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PROTESTS
Social Activism for Change



NAF 2016
Ovation Award Winners

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VICE-CHANCELLOR TO LAUNCH *ISIVIVANE* IN SEPTEMBER

"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.

There are a number of challenges to address creatively if we are to maintain our position in educating young people who will become agents of social change and societal transformation; and an institution that produces knowledgeable and skilled graduates who critically engage with knowledge and its production and 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. However, 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 *Isivane*, a campaign that will run for ten years (2016-2026).

Transformation of the student body at Rhodes which sees Black Africans accounting for over 60% of the student body should be seen as a key indicator of success. However, this has brought with it the challenges of funding a changed population, many of who come from exceptionally poor backgrounds and who are often first generation university entrants. The *Isivane* Fund is meant to assist Rhodes meet its promise of attracting academically deserving indigent students from working and middle class backgrounds.

Rhodes University commits close to R30m of operational funds to support students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2015, over 130 undergraduate students who had been accepted for study at Rhodes were denied entry as a result of their inability to fund their studies and the shortage of alternative funding sources. Often these individuals are unable to secure loans from financial institutions and in the absence of University or donor support their hopes and aspirations to experience tertiary education are dashed.

National Student Financial Aid Scheme (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. This constituency is largely ignored by NSFAS and most donors and consequently left to fend for itself.

Fee payers are often the public servants, shop-workers and small business owners who simply do not have sufficient after-tax disposable income to fund their children's University studies.

Isivane 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.

Inspired by the Zulu proverb "**Ukuphosa itshe esivivaneni**" (literally mean to throw one's stone on the pile/monument) to make a personal contribution to a great common cause. The main GOAL of the *Isivane* 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.

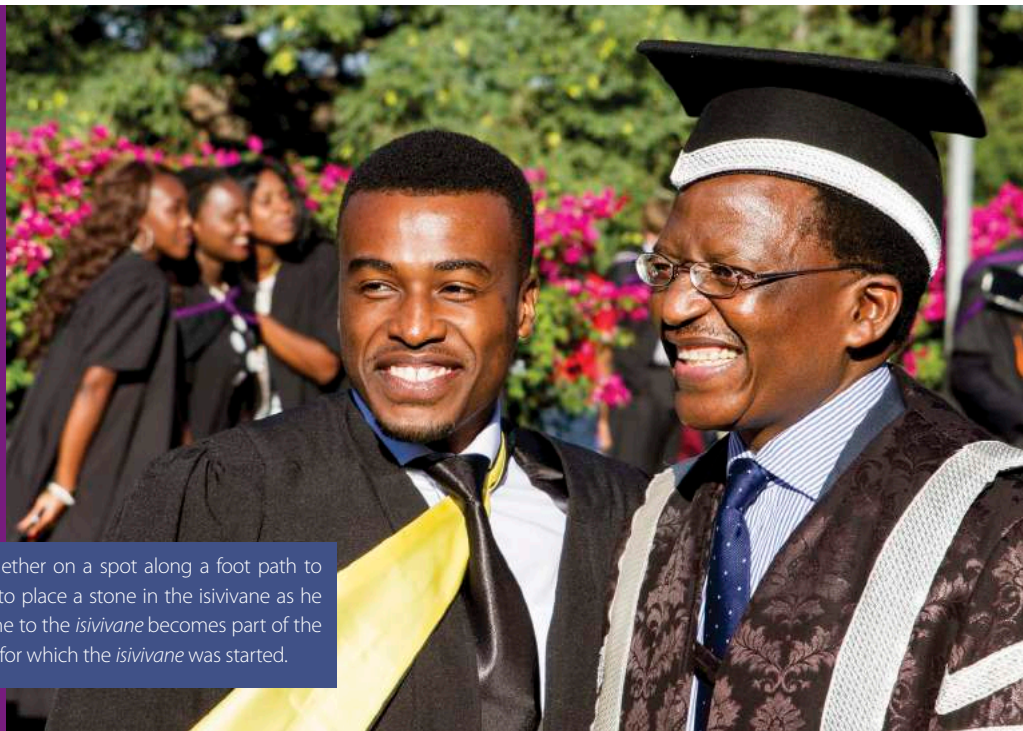
Just as Rhodes will never stop seeking the best students, we must also constantly reaffirm our commitment to making a Rhodes education accessible to everyone. This initiative is our opportunity as a Rhodes community to make a significant statement to the world that we are truly "*Where leaders learn*".

It is our hope that you will see value in SUPPORTING this CAMPAIGN which launches in September 2016. Watch this space.

The fund has four goals

- 1 Raise R150 million to attract financially needy students at undergraduate level
- 2 Raise R150 million for Rhodes University's postgraduate trajectory
- 3 Raise R400 million to maintain residences and dining halls
- 4 Raise R300 million in endowment for future sustainability of Rhodes student financial aid

An *Isivivane* is a pile of stones which are placed together on a spot along a foot path to honour a particular cause. Each traveller is expected to place a stone in the *isivivane* as he or she passes 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.



The most productive
scientist in Africa:

PROFESSOR TEBELLO NYOKONG

BY ANIMA MCBROWN



Every year, Distinguished Professor Tebello Nyokong does something amazing that brings honour to her work, this University, and the reputation of African Scholarship. And year after year, it just gets more and more amazing – this time producing 63 ISI high impact journal articles in a year.

It is always a pleasure to catch up with one of Africa's leading scientists and Rhodes University's Prof Nyokong. After all, she's one of the busiest academics on the continent. When I met with her for a follow-up interview she was preparing to leave for a trip to China. Even more spectacular is that every time we touch base with the Prof she has collected more awards.

On 30 January 2016 Prof Nyokong received the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award (AUKNSA), awarded at the Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This continental award granted \$100 000 to Prof Nyokong, an investment that will go towards her work in science but which she has yet to decide where and how to implement.

Rhodes University recognised Prof Nyokong and her group's outstanding achievement of publishing 63 ISI high

impact journal publications in one year, at a celebration held on 24 June 2016. This averages to just over five per month. Many would have thought this achievement impossible.

"The last time Dr Clayton looked, her ISI H-index was 52 and her citations exceeded 5 000. These are quite staggering numbers, that represent the intellectual influence of this scholarly voice that we have at Rhodes University," praised Dr Mabizela.

Ever humble, Prof Nyokong is always

quick to share her success. It takes a village to do research.

"We need young people who can think. They have to be creative. We need young people who can speak, who can also write. That's why we have so many publications because you've got to write. You have to be able to speak science to someone selling apples in the street and you have to be able to speak science to Minister Pandor. You have to be able to speak science and that is a requirement," she says, leaving no room for questions.



Prof Nyokong can be rather adamant, and another non-negotiable is that her students travel, and see the world. "It's very important because as South Africans we always feel like we are not good enough, that is why I make all the efforts to make sure the students go overseas. Three to Japan, two to China, one to France, one to Romania, and two are in the UK. It's very important for them to go all over the world and then come back home and say, 'yes, we are in the right place,' after that."

"Universities are for the creation of knowledge. Yes, we teach, and teaching is important, but we should all be creating new knowledge if we are in a university. I want to shout about that, and to produce that new knowledge requires a very stable environment," she emphasises.

According to Prof Nyokong, Rhodes University has the best nanotechnology facility, under one roof, in the world. She openly tasks anyone to challenge her on this.

What makes Prof Nyokong such a remarkable leader and teacher is that she is genuinely committed to making contributions and using the influence of her work to add positively to social change.

When I ask her what would make the perfect 65th birthday gift, she modestly replies: "Anything that would involve my students." She has always been the kind of teacher who centres much of her own achievements on the young people whose lives she is shaping and changing every day. "My job is training students – that's it," she says. So retirement is nowhere on the cards because, as she says so cheerfully: "I still have many students, and I am not yet tired."

She is humbled by the honour of increased governmental interest in her work, and the growing recognition which has made her an important liaison to the United Nations – including direct advisories to global leaders such as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

But would Prof Nyokong ever leave and go pioneer elsewhere in the world? She is such a figure of relevance and stature that surely the RU family might worry about her moving on to different parts of the world, where she is also in demand?

It seems those are worries we can quell,

because the Prof will not be going anywhere anytime soon. **"Rhodes University is small, but big; this is where I want to be."**

She acknowledges that where she finds herself is exactly where she needs to be; that here her own people will benefit most from all her tireless efforts towards strengthening Africa's future in science. Besides, the Prof playfully shares that she quite enjoys how

the drive from her house to the University is just a minute.

For 2017 and beyond Prof Nyokong looks forward to more product development, and wants to see more students training to the highest level of qualification possible.

With her at the helm, these are not dreams but accomplishments in the making.

As far back as 2005, the State President of South Africa awarded her the Order of Mapungubwe: Bronze. In the past few years Prof Nyokong has received a huge number of acknowledgements that recognise her immense contribution, and the international leadership role that she plays.

- 2009**
 - L'Oreal/UNESCO Laureat for Africa and the Arab States (awarded in Paris).
 - special motion passed in the South African National Assembly acknowledging Prof Nyokong's role in transforming science in South Africa.
- 2010**
 - Inducted into the Vodacom Lesotho Hall of Fame.
- 2011**
 - Invited by the UNESCO Director-General to sit on the newly formed UNESCO High Panel on Science, Technology and Innovation for Development.
 - named the RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry)/PACN (Pan African Chemistry Network) International Distinguished Woman in Chemistry.
 - to mark her 60th birthday, the Journal of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines (JPP) published a special issue in Prof Nyokong's honour.
- 2012**
 - Included in the exhibition of the National Center for Research on Human Evolution, Spain, as one of the 12 Names To Change The World.
 - awarded the South African Chemical Institute's Gold Medal.
 - Rhodes University conferred upon her the title Distinguished Professor.
- 2013**
 - The National Research Foundation of South Africa awarded her a Life Time Achievement Award.
 - awarded an A rating by the National Research Foundation – a badge of honour for researchers who are undoubtedly world leaders in their field.
- 2014**
 - She and her group were celebrated for producing 50 accredited publications in the publication audit of the 2014 academic year – we celebrated it as a super human achievement and thought that it was unlikely ever to be surpassed.
- 2015**
 - Set a new all-time record as a supervisor at Rhodes University April graduation by graduating 6 PhD candidates in one year.
 - was appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the new high-level panel exploring the Technology Bank, and Science and Technology Innovation Mechanism for Development.
 - was recognised by CEO (Celebrating Excellence in Organizations) as the most influential woman in Education & Training in the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region.
 - was awarded a Laureate of UNESCO Medal, for her contribution to the development of Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies.
- 2016**
 - In January the African Union invited Distinguished Professor Nyokong to Addis Ababa to receive the AU Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award. Her group has done what we thought was impossible – 63 ISI high impact journal publications in a year.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RHODES AND LIMERICK UNIVERSITY

Professor Lilla Stack of the Department of Accounting in conjunction with Dr Sheila Killian of Kemmy Business School, Limerick University, Ireland, have initiated an exchange programme between Rhodes University and Limerick University, under the "Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Programme." Rhodes University is the only partner institution in South Africa.

Three staff members from the Department of Accounting, Ms Pateka Qwesha, Mr Edward Horn and Mr Sazi Mabaso, have been selected to spend the first semester in 2016 attending the Master of Taxation programme presented by Kemmy Business School.

All three staff members are enrolled at Rhodes for this degree. The degree comprises both coursework and a mini-thesis. This exciting opportunity will enable them to earn credits towards the coursework component of the degree and to work on their mini-theses. Rhodes University has provided part of the funding for their visit, the Erasmus+ Programme provides part of the funding and Kemmy Business School has waived their study fee.

The trio is looking forward to their visit to Ireland and the chance to get international experience and build research networks. "I am truly grateful for the lifetime opportunity. Many thanks to everyone and in particular Limerick University and the Erasmus+ programme. I look forward to this amazing experience with great enthusiasm and excitement!" explained Mr Mabaso.

"I am euphoric, to say the least, about this opportunity, not only will it be my first time going overseas but also the interaction with other international students will be such a tremendous experience," said Ms Qwesha.

Adding his sentiments Mr Horn said: "It's a privilege to be selected for the Erasmus+ Exchange Programme and representing Rhodes at Limerick University in Ireland. I look forward to being exposed to international tax, building international academic networks and experiencing the European culture." There's nothing left to say then but may you have a whale of a time.



From left to right: Mr Sazi Mabaso, Mr Edward Horn and Ms Pateka Qwesha



RESEARCHING TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Recently the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) was awarded R13 million to lead an international research programme on learning-centred transformation in the social-ecological sciences (SES).

The International Social Science Council (ISSC) has recently funded three "Transformative Knowledge Networks" as part of the innovative Transformations to Sustainability Programme. The research programme involves nine partners from four continents. The programme is led by Professor Heila Lotz-Sisitka, who holds a SARCHI Chair in Global Change and Social Learning Systems at Rhodes University.

The first Workshop and Research School meeting of the Transformative Knowledge Network (TKN) took place at Rhodes University from 26 May to 30 May 2016. Here groups of individuals from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, came together to discuss and share ways of doing research in the context of creating sustainable communities in times of climate change.

Working with civil society, youth, academic, government and community partners across the partner countries, the programme will examine how learning can initiate and expand

sustainability transformations in selected community sites which are responding to arising impacts at the climate-energy-food-water security and social justice nexus.

The need for more radical forms of learning-centred transformation is increasingly recognised in the SES. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014) has highlighted the need for learning-centred approaches to climate change adaptation. These approaches to learning remain under-developed and under-theorised in the SES. Limited research has been done on this type of learning, or on how such learning emerges or can be expanded to strengthen agency for sustainability transformations at multi-levels.

"We need to better understand how to co-enable emergence of transformative learning processes in social contexts, to strengthen the emergence of collective social formations in response to the pressing social-ecological challenges emerging in times of climate change. We hope that this international collaboration will provide insight on this question both from our own societal contexts, as well as contexts in other places", says Prof Lotz-Sisitka.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL BRANCHES OUT



Researchers from Rhodes University's Department of Zoology and Entomology have expanded their ground-breaking environmental research into the biological control of invasive plants to a new facility in Uitenhage, rearing insects that will be dispatched countrywide in the treatment of invasive cacti.

The Biological Control Research Group, headed by Professor Martin Hill, have been at the forefront of biological control of waterweeds and the climbing cactus, *Pereskia aculeata*. According to Prof Hill, invasive alien plant species reduce the mean annual runoff in South Africa by nine percent, which is highly significant in a water-stressed country. It is estimated that alien plant species currently cover approximately 10 percent of the country's

land surface, with the problem increasing rapidly. Prof Hill says that cacti have been invasive in South Africa where they have reduced the productivity of pasture lands for well over 100 years. Biological control of cactus weeds is very effective, resulting in dramatic reductions in weed density. This has significant benefits to both agricultural productivity and indigenous biodiversity in the country. The Uitenhage facility will focus on the production of new agents for emerging cacti species in South Africa, while also mass-rearing and releasing agents that are already available for some of the worst cactus invaders in the country such as jointed cactus and Australian pest-pear.

A similar mass rearing facility was established at Waainek laboratory in

Grahamstown in 2012, focusing on the five major floating aquatic weeds in South Africa (water hyacinth, parrot's feather, salvinia, water lettuce and red water fern). This facility employed people living with disabilities as its core team.

The Uitenhage facility, funded by the Working for Water Programme, will replicate the Waainek approach, focusing on rearing insects for the biological control of invasive cacti. The Uitenhage has grown from a provincial scope, to sending its insects country-wide. The facility currently employs a staff of nine, but Prof Hill anticipates doubling this number in 2017. He envisages training staff at the Waainek facility where they can learn from people who have been involved in mass-rearing of biological control agents for many years.

CREATING CONNECTIONS: CHINA IN AFRICA

China's presence in sub-Saharan Africa is increasing and it is changing things. Trying to understand these changes, particularly the role of Chinese organisations and how they work in sub-Saharan Africa, is the basis for the China in Africa project – an international research project directed by Professor Lynette Louw of the Management Department at Rhodes University.

According to Prof Louw, in 2014 China's investment in Africa exceeded US\$30 billion and trade surpassed US\$220 billion. Since the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) 15 years ago, constructive dialogue and cooperation between China and African countries has been enhanced. Prof Louw says most of the research in Africa focuses on the macro and micro levels with little research on and collective knowledge of the management of organisations and relationships with their stakeholders at the meso level.

Recently, five leading universities in South Africa signed an agreement, awaiting the signing of a further agreement with five leading universities in the People's Republic of China (PRC), which aims to establish a China South Africa Higher Education Consortium (CSAHEC). "Potentially the CSAHEC collaboration will lead to the further sustainability of Chinese organisations in the sub-Saharan Africa project as well as enhancing access to Chinese organisations," says Prof Louw.

"Systematic research by international management scholars is required to better understand the dynamics and synergies of the presence of these organisations in sub-Saharan Africa. [Enhancing cross cultural understanding is needed] so that Chinese organisations in sub-Saharan Africa can be more effective and have appropriate business models and forms of management practices," she added.

INVESTING IN AFRICA'S MEDIA LEADERSHIP

In today's turbulent media environment, managing media organisations expertly is crucial. The Sol Plaatje Institute for Media Leadership (SPI) is aimed at nurturing competent media leaders and offers Africa's only formal qualification in Media Management. But the Institute is self-funding and, because of the high cost of education in South Africa, it needs your support.

"The SPI was established to train high level media leaders and to serve Africa better than has previously been the case. We ensure that these leaders have a holistic understanding of the various factors that impact the profitability and/or sustainability of media companies," says Francis Mdlongwa, the Director of the SPI.

The Institute was established in 2002 by the Rhodes University School of Journalism and Media Studies, and has educated 2 500 media leaders from across Africa, with 200 students having graduated with the Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Media Management. Many of these SPI graduates hold prominent media positions. For example, Carin Lee, who was a senior official in charge of content at Facebook's London offices for more than seven years, and Gugulethu Mhlungu, the news editor at City Press.

"[But] the economic situation in South Africa – in fact globally – is such that it is increasingly difficult to get funding," says Mdlongwa. The crowdfunding idea appeals to former students or friends of Rhodes University to donate to the SPI – to fund more scholarships for students who are economically disadvantaged and to fund more academic programmes.

The SPI is in the process of receiving confirmation of its application for a Masters in Media Management, which it plans to implement within the next two years. "This MA would be aimed at high level media leaders, wanting a higher level qualification, which gives them a holistic understanding of how to manage and lead media organisations at a time of heightened change – especially with the advent of digital and social media," Mdlongwa says.

According to Mdlongwa, the degree needs to address the needs of working media people who do not have enough time to attend university full time. As such, the course would run over two years and would be part-time. They also eventually hope to fund specialised Masters Degrees, for example in Media Entrepreneurship, Strategic Media Management and Digital and Social Media Management.

"[The funding] will enable the SPI to live up to its mission of being a leading and valuable educational provider and resource, for the whole of Africa, in the relatively new field of media management," Mdlongwa says.

LEADING THE FUTURE

In June this year, Professor Di Wilmot was re-elected unopposed to serve a third term as Dean of the Education Faculty at Rhodes University. Her motivation for continuing in this role was based largely on the fact that she facilitated a strategic planning process and the initiation of a number of new programmes, which she would like to see through to completion.

Exciting developments have taken place under her watch, with a strong emphasis on accelerating the transformation agenda and serving the Eastern Cape, while also strengthening research collaborations within South Africa and internationally.

The Faculty, made up of two Departments, three Institutes and four Research Chairs, is in an expansion phase. This year, the enrolment stands at just over 1 000 students – some 12.5% of the total student body at Rhodes. Of these, some 85% are black students, and just over 50% are at postgraduate level. According to Prof Wilmot, the most significant change has been the introduction of the B.Ed (Foundation Phase) undergraduate degree that encourages and facilitates the entry of mother-tongue isiXhosa speakers into the teaching profession.

As a scholarly Dean, Prof Wilmot has strong research interests of her own, mainly in the fields of curriculum development and pedagogical change. She has a growing international profile, and is the only person from Africa to have been nominated to serve on the International Geography Union's Commission on Geography Education. She is also a founding member of the African Education Deans Forum.

Grounded in academia, but with an elevated awareness of practical and strategic imperatives, the Education Faculty is in good hands moving forward.

"I think change is very important and I'm excited to be part of it," says Prof Wilmot.



THE ARTS OF AFRICA

While significant work is being produced by artists and scholars on the continent it tends not to be recognised by the global art market and the dominant art discourse unless it is shaped and 'consumed' by scholars, curators and collectors based in the 'north'.

As part of addressing this, Prof Simbao, one of the consortium editors of *African Arts*, a prestigious quarterly produced by UCLA and published by MIT Press, is putting together an issue produced entirely by scholars based on the continent, due for publication in May 2017.

"While the journal does, in general, publish some high quality work on the arts of Africa, it is problematic that, overall, merely 4% of the authors are based in institutions on the African continent, and only 1% are in African countries excluding South Africa," says Prof Simbao. "Through the establishment of the Arts and Culture: Writers in Africa (ACWA) network, I'm working on redressing this, and, as an editor of *African Arts* I aim to include a balance of authors from throughout Africa."

The Chair has a strong emphasis on building collaborations with scholars and visual and performing artists in other African countries. In July an ACWA workshop was hosted at Rhodes, where a network of

scholars and artists from Uganda, Zimbabwe and South Africa came together to develop or refine articles for publication.

Artists who attended the workshop from Uganda include Eria Nsubuga, who engages with issues of power and politics through his work, and artist and activist or *activist*, Aidah Nalubowa from *Artivists 4 Life* in Kampala. From Zimbabwe there was Fadzai Muchemwa, the co-curator of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Harare. They are opening up new areas of decolonised learning, and are inviting new and more critical ways of thinking and writing about Africa through the visual and performing arts.

Collaboration is a key goal of the Chair, and in February this year Prof Simbao curated the Cape Town Art Fair special project and competition, *Consuming Us*, with co-curator Azu Nwagbogu, Director of the Lagos Photo Festival. The exhibition featured eight up-and-coming African artists and the winner was Masimba Hwati from Harare, Zimbabwe. Later this year Hwati will participate in the Residencies for Artists and Writers (RAW) programme run by the Prof Simbao, and he plans to pursue his MFA in the Fine Art Department next year.

African art is an internationally recognised discourse that has, in the main, been written by non-African scholars from Europe and North America. Professor Ruth Simbao is focusing on changing this through a new DST/NRF SARCHI Chair in Geopolitics and the Arts of Africa, launched in January this year.



INJECTING ARTS INTO ITALY



The arts are making their way into the urban sprawls of Italy, thanks to the Osservatorio Mobile Nord Estomne (OMNE) project. Brent Meistre, prominent photographer and Rhodes University Fine Art lecturer, was one of 10 international artists recently recruited to be a part of this project in the North East of Italy – exploring and interrogating its industrial history, economic downturn, and lack of culture.

The OMNE project is an interrogation into the possible relationship between space, the landscape and “the body that inhabits it”. “My focus was on the body as a ‘work horse’, a body that is strained, broken, and manipulated through work,” says Meistre, who produced two lengthy works using both stills and stop animation.

The residency took place in June 2016 and was mainly located in Castelfranco Veneto, which is, according to Meistre, well known for its ‘work ethic’. “It’s well documented that Mussolini sourced women from the town to clear out the salt marshes throughout that area of Italy,” says Meistre. “The project focused on the legacy of economic power in the medieval city from its silk trade days, to how that has now extended and manifested itself in the major industries in the region.”

While revitalising cultural activities in the area, Meistre had the privilege of working alongside prominent international

photographers such as Nigel Shafran (UK), Massimo Mastroiello (Italy), Marten Lange (Sweden) and Josef Schulz (Germany). The residency also had an eclectic array of daily seminars and workshops where the participants worked with performance artists, poets, architects and book publishers, including Dutch designers Hans Gremmen and Petra Stravast.

