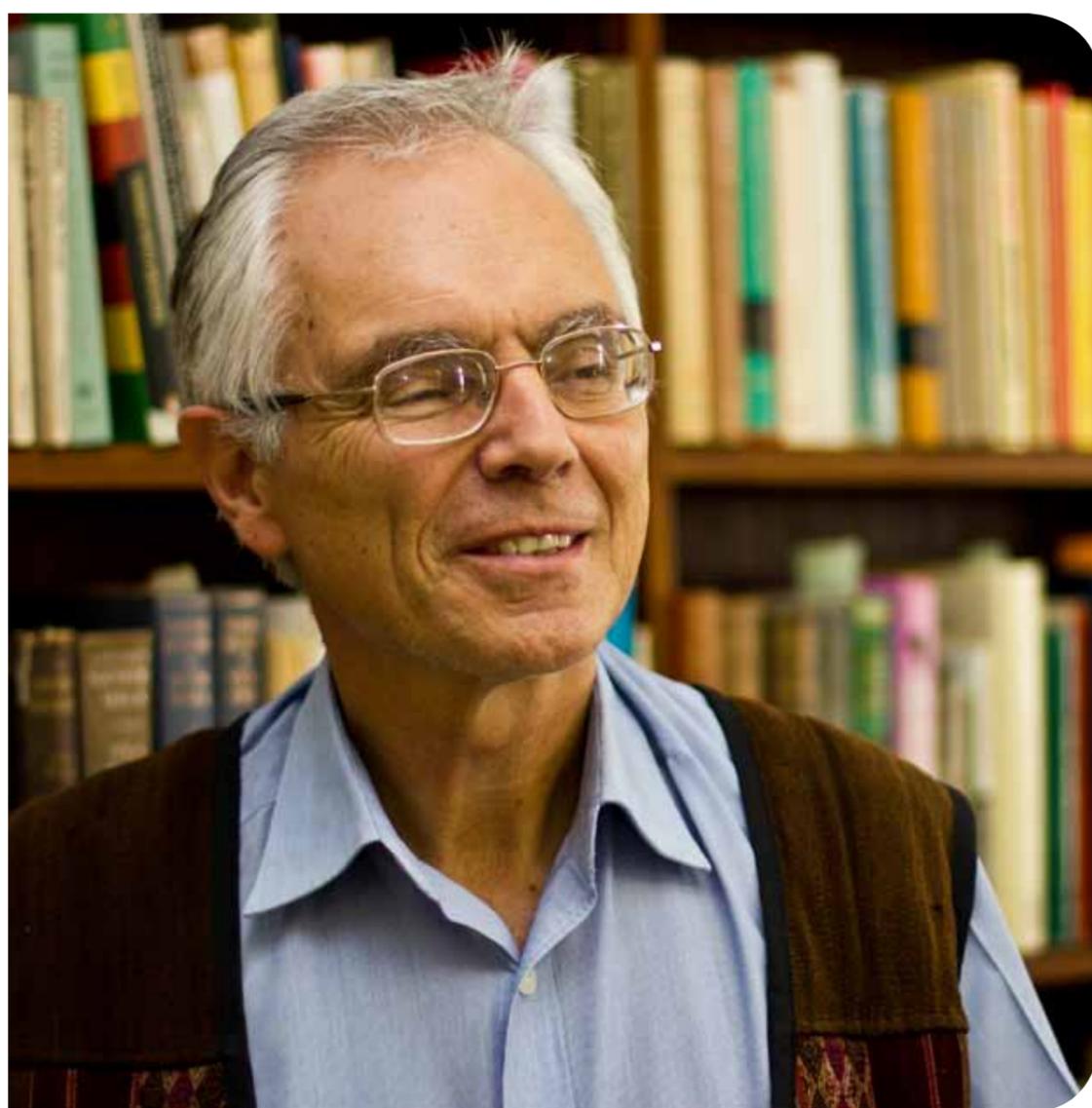
In so doing, the past is not given the power to doom both present and future, she said. An attitude based on hopefulness retains integrity and self-respect while not abdicating personal responsibility.

Hope, said Dr Vice, can be seen as staking a claim on the future of our society, of taking the past in a cautionary spirit rather than a predictive one, and as a reminder of our common frailty.

Celebrating 40 years of research, writing and teaching

“I began my research career about 40 years ago, at a time when historical writing about South Africa was beginning to move along exciting fresh paths,” says Head of History Department, Prof Paul Maylam. “New work in the political economy tradition was transforming the way in which South Africa’s past - and present - were being interpreted.”

Prof Maylam was delivering his Vice-Chancellor’s



Prof Paul Maylam, who received the Distinguished Senior Research Award.

