



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

The Rhodes University

Staff Newsletter

Second Quarter 2016

In Loving Memory of Rev. Dr Simon Gqubule



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Thank you to all the
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Terryl McCarthy and
Cindy Deutschmann

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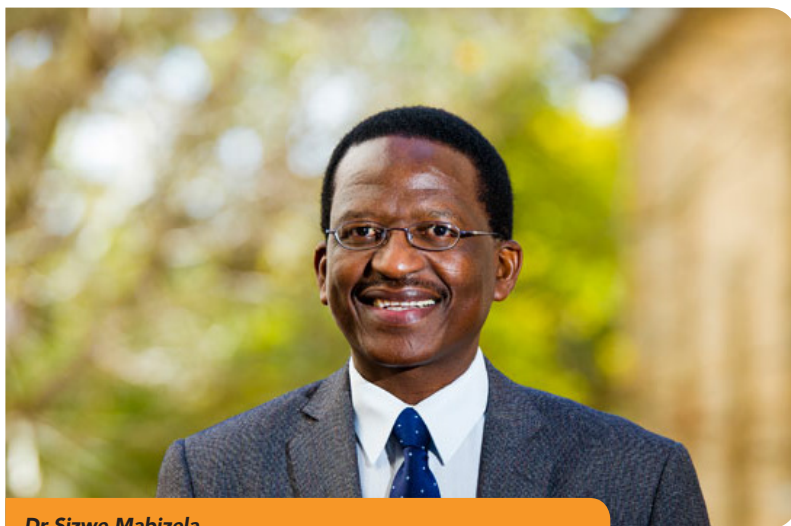
Photographers

A very big thank you to Foto First
for the graduation pictures.
Thank you to departments who
supplied their own pictures.

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We salute the women of our country!



Dr Sizwe Mabizela

“Strijdom, you have tampered with the women, you have struck a rock, you will be crushed!” These are the words of the song composed by the women of 1956 as they staged a peaceful march to the Union Buildings 60 years ago to confront the might of the apartheid regime that had enacted a law designed to extend the cruel and iniquitous ‘pass law’ to African women.

Since that historic march, many doors have been opened for women. However, despite the fact that great strides have been made in the advancement of women, much more still needs to be done to transform our society to a more inclusive and classless one we would like to see.

Over half a century later, as we commemorate the sacrifices made by over 20 000 women from all over the country and from all walks of life and from different racial backgrounds, we pay homage to the women of our nation – the mothers, the wives, the sisters and the daughters who continue to make sacrifices for the greater good of our society in many and diverse fields of human endeavour.

As a nation, we recognise the incredible contribution women have made in the various levels in our society and recommit ourselves to their advancement – particularly so in the academic sector.

We salute the students and staff who all help to make Rhodes University a distinct and distinctive institution of higher learning. At Rhodes, we have many pioneering women who are contributing to making South Africa a better place for all who live in it. We salute all Rhodes women on this Women’s Month as we do ooMama Lillian Ngoyi, Albertina Sisulu, Helen Joseph and Sophia Helen-De Bruyn who led the 1956 historic march.

As we celebrate the women in our society today, we must also be cognisant of the harsh realities that face women in our society today, especially those in the rural areas and townships who bear the brunt of poverty and hardship on a daily basis. The lives of these women were, and, indeed, still are, characterised by low levels of literacy and inequitable access to education, health, housing, water and employment opportunities.

Many amongst the women of this country continue to experience sexual and gender based violence and are disproportionately affected by the scourge of HIV/AIDS. They daily carry the scars of their suffering often in solitary silence and without adequate counselling and support.

Together we must bring the abuse and violence against women to an end. In this regard, we as the University continue to engage with our staff and students as to how we can permanently rid our campus of this pernicious scourge. The time has come for all of us to end the cycles of abuse and violence against women and children that have become so endemic in our communities.

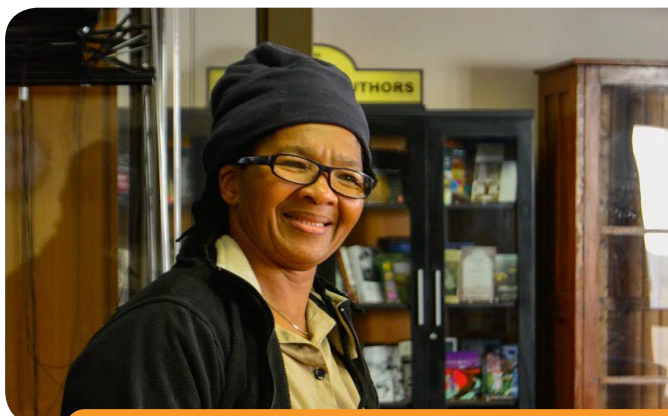


Director of Human Resources, Ms Loshni Govender

As we mark National Women's Month let each and everyone of us ask ourselves why we keep silent when we are witnesses to violence against women, why do we keep silent when they are subjected to intolerable abuse on a daily basis?

I call on every one of us to pause and reflect on the immense damage that this violence has inflicted on our society, the way in which it reduces us to less than human and destroys the possibility to rebuild the fabric of our society.

Let us draw courage, strength and inspiration from the women of 1956 who were prepared to risk their all for the good of our country.



Ms Brenda waKashe

Let us confront and challenge those systemic, social and cultural beliefs, myths and practices that normalise and perpetuate sexual and gender-based violence in our society.

We owe it to the past, present and future generations of courageous women of our country that we spare no effort in building a more humane, a more just, a more equitable, a more inclusive, a fairer and a compassionate society.



Senior State Advocate, Ms Nickie Turner

Wathinta abafazi; wathinta imbokodo! You strike a woman; you strike a rock!

Rev. Dr Simon Gqubule Awarded The Order of Luthuli: Silver

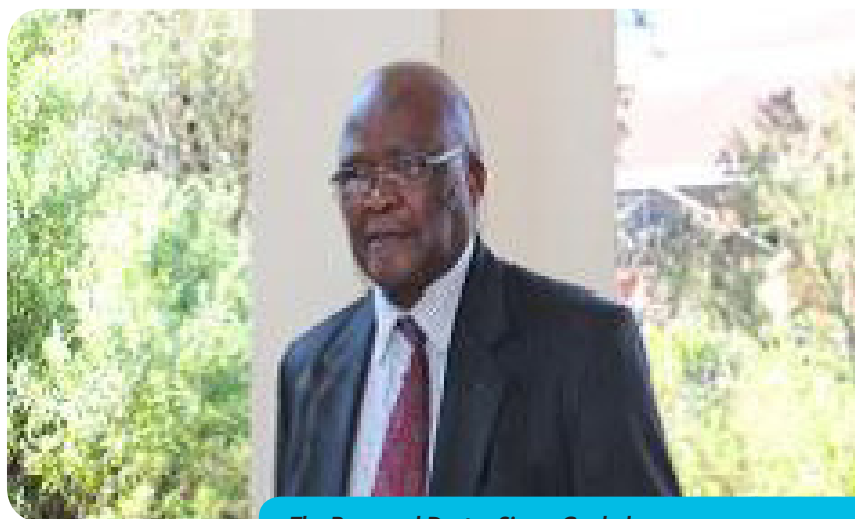
Before his passing the Reverend Doctor Simon Gqubule, was honoured with the National Order of Luthuli, and given a silver medal for his excellent contribution in the liberation struggle and in the fields of education and religion. He was the long-serving President of Convocation, a responsibility he discharged with admirable dedication and commitment.

The Order of Luthuli is a South African honour. It was instituted on 30 November 2003, and is granted by the president of South Africa.

The Reverend Doctor Simon Gqubule was indeed a well-respected and influential figure in his community, church and academic circles and at the age of 87 continued to play a significant role in education.

He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate and the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award for his dedication and contribution to teaching and learning. Rev. Dr Gqubule was the first black student to receive a doctorate degree from Rhodes University in 1978 and his commitment to educating previously disadvantaged scholars has won him numerous awards.

Rev. Dr Gqubule knew the challenges financially disadvantaged students face; his father earned two pounds and five shillings



The Reverend Doctor Simon Gqubule

college and then went on to commit his life to being the 'chaplain' for many other students, thus improving many lives.

Having become a teacher at 22 Rev. Dr Gqubule has dedicated his life and energy into trying to educate the leaders of tomorrow. He was rightly proud of Ilitha Lemfundo Educational Enhancement Centre, a private initiative that offers Saturday classes to grade 10, 11 and 12 pupils in Uitenhage. The centre was born out of concern about the high matric failure rate. In the past three years (2013 – 2015) the centre has achieved a 100% pass rate.

He started his teaching career in 1950 in Grahamstown, but being equally interested in the church, he soon entered the Methodist ministry. He attended the then University

Birmingham and Edinburgh, and the degrees of BD from London and MTh from Edinburgh in 1971.

In 1960 he taught at Lovedale United Theological School in Alice where he remained for almost thirty years. He taught Systematic Theology, New Testament Studies, and New Testament Greek. In 1978 he received his PhD from Rhodes University. In 1980 he was a visiting Professor of New Testament at the Toronto University School of Theology, in Canada. In 1990, he was a visiting Lecturer in Greek and New Testament at Wesley College, Bristol, England.

As early as 1972 he was advocating that South Africa should open up universities to students from all over Africa, for the purpose of liberating not only blacks but whites as well. Through his affiliation with the South African Council of Churches and the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, he helped fight the apartheid government. During his presidency of the United Democratic Front, he was placed under house arrest for two years, between 1988 and 1990.

"Rev. Dr Gqubule embodies the values Rhodes hopes to instil in its graduates: humility, diligence, a passion for learning and a deep personal commitment to bettering our society", said Dr Sizwe Mabizela.



The Reverend Doctor Simon Gqubule and Dr Sizwe Mabizela

a month and this was not enough to put him through university and also support their family. It was through his Chaplain arranging a bursary for him that he went to teaching

College of Fort Hare, where he added Greek to his Latin, and from there he graduated with a Rhodes degree in 1957. This preceded his chaplaincy at the Indaleni Institution, further study in Geneva,

Africa Ball: The rise of African culture

“Umuntu ngu muntu ngabantu”

On Saturday May 28, 2016 the importance of cultivating African leaders through the celebration of the spirit of African heritage and the acknowledgement of its importance was emphasized at the Africa Ball event which was held at the Rhodes University, Great Field.