The artists also worked alongside local school children – helping to develop their photographic skills. “We mentored them throughout the residency and I gave them a workshop on stop animation which they found very exciting,” says Meistre. The OMNE project shows that art continues to be an important tool for social change.

Overall, Meistre enjoyed the residency, saying that I was pleased to be able to extend themes in my own animations done in parts of Southern Africa and Mali, into a very different context which I found engaging and challenging.” His photography, often centred on landscapes, has been prolific and well received over the years, featuring in various international exhibitions.

Meistre’s creative international work for this year is not over. He is looking forward to another residency in September where he will work with the Swiss cultural organisation Sound Development City and other artists between Madrid and Casablanca.

THREE NEW RESIDENCES FOR RHODES

Rhodes University is planning to accommodate the anticipated increase in undergraduate numbers with three new residences on campus.

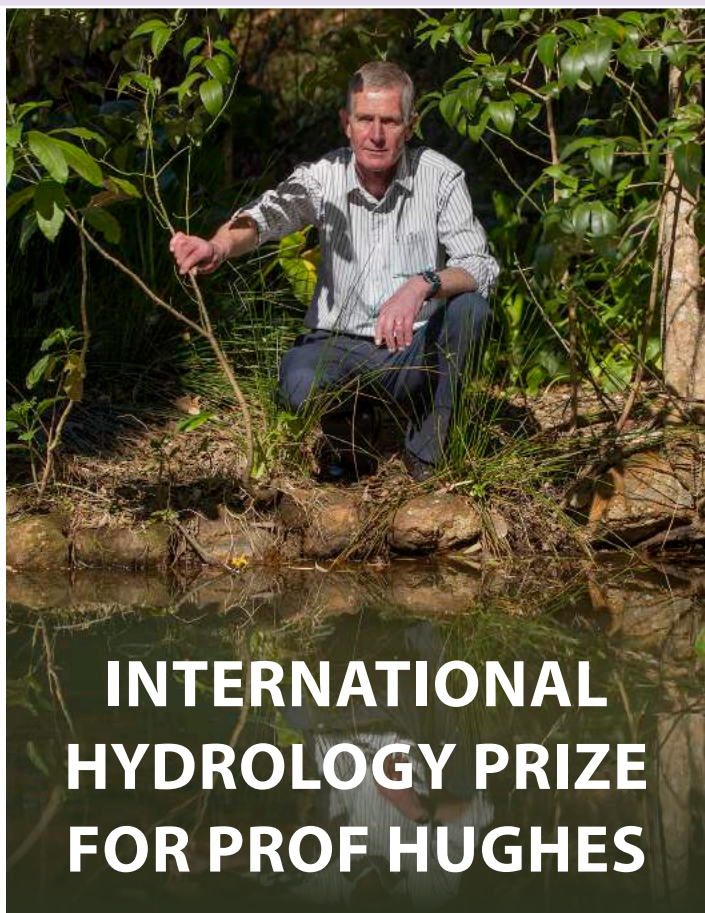
Executive Director of Infrastructure Operations and Finance, Dr Iain L’Ange, says that the University has received R100 million from the Department of Higher Education and Training for infrastructure and efficiency planning.

The residences are anticipated to accommodate 88 beds each and will be built in the standardised “z” shape of the other residences on campus, which Dr L’Ange says is a cost-effective model with common facilities in the centrepiece. “Design differs slightly from residence to residence, depending on the contours of the land. But overall they will be similar to the existing ones,” he says.

The University currently has 53 residences.

Due to the available space, the residences are envisaged to be located within the precinct of the Kimberley Hall dining area. Dr L’Ange says that the University hoped to go out on tender by the end of July, with construction anticipated to start as soon as possible thereafter. “We are looking to have all three residences ready for occupation by January 2018,” he says.

According to Dr L’Ange, the provision of additional beds has become critical as residences have attracted a far greater number of returning students than before since the no fee increase in 2016. “We were constrained in terms of the number of first years we could offer bed spaces to. The additional residences are very important in enabling us to meet our enrolment targets,” he says.



INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGY PRIZE FOR PROF HUGHES

Professor Denis Hughes was awarded the 2016 International Hydrology Prize of IAHS/WMO/UNESCO: Volker Medal, in Paris, France, on 15 June 2016, for his efforts to enhance water research in 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.

Hughes is part of the Institute for Water Research (IWR) and was instrumental in combining the former Hydrological Research Unit (HRU) and Institute for Freshwater Studies to form the Institute for Water Research (IWR) in 1991. The IWR became a multi-disciplinary research institute focusing on hydrology, freshwater ecology and environmental water quality, which has recently branched out into transdisciplinary water resources science.

"It was a great honour and wonderful to have my wife (Prof Ros Dowse from Pharmacy) with me in Paris to share the event. It was also great that the other medallist (the Dooge Medal awarded to Prof Jeff McDonnell from Canada) is someone I have known for a number of years," shared Prof Hughes.

LOOKING BACK AND REVVING FORWARD: HIGHWAY AFRICA 2016

Ten years ago a colourful suitcase was filled by media delegates at a Highway Africa conference with mobile handsets, laptops, flash sticks and even a bottle of red wine. At this year's Highway Africa Conference the "Time Box" will be opened – revealing just how far media has come.

For two decades the Highway Africa conference has provided an innovative space to reflect, celebrate and anticipate the growing relationship between media, technology and social development. This year's conference focuses on the impact that the internet has had on media and journalism.

"The 20 years of the Highway Africa conference coincides with the 20 years of the rapid development of the internet as the central organising intelligence of our society," says Chris Kabwato, the director of Highway Africa. "How has this amazing technology disrupted the production, distribution and consumption of film, TV, books, music? How has this technology become central to our communications and our whole way of life?"

The conference was established in 1997 as a project called The New Media Lab.

"Roland Stanbridge and Guy Berger had the foresight to recognise that the internet as a technology was going to play a key role in shaping journalism and the media," says Kabwato. "Out of the labour of their love, Highway Africa grew to become the premier annual gathering of African journalists interested in the intersection of journalism and technology."

Since then, the focus has not shifted much. African journalists continue to be empowered to "advance democracy and development through their understanding and use of appropriate technologies". As such this year's anniversary conference, taking place on 28 and 29 of August, will look at new business models for newspapers, given that print is declining and readers are moving online, and it will feature the most international programme to date.

"We have speakers from Russia, the UK, Singapore, the USA and, of course, South Africa and Kenya," says Kabwato. There are training workshops covering data journalism, digital strategies for media organisation, women in media leadership and solutions

journalism. The keynote speech is by Michelle Atagana, an African millennial who, according to Kabwato, is right at the heart of technological innovation on the continent.

A "Time Box", filled by delegates in 2006 with media artefacts – and a bottle of red wine – will be uncovered. "We shall open the 'Time Box' and be amazed at how fast technology is moving and rendering many gadgets obsolete. And, of course, we shall sample that red wine," says Kabwato.

Also celebrated in the anniversary celebrations is the loyalty of corporate partners – Telkom, Barclays and MTN – who have supported Highway Africa for over fifteen years. "We appreciate their support and that of the numerous partners who see value in a journalism conference that takes place in a small town that is off the map."

Although Kabwato cannot make any announcements yet, there are exciting new developments for Highway Africa in the pipeline. "The conference will remain pretty much a digital journalism event, but Highway Africa as a centre will move in a new and exciting direction. Watch this space for details."

EXPLORING TRANSNATIONALITY FIRST HAND

Transnational migration is currently a hot topic around the world, particularly in Europe and Africa. Rhodes University's HOD of Anthropology, Dr Joy Owen, centres her research in particular on transnational migration, and found herself travelling across international borders on a teaching exchange to Germany earlier this year.

Dr Owen taught a course in Münster focusing on Congolese transnational migration and the Congolese social networks that are created in host/receiving countries. "The teaching exchanges are based on the needs of the two departments. I was therefore asked to teach an undergraduate course focusing on a transregional subject, and a Masters course on reflection and reflexivity in anthropological research," Dr Owen says.

In 2014, Dr Barbara Meier, a representative of the Institut für Ethnologie at the University of Münster, approached the Rhodes University Anthropology Department to create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two departments that would entail both staff and student exchanges.

In the first half of 2016 Rhodes University hosted four students – both undergraduate and Masters students – from the Institute, as well as Dr Julia Koch who taught a second year course on the Indian Ocean. Dr Owen along with an Honours student, Marleen Bruwer, then travelled to Germany in April.

The teaching course focused on Congolese social networks in three locations – Kampala, Paris and Muizenberg. "The consideration of Congolese transnational migrants in three distinct geographical spaces encouraged a comparative analysis of Congolese lifeworlds and social networks," Dr Owen says.

Dr Owen's recently published monograph, *Congolese Social Networks: Living on the margins in Muizenberg, Cape Town*, considers predominantly the lives of three Congolese male transmigrants as they access, create and maintain heterogeneous social networks. Tracking their livelihood strategies amidst other Congolese men and women and their binational intimate relationships, Dr Owen used this monograph as a point of comparison for the two other prescribed ethnographies in the undergraduate course.

As a part of her transnational experience, Dr Owen was also given insights into the ways academics have "constructed geographical and intellectual territories and spaces" using binaries such as that of the "West" and the "rest", or between the "global south" and the "global north".

"Recently South African students have asked us to unpack, deconstruct and decolonise our curricula, placing Africa in the centre of our imaginations," she says. "An added layer to this questioning should be the interrogation of what is meant by 'the West'." Dr Owen says neither the West nor Africa is monolithic since they display diverse differences and untold similarities.

"This affirmation of a foundational thought in Anthropology – that diversity exists within homogenous populations – through lived

experience has harried my intellect in ways yet to be articulated," Dr Owen says. "I do however look forward to further thinking around this awareness, as it cements further in [my] research and teaching [in] years to come."

The sojourn also provided space for preliminary investigation into the experiences of transnational South African migrants living in Germany. This forms a part of the "post-PhD track Thuthuka programme" through which Dr Owen has been granted funding for three to five years to complete research on the creation and maintenance of social networks amongst South African transnational migrants. These transnationals include those living in Germany, New Zealand and Australia.

"Why, for example, would South Africans emigrate to Germany, rather than New Zealand or Australia – countries recognised as traditional host countries for South Africans?" says Dr Owen. "I identified two specific urban centres as sites of research interest and I have already made a number of valuable contacts to further my research in Germany in the next year and a half."

The sojourn also allowed Dr Owen a first-hand transregional experience. "All movement – inclusive of staff exchanges – disrupts one's ways of thinking," says Dr Owen. "What I have been writing about in relation to Congolese transnationals – the creation of heterogeneous social networks, the compulsion to adapt, the need for flexibility as a migrant, and the longing for home – was apparent from an insider's perspective as I had become a transnational migrant myself."



ENSURING ACCESS AND SUCCESS: THE EXTENDED STUDIES UNIT

BY SAM VAN HEERDEN

Being accepted into Rhodes University is just the beginning of a challenging academic and social journey, and for those from disadvantaged backgrounds the journey can be particularly gruelling. But Rhodes University's Extended Studies Unit (ESU) and its Trojan Academic Initiative (TAI) Student Peer Mentoring Programme are committed to ensuring that students not only arrive, but thrive.

The ESU forms part of the University's strategic transformation plan, and is designed to facilitate not only increased access, but also the success of students. In this way it provides a basis for addressing community and economic upliftment.

"The ESU is a vital part of the University's goal of widening access to include learners with potential, from a more diverse range of educational, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds," says Dr Chrissie Boughey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Student Affairs.

Upon arriving at Rhodes, first year students have to meet the multiple demands of a new educational environment. In order to help them in this regard, a fundamental part of the ESU is the TAI Student Peer Monitoring Programme. This aims to provide both socio-emotional and academic support to first year students.

"The TAI Student Peer Mentoring Programme is the longest-running student mentoring programme in higher education to date, having been in existence since 2003," says programme co-ordinator Nicky van der Poel. In 2015, 90 former Extended Studies TAI students achieved a Bachelors degree and 32 achieved a postgraduate qualification.

One exemplary success story is that of Ntsika Kitsili, a Grahamstown local who went through the Extended Studies Programme and, after completing two degrees and a postgraduate certificate in Education (PGCE), is now teaching matric pupils at GADRA Matric School. GADRA is a Grahamstown-based education NGO

which aims to mitigate the education crisis through facilitating the improvement of education locally.

Kitsili went to Nombulelo High School, and began his studies at Rhodes University with the help of a National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NFSAS) loan, a GADRA Education Bursary and financial assistance from his church. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Journalism & Media Studies, he completed a postgraduate certificate and Honours degree in Education.

"I wouldn't have coped without the TAI programme," says Kitsili, "It really helped holistically – academically and socially." Reflecting back on his time at Rhodes University, Kitsili says that the university experience was very different to his previous educational experiences. "You come from a life which is totally different. Township schools do not offer the same kind of social and [activity-related] opportunities that other schools do, so grappling with similar opportunities at university is daunting," he says.

"[Besides academics], it was stressful dealing with things such as belonging and other social pressures," he says. Negotiating culture shock and learning to be independent were just some of the challenges he faced. "[It helped having a] mentor with a similar background to say 'Look, this is how I coped'. It really helped bridge that gap."

Kitsili is currently a senior field worker for GADRA's Primary Education Programme. His work includes helping teachers in township schools and assisting learners where he can. He also facilitates parent engagement classes, runs a homework club for GADRA learners, and lectures part-time at Rhodes.

"I fell in love with teaching," says Kitsili, "I want to help kids discover who they are." When he goes to the township schools, he reflects on how unequal and unfair the schooling system is. "When you go there and see the schools, you can't help but think 'It's no wonder these kids don't make it'. I want to help break the cycle [of poverty]," he says.

"The TAI programme's holistic approach aims to offer socio-emotional support as well as academic guidance with the understanding that if students are stable and comfortable in their social contexts and emotional selves, they have a greater chance of being able to flourish academically,"



From left to right: Dr Clint Veale,
Prof Adrienne Edkins
and Mrs Stacey Mattison

FRAGMENTS OF EDKINS AND VEALE

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

Sometimes two brilliant minds find each other in such specific research areas that it makes real the possibility of aligned mental pathways actively seeking each other in the universe. Such is the coming together of two Rhodes academics: Professor Adrienne Edkins and Dr Clint Veale, who are working on novel drug research for cancer in what is known as the Fragment Project.

Prof Edkins is from the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology. She holds a SARCHI Chair in *Molecular and Cell Biology of the Eukaryotic Stress Response* and was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Research Medal this year. Dr Veale from the Faculty of Pharmacy did his PhD in medicinal chemistry through the Department of Chemistry.

Researching in different disciplines, they were both looking for what Prof Edkins describes as "a specific glint of a needle" in the proverbial haystack of cancer. The specific glint is a protein, known as a receptor, which can be used to target an extremely aggressive and common form of breast cancer in southern Africa, called triple-negative breast cancer.

Unlike other types of breast cancer, which are hormone responsive and

treatable, there are currently no targeted treatments for triple-negative breast cancer. There is therefore a pressing clinical need to find ways of treating it, over and above the improvements in health brought about by prevention and early screening.

Cancer, in general, is very difficult to treat because it is about our own cells turning against us, a mutation of our genetics. As Prof Edkins explains: "There is an evolutionarily-conserved system in all cells where a stress response kicks in whenever the cells are under physical stress. The system is a positive survival response, but it is problematic in the presence of cancer, as it prevents the cancer cell from dying because it activates a protective stress response. It doesn't differentiate and therefore in the presence of cancer, the cell effectively sabotages its own survival."

"Until we find the receptor that regulates triple-negative breast cancer, there is nothing for the anti-cancer drugs to target and therefore the cancer is able to spread unstopably at this stage," adds Dr Veale.

The thrust of the *Fragment Project* is to find new ways of thinking about drug discovery, called fragment-based drug discovery.

Dr Veale's approach on how to tackle

this was developed from his Masters in Biological Mass Spectrometry at Edinburgh University, Scotland. He was familiar with their spectrometry facility, one of the best of its kind in the world, where researchers are able to screen for drug-like molecular fragments that are able to bind to specific proteins. We can then synthetically modify these fragments in the laboratory to improve their drug efficacy characteristics.

He approached Prof Edkins, a protein target specialist who has done considerable research into triple-negative breast cancer cells, and asked if she would be interested in collaborating with him and mass spectrometry specialist, Dr David Clarke, at Edinburgh. She immediately recognised the synergy and the giant leap their mutually advanced research could achieve.

"To get here we first need to understand how the different molecular levels of the cell work, and what the triggers and networks are between the different components," Prof Edkins explains. "We can then go in and identify a particular node to selectively disable the cell's response in the presence of cancer, using smaller fragments of drug-like molecules as a base from which to bind and inhibit our protein target."



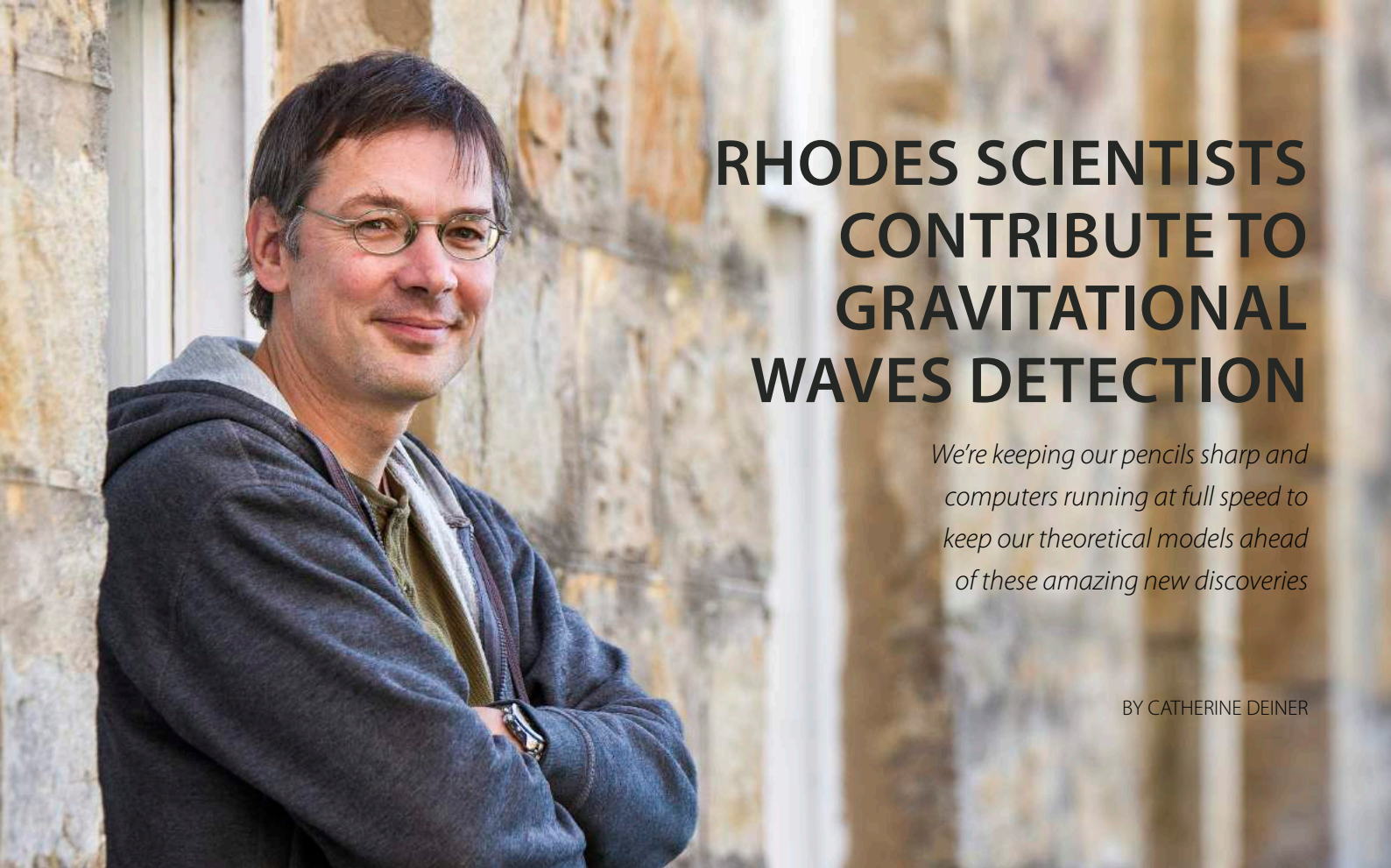
"We have been working with a particular protein for four years and we think it could be developed into a possible inhibitor for anti-cancer agents. We were able to grow enough of the protein (in bacteria) to send it over to Edinburgh.

"We are now doing biological studies on this protein and we have evidence to show its levels are higher in cancer cells, and in regulating the activity that cancer cells are dependent on. This makes it a potentially suitable target for the development of anti-cancer drugs, which would be the next step and where we would partner with pharmaceutical companies."

In July the team was awarded a grant from the Royal Society Newton Fund to help support the *Fragment Project* between Rhodes and Edinburgh. One of the purposes of the grant is to promote economic and social development through skills transfer between the two countries

"These kinds of grants and the SARCHI Chair are such a privilege," says Prof Edkins. "The most precious resource that comes with them is time and the headspace to be creative.





RHODES SCIENTISTS CONTRIBUTE TO GRAVITATIONAL WAVES DETECTION

We're keeping our pencils sharp and computers running at full speed to keep our theoretical models ahead of these amazing new discoveries

BY CATHERINE DEINER

Scientists in the Rhodes University Mathematics Department happen to make up South Africa's first gravitational wave research group, and have been developing the theoretical models that contributed directly to the detection of the gravitational waves in February 2016. Professor Denis Pollney has been working on binary black hole modelling for over twenty years.

"What has energised the astrophysics community most of all has been the event which created the wave that was caught by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory (LIGO). Every gravitational wave signal carries the fingerprint of the source which created it. And this wave was so large that the pattern was unambiguous," states Prof Pollney.

"Gravitational waves are a prediction of Albert Einstein's. His theory of general relativity is a theory of gravity, but it is one which is built on geometry, the study of shapes and surfaces. Relativity is a radical departure from the old idea that gravity is a force that pulls things to Earth. Instead, according to Einstein, a heavy object distorts the world around it, stretching space and time like a ball on a rubber sheet. When a football arcs in the air and comes back to

earth, it is actually following the straightest possible path within a spacetime that is curved," says Prof Pollney.

Therefore, when heavy objects move in space, they distort the space fabric and send ripples through space, but these move at the speed of light which makes measuring them very difficult. Scientists have built measuring devices in the world for exactly the purpose of analysing these distortions of spacetime.

Black holes are another outrageous prediction of general relativity and this is the special focus of scientists working at Rhodes.

"Black holes are collapsed stars, and actually composed of nothing. But the geometry around a black hole has become so distorted that even light cannot escape if it gets too close. Black hole mergers, when two of these things smash together, have long been proposed as the strongest possible sources of gravitational waves. Except that nobody had ever seen one until the detection in February, and nobody could really be sure what their gravitational wave signature would look like," explains Pollney.

Scientists in the Rhodes Mathematics Department have been collaborating with colleagues in Germany, Spain, France and the US on mathematical and computational

models of how these exotic objects merge.

"We've been identifying the gravitational wave fingerprints of these events, which allows the experimenters to determine exactly what they are looking at when they see a wave signal. It was a genuine career highlight to see the observed signal line up exactly with the theoretical predictions. Whereas before the detection our orbiting black hole models were somewhat of a curiosity on the boundaries of sensible science, now they're established astrophysical events, as real as the sun and the moon," says an excited Prof Pollney.

Thus, the observation of gravitational waves, while the main highlight of February's announcement, has opened up an exciting era for scientists in the field.

"We are hearing that there are multiple more signals in the current pipeline. The next generation of detectors is already being planned in Germany, Japan and India. And the SKA, another ambitious project, with significant Rhodes involvement, will have its own story to tell about gravitational waves. Meanwhile, we're keeping our pencils sharp and computers running at full speed to keep our theoretical models ahead of these amazing new discoveries," says Prof Pollney.



