



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: [c.leff@ru.ac.za](mailto:c.leff@ru.ac.za)

© ISEA, RHODES UNIVERSITY, DECEMBER 2006  
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT PERMISSION  
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE ISEA





## CONTENTS

Board of Management	4
Staff	5
Conspectus	6
Staff News	6
Donors	7
ISEA Publications	7
The DALRO Poetry Prizes	8
Other Publications	9
Conferences and Public Lectures	11
Research	12
Reports and Evaluations	17
Nominations and Awards	18
Secondary Schools Language Project	18
Campus Creative Writing Programme	19
Wordfest 2006	20
ISEA Seminar Programme	21
Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa	22
Distinguished Visitors	22
University Teaching	22
Graduate Supervision and Examining	23
Degrees in Progress (Staff)	23
Conclusion	23

## **ISEA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

- The Vice-Chancellor (ex-officio)
- The Vice-Principal (ex-officio)
- \* Prof J R Duncan (Dean of Research) Chair
- \* Prof L S Wright (Director)
  - Dr S Fourie (Rhodes University Council)
- \* Prof P T Mtuze (Deputy Registrar)
- \* Prof R D Adendorff (Department of English Language and Linguistics)
  - Ms B B Nosilela (African Language Studies)
  - Dictionary Unit for South African English: Ms E J Wolvaardt
  - National English literary Museum: Mr M Hacksley
  - Anthropology: Prof R C G Palmer
  - Drama: Prof G E Gordon
  - Education Faculty: Prof G Euvrard
  - English: Prof D G N Cornwell
  - English: Prof P S Walters (H A Molteno Professor)
- \* English Language and Linguistics: Prof V A de Klerk
- Journalism and Media Studies: Prof G J E G Berger
- School of Languages: Prof F E Jacques
  
- \* Member of the Executive Committee

# ISEA ANNUAL REPORT 2004

## STAFF

### Director

Prof L S Wright, BA (Hons) (Rhodes), MA (Warwick), D Phil (Oxon)

### Alan Macintosh Research Fellow

M J Probyn, BA, BEd Hons (UCT), MSc (Oxon)

### *Ad hominem* Rhodes Professor of Poetry

Prof CM Mann, BA (Witwatersrands), MA (Oxon), MA (London), Hon DLitt (Durban-Westville)

### Research officers

N H Rasana, BA (Hons) (UNISA), DipInst (Christ Church, Canterbury), Dip Man, MEd (Rhodes)

M G Hendricks, BA, HDE (UCT), BA Hons MEd (Rhodes), PhD (Witwatersrand)

### Research Associates

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

WR Quince, BA, HDE (UNISA), MA, PhD (Southern Illinois)

Prof DL Schaffer, BA (Hons) (Natal), MA (Leeds), PhD (Natal)

### Visitor

H M Slinger HDE (Natal), TSLD (UNISA), LTCL (London), Dip Television (Natal Technikon), President, Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa

### Co-ordinators Creative Writing Programme

PJ Coetzee BA (Hons), MA (Rhodes)

CA Warren NDip LIS (PE Technikon), BA Hons (UNISA)

### Editor: *English in Africa*

Prof MJ Marais, MA (UPE), DLitt et Phil (RAU)

### Editor: *New Coin Poetry*

A W Finlay, BA (Rhodes), Cert MAP (Witwatersrand)

### Editor: *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*

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

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

H M Slinger, HDE (Natal), TSLD (UNISA), LTCL (London), Dip Television (Natal Technikon)

### Administrative Officer

C Leff, BA (Witwatersrand)

### Publications Officer

B Cummings

### Secretary

N Kelemi

## CONSPECTUS

This report covers the period from January to December 2006.

Undertakings and achievements in the Institute have included the following:

- The second cohort of teachers studying for the Advanced Certificate in Education (English Language Teaching) completed the course in December 2005 with a final pass rate of 89%.
- The first cohort of 13 BEd-inservice teachers completed the course in December 2005 with a 100% pass rate and the second cohort 13 BEd-inservice teachers will complete in December 2006.
- Funding was secured from the Zenex Foundation for a new regionally-based ACE (ELT) course to start in January 2007.
- Wordfest 2006 was a hugely successful component of the National Arts Festival.
- Chris Mann's inaugural lecture in verse, as Rhodes Professor of Poetry, was met with widespread acclaim.
- The ISEA Seminar Series ran for the second year and hosted speakers from NMMU, Rhodes University and Southampton University.

