

**RHODES UNIVERSITY**

*Where leaders learn*



## Rhodes Alumni Development e-newsletter

November 2016

Issue 60

***"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change."***

**Carl Rogers**

Dear Old Rhodians and friends,

Welcome to the final alumni e-newsletter for 2016! This year has been bursting with notable events and developments at Rhodes which you can read all about in this edition. We come to the end of an emotional year with the Fees Must Fall protests across campuses nationally and students finishing up their degrees at Rhodes University. And as we say goodbye to 2016, we welcome the New Year with open arms and in the hope our Old Rhodians prosper and inspire our upcoming graduates with all their achievements, you can read about these below.

From the Alumni Office, we wish you well over the holidays and look forward to returning for a prosperous 2017.

Enjoy the read.

The Rhodes Alumni Team

## Fees Must Fall

The start of disruptions of the academic activities due to Fees Must Fall protests began on 20 September. Engagements with all stakeholders at Rhodes began in September. From Friday, 7 October until Sunday, 9 October, stakeholders from all Rhodes University constituencies engaged with protesting students around 12 internal demands which had been presented to them. Agreement was reached to all 12 demands; however, a further demand was introduced that the University should close for the entire week from Monday, 10 October. In spite of the breakdown of discussions on the Sunday evening, the University committed to honour a number of demands that had been agreed to.



The University does not have the resources to deal with violent protests and the police were brought in to ensure the safety of staff and students. The situation on campus remained of great concern during clashes between protesting students and police on a number of occasions, arson attempts, invading residences and extensive damage to property. Police investigators are following up cases of vandalism and arson. Staff and students were requested to report all cases of police misbehaviour to IPID.

Late in October, the University gave all students the opportunity to choose to write their exams as per the published schedule or in January. Approximately 350 students of 5000 undergraduates chose to defer their examinations until January.

Every attempt has been made to ensure the safety and security of students and staff over the examination period as well as to ensure that examinations can proceed without disruption. This is being done so that students who choose to are able to complete their academic year.

Despite the emotional toil and difficult circumstances, we are all pulling in the same direction. We all acknowledge our context in Grahamstown and the fact that the future of our University is inextricably bound up with the future of the greater Grahamstown Community.

We are open to all ideas and are committed to ensuring that Rhodes University remains affordable and accessible to all academically deserving young people. In particular, we would like to realise the achievement of the greater goal of free (i.e., state-subsidised) quality higher education for academically talented students who come from families of meagre means. In addition, we would like to see a plan that provides financially sustainable mechanisms to support all students in financial need.

The Alumni Office will be starting a Conversation Group for our alumni who are interested, to freely engage with each other around issues that affect your alma mater. The ideas and suggestions arising from this group will then be taken forward to ensure the Alumni voices are heard. If you would like to subscribe to the group, please inform Terry McCarthy, [t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za).

Read the Campus Updates [here](#)

## Purple Celebrations 2017

Rhodes University remains keen to support its alumni reunions in far-flung places. The Alumni Office will support this through the database and will assist in sending out invitations and taking RSVPs. If you would like to organise a reunion where you live, please contact Terry at [t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za)

### Perth, Australia 2017

#### **Save the date**

We ask you to save the date for our 2017 WA Old Rhodian Reunion.

**Where:** Claremont Yacht Club

**When:** Tuesday, 2 OR 9 May 2017

**Time:** From 5.30 pm to 8 pm

**Costs:** Snacks and first round of drinks at \$20 per head cover charge.

- Thereafter drinks at club prices
- News update from RU; and speaker to be announced

## Old Rhodians new to WA

To ensure we invite everyone, including those recently arrived in WA please send names (and contact details) of friends and family who may have arrived in WA since 2014, our last reunion.

### Organisers

Working with the team at the RU Alumni Office your local WA organisers are:

Andrew Burnett – [burnetts@westnet.com.au](mailto:burnetts@westnet.com.au);

Kevin Cockroft - [kjcaust@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kjcaust@optusnet.com.au);

Andre Jensen - [amj@agnet.co.za](mailto:amj@agnet.co.za);

### Final Invite

We will send the final invite to you mid-February 2017 but don't neglect to respond to this heads-up with details of friends and family now living in WA.

