



BE THE CHANGE

*ISSUE 004 / DECEMBER 2014

DONOR DIGEST

A quarterly newsletter of the Rhodes University Development Division celebrating our corporate donors who are integral to the complete Rhodes experience.



PG 2: THE DEREK RILEY CONNECTION



PG 3: THE JUDY ORPEN MEMORIAL AWARD



PG 5: MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARSHIP RECORD



PG 5: INTERNATIONALISATION AWARDS

ENABLING SA SOLUTIONS

In this, our last edition of Donor Digest for 2014, we thank donors who are enhancing not only access but the success of our “first generation” university entrants at Rhodes.

We look at how our academics are reaching out internationally to create a globally relevant and connected framework for their teaching and research activities. We celebrate the successes of our six, yes, you read it

correctly, six students who have been awarded prestigious Mandela Rhodes Scholarships

And last but not least, Distinguished Professor Tebello Nyokong, shows us what scientific leadership in Africa is all about as she contributes to developing local capacity, this time on the panel of the UN Technology Bank and Science Panel.

Thank you

As 2014 rapidly draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our incredibly generous donors and contributors for the support you have given Rhodes over the past year. I think it is safe to say that we have all felt the economic pinch in one way or another and yet your support continues. On behalf of the whole University community and from the bottoms of our collective hearts, we say an enormous “Thank You” for allowing us to continue our important work. We wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable festive season.

Mr Guy White,
Director of Development & Alumni Relations



ACCESS EQUALS SUCCESS

“First generation” university students face many potentially overwhelming transition issues such as homesickness, being placed in the Extended Studies programme, coping with English medium instruction, the diversity of teaching and learning styles, as well as acclimatising to the culture of campus and residence life.

So what do we mean by a “first-generation” student, and what is extended studies?

As an integral part of Rhodes’ transformation endeavours to address issues of community and economic upliftment, the Extended Studies Unit (ESU) ensures “access and success” for disadvantaged students from a diverse range of educational, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The Trojan Academic Initiative (TAI) provides social and emotional as well as some general academic guidance to these students, as they adjust to the many demands of the tertiary education environment. Often the “first generation” in their families to gain access to a university, they may require assistance to bridge the divide between

often impoverished economic backgrounds as well as the educational experience at under-resourced schools, and that of a university context. The TAI provides mentorship for each student participating in the Extended Studies programme. During 2014 the TAI supported 150 Extended Studies mentees through the valued assistance of 35 mentors across the faculties of Science, Commerce and Humanities.

TAI mentees are introduced to the programme by the mentor facilitators in each faculty at the beginning of the academic year; they are then placed in mentoring groups with other first years as soon as possible thereafter. Facilitators ‘match’ students as best they can according to such criteria as same residence or hall, same language, past school, home town, province, and/or gender so that they have a starting point in common. Working within an organised framework, mentors give their time, skills and support to first year students as they transition from school to university life.

Once successfully graduated through the programme, these same students draw on their own experiences as



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TAI MENTORS WITH RHODES UNIVERSITY MEMBERS OF STAFF AT THE 2014 MENTORS' GRADUATION CEREMONY IN OCTOBER. PHOTOS BY MIA VAN DER MERWE (PAGE 2 TO PAGE 4) AND ADRIAN FROST (PAGE 4)

they in turn mentor younger student peers during their senior years. Caring for a younger student can also be hugely formative for the mentor, as she develops the critical skills necessary for assisting her protégés. Mentors receive weekly guidance from experienced academics, their faculty facilitators; they also participate in regular seminars, designed to extend their knowledge around various relevant student topics.

A programme such as the TAI cannot enjoy the success it does without its generous funders such as its founder and alumnus Dr Derek Riley, and other benefactors such as the Orpen family.

"Derek Riley set about raising funding for TAI in the Centenary Year and managed to raise more than R1 million," said Professor Chrissie Boughey, Dean: Teaching and Learning. "We have been using that money for the programme ever since and Derek Riley has continued to be a staunch supporter of the programme, giving bursaries. His son, Patrick Riley, now also supports us with bursaries."

Investec also supports the TAI programme by providing for all Commerce Extended Programme mentors, in the form of an annual donation.

However, if the programme is to be sustainable, there is a need to cover more than operational costs alone and it is necessary to seek further funding. Since 2014, Rhodes has received a Teaching Development Grant (TDG) from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DoHET) which has somewhat eased this pressure. "We got this grant because the policy on TDGs changed and allowed all universities to have

one regardless of their success rates," said Professor Boughey. "Our success rates had previously exceeded DoHET cut offs when TDGs are paid."

The TDG can be used for a number of categories of activity, one of which is tutoring and mentoring. In terms of this particular funding, TAI falls under the auspices of the larger Ncedana Peer Mentoring Programme and because of this the TDG now funds the coordinator's salary and mentors in the Science and Humanities Extended Programmes.

