

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH IN AFRICA  
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ISEA





Professor Laurence Wright  
ISEA Director 1990-2011



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## **ISEA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

- The Vice-Chancellor (ex-officio)
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### **Research Officers**

M Mbelani, BA (Educ) (UNITRA), BEd (UNISA), ACE (ELT), MEd (Rhodes)

N C Fulani, BEd Hons (Rhodes), SPDT (Cape College)

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S Cassels

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### **Associate Professionals**

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#### **Fiction:**

Paul Wessels, Silke Heiss, Anton Krueger

#### **Memoir and non-fiction:**

Jeff Peires, Hazel Crampton, Robert Berold



**Scriptwriting:**

Anton Krueger, Paul Mason

**Xhosa:**

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**Outgoing editors: *English in Africa***

Dr J V Starfield, BA Hons (Wits), MA (SOAS, London), PhD (Wits)

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**Editor: *English in Africa* (since June 2011)**

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**Editor: *New Coin Poetry***

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**Editor: *Shakespeare in Southern Africa***

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**Editor: Shakespeare Society *Occasional Papers and Reviews***

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**Publications Officer**

B Cummings-Penlington

**Secretary**

N Kelemi

## CONSPECTUS

This report covers the period from January to November 2011

The year's highlights include:

- The successful launch of the Rhodes Masters in Creative Writing programme. The first cohort of 8 students is expected to complete by the end of the year or early in 2012. This is only the second such programme in the country registered on the NQF. The intention is to lift the full time numbers to 15 for 2012, at the same time piloting a planned part time route with an intake of 5 students. The long-term plan is to take the programme to a maximum of 40 MA students, and simultaneously to introduce a PhD by research. A book, *Tyhini 2011*, based on course-work exercises undertaken by the students in the first five months of the programme, was published by the Institute and launched in October. The book is edited by Robert Berold.
- A R21 million grant from the Sishen Iron Ore Company Community Development Trust (SIOC-cdt) to undertake a major teacher education initiative in the Northern Cape, in partnership with the Rhodes University Maths Education Project (RUMEP) and the Centre for Social Development. The ISEA initiative will take a substantial cohort of Northern Cape teachers through a BED in English Language Teaching, while RUMEP will provide an equivalent qualification in Mathematics Teaching, and the CSD will see to the Foundation Phase teaching qualification. We look forward to working with our new partners in the Northern Cape in a shared endeavour to improve the quality of education available there.
- The renewal of Professor Chris Mann's position as Rhodes Professor of Poetry for a further three-year term, a tribute both to his work as a poet and to his remarkable contribution to the promotion of poetry in schools, universities and for the general public, both in South Africa and elsewhere.
- An invitation to the Director to join the editorial board of *Shakespeare*, the journal of the British Shakespeare Association.
- The hosting, on Friday **20 May**, by the Secondary Schools Language Project (SSLP), of a public seminar, 'Rural Language Education in Context', which was sponsored by the English Academy of Southern Africa as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations. The six presentations focused on the unique challenges of rural education. Topics included Monica Hendricks on 'Schooling and resources: an overview', Laurence Wright on 'Rural teachers, reading and social imagination', Margie Probyn (University of the Western Cape) on 'Talking science, thinking science: opportunities to learn', Madeyandile Mbelani on 'Visual literacy: experiences and reflections from rural schools', Ntombekhaya Fulani on 'Language textbooks and the challenges of equal education', Sarah Murray (RU Education Department) on 'Literacy in rural schools: the importance of the early years', and Ntombekhaya Fulani and Monica Hendricks on 'Lessons from classroom observation'. Much of the material presented is to be included in a book being prepared for publication by ISEA staff. The event was attended by some 35

people, including local academics, district education officials from as far away as Queenstown, and by members of the Council of the Eastern Cape English Educators Association (ECEEA), whose presence was sponsored by the ZENEX Foundation. Reports on the event were carried in the Newsletter of the English Academy, on the Rhodes website, and in the local press.

- The introduction of an annual third issue of *English in Africa*. The extra issue will be devoted to the work of the South African Literary History Project (SALHP), based in the Rhodes English Department, and will be guest-edited by a member of the SALHP team. The SALHP has two aims, archival and analytical. It seeks to compile a comprehensive record of SA literature, where possible providing digital access to relevant texts; and in respect of the analytical aim, it seeks to offer a reassessment of South African literary history with reference to an expanded archival record. The first SALHP number, edited by David Johnson and Edward Hudson, carries the text of the earliest known South African novel written in English, Samuel Eusebius Hudson's *Virtuoso* (c.1826-28), published here for the first time. The initial agreement runs for five years.
- The ISEA's contribution to rural teacher development through its Secondary Schools Language Project (SSLP) being acknowledged in a recent survey of Rhodes University's main community engagement initiatives, entitled *A Critical Pillar*, an in-house publication which sets out to enhance public awareness of community engagement as the third pillar of a university's core activities, the others being teaching and research.
- The Director being invited to make a presentation to Management and Faculty of the North West University (Potchefstroom Campus) on developing a research-intensive university. Professor Wright spoke in relation to the Humanities, while the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Carools Reinecke, spoke from a Science perspective. The event took place on Friday **26 August**.
- The Director delivering a 'farewell' public lecture, 'Guy Butler's South Africanism: "Being present where you are"', on the occasion of his being presented with the English Academy's Gold Medal for lifetime achievement, in the Arts Major lecture theatre, **16 November** 2011.

## RHODES MASTERS IN CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME LAUNCH



### The first Master's intake seen with Rhodes Senior Management

Above, left to right, back row: Reneilwe Malatji, Robert Berold (Course Coordinator), Namhla Tshisela, Oliver Cartwright, Ruth Woudstra, Laurence Wright (Programme Coordinator), Songeziwe Mahlangu, Bernat Kruger and Megan van der Nest

Front row: Dr Peter Clayton (DVC Research), Dr Saleem Badat (Vice Chancellor) and Dr Sizwe Mabizela (DVC Academic and Student Affairs)

### Teachers on the programme

Below, left to right, back row: Robert Berold, Anton Krueger, Paul Wessels, Laurence Wright, Hazel Crampton, Paul Mason and Brian Walter

Front row: Mxolisi Nyezwa, Joan Metelerkamp and Mzi Mahola





*Tyhini 2011*, a 200 page publication selected from course-work exercises undertaken by the Masters students in the first five months of the programme. Published by the Institute, edited by Robert Berold, and launched in October

## RHODES NORTHERN CAPE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM



Left to right Tom Penlington (RUMEP), Thomas Haywood, (RUMEP), Monica Hendricks (ISEA), Jenny Hodgskiss (CSD) and Deyi Mbelani (ISEA).  
Vera Adams (CSD) took the photograph, through the slanted rain, soon after their arrival in Kimberley on 12 April



Monica Hendricks and Tom Penlington alongside the recently purchased Subaru, to be used by both (ISEA) and (RUMEP) for classroom support visits in the Northern Cape



