

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH IN AFRICA  
RHODES UNIVERSITY  
P. O. BOX 94  
GRAHAMSTOWN 6140  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TELEPHONE: (046) 6226093  
FAX: (046) 6038566  
E-MAIL: [J.King@ru.ac.za](mailto:J.King@ru.ac.za)



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ISEA





## CONTENTS

Board of Management	3
Staff	4
ISEA Organogram	5
ISEA External Relations	6
Conspectus	7
Staff News	8
Donors	8
Publications	9
Conferences and Public Lectures	17
Research	18
Secondary Schools Language Project	19
Shakespeare Congress	20
Campus Creative Writing Programme	21
Wordfest	22
Wordbeacons	26
<i>Heartlands</i> Multimedia Productions	26
<i>In Praise of the Shades</i> Multimedia Presentation	26
Distinguished Visitors	26
University Teaching	27
Graduate Supervision and Examining	27
Degrees in Progress (Staff)	28
Director's Activities	28
Conclusion	28



## ISEA BOARD OF MANAGMENT

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\* Member of the Executive Committee

## ISEA ANNUAL REPORT 2003

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Prof. L.S. Wright BA (Hons) (Rhodes), MA (Warwick), DPhil (Oxon)

#### **Alan Macintosh Research Fellow**

M. J. Probyn BA, BEd (Cape Town), MSc (Oxon)

#### **Research Officer**

N.H. Rasana BA (Hons) (UNISA), DipInst (Christ Church, Canterbury), DipMan, MEd (Rhodes)

#### **Research Associates**

R.S.Berold BSc (Eng) (Witwatersrand), MA (Cantab)

C.M.Mann BA (Witwatersrand), MA (Oxon), MA (London), Hon Dlitt (Durban-Westville)

#### **Visitor**

H. Slinger, HDE, TLSO, LCTL, Dipl. Television,  
President, Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa

#### **Co-ordinator, Creative Writing Programme**

C. Warren, NDipLIS (PE Technicon), BA (Hons) (UNISA)

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Prof. C. H. Mackenzie BA (Hons), MA (Natal), PhD (Rhodes)

#### **Editor: *New Coin Poetry***

J. Metelerkamp BA (Hons), MA (Natal). PG Acting Dip (Cape Town)

#### **Editor: *Shakespeare in Southern Africa***

Prof. B. Pearce BA (Hons), MA (London), MA (Natal), PhD (London)

#### **Editor, Shakespeare Society *Occasional Papers and Reviews***

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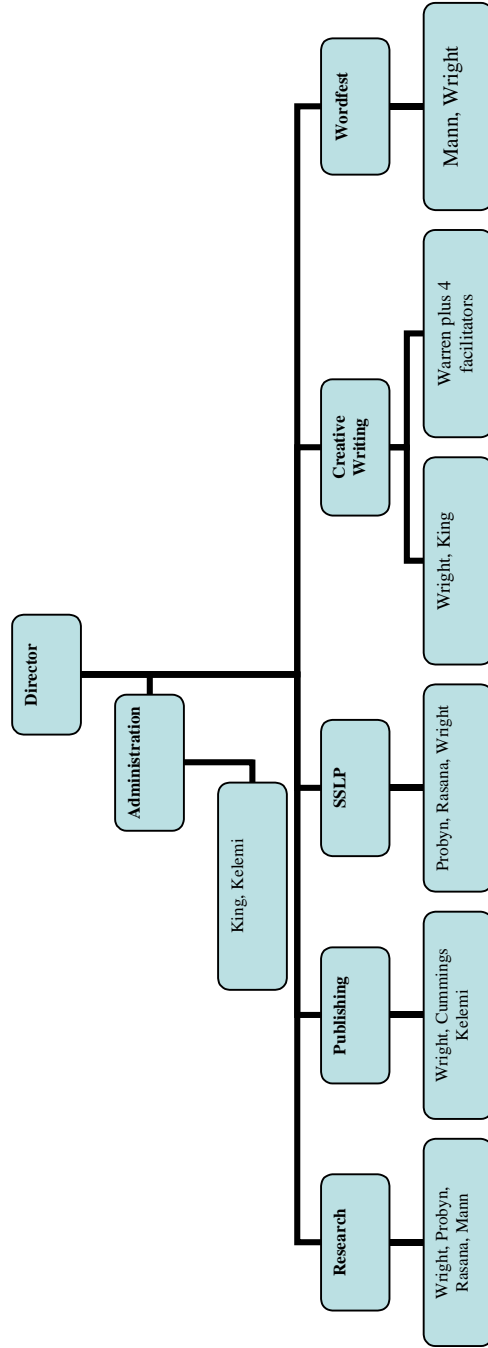
#### **Publications Officer**