The theme was traditional as the evening saw students, staff and guests being welcomed to embrace the variety forms of the African culture by the Director of International Office, Orla Quinlan.



Left to right : khanyisile Melanie, Loshni Govender, Orla Quinlan, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Ujala Satgoor

TEST YOUR WATER

An information session was held at the day Kaif that was aimed at teaching people how to test their rain-water tanks in order to make sure that the water is safe for drinking.

Galela Amanzi a society at Rhodes in collaboration with the Pharmacy department are responsible for this initiative. This initiative has been rolled out to the greater community and campus. Elri Steenkamp headed the information session.



Galela Amanzi - meaning “pour the water” in isiXhosa - is a Rhodes University student project formed in 2007.

Old Rhodian Union Awards R200 000 in Bursaries



Old Rhodian Union Awards R200 000 in Bursaries

26 Bursaries totalling R200 000 were awarded to students whose parents or grandparents are Old Rhodians. The 2016 Old Rhodian Union Bursary (ORU) Awards were hosted by the Vice-President, Prof James Gambiza and the Committee earlier this year at Alumni House.

Administered by the ORU committee, the bursaries awarded are based on a means test and academic achievements. The ORU was founded in 1911 by Professor Cullen Bowles and Sir George Cory to form a link between past and present students and staff of Rhodes University.

These bursaries are made possible by generous donations from our Old Rhodians: The UK Bursaries are sponsored from money donated by the Rhodes University UK Trust. The Chapman Bursaries are made

possible by generous donations from Mr Mike Chapman in honour of his parents Prof Hugh Chapman and his wife Jean (Chappie and Mrs Chappie) who were much beloved by generations of students. The fountain in the quad was built as a memorial to the "Chappies". The Chris Hummel Bursary Chris Hummel was a professor of History at Rhodes. He was undoubtedly the most authoritative expert on the history of Port Alfred and its environs. He died in February 1994. The Fitzsimons Bursaries are funded by a generous bequest. The Old Rhodian Bursaries are made possible by donations from Old Rhodians worldwide. The MySchool Bursaries a initiative that started in 2013 has assisted as well in raising funds.

Among the awardees is first year BSS student Channele Anderson who received a Chapman Award. Receiving the award has been motivation for her to continue working

hard on her academics. When asked what she would say to her fellow students reading this she said "study hard, enjoy first year as much as you can and know that your efforts are going somewhere. If you are struggling with money, apply; there are so many people willing to award bursaries and help students in need of funding. Keep on striving and doing your best, because it does pay off".

This year's list of recipients includes:

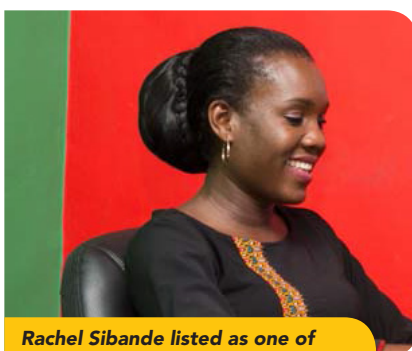
Anderson Channele; Daniels Shannon; de Jongh Sarah; Dixon Heather; Dukashe Thandile; Glover Robert; Hanly Richard; James Mo; Khanya Fasi; Maguire Kelly Ann; Manyathi Kanya; Mini Sifanelwe; Mxesibe Lelona; Ntshakaza Yonela; Ratsomo Rethabile; Rist Duncan; Rogers Daniel; Shoemaker Devon; Skera Wafi; Thembela Madliki; Titi Siyavuya; Van Heerden Samantha; Von Witt Amy; Yedwa Sesonasipho.

Rhodes student makes Forbes list

Rachel Sibande is enrolled as a PhD candidate in Computer Science looking at the use of mobile phones for citizen engagement. 30-year-old Sibande, of Malawi is the founder of her country's first technology hub, mHub, which she launched in November 2013.

mHub is an incubator for technology startups with a special focus on building young technology entrepreneurs through training, skills development and mentorship.

Her motivation to engage in this research stems from the need to enhance citizen participation, transparency and accountability in the design and implementation of community development



Rachel Sibande listed as one of the 30 Most Promising Young Entrepreneurs in Africa by Forbes

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Her motivation to engage in this research stems from the need to enhance citizen participation, transparency and accountability in the design and implementation of community development projects. "I intend to develop a platform through which citizens can engage with elected leaders, local government and civil society using technology in particular mobile phones," explains Sibande. "We identify, nurture and mentor young technology enthusiasts with technical and business skills," she added.

Rhodes, Unicef in R3m partnership

Pioneering the way forward in the treatment and care for people living with HIV and Aids, Rhodes University has just finalised a R3-million partnership with Unicef.

The partnership was announced last year, following an innovation mission by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund's (Unicef) Global Innovation Centre's director.

Rhodes University's Biotechnology Innovation Centre (Rubic) was identified as a potential partner after the mission learnt about several of the institution's programmes – including a cellphone app capable of reading CD4 counts in HIV-positive patients.

Rubic founder and director Professor Janice Limson, a biotechnology specialist, said the Unicef funding would allow the unit to focus time and resources on developing prototypes to translate technology into real, simple and rapid tools for healthcare providers.

Limson, along with postgraduate student Jan Kruid, showcased their prototype for monitoring CD4 counts at the launch of the Unicef Global Innovation Centre in New York last year. Partnership agreements between the two institutions



Dr Ronen Fogel, in front, Professor Janice Limson (in the middle) and PhD student Jan Kruid

were finalised in May 2016. Limson and her team developed a method of testing CD4 cells in blood using a cellphone camera and a test strip.

"The test strip is similar to those used by diabetics to monitor their glucose levels," Prof Limson said. The strip had biomaterials able to detect CD4 in blood with high specificity. The strip's design allows for a drop of blood, placed on the strip, to change colour when the CD4-positive cells bind to the biomaterials.

By taking a photograph with cellphone camera software, the phone then analyses the intensity of the blue colour into a number, revealing the person's CD4 count. The blue's intensity indicates the amount of CD4

in the blood. Limson said the longer one waited for CD4 test results before starting antiretrovirals (ARVs), the poorer the patient's prognosis. "The CD4 count is crucial as it also helps monitor how the patient is responding to medication," she said.

Prof Limson said, "We feel connected now to a global drive to bring life-saving and life-changing technology to children and women in need across the world". Born and raised in Port Elizabeth, she said she stayed motivated and inspired by women who continue to beat the odds.

The new R35 Million Rhodes University School of Languages building

Amongst all the historic structures that adorn the town, Grahamstown now boasts South Africa's first hub of multilingualism, the School of Languages. This state-of-the-art building is ideally situated in Somerset Street to create a link between Rhodes and the wider Grahamstown community.

The School of Languages building was established from the urgent need to create a language village where African languages, Afrikaans, English, French, German and Chinese studies are mutually inclusive.

Regardless of the English department remaining in its own independent building, the new School of Languages encourages the holistic studying and use of these languages without prioritising one

language over the other.

Thanks to the building, no language is taught in isolation as students and staff members are afforded immediate access to learn different languages by interacting with each other. This is also done with the help of the building's design in which lecturers' offices are placed along the same corridor on both floors respectively, regardless of the languages that they speak or teach.

According to the Head of Department of The School of Languages, Professor Patrice Mwepu, multilingualism is important as it informs and speeds up the on-going discourse on transformation.

"We want people to develop the ability to express themselves in different languages as opposed to simply tolerating each other. This will add to a more fluid exchange of ideas and unity in this fight for mutual inclusion" he said.

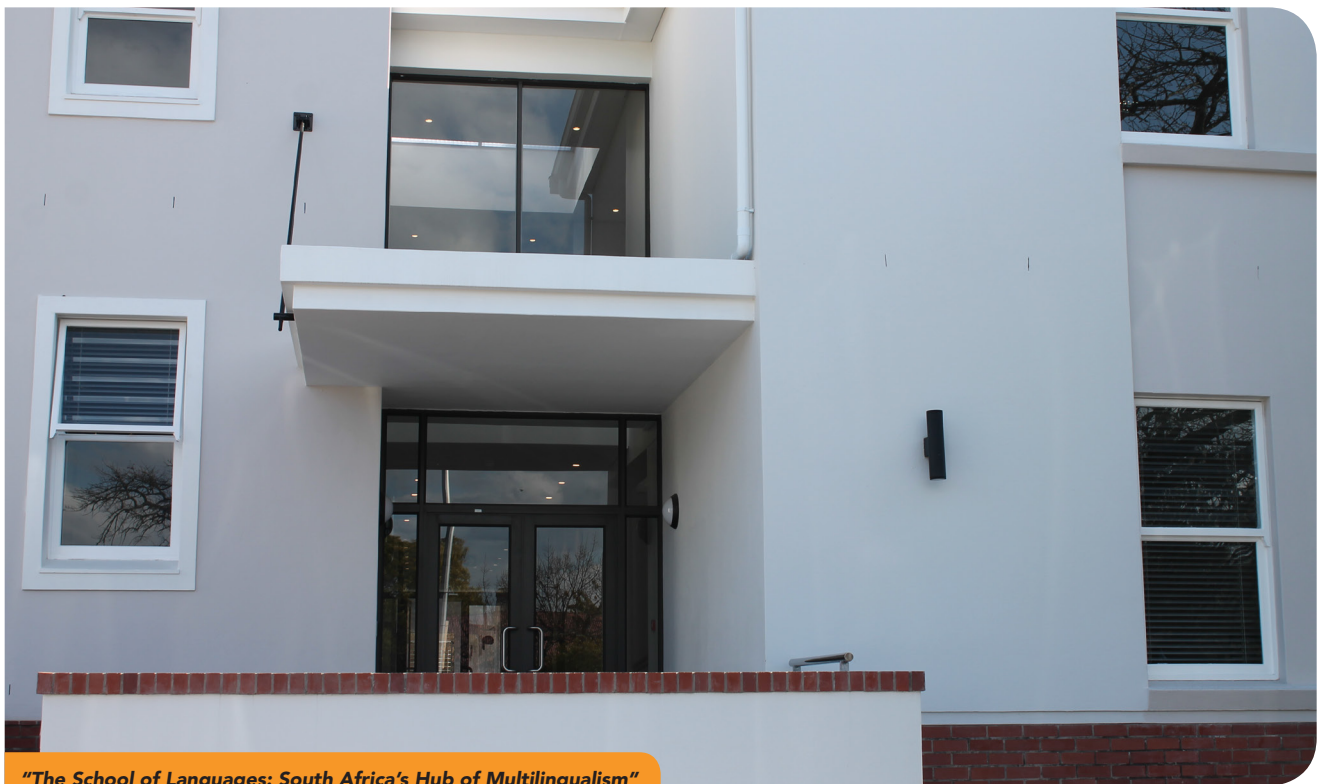
Professor of African Language Studies, Professor Russell Kaschula, further advocates

for the necessity of this hub of multilingualism by highlighting the significant role that it plays in culture preservation.

