

Rhodes Alumni Development e-newsletter

April 2016
Issue 58

***"Nine Tenths of education is encouragement."
Anatole France.***

Dear Rhodians and Friends

We have recently celebrated with our new graduates, and what a joyous occasion it was. A hearty, purple congratulations to our new alumni.

"If we have done our jobs properly, you have been transformed into completely different people; people who look at the world with different eyes, who can begin to imagine a better world than the one we now inhabit and who have the ability to contribute to positive change. As one parent wrote recently "I must say, I gave Rhodes my baby and I got back a young beautiful woman who surely is going to make a mark in this world," said Dr Mabizela, addressing the 2250 graduates in turn at this year's six ceremonies. And indeed transforming we are. We are not only transforming students but we are transforming Grahamstown, transforming this small rural town into a hub of educational excellence, changing lives and the future of our Country. While Rhodes has and continues to enjoy the enviable reputation of having the best pass and graduation rates of any South African university, we are a University in and of a town, and we are ideally situated to transform the educational experience of all in Grahamstown with the Revitalising Schools Programme.

The purple reputation of educational excellence ever continues. We hope you are inspired by the read. The Rhodes Alumni Team

Graduation Celebrations

Grahamstown was a blaze of colour during the graduation weekend with excited families and proud graduates in their academic regalia. Six ceremonies took place, seeing 2250 students graduate. Of the 2250 students, 1 235 (or 55%) were undergraduate Bachelor's degrees and 1015 (or 45%) were postgraduate degrees and diplomas. Of the 1015 postgraduate students, 230 received their Master's degrees. This year 67 students graduated with PhD degrees. The Faculty of Humanities celebrated a new record of 19 PhD degrees. The Faculty of Science, which is the third largest Faculty in the University, has produced 34 PhDs, more than all the other five Faculties combined. Of the 2250 graduates, 58% were women and 19% international students.



Rhodes honours eminent South Africans

Graduation was particularly exciting for our alumni this year, as not only do we welcome 2250 alumni to our community, Rhodes University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Professor Edward Webster, a former SRC President and first team rugby captain, on Saturday 2 April 2016.

The old Rhodian is an internationally recognised sociologist and was honoured for his work in giving a voice to the workers and his unwavering commitment to social justice and a faith in human agency to bring about that justice.

We welcome all of our Honorary Doctorates whose combined contribution to the creative growth of our nation is beyond measure. Rhodes is delighted to proudly welcome them to our fold.

- Sociologist, **Prof Edward Webster**
Doctor of Laws citation
- South African poet and author, **James Matthews**
Doctor of Literature citation
- Human rights and media freedom lawyer **Beatrice Mtetwa**
Doctor of Laws citation
- Environmental pioneer and social justice leader, **Jeunesse Park** *Doctor of Laws citation*
- Humanitarian **Dr Imtiaz Sooliman** *Doctor of Laws citation*

[VC Graduation Welcome Speech](#)



Prof Webster's view on the name of Rhodes (in brief)

Firstly, if a name change is to take place and if it is to be meaningful, there will be a need to engage a much broader range of stakeholders, well beyond only current students, thus he believes the approach Rhodes University is taking with regard to a name change is the right way. The University is waiting on the members of the task team, who would be responsible for canvassing the views of all Rhodes stakeholders, to confirm and commit to undertaking such a task before their names will be released. It will be up to this task team to find the best methods for such a participatory and broad engagement.

Secondly, engaging with a name change and whether one is required is an opportunity rather than a threat. It is an opportunity to explore our past, it is an opportunity to critically self-examine ourselves as an academic community and reconstruct our identities, an idea he explored in his acceptance speech for his honorary doctorate on 2 April 2016.

And thirdly, he suggests that it has to be the next generation who decides this, as he quoted Fanon in his acceptance speech, "Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it." (Fanon, 1965). [Read the full address here.](#)

Read the full address [here](#)

Alumni in the News

Old Rhodians are making headlines as leaders in their fields and are shaping the world. Please remember to send in news clips about yourself or of fellow Old Rhodians to alumni@ru.ac.za. Read about the Rev Dr Simon Gqubule and Marguerite Poland who received the 2016 National Orders Awards. Pumla Stuurman, the Angel who guides teens into Varsity and Byrony Winn who is the youngest ever partner at McKinsey & Co in Chicago. Catch the interview with Siki Mgabdeli and Nomkhita Nqweni on why hard work doesn't kill anybody. Our Alumni accomplishments have the power to inspire and motivate while setting an exemplary example for our current students.