## STAFF NEWS

ISEA Director, Laurence Wright, took academic leave for the year. Margie Probyn acted as director.

Carol Leff joined the ISEA as Administrative Officer. Welcome!

Monica Hendricks completed her PhD as a Spencer Fellow with Wits University and graduated in June 2006. Congratulations!

Cossie Rasana left the ISEA in October to undertake a PhD at University of Wales, Bangor, on a Ford Foundation scholarship. We wish her good luck!

An additional staff member will be appointed from January 2007 as a field worker to provide ongoing school support for the ACE (ELT).

Mandla Matyumza had to leave the employ of Wordfest at short notice to take up a prestigious position elsewhere, and was replaced by Khaya Thonjeni. Welcome!

Lemakatso Lemako, Kerry Peter, Zelia Cobus and Maureen Ewing joined us as temporary staff to help with Wordfest.

## DONORS

Financial support from the following sources is acknowledged with gratitude:

DALRO  
ECPACC  
Exclusive Books  
Grahamstown Training College Fund  
National Arts Council  
National Research Foundation  
Rhodes University Joint Research Council  
Rhodes University

## ISEA PUBLICATIONS

The Director, Beverley Cummings, Carol Leff, Nomangezi Kelemi

### PERIODICALS

<i>New Coin Poetry</i>	June 2006	Volume 42 Number 1	pp.62
<i>New Coin Poetry</i>	December 2006	Volume 42 Number 2	Forthcoming
<i>English in Africa</i>	October 2005	Volume 32 Number 2	pp.268
<i>English in Africa</i>	May 2006	Volume 33 Number 1	pp.166
<i>English in Africa</i>	October 2006	Volume 33 Number 2	In process
<i>Shakespeare in Southern Africa</i>		Volume 17 2005	pp.78
<i>Shakespeare in Southern Africa</i>		Volume 18 2006	pp.88
<i>Writing is Fun</i>	Issue 8 2006	In process	
<i>Writing is Fun</i>	Issue 9 2006	In process	
<i>SSOSA Newsletter/OPAR</i>	December 2006	pp.20	

***New Coin* 42.1** carried poems translated from Spanish by Sharadah Shah from the work of, Alejandra Del Río, Damsi Figueroa, Leonel Lienlaf and Rodrigo Rojas. Alan Finlay interviewed Rodrigo Rojas. It carried further poems by İlyas Tunic, Hayati Baki, Tianxin Cai, Robert Berold, Elizabeth Trew and others.

***English in Africa* 32.2**, the last issue edited by Prof. Craig MacKenzie before taking retirement as Editor, featured an abundance of scholarly research by Tony Voss, Don MacLennan, Marris Everitt, Leon de Kock, Paul Culwick, Kwame Ayivor, Isidore Diala, and others, an address by Tim Couzens, a response to the *English in Africa* Festschrift and reviews by Ashlee Lenta, Anton Voster, Margaret Lenta and others.

**33.1** was the first issue edited by Prof. Mike Marais and includes articles by Paul Walters and Jeremy Fogg, Mike Kissack and Michael Titlestad, J.A. Kearney, Dirk Klopper,

Stefan Helgesson, Mary West and Elsie Cloete, a review article by Judith Lütge Coullie and reviews by Gerald Gaylard, Chris Dunton and Erik Falk.

*Shakespeare in Southern Africa* Vol. 17 (2005) was guest edited by Arlene Oseman and opened with an obituary for Elizabeth Sneddon by Brian Pearce. It carried work by David Schalkwyk, Laurence Wright, Daniel Roux, Natasha Distiller and Victor Houliston. Theatre reviews by Laurence Wright and Brian Pearce and book reviews by Victor Houliston, Hilary Semple and Tony Voss.

