

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD
Presented to Professor Heila Sisitka
16 April 2009

Mr Chancellor, Mr Vice-chancellor, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour of presenting to you Professor Heila Bertrie Sisitka for the 2008 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Heila Sisitka's teaching career has ranged from being a Grade One teacher at Plettenburg Bay Primary School, a position she occupied for three years in the late 1980s, to holding the Murray Roberts Chair of Environmental Education and Sustainability here at Rhodes University.

Her work at Rhodes University has focused on the development of a community of practice centred on the exploration of *environmental education as a process of social change*.

As a member of this community of practice, Heila Sisitka has not only contributed to the scholarly development of her students but has also challenged and extended those who have worked with her as fellow teachers and mentors. She is noted as having done all this with enormous generosity of spirit, intellect and time.

Significant in her own account of herself in the teaching portfolio submitted to the Committee appointed to judge the award is a complex understanding of the way her teaching can contribute to sustainability.

Her practice as a teacher can therefore be seen to go far beyond the classroom and extend into all levels of society in a myriad ways in a manner which is truly 'distinguished'.

I therefore request you, Mr Chancellor, to make the 2008 Distinguished Teaching Award to Heila Bertrie Sisitka.