BY ANIMA MCBROWN

WORKING ON EINSTEIN'S PREDICTIONS

Following the first ever detection of the gravitational waves in September last year, 100 years after being predicted by Albert Einstein, Dumsani Ndzinisa's field of Numerical Relativity, and related fields, such as Cosmology and Astrophysics, are on a massive surge of excitement at the moment.

Ndzinisa and his team are looking at modelling sources and characteristics of gravitational waves (ripples in the fabric of space-time, coming from extremely violent events in the distant universe).

What makes his project especially fascinating for him is the fact that his two passions, Physics and Mathematics, are married to the advanced use of computer-based numerical modelling – a thrilling new element to his research. Under the expert supervision of Prof Denis Pollney of the Department of Mathematics, Ndzinisa's exposure continues to grow.

Ndzinisa is studying towards a PhD in Applied Mathematics at Rhodes University. Having completed his BSc in Maths and Physics (2003-2007) in his home country of Swaziland, he went to North West University where he completed an Honours Degree in Applied Radiation Science and Technology (2009). He later joined the University of Johannesburg for his Masters in Applied Mathematics (2011-2012). In between his postgraduate studies, Ndzinisa has also had a few teaching opportunities with the Swazi Ministry of Education, where

he taught Mathematics and Physics at high school level. Now finally at Rhodes, the journey has brought with it even more opportunity. Ndzinisa has travelled quite extensively in the near two years of being with us.

In July, he travelled to New York (USA) to present part of the work he is currently doing for his PhD, at the 21st International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation. He will be looking to improve certain aspects and explore other avenues of accurate modelling. He admits that he absolutely relishes the part of his PhD training that necessitates travel: for many different lectures, presentations and workshops – both locally and abroad. Just last year Ndzinisa was in Sweden for the Einstein Toolkit workshop. In that “friendly workshop”, as he describes it, he learnt a lot about the use of the computational frameworks – which he uses for building his computer simulations. He also interacted a lot with some of the leading numerical relativists who were in attendance.

It was after his trip to Sweden that he got to visit what he deems his favourite destination so far, Berlin, Germany. Here he met and worked with one of his international collaborators – Dr. Christian Reisswig – on a portion of his (Ndzinisa's) PhD project. The perks of postgraduate life include prospects such as these, where exposure, experience and networking are abundant.

XOLANE MHLANGA

FROM NELSPRUIT TO CALIFORNIA IN THE NAME OF GEOLOGY

BY ANIMA MCBROWN



Xolane ("X") Mhlanga comes from the town of Kanyamazane, Nelspruit, 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, "I've never seen myself doing anything else," and ever since starting this walk seven years ago, he has not looked back, although there have been some bumps along the way.

He completed a BSc degree in 2012, with majors in Geology and Environmental Science. He opens up about the death of his father in May of 2012, a loss which presented the biggest blow in his life so far. He pushed through his hardships to attain personal triumph. The following year he obtained Honours in Geology, when he carried out a project on ore-grade relationships in Hotazel Manganese Ores at Gloria Mine in the Kalahari Manganese Field. He enrolled for a Masters which was upgraded to a PhD in late 2015. His PhD project is a continuation of his Honours work - 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 from November 2015 until February 2016. 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.*

In December 2015 he presented his latest work at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference. His exposure and growing prominence in his field of study has also resulted in another abstract of his being accepted for the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC), which will be taking place in Cape Town. As a proud representative of Rhodes University and a pioneer of South African geological research, Mhlanga is genuinely looking forward to making his presentation in front of yet another global audience.

Currently Mhlanga is focusing on publishing some papers, and spends most of his time developing his research. He hopes to submit his final thesis next year in June.

INTERNATIONALISATION COMMITTEE AWARD FOR PROFESSOR TSIKOS

Professor Hari Tsikos received the University's Internationalisation Committee award (2015), for his work in the promotion of international exchange and allied collaborative research. He gives special credit to PRIMOR's biggest sponsors, ASSMANG Ltd, and the continued support from the industry, because theirs is a winning partnership. He makes special mention of Prof Tim Lyons, from the University of California Riverside, his close collaborator and good friend, who he considers crucial to the growth and development of one of his students, Xolani Mhlanga, whose growth as a scholar has been largely due to their international collaboration. Prof Tsikos talks about how Mhlanga's work is in many ways an extension of his own PhD research from 20 years ago. He takes a vested interest in the progress of his students and wants them to continue to grow, achieve and maximise their potential even further. As the developer of PRIMOR (Postgraduate Research in Iron and Manganese Ore Resources), a Research Unit in the Geology Department, Prof Tsikos is a renowned expert in his field. This is what makes students like Mhlanga fortunate to be working with such exceptional leaders.

LANGUAGE

THE THREAD THAT BONDS US TOGETHER

The newly refurbished School of Languages at Rhodes University showcases the University's commitment to playing a leading role in the development of multilingualism in South Africa.

BY SARAH-JAYNE BRADFELD

"All of humanity is linked by language. Allowing people to communicate within a multilingual global environment and empowering students with this skill is the central brief of the African Language Studies Section and the School of Languages," explains Professor Russell Kaschula, NRF SARCHI Chair: Intellectualisation of African Languages, Multilingualism and Education at Rhodes University.

According to Prof Kaschula, "we are now all reunited in the same building, under a single academic project which is underpinned by multilingualism and the notion of a 'language village', where all the languages that we teach, speak to each other."

The School of Languages at Rhodes currently offers courses in isiXhosa, Afrikaans and Netherlandic Studies, Chinese Studies, French Studies, German Studies and Classical Studies. In the new premises, the School is now able to accommodate an additional 100 undergraduates and 20 postgraduate students per annum, and additional teaching and office space for recent new appointees, tutors and teaching assistants. The School currently has approximately 800 students (excluding 300 students studying vocation-specific isiXhosa courses such as isiXhosa for Education, Pharmacy, Journalism and Law) and 30 members of staff.

"The School considers itself a microcosm that reflects global realities, but also wishes to contribute to and promote intercultural understanding and cooperation in the context of a 'language village,'" says Prof Kaschula. The village incorporates shared tutorial and seminar rooms between the various sections in the School; offices for academics and administrators; as well as shared spaces for postgraduate students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting scholars. There is also a 50-station multimedia facility – critical to developing

Human Language Technology courses in African languages. This is vital for the intellectualisation of African Languages through appropriate terminology development for specific disciplines and for additional African Language learning programmes. There is a communal exhibition/community engagement space which would portray the cultures associated with the various African, European and Asian languages and the ethos of the School of Ubuntu and the coming together and sharing, as this space will be used for community engagement initiatives. "The building also has an amphitheatre which can seat 160 people. It is a wonderful space which we also use for oral presentations," says Prof Kaschula, acknowledging the oral and storytelling nature of languages, particularly African languages.

Growth in the numbers of students in the School has been consistent. In isiXhosa 1 there are approximately 180 first year students doing the non-mother tongue course and about 100 students taking the mother tongue course this year. There is also a record number of doctoral students in the School and the number now exceeds 20 PhD students.

Prof Kaschula says that the vision for the teaching and learning of African languages at Rhodes is to consolidate the teaching of Nguni languages, including the two minority languages of siSwati and isiNdebele (the latter is no longer taught at any South African University even though it is accepted as a national language), as well as to introduce Sesotho and South African Sign Language. The vision for African Languages at Rhodes is to be at the forefront of research and teaching in languages, says the incredibly proudly African Prof Kaschula, who wants the African languages outputs to exceed those of other languages.

Prof Kaschula will open the building on 14 September 2016 under the new name: School of Languages and Literatures.



Optimising worker health and performance

the importance of ergonomics training in the working environment

The Department of Human Kinetics and Ergonomics

Ergonomics, also referred to as Human Factors, is the scientific study of the interaction between humans and their working environment, the ultimate aim being to optimise worker health and safety, as well as improve quantity and quality of work output. Ergonomics takes a human-centred approach to ensure that the interactions of the worker with other components of the work system match the physical, physiological and cognitive capabilities of the worker.

The Department of Human Kinetics and Ergonomics (HKE) at Rhodes University is currently the only department in the country offering both undergraduate and postgraduate education in Ergonomics. A recent increase in the awareness of ergonomics and its health and financial benefits in the South African context has triggered an increased demand for

Ergonomics expertise in industry. In response to this, the HKE Department has developed a short course in Ergonomics, suitable for any practitioner in the fields of health and safety, occupational hygiene, occupational medicine, rehabilitation and engineering. It aims to provide participants with an education that is aligned with the Ergonomics Society of South Africa's criteria to register as Certified Ergonomics Associates (CEA). Participants have to complete 360 hours of work across six modules, which include the basic principles of Ergonomics, understanding human characteristics, assessment of physical and cognitive work, as well as professional issues relating to practicing this discipline. Lectures, laboratory practicals, industrial fieldtrips, discussions, group work, presentations, written assignments and self-directed learning

opportunities comprise the main teaching and learning strategies for this short course, culminating in a portfolio of evidence.

Upon completion and certification, a CEA's scope of practice allows for the use of commonly accepted tools and techniques for the analysis and enhancement of human performance in a workplace. A CEA may, for example, be responsible for the co-ordination of an Ergonomics facilitation team within their own industry to create an awareness of Ergonomics, to identify problems, to implement basic solutions and to recognise when to consult a Certified Professional Ergonomist (CPE).

Interested parties may contact Ms Miriam Mattison (m.mattison@ru.ac.za) for more information on the course.



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

www.ru.ac.za



Rhodes Music Radio, South Africa's oldest campus radio station, is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. The station boasts a rich history of producing today's broadcasting pioneers, household media practitioners and globally recognised journalists.

RMR would like to call on everyone who was once at the station to furnish us with their current contact details, as we wish to update our alumni list and keep contact with them.

RMR has grown through the years and continues to train, expose and allow Rhodes University students, and the youth of Grahamstown, to express themselves over the airwaves.

RMR continues to forge relationships with other media producers and campus stations to remain a strong player in the national sphere of campus and community radio.



Did you cut your broadcasting teeth at RMR?

Stand proud and share your memories of your time at station@rhodesmusicradio.co.za to be shared with our current staff and audience.

#35thanniversary #RMRinmytime

RHODES LAW STUDENTS REPRESENT AFRICA IN GENEVA

The Rhodes University European Law Students Association (ELSA) Moot team, consisting of four final year LLB students, won the African Regional Round of the ELSA Moot Court Competition in April 2016.

Arguing a question of international trade law focusing on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement), final year law students Nkosazana Lulu Dweba, Steph Stretch, Declan Williamson and Moya Vaughan-Williams won the round and went on to represent Rhodes University and Africa in Geneva in the final oral round in June 2016.

Ten teams competed in what was only the third African Regional Round of the competition, hosted for the first time at Rhodes University. Participants included teams from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and South Africa. With the support of the WTO, the ELSA Moot Competition has become one of the largest and most prestigious international moot competitions for students to compete in, and a space for students to learn about the WTO's dispute settlement system.

The Rhodes team was coached by former participants in the competition, Jamie Foreman and Tayla Waterworth, who are both LLM students at Rhodes and who competed in Geneva in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

One of the prizes for the competition is the award of a fully

paid scholarship for a one year LLM degree at the University of Barcelona's IELPO programme, which was won by Rhodes team member Nkosazana Lulu Dweba. "I was surprised when I made the team, never mind that I got best orator for the prelim and the grand final," she commented. "It was a good learning experience as there is very high quality in the competition," she added.

Having won the African Regional Round the Rhodes University team went on to represent both Rhodes and Africa in Geneva in June 2016.

"Although the team did not place in Geneva, they had a great time, learned a lot and made lots of new friends. A highlight for them was a visit to the ACWL (Advisory Centre on WTO Law). They are like WTO legal aid for developing countries. South Africa has just joined ACWL, and so we hope to be more active in dispute settlement going forward. ACWL had all of the African teams over to their offices for tea and cake and a discussion about the career opportunities in international trade law," said law lecturer, Vicky Heideman.

The competition also coincided with the annual WTO Law Conference which the Rhodes team was able to attend. This year the conference was attended by some very big names in the field because they had a tribute to Prof John H Jackson, the founder of the field of international economic law.



From left to right: Steph Stretch, Declan Williamson, Moya Vaughan-Williams and Nkosazana Lulu Dweba

A portrait of Rachel Sibande, a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a dark blazer over a white top. The background is a solid light blue.

PhD STUDENT MAKES FORBES LIST

*Rhodes University student,
Rachel Sibande is listed as
one of the 30 Most Promising
Young Entrepreneurs in Africa
in 2016 by Forbes.*

Rachel Sibande is a PhD candidate in Computer Science, looking at the use of mobile phones for citizen engagement. Thirty-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 start-ups 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 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."

The hub has established two groundbreaking initiatives, a Children's Coding Club and a Girls4Code initiative. Through these initiatives, children between the ages of eight and 14 are trained to develop mobile technology applications using platforms such as Scratch and Snapp.

"We are also training girls to develop mobile applications using Google's MIT App Inventor. The idea is to enhance more interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics amongst the young generation, and females whose numbers remain fewer in these fields globally," explains Sibande.

mHub's younger generation is already winning awards.

"One of our success stories from the Children's Coding Club is that of a 10-year-old boy called Panashe Jere. He developed an application called "Talk to Me". The app converts text to speech and helps children learn how to speak or pronounce some words," shares Sibande. He won a national competition and earned a trip to Silicon Valley to attend Facebook's largest F8 conference. He also had the chance to meet CEO of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg.

As a social enterprise, the hub develops technology solutions such as websites and mobile applications for corporate institutions, development partners and businesses at a fee. The profits made are ploughed back into the company for training young people with skills in ICT and entrepreneurship.

The innovative mother of three somehow

still manages to find time to work on her PhD.

"I am now conducting a baseline study to understand how citizens currently participate at the local level in Malawi. And also to understand how they use technology," explains Mrs Sibande.

She is also managing the deployment of the web to SMS mapping technology platform (<http://mzinda.com>) that she developed as part of her PhD to enhance citizen engagement at the local level. Through the platform, citizens can send in smses to report service delivery issues on water, electricity, waste collection and sanitation in the three pilot cities in Malawi namely Lilongwe, Blantyre and Mzuzu.

She will document the baseline study results and use them to refine the Mzinda platform to suit the ways in which citizens use the technology for participation.

"Later on I would like to document the factors that influence or restrict citizens, city council and service providers in using technology as a tool for engagement on service delivery issues. This would be the epitome of my PhD as it would contribute to new knowledge on what influences and restricts citizens, local city councils and service providers to use technology for engagement," she adds.

BEHIND THE NEWMUSIC SCENES

When it comes to pursuing our passions, we march to the beat of our hearts and dance to the rhythm of our own music. For S'fisokuhle Jiba Xulu, a Classical Voice student at Rhodes University, never have these phrases rung more true.



From humble beginnings in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, to becoming a classically trained vocalist and chairperson of NewMusic South Africa, a non-profit organisation he represented at the Tongyeong International Music Festival in South Korea earlier this year, S'fisokuhle Jiba Xulu composed his way to the top due to his love of music in all of its forms.

His passion was kick-started after moving to Vereeniging in Gauteng to attend General Smuts High School after auditioning for the school's annual musical.

"I made the short list, and thought that should be fine," Xulu says, "and then at the very same time after the short list was put out, they also put out auditions for spots in the Smuts Tenors."

The General Smuts Tenors, coached by Monica Schaller, is a prestigious nine-member group of singers. When they started the auditioning process, they were looking for five replacements. Thinking he was not going to make it, fearing that there were others amongst the 4000-plus student body who could sing better than him and make those five spots, Xulu decided to give it a try anyway.

"I thought to myself, 'Okay, seeing as though I made the short list for the musical, I might as well sign up for the Tenors.'"

To his surprise, Xulu received a callback and made the final list.

"That's when everything just started blooming and happening," he says. "I got introduced to music that I never thought I'd be doing in my life. We did covers and music which was inspired by Il Divo, Andrea Bocelli, the Ten Tenors, the Three Tenors – all the tenors!"

Xulu was with the Tenors up until his Matric year, and was given the opportunity to try out for the Vaal Tri-Ensemble, an initiative by Hoerskool Drie Riviere that was supervised by Coert Grobbelar, an opera tenor. He was accepted after auditioning once, although the first meeting seemed daunting because they were going to have to learn how to read music.

"We got such a fright, but the way they taught us was part of the main reason why I got so interested in classical singing and opera."

After two years of being with the Smuts Tenors and the Vaal Tri-Ensemble, it was time for Xulu to go to university. In 2011, he was accepted at the North West University School of Music & Conservatory to study towards a University Diploma in Music. By 2012, prior to his transferring to Rhodes University to continue his studies in Classical Voice, he had participated in a variety of operas and

ensembles and was involved in teaching music to underprivileged children. Then Xulu applied to attend an indaba held by NewMusic South Africa at Howard College in Durban. The only catch was that he had to compose and send a musical score to get in.

"I wrote a score and it got accepted, so I was accepted," he says. "My score was selected for workshops, and a composer and a conductor were there and gave us tips on how to write. Since then, I became a member of NewMusic South Africa."

NewMusic South Africa, as explained by Xulu, aims to foster a sense of community surrounding the New Music scene in South Africa. In 2016, he was elected for his first term as its Vice-Chairperson. Because of his role in the society, he represented it at Tongyeong International Music Festival as part of the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) World Music Days this year. The ISCM has members throughout the world, including NewMusic South Africa.

"The New Music scene in South Africa needs to be aware that everything that has never been heard or platformed to an audience, and serves to bring ideas of new performance styles within the music scene, qualifies as New Music, and that's why I want to bring awareness of what it is."

THE PRINCIPALS' PROGRAMME

LEADING GRAHAMSTOWN'S SCHOOLS

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

The Principals' Programme is a leadership development programme run by Rhodes Business School in 2016 for all the principals in Grahamstown's government schools.

"As an institution of higher learning we cannot sit and watch when young people amongst us are condemned to a life without hope; a life of despair because of the failure to provide them with the education they need and deserve. We must brighten the corner where we are." - Rhodes Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, inauguration address, February 2015.

To achieve greater schooling equality in Grahamstown, Dr Mabizela has been leading a multi-dimensional programme called 'Reviving Grahamstown Schools'. As part of this, the Vice-Chancellor made funding available for the Principals' Programme – an accredited leadership development programme for all the principals in Grahamstown's government schools, primary and high. Developed and run by Rhodes Business School, the three two-day teaching blocks are held during the course of this year at Rhodes Business School.

"We jumped at the opportunity to make this contribution because it is the principals and teachers at our schools who create the environment and set the bar for learning to happen," says Professor Owen Skae, Director of Rhodes Business School. He says the initial impetus for this programme came from Dr Ashley Westaway, the Director of GADRA Education and independent research professional, Ms Cathy Meiklejohn, who is based in Grahamstown. GADRA Education is the leading education NGO in Grahamstown, and the town's oldest community organisation.

"We got together with members of the Rhodes Business School team, the Head of Department of Management at Rhodes, Mr Trevor Amos and Professor Callie Grant from the Faculty of Education (whose teaching and research interest is educational leadership and management) to workshop a programme that would be fit for purpose," Prof Skae explains.

"We then engaged with principals and administrators from 24 government schools in Grahamstown to find out if the programme resonated with them, to add areas they required and to clarify their needs."

Rhodes Business School's research coordinator, Professor Noel Pearse, is the overall architect of the Principals' Programme that includes the following, interconnected spheres of leadership:

- **Personal mastery (leading yourself)** – discovering your strengths, stress management and moral intelligence;
- **Leading others** – building collegiality, performance management, group dynamics, team leadership, delegation and distributed leadership, leadership and self-deception;
- **Leading your school** – sustainable, strategic leadership, stakeholder engagement, problem-solving and decision-making, leading change, organisational culture and crisis leadership; and
- **Programme integration** – assignment requirements, self-directed learning and reflection, critical leadership and linking all the spheres of leadership.

The principals who complete the 250-hour programme and all the assignments receive an NQF Level 8 Certificate in School Leadership.

"Our first teaching block was in March this year, our second in June and our third and final will be in October," says Prof Pearse, who believes that true leadership starts with personal mastery or leading yourself.

As part of his personal mastery presentation on the programme, he draws on the approach of Marcus Buckingham, author, researcher, motivational speaker and business consultant. "His approach is for each person to discover their strengths in a tangible way," says Prof Pearse. "It is not about identifying your skills and ability, it is about discovering which activities in your work and day give you a feeling of flow and inspiration from being immersed in them. These are your strengths and once you identify them – for a principal is might

be leadership, teaching or admin – you can then begin to structure your support team according to each person's strengths."

The feedback from the principals about the programme to date has been extremely positive. Principal Faith Coetzee from Mary Waters High School, a dual medium, non-paying school of 1060 learners, and one of Grahamstown's oldest schools, says:

"As a new principal, the Principals' Programme has given me (and in turn the Mary Waters staff) the tools and motivation to effectively lead and manage the school in these challenging times. It has also created a network of principals who support one another by sharing and advising on practices to be adopted by schools to address our everyday challenges and achieve our goals."

"Within the programme we needed to create sufficient time for the principals to connect with each other, to share the problems they are experiencing and to visit each other's schools. A secondary outcome of this programme is to build a strong support network for the principals," says Prof Skae, who is one of the facilitators on the programme.

Principal Edward Kuchaka of the Grahamstown Adventist Primary School comments: "I can now confidently draft a strategic plan for my school, and I know how to monitor it. I also understand how to prioritise the many stakeholders to whom I am accountable. And I have a deeper understanding of how the style of leadership determines the culture of my school. I have gained a lot from this programme."

"Just as the principals are learning from us, we are learning a huge amount from them," adds Prof Skae. "Much of our leadership development at Rhodes Business School is in the private sector and school leadership brings a different dynamic. Down the line it will provide engaged research opportunities for us and other disciplines, to further integrate with the schools and institutions in our area, where we believe we can play a much bigger role."

A NEW PRINCIPAL'S VIEWS

Principal Joubert Retief of P.J. Olivier Hoërskool talks about the Principals' Programme and what needs to be done to improve school education in South Africa:

Hoërskool P.J. Olivier is a combined (Gr. 00-12) co-ed school. The school is open to Afrikaans first and third language speakers in the broader Grahamstown community. We have 375 pupils and 20 academic staff members; 50% are paid by the school governing body. The school achieved an average Grade 12 pass rate of 94% over the past six years.

The position of school principal comes with huge expectations and a lot of challenges that alternate between assuming a leadership role and managing the day-to-day running of the school. The Rhodes Business School's Principals' Programme creates the space where principals can engage in critical thinking on what the roles and responsibilities of the principal should be, and how best to approach leadership in our schools and communities. The contact with colleagues has broadened our perspectives and enlightened us to the fact that we are faced with similar challenges on a daily basis. As a new principal it was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet and share my concerns with my colleagues who have the experience I lack.

What would you say needs to be done to improve government school education in Grahamstown and nationally? What would make the principal and teachers' job

easier and help learners to achieve their full potential?

Please bear in mind in reading my suggestions that I'm speaking as a new principal who took up this position this year:

- Minimise bureaucrats and bureaucracy so things can get done much quicker, including appointments, funding etc;
- Address the undue and destructive influence on school education of certain politicians and unions;
- Revive the old system of inspectors visiting schools to assist with problems. Appoint successful principals to these positions;
- Better training of education students – young teachers are out of their depth when they arrive at schools;
- Minimise class sizes across the board to 25;
- Introduce longer school days – increase teaching time;
- Place a percentage cap on spending on items in school budgets not directly related to the education of learners;
- Introduce formal exams across the country in Gr. 3, 9 & 12. No learner may be promoted without meeting the requirements;
- Establish more technical and vocational schools with funding from the private sector (SETA);
- Mother-tongue educations in Grade 00-3, introduction of first additional language in Grade 3 and second additional language in Grade 7.



