

**RHODES UNIVERSITY**

*Where leaders learn*



## Rhodes Alumni Development e-newsletter

September 2016

Issue 59

***"The great aim of education not knowledge but action."***

Herbert Spencer

Dear Rhodians and Friends

This is always a special time of year for us here at Rhodes University because it's when we honour our loyal alumni, celebrate their deserved successes, and dwell in our purple pride. Founders Weekend 2016 was a monumental success thanks to the continued support and interest you show in your *alma mater*. We wish to pay homage with a welcome to our latest Old Rhodian awardees to the honour roll as we share their achievements with you. The never disappointing National Arts Festival has come and gone which saw Oriel House celebrate its Centenary with all generations coming together to kick start your reunion season! Once again our *Rhodos Magazine* is available online for more alumni news to keep you close to your purple roots. Join in the celebrations of our incredible alumni and, as always, enjoy the read.

The Rhodes Alumni Team



Please click on the thumbnail to read online. If you would like a hard copy, please email [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) confirming your full name and postal address.

## Outstanding Old Rhodians

It's that time of year again when The Old Rhodian Awards recognise the leading role models of our University and celebrate their achievements over the Founders' Weekend. 2016 honours six individuals for their excellent successes.

### DISTINGUISHED OLD RHODIAN AWARDS

**Tanya Accone** is honoured for her leadership and public service serving on the SRC and working with the community in iRhini Township which has led to where she is today.

**Honourable Judge Lex Mpati** is President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa and the Chancellor of his alma mater, Rhodes University.

**Mbusowemvelo Mtshali** joined Sanlam in 2004 and is currently head of legal, compliance and company secretary of Sanlam Investments. He also serves on the Board of Directors at Simeka Consultants & Actuaries (a member of Sanlam group).

**Caroline Rowland** 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.

### EMERGING OLD RHODIAN AWARDS

**Sherwin Bryce-Pease** is the Bureau Chief & Correspondent of the South African Broadcasting Corporation. Sherwin is based in New York and reports on U.S. and UN politics including the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Elections, the South African Presidency and Arts and Entertainment.

**Nondumiso Hlophe** is Swaziland's first female One Young Ambassador since 2011 and founded the Mbabane Hub of Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum.

[Read more](#) about these exemplary Old Rhodians.

## An essential link

The 66th Annual Meeting of Convocation was held jointly with the Annual General Meeting of the Old Rhodian Union (ORU) during Founders' Weekend. A bittersweet moment was felt with our new President, Professor Peter Mtuze, being elected after the passing of The Reverend Doctor Simon Gqubule earlier this year. Professor Peter Mtuze obtained his M.Th (Master of Theology) degree at Rhodes University in 2000 and has come full circle when he returned to Rhodes University as Professor and Head of the IsiXhosa Department. He is a poet, priest and academic with other varied career experiences having worked as an interpreter in the courts of the old South Africa, a radio announcer, a salesperson for a publishing company, a civil servant in the homeland structures, a lecturer at Unisa, and as the Editor in Chief of the Greater Dictionary of isiXhosa at Fort Hare.

Before his passing on the 25th May 2016, Dr Gqubule was honoured with the National Order of Luthuli, given a silver medal for his excellent contribution in the liberation struggle and in the fields of education and religion. He is our former and long-serving President of Convocation, a responsibility he discharged with admirable dedication and commitment.

[Read More](#)



*Judge Lex Mpati, Chancellor, Prof Walker, President of the Old Rhodian Union and Prof Peter Mtuze, President of Convocation*

## Rhodians Reconnecting

We love bringing our Old Rhodians back together with our regular reunions and legacy luncheons which will be spreading across the country soon. Stay updated to make sure you don't miss out on any events happening near you as it's always a treat reconnecting with old friends, hearing the latest about our University and, as always, showing your purple pride. Contact Terryll for more details at [t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za](mailto:t.mccarthy@ru.ac.za)

### CAPE TOWN IN SEPTEMBER

Save the date Capetonians as we want you to join us at the *6 Spin Street Restaurant* this month.

