

**VICE-CHANCELLOR’S DISTINGUISHED
RESEARCH MEDAL**

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour of presenting to you
Jeanette Dalziel Snowball,
Professor
in the Department of Economics and Economic History,

for the award of the Vice-Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Medal.

“An asset to the research community”, “a true inspiration to many”, and “an exceptional and worthy nominee” for this award. These are the phrases that peer reviewers have chosen to describe Professor Snowball.

Her research career was arguably launched with a study of the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in 1997, and the publication of a report co-authored with Professor G Antrobus entitled “The present nature and future expansion potential of accommodation at the Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Grahamstown”. This work set a young Jen Snowball on a trajectory for a multi-pronged research career.

Over the subsequent 17 years, she has explored a core set of research areas spanning Cultural Economics, Environmental Economics, and Teaching and Learning in the discipline of Economics. She has adeptly focused her research efforts on matters pertinent to Grahamstown and its surrounds, and has framed them within generalizations that have gained her an international reputation. It is an example to all that her research results exhibit national and international acclaim, while retaining local relevance and impact. She has managed to work comfortably across disciplinary boundaries, and collaborate with colleagues from other departments and scholarly entities, and has become a notable role model within her Faculty and further afield, not only for her high levels of scholarly quality and productivity, but also for her high standards of teaching and postgraduate supervision (she was the recipient last year of the Vice-Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Medal, and a recipient in 2011 of a National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award from the Council on Higher Education). Added to this is her embedded community engagement, broad academic leadership, and reputation as amongst the most generous hearted of colleagues one could hope to meet at work. She is an example of efficiency in getting the three pillars of the university working together, in which the research, teaching and learning, and community engagement aspects of her work are inherently integrated and interrelated.

Of her 34 journal publications, the majority have appeared since completing her PhD degree at Rhodes University in 2006, making her productivity as a researcher well above the norm for Economics in South Africa. Her greatest area of productivity has been Cultural Economics, in which she has attracted a considerable international reputation. Her book entitled *Measuring the Value of Culture: Methods and Examples in Cultural Economics* (2008, Springer-Verlag, Germany), has received favourable critical acclaim locally and abroad.

Although fewer in number, her publications in the areas of Environmental Economics and research in Teaching and Learning have also been significant, and have appeared in highly rated journals.

The quality of Professor Snowball's research has been evident throughout her career, with formal awards such as:

- The President's Prize for the best graduate paper at the Association of Cultural Economics International Conference in Chicago (2004);
- The Best Paper presented at the Clute Institute for Academic Research conference in Cancun, Mexico (2006);
- The Gold Medal for the best PhD thesis of 2006 by the Economics Society of South Africa; and
- Joint leadership of the Commerce Research Focus Area in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (2012);

Prof Snowball is a member of the Executive Board of the *Association for Cultural Economics International*, and serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Cultural Economics*. In addition to this journal, she regularly reviews papers for other international peer-reviewed journals, including *Papers in Regional Science*, and *European Urban and Regional Studies*.

One of her referees writes that "Her research is always extremely thorough, and for this she is respected both nationally and internationally."

While another concludes that she is "one of the most outstanding published academics in her age group" in the field of Economics.

Mr Chancellor, I request you to award the **2013 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Research Medal** to Prof Jen Snowball.