B. Cummings

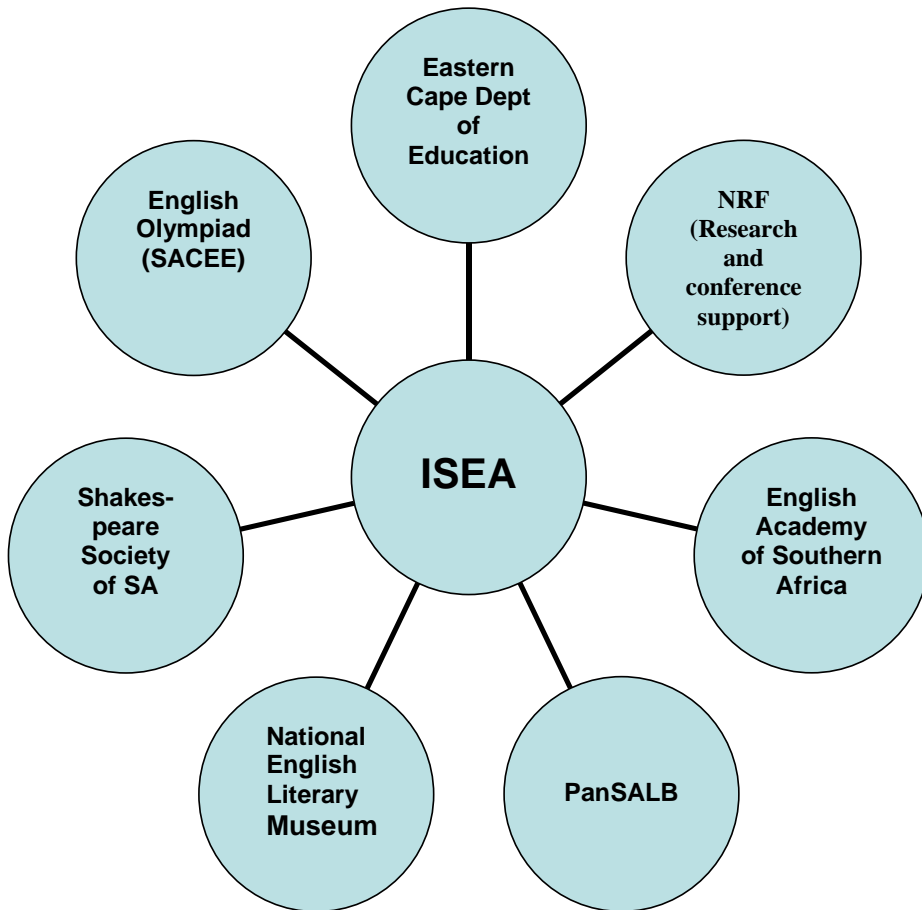
#### **Secretary**

N. Kelemi

## ISEA Organogram



## ISEA: External Relations



## CONSPECTUS

This draft report covers the period from January to December 2003.

Undertakings and achievements have included the following:

- The ***Secondary Schools Language Project*** has successfully launched an Advanced Certificate in Education, primarily for English language teachers in the Eastern Cape, in partnership with the provincial department of education. The first cohort of 38 teachers has started the two-year part-time programme, and it is hoped that the through-put rate will double in the second year with the start of a second group. The Certificate programme has ministerial and ECHEA approval and is registered on the NQF. Its aim is to improve the quality of English language teaching in the GET and FET phases.
- ***Wordfest*** increased in size and stature, up from 108 events last year to 125 in 2003. Public participation grew especially for the lead events associated with this year's theme of Justice and Reconciliation.
- Staff members presented papers at ***international conferences*** in Egypt, Uganda, the United States and South Africa, in addition to appearing at several local conferences.
- The Institute underwent an ***institutional review*** in July as part of the ongoing process of quality assurance in the University. The outcome and recommendations have yet to be released, but the informal feedback indicated general approval of the Institute's progress.
- Research Associate Chris Mann's play, ***Thutula, Heart of the Labyrinth***, premiered on the Main Programme of the National Arts Festival amidst considerable and very healthy controversy. The play received excellent reviews, most performances were full and received standing ovations. Director Janet Buckland is, at the request of the Eastern Cape Government and Xhosa royalty, planning to take the play on tour.
- Several ***displays*** are in the process of construction in St Peter's Building ready for the University's Centenary next year.
- We welcomed two ***new members to the ISEA Board***, Ms Bulelwa Nosilela, head of Xhosa studies in the School of Languages, and Professor Ralph Adendorff from the department of English Language and Linguistics. We look forward to their contributions to the work of the ISEA.

## STAFF NEWS

Cossie Rasana was awarded her M.Ed and graduated in April. We offer her warm congratulations.

Margie Probyn's work on the Ministerial Committee appointed to write curriculum statements for the Further Education and Training (FET) band, i.e. Grades 10-2, was completed in the first half of the year.

Hildé Slinger, President of the Shakespeare Society, joined the ISEA for most of 2003 in her role as convenor for the Society's Triennial Congress. The congress and its associated conference were most successful, and we offer Hildé our congratulations.

Joan Metelerkamp has indicated a desire to relinquish the editorship of *New Coin*. We thank her for her dedication and commitment evident in the short time she held the position. Alan Finlay has agreed to step in as guest editor for the second issue of 2003, and we look forward to appointing a replacement editor shortly.

Greg Hacksley has joined the *English in Africa* team as reviews editor, in order to take some of the pressure off Craig Mackenzie. We wish him an enjoyable tenure.

## DONORS

Financial support from the following sources is acknowledged with gratitude:

ABSA Bank  
Anglo American Chairman's Fund Educational Trust  
Anglo Gold Fund Educational Trust  
BASA  
DALRO  
Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture  
ECPACC  
Exclusive Books  
Fascination Books  
GBS Mutual Bank  
Grahamstown Training College Fund  
National Arts Council  
National Lottery  
National Research Foundation (NRF)  
Rhodes University Joint Research Committee  
Safm  
Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa  
Standard Bank  
University of Western Australia



## ISEA PUBLICATIONS

The Director, Beverley Cummings, Susan Abraham, Jenny King, Nomangesi Kelemi

### PERIODICALS

*English in Africa* 29.2 (October 2002). Ed. Craig Mackenzie. pp. 140.