Nomkhita Nqweni



Bryony Winn



Marguerite Poland



Siki Mgabdeli



Rev Dr Simon Gqubule

Click [here](#) for Alumni in the news

RHODES ANNUAL FUND

Give5 exceeds R80 000 but our work is not done



The 2016 Give 5 campaign was palpably special due to the students' commitment to the cause. A total of R83 000 was raised over the week of focussed fundraising by all the students.

One of the most high-profile events of the Give5 week is the Firewalk. Students and staff



pay to walk across five metres of hot coals, the cost of which is donated to the campaign. The Firewalk is symbolic of the community of giving and helping at Rhodes University. "Would this happen at any other university? Would you have anyone walking over five metres of fire for another student? That doesn't happen at other universities," shared Terryl.

"It's about being uncomfortable, putting yourself out there. It's bringing awareness that there are students at Rhodes who feel like that, and it symbolises that you're putting yourself in their shoes," she added.

The fundraising ever continues but we are delighted with the efforts of the students to assist their peers. The money raised goes towards the Rhodes Annual Fund, *Pocket Money Fund*, where qualifying students receive R170 per month to assist them with purchasing toiletries, bus tickets, clothing, books or any other items they may require. The fund is limited by the money raised.

Give5 is co-ordinated by the Give5 committee and is part of the SRC Community Engagement Councillor's portfolio each year. All fundraising is done by students and the senior students and community engagement reps from each residence liaise with the students to organise their fundraising events.



[Read the full story on Give5 2016](#)



Sol Plaatje Institute for Media Leadership

Africa's media management institute needs your help. The Sol Plaatje Institute (SPI) for Media Leadership at Rhodes University in South Africa has been educating and training media leaders and managers from across Africa since 2002. Many of these graduates today occupy influential positions in the media industry in Africa and internationally.

Read full story and how to donate [here](#)



Student sets example

DETERMINED to make a difference, a Rhodes University student and National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) recipient has pledged to donate R100 a month to help someone else make a success of their studies. Please join Naseem and contribute to the Rhodes Annual Fund.

Read more [here](#)

Choir

The Rhodes University Chamber Choir is in need of support to fund their trip to Namibia. The Rhodes University Chamber Choir has decided to embark upon an international tour in September 2016. We will no longer be travelling to the USA as hoped for last year, but a neighbouring country, Namibia. Our goal is to be able to promote our South African culture to a new audience, and in turn experience Namibia. Tour planning is under way and we would be very grateful for assistance in funding this undertaking. E-mail Ellen Bagshaw-Smith at annualefund@ru.ac.za

To listen to the Rhodes University Chamber Choir, click [here](#)

Awards – Rhodes Research wins

Another Accolade for Distinguished Prof. Nyokong

Renowned South African scientist and Rhodes University's Distinguished Professor Tebello Nyokong was awarded the African Union (AU) Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government on 30 January 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AU Kwame Nkrumah Awards are given annually to African scientists who have distinguished themselves in the fields of science, technology and innovation.

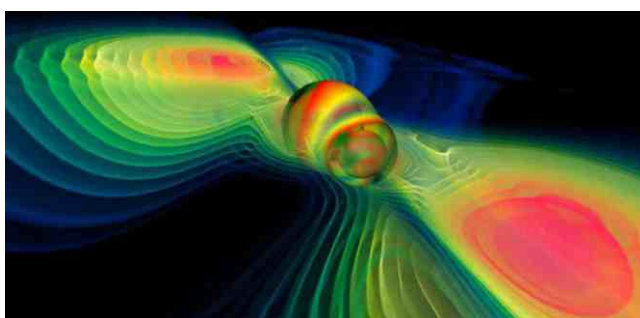
[Read more](#)



Rhodes scientists making waves

Local scientists in the Rhodes University Mathematics Department happen to make up South Africa's first gravitational wave research group, and have been developing the theoretical models that contributed directly to the detection of gravitational waves earlier this year. Prof. Pollney has been working on binary black hole modelling for over twenty years, and is part of the only group working on these models in South Africa.