Vice-Chancellor's Dinner - 16th September at 19:00

Legacy Luncheon - 17th September at 12:30

Reunion - 17th September at 18:30

### DURBAN IN OCTOBER

The Rhodes festivities will move up the coast to the *African Pride Audacia Manor Boutique Hotel* in Durban.

Legacy Luncheon - 22nd October at 12:30

Reunion - 22nd October at 18:30 - Our Reunion this year is going to be extra special with the presentation of the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award to Mr Andrew Lofts Gray, who is an outstanding leader in the pharmacy field, both nationally and internationally.

### JOHANNESBURG IN NOVEMBER

The Old Rhodians Gauteng Chapter has been formed and invites you to save the purple dates which will be hosted at the *Royal Johannesburg & Kensington Golf Club* in November.

Vice-Chancellor's Dinner - 3rd November at 19:00

Legacy Luncheon - 4th November at 12:30

Reunion - 5th November at 18:30

### KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR GROUP REUNION

A group of 1965 - 1975 Old Rhodians will be hosting a reunion in Port Alfred on 2 October. Contact Christine Tapson: [ctapson@iafrica.com](mailto:ctapson@iafrica.com)

### PURPLE THURSDAYS

**Sydney, Australia:** Purple Thursday brings Old Rhodians together no matter where you are in the world! Following the purple balloons last month at the Darling Harbour, Old Rhodians gathered with Prof Di Wilmot, Dean of Faculty of Education, to show their purple pride down under.

**Johannesburg, South Africa:** The September 1st Purple Thursday gathering brought all Old Rhodians – young and old together and saw the launch of the Old Rhodians' Gauteng Chapter. The Chapter aims to keep all our ORs interested in our University and the goings on of all of our alumni in the area. It serves to expand the OR dominance in our own Gauteng and several networking and sporting Clubs and Societies are available for everyone to enjoy the Rhodes ethos.

Rhodents are unique – we all have one thing in common and tend to be out of the same mould – let's USE it and have some fun! Join the Old Rhodians Gauteng Chapter today

[Sign up here](#)



## July Festival Cocktail Party and Oriel House Centenary

### Bringing Home 100 Years

Nostalgic memories were conjured up when Oriel alumni caught up with their past over cocktails and old photographs to celebrate the prestigious milestone. It is hard to believe that it has been 100 years since Oriel House was established, yet its purple spirit still illuminates brightly. Old and new Orielites from all corners of the world came together over the weekend of celebrations making it a roaring success.

Joined by our DVC, Dr Peter Clayton and the President of the Old Rhodian Union, Prof Rod Walker, the July Festival Cocktail Party was held on the Friday night to honour Oriel House and allowed all alumni to dwell on the memories, laughter and excitement.



Marking the weekend, Ann Gray who had worked her way into the hearts of all, unveiled the centenary plaque outside the residence with a gorgeous photograph to seal the occasion.



Read more and access photographs [here](#)

## Old Rhodian Bursaries

### Linking the past with the present

As you know, we love our Old Rhodians and we want our purple blood to run through the generations. The awarding of the Old Rhodian Union Bursaries does just that every year by awarding your children or grandchildren bursaries to give them the financial opportunity to study and graduate, just like you once did. A total of R200 000 worth of bursaries were awarded to 26 students by Old Rhodian Union, Vice-President, Prof James Gambiza, made possible by generous donations from our Old Rhodians.

Congrats and good luck to our recipients!

Read more about the bursaries and how to apply [here](#)



## Old Rhodian Authors

Our book cases in the Alumni House are filling up as more Old Rhodian Authors continue to donate their fascinating works. Latest Old Rhodian Authors include Ralph Goldwain's "Roughing it: 1820 settlers in their own words"; Mike Bruton's "Traditional Fishing Methods of Africa"; a very unique addition written by father and son, Emeritus Professor Johan Smuts and Advocate Izak Smuts, "Woordeboek Van Regs- En Handelsterme"; and Fiona Adams' "Bound for Pretoria: The travel writing of Henry Adams, 1878-1879."

Read more [here](#) about our latest authors.