THE DEREK RILEY CONNECTION

Dr Derek Riley initiated The Trojan Academic Initiative (TAI) Student Peer Mentoring Programme over 10 years ago. Since its inception, approximately 2000 students have benefitted from the programme's endeavours.

The Derek Riley Excellence in Mentorship Award, first introduced in 2010, is an annual excellence award which was bestowed on one mentor from each of the three Extended Studies faculties. The mentors are nominated by their mentees and are invited to submit written critical self-evaluations, which are in turn evaluated by committee.

To mark the Programme's 10 year anniversary in 2013, Dr Derek Riley in collaboration with the BBJ Trust generously instituted three further awards. At least six mentor awards are now made, two from each Extended Studies Faculty.

The 2014 mentor awards were made in October at the annual TAI Graduation Ceremony. In the Faculty of Humanities, Musa Beren was awarded the

first prize and Brenda Sekgota was the runner-up. In the Faculty of Commerce, Portia Mashele and Nosihle Maqhagi were jointly awarded first prize while Khayakazi Maphetshana received the runner-up prize. In the Faculty of Science, Siphesande Madikazi and Sinoyolo Nondlazi shared joint first prize and Zipporah Madikane received the runner-up prize. "Receiving this award means a lot to me because it will lighten my financial burden and give me the opportunity to pursue my dreams. It also acknowledges and affirms the hard work and determination that I have shown in the mentoring programme, both as a past mentee and a mentor," said Sinoyolo Nondlazi.

Portia Mashele echoed the supportive ethic intended by the TAI programme when thanking Dr Riley: "This award is not just about the sum that you have invested, it is about being recognised and being able to use the award as a golden key to opening doors of mentorship with my fellow mates."

"This prize is going towards reducing my study loan and that is much appreciated, because for the second time, through the TAI Mentoring Programme, I made my parents proud," said Musa Beren. "During this academic year I learned valuable things like coping in difficult situations, patience, and setting reasonable goals for myself."

The TAI Derek Riley Mentee Awards were similarly initiated in 2010 and have been awarded to three Extended Studies mentees annually, one per Extended Studies faculty. Successful candidates are expected to demonstrate a sound academic record,



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a dedication to the mentoring programme and the ability to 'network'.

The 2014 Mentee Awards, which have also been generously increased to six by Dr Derek Riley and the BBJ Trust, will be made in February 2015 following the release of the November examination results.

THE JUDY ORPEN MEMORIAL AWARD

Rhodes University values the partnership it shares with the Orpen family who, in honour of Judy Orpen, generously established the Trojan Academic Initiative (TAI) Endowment Fund for the furtherance of the TAI's work.

In addition, the Judy Orpen Memorial Award celebrates the life and accomplishments of Judy Orpen, a young woman with a passion for living who passed away unexpectedly in 2010. At the time she was working towards her Masters in Anthropology at Rhodes. Prior to that her Honours degree research was undertaken with students in Extended Studies, looking at the ways they experienced the University and the demands of academic study. This led to her teaching in the Humanities Extended Programme as

a leave replacement in the latter half of 2010.

The award was initiated in 2011 when Judy's cousin, Mr Donald Leitch, a resident in England, generously donated a lump sum to Rhodes University in her memory. After her parents, Mr John and Mrs Alison Orpen, met with Professor Chrissie Boughey and Professor Robin Palmer, who had worked closely with Judy, a decision was made to establish an Endowment Fund to provide sustainable funding for the TAI in the longer term.

The Judy Orpen Memorial Award, which is awarded to a first year Extended Studies Humanities student (preferably but not exclusively in Anthropology) who is also involved in various aspects of academic and community life, is provided for through the interest on Mr Leitch's initial donation. "We were impressed with how the TAI programme assists disadvantaged students settling into their new work and lifestyle and knew that Judy had worked with the Extended Studies students, many of whom benefitted from the TAI," said Mrs Orpen. "This mentee's award is a positive way for Judy's involvement with the ESU and the TAI to be remembered."



TOP: PROFESSOR CHRISSIE BOUGHEY, DEAN: TEACHING AND LEARNING, PICTURED WITH MUSA BEREN, RECIPIENT OF THE HUMANITIES 2014 TAI DEREK RILEY PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN MENTORSHIP.

ABOVE: PROFESSOR CHRISSIE BOUGHEY, DEAN: TEACHING AND LEARNING PICTURED WITH BRENDA SEKGOTA, RECIPIENT OF THE HUMANITIES FACULTY'S 2014 TAI DEREK RILEY RUNNER UP PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN MENTORSHIP.



MENTORS ATTENDING THE ANNUAL TAI MENTOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN FEBRUARY.