2011 Distinguished Senior Research Award lecture entitled: “Forty years of historical research in South Africa: some general trends and personal recollections”.

He says this approach viewed apartheid more as modes of class exploitation than as racial segregation. With cheap, migrant labour, on which the early gold-mining industry depended, “a system developed that enabled the industry to become highly profitable, but also brought in its wake far-reaching consequences - a pattern of white racial domination, together with a widespread social breakdown in town and countryside, largely precipitated by the migrant

labour system.”

He later touched on how many historians consider the mining industry as old-hat, “but the events of recent weeks tell us that the industry is still at the centre of class struggles that continue to rage in the country that is the most unequal in the world”.

In outlining the history of the Durban system of so-called native administration, he criticised “the assumption that the main culpability for apartheid rests on the shoulders of the Afrikaner-dominated National Party”.

The foundations of apartheid were firmly laid

before 1948, and cities like Durban pioneered the development of urban apartheid. “There is a tendency on the part of English-speakers to deny responsibility for past and present wrongs - what I call ‘the clean hands syndrome’ - ‘we were not responsible for apartheid, nor were we tainted by the violence that ravaged the country during the liberation struggle’. There is complicity in the past and this need to be acknowledged.”

Noting that white English speakers haven’t taken centre stage as political leaders in South Africa, he added “One of the last significant English-speaking political leaders to enjoy power was Cecil Rhodes, 120 years ago, as prime minister of

the Cape”.

Prof Maylam focussed his research on Cecil Rhodes in 2000 when there were three centenaries looming: the centenary of Rhodes’ death in 2002, the centenary of the Rhodes Scholarships in 2003, and of the university itself in 2004. Intending to write only an article, he found an abundance of material to work with including over 30 biographies, novels and statues and memorials.

“The more I delved into his own private papers, the more I discovered about his dealings, the less I liked him. But somehow he managed to find his way into the titles of two of my books, and I have spent 25 years of my life studying and working at an institution named after him - happily I may add.”

After deciding he would like to research “more likable people” he asked friends and colleagues to think of a world leader they admired. He selected six 20th-century heads of government -including Nelson Mandela- who displayed certain desirable qualities in the way in which they governed, and wrote 15 000-word biographical essays on each of them.

Drawing attention to a challenge that faces many academics today, Prof Maylam says he believes there exists “a crisis of research overproduction and under-consumption” with a great number of journal articles being published “that hardly anybody is reading - a consequence of the ‘publish or perish’ syndrome”. He says academics are pressured to spend a great deal of time producing research outputs, in turn having less time to “read this growing body of literature”.

Being keen to pass on some advice to young researchers, he spoke at length about juggling the pressures of research and writing, admin and community engagement, advising not to be too overwhelmed by these demands.

“Think positively about what you are achieving, not negatively about those areas in which you feel you are not meeting the demands.” He further advised academics to not just ‘follow the money’ by engaging in research if there’s funding for it- “especially if the field does not particularly interest you”. In short, “Try to discover as soon as possible the research area that really interests and excites you.”

“There needs to be a higher purpose - a desire to make some kind of contribution to society, perhaps an emancipatory one.”

Prof Maylam was bestowed Distinguished Professor in April this year. He is an accomplished researcher, writer and lecturer. He has written over five books and co-edited a sixth. He is the only academic to receive the Vice-Chancellor’s Book Award twice and has been an HOD for over 23 consecutive years, both at the University of Natal and Rhodes.

VC Distinguished Teaching Award

The Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award recipients for 2011, Prof Anthea Garman unpacked her self-reflexive approach to teaching journalism in a fast-paced world. She thinks of teaching as a way of "inducting students into the practice of becoming 'interpreters of the world'".

This is certainly one of the qualities of an excellent teacher, discussing and questioning perceptions but always allowing the students to create their own stories. She says delivering her award lecture entitled: "Rewrite, Revise, Refine, Reflect, Rethink: the long and short of teaching Journalism at Rhodes."

"We are teaching not just techniques but ways of being, ways of approaching knowledge, and ways of using and communicating that knowledge. We are showing them that they are becoming a distinctive community of knowledge producers with choices, responsibilities and ethical commitments," she says.

"I teach because after years of knowing something, a single question or comment from a student can upset, alter or enhance that knowledge. I keep on teaching as the age gap between me and my students widens because I want to be challenged by different experiences, different ways of being and seeing."

"It's fitting to pay tribute to the School in which I teach, the colleagues among whom my teaching is honed and sharpened and the institution, Rhodes, which takes the practice of teaching so seriously it puts real resources into realising its excellence," she says.