Vol. 18 (2006) was guest edited by Natasha Distiller and opened with an obituary for Michael Conway O'Dowd by Laurence Wright. It carried work by Laurence Wright, Pier Paolo Frassinelli, Rebecca Fensome, Christopher Thurman, David Schalkwyk and Natasha Distiller, a theatre and book review by Christopher Thurman under the title, 1952-2006: Fifty Years at Maynardville, followed by theatre reviews by Laurence Wright and Brian Pearce and book reviews by Jayne Glover, Natasha Distiller and Rebecca Fensome.

### THE DALRO POETRY PRIZES

The DALRO Prizes for the best poems appearing in *New Coin* in 2005 were judged by Joan Metelerkamp. Her comments were as follows:

Khulile Nxumalo's "My lips move outside your door" gets first prize: this is a big poem, not only one which sustains emotional involvement for its length. Complex, moving (shifting literally from internal to external perspective), physical, direct, strangely shadowy, it is immediately identifiable as South African (familiar images, but also the juxtaposition of violence and tenderness, fear and desire). But even while it is familiar, it takes South African poetry into new space. I can't think of another poem quite like it.

"Liyong the mother of Taban died yesterday" by Taban Lo Liyong' gets second prize. I love the form of this poem: its device: the son's retaliation to the father through the seeming effacement of the dead mother. It is a wonderfully complex gesture, psychologically true and transforming. The formal diction, its measure and dignity, its intense sorrow, its fierce anger and resentment, make it unforgettable.

"My bakkie" by Robert Berold gets third prize. In the end, despite my preference for the complexity (of rhythm, tone, syntactical ambiguity) which the use of lines allows, and despite (or perhaps because of) my feeling of ignorance in relation to the prose poem, I chose this poem for its intense clarity and precision. Although my preference is usually for the musicality of poems in lines which can be richer and denser than prose poems, I kept coming back to the gesture in this poem – the sense of elusive nuance despite its sharp focus. It is sad, profound, and very funny.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Mann, C. 2006. *Lifelines*. A book of poems about animals with artwork by Julia Skeen and scientific notes by Adrian Craig. Pietermaritzburg: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. pp. 85.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS

Wright, L. 'David Lurie's learning and the meaning of J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*.' Forthcoming in *Austerities: Essays on J.M. Coetzee*. Ed. Michael Neill and Graham Bradshaw. Cambridge University Press.

-----'. *Disgrace* as J.M. Coetzee's *Tempest*?. Forthcoming in *Renaissance Poetry and Drama in Context*. Ed. Andrew Lynch and Anne M. Scott. Cambridge Scholar's Press.

-----'. 'Shakespeare in South Africa: Alpha and 'Omega'. Forthcoming in *Shakespeare's Local Habitations*. Ed. R.S. White and Krystyna Courtney. Lodz: Lodz University Press.

-----'. 'Renovating the Humanities for South Africa.' *Shifting the Boundaries of Knowledge*. Ed. Tessa Marcus and Alexandra Hofmaenner. Pietermaritzburg: Kwa Zulu-Natal University Press, 2006, 65-78.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Hendricks, M. 2006. Candid tour of Eastern Cape rural schools. *South African Labour Bulletin*. 30 (3) August/September 2006, 44-46.

-----'. (forthcoming) Grade-appropriate literacy and South African Grade 7 learners' classroom writing in English. *Early Child Development and Care*.

-----'. (forthcoming) Capitalising on the dullness of the data: a linguistic analysis of a Grade 7 learner's writing. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*.

Probyn M. 2006. Language and learning science in South Africa. *Language and Education*. 20 (5) 391 – 414.

-----'. (forthcoming) 'Smuggling the vernacular into the classroom?': conflicts and tensions in classroom code-switching in South Africa. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*.

Wright, L. (forthcoming) 'The Humanities, Vocationalism, and the Public Good: Exploring "The Hamlet Factor"'. *English Academy Review*.

### PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Mann, C. 2006. 'Poinsettia'. In *Proceedings of National Research Foundation Colloquium: Literary tourism in KwaZulu-Natal*. L. Stiebel, ed. Durban: University of KwaZulu-Natal. 24-25 November 2005, 112.



-----, 2006. 'Sweet Potatoes'. In *Proceedings of National Research Foundation Colloquium: Literary tourism in KwaZulu-Natal*. L. Stiebel, ed. Durban: University of KwaZulu-Natal. 24-25 November 2005, 113.