## Purple Celebrations 2016

Rhodes University is very unique in that we hold a number of successful alumni events worldwide. The events are held to reconnect Rhodes University with our Alumni, to enable networking amongst the younger group and to take the opportunity to thank our donors and to encourage more alumni to please support their alma mater financially. No matter how small the donation, it will help future students to graduate with a Rhodes University degree. Contact [annualfund@ru.ac.za](mailto:annualfund@ru.ac.za) for further information on how to donate or click [here](#) for the Giving Website.

### London

We wish to congratulate Caroline Rowland on being presented with the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award by Director of the Rhodes University International Office, Ms Orla Quinlan at the UK 1904 Club Reunion. Caroline is Founder and Executive Creative Director of New Moon, the company thought to have redefined the role of film in campaigning to win major sporting, cultural and business contacts.

Full Story [here](#)

Spring brings out our country's gorgeous Jacaranda trees, just in time for all of our purple celebrations and reunions across South Africa.



### Cape Town

The Mother City hosted our VC, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, in September as donors and close friends of Rhodes University came together for the Vice-Chancellor's dinner. A Legacy Luncheon and a Reunion was also held and the photographs can be viewed online as alumni of all ages and generations came together in purple pride.

Photographs and full story [here](#)



## Durban

The purple celebrations moved up the coast for our KZN Alumni in October at the Arcadia Pride Hotel. Our more mature Old Rhodians enjoyed their luncheon, which was followed by the Reunion in the evening, giving the unique opportunity for the VC to present Andy Gray with the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award.

Full Story and Photographs [here](#)



## Johannesburg

November saw our Johannesburg Alumni getting together for much debate around the Fees Must Fall protests and how RU will be affected. Deputy-VC, Dr Peter Clayton, hosted the VC's dinner for the evening, which was followed by the Legacy Luncheon and the Reunion. Stories and memories are always a highlight at these events when all ages come together to reminisce.

Full Story and Photographs [here](#)



## Knocking On Heavens Door Big Pull Reunion

Over 40 Old Rhodians pulled together from around the world for a huge celebration of meets, braais, and golf in Port Alfred. The weekend was a resounding success as dinner at the Kowie Ski Boat Club left everyone nostalgic. This group of graduates from 1965-1975 are making plans for their next FINAL COUNTDOWN reunion in 2020, don't miss out!

Full Story [here](#)



## Rhodes University Chamber Choir Tour to Namibia

The Grahamstown bus headed straight for Windhoek as the Chamber Choir went on tour for an incredible journey. Welcomed with vibrancy, smiles and a memorable afternoon learning about Namibian music, the Choir knew this tour would be one for the books. As Choirs across the country came together to meet, share music, and perform – The RUCC sang at the Alumni Concert after a week of travelling the country's coast. A special thank you to our Alumni who donated towards the Tour:

Read all about the great tour [here](#).



## Alumni Survey

We want to improve your Alumni experience and help our recent graduates find employment at a company they love. Our Alumni Survey gives us insight into the needs of their careers and how we can help them get there. Your participation and feedback on your alma mater goes a long way in helping us improve our services to you. All you need to do is follow the link below to complete the survey and let us serve you better.

Terms and Conditions apply.

<https://careertest.universumglobal.com/s/zaps1050>

## Alumni in the News

### Mike Lawrie creating networks at his Retirement Home

South African Internet pioneer, Mike Lawrie, has advanced his retirement village in Pretoria and given his neighbours an Internet café to access unlimited internet at a small price. Lawrie is known for establishing the first internet network in South Africa at Rhodes University in 1988 and his passion for connecting people has not stopped. After recognising the need and availability for internet around the village, he proposed his idea and overwhelming support allowed him to give every neighbour access from their homes. An ADSL network runs through the village's PBX system and costs residents R40pm.

### Two Old Rhodians in Top 31 entrepreneurs

Nic Haralambous and Lauren Edwards are becoming young Alumni inspirations after being nominated in the Top 31 entrepreneurs under 40 making waves in South Africa.

Nic was labeled as one "the most prolific entrepreneurs" after leading 10 start-up companies, such as, Motribe and Resolve Mobile. Graduating with his BA in Journalism and Politics, Haralambous is now the founder of Nic Harry – bold and brave South African designed socks.

