



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**

*Where leaders learn*

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Rhodes Alumni Development e-newsletter

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Issue 56

*“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.  
Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”*

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Rhodians and Friends

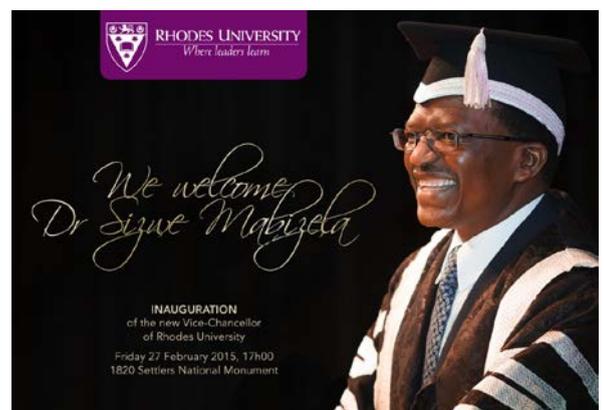
In his address to new students this year, Rhodes Vice-Chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela said, "We want you to develop the ability and skill to question, to challenge conventional wisdom, to contest taken-for-granted 'facts' ... Dare to be different". It is a call to action that great educators always have made and that countless generations of Rhodes students and alumni have heeded. So this Alumni E-Newsletter Winter Edition 2015 is dedicated to the RU spirit of originality and origination that is actualised in trail-blazing purple, through you! We hope we can celebrate it together over Founder's Weekend in September or another Rhodes alumni event closest to you.

Enjoy the read

The Rhodes Alumni Team

## A Fond Welcome to an Already Burning Flame

Echoing his words to new students about daring to be different, Dr Sizwe Mabizela again reaffirmed their deeper meaning in his inauguration speech as RU Vice-Chancellor in February. "Rhodes is an institution animated in large part by a progressive and innovative spirit" he said. Inspiring words indeed from the man now at the helm of the smallest, but best performing, university in the country. In a beautiful address that with heartfelt candour spanned past, present and future, Dr Mabizela spoke of the legacy, the challenges and opportunities now faced by him, the institution, Grahamstown as a community and the nation itself.



“We are a **university**, a place of knowledge – *siyindawo yolwazi*, a community of scholars engaged in the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge in the service of humanity”, he emphasised.

Dr Mabizela is the sixth VC in Rhodes University’s history – an auspicious number as he mathematically proved in his address – and has distinguished himself as Rhodes Deputy VC with distinction for a decade.

We wish Dr Mabizela everything of the best as he executes his ten-point vision for Rhodes, which includes making RU fully accessible to academically talented but financially needy students and cementing its role in Grahamstown and the world as a university which “will be able to advance the higher purpose of higher education: to transform individual lives for the better, to transform societies for the better and to transform the world for the better.”

## **Dr Sizwe Mabizela’s Inauguration Programme and Speech Inauguration Booklet**

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### **Where Leaders Learn to Flourish**

RU again achieved the best graduation rate of all South African universities this year, with the second record-breaking year in a row of PhD graduates – 4 up from last year’s 71 to 75. In total, 2298 students graduated this year; and even though Rhodes represents a mere 1% of higher education enrolments in the country, we have the highest number of Mandela-Rhodes scholars out of all SA universities. Nine nominees for this prestigious scholarship were submitted by RU last year, of a total of 500 applicants. “Of the 60 candidates who were shortlisted for interviews, 7 (i.e., 11.6%) were from Rhodes; and of the 40 who were awarded the Mandela-Rhodes Scholarship, 6 were from Rhodes (15%). An incredible achievement for the smallest University in the country!” said Dr Mabizela.



Indeed, this year’s six graduation ceremonies were made more poignant by the inaugural awarding of the Lelona Fufu scholarship, in honour of this beloved Rhodes student who in 2012 was murdered while hitchhiking to her graduation ceremony. [Read the full story here:](#)

Of course any RU Graduation Weekend would be incomplete without outstanding Honorary Doctorate awardees. This year they included jazz icon Hugh Masekela, inimitable Public Protector Adv Thuli Madonsela, artist extraordinaire Dr David Koloane, Sociologist and Policy-change activist, Prof Francie Lund and distinguished past VC Dr Saleem Badat.

Please follow the links below for the full stories:

[Rhodes Celebrates PhD Graduation Record](#)

[Go out and tackle the challenges that face our society and the world](#)

[Honorary Doctorate Citations \(bottom right hand side\)](#)

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## Enthralling Alumni Events!

From the highly enjoyable Orientation Week Cocktail hosted by Dr Mabizela, to a deeply emotional Pharmacy 1975 Class Reunion, ([full story here](#)) our Alumni Relations team has been delightfully busy with a plethora of glorious events in 2015.



Indeed, our Give5 campaign, which is a collaborative exercise with students and residences to raise funds for the Pocket Money Fund, again culminated in a blazing fire-walk on the Drostdy Lawns and raised over R75 000 to assist students from underprivileged backgrounds with their living expenses. Then, a total of 26 bursaries with a combined value of R190 000 were also awarded at the Old Rhodian Bursary Awards – both of which feature in our Light a Fire section later in this e-zine.

