



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Where leaders learn*

The Rhodes University Community Newsletter

# Rhodos

*December Edition*

December 2013



**New Education Department  
links past with the future  
pg 38 and 39**



# 100 years and counting

## Rhodos: December Edition

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**Prof Hugo Nel, Head of Department of Economics**

**This year marks a century of Economics at Rhodes University, a discipline virtually unrecognisable compared to the one introduced there a hundred years ago.**

Head of Department of Economics at Rhodes since 1997, Professor Hugo Nel, says Economics at Rhodes started off more akin to Economic History. Since then the department has accommodated major global shifts. It now straddles various research areas in an effort to provide a holistic approach to the discipline.

This had been a historical development, he said.

“We are grateful for our heritage. Great thinkers have preceded us and left a legacy which we benefit from today. Here we think of people like Desmond Hobart Houghton, Mike Truu, Philip Black and Trevor Bell to name only a few.”

Professor Geoff Antrobus, who has lectured in Economics at Rhodes University for 30 years, has collated much of the history of the discipline’s development from university calendars and curriculum notes.

He said Economics was introduced at Rhodes by WM Macmillan (BA Oxon), a lecturer in History since 1910. Macmillan had undertaken what was regarded at the time as pioneering work on the economic conditions of Grahamstown.

According to university records, the 1980s saw the phasing out of two-year majors in the Economics of Agriculture and later of Economic History, with the gaps filled by significant increased enrolments in Economics from the mid-1990s.

“Third years increased from around 35 to well over 200, with Honours enrolments from an average of six per annum to nearly tenfold,” Prof Antrobus explained.

This was followed by increases in staff complement and a change in the way Honours research projects were conducted. There was more variety, especially in Financial Economics. A master’s degree by coursework and thesis in Financial Markets was introduced, supported by the Ford Chair. “What has not changed is that tutorials, first introduced in 1910, are still a course requirement,” Prof Antrobus said.

According to Prof Nel, the changes in the curriculum evident today are the result of complex global shifts in economic theory and practice.

“At its inception Economics at Rhodes was much more concerned about understanding the theory and nature of the economy and various related processes such as industrialisation.

“The big question at the time was, how do countries develop and become successful?” said Prof Nel.

“But the discipline has shifted over the years and has had to stay abreast of major developments in practice, policy and theory. Much happened which made the work rewarding, dynamic and interesting,” he said.

Today, the department treads a fine line between accommodating the contemporary global focus on financial markets, and keeping in touch with the real economy and development research areas.

The first notable shift evident in Rhodes curricula came in the 1970s, with a major departure from a theoretical, philosophical and historical approach. There was a profound emphasis on quantitative work, modelling, statistics and the use of data which addressed the need for research in Economics, Prof Nel explained.

“As academics we had to accommodate these shifts and make the necessary changes in our approach to teaching,” Prof Nel said. He referred to the introduction of the master’s in Financial Markets, which attracts around 15 students a year.

At the same time the department had to keep in touch with the real economy, macro- and micro-economics, and the economics of development and sustainability.

As such, a new research focus area in environmental and resource economics was introduced under Professors Gavin Fraser and Jen Snowball.

“The Green economy and sustainability are also key focus areas. Many sustainability projects involve economic studies such as cost-benefit analyses and the valuing of resources. It made sense to give a focus to that,” Prof Nel said.

“We believe in a good balance between these areas and don’t want to make one the be-all and end—all. We are working hard on keeping strong anchors on the real side, not losing touch with development and sustainability, and providing vehicles for research into various areas.

“We also need to be in touch with students’ vision of their ultimate career prospects; they vote with their feet through the door and the biggest interest at the moment is financial economics,” he said.

One of the biggest changes from the early 1900s, Prof Nel explained, is the difference in student numbers.

“We have made this a priority area and our figures speak for themselves. There has been a significant increase in numbers, particularly of postgraduates, which we accommodate with a large and dedicated staff component,” he said.

Prof Nel said the department’s research output had been another area of focus, which spoke highly for the calibre of staff involved. For the 2012 academic year, 21 research articles were published in accredited journals by staff of the Economics department. This was a record number, Prof Nel said.

# Balancing growth and social protection

According to Dr Conrad Strauss, Rhodes alumnus and former chairman of Standard Bank, the greatest political dilemma of our time is how to reconcile the promises of democracy with the need to maintain prudent and sustainable fiscal policies.

Dr Strauss was at Rhodes recently to present 'Reflections on the Political Economy' as part of the Economics department's centenary celebrations. He said the competing demands of providing social welfare and ensuring that this provision is affordable and sustainable, is the biggest challenge facing the South African economy today.

"Are we up to the task of achieving a better balance between the requirements of a market-orientated society, and the policy aspirations of socialist learning?"

"Over the last two decades in South Africa, economic policy by this reading has not focused on growth but rather on redistribution.

"Have we been addressing poverty and inequality at the expense of growth?" he challenged.

In prioritising redistribution, Dr Strauss said the South African state has placed social welfare intervention at the centre of the economic policy agenda.

Although it has been successful in part, "insofar as [it] has tried to address issues of equality and justice", the strategy, "as desirable as it may be in political and social terms", does not guarantee growth.

"Our unemployment problem is long-term and structural," Dr Strauss said.

In addition, the welfare strategy is fiscally unsustainable.

He outlined an alternative view, exemplified by newly industrialised nations of East Asia, which focuses on capital accumulation, expanding the demand for labour, and harnessing the developments in technology - elements which he explained are central to a growth policy directed by the state.

If South Africa wished to turn things around, Dr Strauss said, employment would have to be taken more seriously by the government. He referred to Reserve Bank governor Gill Marcus's recent observation that education provides the single most effective route to breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty. Marcus said lack of education is the greatest exclusion a person can experience.

Dr Strauss said education, training and skills



From L-R: Prof Jen Snowball, Gavin Fraser, Geoff Antrobus, Dr Conrad Strauss, Gavin Keeton, Hugo Nel and Mr Robert Stuart

development needed to be addressed with an urgency which has been absent thus far.

"It should make us all deeply uncomfortable when one of the leading veterans of the struggle declares that the current education system is 'inferior' or in many respects 'worse than what it was under apartheid'.

"I do not know how scientifically based the observation is, but in the light of such spectacular failures such as the non-delivery of textbooks and reducing of pass rates to 30%, clearly there is something deeply dysfunctional in our system of public education.

"In effect we are condemning another generation of young people to unemployment and social marginalisation, and no amount of social spending will integrate them into the economy," he said.

Everything which stands in the way of fuller employment needs to be critically reviewed, Dr Strauss said, including reviewing the labour market regime in an international context.

The National Development Plan (NDP), finalised by the national planning commission and launched in September 2012, aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality in South Africa by 2030. The Plan recognises that the best form of social protection is employment, Dr Strauss said.

While the plan calls for the social protection of youth as part of its vision, it recognises that the accumulated cost of supporting so many unemployed youth threatens the programme's affordability and sustainability. "On current

labour market participation and tax-base estimates, there will not be enough taxpayers and contributors to ensure sustainability of social protection," The Plan states.

As such Dr Strauss said several themes would need to be addressed to reduce unemployment, including finding the appropriate fiscal and monetary response to it and the present state of poor economic growth; exploring appropriate labour market reforms that could support economic efficiency and productivity growth; seeking out labour market and other social policies that could protect workers; and exploring other microeconomic or structural reforms that could raise the level of growth and employment going forward.



Dr Conrad Strauss presents lecture as part of the Economics department's centenary celebrations



# Still the source of strife

“The land struggle continues,” says Visiting Professor Thembela Kepe. Prof Kepe, from the University of Toronto, describes himself as a human geographer who lives, breathes and eats the subject of land.

“I teach geography and I cannot fathom how I would talk about geography without talking about land.”

He emphasises that it is the duty of all South African universities to significantly increase their profile on the land question and to drive postgraduate programmes in land and land reform research; such is its importance to the future political and economic stability of South Africa.

“Twenty years into our democracy land reform gains have been marginal, land tenure issues have been chaotic, the debate around the re-opening of land claims remains extremely tense and the government does not have any better solutions towards peaceably and sustainably resolving the land issue lined up.”

[The land reform process has been based on political motives](#)

“Many, many land reform projects have failed. Tractors are standing still, infrastructure has collapsed and the land issue is still not being addressed, either in the rural areas, or in the urban areas where land for residential purposes is much needed.” At the heart of the failure, Prof Kepe believes, is the fact that the land reform process to date has been based on political motives rather than addressing the real needs of the people. Prof Kepe counts himself as one of ‘the people’. He was born in Grahamstown and spent the first years of his life on a farm 50km from town, where his grandparents lived and worked. At the age of six he returned to Grahamstown to attend school and lived with his parents in the township.

“My mother was a domestic worker in Grahamstown and my father was a labourer in the transport department at Rhodes University,” says Prof Kepe. He did well at school and chose to study agriculture at the University of Fort Hare on completing his matric.

[Farming is often misperceived as being backward](#)

“People in our community made fun of me for choosing agriculture. Farming is often misperceived as being backward, even though it’s quite the opposite. I enjoyed it and it reconnected me with my concerns about issues of poverty and justice and respect for what the land means.

“A strong memory from that time that stuck with me was when a Belgian professor of mine at Fort Hare asked us why we are studying agriculture when black people were not allowed to own land in South Africa at the time. It was a question that



**Prof Thembela Kepe**

I was to think about many times over,” says Prof Kepe. He taught at a school in King Williams Town before taking up an opportunity to study in Canada, where he lived until 1994.

[Master's in Rural Studies](#)

“By then I knew that I wanted to work on land issues and I did my Master's in Rural Studies at the University of Guelph, Canada, and later turned myself into a geographer because of my strong links to land, space and place.”

He now teaches courses that focus on land, land reform and development, land and justice, and political ecology at the University of Toronto and Rhodes University.

[A living laboratory](#)

“I love being back in Grahamstown and we have a living laboratory right here around us. I take my students on walkabouts in the townships of Grahamstown to examine aspects of rural life in an urban setting, where livestock and food gardens are part of the environment,” says Prof Kepe. He chose to stay at home in the township with his mother during his visiting lecturer stint at Rhodes.

“I wanted to plug back into the place and the community where I grew up,” says Prof Kepe who has been made an Honorary Visiting Professor at Rhodes.

“It was my father’s dream for me to one day attend Rhodes, and now I am here in a different role. I will also be spending time lecturing in the Geography Department every year, and it feels great to be back.”

[His latest book on land](#)

In June 2013 he launched his latest book on land, which he co-edited with Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza – who is based at the University of Cape Town – titled, *Rural Resistance in South Africa: The Mpondo Revolts after Fifty Years*.

Prof Kepe has spent several months lecturing in the Department of Geography this year.

“It’s an exceptionally important year in the history of the struggle for land in South Africa because it marks the centenary of the 1913 Natives Land Act, which dispossessed black South Africans of all but 13% of their land,” says Prof Kepe who selected the historical revolts in Pondoland in the former Transkei to determine what led to that famous struggle and revolt in the 1950s that culminated in 1960, and whether it can shed light on what is happening in terms of land and land reform in South Africa today.

“In Pondoland people continue to have aspirations about their land but today, as was the case over 50 years ago, they are either dispossessed of land ownership or they have land but it is of a poor quality, or they have land but cannot work it because they have to go and make a living elsewhere.

“These are issues facing millions of people in the rural areas of South Africa and in the book we wanted to look at how these issues connect the past with the present.”



According to Prof Kepe, not much has been written about the Mpondo revolts, despite their notable place in South African political history as the first high-profile display of violent black resistance to their land being taken from them since the frontier wars in the 1800s.

Prof Kepe and Prof Ntsebeza brought together a strong team of academics who understand Pondoland to discuss this epoch in the book. The team includes, among others, Prof Allison Drew (University of York, England), Prof William Beinart (Oxford University), Prof Fred Hendricks (Rhodes University), Prof Jeff Peires (Rhodes University), Prof Ari Sitas (University of Cape Town), Dr Jonny Steinberg (Oxford University), Prof Dunbar Moodie (Hobart and William Smith Colleges) and several younger scholars who added fresh ideas to the debate.

#### The meaning of land in South Africa today

“I like to use the analogy of a child crying and the child’s mother assumes the child needs food,” says Prof Kepe. “She gives the child food, but after the child has finished eating s/he continues to cry. The mother says: ‘What now?’ and that is where we are with the land issue in South Africa today.

“We are left questioning whether land reform has done anything to address what people lost in this country,” says Prof Kepe who in 2010 co-edited a book titled: *Land, Memory, Reconstruction and Justice: Perspectives on Land Claims in South Africa* (Ohio University Press and University of Kwa-Zulu Natal Press).

#### Crying about land

“Is it enough to say ‘here is another piece of land’ and hope that people will be satisfied and stop ‘crying’ about land?” asks Prof Kepe. He believes it is not enough; that the philosophy behind land and land reform, and what it means to people, is missing. “The Mpondo revolts were precisely about this – about what land means to people and what freedom means to people,” he says. “The land reform and restitution process tells you that you can get your piece of land back, or an alternative piece of land, or cash compensation, or a combination of land and assistance to develop it or farm it.

“But people need more than this. They need to look back on what they felt they lost to understand what land means to them today, what they need to do with it and how they are going to go about this.

“Giving land to people to address the land inequalities in South Africa, without engaging in this deep process of retrospection and understanding, is part of the reason why the land reform programme has failed,” he explains.

#### The government has failed in the land reform programme

“The government has failed in the land reform programme, especially in the land redistribution process, both in the ideology and practice of it,” says Prof Kepe.

“One of their ideas was to give people collective farms where all kinds of people with different goals and skills are put together and expected to work together. It is a questionable process from the outset and it is not surprising that it hasn’t worked.



“Then the government tried what they called Land Reform for Agricultural Development (LRAD), followed by a shift to Agri B-BBEE but that also didn’t offer a solution as it marginalised people who have real land needs and real needs to farm and real attachments to the land based on their history. Instead of addressing these needs, the land issue has become a political tool to be used ahead of elections or by politicians trying to make their mark. But politicians come and go and the unresolved issues around land remain.”

Prof Kepe feels South Africa has reached a stalemate in the land reform issue “where we cannot go forwards or backwards”.

#### The few farming reform successes

The few farming reform successes to date, he adds, are not government led. “There are some examples of commercial farmers taking the process on themselves and either giving land to their workers at a reduced price or buying land with them so that they can afford it.”

The government has had some successes, such as in Kruger National Park where a community successfully claimed back their ancestral land and a profit-sharing partnership with the Park and the community is proving sustainable.

Another example is the redevelopment of District Six, where people who were removed from their land in this urban area of Cape Town, have been given the opportunity to lodge a claim to new developments in that area. But District Six is no longer what it used to be; it’s now a trendy precinct and property is extremely pricy.

#### Equity, justice and sustainability

“The question we keep having to come back to is who is benefiting from the land reform process, how are they benefiting and is it sustainable,” says Prof Kepe. “Is the successful land claim, irrespective of whether it is in the city or rural areas, based on equity, justice and sustainability?” he questions.

“I don’t want to be seen as an armchair critic, but it has been proven throughout history that only when

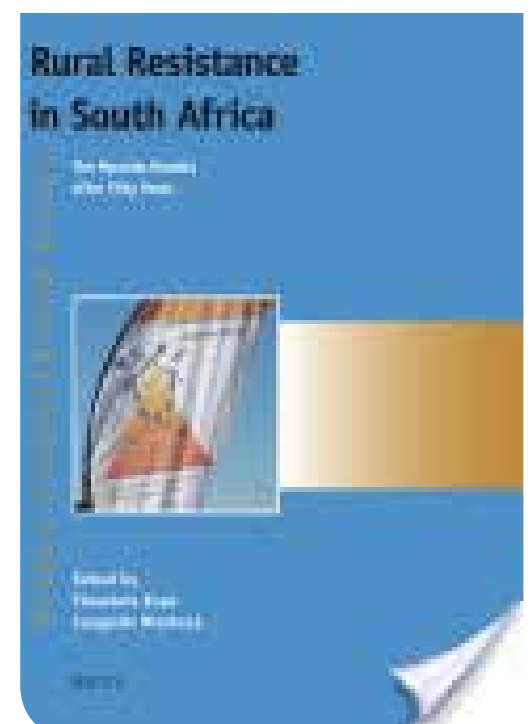
you willingly listen to the voices of all the people, will you have a better understanding of how to meet their needs.