Lauren has been making her mark across the country since having her name in the Superbalist 100 and Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans 2015. After graduating with her BA in Fine Arts, Lauren is now the co-founder and Managing Editor at VoiceMap, an innovative app allowing you to have tour guides and local journals audio-guide you through the cities, according to your coordinates.

### Miss Commonwealth Finalist

Current Rhodes Master's student, Odifentse Lehasa, is a finalist in the Miss Commonwealth SA pageant. This annual pageant focuses on empowering young women to become change agents in their communities and to develop the country. Holding two degrees and completing her third in Information Systems, Odifentse is a shining candidate for the charity crown. Whilst excelling and balancing her academic life over the past three years, she has also been organizing women empowerment events and getting involved in Computer Literacy projects for young children. We wish Odifentse all the best at the final nation-wide pageant where Miss Commonwealth SA will be crowned in Boksburg.



### Rhodes Alumni at the World Bank

The World Bank has recruited and welcomed Old Rhodian, Mercedes Stickler. She has been placed in the Environmental and Natural Resources Global Practice Division with Shafick Hoosein as her mentor. Mercedes studied in the Environmental Science Department before graduating in 2008. It is such a treat to see two fellow Rhodents come together across the world. They are part of a project team for a regional Bank project in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

Read more about our alumni in the news [here](#)

## OR Authors

A fascinating variety of published author's books continue to be donated to our Alumni House as more Old Rhodians flourish in the world of literature. We love seeing the diversity across your published works and endlessly thank you for donating these books to your alma mater.

**Margaret James** – The Honey Ant Readers

**Jen Thorpe** – The Peculiars

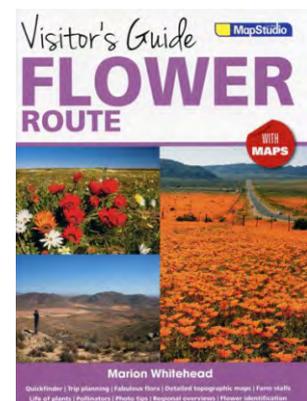
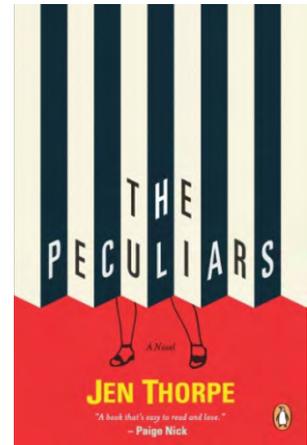
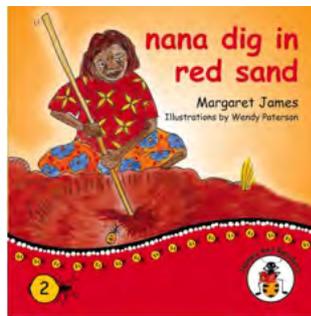
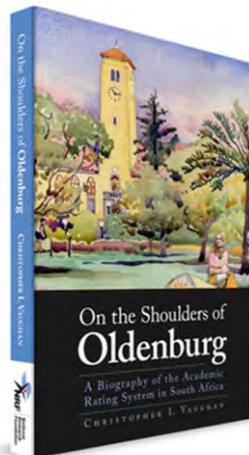
**Steuart Pennington** – South Africa@20: for better or for Worse?

**Marion Whitehead** – Visitor's Guide: Flower Route

**Christopher Vaughan** - On the Shoulders of Oldenburg: A Biography of the Academic Rating System in South Africa

**Jean Branford and Malcolm Venter** – Say again?  
The other side of South African English

Read more about your fellow Rhodians published books [here](#).



## Rhodes Achievements

All-female research team heads to Antarctica for pioneering study  
Rhodes sends two research teams (Microbiologists and Geomorphologists).

Seven researchers from Rhodes University are heading to Antarctica for the annual summer relief voyage on 30 November 2016. This is the largest contingent from any South African University on this year's expedition and includes two academic staff members and five students.