## ISEA SEMINAR: 'RURAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN CONTEXT'



Ntombekhaya Fulani, presents her topic 'Language textbooks and the challenges of equal education', at the public seminar entitled 'Rural Language Education in Context', hosted by the Secondary Schools Language Project (SSLP) and sponsored by the English Academy of Southern Africa as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations, on Friday 20 May



The six presenters from left to right: Margie Probyn (University of the Western Cape), Monica Hendricks, Laurence Wright, Madeyandile Mbelani, Ntombekhaya Fulani and Sarah Murray (RU Education Department)

**SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY HISTORY PROJECT**

MAY 2011  
VOLUME 38 NUMBER 1

# ENGLISH IN AFRICA

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH IN AFRICA  
RHODES UNIVERSITY, GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

*English in Africa*, founded in 1975, introduced a third annual issue this year devoted to scholarship from the South African Literary History Project (SALHP)



## ENGLISH ACADEMY GOLD MEDAL PRESENTATION AND LECTURE



President of the English Academy, Professor Stan Ridge, introduces Laurence Wright, recipient of the Academy's Gold Medal for lifetime achievement



The Director listens before delivering his 'farewell' public lecture, 'Guy Butler's South Africanism: "Being present where you are"', 16 November 2011, following the Gold Medal presentation

## STAFF NEWS

- The Director retires at the end of 2011 after 21 years at the helm of the ISEA. As is the normal practice at Rhodes, a review of the Institute is under way, chaired by Professor Malvern van Wyk Smith. We look forward to studying the outcome.
- Dr Jane Starfield had to relinquish her position as editor of *English in Africa* on health grounds, and the former editor, Professor Mike Marais, stepped into the breach at short notice. Subsequently, Prof Gareth Cornwell has agreed to assume the editorship, subject to the approval of the ISEA Board of Management. The Institute is deeply grateful to all three for their contribution, and their willingness to see the journal through a difficult patch.
- A new appointment is in process for a Lecturer based in the Northern Cape to assist with the SISHEN-cdt intervention. The new contract post will undertake some of the in-school support and data-gathering for the programme. A further post for a part-time coordinator is being created in Grahamstown to liaise with the funder, the contact programme at Rhodes, and the Northern Cape teacher support network.

## DONORS

Financial support from the following sources is acknowledged with gratitude:

The Arts and Culture Trust  
Biblione  
DALRO  
The Donaldson Trust  
Eastern Cape Department of Basic Education  
Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture  
Faculty of Humanities, Rhodes University  
Grahamstown Training College Fund  
National Arts Council  
National Department of Arts and Culture  
National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund  
Rhodes University Research Committee  
Rhodes University  
Sishen Iron Ore Company Community Development Trust  
The ZENEX Foundation  
Van Schaik Bookstore

## ISEA PUBLICATIONS

### PERIODICALS

The Director, Beverley Cummings-Penlington, Carol Leff, Eddie Baart, Nomangesi Kelemi

The periodicals continue to earn welcome revenue shares through the increased international sales made possible by their expanded electronic distribution. This

contributes substantially to their financial viability. In the course of 2012 *New Coin* will acquire a board of referees, to enable the magazine to qualify as an accredited publication, in preparation for the introduction of research-equivalent subsidies when artistic outputs eventually achieve recognition as valid intellectual outputs, worthy of formal academic acknowledgement.

- English in Africa*** 38.1 (May 2011). Eds. Jane Starfield, Mike Marais and Dirk Klopper. pp.146.  
***English in Africa*** 38.2 (August 2011). Ed. Jane Starfield. pp.120  
***English in Africa*** 38.3 (October 2011). Ed. Jane Starfield. (in process).  
***New Coin Poetry*** 47.1 (June 2011). Ed. Crystal Warren. pp.74.  
***New Coin Poetry*** 47.2 (December 2011). Ed. Crystal Warren. (forthcoming)  
***Shakespeare in Southern Africa*** 23 (2011). Ed. Christopher Thurman. pp.104.  
***SOSSA Newsletter/OPAR*** (December 2011). Ed. Hildé Slinger. pp.16.  
***Writing is Fun*** 11 (July 2011). Ed. Monica Hendricks and Samantha Cassels. pp.8.

***English in Africa* 38.1**, This is the first of the South African Literary History Project issues (SALHP), guest-edited by David Johnson and Edward Hudson. The issue featured the first publication of Samuel Eusebius Hudson's *The Virtuoso*.

***English in Africa* 38.2**, guest-edited by Bhekizizwe Peterson and Anette Horn. Focusing on Es'kia Mphahlele: Teacher and Mentor, the volume included articles by Sam Tlhalo Raditlhalo, Lara Buxbaum, Minesh Dass, Thulani Nxasana and Christopher E. W. Ouma, together with review articles by Nicholas Meihuizen and Dan Ojwang.

***English in Africa* 38.3**, (in process).

***New Coin* 47.1**, edited by Crystal Warren, ran poems by Gail Dendy, Tendai R Mwanaka, Charne van der Merwe, Ben Schermbrucker, Joop Bersee, Kelwyn Sole, John Simon, Alan Kolski Horwitz, Sabata-mpho Mokae, Josephine Deacon, G M Enerson, Diliza L Madikiza, Martin Lochner, Penny Parnell, Alessio Zanelli, Megan van der Nest, Lungelo Ndlela, Dashen Naicker, Adre Marshall, Leslie Howard, Tsitsi Sachikonye, Thiloshini Govender, Mari Pete and Lucas Zulu.

***New Coin* 47.2** (forthcoming).

***Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 23 (2011)** guest-edited by Tony Voss, is a special number focusing on 'Banishment, Xenophobia, Home and Exile in Shakespeare and the Renaissance'. It features articles by Ton Hoenselaars, E.A. Davies, Sandra Young, Tony Voss and John Masterson. The issue carries essays and reviews by Derek Cohen, Colette Gordon, Simon van Schalkwyk, Scott Burnett, Marc Maufort, Sandra Young, Denise Newfield and Frances Ringwood.

***Writing is Fun* 11**, the 2011 issue of the Secondary Schools Language Project broadsheet, is edited by Monica Hendricks and Ntombekhaya Fulani with Samantha Cassels and Beverley Cummings-Penlington.