*English in Africa* 30.1 (May 2003). Ed. Craig Mackenzie. pp. 184.

*New Coin* 38.2 (December 2002). Ed. Joan Metelerkamp. pp. 96.

*New Coin* 39.1 (June 2003). Ed. Joan Metelerkamp. (in process)

*New Coin* 39.2 (December 2003) Guest Ed. Alan Finlay (in process)

*Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 14 (2002). Ed. Brian Pearce. pp. 86.

*Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 15 (2003). Ed. Brian Pearce. (in process)

*Aerial 2003*. Ed. Elysoun Ross et. al. pp. 91.

*English in Africa* 29.12 published some hitherto neglected work by the pioneer South African Marxist scholar Dora Taylor, collected, edited and introduced by Corinne Sandwith. The edition also carries an introduction to the little-known Nigerian writer Toyin Adewale by Ingrid Fandyrich and Chris Dunton, and an article and interview on the up-and-coming South African writer Ivan Vladislavić, by Mike Marais. The issue is dedicated to the late Marion Baxter.

*New Coin* 38.2 ran poems by Karen Press, Phedi Tlhobolo, Robert Berold, Kobus Moolman, Shabbir Banoobhai and Kelwyn Sole, among others. It opens with a memorial-poem to Marion Baxter by her son, Gareth Pike. Alan Finlay and Paul Wessels were interviewed by Joan Metelerkamp, and the issue reprinted an impassioned plea by Lionel Abrahams for poets to be paid – envisioning a new system of literary funding.

*Shakespeare in Southern Africa* Vol. 14 (2002) opens with Isidore Diala's consideration of Shakespearean influences in the novels of André Brink, and Natasha Distiller's discussion of the representation of difference on the Elizabethan stage, approaching the issue of race and colour from a postcolonial vantage point.

Brian Pearce contributes an interview with Pieter Scoltz concerning the origins and early years of the production *Umabatha*, and Laurence Wright provides a checklist of South African theses and dissertations on Shakespeare. The volume concludes with a substantial theatre and book review section.

### THE DALRO POETRY PRIZES

These are normally presented before the DALRO lecture at *Wordfest*, but because of a delay in receiving the grant this year, the awards will be made towards the end of the

year. The delay, which also affected staging of the DALRO lecture, has been ironed out.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Ayliff, Diana and Andrew Renard, eds. 2003. *Shakespeare on Love*. English Olympiad Anthology. Grahamstown: ISEA. pp. 92.

Berold, Robert, ed. 2003. *South African Poets on Poetry: Interviews from New Coin 1992-2001*. Scottsville: Gecko Poetry. pp 182.

Solberg, Rolf. 2003. *South African Theatre in the Melting Pot: Interviews with Practitioners*. Ed. Laurence Wright. Grahamstown: ISEA. pp. 297.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

Probyn, M.J. 2003. 'Language and Education in South Africa' in *Globalization, De/Neocolonisation and Language Policies and Practices*. Ed. Angel Lin and Peter Martin. Multilingual Matters (forthcoming).

Wright, L.S. 2003. 'Introduction' to *Scatter the Shrilling Bones* by Sithembele Isaac Xhegwana. Alice: Lovedale Press. pp. 4-10.

-----, 2003. 'Shakespeare in South Africa' in *Shakespeare Local and Global*. Ed. R.S. White. (forthcoming).

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Probyn, M.J. 2003. 'Learning science through the medium of English as an additional language: What do Grade 8 learners say?' Submitted to *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*.

-----, 2003. 'Language and Learning Science in South Africa.' Submitted to *Language and Education*.

Rasana, N.H. 2003. 'The Reading Preferences of Grade 11 ESL Learners in Grahamstown.' Submitted to *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*.

-----, 2003. 'The Importance of Libraries in Literacy Development'. (forthcoming).

-----, 2003. 'Classroom Code-switching: Is it for Socio-pragmatic Purposes or Educational Purposes, or Both?' (forthcoming).

----- . 2003 *What You Teach Versus How You Teach: Examining the Relation Between Outcomes-based Education and Content-based Instruction in English Second Language Classes.* (forthcoming).

Mann, C.M. 2003. 'The Resilience of the Word: *Wordfest* 2003.' *New Coin* 39.2 (forthcoming).

Wright, L.S. 2002. 'A checklist of South African theses and dissertations on Shakespeare.' *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 14: 43-47.

----- . 2003. 'Apartheid Shakespeare on Trial.' *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 15, forthcoming.

----- . 2002. 'How can formal Language Planning link to grassroots cultural initiative? An investigative report.' *Per Linguam* 18.2: 1-18.

----- . 'My Novel, *Hill of Fools*', by R.L. Peteni. Edited transcript of a lecture recorded during the Winter School at the National Arts Festival in 1976. *English in Africa*. (forthcoming).

----- . 'Language and Value: Towards accepting a richer language ecology for South Africa.' Invited contribution to special issue of *Language Problems and Language Planning*. (forthcoming).

