



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

The Rhodes University

Staff Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2016

Ensuring young people have access to life-changing quality education



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The lights are still shining – Thank you for playing your part

A quarterly staff newsletter of the Rhodes University Communications and Advancement Division celebrating our staff who are the cornerstone of Rhodes.

Welcome to the final staff newsletter for 2016. In this issue we give you an update on The VC's Education Initiative's ECD opening as well as celebrate the winners of the Community Engagement and Environmental Awards.

We highlight the pioneering work our researchers are undertaking in Antarctica and with the SKA project. Rhodes boasts the largest number of researchers heading to the white desert this season including our all-female team.

We acknowledge a few recent awards, scholarships and recent contributions towards student funding, including a R2 million contribution from ABSA. This edition also covers events that have taken place in the final quarter.

As we come to the end of an emotional year, with the Fees Must Fall protests across campuses nationally and students finishing up their degrees at Rhodes University, we would like to thank each and every staff member for their dedication to ensuring that our students receive the highest quality education.

Your hard work is greatly appreciated as we strive to realise the achievement of the greater goal of free quality higher education for academically talented students who come from families of meagre means. In addition, we would like to see a plan that provides financially sustainable mechanisms to support all students in financial need.

Wishing all staff members a wonderful break and restful December as you recuperate and enter the new year invigorated for all that it holds.

We look forward to showcasing your accomplishments in 2017!

WE JUST WANT TO SAY...
THANK YOU!

Edutainer's big opening for little people

Earlier this year we announced the exciting news of the arrival of three edutainers to develop the Tyhilulwazi Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre in Joza, Grahamstown. The official opening of the re-vamped centre took place on 26 October, with a visit by the former Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth. To show their gratitude to all involved, the pre-schoolers entertained with a performance by the marching band in celebration.

Tyhilulwazi started with Lindeka Klaas and her community; she started the school in her home with 12 children. Today the school offers more than 80 pre-schoolers the opportunity for learning.

In March 2015, alumnus Mr Von Christerson committed an edutainer, specially fitted as an ECD Self-Contained School to develop an Early Childhood Development Centre.

"What is great about this project is the number of people and institutions that came together to make it happen," said Lord Rowan Williams.

The project took-off with Von Christerson's commitment to Dr Sizwe Mabizela to fund the first edutainer. The longer term project was jointly funded by the Watch Hill Foundation and the Zoe Carss Education Trust. Bright Kid Foundation supplied the hardware and installation of the preschool. Rhodes was involved in ongoing training of teachers and parents.

This was a community project involving Rhodes, Makana Municipality, teachers, parents, pupils and community members. Rhodes University's self-funded Centre for Social Development, which focuses on Early Childhood Development (ECD), was central to getting the school up and running.

"There is no better investment one can make than ensuring young people have access to life-changing quality education," said Dr Mabizela. "The little school has laid a solid foundation for education in the community."



Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Lord Williams of Oystermouth watching the pre-schoolers' performance.



Rhodes secures R2 million from ABSA to empower missing middle students

On 27 October 2016, Barclays Africa Group Ltd/ABSA announced their increase of financial support to universities. Rhodes University has been allocated a generous R2 million towards financing students in the 'missing middle.' ABSA's increased funding nationally towards student financial aid includes an additional R57 million towards university tuition fees for 1450 more students in need of financial aid, R210 million to be invested in 2017, covering 3000 university students across Africa and investments in basic education and skills training to continue as planned.

The ABSA donation will support students who are 'too rich' to qualify for government support, but 'too poor' to afford tuition fees and qualify for commercial loans.

In 2016, Rhodes University topped up NSFAS for undergraduate students by R35,887 million and postgraduate students by R3 million. The postgraduate amount has increased from approximately R600 000 three years ago. Out of the central budget Rhodes University honours merit awards a sum of R2,166 million for Hons, Masters and PhD students who obtained first class passes.

There are a number of other programmes via funds from the university central budget funding a further R2 million and from investments of a further R10

million to postgraduate students. In total just under R19 million from Rhodes is spent on Postgraduate funding. This is separate from external support such as the NRF and other donors with whom we work. There is a similar system in place for undergraduate students.

"We welcome the financial support that ABSA is providing and thank them for heeding the call of universities and students for increased financial support. It cannot be and it should not be that an academically talented young person should be deprived of an opportunity to acquire higher education," said Dr Sizwe Mabizela.



2016 Graduation Garden Party

The Old Rhodian Golf Club –

An update with Terry Sutherland

One of our favourite Old Rhodians, Terry Sutherland, shares an update on the Old Rhodians' (OR) Golf Club – based in Johannesburg, Gauteng. As the Club Captain and the driving force behind the club, Sutherland organises a number of events throughout the year in a bid to strengthen alumni networks and raise funds for sport at Rhodes. This year's golf day took place on Friday, 4 November.

The OR Golf Club was established in 1970. It started off as an alumni club for golfers but soon became "the nerve centre for all Old Rhodian activities in Gauteng", says Sutherland. The harnessing factor was the running and managing of OR reunions, to introduce exciting events for all Old Rhodians in and around Johannesburg. Sutherland comments: "We saw the club as the networking centre in Johannesburg and became involved in putting together several OR activities".

Every year OR Golf Club, spearheaded by Sutherland, hosts The Bursary Golf Day. This major feature on the Gauteng calendar is a day with "a true Rhodes vibe to it". Not only do Old Rhodians and golf enthusiasts get together to enjoy a bit of fun on the greens, but its objective is to raise enough money "to entice a golden sportsman to attend Rhodes and pay for a full year of their academic fees."

In the earlier days the Club also raised money from monthly golf games and some other OR events. This money, together with the Golf Day, enabled the club to start the Sports Foundation – which received a remarkable initial contribution of R700 000 (it now stands at over R4 million). Over and above the bursary, the Foundation also looks after other sports-related activities at Rhodes University.

However, times have been difficult lately, and changes have been observed by the Golf Club. Sutherland says that "in the past over 100 Rhodians turned out for the OR Club Champs; (now) they are only getting about 50 players per Festive event". This has required some rethinking and the implementation of different approaches for running the club. Sutherland describes the creation of "The Old Rhodians Gauteng Chapter" – which is going to incorporate cycling, mountain-biking, road-running and other social events.

The new chapter will prioritise a thrilling new expansion to ensure that maintaining the Old Rhodian camaraderie and spirit continues to grow in the Gauteng region. "The Club has been instrumental in organising Purple Thursdays on a quarterly basis," says Sutherland, "which has been followed in other provinces as well." Over 150 ORs



Old Rhodian Golf Club

attend these events.

About commercial growth and investment, Sutherland says the following: "We would really like to have a lot more interest at our annual Bursary Golf Days, which is usually in November and see more Old Rhodians and their companies playing and contributing." It is a great day where old connections can be re-established and a great cause supported by Old RU leaders who still play a vital part in the University's operations to this day.

Sutherland wants us "to watch this space for the launch of the Old Rhodian Gauteng Chapter".

He believes that Rhodians tend to be cut from the same mould "so it is important that we support, promote and contribute everything that will help keep the purple flame illuminating for many years to come".

DSG scholarship for lab assistant's daughter



Monica Mashiya-Diniso and her daughter, Lithalethu Mashiya

Monica Mashiya-Diniso, a lab assistant in the Biochemistry and Microbiology Department's daughter, Lithalethu Mashiya, has been awarded a scholarship to DSG from 2017. Lithalethu is currently in Grade 5 at Ntaba Maria.

Monica has expressed how the RU Parent Education programme positively benefited her and her daughter. She says the skills training and advice she received from workshops helped her understand her child's educational needs. The books she borrows and takes home for her daughter have also helped her daughter improve at school and as a result, her daughter received a scholarship to attend DSG from 2017.