## THE DALRO POETRY PRIZES

### NEW COIN VOL 46 (2010)

This year's DALRO Awards were judged by Marike Beyers, and the winners are:

First Prize: Khulile Nxumalo: 'It is insane'

Second Prize: Joop Bersee: 'Portrait'

Third Prize: Silke Heiss: 'Five butterfly prints'

#### Honourable Mention:

Ashlee Naser: 'new territory'

Jennifer Lean: 'Leaving'

Ben Schermbrucher: 'Upon first seeing her'

#### Some of the judge's comments on the poems:

Khulile Nxumalo: 'It is insane'

This poem forms part of a sequence for Dambudzo Marechera. Its strength lies in the fluidity in which it presents the complexity and pain of experience without the need to provide solutions, its startling vision and generosity in desolation, its expression of the self in vulnerability in the moment of being. The poem moves between despair at humanity's dreams to '*have a life that lives for always*' – the big dreams or ideologies, '*heroisms that just suck/ Insoluble, unlucky, they lapse steadily*' – and individual experience. In the hopes for historical longevity, to be remembered, we are frozen

*...our scrolled names, solidified limbs in the wings  
Of museums and humanity's bibles.*

This stilted death we seem to value contrasts with the way mountains live on, described so startlingly, joyously:

*And I am thinking, mountains stand befty, and still enthusiastic  
From the late rocks they form, and loaf up ahead.*

Thus what consolation may be seems to come from reaching towards another, and in this it becomes a love poem too: '*Lover of mine, it is time we surrender the vessels/ We have been hiding in our chests*' and how the longing in that aches. This is revealed in small moments, in the griminess and flaws of our everyday being. Yet how can we not be desolate in experiencing love as '*the autumn wind/ (that) revels in the surfaces of pavements*' when the interiority of that responds:

*...I am thinking, the  
Pavements are blanketed by my crunchy coughs, and by my  
Sodden, feet-stops.*

And how beautiful in being and acting and halting that is: feet-stops.

Joop Bersee: 'Portrait'

The clarity of the experience of loss in itself is astounding, an expression of the lived-in non-time, stripped of details. The speaker, the one lost, the world without, broken, merge, become the same intensity, a portrait of this loneliness. The broken experience

reflected in broken lines, a refusal of a complete narrative. The vulnerability of the self in the emptiness of loss is expressed in some of the few more complete sentences:

*They know my language now  
from inside.  
They have folded the way of doing things.*

Silke Heiss: 'Five butterfly prints'

The poem is presented in five sections, each with three short lines, reflecting on transience, on being alive and the aching needs of being alive, of knowing freedom of expression, of silence. Like butterflies, these 'prints' seem light, take off easily. Holding such mournful tones of farewell with such subtlety is a wonder.

*If you touch me now,  
it's the pollen of always  
at your fingertips*

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Berold, R. ed. *Tyhini 2011*. Grahamstown: Institute for the Study of English in Africa, 2011. pp. 202.

(Writing produced by the Masters in Creative Writing Students in the first five months of the programme. Contributors: Reneilwe Malatji, Megan van der Nest, Namhla Tshisela, Bernat Kruger, Ruth Woudstra, Oliver Cartwright, Songeziwe Mahlangu.)

Wright, L. ed. *Interrogating the Spread of Shakespeare: Australia and New Zealand*. A special focus issue of the journal *Multicultural Shakespeare*. Forthcoming from Lodz University Press, 2011. pp.130:

#### CONTENTS

Laurence Wright (Rhodes), 'Introduction'.

----- (Rhodes), 'Interrogating the Spread of Shakespeare'.

David Carnegie (Victoria, NZ), "'What country, friends, is this?': Australian and New Zealand Productions of *Twelfth Night* in the Twentieth Century'.

Ann Blake (La Trobe) and Sue Tweg, 'The Melbourne Shakespeare Society: Bardolatry, Resistance and Fellowship'.

Alan Brissenden (Adelaide), 'Dancing Shakespeare in Australia'.

Emma Cox (London), "'What's past is prologue": Shakespeare and Aboriginal Australia on stage'.

Julie McDougall (Victoria, NZ), 'Māori Take on Shakespeare'.

Rosemary Gaby (Tasmania), 'Venturing Outside: The Emergence of Australian Open-air Shakespeare'.

Laurence Wright (Rhodes), 'A Checklist of Publications from the Southern Hemisphere Spread of Shakespeare Project'.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS

- Fulani, N. 2011. 'Language textbooks and the challenge of equal education'. *Rural Education in Crisis: Views from the Eastern Cape*. Ed. Laurence Wright (forthcoming).
- Hendricks, M. 'Eastern Cape Schools – Resourcing and Class Inequality'. *The Fate of the Eastern Cape: History, Politics and Social Policy*. Ed. Greg Ruiters. Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2011: 254-263.
- , 2011. 'Schooling and resources: an overview'. *Rural Education in Crisis: Views from the Eastern Cape*. Ed. Laurence Wright (forthcoming).
- and L.Wright. "'Power bedevils everything": Towards improving education in the Eastern Cape. An interview with Dr Frank Peters'. *Rural Education in Crisis: Views from the Eastern Cape*. Ed. Laurence Wright (forthcoming).
- Mbelani, M. 'Visual literacy: Experiences and reflections from rural schools in the Eastern Cape'. *Rural Education in Crisis: Views from the Eastern Cape*. Ed. Laurence Wright (forthcoming).
- Wright, L. "'Most fearful hard work": Gwen-Ffrangcon-Davies, Marda Vanne, and the "Good Companions" in South Africa'. *Women in Shakespeare*. Ed. Krystyna Kujawinska Courtney and Katarzyna Kwapisz Williams. Lampeter: Edwin Mellen (forthcoming).
- , 'Notes from a Rhenish Mission: The Sparse code of a great song'. *No Other World: Essays on the life-work of Don MacLennan*. Ed. Dan Wylie and Craig MacKenzie. University of KwaZulu Natal Press (forthcoming).

## JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- Crampton, H. 2011. Skirting the Issue: Wives and Mothers of Eastern Cape Chiefs c 1650-1890: a checklist'. Submitted to *African Studies*.
- , 2011. 'The Explorer Who Got Lost: Dr Andrew Cowan's journal found'. Submitted to the *South African Historical Journal*.
- Fulani, N. and M. Hendricks. 2011. 'Classroom observation and reflective practice.' *Teaching English Today*. (2) <http://www.teachenglishtoday.org/index.php>
- Mbelani, M. 'Sharing good practice: Launching a reading club'. *Teaching English Today*. Issue 2. 4 November. <http://www.teachenglishtoday.org/index.php/2011/11>
- Wessels, P. 2011. 'Mark Hipper: The Body as Work'. *Art South Africa* 9.3: 56-59.
- Willan, B. 2011. 'Cinematographic calamity' or 'Soul-stirring appeal to every Briton': reactions to *Birth of a Nation* in England and South Africa 1915-1931'. *Journal of Southern African Studies* (forthcoming).
- , 2011. 'Shakespeare and the "civilizing mission"? African engagement with Shakespeare in South Africa 1860s to 1880s.' *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* (forthcoming).
- Wright, L. 2011. 'Guy Butler's South Africanism: "Being present where you are"'. Submitted to *English Academy Review*.
- , "'Iron on iron": Modernism engaging apartheid in some South African Railway Poems'. *English Studies in Africa* 54.2 (2011): forthcoming.
- , 2011. "'On being present where you are": Guy Butler's South Africanism (with notes on Kirkwood and Coetzee)'. *Current Writing* (2012): forthcoming.