"Multilingualism is part of our natural resources, so natural degradation and linguistic degradation go hand in hand. Every time a language dies, so too does that culture and worldview that underpins it," he explained.

The School of Languages is equipped with state of the art facilities such as 3D surround sound, drop-down screens, a 70-seater lecture venue, seminar rooms, a postgraduate lab for postgraduate students and an amphitheatre.

"We have these brilliant facilities which are incomparable to any other building on this campus and competent staff members. The challenge is to make sure that we deliver accordingly and I know we will," assured Professor Mwepu.



"The School of Languages: South Africa's Hub of Multilingualism"

The annual RMR Makana Green Fun Run



"the people can't wait to exercise...and the aim is to have fun while you exercise in nature".

The annual RMR Makana Green Fun Run took place in Grahamstown on 1 May as hundreds of locals came together to raise awareness about their environment and promote healthy exercise. Excitement bounced around the Drosty Lawns of Rhodes University, the start and finish line for the anticipated 6.4km run and 2.3km walk. Varsity students, young school pupils, business owners, parents, and even the canines of Makana all crossed the finish line with exhausted but smiling faces.

The event was organised by community stakeholders together with RMR, Rhodes University's Environmental Committee, and Makana Tourism as a way of promoting sustainability across areas in Grahamstown. The Fun Run was promoted with green stalls lining up the Drosty arch pathway encouraging sustainable lifestyles, practical

"go green" tricks and local sustainable projects.

This was event organiser, Nikki Kohly's, seventh Fun Run and she says "...all donations go to the Makana Enviro Education Forum" after the race.

Plenty of prizes were up for grabs and the participants were encouraged to dress up and compete for the "Best Outfit". The prize was awarded to the Walker Girls for having the best outfits that symbolised environmental sustainability.

The 22 year-old overall winner, Masixole Xayiya broke the ivy finish line after just 20 minutes and said "it was a nice race and I enjoyed it."

After the last runners and walkers crossed the finish, The Chair of the RU Environmental Committee, Professor Hugo Nel handed out awards to each deserving winner. Symbolic prizes were given to the winners with certificates and an invitation to a tree planting ceremony. Kohly explained that, "the winners get an indigenous tree planted in their honour

at Ntsika Secondary School in Grahamstown East".

Every runner and walker received their own participation prize of a Spekboom given in their water cups with planting instructions. Kohly said "we like to role model ways to reduce waste going to the Makana landfill site. Our cups are fully biodegradable so you can plant your Spekboom in the cup afterwards".

The green lawns remained filled with participants congratulating each other, celebrating with the music and walking home with Spekboom in hand. Kohly's words echoed throughout the afternoon when she said "the people can't wait to exercise...and the aim is to have fun while you exercise in nature."

Final results for 2016 RMR Makana Green Fun Run are as follows:

- 1. Winner (first overall): Masixole Xayiya.**
- 2. Second (overall): Jay Fisher**
- 3. Third (overall): Thoko Sipungu**
- 4. First Female (overall): Terri-Lynn Penney**

Accolade for Rhodes Prof's water work

Rhodes University's Professor Denis Hughes was recently awarded the 2016 International Hydrology Prize of IAHS/WMO/UNESCO: Volker Medal, in Paris, France for his efforts to bring water to sub-Saharan Africa.

The Volker medal is aimed at outstanding applications of hydrological science for the benefit of society at large. He is recognised for his outstanding contributions and leadership in the fields of hydrological modelling and water resources assessment, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. "This is deserved recognition of the reputation that Prof. Hughes has earned as an eminent hydrologist who is doing research that competes on an international stage," said Dr Peter Clayton.

Hughes is part of the Institute for Water Research (IWR) and was instrumental in



Professor Denis Hughes

joining the HRU with the then Institute for Freshwater Studies to form the Institute for Water Research (IWR) in 1991.

He has made a long-term contribution to the improved application of hydrological (rainfall-runoff) models in the diverse climate conditions of sub-Saharan Africa, including semi-arid areas and areas with extremely sparse data. Hughes has developed and made improvements to an existing and widely used rainfall run-off model (the 'Pitman' model) to ensure that it can simulate a wide range of possible conditions and to align the model to our understanding of catchment scale hydrological processes. He has also developed a range of methods to determine the environmental flow requirements of rivers, some of which have been applied in many different parts of the world.

Citation for the 2016 Internationalisation Award Associate Professor Hari Tsikos

Professor Hari Tsikos has recently conducted seminars and talks at many universities and research institutions overseas. He is currently in negotiation with two overseas universities with respect to the development of long term activities in adjunct lecturer capacity. Professor Hari's work is certainly gratifying as he is very active in presenting at international conferences. He's constantly in search for tools for development and enhancing orientation in education. He made it clear that institutions are a place where knowledge should be produced and innovation is close to his heart.

Prof Tsikos has presented papers at a conference in Prague in the Czech Republic and, in the spring, will be joining colleagues at another event in San Francisco. Prof Tsikos has been funded by Assmang Ltd in his ventures. His research philosophy combines standard field and petrographic work, along with a variety



Associate Professor Hari Tsikos and Dr Peter Clayton

of geochemical applications that primarily include stable isotopes (traditional and novel), trace elements, speciation techniques and organic geochemistry at bulk and molecular level.

Acknowledgement of his expertise at the international level is evidenced in the fact that Prof Tsikos has been invited to organize and chair two sessions at the international Geological Congress which will take place

in Cape Town. He also said that he is gratified to see fruits of seeds he sowed. Thanks to his students who have been able to visit universities in California, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. This exposure of this kind makes the postgraduate experience truly special and motivates students to excel to zenith levels needed to become international scholars.

RU WATER-WISE

Grahamstown's water supply continues to be unreliable due to various factors: infrastructure and operational issues, unreliable rainfall patterns and intermittent droughts. Various parts of Rhodes University campus may have problems with water service delivery. In the event of water cuts, please note that emergency water supplies can be provided on campus (see below).



Management appeals to **staff** and **students** to be part of the solution: please use water **responsibly** and **sparingly**, and observe water-wise practices.

- ◆ Repair leaks: **Report all leaks immediately.** A dripping tap or leaking toilet can waste more than 1000 litres per month. To check for toilet leaks: place a drop of food colouring in the cistern – if it is leaking, the colour will show up in the toilet bowl.
- ◆ Switch off taps: **Switch off when not in use.** A running tap - while you clean your teeth, rinse veggies, wash dishes, etc - can waste a lot of water. NB: in the event of a water cut, please ensure taps are kept closed!
- ◆ Reduce toilet flush: **Place a full plastic bottle in the toilet cistern.** This reduces the amount of water flushed.
- ◆ Use low-flow showers: **Shower for 5 min using low pressure** or a low-flow showerhead. This helps use less water.
- ◆ Only wash essential items: **Avoid washing non-essential items** such as cars, paving, etc. This helps reduce wastage of valuable water.
- ◆ Only do full loads of laundry: **Do laundry only when there is a full load**, to save on water use. Use a water-saving / eco-friendly washing machine.
- ◆ Re-use grey water: **Use grey water from basins and showers** to flush toilets and water plants.
- ◆ Rainwater tanks: **Filtered rainwater** is suitable for cooking and drinking. More info at www.ru.ac.za/greenliving/action/waterwise/rainwater

Reporting leaks:

- ◆ Rhodes University: Engineering Section: **046 603 8238** / speed dial **5231** (Dave Martin)
(also for emergency water supplies on campus)
- ◆ Makana Municipality: Engineers Dept: **046 603 6063/6136** / Ntombi Tshicilela: **046 603 6068**
Fire Dept/after hours: **046 603 6000 / 080 111 4444**

Council statement on student protests and transformation

Council unequivocally condemns any form of sexual violence in our University and beyond and expresses support for any student or staff member of Rhodes University who has been subjected to sexual violence. Council encourages any student who had been sexually assaulted to report the incident so that action can be taken against the perpetrator. Rape is a serious criminal offence which should be reported to the South African Police Services (SAPS). The University will support any student or staff member who wishes to report to the SAPS.

Council affirms the constitutional right of students and staff to peaceful and legitimate protests that pay due regard to the rights of others.

Council condemns all acts of violence that accompanied the student protests and regrets that an interim interdict had to be sought to bring stability on campus.

Council supports efforts by the University community to develop a protocol that will guide interaction in instances of protests. Universities should not have to turn to the courts due to violations of others' rights by anarchists and agent provocateurs who hijack legitimate protest to instigate and participate in violence and damage to the University's and others' property.

It is to be expected that students and staff will from time to time raise important and legitimate institutional and societal concerns in a robust and uncomfortable manner. This must be welcomed and encouraged in an institution of higher learning. It is the duty of Council to ensure that lawful protest action, however robust, is allowed and protected. Such robust engagement however should



Chairperson: Rhodes University Council : Mr Vuyo D. Kahla

not propagate or result in violence, racial hatred or undermine individual dignity or the protections each of us have a right to in respect of, amongst others, freedom of expression, academic freedom, religion, culture, creed, and sexual orientation.

We believe that it is possible for all the University's stakeholders to agree to a compact or accord that allows for robust exchanges and disagreements. It just cannot, and will not, be allowed that the dignity of protest actions with legitimate demands for addressing sexual violence, transformation, lack of food for some oppidan students or securing access to quality education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, to mention but a few, should be undermined by unlawful conduct. The University's leadership is expected to take lawful action against those who may believe they have license to break the law and violate the constitutionally

protected rights of others, and is not at liberty to simply look away and allow a culture of impunity to take root.

