

FABI'S MANDELA RHODES SCHOLARS CELEBRATE THE 2018 SELECTION OF 100 SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE, 100 YEARS AFTER MADIBA'S BIRTH

FABI has been home to three Mandela Rhodes Scholars to date; Mmatshapho Phasha (class of 2011), Dr Osmond Mlonyeni (class of 2009) and FABI academic staff member Dr Steven Hussey (class of 2010). Since its humble selection of just eight scholars in 2005, the Foundation has grown dramatically over 13 years to offer 100 Mandela Rhodes scholarships for the first time in 2018 to postgraduate students across the African continent. This landmark in the Foundation's history also symbolises the centenary of late patron's birth, Nelson Mandela, and a weekend of celebrations for Mandela Rhodes alumni and the scholars in residence was held in Cape Town on 13 and 14 July. Two days thereafter, several scholars and FABIans attended the 16th Annual Nelson Mandela Lecture in Johannesburg, delivered by former United States President Barack Obama.



Dr Hussey attended the weekend celebrations in Cape Town, which kicked off with a cocktail dinner where new scholars and alumni met and reconnected with each other. The dinner also included a surprise reveal – the first alumni magazine produced by the foundation, Young African. Three interactive panel discussions on “Re-imagining higher education” were held, with viewpoints shared by various guest speakers including University of Cape Town Vice-chancellor Dr Mamokgethi Phakeng. Scholars were

treated to a gala dinner with music and dancing, and former first lady Graca Machel delivered a speech on Mandela as a symbol.

On 17 July, a day before Nelson Mandela International Day (#MandelaDay), FABI's Mandela Rhodes Scholars attended the 16th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Held at The Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, this was the largest Annual Lecture in the Foundation's history, attracting thousands of dignitaries including anti-apartheid activists, ministers, NGO representatives and politicians. Sello Hatang (CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation), Prof. Njabulo Ndebele (chairperson of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation), Dr Patrice Motsepe (founder of the Motsepe Foundation), Graça Machel and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa all delivered powerful messages.

President Obama's candid and flawless address however won the hearts of the crowd. He reflected on the evolution of democracy and the many struggles for human rights globally over the last century. He called on the audience to re-think the increasingly unequal distribution of wealth in our societies, the greed and corruption of leaders in the private sector as well as in government, the common humanity that unifies us all in the face of populist nationalism, and the need for a more inclusive and socially democratic capitalism.