## POETRY IN BOOKS

- Mann, C. 2011. 'A Field in Italy'. In *A Quiet Place*. Ed. G. Vio & A. Buckland. Università di Padova: Padova. pp.45-51.
- , 'Un pellegrinaggio in Italia.' Translation of the above by M.Fazzini. In *A Quiet Place*. Ed. G. Vio & A. Buckland. Università di Padova: Padova. pp.44-50.
- , 2011. 'Crossing Over'. In *The Complete Poetry Resource*. Ed. N. Stone et al. Johannesburg: The English Experience. pp. 140-141.
- , 2011. 'To Lucky with his Guitar'. *New Inscapes*. Ed. R Malan. 38th impression. Cape Town: OUP. p. 256.
- , 2011. 'Cookhouse Station'. *New Inscapes*. Ed. R Malan. 38th impression. Cape Town: OUP. p. 257.
- , 2011. 'In Praise of the Shades'. *New Inscapes*. Ed. R Malan. 38th impression. Cape Town: OUP. p. 258.
- , 2011. 'Dragonfly'. *Seeing Animals Differently*. Ed. L and P Mitchell. Grahamstown: NISC. p.53.
- , 2011. 'Antlion'. pp. 54-55.
- , 2011. 'Peregrine Falcon'. pp. 56-57.
- , 2011. 'Seahorse'. pp. 57-58.
- , 2011. 'Finches'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.9.
- , 2011. 'Sakhile Wilberforce Mavundla'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.10.
- , 2011. 'Homecoming'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.12.
- , 2011. 'Vuyi Moreki'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.13.
- , 2011. 'Fathers and Sons Cricket Match'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.14.
- , 2011. 'To Julia in the Supermarket'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.18.
- , 2011. 'A Midlife Testimony'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.17.
- , 2011. 'Evensong in Grahamstown Cathedral'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.18.
- , 2011. 'The Bar'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.19.
- , 2011. 'Home from Home'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.20.
- , 2011. 'Grahamstown Sage'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.21.
- , 2011. 'Prodigal Sons'. *Small Town; Big Voice*. Ed. Andrew Renard. Port Elizabeth: South African Council for English Education. p.22.

## POETRY IN PERIODICALS

- Leff, C. 2011. 'blurred edges of bohemia'. *Scrutiny* 2 16.2 (December): 69.
- , 2011. 'tea time'. *New Coin South African Poetry*. 47.2 (December): 36.
- Mann, C. 2011. 'Cicada'. *The Spire* (February): 7.
- , 2011. 'Late Night Grahamstown Bergwind Blues'. *The Spire* (March): 16.
- , 2011. 'Panic Attack'. *Literator* 31.2 (August 2010):207-9.
- , 2011. 'Going off the Beaten Track'. *Literator* 31.2 (August 2010):207-9.
- , 2011. 'Growing Pains'. *Literator* 31.3 (December 2010):225-6.
- , 2011. 'Saying Grace'. *Literator* 31.3 (December. 2010):226-7.
- , 2011. 'Rites of Passage'. *Literator* 31.3 (December. 2010):227-8.
- , 2011. 'Fruit Trees in Abandoned Fields'. *Literator* 31.3 (December 2010):229.
- , 2011. 'A Few Attempts at Figuring out the Real'. *English Academy Review* (forthcoming).
- , 2011. 'Truth – after Catullus'. *Akroterion*, (forthcoming).
- , 2011. 'Vanity – after Juvenal'. *Akroterion*, (forthcoming).
- , 2011. 'Priapus – after Horace'. *Akroterion*, (forthcoming).

## POEMS AND PROSE IN MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

- Fulani, N. 2011. 'Living a full life with disability'. *The Herald*. September 21. p. 16.
- Mann, C. 2011. 'And now for the good news...' *Mail and Guardian*. 14 January. p. 31.
- , 2011. 'Twenty-first century graduation song'. *Grocott's Mail*. 5 April. p. 4.
- , 2011. 'Twenty-first century graduation song'. *Mail and Guardian*. 29 April. p. 4.
- , 2011. 'New secrecy bill betrays freedom charter'. *Grocott's Mail*. 3 June. p.8.
- , 2011. 'Whale-watching'. *Grocott's Mail*. 3 June. p. 10.
- , 2011. 'Introduction'. *Cornucopia biblica*. Grahamstown Cathedral. July. p. 2.
- , 2011. 'Cape committing 'learnercide''. *Mail and Guardian*. 14 October. p. 32.
- , 2011. (Liu Xiaobo). *Sunday Times Review*. 16 October. p. 2.
- , 2011. 'The Funfair of the Damned'. *Grocott's Mail*. 11 November. p.13.
- , 2011. 'The Funfair of the Damned'. *Mail and Guardian*. 18-23 November . p. 35.

## POEMS AND POETRY IN PERFORMANCE

- Mann, C. 2011. 'Miss South Africa'. In 'The Petticoat Chronicles'. Directed by Lynne Maree. Fringe production. National Arts Festival, Grahamstown.
- , 2011. 'Home from Home'. With Janet Suzman and Julia Skeen. The Fugard Theatre, Cape Town. 25 September.
- , 2011. 'Home from Home'. With Julia Skeen. Municipal Theatre, Hermanus. 27 September.
- , 2011. 'Graduation Song-poem'. Radio 702/Cape Talk. Read by Kate Turkington. 19 June.
- , 2011. 'The Funfair of the Damned' (song version). King's Park Stadium Climate Justice Rally, Durban. 28 November.
- , 2011. 'A Prayer for Planet Earth' (song version). King's Park Stadium Climate Justice Rally, Durban. 28 November.



## STAFF INITIATIVES



ISEA researcher Khaya Fulani wrote a well-received newspaper article on living with epilepsy



Rhodes Professor of Poetry, Chris Mann, pictured here with Dame Janet Suzman and his wife the artist Julia Skeen, launched his poetry collection *Home from Home* with a performance at the Fugard Theatre in Cape Town during the first Open Book festival in September.

## INSTALLATIONS

- Mann, C. 2011. 'In Memory of Jeanette Schoon'. Ceramic memorial by Lovell Friedman. Community House, Salt River, Cape Town.
- , 2011. 'Weeds'. Graphic. Exhibition. National English Literary Museum, Grahamstown.
- , 2011. 'The Clay Pits of Grahamstown'. Excerpt. Graphic. Exhibition. NELM, Grahamstown.
- , 'Life Songs'. With Julia Skeen. Power-point on plasma screen. NELM, Grahamstown.

## CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC LECTURES

- Fulani, N. 2011. 'Language textbooks and the challenges of equal education'. Seminar: 'Rural Language Education in Context'. 20 May, Rhodes University.
- and M Hendricks. 2011. 'Lessons from classroom observation'. Seminar: 'Rural Language Education in Context'. 20 May, Rhodes University.
- Hendricks, M. 2011. 'Schooling and resources: an overview'. Seminar: 'Rural Language Education in Context'. 20 May, Rhodes University.
- , 2011. 'Writing development in English L2 in the Intermediate Phase'. Poster presentation. 'Interactions and Interfaces'. Conference of the Southern African Applied Linguistics Association. June 2011, Rhodes University.
- Mbelani, M. 2011. 'Sharing good practice: Launching a reading club beyond the ACE qualification'. Guest Speaker, Open Day. 4 May, Toise High School, King William's Town.
- , 2011. 'Visual literacy: experiences and reflections from rural schools'. Seminar: 'Rural Language Education in Context'. 20 May, Rhodes University.
- Willan, B. 2011. 'Whose Shakespeare? Early African engagement with Shakespeare in S. Africa'. Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies and Modern School seminar, University of York (UK), 3 May 2011.
- , 2011. 'Cinematographic calamity' or 'Soul-stirring appeal to every Briton': reactions to *Birth of a Nation* in England and South Africa 1915-1931'. Seminar: 'South Africa on Film'. Centre for African Studies, University of London, at Birkbeck College, University of London, 20 May 2011.
- , 2011. 'Whose Shakespeare? Early African engagement with Shakespeare in S. Africa'. Panel 110: Whose Terms of engagement? Popular politics and African intellectuals in twentieth century Southern Africa'. Fourth European Conference on African Studies, Uppsala, Sweden, 16 June 2011.
- , 2011. "Not calculated to increase their confidence in the Government to whom they desired to be loyal": Kimberley's African intelligentsia and the Langeberg rebellion'. Conference: 'Resisting Colonization: the Northern Cape frontier 1850-1900'. McGregor Museum, Kimberley, 14 Sept 2011.
- , 2011. 'Revisiting Sol Plaatje: reflections on biography, historiography and context'. Colloquium: 'Cast in Concrete? Revisiting pre-1994 histories of resistance in South Africa – some perspectives'. History Department, Stellenbosch University, 6 October 2011.

- , 2011. 'Whose Shakespeare? Early African engagement with Shakespeare in S. Africa' Paper presented at the Biennial Conference of the Southern African Historical Society, University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban, 29 June 2011.
- Wright, L. 2011. 'Rural Teachers, Reading, and Social Imagination'. Seminar: 'Rural Language Education in Context'. 20 May, Rhodes University.
- , 2011. 'Guy Butler's South Africanism: "Being present where you are".' Lecture delivered on being presented with the Gold Medal of the English Academy of Southern Africa. Arts Major Lecture Theatre, Wednesday 16 November 2011.
- , 2011. 'Can the Dragon's teeth be safely watered?: Challenging the successful failure of South African Language Policy.' Paper presented at the English Academy Golden Jubilee International Conference. Cape Peninsula University of Technology, 7-9 September 2011.
- , 2011. 'Towards the Research-Intensive University.' Presentation to faculty and management, University of the North West (Potchefstroom campus). Friday 26 August 2011.
- , 2011. 'Do we (still) teach Shakespeare? HUMA Seminar, University of Cape Town. 11-12 August 2011.

## RESEARCH

- Ntombekhaya Fulani is completing her M.Ed thesis titled 'Investigating literacy development in grade 4 English and Xhosa language textbooks: A comparative study.'
- Madeyandile Mbelani formally presented his PhD proposal, 'An investigation into the development of teachers' knowledge and strategies of teaching visual literacy as a dimension of English FAL', in the Department of Education on 10 March. He is currently developing collecting and analysing data for the study, and co-authoring a chapter with Dr Hendricks based on this data.
- Monica Hendricks continues her work as part of the ABLE (Additive Bilingual Education) research project. By the end of 2010, she will have collected three years of classroom writing in English from two learners at Sosebenza Community School in Tarkastad. This data set will enable her to analyse the literacy development of these learners within the Intermediate Phase, a potentially significant contribution as there are very few longitudinal education research studies in South Africa. She intends to continue tracking the writing of these two learners in the Senior Phase, and to explore their evolving identity as bilinguals.
- A book draft, written by ISEA staff in collaboration with colleagues elsewhere, and tentatively titled *Rural Education in Crisis: A View from the Eastern Cape*, is nearing completion.
- Laurence Wright continues his research into the reception of Shakespeare in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. A chapter on Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies and Marda Vann is in press, and another on Guy Butler's treatment of *King Lear* is in preparation. A fascinating contribution forthcoming from ISEA Senior Research Fellow Brian Willan explores the trail leading from the Shakespearean circle

established by Nathaniel Merriman in Grahamstown in the early-1850s to the Setswana Shakespeare of Sol Plaatje in the early twentieth century. The article has been submitted to *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*. Because of financial constraints experienced in Poland by the publisher, Lodz University Press, a special number of the journal *Multicultural Shakespeare*, 'Interrogating the Spread of Shakespeare: Australia and New Zealand' had to be formatted in South Africa. ISEA is grateful to Susan Abraham for undertaking this work. In addition to seven research articles on the engagement with Shakespeare in Australasia, the volume carries a Checklist of publications from the Southern Hemisphere Research and Publication programme. To date the programme has generated 32 accredited publications, published and forthcoming.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS LANGUAGE PROJECT

Monica Hendricks, Madeyandile Mbelani, Ntombekhaya Fulani, Lynette Patterson, Paul Mason, Mary-Louise Peires, Karen McCarthy and others

The project has enjoyed a busy year, combining teaching and forward planning.

Twenty students registered in 2009 for an ACE in English Language Teaching, funded by the Eastern Cape Department of Basic Education (ECDBE). Fifteen of the original 20 wrote the December 2010 examinations (five students withdrew due to illness, absence or failure in 2009). Of the 15 who wrote, 11 passed and 4 failed. We thus have a pass rate of 11/15, or 73.3%. Of these 11, six graduated with an ACE in April 2011. They are:

- Ms T Giwu of Zibokwana SSS, Mount Frere
- Ms M A Mabula of Mahlake JSS, Maluti
- Mr W B Makanda of Manzanyana SSS, Mount Frere
- Mrs M K Mjomle of Arthur Ngunga SSS, Mount Frere
- Mrs BRB Nkabane, a Subject Advisor in the Maluti district office
- Mr P Thokoa of Hebron JSS, Maluti.

The remaining five students were keen to add another year of study in order to convert their certificate to a BEd degree. On an assurance that they would be granted further funding from the ECDBE, the ISEA allowed them to register for a third year in 2011. They are:

- Ms N Cita of Senyukele SSS, Mount Frere
- Mr C Matsau, a Subject Advisor in the Maluti district office
- Mr S Sogayise of Mount Frere
- Ms C Tsoananyana, a Subject Advisor in Mount Fletcher
- Ms N Walaza of Nkau JSS, Maluti.

These five ECDBE-funded students joined the 30 ZENEX-funded students from the Queenstown and King William's Town districts in the final year of their BEd in 2011. At present all 35 are on track to write their final examinations in December 2011.