In her characteristic pragmatic and perceptive way, she acknowledged that the skills she teaches are complex and difficult, underscored by how the Post-graduate Diploma in Journalism students often take up to three weeks to write a story that, according to the industry standard, should take a few hours.

"Our students come to us with a common-sense or, TV- and movie-fed understanding of journalism - an attitude and knowledge

we have to work with and they often just want to be filled up with skills so that they can get jobs," she says.

"I have to keep on engaging with and considering the impact of new media and the changes it is working on old media and the teaching of old media (such as newspapers and magazines) without losing particularly useful functions and forms of old media which are useful for teaching," she added.

It is this combination of using both new media and traditional practice which keeps her on the cutting edge.

"In our interactions with the media industries, we are often told that our preoccupation with theory and the intellectual is a wasted pursuit because skills are more highly prized than sophisticated thinking or critical questioning. We deliberately work against this functionalist and overly pragmatic attitude."

Prof Garman teaches first year students, in classes of up to 300; third and fourth year writing and editing and she supervises MA and PhD students.

She makes use of a lot of visual material and draws a great deal from the class's own experiences. "It can't just be an intellectual experience," she emphasised. "My own teaching is always preoccupied with the experiential and the personal."

This is why she relishes teaching the long-form journalism course, a genre made famous by Rian Malan and Mark Gevisser. Here "a suspension of moral judgement," which is often a characteristic of the news story, and "slow thinking and digestion" is used to breach the discourse boundaries of journalism. In the course she has been teaching since 2008, the students create their own pieces of long form journalism.

While still listening to and engaging with editors and journalists, she doesn't allow mainstream news media to dictate what she teaches. "I figure out ways to provoke students to determine value and importance - and therefore detect stories worth telling - in the world around them."

Having joined Rhodes in 1997 as a journalist with 16 years' experience in the newsroom, she continues to create innovative courses for students of the Rhodes School of Journalism and Media Studies.



Prof Anthea Garman at her Distinguished Teaching Award Lecture.

VC Senior Researcher's Award

Professor Prof Martin Villet is known as one of the most popular lecturers at Rhodes, mainly due to his infectious enthusiasm for life, both biological and personal. Dedicated to furthering people's knowledge of biology, he has appeared on television and written newspaper and magazine articles, besides his academic articles in journals from every continent. Prof Villet received the Vice Chancellor's Senior Researcher's Award this year, presenting an entertaining lecture to mark the occasion on Tuesday evening. "Of Ants and Cicadas: Thinking and Doing" explored some of the various aspects of his research.

In his introduction, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Development, Dr Peter Clayton described Prof Villet as a person of wide and diverse interests, who published his first paper in his third year studying Zoology at Wits. He went on to publish another ten during his PhD research on the division of labour in primitive ants, a subject which still sparks a deep interest in him. Regarded as one of the foremost forensic entomologists in South Africa, he has named over 40 species of insects and a family of snakes alongside his students.

Interweaving images and stories of La Fontaine's fable of the ant and the cicada, Prof Villet discussed how they behave in the insect world. He elaborated on new discoveries of how some ants feed from their young by tapping a gland on the grub's stomachs and the amazing discovery that cicadas produce two types of sperm - with the smaller, sub-standard variety getting in the way of subsequent males' sperm, thus giving the healthy sperm a better chance of fertilising the female first.

Quoting Albert Einstein, who said: "If we had any idea of what we were doing we wouldn't call it research," he spoke about his research methods as "searching for explanations, not just descriptions or narrative". He finds that people often ask him, what are insects good for? To which he may explain, after giving some examples, "It's possible that God did it but I can tell you this is *how* God did it."

In comparing two ways of approaching knowledge, he says the first mode is centred on discipline-based research (considered as the more traditional method) and the second is interdisciplinary, constructed around solving problems and is considered more uncommon at universities. Emphasising how this is changing, he says: "If you are in a sufficient position to explain a phenomenon, you are capable of managing it- and your level of personal security increases. Knowledge improves the quality of life."

Prof Villet has recently been named an Honorary Research Associate at the South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and spoke warmly of his colleagues there, at Rhodes and all over the world. Showing a picture of some of them, his approach to teaching and research was aptly illustrated with how, with abundant enthusiasm, he shared some of his students' research (both past and present) with his



Prof Martin Villet, who received the Senior Research Award.

audience, accompanied by photos of the students. This put the spotlight on the students' accomplishments rather than his own and speaks volumes of the trust and camaraderie between mentor and student.

He particularly encourages students to publish articles as soon as they can, both in journals and in the media. "There's no reason why third year projects can't be published if the student is competent," he says, adding that "It's not about training, it's about educating individuals for the life to follow."