THE FUTURE OF ACADEMIA

BY AMANDA HLENGWA

Nurturing emerging academics is important in times of transformation – especially when there is a gap in the academy, yet to be filled by young scholars. A particular need involves recruiting, developing and retaining black and women academics.

A systemic response has come from the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework (SSAUF), which focuses on the expansion of the size and compilation of academic staff at South African universities, especially with regard to transformation. Within this framework is the New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP), which is aimed at producing the 'next generation' of academics for South Africa's universities.

Programmes such as the government-funded nGAP seek to bridge the shortcomings of an aging and untransformed professoriate.

For over ten years, Rhodes University has initiated an institutional programme focused on identifying, nurturing and supporting early career academics in programmes similar to nGAP. Phase 1 of the DHET funded nGAP started in January 2016 and the institution received three nGAP posts in the Departments of Geography, Information Systems (IS) and Entomology. These are permanent positions filled by exceptional early career academics Ms Gugulethu Baduza, Ms Sinehlanhla Memela and Mr Samuel Motitsoe, all of whom have in six short months already made an impact in their departments.



From left to right: Ms Gugulethu Baduza, Mr Samuel Motitsoe and Ms Sinehlanhla Memela

AN ELEMENT OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Ms Sinehlanhla Memela has a Master of Science in Environmental Science from the University of KwaZulu Natal. Prior to joining Rhodes University as an nGAP lecturer, she was a Geographical Information System intern, at the Office of the Premier in Limpopo Province.

She is currently pursuing her PhD,

under the supervision of Prof Thembele Kepe, and her research is based on land use decisions and optimisation of urban residential space. Her fascination with Human Geography as a field stems from her special interest in the intersectionality of human mobility and gender within the subfield of Urban Geography.

Ms Memela is a young, black female who is passionate about the contribution she can make in the male-dominated field she finds herself in.

She sees the nGAP as providing the much needed supportive and developmental opportunities for building her academic career.

THE LOVE FOR RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COME TOGETHER

"There's a shortage of young academics globally," says Dr Caroline Khene, Ms Gugulethu Baduza's mentor for the nGAP programme from the IS Department at Rhodes University. According to Ms Baduza, at the beginning of 2015 the Department of Higher Education noted that there was a "gap" in academia – between a high rate of retiring professors and a slower rate of emerging lecturers. As a result, the Department decided to try and fund new posts.

Young scholars can both teach and research in nGAP's six-year programme. "When you become an academic – if you are just teaching – it becomes difficult to develop as a researcher," says Dr Khene.

The nGAP scholars are mentored to help them develop as both teachers and researchers. "It's quite intimidating to come to an environment where there are established teachers with many years of experience," says Dr Khene. "So you need that guidance to help you understand what academia is all about – to grow, to become promoted – otherwise you may just stay in the same place."

Both Ms Baduza and Dr Khene say this guidance and support is particularly

important because it seems from their experience that students see young and black lecturers as less credible. As such Ms Baduza says that nurturing young academics is also a part of the bigger transformative programme. "Transformation is really needed in South Africa," says Ms Baduza.

"The transformation intention also puts pressure on you to perform, so there are benefits and challenges," adds Ms Baduza.

Students need to relate to their lecturers, in order for them to be more receptive to the subject. Since beginning her studies at Rhodes University in 2006, Ms Baduza explains how significant it was for her to have other female lecturers in the IS Department, such as Dr Lydia Palmer and Dr Khene.

Dr Khene has been Ms Baduza's supervisor for the past few years, and from this year her nGAP scholar mentor. "She is thorough, phenomenal and supportive – she's been with me through my journey of Honours, Masters and now my PhD," explains Ms Baduza.

Her PhD is centred on creating a framework which allows Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

projects to be up-scaled by offering comprehensive evaluations of whether they succeed or not, and she is currently supervising three Honours students.

"My research allows me to provide information to people who need it in order to develop their lives," says Ms Baduza, who is a part of the IS Department's community engagement committee which is currently working on a community engagement project called Ulwazi.

In terms of nurturing the youth, the chain of support continues. "More passionately for me [the community engagement project is] about providing a space where young females can have a space to flourish – that's what I want to do as well [in my research] in the near future," says Ms Baduza.

The nGAP enables her to do what she enjoys the most, which is Community Engaged Research. She is provided with opportunities of drawing on her knowledge and expertise of Information Systems to work collaboratively in developing sustained interventions that are appropriate for South Africa as a developing state.

FRESHWATER ECOLOGY

As difficult as it is to draw young black academics into the academy, this can be particularly challenging in 'strange' fields such as entomology explains Mr Samuel Nkopane Motitsoe, who is pursuing his PhD in Entomology under the supervision of Dr Jacklyn Hill, Dr Julie Coetzee and Professor Martin Hill.

"At first it was difficult to talk about my postgraduate studies with my family, because for them I should have been working by then, so why was I still schooling when I had my degree, and insects of all things? It was very confusing for them," said Mr Motitsoe. However, with constant conversations they were able to see the significance and importance of his career choice. This highlights the importance of community outreach to share these career

options with learners and communities. He has a MSc in Entomology, specialising in freshwater research, from Rhodes University. His MSc focused on improving techniques and methods to detect nutrient pollution in the Eastern Cape river systems.

"Entomology was a very small and unpopular career and this is changing. It has now gained popularity in terms of research and application, and communities have seen its importance in agriculture (insects as pests and pest control), medicine (insects as disease carriers or a component of forensic sciences), and the importance to the environment in terms of controlling aquatic weeds, and their use for water quality," explains Mr Motitsoe.

He has an undergraduate BSc from

the University of the Free State. "I did not know anything about entomology as a career up until I was in my third year," said Mr Motitsoe. This changed with the arrival of an entomologist, Dr Bredenhend, to the department and that is when the bug bit.

He describes his new position as "life changing and an exciting venture towards building my career as an academic." For Mr Motitsoe an important aspect of his job as an academic is obtaining his PhD, which puts him in a position to contribute enormously to the cutting edge knowledge in the field of Freshwater Ecology. He is passionate about introducing his undergraduate and postgraduate students to innovative techniques towards conserving freshwater resources and the exquisite biodiversity they contain.

TOGETHER FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

BY CHELSEA HAITH

After being a depoliticised student body for almost two decades, Rhodes University joined the nation-wide protests against hikes in tertiary education fees last October.

Rhodes University was one of the only campuses in the country where the protests were peaceful and where the students were not met with violence from the University or the police. When the University marched into the streets of Grahamstown on 21 October 2015, many of the Deans and other staff members joined hands with the students to act as marshals. Members of the University management walked alongside student protest leaders in solidarity.

In a communique sent out by the Rhodes University Communication and Advancement Division, Catherine Deiner said, "The peaceful and disciplined march, which took place without incident, was a commendable display of unity by the University Community." One staff member commented on the peaceful protest and stated, "I'm proud to be part of an institution that can have students, academics, staff and management walk hand-in-hand with a singular focus."

Submissions were made to the Minister of Higher Education on behalf of the student body on 20 October when Vice-Chancellors from all over South Africa met with Minister of Higher Education Dr Blade Nzimande. After a long week of protest and academic shutdown – and violent clamp downs on students in Johannesburg and Cape Town – the President announced that there would be no increase in tertiary education fees in 2016, to the jubilation of staff and students alike.

While the protests began at the University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand in response to the threat of an imminent and crushing fee increase in 2016, students at Rhodes University specifically protested the 'Minimum Initial Payment (MIP)' that would require students in Rhodes residences to pay around R45 000 upfront by 15 January 2016, an amount that is almost impossible for a large portion of the student body.

In his welcome back address at the beginning of 2016 Vice-Chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela said, "The momentous events of 2015 have forced us to stop and reflect on some of the social and economic injustices that continue to be a blight on our society. As an institution "Where leaders learn" and with our motto of *Vis Veritas Veritas* (Truth, Virtue and Strength), we encourage our students and staff to raise critical, complex and uncomfortable issues that face

our society and humankind in a manner that helps us advance the greater good for all."

Like all of the public universities in South Africa, Rhodes relies on state subsidy and student fees to fund its operations. Students are subsidised by the government and are in turn expected to pay fees, which is the current model in South Africa, though not elsewhere in the world. In response to the growing need for support for students on financial aid, Dr Mabizela said, "In 2016 we will contribute approximately R38 million to provide educational opportunities for students on NSFAS. The government allocation to Rhodes for NSFAS students in 2016 is R18 million."

A problem faced by South African universities is that the support required for students exceeds the reserves they have. Rhodes University has put forward recommendations to the task team established by the government to look into the fees problem. Professor Sioux McKenna is an expert in this field. "Fees have increased year on year and higher education is now unaffordable for poor or even middle class students unless they are able to borrow significant amounts of money or to access NSFAS," she said. "But NSFAS has a major flaw in that it is provided to students whose family income is less than R180 000. But if your family income is less than R500 000, you would really battle to afford public higher education in SA."

McKenna explains that added to this problem is the fact that the percentage of GDP spent on higher education has decreased year on year. "We now spend 0.7% of GDP on higher education," she says. "Compare this to the OECD average of 1.4%. South Africa would have to double our allocation to higher education just to be average!"

Given these struggles, the University has put out a call that students and their parents attempt to pay their fees as soon as possible or risk Rhodes closing down. "The University is heavily reliant upon student fee income to maintain its academic project. It is therefore absolutely critical that those who can afford to pay for their education do so in order for us to maintain and safeguard the integrity of our academic project," said Dr Mabizela.

Prof McKenna argues that in order to make tertiary education available to more students and avoid the exclusion of academically gifted students, significant policy changes need to be made at a governmental level. "We need to look to the greater national budget



for additional funding for higher education," she says. "We need to raise the NSFAS family income requirement to R500 000, and we need to improve the system of NSFAS allocation and re-payment."

Also left out in the cold are the 'missing middle', those students who are "too rich for NSFAS, too poor for fees" as one poster during the protests testified. "The social responsibilities around accommodation, meals, health, transport etc are being placed within the university's realm of responsibility in entirely new ways, and you can understand why universities can no longer break even," McKenna explains.

In response to the protest, the usual 50% MIP was replaced with a 10% registration fee for South African students. Dr Mabizela stated in his welcome back address that, "All students who have passed all courses but are constrained financially can enter into an agreement with the University to defer their fees and proceed to the next level of academic study."

Addressing concerns of class and historic poverty, Dr Mabizela said: "We must endeavour to ensure that no student is deprived of an opportunity to acquire quality higher education simply because they were born into a family of meagre means."



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BY ANIMA MCBROWN

There is no doubt: one of the most vibrant sections of the Rhodes University machine is Community Engagement (CE), a division that has seen a lot of growing strength since last year.

Director, Diana Hornby, and Systems and Scholarship Co-ordinator, Dr Sharli Anne Paphitis, play important roles in ensuring that not only is community engagement in steady progress, but that its successes are actually making a difference to our Grahamstown community.

Perhaps the most noticeable of growth spurts since last year is that CE now has over a thousand student volunteers participating and contributing weekly in 34 different community partner organisations across Grahamstown. This remarkable number highlights just how much effort the office has

put into making sure that RU students are committed to social justice through building networks of partnership and relationships of solidarity across Grahamstown.

About why and how the number of volunteers has grown so tremendously, Hornby and Paphitis say: "We have seen significant growth in the volunteerism programme this year, which is very positive. We run a recruitment campaign at the start of the year which attracts a large number of volunteers."

Contributing factors include a reputable track record, which prospective alumni volunteers can build or work towards. Volunteering also opens up many more opportunities for personal growth: volunteers find themselves developing their theoretical knowledge and also strengthening it through practical

application, sharing and teaching.

Hornby and Paphitis believe that "students who volunteer tend to find social groups to connect with, which provides a network and support base while studying at Rhodes. Students are able to find leadership opportunities in the community engagement space which they may not find elsewhere, particularly as undergraduate students."

Community engagement is not just about the learning, sharing and teaching process: it is also about tangible outcomes and being able to witness the consequences of one's time, effort and care through investing whole-heartedly in a project's activities.

Following the #FeesMustFall movement from last year, which saw nation-wide student protests mark a historical turning point in the country's current Higher



Q&A with Diana Hornby and Dr Sharli Anne Paphitis

DIANA HORNBY

As Director of Community Engagement at RU for five years now, what keeps you so passionate about your work?

I am passionate about human development which is central to community engagement and community development – the quality of students we engage with in this directorate makes me very excited about the future of our country and the world. The wisdom of our community partners adds another dimension and enriches my learning as we find ways to design and co-manage initiatives.

What would you say are the major strengths of the Division?

A very passionate and diverse staff who are sensitive to the lived experiences of others and to the shaping of meaningful interventions that lead to impact and change.

What are you most excited about taking forward in 2016 and beyond?

The students' energy and sense of purpose means that volunteerism has moved to another level in the University, their commitment is being felt and the engagement is more intense and meaningful.



DR SHARLI ANNE PAPHITIS

Congratulations on receiving the VC's Distinguished Community Engagement Award. What can you tell us about your work with the Siyahluma project and how it contributes broadly to some of your other projects?

In working on the *Siyahluma* project I have learnt a lot about the complexities of engaged research work and working in collaborative ways with community partners. Both the research and enterprise work are still ongoing and at the moment, we are busy forming further partnerships for research. I am working extensively with various student groups from different departments across the University, which are interested in issues of gender relations, to work collaboratively with the *Siyahluma* project to help create sustainable programmes in schools across the city.

Are there any gaps or areas you can identify where community engagement and social intervention can play their part and provide leadership/direction?

Grahamstown is the home of festivals and many of our schools have very little activity in the creative arts space. This presents huge opportunities for unlocking potential and harnessing assets available in our community for leadership.



Education system, one might be led to think that part of this movement is what also helped galvanise the CE volunteer numbers of 2016. Hornby and Paphitis agree that "we have seen a resurgence of student activism and the dissolution of what was widely seen as student apathy on university campuses".

The renewed sense of awareness and collectivism amongst young people on campuses today speaks to the collaborative ways of working, living and learning that inform a major part of what CE stands for as well. "At the heart of the #FeesMustFall protests is a question about access to higher education," say Hornby and Paphitis, "and

here at Rhodes, CE is seen by students as a vehicle which allows for the democratisation of the knowledge economy and opening up the boundaries of the university".

Community engagement works for the public good, and so together with student activism these are transformation-led initiatives that continue to reshape – necessarily so – the ways in which ordinary people and South African citizens (young and old), across race, class, and gender lines, can refuel the power for social change.

Clearly the work that Hornby and Paphitis do, with contributions from the dedicated team of people that they work with in their Division, is more than just about

the Rhodes community. They are facilitating projects that are changing lives and shaping futures, especially those of young people.

Despite challenges with funding and some of the socio-political issues which they have to stumble over, Hornby and Paphitis are committed to "training, placing, monitoring, supporting and keeping students motivated".

We salute these strong, devoted CE leaders. We look forward to the great work they will continue to develop and implement for the good of the Grahamstown collective. Through them, the power of community engagement is growing even stronger.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND 'RAPE CULTURE'

At the beginning of April the 'rape culture' protests at Rhodes attracted national attention. Heather Dugmore speaks to Professor Catriona Macleod who, along with other staff members and students, facilitated the setting up of a task team on sexual violence at Rhodes following the protests.

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

Prof Catriona Macleod is the SARCHI Chair, Critical Studies in Sexuality and Reproduction (CSSR), which currently has 20 researchers – from Honours to Postdoctoral. At the graduation ceremony this year, Prof Macleod was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Award.

What is rape culture?

"The phrase and its meaning is complicated because it refers to many aspects of sexual violence in our society, including the stories, myths, cultural narratives and the everyday interactions and power relations that promote a situation

where rape or sexual violence is an enabled action," says Prof Macleod.

Is it a useful term to have been raised and protested against by students at Rhodes University?

"It is both useful and problematic. It is useful because in some ways it emphasises that sexual violence is not just an individual aberration with one or a couple of evil people committing the act; but, instead, it has a deeply embedded context in our everyday interactions in a society that continues to be underpinned by patriarchal norms.

"It is problematic because the term

'culture' homogenises rape into one process where everything becomes 'rape culture' when what is required is a more nuanced intersectional analysis of gender, gender norms, power relations, sexual violence and whose body belongs to whom.

What is sexual violence?

There is a whole range of definitions for sexual violence but essentially it is any kind of non-consensual physical contact that violates the person's bodily integrity. Verbal forms of sexual violence are generally called 'sexual harassment' though the distinction can overlap.



Incidents of sexual violence have happened in certain of our students' lives before they come to Rhodes and they carry this with them. More often than not, it is someone known to the person, a relative, boyfriend or friend of their siblings; on other occasions it is a stranger or strangers who perpetrate the acts.

Students arrive at Rhodes, and even if they have never encountered any form of sexual violence, many students are from patriarchal backgrounds and they come with a certain understanding of different power relations for men and women, which they have never interrogated.

Is the incidence of rape and any form of sexual violence worse at Rhodes?

"We do not have any particular proof of this and the accuracy of any surveys or figures in this space are wanting, but I would be astonished if it was higher than on other campuses or other spaces in South Africa. Rates of gender-based violence are high throughout the country" says Prof Macleod.

"What is interesting about Rhodes is

that this is the space where the anti-rape protests emerged, and while it was also raised on other campuses, it was not at the same level of intensity and it did not draw the same level of public attention.

"I think what happened at Rhodes is that we have had an annual silent protest for the past ten years that has raised the issue of gender based violence. This opened the space for anger and rage about the injustices that happen around issues of gender-based violence to come to the fore.

What needs to be done?

In terms of what needs to be done about dismantling all aspects of sexual violence and any culture of rape at Rhodes, Prof Macleod says: "We certainly need to look at our University's policies and procedures. We need to concede that there are gaps and that some of the policies and processes that were put in place to address sexual violence and rape, including the appointment of several sexual harassment officers, have not been vigilantly pursued.

"This has led to insufficient attention

being paid to how issues of this nature are dealt with on campus. It is disturbing that the level of protest had to go to where it did to force the University to address how we are dealing with these policies and processes."

One of the jobs of the task team on sexual violence at Rhodes that was set up in response to the rape culture protests is to look at the curricula across all disciplines to see whether issues of gender and gender-based violence can be included in their programmes.

"For example, maths and chemistry students would not be exposed to these issues in their programmes yet they are critical for personal development and for students to be able to go into the world and be more sensitized in their own behaviour and how to respond to these issues," says Prof Macleod.

Over the past months the CSSR postgraduate students have introduced 'CSSR Conversations' - group discussions on campus about rape culture and sexual violence where an open dialogue is encouraged for participants to ask questions

THE SIYAHLUMA PROJECT

The 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Community Engagement Award was presented to the multi-disciplinary team from the Siyahluma Project: Prof Catriona Macleod, Dr Sharli Paphitis, Dr Lindsay Kelland, Mr Ryan du Toit.

The Siyahluma Project brings together researchers and local NGOs in order to address (1) the menstruation-related challenges faced by school-going girls, most notably a lack of access to reliable and hygienic menstrual products and a lack of access to reliable information about menstruation; (2) a gap in the research on this topic in South Africa; and (3) sustainable community development and capacity-building in the Eastern Cape.

In 2014 a needs assessment survey of approximately 1100 learners in 24 schools across the Eastern Cape was conducted. The survey identified not only the menstruation-related challenges in terms of access to menstrual products facing school-going girls in the province, but gathered data on sources of knowledge about menstruation and context specific data on cultural taboos and stigmas associated with menstruation in the Eastern Cape.

In 2014, a group of five foster mothers from Grahamstown Child Welfare Services approached the research group with the idea of starting a social enterprise to produce re-usable sanitary products. This initiative was developed given that the research group were finding that there is significant

menstruation-related challenges facing school-going girls—and access to modern, reliable and hygienic products at an affordable price is one of these challenges. To date, five women have been trained in both sewing and business skills through the Assumption Development Centre and the Days for Girls Program. The reusable menstrual kits produced locally by the women in this group are currently being distributed at local schools in Grahamstown in conjunction with educational materials developed by the research team.

The Siyahluma Project has implemented two important critical health education initiatives in close collaboration with community partner organizations. The first of these initiatives was a partnership with FAMSA where the team designed, implemented and rolled-out a menstruation related health education intervention embedded in a Life Skills programme run in Grahamstown high schools. The second initiative took the form of a community theatre project in partnership with Victoria Girls High School. The VG drama class partnered with Siyahluma to tackle the issue of social stigma, myths and taboos surrounding menstruation and developed a production entitled 'Siya-Mensa', which was performed for Grade seven school learners at co-ed schools around Grahamstown. After each performance the Grade twelve learners opened up a space for dialogue between the Grade seven audience and themselves and the research team.



and share experiences and feelings. The conversations have been opened to all staff, students, trade unions, societies, faculties ... everyone who wishes to participate.

"Gender-based violence, sexual violence and rape culture is always a power differential and we have had a number of people talking about what it means, what constitutes 'sexual abuse' at all levels and what to do about it."

Naming and shaming

The naming and shaming of alleged rape perpetrators at Rhodes during the rape culture campaign elicited a range of

responses – from 'high time' to 'criminal'.

"Rather than debating whether this was correct or not, it is more useful to look at the circumstances where people felt this form of action was necessary," says Prof Macleod.

"If we look at recent national statistics, the estimate is that only 1 in 25 rapes are reported to the police, and for those who do report the attrition rate is very high because of a lack of follow through in the investigations. When cases go to court, the conviction rates are generally very low.

"People who have been raped or experienced any form of sexual violence feel that there is no justice and that the bodily harm they have experienced, which can be very severe, is not taken seriously. They also feel there is little or no acknowledgement of them as a victim of violence or of the harm that has been perpetrated. It becomes an intractable problem with no apparent resolution. It was within this context that the RUreference list emerged"

Prof Macleod says the protests have highlighted the need for a comprehensive and workable approach to this complex issue. "I believe it has presented an invaluable opportunity for Rhodes to do a whole lot of work around this. The task team was set up through a participatory

process and currently there are about 70 staff members and students working on recommendations for various aspects of countering rape culture at the University. Given the fact that retributive justice often fails the victim/survivor, a three-pronged approach to justice in relation to sexual violence is being proposed. In addition to significant support being provided to victims who wish to lay charges through the criminal justice system or through the internal disciplinary processes, the task team will recommend that the University institutes a restorative justice and reparative justice system. In restorative justice, a restorative justice officer facilitates a conference of the alleged perpetrator and victim/survivor, with the aim of the perpetrator acknowledging the harm experienced by the victim/survivor, and agreeing to various forms of restoration (including an apology). Reparative justice refers to the social repair that we, as an institution, should implement to acknowledge the harm perpetrated against all victims/survivors of sexual violence. This includes significant support as well as preventive measures, such as curriculum reform and addressing systemic power relations."

Rhodes University Law Clinic

“Making Justice Work”

We strive to improve access to justice through the provision of free legal services to underprivileged people in most areas of law.

If you have a legal problem, let us try to help you!

In addition to our ordinary services, we are available to clients at Assumption Development Centre (ADC), Ncame Street, Joza, Grahamstown every Thursday from 9am-12pm (please make an appointment at the ADC).

The Law Clinic also facilitates community workshops on pertinent legal topics to ensure that our communities understand their rights and know what recourse to take when confronted with a legal problem.

We work with a network of over 37 community based advice offices through-out the Eastern Cape Province to ensure that the poor, marginalised, victimised, vulnerable women and children and members of minority groups have access to legal services.



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RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

The Isikhumbuzo Applied History Unit (IAHU) is a new entity at Rhodes University within the History Department. It is dedicated to ensuring that knowledge about the past in South Africa is used constructively to assist communities to understand their own identities, conditions and future possibilities.