Monica's line manager, Margot Brooks, who is the principal technical officer in

the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, assisted her with applying in 2015 which is when Monica became aware of the scholarship. In June this year, Monica and Lithalethu completed the application form and Lithalethu was called for an interview in September. She obtained 92% in her English and Maths test and was invited for a one-on-one interview. Monica was unable to attend the interview with Lithalethu so her younger brother, who is in his second year at Rhodes, went with her.

Lithalethu has been attending the Emfundweni programme every Wednesday and Saturday. Monica says that this has resulted in her symbols improving from 5s and 6s in social sciences to 7s which is equivalent to an outstanding achievement.

Lithalethu was one of 24 Grade 5s who

were invited for individual interviews. The confident young girl told her mom prior to the interviews, "Mom, it's going to be me here next year. I'm the one they want."

Monica was also called for an interview. She shared how she continuously encourages Lithalethu and that her younger brother will assist her with her Maths and Science homework. She credits the Community Engagement programme that her daughter was involved in as well as being an employee of Rhodes for her daughter's success. The fee reduction for dependents of Rhodes' employees to study at Rhodes will ensure that when Lithalethu completes her schooling at DSG she will be able to go onto tertiary study.

Rhodes University revamps the Afrikaans Department

By Kyran Blaauw

This year Rhodes University underwent a major change within its academic departments and faculties, from curriculum changes to staff changes. Not only has the Afrikaans and Netherlandic Studies Department moved to a newly and elegantly built building, they also welcomed an entire new staff of academics whose aim is to transform the course. This comes after having to bid farewell to the former academic staff. The new staff are: Dr Ilse de Korte, Head of Department, and Ms Marsha Barnes.

Dr Ilse de Korte, who is the Head of Department, joins the university all the way from the University of Cape Town. She lectures both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Dr de Korte studied drama and languages at the University of Cape Town. As part of her master's degree, Dr de Korte resided in Leiden for at least a year. She later went on to do her PhD which is based on myths and ideology in the Netherlands. She also went on to lecture Afrikaans in Poland at the Polish university, University

Adam Miskiewicz as well as the University of South Africa.

Not only is she an academic, she is also a novelist. Her most recent publication, "Die jaar toe Emma begin kook het", is an Afrikaans romantic comedy. Dr de Korte also wrote Afrikamasutra, Translation of the Karma Sutra.

The Afrikaans Department according to Dr de Korte is one of the smallest departments in the university, with about 17 undergraduate students and no honours student, but after many years the department has also welcomed a PhD student. She hopes to push the only third year student to do her honours in Afrikaans.

Marsha Barnes, who is also a lecturer in the department, lectures all the undergraduate students in the department. She graduated with both her undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications with a major in Afrikaans from the University of Cape Town. Before she became a lecturer she was a high school teacher at a school in Cape Town. In her free time she was a freelance journalist at Die Rapport. She is also now planning on doing her PhD. She wrote for LitNet, about her teaching experiences at Cape Town schools under an alias titled "Dagboek van 'n Onnie".

The former department was male dominated. Dr de Korte believes that this is because of the fact that with any small academic department, there is not much new blood coming in and that is why it was so static and untransformed.

One of the assignments of the Head of Department was to completely transform the curriculum that has been in place for some time and make it more accessible for all students. She designed the course in such a way that the first year is more practice focused. Second and



Marsha Barnes - Lecturer in Afrikaans and Netherlandic Studies

third year students delve into a more in-depth level of Afrikaans. The department is also focusing on bringing those Afrikaans groups that have for a very long time been marginalised to the centre and working extensively in decolonising the curriculum.

The department is working with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University as well as Fort Hare University to have a sort of exchange in lecturers so that students can get to learn more about the language and have alternate takes on it. A group of students from the department will also attend a winter school at the North West University in Potchefstroom.

Dr de Korte is also working towards making the course available to more students; she will soon be offering an Afrikaans for beginners course. She is also planning to work with other academic departments in the hopes of making the department bigger and stronger.



Dr Ilse de Korte - Senior Lecturer/Subject Head in Afrikaans & Netherlandic Studies

Community Engagement Winners 2016

Rhodes University Community Engagement announced the winners of the RUCE Awards 2016 on 26 October. There were strong contenders in all five categories of Student Volunteer of the Year, Community Partner of the Year, Society/Sports Club of the Year, Residence/Hall of the Year and Student Researcher of the Year.

The winners for 2016 are Founders Hall (Residence/Hall of the Year), Children of the Soil (COTS) (Community Partner of the Year), The Amanzi Food Group (Student Researcher of the Year), RU-Mountain Club (Society/Sports Club of the Year) and Anna Talbot (Student Volunteer of the Year).

Rhodes University has extremely committed and talented staff, students and community partners who work throughout the year in volunteerism, community engaged learning and research programmes. The annual Community Engagement Awards celebrate the successes of top achieving student organisations, sports clubs, residences, departments, engaged research work by students, members of the student volunteer program (SVP) as well as 9/10ths mentoring program and our community partners over the past year.

Community engagement serves as one of the core purposes of higher education, transforming traditional teaching and learning as well as research practices in order to break down the boundaries between institutions which were isolated from the societies in which they should rightly have been embedded, and making them more responsive to those contexts. Community engagement



Student Researcher of the Year winners were, (left to right): Phindile Sithole, Tichaona Pesanayi and Chisala Lupele who were part of the Amanzi for Food Research Programme.

is also a crucial way to transform individuals who are involved, changing people's ways of being and perceiving each other and the world around them, undermining biases and prejudices, and cultivating criticality, reflexivity and civic values. In its broadest sense, community engagement is an important way for universities to operate as institutions which work for the public good by partnering with community based organisations and broader society to tackle issues of local importance in a unified way. By making university assets available through volunteerism and community engaged learning programmes, and harnessing the assets available in local communities, we can work together to overcome some of the major challenges faced in society today.

Residence/Hall of the Year - Founders Hall

Founders Hall is part of Siyakhana @ Makana and has been working closely with Siyazama Pre-School. Founders Hall has also been involved in a number of campaigns, raising funds for Give5 and Student Pocket Money Fund, with the hall raising the most

amount of money out of all the halls on campus. The men in Founders Hall together with Rhodes Support Staff co-manage a tutoring programme – the UBUNTU Knowledge Project – which assists primary school-going children of support staff with homework and tutoring.

Community Partner of the Year - Children of the Soil (COTS)

Children of the Soil (COTS) is a non-profit organisation launched at the beginning of 2015. It consists of a collaboration between academics and volunteers and aims to create awareness amongst youth regarding environmental preservation issues. COTS believes that if young people are not educated now on how to conserve the earth there will be no earth for them to give to the next generations. COTS want to actively engage youth in environmental resuscitation programmes with the aim to incorporate those programmes into the curriculum. COTS strives to engage the learners in the surrounding Grahamstown area into mentorship and participatory

programmes that will highlight the impact of climate change and guide them in developing responsive actions that should be taken to minimise that impact today.

Student Researcher of the Year - Group: Tichaona Pesanayi, Chisala Lupele, and Phindile Sithole

Tichaona Pesanayi, Chisala Lupele and Phindile Sithole's work all falls within the broader Amanzi for Food research programme which looks at ways of working with an agricultural community and implementing rainwater harvesting and conservation practices into various agricultural activities that they are involved in.

Society/Sports Club of the Year - Rhodes University Mountain Club

The Mountain Club has partnered with the Cub Pack consistently for two years. Each week it is run by volunteers. 2016 was the first year they can boast a dedicated and persistent leadership team for the boys. This added value to the Pack as relationships formed were sustained throughout the year. Above and beyond the standard volunteers, the club had many casual volunteers help in various once off activities (such as camping, swimming afternoons, slack line events at Rhodes). The partnership between the Cub pack and the Mountain Club (RUMC) is a natural and seamless fit, providing fertile grounds for a mutually beneficial partnership. RUMC has resources the Pack can use for outdoor activity and the University space serves as a meeting ground for activities (such as climbing, slack lining, swimming, etc.). RUMC benefits by being in Community Engagement circles in Rhodes, providing alternative ways for members to get involved in club life and an outlet to share an expanse of knowledge.