-----, 2006. 'Hlambeza Pool'. In *Proceedings of National Research Foundation Colloquium: Literary tourism in KwaZulu-Natal*. L. Stiebel, ed. Durban: University of KwaZulu-Natal. 24-25 November 2005, 114.

-----, 2006. 'Midlands Lexicon'. In *Proceedings of National Research Foundation Colloquium: Literary tourism in KwaZulu-Natal*. L. Stiebel, ed. Durban: University of KwaZulu-Natal. 24-25 November 2005, 115.

-----, 2006. 'Motse'. In *Proceedings of National Research Foundation Colloquium: Literary tourism in KwaZulu-Natal*. L. Stiebel, ed. Durban: University of KwaZulu-Natal. 24-25 November 2005, 116.

-----, 2006. 'Girl on a Swing'. In *Proceedings of National Research Foundation Colloquium: Literary tourism in KwaZulu-Natal*. L. Stiebel, ed. Durban: University of KwaZulu-Natal. 24-25 November 2005, 117.

#### **PROJECT BROADSHEET**

Cossie Rasana, with Beverley Cummings, edited two issues of the Secondary Schools' Language Project broadsheet 'Writing is Fun'.

#### **REVIEWS**

Hendricks, M. 2006. Review of *Changing class: education and social change in post-apartheid South Africa*. Ed. Linda Chisholm. HSRC Press and Zed Books Ltd, *Africa Review of Books* 2 (2004) 2.

Wright, L. 2006. Review: "A Magical 'Dream': The Port Elizabeth Shakespearean Festival 2005". *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 17 (2005) 53-54.

-----, 2006. Review of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Mannville, February 2006. *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 18 (2006) 63-66.

-----, (forthcoming) Review of Peter Whisson, *Shakespeare's Stories of the English Middle Ages*. Lincoln, NE: Writers Club Press. *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* 19 (2007).

#### **POETRY IN BOOKS**

Mann, C.M. 2006. 'Where is the freedom for which we died?' pp. 201-202. In *Halala Madiba*. Ed. Richard Bartlett and Morokabe Seakhoa. Laverstock: Aflame Books.

-----, 2006. 'Mandela's Cell' p. 279. In *Halala Madiba*. Ed. Richard Bartlett and Morokabe Seakhoa. Laverstock: Aflame Books.

----- 2006. 'Valley'. pp. 147-8. In *Lovely Beyond Singing*. Ed. Helen Moffett. Cape Town: Double Storey.

#### **POETRY IN JOURNALS AND PERIODICALS**

Mann, C.M. 2006. 'Electric Ray'. *English Academy Review* 21:167-8.

----- 2006. 'A Meditation at Nongqause's Grave'. *English Academy Review* 21:169.

----- 2006. 'A Love Poem to the Trinity'. *The Spire* July 2009:9.

#### **CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC LECTURES**

Hendricks, M. 2006. Seminar presentation on doctoral research, focusing on validity. Research Methods Course, Education Faculty, Rhodes University, 9 March.

----- 2006. "Grade-appropriate literacy and Grade 7 learners' classroom writing" at the School of Literature and Language Studies Postgraduate Conference, University of the Witwatersrand, 18-19 March.

----- 2006. "Grade-appropriate literacy and South African Grade 7 learners' classroom writing in English" at the South Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Rhodes University, 26 June – 2 July.

Mann, C 2006. *Seeing the Cosmos in a Grain of Sand: science, art and human consciousness*.  
Inaugural Lecture, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, 3 May.  
Royal Society and Academy of Sciences Lecture, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, 17 August.  
English Department Seminar, UNISA, Pretoria, 23 August.  
English Department Seminar, Pretoria University, Pretoria, 24 August.

Probyn, M. J. 2006. Paper presented at TESOL 2006 conference, Tampa, Florida, USA, 15-18 March 2006: 'Teachers' resistance and resilience in some South African rural classrooms.'

----- 2006. Paper presented at SS16 conference, Limerick University, Ireland, 6-8 July 2006: 'Smuggling the vernacular into the classroom: conflicts and tensions in classroom code-switching in South Africa.'

Wright, L. 'A Research Prospectus for the Humanities.' Rhodes English Department Research Group, 9 March 2006.

