



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

The Rhodes University

Staff Newsletter

lindaba Zethu

Second Quarter 2017

African Humanitarian honoured for saving thousands of lives in Burundi



PhD written in isiXhosa hailed as milestone

By Theto Mahlakoana (Sunday Independent Journalist)

A chance encounter between a South African music teacher and Xhosa-speaking students in Zimbabwe has led to the production of Rhodes University's first PhD thesis in isiXhosa. Although the study unveiled little-known linkages between AmaXhosa in the Eastern Cape and a community of over 200 000 others living in Mbembesi, about 45km outside Bulawayo, it was mostly celebrated for putting the language on par with English among others used in academic inquiry.

Dr Hleze Kunju's doctoral thesis has been described as "a milestone" for Xhosa academic writing and a glimmer of hope in the quest for a decolonised and transformed education system in the country.

When Rhodes University drafted its new language policy allowing students to use their mother tongue for learning, 31-year-old Kunju said he knew this would give him an opportunity to conduct work in his vernacular language. This was an easy sell, he explained, because like many other students he had struggled with English during his undergraduate studies.

"I'd write (in English) and think this is it. But it would come back marked in red and they (lecturers) would ask what are you trying to say, and I eventually put it in a way that made sense to them. I constantly felt I was lost in translation."

Writing in isiXhosa was a "beautiful" experience, Kunju said, one that left little room for self-doubt. His subject was decided upon when, after hearing some of his students speak isiXhosa while teaching music in Zimbabwe, he dug deeper until he found himself in Mbembesi.

There he was confronted with a long history dating back 116 years when Cecil John Rhodes used false promises to lure descendants of amaMfengu to join him in the region. As a result, the community plans to approach the British Embassy to enquire about possible reparations as Rhodes failed to deliver the large amounts of land, schooling and jobs he had dangled before their chiefs at the time.

"The main thing they would like is for their children to have scholarships to study, including at Rhodes University, and that was number one on their list to be presented to the British Embassy," Kunju said.

He used ethnography, in the absence of prior studies, along with oral history to study the socio-linguistic and historical background of the community which has successfully preserved its culture while living alongside AmaNdebele and Shona people.

"The findings reveal that land, culture, songs, religion, literature, technology and social media, as well as the 2013 Zimbabwean constitution, are tools that have played a role in the survival and maintenance of Xhosa in Zimbabwe."

Kunju dedicated a chapter of his study to the analysis of circumcision out of fascination after he was met with sheer shock when explaining to the Zimbabwean AmaXhosa that hundreds of South African boys have perished in the mountains during the sacred rite of passage.

"They had never heard of deaths that happen when the boys are



Hleze Kunju's thesis has captured the whole country

in the mountains for circumcision. They are smaller in number, unlike in South Africa where criminals and opportunists take advantage of the system.

"They are also very strict about who the surgeon is and who looks after the boys when they are there, unlike in South Africa."

Beyond the contradictions cited in the study, songs and jargon used during circumcision were also found to have contributed in safeguarding the culture against dilution. AmaXhosa King Zwelonke Sigcawu discovered the small nation that depends on farming and informal mining activity in 2012 and he has revisited the area yearly since then, according to Kunju.

A process is under way to build a Xhosa-medium school there, in partnership with the two countries' governments. The Bible was the only written Xhosa material the people had laid eyes on, with the exception of those who ventured far and wide in search of better opportunities.

Kunju intends to take the study to the involved communities as he did not want it to "gather dust" in libraries. "I wanted to show that isiXhosa can do what the English language and others can do. As a

language activist, I always try to elevate isiXhosa, but many people think to elevate isiXhosa is to suppress everything else and we might be getting it wrong that way.

“We should be saying, look, this is what English can do and also what isiXhosa can do.”

Kunju was among seven other PhD graduates who conducted their thesis in African languages at the university.

World-renowned musician, poet and anti-racism activist Linton

Kwesi Johnson, who received an honorary doctorate in literature from Rhodes University, spoke about the fundamentals of language and its use against racial oppression.

The UK-based artist is the only black person and the second living poet to be published in the Penguin Modern Classic Series, alongside the likes of Irish poet WB Yeats. Johnson described as “gratifying” and encouraging that some young South Africans he has encountered write poetry in their own native language.



lindaba zethu

Following the runaway success of this year's Rhodes University Graduation, with more PhDs than ever, we thought it would be fitting to dedicate this staff newsletter to the very people who have ensured that Rhodes graduates break significant records; the staff.

Our article (page 2) on newly conferred Dr Hleze Kunju is the epitome of the transformation strides taken by the university to ensure that the knowledge taught and acquired at this institution is language and culturally relevant to every young person that has chosen to study with us.

We also had the pleasure of hosting and conferring doctorates to five amazing academics, socialists and distinguished game-changers in different fields of study and philanthropy (page 6). The honorary doctorates were men and women from across the globe who are recognised for contributions in culture, social cohesion, democracy and the betterment of humanity.

There is also plenty more news in and around Rhodes University, our daily work around community engagement, fundraising for students and thought-provoking lectures about modern African concepts.

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Mkhize gets PhD exploring early Xhosa poetry and literature

Dr Thulani Mkhize wrote a thesis on Xhosa poet Nontsizi Mgqwetho who wrote over 90 political poems between 1920 and 1929, published by the Johannesburg newspaper Umthetheleli waBantu. Through Mkhize's research, Mgqwetho's poetry is used as a tool to analyse the complexities and dynamics of African Literary production in African languages.

Mkhize's thesis was inspired by her Masters in English research thesis where she looked at 19th and 20th century African writers from the Eastern Cape such as Tiyo Soga, SEK Mqhayi and Mgqwetho.

"We have a rich intellectual heritage of writers, poets, historians yet we are never taught about their work in school and university. I was inspired to do research and write about her works and the issues she wrote about and offer insights into

which we still encounter today in one form or another," says Mkhize.

According to her, westernisation has affected how many Xhosa people view and interact with this literature, with many not exposed to their own literacy heritage. She said with the move to decolonise the curriculum in universities, a more balanced curriculum that reflects the socio-historical and linguistic reality of all students would be introduced.



Dr Thulani Mkhize

48 year old PhD graduate champions black excellence

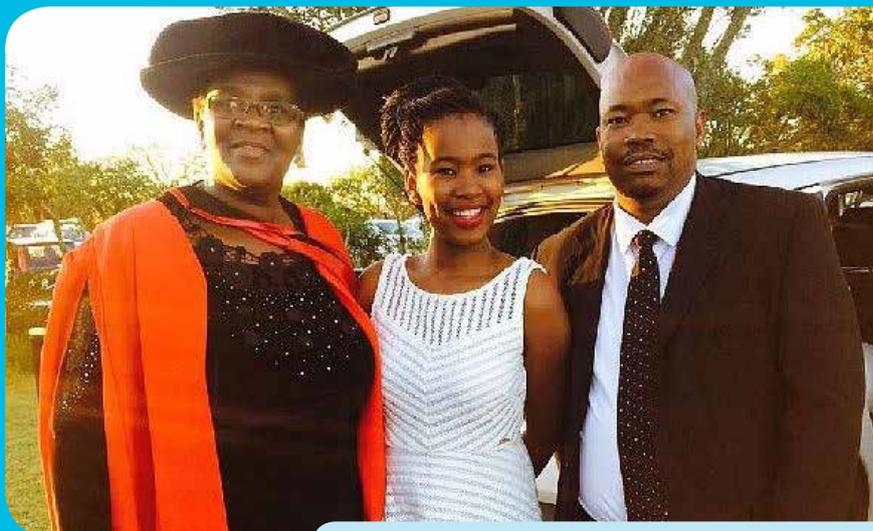
Dr Nyameka Kangela and her academic achievements are the embodiment of black excellence, a value that her father instilled in her at a young age. At 48 Nyameka graduated with a PhD in Mathematics Education from Rhodes, and her vision is to extend her standards of black excellence to others.

Born in the impoverished Duncan Village township in East London, Kangela was raised by parents who sacrificed everything for the education of their five children. Today, this avid scholar has a BSc, HDE & Bed and MSc in Engineering Business Management.

Her PhD in Mathematics is however, her biggest achievement and one that will benefit a wider community. "My plan is to make an impact in the teaching and learning of mathematics, particularly in rural areas in the Eastern Cape Province. I also want to look at teacher development, to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in the Eastern Cape," she says.

Her thesis, titled "A study of Mathematics Teacher professional Identity as shaped through an in-school support programme". The purpose of this study is to explore the process of change of mathematics teacher's professional identity through their participation in a Mathematics Teacher Enrichment Programme which is reinforced by on-site in-school support.