“We find ourselves in a period of our country’s history where there is supposed to be change and where we are supposed to raise issues and not mince our words when we don’t see change.”

#### The duty of academics to strongly respond

Prof Kepe believes it is the duty of academics to strongly respond to the land issue and to run high-profile conferences on land, as Prof Fred Hendricks, Prof Kirk Helliker and Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza are doing to raise the profile of the importance of the land issue in scholarly circles.

“We need to see far more South African postgraduate students doing research on land, we need more PhD students focusing on the land issue, we need the NRF to fund this research and for universities to increase their profile on the land issue to emphasise how important it is to South Africa’s stability and its future. This will contribute to positive change.”





# The groundwork for SA's future

A century after the 1913 Natives Land Act and 20 years into its democracy, South Africa's land reform and land restitution programmes are in disarray.

There are few issues as pivotal to the future of South Africa as the question of land. It has direct implications for food security and political and economic stability.

"There is an impasse and deadlock around land in South Africa and the government is very definitely to blame; it is not just about farmers who are reluctant to enter into an arrangement so that things can move



Profs Fred Hendricks and Kirk Helliker

land reform through relevant, novel academic research and by organising summits where we bring together social movements, NGO activists and formal agricultural organisations such as Agri SA to jointly debate the land issue and become part of the solution. This is engaged academia and engaged research of the most critical kind."

In response to the pressing need for solutions, four prominent Rhodes academics are part of a cohort proactively addressing the question of land.

They are Professor Hendricks; Head of the Department of Sociology, Professor Kirk Helliker; Visiting Professor in the Rhodes Geography Department and Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Toronto, Professor Thembele Kepe and Professor Monty Roodt, Department of Sociology.

Their work is supported by the following international academics who specialise in the land and development field, who have been appointed as Honorary Visiting Professors and Research Associates in the Sociology Department at Rhodes University: Professor Sam Moyo – Professor of Agrarian Studies, founder member and Executive Director of the African

Institute for Agrarian Studies (AIAS), Zimbabwe; Professor John Holloway – Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences at the Autonomous University of Puebla, Mexico and Professor Praveen Jha – Centre

for Economic Studies and Planning Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

The research, teaching, publishing and community engagement in which the Rhodes Sociology Department is involved includes:

**The Agrarian Studies Research Group, Department of Sociology, Rhodes**

This postgraduate research programme has achieved significant research output in the past five years, including eight PhDs and 24 MAs, either currently registered or graduated. The MA course comprises 70% South African students, while the PhD students are a mix of South African and Zimbabwean students. Prof Helliker, who initiated the programme in 2010, is aiming to significantly expand it into a leading Land and Agrarian Studies Research Programme. The focus is on increasing the number of South African PhD students.

Situated in the rural Eastern Cape, Rhodes is well placed to lead land and agrarian studies in the province and nationally.

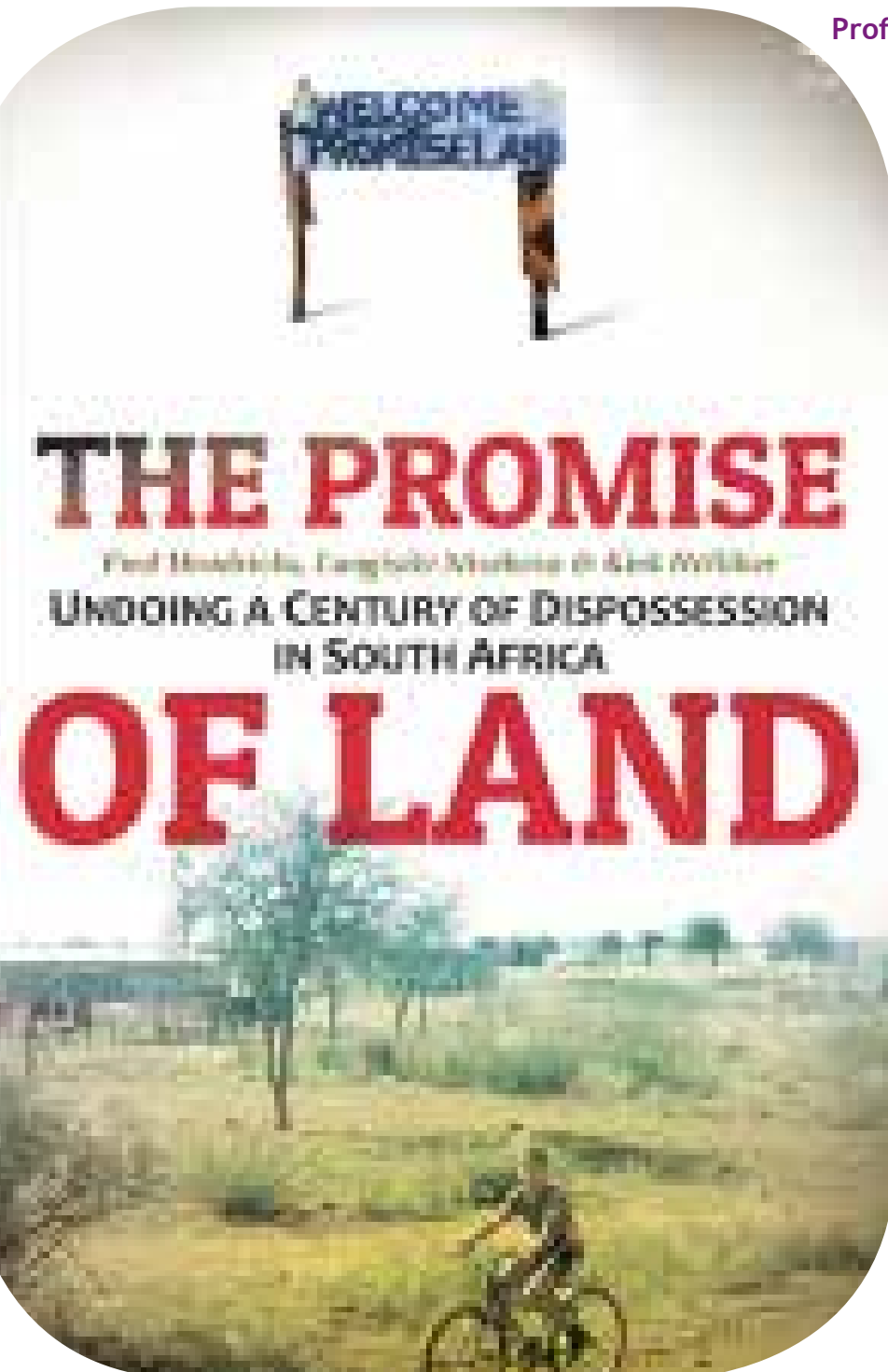
**The Promise of Land – Undoing a Century of Dispossession in South Africa (Jacana Media 2013)**

Edited by Fred Hendricks, Kirk Helliker and Lungisile Ntsebeza (Professor of Sociology at the University of Cape Town and DST/NRF Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa, the book which was launched at the Land, Race and Nation in South Africa Conference at the University of Cape Town in June 2013. It focuses on unresolved land questions in contemporary South Africa and argues that the colonial condition remains in the country because dispossession of land along racial lines has yet to be addressed by the post-apartheid state.

In examining questions of dispossession,

forward," said Dean of Humanities at Rhodes, Professor Fred Hendricks.

"As scholars we need to recognise this and play our part in addressing land and



marginalisation and exclusion, the book addresses three different socio-territorial spaces, namely, the communal areas (the former Bantustans of apartheid South Africa), the commercial farm sector still dominated by white agrarian capital, and urban land challenges as expressed in struggles around housing.

#### Rural Resistance in South Africa: The Mpondo Revolts after Fifty Years (UCT Press, 2012) Edited by Thembe Kepe and Lungisile Ntsebeza

This book focuses on the anti-apartheid resistance in the rural Eastern Cape by the Mpondo people. The Mpondo Revolts, which began in the 1950s and reached a climax in 1960, rank among the most significant rural resistances in South Africa. Mpondo villagers emphatically rejected the introduction of Bantu Authorities and unpopular rural land-use planning that meant loss of land. The contributing authors in this book offer a fresh understanding of the uprising, as well as its meaning and significance then and now, particularly relating to land, rural governance, party politics and the agency of the marginalised.

#### The African Institute for Agrarian Studies (AIAS) and the Agrarian Studies Summer School

Prof Hendricks and Prof Helliker are key drivers of the African Institute for Agrarian Studies (AIAS) and the Agrarian Studies Summer School. They work closely with Prof Sam Moyo, the Executive Director of the Institute and Honorary Visiting Professor in the Rhodes Sociology Department.

The AIAS ([www.iastrust.org](http://www.iastrust.org)) is a regional organisation that seeks to influence land and agrarian reform policies through multidisciplinary social science research, policy dialogues, training and information dissemination. The main focus of the Institute is to mediate in the policy-making processes so as to enhance rural livelihoods through an improved policy framework.

The Institute strives for agrarian systems that enhance equitable land rights and sustainable land use throughout Africa.

In its work, the institute interacts with and provides policy advice and capacity support to various stakeholders, who include governments, regional bodies, universities, NGOs, researchers, students and the donor community.

The Institute's approach entails encouraging continuous policy debates and refinement of policy. This is achieved through the generation and provision of research-based information, platforms for dialogue, and creating and nurturing a policy community in Africa.

The ambition of the AIAS is to provide leadership in land and agrarian policy processes, to become a Centre of Excellence and remain an independent and credible Institute.

#### The Agrarian Studies Summer School

This is an international consortium of approximately 60 participants from South Africa, Zimbabwe, India, Brazil, West Africa and the Netherlands. The 3-4 day annual summer school has been organised by the African Institute for Agrarian Studies (AIAS) since 2009, supported through funding from various organisations that includes the South Africa Netherlands research Programme on Alternatives

in Development (SANPAD). The summer school was hosted by Rhodes in 2011 and has subsequently been hosted by the African Institute for Agrarian Studies in Harare.

“There is an impasse and deadlock around land in South Africa and the government is very definitely to blame; it is not just about farmers who are reluctant...

It offers a valuable global networking platform for academics, doctoral students and land activists around the development of agrarian land systems that enhance equitable land rights and sustainable land use.

The Agrarian Studies Summer School is continuously developing young scholars and civil society activists

with the aim of developing a critical mass of young intellectuals and activists who can play a leading role in the analysis and design of solutions to Africa's agrarian and land problems.

#### Actively participating in land reform solutions through engagement with social movements, NGOs and formal agricultural organisations

Social movements in South Africa represent a diverse range of social groups, including residents in communal lands, first nations people (such as the Khoisan), workers and dwellers on white commercial farms, shack dwellers in urban areas, farmers on current land redistribution projects, women, youth and fisherfolk.

The movements include: Tshintsha Amakhaya, Food Sovereignty Campaign, Makukhanye, Mawubuye Land Rights Forum, Coastal Links, Siyazakha, Ilizwi Lamafama, Urban Food and Farming, iThemba Farmers, Mopani Farmers' Union and Rural People's Movement.

These movements work in many different parts of the country, as do food and agriculture NGOs such as the Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE), the Surplus People Project (SPP) and Khanyisa, which work closely with rural social movements.

Formal agriculture is represented by several bodies, the largest of which is Agri SA, which recognises and supports the need to engage in structured, sustainable land reform. Formal agriculture's approaches to government to be part of the land and farm reform solution, has not, in the main, been recognised or taken up.

As Prof Hendricks points out, although the social movements and commercial farmers emanate from completely different socio-economic backgrounds and ideological standpoints, many of their frustrations with the government are shared. The time has come to break the deadlock and bring together opposing and dissident corners of the land and land reform standoff, to actively work towards achieving a more just and stable future.

## The big questions about land in South Africa

There are many dimensions to the land crisis. Contrary to the common perception of 'land' being a rural issue, it is as relevant to urban areas as it is to commercial farming areas and communal areas. In all these areas South Africa needs a fundamental change in approach to move beyond the impasse in both policy and thinking about land.

How are we to understand the many dimensions of this crisis so we can realistically and proactively move beyond the current inertia?

How are we to rectify a situation where those who should have benefited most have benefited least? What recourse should there be given the fact that

there is little to show for the billions that have been spent on the purchase of commercial farms for land reform? Why have government-led farming projects collapsed?

South Africa is not alone in this. Land and land reform remains a major issue in South Africa, Africa and developing countries throughout the world.

By far the most controversial and most radical approach has been the fast-track land reform pursued by the government of Zimbabwe from 2000.

Is this the way of the future for South Africa or are there less violent, more constructive alternatives?



# Sexuality and reproduction in SA



**Prof Catriona Macleod**

Rhodes University has appointed Psychology Professor Catriona Macleod as the SARCHI Chair in Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction: Human and Social Dynamics, following a successful nomination by the University and approval by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

South Africa is faced with significant challenges surrounding sexuality and reproduction, including high levels of forced sexual debut, sexual coercion

and violence; transactional sex; HIV infection; rape (including child rape); hate crimes against lesbian women and gay men (including 'corrective' rape); unwanted and unsupportable pregnancies; and a high maternal mortality rate.

The overarching goal of the Research Chair in Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction is to conduct critical research that addresses the social and human dynamics underpinning our slow progress towards full and just sexual and reproductive citizenship for all. "Professor Macleod is a highly regarded researcher and the ideal candidate for this Research Chair which will extend and enrich the field of Critical Health Psychology through the multi-disciplinary and engaged nature of the research," said Rhodes University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research & Development, Dr Peter Clayton. "The Chair will drive the development of research capacity and postgraduate production in psychological and related studies in sexualities and reproduction. The research will, inter alia, highlight new ways of conceptualising key issues, lead rigorous research that addresses social issues underpinning health inequities and promote an intellectual activism that engages in social and health realities."

Prof Macleod's work brings South African critical and feminist psychology to national and international attention, engaging both with current international developments and dealing with the significant specificities of South Africa.

International and national collaboration with colleagues in the range of disciplines, including politics, education, sociology, anthropology, gender studies and psychology bodes well for the depth and breadth of the work that will be conducted.

Joint projects are currently under way with colleagues within Rhodes, and from the University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University and the University of Fort Hare, the Human Sciences Research Council, University of York (UK), Open University (UK), Leiden University Medical Centre (Netherlands), and the Royal Tropical Institute (Netherlands).

The approval of Prof Macleod's Chair was granted following a robust review process and evaluation by an NRF panel.

SARCHI Chairs, awarded by the DST-NRF South African Research Chairs Initiative, are widely regarded as South Africa's most prestigious academic research platforms. Rhodes as the smallest university in South Africa holds an impressive 10 SARCHI Chairs or 7% of all SARCHI Chairs awarded to date.

Rhodes prides itself on its high percentage of postgraduate students, which all of its SARCHI programmes help to produce. At the 2013 graduation ceremony Rhodes graduated 41% with postgraduate degrees. It celebrated a new University record of 63 PhDs – an outstanding achievement for the smallest university in the country.

Rhodes has one of the highest percentages of staff with doctorates of all South African universities: 56% of Rhodes academics have Doctorates.

Rhodes holds 10 SARCHI Chairs, including:

- Marine Ecosystems;
- The SKA Chair in Radio Astronomy Techniques and Technologies;
- Medicinal Chemistry and Nanotechnology;
- Mathematics Education;
- Numeracy;
- Intellectualisation of African Languages, Multilingualism and Education;
- Insects in Sustainable Agricultural Ecosystems;
- Interdisciplinary Science in Land and Natural Resource Use for Sustainable Livelihoods;
- Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction: Human and Social Dynamics; and
- Marine Natural Products Research.

Rhodes is currently funding a range of new academic initiatives as part of its strategy to grow its postgraduate student numbers, research and development programmes and to increase its research outputs. This will further enhance its standing as the 'Scholarly University'.