----- 'Nathaniel Merriman, Caliban, and the Great Cattle-Killing of 1856/57' Conference: 8<sup>th</sup> World Shakespeare Congress. Seminar on Settler Shakespeare. Convened by Penny Gay and Mark Houlihan. Brisbane 16-21 July 2006.

-----. ‘The “Spread” Project: Origins, Scope and Prospects’ Conference: 8<sup>th</sup> World Shakespeare Congress. Seminar on the Southern Hemisphere Spread of Shakespeare Research and Publication Programme. Convened by Laurence Wright, with Mark Houlahan and Richard Madelaine. Brisbane 16-21 July 2006.

-----. Sub-Plenary address: ‘The Stage, the Book, and the World: Shakespearean Transformations of Power’ Conference: 14<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium of the Perth Mediaeval and Renaissance Group. University of Western Australia. 4-5 August 2006.

-----. Guest Lecture: ‘*Disgrace* as J.M. Coetzee’s *Tempest*’ Western Australian African Studies Centre, University of Western Australia, 4<sup>th</sup> August. Hosted by the UWA Institute for Advanced Studies.

(Paper repeated for the Rhodes English Department Research Group, 21 September 2006)

-----. ‘Some Versions of Transcendence in Shakespearean Drama’ Conference: South African Medieval and Renaissance Society, Mont Fleur, Stellenbosch, 6-8 September 2006.

-----. ‘Schopenhauer, J.M. Coetzee and who we are in the world’ Conference: 3<sup>rd</sup> Literature and Ecology Colloquium, Rhodes University, 6-7 October 2006.

## RESEARCH

- Monica Hendricks completed her doctoral dissertation titled “Writing practices in additional languages in Grade 7 classes in the Eastern Cape Province” which was successfully examined and she graduated on 14 June 2006 from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has applied for NRF funding to do a follow-up project with learners’ writing in rural schools in the districts where the ISEA has been running ACE and BED-inservice programmes.
- Margie Probyn re-registered for her PhD at Rhodes University on research into teachers’ classroom practice when teaching science through the medium of English as an additional language. 53 hours of videotaped lessons have been transcribed and translated and analysis is due to begin. She did a course in computer software for video analysis – Transana – and plans to use this for her analysis.
- Cossie Rasana completed her survey of school library holdings and was preparing a paper for publication. She left the ISEA at the end of October to pursue her studies at the University of Wales where she is registered for a PhD with a Ford Foundation scholarship.

- Laurence Wright: the seminar organised on the Director's Southern Hemisphere Spread of Shakespeare Research Programme at the Shakespeare World Congress in Brisbane encouraged a substantial number of established scholars to participate in the second phase of the programme. He also lunched with Professor Geoffrey Shellam, Chair of the UWA Press Board, and met Professor Terriann White, Director of the Press and the UWA Institute of Advanced Studies, in connection with his Southern Hemisphere Spread of Shakespeare Research programme. On a private visit to the United Kingdom in late August, he did some background work on the British stage careers of Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies and Marda Vann as part of his contribution to a Canadian research programme on Shakespeare and War, which will focus on the touring company led by these two women in South Africa during WW2. Back in Grahamstown, work in progress included an edition of Nathaniel Merriman's lecture 'On the Study of Shakespeare' originally delivered to Grahamstown's General Institute in 1857, and an accompanying background article; a proposed edition of the original Zulu manuscript of Welcome Msomi's *Umabatha*; and an examination of the impact of Shakespeare on the output of Herbert Dhlomo.

## **RREPORTS AND EVALUATIONS**

Wright, L. NRF rating evaluation: Professor David Schalkwyk (University of Cape Town)

----- NRF rating evaluation: Dr Harry Sewlall (University of South Africa)

----- Report: "Language Policy and Language Planning" for the English National Language Body

----- Referee's report: "Pseudo-Martyrdom and the Foundations of the English Church" for the *Journal of the Southern African Mediaeval and Renaissance Society*.

----- Referee's report: "Language inclusion and individual exclusion: Patterns of inclusion and exclusion in multilingual polities" for volume edited by Prof. Theo du Plessis: Ed. Du Plessis, Cuvelier, Meeuwis, and Teck. Forthcoming 2007. *Multilingualism and Exclusion. Selected proceedings of the first International MIDP colloquium*, 24-26 April 2006, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

----- Referee's report: "Complementary and Conflicting Discourses of Linguistic Diversity: Implications for Language Planning" for *Per Linguam*.