Council resolved that the transformation of Rhodes University is ultimately a responsibility of the Rhodes community and that a stakeholder inclusive process had to substitute the eminent persons' process that had initially been envisaged. To this end, the University will convene a transformation summit towards the end of the year to consolidate and provide impetus to the University's transformation journey and devise a less cumbersome process to address demands regarding the name of the University.

We are confident that there is enough goodwill and commitment to ensure that our transformation process results in a stronger, more resilient and sustainable University that can inspire pride in all its stakeholders.

Rhodes University Opens its doors to 200 South African Sociological Association delegates

During this year's 23rd South African Sociology Association (SASA) congress, Rhodes University hosted 200 national and international delegates. 197 papers were also presented and 50% of those papers were authored by graduate students.

This year's congress began with an opening address by SASA President Prof. Grace Khunou. The Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, Dr. Sizwe Mabizela was also present at the opening and welcomed delegates to the university and Grahamstown with a warm welcome, he also stressed the importance of Rhodes hosting such an event. The keynote address of the evening was delivered by Boston College's Prof. Zine Magubane.

SASA was established in 1993 with the aim of creating an equitable society for all. SASA is made up of committed individuals working together to build a social science community in Southern Africa that will positively contribute to the understanding of society as well as the changes and challenges that accompany those societies.

In line with this year's theme "Higher Education: Power, Practice and Discourses" three plenaries were hosted on each day. Plenaries consisted of presentations from various academics, followed by an open discussion between the audience and the presenters. This created a space that allowed presenters and audiences to actively engage with one another and start asking questions

that will allow them to further find ways to decolonize academia.

Plenary 1 "Funding a Transformed Higher Education System", was chaired by Kiran Odav. Presenters at on the day included Dr. Ingrid Tufvesson, Prof. David Copper, and Ms. Julie Nxadi.

Plenary 2 "Reflecting on the Humanities Charter, Social Science and Interdisciplinarity" was chaired by Monty Roodt. Presentations were done by the following academics Mr. Bongani Nyoka, Dr. Keith Breckenridge and

Dr. Nomalanga Mkhize.

The third and final plenary themed "Imaging the Higher Education Agenda of the future for Africa" was chaired by Babalwa Magoqwana. Unlike the first two plenaries, this one had four presenters. This year's final discussion saw presentations by Prof Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Ms. Malaika Mahlatsi, Prof. Lionel Thaver and Prof. Sameh Naguib.



Disability in institutions of higher learning

The Disability week was established by the Disability Committee, through the Office of Equity and Institutional Culture. This initiative was designed to create a space within the university that promotes awareness about disability and the challenges that face those living with disabilities on campus and society at large. Disability week is more than just an awareness campaign; it is an opportunity for students and staff to contribute to finding solutions that can help eliminate these challenges.

Professor Leslie Swartz hosted a public address titled 'Ways of thinking about disability, access, and learning: A view from the South'. Internationally and locally known for his work in the field of disability, Prof. Swartz is a Clinical Psychology and Psychology lecturer at Stellenbosch University.

When he is not conducting research on educational and employment issues for disabled people, his current projects include: work on the "disability/development gap" in Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia; capacity building in a number of African contexts; sport and lifestyle issues for disabled people focussing on access to health-promoting activities; action research on improving language access to health care; research on disability, sexuality and reproductive health. He also the editor in chief of the African Journal of Disability.

Hosted at Eden Grove Blue, the address was well attended by students and staff. During his address Prof. Swartz opened by explaining that when he hosts lectures on disability he firsts asks the audience "What's a white able-bodied man doing talking about disability?" The answer is that disability is a matter close to his heart and there are many important issues which need to be addressed in disability studies. In his words, "I am not attempting to speak on behalf of anyone else but I do believe I have something to say".

Prof. Swartz discussed the various facets of disability and how disability studies have created a knowledge base that would be able to help society understand disability as well

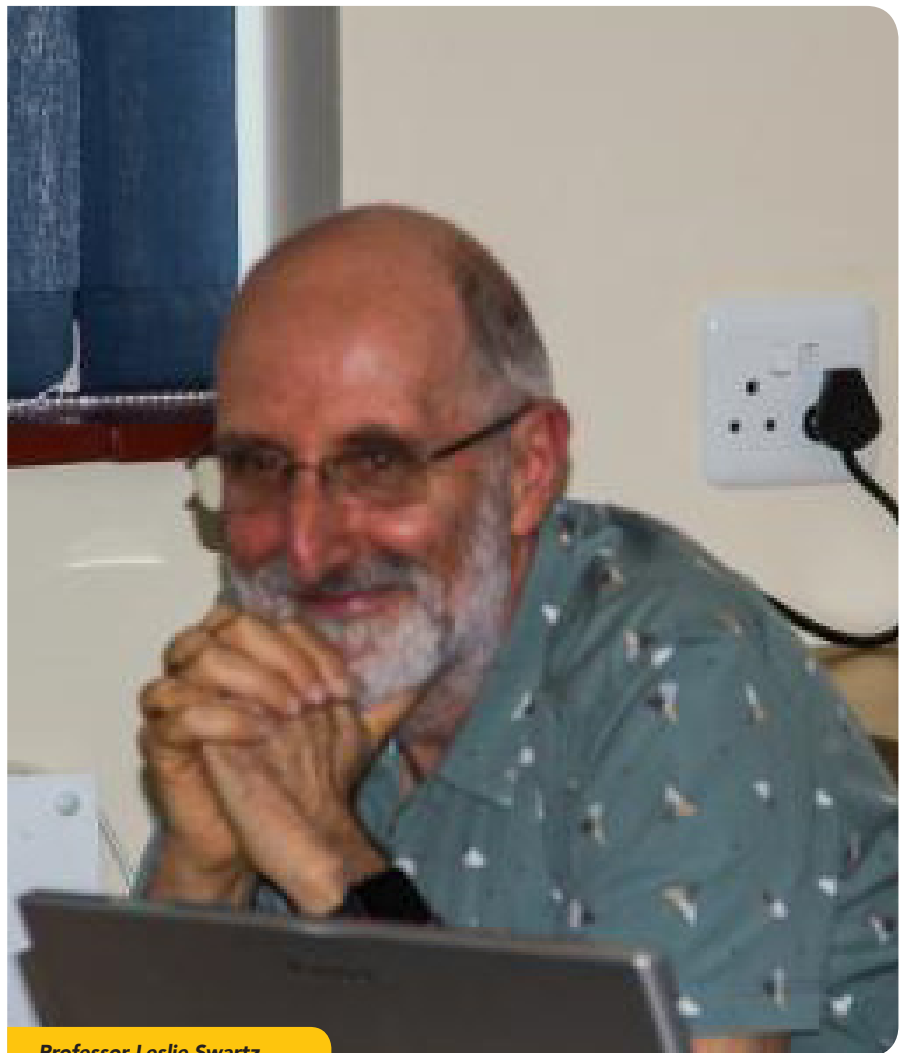
create an inclusive society for those living with disabilities. The focus of the address was on discussing ways of thinking about disability in the institution of higher learning; particularly matters of accessibility.

Keeping with his opening statement Prof. Swartz shared his thoughts on what he thinks can be done to create inclusive societies for those living with disabilities. The professor thinks that the first and most important step that can be taken to reach this goal is by being aware of disability and starting those conversations that will allow us to engage with each other, the subject as well as our environment.

After the presentation, the professor

and audiences engaged in an insightful and interactive discussion that focused on trying to answer questions such as: What is a disability and how is it defined and represented? Are our institutions accessible to those living with visible and invisible disabilities? What should the university do to address the lack of accessibility? What can we do as individuals to create an inclusive and accessible environment for those living with disabilities around us?

A awareness is the first step in understanding the roles we can play in helping address the challenges in society that disable those living with disabilities.



Professor Leslie Swartz

Alty Awards: Dr Mabizela celebrates staff achievements

Over 50 Rhodes University staff members were awarded the Thomas Alty or Vice Chancellor's Awards at the annual Alty and VC Award dinner on Wednesday 7 June 2016. The award ceremony, held at the Gavin-Relly Postgraduate Village, recognises staff members who have received an academic qualification whilst in the service of the University.

"This evening is one of those special times set aside to acknowledge, to honour and to celebrate the success and academic achievement of our colleagues," said Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University. According to Loshni Govendor, the Director of Human Resources at Rhodes University, the awards were established to encourage staff to complete further degrees and qualifications.

The Alty Award is for staff members who have received a Masters or PhD degree or equivalent qualification. The VC's Award is for members of staff who have received a Bachelor or an Honours degree or another recognised professional qualification, a matric or NQF Level 1. "As a learning organisation it would be remiss of us not to celebrate [these] achievements," Govender said.

Four award winners were from the Human Resources Division, led by Govender who has completed a qualification herself and is therefore, according to Mabizela, "leading by example". Of the winners, 10 have completed their PhD, nine have completed a Masters degree, four have completed an Honours degree, 12 have completed a Postgraduate Diploma, 11 have completed the Rhodes Catalyst certificate and one has completed a Senior Matric Certificate.

"Your success confirms and emphasizes that Rhodes University is indeed an institution that values education. It is a place of knowledge," said Mabizela.

Of the winners, 68 percent are academic staff and 32 percent are administrative and support staff. The majority, 80



Left to right: Professor David Sewry, Mrs Joyce Sewry, Professor Tony Booth

percent, completed their qualifications at Rhodes University. Three completed their qualifications at North West University, one at UCT, four at the University of South Africa, and one at the University of Pretoria. "Your completion of a new qualification is the culmination of many hours of hard work, sacrifice, tenacity and steadfast dedication," said Mabizela. He noted that many staff probably had to overcome obstacles, but that this was par for course: "The American existential psychologist Rollo May reminds us that the relationship between commitment and doubt is by no means an antagonistic one. Commitment is healthiest when it is not without doubt, but in spite of doubt."

He said that the staff's academic achievements are even more remarkable because they pursued their studies while holding down a fulltime job and in some cases also "keeping the home fires burning. For this we applaud you, we honour you, and we salute you", he said.

He encouraged those who have completed degrees to continue with their studies. "You just have to take a short break and catch your breath, then embark on the next level of qualification and for those who have completed a PhD, this is just the start", concluded Dr Mabizela.