## It's all in the sea, Marine Natural

Rhodes University has appointed Microbiology Professor Rosemary Dorrington as the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI) Chair in Marine Natural Product Research. This is the result of a successful nomination by the University and approval by the National Research Foundation.

Announced on 30 July by Dr Vathiswa Papu-Zamxaka, Director: Review and Evaluation of the Foundation, it follows a robust review and evaluation process.

The SARCHI Chairs are a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology and the NRF and are widely regarded as South Africa's most prestigious academic research platforms.

South Africa, the EU, USA, China and Australia are vigorously pursuing research into finding useful marine natural products and marine microbial resources. It's a field known as 'marine biodiscovery' or 'marine bioprospecting'.

Marine biodiscovery or bioprospecting is defined as searching for marine natural products and other materials from which there is an economic benefit to society. This includes pharmaceuticals and

agrochemicals. It also includes the sustainable, wise use and management of the world's oceans.

Many marine organisms (invertebrates, algae and microorganisms) produce marine natural products as a chemical defence against predation or inter-specific competition for limited resources, for example, space on a reef or nutrients in the water.

South African marine natural products and their derivatives are, for example, currently being screened in the Rhodes Department of Biochemistry and the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town as molecular probes to characterise biochemical processes in cancer cells and



# Food security and biodiversity loss

Rhodes University welcomes Professor Steve Compton, who has moved to Rhodes from Leeds University in Britain to take up the prestigious SARCHI Chair in Insects in Sustainable Agricultural Ecosystems in the Department of Zoology and Entomology from July 2013.

To understand the critical importance of this research we need to look no further than the global expenditure on pesticides, which has increased to well over US \$50 billion a year. This is an untenable use of chemicals and poisons in an age where environmental pollution, carbon emissions and loss of biodiversity are three of the key threats to our planet's sustainability.

Fortunately there is an alternative: it's called biological control.

The development of host-specific natural enemies, biological control offers the most effective and long-term solution for the control of invasive alien plant species and insect pests in agriculture.

However, it is not well-developed on the African continent.

This Chair aims to remedy this.

"With Prof Compton at the helm, the Chair will conduct fundamental plant/insect interaction research on insect pests and invasive alien plants, the outcomes of which can ultimately be implemented to address food security and biodiversity loss, and reduce the amount of pesticide being used.

"This is relevant science at its best," says Rhodes University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Development, Dr Peter Clayton.



Prof Steve Compton

The Chair will have two main focus areas, the biological control of invasive alien weeds, most notably aquatic weeds that threaten the quality and quantity of potable water in southern Africa, and the biological control of several insect pests especially those threatening the supply of fruit and vegetables from the peri-urban sector in the Eastern Cape.

Professor Compton's work will integrate closely with the laboratory of Professor Martin Hill, Head of Entomology at Rhodes, who has built momentum and a strong reputation for the university in these and related areas, attracting longstanding funding from the Working for Water Programme, the Agricultural Research Council, Citrus Research International, and others.

The proposed research builds on 50 years of leading research conducted and published within the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Rhodes. This Chair will add to the reputation and research excellence of this department and the Rhodes Science Faculty.

SARCHI Chairs, awarded by the Department of Science and Technology/ National Research

**"With Prof Compton at the helm, the Chair will conduct fundamental plant/insect interaction research on insect pests and invasive alien plants..."**

Foundation SA Research Chairs Initiative, are widely regarded as South Africa's most prestigious academic research platforms. Rhodes, the smallest university in South Africa, holds an impressive 10 SARCHI Chairs or 7% of all SARCHI Chairs awarded to date.

The Science Faculty has proved particularly productive. In 2013 it produced 35 PhD graduates, 83 Masters graduates and 132 Honours graduates.

At Rhodes 56% of academics have Doctorates and 29% have Masters degrees.

# Product research will reveal

malaria.

"Professor Dorrington's leadership will see this Chair building on the international reputation of Rhodes University as the centre of excellence in marine natural products research on the African continent," said the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Development at Rhodes University, Dr Peter Clayton.

"Marine natural products can potentially fulfill an important role in achieving the 2018 vision of South Africa being one of the top three emerging economies in the global pharmaceutical industry, based on an expanded innovation system using the nation's indigenous knowledge and rich biodiversity.

"The primary role of the Chair will be to strengthen and further develop the field of marine natural product research on the African continent through ongoing and new national and international research collaborations."

Over the past 20 years marine natural products research groups at Rhodes in the Department of Chemistry and the Faculty of Pharmacy have published over 60 international research papers in marine natural product chemistry and have graduated more than 25 MSc and PhD students in this field. This has established Rhodes University as the only university in Africa with an internationally recognised



Prof Rosemary Dorrington



# Prof Sewry takes Faculty of Commerce to another level

In the run-up to the start of Swot Week, Dean of Commerce Professor Dave Sewry took some time out of his busy schedule to discuss the latest initiatives in the Faculty of Commerce. He particularly concentrated on scholarships and bursaries. These have been in the forefront of the faculty consciousness more than usual recently due to the launching of the Jakes Gerwel Scholarship.

Professor Gerwel, who passed away last year, was the long-time Chancellor of Rhodes University. On his passing, the Old Mutual Investment Group/Imfundo Trust established the Jakes Gerwel Scholarship, to aid students who would not otherwise be able to attend university.

It supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds at either Rhodes or at the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

While the Fund is primarily focused on supporting black female students who wish to pursue studies in Accounting, Economics, Statistics or Law, these are not a firm barriers, and the four Rhodes students currently in receipt of these bursaries include one male candidate. It is hoped that up to 15 students at Rhodes will be in receipt of a Jakes Gerwel Scholarship in the future.

Professor Sewry, together with Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs, and Mr Luyanda Bheyile, Financial Aid Administrator, accompanied the first recipients to a ceremony in Cape Town to launch the scholarship. The plane trip to Cape Town for the event, held in the Old Mutual Building in Pinelands, was the first for all four students concerned.

It was a very special occasion for them.

Scholarships allocated through the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation and the Henderson Trust are another initiative of Professor Sewry. A major drive within the Faculty was undertaken to encourage top students to apply to be Allan Gray Orbis Fellows. The Foundation looks for those with an entrepreneurial spirit to join its ranks. Allan Gray also runs the Allan Gray Academic Awards scheme.

Professor Sewry has spent a fair amount of time, and expects to spend a great deal more, exploring the plans for a Flexible Undergraduate Curriculum Framework. This would offer greater flexibility by allowing students to take four years to complete an undergraduate degree.

At present, only a third of students achieve a degree in the stipulated three years; those who are able to do so will continue to be allowed to complete in that time; however, for students who have found the jump from school to university greater than anticipated, the new structure will offer increased support and a higher chance of success.

Other initiatives have been overseen by Professor Sewry in his capacity as Dean over the past two-and-a-half years.

The Commerce Faculty has concentrated on developing a number of research focus areas. These include as the Environmental and Natural Resource Economics in the Eastern Cape Research Focus Area (ENREFA) programme, housed in the Department of Economics and Economic History, headed by



## Jakes Gerwel scholarship launch in Cape Town

Professors Jen Snowball and Gavin Fraser; and the Sandisa Imbewu funded research programme in the Department of Management, entitled Chinese Organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa: New Synergies, New Dynamics.

In 2013 the new first-year curriculum for the Commerce Extended Studies programme went live and in 2014 the new second-year curriculum will follow. A plan to identify students who might not be coping in order to stage an early intervention is being explored for use in 2014.

Additionally, Professor and Deputy Dean Lynette Louw was the inaugural Commerce Researcher of the Year 2013 for her outstanding publication and conference paper record, national and international profile and involvement, research grants received and contribution to post-graduate student development

For those who wish to explore the Commerce Faculty further, it boasts a concise and attractive new website, designed by the Marketing & Communications Division and added to by Professor Sewry and Faculty Administrator Ms Niki Searle. The revised and reformatted Faculty Booklet is now also available online.





# Allan Gray Awards recognise outstanding Commerce students

In line with the strong commitment to encouraging holistic student achievement and bridging the gap between studies and the realities of the marketplace, Allan Gray has established the Allan Gray Achievement Awards, which were hosted by Rhodes University recently.

This year, 12 students from the Commerce faculty were recognised for outstanding academic and all-round performance and received cash prizes of between R2 000 and R20 000, as well as various accessories.

They included (first year): James Foulkes, Angelina Mutayoba and Kirstin Hunneyball; (second year) Rosemary Elliott, Tarisai Murumbi and Quentin Jenkins; (third year) Katherine Burger, Kuhle Mxakaza and Tawanda Mazorodze; and (fourth year) Christopher Gibberd, Lindelwa Bolani and Kate Janssen.

According to Mr Faizil Jakoet, Head of Retail Client Services at Allan Gray, the awards are intended to recognise the achievements of students and bridge the gap between higher education institutions and the workplace.



He said the university had identified between 80 and 100 top achieving students from various streams within the Commerce faculty, who were asked to answer two short essay questions, including an executive summary of their autobiography and thoughts on the top three challenges students face in transitioning from higher education institutions to the workplace.

According to Mr Jakoet, the questions are intended to shed light on the realities of the students' experience, and offer insight into what contributions the workplace can make.

"One of the main challenges identified by students is a lack of practical work experience. As a result of the awards we build a network of people who we try and connect with in various forms throughout the year, and who we engage with in the search for practical work opportunities. We meet in small groups, so we get to really understand the challenges facing students and they also get to pick our brains for ideas," he said.

One such result is the Allan Gray internship programme which affords students a two-week work opportunity at the Allan Gray head office, where they are able to gain first-hand work experience and meet with senior managers and directors. Students are required to undertake practical business analysis and research, which Mr Jakoet believes draws on their strengths and encourages a realistic view of the profession.

"I think it is really beneficial for students to be involved in the workplace. You sometimes find students having studied for years and then feel they have done the wrong thing when it comes to actually understanding the reality of the industry. This kind of programme affords them the opportunity to experience it as they go along which can be helpful," he said.

Mr Jakoet believes students should be encouraged to participate in practical components more. "The lack of work experience within the Commerce industry is a widespread problem for students. I believe that on the one hand students need to take

responsibility and ownership for their career. It's not easy for them to study all year and then spend their holidays working, but generally we see those who have put in the work are the ones who go on and do well. I do see a big opportunity for some of the practical work to become part of the university curriculum," he said.

In connecting with students regularly he said their



progress over the years was encouraging. "We have students who are continuously applying themselves to be amongst the top few achievers and it is interesting to see their progression over the years. We are reliant on higher education institutions to educate students and bring them through the talent pipeline, and we can provide practical work experience. The partnership has been very useful," he said.

**"The lack of work experience within the Commerce industry is a widespread problem for students."**

The awards ceremony was attended by representatives from Allan Gray and featured a presentation by guest speaker Dawid Mocke, the World Surfski champion and a successful entrepreneur with his own surfski brand, who

shared key learnings and experiences from his international career.





# R20M grant for invasive aliens research

Researchers in Rhodes University's Department of Zoology and Entomology have been awarded R20 million in funding from the national Working For Water (WFW) campaign for the next three years to continue ground-breaking research into the biological control of invasive plants.

The research focuses on waterweeds and the climbing cactus, *Pereskia aculeata*. The funding will be used in the development and implementation of biological control agents and evaluation of their impact, as well as training and capacity building.

This is the third three-year contract that Working for Water have signed with Rhodes University and Professor Martin Hill, head of Entomology at Rhodes University, says this serves as an indication that the research being conducted at the university is of the highest standard.

"This research is not so much about what it costs Working for Water, but rather what it is worth to them. We have had great success in introducing biological control agents to control invasive alien weeds, but it is also the value-adding that we do," said Prof Hill.

Invasive aliens comprise plants, animals and microbes introduced into countries which then out-compete indigenous species.

Of the estimated 9 000 plants introduced to South Africa, 198 are classified as highly invasive. It is estimated that these plants currently cover approximately 10 percent of the country's land surface, with the problem increasing rapidly.

"It is estimated that invasive alien plant species reduce the mean annual runoff in South Africa by nine percent, which is highly significant in a water-stressed country," Hill explained. "Furthermore, these weeds threaten the ecological functioning of natural systems and the productive use of land."

They intensify the impact of fires and floods and increase soil erosion.

Prof Hill said invasive alien plants (IAPs) can divert enormous amounts of water from more productive uses.

Invasive aquatic plants, such as the water hyacinth, affect agriculture, fisheries, transport, recreation and water supply.

In an effort to combat these trends, researchers in the Entomology department have devised an active capacity building programme involving not only postgraduate students, but also schools and individuals living with disabilities, who assist in the rearing of biological control agents.

According to Prof Hill, considerable progress has been made over the past three years and. The project emphasis has been on survey and pre-release.

Over the next three years it will move on to becoming a post-release evaluation and implementation-focused project.



Prof Martin Hill

The species included in the research are *Pereskia aculeata* and the five major floating aquatic weeds in South Africa (water hyacinth, parrot's feather, salvinia, water lettuce, and red water fern).

New studies on the biological control of common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) and Mexican azolla (*Azolla microphylla*) will be undertaken. Biological control of submerged aquatic weeds, including spiked water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*), and the emergent arrowhead species (*Sagittaria platyphylla* and *Sagittaria brevirostra*) will also be initiated.

Prof Hill said the team will also keep a number of potentially serious aquatic invaders, some of which already occur in South Africa, on a 'watch list' and conduct feasibility studies into their biological control.

These include Mexican water lily (*Nymphaea mexicana*), alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), Canadian water weed (*Elodea canadensis*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), Amazon frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*), yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), water poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*) and water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*).



Prof Hill said invasive alien species cause billions of rands of damage to South Africa's economy every year, and are the single biggest threat to the country's biological biodiversity.



# City hosts national Weedbuster event



**Prof Martin Hill**

“Invading alien species can suck the life-blood from our country. If not managed, they will destroy water security and quality.

“They destroy through wild fires and soil erosion, flooding, disease. They destroy the productive use of land, ecological functioning of natural systems, game, stock, fish, jobs and human lives.”

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi did not mince her words at the celebration of International Weed Buster Week and the 18th anniversary of the Working for Water project, hosted in Grahamstown recently.

Other VIPs at the prestigious event were MEC for Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, Mr Mcebisi Jonas, Ms Louise Asmal, wife of the late Professor Kadar Asmal, South Africa’s first minister of Water Affairs and Forestry and founder of the national WFW initiative, and Dr Guy Preston, deputy director general of the Environment Protection and Infrastructure projects and programme leader of WFW.

They were joined by Rhodes academics and students, community members and Makana officials.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness of the threats posed by invasive alien plants to already stressed water resources.

Professor Martin Hill, head of Entomology at Rhodes University, said the local hosting of Weed Buster Week and Working for Water’s anniversary was significant because it recognised research at Rhodes that addresses the control of invasive alien plant species and water security.

Prof Hill referred to the recent awarding to Rhodes University of a new R20 million three-year contract from Working for Water to work on biological control.

As Grahamstown’s water woes continue to receive public attention,

**“Jobs, and especially jobs for young people, in a world that is still facing massive human population growth, cannot be over-emphasised,”**

Ms Mabudafhasi spoke of the benefits of an effective management system for invasive alien species, which both Weed Buster and Working for Water aim to establish.

A national multi-dimensional initiative launched in 1995 by Professor Kader Asmal, Working for Water aims to address the problem of invasive vegetation and unemployment. It does this through a multi-dimensional approach targeting the enhancement of water security, improvement of ecological integrity, restoration of the productive potential of land, promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and employment opportunities for the economically marginalised.

With 300 projects throughout South Africa, the initiative falls in the portfolio of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Agriculture.

To date, approximately 25 000 jobs have been created per year through the programme, with a record high of 40 000 in 2013.

According to Ms Mabudafhasi, these are jobs for previously unemployed people, with a particular focus on the marginalised including factors like race, gender, age, disability, people living in rural areas, and those living with HIV and Aids.