These events though are just a great beginning, and there many incredible events yet this year – including the upcoming **UK London Reunion and Luncheon**, the **July Festival Cocktail Party** and **East London Reunion**, and the fantastic **Founders Weekend from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of September**. This wonderful weekend includes the Oriel House Centenary and Rhodes Business School 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, as well as the Convocation and the Old Rhodian Awards; and is already shaping up to be spectacular! Don't miss a thing on our event calendar this year and [click here for all details...](#)

Don't forget that **NOMINATIONS FOR THE OLD RHODIAN AWARDS close on 8 July**; we know that you know of Old Rhodians who the University could honour for their actions and achievements.

NOMINATE them for either the Distinguished or Emerging Old Rhodian.

For Criteria AND Nominations, [click here](#)



## Alumni in the News



From a ground-breaking collaboration between RU and UNICEF in revolutionising the way HIV testing is done, to its alumni winning some of the world's most prestigious global scholarships, honours and prizes, good news abounds at RU – in all the spheres of human endeavour. Congratulations to all involved!

**Alumni in the News**  
**General RU News**

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## Cutting Edge Online Careers Management System

In an exciting development, Rhodes is proud to announce the launch of its Online Career Management System, geared at connecting students and graduates to potential job prospects and opportunities. This ranges from full-time employment and internships after graduating, to study-related projects, part-time work, short courses and internships for those still completing their studies. It's a powerful tool for students and graduates to both enter and explore their field of study.

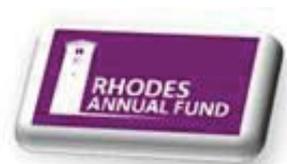
**Careers Website**

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## Light a Fire in Student's Lives – give5 and the Old Rhodian Bursaries

*"In a society characterised by uncertainty, cynicism and despair, we look to you, graduates of this distinct and distinctive institution of higher learning, for leadership to tackle the challenges that face our society and the world."*

Dr Sizwe Mabizela



Beyond the blazing fire-walk that it culminates with every year, the Give 5 campaign serves as a fiery entry for current students into the vibrant Rhodes culture of giving back. Over R75 000 was raised by students and staff for fellow students in need this year.

The Old Rhodian Bursaries then continue the spirit of Give 5 in students' lives as alumni. Indeed, the aim of the Old Rhodian Union is to provide the opportunity for as many talented students as possible to transform their lives and the world. Already each year the University distributes millions of Rands to who would not otherwise have the opportunity to study here. It would be impossible without the support of our donors; and our University would be poorer in all respects. Tragically, even with all our combined efforts, over 130 students were turned away this year.

More than most, you as alumni know the difference a Rhodes education can make and the perennial role the University plays in life. Please, if you can, click on the donate button below and pass on the gift of your education to a new generation. All contributions are worthy and welcomed.

Fundraising needs are from Bursaries, to the Rowing Club, the Law Clinic, the Rhodes Choir Tour to the USA, Life Sciences Building and many more. Please contact [annualfund@ru.ac.za](mailto:annualfund@ru.ac.za) for further information.



**Donate Online**

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## Transformation at Rhodes

During his inauguration address, Vice-Chancellor, Dr Mabizela, stated that advancing the transformation imperative at RU is a key priority – coupled with opening easier access to a Rhodes education for financially constrained students, as well as the promotion of a welcoming, inclusive, positive and affirming institutional environment. Indeed, Dr Mabizela has held several meetings with various student representative bodies and institutional fora and committees regarding issues of transformation and name-change, following the highly publicised #rhodesmustfall student campaigns at both UCT and RU. Stating that the issues raised by students deserve to be taken seriously by acting with a sense of purpose, he went on to say, “It is vitally important that we, as a university and as a nation, start to engage our complex and uncomfortable past in earnest in order to forge a new and shared future. A university is, by its very nature, a democratic space where contending views and ideas must be expressed, debated and discussed. I therefore welcome the space that has been opened for us to engage on what one may call ‘courageous conversations’ as we remake and reshape our future.” These ‘courageous conversations’ continue at Rhodes University, with Dr Mabizela calling for mutual respect between diverging views, saying that “We should never try to delegitimise, trivialise or be dismissive of, each other’s views and experience.” It is in this all-inclusive spirit that a series of processes have been set in motion at all levels within Rhodes University. Outlining some of these processes, Chairperson of the University Council, Mr Vuyo Kahla, stated, “The leadership of the University will continue to engage in open discussions with all of its stakeholders with regards to issues of transformation at Rhodes University. Council is committed to ensuring the sustainability of Rhodes University and to this end, ideas must be expressed, debated and discussed in order to forge a new and shared future that ensures Rhodes University is a home for all.”

Please follow the links to read the VC’s full response, as well as the latest notice from the University Council:

**Vice-Chancellors Circular 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Notice from Council on the Future of the Name of Rhodes University and Transformation**

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## 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 Development & Alumni Division Rhodos Magazine, to [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za)

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

For now, in the spirit of origination and pioneering initiative celebrated throughout this newsletter edition, we leave you with the words of an inspiring anthem, quoted by Vice-Chancellor, Dr Mabizela, during his inauguration speech:

**Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do.  
Do not wait to shed your light afar.  
To the many duties ever near you now be true.  
Brighten the corner where you are.**

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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.



We look forward to seeing you soon in person at our reunions and events. Please remember to send in your new contact details to the Alumni Office at the e-mail address below if they have changed to ensure you’re invited to the events held in your area.

Contact us: [alumni@ru.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ru.ac.za) | Tel: +27 46 603 8887 | [www.ru.ac.za/alumni](http://www.ru.ac.za/alumni)