He believes that this goes hand in hand with being responsible for one's actions as a scientist, being sensitive about the implications of stem cell research and nuclear energy for example. "These responsibilities range from collecting the right permits, to not killing excessive numbers of animals, to getting your work in on time, especially if someone is paying for it."

Going against the common assumption that young people are apathetic about learning, he says: "I have found that if you give students the right encouragement, they will do almost anything," adding (tongue-in-cheek) that "it helps to give them some toys!" such as an infra-red camera that captures the stage of decomposition in an animal.

Then, touching on the aspects of science that still hold a certain mystery, he quotes Arthur C Clarke who said: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." This same wonderment is expressed when he screens a video clip of a cicada grub emerging from its hole for the first time, shedding its skin and popping out with wings fully formed. Or, a little more bizarrely, how Matabele ants swiftly and systematically decimate a nest of termites.

After showing us images of his student's lab duties with pet guinea pigs, he flashes a photo of an old dog on the screen and asks: "Even though you are utterly familiar with its workings, is that not still a magical face?" Clearly, for Prof Villet even an old dog can teach us new tricks in seeing the deeper wonder of life through the thoughtful eyes of science.

Rhodes celebrates student community engagement

A vibrant orange-and-white colour scheme and African-themed decor marked the occasion of the annual Community Engagement Awards held in the Oppidan Dining Hall on Thursday 11 October. The formal sit-down dinner this year added a touch of class to an event that honours those contributing to and excelling in the field of Student Community Engagement.

students. Guest speaker Dr Di Wilmot, Dean of the Education Faculty, focused on the six aspirations/hopes that she had for the students' future as a new generation of leaders in the context of a transforming South Africa, where, as she put it, "the legacy of the past is still evident in the present".

Entertainment for the evening was provided by a Rhodes Jazz trio as well as the energetic and talented Amaphiko dancers, a township-based group coached by Janet Buckland. Rhodes third-year TV Journalism students provided video footage of the finalists in each award category.

First to be recognised were the large group of student volunteers who engaged over the course of the year with a number of different organisations, groups and sites in Grahamstown, under the auspices of the Rhodes Community Engagement Office. This was followed by certificates for the team leaders. Diana Hornby, Director of Community Engagement, explained that her office had decided on a system of student team leaders for each group of volunteers, in order to monitor activities more closely and at the same time develop student leadership.

Ms Hornby also paid tribute to the community partners, who made it possible for the student volunteers to engage in community activities, as well as providing them with learning opportunities. Nominations in the category of Community Partner of the Year were Ntsika High School, GADRA Matric School, the St Mary's Development and Care Centre, and the Sakhuluntu Cultural Group, with St Mary's DCC emerging as the winner.

Next was the Community Engaged Scholarship Award, one that recognises a student who has applied their academic discipline to a matter of community interest or development. The winner was Catherine Luyt, a Doctoral student in Biochemistry, who assisted the Galela Amanzi

Society to test the quality of water being provided to different sites in Grahamstown. Water featured prominently in this year's awards, as Galela Amanzi also won the Society of the Year Award for their work in putting rainwater tanks at a range of schools and other community sites, and generally raising awareness about water rights and access.

The combined Residence/Hall of the Year Award went to Lilian Ngoyi Hall for their enterprising efforts in growing and providing vegetables for a community soup kitchen, as well as the extent to which hall members were involved in community engagement activities.



Community Engagement 2012 Award Evening.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Student and Academic Affairs, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, welcomed the guests, who included the Vice-Chancellor, members of the Community Engagement Committee, community partners and





Student volunteer makes her mark in Grahamstown

For the first time since the Student Community Engagement Awards were introduced in 2005, an international student has won the award for Student Volunteer of the Year.

Ms Alex Johns, who is also the first mature student to win the award, hails from Australia and came to South Africa last year to further her studies in Law. She says she specifically selected Rhodes University on the basis of its combination of academic and community engagement activities.

Since the beginning of the year, Ms Johns has immersed herself in a number of different activities with a range of community partners, under the auspices of the Rhodes Community Engagement Office. She built supportive relationships with the Ethembeni Old Age Home, the Jabez HIV & AIDS Centre, the Home of Joy Orphanage and the St Philips Preschool, visiting them on a weekly basis and assisting them with income generation activities as well as writing up their stories. She could regularly

be seen waiting patiently under the oak tree outside the CE Office for the Rhode Trip bus to pick her up.

Ms Johns visited the Ethembeni Old Age Home in Joza more than once a week for a year (she only missed one session due to illness). Amongst other things, she interviewed and collected the stories of every member of the Home, and wrote a book on their stories which the CE office has published. She also knitted them all leg warmers and trained one of the members to knit and sell them as an income generating project.