[Read full story here](#)



ELRC awarded R13 million to lead international project

The Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) at Rhodes University has been awarded R13 million to lead a project on learning-centred transformation in social-ecological sciences (SES). The Rhodes University group is one of three to receive this funding.

[Read more](#)

Rhodes Law students to represent Africa in Geneva

The Rhodes University European Law Students Association (ELSA) Moot team, consisting of four final year LLB students, won the African Regional Round of the European Law Students Association (ELSA) Moot Court Competition on 1 April 2016. Nkosazana Lulu Dweba, Steph Stretch, Declan Williamson and Moya Vaughan-Williamson will be representing Rhodes University and Africa in Geneva in the final oral round where they will argue against the other regional winners. Ten teams competed in what was only the third African Regional Round of the competition, hosted this year, for the first time, at Rhodes University.

[Read more here](#)

Transformation at Rhodes

Revitalising schools project

Rhodes University is transforming Grahamstown into a hub of educational excellence through the High Impact Supplementary School's programme, the Nine-tenths programme, the parents' programme, the Maths Experience, and the Principle's Programme, which was launched last week.

The High Impact Supplementary School's Programme

Parents' involvement needed for success

Maths Experience



Old Rhodians in Print and Online

From "Four Zimbabwean Adventure Tales", "Medicinal and Charm Plants of Pondoland", 'Who's Knocking on my Door', "Imagining the elephant: A Biography of Allan Macleod Cormack" to The "New Boy and The Substitute Teacher": These are just a sample of the latest books donated to the Old Rhodian Book Case in Alumni House.

We'd be delighted to receive a copy of any publications our alumni are writing for our Old Rhodian Book Shelves, on display in Alumni House.

Latest Books donated to the OR Author's Bookcase

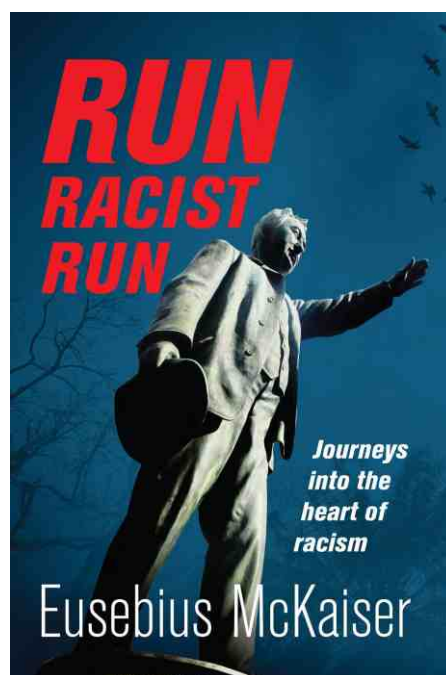
[Access our growing collection of Old Rhodians' e-books here](#)

Run Racist Run

UHURU organised a book launch for Old Rhodian, Eusebius McKaiser. He is no stranger to Rhodes University and its lecture theatres, which is perhaps part of the reason Eusebius McKaiser held his audience captive throughout his talk at Eden Grove Red on Thursday 25 February 2016. Launching his third and latest book – Run, Racist, Run – the proud and much celebrated former Rhodent cut straight to the chase, presenting and inviting discussions over some of the serious race issues his book explores.

Never one to shy away from controversial and against-the-status-quo thoughts, opinions and statements, McKaiser made no secret of the fact that this book was written in the middle of another about illness, death and meaning. "But new questions fascinated me about race, and so I put that book project on ice to write Run, Racist, Run", he said. He also shared the realisation that one must answer the call when "something else wants to be written inside you."

Read the full story [here](#)



Alumni events

2015 Old Rhodian winner, Trevor Hastie, visited us recently.

For his overwhelming contribution to statistical innovation, Trevor Hastie was awarded the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award 2015. Trevor graduated from Rhodes University with a BSc (Hons) in Statistics in 1976. He and his wife, Lynda visited South Africa in March and managed to make time to spend a night in Grahamstown. A small dinner was held on the 21st March to present Prof. Trevor Hastie with the Distinguished Old Rhodian Award.

