

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The congregation is required to stand while the choir sings Gaudeamus Igitur and the procession enters the Auditorium.

The Chancellor will constitute the Congregation.

The Vice-Chancellor will welcome the Congregation.

The Deans of Faculties will present the candidates for the conferral of Degrees of Bachelor, Bachelor with Honours and Master.

The Congregation will stand and sing the National Anthem.

The Chancellor will dissolve the Congregation.

The congregation is requested to stand while the procession leaves the Auditorium.

With the exception of the commencement and the conclusion of the ceremony and the singing of the National Anthem, members of the congregation are requested to remain seated throughout the proceedings.

INKQUBO

Ingqungquthela iyacelwa ukuba iphakame ngexesha ikwayala icula uGaudeamus Igitur kwaye umkhosi wemithika ungena ngaphakathi.

INgqonyela imisela iNgqungquthela.

USEkelangqonyela wamkela iNgqungquthela.

IiNtloko zeeFakalithi zinikezela abaza kuwongwa ngeziDanga zeBachelor, ezeHonours nezeMasters.

INgqungquthela iyaphakama ivume uMhobe weSizwe.

INgqonyela ichitha iNgqungquthela.

Ingqungquthela iyacelwa ukuba iphakame ngexesha uMkhosi wemithika uphuma.

Ngaphandle kwaxa kuqalwa naxa kusongwa uMsitho, naxa kuculwa uMhobe weSizwe, abantu abakwiNgqungquthela kufanele bahlale phantsi ngalo lonke ixesha kuqhutywa inkqubo.

VOLGORDE VAN VERRIGTINGE

Die kongregasie word versoek om te staan terwyl die koor Gaudeamus Igitur sing en die prosesie die ouditorium binnekom.

Die kanselier sal die kongregasie konstitueer.

Die visekanselier sal die kongregasie verwelkom.

Die dekane van die fakulteite sal die kandidate vir die toekenning van baccalaureus-, honneursbaccalaureus- en meestersgrade voorstel.

Die kongregasie sal staan en die volkslied sing.

Die kanselier sal die kongregasie verdaag.

Die kongregasie word versoek om te staan terwyl die prosesie die ouditorium verlaat.

Met die uitsondering van die aanvang en afsluiting van die seremonie, sowel as met die sing van die volkslied, word die kongregasie versoek om tydens die verrigtinge te bly sit.

FACULTY OF PHARMACY

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF PHARMACY

ADAM, Safeeya
AH TOW, Samuel Lee
ALLY, Fayaadha
ANGWAFOR, Ngum Marlene
BEKWA, Lutho
BERA, Mohammed Altaaf
BHANA, Sonal
BHENTSWANA, Londiwe
BIKA, Alubabalo Aziphiwe
BOOI, Ovayo
CHAKA, Delight, **with distinction**
CHAWATAMA, Samantha Mutsa
CHIRAIRO, Chantel Farirai, **with distinction**
DHODA, Shahana Bibi Ahmed
DIKO, Sanelisiwe
DLAMINI, Bonginkosi Taipan
DLAMINI, Samkelo Nana
DLAMINI, Simisile Phiwalokuhle
DLOMO, Ntandoyenkosi Nonqubeko
DUBE, Brendon Panamoyo
DUMISA, Sinethemba Percival
DZIMWASHA, Lorah Rutendo Erica, **with distinction**
FAKUDE, Zandile Patricia
GAZI, Usiphile
GONTSANA, Afikile Angel
GOVENDER, Tamara Teegan
GUMEDE, Avela Lindokuhle
HLOPHE, Sphiwe Okuhle
HUNGWE, Chipso Mary
HUWA, Caroline Wadzanai
JOZANA, Sityhilelo
JOZI, Luyolo
KALONJI, Musau