“Jobs, and especially jobs for young people, in a world that is still facing massive human population growth, cannot be over-emphasised,” she said.

Working for Water is currently exploring the potential of using invasive alien biomass to make furniture. Ms Mabudafhasi said an eco-furniture programme is envisioned to create more jobs in Grahamstown. The plan is to establish a factory to produce furniture such as desks, as well as coffins.

The deputy minister also hopes to use biomass from invasive wood and bush-encroachment species in the area to generate energy, in partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation.

Albany Working for Water actively engages in public education programmes, as well as conducting ongoing clearance of invasive alien plants and land-rehabilitation work. They are currently involved in setting up a mass-rearing facility at Ntsika Secondary School in Grahamstown East that will provide biological control agents for waterweeds throughout South Africa.

Ms Mabudafhasi visited the Rhodes-based bio-control rearing facility for biological control agents against water hyacinth, the world’s worst water weed. The facility employs people with disabilities in the rearing of weed busters.

She unveiled a plaque of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Southern Africa at the Grey Dam and donated more than 200 desks made from alien invasive species to Nombulelo High School. Ms Mabudafhasi also officially launched a new biological control agent for water hyacinth that was developed at Rhodes.



# Rhodes book launch sets new record

A total of 20 books by Rhodes-affiliated academics were launched recently in the second book launch of the year, setting a new record for the number of staff-related publications at the university.

"Books can be enchanting and can launch us on to flights of wonder. There is something magical about writing a book, and the launch of a new book is an inspirational and special event," said Dr Sizwe Mabizela,

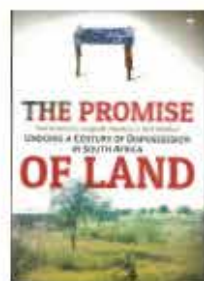
Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs.

He said that given the daily pressures on academics, the launch of a book is even more special.

"Taking into account the demands on academics in the form of teaching, administration, community engagement and research, the publication of a book by a colleague is an event to be celebrated," he said.

## Rhodes Annual Book Launch 2013

Rhodes University in partnership with Van Schaik Bookstore



The Promise of Land: Undoing a Century of Dispossession in South Africa



Understanding African Music



Schwarze Flamme



A Kingship of Bones: AIDS, Intimacy and Care in Rural KwaZulu-Natal



Generations of Jazz At the Red Location Museum: Exhibit Catalogue



Re-imagining Academic Staff Development: spaces for disruption



Displaced



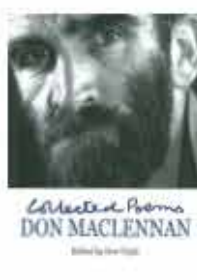
The Forgotten People: Political Banishment under Apartheid



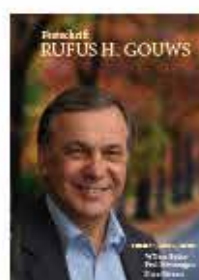
Into the Hitherto Unknown: Ensign Beutler's Expedition to the Eastern Cape, 1752



Medicinal and Charm Plants of Pondoland



Collected Poems: Don MacLennan



Festschrift: Rufus H. Gouws



Poetry 99: Twenty South African poets in performance 1999



Donga



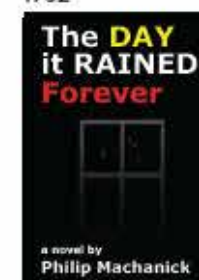
Media Management in the New Age: How managers lead media in Southern and Eastern Africa



Sign Language: A South African and Global Perspective



Crocodile



The Day it Rained Forever

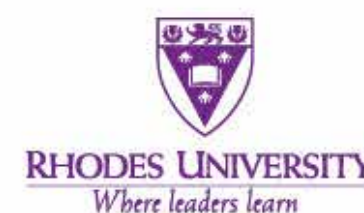


Listen and Learn: Music Made Easy



Listen and Learn: Music Made Easy, Teacher Guide

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# World-class scientist raises the bar

**“Africa and my students are more important to me than anything else - I want both to succeed.”**

That’s why she’s so tough on her students, says Rhodes University Distinguished Professor Tebello Nyokong. An A-rated NRF scientist, she is the recipient of a National Research Foundation (NRF) Lifetime Achiever Award.

The Award, presented at a ceremony in Port Elizabeth on 27 August, is given to a South African considered to have made an extraordinary contribution of international standard and impact to the development of science, in and for South Africa.

“What really pleases me about this award is that, like an NRF A-rating, it spells out that you are a world-class researcher.”

This is extremely important for securing funding in these funding-strapped times, says Nyokong whose research output is among the highest of any individual academic in South Africa. In 2012 she published 51 articles, all of them internationally peer-reviewed.

It’s an extraordinary achievement.

Africa, she explains, is too often viewed as a continent of poverty and conflict with no science base.

“I set my mind on showing what Africans can achieve in Africa, and to develop the kind of reputation and facilities that would draw academics from all over the world to collaborate with us. This has happened,” said Prof Nyokong, who has been at Rhodes since 1992.

She holds the Department of Science and Technology/NRF South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI) Chair in Medicinal Chemistry and Nanotechnology at Rhodes.

Her research includes making significant strides towards the effective treatment of cancer through photodynamic therapy, which is intended as an alternative to chemotherapy.

“Then there’s the whole field of nanotechnology, which has unlimited potential with unbelievable applications—from delivering drugs to specific organs to doing laundry without water,” she explained.

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on an atomic and molecular scale.

“I would really like to see Rhodes establishing thriving spinoff companies through our research. All universities today need to develop a far more entrepreneurial way of thinking.”

She would also like to see South Africa become more accommodating of new drug and product development.

“We’ve tended not to see ourselves as developers of new drugs; instead we bring in the drugs from outside and test them here.

“But this needs to change.

“We need to believe in ourselves and our development ability, which would also encourage more students to go into research.”

Nyokong is widely recognised for her contribution to the



**Deputy Minister: Science and Technology, Mr Tshililo Masutha and Prof Tebello Nyokong**

development of young South African and African scientific talent. Postgraduate and postdoctoral students from around the world apply to the Rhodes Chemistry Department in the hope of studying and conducting research under her supervision, in the magnificent laboratory she has helped to develop.

Several second-year students have even asked if they can ‘book ahead’ to do their doctoral studies with her.

A high number of her students are from disadvantaged backgrounds and a large number are women, which earned her the NRF’s ‘Champion of Transformation in Research’ award some time back.

Nyokong is no stranger to hardship. She grew up in rural Lesotho and worked as a shepherd in the afternoons after school.

“My South African father moved our family to Lesotho after the Sharpeville massacre. We lived in Lesotho for a number of years, as my mother came from there.”

She learnt from an early age that there are no shortcuts to success. She put in the hours as a student, and she expects the same from her students. They flourish under her rigorous supervision and many graduate with distinction.

In the 20 years she has been at Rhodes, Prof Nyokong has supervised 75 MSc, PhD and Postdoctoral students.

“Some have run away from me,” she said.

She has also been extensively involved in assisting staff and students from more poorly resourced universities.

“I want them to be NRF-rated and I want to see a lot of research activity. That’s what knowledge production is about.”

Prof Nyokong’s international reputation has helped enhance the reputation not only of Rhodes University, but of South African and African science. She



has undertaken formal international collaborations with counterparts in France, Russia, China, UK, Belgium, Japan, Germany and Chile.

“Professor Nyokong exudes passion for science—doing science, teaching science, promoting science, raising finance for science, applying science, and contributing to national and international policy and strategy to foster and grow scientific research in developing countries,” said Dr Peter Clayton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research & Development at Rhodes University.

At 61 years of age there is no stopping her, and one wonders if she has time to sleep.

“Why sleep now when you can sleep later,” she said.

“People think I work all the time, but I’m also a very social person and I love going out. I believe in hard work and hard play.

“I’ve also brought up two children. My daughter, who has a degree from Rhodes, works as an HR Manager for Sasol New Energy. My son studied computer science and works in ICT in Durban.”

Nyokong is widowed and has no thoughts of re-marrying.

“I would not make a good wife. I have become extremely independent and all the men my age are ugly,” she laughed.

She even takes the odd break, and when she does, she heads for Mauritius.

“When I’m on holiday I don’t want to be in South Africa because it reminds me of work. I want to go to a place that is beautiful and natural but that has all the first-world facilities, which is Mauritius. I also sleep so well there, which I don’t do at home.”

Looking to the future, apart from designing a sleep cure, she would like to see increasing numbers of South African chemistry graduates excelling in their fields.

Her strongest encouragement to learners thinking of studying chemistry after school is to focus on their mathematics.

“Maths is key —and I’m talking about formal maths, not maths literacy.

“You can catch up on some of the other subjects, but you are going to battle if you don’t get a good background in formal maths.”

Her greatest dream is to see a major South African product developed by her SARChI Chair doing well on the international market. “I like to think of myself and my team as contributing new knowledge for the benefit of all humanity and the planet,” she says.

“I hope this wonderful award can serve towards achieving our goal and making South Africa proud.”



## The colour of a cure

On Prof Tebello Nyokong's office desk in the Chemistry Building is a small vial of blue dye, which she picks up and holds to the light.

“This is very similar to the dye used in blue jeans. The molecules are just a bit more fine-tuned for our purposes, which is to treat cancer,” she explains.

The oncologists apply the dye to the cancer. This is done on the skin’s surface if it is skin cancer, or it is injected, for example in lung cancer.

A red laser light is then applied to the dyed area, which absorbs the red light and generates toxic radicals that kill the cancer.

This technique is designed to treat any part of the body that the laser can penetrate. It can be used in remote areas because sophisticated equipment isn’t required.

Key to this treatment’s success, however, is that the cancer needs to be small, in its early stages. The laser light cannot penetrate the cancer if it has grown too large.

The only side effect, Nyokong explains, is light sensitivity. Patients need to stay out of the sun for a while.

The treatment is currently in the clinical trial stage, in collaboration with her Russian colleagues. She is encouraging her postgraduate students to take it forward to the licensing stage.

“There are a number of phases before you can take any treatment to market. These include testing it on animals, which has been done, and testing it on healthy humans, which is yet to be done.”

The cancer treatment is one of her many research areas.

The same dye, altered differently, can be used in combination with sunlight to clean polluted water.

“We are working on a treatment that can potentially be used to kill *E.coli* in drinking water in the rural areas,” said Nyokong, whose team is working on the test phase.



# Rhodes honours promin

Dr Janet Cherry, Dr Sandile Malinga, Ms Nomkhita Nqweni and Ms Jennifer Thorpe were recognised by the Rhodes University community recently when they were awarded the Old Rhodian and Emerging Old Rhodian awards, respectively.



From L-R: Dr Sandile Malinga, Ms Nomkhita Nqweni, Dr Saleem Badat and Dr Janet Cherry

## Dr Janet Cherry

Dr Cherry's multifaceted achievements include human rights and political activism, lobbying on climate change and energy policy, creating sustainable human settlements, working with NGOs and government departments, and as a researcher on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

She became involved in politics as a student at UCT, becoming General Secretary of the National Union of South African Students (Nusas) in 1983. Since then she has been a fearless fighter for justice. After graduating from UCT she moved to the Eastern Cape and established an adult education centre. In addition to various political involvements, she established the End Conscription Campaign in the Eastern Cape.

Her invaluable contribution to enabling, documenting and supporting the development of democracy in South Africa is evidenced in her involvement in a range of projects, including action research projects with the most marginalised groups in Port Elizabeth such as Amabutho and informal settlement dwellers, and documenting the oral history of the liberation struggle at grassroots level.

Dr Cherry obtained her PhD, entitled 'KwaZakele: the politics of transition in South Africa: an Eastern Cape study', and taught in Rhodes University's Politics department.

She spent many months in detention, solitary confinement and under house arrest for her refusal to be silenced for her views on the atrocities of apartheid. Since 1994 she has continued to work in poverty-stricken areas in Africa and Europe.

## Dr Sandile Malinga

Head of the South African National Space Agency (Sansa), Soweto space scientist Dr Sandile Malinga made history 12 years ago when he became the first black South African to obtain a PhD in the highly specialised field of meteor physics.

Widely considered a leader in his field, Dr Malinga has assisted government committees in developing the Space Agency Act and encouraged the role of space in the future development of Africa.

Professor Rod Walker, who awarded the prizes, said Dr Malinga was an excellent role model, community player and, as CEO of Sansa, "is making a significant difference to this country and contribution to society in general".

Dr Malinga enrolled for a two-year BSc Honours programme in physics and electronics at Rhodes University in 1991, followed by an MSc in 1995 and a PhD in 2001. While at Rhodes University he participated in a range of activities, including being a sub-warden and warden and mentoring many students.

Dr Malinga also founded the Voice of Glory society, a group of young people who gathered to celebrate their spirituality and share ideas and thoughts to help them deal with daily pressures. This group is still active at Rhodes University today.

Dr Malinga said he was humbled by the award.

"I would like to encourage our youth, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to see what can be done with passion and perseverance."

## Ms Nomkhita Nqweni

With a passion for developing talent and skills, Ms Nomkhita Nqweni served as an Executive Member, Deputy President and President of the Association for Black Securities and Investment Professionals from 2004 to 2009. She is now a member of the Association's Advisory Council.

In 2006 she launched the Women in Focus mentorship programme aimed at supporting the growth of women's leadership in the financial sector.

She joined Absa in 2010 and is currently the CEO of Absa Wealth and Investment, coordinating and advising on investments, wealth fiduciary, banking and credit



solutions to the ultra-high net worth wealth management clients of both Absa and Barclays on the African continent. She is responsible for managing R232bn worth of assets.

Ms Nqweni graduated from Rhodes University with a BSc in 1996, majoring in Microbiology and Biochemistry. During her time at Rhodes she served as a sub-warden of Atherstone House for two years. This was followed by a Post Graduate Diploma in Investment Management from RAU (UJ) after which she completed a



# Emerging Old Rhodians



Leadership Development Programme at the Gordon Institute of Business Science.

According to Prof Walker, Nqweni is a true professional who embodies all the qualities that make her richly deserving of the Emerging Old Rhodian Award.

“Nomkhita embodies the values of selflessness and generosity, and she is dedicated to improving the well-being and education of thousands of families. Having been born and raised in Port Elizabeth, she has a deep understanding of the many challenges that families in the Eastern Cape face,” he said.

“I think these are key facets in the ethos of the coursework at this particular department.”

The two categories for the awards are Distinguished, for those over 40, and Emerging, for those under 40. Recipients received a replica statuette of the famous “Figure of Energy”, based on George Frederick Watts’s “Physical Energy” statue, which still stands today in London.





## Accounting students will score from new professional link



**Prof Mark Bunting**

Students in the Department of Accounting have a clearer path to follow to success and a mentor they can be proud to emulate, after Associate Professor Mark Bunting was awarded Fellowship status at the South African Institute of Financial Markets (SAIFM).

In conferring fellowship status on Prof Bunting, the Institute's board of governors took into account his long involvement in

higher education in South Africa; his publications (including a substantial textbook on financial reporting that is used by senior undergraduate and postgraduate students at Rhodes, and regular contributions on finance-related matters to the professional and popular press); and his recent two-year involvement in the international accounting standard-setting process in London.

He said the Fellowship would help strengthen links between teaching and research activities at Rhodes University and the accounting profession.

He said it was a challenge to overcome both the academic/professional distinction and Grahamstown's physical distance from larger financial centres.

"The realities of these two disconnects, both geographical and professional, are always matters of concern for me when I consider the educational needs of our students at Rhodes," Prof Bunting said.

"We already have strong professional links in chartered accountancy with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

"While we offer a Master's in Financial Markets, which includes a material component based on a number of SAIFM's professional exams, our links with professional bodies in the financial markets are not nearly as well-established."

Of the link with the Institute, he said, "Clear potential benefits would also accrue to Rhodes and our students."

He said the Institute was the pre-eminent organisation for finance practitioners in South

Africa, whose stated mission was grounded in education-based initiatives. The mutual benefits of such links seemed clear.

"Although my personal career path in finance education may not change, many of my students will end up working in the South African capital markets, and as active potential future members of SAIFM," he said.