----- Reference for Mr Paige Newmark

----- Reference for Dr Greg Hacksley

----- Obituary: Michael Conway O'Dowd, forthcoming in *Shakespeare in Southern Africa*, 17 (2006).

### **NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS**

Wright, L: Awarded 'The Leslie French Memorial Salver' by the Port Elizabeth Shakespearean Festival

----- President 2006/7 of the Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset

----- Re-elected Vice Chairman of the Grahamstown Foundation

----- Re-nominated for membership of the Council of the National English Literary Museum

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

The SSLP had another successful year, with 14 teachers graduating with a Advanced Certificates in Education (English Language Teaching) and 13 teachers with a BEd-inservice degree. With the completion in September of the examinations for teachers who rewrote courses in 2006, the final pass rate for the 2004 intake of ACE (ELT) teachers is an excellent 89%. The pass rate for the 2005 group of BEd-inservice teachers was 100%.

Funding from the Zenex Foundation for a new cohort of ACE (ELT) teachers was delayed, and so the course will start in January 2007, rather than April 2006 as initially planned. Included in the funding is provision for a full time fieldworker to provide classroom support for the teachers and so this appointment will be made for January 2007. This will be a collaborative project with RUMEP as the ISEA will be working with English teachers in schools in Fort Beaufort and King William's Town districts, where RUMEP is already working with mathematics teachers.

Rhodes University agreeing to provide partial bursaries for 13 teachers who had completed the ACE (ELT) course in 2005, to complete a third year of study in 2006 to qualify for a BEd-inservice degree. The BEd-inservice provides teachers with the opportunity to consolidate their learning and professional development in the ACE course and to gain academic literacy knowledge and skills in line with a degree qualification. The course was taught mainly by Margie Probyn and Monica Hendricks, with Paul Walters from the English Department filling in for Laurence Wright in the literature section of the course. During the year, Monica and Margie spent time in the districts of Lusikisiki, Bizana and Mount Fletcher visiting teachers and providing classroom support, by videotaping a lesson and then viewing the video together with teachers and then guiding them through post-lesson reflections. The opportunity for teachers to view themselves on video creates conditions for in-depth discussion about their

practice and frequently results in significant learning. These teachers will write their final examinations in December 2006.

Cossie Rasana edited two editions of *Writing is Fun* over the year. This publication showcases teachers' and learners' writing and is distributed widely to Eastern Cape teachers who have been involved in SSLP programmes and courses.

The ISEA was asked by the National Department of Education and the Zenex Foundation to develop a training programme for English Language teachers in Dinaledi schools in KZN, Limpopo, the Western Cape and Gauteng, and to take on responsibility for the delivery of the programme in the Western Cape and Gauteng. This is to roll out in 2007, with little time for preparation. Nevertheless, preparations are well underway.

Future developments: Margie Probyn and Monica Hendricks, together with Sarah Murray of the Rhodes University Education Department, put together a proposal to extend the English teacher development programme of Rhodes University, as a contribution to the to VCs request for contributions to the debate around the future size and shape of Rhodes University, and as a response to the request from the National Department of Education to consider ways of expanding Rhodes University's capacity. In particular it was proposed to introduce a BEd degree in English Language Teaching which would include contributions from the ISEA, the Education Department, the English Department and the Department of English Language and Linguistics. The Board of the School of English Studies might be a suitable body to convene such collaboration.

## **CAMPUS CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME**

Facilitators: Paulette Coetzee and Crystal Warren

The creative writing course has been running since 1998. The classes run for two hours every Thursday evening during university term-time in the first semester. The early sessions focus mainly on helping writers to "unblock", build confidence and get writing, using the freewriting technique and a variety of tried-and-tested exercises. While writing exercises continue throughout the course, the latter sessions focus strongly on editing, assisting writers in learning to edit their own work and help others in the editing process. Throughout the course there is a strong emphasis on reading and listening as participants learn to give and receive constructive feedback. Each year the course culminates in the second semester with the launch of the annual publication *Aerial*, an anthology of course writing entirely produced by course participants. Reflecting the size of the class, *Aerial 2006* is a longer book with work of an excellent standard.