----- . 2002. 'Language as a "Resource" in South Africa: the economic life of language in a globalising society.' *English Academy Review* 19 (2002): 2-19.

----- . 2003. 'South African Shakespeare.' Illustrated Web Article for the *Internet Shakespeare Editions*, 'Shakespeare Around the Globe': <http://web.uvic.ca/shakespeare/Foyer/index2.html>

----- . 2002. 'Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.' ['Sebastian's "apple": *The Tempest* 2.1:89-92] *The Explicator* 61.2 (Winter 2003): 75-77.

----- . 2002. 'Shakespeare in South Africa: Alpha and "Omega"?' *Postcolonial Studies* (forthcoming).

----- . 2002. "'Taking language issues to the people": Language development in context.' *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies* 20: 337-347.

## RESEARCH REPORTS

Wright, L.S. 2002. 'Towards a repertoire of appropriate language development strategies to assist in the development of South Africa's previously marginalized languages (PMLs).' Report accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of a grant from PanSALB, administered by the NRF.

-----, 2002. 'Working to Build South Africa's Languages: A Manual promoting Community Language Action and Awareness.' Accepted in partial fulfilment of a grant from PanSALB, administered by the NRF.

## REVIEWS

Wright, L.S. 2003. Review of Lipika Sidkar, *Shakespeare in the Media: Newspaper Response to Shakespeare in Post-Independence West Bengal, 1948-97*. A special publication of The Shakespeare Society of Eastern India. Calcutta: Avantgarde Press, 1999. *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 15 (2003). (forthcoming).

-----, 2002. Review of Heiner Müller's *Hamletmaschine*, directed by Gideon van Eeden for the Technicon Pretoria drama Department. *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 14 (2002): 58-59.

-----, 2002. Review of *The Taming of the Shrew*: Mannville's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Production. *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 14 (2002): 49-50.

## PLAY

Mann, C.M. 2003. *Thutula: Heart of the Labyrinth*. 6 performances. National Arts Festival Main Programme. July. Text published Grahamstown: ISEA.

## POETRY BOOKLETS

Mann, C.M. 2003. *In Praise of the Shades*. Grahamstown: Cathedral.

-----, 2003. *A Small Flask of Myrrh*. Grahamstown: Cathedral.

## POEMS

Mann, C.M. 2003. 'The Elephant's Graveyard.' *The Spire*. Grahamstown: Grahamstown Cathedral.

-----, 2003. 'The Leopard and the Heart's Gazelles.' *The Spire*. Grahamstown: Grahamstown Cathedral.

-----, 2003. 'Weaver Birds and Lilies.' *The Spire*. Grahamstown: Grahamstown Cathedral.

-----, 2003. 'Maggots.' *New Contrast*. (forthcoming).

----- 2003. 'Jellyfish.' *New Contrast*. (forthcoming).

----- 2003. 'Dicynodont.' *New Contrast*. (forthcoming).

----- 2003. 'Lament for a Species.' *New Coin* 39.2 (forthcoming).

#### NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Mann, C.M. 2003. 'The Silence of the Writers.' *Mail & Guardian* (forthcoming).

----- 2003. 'Thuthula still causing a rumpus.' *Sunday Independent* 22 June.

#### MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Mann, C.M. 2003. 'Art of the Matter.' SAfm. 21 June.

----- 2003. 'The Great South African Road Show.' SATV. 14 October.

#### CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Newmark, P. 2003. "'She's spherical like a globe': Mapping the Theatre, Mapping the Body.' Shakespeare Memorial Lecture. Rhodes University, April.

Probyn, M.J. 2003. 'Accessing Science through English Second language: evidence from secondary school classrooms.' Paper presented at the Third International Conference on Science, Mathematics and Technology Education, Curtin University of Technology and Rhodes University, East London, 15-18 Jan. Forthcoming in the conference proceedings.

----- 2003. 'Learning science through two languages in South Africa.' 4th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB4), Arizona State University, USA, April 30 - May 3. Forthcoming in the conference proceedings.

----- 2003. 'Making sense of classroom video data with vPrism software.' Paper presented at the Kenton/SACHS Conference, Goudini Spa, Worcester, 30 - 2 Nov.

Rasana, N.H. 2003. 'The Reading Preferences of Grade 11 ESL Learners in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape, South Africa.' Poster presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pan African Reading for All Conference, Kampala, Uganda, 18-22 August. Forthcoming in the conference proceedings.

----- 2003. 'What You Teach Versus How You Teach: Examining the Relation Between Outcomes-based Education and Content-based Instruction in English Second Language Classes.' Paper presented at the annual SAALA/LSSA Conference, RAU, Johannesburg, 30 -2 July.

Wright, L.S. 2003. 'Language and Value: Towards accepting a richer linguistic ecology for South Africa.' Paper presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of the International Federation of Modern Language Associations (FIPLV): Johannesburg: Rand Afrikaans University, 2-5 July. Panel: Language and Politics in South Africa. Short version forthcoming in peer-reviewed conference proceedings on CD-Rom.

Session Chair: Yeats, Bosman and Coetzee.

-----, 2003. 'A South African *Romeo and Juliet*: Randall Peteni's *Hill of Fools*.' Paper presented at 'Colonial Shakespeare': 6<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa: Grahamstown, Rhodes University, 25-28 June.

Chair: Conference organising committee.

Chair: Panel discussion – New Directions for Shakespeare Studies.