Our goals:

- Build a comprehensive online local history archive for community users
- Produce a series of teaching videos on uses of the past, land and people
- Develop full capacity to do digital history
- Continue imbizos on art and history with artists at Dakawa Art and Craft Community Centre
- Stimulate drama group repertoire of untold stories from the past for tourists
- Provide support for independent researchers with passions
- Invent 'living history' experiences in Grahamstown
- Design fundable projects together with community organisations
- Align Rhodes-based research with community priorities



To find ways to participate and support these targets, contact:

Prof. Julia Wells

IAHU Head

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046 603 8332

083 556 1268



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn



THE DEAN'S AWARD

BY AMY PIETERSE

Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, has been awarded the first ever Dean's Award by the Dean of Grahamstown, The Very Reverend Andrew Hunter. In a choral evening prayer service on 1 July at the Cathedral of St Michael and St George, Grahamstown, Dr Mabizela was presented with the award for his contribution to the community.

Dean Hunter praised Dr Mabizela, calling him "a bridge-builder, reconciler, a person of integrity" whose "Christian faith is part of who he is and what he strives to do". Dr Mabizela's actions during the #FeesMustFall protests in 2015, and the recent protests against rape and rape culture, were cited as reasons for awarding him with this honour.

Dean Hunter commended Dr Mabizela for standing by students during the protests last year, and for "engaging with them, holding them in relationship, empathising with their concerns, hearing their cry". Dr Mabizela was also lauded for maintaining "a firm, caring hand on events" during this year's protests, for retaining "personal integrity" and "quietly asserting his leadership".

In addition, Dean Hunter also highlighted Dr Mabizela's use of

his own salary to fund students studying at Rhodes, his support for education in Grahamstown, his efforts to implement Wi-Fi hotspots in the townships, and his assistance to the municipality.

Dr Mabizela accepted the award on behalf of the staff and students at 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," he said.

Dr Mabizela commended students for bringing the issue of sexual violence to the nation's attention, and encouraged parents to create safe spaces with their children to discuss issues of rape and rape culture.

"To be a Vice-Chancellor of a South African university at times like these is perhaps one of the greatest privileges, and one of the heaviest responsibilities, that a community can bestow on anyone," said Dean Hunter. "Difficult as it may be at times, Dr Mabizela is the father figure at the head of it all. We salute Dr Mabizela in all that he does. Please continue to brighten the corner where you are!"

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BOOK AWARD



Anthea Garman

Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the School of Journalism and Media Studies

Professor Anthea Garman was awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Book Award for her book titled, *Antjie Krog and the Post-apartheid Public Sphere: Speaking Poetry to Power*, published by the UKZN Press.

Prof Garman argues that debates are evidence of a deep anxiety about authority and legitimacy, and uses Antjie Krog, a South African poet, journalist and author who has shared her ideas for four decades.

"The book investigates and puts forward an understanding of how Krog as a white Afrikaner comes to have a platform in public, despite dramatically shifting social and political circumstances," noted Dr Boughey in her graduation citation for this award.

Prof Garman was awarded her PhD degree by the University of the Witwatersrand, in 2009, for her thesis entitled *Antjie Krog: Self and Society, the Making and Mediation of a Public Intellectual in South Africa*. Her book is a reworking of this study.

"Going into my PhD study I did want right from the outset to produce something that would find its way into the wider world and not just stay within the scholarly community. I hoped that the subject matter would have wider resonance," says Prof Garman.

"The Vice-Chancellor's Book Award seeks to recognise a recent book published by a current staff member, that advances knowledge and understanding, and brings undoubted credit to the University by virtue of the contribution it makes to scholarly literature, or the discipline within which it is

authored," explains Dr Boughey.

Prof Garman's research is in the areas of media and citizenship, identity issues in the Global South, and the role of media in culture and social change in post-apartheid South Africa. She teaches writing and editing and media studies, is the editor of *Rhodes Journalism Review*, and has guest edited the *Journal Ecquid Novi - African Journalism Studies*. She co-ordinates the annual *Think!Fest* public lecture series of the National Arts Festival, and she authors a popular blog *Writing Across Genres*. She leads a research project under the title *Media and citizenship: between marginalisation and participation*, and collaborates internationally.

"It confirms my place in this community of scholars. It shows me that I have value here at this University, but it also gives me a powerful sense of belonging in this world more generally. Because I came from another profession and started to become a researcher in the middle of my life these validations are important to me," says Prof Garman on this recognition.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH MEDAL



Adrienne Lesley Edkins

Associate Professor and SARChI Chair in the Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology

Professor Adrienne Edkins was awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Research Medal for her research which advances fundamental understanding in the fields of cell stress biology and cancer biology, addressing issues of foundational

importance to human health, and to breast cancer studies in particular.

"Her publication and postgraduate supervision record is stellar, particularly considering that she is at a relatively early stage in her academic career – she already ranks amongst the most productive researchers at Rhodes University," says Dr Peter Clayton in his citation for her award.

"We are doing fundamental research that is aimed at understanding processes in cells and how these processes contribute towards the development of a cancerous state. We can then use this understanding of the biology of cancer to try to identify specific biological entities or processes that could be good targets for drug development and start to find inhibitors that might later be developed into drugs," explains Prof Edkins.

In 2011 she was appointed Director of the Biomedical Biotechnology Research Unit (BioBRU) alongside her teaching role in the Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology. She quickly established a highly productive research team, which is currently 20 strong, including three post doctoral fellows and nine PhD candidates, and she has supervised or co-supervised eight PhD and 22 Masters graduates to completion.

Prof Edkins has won competitive research grants from the MRC, CARISA, CANSA and the NRF, including a major NRF equipment grant. Moreover, she has translated these grants into publications and postgraduate training, and into collaboration opportunities with leading researchers, both national and international (such as with Prof Didier Picard, University of Geneva, through an NRF-Swiss Collaboration Grant).

In 2015 Prof Edkins was awarded the prestigious National Research Foundation SARChI Chair in *Molecular and Cellular Biology of the Eukaryotic Stress Response*, enabling her to devote her working time to research and postgraduate students.

Her publications include two edited books, six book chapters, 26 journal papers, and a large range of conference and other presentations. Her review of cancer stem

cells and metastasis (Lawson et al., 2009) has attracted a high number of citations, including from top international researchers in the field of cancer biology.

In addition to her research contributions, Prof Edkins promotes the public understanding of science, and has excelled in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She was nominated for a teaching award in 2014.

"I feel extremely privileged to receive this award and I am very grateful to my colleagues who nominated me," says Prof Edkins.

Two of Prof Edkins' students, Ms Natasha Boel and Ms Ianthe Wingate, received their MSc in Biochemistry with distinctions. Another of her students, Ms Michaelone Vaaltyn, has overcome great challenges to achieve her degree. Despite coming from an educationally poor background in Grahamstown and having a child during her undergraduate degree, she graduated with her MSc and is now reading for a PhD on a prestigious NRF fellowship. "She is a model of what hard work and dedication can achieve, despite coming from a disadvantaged background," says Prof Edkins.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED SENIOR RESEARCH MEDAL



Catriona Ida Macleod

*Professor & SARChI Chair
in the Department of Psychology*

Professor Catriona Macleod was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Research Medal in 2015. In the graduation ceremony of 31 March 2016, she was also presented with the Vice-Chancellor's Community Engagement Award for her involvement in the Siyahluma Project, an award combination which has only happened once before at Rhodes.

A reviewer for her award described Prof Macleod as "the most eminent critical feminist psychologist in South Africa."

Her work is in the areas of critical health psychology, feminist psychology, and theoretical psychology. Her research is acknowledged as being methodologically sophisticated, and simultaneously rooted in down-to-earth real-life issues, mostly of a social justice nature. This is evidenced by her inclusion in the recipients of this year's Community Engagement Award.

Prof Macleod was also a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Book Award in 2012, which places her today amongst this university's most celebrated researchers through the Vice-Chancellor's awards.

She has published widely, in top international journals as well as local forums. Her worldwide standing is evidenced in her B1 rating from the National Research Foundation, a category for researchers who are recognised internationally for the high quality and impact of their research outputs; a Distinguished Publication Award in 2011 from the International Association of Women in Psychology for her book: *'Adolescence, Pregnancy and Abortion: Constructing a Threat of Degeneration*. (London: Routledge); her appointment in 2013 as Editor-in-Chief of *Feminism & Psychology*, a top-tier international journal; and her selection as convenor of the International Conference of Critical Health Psychology (ISCHP) in 2015.

As well as her current Editor-in-Chief role, her contribution has been sought for editorial roles in other journals and book projects, including the journals *Gender & Society*, *Australian Psychologist*, and the *Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology* in the international publishing space. Nationally, she has served as Associate Editor of *Psychology in Society*, and on the editorial board of the *South African Journal of Psychology*.

Prof Macleod graduated three PhDs and one Masters graduate at this year's graduation.

In 2013 Prof Macleod was awarded the prestigious National Research Foundation SARChI Chair in *Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction*, enabling her to devote her working time to research and

postgraduate students.

"I am grateful for the acknowledgement of peers, and see this as a celebration of the work conducted by everybody involved in the CSSR including students, post-doctoral fellows, research associates and collaborators. As a group of researchers, we are passionate about what we do, and I think that this shines through in the research that we produce," says Prof Macleod.

THE 2015 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR TEACHING AWARD



Catherine Foxcroft

*Associate Professor in the Department of Music
and Musicology*

Professor Catherine Foxcroft was awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Teaching Medal.

"This award is presented annually to an academic with 10 or more years of experience who is able to demonstrate to a Committee of peers from this University that their teaching is truly exceptional," explains Dr Boughey.

Prof Foxcroft's teaching takes place in one-to-one situations as she sits beside her students as they practise.

She explains that because of the one-to-one nature of her teaching it is personal and intense, and involves much more than simply preparing a young person to perform a set of pieces for an examination, since essentially it is aimed at developing a young musician.

As a renowned concert pianist and chamber musician who has performed in places such as Germany, Norway, Italy and Greece, and who has been a finalist and semi-finalist in international piano competitions in the Czech Republic, the United States, as well as in Greece and Italy, she is able to prepare her postgraduate students for these experiences in their own careers.

The provision of feedback in each class is crucial for her students to develop. "In order for a student to mature artistically enough to be able to think independently and creatively, I believe it is crucial to encourage him or her to express their opinions of how they would like the music to sound," she explains.

She allows her students the freedom to select pieces to play that they love. "If you love a piece of music, you'll play it well," she explains.

Prof Foxcroft has introduced a very popular semester-long course called 'Music, Health and the Brain'. Topics in this course include Music and Emotion, Music and Meaning and Music and Identity.

"I believe the more passionately a point is argued, the deeper the learning associated with the topic. I therefore generally allow strong disagreements between students to be debated to the end. Music enjoyment is strongly biased by personal preference (personal relaxation is caused by heavy metal vs trance vs classical vs indigenous music vs blues) with the result that there is room for great diversity in opinion. It is exhilarating to witness students' acceptance of each other's preferences as they encounter totally different preferences to their own which are argued with equal passion," explains Prof Foxcroft.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED JUNIOR TEACHING AWARD WINNERS



Jennifer Williams and Tanya Poole
Department of Physics and Electronics & Department of Fine Art

Dr Jennifer Williams and Ms Tanya Poole were jointly awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. In the award processes, the Committee evaluating candidates was

unable to make a distinction between the two individuals whose teaching was judged to be of the same exceptional order. A decision was therefore made to make a joint award for 2015.

"The Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Medal is presented annually to an academic with fewer than 10 years of experience who is able to demonstrate to a Committee of peers from this University that their teaching is truly exceptional," explains Dr Boughey.

Dr Jennifer Williams of the Department of Physics and Electronics is a joint recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award along with Ms Tanya Poole of the Department of Fine Art.

Many people view Physics as a complex and obscure area of study. Dr Williams points out that "everyone does Physics constantly – even the act of walking is full of Physics."

Dr Williams' approach to her students is not of her wanting to teach them Physics but rather to help them learn the subject. Her classes are spaces for discussion and questioning but, to allow for this to happen, students have to work independently to lay the groundwork for what will happen there. This requires that they are able to read and learn from their textbooks, something Dr Williams' noticed many struggle with.

"Teaching students how to read the text book is a problem for me, since I don't know how myself since first year is all easy to me and on reading [the text book] I understand it! Perhaps a good exercise for me would be to set myself something difficult to learn from a text book and try to see how I do it," explains Dr Williams.

It is this dedication of trying to understand her students' perspective that has contributed to her receiving this award.

Ms Poole was overseas for the graduation period.

"Teaching has always received enormous attention from academics at Rhodes University and the institution is fortunate to employ many individuals whose work in this area can only be described as truly distinguished," says Dr Boughey.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Siyahluma project

Dr Sharli Paphitis, Dr Lindsay Kelland, Prof Catriona Macleod, Mr Ryan Du Toit

The multi-disciplinary team from the Siyahluma project (Dr Sharli Paphitis, Dr Lindsay Kelland, Prof Catriona Macleod, Mr Ryan Du Toit) were awarded the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement.

Formed in 2013, the Siyahluma project brings together researchers and local NGOs in order to address the menstruation-related challenges faced by school-going girls, most notably a lack of access to reliable and hygienic menstrual products and a lack of access to reliable information about menstruation. The project is also developing research on this topic in South Africa while ensuring sustainable community development and capacity-building in the Eastern Cape.

The project's successful collaboration with key community-based partners highlights the benefits of forming relationships and taking a participatory approach to solving community-based issues. This partnership resulted in job creation and creative educational interventions which effectively created safe informative spaces for the discussion of female menstruation for both sexes. Siyahluma is an exceptional program that exemplifies how research, teaching and learning and community engagement can be harnessed to better understand and move towards resolving social inequality in South Africa.

The Siyahluma research team project comprises a partnership between Rhodes University Community Engagement (RUCE), the Allan Gray Centre for Leadership Ethics (AGCLE), and the Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction Research Unit (CSSR).

ADMIRATION FOR DISABLED GRADUATES

Despite her physical and his visual challenges, both Ms Thembelihle Ngcai and Dr Tafara Marazi graduated at the 2016 graduation ceremonies.

Ms Ngcai was determined to walk across the stage at her graduation ceremony in which she was conferred a Bachelor of Journalism Degree. The 21-year-old, whose

strength and mobility is severely limited due to spinal muscular dystrophy, was determined not to use a wheelchair.

"It's been a long, difficult journey. I just wanted to brave it out and walk at my own graduation. The University was game and determined to make it happen for me," said Ms Ngcai.

Graduation usher, Mr Alex Kawondera, was tasked with being at Ngcai's side should she experience any difficulty while attempting to make her dream come true. When Ms Ngcai indicated to Mr Kawondera that her legs were not following through, he picked her up and carried her over to the Registrar. To unrestrained applause, Ms Ngcai graduated. And she leaves behind something of a legacy at Rhodes for her activism to make the institution more accessible to the disabled.

Just a year ago she would likely have been able to negotiate the distance across the stage. But the progressive hereditary disease is taking its toll. "I put a message out on social media for everyone to pray that I would have the strength to walk across the stage at my own graduation. It felt so good having the strength to walk, even if it was

just for a little way," said Ms Ngcai.

Dr Tafara Marazi, who is visually challenged, graduated with his PhD in Sociology under the supervision of Dr Kirk Helliker. He completed his doctoral thesis on the survival strategies of the elderly in rural Zimbabwe.



GRADUATION XHOSA DANCING

Tolakele Talitha Silo performed a Xhosa traditional dance (Umxhentso) before being conferred a Bachelor of Arts degree at her graduation ceremony on Saturday 2 April 2016.

When her name was called, her family ululated and called out the family's clan names as she danced, whip in hand, to the

surprise of hundreds who cheered and applauded her.

"The idea of graduation is not an African concept but when such ideas are put into practice in African countries, that ought to be done in a way suitable for Africans," explains Silo.



HONOURING LEADERS IN OUR SOCIETY

Rhodes University recognised five outstanding change agents at the 2016 graduation ceremonies: a human rights lawyer, an international sociologist, founder of Gift of the Givers, a dissident poet and an environmental leader, who are all brightening the corners where they are.



RECOGNISING ONE OF OUR OWN

Edward Webster is an old Rhodian and an internationally recognised sociologist. He is honoured for his work in giving a voice to workers and his unswerving commitment to social justice and a faith in human agency to bring about that justice.

Prof Webster, fondly known as Eddie, hails from the Eastern Cape, where he grew up, born of parents who were both teachers and instilled in him the importance of acquiring and imparting knowledge that is socially useful. His father taught Nelson Mandela at Healdtown School.

He graduated with an Honours Degree in History in 1965. While SRC President he led a protest – an all-day vigil on the library steps – against a government ban on black spectators watching rugby matches on the Rhodes Great Field. He had come into office, campaigning that he would change the student disciplinary code which ruled that women had to be back and locked in their residences by 11pm, a rule that Eddie did not approve of. It was his coming into the office of the SRC that politicised him.

“What a delight it is to return, 50 years later, in an official capacity to find that Rhodes is an intellectually thriving, non-racial University. To be able to see such a rich, diverse staff and student body. I’m immensely proud that Rhodes University continues to have such a rich range of different research and policy and engagement with the community,” says Prof Webster.



STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Dr Beatrice Mtetwa is a practising human rights lawyer in Zimbabwe today, which is a hazardous profession. In 2011 Dr Mtetwa and several of her colleagues in law were brutally assaulted by the police after they gathered in Harare to present a petition to the then Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Patrick Chinamasa, in protest against the detention of fellow human rights lawyers Andrew Makoni and Alec Muchadehama.

“Severe human rights violations have become so much a part of daily life in Zimbabwe and other African countries that people don’t even react anymore when another person goes ‘missing’ or is tortured or killed. People become tired of hearing about yet another case of inhumanity and this is the danger,” explains the renowned Southern African human rights and media freedom lawyer.

For her courage and commitment, she has received numerous human rights awards and has been named as one of the world’s great leaders by Fortune Magazine, but she believes that what she is doing is what any lawyer should be doing.

“The very fact that it is not safe for me to practise law here is a large part of why I have remained in Zimbabwe. I need to continue doing my work here to make the country a safe place for everyone. I need to continue bringing cases of human rights violations and media freedom violations to trial so that they remain in the public eye and there is a record of them.”



THE GIFT OF OUR COMMON HUMANITY

In the midst of disaster, drought, floods, famine, disease, death and destruction you will find **Dr Imtiaz Sooliman**, founder and leader of *Gift of the Givers*.

The founder of the international relief organisation, *Gift of the Givers*, qualified in 1984 at what is now the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and has devoted his life to courageous, selfless, dangerous work in crisis zones across the world.

Syria, Pakistan, Palestine, Japan, Indonesia, Haiti, Bosnia, Somalia, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Zimbabwe – since 1992 when he founded Gift of the Givers, Dr Sooliman and his team of 200, have served in 41 stricken countries. They offer emergency medical response, fully equipped mobile hospitals, food, shelter, clothing, blankets, reassurance and care to millions of people. Financially, this amounts to R1.5 billion rand in aid over the 24-year period.

The problems we are facing, he explains, are because “many people in South Africa, as has happened all over the world, have lost their way. People become greedy and self-centred, which, in turn, creates strife, war and disaster,” he explains.

“I do have faith that we can turn this around, but the switch has to come from all of us. We have to understand that we need to heal ourselves and this requires of us to strive for honesty and integrity and to develop the desire to help other people,” shares the man who brings hope to dire places.



USING WORDS AS BULLETS

At 86, the internationally acclaimed South African poet and author, **James Matthews**, remains young at heart, and amusing. He uses words like 'cool' and 'cat' that completely suit him and he wears leather jackets and berets.

Dr Matthews does not regard his writing success as any big deal: "I'm just a cat who got lucky with words, I'm not into this ego stuff," he says.

He discovered he could write during his teenage years. While attending Trafalgar High School in District Six in Cape Town, his teacher, Ms Meredith, gave him 21 out of 20 for a story he wrote about a tramp. "She told the class 'James is a writer,'" he recalls.

Dr Matthews' writing career developed as an inadvertent gift following an accident at the age of 14 when he fell and hit his head against a cement floor. It ended his schooling as he could not remember what he was studying and he has suffered from lapses ever since.

His messages against apartheid were conveyed through his first book, which he self-published in 1962, called *'The Park and Other Stories.'*

Dr Matthews' acute vision of social and political conditions in apartheid South Africa, and his rage against injustice, earned him the title of "dissident poet".

"In protest poetry words are merely words. As a dissident poet, my words were bullets," is a widely quoted Matthews comment.

Dr Matthews says it is up to the younger generation to actively contribute to transformation in South Africa. "It's your time. You must get together, speak, fight, use your vote to change things and get the problems solved. It's your time. To put it another way, I have an iPad but when I look at it, it has a blank look."



ENVIRONMENTAL PIONEER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADER

Environmental pioneer and social justice leader **Jeunesse Park**, is the founder of Food & Trees for Africa. She started as a woman alone, working from her garage in 1990 on her goal to plant trees and food gardens in South Africa's townships.

She has devoted her life to improving other people's lives and to helping people to understand climate change and the primacy of the natural environment: that human beings cannot survive without a healthy natural environment.

In 2011, her work attracted the attention of former United States Vice-President and Nobel winner, Al Gore. He was so impressed with her commitment and drive that he contacted her and in 2011 he trained her as the first African Climate Leader. She has since served as a mentor for his international training.

"The world today understands the reality of climate change but it was not until the early 2000s that this happened. Before then it was regarded as the imaginings of hippie tree-huggers, which is what I was called," recalls Dr Park, who urges people to put effort into thinking and acting ahead of their time irrespective of what others might think of them.

Dr Park, as always, is now busy with a new project. She has turned her attention to developing a global urban environmental programme for cities and their communities, called Nature4Cities.

Nature4Cities will be launched this year as a global and local collaborative 'city and science' leadership network aimed

at inspiring city leaders and citizens to embrace the natural environment. Joburg, Durban and Cape Town are part of this.

The single biggest problem in South Africa today, according to Dr Park, is the lack of quality education.

"All of us have to commit to achieving a better quality of education for all, from early childhood development through to higher education. The education crisis is one of the key reasons why South Africa is at such a desperate low right now," she explains.

Dr Park sits on the board of Solar-Aid, a leading international charity offering solar solutions to issues such as climate change and global poverty in Africa.

"South Africa is bathing in sunshine and yet so many people, especially in the rural areas, including schools, do not have electricity or cannot afford it. It is a no-brainer for South Africa to invest in de-centralised renewable energy instead of pursuing its obsession with nuclear and shale gas, which is so ill-advised and will cost more than we can ever imagine, both monetarily and in terms of people's health."

Graduation 2016 in figures Educated to lead

- Rhodes produced 2250 graduates in six ceremonies
- 58% are women
- 19% are international students
- 1 235 (or 55%) are undergraduate Bachelor's degrees
- 1015 (or 45%) are postgraduate degrees and diplomas.
- 67 Doctoral degrees
- 230 Masters degrees
- The Faculty of Humanities celebrated a new record of 19 PhD degrees on Thursday morning, 31 March, up from 17 in 2015.
- The Faculty of Science, which is the third largest Faculty in the University, produced 34 PhDs (more than all the other five Faculties combined)

OVATION AWARDS FOR RHODES' DRAMA AT NAF 2016

HOD of Drama, Professor Gary Gordon, was awarded the prestigious 'Standing Ovation' award at this year's National Arts Festival for his life time achievements in fostering contemporary dance and physical theatre in South Africa.

The Standing Ovation awards honour significant individuals for their life long contributions to the performing arts. Prof Gordon is the second Rhodes University Drama staff member to receive this award – Prof Andrew Buckland received the Standing Ovation in 2013.

Rhodes Drama Department also won the best student production for *Nyanga*, a devised play that transposed Arthur Miller's *Crucible* to the Eastern Cape. *Nyanga's* Director, Masters student Thembela Madliki also won the award for most promising director.