Prof Bunting has held ordinary membership of the Institute since 2003, after passing a set of financial markets exams, and complying with a code of ethics and a set of standards of professional conduct.

The South African Institute of Financial Markets is the leading professional institute in South Africa for financial markets practitioners, and provides educational and examination services for professionals who wish to specialise in managing investments, providing investment advice and executing transactions.

Prof Bunting said to gain ordinary membership 10 years ago, he wrote and passed the Institute's Registered Person Examinations. This qualified him for registration as both dealer and adviser on the following divisions of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange: Equities, SAFEX Equity Derivatives (Senior Dealer) and SAFEX Agricultural Derivatives, as well as the Bond Exchange of South Africa.

Fellowship of SAIFM is regarded as a prestigious category of membership and it is seldom bestowed.

Prof Bunting now adds the acronym FIFM to an impressive array of other professional qualifications in accounting and finance. He is a Chartered Accountant in South Africa, England and Wales, and he is also a Chartered Financial Analyst.

## Greening their world: New innovative

Dr Michelle Cocks of the Anthropology Department is dedicated to broadening our knowledge of the natural world, particularly in terms of the spectacular diversity and biodiversity of plant life in the Eastern Cape.

Now through her work with Groen Sebenza, she is directly forging a lasting connection between a group of young men and women and their natural world. A partnership between Rhodes University's Inkubeko Nendalo ("culture and nature") and the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI's) CREW (Custodian of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers) projects.

Groen Sebenza employs six young and enthusiastic matriculants from Cacadu and Amathole district municipalities to take part in a mentorship programme with experienced professionals in the field. These para-ecologists will take part in

the programme for two and a half years under the mentorship of Dr Cocks, Mrs Vathiswa Zikishe of SANBI and Mr Tony Dold of the Selmar Schonland Herbarium.

In July this year the first four-day training workshop was held to teach the para-ecologists to collect and prepare scientific plant specimens for accurate identification in the herbarium. Dr Cocks said that initially the group were rather apprehensive at being exposed to so many new and possibly daunting experiences, with the first day spent attending formal lectures at the herbarium.

But everyone seemed to come into their own the next day during the field work, which culminated in a show-and-tell activity. Each participant presented their freshly collected, pressed plant specimens and specimen labels.

"Not surprisingly the para-ecologists' confidence was considerably boosted when they were able to talk

about their own knowledge of the names and uses of plants that they recognised. Indeed this is key to the training process - the understanding that indigenous knowledge is important and must be documented," Dr Cocks said.

"There's so much more to a flower than just its beauty, I now look at plants differently!" said Mzukisi Beja.

"I used to hunt animals, harvest sea food, and medicinal plants with the motive that they belong to us, and so we can harvest them as much as we like, but that mindset has now changed! I'm now aware about the importance of our natural resources, and that we need to protect them for the future generations," said Someleze Mgcuwa.

"The most rewarding aspect of this project thus far is seeing how these young men and women who, until recently had very few prospects, have embraced this



# Peers give Prof McQuaid the nod

The Zoological Society of Southern Africa (ZSSA) has awarded a gold medal to Rhodes University's Distinguished Professor, Christopher McQuaid of the Zoology and Entomology Department.

His colleagues, headed by Prof Alan Hodgson, secretly sent a letter of nomination to the ZSSA, listing Prof McQuaid's many accomplishments. These include an NRF A-rating bestowed upon him in 2012. He received the notification of the award via email while in Hong Kong, and it came as a huge surprise.

"It is a great honour because it is an indication of esteem from one's peers and not something that one can apply for or that is given out lightly. So I was both surprised and very, very pleased," said Prof McQuaid.

"In the past, the medal has been awarded to scientists whom I hold in very high esteem, people I regard with enormous respect, including some who were my professors when I was a student and some who would be regarded as the founding fathers of my field in southern Africa."

He noted that the Rhodes Zoology department has made a significant contribution to the study of animals over many years. He also noted this was not the first Zoo Soc Gold medal to be awarded to a Rhodes academic.

Prof McQuaid feels the most rewarding aspect of being a ZSSA member is that the society helps him to keep in touch with the thinking in fields not in his direct line of research.

"I am interested in biology in a very broad sense,



**Distinguished Professor, Christopher McQuaid**

but these days it's impossible to keep up with all the literature. The meetings of the Zoological Society keep me in touch with colleagues who don't necessarily work in marine biology, how they are thinking and how their disciplines are developing."

As the South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Marine Ecosystem Research, he is working on a wide variety of topics, often in collaboration with people at other institutes in South Africa and abroad.

One of these is research into the effects of upwelling on rocky shore organisms. Upwelling happens when offshore winds result in very cold, nutrient rich water coming to the surface near the coast.

This large scale fertilisation has strong effects on plant growth and the balance between growth and grazing

rates, as well as the diet of filter feeders such as mussels, all the way up the food chain to top predators such as seabirds.

He says he really enjoys teaching both under- and postgraduate students.

"It's the interaction with people that I like—especially bright young minds. It's a two-way relationship really.

"To give insights or lessons to other people, you have to assimilate them yourself first. But at the same time the people you are working with have different insights and perspectives of their own.

"So it's an exchange, really: you have the experience acquired over some time; the students or post-docs have new perspectives unclouded by your own preconceptions, or for that matter your own experiences."

However, he cautions that the people you are working with shouldn't be empty vessels that turn out to be clones of yourself, "they should develop as individuals who take what you have to offer, add to it, alter it and make something new that is their own. It's really gratifying to see that happen".

Prof McQuaid has received many awards in the past, including in 2011 Distinguished Professor at Rhodes and the prestigious Gilchrist Award for his outstanding contribution to the enhancement of marine and coastal science in South Africa and Southern Ocean.

The Gilchrist Award is presented to a "distinguished marine scientist" every three years by the South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research (SANCOR).

## ways of involving local communities

opportunity with passion, ambition and hope for the future," said Dr Cocks.

"Later this year the para-ecologists participated in in-house training as well as regional learning-exchange workshops. In September they visited another Groen Sebenza project in Pondoland, collecting biodiversity specimens and documenting local indigenous knowledge," she added.

"The workshop provided the opportunity for each of the para-ecologists to share and learn from each other. None of the para-ecologists had been to Pondoland before and the opportunity to walk in the indigenous forest was a highlight for them." Dr Cocks said that next year the focus will shift slightly from skills development to include opportunities for sharing their knowledge and experience with others. She hopes that this will provide a platform to elevate the status of local knowledge and experience. Other Inkubeko Nendalo related projects include

developing an educational documentary for Terralingua's Biocultural Diversity Education Initiative (BCDEI). BCDEI is currently developing an educational curriculum module for high schools in North America to introduce their Grade 9-12 students to the concept and real-world significance of bio-cultural diversity.

The documentary strives to make the all-important link between biodiversity and cultural diversity more tangible to learners by showing examples of how traditional Xhosa knowledge and relationships with the land are expressed in the language through traditional idioms, proverbs, riddles and phrases.

The documentary will also include opportunity for the school learners enrolled in Inkubeko Nendalo to share their experiences of reconnecting with their cultural and natural heritage.

Last year Dr Cocks was invited to present the challenges and successes of Inkubeko Nendalo at

a workshop, "Multiple Perspective Approaches to Biodiversity Education," hosted by UNESCO in France.

"New innovative ways of involving local communities in acknowledging the importance of biodiversity are desperately needed, as conservation of biodiversity should not only take place in formally protected areas," said Dr Cocks.

"There is urgent need for local communities to take ownership of their resources. This can only happen by exposing local communities to its relevance at national scientific level and simultaneously encourage them to acknowledge and showcase their local knowledge. Only by bringing these two divides can true inroads into the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity be made at a global level."



# Catchment Research Group leads by example

The Catchment Research Group (CRG), winner in the student society or residence category in the Rhodes University Environmental Awards, was established as an informal group of postgraduate researchers in the early 2000s.

Since then it has made significant contributions to sustainable management of the water environment. In the past two years, the group's profile has increased significantly with student-driven outreach activities.

Co-presidents Louise Bryson and Karabo Chadzingwa were thrilled at the award.

"I was away doing fieldwork for my project, and Louise sent me a picture of her holding the award. I couldn't believe it. I had not put much thought into the possibility of winning, but when we did, it was pretty cool," said Ms Chadzingwa, an Environmental Science Masters student.

Ms Bryson, who is completing her MSc in Water Resource Science at the Institute for Water Research at Rhodes University, said, "The CRG is only made up of two master's students, so we rely heavily on active public participation. Now that we know there are people out there finding what we do useful, I think it will inspire us to consider further growth prospects."

Ms Bryson said the group had put effort into networking with similar organisations. These partnerships had been important in working towards

common goals.

"As an aspiring water professional, it validates the importance of catchment/water research, as well as an understanding of issues around water. It means that there is motivation to continue the organisation and improve on it," said Ms Chadzingwa.

"The recognition and exposure will hopefully facilitate CRG in getting more water researchers, professionals and students involved," she said.

This would mean better dissemination of information, and sharing of skills and knowledge about the water sector. Co-founder Professor Kate Rowntree said the researchers had met the Environmental Awards criteria of collaborative and cohesive efforts which strengthen and build community relationships; and promoting general environmental awareness, or an ethos of environmental learning.

"The students who promote these activities clearly lead by example; the group has been active for more than 18 months and, given the momentum evident in the group, I have no reason to believe that it will not continue to be a force for promoting water awareness and action over the years to come," Prof Rowntree said.

The Group's focus is on raising awareness and mobilising action among water interest groups in and around Grahamstown. They run various outreach activities and Water Circle Seminars, with guest presentations from students, researchers, professionals and practitioners in the water sector. A number of South African and international speakers have been included in the programme.

Since 2011 the Group has also been actively involved in Rhodes Water Week and other environmental awareness-raising activities, working closely with other Rhodes



student groups including Galela Amanzi and Rhodes Legal Activism.

The Group has also encouraged discussion around water issues through initiating the Karoo Water Watch and the Grahamstown Water Watch. After serving as Galela Amanzi's site manager for two years and getting involved practically with issues such as water security in Grahamstown, Ms Chadzingwa said the move to the CRG seemed like a natural transition into a more holistic view of water research.

"Problems around water, I had found, are complex and I liked that the CRG provided a space that could raise awareness and mobilise action among all water interest groups.

"Also, I liked the size of the organisation which is small enough, yet still allows for hands-on involvement."

Ms Bryson had found added benefits from the Group.

"I have met a wide variety of professionals in the water sector."

But she said the real value of the Group was that they expose their audience to ideas and research concepts that they would not normally get the opportunity to explore.

"The CRG basically just puts in that extra effort to formalise a forum for water-related research that is already out there and I think everyone who is interested can gain so much both personally and professionally."

For more info: <http://www.catchmentresearchgroup.blogspot.com/>



Louise Bryson



# Social, ecological water justice warriors

The Institute for Water Research (IWR) was recognised in the 2013 Rhodes University Environmental Awards for its work in proactively and adaptively managing South Africa's water resources.

The Institute, Incorporating the Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality (UCEWQ), was awarded their certificate in the institute or department category.

Informed by a transdisciplinary, integrative, adaptive, community partnership approach, the Institute's water project is titled 'Towards a New Paradigm for Integrated Water Resource Management in South Africa'.

Through it the IWR UCEWQ promotes on-the-ground water resource protection, better integration of use and management, and improved social and ecological water justice. It does this through constructive co-management and service-delivery of water. The outcomes of their work will inform the updated National Water Resource Strategy.

According to Dr Neil Griffin, postdoctoral fellow at the water-quality centre, the work is informed by recognition that management of water resources takes place in the real world.

The 'Towards a New Paradigm' project incorporates a view of human beings in catchments comprising complex social ecological systems.

"Ecological systems and societal systems cannot be separated," Dr Griffin said. The group's work acknowledges these complex systems, he said. As a result of their success in previous projects, the water-quality centre has been awarded R5 million by the Water Research Commission, over four years, to continue their work through their new paradigm project. Their project case study in Makana is an extension of their work with the Lower Sundays River Valley Project. Both focus on local governance.

The project links strongly to Water for Dignity, specifically addressing microbial pollution and human health. This it does through regular contact with water representatives in municipal wards, hand-washing awareness campaigns, addressing sanitation and health issues in schools and clinics, and "walking the river" to contribute to cleaning up the local freshwater resource.

The project involves a variety of other stakeholders, the main one being Makana Local Municipality. Others include the Khulumani Support Group, Galela Amanzi and the Kowie Catchment Campaign, as well as research groups including the Rhodes University based Institute for Environmental Biotechnology, Institute of Social and Economic Research and Catchment



Dr Neil Griffin

Research Group.

The Institute is involved in several ongoing projects, including the Eastern Cape Water and Local Government Case Study, the Crocodile River in the Inkomati Catchment (funded by NRF/ THRIP and industries that depend on the catchment), and the Olifants River Catchment, Mpumalanga/Limpopo (funded by USAID).

## Makana's Green heart beats strongly

Struggling to find work and eager to learn new skills, the members of neighbourhood greening project iNqaba yeGolide, threw their hearts into it when it was founded two years ago.

Now instrumental in mobilising local communities to keep their areas clean, healthy and aesthetically pleasing, the group recently received one of three Rhodes University Environmental Awards. They received the award in the Makana community category.

Registered as a cooperative in April 2011, iNqaba yeGolide specialises in environmental projects such as neighbourhood cleaning, greening and composting.

Co-founder Mr Sivelele Masa said the award was a welcome boost.

"We were struggling and there we no jobs at the time. We heard about this cleaning and greening and we threw our hearts into it. We wanted more education," he said.

The group attended various training programmes under the guidance of Professor Rob O'Donoghue of the Rhodes Environmental Learning Research Centre.

They also participated in training programmes and

attended a short course on nursery management at the University of Fort Hare.

They were nominated by Mr Ndumiso Nongwe, environmental manager of Makana Municipality. Mr Nongwe said the five members had an enterprising attitude and were dedicated to seeking new opportunities to enhance their skills.

Their efforts have also been recognised by Makana Municipality's Agriculture and Environmental Management offices, which formalised a working relationship with them by enlisting them as Community Environmental Facilitators. Together with 25 other unemployed local youth, the group helps implement the municipal environmental education and training strategy. They are instrumental in mobilising local communities towards a concerted effort to keep their wards clean, healthy and aesthetically pleasing. The project is now supported by the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Their innovation in composting in back yard vegetable gardens has attracted local and regional media attention, appearing in articles in the *Saturday Dispatch* and *Grocott's Mail*. Their activities have also been acknowledged by the Director-General of Environmental Affairs, Nosipho Ngcaba.

The group is currently negotiating to acquire land to start a nursery and a green composting initiative in Belmont Valley.

Mr Nongwe said iNqaba yeGolide is sure to go from strength to strength in its efforts to promote sustainability, especially in terms of human and ecological health and well-being.

Mr Masa said he is pleased with the progress the organisation has made so far.

"People are getting more interested. We talk about it with people here as environmental facilitators. People understand it and they use it more and more.

"We were proud of the award. Everything we do we do it out of the hope and spirit of hope. We throw our energy into it. In this new South Africa you have to be proud of yourself."



Dr James Gambiza hand over the award to iNqaba yeGolide members



# At the heart of the community: A tribute to Dr Wele Cecil Manona

Dr Wele Cecil Manona was born in Durban location, Peddie in 1937 and completed his early schooling at the Methodist Mission school before proceeding to high school at Healdtown. From there he seemed doomed to a career as a teacher subjected to Bantu Education.

He escaped this fate by joining the SABC Xhosa radio service, where he became very well known as a disc jockey. This was to stand him in good stead later when his greeting in many strange places brought the immediate and admiring response, "Manona!"



**Dr Wele Cecil Manona**

Wele was a research officer with ISER. He completed an MA on Burnshill, one of the villages in Keiskammahoek which had featured in the great Keiskammahoek Survey in the 1950s – the project which launched ISER and pioneered multi-disciplinary research into contemporary South African communities.