-----, 2003. 'The sources of "gentle stoicism": re-reading Peteni's *Hill of Fools* (*Kwazidenge*) through its publishing history.' Paper presented at 'Of Lighthouses and Libraries: History Re-Lit': 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the African Literature Association: Alexandria, Egypt, March 19-23.

Session Chair: The History of Publishing African Texts.

## RESEARCH

The following research projects are under way:

- Language and science teaching: Margie Probyn is working with a group of grade 8 science teachers in ex-DET schools, to develop a structured, coherent approach for teaching science through the medium of English as an additional language. Fieldwork for Margie's PhD has been postponed until the first half of 2004 as the teaching and school-based support for the ACE (ELT) has consumed much of her time and energy. Computer software for video analysis has been purchased in collaboration with the Environmental Education Unit and the necessary hardware has also been purchased in the course of this year. Funding for the research was obtained from the NRF in July.
- Cossie Rasana is in the process of publishing papers based on her M.Ed research. In 2004 she and Margie Probyn will be involved in the International PIRL research project into reading levels, in cooperation with Sarah Howie and other researchers from the University of Pretoria. In the longer term, she will be researching the achieved reading levels of Grade 10 learners in some Grahamstown schools for her Ph.D studies, with a view to designing an intervention programme.

- The Director is continuing his research into aspects of South African Language Policy, with a special emphasis on economic factors. He was an invited contributor to a special South African issue of *Language Problems and Language Planning* (forthcoming). A series of articles (see publications) is appearing that will form part of a book entitled *English and the Future of South Africa* for Natal University Press.
- First fruits of the Director's research into the history of Shakespeare in South Africa appeared in the form of an illustrated web-article for the Internet Shakespeare Editions' forum on 'Shakespeare around the Globe' (University of Victoria, BC). He is also coordinating a special edition of *English in Africa* on the local writer R.L. Peteni, whose novel *Hill of Fools* is a South African version of *Romeo and Juliet*, but with undertones of political irony directed at the politics of the former Bantustans. He delivered two papers on Peteni in the course of the year (see conferences).

## **SECONDARY SCHOOLS' LANGUAGE PROJECT (SSLP)**

Project Leader: Margie Probyn, with the Director, Cossie Rasana, Hennie van der Mescht, Marius Vermaak, Sarah Murray, Bruce Brown, Cheryl Hodgkinson and others.

### **ACE (ELT)**

The ISEA this year launched an Advanced Certificate in Education, English Language Teaching, (Senior and FET Phase, Grades 7-12), in cooperation with the Faculty of Education and with contributions from many others in the Rhodes community. The programme, which has strong backing from the province, received Ministerial approval in time to start in April (normally the first session will be held in January). This is a two-year part-time upgrade and specialization programme for practicing English Second Language teachers. The Certificate is registered on the NQF and has been approved by ECHEA. Formal involvement with teacher-upgrade and enrichment work will have a positive effect on the research and education initiatives undertaken by SSLP, but the main reason for undertaking the challenge is the need to support the efforts of teachers and the Eastern Cape Department of Education to revitalize education in the province.

The first cohort of 38, all but two of whom are on bursaries supplied by the province through the ETDP SETA, have proved very rewarding to teach, hard-working and committed. A costly but necessary innovation in the programme is the decision to provide a level of in-school support and mentoring. All 38 have received visits in their schools, have been given feedback, and been recorded on video, and will receive further feedback during their next contact session. There is abundant research literature indicating that this in-school support is vital if the transfer from theory to embedded practice is to have a chance of succeeding in the long-term. The response of the teachers has been extremely positive. Many are teaching in under-resourced rural schools in

the former Transkei and welcome the opportunity to upgrade their teaching skills and qualifications.

The programme is fully subscribed. It is hoped to double the through-put in 2004, subject to support from the province.

#### **ACE (ELT) FOR EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS**

The Project has put forward a proposal to the Eastern Cape Department of Education regarding the possibility of providing a variant of the ELT ACE to meet the needs of Education Development Officers who are responsible for supporting English Language educators in the school clusters in their charge. If agreement is reached, course development will be undertaken next year for a first intake in 2005. The programme will complement the ACE (ELT) and ensure that teachers and EDOs are viewing education from compatible perspectives.

#### **SCIENCE ACE**

Margie Probyn has continued teaching a module on language across the curriculum for science teachers doing an Advanced Certificate in Education at Rhodes University through the Education Department.

#### **SHORT LANGUAGE COURSES AND CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS**

These will run as separate short courses, possibly in tandem with school-based monitoring and support offered as part of the ACE package. Funding for the programme has been granted by the National Lottery. The broadsheet *Writing is Fun* continues to function as part of this programme, and will also provide a means of ongoing contact with graduates from the ACE programme. Because of timing problems, the programme is on hold until 2004.

#### **SHAKESPEARE CONGRESS (25-28 JUNE)**

Hildé Slinger, the Director, Jenny King, Nomangesi Kelemi, Beverley Cummings

The ISEA ran the very successful 6<sup>th</sup> Triennial Congress of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa which took place immediately prior to Wordfest and the National Arts Festival. The conference convenor was Hildé Slinger, President of the Society, with Laurence Wright as conference chair.