Student Volunteer of the Year - Anna Talbot

St Mary's DCC Cub Pack has now been registered as a project with RUCE for just under three years. The project was founded primarily by Anna Talbot in her first year. It was started in order to rekindle Scouting in Grahamstown and provide an alternative activity for boys in the community. Since its inception the Pack has grown in numbers,

ideas and made headlines in national and local news. Anna places importance on forming and sustaining relationships, both with the boys and staff members. She liaises with the RUCE office, Scout National Headquarters, volunteers and St Mary's Staff. This year Anna has worked closely to train volunteers in order

"We are greatly indebted to all of our community partners, students and staff..."

to take over the project successfully in 2017. Anna has also presented her work in scholarly

forums such as the Annual Community Engagement Symposium over two years consecutively.

"We are greatly indebted to all of our community partners, students and staff who have worked tirelessly over this year to build mutually beneficial relationships which have not only served to strengthen our Grahamstown community, but which are also paving the way to making our university more engaged, socially responsive and ultimately accessible. We salute you and thank you for your combined efforts. We extend heartfelt congratulations to all of the nominees and winners on their commendations," said Di Hornby, Director of Community Engagement.



The group of the student leaders at the Community Engagement Centre. They are: BACK ROW (left to right): Gerald Kihara, Sanele Ngubo, Sesonasipho Yedwa, Samantha Carolus, Loryn Smith, Lynette Biyela. MIDDLE ROW (left to right): Hlumela Dyantyi, Nolitha Gcakasi, Ashley Zikhali, Kgomoetso Sebake, Nokwanda Cele. FRONT ROW (left to right): Mahlatse Bambo, Esihle Matshaya, Nompumelelo Babeli, Anna Talbot.



Children of the Soil were the winners of Community Partner of the Year. They are: FRONT ROW (left to right): Hunadi Sefoka, Dr Noziphiwe Ngqwala, Violet Selwana, Thabang Masuku and Yandisa Sibutha. BACK ROW (left to right): Khwezi Bovula, Sheyvonne Nantaya, Tshhegofatso Lesapo, Anelisa Kona and Thaban Malekana.



RU Mountain Club were the winners of the Society/Sports club of the year. They are: BACK ROW (left to right): Kyle Johnston, David Kinsler and Dylan Weyer. FRONT ROW (left to right): Maddison Melton, Anna Talbot and Zamokuhle Khubeka.

Environmental Award Winners 2016

The winners of the Rhodes University Environmental Awards 2016 were presented with their trophies on Wednesday, 23 November in the Senior Common Room. The Individual Award was jointly awarded to Prof Brian Allanson and Louw Claassens. The Amina Cachalia Residence is the winner of the Student Society/Res Award and Children of the Soil (COTS) took the Makana Community Award.

This year's individual award is unique in that it is shared by two people – a young Rhodes Postgrad researcher and a retired Rhodes Professor – who work together as one. Prof Allanson and Ms Claassens' nomination is based on tangible

evidence of meeting all the required criteria: good sustainability practice, track record, participation, inspiration and empowerment, innovation and continuity.

The pair have an impressive track record of voluntary environmental work. Through their activities they have created and developed an organisation – the Knysna Basin Project – funded in part by Rhodes University. The project was initiated by Professor Allanson 21 years ago, and with the arrival of Ms Claassens as a PhD student in 2013, the project has gained additional energy and momentum.

Their practices are informed by a social-ecological interpretation of sustainability – recognising the integral relationship between human well-being and environmental health, and promoting practices and actions that benefit both the social sphere and the

biophysical environment.

One of the main aims of their project has been to identify threats to estuaries and wetlands, draw in the local and wider community in conducting regular environmental monitoring programmes, and to promote sustainable utilisation of natural resources while protecting a national biodiversity 'treasure'.

Both individuals have very close past and present links with Rhodes University and there is little doubt that their community appreciates the role played by Rhodes in their project. Their work, which is done on a completely voluntary basis, has helped raise the profile of the University, attracting the interest of national and international groups.

Amina Cachalia Residence has consistently shown a heart for promoting



Nita Pallett (Amina Cachalia Res); Dr Julie Coetzee (Enviro Awards Working Group); Dr Nosipiwe Ngqwala (Children of the Soil); Prof Hugo Nel (Chair: Environmental Committee); Benita Bobo (Amina Cachalia Res); Dr Peter Clayton (DVC: Research & Development); Violet Selwana (Children of the Soil); Prof Alan Hodgson (representing Prof Brian Allanson & Louw Claassens); Prof Jo Dames (Convenor: Enviro Awards Working Group); (on ground): Nikki Kohly (Enviro Awards Working Group).

sustainability, and has undertaken environmentally friendly activities for many years. It is noteworthy that they have been consistent supporters of the RMR Makana Green Fun Run, and for the last three years have won the prize for the biggest res team.

Within the res, a number of tangible environmental initiatives are led every year by the serving Environmental Rep, with assistance and participation by other res students. This year, a 'Rethink the Bag' initiative was launched to make people aware of the amount of litter in South Africa, and how a large percentage of that – the ubiquitous plastic bag – could be reduced. Re-usable bags were made freely available in the res for students to take shopping and then return the bags afterwards. A TED Talk by Hayley McLellan was shared on the res Facebook page to explain why this was important. Student feedback indicated that the project was well-accepted: they found it easy to change a small part of their lifestyle, with the satisfaction of making a

big difference.

Another ongoing project in the res is a weekly recycling collection. The res has also made a significant contribution to reducing the amount of waste created by single-use plastic bottles. They initiated a weekly water collection service: the residents hand in their re-usable water bottles and pay a small fee to cover the cost of transport – the remainder going towards the purchase of low-flow showerheads for the res (to help reduce water usage). The res also promotes the importance of clean, green spaces – based on an understanding that a healthy environment is essential for human health and wellbeing. They actively promote the use and enjoyment of calming green spaces on campus, as well as nearby natural areas and hiking trails. They also plan to raise funds to buy a bench for the res garden – a great way for people to enjoy a healthy green space right on their doorstep.

Children of the Soil (COTS) is a non-profit organisation, comprising of volunteers from various walks of life. COTS was launched at

the beginning of 2015. Their aim is to create awareness regarding environmental issues, and contribute to mitigating the impact of climate change by focusing on those who are most likely to be affected – the youth in vulnerable communities.

COTS promotes environmental sustainability and resilience by engaging school children in vegetable gardening, recycling, environmental awareness lessons and physical education. By planting and growing vegetable gardens, they are empowering children, showing them how to reduce their dependence on buying vegetables, and at the same time reducing their ecological footprint. They have also worked on improving scholars' understanding of the links between environmental sustainability and food and water security, and raising awareness about the importance of using resources wisely.

COTS are also the winners of the 2016 Community Partner of the Year Award.



Prof Brian Allanson and Louw Claassens (2016 Environmental Award Winners - Individual Award)

CSSR doctoral graduate wins international award



Dr Tracey Feltham-King at Graduation earlier this year.

