

A moments silence at the start of Proceedings to remember Mary Humphreys:

We lost a very special friend, activist and community partner this month, Mary Humphreys passed away very suddenly on Sunday 1st October. She touched so many lives not only in Grahamstown but across the world. Tonight we wish to pay respect to this extraordinary woman with a moment's silence.

Uhambo lwakho Mary lusothusile sohlala sikukhumbula ngemisebenzi yakho emihle

CE Director's Welcome:

In Hinduism rains signify life, renewal, devotion, love, rebirth, compassion. The Vedic hymns leave no doubt that rains are a gift from heaven. It is a symbiotic relationship – Gods send rain to nourish the earth and in return the humans perform sacrifices and make offerings to God.

I think it would be fair to make the assumption that the God's have sent the rain today to give thanks for the contributions, compassion and love shared by our students, staff and community partners leading to renewal over the past year. Namkelekile apha eRhodes, kusekhaya nalapha, kudala sihamba lendlela kunye.

Our Guest Speaker, Mr Luzuko Jacobs, Director of Communications and Advancement, it's wonderful to have you at Rhodes – welcome to your very first CE Gala Dinner and Awards evening.

Having sight of the VC's diary, I never take his presence for granted, welcome VC, thanks for being with us this evening.

I am particularly excited to announce we have a record number of Deans here to celebrate with us, we welcome Prof Sewry, Prof Wilmot, Prof Daya and Prof Booth. Your presence and the presence of so many of our valued Academics is special recognition for the students. Welcome to our SRC representatives, we have the 2018 President, Nhlaknaipho Mahlangu, the 2017 CE Rep, Ashley Zikali and the 2018 CE Rep, Unathi Mabukane with us. Our Community Engagement Management Committee, Wardens, our media colleagues, and other staff, welcome.

Last but very importantly our Student Volunteers and our Community Partners who without we would not be here at all – you are very warmly welcomed. Finally, welcome to our CE dream team – they don't dream they make magic!

Enjoy this special event, the CE Gala Dinner and Awards Evening.