The Jabez HIV & AIDS Centre was another weekly port of call for Ms Johns. Aside from helping to care for those utilising the Centre, she assisted the organisation to start working on a bakery as a secure source of income, which involved doing market research, linking with a supplier and organising fundraising events.

Because she felt the need to also support work with children in the community, Ms Johns became involved with the well-known Home of Joy orphanage, as well as the St Philips Preschool. She visited the

orphanage once a week all year, where she interviewed and collected each of the children's stories. The booklet containing these stories is currently being published by the CE Office. On a more practical note, she sourced washing machines and helped house mother Margaret establish a laundry business to generate a secure source of income.

She visited the St Philips Pre-school regularly, managing to source a computer and a printer for their use and helping them to establish an office.

Alex Johns devoted a great deal of her time and energy to building relationships with these community projects, getting to know the individuals who are part of them and telling their stories, and working at leaving behind a sustainable legacy. She did so with dedication, humility and a quiet determination - something which made her both a worthy and a popular choice as winner of this prestigious student award.

Acknowledging the absence

When one hears the word ‘pauper’ you are immediately transported back to the 1800s, when famous people were reduced to poverty; the state unable to provide them with a decent burial. But what most of us forget is that, in 2012, there are more so-called paupers who receive the same inhumane treatment.

For his Masters in Fine Art (MFA) exhibition, which opened on Friday evening, Paul Greenway provides a moving testimony to the unnamed and forgotten. *Restitution* explores the notion of common dignity and the importance of burying the dead with dignity. As you view the exhibition in the

paper. “It’s a strong act of memorialisation,” says Greenway, describing how the intention of placing flowers on a grave fades while the physical material deteriorates. The flowers then become a metaphor for memory. “What happens when there is no one keeping the memory alive? Was the life even lived? It’s about acknowledging the absence, bringing into sight what we deny to ourselves.”

In emphasising how “death is mired in bureaucracy,” he chronicled the lists of the unmarked graves in *Mayfield Cemetery* which reduces an almost incomprehensible number of people to mere rows of data. And in the eight black and white photos that make *Unnamed*, the only trace of all these infants are crosses on a large chart. In the visually impressive *Unmarked*, a series of stark black and white photographs depicting fragmented and perished plastic grave markers, he represents not only the individual

arresting. As described in the synopsis, it consists of portraits of a number of deceased paupers awaiting internment over what may amount to months or years. “Once the paupers are buried, the grave site is left unmarked, the only trace being the disturbed earth and the plot number in official cemetery documentation.” Because of their small size, at first glance you aren’t sure what you’re looking at, until you recognise a hair or part of a facial feature. Taken aback, the viewer inadvertently becomes part of the process of humanising; being forced to acknowledge the documentation of a life and death.

In *Placement* he reconstituted ragged silk flowers found among the graves at Mayfield Cemetery, photographed them and printed them on archival paper. “It’s a strong act of memorialisation,” says Greenway, describing how the intention of placing flowers on a grave fades while the physical material



Albany Museum’s Alumni Gallery, the first series, *Paupers 2006-2012*, is one of the most subtle and arresting. As described in the synopsis, it consists of portraits of a number of deceased paupers awaiting internment over what may amount to months or years. “Once the paupers are buried, the grave site is left unmarked, the only trace being the disturbed earth and the plot number in official cemetery documentation.” Because of their small size, at first glance you aren’t sure what you’re looking at, until you recognise a hair or part of a facial feature. Taken aback, the viewer inadvertently becomes part of the process of humanising; being forced to acknowledge the documentation of a life and death.