KAPUYA, Innocent Tinotenda
KHONDLO, Tshegofatso Rodney
KHOSA, Andile Terence
KHOSA, Nonhlanhla Julia
KHOZA, Realeboga
KHOZA, Sihle Tholinhlanhla
KOMO, Simphiwe Reginald
KUNDIONA, Stacey Chido
LEGODI, Moshe Moses
LOVEMORE, Tlanelo
MAGHALEMELA, Karabelo Freely
MAGWENYANA, Samkelisiwe Precious
MAHWENDEPI, Sarudzai
MAJIBA, Apelele
MAKUYA, Gomireang
MANILALL, Aarthi
MASENTSE, Zinathi
MASINGA, Nelisiwe Ayanda
MATHEBULA, Monica Lerato
MATSIKA, Patience, **with distinction**
MBAMBOSI, Lukhanyo
MBOUHO, Nonsikelelo Wendy
MHLANGA, Bafana Sydwell
MKHWANAZI, Simphiwe Mfanafuthi
MOFYA, Elia
MOGOTLANE, Kamogelo Anna
MOLOTO, Dziphathutshedzo Tshidiso
MOOLA, Safiyyah Zaid
MOONSAMY, Michael Marisse
MPAKA, Okuhle Zizipho
MPONTSHANE, Bhekinkosi Themba
MPONTSHANE, Mthobisi Simiso
MSHOLOLO, Noluthando Rejoice Asanda
MTHEMBU, Mbalenhle Memory
MTHEMBU, Mpilonhle Nkosnomusa
MTHEMBU, Sinqumo Linda
MTHOMBENI, Primrose

MTWA, Lusanda
MTYOBILE, Anita
MURAMBIWA, Tinevimbo Laura
MURAWO, Panashe Renias
MUSHIPE, Tinotenda Brandley
MUZA, Tanatswa Lorraine
NAICKER, Javaan Corin
NAIK, Kami, **with distinction**
NCUBE, Samkeliso Angela
NDAGURWA, Phillip Quinton
NDWANDWE, Mimie Thanduyise
NDYAWWE, Asisipho
NGCONGO, Gcina
NGONYA, Zukisani
NGQAKABABA, Mbali
NGUBANE, Siyabonga Siphellele Innocent
NHLAPO, Sibusiso
NJAPHA, Musawenkosi
NTSHANGASE, Simphiwe Siboneni
NTULI, Sibongisiwe Lethukukhanya
NXUMALO, Mkhuleko Deon
PERUMAL, Kayleigh
PETELA, Lithalethu Kanya
PHAHLAMOHLAKA, Lorraine Sephokoane
PHAKATHI, Thandeka Minenhle
PILLAY, Purcell
PONI, Aviwe
PUNDO, Meinkampf
QABAKA, Lusanele
RATHOBOTHA, Malehu Lucy, **with distinction**
SERETLO, Katlego Ledile
SHAKOANE, Bradley Pheelo
SINGH, Roshvika
SITHOLE, Sanelisiwe Glamorous
SOBUWA, Zusiphe Ukhoyena
SOOKOO, Rayesha
SUKAZI, Tholinhlanhla Sithembiso

TADYA, Lorraine
TANDI, Tendai
THANGOANE, Khuliso
THUNZI, Sanelisiwe Susan
THWALA, Lindelwa
TIMOL, Ahmed Rafik
TSHINGA, Nomthandazo Brilliant
VANDALA, Thandile Mnyamezeli
VUMISA, Unathi
WEYMERS, Linda
ZINTO, Lwandokazi
ZVANDASARA, Samarah, **with distinction**

FACULTY OF LAW

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS

BENYA, Siseko
CERFONTEIN, Iman
CHAMBOKO, Tapuwa
CHENGA, Leeroy Nkosilathi
CHETTY, Sovash Surabin
CHIKUKWA, Tariro Stacey Kimberley
CHIKWEHWA, Chiedza Caroline
CHINGANGA, Blessings Tafadzwa
CROUSE, Casparus Franciscus
DAKAMELA, Mbongeni Mlungisi
DANHA, Eugene Tanaka
DHLAMINI, Phumelele Tracy
DONDO, Angeline Netsai
DOYLE, Chevandr  Zody Vincent
DYESHANA, Sinokuhle
GLENISTER, Clio
GOBA, Lusanda
HALL, Chelsea Sue-Ann
HLAKO, Tinashe Gecia
JOUBERT, Cheryl-Ann