Running for the first time without founder-facilitator Robert Berold during his year in China, in 2006 we had one of the largest and most diverse classes to date. As one of the participants commented, the writing course is perhaps the only space in Grahams-

town where people from campus, town and township, students, workers and academics, ranging in age from late teens to 70 plus, can meet and communicate as writers and as equals in a nurturing environment. 26 committed and enthusiastic participants completed the programme, after an initial intake of over 30, and a happy spirit of camaraderie developed within the group.

In 2006 we were fortunate to receive funding from ECPACC, which enabled us to offer bursaries to several local residents from disadvantaged backgrounds who would otherwise not have been able to participate in the course.

### **WORDFEST 2006**

Wordfest 2006 was the best so far, providing a broader range of activities than in the past. We also reached far more people due to improvements made to our national media and marketing activities.

There were the familiar book launches, workshops, debates, performances and junior school reading programme. WordStock our daily newspaper provided book reviews and good coverage as in the past but the standard of service at the restaurant and book-shop needs attention next year.

This year we established a substantial website which displays our programme as well as profiles of the writers. The address is [www.wordfest.co.za](http://www.wordfest.co.za)

We also launched an annual event to launch some of the excellent natural history books published in South Africa, a slot for singer-song writers in the evening to support this genre and a programme for high school pupils to expand our activities among young readers. Improvements to the financial and administration systems proved to be effective and logistical support from Rhodes University and the ISEA was excellent.

This year's improvements were largely due to the three year funding agreement with the National Lottery Trust Development Fund signed in 2005. *For the first time since the inception of Wordfest six years' ago we were able to plan more than a few months in advance.* Unfortunately, due to problems of maladministration not limited to Wordfest, the NLDTF has yet to provide the second tranche. Without a bridging loan from Rhodes, Wordfest 2006 would have not taken place.

This year's guest writers ranged from John van de Ruit, the author of the best-selling *Spud* to Sindiwe Magona whose distinguished literary career spans fiction, non-fiction and text-books in English and Xhosa. Other guest writers included Phil Hockey, editor of the new Roberts Birds of Southern Africa, EKM Dido who writes in Afrikaans about her identity as a coloured South African brought up in the Eastern Cape among Xhosa people, Patricia Glyn, Mzi Mahola, Paul Maylam, Dennis Brutus, Leon Rousseau, Marianne Thamm, Jonty Driver, Mtutuzeli Nyoka, Robert Greig, Paul Walters, Ashley Dowds and others too numerous to mention here.

The singer-songwriters ranged from Neo Muyanga and Chris Chameleon to Robin Auld, Zolani Mkiva, Larry Strelitz and Riaan Malan. Famed anti-apartheid songwriter Roger Lucey appeared with Paul Erasmus the special branch policemen assigned to wreck his career.

Thanks to an increased grant from the Eastern Cape Government the Eastern Cape component of Wordfest was able to host over 150 aspirant writers from the different districts of the province. These were accommodated in emerging bed and breakfast homes in the township, passing on some R90 000 to this disadvantaged community. A pleasing development was the spontaneous establishment of district level Wordfests in three of the districts. Of concern is the increasing monolingual nature of events.

Wordfest staff members are employed on short-term part-time contracts. This presents numerous challenges. For example Mandla Matyumza who had done so much in such an effective way over the last two Wordfests was offered a well paid permanent appointment up north a month before this year's Wordfest began.

The skills and dedication displayed by this year's team was remarkable. Our palpable enjoyment of each other's diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds was South Africa at its best. I take pleasure in commending the work of Khaya Thonjeni, Carol Leff, Nomangesi Kelemi, Lemakatso Lemako, Kerry Peter, Zelia Cobus and Maureen Ewing.

Thanks are due to our funders, media-partners, volunteers and supporters in kind. Space allows me to name only the following: Biblionef, DALRO, National Department of Arts and Culture, Die Burger, Eastern Cape Government, ECPACC, Exclusive Books, NLDTF, READ, Rhodes University, SAfm, Umhlobo wenene.