Evidence of the wider impact our teachers make in their districts, and beyond, is often hard to document, not least because teachers are modest. One teacher, Mrs Hoho of Kwa-Komani, pasted into her journal an invitation from the neighbouring Lady Frere

district office for her to run a workshop on how to approach the teaching of creative writing, and how to give learners useful feedback. This development indicates not only her growing confidence but is also a recognition of the difference the course is making to her subject knowledge and an affirmation of her own hard work.

Another indication of the wider impact of the course was an invitation to the launch of a reading club by Mr Kepe, a teacher from the King William's Town cohort, who graduated with an ACE in April 2009. Mr Kepe was transferred to another school after his original school, including the ZENEX-funded classroom library with which he had been provided during his time at Rhodes, were destroyed in a storm. He had become so convinced of the benefits for his learners of reading for pleasure that, with help from his new principal, he immediately began sourcing books and other reading material, and the two of them took steps to establish a reading club at the new school. An ISEA staff member, Mr Madeyandile Mbelani, attended the opening of the reading club as an invited speaker, and explained the rationale of reading clubs to an interested audience comprising teachers, learners and parents.

Much time in 2011 was spent in planning and setting up the delivery systems for the new Northern Cape teacher development initiative described above (see Conspectus). The Institute is pleased that the success of our teacher development efforts in the Eastern Cape have resulted in the ISEA and its Rhodes partners, the Rhodes University Maths Education Project (RUMEP) and the Centre for Social Development (CSD) being called on to assist in the educational renovation of our neighbour province.

The BEd students (Queenstown district) were visited by Gugu Zulu of the Zenex Foundation which funds the project. She visited two schools, KwaKomani Comprehensive and John Noah High School.

This is what she had to say about her visit:

“My visit was worth it. I visited 3 teachers in two schools with Khaya. I was impressed by the level of teaching by all three teachers. Three things stood out for me:

1. **The lessons presented by teachers** – at kwaKomani Secondary School the rapport between the teachers and the learners was very good. Teachers seem to have high expectations from their learners. Learners at this school were consistently involved during the lessons and as such their participation was active and high.
2. **Workshop** – teachers had to present case studies from their schools. It was very encouraging to observe teachers present sound analysis of their environment and collectively discussing possible solutions.
3. **Feedback to the teachers** – it was very structured and reflective. It was interesting to observe Khaya insisting on self reflection before giving her feedback. I found that this forced teachers to be critical in the way they think about their teaching. They constantly had to think about the theory behind their lesson approach and the suitability of the approach.”

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS LANGUAGE PROJECT



Ms Gugu Zulu of the Zenex Foundation (at the rear) observing a workshop driven by the teachers



The roving team: Lynette Paterson, Karen McCarthy, Mary-Louise Peires and Nicci Hayes setting off for a BEd Workshop in Kokstad

## **MASTERS IN CREATIVE WRITING**

The Director, Robert Berold, Joan Metelerkamp, Mxolisi Nyezwa, Paul Mason, Brian Walter, Hazel Crampton, Mzi Mahola, Paul Wessels, Anton Krueger, with assistance from Carol Leff and Nomangesi Kelemi

This new Rhodes degree was launched with 8 full time students accepted on to the pilot programme from a possible 23 who qualified for selection.

The students followed an intensive programme of very diverse week-long modules, each introduced and presented by a different writer-teacher.

Presentations typically take place on a Monday, students having the rest of the week to tackle the assignment set, and intensive group feedback sessions are held on the Friday. They submit the finished assignment for formal comment the following Monday. They follow a formal reading programme, and maintain a reflective journal throughout the programme, wherein they maintain records of their reading, what they learn in the seminars, how they are managing themselves as writers, and their thoughts about the major book-length project they are planning to tackle.

Simultaneously, each student receives supervision from the programme coordinator and the coursework coordinator, until they decided on an extended writing project and an artistic supervisor to help them. The students went on several writing excursions, including a visit to Grahamstown's settler graveyard and another to a farm.

A 200 page book, *Tyhini 2011*, was published, edited by Robert Berold and based on the students' exercises produced in the first 5 months of the programme. A very successful public launch was held at the Red Café. Students benefited from interacting with visiting writers such as Rian Malan, Denis Hirson and Michael Rabiger.

Students also developed their performance skills with a presentation during *Wordfest* 'Open Mike' sessions, another for children participating in the *Upstart!* Programme, and a third for learners from Samuel Ntsika Secondary School. Students are planning to submit their work for examination in mid-November.

Plans for 2012 are complete, and the programme intends admitting 20 students, including between 4 and 6 part-timers, who will each complete a very similar programme to the full-timers, but over two years, with contact sessions and electronic supervision. On-site supervision will be arranged for these students where possible, with electronic group feedback sessions taking place through the medium of a course blog.

The ISEA expresses deep appreciation to the writer-teachers and supervisors who worked so effectively and generously to make this first year of the programme a success.

## **CAMPUS CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME**

Facilitators: Crystal Warren, Carol Leff, Paul Mason and Wonga Qina.

In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the ISEA creative writing course is as popular as ever, with 40 people completing the course this year, some of them for the second time. The course ran for 16 Thursday evening sessions and is open to anyone in Grahamstown, not only Rhodes students. ISEA extends thanks to the Grahamstown Training College Trust Fund, which provided full bursaries for 8 aspiring writers who could otherwise not afford the fees.



## MASTERS IN CREATIVE WRITING FAREWELL FUNCTION



ISEA staff and Masters students at an end-of-year function



Braai-master Tom Penlington of RUMEP at work, while others chat and look on



Feedback from participants indicated great enjoyment of the classes, increased confidence in their writing, and an interest in different styles of creative writing.

After the course ended six creative volunteers (assisted by Paul Mason) formed an editing team and met regularly to work on selections for inclusion in the course publication *Aerial*. The publication is ready to go to print and a launch is planned for mid-November.

The course facilitators were delighted to be part of an enthusiastic and diverse group of students, once again proving that inspiration and creativity thrive when given a chance.

It is hoped that in due course, with more writing and publishing experience behind them, some of those who complete this programme may eventually go on to enter the Masters programme.

## **SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY**

The Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa is to hold its 8<sup>th</sup> International Triennial Congress at Rhodes, 3-5 July 2012. The theme of the associated conference will be 'Staging Shakespeare: Direction, Design, Reception.' Plenary speakers include Dame Janet Suzman, Professor Robert Gordon of Goldsmith's College in the University of London, and Associate Professor Scott Newstok from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. The Shakespeare Society is a project of the Grahamstown Foundation, and has its administrative headquarters in the ISEA.

## **WORDFEST 2011**

Chris Mann (Convenor), The Director, Nomangesi Kelemi, Carol Leff, Sonwabile Mfecane and others (see below).

*Wordfest 2011* took place as planned from Saturday 2 July to Friday 8 July during the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. With the World Cup a thing of the past we were able to feature both the national and provincial components again.