Citation



Orientation Cocktail Function

Rhodes University welcomed some 1500 first years early in February, and the Alumni Office used this wonderful opportunity to welcome our Old Rhodians back to their old stomping ground. The Orientation Cocktail Party was abuzz with first year students and their Old Rhodian relatives giving us the wonderful opportunity to catch-up with our alumni whose children have joined the purple family this year.

It was an opportunity to thank you, our alumni, for your continued support. Over the last five years, the Old Rhodian Union has provided R180 000 annually through your fundraising efforts. These bursaries are given to children of Old Rhodians and staff members who work at Rhodes.

It was also an opportunity for Dr Mabizela to share his thoughts on the student protests of 2015 and what this year has in store. Higher education is increasingly becoming unaffordable, particularly to those who need it most and to this end he supported the student protests as they sought to make higher education accessible to all.



"We have a responsibility as a society to make it possible that every academically capable and talented young person has access to higher education," said Dr Mabizela. "This year we will be launching an aggressive fundraising campaign and we will be calling on you, our alumni, because you know the value and importance of education that you have received at Rhodes University," shared Dr Mabizela.

Upcoming events

Oriel House Centenary Reunion

There are many exciting upcoming alumni events but that which receives special mention is the Oriel House Centenary celebration. Oriel House is the first female residence to celebrate this prestigious milestone.

Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela cordially invites you to join him at the Oriel House Centenary Celebration

Friday, 8 July 2016

Festival Cocktail Party honouring Oriel House Alumni, Alumni House, Lucas Avenue

Saturday, 9 July 2016

Lunch, Ornee Cottage, Botanical Gardens
Formal Dinner, Vice-Chancellor's Dining Hall

Sunday 10th July

Breakfast, Courtenay-Latimer Hall
We look forward to hosting all our Oriel ladies.



Read more about the celebrations [here](#)

July Festival Cocktail Party

Our annual July Festival Cocktail Party will take place on 8 July 2016.

We invite all Old Rhodians visiting Grahamstown to come along to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela, and the President of the Old Rhodian Union, Prof Rod Walker, while meeting old friends and making new ones. This year we will be honouring Oriel House as we celebrate their Centenary with them. RSVP to **Terry**

Reunions and Legacy Luncheons 2016

This year we will be holding our reunions and luncheons on Saturdays. The dates are yet to be set as we search for suitable venues, please be in touch if you know of any suitable venues. As our Rhodes high-fliers with company connections please assist as we are also looking for sponsors. Please email **Terryl** or phone on 046 603 8887.

We hold reunions in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban annually and will be adding Port Elizabeth this year. Our UK Trustees will be organising events in the UK, please contact **Claire Collet**.

Remember that every Thursday is **PURPLE THURSDAY**, the day of the week that all alumni, staff and students wear their touch of purple, no matter where they are in the world, to show that they are part of the Rhodes Family. The Old Rhodian Gauteng holds regular Purple Thursday events on the last Thursday of the month, where Alumni are invited to come along to meet and reconnect with fellow Rhodents. If you would like to be part of the Old Rhodian Gauteng, please contact **Pat Rousell**.

Please let **Terryl** know if you would like to organise a **PURPLE THURSDAY** gathering in your town and she will be able to assist you with the invitations and in getting the word out to fellow Rhodents.



In Memoriam 2016

We have sadly been informed of some of our beloved alumni who have passed on – they will always be remembered in our hearts.

Trevor Teeton (1952); Duncan Charles Baker (1956); Rosemary (Shaw) Libby (1957); Diana Sutherland (1965); Prof Arthur Nobel (1965); Brian John Manicom (1968); Rev Dr Martin Young (1983); Anelisa Dulaze (2014); Kesayne Reed (2015); Ann Isabel Waugh (nee Scott) (1955).

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

Send us your news and your pictures

We know you're doing amazing things out there. So please send us your news and a high quality jpeg of yourself for the Communications and Advancement Division Rhodos Magazine, to alumni@ru.ac.za

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

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

[Alumni in the News](#)

[General RU News](#)

[USA Trust Web Site](#)

[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 revenue goes towards an Old Rhodian Bursary Award