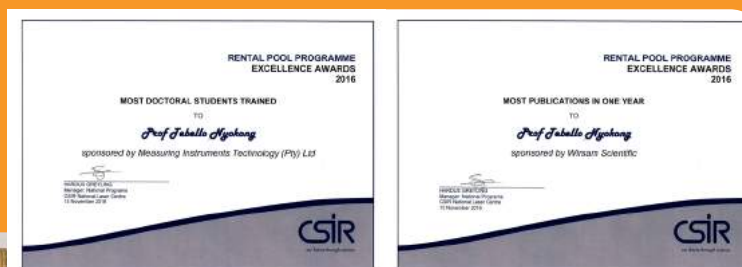
Dr Tracey Feltham-King has won the international Contemporary Ethnography Across the Disciplines (CEAD 2016) doctoral student essay award. Her essay, entitled "Risk and responsibility: the management of the teenaged pregnant woman in the antenatal healthcare nexus", was based on the PhD she completed last year through the Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction (CSSR) research programme. The CEAD conference (or "hui" as celebrated in the a te Reo Maori tradition) was hosted recently by the University of Cape Town. As part of this conference, a call went out for doctoral student essay submissions. These essays were intended to best exemplify the spirit of discovery, the conference theme of "Place, space and time in ethnographic research" and creative practice within ethnographic research. The top three finalists received prizes sponsored by the Wilf Malcolm Institute of Educational Research in New Zealand.

Despite stiff competition, Dr Feltham-King, who is now an associate of the CSSR at Rhodes University, won first prize. Her supervisor, Prof Catriona Macleod, commented, "Dr Feltham-King is an inspiration to us all. This is the second award she has deservedly won for her nuanced scholarship. In addition, she has several publications to her name already, which are attracting critical attention from other researchers. She is a very generous colleague, giving much of her time and expertise to others in the CSSR. We are all very excited, and not the least surprised by her receiving this international recognition of her work."

Rhodes Research Group scoops another award

Prof Nyokong's Nanotechnology Research Group have been recognised as the most productive research group (for 2015) by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) together with the National Laser Centre. The group were celebrated as the most productive research group in terms of number and quality of publications and for the number of PhD and MSc students graduating.

The Award ceremony took place in Stellenbosch on 15 November where Dr John Mack received the awards on behalf of the group.



Prof Tebello Nyokong and her Nanotechnology Research Group

Dean of Education joins international commission on geographical education

Dean of Education Professor Di Wilmot has been elected to the Steering Committee of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geographical Education and is the only committee member from Africa. She was nominated by her peers in the field and has over thirty years of study and research in Geography Education. On the committee she joins academics from Turkey, Britain, Chile, Germany, South Korea, Sweden, Australia and China. While on the committee she hopes to improve and foster scholarly voices in geographical education in the African context.

She is extremely passionate about supporting postgraduate research into geographical education because she feels that the subject receives insufficient attention. "Geography is a Cinderella subject due to the focus on English, Maths and Science, particularly in African schools," she said. This is due to the focus by government and the education system on these subjects as primary to social development, a stance that may be short-sighted given the potential that environmental education has for improving the lives of South Africans. Wilmot feels that the subject is underrated for its capacity to teach important social and environmental concerns to young people. "Geography education has an enormous amount to offer as a subject for sustainable development education," she said.

Her academic interests include the possibility for climate change education in secondary schooling. In 2012 she was invited to contribute to the further development of the Climate Change in the Classroom project, which is a UNESCO programme aimed at improving climate change education at secondary education level. She piloted the course at Rhodes University that year and gave



Prof Di Wilmot - Dean of the Faculty of Education

feedback on the UNESCO project. The course aims to bring climate change out of a field of purely scientific study in secondary education and to consider it in the study of ethics, social sciences, politics and economics.

Part of the work of the IGU Commission on Geographical Education is to improve communication between scholars in the field

of geographical education across the world and to foster scholarship on the subject. The Committee is committed to increasing awareness of geographical education as a means to promote informed citizenries around the globe.

All-female research team heads to Antarctica for pioneering study

Rhodes sends two research teams (microbiologists and geomorphologists)

Seven researchers from Rhodes University head off to Antarctica for the annual summer relief voyage. This is the largest contingent from any South African University on this year's expedition and includes two academic staff members and five students. Dr Gwynneth Matcher will lead the team of microbiologists and Prof Ian Meiklejohn will lead the team of geomorphologists.

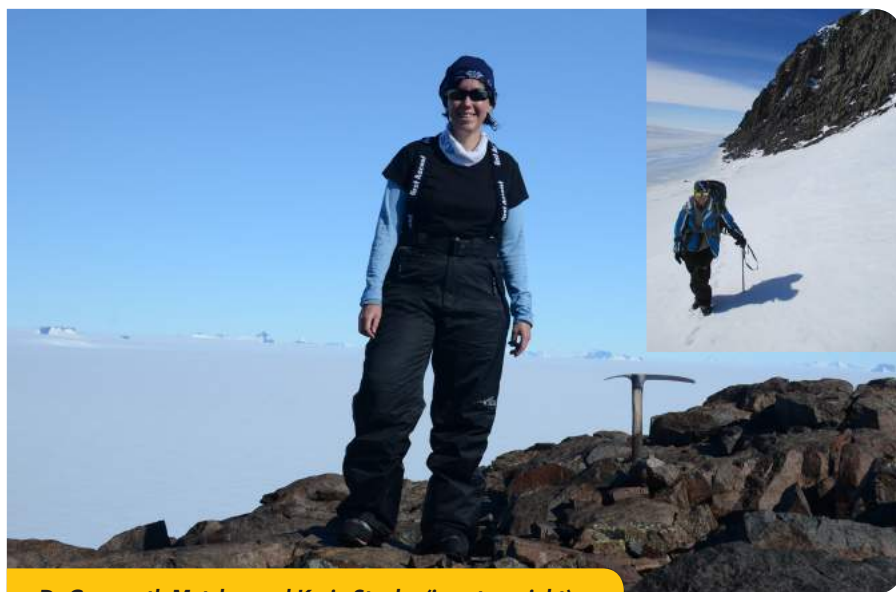
Dr Gwynneth Matcher of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, will be leading an all-female team to Antarctica to research Antarctic Microbial Ecology. The all-female team is an anomaly on research expeditions to Antarctica. "It wasn't planned, but it is very exciting leading an all-female team," said Dr Matcher.

Studying Antarctic Microbial Ecology under Matcher are PhD students Karin Staebe and Sunet van Aswegen. Staebe, who will be returning for her second field stint in Antarctica, explains the project her team will be working on "This is the first research study looking at both meltwater pools, at soil and at air around the South African research station and at Troll, nobody has thought about looking at these areas and we are trying to see whether Antarctica should be broken up into more bio-geographical regions than we already have."

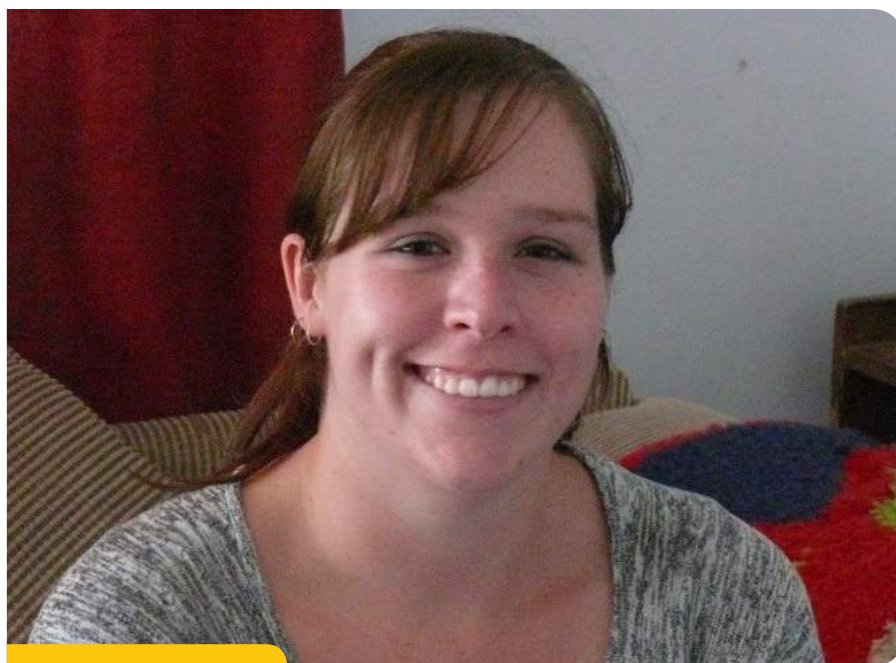
The second team from Rhodes University heading to Antarctica will be led by Prof Ian Meiklejohn, of the Geography Department, who will be making his sixth voyage to the continent.