Keynote speakers were Professor Chris Wortham of the University of Western Australia ('Imagining Africa: maps, monsters, marvels and mental worlds in *Othello*'), Professor Jacques Berthoud of the University of York ('Interactive Dialogue and Cultural Difference in Shakespeare') and Dr Manfred Schroenn of the Independent Schools' Association ('Why Shakespeare?'). The opening function was presented in cooperation with the English Academy of Southern Africa, where Gold Medals for distinguished services to English were awarded to Professor Bernth Lindfors of the University of



Texas and Professor Peter Titlestad of the University of Pretoria. Dr Dan Wylie of Rhodes and Ms Felicity Wood of the University of Fort Hare received Thomas Pringle Awards for short story writing and academic reviewing respectively.

Some 25 papers were delivered and the conference was attended by delegates from Australia, the United States, Nigeria, Italy, the United Kingdom and South Africa. The papers were of a high standard and many will appear in *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* in due course.

Delegates were treated to three shows: Andrew Buckland's *Between the Teeth* (a stimulating take on language); a rather weak production of *Pericles* by Theatre Nomad, and an excellent production of *Twelfth Night* by international theatre director Paige Newmark with the Rhodes Drama department. In place of the usual conference banquet, the conference took an afternoon lunch, game drive and river trip at Kariega Park, followed by a braai-dinner and traditional dancing in the boma.

The final day of the four comprised a special event for schools, where pupils were given the chance to participate in workshops and respond to new approaches to Shakespeare in the classroom. A highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to pupils who had excelled in the Shakespearean art competition.

## CAMPUS CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

Crystal Warren: Co-ordinator; with Robert Berold, Paulette Coetzee, Arona Dison and John Forbis

The Creative Writing Programme is now in its seventh year. Over sixteen weeks a group of about 20 enthusiastic students and townspeople gathered to write together, to learn to overcome writing blocks, to give and receive non-judgmental feedback and to edit their work. The course culminated in a publication, *Aerial 2003*, containing poems, stories and autobiographical writing produced during the course.

Members of the creative writing programme read their work at poetry readings during the year, as well as at a Wordfest programme. Two participants had material worked on during the course published in literary periodicals *New Coin* and *Donga*.

Some comments by participants:

- 'I am writing more and feel like I have transcended the inhibitions that had once limited my content.'
- 'The atmosphere of openness has been wonderful, everyone could say or write what they felt. Class members received a lot of encouragement and enthusiasm when it came to work which was great.'
- 'This course gave me a fantastic opportunity to develop my writing skills, but above all to share my work with other people, which I had never done before.'

## WORDFEST 2003: THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Chris Mann (Convenor), The Director (Chair), with Yolisa Madolo, Mandla Matyumza and Vaughan Japhta (Eastern Cape component); Mike Loewe, and staffers (*WordStock*), Sheila Hicks (Reconciliation event coordination); Erica Gornall and team (Readers' and Writers' Café); Jenny King and Nomangesi Kelemi (ISEA Financial Administration), Liz Leiper and Heidi Magnus (Rhodes Finance Division)

### BACKGROUND

*Wordfest* 2003 deepened its outreach as a national, multilingual festival of languages and literatures with a developmental emphasis. The event sets out to promote excellence in the word-arts and a culture of reading and writing in South Africa, against the backdrop of a society increasingly suffused and enthralled by images.

*Wordfest* appears to be part of a spontaneous, international trend. An internet search reveals over 600 similar festivals in North America. The UK has well over 50. Some, such as the Cheltenham and Hay-on-Wye, are large, well-established, independent literary festivals. Others take place within a larger arts festival. The majority started only in the last decade.

South Africa's repertoire of such festivals is also growing. Poetry Africa in Durban, Urban Voices in various centres and Woordfees in Stellenbosch are welcome initiatives. Smaller language and literature festivals have also sputtered alight in the last two years, at Nieu Bethesda, Polokwane, Umzimkulu and at the district level in North West Province. These are local events that took place following the visits of provincial arts and culture officials to *Wordfest*. Despite the pervasive power of images, word-practitioners and lovers of words gather without much prompting.

*Wordfest* takes place each year during the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. *Wordfest* 2003 saw the fifth one. There were over 125 events during the week with performances and readings in English, Xhosa, Afrikaans, Sotho, Tswana and Pedi. Thirty authors and their books were featured (see table below).

The Eastern Cape component of *Wordfest*, sponsored by the Eastern Cape government, provided transport, accommodation and meals of 175 word-practitioners from rural and urban areas of the province for three days. These included poets, novelists, im-bongis, short-story writers and story-tellers, translators and playwrights. In addition to performances, their schedule covered readings and workshops on such issues as writing techniques and community publishing. Writers who use Xhosa and Sotho are deeply depressed by the declining readership of their literatures. The passionate intensity of the Eastern Cape word-artists has to be experienced to be believed, as well as the range of subject-matter and genres – elegies, exhortations, songs and hymns, praises, religious poems, lyrics about older and younger family members, clan-praises, short stories, parables, fables and plays dealing with legends and social concerns. Experiencing such diversity, and the different nuances and belief-patterns encoded in

different languages, not to mention the controversial forays into rap and hip-hop by younger writers, the audience is aware that there is and can be no one animal called South African literature.