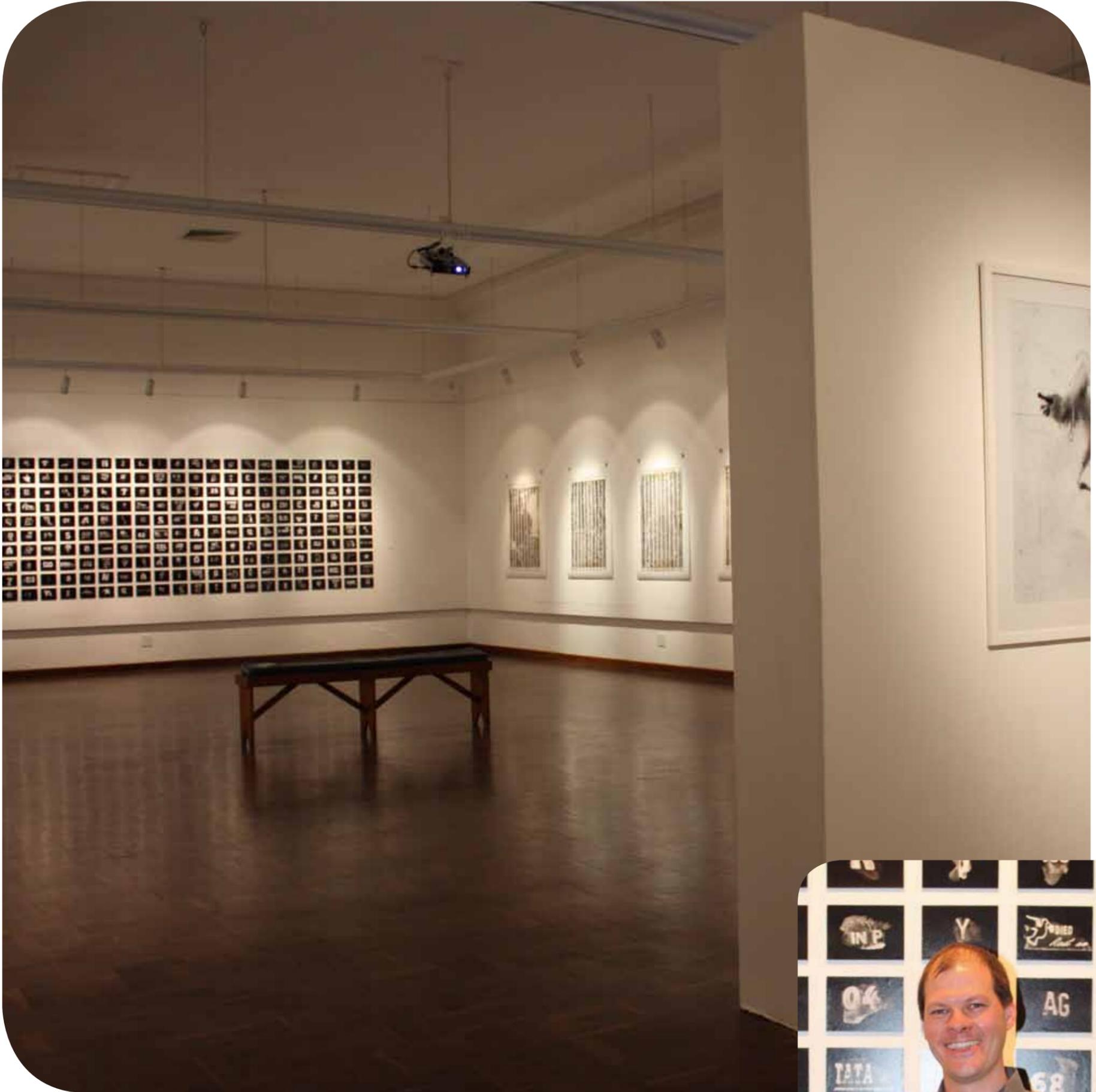
In *Placement* he reconstituted ragged silk flowers found among the graves at Mayfield Cemetery, photographed them and printed them on archival

people buried, but also the promises and messages made upon the grave markers: “our dearest”; “beloved”, “in loving memory”; “remembered”. These fragments evoke a disjunctive narrative and collectively speak to the When one hears the word ‘pauper’ you are immediately transported back to the 1800s, when famous people were reduced to poverty; the state unable to provide them with a decent burial. But what most of us forget is that, in 2012, there are more so-called paupers who receive the same inhumane treatment.

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Paul Greenway.

These fragments evoke a disjunctive narrative and collectively speak to the common themes of the exhibition: loss, memory and abandonment. Here, each grave marker was photographed and then inverted, in the style of old analogue negatives (where black and white is reversed).

All this centres on *EA61*, which he describes as “my personal gesture of restitution to the human subjects of this photographic project. The stop-frame animation is of the process of my digging a grave over four days, after which I buried an unclaimed pauper.” In his opening speech, head of Photography department, Brent Mestre (who supervised his MFA) commended him for allowing “the nuanced complexities of the project to emerge in a ways that is ethical, sensitive and respectful.”

“Paul is what documentary photographers would call “a concerned photographer” - tormented and

frustrated by the camera, by the all-seeing eye that over-articulates and records in full detail. The camera embellishes, it can make the grotesque and abject beautiful. But it can also allow for a poetic and metaphoric discourse to emerge, a discourse that articulates in its own language beyond what we may be able to murmur verbally. And that is the power of the images that are on display here this evening.”

The idea for the exhibition presented itself when Greenway made a documentary in 2006, depicting a body being prepared for burial. He then became aware of the plight of paupers and was disturbed by the hypocrisy of the perceived notion that we live in a humanitarian society. He spent a year and a half following what he calls “the avenue of death,” adding: “Thank goodness for the camera, as it creates a thin barrier between me and the subject, but you can’t escape the smell of death. We acknowledge our own life by looking at the dead.”