Prof Meiklejohn's team of geomorphologists includes three MSc students: Jenna Knox, Tebogo Masebe and Nicola Wilmot. It will be all three students' first visit to the continent. They are researching Landscape Processes in Antarctic Ecosystems.

The SA Agulhas II set sail on 30 November 2016 and will return on 8 February 2017. The research teams expect to reach Antarctica between 11 and 20 December, depending on



Dr Gwynneth Matcher and Karin Staebe (insert on right)



Sunet van Aswegen

the sea ice conditions. Dr Matcher will fly in on 18 December and meet her team at the Norwegian Troll Station, due to limited space on the ship.

Both groups are working in the vicinity of

SANAE, the South African base situated in Western Dronning Maud Land on a nunatak (a land island in a sea of ice) called Vesleskarvet (72°S, 2°W), as well as near the Norwegian Troll Station (72°S, 2½°E).

Dr Oghenekaro Nelson Odume:

A healer among us

By Anima McBrown

Rhodes University's Dr Oghenekaro Nelson Odume is extremely coy about being spotlighted as one of The Young Independents' Top 100 South Africans on August 22. Yet breaking into this year's Healer category further cements his rise in the field of sustainable freshwater resource management on the continent.

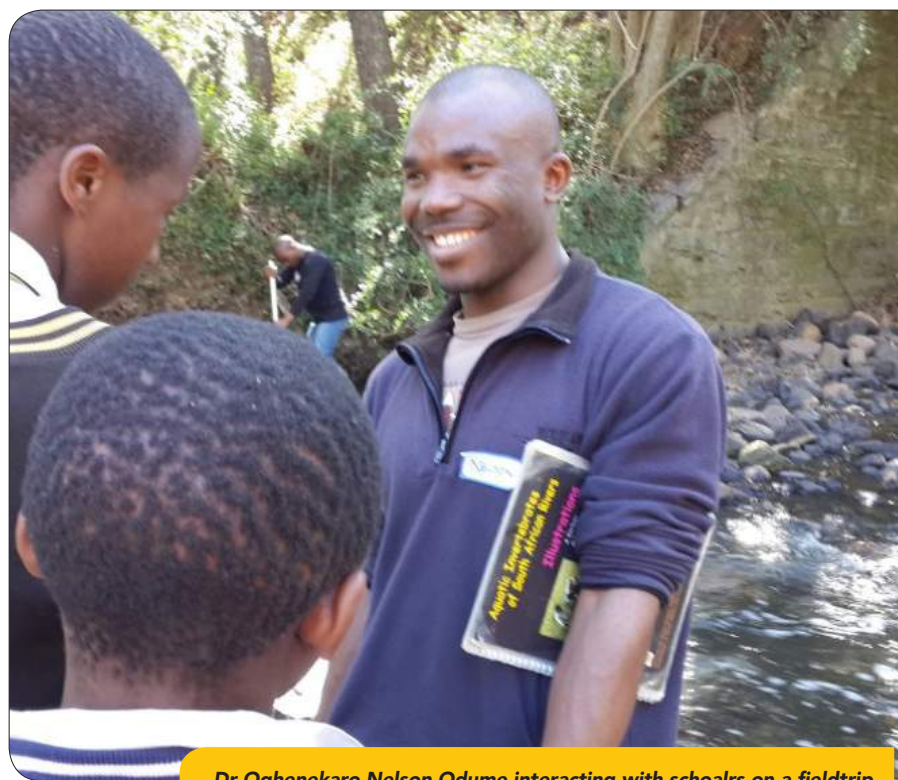
Odume, of the Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality at the Institute for Water Research (IWR), received the prestigious International Emerging River Professional Award at the International River Symposium held in Australia in 2014, and his work and research have only grown from strength to strength since then.

The International River Foundation's Emerging River Professional Award (ERPA) recognises and honours professionals who have shown commitment to:

(i) research across different disciplines, (ii) concrete output, and (iii) leadership that actually impacts communities. The award is given to an individual who continues to show promise and potential in the early stages (i.e. the first ten years) of their career in the management of rivers and water resources. Odume's big win has confirmed that he is an exceptional leader and an innovator in his field.

About his love and devotion to sustainable freshwater research, development and management he paints a very simple and honest picture for what motivates his work. "Imagine your life without water, for just a week," he says, "water underpins all life; it underpins all development." He is concerned with changing and improving the way we understand the dynamics of water: his work prioritises advocating for the importance of water conservation – with water safety right at the top of the agenda.

Odume admits that there are many challenges that surround the issue of developing sustainable measures in the



Dr Oghenekaro Nelson Odume interacting with school children on a fieldtrip.

management of freshwater sources at present. The fact remains that low cost technologies are limited, and the cost of desalination is still high. Even in our normal, everyday practices we are not cognisant enough of using the right water quality for the right needs (demonstrated for example, in how we use good quality drinking water to water gardens and to execute other menial tasks. Or how we do not recycle enough of our water).

Dr Odume, who is also a 2015 Bronze Medal Award winner for the Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists, speaks about looking forward to training and building a new generation of scientists: "critical thinkers who will develop African science for Africans."

He has just been awarded an AfriAlliance grant to lead an Action Group on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Ethics. This will see him collaborate with other academics, professionals and students from Rhodes, the University of Botswana, Khénifra, Moulay Ismaïl University, Wageningen University and the ICATALIST Group, to develop new knowledge for curbing the

deterioration of water resources in South Africa and the rest of the continent.

Over the next few years, Odume's team will focus their research on the "sustainable utilisation and protection of water resources" as part of "addressing some of (the) social challenges" that continue to threaten access to good quality water for a majority of those affected by poverty, inequality, and a lack of adequate social and environmental resources.

Despite all his successes and impending victories (as we can predict that there will be many), Dr Odume remains humble. "For me it is about making a real difference," he comments. He wants to contribute knowledge that will change our approaches and shape water policies and practices for the better.

Away from the office, Odume enjoys playing football (insisting he's very capable in both attack and midfield) and has a passion for local soapies.

Young, ambitious: Odume is a much-needed hero; a healer among us.

Rhodes student receives CSIRO/ SKA SA summer vacation scholarship

Rhodes University BSc (Hons) student Katherine James was one of two people to be selected to receive the CSIRO/SKA SA summer vacation scholarship. The programme will be hosted at the CSIRO in Mansfield, Sydney, Australia over the summer period. Katherine James arrived in late November and will return to South Africa in February 2017. Tokiso Motoai from Bloemfontein is the other student who has been chosen to join the programme.

Application for this scholarship was open to all final year (3rd year or honours) students on the SKA SA bursary program, who are registered at a South African university. This includes students from the SKA Africa partner countries who are studying in South Africa. This is the first year these scholarships are available, one for a science student and one for an engineering student. However, both students who have been chosen are science students.

Katherine will be supervised by Australian Professor Ray Norris on a project titled "Using machine learning to get science from the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP)". There will be emphasis on using machine learning to classify and cross-identify objects in radio images. This is necessary since the amount of data that will be collected by the SKA will far exceed the ability of humans to process it by hand. The ASKAP telescope is the Australian equivalent of MeerKAT, since the SKA project is shared between them and South Africa.

"I am really looking forward to meeting some of the Australian students who will also be participating in the programme, as well as picking up some machine learning, as it is a field that is gaining huge



Katherine James

momentum in the science world at present. I look forward to making friends, learning lots and the experience as a whole," said James.