### FUNDING

Besides the Eastern Cape Government, funders include the National Arts Council, Exclusive Books, Fascination Books, Business Arts South Africa, ABSA and Safm. The grants are small and unpredictable and funding remains an annual nightmare. Operational finance and administration remains the work of the Convenor who is accountable to the Chairperson. The Convenor employs temporary part-time staff as the event approaches. His brief is to implement Wordfest's strategic aims by providing neutral administrative services to word-practitioners without regard to their persuasion or language. This eases to some extent the doctrinal tensions between different writers and groups of writers.

### THEME

This year's theme was South Africa's Ongoing Struggle for Justice and Reconciliation. The main guests were prominent figures in this field who are also writers: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Antjie Krog, Zubeida Jaffer, Albie Sachs and Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. The latter group addressed an audience of some 350 people and representatives of national and international radio and television. They joined a procession down the High Street to the Cathedral where an inter-faith ceremony of reconciliation was held, attended by over 500 people. The procession waved *iminquma*, wild olive branches. The ceremony was named after Archbishop Tutu's book, *No Future Without Forgiveness*.

The ceremony centred on the oral testimonies of people who had lost loved ones in the struggle and yet affirmed their belief in reconciliation. Their testimonies were powerful: Pearl Faku, whose husband was blown up by a car-bomb devised by Eugene De Kock; Ginn Fourie whose daughter was killed in the Heidelberg massacre and Lillian Mazwayi whose son was killed by police and whose body has never been recovered.

Antjie Krog and Zubeida Jaffer suggested that such ceremonies be held in other towns in South Africa in future. However, 'vox-pop' interviews on the street, conducted by the Wordfest paper *WordStock*, showed that many festival-goers were not interested in participating in active reconciliation.

Elsewhere on the programme, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela's book, *A Human Being Died that Night*, which tells of her experiences of getting to know Eugene de Kock on behalf of the TRC, was introduced by Albie Sachs.

### BOOKS FEATURED AT WORDFEST 2003

Afrika, Tatamkhulu  
Alfred, Luke

*Nightrider*  
*Testing times: the men who made SA Cricket*

Bailey, Brett	<i>Plays of Miracle and Wonder</i>
Berold, Robert ed.	<i>Inside Out</i>
Berold, Robert ed.	<i>South African Poets on South African Poetry</i>
Bezuidenhout, Ben	<i>My Mother's Kitchen was a Baobab Tree</i>
Breytenbach, Jan	<i>The Buffalo Soldiers</i>
Couzens, Tim	<i>Murder at Morija</i>
Cullinan, Patrick	<i>Matrix</i>
Eve, Jeanette	<i>A Literary Guide to the Eastern Cape</i>
Ferguson, Gus	<i>Ars Poetica</i>
Gobodo-Madikizela, Pumla	<i>A Human Being Died that Night</i>
Gray and Mackenzie, eds	Herman Charles Bosman edition
Witbooi, Vanessa ed.	<i>For our children</i>
Rowling, J K	<i>Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix</i>
Japhta, Professor J	<i>Name unakho</i>
Krog, Antjie	<i>Various of her books of poetry</i>
Labuschagne, Riaan	<i>On South Africa's Secret Service</i>
Maclennan, Don	<i>The Road to Kromdraai</i>
Maclennan, Don	<i>Under Compassberg</i>
Metelkamp, Petrovna	<i>Ingrid Jonker Biography</i>
Paarman, Ina	<i>Cook with Ina Paarman</i>
Paarman, Ina	<i>The Good Food Cookbook</i>
Saule, Ncedile	<i>Umtetho ka-Mtetho</i>
Sigenu, Kholeka	<i>Ezokwethu</i>
Steinberg, Johnny	<i>Midlands</i>
Strauss, Kristoe	<i>CD</i>
Tutu, Desmond	<i>No Future Without Forgiveness</i>
Willoughby, Guy	<i>Archangels</i>
Zapiro	<i>Bushwhacked</i>

#### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

In addition to the events in Eden Grove, *Wordfest* also takes place, as it were, in the media, through a contract with Safm, and in the pages of *WordStock*. The latter is funded by *Wordfest* and tucked into *Cue*, the daily festival newspaper, and reaches a readership of some 2 500 people each day. *WordStock* has editorial freedom within a policy framework of promoting the word-arts. It prints book-reviews, in-depth interviews with authors and word-linked news, with a number of articles and reviews being written by Rhodes staff and students.

Eastern Cape News was awarded the contract to produce the paper this year and produced a mixture of news-stories and more serious writing. Literature and journalism students provided most of the copy, providing younger people with practical experience in literary journalism. An interesting innovation proved to be an SMS digital haiku

competition that was taken up by the national media. Several Rhodes students gained a degree of national exposure through *Wordfest*.

In addition to poets, playwrights and prose-writers, *Wordfest* 2003 featured the cartoonist Zapiro (words and cartoons), Justin Nurse of Laugh-it-Off (reclaiming words from the corporates), Ina Paarman (words and food), and Terry Crawford-Browne (words and the arms-deal). The launch of Luke Alfred's book on South African cricket reflected another broadening of themes. The book-launch was covered by SuperSport TV, to the astonishment of bystanders.

Community-publishing surfaced in remarkable books published by the Centre for the Book, the Bhalala Writers' Group from the Eastern Cape and Khulumani Women's Group from Cape Town. The latter presented a collection of stories by women describing their struggle to obtain child-maintenance grants and opened a huge area of neglect and suffering. Would that there had been more people at this particular launch.