JOWA, Tinotendaishe Nomhle
KATAMELO, Precious Keamogetse Mamsy
LINKS, Vincenzia Sharnique N'Bushe
LUBISI, Sandile Emmanuel Masiyana
MADZIMA, Tapiwa Claude
MAGODO, Tafadzwa Amanda
MAKUYA, Ambani Dean
MALULEKA, Dzunisani Harry
MAOTOANE, Masoni Precious Ntebogelang
MATARIRO, Milca Takudzwa
MATETA, Leletu
MBANJWA, Fundiswa Whitney
MBATHA, Lungisile Isabel
MBATYOTHI, Xolisa
MMESI, Atlegang
MOLOPYANE, Bridget Koketso
MOSHOEU, Mapula Boitumelo
MUGWAGWA, Sylvia Sally Tanyaradzwa
NAKO, Yonwaba Vuya
NCUBE, Charmaine Mbalenhle
NDLOVU, Langelihle Precious
NDLOVU, Thanyelani Khuliso
NDUDZO, Gamuchirai Chelsea
NKONYANE, Naledi Nandipha
PFUPA, Mudiwa Brandon
PHIRI, Chimwemwe Philile Thandeka
PHIRI, Taonga Mapalo
POSHODI, Thabang
PUTUMANI, Siphe
QUARTEY, Paulina Naa Kwaaley
RAVHUHALI, Mukovhe Rosemary
SEOKE, Duncan
SIKWANA, Shiposethu
SOKE, Oreabetse Kiora
VAUGHAN, Stepfan John-Ross
XOLO, Simlindile Peggy
YOKWE, Chumisa Meyiwa

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF COMMERCE WITH HONOURS

ALUM, Eileen, in Accounting
BAKADA, Thula, in Economics
BASTILE, Akhona Bongiwe, in Information Systems, **with distinction**
BOUWER, Allan Jonathan, in Management
BUSHULA, Chumisa, in Financial Management
CHETTY, Jadine, in Management
CHILOANE, Diketso Thapelo, in Financial Management
FOLI, Anelisa, in Economics
GEORGE, Asandiswa, in Financial Management
HADEBE, Luyanda Noluthando, in Economics
HLATSHWAKO, Temahayise Samkelisiwe, in Financial Management
JACQUIRE, Brysn Adrian, in Management
JOE, Jaslin John, in Information Systems
JOJO, Linathi, in Information Systems
LANGA, Akho, in Management
MABUYA, Sabelwe Rothwell, in Information Systems
MADONDO, Sharon Tadiwa, in Accounting
MAHLOMBE, Lihle Princess, in Information Systems
MAJALI, Sakhe Kelly, in Management
MAKALENG, Gauta Mmatholo, in Interdisciplinary Studies
MAKAULA, Mncedi, in Financial Management
MALISA, Nhlanhla, in Information Systems
MAPHUMULO, Siphumelele, in Information Systems
MASANABO, Mbali Smomotho, in Economics
MASEBENI, Amanda, in Information Systems
MASHOZHERA, Nigel Nyasha, in Information Systems
MBENGO, Lithemba Qhawekazi, in Information Systems, **with distinction**
MBHALATI, Judicious, in Information Systems
MDOKWE, Asiphe, in Economics
MEKUTO, Hlumelo Luzuko, in Management

MODISE, Tshepiso Kamohelo, in Economics
MUMBA, Madalitso Chonde, in Economics
NGXANGANE, Ndinalo, in Information Systems
NONKONYANA, Nkosinathi, in Economics, **with distinction**
NONXUBA, Mbaso, in Economics
NTULI, Kabelo Motsatsi, in Financial Management
NZUZA, Nonkazimulo, in Information Systems
PONCO, Indiphile, in Economics
RANOKO, Mosima Melida, in Economics
RASELABI, La-Toya Bafedile, in Financial Management
SIMANGO, Ntsako, in Economics
THUPAE, Tlotlisho, in Management
TYIBILIKA, Mvuyelwa Siyanda, in Information Systems
WALSH, Nestor Ievan Richard, in Information Systems, **with
distinction**
ZUNGU, Popsz, in Economics