Rhodes University hosts the inaugural National Science Week Faculties of Science and Pharmacy Open Day

By Kim Weaver

Rhodes University Faculties of Science and Pharmacy hosted a science open day in partnership with South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAATSA) on 30 July 2016. The day was aimed at cultivating excitement and interest in the sciences and mathematics amongst school Grade 9 learners, to try and encourage the learners to select them as Matric subjects and possibly as career options. The event was attended by over 250 learners from nine different schools in and around Grahamstown.

Joyce Sewry, the Deputy Dean of the Science Faculty, welcomed the learners to the University. She spoke about the importance of studying science and mathematics and the fact that now more than ever the country's economy depends on a workforce that is comfortable with numbers and technology.

In order to get a feel and understanding of the different science disciplines, the learners participated in various different activities offered by different departments—a total of 20 activities were on offer. The learners were split into groups and each group attended three activities where they interacted with academics and students. The event aimed to showcase to the learners what the sciences have to offer and there was a great response from the learners



Pic 1: Department of Zoology and Entomology
Pic 2: Department of Zoology and Entomology
Pic 3: Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Sciences
Pic 4: Department of Computer Sciences
Pic 5: Department of Geography
Pic 6: Faculty of Pharmacy on Health Promotion
Pic 7: Department of Chemistry making slime

and teachers who thoroughly enjoyed the day. Thank-you to all the departments who participated and for the enthusiasm you showed!

Service Learning as a transformative pedagogical approach

Rhodes University's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, explained in his Inaugural Speech in February 2015, that Rhodes University exists to serve three core purposes, each deeply traditional in nature. These core purposes are: to produce and disseminate knowledge; to teach in ways that encourage our students to engage critically with knowledge and its production; and thirdly to discharge its critical societal responsibility, whether these are urgent local needs in our own community, or wider issues confronting societies globally.

CHERTL's Curriculum Conversation #15 entitled: Service Learning as a transformative pedagogical approach, was delivered on Wednesday, 14 September by Professor Sunitha Srinivas of the Department of Pharmacy and Community Engagement's Dr Sharli Paphitis. This Curriculum Conversation #15 is described as combining transformative learning with experiential learning within the community. In essence this is service-learning as social change.

The idea of social-learning as social change has been influential in the development of collaborative activities between the Department of Pharmacy and Community Engagement. Over the years these activities have been highly successful and well received, and have received recognition from the likes of UNESCO and the Talloires Network. Projects include Health Promotion Workshops (both for the community and Rhodes University staff), Scifest school learner exhibitions, and one-on-one home visits to members of the surrounding Grahamstown community.



Professor Sunitha Srinivas and Dr Sharli Paphitis

The key benefits of this service-learning partnership between the Department of Pharmacy and Community Engagement echo the three core purposes of Rhodes University, as described by Dr Mabizela. It has provided the opportunity to explore teaching and learning practices which have the transformative power of contextually situated community engagement, while providing (subsidy earning) research journal scripts produced from such service-learning

opportunities. In addition, the reflection process of the service-learning promotes social knowledge, understanding and transformation.

This inter-departmental service-learning collaboration has shaped a transformative pedagogical approach to working with students around issues of power, privilege and diversity, as well as ethical engagement in the South African context.

Public lecture by Deputy-Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

The Political and International Studies Department hosted The Honourable Luwellyn Landers MP, Deputy-Minister of International Relations and Cooperation who delivered a timely lecture on 14 September, unpacking the importance of fostering development and democracy through international relations and diplomacy.

The venue was filled to capacity as the seasoned politician Honourable Landers explained how South Africa's foreign policy was itself a tool in pursuit of global democracy. Like all things political, Honourable Landers explained that the bigger picture was to work within existing structures like the African Union, finding intersections between trade liberalisation and political diplomacy, in the hopes to fast track development. He explained that development is the uttermost important mechanism to assist in the immediate alleviation of poverty and the climbing unemployment rate.

Honourable Landers warned against working along vague programmes hence emphasised the reliance of the NEPAD Policy, claiming that NEPAD was how South Africa is not only able to connect with the rest of the world but NEPAD as a policy creates a clear pathway for development and thus a deeper democracy. That the expansion of freedom, in this case development, is the pinnacle of democracy because development paves the way for the eradication of social ills like poverty.

The Honourable Minister emphasised that there existed a strong political resolve to deepen existing bilateral economic relations and to explore more trade and investment opportunities, which in turn would contribute towards increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in South Africa. This was fundamentally important given the current constricted economic climate. The role of foreign policy lay right at the



The Honourable Luwellyn Landers MP, Deputy-Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

centre of this as he continuously stressed that "the South African foreign policy is informed and guided by our domestic imperatives", referring to the four primary objectives of the NEPAD policy.

In closing, he emphasised that South

Africa was also "guided by our National Development Plan (NDP) vision 2030 that calls for the building of a resilient economy and enjoins us to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality."

Pan African Social Accountability Learning Lab 2016

By Ettione Ferreira

The Public Service Accountability Monitor has made it an organisational objective to host a conference for social accountability practitioners, researchers and academics on a bi-annual basis. This year's conference theme was 'How does context affect social accountability outcomes?' and saw social accountability practitioners, researchers, government officials, and donors from over 15 countries from within and outside Africa brought together to collectively discuss the way in which social accountability is practiced in different contexts, and to learn about the challenges and successes of social accountability across the African region. The 5-day conference took place in Manzini, Swaziland, was co-hosted by PSAM and World Vision, and brought together more than 100 delegates.

The aim of the Learning Lab was to give participants the opportunity to learn about what social accountability interventions work and what does not work; where, by who, for who and under what conditions/circumstances. This was addressed not only through the field visits but also through context-specific panels which looked at the way in which social accountability was being practiced across Southern and East Africa by invited practitioners from a range of organisations including Concern Universal Mozambique, PACT Zimbabwe, CSPR Zambia, PATH Uganda, Policy Forum Tanzania, and World Vision East Africa.



PSAM Director, Jay Kruise (right) with fellow panelists during the PASA keynote panel discussion.

Learning lab delegates had the opportunity to meaningfully interrogate their own social accountability approaches and those of others in the pursuit of enhanced, robust and context-calibrated SA initiatives.

The unique Swaziland socio-economic and political landscape allowed participants the opportunity to reflect on their own contexts and all agreed that social accountability initiatives cannot succeed without a clear understanding of the context in which they are being undertaken. It also became clear that there were diverse perspectives of what social accountability is as a result of context, and that many of the participants would be reflecting on their own understandings of key ideas such as the role of different levels of governance in social accountability, the role of the media in social accountability, and the significant importance of sustainability in the social accountability initiatives being undertaken across Africa.

The conference theme: 'How does context affect social accountability outcomes?' responds to current trends in the need to ensure that social accountability initiatives are context responsive, and designed to ensure that organisations are context sensitive in the work that they do. Furthermore, the theme

aimed to provide a space for participants to interrogate the specific contextual elements which constrain and enable them to achieve their social accountability outcomes. There is acknowledgement that in order to undertake social accountability initiatives it is important to understand both the macro and micro factors which will impact on the outcomes of those initiatives. Various tools are available to unpack those factors at both the macro and micro levels, such as political economy analysis at the macro level and randomised controlled trials at the micro levels. The challenge, however, is that very often these cannot be generalised beyond a specific context. As such, it becomes difficult to share concrete, transferable lessons about what works in one context and why, with the aim of replicating results. The conference aimed to provide a space for delegates to unpack some of the complexities about context and to examine the elements of social accountability which are transferable across context, and those which are truly context specific.

What emerged from the conference was an acknowledgement that not only does context matter and will impact on the implementation and outcomes of social accountability initiatives, but that context will also determine the way in which practitioners think about the very concept of social accountability itself. The varied and diverse understandings of social accountability by delegates of the conference illustrated that depending on their context and the constraints under which they worked meant that they were able to practice social accountability in particular ways which may have been different in another context. This, among many others, were some of the lessons learnt at the Learning Lab.