Nyameka says the journey to get her PhD was not easy; six years were dedicated to her studies where she began as a Bachelor of Science Student in applied mathematics and mathematical statistics at the University of Transkei. She then decided to do her PhD



Dr Nyameka Kangela with her family

at Rhodes University to be closer to her family.

"I am a wife and mother of three children and I wanted to see my children play, support them emotionally and be there when they do their homework, so at Rhodes I could visit home on weekends," she said.

Her goal is to present her thesis to the Eastern Cape

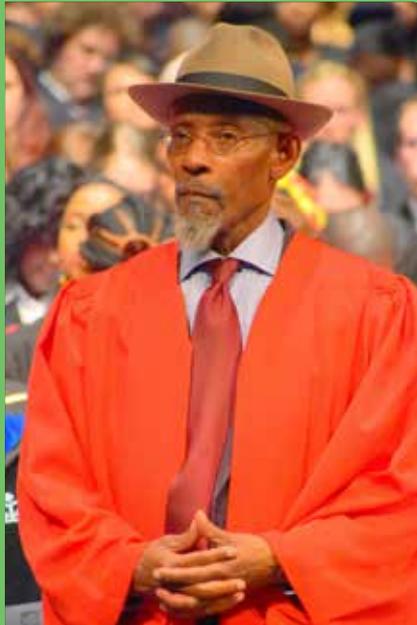
"I plan to make an impact in the teaching of Mathematics, particularly in the rural areas."

Department of Education so that she can begin her programme in improving the teaching of mathematics in the rural areas.

"Maths and science are gateway subjects, in order for us to choose careers. We are educated to solve problems, and maths helps you solve problems of our time. If we don't produce excellent maths and science students, chances are that we will not have people who can make an impact in the economic growth of our country."

Honorary Doctorates

Rhodes University conferred five Honorary Doctorates to five distinguished game-changers in different fields of study and philanthropy. This year's honorary doctorates are men and women from across the continent and globe who have made globally recognised contributions in culture, social cohesion, democracy and the betterment of humanity.



Dr Linton Kwesi Johnson
Doctor of Literature (DLITT)

One of the world's foremost black poets, an innovator and educator, the name Linton Kwesi Johnson conjures up images of leadership, strong views whose words welded politics and social conscience with a potent challenge to those in power. A poet who commands worldwide respect was honoured not with just an Honorary Doctorate, but also a tribute concert by the English Department and school of Creative Writing with special guests from local township schools.

Born in Jamaica, Johnson is based in Britain. Most of Johnson's poetry is political, dealing mainly with the experiences of being an African-Caribbean in Britain. He says, "Writing is a political act and poetry is a cultural weapon..."



Dr Marguerite Barankitse
Doctor in Law (LLD)

Burundi born Ms Marguerite Barankitse, the President of Maison Shalom 'House of Peace' has lived a life so horrific that surviving it ought to be enough of a miracle. However, this powerhouse went on to become a mother to orphans of the Burundian Civil War that left over 25 000 children stranded.

Maison Shalom, the orphanage, is made up of four homes spread out across Burundi and Rwanda. Through a scholarship program, Maggie has also helped 400 young, gifted students in exile to continue with their studies at Universities in France and Belgium.



Professor Nyameko Barney Pityana
Degree Doctor of laws (LLD)

Uitenhage born Professor Nyameko Barney Pityana coined the phrase; "Black men you are own your own," owing to the realities of the South African society that led to the establishment of SASO and the Black Consciousness Movement in the mid-1960s, which he co-founded with Bantubonke Biko.

An outspoken champion for human rights, he has been vocal in South Africa's fight for a true democracy to be enjoyed by all its citizens. According to him, if we are to overcome challenges of poverty, unemployment, health, education, land restitution, the economy, bitterness, anger, we need men and women full of goodness, faith, truth and love.



Penny Siopis
Doctor of Fine Art

Penny Siopis's work is regarded as paintings that take a critical look at history, challenging dominant narratives of colonialism, apartheid by inverting imperialist pictorial conventions by including figures of women as protagonists of history.

A Rhodes University Master's degree in Fine Arts and a British Council scholarship to the United Kingdom's Portsmouth University launched a political and cultural art career that was strangely influenced by a bakery owned by Siopis's parents in Vryburg, where she was born.



Dr Sheila Sisulu: A life of servicing the humankind
Doctor of Law (LLD)

Dr Sheila Sisulu is a woman who has lived her life in service of humankind locally and globally. She committed her young adulthood to the fight against apartheid with a focus on education. She fought against the apartheid government and sought to prepare a young generation for a post-apartheid South Africa.

Her most notable achievement is the work she moved to Rome to become the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme. "My role was to work with developing country governments to embrace long-term hunger solutions as part of their social and economic development strategies, moving away from the notion that ensuring food security for the extremely poor is an expense. We understood that it is an expense that can be turned into an investment and ploughed back into the economy," she explains. Due to ill health, Sr Sisulu was not able to attend her graduation.

Grad 2017 in Brief

- "I wish to extend special, warm and heartfelt congratulations to those graduands who are the first in their family to earn a university degree. Having been one myself, I know too well what a proud and special moment this is for all of you. Years from now you will look back on this day with great fondness and deep pride". Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Vice-Chancellor
- There are more Grahamstown young people registered at Rhodes right now than at any time before in history. This, is at the insistence of Vice-Chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela. There are currently 700 local Rhodents, 10% of the student population registered at Rhodes. In partnership with Gadra, Rhodes is piloting a bridging programme which will see 10 local students from no fee schools, 7 from Grahamstown and three from Port Alfred and Bathurst upgrade their matric subjects at Gadra and subsequently attend Rhodes. The VC has waived their varsity fees, despite the institution's challenging financial situation. Grahamstown had ten sons and daughters that graduated this year
- Of the 2 443 students that graduated this year, 60% of them were women.
- 287 Rhodes University students this year received their Master's degrees, and an additional 78 will received their PhD degrees.

Politics honours struggle icon Ruth Mompati

By Khuthala Nandipha

The Department of Political and International Studies last week honoured struggle icon Ms Ruth Segomotsi Mompati during their graduation by naming a Seminar room after her. Mompati died at the age of 89 in 2015 after a short illness.

Sindiso Ngaba, Ruth's niece, Elvis Tladinyane, Chairman of the Ruth Segomotsi Mompati Foundation, Head of Department Professor Paul-Henri Bischoff as well as politics graduates and their families, attended this intimate ceremony.

"My aunt had a great love for education and Grahamstown. As a fourteen-year-old girl 'Ru' as I so affectionately called her, was thrown into a tough situation when their father passed away and in order to keep their eldest sister at school, she had to go to work to assist her mother to raise money. It was agreed that her turn would come when the elder sister had completed her studies. After honouring this arrangement, she put her foot down and asked that she get the chance to go back to school," recalls Ngaba.

She added that the liberation of black people was a thorn on Ruth's side until her last moments. "Before she passed on, she told Archbishop Makgoba and myself that she was not yet done, that she hadn't yet completed the liberation of her people, because people have not yet liberated themselves," she said.

As a young lady in the early 1950s, Ruth worked for the Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo Law Firm in Johannesburg. Born in Vryburg in the North West Province, in 1954 she joined the African National Congress (ANC) and was elected to the National Executive Committee of the Women's League.

She is one of the founding members



From left: Head of Department Professor Paul-Henri Bischoff, Dr Siphokazi Magadla, Ms Sindiso Ngaba, Ruth's niece, and a Politics graduate.

of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and was one of the leaders of the Women's March on the 9th August 1956. She went into exile in 1962 where she underwent military training and held office as secretary and head of the women's section of the ANC in Tanzania.

In 1992, a day after the anniversary of the historic Women's March to Pretoria in 1956, she addressed the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in New York on the subject of women. The day was then declared an International Day of Solidarity with Women in South Africa. She marched with Professor Angela Davis in London at the Women's unite for People power.

In 1996 to 2000 on her return from exile, she became the mayor of Vryburg (Naledi) in the North-West Province.

According to Professor Paul-Henri Bischoff, Head of the Department of Politics, the seminar room that has been named after Mama Ruth was built four years ago.

It is central to the academic life of the department. This is where postgraduates engage in seminars, where visitors give presentations and where every Friday during term time seminar presentations open to the public are made.

"It is a friendly and open space where we hope political thoughts, ideas and actions which benefit the world are born. We decided to re-name it in honour of an outstanding individual of this country," said Bischoff.

The room is filled with framed posters and pictures that reflect the politics and history of our continent and the world.