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS WITH HONOURS

AMOS, Melissa Leanne, in Economics, **with distinction**
NGCUKANA, Lupumlo, in Economics, **with distinction**
SABEKA, Shamen Makungu, in Information Systems, **with
distinction**
SERETSE, Lesego, in Information Systems

FACULTY OF LAW

DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS

MAVINDIDZE, Tafadzwa Naomi, LLB (Rhodes), in the Faculty of Law. Degree by thesis. Thesis: “The 'inadequately married': Extending the putative marriage doctrine to assist vulnerable parties in invalid customary marriages.” Supervisor: Professor HJ Kruuse.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

BENISE, Emihle, BScHons (Rhodes), in Chemistry, in the Department of Chemistry. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Aptamer-based biosensor for prostate specific antigen detection using cobalt phthalocyanine-exfoliated graphite composites. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor T Nyokong. Co-supervisor: Dr J Britton.

COKA, Nwabisa, BScHons (UFH), in Environmental Science, in the Department of Environmental Science. Degree by thesis. Thesis: *Acacia dealbata* invasion and clearing in Upper Tsitsana communal areas of South Africa; human perceptions and ecological impacts. Supervisor: Professor S Ruwanza.

CORRY-ROBERTS, Carys Alexandra, BSc (Juniata College), in Zoology, **with distinction**, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Functional significance of mixed-species groups for zebra (*Equus quagga*) in savanna habitats. Supervisor: Professor DM Parker (UMP). Co-supervisor: Dr MH Schmitt (North Dakota).

DAMJI, Amira Mahamood, BScHons (Rhodes), in Bioinformatics, in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology. Degree by coursework and thesis. Thesis: Towards a possible future solution against multidrug resistance: An *in silico* exploration of the Multidrug and Toxic compound Extrusion (MATE) transporter proteins as potential antimicrobial drug targets. Supervisor: Professor KA Lobb.

GREEN, Erryn Mae, BAHons (Rhodes), in Human Kinetics & Ergonomics, in the Department of Human Kinetics and Ergonomics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Investigating playing-related musculoskeletal disorders in South African instrumental musicians. Supervisor: Ms MC Mattison. Co-supervisor: Dr B Rennie-Salonen (Stell).

HAMESE, Saltiel, BScHons (Pretoria), in Biotechnology, **with distinction**, in the Biotechnology Innovation Centre. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Computational design for genome reduction of *Lactococcus lactis* towards microbial chassis development. Supervisor: Professor E Prinsloo. Co-supervisor: Dr DT Govindaraj (CSIR).

JACKSON, Gabriella Teresa, BScHons (Rhodes), in Microbiology, **with distinction**, in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Elucidation of the roles of the carbonic anhydrase enzymes, CanA & CanB, in the physiology of *Mycobacterium smegmatis*. Supervisor: Dr GL Abrahams.

LEOMA, Mofeli Benedict, BScHons (Rhodes), in Chemistry, in the Department of Chemistry. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Insights: Elucidation of squalene monooxygenase inhibitors for lowering cholesterol in cardiovascular diseases. Supervisor: Dr T Tshiwawa. Co-supervisor: Professor KA Lobb.

MADLALA, Njabulo Praiseworthy, BSc (UKZN), BScHons (Rhodes), in Fisheries Science, **with distinction**, in the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science. Degree by thesis. Thesis: The effect of *Gracilaria gracilis* (Rhodophyta) on the growth and behaviour of farmed abalone *Haliotis midae* when included in the abalone diet. Supervisor: Professor CLW Jones. Co-supervisor: Dr A Wu.

MARAIS, Marc Jason, BComHons (Rhodes), in Computer Science, **with distinction**, in the Department of Computer Science. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Investigating unimodal isolated signer-independent sign language recognition. Supervisor: Dr DL Brown. Co-supervisor: Mr J Connan.

MARRINER, Paul Joseph, BScHons (Rhodes), in Geography, in the Department of Geography. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Investigating

changes in pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) cultivation in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, from 1984 to 2020. Supervisor: Professor I Meiklejohn.