Recent Masters graduate Lexi Meier, and current Masters student Sam Pennington, both received Ovation Awards for their festival productions: *Fabric of the Universe* and *Falling off the Horn*, a production devised with Grahamstown theatre group Uyubona ke, which explored xenophobia through visual theatre.

Honours graduate (2016) Tyson Ngubeni received an encore award for his production *Dark Ages*, a comedic

autobiographical exploration of colorism and xenophobia in South Africa.

Father of South African Physical Theatre

"I do what I love and admire," says Prof Gordon. "I have spent many years training and developing as a choreographer, performer, and educator."

Gordon expresses this after having been awarded the prestigious 'Standing Ovation' award at this year's National Arts Festival for his life time achievements in fostering contemporary dance and physical theatre in South Africa.

"I first came to experience movement in Matric when I did a Winter School at the Drama Department, University of KwaZulu-Natal." Gordon goes on to explain that it was the way in which expression, meaning and intentionality was worked and played through the body that caught his attention. "Needless to say, later at university in the drama department, I loved every movement class and dance production."

Years later Gordon celebrates his achievements while continuing to contribute to the Rhodes Drama Department in revolutionary ways for the art. "My argument was always that there have been physical theatre practices in South Africa but the aesthetic had not

been named or developed rigorously," says Gordon. "Here at Rhodes Drama we were the first to name it as a way of making and performing theatre and the wonderful thing for me is that I am still moving and teaching movement studies, choreography and physical theatre in the Movement Room of Rhodes Drama - where I started."

In the citation leading to Gordon's award this year, National Arts Festival artistic Director, Ismail Mahomed, referred to Gordon as "the father of South African physical theatre" to express how meaningful his contributions have been.

Gordon expresses that his interactions with his students are the reason for this new title. "I have had an impact on a great many developing and aspiring artists, teachers and people working in the performing arts," says Gordon. "I think that is what Ismail meant about me being 'the father of physical theatre.'"

Having received a countless number of awards since starting at Rhodes University, Gordon believes his department has played an integral role in his achievements. "The creative practice always underpins the research and practice of the department, because making and performing theatre is happening in the corridors, studios and rehearsal rooms of the department," says Gordon. "Theatre is not only what other artists are doing in other cities and other countries; it is part of each and every working day at RU Drama, and an integrated part of the drama curriculum."

Gordon believes there is a unique set of skills that can only be found at the Rhodes University Drama Department and therefore this is the place to learn. "There is a strong commitment to the integration of theoretical inquiry with theatre practice, and of ensuring theatre practice is part of the curriculum," says Gordon. "We also offer an impressive range of theatre practices taught by staff with extensive professional practice." Gordon ends off by explaining that his department believes in and is dedicated to integrating the curriculum with the changing and aspiring needs of a transforming South African society.



ARTS FESTIVAL'S MULTIMEDIA MADNESS

For thirty years, Cue Media has devotedly guided festival goers through the busy National Arts Festival period. Over time Cue, located in Rhodes University's Africa Media Matrix, has blossomed into various multimedia projects, including Cue Online, Cue TV, Cue Radio and CuePix, and has provided invaluable newsroom experience and support for Rhodes University Journalism students.

"When it started 30 years ago, Cue newspaper had a very small team and relied on visiting arts journalists to produce most of the copy," said Cue's general manager, Brian Garman. "Since then, news organisations have spent less and less on arts journalism, and there are fewer arts journalists and more and more festivals."

As a consequence, the Rhodes University Journalism Department has taken this opportunity to use Cue as a training paper for student writers, photographers and designers. "The Festival offers such an amazing opportunity for student learning under quite intense deadline pressures that don't exist to the same extent in class-room exercises," said Garman.

To give experience to more students, Cue's different multimedia sections sprung up, starting with Cue Online which, according to Garman, started organically out of the newspaper before taking on its own identity and independence. CueTV, which publishes on CueTube, started next. It has provided video clips for SABC and once had a 24-hour live channel on DSTV. "People are still recovering from that," said Garman.

CuePix, Cue's online photography project, emerged when, after the advent of digital photography, the Cue team discovered they were producing more photographs than they could use. They started CuePix to involve more photojournalism students and to provide images to other news outlets, performers and the Festival itself.

According to Garman, CueRadio probably has the most consistent and farthest reach of all of the projects. "For years now, they have been providing content in a number of languages to a variety of stations – these have included SAFM, RSG, Umhlobo Wenene and they have also provided pod-casts for the Festival site too," said Garman. This year they received sponsorship from SAFM.

One of Cue's challenges is funding. Due to a slowing economy and a consequent reduction in corporate social spending, funders look for visibility to get the most value for their sponsorship. "Arts and art journalism tend to get deprioritised in favour of things like sport," said Garman.

Because the projects have different educational goals, another challenge is to converge the different projects together. "Ultimately I want to convert Cue into a rich media app," said Garman. However, replacing the paper will not be viable until there is greater Wifi access in Grahamstown, otherwise the application won't be seen. Until then, Cue Media will continue playing an integral part to both the Festival and journalism students.

COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Tony Lankester, old-Rhodian and CEO of the National Arts Festival (NAF) is upbeat about this flagship Grahamstown event and the other initiatives now associated with it. "It can't just be about 11 days of the year," he says, explaining why there has been a diversification into other initiatives such as the Cape Town Fringe Festival, the Creative City Project, the art gallery and a ticketing business.

Lankester spent four years at Rhodes during the early 90s, studying Journalism and majoring in Television, although Radio was in fact his first love. He admits that he put far more energy into running Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) than into his studies. Soon after he graduated, he was offered a position with SAFM and thus began a career spanning nearly 10 years of full-time radio work. This was followed by a couple of years in the corporate communications world with Old Mutual, before he took over at the helm of the NAF at the end of 2007.

When asked what his main job is during the Festival, the characteristically witty reply comes quick as a flash: "To stop people killing each other!" Indeed, high-level diplomacy is very much part of his role as CEO, along with media relations and trouble-shooting.

Travelling is naturally also a big part of Lankester's job, and he enjoys this aspect, not least because his travels around the world re-affirm the quality of what is produced in South Africa and at the NAF. South Africa is one of the founder members of the World Fringe Alliance, a mechanism that has enabled many South African artists to take their acts to places as diverse as Amsterdam, Prague and New York.

During his student life, Lankester also did a stint as Treasurer for the SRC, and as a contributor to the student newspaper.

He describes the relationship between the Festival and Rhodes as "symbiotic". The University provides many of the venues for Festival performances and activities, while on the other hand the Festival presents an income stream for the University, along with the opportunity to market itself as an institution of choice to prospective students. He also points out that the NAF has worked hard at its relationship with the City of Grahamstown. The Creative City initiative, in particular, is a partnership with the local municipality, NGOs, schools and other institutions that aims to use creativity to drive economic development in the area.

In Lankester's opinion, what happens to Grahamstown during the Festival is so special that the City gets consumed by it. He warns, laughingly, "If you aren't here for the ride, you get ridden over!"



TYSON NGUBENI SHINES A LIGHT THROUGH THE DARK AGES

*It was with delight that the Rhodes University community got to welcome its recent graduate Tyson Ngubeni back to Grahamstown for his first solo comedy performance in the National Arts Festival. The funny man introduced his show *The Dark Ages*, in which he chronicles the experiences of black South Africans to eager audiences.*

Ngubeni uses comedy and satire to challenge popular perceptions of those who “look like they belong” in post-apartheid South Africa’s contentious contemporary space. He believes that the job of comedians is crucial. There is a healthy appetite for the comedy genre as an art form so there will always be comedy-lovers who return to Festival to enjoy the best of the funnies each year.

The *Dark Ages* incorporates much of his own social interactions and encounters as a “dark-skinned South African”. Aphrobia and xenophobia are still prevalent in our

country. Spurred on by socio-political and socio-economic problems which transcend borders, they foster a dangerous culture of hate, intolerance, prejudice and violence.

So what better way to speak about the unspeakable and reintroduce a difficult topic to spectators than by making people share in humour? Ngubeni acknowledges that comedic relief is an important part of allowing and encouraging people to work through society’s most serious issues.

Audiences can laugh and share in giggles in a particular comedic space now, but return to their homes to percolate (think deeply) on the very things that made them laugh. What is more important is the potential for messages that hit home to be internalised and pondered on at a later stage – after individuals and groups have left the theatre space and returned to normal life. That is one way comedians, artists and

theatre performers contribute towards getting everyday people feeling, thinking and talking.

On the future of the National Arts Festival, Ngubeni comments that “good art (can never get old). If it’s honest and engaging, there will always be a good reception to it”.

I caught him before *The Dark Ages* opened for #NAF16. Ngubeni joked with the following:

“I think I finally understand what Harry Potter felt in the *Triwizard Tournament* when he was the last one standing in that tent before facing that dragon. Or how S’dumo felt every time the club-wielding Laqasha knocked on his door in the SA TV classic *‘Sgudi ‘Snaysi*. I’m buzzing. I’m excited”.

Ngubeni is the next big comic; this is only his great beginning.





DANIEL FRIEDMAN
DEEP FRIED, AND DELICIOUSLY FUNNY

He does not object to being called the king of musical comedy, since a title plug like that is good for pulling the crowds to his shows. Yet Daniel Friedman's humble stance comes across immediately when you chat with him. Deep Fried Man, as he is more commonly known, came back for the 2016 National Arts Festival.

His show *In Good Taste* is an edgy, playful mix of musical wit, fine dining and occasional wine-sipping from the 'fried one' himself. He mixes the push-and-pull of gentle and hard satire. He focuses more on delivering entertainment, not escapism.

He always looks forward to finding out how audiences will respond to his on-stage performances, because he is getting more comfortable with contrasting the usually shy persona which his fans and followers have come to expect.

He believes coming back to the Eastern Cape every year allows him to reach crowds and comedy-lovers in smaller, remote places. He puts effort into ensuring that the freshness of his deep fried material is delicious, crispy and crunchy – an appetising comedy feast each time. He does warn however, that "no topic is ever off-limits".

"It's hard work but it's also very rewarding. Comedy can get old if comics don't keep writing new material. There are enough of us who do write constantly to keep the genre fresh". This is why he challenges himself to come up with entirely new work every year at Festival. He is allergic to repeating or repurposing his material.

Having started his comedy career in 2010, Friedman graduated from Rhodes University with a BA in Journalism, Philosophy and Drama. He also holds a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) which he completed at Wits.

In his crazy, fun, satirical comedy, one thing he has learnt is that "the tougher or more uncomfortable the topics are, the more important it is to tackle them using comedy." Where there is discomfort, there is always potential for some good laughs.

The most exciting news he shares with us is that he is going to become a dad in September. Congratulations to Friedman and family! We look forward to how fatherhood might alter the antics of this soon-to-be deep fried daddy.

Rob van Vuuren returned to Creative City to celebrate 25 years of what has been a strong and healthy relationship with Grahamstown and the National Arts Festival. He fell in love with 11 Days of Amazing in 1991, when his mother brought him to Festival for the very first time. It is then that he knew a life and career in the arts was for him: that he was a "born-performer."

He has been attending and performing at Festival every year since. A return for each instalment of Fest always feels "like coming home – in many ways": Van Vuuren is a proud former Rhodent and one of RU's most loved funny fellas.

This time around the ever-busy Van Vuuren delivered a delicious Festival buffet for his audiences, performing in five different shows and directing another two. He believes that it makes sense to keep coming back because "it's a unique opportunity to get hypothermia for your art."

As a theatre performer and comic, he makes the most of all his talents – while giving different audiences exactly what they need. He

performs brilliant stand-up comedy with shows such as *Life*, and collections of material that chronicle a span of 10 years in shows such as *The Best Of*.

As a devoted son, husband, father and all-round family man, he has also dedicated much of his time to writing plays for the little ones (no doubt inspired by his adorable daughter). His show *Florence and Watson and the Sugarbush Mouse*, which also features his wife, was a hit during Festival's Family Fare.

This proves that Van Vuuren is not just the crazy, kooky comic who can sometimes delve into dark and twisted theatre pieces (with very strict age restrictions might we add, such as *Dangled* – which received a Standard Bank Ovation and left audiences stunned at how diverse he can be). He is also extremely versatile, enough to centre much of his fun, fatherly side on entertainment that focuses on children's theatre as well.

About whether he can choose between comedy and theatre, or any one of his many shows, he says: "I can't pick a favourite. I love all my (work) equally."

25 YEARS LATER:
ROB VAN VUUREN
#NAF16





EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE MIME RICHARD ANTROBUS

*Another busy Old Rhodian who was back and performing in multiple productions at the National Arts Festival was Richard Antrobus, our favourite mime. We caught up with him after *The Cloud-Catcher*, an exciting and educational new children's piece he has written and directed throughout Festival.*

The extremely calm Antrobus is a simple man; there are no signs of panic or frantic fits as he prepares to deliver five different productions for #NAF16. Quite shy at times, he is a performance artist heavily devoted to his craft.

He defines himself as much more than an actor or dancer. He is a dramatist who is concerned with making theatre that is more accessible to everyone – on different levels. His style is informed by the drama training he received at Rhodes University's First Physical Theatre Company and at the

London School of Physical Theatre.

This year he tackled both performance and directing, and happily answered the challenge to balance the different roles he fulfils as a Festival favourite. He brought the *Suggestion Box* back to Festival's Public Art stage, with the slogan #EverythingMustFall. He was also involved in the shows *Death of a Clown* and *Dreams*, which saw him swap his quirky mime's hat for a director's cap instead.

Antrobus – the man behind the classic white face paint, striped mime's t-shirt and red scarf – is a quiet, reserved character, but endearing nonetheless. He concedes that he is someone who keeps to himself, especially now that he is married (to someone who, surprisingly, isn't involved in theatre at all). "I do keep a bit of myself to myself, just to keep humble." Without sharing too much of his personal life, this is a performer who



prefers to let the theatre do all the talking.

"I want to broaden people's awareness of different things," he says, adding, "but you don't have to try and save the world with one theatre piece." *The Cloud-Catcher* in particular, which features Asiphe Lili, is appreciable because Antrobus wrote it for a strong female performer. He believes that part of his work challenges the underrepresentation of women in theatre. He wants to be part of a more distinct move further away from "heteronormative, male-dominated art".

Our favourite mime shows no signs of slowing down or throwing in the mime's towel, as it were. He loves his work and plans to continue creating theatre that is breaking even more social boundaries.

HONOURING OLD RHODIANS



TREVOR HASTIE

Distinguished Old Rhodian Award

For his overwhelming contribution to statistical innovation, Trevor Hastie was awarded the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award 2015. Trevor graduated from Rhodes University with a BSc (Hons) in Statistics in 1976.

During his postgraduate studies he spent time at the University of Cape Town, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Johnson Space Center in Houston, the Biomath Department at Oxford University and finally Stanford University, where he received his PhD in 1984. In 1986, he joined (what was then) At&T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. There, together with John Chambers and others, he created statistical modelling software in the S language, which has gone on, through its adoption of the R software, to become perhaps the most widely-used statistical modelling tool in the world. It is taught and used widely in many departments here at Rhodes, where the link to Trevor serves as a wonderful example of what might be possible on the back of a Rhodes education.

In 1994, Trevor returned to Stanford University as Professor in Statistics and Biostatistics, eventually earning an appointment, in 2013, as the John A. Overdeck Professor of Mathematical Science. Building on where he left off at Bell Labs, Trevor continued to play a leading role in advancing Statistical Science, and its application. A few examples of the techniques that he helped to co-develop include widely-used analytical tools like Generalized Additive Models, object-based computation, and Elastic Net Models. Today, the techniques he has helped develop are used widely, for example in modern computation search-engine and

advertising algorithms. During his career he has received numerous accolades and awards, most recently the Emmanuel Parson prize for Statistical Innovation, an award "in recognition of outstanding careers in the discipline and profession of Statistics."

His affection for his *alma mater* is evidenced in him serving on the board of the Rhodes USA trust for fourteen years.

As a leading statistician, Trevor is in the top 10 "most cited" list among all mathematical scientists. He embodies the ethos of our institution and is quick to acknowledge his place of undergraduate learning. He has demonstrated all the qualities expected of a recipient of the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award. Rhodes University is proud to bestow this honour on Trevor Hastie.

ANDREW LOFTS GRAY

Distinguished Old Rhodian Award

Andrew Loft Gray was awarded the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award. He is an outstanding leader in the pharmacy field both nationally and internationally and epitomises Rhodes' motto 'Where leaders learn'. His contribution to the pharmacy profession over the years, from its earliest beginning at Rhodes in 1978, where he completed his BPharm and MSc (Pharm) has been remarkable. With a very successful track record of teaching health care professionals and a long publication list, he is now at the forefront of pharmacy and pharmacology both at a local and global level.

Extremely knowledgeable, he is sought-after for his balanced and well-informed opinions by health authorities and health care providers. He has held, or currently holds, the highest offices in his professional bodies including sitting on numerous committees for the World Health Organisation (WHO). His involvement on the many committees of WHO talks to his leadership in ensuring that marginalised citizens of the world have access to essential medicines.

More recently he has been actively involved in the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa

(CAPRISA) initiative that arguably drives AIDS research in South Africa. His knowledge of pharmacology, drug policy, evidence-based medicine and the appropriate use of medicines has been described by colleagues as encyclopaedic.

A Senior Lecturer in the Division of Pharmacology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Andrew uses his wealth of knowledge in teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as generously sharing his life-saving wisdom within the profession. He is a visiting fellow to Rhodes University's Pharmacy Faculty, where he is a guest lecturer and mentor.

His contributions to pharmacy have been recognised world-wide and he has received accolades from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), has been nominated as a Fellow of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, is a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa.

Andrew has been a member of the Names and Scheduling Expert Committee of the South African Medicines Control Council since 2000 and was appointed to the National Essential Medicines List Committee in 2012. He is a Member of the World Health Organisation's Expert Panel on Drug Policies and Management and has served as a member, rapporteur and co-chairperson of the Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines.

Widely published, he is associate editor of the South African Pharmaceutical Journal, section editor of the Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice, and serves on the international editorial advisory boards of the International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy, and the GaBI Journal. Andrew has been actively involved in the development and assessment of medicines and other health-related law in South Africa.

The very nature of his profession provides service to society by constantly serving the health professionals who use medicines appropriately to treat the population at large. His selfless attributes make him a real credit to our University

and a tremendous role model for those in his profession and beyond. It is for these phenomenal pharmacological achievements that Rhodes University is immensely proud to award the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award to Andrew Lofts Gray.

CHRISTOPHER VAUGHAN Distinguished Old Rhodian Award

Christopher Leonard Vaughan, fondly known as Kit, graduated from Rhodes University with BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Physics in 1976. His leadership capabilities were evident in his time at Rhodes where he held numerous positions of leadership both in sporting, residence and University structures. He went on to obtain his PhD in musculoskeletal biomechanics in Iowa and was awarded a DSc (Med) in biomedical engineering from UCT. Kit is Emeritus Professor of Biomedical Engineering at UCT as well as Extraordinary Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University.

He is a world authority in biomechanics of human locomotion and is also considered one of the pioneers of the medical device industry in South Africa. He is the Joint Founder and Chief Executive Officer of CapeRay Medical (Pty) Limited who are commercialising a new mammography system for detecting breast cancer.

This system – known as Aceso, the Greek goddess of healing – brings a dual modality approach to breast cancer screening, combining automated breast ultrasound and low dose digital x-rays, to provide complementary information on the composition of breast tissue. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and each year 2.5 million new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed worldwide. With early detection, breast cancer can be treated successfully and Kit's contribution to saving lives will be invaluable.

Previously Kit made a substantial contribution to the study of biomechanics in children with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy. He also served on the Council of UCT and currently serves as Non-Executive Director of Strait Access Technologies (Pty) Limited, a UCT spin out company that has developed innovative cardiac devices for treating patients with rheumatic heart disease.

Kit has recently completed a book on

the history of the academic rating system in South Africa entitled *On the Shoulders of Oldenburg*.

Kit has been awarded numerous awards, including the Ernest Walton Fellowship from Science Foundation Ireland, a Research and Innovation Award from the National Science and Technology Forum and the UCT Book Award for *Imagining the Elephant*, his biography of Nobel Laureate Allan Cormack. In June of this year he was a joint first recipient of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Award for Achievement in Innovation at UCT. From 2004 to 2014 Kit held an NRF A-rating.

Kit holds South African patents on a child car safety seat, a neck support system, an artificial ankle joint and an egg fertilization monitor. He also holds a US patent for a wrist brace to treat carpal tunnel syndrome and a UK patent on dual-modality imaging for breast cancer detection.

Kit is a passionate Old Rhodian (OR), has been married to fellow OR Joan Blair for 38 years, regularly attends functions and donates generously to the Annual Fund. He is awarded the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award for his dedication and investment towards the early detection of breast cancer and for his life-saving leadership and commitment to improving society.



REV DR SIMON GQUBULE Distinguished Old Rhodian Award

The Reverend Doctor Simon Gqubule was a well-respected and influential figure in his community, church and academic circles and at the age of 87 still played a significant role in education. He was awarded 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 won him numerous awards. Rev. Dr Gqubule knew the challenges financially disadvantaged students face; his father earned two pounds and five shillings 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. He committed his life to being the 'chaplain' for many other students, thus improving many lives.

Having become a teacher at 22, Rev. Dr Gqubule dedicated his life and energy into trying to educate the leaders of tomorrow. The betterment of a child's future was enough to keep Rev. Dr Gqubule motivated and energetic about the work he is doing. 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 2013 – 2014 the centre 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 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, 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 Visiting Professor of New Testament at the Toronto University School of Theology, in Canada. In 1990, he was Visiting Lecturer in Greek and New Testament at Wesley College, Bristol, England.

As early as 1972 he was voicing 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. Through his educational enhancement centre, he was committed to seeing young South Africans prosper. Rev. Dr Gqubule embodied the values Rhodes hopes to instil in its graduates: humility, diligence, a passion for learning and a deep personal commitment to bettering our society and for this he was honoured by Rhodes University with an Honorary Doctorate.

For his continued service, his dedication and passion for education and Rhodes, Rev. Dr Gqubule was a truly deserving recipient of the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award.



AVINASH GOVINDJEE **Emerging Old Rhodian Award**

Professor Avinash Govindjee obtained his LLB from Rhodes in 1999. Living by his motto “work hard, play hard, and pray hard,” he has seamlessly married his two passions – law and education – as Deputy Head of the Labour and Social Security Law Unit at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

Avinash is an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa, and also serves the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) on a part-time basis as a senior commissioner and specialises in employment equity disputes. As a consultant to the Institute for Social Law and Policy (ISLP), he has been involved in a range of labour and social-security related projects for various government departments and agencies, most recently in relation to the introduction of ‘return to work’ arrangements in South Africa and Namibia. Avinash is an NRF-rated researcher (Category C2) and a member of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), has published widely in South Africa and abroad on themes related to human rights, with specific emphasis on labour, social

security and equality law. He has been the NMMU Faculty of Law Researcher of the Year for the past four years. He serves as an editorial member of a number of foreign journals, peer-reviewer for numerous South African journals and external examiner for various law faculties in South Africa.

No stranger to awards, Avinash was included in the Mail and Guardian’s List of “200 Young South Africans” and the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber’s “Top 40 under 40” list during 2013, and was also a finalist in the Titans Building Nations Award for achievement in academia in 2014. He is also a member of Jutta’s Annual Labour Law Seminar presentation team. Avinash is Editor of LexisNexis’ “Introduction to Human Rights Law” and is busy with the second edition of this text, in addition to drafting chapters for international book publications and articles for submission to journals in South Africa.

Avinash gives of himself selflessly for the disenfranchised, he is engaged in a project considering the social security position of non-citizens in South Africa, the Department of Social Development, the Compensation Fund, the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the South African Social Security Agency.

For his commitment to arbitrating for the powerless, Avinash has proved his abilities as both a lawyer and an academic beyond a shadow of a doubt and is worthy of being crowned Emerging Old Rhodian.