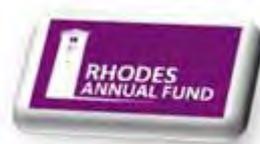
Dr Gwynneth Matcher of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, will be leading an all-female team to Antarctica to research Antarctic Microbial Ecology. The all-female team is an anomaly on research expeditions to Antarctica. "It wasn't planned, but it is very exciting leading an all-female team," shares Dr Matcher.

Read more [here](#)



## Annual Fund

As we come to the end of another year at Rhodes, we are always heartened by the amount of support our Alumni contribute towards the Rhodes Annual Fund. Every gift received has made a big impact in creating transformative change at Our University and the Makana community. We are incredibly grateful for your donations that go towards helping our current students reach their dreams.



The additive power of generous gifts from 255 Alumni, staff and other individuals amounted to approximately R1 200 000 million in revenue, supporting an array of projects and programmes. Over R600 000 was allocated to bursaries, R220 000 to the Pocket Money Fund; leaving over R 300 000 to be used for faculties and Capital projects.

Our staff are always the first to contribute and continuously support the Annual Fund. This year saw our staff contributions sitting on approximately 38% of the entire individual constituency, an incredible amount of support despite the challenging year.

Gift patterns varied from devoted monthly donations, to once-off project specific reactions to inspiring appeals and activities. We are most appreciative to have received a number of bequests and memorial contributions and we strive to cherish your legacy by proving the value of the Rhodes education: **Where Leaders Learn.**

Old Rhodians portrayed remarkable support and mentorship towards current Rhodents' financial aid needs this year and we hope this will inspire similar camaraderie within the Rhodes family and philanthropy towards academically strong and deserving students at Rhodes.

Contact [annualfund@ru.ac.za](mailto:annualfund@ru.ac.za) or visit our Giving page [here](#) to find out how you can contribute.



## The Power of Bequests

Through the years, bequests have made a powerful impact on the world around us, particularly in the fields of welfare and education. Over the past 50 years, a number of generously modest sums bequeathed to Rhodes University have been carefully invested and, in many cases, have grown to millions of rand, which now provide annual bursaries and scholarships for promising students. Bequests of shares, insurance policies and buildings have also been put to good use. 2016 saw three Bequests being left to Rhodes University from Joan Cheney (1952), Rudolph Brits (1944) and Diane Attwood (1951).

Contact Terry at [t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za) for further information on leaving a Bequest.

## In Memorium

2016 has seen the passing of many of our beloved staff members and well-known alumni. They will forever be in our thoughts and remembered for their deeds. Please do notify the Alumni Office at [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) if any Old Rhodians pass away.

Rhodes Staff: Prof Arthur Noble (1965), Prof Emeritus John Duncan, Prof Thomas Rodney Hope Davenport (1943) and Prof Patrick Alister Mcallister (1976).

Old Rhodians: Mariette Ruth (Varder) Murphy(1939), Eleanor Frances Barker(1951), Trevor Wallington Teeton (1952), Ann Isabel (Scott) Waugh (1955), Charles Anthony (Tony) Arnott (1956), Duncan Charles Baker (1956), Rosemary (Shaw) Libby (1957), Anthony Rhys Evans (1961), Gillian Hilary Gane (1961), Timothy John Couzens (1962), Ivan Zartz (1964), Diana Vernon (Lewis) Sutherland (1965), Brian John Manicom (1968), David Arthur Fish (1970), Rev Dr Theocritus Gqubule (1970), Harold Nevile Bodmer (1974), Peter Michael Croeser (1976) Michael Stuart Erskine (1981), Rev Dr Martin Young (1983), Jacqueline (Tawse) Jooste (1984), Gavin Horsman (1987), Kesayne Reed (2009), Wesley James Day (2013), Anelisa Dulaze (2014), Nikhil Maharaj (2015).

Please click [here](#) to read the notices and obituaries

We look forward to receiving your news and seeing you soon in person at one of our events.  
Please remember that if you have moved, send in your new contact details to [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) .

The links below give you all the ongoing access you need and more.

[Alumni in the News](#)

[General RU News](#)

[UK Trust Web Site](#)

[USA Trust Web Site](#)

[Old Rhodian Authors](#)



Raise funds for Bursaries and swipe your MySchool Card. Click [here](#) for an online application form if you do not have a MySchool Card linked to Rhodes University. All revenues goes towards an Old Rhodian Bursary Award.



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