### **ISEA SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

Monica Hendricks has capably organised the seminar programme for the second year. The format of having a dedicated reader and respondent for the paper presented has been much appreciated by presenters. Due to our first term presenter disappointing us, there were three seminars for the year:

Ms Jacqui Dornbrack, 15 June, 'Teachers' identities and resistances to rethinking difference in their school.'

Mr Robert Berold, 9 October 'Strongly Rumpling': Teaching English writing at a university in China.'

Prof Jill Bourne, 30 October 'Constructing 'ability' through school subject English.'



## **SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

In my capacity as visitor, with portfolios of President of the *Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa*, Editor of the annual *SSOSA Newsletter, incorporating Occasional papers & Reviews* and Convenor of the *Seventh Triennial Congress of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa*, I have pleasure in reporting briefly on commitments undertaken and progress made, within the ambit of ISEA.

Jenny King is part-time Administrative Secretary, whose main responsibility lies in the area of Branch supervision and the database for the entire Society, with particular reference to the academic journal *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* (SiSA). This involves accounting for standing orders, branch and general membership, keeping in close touch with the Finance Departments of Rhodes University and the Grahamstown Foundation.

From the New Year, close attention has been paid to the setting up of conference arrangements for the Seventh Triennial Congress (24-27 June 2007) at Eden Grove, Rhodes University. Theme: *“The International Spread of Shakespeare”*. The preliminaries include invitations to Plenary Speakers, establishing contact with Renaissance and Early Modern scholars world-wide (mainly through internet search, inviting a response to our Call for Papers, informing them of a game park visit, a Shakespeare production (negotiated between Professor Laurence Wright, Chairman, and Paige Newmark, Artistic Director for 2007).

The Shakespeare Birthday Lecture attracted a good attendance from academics, students and members of the Grahamstown community. Guest Lecturer was Professor Emeritus Malvern van Wyk Smith, speaking on *“The Africa that Shakespeare Imagined; or, Notes for Aspirant Film Makers”*.

The 2006 *SSOSA Newsletter/OPAR* is in draft form and will be distributed in December/January.

## **DISTINGUISHED VISITORS**

Prof Jill Bourne from Southampton University

Numerous distinguished writers at Wordfest, including John van de Ruit, Sindiwe Magona, E K M Dido, Patricia Glyn, Mzi Mahola, Phil Hockey, Paul Maylam, Dennis Brutus, Leon Rousseau, Marianne Thamm, Jonty Driver, Mtutuzeli Nyoka, Robert Greig, Ashley Dowds and many others.

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

Margie Probyn contributed to the following programmes: PGCE Science method; RUMEP mathematics BEd; Science MED; PhD research weeks.

## **GRADUATE SUPERVISION AND EXAMINING**

The Director is supervising one MA candidate.

Monica Hendricks is external examiner for NMMU BEd Hons module: Teaching in a Multilingual Context.

Margie Probyn is external examiner for Wits University BEd Hons module: Language, literacy and communication and the BEd Hons research assignment; also external examiner for University of Kwazulu Natal PGCE course.

## **DEGREES IN PROGRESS (STAFF)**

- Monica Hendricks completed her PhD degree and graduated from Wits University in June.
- Margie Probyn re-registered for a PhD.

## **CONCLUSION**

2006 has been a very busy and rewarding year for all ISEA academic and support staff. They need to be congratulated on their dedication and preparedness to work extra long hours - with a smile. In particular, thanks to our new Administrator, Carol Leff, who has coped very well with the intricacies of the ISEA projects and accounts. However, the staff at the ISEA are very stretched given that there is only one administrator and half a secretary to cope with the numerous projects and increasing teaching loads. This has put the staff under considerable pressure and the researchers find that much of their time is taken up with administration of the teaching programmes, with reduction in time available for research and writing. A request has been made to the Rhodes staffing committee for an extra secretarial post, and an extra cleaner for St Peters who could do the messenger and tea duties for the building that are currently done by the half day secretary, so that the ISEA could have two full time support staff. We hope that if our request is met that we will be able to function more effectively as teachers and researchers and to continue to contribute to the improvement of English teaching and the development of writing and literacy in the Eastern Cape and beyond.

**Margie Probyn**  
**Acting Director**

December 2007