MOMMSEN, Wayne Trevor, BSc (RAU), BScHons (UJ), in Entomology, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Managing releases of *Anagyrus vladimiri* (Triapitsyn) to augment biocontrol of the citrus mealybug *Planococcus citri* (Risso) in South African citrus orchards. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor MP Hill. Co-supervisor: Professor S Moore (CRI).

MOYO, Sibusisiwe, BScHons (Zimbabwe), in Entomology, **with distinction**, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: High-altitude temporary systems and macroinvertebrate composition in *La Nina* cycle, Maloti-Drakensberg. Supervisor: Dr S Motitsoe (Wits). Co-supervisor: Mr MC Mlambo (Albany Museum).

NAMANE, Neo, BScHons (NWU), in Physics, in the Department of Physics and Electronics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: A MIGHTEE investigation of radio quiet AGN. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor OM Smirnov. Co-supervisor: Dr SV White (SAAO).

OYETUNJI, Nicole Armlade, BScHons (Rhodes), in Applied Mathematics, **with distinction**, in the Department of Mathematics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Towards an artificial intelligence-based agent for characterising the organisation of primes. Supervisor: Dr M Atemkeng. Co-supervisor: Dr P Okouma (UCT).

PITCAIRN, Matthew David, BAHons (Rhodes), in Computer Science, in the Department of Computer Science. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Computer Science education & Legitimation Code Theory: An investigation into quality teaching. Supervisor: Dr YM Motara.

SEATH, Jessica Lauren, BScHons (Rhodes), in Marine Biology, **with distinction**, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Degree

by thesis. Thesis: The use of gabions as a tool for ecological engineering: Evidence from a South African temperate estuary. Supervisor: Dr L Claassens (WorldFish). Co-supervisors: Professor PW Froneman and Dr L Firth (Plymouth).

STANBURY, Savannah Mae, BScHons (Rhodes), in Physics, **with distinction**, in the Department of Physics and Electronics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: MeerKAT observations of the Abell 141 galaxy cluster. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor OM Smirnov.

VAN STADEN, Gretha, BScHons (NWU), in Entomology, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Developing a community of practice to promote the use of biological control in the integrated management of *Prosopis* in South Africa. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor MP Hill. Co-supervisors: Ms K Weaver and Mr P Ivey.

VANQA, Kamvalethu, BScHons (Rhodes), in Applied Mathematics, in the Department of Mathematics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Enhancing the electrocatalytic activity of phthalocyanines through finding the ideal combination of substituents in push-pull phthalocyanine-based systems. Supervisor: Dr M Atemkeng. Co-supervisor: Distinguished Professor OM Smirnov.

WASSWA, Peter, BSc (Makerere), in Hydrology, in the Institute for Water Research. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Application of the modified pitman and SWAT models for groundwater recharge estimation in the upstream area of the Uitenhage artesian basin, South Africa. Supervisor: Dr J Tanner.

What is graduation?

Graduation is a time of enormous celebration for students and their families. It is a time to revel in a sense of achievement, to take photographs and store memories, to applaud and, of course, to dress up with the dignity that the ceremony deserves.

Graduating students traditionally wear an academic gown that marks them as ‘special’ and different to others attending the ceremonies. They walk across the stage, kneel before the Chancellor, who then taps them on the head with a ceremonial hat, before proceeding to the Registrar who ‘hoods’ them according to the degree they have earned.

For many attending the graduation ceremonies, a key question is what all this ceremony and procedure, much of which originated in Europe hundreds of years ago, actually mean in contemporary South Africa. One way to answer this question is to focus on the graduates themselves. As students walk across the stage today, they are not the same people they were who enrolled in the University three, four or more years ago. If the University has done its job well, they are completely different people.

The graduate looks at the world with an entirely different set of eyes. They now look for evidence for what is stated and to contest anything that does not appear to them to be valid or fair on the basis of the evidence presented.

At a university like Rhodes, graduates have also been trained to look through the lenses of theory. Theory is exactly like the lenses in a pair of spectacles. It allows us to see things we would not see without the spectacles, or to see things differently. Because theory allows us to see things we would not normally see, it allows us to imagine a world which does not yet exist, a world transformed from the one we currently inhabit. These are valuable attributes in the workplace and this is why graduates are highly sought after. They are especially important, however, in a fledgling democracy like ours.