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TOP LEFT: DEAN OF COMMERCE PROFESSOR DAVE SEWRY, EXTENDED STUDIES COMMERCE LECTURER MR AMON MAGADZA AND DEAN: TEACHING AND LEARNING PROFESSOR CHRISSIE BOUGHEY, WITH COMMERCE RECIPIENTS OF THE TAI DEREK RILEY EXCELLENCE IN MENTORSHIP AWARDS 2014 • ACTING DEAN OF SCIENCE PROFESSOR GEORGE WELLS, EXTENDED STUDIES SCIENCE LECTURER MS LEELA PIENAAR AND DEAN: TEACHING AND LEARNING PROFESSOR CHRISSIE BOUGHEY, WITH THE SCIENCE FACULTY'S RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 TAI DEREK RILEY EXCELLENCE IN MENTORSHIP AWARDS. • TAI FACILITATOR DR CARMEN OLTMANN PREPARES MENTORS FOR A TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITY AT THE ANNUAL MENTOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN FEBRUARY. PHOTO BY ADRIAN ROST

The 2013 Judy Orpen Award was made in February to Ms Ongezwa Maselwa who is currently studying towards her Bachelor of Arts and has tutored students in Business Studies at her old school, the GADRA Matric School.

The Orpen family continue to make monthly contributions as a positive way of remembering Judy and as a way of seeing the Endowment Fund grow. "We trust the modest award has made some difference to each recipient's life. Each year the

award winner has been outstanding and very much the talented but disadvantaged student Judy would have liked to assist," said Mrs Orpen. "This year in particular I think she would have been thrilled that the award-winner was a Grahamstown resident!"

Although Dr Derek Riley is a continuing sponsor of the TAI awards, if the programme is to grow significantly then additional funding is necessary. "We still feel an Endowment Fund could provide this sustainable funding to the initiative, if sufficient

funds were donated. We believe in the TAI as a way of supporting disadvantaged students and encouraging them to be successful at Rhodes, both in their studies and personal development and growth," said Mrs Orpen.

Prospective interested parties are invited to consider donations to the Fund so as to advance the long-term sustainability of the TAI Programme.

The 2014 Judy Orpen Memorial Award will be announced next February.



MENTORS EMBRACE AT THE END OF A CHALLENGING ONE-ON-ONE TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITY DURING THE ANNUAL TAI MENTOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP. PHOTO BY ADRIAN FROST



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MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARSHIP RECORD

At Rhodes we are pleased to announce that six of our top achieving students have been awarded Mandela Rhodes Scholarships. This is the highest number of these prestigious scholarships awarded to any South African University in 2014; the University of Cape Town received five scholarships, the University of the Witwatersrand 1, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University 1, and Monash South Africa 1.

A total of 60 applicants were interviewed out of a national pool of 400. Rhodes saw seven out of its nine applicants going through to the interview stage. Overall, 40 scholarships were awarded for 2015. Considering that Rhodes, as the smallest university in South Africa, is home to less than 1% of this student body, this academic feat is testimony that Rhodes is indeed the place “where leaders learn”.

Aviwe May, Ameil Harikishun, Lumumba Mthembu, Abigail Branford, Kyla Hazell and Selokwane Morake represent a range of disciplines including Law, English, Marine Biology and Biotechnology; these students epitomise the high standard of research and teaching offered across faculties at Rhodes.

For their full stories see <http://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/ruhome/documents/2014%20Rhodos%20Nov%20Issue%20Final.pdf> on page 10.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: AVIWE MAY, SELOKWANE MORAKE, ABIGAIL BRANFORD, LUMUMBA MTHEMBU, VICE-CHANCELLOR DR SIZWE MABIZELA AND AMEIL HARIKISHUN

INTERNATIONALISATION AWARDS

In our ever broadening global environment it is increasingly important to grown and maintain professional global professional networks in the academic environment. In honour of their endeavours to internationalise the academic experience, Professors Sunitha Srinivas and Roddy Fox were the winners of the inaugural Rhodes University 2014 International Awards.

“Internationalisation at Rhodes University is the conscious, proactive and consistent effort to create an institutional learning environment inclusive of international, intercultural and global dimensions at every level of thinking and practice within the institution,” said Ms Orla Quinlan, Director: International Office. “Our ambition is to provide an environment and culture that facilitate academic staff development and practice that in turn foster the development of graduates who are aware of the wider world and who have a sense of responsibility and commitment to making constructive contributions at the local, national, continental and global level in their chosen fields.