Brett Sutherland was the winner in the individual category.

Young ecologists recognised at Environmental Awards

The buzzword at this year's Environmental Awards ceremony was "business as *unusual*," with both award-winners adopting extraordinary ways of green thinking and living. Dr Saleem Badat presented awards to Brett Sutherland (in the individual category) and to Alan Webb Hall, named as the most green residence/ student society.

In his speech, Dr Badat discussed the university's plans to adopt more sustainable ways of building new structures on campus. He said a campus development plan is in the pipeline which includes a public participation process through which staff and students can ascertain where green spaces will be as well as how the campus will look in 25-50 years' time. Acknowledging the healthy tensions between the Environmental Committee and the university's committee, he says "we are all working towards the same goal - a sustainable planet".

Safety, Health and Environmental Officer, Nikki Köhly read Mr Sutherland's citation, which outlined a unique friendship with Charlie Mzimane, who identified himself as "black, poor and from a relatively rural area of the Eastern Cape". In the five years that Charlie has known Brett, there was not a "single conversation that did not somehow end up being about environmental concerns, the need for change, the great work of pioneering environmentalists and the simple difference that one, just one person can make".

Brett is currently completing a Bachelor of Economics and Honours in Environmental Science. Their exchange posed an interesting challenge for them both as Charlie's background often makes him feel disenfranchised about environmental concerns, while Brett was tested in his ability to discuss and explain the economic effects of green concerns.

As Charlie described in the citation: "What is needed is a more sustainable approach that takes into consideration the economic, social and historical contexts of those who are affected. Patience is an essential tool. And most importantly, 'practice what you preach.'"

Brett's worm farm project in particular inspired Charlie to engage in conversation with family and friends, discussing concepts like overpopulation and global warming, and share ideas for practical solutions. The project has

been such an inspiration that when Charlie's grandmother heard about it, she was enthusiastic about getting a worm farm for her village garden.

The project was initiated in 2011 and uses a non-invasive worm species commonly known as red wigglers to break down biodegradable waste collected from Nelson Mandela Dining Hall. The process of breaking down the waste produces an organic solid and liquid fertiliser, which is sold to fund the further expansion of the project. "The process used is considered environmentally friendly as it reduces waste in our landfills and reduces the creation of GHG emissions," says Brett.

In her citation, outgoing SRC Environmental Representative, Ruth Krüger commended the Alan Webb Hall (AWH) team for promoting awareness about environmental issues through their innovative model of collaborating as a team - rather than as individuals within their own residences. "This collaborative model - in which



Ruth Krueger, outgoing SRC Environmental representative.

each Environmental Rep takes the lead in a particular project, with support from the other Reps in their Hall who carry out tasks assigned by the project leader - has resulted in the total of their efforts being far more than their individual parts," she said.

One of their most successful projects was the Green Ribbon Project, which was initiated in 2011 and continued this year. Here the Environmental Reps made green ribbons for raising awareness about environmental sustainability and selling these during Arbor Week, collecting money towards the Green Fund.

"For those who would love to do something during that week but cannot, wearing green with pride was their way of contributing to the awareness of Arbor Week," said Busisiwe, who collected the award alongside Keegan.

Esteemed corporate legal advisor Prof Mervyn King was the guest speaker at the annual Environmental Awards. He presented a fascinating talk on the change in trends in the corporate world, saying that while the 2000s are known as "the age of stupid" (in reference to the title of the 2008 documentary on climate change) he trusts that the 2010s will be known as "the age of change".

He spoke about how he has noted a change of mindsets since he was a student. "I studied on the basis that there was no limit to the earth's capacity; a mindset which held sway since the onset of the industrial Revolution," he says.

Now, as a corporate advisor, his task is to inculcate the opposite attitude among the CEOs of his generation, as "the younger generation is already there". Referencing the lack of action at the G8 summit in Rio de Janeiro, he says: "We cannot rely on political leaders [to make changes towards sustainability], so we have to look at multi-national companies (MNCs), which represent 50% of our GDP".

Prof King is positive that "change is happening". Not only has the remuneration of executives changed in some cases but the business model itself has been updated to include both the positive and negative impacts on the environment, so that the consumer can make an informed assessment. This indicates what he calls a shift from capitalism to sustainable capitalism.

Top achievers take home Allan Gray Leadership Awards

Top academic performers in the Faculties of Commerce and Science recently attended an evening of celebration (Tuesday, 23 October) at which some of them were presented with Allan Gray Leadership awards. The students had submitted essays about business leadership

2011. He said that the Allan Gray Leadership award acknowledges the company's reliance on human capital and education and hopes to see these figures improve.