## Rhodes Annual Fund

We are incredibly grateful for the numerous donations made to the Annual Fund by alumni as your efforts persistently help our current students reach their dreams and continue the purple legacy.



### Pharmacy

After obtaining his Pharmacy degree in 2015, Grand Katsenga wants to give back and has started the Grand Foundation Prize which will be annually awarded to the 'most improved student.' He wants this prize to be an incentive for struggling Pharmacy students to keep working hard and finish their degrees. If you were a Pharmacy student you will understand how difficult this degree can be and are encouraged to donate towards the fund to put the Grand Foundation Prize in the alumni bursary pool, aimed specifically for Pharmacy Students.



### Law

If you remember spending most of your time in the Law Clinic than you'll always have the unforgettable experiences of helping those in desperate need of legal interventions. We want to keep the Clinic running as long as possible so that future generations have valuable experiences and Grahamstown doesn't lose these free legal services. We encourage our Law alumni to keep donating to the pool and give the poor, marginalised, victimised and vulnerable access to legal services.

### Give5

We love when students help their fellow students and the Give5 campaign resonates this gift of giving over our campus. This term saw generous support in the toiletry drive initiated by students and staff to assist struggling students make ends meet with essentials being donated monthly.



The Give5 campaign is growing even more as local businesses get involved with prizes and sponsorships. BUCO Grahamstown sponsored, delivered, and installed a water tank to help alleviate the water problems Grahamstown continues to have. Hobson Hall came second in the one week give5 campaign this year and raised close to R10 000.

We are forever grateful for all these acts of kindness and watch it spread throughout campus with our staff and alumni always generously contributing monthly towards the *Pocket Money Fund* which ensures we can keep helping our students in 2017. The Give5 campaign really makes a difference for our students who need the extra help. All contributions to Give5 are worthy and welcome.

Wish to donate? Click [here](#) for banking details

To donate online, click the thumbnail below.



## Universum Survey

Universum conducts the largest career outlook survey in the world among students and professionals and informs their partners on topics such as:

- Employability of their students and alumni
- Benchmarking against the rest of the South African market
- Strengths of their University brand
- Ideal positioning of that brand

Please [take the Career Test](#) in order for Universum to leverage the insights, as well as help you act on what you find out by taking the test.

## Alumni in the news

Your successes out in the world are also ours at Rhodes, which is why it's important to us to hear about your latest news, appointments, achievements and philanthropic deeds. Keep us updated and keep your eye on our headlines to see what amazing things Old Rhodians are doing out there.

The ladies made us proud in the *Mail & Guardian* top 200 Young South Africans for 2016 as seven Old Rhodian women made the impressive list. Congratulations to Claire Waterhouse (2005), Dr Harriet Etheredge (2004), Buhle Ngaba (2009), Krivani Pillay (1975), Baba-Tamana Gqubule (2005), Siviwe Gwarube (2008), and Sian Ferguson (2015).

Read more [here](#)



More great achievements continue throughout the world as Simeon Shaanika (2004) qualified as a Chartered Accountant with the global Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). Dr Imogen Wright (2005) has been invited to attend Techwoman in the United States this year. Amirah Tajdin (2007) was selected as one of five screenwriters to participate in the residency programme, REALNESS. Tanya Poole (1992) is the brilliant curator of the exhibition, *Emerging Painters: The Graduate Show* at the Turbine Art Fair 2016.

Read more about the incredible successes of our Old Rhodians in the news [here](#)



## Choir

The RU Chamber Choir (RUCC) is currently staging their talent across Namibia with their first international tour in over a decade. Thanks to their fundraising events and our loyal alumni, the choir were able to raise enough money to fund the tour and collaborate with Namibian choirs. Alumnus, Diane (Coetzee) Attwood, loved the voice of the choir and was a huge supporter throughout her life. Sadly Diane passed away but left her legacy in the choir by leaving a Bequest of R150 000 to the RUCC, which is an entity attached to the Music School.