Professor Sunitha Srinivas has broad experience working in the public health sector and specifically in the area of access to essential medicines while working for the India - World Health Organisation Essential Medicines Program in Karnataka province. A conscious return to academics where she could help contribute to teaching and mentoring “competent, committed and conscientious future pharmacists who could address these health issues and work towards positive changes for the marginalised majority of the populations



PROFESSOR SURITHA SRINIVAS RECEIVING HER INTERNATIONAL AWARD FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, DR SIZWE MABIZELA



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in developing countries” came with her appointment in the Pharmacy Department at Rhodes University.

Professor Roddy Fox of the Geography Department has had long-standing collaborations with international partners and has been responsible for several teacher and postgraduate exchange programmes. In recent years he has done research on how to develop higher education within Economic Geography. The result of this is a model in which a combination of traditional teaching, web based learning and role play is used. An example of such role play is The African Development Game. It has been developed to show the difficulties of six African nations in reaching the millennium development goals for food provision, health care, education and an environmentally sustainable development.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR DR SIZWE MABIZELA, PROFESSOR SURITHA SRINIVAS, PROFESSOR RODDY FOX AND MS ORLA QUINLAN, DIRECTOR: INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

NEWSFLASH

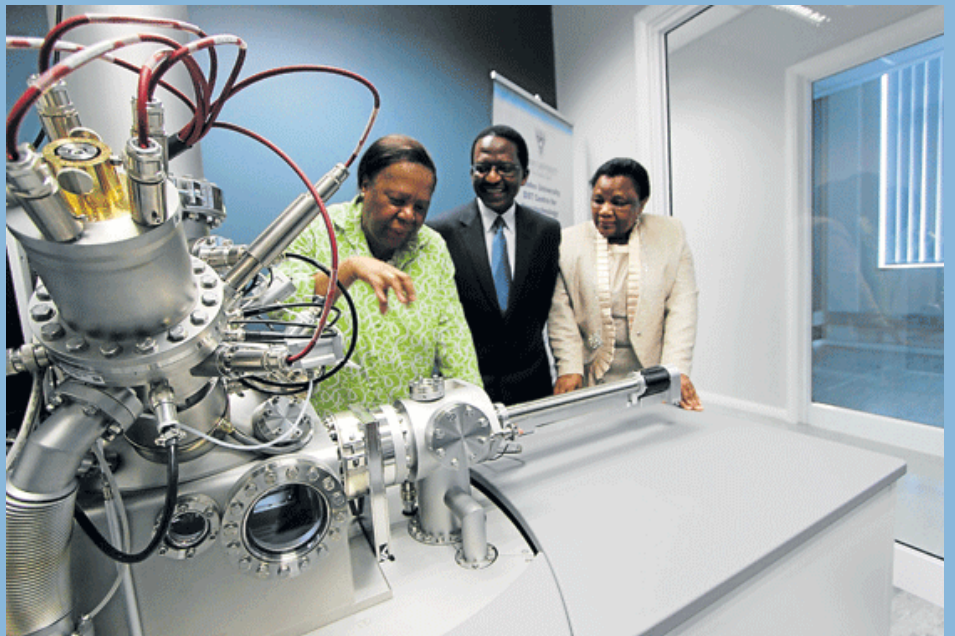
The UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon has appointed Rhodes University’s Distinguished Professor Tello Nyokong as adviser of a proposed technology bank and science panel to make recommendations on the structural transformation and sustainable development of developing countries. Chaired by Rwanda’s Romain Murenzi, the executive director of the World Academy of Sciences in Trieste, Italy, the panel pairs five women and five men from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with more affluent partners from the global north and south.

According to the UN, the “high-level panel is constituted in response to the secretary-general by the general Assembly, during its 68th session, to establish a panel to examine the scope and functions of the proposed Technology Bank, its organisational aspects and its institutional linkages with the United Nations.”

One of 12 scientists and the only professor from South Africa to be appointed, Professor Nyokong said, “This gives me hope that I can meaningfully be involved in mechanisms for establishing a science and technology base in the African Continent.”

Professor Nyokong is known to be outspoken about issues of access both to facilities and providing a platform for developing South African solutions to globally relevant scientific problems. To find out more about her philosophy behind growing the next generation of African scientists, watch this clip: <http://youtu.be/YMCOSXYsUaM>

We will follow her contributions to this panel with great interest.



DR NALEDI PANDOR, THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR SIZWE MABIZELA, THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF RHODES UNIVERSITY, AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR TEBELLO NYOKONG AT THE UNVEILING OF THE TOF-SIMS AT THE NANOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION CENTRE, WHICH IS ABLY DIRECTED AND RUN BY THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED NYOKONG.

Kerry Peter
*WORD WEAVER

Design Ardour
ART & DESIGN BY ROBYN OOSTHUYSEN

At Creatives on Click and Kerry Peter Word Weaver we are both independent professionals who believe in the power of creative collaboration. Uniting our skills and experience we add value to the products we offer our clients.

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