Jakoet congratulated all of the students for their achievements thus far. "All of you are winners in your own right," he said. "You are part of an elite group from an achievement perspective. We are very proud to be associated with this University and with each of you as well."

He discussed his approach to academics as contributing to this achievement. "I worked hard and tried my best. I always focused on the good things, but reflected and tried to learn from my mistakes," Kaziboni said.

Professor Sewry said that he was extremely proud of the students who had done so well and said that he believed the award would motivate top achievers. "The Awards create a space in which top performance is recognised in a most tangible manner," Sewry said.



Dean of Commerce, Professor David Sewry, and Allan Gray Head of Client Services, Faizil Jakoet, stand with first year winners Kirtanya Reddy, Ambesiwe Magama and Rebecca Coombe.

and those whose essays were considered the most original and insightful by Allan Gray walked away successful.

According to Dean of the Commerce Faculty, Professor David Sewry, the award sought to recognise top academic achievement coupled with independent mindedness and clarity of thought. In their essays, students were asked to discuss what makes a leader, what had shaped them personally into leaders, and what business leaders need to be concerned with moving into the future.

Faizil Jakoet, Head of Client Services at Allan Gray, said that a number of themes came through in the submissions. The most common of these was the need for business to address the failing education system. Jakoet highlighted disturbing national statistics which show that only 11% of pupils who started school in 2000 matriculated with university endorsement in

Awards were presented to the top three entrants in the categories first year, second year and third/fourth year. Each award recipient received a cash prize and those in first place also received brand new iPads.

"I am so excited and over the moon," said Ambesiwe Magama who took the top prize in the first year section. Magame said she had discussed the importance of integrity in leadership and the need for business to tackle issues related to the environment and education in her essay.

Winner in the second year category, Chanelle Duley, said that, at first, she had thought the essay questions were quite vague, but that with time she had started to pick up things she could incorporate and realised that having a broad topic posed a very unique and interesting challenge.

Arnold Kaziboni, who took third place in the Third/Fourth year category, said he was honoured and humbled by the award.



Second year Prize-winners Lloyd Etherington and Chanelle Duley.



Some of the 2012 Sports Awards winners.

Rhodes 2012 Sports Awards

The CEO of the Local Organising Committee for the 2013 African Cup of Nations (AFCON), Mr Mvuzo Mbebe addressed students at the annual Rhodes Sports Awards and said ‘Rhodes needs to find its place in South African university sport’.

The former Rhodes student posed a challenge to the current student about the role students have in the development of sports at the university and in society, saying that “students must inform and be the agents of change”.

He further said that sport is a powerful tool in South African society, as it defines our psyche and identity as a nation - but students are responsible for keeping the country in check. “We won [medals at] the Olympics, but by sheer luck,” he said.

“This is something that students need to solve.” Pointing to the Springbok team of 1995 and Penny Heyns, Mr Mbebe said that young people have carried the nation’s sport forward before - and they must do

it again now.

When it came to the awards, it was the Pool Club and the Rowing Club that were deemed to have been the best. With the medals won at Boat Race in September and a fantastic management system, the Rowing Club won for committee of the year and the prestigious club of the year award.

The Pool Club also won two awards: performance of the year and most improved club. They were praised for their members in provincial and national teams as well as breaking a world record earlier this year.

The two most prestigious awards were left until the end of the evening. Andrew Lowndes and Leigh de Necker, Mr and Ms Sports Personality 2013, announced the winners of the Best Sportsman and Sportswoman of the year.

The finalists for the men’s award were Tafadwa Chitokwindo (rugby), Darryn van Huystenn (Athletics) and Simon Pheasant (Aquatics), but the winner was Lance Ho of the Archery Club.

Ho received his national colours for coaching archery

earlier this year, and travelled to London to coach the Paralympic team in July. He also set a Guinness World Record for 36 consecutive hours of archery this year.

The women’s award was picked up by Natalie Ross, who beat the Coppinger sisters (Underwater), Brittany Denton (karate), Leah Sloman (athletics) and Nobubele Phuza (netball).

Ross was unable to collect her award in person as she was in New Zealand at the time, competing in an athletics tournament, although she has since returned home. This year she competed for South Africa in the Biathlete World Championship in Dubai. She also broke the Rhodes 4km, 10km, 15km, 21km and Olympic duathlon records, all this year.

The Rhodes Sports Awards aimed to recognise the Rhodes athletes such as coach of the year, most improved club and club of the year.

Other winners:
 Coach of the Year (Staff)
 Antonio Blom (Athletics)
 Coach of the Year (Student)
 Lance Ho (Archery)