Books featured or launched at *Wordfest* are ordered in advance and put on sale at the Fascination Books outlet set up in the venue for the week. Sales were up noticeably this year. The adjacent Readers' and Writers' Café was decorated with posters and place-mats of South African writers. The latter disappeared by the score, much to the delight of the organisers.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

John Tengo Jabavu, a founding Xhosa writer, was remembered in an exhibition put on by Fort Hare's NAHECS archive. Clay sculptures linked to words were exhibited by students of Border Technicon. This builds on the innovative genre explored each *Wordfest* by their lecturer, the South African artist Jeff Rankin - the fusion of graphics and words. The exhibition of cartoons by Zapiro drew numerous people from a wide variety of backgrounds as did that based on Jeanette Eve's book put together by the National English Literary Museum.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

*Wordfest* is developing well but has a long way to go. Worrying features remain the lack of reliable funding, skilled personnel, and the support of more than a sprinkling of literary academics.

It is sobering to reflect that Scifest, the national festival of science, engineering and technology which takes place in Grahamstown earlier in the year, attracts reliable, long-term funding and vigorous input from the science faculties of different South African universities.

Readership development also remains a huge area of concern. A literary festival can stimulate temporary interest in words. Developing a culture of reading and writing in South Africa, however, remains a long-term, multi-sectoral task.

There is no doubt in the minds of the organisers that our cognitive ability as humans is best improved by reading and writing. An image-driven culture is less likely to improve our capacity to communicate effectively and to generate solutions to our dilemmas and enigmas. More language and literature events, in different centres, are required to help bring this home to the public, especially during this period of turbulent political and cultural change.

### **WORDBEACONS**

Chris Mann with Kamlesh Narshi, Julia Skeen, and Grahamstown Engineering

Following the trialling process, modified prototypes are under construction. Funding for the third phase of the project has been delayed. The Pan South African Language Board has taken over the administration of PanSALB research projects from the National Research Foundation. The project will continue on the receipt of the third tranche.

### ***HEARTLANDS MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTIONS***

Text and poems by Chris Mann. Music by Christopher Cockburn. Graphics by Julia Skeen.

Two performances were given in the Rhodes Theatre for particularly for staff and students and members of the public, and one in the Cathedral, post-festival.

A new departure will be a performance at the National Centre for the Arts, Singapore (November, forthcoming).

### ***IN PRAISE OF THE SHADES MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION***

Text and poems by Chris Mann. Graphics by Julia Skeen.

Two performances in the Cathedral during the National Arts Festival.  
One performance in Eden Grove for the African Ritual and the Environment conference.

### **DISTINGUISHED VISITORS**

Ms Nosimo Balindlela, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture of the Eastern Cape

Professor Jacques Berthoud, University of York

Dr Ann Childs, Department of Educational Studies, University of Oxford

Ms Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, author

Ms Zubeida Jaffer

Ms Antjie Krog, poet

Professor Bernth Lindfors, University of Texas

Mr Godfrey Mona, Director General, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture of the Eastern Cape

Mr Paige Newmark, International Theatre Director

Judge Albie Sachs

Professor Ncedile Saule, author

Dr Manfred Schroenn, Independent Schools' Association

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, author

Professor Chris Wortham, University of Western Australia

### **UNIVERSITY TEACHING (OTHER THAN ISEA PROGRAMMES)**

The Director co-taught the English III 'Literature and Teaching' course with Professor Walters.

He also delivered two 2-day interactive seminars on writing research reports for senior research staff at Vista, Welkom and Vista, Bloemfontein.

Ms Probyn taught a session concluding her language-across-the-curriculum module for the Education Department's Science ACE.

### **GRADUATE SUPERVISION AND EXAMINING**

The Director has offered to supervise Mr L. Bambelo, who is developing a Ph.D project on some of the Lovedale writers of the C20th.

Margie Probyn is co-supervising two M.Ed students and acted as internal examiner for an M.Ed (ESL) candidate.

## DEGREES IN PROGRESS (STAFF)

- Probyn, M: PhD (Rhodes): 'Developing an effective approach for teaching science through the medium of English as an additional language in ex-DET schools.' Proposal approved by Higher Degrees Committee. The pilot study is complete, and fieldwork will continue early in 2004.
- Rasana, Cossie: MEd in ESL by coursework and dissertation (Rhodes) – graduated April 2003.

## DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES

The Director is Vice-Chairman of The Grahamstown Foundation and of the National English Literary Museum; he also serves on the Council of the English Academy of Southern Africa, the General Executive of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa and the Grahamstown Branch of the Society. He is on the Editorial Boards of *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*, *The English Academy Review* and *English Studies in Africa* and Chairs the Rhodes School of English Studies. He currently serves on the Humanities, Culture and Religion panel of the NRF.

## CONCLUSION

2003 has been an exceptionally busy year in the Institute. The launch of the Advanced Certificate in Education, on top of the Shakespeare Society's Triennial Congress and a greatly expanded Wordfest, stretched staff to the limit. It is pleasing to note that research productivity improved at the same time. All staff members are to be congratulated on excellent teamwork and for putting the needs of the Institute, our students and our public constituencies above their own, for long periods.

We appreciate the sterling support rendered to the Institute by all Rhodes administrative divisions. We look forward to the challenges of the Rhodes Centenary year with confidence.

**Prof. L.S. Wright**  
Director

December 2003