Since its inception, unpredictable and inadequate funding has taxed staff to the limit. Planning and securing authors for the event has proved at times almost impossible as funds sometimes arrive just days before the event begins, or are not paid until months after the event. Funding this year was more stable but still an issue as far as booking the flights for authors was concerned. The money arrived too late to book flights in advance and money was wasted as flights became more expensive around the festival period.

The keynote speaker was Sindiwe Magona who delivered a stirring address emphasizing the need for South Africans to preserve their multi-lingual heritage. The Dean of Humanities at Rhodes welcomed guests to the opening noting that *Wordfest* was an outreach project of the university. The venue was packed and the exuberant audience was also addressed by the Eastern Cape's MEC for Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture who expressed her gratitude to Rhodes for hosting the festival and emphasized her support for *Wordfest* and in particular its developmental aspects..

As usual a wide variety of authors and publishers participated, from the Eastern Cape as well as from different parts of South Africa. Over thirty books in five languages

were launched. The following languages were to be found in the numerous breakaway and plenary sessions: English, isiXhosa, isimPondomisa, isiZulu, Setswana, SeSotho and Mandarin Chinese.

The launch by Jonathan Shapiro, the cartoonist known as Zapiro, of his book *Do you know who I am?* took place with a lecture on Freedom of Expression and Information, drawing one of the largest crowds yet seen at *Wordfest*. A debate on fracking in the Karoo involving writers and scientists with opposing views also drew a large audience and lasted for two and half hours.

There was the usual 'buzz' in the venue as readers, writers, publishers, retailers and educationalists met up. Although attendances at the live events remained relatively small, *Wordfest* reached a large radio audience. This year improvements were made to our electronic media coverage which further increased the listenership. Many interviews took place, in a variety of SA languages, reaching a total audience of over 12 million people. The interviews were broadcast on both national and community radio stations.

The extensive involvement of community radio stations is an expression of one of our aims, namely to be a multilingual festival of languages and literatures with a developmental emphasis. Other developmental aspects included workshops on writing, the access to all writers provided at Open Mike and the feeder *Wordfests* at the district level throughout the Eastern Cape.

Improvements were also made to *WordStock*, the daily literary newspaper. Book reviews were commissioned as usual and their quality drew favourable comment. Our partnership with *Cue* the festival newspaper helped the distribution of *WordStock* greatly. It became a pull-out feature instead of a separate entity and reached more people than in previous years.

Open Mike took place as usual in the Nun's Chapel. In addition to the launches of books by both established and aspirant writers there was a poignant reading in memory of the poet and critic Stephen Watson. The *isiVivane* street-parade was a great success and made the front page of *Grocott's Mail*. A few young singer-song writers performed original material in different South African languages on a platform beside the restaurant during meal times and in the early evening and added much to the ambience. *Wordfest* is most grateful to Siphiwo Mahala the novelist and the poet laureate Professor Keorapetse Kgotsisile for their voluntary and much valued assistance in running the creative writing programme.

*Wordfest Eastern Cape* again attracted over a hundred writers. The programme, organized by a management team drawn from the writers themselves, was a great success. The programme was packed and in fact overfilled with readings, workshops, lectures and book launches.

Transport and accommodation remained a problem. Over R100 000 is channelled each year to emerging bed and breakfasts in Grahamstown East. Once more during the evaluation session conducted at the end of the festival a number of Eastern Cape writers expressed anger and disappointment at service levels, although some did say that they found their accommodation adequate.

The absence of 'brown' writers among the Eastern Cape group also remains problematic. We are still far from achieving full language diversity due largely to administrative constraints but this year was one of the most diverse years at *Wordfest* with authors launching in 4 languages.

*Van Schaik Bookstore*, a newcomer to Grahamstown, set up and ran the bookshop. Their attendants were most efficient and helpful and provided an impressive array of books. Improvements were made to the speed of service at the *Readers' and Writers' Restaurant* and to the menu, and this led to an increase in revenue. Most lunch times were packed.

After *Wordfest* a number of evaluations were as usual held at the convenor's invitation and independent from him. These turned up a number of suggestions for improvement. The most prominent topic of discussion was how to solve the accommodation problem for the Eastern Cape Writers and a workable suggestion for using the premises of the nearby Victoria Girls residence was proposed and is being investigated. Other problems were minimal although all temporary staff felt that if more funds were available there should be increased marketing.

The core funding for this year's *Wordfest* came from the National Arts Council. The Eastern Cape Government again funded *Wordfest Eastern Cape* and Rhodes once more provided substantial support-in-kind. *Van Schaik* provided book-tokens which proved invaluable in supplying honoraria for book reviewers and lecturers. DALRO again sponsored the DALRO Lecture, which was delivered this year by the cartoonist Jonathan Schapiro ("Zapiro"). *Wordfest* would like to thank these sponsors and donors most sincerely for their continued support.

Thanks are also due to the Chair Professor Wright as well as to Carol Leff and Nomangesi Kelemi of the ISEA who do so much each year to make the event a success, as well as to Mary Fike, Kim Nell and Samantha Leighton of the Rhodes Finance Division who look after our finances. Kate Axe, the National Arts Festival Fringe manager and the NAF director Ismail Mahomed are thanked for the courteous and efficient way they handled our many requests.

The convenor would also like to thank the short-term part-time contract staff whose skills and enthusiasm make such a difference each year, namely Relda Donaldson who ably looked after the numerous writers and book reviewers, Lorna Wilson and her technical team in Eden Grove, Sonwabile Mfecane, Maphaseka Wagner, Velile Msipha and Vuyokazi Gedze of the Eastern Cape management team, Deva Lee and the *WordStock* team, Brian Garman, Gillian Rennie and the *Cue* team, Khaya Thonjeni and his team of radio journalists, Susan Van Eck and the staff of *Van Schaik*, the management interns Jessica Edgson, Chloe Molino, Thembile Matiwane and Fundile Paqa, Carolyn Stevenson-Milln, Charmaine Avery and the Rhodes conferencing and catering staff as well as Godfrey Mona, M S Bucwa, Mcoseleli Dukisa, Nthabiseng Naketsana and the rest of the planning team from the Eastern Cape Government's Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture.

Ningadinwa nangomso!

Chris Zithulele Mann  
Convenor

## **DISTINGUISHED VISITORS**

Ms Shiphra Chisha, CEO of the Sishen Iron Ore Company Community Development Trust

Mr Jonathan Deal, Founder, Karoo Anti-Fracking Action Group

Ms Shirley Gunn, Director, Human Rights Media Centre, Cape Town.

Prof Geoffrey Haresnape, Vice-President of PEN South Africa

Prof Keorapetse Kgotsisile, poet laureate

Ms Sindiwe Magona, writer

Mr Jonathan Shapiro, cartoonist

Ms Xoliswa Tom, MEC for Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture.