"On behalf of our family, thank you so much for continuing to breathe life into her legacy and belief in learning. She dented the shape of the world, so her name on the department of Political and international studies is bound to inspire others to do the same," concluded Ngaba.

Doctorate needs to have social relevance and functionality

Last week Rhodes University hosted the first Inaugural Lecture of the year by Professor Sioux McKenna titled *Unmasking the Doctorate*. Professor Sioux McKenna is the coordinator for PhD in Higher Education Studies (CHERTL) and Director of the Centre for Postgraduate Studies.

Following an enthusiastic and extensive citation by Dr Chrissie Boughey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, an emotional McKenna mentioned that this was a moving occasion for her.

McKenna's lecture, *Unmasking the Doctorate*, argues that the doctorate has been underestimated, and at the same time, the significance of a doctorate has been overestimated.

Professor McKenna, a former teacher who loved teaching but hated being a teacher, struggled with following the dominant education system of controlling and disciplining without reviewing and reflecting. Owing to her childhood years in the cocoon of whiteness, she claims she got through university with very few ruffles to her existence in the privileged world of being white in apartheid South Africa. But her experiences of teaching in Umlazi in the 1980s were the starting point to this cocoon unravelling.

Her first point of interrogation is the number of doctorates per hundred thousand people of a country's population, which is used by the National Development plan as an indicator of a country's economic development.

"What if it is having a strong economy that provides the kinds of structures, well-resourced universities and libraries that is needed to produce so many doctorates; what if it is having a strong economy that provides the kind of culture needed for a whole lot of people to be able to engage in the indulgent luxury of postgraduate study? In other words, what if it is economic development that drives doctoral output as opposed to doctoral output being a driver



Professor Sioux McKenna

of economic growth?" McKenna proposes a pertinent question.

She argues that, "for the doctorate to fulfil its function in knowledge creation for both public and private good, we also need to turn a critical lens on the curriculum and pedagogy of the PhD and be prepared to unmask much of its mystique".

She further encouraged academics to be vigilant, or else the doctorate will become a training ground for the marketplace in ways that are unlikely to take environmental sustainability and human flourishing much into account.

She gave a stern warning that higher education institutions must not forget that they are meant to safeguard democratic spaces and public values in order to protect citizens from the excesses of the market. The risk being increasingly conceptualised as tools working in service of that market.

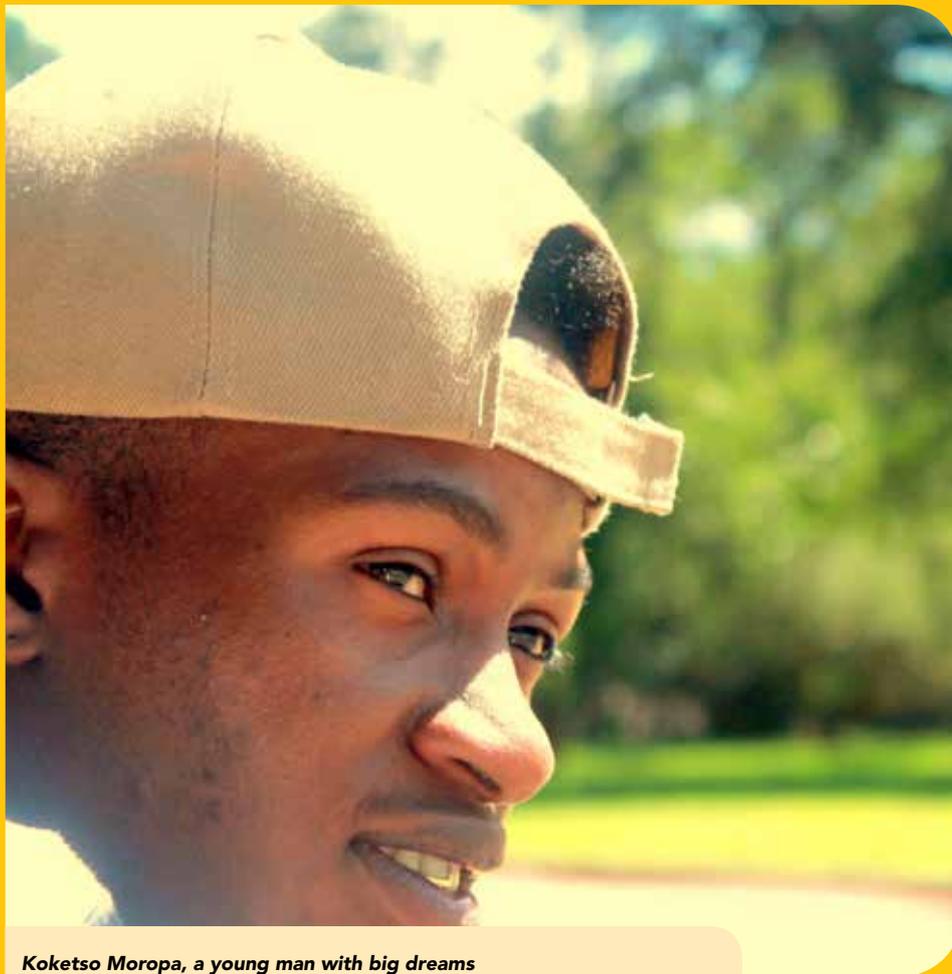
Adding that topics chosen for PhDs ought to interrogate social justice issues

towards a better society but that we also needed spaces of Blue Sky research. Further stressing that a doctorate develops high-level skills with the capability to challenge powerful interest groups such as the state.

Although she touched on decolonisation of knowledge, she also emphasised that the very nature of knowledge building is incremental and transnational. McKenna delivered a paper so important, full of critical questions, suggestions of a better way forward that will essentially enrich multiple social spaces with advancement and development. All of which starts in the academic space where she has dedicated almost her entire life.

"We are working at the frontiers of the field; we are producing original ideas, concepts and research tools. It is the ideal place for us to be questioning whose knowledge is legitimised, and what potential might silenced knowledges have for us".

Aspen funding for innovative youth



Keketso Moropa, a young man with big dreams

Keketso Moropa, 22, is a young man from Daveyton studying for a cause so personal it fills his days with purpose. He is doing his 3rd year in the Bachelor of Pharmacy with the intention to find treatment and possibly a cure to a disease that made him an orphan.

Aspen Pharmacare have just awarded him a full bursary to clear his debt and finish his studies. Stavros Nicolaou, Aspen Pharmacare's senior executive, read his story in a national newspaper in 2016 during #FeesMustFall.

Moropa lost both his parents when he was young and lived with his aunt and 18-year-old sister in Daveyton. "I have always

wanted a tertiary education mostly because of the community I come from. We are faced with many challenges: drugs, violence and financial constraints. Despite that, I have always believed that I will make a success of myself," says the determined third year B. Pharm student.

Moropa has also has an internship with Aspen as soon as he finishes his studies.

Aspen Pharma is a global company operating in 76 countries and selling its products in 150 of those. Despite this, Aspen's roots remain firmly in South Africa, with its manufacturing bases spread across four South African cities.

"It is critical for us to contribute as much as we can to student studies in order to move

South Africa forward," states Stavros Nicolaou, Aspen Senior Executive. The company links academia to operational capability and therefore focus more on pharmacy and medical students as they can be operationalised in the company and the industry at large.

"My mother was died of a disease in 2003 and that is the year I made an oath to be a pioneer for the cure of her disease so that no child in this world would be orphaned. I am doing pharmacy to change people's lives," explains Keketso.

Not only was Jackie, Aspen CSI Manager touched by Keketso's circumstances but he was impressed with his results too. Keketso says that achieving his goals can only be achieved through hard work and determination. "I have dreams bigger than me, consistent hard work, determination and perseverance is the key," he says.

Aspen Pharmacare have an active programme that sponsors 100 students each year. In partnership with 22 other companies, Aspen, as part of the Public Health Enhancement Fund (PHEF) programme, under the Minister of Health, sponsor an additional 100 medical students for six years. This also includes postgraduate PhD students doing medicine pharmacy, physio and other related disciplines.

The students are not expected to pay back once qualified but they are expected to pass and make the most of the opportunity that they have been given.

The total funding raised by the PHEF is between 45 to 50 million rand a year. At the postgraduate level, 80% of students who receive funding are women.

"I really can't thank Aspen Pharmacare enough for the opportunity they have given me to pursue my dreams. I wish to do Post graduation studies to ensure that I get the best education. I'm forever grateful and I know that I won't let them down."

Traditional Courts Bill, the devil in the details

By Khuthala Nandipha

Judge of Appeal Nambitha Dambuza, 45, addressed a lecture that interrogates the devil in the detail of the newly revised and approved 2017 Traditional Courts Bill on the 3rd of April 2017 as a guest of the Faculty of Law, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

Judge Dambuza, who has Masters in Law, has acted as a judge in both the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) and the Constitutional Court. She is currently a judge in the Eastern Cape High Court and the Competition Appeal Court in Port Elizabeth.

She presented her lecture to Law staff (current and retired) and students on the gaps apparent in the latest version of the Traditional Courts Bill. She does however admit that it is a significant improvement from its 2012 version.

"The new Bill shows commitment to the rights enshrined in the constitution, mostly the protection of basic rights. It does however lack clarity on the extent of power given to both traditional leaders and women," she exclaims.

She laments that the Bill is troubling in that it falls short in addressing the long-standing social injustice of the exclusion of women in the decision making process of the Courts.

"Gender representation in the decision-making is still an incomprehensive concept. Women's full participation cannot hinge on evolution as so wished by some. As it stands, it continues to undermine women for the near future, contrary to the stipulations of the Constitution. This matter must not be taken lightly," she said.

Obed Bapela, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs had earlier expressed that the exclusion of women in this process is an entrenched practise that must be left to evolution because as society evolves we see more and more women participating.

This is a sentiment Dambuza rejects fully. "That is not the standard we want to

set at this stage of the crafting of the Bill, as it is a direct contradiction of our constitution".

Former Dean of Law at Rhodes and Advocate of the High Court of South Africa Professor Richmond Mqeke begged to differ with Dambuza on this matter.

"I was part of the process of formulating the new Bill, and a lot of time was spent looking at the concerns that were raised from the original Bill. This Bill must be read together with the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act as it recognises both genders. In the Transkei, some areas are herded by women, so these women are participants and head these courts."

Mqeke clarified that Traditional Courts are a peer justice system not a court of Law in the traditional Western legal system. He agreed that there is still much improvement; although most issues raised were addressed.

Mqeke has published two books, *Basic Approaches to Problem Solving in Customary Law (1997)* and *Customary Law*.

Dambuza went on to analyse the legitimacy of traditional leaders as the ultimate authoritarians in customary law and traditional courts. She acknowledged the unwavering importance of traditional courts as they are voluntary, and are a speedy, affordable and accessible form of justice comparable to small claims court.

However, she has reasons for discomfort. Because there is no clear sense of the rest of the structure and how will it function - from summons, execution of judgements and various administrative aspects.

"Chiefs and herdsmen as heads of traditional courts raises questions of separation of powers. Their knowledge of law does not appear to exceed any other member of their respective communities. We cannot have a system that does not have checks and balances. Let us not hide behind vagueness and ambiguity. Authoritarian systems always



Judge of Appeal Nambitha Dambuza is not settling for less

hit the most poor and vulnerable," she pleaded with the law community present.

Associate Professor of Computer Science at Rhodes University, Philip Machanick backed up Dambuza in her call for separation of powers. He spoke of a long-standing interrogation that he was part of in the 1990s in the Transkei.

"The Regional Authority Courts Act in the Transkei was designed in such a way that the separation of powers did not exist. Traditional Leaders are functionaries within the executive arm of government on a local platform and them exercising judicial powers is incompatible with that primary function," he said.

He cited an example in the West Tembuland, where the regional authority court was being used openly to target political opponents of traditional leaders. "These were mostly ANC activists who were opposed to the system of rule. That is the danger when you do not separate powers," argued Machanick.

Dambuza closed off her analysis by re-emphasising the lack of detail in the current Bill. "We are choking in the knowledge that we are trampling on our Constitution, by setting up a court system for some of our compatriots that is not good enough".

Presentations on the Bill will be called on shortly. She pleaded to students and her learned colleagues in Law to ensure that all matters arising be raised accordingly.

Faculty of Law hosts African round of Moot Court

By Tokologo Moralo

Rhodes University hosted the African Regional Round of the 15th European Law Students' Association (ELSA) Moot Court Competition on WTO Law in Grahamstown, South Africa last month.

The ELSA Moot Court Competition is a simulation of a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel proceeding. The competition is a student-run moot court competition organised annually by the ELSA in co-operation with the WTO.

The competition builds the awareness of the WTO dispute settlement system and provides students around the world with legal knowledge and skill, building global legal capacity at the same time.

"Africa has been notably under-represented from dispute settlement at the WTO and that's largely because we don't have the capacity. So what this competition does is it builds an awareness of the importance of this area of law," said Vicky Heideman, African Regional Round Organiser of the previous and upcoming edition.

This year, teams from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Liberia, Lesotho, and Uganda competed against each other for three days of pleadings. All teams presented their arguments for both parties of the dispute regarding a fictitious case. They were judged by distinguished panellists from renowned institutions, firms, and universities.

The institution include the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the South African Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), International Centre

for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), PricewaterCoopers, Mayer Brown, ENS Africa, the University of Barcelona, the University of Namibia, the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), and the WTO itself.

The Researchers of the Provincial Division of the High Court have sat in as Judges showed interest in establishing a more formal working relationship between the Faculty of Law and the research arm of the High Court.

During the different stages of the competition, the participants will develop their trade law knowledge and pleading skills. The best students will be awarded special scholarships, internships, and traineeships, giving them an opportunity to gain legal knowledge at the ICTSD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD), the World Trade Institute, and the University of Barcelona's International Economic Law and Policy (IELPO) programme.

The best teams from the African Regional Round will advance to the Final Oral Round that will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 6-11 June 2017. They will compete against the finalists from the other regional rounds such as the All-American, Asia-Pacific, and European regional rounds.

The African Regional Round has received significant financial and technical support from the African Trade Policy Centre of UNECA, the Society of International Economic Law, the National English Literary Museum in Grahamstown, and the Trade Law Centre (TRALAC).



Rhodes hosts biggest Law competition

Creating an HIV free university space

By Anima McBrown

Rhodes University recently hosted the annual First Thing's First (FTF) HIV testing and counselling campaign, parallel to the countrywide campaign by the Higher Education and Training HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS).

The FTF campaign is scheduled to revisit the University for its second campaign later in the year. Students and staff committed to implementing and practicing safer long-term sexual and health care behaviour.

Zodwa Goje from FTF says she has been pleasantly surprised to see more young people across campuses test every year. Student attendance of 2017 event shows raised awareness and better student engagement with more students getting tested as couples, groups of friends – thus showing more trust, support and care for each other.

"Students are more willing to talk, open up, share opinions and ask questions," enthused Goje.

Highlighted during the first round of FTF was the social-ill of the 'blesser/blessee' phenomenon which is a growing problem – especially in poorer areas where

young girls are easy targets for older men who take advantage of their desperation and the pressure felt to help provide/sustain families at home. Women still face the stigma, condemnations and judgement – especially with teenage pregnancy.

"People might be surprised to learn that Grahamstown has a high prevalence rate for HIV despite it being a small town. This makes intensive education initiatives and prevention campaigns essential in and for many of the local communities that are riddled with HIV in the Eastern Cape," stated Goje.

She stresses that it is important for young people to know and implement effective 'abstinence breaks' for their window periods, especially when they feel that their sexual health might have been compromised.

Adults have to respect and value that taking responsibility is a multiplicity of considerations:

- Never compromising on practicing safe sex;
- Not relying on female oral contraception as a protective measure
- Unplanned pregnancy is just one area of concern when it comes to contraception;
- Using condoms means protecting yourself from HIV and many other

dangerous sexually transmitted diseases;

- It is better to be cautious (what some may call being "too safe") than to take chances and end up exposing oneself to unknown strains of illness.

At a time when so many different and important conversations are happening in and around campus, the topic of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases should be on the agenda all the time. The goal is to keep new infection rates low, to maintain effective prevention campaigns, and to bolster the already existing support structures at the university.

"The power of knowing and being able to take full ownership and responsibility over one's sexual health cannot be over-emphasised. We want to create and advocate for an environment where young adults are mature, responsible and readily equipped with all the tools and information they need to look after themselves and their reproductive futures," said Goje.

The First Things First campaign also does testing for high blood pressure and diabetes. This is an appreciable way to dispel the embarrassment that is normally associated with testing for HIV. It helps promote the idea that full and regular health and body check-ups should be part of normal, routine health practices for young adults.

In the event that participants test positive, Goje says there are three main things to remember in this unfortunate circumstance:

- Suicide is not the answer. So many young people get caught in a state of panic, desperation, depression and hopelessness – and may opt to take their lives because of the fear, shame and stigmas that are wrongly associated with living with HIV.
- There is a tomorrow and many other tomorrows after you are newly diagnosed. People need to be reassured that there is treatment and it is readily available as soon as possible.
- For young people especially, ultimately it is up to us to take full ownership over and be more responsible for our own (sexual) health.



Students fundraise R75 000 in one week for pocket money

More than R75 000 was raised in the 2017 Give5 Fundraising campaign week. Give5 is a student run fundraiser for the Annual Fund Pocket Money Project. Every single residence at Rhodes University participated which is indicative of the type of student calibre we have.

There is a considerable number of Rhodes students that "cannot" afford to buy basic essentials such as textbooks, toiletries, grabbing a hamburger with friends or being able to invite their fellow

students into their rooms for a cup of coffee. The Pocket Money Fund allows accepted applicants to receive R200 monthly for ten months a year, said Ellen Bagshawe-Smith, Annual Fund Project Officer.

Fundraising included getting donations of R5 or more, fire walking, implementing more than 37 original and creative initiatives around events, sales and services by students. As part of student motivation, the Give 5 campaign is run as a competition between halls and houses, and each year there are winners for the biggest fundraisers.

The winning Residences are BOTHA HOUSE (67 residents), **ALLAN GRAY** (85

residents) and **PHELPS** (50 residents). **The winning Halls are FOUNDERS** (190), **DROSTDY** (221) and **ST MARY'S** (254). Clubs and Societies also join in the fun adding just under R 5 000 to the accumulative amount raised. The Student Christian Society (SCO) wins this year's Clubs & Societies Give 5 Trophy.

Give 5 extends beyond halls, residences and our beautiful campus with staff members and 30 local businesses and organisations taking part. These include Rhodes Music Radio (RMR), the Rhodes branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), the Provost (Creative Grahamstown) and the Main Library.

The annual Firewalk took place saw 25 brave students and staff members confront their fears and conquer 5-meters of red-hot coals to raise funds for their fellow students. Every walker symbolised the discomfort of walking in someone else's footsteps.

The waiting list for the Pocket Money Fund is growing and in addition, a **Toiletry and Non-perishable Item Collection** has been established to further alleviate financial stress.

If you would like to donate or need any further information, please e-mail: annualfund@ru.ac.za

If anyone would like to donate toiletries, tea, coffee, sugar, and books, they can drop them off at Alumni House or the SRC Office.



Students challenged their fears when they walked on Fire to raise funds during the Give5 week.



Decolonisation: Facing the complexity and uncertainties

By Sam Van Heerden

The Black Management Forum held an Inaugural Conference at Rhodes University in March 2017 to explore the multiple facets of decolonisation in higher education by various scholars from universities in South Africa. The Conference was themed *“Democratic Violence: Legitimacy, Power and Injustice in Higher Education.”*

Unpacking decolonisation

Broadly speaking, to ‘decolonise’ is to dismantle the structures perceived to maintain inequality in institutions and society; an inequality created by colonialism and continues into the present. Decolonisation is the embrace of a diversity that has been lost. It encompasses new ways of being, seeing, teaching, and learning. It is a space of uncertainty, but one that cannot be ignored any longer.

The University context

In theory, liberal universities support diversity and multiculturalism. However, Mhlali Mzileni from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) argues that in reality this is not the case.

“All of these words are used for marketing purposes but have no tangible meaning,” he says. This, he argues leads to epistemic ‘violence’ which occurs when certain knowledge is demoted in favour of another.

Dr. Savo Heleta, also from NMMU added that knowledge was used to justify the oppression of black people in South Africa during colonialism and apartheid. He argues that this has not changed.

“It is maintained in the criteria we use to judge academic performance. English and Western scholars are still dominant, and, there is still alleged racial profiling in the selection and acceptance of students into Masters programmes at places such as Rhodes University,” he said.

“The diversity of knowledge at university is limited by economics, which is problematic because we live in a knowledge driven society,” he said.

Knowledge Production

Rudo Hwame, a PhD candidate from

the Rhodes University’s Politics Department, says the political and economic culture of the university influences how we value knowledge, our current economic system, neo-liberalism, and corporate culture’s impact on research funding.

Previously [at Rhodes University] research was secondary to teaching. Two decades ago, most research was carried out by individual initiative. This is no longer the case. Public spending on higher education has decreased, which has led to greater collaborations between the corporate sector and the university.

“Knowledge is seen as a commodity, which reduces it to an exchangeable good that is seen as valuable only if it is useful for the economy. There is a perception that the liberal arts have no utility. The Rhodes University’s Department of Religion and Theology closed down in 2000 because of this. In a decade’s time, what will be next?” Asks Hwame.

According to Hwame, yearly reports at Rhodes University indicate that white male academics receive the most funding whereas young, black lecturers are underfunded and end up stuck in junior positions.

“This is because of historical racial inequality. Research funding is allegedly given to more ‘established’ academics, who happen to be white and male because they have had greater access,” she lamented.

Neo-liberal globalisation pushes for knowledge that is useful and universal. Africanisation and decolonisation do not fit with globalisation narratives.

Decolonisation of the curriculum

The decolonisation of the curriculum is centred on incorporating African scholars. Dr Heleta argues that the thinking at faculty meetings about decolonisation is that the students want to go back to the Stone Age.

“This is not the case. I have seen module guides in 2016 about African Politics, not one writer is black or is from this continent,” she says. Further validating this point is Professor Lynn Quinn from Rhodes University’s CHERTYL, who adds that, “we need to find new ways of teaching that keep students engaged”. Students, according to Quinn, need to be able to relate the knowledge they learn in class to their own lives. If not, students may feel alienated and disconnected

from their lecturers and coursework.

Academics need to think about what to teach their students: “When lecturers choose sources, I ask them, ‘Will this only resonate with white students? Will all your students connect to this?’”

Resistance: epistemic violence

Leonhard Praeg from the University of Pretoria added says the Fees Must fall student protests were indirectly a response to the corporatisation of the university and the question of epistemic violence. He says that decoloniality must be a process of saying and doing, and lack of that sees violence as democracy in action.

For Praeg, the protests are grounded in a communitarian philosophy of Ubuntu. “This philosophy suggests that violence, for example the disruption of lectures, is acceptable under certain circumstances for the greater good of the group. The FMF was Ubuntu in action,” he says.

According to Injairu Kulundu from the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) people say the youth is having an identity crisis. However, he says it is the teaching and learning space that is having an identity crisis.

“There is politics underneath the protest. When we construct other people as irrational it is because we haven’t allowed ourselves to listen carefully,” she says.

Decolonisation Broadly

Responses to the question of decolonisation will always differ. “Decolonisation can’t mean one thing. If it does, then we’re replicating the exact same thing that we’re fighting against,” says Kulundu. The two academics Kulundu and Dr. Dylan McGarry from ELRC, agree that decolonisation is about ‘transgression’: the act of going beyond established boundaries of culture and identity.

“We need to free ourselves from dancing in cupboards. At the heart of the project of decolonisation is the question: ‘Can I grapple on the edge of uncertainty, with myself intact, whole and curious?’”

Despite the turmoil of the present, the future must be in sight. The need to decolonise education is the service of a future worthy of our longing.

Rhodes Muso serenades on Table Mountain

By Khuthala Nandipha

On International Piano Day, 29 March 2017, Professor Catherine Foxcroft alongside thirteen pianists enthralled crowds and clouds in a unique Table Mountain piano concert. Foxcroft, the Head of the Department of Music and Associate Professor in Classical piano and Chamber music is a renowned pianist whose credibility has a stamped worldwide footprint.

The concert featured a Shigeru Kawai grand piano on top of Table Mountain. A Kawai is the Rolls Royce of pianos, prestigious and handcrafted. Rhodes has acquired three Kawai's over the last 10 years.

An underprivileged music school was invited to attend for the experience and to collect their brand new digital piano. This was the start of a project to help underprivileged schools with no instruments, or very poor instruments, for the growth of music in Africa.

"A performance experience which still doesn't quite seem real. The event celebrated pianos, piano compositions, pianists and the role of the piano in the music of South Africa," enthused Foxcroft.

Foxcroft took turns with some of the best pianists from around the country, and played some of her most loved pieces. She admits, performing for an unknown audience was slightly unsettling, but the audience played along for each pianist, receiving different styles and genres with warmth and enthusiasm.

"My slot was over all too soon, leaving me feeling proud to be a musician, to have represented the Rhodes Music Department," said.

Foxcroft is hailed as one of South Africa's finest pianists, as she combines a vibrant career in music as a soloist, chamber musician, pedagogue, and researcher. She has performed as a soloist with South African orchestras and appeared nationally and internationally in recitals. She has been a semi-finalist and finalist at international competitions in Germany, Greece, Czech Republic, USA, and Italy.

Her CD recordings and live concert recordings are broadcast frequently across South African media.

Performance video:

<https://www.facebook.com/IBSPianos/videos/1456843637721008/>

Music maestro, Professor Catherine Foxcroft

Knowledge makes for healthier communities

By Khuthala Nandipha

Professor Sunitha Srinivas' Inaugural Lecture lacked the usual theoretical research presented by most distinguished academics. Hers was about a world-lived experience in Community Health developments, from India to Grahamstown.

It was also appropriate that the Lecture was hosted during the month of Human Rights Awareness on 21 March, 2017. Human Rights can be achieved by creating, participating, and preventing the adverse impact of conditions caused by the absence of human rights, especially the right to live.

With her PhD in Pharmacy Practice, Post Graduate Diploma in High Education (PGDHE) with Distinction and Master of Pharmacy, Professor Srinivas has worked for the World Health Organisation in initiatives around community health and the varying use of medicine.

Until 2003, her career was field-based, and since joining Rhodes University, her first focus was strengthening teaching and learning related aspects, which include community engagement.

From operational research in HIV/Aids and Essential medicines, she has

progressed in the research areas of health promotion, community-engaged research and service learning. She has supervised Master's students, co-supervised PhD students, and published in national and international peer-reviewed accredited journals.

Titled Engaging Communities to Enrich Health Promotion, her lecture recounted her experiences back to the programme she started at Rhodes University with Human Resources, Rhodes Business School and peer educators. This programme focuses on the health of under serviced areas, from Rhodes University's staff to their families.

One of South Africa's current health challenges is the epidemic increase of Non-Communicable diseases. This reflects



Professor Srinivas (left) is congratulated by her daughter, who is a Rhodes student.

an adverse global trend affecting all low and middle-income countries due to the globalisation of modifiable risk factors, which are further worsened by population aging and urbanisation.

"These approaches have been conceptualised and tailored to incorporate the local context and culture over the past fourteen years. The optimisation of the increasingly scarce human and social resources is crucial for the improvement of public health

and general awareness regarding healthy, mindful living," said Professor Srinivas.

She also assimilated the five pillars of Rhodes University's integrated approach, to demonstrate how community engagement coupled with the benefit of strengthening the training of future health care professionals, provides a foundation for enriching local health promotion programs.

Masculinity revisited in academic spaces and minds

By Mpumelelo Macheke

Kamogelo Molobye (24) has just completed his two-year Masters thesis foregrounded in gender and queer studies, choreographic practice, movement research, and practice as research within the discipline of dramatic arts at Rhodes University.

His paper, titled, *In Pursuit of Differentiated Masculinities: an analysis of Ga(y)me(n)Play 2015-16* presents a multi-disciplinary body of work that uses a diversity of research methods as an effective way to investigate the different ways and contexts in which masculinities are performed.

"It's an interesting time, especially for millennials, because they are deciding for themselves what it means to embody certain identities," Molobye explains.

The inspiration behind his thesis is an amalgamation of personal frustrations he experienced as a black queer person occupying different spaces. He grew up in the township where black men conformed to performing their identities in ways that he struggled to identify with.

"Being black in a township means your behaviour and expressions conform to certain prescribed images that say a black man is a thug," Molobye acknowledges the contextual importance of these displays.

Through the practical aspect of his thesis, which utilises physical theatre as a mode of research, Molobye engages masculinity through the lens of queerness. According to him, the media and academia expose the manner in which queer masculinities and academia is stereotypical. His thesis is a tactful effort to eradicate these representations.

With a Master's degree, Molobye has struggled to interpret his work into an income generating skill, at the least. The industry classifies him as overqualified for the positions.

"The reality is that there aren't enough jobs for undergraduates, and even fewer for postgraduates, and especially in the performance industry," he laments. In



Drama and dance tackling the need for a paradigm shift.

Molobye's case, the marriage between performance as a studied discipline and performance as a profession is one that has yet to happen.

Molobye encourages that a consideration be made to analyse the economic value of performance into the academic curriculum. "It would be beneficial to graduates if the Drama department had a course on performance business or performance marketing and strategy. In a country that is rich in cultural and entertainment output, it is of absolute importance that the curriculum reflects the significance of treating one's body as a business".

Life after Rhodes University has been



about bringing his thesis perpetually into real life. He continues his work in black male and female queer bodies in South Africa; disrupting traditional notions of black masculinity and contributing to the discourse of black dance.

Writing what matters: Africa, a thinking continent

By Anima McBrown

Retiring Professor Michael Neocosmos, charismatic Director of the Unit for Humanities at Rhodes University (UHURU) was awarded the prestigious 2017 Frantz Fanon Outstanding Book Award, for his book *Thinking Freedom in Africa* (2016), by the Caribbean Philosophical Association.

He has a wealth of experience, as he has taught at various universities in the continent and abroad from Pretoria to Dar-Es-Salaam, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and France – his extensive work in Sociology and Developmental Studies stands as a testament to the valuable contributions he has made to higher education over the decades.

He describes overseeing the expansion of a difficult but very important project such as UHURU as a “process” that is still in motion. The unit is concerned with rethinking the following three social aspects: how human emancipation can be understood in today’s unequal society, why various attempts at emancipation have failed in Africa, and lastly, how human emancipation may be re-conceptualised.

For Neocosmos, UHURU is necessary and relevant in a University space like Rhodes because it “provides a forum whereby consensual assumptions can be questioned”. Students, writers and researchers can contest, critique and challenge the liberal whiteness that has for a long time excluded the thoughts

and voices of a majority of black people and intellectuals from Africa.

The “liberal conception of universality has not worked”, says professor Neocosmos. The idea of equality and access to the benefits of freedom has not translated into a reality for a majority of the population.

South Africa is the most unequal country in the world. There was a grand assumption that there would be change which would benefit all, yet that has not happened. Therefore, UHURU helps to identify where the flaws are, with a deeper understanding of how and why they exist.

In his book, he interrogates the critical African thought in politics. “It is about thinking beyond our immediate interests; about the exceptional and particular times which can shed light on the world we’re living in,” he says. He believes extraordinary moments of thinking differently in and about politics enable ordinary people to change their lives.

Philosopher, professor, activist, author, father, Professor Pedro Tabensky of the Rhodes Philosophy Department was recently recognised with an Outstanding Academic Title 2016 status for his book by Choice, a branch of the American Libraries Association. His book, *Being At Home: Race, Institutional Culture and Transformation at South African Higher Education Institutions* (Durban: UKZN Press, 2015) is co-edited with Dr Sally Matthews from the Department of Political and International Studies. She is also his wife.

The Association has, for fifty years been reviewing books and recommending them to libraries across the globe. The same book has also been shortlisted for the Best

Non-Fiction Edited Volume Category by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS).

About working with Dr Matthews, Tabensky admits, “she is much more efficient than I am”. He acknowledges that outside of him and Matthews’ efforts were a whole range of external factors that made it possible for the book to be a success.

The idea of the book stems principally from experience gained in a yearly Ford Foundation roundtable series, which he ran for a few years: CHERTL Roundtable Series on Critical Issues in Higher Education. This series helped him not merely to think within academia, but more specifically, about what an ideal university should look like.

The phrase “being at home” calls into question issues of belonging and of institutional cultures. In Tabensky’s words, “I started asking myself more deeply than I have before why it is that so many black people – colleagues and students – do not feel at home in this space?”

Similar to the sentiments of Professor Neocosmos, Tabensky states that if we are going to attempt to understand the problem of transformation, then we have to be willing to interrogate what it is to understand first.

“The issue of transformation is not merely or even primarily about justice, ethics and race; it is about learning to do our job as best we can, which involves critically engaging with the underlying ideological frameworks that often subliminally guide research agendas”, says Tabensky.

Beyond their awards, both Professors Neocosmos and Tabensky give us good examples of engaged research.

Over 600 students volunteer for Community Engagement 2017

“One of the primary roles of a Higher Education institution in a society is knowledge generation and knowledge dissemination. The community must benefit from the quality of the university’s Research, teaching, and learning. Through community engagement, Rhodes University endeavours to expose our students and staff to the social realities of our local community (Grahamstown)”. – Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Vice Chancellor.

In March 2017 Rhodes University’s Directorate for Community Engagement will host a workshop that will see close to 700 student volunteers trained and introduced to the varying available community projects and partners. Twenty-five community partners will also attend the training at the Barrat Lecture Theatre from 8am. The student volunteers range from under-graduates to post-graduate students.

The projects are as follows

- High school tutoring and mentoring
- Arts and alternative education: Music, drama, story-telling, computer literacy
- Care: Homes, shelters, hospice
- Literacy and Homework (primary schools); and
- Reading and Mathematics

“The training is about orientating students to the values and principles of community development and partnerships. We will also be discussing logistics and reflecting on work done so far. Volunteer numbers have grown considerably over the past three years from 300 students to almost 700 this year,” enthused Benita Bobo, Community Engagement co-ordinator.

Guest speaker for tomorrow’s programme, Dr Chrissie Boughley, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs said, “Rhodes University is located in a small town characterised by

great poverty and hardship in one of the poorest provinces in a developing country. Volunteering is about much, much more than offering support and assistance to people, volunteering offers a unique opportunity of evaluating the theories and ideas taught at the University against the realities of South African society”.

She added that volunteering also offers the opportunity of learning with and from communities and using that learning to test knowledge and assumptions of growing intellectually and personally.

Diane Hornby, Director of Community Engagement spoke of the level of activism involved in volunteering for the betterment of the community. “We view student activism as a catalyst for the kind of social change that is congruent with the aims of volunteerism and we hope that the wellspring of activism on campus will lead to a stronger and more successful programme in the coming years at Rhodes”.



First year students buy into the advantages of community development

Vice-Chancellor Awards

Community builders

Two projects shared the spoils at this year's Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Community Engagement Awards in April 2017. The WRC Amanzi for Food Research Programme and the Recreational Fisheries Research Group came first place in the competitive annual award, which recognises meaningful and committed partnerships between members of the university and the community.

"These awards are based on the developmental and reciprocal nature of initiatives. We look into the nature of the relationship a group has with their community partner, the benefits to the community, university staff, students and the way the initiative enhances teaching, learning and research processes. Winning means a group has made a significant allround contribution," enthused Dr Sizwe Mabizela, the Vice-Chancellor.

WRC Amanzi for Food Research Programme from the Environmental Learning Research Centre

The programme addresses widespread hunger in South African households that rely on small portions of agricultural land for food security. The growing shortage of water means that the allocation of 'new' water for developing the smallholder farmer is not sufficient.

Amanzi takes an action-oriented, expansive learning approach to knowledge co-creation. They facilitate dissemination and training for skills development around water use in homestead food gardening and rainwater harvesting for cropland food production in the Amathole District in the Eastern Cape.

The project was selected as one of three projects internationally as a case study of 'innovative green economy learning'. Additionally, it was selected as a case study of innovative TVET pedagogy and partnership development for the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) National Skills Development Strategy III Evaluation.

The Recreational Fisheries Research Group

There are between 500 000 and 900 000 marine recreational fishers in South Africa. The catch of the recreational fishery is subject to regulations, the majority of which were implemented in a top-down approach. Recent study estimate that about 43% of anglers do not comply with these regulations.

Ultimately, if one wants to benefit under-resourced fishing communities, and address social injustice, addressing the harvest of recreational anglers is crucial. This community engagement initiative by the Recreational Fisheries Research Group undertaken since 2011 has engaged with compliant anglers in recreational fishing communities to enhance their practices in order to improve the health and survival of the fish that they release.

Since 2011, the Research Group immersed themselves into the culture and norms of the communities to develop voluntary

conservation behavior, which requires anglers to mobilise themselves and establish informal regulations such as self-imposed personal bag limits, size limits, constraints on gear and the development of entirely catch-and-release fisheries.

"Congratulations to these two teams, who established mutually respectful and beneficial relationships as they jointly tackled and found solutions to complexed local issues. The Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Education must also be acknowledged for creating enabling environments where innovation and engaged research can flourish," enthused Diana Hornby, Director Community Engagement.



Communities are benefit immensely from the partnerships

Dr Mabizela introduces Isivivane Fund

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela will launch his Isivivane Fund on 6 June 2017. He will also announce the names of the students who received the ABSA scholarships worth R5million.

"It cannot be and it should not be that an academically talented young person should be deprived of an opportunity to acquire higher education simply because he or she is born into a family of meagre means. I was a beneficiary of bursaries and scholarships throughout my university studies. It therefore felt natural for me to contribute towards similar opportunities for other young people,"

Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University.

Isivivane is a Zulu word that means a pile of stones placed together on a spot along a footpath to honour a particular cause. Each traveller is expected to place a stone in the Isivivane as they pass that spot. Each traveler who adds a stone to the Isivivane becomes part of the common purpose and identifies with the good cause for which the Isivivane was started.

There are a number of challenges to address if we are to maintain our position in educating young people, who will become agents of social change and societal transformation. Our position to be an institution that produces knowledgeable and skilled graduates who critically engage with knowledge and its production.

Graduates who are democratic citizens and ethical leaders committed to the values of human understanding, social justice, human development and service to society.

A primary challenge is meeting the financial demands of a growing institution and student body in a climate of diminishing state expenditure on higher education. This decline in state support means that universities have to rely increasingly on student fees to maintain their operations.

Under present economic circumstances, families struggle to afford inflation related fee increases, and even more so those students who come from families of meagre means. To this end, the Vice-Chancellor will launch

Isivivane, a campaign that will run for ten years.

Transformation of the student body at Rhodes University that sees black Africans accounting for over 60% of the student body should be seen as a key indicator of improvement. However, this has brought with it the challenges of funding. Isivivane Fund is meant to assist Rhodes to meet its promise of attracting academically deserving indigent students from working and middle class backgrounds.

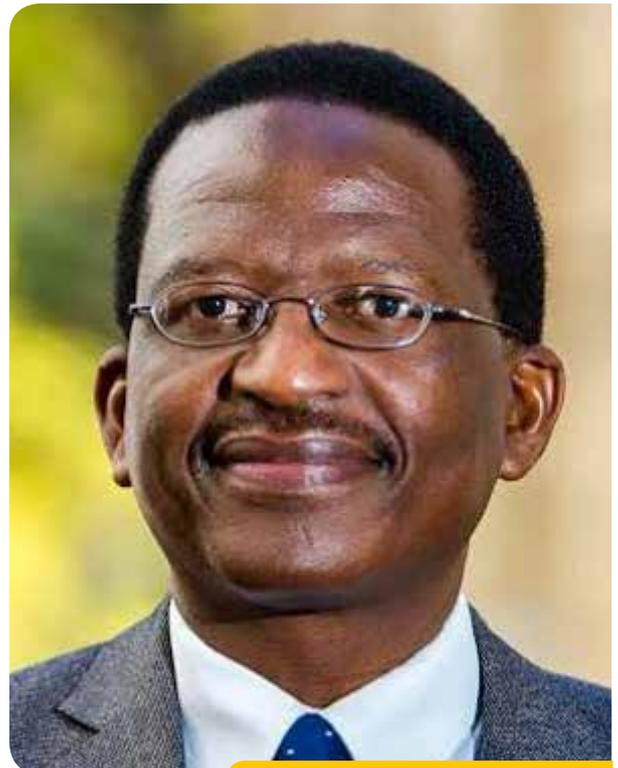
Rhodes University has supplemented National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding by more than R40million to support students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Often these students are unable to secure loans from financial institutions and in the absence of University or donor support, their aspirations to experience tertiary education are dashed.

"NSFAS funding is completely inadequate in the face of an ever-increasing demand. In addition to the needs of the poorest of the poor, there are also the needs of the 'missing middle' to consider. Fee payers are often the public servants, in retail and small business owners who do not have sufficient disposable income to fund their children's University studies," said Dr Mabizela.

Isivivane Fund is an integrated approach to building and maintaining life-long relationships with stakeholders based on the development of a unique and special partnership between Rhodes University, its students and alumni, and donors.

The main goal of Isivivane Fund is to secure sufficient funding from the community of Rhodes and beyond.



Dr Sizwe Mabizela

The fund has four goals which total R1 billion:

- Raise R150 million to attract financially needy students at Undergraduate level;
- Raise R150 million for Rhodes University's postgraduate trajectory;
- Raise R400 million to maintain Residences and Dining Halls;
- Raise R300 million in endowment for future sustainability of Rhodes student financial aid

Just as Rhodes will never stop seeking the best students, we must also constantly reaffirm our commitment to making a Rhodes education accessible to everyone. This initiative is our opportunity as a Rhodes community to make a significant statement to the world that we are truly, "where leaders learn".

I am a man! But, where?

By Lelo Macheke

The Rhodes University's Department of Politics & International Studies hosted the first of its annual series of public dialogues, under the title *Ndiyindoda [I am a man]: theorising Xhosa masculinity* by Professor Sakhumzi Mfecane as the main speaker. Sociology lecturer, Thoko Sipungu and African Languages masters candidate, Sanele Ntshingana were the discussants.

The dialogue honours the commitment to the national agenda of decolonising the academic space. Mfecane is a senior lecturer in Anthropology and Sociology at the University of the Western Cape. His main research interests are on men's health and masculinity.

Politics & International studies lecturer, Siphokazi Magadla, chaired the dialogue. The lecture theatre was packed to capacity well before the dialogue began; an indication of a combination of interest and intrigue.

Mfecane began by extrapolating three main themes from his paper, namely: defining Xhosa masculinity; thinking of Xhosa masculinity in physical terms (the body and performance); and suggesting theories relating to hierarchies within the ranks of Xhosa masculinity.

He argued that rethinking masculinity in these three terms would count significantly towards the project of placing the African individual at the centre of a decolonised syllabus.

Thoko Sipungu grounded his counter-argument in queerness and the lived experiences. She found Mfecane's attempt at theorising Xhosa masculinity incomplete and marginalising. By using the ritual of Ulwaluko, Sipungu uses personal anecdotes about queerness to complicate Mfecane's position of defining Xhosa masculinity for academic purposes.

"How do we begin to theorise masculinity if a queer Xhosa man occupies one space in theory and a totally different space in real life?" probed Sipungu.

Sanele Ntshingana, without devaluing Mfecane's stated claims, argues that

Mfecane's position on defining Xhosa masculinity for academic purposes proved dangerous because, there was little room made for the linguistic power of IsiXhosa as a language. Also using Ulwaluko, Ntshingana states that IsiXhosa has specific linguistic codes that refer to specific processes and identities endorsed during Ulwaluko that cannot be ignored. Understanding how a man is linguistically constructed in the Xhosa language matters.

"The process of becoming a man in this context is multi-dimensional and dynamic. So when teaching Xhosa masculinity in an academic space, you have to teach it as is, without Western comparison," said Ntshingana.

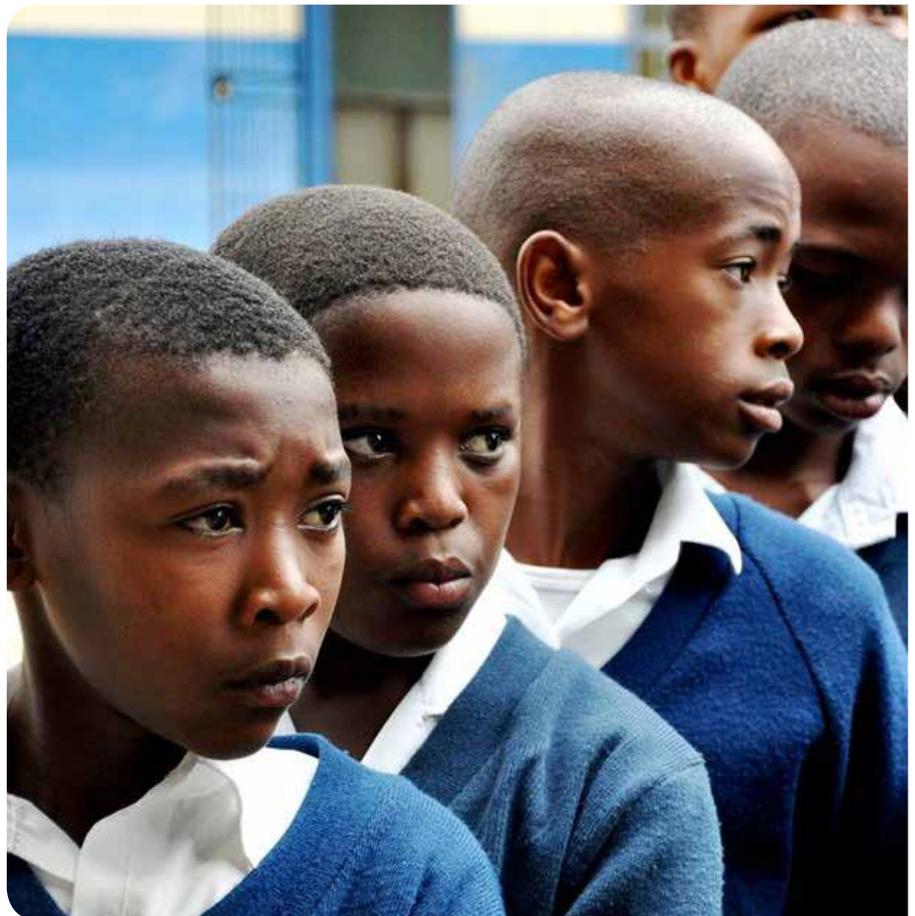
The tone of the conversation continued to be constructive and critical when the dialogue was open for audience interaction. Members of the student body in attendance pressed the speakers to engage on the flexibility of Xhosa masculinity in relation to queer people

and women.

"What does it mean to be of a trans-identity and Xhosa in the context of manhood? Hierarchy is a system that enables the prioritisation of certain identities over others, how does one begin to redefine African notions and theories of feminism?" were some of the questions by students.

Regardless of the contention, the divisions underscored the importance of this dialogue in direct relation to decolonising and transforming the curriculum. This would possibly mean that the project of re-centring Africa and its identities in the academic space requires a sustainably flexible epistemic culture that allows lived experiences to be a legitimate source of academic knowledge.

"This will mean a re-modelling to the way the South African child is educated. That will result in pertinent shifts in the way academia interacts with people and their cultures," Siphokazi Magadla admitted.



Alumni add their voice on the Transformation of RU

More participation invited

Rhodes University alumni consultations swung into action in May with several well-attended meetings in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Namibia and in Perth. Similar consultations are planned for various other towns in South Africa and internationally in the two months ahead.

The Alumni Transformation Task Team, one of nine such teams facilitating transformation debates at the University, has developed an interactive programme for alumni in a two-pronged approach: an online survey and consultations both scheduled to be completed before the Transformation Summit scheduled for the end of July.

Alumni are acknowledged as the largest stakeholder group that plays a strategic role in the Rhodes community. This is an opportunity for alumni to voice their opinions on transformation and the future trajectory of the University.

The four completed meetings have shown "great commitment to Rhodes University by our alumni. There is a healthy convergence in the views held by our alumni on specific transformation topics. There are instances where extremely sharp differences are expressed. Polarisation in the debate relates especially to the question of the name of our University. It is refreshing that views are not linked to race, gender, age or any of the usual fault-lines," Director for Communications and Advancement, Luzuko Jacobs, said.

"The consultations are characterised by open-mindedness, appreciation for transformation as a critical imperative, and uncompromising commitment to the institution. There is a shared concern over the financial sustainability of the institution" he summed up.

Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr Peter Clayton, addressed the Cape Town and Port Elizabeth meetings respectively.

"We depend on your ideas and wise counsel," Dr Mabizela told Cape Town



Ms Noluxolo Nhlapo, Director: Equity & Institutional Culture says there are some challenges and resistance, but there is corporation ahead of the Summit.

alumni. Reminding them of their role as lifetime members of a distinct and distinguished community, he told the meeting that the intention was to listen to the views of the alumni. "We want to hear," he said.

He urged everyone to use the debates to provide a "safe space" for everyone where different views can be presented, respectfully, without fear or favour. We want your views about Rhodes University, about what we need to retain and what we need to jettison in order to be even better at what we do.

Emphasising that the tradition of academic excellence was non-negotiable, Dr Mabizela said transformation should not conjure up unpleasantness. It should be something that we can embrace. It is about growth and moving forward.

"We ask you to journey with us in this regard knowing also that transformation is a perpetual process of betterment and refinement and not an event. As the world continues to change we need to continue to transform and reinvent ourselves," he said.

Although the name of the institution is a

critical part of the process, consultations aim to address transformation at Rhodes as comprehensively as possible. Issues around Living and Learning Spaces, Community, Disability, Gender and Sexuality, The Budget, Student Funding, Research, Teaching and Learning, Visual Representation and Culture, Alumni, Language, and Labour and the Institution are critical element of the transformation agenda of the University.

All alumni agreed about the need for transformation to build an even better University and not a weaker one which is a shell of itself.

Alumni are invited to attend meetings advertised on the University website and to log-on to provide opinions and input on the University's transformational journey. The results of the survey, as well as feedback from planned discussion sessions, will be presented at the Transformation Summit.

To participate, click on https://globalfluency.co1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_3y0KdGqpc4Rn3D