Ms Nandi Fumbatha and Dr Sizwe Mabizela



Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Ms Loshni Govender

2016 D.C.S. Oosthuizen Academic Freedom Memorial Lecture

The DCS Oosthuizen Academic Freedom Memorial Lecture brought together an illustrious gathering of academics, writers, and RU lecturers. An almost-full Blue Lecture Theatre also had many students and external visitors in attendance. Chaired by Dr Uchenna Okeja, senior lecturer at the Department of Philosophy, the lecture itself was presented by Grahamstown's favourite son, Eusebius McKaiser. DCS "Daantjie" Oosthuizen was Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy here at Rhodes University from 1958 to 1969 – his life cut tragically short by an untimely death at the age of 43. From the University of Stellenbosch, where he received his first philosophical and theoretical training, he then left to go study in Holland. He also studied at Oxford University and Brown University in the United States.

After returning to South Africa and having been appointed to the Chair of Philosophy at RU in 1957, it was then that Oosthuizen began his remarkable work in the academy; He contributed significantly towards what he ultimately believed in and fought for: truth and justice. At the very first Oosthuizen Memorial Lecture in 1970, Dr Alan Paton referred to him as "a great teacher; a clear and deep and honest thinker; the guide, philosopher and friend of generations of students". Daantjie Oosthuizen's notion of truth went beyond the intellectual, it also included personality and emotional elements. This way truth is married to justice, it is dependent on it and inseparable at the core and in its very nature.

If truth and justice go hand-in-hand with each DCS Memorial event then perhaps it is quite telling that Eusebius McKaiser was invited to give the presentation this year. As a public commentator, political analyst, author, speaker, broadcaster, philosophy



lecturer, columnist and all-round media contributor, McKaiser is one personality who knows how to tell the truth – even when it is extremely uncomfortable or unsettling.

This year his lecture was titled, "Epistemic Injustices: The dark side of academic freedom", in which McKaiser addressed the less glorious truths of what academic freedom actually entails in the South African academy. It is not all about the so-called, pure excellence of research, writing and teaching as the academy currently celebrates. With his lecture McKaiser interrogated the choices that accompany the said academic research, writing and teaching. In exercising academic freedom, there are a number of injustices which go uninterrupted. These, according to McKaiser, have great impact on the social fabric of society. He called for us to think about how the academy is (or is not) held accountable to the need – or rather the obligation – to fulfil social relevance at large.

At the very least, academic freedom should too be open to brutally honest evaluations and critiques – at both the individual and institutional levels. McKaiser argued that the conception of academic freedom, at the root, needs to be assessed thoroughly. If there are systems and models that no longer work, on top of falling privy to epistemic and moral injustices, then these are systems and models that the academy has to be willing to change.

"Not all epistemic agents are to be trusted," said

McKaiser in his ironised genius.

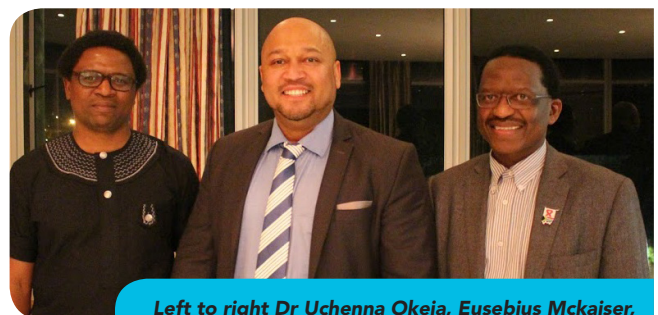
By detailing the shaping of some of his own intellectual biography, he painted a picture we are all too familiar with - we of course being those lucky enough to be afforded an education and the key to "academic freedom". We have all had our sense of knowing and knowledge- shaped and influenced - fundamentally so - by who McKaiser calls "a whole lot of dead white men". For him this is especially true in Philosophy. Even today, the majority of lecturers, tutors and textbook authors are white men – dead or alive.

So where are the women, the black knowledge-makers and black thinkers who may still shape our intellectual and academic development differently?

That is the problem, and McKaiser's point: they are absent, and their absence is part of the epistemic and moral injustice that needs to be addressed. It goes beyond the fanciful theorising and reimagining of ideals; it necessitates active restructuring and a move from liberalist talk to actual practise.

"Everyone talks about academic freedom (in theory) but no one wants to talk about the practical obligations", said McKaiser. While he concedes that the solution will not be one-fold, or be the result of some magical brush-stroke of 'perfect' truth and justice, he does believe that it starts with the decision-makers taking full responsibility for their positions of power.

"Justice must be at the centre of how we think about pedagogy", lamented McKaiser in his closing.



VC receives Dean's Award

Rhodes University's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, was awarded the Dean's Award in July 2016, during the Choral Evensong at the Anglican Cathedral of St Michael and St George. This award was established earlier this year to acknowledge any individual who has made a significant contribution to the life of the Grahamstown Community.

Dr Mabizela is the recipient for 2016, and the first ever to receive the award as the Deans honoured the Vice-Chancellor for his values-based and ethical leadership.

"The Dean's Award is one way to acknowledge this, to publicly affirm the Vice-Chancellor and to thank him for his personal example and his values-based, ethical leadership," shared The Very Reverend Andrew Hunter, Dean of Grahamstown. Having received the award, Dr Mabizela addressed the congregation.

"I'm honoured to receive (this award) on behalf of all students and staff of Rhodes University. I am inordinately privileged and exceptionally honoured to be part of the leadership of that fine institution. I'm just the face of many wonderful women and men in our University who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community and humankind," said Dr Mabizela.

Mabizela highlighted the fact that the higher education sector and our young democracy are experiencing challenges.

"There are treacherous quagmires, steep hills, sharp bends, ravines and potholes ahead. We will need your support and prayers to remain on course if we are to realise the society of our dreams encapsulated in our Constitution," he said.

The service featured the Cathedral Choir and works by South African composers and authors.

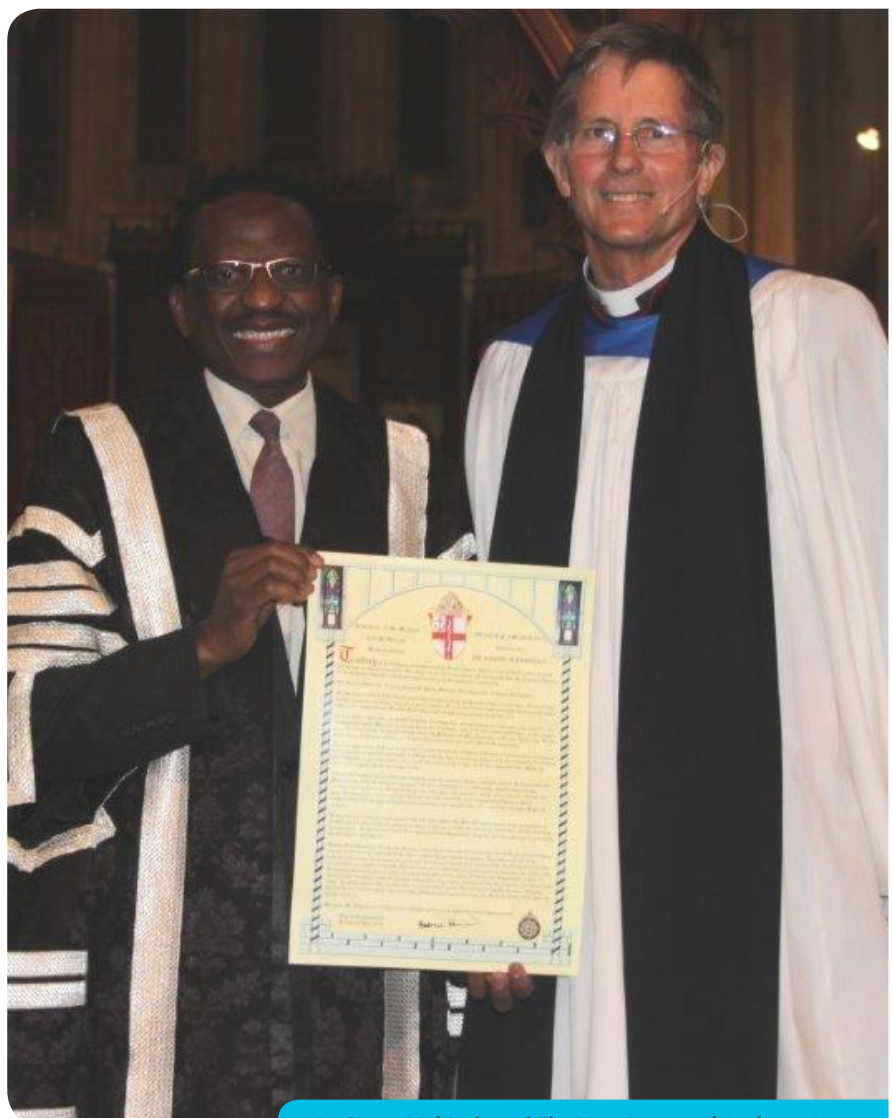
"We are delighted as a University community that the local Anglican church has chosen to publicly affirm the personal example and ethical leadership of Dr Mabizela through the Dean's award. His example has been an inspiration to many, and a challenge to all to walk in the shoes of others before seeking to judge, to

show patience, and restraint when we see others struggling, and to draw clear lines of acceptable behaviour when the rights of others are being infringed. His leadership has been not only values-based and ethical, but also courageous and selfless. We envy no other university their Vice-Chancellor," said Dr Peter Clayton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University.

"We are particularly glad to see community structures expressing public support for this man and what he stands for, when, during the recent student protests, some have irresponsibly sought to malign him, using fabrications designed to break

the institution and its leadership. This Vice-Chancellor has consistently turned the other cheek, and done what is moral and right, and in the interests of the majority of people, no matter what the pressure has been. And he has demonstrated compassion and care for all, especially those who have sought to vilify him and his senior colleagues in their need to lash out indiscriminately," added Clayton.

The University joins the community in celebrating our good fortune in having a person of this calibre as part of our community.



Dr Sizwe Mabizela and The Very Reverend Andrew Hunter

RU Science Expo 2016



"Clearly today's big dreamers and tomorrow's future scientists are on the right path."