## **GRADUATE SUPERVISION AND EXAMINING**

Monica Hendricks is co-supervising two doctoral students in Education, Eileen Schekle and Madeyandile Mbelani

Monica Hendricks is external examiner for two modules of the Advanced Certificate in Education (ELT) at Wits: Grammar in Context and Theory and Practice of English Teaching.

Prof Wright is co-supervising 8 Masters students in Creative Writing.

## **DEGREES IN PROGRESS**

Ms Ntombekhaya Fulani is making progress with her MEd.

Mr Madeyandile Mbelani has started his PhD research.

Ms Samantha Cassels is undertaking a National Diploma in Administrative Management.

Ms Carol Leff is completing a BA Hons in English Literature.

## **EXTERNAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Director is Chairman of the Grahamstown Foundation, Vice-President of the English Academy of Southern Africa, and serves on the General Executive of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa. He is a Rotarian and past-president of the Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset.

Monica Hendricks serves on the Board of the Masifunde Education and Development Trust and acts as secretary of the Eastern Cape English Educators' Association.

Chris Mann serves on the Board of the Donaldson Trust, is Secretary/Treasurer of the Masikhulisane Trust, and Secretary of Spiritfest.

Deyi Mbelani serves on the conference organising committee for the Reading Association of South Africa (RASA).

## FUNDING PARTNERS



Left to right, Rose Spanneburg (RUMEP), Vera Adams (CSD), Monica Hendricks (ISEA) with distinguished visitor Ms Shiphra Chisha, CEO of the Sishen Iron Ore Company Community Development Trust, signing the contract for the Northern Cape programme



The BEd students (Queenstown district) were visited by Gugu Zulu (at the back) from their funder, Zenex Foundation

## CONCLUSION

This is my final report as Director of the Institute. 2011 has been a year of growth in the teaching activities of the ISEA, with the introduction of the Masters in Creative Writing and the establishment of a new teacher development intervention for the Northern Cape. A further teacher development initiative may be on the horizon for the Keiskammahoek area, as well as renewed educational partnerships with the Eastern Cape Department of Basic Education and the ZENEX Foundation. The new Creative Writing Masters programme will see 8 completed dissertations submitted by the end of the year or early in 2012. The year has also seen progress on the research and publication front, with a pleasing record of books, academic articles and poetry seeing the light of day.

As I write, the outcome of the formal review of the institute and its operations, undertaken routinely by the University on the retirement of a director, is not yet known. But it may be as well to reiterate here the structural principles which have informed the development of the ISEA during my tenure.

Created to study the role of English in Africa and South Africa, the ISEA's research field falls readily into four distinct focus areas: language, literature, education, and culture. The long-term development strategy has been to identify and grow four funds in the ISEA's financial base, each of which will eventually support research and implementation work in one of these areas: The Directorship (funded by Rhodes); the Alan Macintosh Endowment; the Molteno Endowment; and the Len Lanham Fund. The University finances the directorship to the level of a full chair, where appropriate. The Alan Macintosh and the Molteno endowments are already capable of sustaining research posts, while the Len Lanham fund is growing and could eventually supplement the Rhodes Professorship of Poetry to run the Creative Writing programmes and develop Wordfest Eastern Cape and its feeder festivals, thus fulfilling the literature mandate.

The aim has been to create a research-stratum of four full-time posts, each capable of attracting NRF funding and research bursaries, thus freeing a significant component of the ISEA from the time-consuming responsibility of personally running delivery interventions. Teaching programmes would then be run mainly by staff on non-ISEA funding, under the directorship of the research staff. The ISEA is within striking distance of being able to sustain such a structure, and its realisation will require only a few more years of financial conservatism. For further detail, see the report the Director submitted to the Review Committee.

Looking back over the 21 years of my directorship, there is much of which the Institute can be proud, particularly the willingness of successive cohorts of staff to tackle problems at first hand through practical interventions, thereby fulfilling the founding brief of the ISEA to be a research institute 'with a strong practical bias'. These interventions have taken the form of teaching programmes (in adult basic education, teacher development, and creative writing); publishing initiatives (such as scholarly and creative publication, and textbook design and dissemination); and the

establishment of intellectual and educational forums (such as *Wordfest* and the Eastern Cape English Educators Association) which enable South Africans to think their way forward to a more considered future. The cultural brief of the ISEA has been fulfilled through its role as the administrative base of the Shakespeare Society, through the development of Shakespeare texts suitable for those whose first language is not English, and through a research programme exploring the impact of Shakespeare as the world's first 'globalising' artist. Sometimes the scale of our operations makes the effort required seem like pouring sporadic teaspoon-fulls of water into the thirsty sands of the Karoo, but this realisation is balanced by the vivifying impact we have had on specific communities and in the lives of numberless individuals. To the best of my knowledge, there is only one town on the road between Uitenhage and Kokstad where the ISEA has never taught a course, namely Idutywa, and on the vertical axis our activities have ranged from Alexandria and Port Alfred in the south to Queenstown, Nieu Bethesda, Graaff-Reinet and Middleberg in the north. Internationally, the Institute is known for the periodicals it publishes, for the quality of its research output, and for the numerous conferences and seminars it has hosted over the years.

The generation of Rhodes academics, under the leadership of Guy Butler, whose foresight resulted in the founding of the ISEA in 1964 must be acknowledged with appreciation. English is simply essential in South Africa, and in consequence there will be necessary research and implementation work for many generations to come. Although the fact is far from universally palatable, the future of South Africa and large parts of Africa remains inextricably linked to the ready availability of good-quality education in English at all levels of society. Decline in access to this kind of education will be an index of developmental failure, while the hoped-for successes of multilingualism – and there are as yet few signs in South Africa of real educational progress in African languages being made on the ground – depend on sustaining a rich and symbiotic relation with the multivalent international discourses being pursued in English, across political, social and economic alignments. In South Africa, multilingualism and English are joined at the hip. Far from deprecating this state of affairs, we should rejoice in it, because it points towards humanity's long-term goal of one great, cooperative, international society operating peacefully in many languages. Acknowledging this as our destiny makes many things clear that once were obscure.

It remains for me to thank all members of the ISEA team, past and present; the research associates, teachers and facilitators; the scholars, editors, writers and poets; the administrators and secretaries, the cleaners, the referees, the examiners, the technical staff; together with the management, financial and administrative divisions of Rhodes University, not to mention the students, for enabling the Institute to flourish and make the salutary impact on South Africa and the Eastern Cape that it has done.

When I joined the ISEA in 1990, the Institute was a little house in Rhodes Avenue, bulging at the seams. The new Director had to be accommodated in the common room of Oriel Annex, much to the disgust of the students affected. As I take my leave,

the future Institute, which today has resources and magnificent accommodation, might do well to recall the parting words of Mother Cecile, the courageous young woman from Uxbridge, near London, who founded the Sisters of the Community of the Resurrection, in whose former Mother House the ISEA is currently housed:

“Thoroughness! Sparkle! Do not let the fun go out of the place!”

*Salani kakuble!*

**Laurence Wright**  
**Director**

**December 2011**