Conference delegates

PSAM's involvement in the OBS 2017

By Ettione Ferreira

The 2017 Open Budget Survey (OBS) is underway. The Open Budget Survey research, led by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), is conducted in a decentralised manner, with a team responsible for analysing the national situation in each of the countries participating in this initiative. The coverage of the study has grown from 102 countries in 2015 to 115 countries in this round. The IBP defines the OBS as the world's only independent, comparable measure of budget transparency, participation, and oversight. Governments in all survey countries are also invited to review and comment on the results, and many do so. In South Africa, this project is hosted by the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) which is affiliated with the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University Grahamstown. It is for the second time that the PSAM is hosting the OBS for South Africa. For the 2015 OBS the PSAM assigned the then human settlements researcher, Yeukai Mukorombindo, to lead the study in South Africa.

For the 2017 round of the study the PSAM has assigned its human settlements researcher and health researcher, Thoko Sipungu and Thokozile Mtsolongo respectively, to lead the study. These researchers began collecting data in September 2016 and the study will run until the launch of the results on the 12 December 2017. Previous results have been widely used by individual country governments and civil society organisations, as well as by multistakeholder and sector-specific transparency and accountability initiatives, to improve the disclosure of budget information.



Conference delegates engage during the marketplace / gallery walk.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

2016 SOCIAL CHANGE AWARD

By Sbusiso Mukhari

The Psychology Department hosted their ninth Social Change Award on 2 November 2016. The Psychology Social Change Award is awarded to the most prominent contributors in the field of Psychology in South Africa in recognition of their contribution to social change in our community. This award further recognises those who have used “psychological understandings to take us a step closer to achieving a society that is inclusive, fair and just.” The award also seeks to offer role models to students, illustrating the many ways in which they can contribute towards the discipline of Psychology in South Africa.

The 2016 recipient of the Social Change Award is Professor Melanie Judge. Prof Judge is the Adjunct Associate Professor at the Centre for Law & Society at the University of Cape Town. She has done work in policy and law reform, advocacy, training and research in the areas of HIV, gender, and sexuality. She has also made her mark in the efforts of attaining marriage equality in South Africa. Professor Judge is in the process of writing a book about the politics of homophobia-related violence.

Prof Judge spoke on the issues surrounding queer psychology and scholarly contributions to queer psychology.

This initiative started in 2008 under the then Head of Department, Professor Catriona Macleod.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Dr Chrissie Boughey presented the award stating that the 2016 Social Change Award is awarded to Professor Judge for the manner in which she was able to proficiently bring together her activism and academic contribution in South Africa.



Professor Melanie Judge

Global business school of excellence for and of Africa, with a heart for the surrounding Grahamstown community

Rhodes Business School launched the very successful and well received Biz Community Workshop, the first of a series of community workshops on Saturday, 27 August 2016.

Partnering with the Assumption Development Centre (ADC) and the Department of Social Development Business Network (DSDBN), the workshop targets emerging businesses within the Grahamstown community and surrounding areas. The programme aims to provide formal training around the mobilisation of existing resources to meet the needs of emerging business.

The first workshop was a resounding success and was fully subscribed. Business expressed the need for structured conversations on an ongoing basis.

The idea behind this project is to explore and map the needs of emerging business through a people centric approach, and in partnership with these local emerging businesses, the ADC and DSDBN, to develop and implement an ongoing programme of engagement. The strongest focus is giving a voice to the emerging start-up businesses and letting them dictate the needs specific to them, within the Grahamstown community and its surrounding areas. "We need to understand the needs first and foremost, and then plan a twelve-month cycle of further engagements and workshops," says the project leader, Senior Lecturer Mr Evert Knoesen, "this is also an opportunity for Grahamstown's emerging businesses to test entrepreneurial ideas through the business canvas model, thereby reducing the risk of start-up failure".

Research shows that two out of every 10 start-ups fail within their first three years of existence. In a developing economy where people are resource constrained there is a devastating consequence when start-ups fail. The Biz Community Workshop aims to reduce the risk of business start-up failure and ultimately assist in breaking the cycle of poverty within the Grahamstown community and its surrounding areas. The business canvas model has been successful in testing and evaluating entrepreneurial ideas by focusing on value proposition, identifying the target market, and ultimately getting the product to market, all while practicing triple bottom line sustainable business best-practice.

Knoesen adds, "Once these needs are identified, we will then plot the way forward, through our partnerships, for a sustained engagement offering continued support to this group of business." He believes the success of this programme will be measured in the continued community participation, engagement and attendance of

Business Development Workshop

You are invited to a Business Development Workshop hosted by the Rhodes Business School in conjunction with ADC and the Department of Social Development.

Date : 27 August 2016

Time: 08:30 for 09:00 - 16:00

Venue: Rhodes Business School, Cnr. of Somerset & Prince Alfred Street.



Attendees at the Business Development Workshop

these workshops.

The final focus of this programme is the mobilisation of alumni and student participation, echoing the words of Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, "Rhodes University strives to be a vibrant and innovative knowledge institution that forms professionals, thinkers and actors, who continually contribute to economic and social development and an equitable, just and democratic society."

Musical concert to raise funds for student scholarships



Rhodes University Orchestra

By Catherine Foxcroft

On Thursday evening 29 September 2016, the Rhodes University Orchestra (RUO), Rhodes Vocalists, and soloists Neo Motsatse, Jo-Nette le Kay and Catherine Foxcroft performed to a packed audience at the Guy Butler Hall, Settlers Monument. This Gala concert was enthusiastically received by the audience, who rose to their feet at the end of the concert, rewarding the student performers with a standing ovation. The concert began with an arrangement of a Minuet (JS Bach), beautifully performed by the talented VP/VG string ensemble under the directorship of Susan and Hleze Kunju. The concert then proceeded with an exuberant performance by the RUO of The Dance of the Comedians (Smetena), truly magnificent performances of opera arias from Figaro, Don Giovanni (Mozart) and Carmen (Bizet) by the Rhodes vocalists, and exciting extracts from The Four Seasons (Vivaldi) played by 16 year old violinist Neo Motsatse. Rhodes lecturers Jo-Nette le Kay and Catherine Foxcroft ended the concert with a flourish, performing Juliet's Waltz (Gounod) and the first movement of a Piano Concerto (Grieg) respectively. Conductor David Scarr displayed his international expertise throughout this memorable concert, drawing soloists and orchestra together with wonderful musical ease.

The Department of Music's HOD, Professor Foxcroft, comments: "The Gala concert was planned in February when the Music Department decided to resurrect our orchestra which had folded five years ago. I am a strong believer in peer learning, which lends itself to orchestral rehearsal and performance. I also believe that student musicians simply cannot complete a BMus degree without the experience of large ensemble (group) performance. As Grahamstown has one of South Africa's most magnificent concert venues, we decided to "think big" in the venue planning of this event. Many of the student performers had never performed on a stage that size, and I am delighted to report that they all rose to the occasion. The level of performance was outstanding!"

While the aim of the concert initiative was primarily educational for our music students, it was also a fund raising event for a first year BMus scholarship. The Music Department initiated a fund raising scheme for a first year BMus scholarship in 2015, raising R 14 000 from concert takings in 2015. This scholarship was awarded to NSFAS student Asakhe Cuntsulana in February 2016. I am absolutely thrilled to report that the Gala concert raised the targeted 2017 scholarship amount of R 20 000. In addition, the Department has raised a further R 10 000 from our concert series over the course of 2016. We can now offer two scholarships! I would like to warmly congratulate our students and staff on their exemplary commitment and dedication to this worthy cause. Heartfelt thanks to you all for the contribution you have made to the career opportunity for a future musician.



Rhodes University celebrates dedicated retirees on Arbor Day

Kyran Blaauw

Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, hosted the annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony to honour recently retired staff members who were in service of the University for 15 years and more, on 6 September 2016.