Read more about the tour [here](#)



### RUCC sings their way to success

The Rhodes University Chamber Choir (RUCC) has sung their way into the semi-finals of Varsity Sing, a national choir competition organised by Varsity Sports and kykNET. Despite being smaller than their competitors, the choir has risen to the challenge.

Rhodes University will be up against UWC, Maties and NMMU in Cape Town on 14 September at the second semi-final round.



## Rhodes News



### VC received Dean's Award

Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, honoured his students and staff in his speech when receiving the Dean's Award in July. Mabizela received this award for being an influential figure in the Grahamstown Community with his value-based and ethical leadership style. He is the first ever to receive this award. Mabizela addressed the challenges that the student protests brought to the University and accepted the award on behalf of all students and staff of Rhodes University. "I'm just the face of many wonderful women and men in our University who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community and humankind."

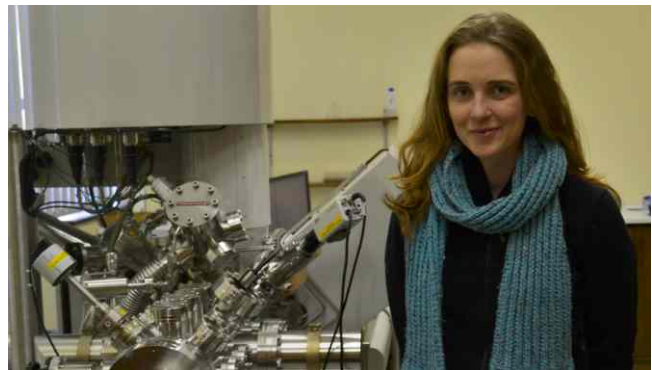
### Highway Africa celebrates 20 years of Digital Journalism

Over 450 journalists, editors, and academics came together at our School of Journalism and Media Studies to embrace the opportunities the anticipated Highway Africa brings each year to our campus. Focussing on the relationship between the internet and media, the conference brings a space for innovative reflection, workshops and short courses to spark conversation about the past 20 years of digital journalism. Highway Africa is a flagship project of our School of Journalism and Media Studies and is one of the most relevant events for addressing African media and journalism.



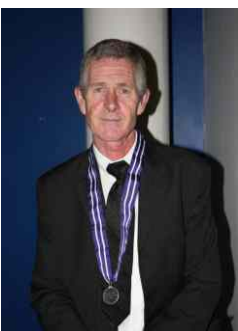
### Rhodes University's MSc Student wins 2016 SA Women in Science Award

It is no secret that scientists at the forefront in South African Science and Technology are Rhodes graduates, which is why we are ecstatic to congratulate MSc Chemistry student, Miss Jessica Anne Harris, for winning the 2016 South African Women in Science Award (WISA). Harris's research was advertised in the Mail & Guardian as "the development of dyes for photodynamic therapy (PDT) treatment of cancer." Under the work of her supervisor, Professor Nyokong, RU labs will be the home to the testing of her newly developed dyes. Surprised by her nomination, Harris inspires women in her field to pioneer research and stand as a role model for future young scientists and Rhodes.



### Rowing

Grahamstown may be small town but our rowing game is big, as five local men are set to represent South Africa in the international rowing scene. August saw them rowing Rotterdam in the Netherlands competing at the World U23 Rowing Championships. Now their focus will turn to Poland's World University Championships to try achieve that gold for SA in September. Rhodes coach, Chris Holliday, has once again been selected for the national U23 team and praises his local rowers for inspiring him. "To represent South Africa has always been a dream of mine. To do so with these athletes developed in Grahamstown shows the dedication and hard work of the athletes has paid off," shared Holliday.



### Accolade for Rhodes Prof's water work

After RU Professor Denis Hughes' long commitment to bringing water to sub-Saharan Africa, he has been rewarded for his outstanding efforts. Hughes was awarded the 2016 International Hydrology Prize of IAHS/WMO/UNESCO: The Volker Medal in Paris due to his contribution to outstanding applications of hydrological science for the benefit of society at large.

Read more about Prof Hughes' award [here](#).

We look forward to receiving your news and seeing you soon in person at one of our events.

Please remember to 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](#)

[Old Rhodian Authors](#)



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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