

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 Dean of Faculty will present the candidates for the conferral of Degrees of Bachelor, Bachelor (Honours) and Doctor of Philosophy.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs) will present Professor Ryan John Wasserman for the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) will present Professor Bradford Sherman Ripley for the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Research Award.

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, Congregation members are requested to remain seated throughout the proceedings.

INKQUBO

Ingqungquethela iyacelwa ukuba iphakame ngexesha ikwayala icula uGaudamus Igitur kwaye umkhosi wemithika ungena ngaphakathi.

INgqonyela imisela iNgqungquethela.

USekelangqonyela wamkela iNgqungquethela.

INtloko yeFakalthi unikezela abaza kuwongwa ngeziDanga
zeBachelor, ezeHonours nezobuGqirhalwazi.

UMncedisi kaSekelangqonyela (imiCimbi yezeMfundu nabaFund) wazisa ngoNjingalwazi Ryan John Wasserman njengowongwa ngeMbasa kaSekelangqonyela yoMhlohli oGqwesileyo.

UMncedisi weSekelangqonyela (uPhando, iNguqu noBambiswano lokuPhumeza iiNjongo zeYunivesithi) wazisa ngoNjingalwazi Bradford Sherman Ripley njengowongwa ngeMbasa kaSekelangqonyela yoMphandilwazi oGqwesileyo kwiNqanaba looXholovane.

INgqungquethela iyaphakama ivume uMhobe weSizwe.

INgqonyela ichitha iNgqungquethela.

Ingqungquethela iyacelwa ukuba iphakame ngexesha uMkhosi wemithika uphuma.

Ngaphandle kwaxa kuqalwa naxa kusongwa uMsitho, naxa kuculwa uMhobe weSizwe, abantu abakwiNgqungquethela 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 prosessie die ouditorium binnekom.

Die kanselier sal die kongregasie konstitueer.

Die visekanselier sal die kongregasie verwelkom.

Die dekaan van die fakulteit sal die kandidate vir die toekenning van baccalaureus-, honneursbaccalaureus- en doktorsgrade in die wysbegeerte voorstel.

Die onder-visekanselier (akademiese en studente-aangeleenthede) sal professor Ryan John Wasserman vir die visekanselier se toekenning vir uitmuntende onderrig voorstel.

Die onder-visekanselier (navorsing, innovasie en strategiese vennootskappe) sal professor Bradford Sherman Ripley vir die visekanselier se senior toekenning vir uitmuntende navorsing voorstel.

Die kongregasie sal staan en die volkslied sing.

Die kanselier sal die kongregasie verdaag.

Die kongregasie word versoek om te staan terwyl die prosessie 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 SCIENCE