If there was ever any doubt that South Africa, and particularly our local young scientists, are way ahead of their game – then the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists that took place at Rhodes has quelled all such uncertainty.

Running parallel to the National Science Week's Open Day, the project invited high school learners from Grahamstown and its surrounds, as far afield as Queenstown, including Adelaide and Fort Beaufort, to come and participate in an exciting competition that would see its winners receive bursaries to study science at Rhodes.

In two undergraduate laboratories in RU's Chemistry and Pharmacy building, learners displayed their projects at different workstations. The labs were a buzz of bright ideas, ambitious efforts and the kind of innovation we want to see promoted and supported if South Africa and the African continent will truly become the next big leaders in the globe's Science and Technology boom.

There were big designs and sophisticated proposals were on display: Grade 9 learner Uvimbabazi Keza, from Victoria Girls High School (VGHS), presented a project about the Aerodynamics of Paper Planes (asking which design flies furthest); Mary Waters' Sinenathi Duma and Linen Kunene (Grade 10 learners) looked at which popular drink is more likely to stain

teeth. As expected, the higher the grades the more grand the project ideas: Thobelani Maphazi, in Grade 11 at Kwa Komani Comprehensive, investigated how to convert a smartphone into a microscope by creating a stand microscope; a fellow Grade 11 learner from Graeme College – Kabir Sonne – asked whether it is possible to terraform Mars in order to make the atmosphere more suitable for mankind.

Clearly today's big dreamers and tomorrow's future scientists are on the right path. Bantu Ntsaluba, second year RU lecturer in the Geology department and one of the judges, talked about some of the requirements for a learner to leave a lasting impression. "I am looking for something new, with practical solutions to real life problems," he commented. He wanted to see projects that addressed national and international needs, projects that answered to the call for innovation and imagination. From what was presented, it is true that some of the Expo contestants did bring new ideas and fresh perspectives for what we can consider excellence in the field of Science and Technology.

Joyce Sewry, RU's Deputy Dean of Science, had this to say: "I think a special mention must go to the Scifest staff who put it all together, Pumza Tshebe and her staff. Good projects take a lot of time and effort once the idea has been formulated and it is indeed a team effort of the learner, parents

and teachers. The original ideas are very important, and that is probably the most difficult part – to come up with an original idea, a question to be researched".

The five learners who came out as frontrunners are Megan Green (Victoria Girls High School), Emma Goodes (VGHS), Sarah Goodes (VGHS), Sebastian Amner (Graeme College) and Thabiso Modigoe (Adelaide Gymnasium). They showed that the potential of our young people is limitless; all we have to do is continue to provide the resources needed to develop their scientific and technological aspirations. Where there is quality education as the foundation, and sufficient funding, any dream can be made a reality.

As Ntsaluba so rightly prompted, "what we should look forward to now is making Science Expos such as these bigger, wider reaching events. At a regional level, Science Expo should grow and become a landmark occasion like the Grahamstown National Arts Festival. With the support of the Department of Science and Technology and Eskom, educational launching pads such as this Expo for Young Scientists are paving the way and moulding brilliant, determined future leaders in Science and Technology".

Congratulations to all the participants and the overall winners. We look forward to them joining the RU family in the coming years.

Lex Mpati has his say on Allister Coetzee, transformation

Rhodes University's Chancellor and President of the Supreme Court of Appeal, Honourable Judge Lex Mpati, recently backed Springbok Coach Allister Coetzee, also weighing in on the transformation debate.

Speaking at Grahamstown's new indoor sports centre during Coetzee's visit, Mpati revealed that his fellow Grahamstonian's appointment as Springbok coach had made him "very, very excited."

Mpati, who was coached by Coetzee's father during his playing days, acknowledged that the 53-year-old had a difficult task ahead of him in accelerating transformation, while also picking winning sides. However, he assured Coetzee that he was the right man to take care of both jobs.



President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa and Chancellor of Rhodes University, Honourable Judge Lex Mpati.

Where to study IT or Computer Science for the best starting salary

All universities are not the same, and this is clearly illustrated in the starting salaries of IT and Computer Science graduates.

MyBroadband's recent qualifications and salary survey shows that graduates from the top universities earn far more than their peers at lower-ranked institutions.

The survey was completed by 5,867 South Africans, of which the majority had a tertiary qualification. The starting salaries of graduates over the last 10 years were used to calculate the average salaries, which were



adjusted for inflation and salary increases.

The results show that IT and Computer Science graduates from the University of Cape Town, University of Stellenbosch, and Rhodes University enjoy the highest average starting salaries.

Graduates from the University of Limpopo and the Cape Peninsula University

of Technology have the lowest average starting salaries.

No distinction was made between the degree levels – standard degrees, Honours, Master's, and Doctorate qualifications were grouped. This means the average salaries are higher than what a graduate with only a Bachelor's degree can expect to earn.

Rhodes University's MSc Student wins 2016 SA Women in Science Award

Miss Jessica Anne Harris, a MSc Chemistry student supervised by Professor Nyokong, is the proud 2016 South African Women in Science Awards (WISA) winner.

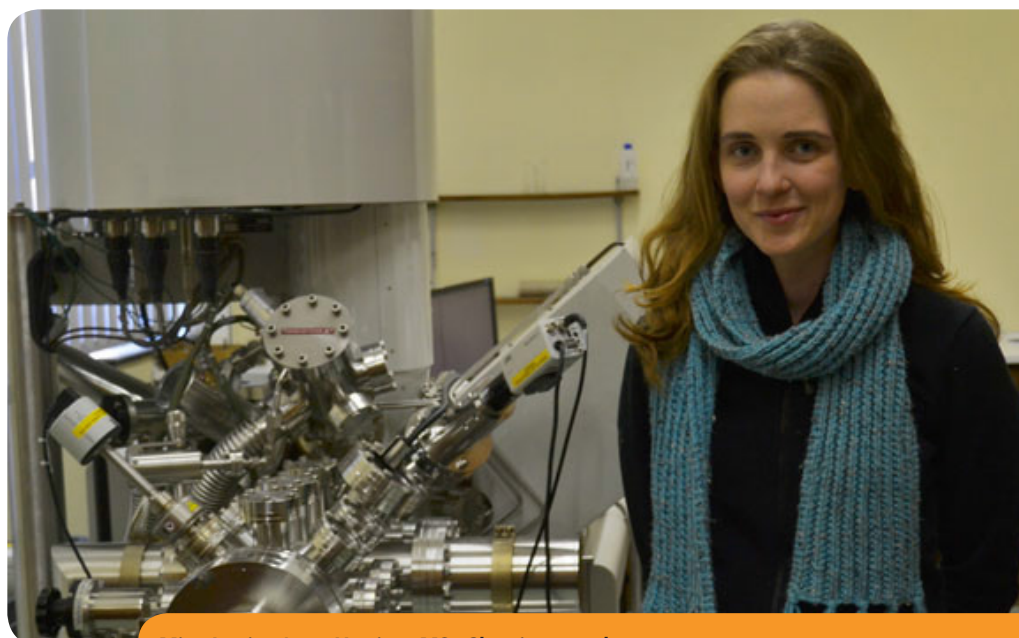
The presence of RU's top scientists at the forefront of South African science and technology is no new phenomenon. Harris follows in the steps of a fellow Masters student, Miss Siphesihle Robin Nxele – who received the WISA accolade last year.

Rhodes has also been a home for Miss Xolisile Thusini (who did her Honours at Rhodes), another 2016 WISA winner who is now completing her Master's degree in the Department of Physics at UCT.

Having completed a BSc in 2013 (Chemistry and Physics) and a BScH in 2014 (Chemistry, with distinction) at RU, Harris visited China's Nanjing University in December 2015 for an exciting three-week research trip supervised by Prof Zhen Shen. She worked on the synthesis of fused-ring-expanded subphthalocyanines. In June 2016 she travelled to the United Kingdom for a month-long research visit to University College London (UCL) – with Prof Sandy MacRobert.

Harris's research topic focuses on developing dyes for photodynamic therapy (PDT), a non-invasive alternative cancer therapy. Mail & Guardian's special WISA advertorial details her project as: "the development of dyes for photodynamic therapy (PDT) treatment of cancer".

While radiation and chemotherapy result in the damage of both healthy and diseased cells, PDT is able to destroy cancerous cells more selectively. The Mail & Guardian goes on to explain the principle of PDT: "Dye is injected into the bloodstream, and is then activated by shining a laser light at the



Miss Jessica Anne Harris, a MSc Chemistry student

tumour site. The excited dye transfers energy to oxygen present in the tissue, producing highly reactive singlet oxygen, which results in cell death."

Harris explains that PDT is more selective in that it requires the presence of 3 factors:

- (i) A suitable photosensitiser (dye), which is activated by light,
- (ii) A light source (in this case a laser) and
- (iii) Oxygen present in the tissues.

In the absence of any one of these factors, no cell damage will occur. Hence, as laser light is only shone at the affected area, damage to healthy cells is significantly limited. All of this makes safer, localised cancer treatment possible. Harris has developed a couple of dyes already, and is now working on testing them in the RU labs. Her wrap-up towards the end of this year will include an intensive cell study to look at the toxicity and PDT effect of her dyes.

About her WISA nomination she comments: "I didn't realise how big WISA is, but I was extremely happy to be nominated". Having attended the gala event in Johannesburg with her proud mother as the perfect plus one, she was glad to see that Women in Science is a national

and international concern that is garnering all-round support from government and corporate business. "It is unbelievable to see women doing it all; they have full lives and still dedicate sufficient time to carrying out fundamental research in science and technology", says Harris.

She has been greatly inspired and wants to see the Department of Science and Technology (DST) grow and support more women leaders in the field. She believes that there is a "need for role models" who can act as living, working and pioneering examples to young scientists and researchers. "To actually be able to see ourselves at the next step of our research careers, we need to be looking at and learning from women who are already at that next step. Having strong role models shows us that it is a reality: that we can do it all – without neglecting all our other values and interests", comments Harris. Harris' take home message is this: science does not need to happen in a vacuum. When enough people come together, pulling the right resources and putting their best foot forward, truly amazing things happen. Her work is evidence of this. We wish Jessica every success in this pioneering research.

#PledgeAPadThursday off to a good start

The Rhodes University Student Representative Council (SRC) launched their new initiative #PledgeAPadThursday to collect sanitary products for Rhodes University students who have to miss class because they cannot afford sanitary products during their menstruation.

The initiative which managed to draw in many students and staff members, is aimed at raising awareness about the difficulties female students face during this time as well as showing these students that they are supported by the Rhodes student body.



Xolane Mhlanga: from Nelspruit to California in the name of Geology



Mr Xolane Mhlanga

Xolane ("X") Mhlanga comes from the town of Kanyamazane, Nelspruit, in the province of Mpumalanga. Having always known that the field of Geology and Science was going to be his chosen career path, the now 25-year-old PhD student has charted a truly impressive study and research journey at Rhodes University since 2009. Mhlanga comments that: "I've never seen myself doing anything else", and ever since starting this walk seven years ago – he has not looked back.

He completed a BSc degree in 2012, with majors in Geology and Environmental Science. He then obtained his Honours degree in Geology in the following year, when he carried out a project on ore-grade relationships in Hotazel Manganese Ores at Gloria Mine in the Kalahari Manganese Field. Subsequently, he enrolled for a Masters which was upgraded to a PhD in late 2015. His PhD project constitutes the continuation of his previous Honours work. His emphasis is on understanding the interplay between primary and diagenetic cycling of carbon and metals in the Hotazel formation. His work is centred on the combined use of mineral chemistry, stable isotope geochemistry and metal speciation techniques.

Mhlanga's work took him to the University of California at Riverside, a visit which saw him work with species-specific analyses of iron and manganese. He admits that a big part of his success thus far is due to the motivation and influence of his supervisor Professor Hari Tsikos, and his co-supervisor Professor Timothy Lyons from Riverside. With their guidance and support, and the sponsorship of ASSMANG Ltd, Mhlanga has been able to fully devote himself to his project, titled: Unravelling the primary deposition and diagenetic history of the Hotazel Fe-Mn Formation, through the application of mineral chemistry, stable isotopes and speciation geochemistry.

Siya-Sonke: Working together

Anne Loeffler and Mary Humphreys from the Raphael Centre spoke about their project "Siya-Sonke" at the Community Engagement Learning Symposium held at the Gavin Relly Post-Graduate Village this week. The project is centred on community engaged learning and development, and uses the innovative Asset Based Community-led Development (ABCD) approach to promote HIV-prevention. This asset based approach encourages communities to work together to use what they already have, rather than focusing on what they lack.

The Raphael Centre is an NGO located in Grahamstown centred on helping and supporting HIV positive individuals.

Previously the Raphael Centre used a needs-based approach, in which they merely focused on satisfying the needs of communities and individuals. According to Humphreys, this approach led to problematic power relations and dependency. "In 2013 we found we just weren't having the impact that we wanted," said Humphreys.

The centre then shifted to the ABCD approach, which focuses on assets that communities may already have. "We don't go and ask, 'What is lacking?' we ask, 'What is already here?'" said Humphreys. This approach focuses not just on physical or financial assets, but also human and social assets, such as community networks and relations, as well as natural assets, such as the natural environment in which communities are based.

According to Humphrey, this approach has many benefits. For example, it does not require as much funding and therefore it is more sustainable. It also helps to create a sense of meaning and purpose in people. "HIV is not just a physical issue, it affects the person as a whole," she said. Often approaches to help HIV positive individuals



Left to Right Anne Loeffler, Mary Humphreys

focus only on the physical and individual aspects. The ABCD approach is more holistic.

Loeffler said that at present the centre offers two programmes. The one programme is HIV counselling and testing which includes a full health screen and a follow-up programme for HIV positive individuals which include helping them manage their status in broader contexts such as their communities rather than just at the centre. The other programme uses the ABCD approach. "ABCD is HIV Prevention and care work which appreciates individual strengths and views people as a 'whole person'," Loeffler explained.

This programme includes a training workshop for community members which happens over three and a half days. There is also the ABCD Forum, which facilitates group discussion and the swapping of resources, and the ABCD SaveAct which helps deal with credit and savings. The Siya Sonke component of ABCD started this year and works with actual households. The Raphael Centre is currently working with 40 households in Joza which are 'structurally disadvantaged' — many of them headed by females and predominantly Xhosa. The centre tries to take a two generation approach in that they engage both the adults and the children. Some of the aims within these households include creating wellness within them and helping households overcome the trauma caused by HIV and poverty. Loeffler said the idea is to shift mind sets from a deficit

approach, focusing on lack, to an asset approach, focusing on what there is.

The households create action plans which detail project goals. "Action plans [show] tangible mind shifts because people are using assets which they've already got," said Loeffler. Households, including the children and adults, also try to engage with the wider community through sharing knowledge and skills. There are various tools which the Raphael Centre uses to track their progress and impact. According to Loeffler, so far the project has resulted in increased awareness of potential human assets, self-confidence and personal opportunities. There is an increased interest in engaging in community groups and there is the sharing of knowledge with families.

"ABCD is HIV Prevention and care work which appreciates individual strengths and views people as a 'whole person'"



Trading Live

FOR NELSON MANDELA DAY

**NELSON
MANDELA WEEK**
18-25 JULY 2014

Trading Live for Mandela Day has become an annual Grahamstown event, hosted and coordinated by Rhodes University, taking place over a week in the month of July. Trading Live offers all Grahamstonians the opportunity to play a vital role in reimagining and reshaping our community by participating in community support interventions. Rooted in the Asset Based Approach to community development, the guiding principle behind Trading Live is that each member of the Grahamstown community has both assets and needs which they can express in the form of offers and requests to trade with one another. Each of the requests can be met by the offers made by other members within the diverse and talented community, and in opening up to the potential of meeting each other's needs with each other's assets participants begin to see the immense resources and opportunities available within their community which can be harnessed to find solutions to the challenges they face.

This year over 50 community based organisations, student groups and departments from Rhodes University came together to participate in Trading Live, each making offers and requests to engage with one another for at least 67 minutes. 118 events took place across 59 locations in Grahamstown from Monday the 25th to Friday the 29th of July, and participants traded time, skills and creative energy for approximately 257 hours over the course of the week.

Rhodes University departments participated in 43 events and Rhodes University student groups participated in 31 events. The department of Human Kinetics and Ergonomics requires special mention for standing out as a deeply engaged department with three offers and three requests on the program. They shone through as having a deep

Rhodes University

Trading Live

Exhibition Opening

Share Collaborate Inspire Share Collaborate Inspire

Journalism 3:
Writing
Photography
Television
Radio

16h30-19h00
17 August 2016
Eden Grove, Rhodes University

Photo: Kim Weaver

understanding of the underlying principles of Trading Live – linking their offers to sharing their discipline related expertise in high impact trades, and setting requests which showed that they understood their own needs could be met by the assets already available in the broader Grahamstown community. Perhaps most importantly, they showed an understanding of the essence of sharing, through being able to both give to others and receive from them.

Community based organisations from across Grahamstown have also begun to recognise their own assets, potential and the valuable contributions they can make to one another. In this year's Trading Live week, 30 events were trades made between community based organisations. This shows that local community based organisations are taking ownership over the reshaping and development of Grahamstown from within.



"We must make every day a Mandela day so that we can realise the South Africa of our dreams". Dr Mabizela

SASAQS Gold Medal for Professor Tally Palmer



Rhodes University: Communications and Advancement

In order to assist the University in achieving its objectives, a decision was taken earlier this year to merge Communications and Marketing, and Alumni and Development Offices into the Communications and Advancement Division.

With the departure of the Director of Communications and Marketing, as is the standard practise at Rhodes, the division was reviewed to see how it may be better re-positioned to meet the needs of the University.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, there is a very close relationship between Communications and Alumni and Development and the synergies that exist in the two departments needed to be harnessed.

"The newly established division has a critical role to play at Rhodes University, the most important being that of profiling us, to make sure that we secure our rightful place in the kaleidoscope of higher education institutions in South Africa, to ensure that the University is able to attract academic and support staff of high calibre, so that we may continue to attract the best students locally and beyond," said Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University.

The Communications and Advancement division also has to make sure that it helps Rhodes raise funds, and that there is up-to-date database of all alumni and all potential funders to better enable the University to engage those with a view to bringing in as much funding as possible as part of the institution's transformation agenda.

"We made a commitment as Rhodes University that we would make it possible for young people from poor and working class communities to access a Rhodes University education. And we are very aware that these students cannot afford a university education, and so this new division has a vitally important role to play in assisting us to raise funds to support these students," said Dr Mabizela.

Prof Tally Palmer was awarded the Gold Medal of the South African Society of Aquatic Scientists (SASAQS) recently, in recognition of her outstanding career in freshwater research, teaching and policy development.

"I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that Tally has been the most effective and influential "game-changer" of her generation of aquatic scientists. Respected and listened to by her peers, by water managers, and by policy makers up to national ministerial level, Tally has been instrumental in mainstreaming environmental water science into practice in a number of areas," shares past recipient Dr Jay O'Keeffe, a research associate in the Institute for Water Research at Rhodes University.

Palmer's science has always been applied, and is increasingly transdisciplinary as she embraces the need for all sorts of skills and expertise to tackle the mounting challenges of sustainable management of South Africa's water resources.

She was a founder member of the Institute for Water Research (IWR), which has just celebrated its 25th anniversary. As she developed her interests in water quality and ecotoxicology, she initiated and directed the Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality (UCEWQ), within the IWR, in 2000. In 2005 she moved to Australia, becoming Professor of Water Resources, Director of the Institute for Water and Environmental Resource Management, and Director of the Centre for Ecotoxicology at the University of Technology in Sydney (UTS). She returned to South Africa in 2008.

Since the mid-1990's, Palmer's personal research has focused within the stressor-

response

domain, where she has contributed to the use of increased "environmental realism" in experimental ecotoxicology, particularly in regard to salt as a toxicant and salinisation as a

stressor exacerbated by climate change. She has written 51 peer-reviewed papers, 5 book chapters, and 13 papers in conference proceedings, as well as many national reports for the Water Research Commission and Department of Water Affairs.

On Palmer's return from Australia, Minister Edna Molewa invited her to serve as Chairperson on the National Water Advisory Council, which she did from 2011 to 2014, becoming the primary source of scientific advice for the Minister.

The SASAQS conference was held in Skukuza in the Kruger National Park from 26 to 30 June 2016.

She joins several other historical recipients from Rhodes University of this prestigious national award including Brian Allanson and Jay O'Keeffe.



Millennials get a foot in the door with the BMW Graduate Development Programme

In a country rated by the International Labour Organisation as the sixth highest in terms of youth unemployment in 2015, it is rare to find a company that actively prioritises the placement of its graduate trainees as employees.

BMW Group South Africa (BMW SA) Managing Director, Tim Abbott, announced an absorption rate of above 80 percent during the recent qualification ceremony of its 2015 intake of graduates.

The South African Graduate Employers Association (SAGEA) also praised BMW SA as the top graduate programme in South Africa's automotive industry for the third year in a row in 2015, based on a survey of successful job hunters.

This was followed in 2016 with first place in the Universum "Most Attractive Employer" awards in the category Engineering/Technology in the Automobile and Parts sector. These results are compiled from a survey of students pursuing degree studies to identify their ideal employer. 46 709 students from 25 universities and 13 510 working professionals were interviewed, giving BMW

Group South Africa its third consecutive win in this category.

A pipeline approach yields benefits for graduate and employer "Our brands are world famous for exceptional aesthetics and technology. Yet, at the very heart of a century of success lies only one element – our human capital," says Abbott. "Employee engagement and advancement forms the backbone of our sustainability strategy."

The BMW Group South Africa Graduate Development Programme, which has been around since 2000, fits into this model and has successfully created a pipeline of potential employees for the business over the years.

To further enhance this, and to support the transition of graduates from the world of academics into the fast-paced world of work, the BMW Graduate Development Programme was restructured in 2013.

This restructuring coincides with the positive reviews that the company has started to receive in graduate employment surveys such as SAGEA and Universum, flagging it as a leading graduate development programme in the automotive industry. BMW Group South Africa partners with Rhodes University, Deloitte Consulting and Duke Corporate



Education on the programme.

The successful training model revolves around a 24 month structure, underpinned by four pillars that straddle theoretical and practical elements. Graduates receive an NQF Level 6 Work Readiness qualification, and are immersed into the business value chain through a personal development plan that guides their rotation through the programme. Over and above a workplace integration component, the theoretical module provides an intensive experiential learning approach to workplace readiness.

This includes personal and group assignments that unleash the creativity of the graduates, culminating in the development of a business case study. BMW Graduates also have an opportunity to interact with senior management and leaders in the industry through dialogue sessions.

RHODES TO LAUNCH NEW FINANCIAL AID FUND

In order to ensure that no academically deserving student is turned away simply because he or she cannot pay the university fees, Rhodes University has initiated the Isivivane Fund, an integrated approach to building and maintaining lifelong relationships with stakeholders based on the development of a unique and special partnership between Rhodes University, its students and alumni, and donors.

Inspired by the Zulu proverb "**Ukuphosa itshe esivivaneni**" (literally means to throw one's stone on the pile or monument) to make a personal contribution to a great common cause. This contribution is made in the spirit that everyone buys into and does their bit to create a motivating vision of the future. The arrangement of stones in an Isivivane is contributed by diverse people over time and

so another way of seeing isivivane is as a form of collectively performed memory.

The main goal of Isivivane Fund is to secure sufficient funding from the community of Rhodes and beyond to ensure no academically capable but financially needy student (undergraduate and postgraduate) is refused entry to Rhodes University. At Rhodes, we believe that if students have the academic ability and will to succeed, then their financial circumstance should not be a barrier to acquiring higher education. This is a commitment made by our university that we want to be a university that is fully committed to accepting and supporting the most deserving students, regardless of their financial backgrounds or circumstances.

Today, our ability to attract the best talent from any and all backgrounds is still a defining characteristic of our university and something we take pride in. Through Rhodes' generous student financial aid we have managed to

transform lives, create dreams and hope where there was none. We want to continue with this trajectory but are mindful of cost implications attached to such a discourse.

We hope to achieve all this through the following objectives:

- Ensure undergraduate opportunities;
- Increase post graduate intake;
- Heighten student experience; and
- Grow endowment to ensure sustainability.

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".

It is our hope that you as the most important stakeholders of Rhodes University will see value in supporting this campaign.

HIGHWAY AFRICA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF DIGITAL JOURNALISM

Hosted by Rhodes University's School of Journalism and Media Studies in partnership with corporate South Africa, development agencies and media associations, the annual Highway Africa conference kicked off on Sunday, 28 August 2016 in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape.

Highway Africa is a flagship project of our School of Journalism and Media Studies. Its annual conference has, over the years, distinguished itself as the pre-eminent platform for media practitioners, professionals, researchers and scholars to exchange views, share experiences and reflect on the challenges and opportunities of reporting in Africa and beyond. It is the continent's most anticipated gathering of over 450 journalists, editors and academics who will participate in short courses and workshops in order to up-skill themselves and build capacity to report accurately on issues such as health, politics, nutrition and the environment.

Celebrating 20 years of digital journalism, the conference has been at the forefront of Africa's debates on journalism, media and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and has over the years become the largest annual gathering of African journalists in the world.

Themed 'The Internet and the Media – Celebrations, Reflections and the Future', the two-day event explored the evolving impact of the internet on both journalism and the media, specifically the disruption that the internet has had on the media. Some of the issues that the delegates will interrogate include the impact of the internet on the media; how media enterprises have responded to the opportunities and threats posed by the internet; the new forms of journalism that have been enabled by the internet and how ICT innovation is enabling people to tell their own stories and challenge dominant narratives.

"The theme for the 2016 Highway Africa, 'The Internet and the Media', could not be more relevant and timely to our continent as many of our people yearn to live in societies that fulfil both their democratic and developmental aspirations. The internet allows a plurality of voices to be heard and to demand a culture of transparency, responsiveness and accountability from those who have been elected into office or those appointed into state institutions. The possibilities and limitations that the internet offers in the exercise of full citizenship are part of the conference's agenda," said Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University.

The event, whose main sponsors are Telkom, Barclays, MTN and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, consisted of three main components. These included research - which aimed to strengthen Highway Africa's training and policy interventions by identifying and researching in areas of journalism, media and ICT interface; the education and training element aimed to create, sustain and expand the pool of journalists who are empowered in the use of ICTs and thus



Mr Chris Kabwato, Director of Highway Africa at Rhodes University



are "early adopters" of new technology. It also aimed to create a team of journalists who appreciate their role in ICT policy reform and use their various platforms in 'advocacy journalism'. At the core of this event was the conference, whose objective was to create a platform for sharing information, knowledge and experience in media and ICTs and to celebrate excellence.

"Highway Africa is one of the most relevant events for addressing African media and journalism. It is an opportunity for us to have discourse around the influence of technology innovation on governance and the marginalisation of citizen voices in relation to media and journalism. We are also very grateful to our long time sponsors, without whom this event would not have been such a success," concluded Chris Kabwato, Director of Highway Africa at Rhodes University.

RUCC sings their way to success

The Rhodes University Chamber Choir (RUCC) has sung their way into the semi-finals of Varsity Sing, a national choir competition organised by Varsity Sports and kykNET. Despite being smaller than their competitors, the choir has risen to the challenge.

Rhodes University will be up against UWC, Maties and NMMU in Cape Town on 14 September at the second semi-final round. The first semi-final round will be held on 6 September, but the four competing choirs for that round have yet to be announced. Four choirs, two from each round, will then proceed to the finals taking place in October.

"We didn't expect to get through," said Orateng Tsokolibane, member and co-ordinator of the RUCC, "We just went there thinking we were not going to compare ourselves to the bigger choirs. We were there to sing to the best of our abilities."

The choir is excited to perform again at the semi-finals, especially because this is the first time in a while that they have been exposed to other choirs. "For us it's not really about winning. That would be great, but it's also a great thing for the choir in terms of growing and getting experience," Tsokolibane explained.

The Rhodes University Chamber Choir has been around for 63 years, and was established to provide students from all faculties with a chance to participate in and enjoy choral music. "Recently the choir hasn't been competing, we've focused on performing at concerts," said Tsokolibane.

Varsity Sing invited the choir to participate in the competition at the end of last year, and they have worked towards it since then. The first qualifying round was regional, with three universities competing in each round in the Eastern Cape, the Western Cape and Gauteng for a place in the semi-finals. With just 30 members, about half the size of the other varsity choirs, there were technicalities RUCC had to work around under the conductorship of Dr Andrew-John Bethke.

At the regional rounds, the RUCC performed "Halasia", which was written and composed by Bethke and was performed at the Rhodes University graduation ceremonies earlier this year. "Halasia seeks to incorporate different musical styles and languages to best

represent the university's demographics," said Bethke in an interview with Varsity Sports.

The choir's repertoire includes sacred and secular music in many different languages. According to their website, it is an eclectic mix of music which ranges from ancient Gregorian chant, through sixteenth century to contemporary and traditional styles: "The aim of the Rhodes Choir is to promote all repertoires in order to retain the traditional and old and blend it with new and non-Western additions to the choral repertoire."

The RUCC will be exposed to more musical diversity as they embark on a Namibian tour during their September vacation. Tsokolibane said she is keen for the cultural exchange. "I am keen to explore different places, and to learn about a different culture. We will also be doing workshops learning about Namibian music."

The RUCC will visit Windhoek and Swakopmund, and will perform at three main

concerts as well as visiting old age homes, churches and schools. During the tour they will join the choir from the University of Namibia in both separate and conjoined performances in order to establish a greater connection between the universities. The RUCC will also be connecting with Rhodes Alumni in the region.

According to their website: "This tour will give the RUCC the opportunity to share South Africa's rich culture and heritage to the Namibian audience. We will look to enhance the already excellent reputation of Rhodes University."

Locally, the RUCC's plan is to spread their music to the Grahamstown community. "People don't know much about the RUCC", "but we want to change that", said Tsokolibane.

Look out for the RUCC's local concerts and be sure to check into Varsity Sing which airs every Thursday at 20:30 on kykNET.



In Memory of

Rev. Dr Theocritus Simon Ndziweni Gqubule

18 February 1928 - 26 May 2016
President of Convocation 2000 – 2016



Rev. Dr Simon Gqubule with his proud daughters, Phumla, left, and Thandi at the awards function