Wele's first decade or so with ISER coincided with remarkable developments under Jeff Opland's leadership. Visiting scholars from Yale and other New England universities were an annual delight – and most relied on Wele for guidance on local issues.

An Artists in Residence programme brought African musicians and poets to ISER, who likewise turned to Wele for advice on how to survive in Grahamstown West.

A leaven of professors emeriti – notably Winnie Maxwell, Michael Roberts and Leslie Hewson – added gravitas to the tearoom; Simon Becker, in the newly created post of Development Studies, brought the energy of a formidable researcher; and Andrew Tracey his encyclopaedic understanding of African Music to the party. The Anthropology Department next door was drawn into the mix as well.

Wele's benign, modest guidance was a blessing to us all – not least to this writer, with whom he had many adventures.

When we were working at Ford Motor Company, he interviewed some rough immigrant artisans, one of whom swore at him and ripped up the interview schedule. Wele smiled and duly noted this attitude to race relations in his logbook.

Among his colleagues was a prodigious linguist called Peter Mtuze, whose "Afrikaans was so good that when he phoned Pretoria, they called him 'Meneer'!"

In his spare time, Wele completed a BA with honours in Anthropology through Unisa. This decision brought him to the attention of Philip Mayer, the head of the Rhodes Anthropology Department and Jeff Opland, the energetic and creative Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER).

From 1975 to his retirement in 2002,

When taking food to starving residents in Glenmore, he was stopped by the police.

"What did you say?" I asked him. "Oh," he replied, "I spoke bad English to them."

I looked puzzled.

"Well, if you speak good English to them they think you are a cheeky K...; if you speak isiXhosa, you are being difficult; with Afrikaans they are at an advantage - so I speak bad English and we are okay."

During the roughest years of the Struggle, Rhodes offered his family a house on campus – not least because his twin daughters had broken the race barrier and been admitted to the Diocesan School for Girls (DSG), so had to be driven down Raglan Road in their uniforms each morning.

His son was also trying to evade the police.

Wele declined the offer - his credibility depended on his being in the heart of the community, and the family were not touched by the comrades.

As his substantial research publications indicate, Wele and I did many things together – dozens of visits to pre-schools in the most deprived areas of Ciskei; evaluations of the Sullivan Code at Ford; labour relations at Magwa Tea estates; the Glenmore Feeding Scheme; a community study of a newly established 'resettlement' in Ciskei.

Even in retirement, in between his own writing and despite his failing health, he could always make himself available to guide and to advise.

Our last trip together, barely a month before his death, was to the neglected cemeteries of Grahamstown East.

He died in St George's Hospital, Port Elizabeth on Monday 7 October, leaving his wife, Nobantu (herself well known and loved by generations of students at Graham House and Drostdy Hall where she worked for many years), his three daughters, his son and grandchildren.

So, the University bids farewell to a brave and generous spirited scholar, and the anthropological community in particular to a much loved friend.

By Professor Michael Whisson





# Humane, wise and helpful

I have had the privilege of having known Dr Wele Cecil Manona as a friend and colleague, and of having worked fairly closely with him at various stages of my career.

I started the anthropological research for my PhD in late 1978 in the Keiskammahoek area of what was then the Ciskei homeland.

The Keiskammahoek area had been the subject of a major research project, the Keiskammahoek Rural Survey, in the late 1940s.

In the late 1970s, Wele was already doing his masters research on migrant labour in the Keiskammahoek area, in the rural village of Burnshill.

My supervisor Professor Michael Whisson and I thought it would be a good idea if I worked in Chatha, another of the rural villages that had also been studied in the original survey, but was on the other side of the Keiskammahoek valley. It was more isolated than Burnshill, which was much closer to major towns and schools.

Dr Manona, who was then a researcher in the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes, was the person who took me to Chatha, and helped to ease me into the community, at a time when political tensions in the former Ciskei – building up for independence – were fairly high.

A few years later, we spent some six weeks together in the field on a project in the Amatola Basin near Alice, working on development and local government issues. The evening supper sessions were a wellspring of information and wisdom – both culturally and in terms of field politics – as well as of laughter and solace to an apprentice anthropologist such as me. I could not have hoped for a more humane, helpful, or wise, mentor and friend.

In later years, we worked on publications together, inter alia, for a restudy of the Keiskammahoek area, which came out in 1997.

From the 1970s onwards local government became an increasingly contested domain with which all rural researchers had to engage. There was the advent of party politics in the then Ciskei homeland. Then the years of Ciskei independence, the intensification of the struggle against apartheid during the 1980s, and then the demise of the Ciskei homeland and the advent of democracy in the 1990s.

The depth and continuity of Dr Manona's research made him one of the leaders in the area in the Eastern Cape. I was privileged to be able to learn the ropes from him in this regard, and my own research and writing on this topic has been significantly enriched for my pupillage with him, both in the field, and in writing up my material.



As an academic, Dr Manona was deeply caring and giving – towards his colleagues, his students and in the way he taught. He was a team player who always gave of his best. As an anthropologist, he was a superbly sensitive and specific observer and documenter of the detail, as well as the nuance of any situation in which he found himself.

His work documents and provides us with a significant archive of insights into important aspects of process, transition, in both rural and urban South Africa, in the difficult years building up to democracy. This constitutes a valuable contribution to our understanding of the dynamics of social change.

We in Anthropology will remember Wele Manona as a gentle, generous, humble and warm person, yet with the most amazing skills set: here was a person with an encyclopaedic knowledge of matters Eastern Cape (cultural as well as political) and with an uncanny political sense and ability to pick his way through tricky situations – who was willing to use those skills to help any researcher or colleague in his or her own particular project.

By helping not only Rhodes students and academics get up and running in this way, but also prominent visiting international scholars researching in the Eastern Cape, Dr Manona was one of the great facilitators of the Eastern Cape intellectual project over the past three decades.

Lala ngoxolo, Nala!

By Professor Chris de Wet





# Dwesa residents line up for free training

Close to 60 residents from Dwesa in the Eastern Cape are set to receive free computer training in the Siyakhula Living Lab, an initiative by Rhodes University and the University of Fort Hare.

Rhodes employee Ms Sibukele Gumbo, Siyakhula Living Lab project leader, said the training is intended to encourage first-time computer users to overcome their initial fear and embrace the potential of new technology.

“Initially people are quite unsure what buttons to press, but our tutors are very reassuring. They work hard to assure the participants that nothing bad will happen,” she said.

She said before any training commences, she and her team spend time planning with community members and introducing them to the Siyakhula approach.

Due to transport problems the course has been running at a slower pace than anticipated. Ms Gumbo said she maintains close contact with participants in preparation for training and values regular communication both ways.

“I am in direct contact with the community,” she said.

A maximum of four individuals from each of the 17 communities in the area will receive training, which will take place at two schools. Of the four, at least two are expected to be community members.

According to Ms Gumbo, the training sessions are intended for both teachers and the community at large.

Ideally, participants will attend one week of training a month, over four months. This will be done in the afternoons to accommodate teachers and principals travelling from nearby areas.

Subjects include Introduction to Computers, Managing Files, Word Processing using Open Office Writer (Beginner), Spreadsheet using Open Office Calc (Beginner) and Using the Internet.

Ms Gumbo, who is a PhD candidate at the University of Fort Hare, said computer literacy training in the Siyakhula Living Lab since its inception in 2006 had been well received by community members and teachers alike. “The best is always the feedback you get directly from the community. Everyone has my cellphone number and they often let me know how they are feeling after training has ended,” she said. The most rewarding feedback was an email sent by an elderly participant from her Nokia cellphone, and an SMS from another participant telling Ms Gumbo about their new job as data capturer.

“I think the best was feedback from a headmaster who never thought he would be able to use email: he sent me one from his phone.

“I also see past participants on WhatsApp. I like the fact that I’m seeing lots of cases in which people are applying what they learnt in class.

“Someone just recently bought a Tablet, this shows they are applying the knowledge,” Ms Gumbo said.

While she had no doubt community members benefited from the course, Ms Gumbo said they were not the only ones.

“When you’re tutoring you make contact with the community,” she said. “You can see that for some tutors it’s a complete shock: it’s going out into the wilds, where electricity can disappear and you really are at the end of the line for service delivery.

“But they have to adjust because they signed up for rural development and I believe they learn a lot.”



Ms Sibukele Gumbo trains Dwesa residents





# Monitoring rights: putting the best tool for the job in people's hands

The Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) continues to pursue their vision of universally realising the right to social accountability through the Fundamentals of Social Accountability Monitoring course.

Directed at organisations that are involved in advocating for quality public service delivery, the course aims to give civil society organisations the tools they need to effectively monitor public resource management.

“What we mean by that is how government plans what they are going to do with public resources and allocates those resources to different institutions,” said course training coordinator, Mr Eric Matambo.

The course is based on a commitment to the right to social accountability.

“Every citizen has got the right to demand justifications and explanations with regards to how those resources are being managed and, if there are any weaknesses in the system, to demand corrective action,” said Mr Matambo.



Mr Eric Matambo

The Fundamentals of Social Accountability Monitoring course has formed part of the work that PSAM does since it was first piloted in August 2007,

“Every citizen has got the right to demand justifications and explanations with regards to how those resources are being managed and, if there are any weaknesses in the system, to demand corrective action,”

having been delivered 14 times with 249 participants in 15 countries since then.

According to Mr Matambo, the course was developed to ensure that the work of PSAM has a more sustainable impact. Building capacity in a range of organisations allows for what might be systemic weaknesses in public resource management to be more easily identified and for recommended changes to be more valuable.

“The idea is that advocacy campaigns should be based on the evidence that you derive from using our tools,” he said. He explained that the

documentary outputs of government’s resource management procedures are like windows which organisations can use to interrogate how effective those processes were.

“We can look at whether key important things occurred in those processes. So was there consultation with beneficiaries of service delivery, was there a proper identification of needs analysis, and so on,” he explained.

The course has been seen to benefit participant organisations by giving them a more holistic view of the public resource management framework.

“There is often a focus on parts of the framework in isolation and so the coherence of the different parts of the process is something which is often new to people: how those different parts fit together, because if there is a weakness in the one, the whole framework falls apart,” said Mr Matambo.

Part of the way in which the course is delivered is through learning partnerships with organisations in different regions, such as Mozambique and Tanzania, that wish to run with PSAM’s model of social accountability monitoring.

According to Mr Matambo, there has been significant success with these partnerships managing to effect real change in their areas and spread PSAM’s message of the right to social accountability to various communities.

Though the course always has a South African delegation, he said PSAM would like to see more organisations from Grahamstown and the Eastern Cape participating. The focus of the course in the past has largely been on organisations at a national level. Participants have included the South African Human Rights Commission and the Treatment Action Campaign.

Matambo said PSAM is shifting its thinking towards building capacity in local organisations.

“There is a lot of despair around service delivery failure in this country, but a lot of people don’t seem to be aware of other avenues to try and affect change and improve service delivery,” he said, speaking to his personal view on the significance of this course. “I think the course is really empowering because people realise that they can actually go back home and know what questions to ask. These things are not beyond their reach.”

Subsidies are available for members of civil society organisations that are accepted to attend. Organisations wishing to participate can contact PSAM for further details.

Email [psam-admin@ru.ac.za](mailto:psam-admin@ru.ac.za) or call 046 603 8358.



# Putting people into the environmental picture

Encouraging a love of science and dedication to asking probing questions has been Professor Fred Ellery's professional mission. The Head of Department of Environmental Science delivered his inaugural lecture recently, entitled, 'The landscape holds answers to more questions than we have yet learned to ask'.

Prof Ellery has spent much of his working life examining the structure and functioning of wetlands in Southern Africa, with a particular emphasis on the links between wetland ecology, hydrology, geomorphology and biogeochemistry. He has studied how these affect and are affected by human interactions with wetland systems.

He believes that understanding the wetlands within the landscape context in which they are situated, including their human dimension, is crucial if they are to be managed sustainably.

"There is not one person who does not interact with the landscape in a substantial way," Prof Ellery said.

"Humans are coupled with natural systems, forming a social ecological system. It's not something you can get away from.

"Our current understanding does not match the complexities of these complex



structured and why it is so dynamic.

He describes his approach today as being informed by a combination of paradigms.

He said a significant amount of his work is conducted in teams and that some of his most important work has been done with postgraduate students, who "take the ideas and pursue them".

Prof Ellery's current work retains a focus on geomorphic elements, as he believes understanding these is vital if ecosystems and human livelihoods that rely on the land are to be more sustainable.

He also maintains that ecosystem restoration needs to understand the landscape context in which it is being undertaken.

Prof Ellery says science, contrary to popular opinion, is a deeply creative process, allowing for the uncovering of nature's secrets.

Sharing some of his tips for successful research, he said it was vital to acknowledge detail, but not get lost in it.

"It is important to make observations and reflect on the greater system and significance. Our world is increasingly complex and we need to engage with those complexities."

Prof Ellery has co-authored a book, published many chapters in edited books and peer-reviewed articles, and has written and edited many research reports, including the Water Research Commission's 'Wetland Management Series' of 11 handbooks.

He has been heavily involved in postgraduate supervision over the years, supervising or co-supervising 27 Masters students and six PhD students.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Saleem Badat introduced him, saying, "Fred is passionate about Rhodes University, where the individual student matters, and the focus is on quality rather than quantity."

Prof Ellery is the recipient of the International Mire Conservation Group Honorary Lifelong Membership, and the Mondi Wetland Award 2012 – the South African Wetland Society's award for wetland research.

An inaugural lecture marks the conferring of the status of full professorship to a Rhodes University academic staff member.



**Dr James Gambiza and Prof Fred Ellery**

systems. They can be understood but they are non-linear.

"Asking deep questions unearths important answers," he said.

Prof Ellery's research has allowed him to work across spatial and temporal scales and develop a broad understanding of this remarkable ecosystem.

He has done similar work in wetlands in northern KwaZulu-Natal. Here he started developing an interest in the geomorphic controls on wetlands and did pioneering work on the geomorphology of wetlands.

As a master's student Prof Ellery spent 18 months living in the Okavango Delta in a tent with his wife Karen, studying southern Africa's largest wetland ecosystem. Here he worked as part of a multidisciplinary team to understand how this ecosystem is



# Giving maths-teaching a new lease on life

Most Grade 10 pupils in Grahamstown are bored in their maths classes, says Professor Marc Schäfer, First Rand Foundation Chair in Mathematics Education.

Prof Schäfer is unashamedly passionate about mathematics, speaking of its beauty and processes, its aesthetics, patterns and the mediation process of the discipline.

Describing it as both a natural pattern and a social construct, Prof Schäfer does cause one to wonder why so many of us hated it at school, and why mathematics education is now in such dire straits in the South African school sector.

Delivering his inaugural lecture at Rhodes University on 11 September, he said 67% of Grade 10s switch off to maths.

Many perspectives have been used to attempt to analyse the crisis in mathematics teaching in South Africa, and many discourses have been brought to bear on the problem, all of which advocate different solutions.

Prof Schäfer takes a more global view.



Prof Marc Schäfer

By representing mathematics visually, learners can gain an understanding of the intrinsic beauty of mathematical processes, and its function in the world outside the classroom.



“What does it mean to teach conceptually?” he asks.

This question frames his work as the First Rand National Mathematics Education Chair.

As the Chair’s incumbent, Prof Schäfer focuses on two symbiotic pillars, namely the Maths Teacher Enrichment Programme (MTEP) and research.

The enrichment programme emphasises conceptual understanding and how this is put across within the school curriculum.

His research addresses a number of important questions in the field of Mathematics teaching and learning.

Prof Schäfer notes that the desired outcome for a mathematics educator is not necessarily pure mathematics. Instead, it is successful mediation of the discipline between child and educator.

In too many classrooms, he says, teaching is dominated by a procedural approach.

This allows children to become proficient in mathematical procedures, without giving them a conceptual understanding of what they are doing. In other words, they know how to find an answer, but do not understand why the answer is what it is.

Conceptual teaching turns maths problems on their heads.