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

ACKERMAN, Jessica Mathilda, **with distinction in** Applied Mathematics

BAKERS, Angel

BALCOMB, Julian Laurence, **with distinctions in** Biochemistry and Botany

BANFIELD, Tristan Roy

BARNARD, Chelséa Jionélle

BASE, Nangamso Rebecca

BODLANI, Khazimla

BUTHELEZI, Kgomotso Sifiso, **with distinction in** Mathematics

CELE, Nokwanda Aphiwe

CELE, Siphelele Mthobisi

CHALKLEN, Nikitha, **with distinctions in** Biochemistry and Microbiology

CHAUKE, Matshwenyego

CHIDI, Kamogelo Michelle

CHINOMONA, Daleroy Tinashe

CLEGG, Joshua Michael, **with distinction in** Zoology

DE WET, Inge Victoria Chelsea

DLAMINI, Michelle Nosipho

DUBE, Thandolwethu Ntombizile

EDDY, Abigail, **with distinctions in** Ichthyology and Zoology

FAKAZI, Andiswa

FALASI, Mihlali

FAUL, John Richard, **with distinctions in** Botany and Chemistry

FELIX, Lois Carmel

FIPAZA, Vuyolwethu

FLANEGAN, Kyle Andre, **with distinctions in** Geography and Geology

FLANEGAN, Ryan Sidney, **with distinctions in** Geography and Geology

GASA, Lwando

GCULE, Yazini
GONGOTA, Mange
GONGQA, Siyabulela Christopher
GOREEBA, Vachish Nirvan Lormesh
HADEBE, Kwenza Sphesihle
HATTINGH, Mia Xai Antoinette, with distinctions in Entomology and Zoology
HENDRICKS, Kirsten Celine, with distinctions in Ichthyology and Zoology
HEPBURN, Ashley Isabel
HITA, Inganathi Felix
HOKWANA, Anam Ayanda
HOPU, Siyahluma, **with distinction in** Information Systems
HUFKIE, Rebecca Cathryne Crystal
INGRAM, Caitlin Anastasia, with distinctions in Biochemistry and Microbiology
JAMA, Khulekani
JOHNSON, Asiphe
JOZELA, Zintathu
JUGOO, Shradha
KASHE, Azisa
KAVE, Siyolise Siyabulela
KEOSENTSE, Keabetswe Ronell
KGATLA, Kopjane Adolf
KHAN, Aaliyah, with distinction in Biochemistry
KHAN, Am-Maarah Yaseen
KHUMALO, Mantwa
KHUMALO, Mhlengi
KHUZWAYO, Nosipho Thandeka
KIBOWA, Ambrose Lincoln
KIECK, Reagan Noel, with distinctions in Ichthyology and Zoology
KONDIC, Denise Prata
KUSELO, Azola
LANGA, Robert James
LANGE, Jaen-Mari
LATHA, Mthobisi Brilliant
LE ROUX, Dylan, with distinctions in Entomology and Zoology

LEBUDI, Sello Prince, **with distinctions in** Information Systems and
Music Theory & Analysis
LENGOASA, Hlompho
LEPHOTO, Karabo, **with distinctions in** Biochemistry and
Microbiology
LEPHOTO, Vusi Hope
LETSHWENE, Dimpho
LISA, Zicelo, **with distinctions in** Biochemistry and Microbiology
MABUNDA, Rishongile Meekness
MADIDA, Nonkululeko Supreme
MAFENTILE, Khanya, **with distinction in** Chemistry
MAGABANE, Bongane Katlego
MAGXWALISA, Usandisele
MAHLANGU, Buhle, **with distinction in** Biochemistry
MAHLAZA, Akhona
MAHUMAPELO, Nyelete
MAIN, Georgia Anne, **with distinction in** Zoology
MAJOZI, Zibuyile
MAKGOPA, Lebogang Justice Sepamo
MALEKA, Tshepiso Ingrid
MALINGA, Siphosethu Nicholus
MALUKA, Noluthando Sethabile, **with distinction in** Biochemistry
MANDONDO, Yonela
MANKGA, Motlatso Rhinoldah
MANYEACHE, Ruth
MARKS, Owethu Musawenkosi, **with distinction in** Chemistry
MASEKO, Ayanda Collin
MASHELE, Voningani Evelyn
MASHILA, Boago Justine, **with distinction in** Microbiology
MASINDI, Sarah Nkhumeleni, **with distinction in** Geography
MASITHI, Masha Khonani, **with distinction in** Biochemistry
MATHANZIMA, Phumza, **with distinction in** Chemistry
MATHE, Thandile
MATSHINGANA, Bulela
MAWERE, Kudzai Rejoice, **with distinction in** Biochemistry
MAZIBUKO, Manzezulu Manuel
MAZUMBUZE, Takunda Blessings

MBADLA, Liliso
MBALI, Asemahle Beauty
MDLULI, Khayelihle Andile
MDOLOMBA, Mihlali, with distinction in Chemistry
MEIKLEJOHN, Matthew Robert
MEMANI, Kungawo
MENE, Okuhle
MGCWABA, Alulo
MGOQI, Hlumisa Liyabona
MHINGA, Oratile Zoja George
MJOLI, Sandisiwe Nokuphila Nicole
MLAMBO, Nkanyiso Peleg
MLINDAZWE, Silindile
MNGUNI, Sanelisiwe Ayanda
MNUKWA, Emihle Miranda, with distinction in Chemistry
MNYAKENI, Bonga Ndumisa
MOCHOENENG, Koketso Augustine, with distinctions in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science
MOGASHWA, Mbali Matlhatsi Liezel
MOKOENA, Cheryl Chantelle, with distinctions in Biochemistry and Microbiology
MONGALE, Boipelo
MOSANA, Nelisiwe
MOSHIME, Reneilwe Shadigolo Caroline
MOTLOUNG, Itumeleng
MPANGASE, Aphelele Amahle
MSELENI, Omhle
MTANASE, Asemahle, with distinction in Chemistry
MTHEMBU, Sandisile Bongimpilo
MTHOMBENI, Muhluri Harmony
MUHAMMAD, Romesa, with distinction in Entomology
MULAUDZI, Funanani Alidzulwi
MUNZHELELE, Fulufhelo Lakay
MURWIRA, Makomborero
MYOYO, Nelisa, with distinctions in Biochemistry and Microbiology
NCAPHAYI, Sivatho Caroline

NCISE, Aziwe
NDABA, Asande Portia
NDARA, Avela
NDUBELA, Luyolo
NDUMO, Minenhle
NDZOBONGO, Akule
NGCOBO, Lihle Princess
NGIDI, Aphiwe Yenziwe Ngomusa
NGUBANE, Akhona
NGUBANE, Buyane Kwazi
NGUBANE, Sifiso Gcina
NGUNI, Edward Lehlohonolo, **with distinction in** Microbiology
NICHOLSON, