STAFF ACHIEVERS

First Rhodes academic to hold the CFA Charterholder

Professor Mark Bunting of the Department of Accounting is the first Rhodes academic ever to achieve the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charterholder professional designation conferred by the CFA Institute in the United States. This is a globally recognised postgraduate gualification standard for finance professionals. Worldwide, there are approximately 116 000 CFA charterholders in more than 100 countries, working in finance, investments, retirement planning and asset management, and a very small number in academia. In South Africa, there are approximately 1 500 charterholders, as opposed to 34 000 who are chartered accountants. However, the strength of the CFA gualification in South Africa is dramatically illustrated by the fact that in this country a similar number of candidates write the CFA and SAICA exams each year. Of about 119 000 candidates who wrote the CFA Level 1, 2 and 3 exams in June 2012, only 43% passed.

There is increased interest among Rhodes students in a CFA-relevant fourth year offering at Rhodes. For historical reasons, Rhodes has been able to react only partially to this demand, by offering a Finance Honours gualification to students with an accounting background. Bunting's achievement opens up the possibility of extending a CFA curriculum-based postgraduate offering at Rhodes to a wider range of students, with bachelor's degrees in disciplines as diverse as economics, management, information systems and statistics.





President of LIASA

The director of Library Services, Ujala Satgoor, was elected as the new president of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) for the term 2012 to 2014. "While we have consolidated and strengthened our credibility and platform we are now well positioned to take the lead on locating the profession within the broader socio-economic development agenda," she said. Among LIASA's strategies are to provide dynamic leadership for the sector in terms of current trends and best practices, norms and standards as well as engaging with the political and economic issues impacting libraries and creating awareness of the role of libraries within the context of development in South Africa.



Making Way

Making Way: Contemporary Art from South Africa and China, curated by Ruth Simbao, associate professor of Art History & Visual Culture, invokes the Chinese concept kailu and the Xhosa phrase ukuvul'indlela — "opening up the road" — to present a range of responses to migration, travel and movement. Simbao's curation is motivated by a desire to find the middle way between two opposing but equally popular views about China-and-Africa. On the one hand, there is the narrative of China as economic saviour of our continent, seeking to establish mutually beneficial trade and industry agreements. On the other, there is Sinophobia: China is the new imperial power in Africa, it shows scant regard for democracy and human rights. Simbao allows geopolitical discourses to recede or blur as the artists she has selected focus on the lives of individuals and communities. (This is an excerpt from a piece by Chris Thurman for Business Day Live)

First exhibited at the 2012 National Arts Festival, Making Way was at the Standard Bank Gallery in Johannesburg from 30 January -28 March 2013. For more information about Making Way see www.makingway.co.za.