SIKELELWA MGABADELWA **Emerging Old Rhodian Award**

Sikelelwa Mgabadelwa, nicknamed Siki, graduated with a BJourn from Rhodes University in 2000. Siki is an award-winning financial journalist who keeps South Africans abreast with the latest financial statistics, indicators and money saving tips.

She has worked for various broadcasters in South Africa as a reporter, producer, anchor and editor. Her well-rounded grasp

of business and politics has seen her anchor various current affairs television programmes, most notably, the acclaimed ‘The Big Debate’. Siki is one of the leading financial media personalities in South Africa. She is a highly sought after moderator and facilitator and has covered major African markets.

Siki’s radio experience began in 2004, when she started standing in for Michael Coulson on SAFM’s Market Update. This programme targets South Africa’s captains of industry, investors and those who have an interest in the world of finance. In April of 2006 she took over as the main anchor. She also hosted SAFM’s Saturday morning current affairs programme and Weekend AM live, looking at each week’s main stories.

In 2006 she was awarded the Sanlam Financial Journalist of the Year Award – TV News Category. She is a sought after MC, having hosted government, business and award functions in South Africa, including Ernst and Young Entrepreneur Award of the Year, Discovery Health Awards, Department of Trade and Industry’s Technology Women in Business Awards, BankeSETA Conference and Cisco’s Networker’s Live Conference.

She is also known for anchoring the e.tv breakfast current affairs show, Morning Edition. She was, until 2009, senior business news anchor at CNBC Africa. In this role she covered major African markets and participated at the World Economic Forum on Africa, the IBSA Editor’s Conference in India and the African Green Revolution Conference in Oslo, Norway. Previously she was Executive Producer of Economics Desk at the SABC.

She is up-to-date with economic trends and politics and demands accountability from leaders while giving voice to ordinary residents and communities. As an eNCA anchor and presenter on Moneyline as well as anchoring on SAFM and presenting Moneyweb, Siki keeps South Africans informed about money matters, which is vitally important in a country in which recent findings reported that only 20% of South Africans have any formal savings.

Siki has featured in the M&G SA Book of Women and the M&G Young South Africans Publications.

For exceptional economic journalism skills in keeping the public informed, Siki is awarded the Emerging Old Rhodian Award.

THE CONVERSATION AFRICA

Academic content from Africa for the world

The Editor and founder of The Conversation Africa is Rhodes Journalism & Media Studies alumna, Caroline Southey. Her team works with academics and researchers to present their work online in an accessible, journalistic style.



The Conversation Africa launched on 7 May 2015 in Johannesburg as a new independent source of information and analysis from the African academic and research community, delivered online at no cost to citizens worldwide.

Contributions are predominantly from South Africa at present, but they are increasingly being sourced from across the continent. An office in Kenya has recently been established and one in Nigeria will soon follow.

"What is compelling about the content is that it contributes to an informative African narrative that isn't uniformly bad or good," says Southey. "This nuance gives people a much broader understanding of our enormous continent with 54 countries."

"Our aim is to promote a better understanding of current affairs and complex issues by sharing the work of respected academics and researchers. We believe this contributes to a better quality of public discourse and conversation, and that access to independent, high quality journalism underpins a functioning democracy."

The Conversation Africa is part of a global knowledge project, with editions in Australia, the United Kingdom, United States and France.

Australia was the first to launch in 2011, followed by the UK and the US. When Southey saw what they were doing, she thought it would be a good idea to launch *The Conversation Africa*. It took a lot of hard

work and fund-sourcing to get it going,

The Conversation Africa relies on the support of major foundations and corporates, including the Gates Foundation and Barclays Africa, as well as the National Research Foundation.

The day the site went live is one that Southey won't forget. As a journalist and South African, Southey is committed to increasing the free flow of information by Africans, about Africa, and to playing her part in advancing democracy on the continent.

"Myself and my late husband, Brian Scheepers, lived in exile from 1981 to 1997. In addition to our anti-apartheid activities, we were at risk of being prosecuted under the Immorality Act for having a relationship across the so-called colour bar. We wouldn't have been able to get married in South Africa either because of the Mixed Marriages Act. And by living together we contravened the Group Areas Act," shares Southey.

They lived in London for 15 years and in Brussels for two. Southey worked for the Financial Times as a correspondent.

"We returned to South Africa in 1997 with our two daughters, Rosa and Ella. I'm unreservedly happy that we came home. I believe that for anyone who was forced to leave, it's important to close the circle and come home. Brian and I dedicated our lives to South Africa and that hasn't changed. It is an extraordinary country with massive challenges that we all need to work at solving."

Rosa and Ella are both Rhodes alumni. Ella is working for the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, based at the UCT Graduate School of Business, lecturing. She is helping to develop the curriculum for social innovation and the Centre's scholarship programme. Rosa is working in New York as a project manager for an NGO called First Inspires. It engages children from nursery school age

through to high school in exciting, mentor-based, research and robotics programmes that help them become science and technology leaders.

Southey now lives in Parktown North in Joburg and *The Conversation Africa's* offices are in Braamfontein.

"We operate exactly like a newsroom and the site is set up exactly like a news site, covering all the sections – from science and technology to energy, the arts, the environment, medicine, politics ... with editors for every section. We currently have a team of nine editors in our Joburg office, several of whom are Rhodes alumni, and two in our Nairobi office. Our job is to help academics and researchers make their research as informative and accessible as possible."

The Conversation Africa shares content at no charge through the Creative Commons. More than 22 000 sites worldwide use its material.

The Conversation Africa on its own currently has an audience of 80 000 to 130 000 on the site per month. Through republication it has attracted 12.5 million reads.

"We are constantly looking for academics who are either from the continent or have done research here. We have had more than 1 000 academics and researchers write for us to date and we're growing the network every day."



ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



Bevan Cullinan, considered one of South Africa's funniest comedians, was awarded Gold in the 2014 International PromaxBDA Awards in New York in the General Channel Image Spot for M-Net's GaryNet campaign. Cullinan also won Silver in the Funniest Promo as well as Bronze in the General Campaign and DStv Box Office Ninja in the On Screen Services Promotion Spot. The prestigious PromaxBDA Awards competition celebrates the best of promotion, marketing and design in television and film content with hundreds of broadcasters from around the world entering, and this is the third time he has won Gold.

Cullinan has been directing TV commercials in South Africa and abroad for the past 14 years, specialising in performance-based commercials. He started his career in theatre productions whilst still at Rhodes with co-collaborators Rob van Vuuren and James Cairns. In 1999 he became the presenter of the breakfast television show on e.tv's the 'Toasty Show' playing the character 'Norm'. He and fellow comedian John Vlismas started 'The Comedy Underground' where most of South Africa's major comedic talent began their careers. He started directing TV commercials in 2003 while still moonlighting as a stand-up comedian. Although he does not do stand-up comedy these days, he says he is always shooting comedy. "Although I am predominantly a film director, I'm really a creator. I love making things." He says he works in an exciting world where digital platforms of all types allow him to show his work to "humans" around the world. Cullinan has also won Silver at the Loeries as well as Gold and three Silvers at the Kinsale Shark Awards – an independent International Creative Festival based in Ireland that has been running for over 53 years.

Cullinan still makes the odd performance here and there, like when he acted in commercials he directed for MNET as a character called Gary the Tooth Fairy. He says he wants to keep creating, in any form. "I paint a lot and I have a comedy channel online that I love contributing to (www.hammerhead.tv) and I love shooting films. Maybe one day I'll shoot another feature."



Matthew Buckland is currently running two digital companies: a digital agency called Creative Spark, and a digital media company Burn Media (which publishes sites like Memeburn.com, Ventureburn.com, Gearburn.com and others). Buckland is excited about the success and digital pioneering of his team and his companies. "Our team is doing quite a bit of innovative work on social media platforms for our clients, including some really cutting-edge VR (Virtual Reality) for a Fortune 500 client. It's been really amazing to be part of such an innovative team," he said.

Buckland remembers when Rhodes University was first connected to the internet, one of the first places in the country to go online. Buckland obtained a degree in journalism but is also a self-taught programmer and designed his first website while at Rhodes. "Despite doing a journalism degree, I had some programming knowledge from having a computer at a very early age which was a ZX Spectrum you plugged into a TV!" he said. Buckland describes being part of the internet revolution at Rhodes as a "huge privilege".

Buckland says he was lucky to be exposed to the internet by virtue of being at Rhodes. "It gave many of us early internet entrepreneurs a head start," he said. "The Journalism Department, under Guy Berger at the time, was an ambitious, restless, innovative, ever-

growing, multi-disciplinary department with strong international connections and collaborations."

With dreams of giving back, Buckland is looking forward to the future of both his businesses and the digital space. "I'd like to mentor and invest in other entrepreneurs and start-up media businesses. I'd like to give back to the start-up ecosystem in the country that supported me when I created my company," he said.



Monde Tabata was appointed administrator of Border Rugby Union in 2014 and his main task was to turn it around from virtual bankruptcy into a stable and achieving organisation. Such was his success that he was recently assigned to do the same at the Eastern Province Rugby Union – whilst still holding his position at Border Rugby. He has been an Executive Member of the SARU Executive Council since 2010 and serves as chair of several committees of the SARU Executive.

Tabata is also the founder and chair of the East Rand Youth and Children Trusts and received an honorary doctorate from Monash University in 2011 for his work with this organisation. As the CEO of the National Economic Initiative, he established the Business Opportunity Centre which linked small business to outsourcing opportunities in Johannesburg. The rationale behind its establishment influenced government policy post 1994.

Looking to the future, Tabata says he wants to "utilise his experience and skills for the development of the rugby industry in South Africa in general and the Eastern Cape particularly, and to be the most valuable member of the SARU executive". He is very passionate about the youth and their

development and says he has exciting plans for the East London area.

Rob Maclean has participated in seven World Canoe Marathon Championships winning four Gold, two Silver and two Bronze medals. He says he only started canoeing in 1985 after he and his wife moved to Marina de Gama in Cape Town and “a neighbour got me interested”. Maclean has paddled 30 Breede River and 20 Fish River marathons, and has also done the Dusi, the Berg, the Umkomaas and the Vaal River marathons.

Although he is reaching retirement age, Maclean says he wants to keep working on things that interest him like surfing, paddling his surf ski in the ocean and travelling in Southern Africa and abroad. Maclean is currently involved in writing a section of a book on surf ski paddling in South Africa.



Sumaya Ismail is Content Developer at Tribeca Public Relations, responsible for creating quality content in a range of forms for a variety of clients. She graduated from Rhodes in 2012 with a Bachelor of Journalism specialising in Design and Communication.

“I think what my Journalism degree provided was a foundation and a kind of context to better understand how tech and innovation impacts everything we do, from the way we interact and communicate with others, right down to how to grow a business,” she says. Ismail hopes to use her education and technical savvy to improve others’ lives. “I would like to move into the consulting space at some point in the future, helping SMMEs produce focused business documents and marketing material to communicate their messages more effectively,” she said.

Working with two other Rhodes alumni, Thirusha Raja and Lerusha Reddy, Ismail is

also a co-founder of Ladle, a mobile soup kitchen initiative. It aims to deliver a warm and nutritious meal to people living on the streets of Johannesburg, at least once a month. “We are in the process of establishing Ladle as a non-profit organisation – I would like to gain insight into the social entrepreneurship space, to figure out how to make Ladle more sustainable in the long run,” she said.



Richard Cock received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arts & Culture Trust in 2014. Born in Port Elizabeth and educated at Woodridge Preparatory School and the Diocesan College, Cape Town, he pursued his musical studies at the Cape Town College of Music. After graduating in 1971 he won a scholarship to the Royal School of Church Music. During his years in England he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. After his return to South Africa in 1980, Cock breathed new life into the National Symphony Orchestra as Music Director from 1991. His innovative spirit saw the orchestra expand its horizons with open-air events, such as the successful Emmarentia Gardens Winter Series, Musical Fireworks and Pops Concerts, Music in the Zoo and tours from Cape Town to Cairo.

Although he is best known as a choral trainer and conductor, Cock was organist and director of music at St Mary’s Cathedral for 12 years and was elected a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music for his services to church music in South Africa. He founded the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg and the internationally recognised Chanticleer Singers

35 years ago. In 1999, he left the orchestra to pursue a freelance career and to stimulate music activities throughout South Africa. Since then he has conducted symphony, choral and many major concerts in Johannesburg and throughout Southern Africa; light classical concerts titled Bach to Broadway, Flights of Fantasy and Lloyd Webber and Friends; as well as giving concerts for children and senior citizens. He is in much demand countrywide as a conductor for the popular Last Night of the Proms concerts and Songs of Praise.

In 2000 Cock received an Honorary Doctorate in music from Rhodes University. In 2012 he received a Parnasus Award from Stellenbosch University and in 2013 a special award from the ATKV for his 30 years’ dedication to spreading the love of music in South Africa. He is chairman of the Apollo Music Trust, serves as a Board member of Business Arts South Africa, the Ingoma Trust and the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra, and is on the Music Committee of the National Arts Festival. He directs the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival with Florian Uhlig. He is also involved in a number of successful outreach projects in Soweto and Eldorado Park.

Grand Katsenga came from a poverty-stricken family where education “was a thing of pleasurable dreams, not a reality”. But this did not prevent him from obtaining his degree in Pharmacy in 2009. Katsenga, who hails from Zimbabwe, feels that he needs to give back and has started the Grand Foundation Prize for students studying pharmacy who are struggling financially to pay for their education.

His vision for the Grand Foundation Prize is for it to eventually have enough funds to not only award the annual “Most Improved Student” prize, but also to award a full academic year scholarship to a deserving second year student. He says that studying pharmacy is tough, and as an alumnus he would like to encourage students to perform academically and to finish their degrees.

Katsenga is currently practising his pharmacy internship at Braudes Pharmacy in Athlone, Cape Town, where he provides pharmaceutical care through medical advice and patient counselling when dispensing medication.



FROM RHODES TO HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHING

From a young age I always knew I wanted to be involved in professional sport. At school I was awarded provincial colours for swimming, athletics, cross-country and football and I played A-team rugby. I am from a sporting family. My dad, Trevor, is a Comrades gold medalist and my mom, Philippa, played national hockey.

At Rhodes I did a BSc with majors in Zoology and HKE, graduating in 1999. I then went to the University of Zululand to do my Honours in Exercise Science, specialising in biokinetics. An internship at the Sports Science Institute at UCT, and private practice followed. In 2008 I moved to head up the High Performance Lab at UP and in 2015 I moved to the TuksSport High School Athletics Academy.

In between I got married to Hayley, who was a provincial hockey player and she's run Comrades. We have two children, Ella (4) and Oliver (20 months).

I commute to Pretoria every day and I'm really excited about the work we are doing with our high school athletes. I am also currently working on increasing the number of girls who focus on athletics, which, in South Africa has traditionally been seen as a mostly male sport and career path.

COMRADES COACH PARRY

Rhodes alumnus Lindsey Parry is the coach behind Charné Bosman and Caroline Wöstmann who took first and second place at the 2016 Comrades Marathon. He talks about elite athletes and developing the potential of high school learners from disadvantaged environments.

Top South African distance running coach, Lindsey Parry, is committed to ensuring that young athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds are given every opportunity to succeed.

Grade 8 to 12 learners with athletics ability from high schools all over South Africa that do not have athletics programmes, are offered scholarships to the University of Pretoria's TuksSport High School Athletics Academy.

Parry is the Technical Director of the Academy, which has several full-time coaches. Currently, 68 male and female learners, predominantly from South Africa's townships and rural areas, are enrolled in the Academy where they are coached in their running strength – sprints, middle and long distance running. The learners live at the Academy where they receive an excellent education in addition to their athletics training.

"They are our future Comrades Marathon and Olympic gold winners. Two of our 18-year-old learners are participating in the Rio Olympic Games. It's important for these learners to see what they can achieve. At the same time they are receiving an excellent academic education and participating in a time management and study methodology programme run by the Psychology Department at the University of Pretoria's High Performance Centre," Parry explains.

"This way, they are able to matriculate well, study further, pursue a trade or find good employment, parallel to their running careers. One of our learners is currently studying medicine at the University of Pretoria." Parry is also the Official Coach to the Comrades Marathon Association and he has coached Comrades stars Charné Bosman and Caroline Wöstmann since mid-2014.

"My coaching career has exploded since I started working with these two elite ultra-runners. I think one of my key strengths as a coach is that I am a very positive force in their lives," he explains. "Elite athletes are highly strung while I am generally a calm person who

is able to keep them calm, focused and positive."

Parry explains that in every elite athlete's life they experience times when physically they are just not feeling great and there is a sudden drop in their performance. "When this happens, we do blood tests to determine, among other things, haemoglobin, inflammatory markers or mineral deficiencies. They might need an immune system booster, they might be coming down with a cold or they might have pushed themselves too hard."

He offers the current example of Wöstmann's Comrades run this year:

"Caroline felt good on the day and went for it. But when she started feeling she was in trouble 60kms into the race, she pushed on instead of slowing down. If she had run slower from the outset of the race she would have been fine, but she wanted to push for a better time. She absolutely does have the ability to do it; she just wasn't ready for it.

"After the race we naturally went through what happened and the incredibly positive aspect that she could take out of this is that even on a really bad day she came within three kilometres of winning, and came second in the 2016 Comrades."

He adds that Charné's win was well deserved. One of her Comrades strategies is to break the race into nine segments of 10 km: This way, she focuses on running each 10 km segment rather than on the 89 kms.

Parry says: "She has worked incredibly hard for years to fulfill this dream, and this year was her year. I am so proud of her."



RHODES RUGBY

The Rhodes University Rugby Club has been on a long and intense journey. After many changes and challenges, its hard work is finally paying off.

During the second week of July, the Rugby Club participated in qualifying matches for Varsity Shield, the second-tier national Varsity Rugby competition after Varsity Cup. Rhodes played in the C Section, beating Limpopo University 26-12 in their first match. They then went on to triumph against Zululand University with a 37-7 win. In their final match, Rhodes drew 13-13 against Walter Sisulu University at full-time, but lost 13-30 after extra time. They have now qualified for the 2017 tournament where they will compete against seven other teams.

The Rugby Club has seen significant improvement since coach Qondakele Sompondo took charge. "I took over the side in 2012 when there was absolutely nothing happening here," he says. "I drew up a 5 year plan (2012-2016) where we targeted the 2014 and 2016 Varsity Shield qualifications. We missed the first one but happily we got this one. I had to put systems in place, hire a technical team (manager, coaches, conditioning coach and physiotherapist), and really inspire students to take up rugby as a sport of choice. It's been

a long but fulfilling journey for us."

The coveted Varsity Shield tournament falls under University Sports South Africa (USSA). According to the Rhodes Rugby Club manager, Elize Everton, USSA is "the official sports structure for the regulation, organisation and coordination of student sports activities in the tertiary education sector of South Africa." USSA is founded on principles of "unity, accountability, non-racialism, non-sexism and democracy".

Rhodes hosted USSA for the first time in 2014, which inspired Rhodes to take rugby more seriously. The team, currently consisting of 27 members, has an average age of 21 and has 14 players of colour. Four of these players will be lost next year, including captain Marcus Nel, who has seen the team develop since 2012. "He is a leader on and off the field and will be sorely missed next year," says Everton.

"I really have to give it to the boys – they gave their all to see us to the finish line," Sompondo praises. "They played like seasoned professionals in high pressure situations. I am happy for all of them, and history will be kind to all these brave young men."



REUNION RECAP AND CATCH-UP

ORIENTATION COCKTAIL PARTY

The Orientation Cocktail Party is aimed at new students who have a family connection to Rhodes and gives their Old Rhodian relatives and the student the unique opportunity to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, and other members of staff on a more personal level.

The Cocktail Party was held in February at Alumni House and the evening was abuzz with students and alumni. The President of the Old Rhodian Union, Professor Rod Walker, gave a warm welcome and explained that the Old Rhodian Union, founded in 1911, forms a link between past and present students and staff of Rhodes University. Active fundraising for bursaries takes place within the Old Rhodian Union and the money is used to fund bursaries for children of Old Rhodians and staff members.

Rhodes University is unique in its small campus and students receive the best academic and social experience which will equip them as leaders and ensure that they are successful in their career paths.

THE OLD RHODIAN GOLF CLUB – AN UPDATE WITH TERRY SUTHERLAND

There is never a better time to reflect on the year than when we reach the halfway point: we look back at how we stepped into 2016 and look forward to what the following year will bring. An important part of this reflection period is catching up with Old Rhodians and some of the donors who help promote our proud purple spirit. They continue to give back to the Rhodes University community.

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

The OR Golf Club was established in 1970. It started off as an alumni club for golfers but soon became “the nerve centre

for all Old Rhodian activities in Gauteng,” says Sutherland. The harnessing factor was the running and managing of OR reunions, to introduce exciting events for all Old Rhodians in and around Johannesburg. Sutherland comments: “We saw the club as the networking centre in Johannesburg and became involved in putting together several OR activities”.

Every year OR Golf Club, spearheaded by Sutherland, hosts The Bursary Golf Day. Not only do Old Rhodians and golf enthusiasts get together to enjoy a bit of fun on the greens, but its objective is to raise enough money “to entice a golden sportsman to attend Rhodes and pay for a full year of their academic fees”.

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

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

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

About commercial growth and investment, Sutherland says the following: “We would really like to have a lot more

interest at our Bursary Golf Day in November and see more ORs and their companies playing and contributing”. It is a great day where old connections can be re-established and a great cause supported by Old RU leaders who still play a vital part in the university’s operations to this day.

Sutherland wants us “to watch this space for the launch of The Old Rhodian Gauteng Chapter”. He believes that Rhodians tend to be cut from the same mould – so it is important that we support, promote and contribute everything that will help keep the purple flame illuminating for many years to come.

PURPLE THURSDAY IN SYDNEY

Professor Di Wilmot, Dean of Faculty of Education, invited all Old Rhodians living in and visiting Sydney, to join her for a Purple Thursday gathering when she visited there in August. The informal event was held to catch up on all of the latest news and achievements from Rhodes University and was an opportunity for Old Rhodians living in Sydney to meet each other.

The event took place at the Holiday Inn Darling Harbour.

Every Thursday, staff, students and alumni unite in wearing a touch of purple to show their pride in being part of the Rhodes family. We have numerous Purple Thursday Gatherings in South Africa and are spreading the purple around the world.





UPCOMING LEGACY LUNCHEONS AND REUNIONS

Cape Town in September

The purple will be coming to Cape Town in September.

Legacy Luncheon: 17 September

Reunion: 17 September

Vice-Chancellor's Dinner (for donors and supporters of Rhodes):

16 September

6 Spin Street Restaurant Gallery

RSVP: t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za

Durban in October

The Rhodes gees will move up the coast to Durban in October.

Legacy Luncheon: 22 October

African Pride Audacia Manor Boutique Hotel,

11 Sir Arthur Road, Morningside

RSVP: t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za

This year the reunion will be used as an opportunity to present the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award 2015 to Andrew Lofts Gray.

Johannesburg in November

Legacy Luncheon: 4 November

Reunion: 5 November

Vice-Chancellor's Dinner (for donors and supporters of Rhodes):

3 November

Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club,

1 Fairway Avenue, Linksfield North

RSVP: t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za

Knocking on Heaven's Door Group Reunion

A group of 1965 to 1975 Old Rhodians who stay in contact via Facebook will be hosting a reunion in Port Alfred on 2 October.

Contact Christine Tapson: ctapson@iafrica.com

Were you at Rhodes in the 90's?

A group of mid 1990's Old Boys will be meeting up on campus on 28 and 29 October.

Contact Bruce Walsh: bruce_walsh@mail.com



CELEBRATING 100

The 2016 National Arts Festival brought with it some fabulous fun, festivities and festival-goers – all coming together to enjoy the diversity of the spectacular arts on offer in our own backyard. Yet this is a time that did not just see a flurry of music, theatre, dance and artistic performance – but worthy Rhodes University revelry as well.