As graduates walk across the stage today and participate in rituals which do not have their roots in African soil, one way to understand the proceedings is to see them as signifying an identity shift. Much as the way young men in some cultures, for example, may wear new clothes after an initiation ceremony, the wearing of an academic gown symbolises a shift in who the graduates have become. This shift is recognised by the Chancellor who taps them on the head and by the Registrar who places the hood over their shoulders. The Deans, academics, together with the entire University community, look on - celebrating and acknowledging our students’ achievements.

Enjoy the ceremony today, but, more importantly, remember its significance in the lives of our young graduates and, indeed, in the history of our country.

Congratulations to RU120 graduates!

Yintoni uthweswo-zidanga?

Uthweswo-zidanga lixesha lobhiyozo elikhulu kubafundi neentsapho zabo. Lixesha lokugcoloda nokuchulumancela impumelelo, ukuthatha imifanekiso nokugcina iinkumbulo, ukuqhwabela izandla, yaye ngokuqinisekileyo, lixesha lokunxiba ngesizotha esifanele lo mnyhadala.

Kulisiko ukuba abafundi abathweswa izidanga banxibe izidanga zabo ezibaphawula ‘njengabakhethekileyo’ nabohlukileyo kwabanye abantu abazimase umnyhadala. Bahamba eqongeni, baguqe phambi kweNgqonyela, iye ibathwese indwe, phambi kokuba badlulele kuMabhalane-jikelele weYunivesithi oye ‘abafake umxwayo’, ohambelana nesidanga abasithwesiweyo.

Kuninzi lwabo bazimase iminyhadala yothweswo-zidanga, umbuzo ophambili ngowokuba lo mnyhadala, inkoliso yawo esusela eYurophu kumakhulu ngamakhulu eminyaka eyadlulayo, ingaba uthetha ntoni kuMzantsi Afrika wale mihla. Enye indlela yokuphendula lo mbuzo kukugxila kwabathweswa izidanga. Njengoko abafundi behamba kwiqonga namhlanje, abasengabo aba bantu babengabo mhla babebhalisela ukufunda kule Yunivesithi kwiminyaka emithathu, emine okanye engaphezulu eyadlulayo. Ukuba iYunivesithi iwenze ngokuphume izandla umsebenzi wayo, bangabantu abohlukileyo kwaphela.

Lowo uthweswa isidanga ulibona ihlabathi ngamehlo ohlukileyo. Ngoku ukhangela ubungqina boko kuthethwayo aze aphikise nayiphi na into ebonakala ingenasihlahla kuye okanye enetyheneba ngokuphathelele kubungqina obunikezelweyo.

Kwiyunivesithi efana neRhodes, abo bathweswa izidanga bakwaqeqeshwe ukuba bajonge izinto ngamehlo enkcazo-bungcali(theory). Inkcazo-bungcali ifana nqwa neelensi kwiintanyongo. Isinceda ukuba sibone izinto ebesingenakho ukukwazi ukuzibona ngaphandle kweentanyongo, okanye sibone izinto ngendlela eyahlukileyo. Kuba inkcazo-bungcali isincedisisa ukuba sibone izinto ebesingenakho ukukwazi ukuzibona, isinceda ukuba sibe nomfanekiso-ngqondweni wehlabathi elingekabikho, ihlabathi eliguquke kakhulu kwelo siphila kulo ngoku. Ezi zizidingo ezixabisekileyo kwindawo yokuxelengela yaye kungoko abo bathweswa izidanga belangazelelwa. Babaluleke ngokukhethekileyo, ingakumbi kulawulo lwentando yesininzi efana neyethu esakhulayo.

Njengoko abo bathweswa izidanga behamba kwiqonga namhlanje yaye bethatha inxaxheba kwizithethe ezingenancambu ezikumhlaba waseAfrika, enye yeendlela zokubona ukuqhutywa kwalo mnyhadala kukubonisa inguqu ngokobuni. Oku kuyafana nokuba kwezinye iinkcubeko, umzekelo, amatyendyana anganxiba iimpahla ezintsha emva kolwaluko. Ukunxitywa kwesidanga kuphawula inguqu ekubeni lowo uthweswa isidanga uye abe ngubani na. Le nguqu iye iqinisekise yiNgqonyela eye ibabethe entloko noMabhalane-jikelele weYunivesithi oye abaxakathise. Iintloko zamasebe, iimfundimanekunye nalo lonke uluntu lweYunivesithi, bayabukela – bebhiozela bekwaqaphela impumelelo yabafundi bethu.