Getting his audience involved, Prof Schäfer asked them to design a problem for which the answer is  $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{2}{5}$ . His own responses included a number of problems spanning a variety of mathematical domains such as ratio, length and percentage.

Using this method, the learner is able to understand the context and the underlying concept of a problem. What is needed, he told the audience, is a multi-dimensional framework which enables teachers to deconstruct mathematical ideas to facilitate conceptual understanding.

He uses multiple representations and visualisation as a way to encourage conceptual understanding.

Illustrating this in his lecture, Prof Schäfer played a number of video clips made by the VITAL maths project for cellphone viewing, which reach mathematics learner communities in South Africa and in Europe. By representing mathematics visually, learners can gain an understanding of the intrinsic beauty of mathematical processes, and its function in the world outside the classroom.

Prof Schäfer summed up his view by reiterating that teaching for conceptual understanding implies a nuanced, interesting, inspiring, unpredictable and above all effective pedagogy. It is teaching which is passion-filled, and which embraces quality, he said.



# Possibility within poverty

Poverty as a conceptual clearing from which a different understanding might emerge was the notion Head of the Department of English, Professor Dirk Klopper, explored as he delivered the last inaugural lecture for the year on 16 October 2013.

Speaking about the emergence of the imaginary among the actualities of everyday life, he described this as the space of possibilities.

Loss, poverty and pacification were the areas he explored with the audience gathered at Eden Grove Lecture Theatre, which he intended to cover on the topic, 'Poverty, Bare Life and the Life of the Imaginary'.

Using evocative black-and-white photographs and quoting from the works of some of South Africa's best-known authors, he took his audience on a journey where he asked them to distinguish between poverty and destitution. He asked them to explore with him ways in which poverty could be re-visioned, without either idealising or trivialising the hardships faced by those living within it. He was at pains to emphasise that poor communities both require and deserve the fulfilment of basic human needs such as shelter and food. However, he explained, he wanted to move beyond the tangible into the not-quite: a different way of being.

Using JM Coetzee's novel *Disgrace* as an example, he suggested that the imaginary could be used to think into the ways of poverty, and from there to think of poverty as a conceptual clearing from which a different understanding and inhabitation of the world might emerge.

Moving on to Zakes Mda's novel *The Heart of Redness*, Prof Klopper used a powerful quote to illustrate the principle of pacification. This, ironically, the amaXhosa had accomplished for the colonial powers by the cattle killings of the 19th century in response to the words of the prophet Nonqawuse, Prof Klopper said.

This belief in the words of a young girl, who claimed to have spoken to the ancestors, resulted in widespread starvation and people's mass exodus from Xhosaland to take up employment in the Cape Colony. It broke the resistance of the amaXhosa to colonial rule and severed them from their pastoral way of life.

This pacification resulted, Prof Klopper said, in a previously external political border between the colony and the other being made internal: it incorporated the amaXhosa into the law of the colonial power, while simultaneously setting them apart from that law.

Touching on the philosophies of Heidegger, Foucault, Marx and Freud, Prof Klopper's exploration of natural life versus political life, the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, and the privations of poverty as opposed to the imaginary space of a conceptual clearing in order to think differently, made for a fascinating and thought-provoking talk. Finishing with a quotation from the Don MacLennan poem 'The Poetry Lesson' he mused on a moment of mutual ignorance, which creates the space for a creative spark of imagination to fire and flourish.



Prof Dirk Klopper



Prof Rose Boswell

## Social inequality under anthropology's spotlight

Considering the ways identity is reconstructed in places where oppression still lingers is a lifetime pursuit for Professor Rose Boswell.

During her inaugural lecture entitled 'Re-imagining Ourselves: Odyssey and Anthropology in the Southwest Indian Ocean Islands', Prof Boswell shared her experiences of researching identity in Mauritius, Zanzibar, Madagascar and Seychelles.

Prof Boswell's lecture discussed the politics of identity and the influence of contemporary social phenomena on the islands, specifically international tourism and heritage management.

Providing a brief overview of anthropological theory to contextualise her research, Prof Boswell noted the shifts in conceptions of research and the role of the anthropological researcher in recent decades.

"Anthropologists, increasingly diverse and politically aware, have critically engaged with these issues, seeking to transform theorisation and practice while critically reflecting on and engaging a wide range of people on the issue of enduring inequality," said Prof Boswell.

A brief overview of anthropological research topics worldwide shows that anthropologists today are doing vital work, according to Prof Boswell. This includes researching and writing on politically significant issues like expatriate communities, sexual paradigms, ethical consumption, the politics of genetic testing and the discourses of corporate social responsibility.

"These new anthropologists, deeply conscious of the 'sins' of their forefathers are navigating various, ideologically complex terrains. They remain keenly aware of the politics of research and are standing up to self-reflexivity when encountering communities," she said.

While new directions in anthropology make it difficult to establish the external contours of the discipline, Prof Boswell argued that it is possible to discern the internal landscape via analyses of complex spaces such as the southwest Indian Ocean world.

"The island societies of the southwest Indian Ocean are globally and politically inscribed," she said. "These inscriptions are encouraging re-imagined selves, which, although tenuously anchored across multiple spaces of influence, empower the islanders in specific ways."

The emerging complexity apparent in this region and global society as a whole is altering the internal landscape of the discipline and re-inscribing anthropologists, Prof Boswell explained, resulting in more politically and socially nuanced accounts of the social world.

"It is not only scholarship which makes an anthropologist and her concerns, but also the social relationships and self-reflexivity which arises out of fieldwork. This process is political, for it re-orientates the researcher, enabling her to question the underlying assumptions of theory and research practice."

Prof Boswell shared findings on how "the islanders are keen to re-imagine self and community so as to produce alternative identities, networks and sources of power in a still oppressive context, and that this process is vital to care, solidarity and the pursuit of social justice".

Doing research in Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zanzibar also revealed that anthropology is perplexing and rewarding, said Prof Boswell, since it involves difficult "learning with others and seeing power where the apparently powerless reside".



# Rhodes celebrates Engaged Research

Rhodes University celebrates six community research projects from six disciplines in a 98-page publication titled *Engaged Research*.

The projects featured in this publication illustrate how engaged research can approach community challenges, helping transform communities and societies while producing new knowledge.

The projects were selected on the basis of their commitment to Engaged Research and their establishment of successful knowledge co-creation partnerships with a range of communities.

The work involved is widely acknowledged and acclaimed, and certainly demonstrates the way forward for academic research, and transformation, not only at the University but also in South Africa.

“When we talk about community the emphasis is often on the impoverished sector; and rightly so, because this is where the greatest need lies.

“However, the intended impact of engaged research is to empower all people in their respective environments to work towards developing a sustainable lifestyle,” said Dr Peter Clayton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Development.

“The existing strengths of our academic staff members combined with local facilities and resources in the Grahamstown community make Rhodes the natural home for this.”

The opportunities for engaged research are enormous for a university like Rhodes, which is situated in a rural setting in one of the poorest provinces in South Africa. “One of the strengths of Rhodes is that because it is a small university. It creates the space for the kind of collegiality where researchers can readily engage across disciplines and in partnership with communities,” said Dr Clayton.

Ms Di Hornby, Director of Community Engagement, noted that research, teaching and learning are often cited as the core functions of a university.

“They represent the way a university can competently create and disseminate knowledge,” she said.

“But if universities, and those who work within them, wish to be more than competent within their fields, if they wish to strive for excellence, then more dynamic approaches to traditional research, teaching and learning practices need to emerge.

“One such approach is being described as Engaged Research, a responsive and respectful way for research to be conducted – in partnership with communities and their contexts.”



**Ms Di Hornby**

Ms Hornby says such engagement is no longer regarded as a ‘nice to have’ in the way charity is often regarded.

Community engaged research, in mutually beneficial ways, can serve as a basis for rethinking, theorising and acting towards transformation. Such approaches aim to contribute to building a cohesive and vibrant society, a strong economy and a healthy environment.

“To achieve this we need to look beyond the old model of community-based research where the methodology was to go out and collect ‘data’, often in a detached and a dehumanising manner. This reflected the antiquated ‘us’ and ‘them’ approach,” Ms Hornby said.

“By comparison, engaged researchers today, as illustrated by the six Rhodes projects, are rethinking what community knowledge means and partnering with communities in producing it.

“They are rethinking how to work with communities and what communities can offer. In the process, they are recognising strengths and expertise in communities, and seeing these as valuable contributions to the research partnership.

“These resources and strengths powerfully come to fore when the research partnership is approached sensitively, inclusively and holistically.”

To this end, engaged researchers across faculties may choose a trans-disciplinary approach that draws on the diverse strengths of different disciplines, as one of several approaches to Engaged Research.

“A key goal for the community engagement office is that the research partnership must be transformational, where all participating members understand they are members of the research community and that their input and active participation is important, not only for the benefit of the research project, but also for knowledge production, the betterment of communities, and, more broadly, the betterment of society,” Ms Hornby said.

The six research projects are led by:

- Prof Tally Palmer – Institute for Water Research,
- Prof Charlie Shackleton, Dr Sheona Shackleton and Dr Georgina Cundill – Environmental Science
- Prof Heila Lotz – Environmental Learning Research Centre
- Ms Alex Sutherland – Drama
- Prof Alfredo Terzoli – Computer Science
- Mr Rod Amner – Journalism & Media Studies



**Prof Peter Clayton**



# Print-making recalls older struggles



Master of Fine Art student Carmen Koekemoer recently presented 'Positions', an exhibition of printmaking, video and installation.

Koekemoer's work is informed by historical and contemporary dynamics of leadership. It synthesises her interest in the archetypal print medium with conceptual concerns regarding control and the ruling elite of South Africa.

The exhibition comprises traditional prints such as linocuts, stencils and monotypes, as well as digital media such as video projection and digital prints. According to Koekemoer, the title of the exhibition is both relative and ambiguous.

"On the one hand it alludes to the different offices of leadership, for example, the office of President.

"On the other hand, it also suggests my perception, as an artist and citizen of South Africa, of the political leaders of my time," she said.

The exhibition takes place in the context of the ambiguities and contradictions of leadership in current South Africa.

Koekemoer was drawn to the printmaking medium, with its long history of use for socio-political comment and protest in South Africa. She uses it to subtly shift shapes, bringing out incongruity and political irony.

Printmaking was associated with the resistance and protest art of the anti-apartheid movement, but also international socio-political movements towards change. The genre of portraiture, whether recognisable or non-mimetic and ambiguous, is harnessed to portray the omnipresent 'leader-figure'.

Almost two decades since Albie Sachs called for the end of art as a weapon of struggle, Koekemoer believes ambiguities around the role of art are as contested as ever — particularly the contemporary role of socially and politically motivated art that "no longer has the armrest of the apartheid system to oppose".

"Though I have looked at the medium's utilisation as an instrument for pointed political commentary within the Fine Art canon, and not in terms of it being a tool for contemporary political activism, the extent to which it is used by artists today reveals the ambiguities and contradictions which I believe Sachs was suggesting in his paper 'Preparing Ourselves for Freedom'," Koekemoer explained.

By revealing the ambiguities of leadership with the use of the print medium and portrait genre, not only have artists encouraged a better understanding of leader figures, but they have also challenged public perceptions of them, Koekemoer said.



## Fine Arts Graduate students showcase talents

Rhodes University Fine Art students showcase their work at the annual Fine Art Graduate Show on 8 November. The Graduate Show commences at the Fine Art School and takes the form of a walkabout through the Rhodes BFA students' final exhibitions.

"In exhibiting all the students' works in their various venues, the integrity and individualism of the original submissions is maintained and the public is invited to view this in a number of exhibition sites and exciting installation spaces in Grahamstown," says senior lecturer, Mr Brent Meistre.

Each year, the graduate exhibitions represent the culmination of four years of focused study in the visual arts and reflect the art students' growth of individual vision and often rigorous self-reflexive interrogation.

"Students have sought and found appropriate contemporary creative means to express diverse concepts and ideas, often in a strong and unique personal vocabulary," says Mr Meistre.

Submissions cover a variety of artistic mediums including photography, painting, sculpture, installation, video, performance and printmaking.

"Thematic interests and conceptual approaches are equally diverse but common threads this year include investigations of family and cultural ties; architecture, perspective and perception and investigation of local history and geography," he says.

The 4th year students exhibition titles for 2013 are:

Caitlyn Long 'Goodbye Horses', Daniel Nel 'Blind Spot', Michelle Nel 'Affect', Mandy Middleton 'Labour of Love', Dee Ellis 'Rule Number One', Chiro Nott 'The Tjak of Washkibat', Madeleine du Toit 'Kokkewiet', Charis Fitcher 'Contagion', Aimee-Jade Smith 'Outside', Gemma Marion Garman '33°18'53.11"S, 26°31'46.65"E', Phiwokuhle Khumalo 'Zukiswa, Noluvuyo, Zandile', Jana Toman 'Ztraceno v pøekladu', Kelsey Leigh Aspeling 'Anomie', Inge Heide 'Mein Pass', Joseph Coetzee 'The Invaders' and Dudley Marc Thirkell Hibbert 'The Orchards'



# Rhodes honours “Mama Africa”

Rhodes University named Kimberley Hall East Miriam Makeba (affectionately known as Mama Africa) Hall at the naming ceremony on 15 October 2013.

Kimberley Dining Hall, with its distinctive pagoda-style structure, has been a feature of Rhodes for over 25 years.

Shared amongst three administratively separate halls — Kimberley East, West and Desmond Tutu Hall (previously Hilltop Hall), the sense of the dining hall’s identity had become somewhat diluted. This led to Kimberley East deciding to pursue the process of creating an identity for itself.

In presenting a list of possible names for new residences, Rhodes makes an effort to select names that will emphasise the University’s African identity.

The students of Kimberley Hall East stated in their motivation proposal: “Zenzile Miriam Makeba was an upstanding woman in our society, and her words represent much of what we would like to build into the culture of Kimberley Hall East: “I kept my culture, I kept the music of my people, and through my music I became this voice and image of Africa and the people.”

The motivation continues on to say. “These words are exactly what we want out of Kimberley Hall; leaders who remain true to themselves and dedicate themselves to the country and its people... leaders who are not afraid to take the path less trod because they know they are doing the right thing and are willing to sacrifice to achieve a common good for the people they lead.”

In 2004, the late Mama Africa was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Rhodes University and graced the community with a concert showcasing her beautiful voice and unforgettable melodies.

Her musical genius and love for her people and continent led to her being dubbed Mama Africa.





# SRC tackles National Development Plan

Members of Rhodes University's Student Representative Council (SRC) recently attended the National Development Commission Imbizo in Port Elizabeth.

There they interacted with Commission head Minister Trevor Manuel and commissioners about the National Development Plan at Nongoza Community Hall, New Brighton in Port Elizabeth.

The Rhodes delegation, headed by SRC president Sakh'usomeleze Badi, had a significant impact at the event, with the Minister specifically acknowledging their contribution. Badi was part of the welcoming party for the Minister's delegation and also chaired one of the Commissions at the event.

In a broad critique of the NDP Badi, who is completing his Honours degree in Economics at Rhodes, called for a more inclusive dialogue involving the youth and youth-based organisations. These, he said, had been completely overlooked by the government.

"The government has developed a lot of plans for the future of this country, but young people's ideas are not visible and are sometimes disregarded in the processes of formulating policies," Badi said. "It is my hope as a young man, to see more platforms being created where young people can engage with their leaders on various issues. We are the drivers and innovators of today and leaders and decision makers of tomorrow."

Badi believes the NDP, while offering plausible alternatives, is not accessible to the majority of South Africa's youth. It comprises more than 350 pages in English. Badi suggests these be translated into all official languages to encourage wider access.

According to Badi, the NDP is not a document that "a student from Chubekile Senior Secondary School in KwaZakhele can simply comprehend, as it were. Some university students struggle to make sense of this document.



Sakhe Badi

**"The government has developed a lot of plans for the future of this country, but young people's ideas are not visible and are sometimes disregarded in the processes of formulating policies,"**

"Moreover, some students in tertiary institutions have mentioned that the NDP does not adequately state how it will address a lot of the issues it outlines. The students also question the accuracy of the information used as a basis of the NDP because some government departments have been quoting different figures of what the population is in certain districts."