The Oriel House Centenary celebrations kicked off on the last Friday of Festival, 8 July 2016. It is hard to believe that it has been a 100 years since Oriel House was established, yet its purple spirit still illuminates brightly.

In what Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, themed “Bringing Home 100 Years”, the centenary programme featured a wonderful selection of events and activities for the attendees.

RU Alumni and other Old Rhodians were all welcomed to a cocktail party at Alumni House, hosted by the VC, and with a special reception made by Old Rhodian President, Professor Rod Walker.

Our most recent graduates shared in some light and laughter with prominent faces and figures from years gone by. This set the tone for an exciting weekend for Oriel House's returnees to enjoy.

Saturday 9 July saw St Peters Cafeteria open its doors to the Oriel House Centenary Luncheon, hosted by current Courtenay-Latimer Hall Warden Engela Tyson. This was a beautiful, relaxed and casual lunch date for an exclusive catch-up session between old girls and current students.

Kim Cloete (1983), proud former member of the house, gave brief but delightful accounts that harked back to some of the best memories that Oriel women shared during their time at RU. Boniswa Matiwane (a current student) paid homage to the still-enduring spirit of Oriel. She shared reflections, gave valuable insights on how times have changed, and mapped out a hopeful direction into which young people are shaking, shaping and shifting the country's socio-



YEARS OF ORIEL HOUSE

political and socio-economic landscape at present.

One thing is for sure: 100 years on, Oriel is still a house where strong, courageous, determined and ambitious young women are groomed. It is true that some of the university's future leaders and industry pioneers get to call Oriel their 'home away from home' – such as Dr Judith Bishop (who was at Oriel from 1969-1971), now based in Seattle, USA, and holds a position at Microsoft Research. If RU is "Where leaders learn", then Oriel is still one of the best homes on campus for leaders to live.

Perhaps the most special and sentimental of events on the programme was the unveiling of the Oriel House Plaque outside the residence, with a stunning group photograph that was taken to seal the occasion. After all, Oriel has retained its reputation as a "premier residence at Rhodes University".

Later on Saturday evening, the formal Centenary Dinner was

hosted by Dr Peter Clayton in the Eden Grove building. Dressed to the nines, Centenary attendees and honoured guests shared in a splendid evening of good conversation, joyous expressions and positive outlooks for what lies ahead for future generations of RU graduates.

The Breakfast Farewell on Sunday 10 July was a delightful way to close off the celebrations and bring the Centenary weekend to an end. It was remarkable to have some of our most memorable Orielites return to campus to "reunite, reminisce and celebrate".

We wish them all the best with their endeavours and look forward to their return to campus in the near future. You are always welcome back anytime, to your purple home.

We thank our Orielites, from across the country and all over the world, for returning to celebrate 100 years of Oriel success and excellence: Ann Gray (1954); Dr Margot (Daly) Beard (1964); Fleur (Crozier) Way-Jones (1965); Susan (Laburn) Gordon (1967); Avonne (Van Staden) Pickering (1969); Jean (Hope) Gladulich (1969); Dr Judith (Mullins) Bishop (1969); Marilyn Clarke (1970); Wendy Nunn (1970); Lindsay (Macqueen) Jones (1972); Angela (Woodened) Langton (1980); Linda (Gemmell) Sutton (1982); Diane (Woodened) Tomlinson (1982); Kim Cloete (1983); Lynne (Derry) Gill (1984); Brigitte Van Blommestein (1984); Diane (Green) Paterson (1984); Jessica Gordon (2001); Carol Siyakwazi (2001).



THE PURPLE GIFT GIVING THE GIFT OF RHODES

ORU AWARDS R200 000 IN BURSARIES

The 2016 Old Rhodian Union Bursary (ORU) Awards were hosted by the ORU Vice- President, Professor James Gambiza and the Committee on 12 May 2016 at Alumni House. Twenty-six bursaries, totalling R200 000, were awarded to students whose parents or grandparents are Old Rhodians.

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. The Old Rhodian Union Committee works closely with the Alumni Office and the Rhodes UK and USA Trust in reconnecting Alumni nationally and internationally, and raises funds to ensure that future generations of Old Rhodian children can obtain a Rhodes University degree.

These bursaries are made possible by generous donations from our Old Rhodians:

- **The UK Bursaries** are sponsored by money donated by the Rhodes 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 who were loved by generations of students. The fountain in the quad was built as a memorial to the "Chappies".
- **The Chris Hummel Bursary:** The late 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.
- **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** have been awarded since 2013. The money raised comes from Old Rhodians who have joined the MySchool programme. To get your MySchool supporters card please go to <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/> - don't forget to register Rhodes University as your beneficiary.

The 2016 recipients are: Chanelle Anderson; Shannon Daniels; Sarah de Jongh; Heather Dixon; Thandile Dukashe; Robert Glover; Richard Hanly; Mo James; Fasi Khanya; Kelly Ann Maguire; Kanya Manyathi; Sifanelwe Mini; Lelona Mxesibe; Yonela Ntshakaza; Rethabile Ratsomo; Duncan Rist; Daniel Rogers; Devon Shoemaker; Wafi Skera; Madliki Thembela; Siyavuya Titi; Samantha van Heerden; Amy von Witt; Sesonasipho Yedwa.



ALUMNUS GUIDES LEARNERS TO UNIVERSITY

Since she started helping matriculants fill in forms and apply for bursaries two years ago, Pumla Stuurman (2002) has seen eight students into university. This year, the former banking executive has helped six students get into Rhodes University by mentoring and inspiring them to dream big.

Stuurman's life changed in January 2014 when she visited family in East London and noticed how students' hopes and dreams for a better future were dashed by only applying for university courses after they got their matric results instead of before they finished school. Realising she could help, Stuurman started regularly visiting Tsholomqa High School in Chalumna from her Johannesburg base.

"It was financially draining me," she said. But instead of giving up on the pupils, she gave up her job and moved home to set up a free education support programme in December 2014. "They just need people who believe in them, people who will bring the positive to the negative situations they are experiencing."

"We are grateful for her confidence in her *alma mater* to provide quality education to the students she has mentored and assisted," said Dr Mabizela. "We look forward to working more closely with her as we strive to ensure that academically deserving pupils in the Eastern Cape are able to access quality higher education at Rhodes."

GIVE5 – R83 000 RAISED

March 5 to 13 2016 was a busy period for our current Rhodents who immersed themselves in the task of raising money for give5. Over R83 800 was raised, simply from students holding events and asking for donations of R5 and more.

give5 is part of the Rhodes Alumni student engagement strategy, which seeks to introduce students to the culture of giving whilst on campus. The campaign is run by the give5 Committee. The money is raised for the Annual Fund, *Pocket Money Fund* which consists of 170 students who receive R170 per month. These students might be on bursaries, but do not have extra money to help them buy essentials such as deodorant or soap. The collection week culminated in the five metre Fire Walk where students and staff walked over hot coals to raise funds for give5. The collection week is based on a competition where the winning Res, which was Botha House, won a flat screen TV and the winning Hall, Founders Hall, won the give5 trophy. The Rugby Club received the Clubs and Societies Trophy. The give5 campaign does not end with the one week collection and students are asked to include give5, which is essentially Rhodents raising money for fellow Rhodents, in their fundraising efforts throughout the year.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

JOHN ANDREW CONRADIE
MEMORIAL TRUST

*Law graduate, PhD candidate, student assistant, multi Shotokan Karate Gold Medallist, and soon to be published poet: **Leroy Maisiri** is the multi-talented recipient of this year's John Andrew Conradie Memorial Trust bursary.*

BY DEBBIE BRUINDERS



Maisiri paid for his entire undergrad studies by working part-time around the country. He says that for much of the time he was "on the road and missed a long chain of compulsory classes." So receiving this bursary has meant that, for the first time since he registered at Rhodes, he does not have to be too concerned about how he will pay for his tuition and living expenses.

"I will never be able to pen it all down or fully express what this award from the UK Trust means to me," says Maisiri. The bursary is administered by the Rhodes UK Trust and was established in 2006 for Zimbabwean students. Maisiri and his brother Brandon are this year's beneficiaries.

Maisiri started his PhD in 2015 but only registered for his second year in June this year because he had given up on completing the programme due to financial constraints. He says that it did not make any sense registering for the academic year without a concrete financial plan that would not end up with him being too far in debt. He also has the additional responsibility of financially supporting his younger brother Brandon, a second year student at Rhodes.

Maisiri originally came to Rhodes to study law because in his early teens he was "consumed with a very specific meaning and

sense of success which was to me at that time commonly demonstrated by lawyers." His research led him to conclude that Rhodes had a really good Law Department. He worked part-time all around South Africa, from Johannesburg to Bloemfontein, East London and then Grahamstown where he worked as an assistant at a computer repair shop. Finally he was fortunate enough to be hired by the Alumni and Development Division as a student assistant working on its donor database.

"My undergrad was truly a four year long miracle," he says. "I had a combination of many part-time jobs that had nothing to do with my studies, but combined they were my means to sustain myself paying rent, buying food and of course paying full tuition up front as was demanded by the rules." Maisiri worked wherever he found the opportunity and had no problem waiting on tables and doing planning logistics for Scifest Africa or the National Arts Festival. "One of the most famous stories my future children will hear about was the day I got fired and hired and fired all in one day by the same boss because he wasn't sure if he really needed me."

Maisiri is currently reading towards his PhD in Industrial Economic Sociology after completing his BA Law in 2012 with majors in

Industrial Economic Sociology and Philosophy. Whilst studying law he quickly learnt that a "career in law was certainly not for me, but because I am my father's son, I finished the degree and completed Law." He then pursued what caught his attention in his first year – Sociology, specifically Industrial Economic Sociology. He refers to it as "the holy matrimony between the economy and society and the woes that come out of it." So in 2013 he completed his Honours in Industrial Economic Sociology. In 2014 he registered for his Masters in Industrial Economic Sociology, completed it in one year, and was "completely burnt out."

Maisiri says his interest lies in other people's success stories. "My interests lie in how they did things, why they did it and the governing principles they use in their lives."

What really concerns him, though, is the economic disaster in his home country. He says he will not give up on his dream of becoming an entrepreneur of a sustainable business development. "Interestingly," he says, "it has nothing to do with what I have studied." Whilst he believes he has "much to show and much to be proud of," Maisiri adds that "being the first born of a family of four, there is this pressure on my shoulders that unfortunately sometimes alters my plans."

GOLDRUSH PAYS IT FORWARD

BY ANIMA MCBROWN



The Goldrush Foundation of the Goldrush Gaming Group has awarded a R25 000 bursary each to Chumani Nkwinti and Siphosehtu Matebese, two second year Rhodes University (RU) students who are majoring in African languages. They are both on the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). As second year students who are majoring in African languages, their bursaries will now help pave a more secure way forward for their education and academic careers. This also sees much needed promotion and support for the study of African languages at the higher education level.



CHUMANI NKWINTI (20)

Nkwinti comes from Xolani Location in Grahamstown. As the oldest child in a family of six, this is a determined woman with set goals for how she plans to map out the success of her and her family's future.

She is studying a Bachelor of Arts (BA), majoring in Xhosa and Psychology. "I love working with people and take pride in understanding the study of languages," says Nkwinti.

Her love for language has contributed to Nkwinti taking Xhosa as a major; she has also included a new course called lintetho zoBomi into her BA degree. She never got the opportunity to study Xhosa formally in her early schooling career, so she relishes that she can now take on the language as her mother tongue at university level. "It's difficult and different, but challenging," she says, "I am really enjoying it."

She recognises her place at Rhodes as a special one, one that she cannot take for granted. "So many of my fellow peers within Grahamstown dream of getting the opportunity but finances get in the way of their dreams," she says. "I am beyond grateful for receiving this prize, as it will lessen the total amount of money I have to pay back when I start working."

She appreciates that her new Goldrush bursary will decrease the amount of money she will have to repay for her NSFAS loan. On the top of her priority list is her wish to ensure that her siblings can enter and excel at tertiary level, the same way she has.

About the bursary she comments that "it has not changed only my life, but of my siblings as well." This proves that paying it forward has the domino effect, a rippling impact which allows deserving bursary awardees to push through, perform well, complete their studies and proceed to give back – to their own families and in their local communities.

SIPHOSEHTU MATEBESE (20)

Unlike Nkwinti who is a resident on campus at Thomas Pringle, Matebese is an Oppidan student who lives at home with her family, in Joza Location. Now in her second year of her BA in Legal Theory, IsiXhosa (majors), Psychology and Sociology (minors), she is more hopeful than ever that completing her studies will be possible.

The last born of three children, Matebese admits that before receiving the Gold Rush bursary she had been extremely concerned about the financial constraints around her studies. Her family have been through a difficult time in the past two years. When her father lost his job in late 2014, it left both her parents unemployed.

In 2015 she was granted a NSFAS loan. Times have remained trying because she contributes part of the R1600 NSFAS allowance she receives towards upkeep at home. "I give half of the money to my parents to buy essentials in the house; it is not much but with the contribution my brother and sister make, we manage."

Matebese shares her family's difficulties and subsequent persevering spirits to emphasise the impact of this Gold Rush bursary. It has provided the financial alleviation she has been hoping, working and praying for.

Just like Nkwinti, she too is passionate about language studies. She confesses that a definite career path has not been decided yet, but that she hopes to marry her language studies in IsiXhosa to her legal theory knowledge in Law. That way she can translate legal documents and help outline legal frameworks for people who are limited by not having English as a primary language of communication.

About her Goldrush bursary she says: "I am very grateful for the money that has been awarded to me; together with Financial Aid I hope that I will be able to continue with my schooling next year and graduate the following year."

What makes Goldrush's generous financial support even more remarkable is the fact that a local group has chosen to support two deserving local students. Goldrush is paying it forward by looking in its own back yard – to sow back into the community that needs it most.

NSFAS STUDENT MEETS SPONSOR FOR THE FIRST TIME

BY NEERESHA PATEL

Karishma Sunker was nervous. The 21-year-old Pharmacy student from Stanger was going to have lunch at Haricots with Dr Fathima Patel, a local doctor employed at Settler's Hospital who has been contributing funds towards Ms Sunker's studies since the beginning of 2016.

From first year, Ms Sunker's studies and residence fees have been covered by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). Pharmacy was what she has wanted to do and nothing else since Grade 12 when she participated in community service. After applying to and not being accepted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal, she embarked on a gap year that included engaging in community outreach in her area and working as a secretary at her high school to support herself. She then applied to Rhodes University to pursue a degree in Pharmacy. Financially, it was the ideal place that "was going to allow me to have financial aid."

Performing well in her June examinations in 2015, approximately R2500 was contributed by a trust fund towards Ms Sunker's studies. This year, Dr Patel, herself a Rhodes alumnus, became her financial benefactor.

"I think because I was on financial aid, some applications were sent through and I was chosen among other students to be

sponsored by Dr Patel," says Ms Sunker. She met Dr Patel for a lunch appointment on 25 April 2016. For her, it was an exciting moment to meet her then unknown sponsor at last. Her family are proud of her and are grateful for Dr Patel's assistance.

In a way, Dr Patel's varsity years were no different from Ms Sunker's. She studied towards a degree in Pharmacy at Rhodes, graduating in 2006 with a PhD in pharmaceuticals. During her academic career, she had been a NSFAS recipient for two years, received student loans and was then awarded a bursary in her final year. As a medical student, she had also been assisted financially by the faculty. Thereafter, Dr Patel worked in Research and Development at two local pharmaceutical companies before deciding to pursue medicine in the GEMP program at Wits University. She is currently completing her community service year at Settler's Hospital, and is an active NGO/NPO volunteer in the Grahamstown community.

"As a student who constantly worried about finances and having received help from many generous programs and individuals, I think it's my privilege and duty to pay it forward for students in similar situations," she explains. "It's hard enough to get through a degree, but to

worsen it with financial concerns is very challenging."

Her modest nature prevents her from revealing the extent of her philanthropic activities that she has carried out in the community and towards the University, but no doubt her sponsoring Ms Sunker's studies is one that she values and relates to the most. Her warm air and bright smile speaks volumes about her generous and genial personality, which seems to soothe Ms Sunker's nerves when they finally come face-to-face.

Their meeting is something Ms Sunker will remember for a long while, and Dr Patel's contributions certainly means a lot to her in the long term.

"With NSFAS, you'll have to be paying back your money," she says. "Her sponsoring me reduces that burden, because I still have my family to take care of."

Dr Patel's service towards the community has also inspired her to do her part in helping others.

"When I do qualify as a pharmacist, that's exactly what I want to do. I'd like to contribute something to students like Dr Patel's doing for me now, and also to help out in my community because the people there are really disadvantaged," says Ms Sunker.

From left to right: Ms Karishma Sunker had the opportunity to visit Dr Fathima Patel at Settler's Hospital.



We all want to believe that in some way we can help make this world a better place...that what we do today can have a lasting, positive influence on generations to come. Last year saw over 500 alumni donating to the Annual Fund. Donations ranged in size from a R100 to several thousand rand and over R800 000 was committed to supporting a variety of programmes and projects at Rhodes University.

South African universities have only three sources of income: student fees, state subsidies and donations. At the end of last year the #FeesMustFall Campaign saw a zero increase in tertiary fees and despite NSFAS increasing their contributions, Rhodes University still provides approximately 50% of the overall undergraduate financial aid budget from its own funds.

Bursary support for academically talented students in financial need to access a Rhodes University education remains critical in 2017. Our vision is for all of us to build a better society and a better world

than the one we inherited from the generation before us. Every young person of our country and beyond should be assured of a quality higher education at Rhodes University.

We hope that you will assist us in supporting deserving students by making your own monthly or one off contribution to the Annual Fund.

As a South African taxpayer, whether you donate in your personal capacity or through your business, you will be issued with a Section 18A tax certificate which will entitle you to a tax rebate at the end of the 2015/16 Tax Year (29/02/2016).

With so many opportunities and so many worthy causes, we are truly grateful for your willingness to include Rhodes University among your philanthropic priorities.

For more information on this appeal do not hesitate to contact Ellen Bagshawe-Smith at 046-603 8509 or annualefund@ru.ac.za should you have any questions.

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BEQUESTS

BRITS ESTATE LATE

CHENEY ESTATE LATE

REMEMBERING THE REVEREND DR GQUBULE

PRESIDENT OF CONVOCATION

18 February 1928 - 26 May 2016



Rev. Dr Simon Gqubule was the first black student to receive a doctorate degree from Rhodes University in 1978. He was honoured with an honorary doctorate from Rhodes University in 1995. He remained loyal and dedicated to his alma mater to the last days of his life, his last visit being on 12 May 2016, when he came to offer support to the University.

He was a long-serving President of Convocation, a responsibility he discharged with admirable dedication and commitment. He lived an impressively active life to the end, attending all six Rhodes graduation ceremonies in April 2016.

He tirelessly committed his life to helping others and advancing education. His commitment to educating previously disadvantaged scholars won him numerous awards. In 2015 he was awarded the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award for his dedication and contribution to teaching and learning.

The Rev. Dr Gqubule was a well-respected and influential figure in his community, church and academic circles and played a significant role in advancing education as he committed his life to being the 'chaplain' for many other students, thus improving many lives. For his passion and dedication to ensuring that Nelson Mandela Bay's youngsters prosper, he received the Herald GM Citizen of the Year Award in 2014. The qualified teacher never stopped working to improve the education of disadvantaged learners, he continued his private initiative, Ilitha Lemfundo, that offers Saturday classes to grade 10, 11 and 12 pupils in Uitenhage until the end.

He was honoured with the National Order of Luthuli: Silver, in April 2016, for his excellent contribution in the liberation struggle and in the fields of education and religion. At this ceremony he was accompanied by his children, a moment that touched him deeply as he recalled on

his last visit, the proud father shared this story with many. He brought newspaper clippings along and recollected an evening during apartheid when all three of his children had been arrested and spent the evening in prison as a method to intimidate and harass the Rev. who was actively fighting for the liberation of all. Rev. Dr Gqubule was the president of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the Natal Midlands. During his presidency of this movement, the apartheid government placed him under house arrest for two years, between 1988 and 1990.

Our University has lost a truly committed and selfless leader of education and his legacy will continue. Rev. Dr Gqubule's rich and inspiring life, and his immense contribution to our society and community will be remembered. We extend our condolences to the Rev's family, who generously shared him with us.

What is Convocation?

Convocation is a statutory body which meets at least once a year (on the Saturday closest to the 28th of August) to discuss any matters affecting the University, and to convey its resolutions to the University Council and the Senate. All graduates of Rhodes University, the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Principal, Registrar, University Librarian, all permanent full-time members of the teaching staff, and the directors of the research institutes of the University, are members of Convocation. The Registrar is secretary ex officio. Old Rhodians who graduated from the University of South Africa while studying at Rhodes University College may apply to the Registrar to join Rhodes University Convocation. All members are entitled to vote for office-bearers. Convocation elects three of its members to the Council.

The meetings of Convocation and the Annual General meeting of the Old Rhodian Union will take place on Saturday 27 August 2016. The Convocation will elect a new President at this meeting.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE GRAHAMSTOWN REGION

Grahamstown is visited by numerous visitors each year, yet very little is available in the way of guidebooks to encourage them to explore the town and surrounding region. By contrast the residents, especially academics at Rhodes University and the Albany Museum and members of the many clubs and societies, have a wide knowledge of the region.

In 1974 the annual conference of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science – the so-called S2A3, (this was the former collective Scientific Association from which many other associations were formed) was held at Rhodes University. The organisers of the conference decided that a small publication should be produced on the city of Grahamstown and its surrounds, as is done in the cities of the UK by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Consequently the booklet *Grahamstown and its Environs* was produced that described the physical and biological environment and provided guides for conference excursions. In 1985 the text was revamped by the Geography Department of Rhodes University and the Albany Museum. This resulted in a small book edited by Professor John Daniel and Drs Wouter Holleman and Amy Jacot-Guillarmod. This book is now out of date and the need for a more comprehensive guide to the city has become apparent.

The local branch of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) thus decided to compile a single small guidebook with much of the information that newcomers would

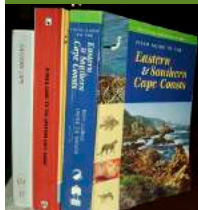
need to find their way around and enjoy our natural and cultural history. Experts in the various fields, many from Rhodes University and its associated institutions, have given of their time and knowledge to impart interesting facts and findings on the numerous topics in this book. Being so familiar with the region, it was a rewarding exercise for most of them to customise their material for the layman. New scientific information such as the recently discovered fossils in the region is fascinating reading that puts Grahamstown truly on the Palaeontological map.

We recognise the Grahamstown region as the old magisterial district of Albany and now more or less the Makana municipal area. In some chapters authors may well stretch their range down to the coast or inland towards the more distant mountains, because for most of our topics it is not possible to think of the city and immediate surrounds in isolation. In fact in some chapters, such as the Day Drives (Chapter 19), we have attempted to provide the link to the greater Grahamstown hinterland.

This book is completely new in content and design. We have drawn on recent findings and earlier publications, and used many of the delightful sketches of *Grahamstown Illustrated* by Dorothy Randall. It is hoped that this new guide will fulfil, and exceed, the earlier objectives of *Grahamstown and its Environs* and that many old Rhodians will support us in its publication as seen in the advert in this edition of Rhodos.

The Editors, Grahamstown: a Guide to the Natural and Cultural History

Grahamstown: a Guide to the Natural and Cultural History

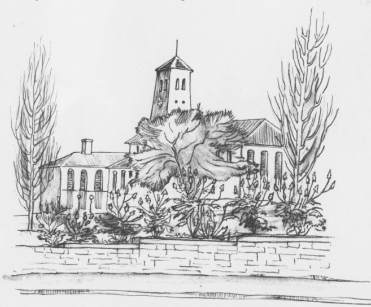


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