Yonwabela umnyhadala namhlanje, kodwa ngokubaluleke ngakumbi, khumbula ukubaluleka kwawo kumlisela nomthinjana wethu othweswa izidanga, yaye nangokwenene, ukubaluleka kwawo kwimbali yelizwe lethu.

Halala! Siyavuyisana nabathweswa izidanga ngoRU120.

Wat is 'n gradeplegtigheid?

'n Gradeplegtigheid is 'n tyd van feesvieringe vir studente en hulle families. Dit is 'n tyd waarin prestasie gevier, foto's geneem en herinneringe gemaak word. Dis 'n tyd vir applous en natuurlik om aan te trek na gelang van die waardigheid wat die seremonie verdien.

Studente wat gradueer dra tradisioneel 'n akademiese toga wat hulle uitwys as 'spesiaal' en anders as ander mense wat die seremonie bywoon. Hulle loop oor die verhoog, kniel voor die kanselier, wat hulle dan met 'n seremoniële hoed op die kop tik voor hulle aanbeweeg na die registrateur wat vir hulle 'n 'kap opsit' volgens die graad wat hulle verwerf het.

Vir baie mense wat die gradeplegtigheid bywoon, is daar 'n sleutelvraag rondom wat al hierdie seremonie en prosedures, waarvan die oorsprong honderde jare gelede meerendeels in Europa ontstaan het, in kontemporêre Suid-Afrika sou beteken. Een manier om die vraag te beantwoord is om te fokus op die gegradueerde self. Soos studente vandag oor die verhoog stap, is hulle nie dieselfde mense wat drie of vier jaar gelede by die universiteit ingeskryf het nie. As die universiteit hulle werk goed gedoen het, is hulle geheel en al ander mense.

Die gegradueerde kyk met 'n nuwe paar oë na die wêreld. Hulle soek nou vir bewyse vir stellings wat gemaak word en bestry enige iets wat nie vir hulle geldig of regverdigbaar is volgens die bewyse wat aangebied word nie.

By 'n universiteit soos Rhodes, is gegradueerdes ook opgelei om deur die lens van teorie te kyk. Teorie werk presies soos die lense van 'n bril. Dit skep die geleentheid om dinge te sien wat ons nie sonder die bril sou kon sien nie; of om dinge anders te sien. Aangesien teorie ons die kans gun om dinge te sien wat ons andersins nie sou kon sien nie, gee dit ons ook die geleentheid om 'n wêreld te verbeel wat nog nie bestaan nie, 'n wêreld wat getransformeer het van die een waarin ons op die oomblik woon. Dit is waardevolle eienskappe in die werkplek en dit is waarom gegradueerdes gesog is. Hulle is veral belangrik in 'n jong demokrasie soos ons eie.

Soos wat gegradueerdes vandag oor die verhoog stap en deelneem aan rituele wat nie in Afrika gewortel is nie, is een manier om hierdie verrigtinge te begryp om dit te sien as 'n verskuiwing in identiteit. Op dieselfde manier waarop jong mans in sommige kulture nuwe klere ná 'n inisiasie-seremonie sou dra, simboliseer die dra van 'n toga 'n verskuiwing in die persoon wat die gegradueerde nou geword het. Hierdie verskuiwing word erken deur die kanselier wat hulle op die kop tik en die registrateur wat die kap oor hulle skouers plaas. Die dekane en akademici, saam met die hele universiteitsgemeenskap, aanskou dit – ter viering en erkenning van ons studente se prestasies.

Geniet vandag se seremonie, maar – belangriker nog – erken die uitsonderlike belang daarvan in die lewens van ons jong gegradueerdes en, inderdaad, in die geskiedenis van ons land.

Veels geluk aan ons RU120 gegradueerdes!