Badi is spearheading the development of a Rhodes-based Student Institutional Planning Commission, aimed at researching and exploring socio-economic, environmental and political issues that affect both South African and international students at local, provincial and national levels.

Discussions will be held that focus on research, teaching and learning, and community engagement. They are envisioned to facilitate dialogue for young people about the issues that affect them and their vision for higher education institutions.

According to Badi, the Student Institutional Planning Commission has a crucial role to play. "As things stand, institutions of higher learning reflect the state of our nation and society.

"The ills and divides of society along race and class lines are all too visible and play themselves out on various campuses. No one can deny that these issues need to be attended to, resolved and a new future created."

## White privilege divides University policy and practice: "We need

Dr Sally Matthews took a critical look at the issue of race and white privilege in the context of the university at the recent Institutional Culture Roundtable. She argued that white domination is still at work in the contemporary university, though the racism it perpetuates has become far less explicit.

Addressing staff members at Gavin Relly Postgraduate Village, she delivered her paper entitled '(White) Privilege and Institutional Culture' at the Rhodes University Institutional Culture Roundtable.

Dr Matthews began by saying South African universities still need to transform. On this, she said, there seemed to be general agreement. Though all institutions have complied with the broad requirements of transformation policies, discrimination still exists, causing a disjuncture between the institutional culture, and policies and practices.

Dr Matthews asked, "Why do black people still experience historically white institutions as alienating?"

She was reflecting on Rhodes University particularly, but linked her discussion to post-segregationist societies all over the world.

She argued after centuries of enforced white supremacy, the formal end of state-sanctioned segregation and changes in national laws do not automatically effect changes of practice and beliefs. Instead, white domination takes on more subtle forms, operating through what she referred to as "whitely habits".

Whitely habits are ways of being in the world that privilege white people and disadvantage black people, even if this is not the intention. Dr Matthews provided examples of blindness to their privilege and acceptance of a dominant position which many white people in the institution automatically assume.

Though often subconscious, she argued, whitely habits constitute racism functioning below the radar.

This means those habits may even conflict with the express beliefs of those acting on them. Such habits, she said, are likely to be developed by white people raised in a racist world, despite the beliefs they consciously hold.

While neither better nor worse than express racism, she believes this covert racism is a different form from that seen historically. As such it requires different responses.



# Truth — and power

A record number of delegates, journalists, activists, intellectuals and academics flocked to Grahamstown recently for the 17th Highway Africa conference, themed ‘Speaking Truth to Power? Media, Politics and Accountability’.

This year’s theme came at an opportune time for the African continent, according to Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Rhodes University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs.

“On the one hand is a promising story of an Africa rising from shackles of underdevelopment, colonialism and political subjugation. On the other, a persistent and depressing one of political instability and lack of transparency, responsiveness and accountability on the part of those entrusted by their electorate with leadership,” he said.

This year’s numbers (558) were significantly up on last year’s (435).

Dominant trends in the relationship between media, politics and society, and the theoretical assumptions that underpin modern media’s role in society vis-à-vis power were main themes.

Other topics were the nature of accountability strategies and structures of the media to society and political authority; implications of lapses in journalistic ethics for accountability; and the nature of the impact of advertising on small media.

Deputy Head of the School of Journalism and Media Studies and Chair of the Highway Africa steering committee, Professor Herman Wasserman, said the theme speaks to the trust and credibility that are at the centre of the relationship between media and society.

According to Prof Wasserman, if the media loses its ability to speak to people in a language they understand, about experiences they recognise and through stories they believe to be true, the media loses the reason for its existence.

As suggested by the Leveson inquiry in the United Kingdom, the trust and credibility of the media has, in recent years, come under scrutiny.

The increased intolerance of the media’s criticism of powerful actors has also been witnessed in South Africa, along with moves to establish the Media Tribunal and pass the Protection of State Information Bill.

Prof Wasserman said the media can claim the moral right of holding others to account only if it practices reflection on itself and its roles.

According to Mr Chris Kabwato, Director of the Highway Africa Centre, this year’s conference was a hybrid of a professional journalism conference and an academic event.

Previous conferences had merged two events — Highway Africa and the Global Forum for Media Development.

This year a large number of academics represented Rhodes University, Unisa, Wits and other academic institutions from across the African continent.

“This shift seemed to be a winner and we might explore the possibilities of deepening the academic component of the conference in future,” said Mr Kabwato.

“We will need to balance this with the fact that the majority of delegates are largely journalists and that the conference brand is built around a focus on professional journalism.”

Various events in the past two years have suggested the heightened power of the media. These include coverage of the Arab Spring, and of elections and political transitions in Africa, Europe, America and China. Investigative journalism unearthed corruption and incompetence and wasteful expenditure in South Africa, exemplified by the school textbook saga.

In response to this heightened power, governments have sought to question the legitimacy of the media and sought to limit its power. Politicians have sought to exploit alleged ethical lapses to threaten the Fourth Estate with stringent legislation and policies.

The Leveson judicial inquiry in Britain, set up after the phone-hacking scandal of the News of the World newspaper, as well as the so-called ‘Secrecy Bill’ in South Africa, have triggered fierce debate on the role and limits of the media.

“We sought to ask some questions around the relationship of media, politics and accountability. We used keynote addresses, plenary sessions, training workshops and book launches to try and make sense of this problematic relationship,” said Mr Kabwato.

As such the conference examined the ethical lapses in practice of journalists and the regulatory context.

Always on the cutting edge of new media, various practical workshops on data journalism were incorporated in the Highway Africa programme. and unforgettable melodies.

## to [bring to the] surface the operations of white privilege,”

Dr Matthews said while universities may be relatively good at policy responses to overt discrimination on campus, they have little ability to deal with or even recognise the discomfort of many black people in institutional spaces where they feel they do not belong.

One possible response she discussed was making ongoing white dominance in the university visible.

“We need to [bring to the] surface the operations of white privilege,” she said. In an attempt to do exactly that, Dr Matthews raised a number of examples of how white privilege affords white people certain resources that aid them in navigating social settings. These included the fact that white academics most often lecture in their mother tongue, in departments where their colleagues largely look “like them” and whiteness is expected of individuals in authority.

She said white academics will seldom encounter students who struggle to pronounce their name, or complain about their “funny” accent.

Because the habit of accepting the above as normal develops through interaction

with a racist world, Dr Matthews suggested the biggest hope for transformation might lie in removing white individuals from contexts in which whiteness was normalised and validated.

In the context of the university, however, this is difficult to do. The existence of white privilege deters black academics from taking positions at historically white institutions; yet the privilege continues in part due to white academics’ lack of exposure to more transformed contexts.

It was a circular position and Dr Matthews conclude that she was uncertain where things would go from here.

“We are planning to publish the papers presented at the Roundtable in a book on institutional culture. I hope that the book will contribute to discussions on transformation at higher education institutions in South Africa and beyond,” said Dr Matthews.

The roundtable forms part of the CHERTL Roundtable Series on Critical Issue in Higher Education, which is sponsored by the Ford Foundation.



# Learning to live in your own skin

Under the theme, ‘Leaving a Legacy’, the first annual Rosa Parks Memorial Symposium was recently hosted by Rosa Parks residence. It featured presentations by inspiring women from Rhodes University and around the world.

Rosa Parks’s niece and grand-niece, Sheila Keys and Zakiya McCauley-Watts, addressed the gathering via social media and Dr Joy Owen, senior lecturer in Rhodes University’s Anthropology department, gave a moving presentation entitled ‘Wie’s jy? The legacy of the present’.

The event also saw Marina Maema, an Honours student at Rhodes University, receive the residence’s Most Inspiring Woman award.

In her presentation Dr Owen shared her experience of having been challenged to consider her role in humanity following a conversation with a friend. After she was pushed to answer, ‘Wie’s jy?’, Dr Owen said her mind scrambled around for an answer.

“And yet my soul knew. I am just me, however constructed in this moment. Not an object, not even a subject. Just me,” Dr Owen related. “So, like [that friend], tonight I ask you, ‘Wie’s jy?’, ‘Who are you?’ Who are you right now, in this present moment, not yesterday, not tomorrow, not five minutes ago, but right now?”

Most people struggle to find an answer to this question, Dr Owen said.

“In answering this one question you give voice to your history, and your potential, your future. You give voice to what has come before and what might still occur.”

This present moment is not only a culminating apex of individual history, Dr Owen explained, but rather a complex interaction and interchange of the characters that have peopled one’s life.

“Your answer tells me how you think, about your values and morals, and it also hints at the life you foresee for yourself, even if that hint is but a mere smudge on your self-portrait.”

In the event that the initial question proved too challenging, Dr Owen suggested the audience members consider what their self-portrait would look like.

“What colours would you use? What images would you use to sketch yourself?”

“Are they bold or bland colours – fuchsia, orange, purple, magenta, greens, oranges, or subtle pinks and hues of sky blue? Would you create a collage of all the objects you hold dear, the relationships you have?”

“Or would you have a charcoal sketch just outlining your face, with a hint of a smile caressing your lips. Would you be the beginning of a Mona Lisa portrait?”

She asked the audience to then fast-forward years into the future.

“Who are you then? What have you accomplished? What dreams have you fulfilled and what scars – emotional and physical – do you bear?”

“What does your external frame, your embodiment, your body speak of? But what too does your interior life refer to?”

In reference to Rosa Parks, after whom the residence is named, Dr Owen said she was not an activist, but had been aggrandised as such.

“She was an ordinary woman who got on a bus and decided resolutely that she would not move from where she was seated to give way to a white passenger.

“Why did she do it?”

“I wish to think that she did it because she knew who she was, despite the version

of self that she had been sold by her society. She knew who she was.

“And so I encourage you to find out who you are – to recognise that you are always in a state of becoming on the outside, until you finally know without a doubt who you are inside.

“You are not your hair, your skin, your clothes, your class.

“You are not the way you speak, the way you dance or the way you walk.

“You are not a woman, not a girl, not a body. You are more, more than all these labels given to you by society. When you know this, you start to embody your legacy in the present.

“The world needs you to be exactly who you are, for only you make a perfect you. Rest in knowing this. You don’t have to do anything in this world to prove that you are more you than you.  
“Just be.”



Dr Joy Owen





# Why this woman will never be alone

Marina Maema likes to take people with her as she strives for academic success. That's a large part of the reason fellow Rosa Parks residents named the Industrial and Economic Sociology Honours student the Most Inspiring Woman.

"When the [Rosa Parks residence] house warden announced that I had won, I was a little bit shocked. It meant a lot just knowing that I was nominated, but I didn't think that I would win it," said Maema, who is the academic representative of the residence, class representative of her Honours class, a sociology tutor, and a society chair (Lesotho society – she's originally from that country).

"However, I think it is because people in res have acknowledged the little things that I do."

"I have made it a point to know what every single student is studying, what subjects they're taking, how they feel their academics are going and what they want to do when they finish," she said. She described her role as academic representative as being responsible for promoting academic excellence within the residence.

"I have tried going above and beyond what is expected of me. I have been in positions before where all you need is someone to tell you that you can do something, someone to encourage you to go beyond what people generally think you are capable of.

"That is one of the reasons I applied to be the academic representative.

"I have offered to read and edit anyone who needs help with their essays, motivational letters or preparing for interviews because I like seeing people progress. I like the idea of everyone progressing with me – I don't like leaving people behind."

Maema said she hadn't always been this tenacious.

"When I first got to Rhodes I was very shy; the kind of shy that most people don't



Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Marina Maema and Ms Sandra Matatu

know what to do with. But a lot of the ladies in res and my warden can tell you that I have come a long way."

For Maema the residence's namesake, Rosa Parks, also inspires endurance and strength.

"Rosa Parks's single act sparked an entire movement. So for me to be awarded the Rosa Parks House Most Inspirational Woman Award is truly an honour."

The award, introduced this year, will be made annually to one member of Rosa Parks residence. It is judged by an awards committee which comprises members of the residence's house committee and students.

Other nominees for 2013 included second-year BComm student Buhle Mazosiwe and third-year journalism student Hannah McDonald.





# New Education Depa with the future

The movement of the academic procession through a demolished part of the Education Department's beautiful old William White Cooper building to its new teacher education building during the new Education Building opening on Friday (11 October) was symbolic. It signified a shift from past to future.

The Bishop of Grahamstown, the Right Reverend Ebenezer Ntlali, unveiled the plaque and blessed the new building.

Dr Diane Parker, Acting Deputy Director-General: Universities, at the Department of Higher Education, cut the ribbon. They represented the role played by the church and the state in shaping teacher education past and future.

The historic ceremony also marked the launch of the centenary celebrations of the Education Department, which will continue in various forms during the next few months.

"It is a time for both backward and forward thinking, recognising and affirming what has been achieved," said Dean of Education, Professor Di Wilmot.

She mapped the history of teacher Education in Grahamstown with the founding in 1894 of a training school for elementary teachers by Mother Cecile, an Anglican nun. It grew and became the Grahamstown Training College in 1903.

Parallel to this, the Rhodes Education Department was established in 1913 for

graduates wishing to qualify as high school teachers. When the Training College closed in the 1970s, the Rhodes Education Department took over its buildings.

Today, 100 years later, the Education Department has expanded to become the core of a Faculty of Education that works in four sectors: higher education, formal schooling and Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Education Training and Development (ETD). Its academic endeavour includes initial teacher education, research and in-service teacher professional development.





# Department links past





# Media team on top of their game

Rhodes University students successfully ran the Intersarsity Media Centre during the sporting weekend at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University on 16 and 17 August.

The students set up and operated the centre for the first time last year, when Rhodes hosted the event.

Intersarsity is the largest multi-coded sporting event in the Eastern Cape university calendar. It draws interest from a large number of students from the University of Fort Hare (UFH), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) and Rhodes.

The main objectives of the Intersarsity Media Centre are to provide an opportunity for students to hone their journalism skills, including writing, photography, subediting, photo editing and leadership.

Students are able to publish their work on various platforms, including the local and regional newspapers, university sport websites, the Intersarsity publication (*The Final Whistle*) and Rhodes Music Radio.

“The media centre is a brilliant venture. It is designed for two purposes: to train students in journalism and to provide the universities with news coverage of intersarsity,” said editor-in-chief, Matthew Kynaston.

“I got feedback from many writers and photographers who were part of the team, saying it was the high point of their journalism career so far and that they have learnt a lot,” added Matthew.

“It was really great that we had the opportunity to have our stories published in *Grocott’s Mail* and the regional papers – excellent move,” said Ntsiki Mpulo, a Journalism postgraduate student who participated last year.

Last year’s editor-in-chief spoke with similar enthusiasm.

“I am honoured to have been a part of the first ever Intersarsity Media Centre and *The Final Whistle* and look forward to seeing it become a constant presence at Intersarsity in the future,” said Xand Venturas.

Kynaston said they had tried to give equal focus to each of the four universities, “which proved very difficult”.



“In terms of informing students, we tried to cover every event... but I hope that students were able to... see their peers represented in the work we did,” he said.

Kynaston said he had learnt that it was impossible to perfectly prepare for events like this.

“As much planning as I did, it’s not possible to think of everything. So thinking on your feet and allowing certain things to slide while maintaining control of other things is important,” he said.

“Also, I’ve learnt that I must trust the people around me to do their jobs. I am someone who wants to know exactly what people are doing all the time. It leads to trying to control everything – which is impossible with so much going on.

“So I had to trust that my writers and photographers took the initiative and thought for themselves, which they did.”

Kynaston took up the position of editor-in-chief of *Activate*, soon after Intersarsity.

“If I hadn’t been part of the media centre I would not have approached my position in the same manner,” he said.

“I learnt to manage a media team at the media centre, which is invaluable knowledge. I also got the taste for seeing people working around me and I existed at the centre of a bustle of activity, which is exactly what a newsroom is. My work with *Activate* would be worse off if not for the media centre,” added Kynaston.

The Intersarsity Media Centre is looking forward to covering sporting events in 2014 at the University of Fort Hare.