Eight of these retirees were honoured with the planting of a True Yellowwood tree to commemorate their hard work and dedication to Rhodes University. On the beautiful lawns of the Helen Joseph Annex, Ms Loshni Govender opened the event with a warm welcome.

Dr Mabizela read a personalised citation for each honoured guest. In his address he noted that these staff members have been true assets to Rhodes University and that without their dedication and commitment, to this fine institution of learning, it would not be the functional and successful institution it is today.

The retirees honoured and celebrated for their loyal service were:

- Emeritus Professor Rob O'Donoghue: 15 years of loyal service to the Faculty of Education, during which he earned himself a highly regarded international reputation in environmental education.
- Mr TS Ngandi: 19 years of committed service to the Grounds and Gardens Department. Colleagues describe him as a true gentleman with a great sense of humour, and who will be missed around the department.
- Florence Burger: 19 years of dedicated service to the Rhodes University Catering Department. A warm and caring individual who would always go the extra mile in supporting her colleagues.
- Mr Xolani Alcott Mbekela: 32 years of unwavering service to the

Grounds and Gardens Department, a humble and caring individual who took pride performing his day to day responsibilities with excellence. He personally included in his responsibilities the recycling of glass bottles in the areas he oversaw.

- Ms Gladys Memani: 30 years of committed service to the Central Cleaning Services Department. Gladys is described as a woman of principal who loved her job and saw beauty everywhere. She was awarded a merit award while working in the Maths Department.
- Ms Sindiswa Ndemka: 15 years of loyal service to the Housekeeping Department. Sindiswa always went the extra mile, and her service was exemplary. She has positively impacted the lives of many students and colleagues and will be greatly missed.
- Mr Mark Hazell: 26 years of faithful service during which he actively deployed his keen sense and understanding of urban horticulture to change the face of campus. With his dedicated team, he turned pockets of wasteland into lush vegetated garden spaces. Under his guidance, thousands of trees were planted on campus; many kilometres of brick-paved

footpaths were laid, and one of the largest automated irrigation systems in the Eastern Cape Province installed. Mark was instrumental in establishing a formidable team that took charge of the daily maintenance of the ever growing Rhodes University campus.

- Mr Eric Sandi: 30 years of dedicated service in various departments at Rhodes University. Blessed with an entrepreneurial spirit with a passion for farming, Eric made the brave decision opting for early retirement to focus on his farming project. We trust that farm life will treat you well and that you will always be blessed with rain.

The honoured guests were supported by family, friends and current and former colleagues from Catering, Grounds and Gardens and Housekeeping. A plaque was placed next to the True Yellowwood tree with each of the retirees' names inscribed, noting the divisions in which they worked.

Having worked in key departments of the university which include the cleaning services, grounds and gardens, food services to research centres of the university, all were honoured and thanked for their loyal commitment and dedication in making Rhodes University the fine institution it is today.



Dr Sizwe Mabizela with the group of retirees.

Rhodes University retirement function

By Sbusiso Mukhari

"Zizothi bye-bye koogxabethu" (We have come to bid farewell to our friends). These are the words of the Vice-chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela who kicked off the function by welcoming and thanking the retirees who were in attendance. Dr Mabizela went on to bid farewell to the retirees by wishing them well for their future endeavours. Heads of department who were in attendance each had something to say about the retirees in their respective departments.

Mr Nzamo Mjoli gave testimony to three retirees from his department. The first retiree from Grounds and Gardens was Mr Patric Kadi. He began his journey at Rhodes University as a gardener and subsequently got promoted to a senior position as a supervisor in the gardening section. After many years of serving in the gardening services he was transferred to the Transport Department.

The second retiree from Grounds and Gardens was Mr Xolani Alcott Mbekela. He started working at Rhodes University in 1984 and served the University for 32 years. He worked as a stacker on the tractor, he always made it a point that the refuse areas that he was responsible for were always kept neat and clean. He took initiative creating his own day to day list which included recycling glass bottles.

The third person that Mr Mjoli spoke about was Mr TS Ngandi. He started working at Rhodes University in 1997. He was responsible for tarring campus roads. Mr Ngandi's recognised strength by his department was his superb analytic mind which was coupled with unwavering courage.

Simon Wright of the food services spoke about Ms Botha a retiree in the department. Ms Botha also known by the nickname "Mamu Sweaty" was employed at Rhodes University as a kitchen attendant and she worked at the pot scullery and cooking. She was then moved from pot scullery to salad prep. She was commended for zero absenteeism. She has shown nothing but dedication and appreciation for her job, commented Wright.

Prof Tony Booth gave testimony to Prof Denis Hughes. Prof Hughes obtained his PhD in Wales before moving to South Africa. In 1980 he joined the Hydrological Research Unit at Rhodes University. He has served the University for 37 years. Over the years he climbed the ranks and was chief senior research officer. Prof Hughes was instrumental to the Institute for Water Research and which is now an internationally recognised multi-disciplinary research institute that focuses on hydrology, freshwater ecology and environmental water quality. He was awarded the 2016 Volker Medal by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences.

Dr Mabizela gave a testimony of Mr Len Kruskamp. He joined Rhodes in 1997 as a financial accountant and served the University for 20 years. Kruskamp moved out of the Finance Division in 2003, as he was appointed as the internal auditor of the university which also included risk management. In 2008, he took the decision to separate the function of auditing and risk management. He then



Dr Sizwe Mabizela with the Retirees.



Sandra Coetzee and Desiree Wicks



Ms NP Botha 'Mamu Sweaty' (Food Services) and Mr Simon Wright.

became manager in risk management. In 2012, his job began to incorporate safety, health and environment. When he decided to retire Mr Kruskamp said "My time has come to move on and I am happy to say, and feel very blessed that I can say and feel, that I move on with a happy heart."

Prof Di Wilmot gave a testimony of Prof Rob O'Donoghue. He worked in the Department of Education. In 1993 he enrolled for his PhD in the department and finished it in record time. When completing his PhD, he was involved in various activities in Grahamstown, one of which was measuring the ecoli in the Kowie River, using the tools he

had developed for citizen science monitoring. In 2000 he became director of the Goldfields Service Centre, having made an international reputation for himself in the environmental education. He is known for his strong theoretical work, and his commitment to sustainability practices. Prof O'Donoghue has the enviable reputation of being cited at least once by every postgraduate scholar that has completed a degree at Rhodes University, and other universities in South Africa in the field of environmental education.

Ms H Kutsi had the following to say about Miss RN Yaphi: Miss Yaphi joined Rhodes University in 1984. She was employed as a cleaner. Ms Yaphi served Rhodes University with pride and love. She has taken great strides in fulfilling her duties. She has been a trustworthy ambassador in the cleaning and housekeeping department.

Ms Desiree Wicks gave a testimony of Ms SE Coetzee. Ms Coetzee started working at Rhodes University as an administrative officer in 2000 and later became a committee officer and was subsequently promoted to be Manager of the Secretariat. She has worked at all levels of the committee structure including at Senate and Council. She had also taken it upon herself to prepare the University's calendar for publication single-handedly.

Prof Larry Strelitz gave a testimony for Ms DJ Moriarty who started working at Rhodes University in the Linguistics Department in 1995 and later moved to the School of Journalism and Media Studies in 2006. She worked in the front desk at the school of JMS.

The function ended with an open mic for the retirees to express their gratitude and experiences of the time they spent at Rhodes University.



Mr Nzamo Mjoli - Grounds and Gardens



Jeni Hughes, Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Prof Denis Hughes (Institute for Water Research)



Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Mr Martin Davies (Ichthyology and Fisheries Science)



Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Mr TS Ngandi (Grounds and Gardens)



Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Mr Xolani Mbekela (Grounds and Gardens).



Prof Di Wilmot

Staff Children's End of Year Party 2016

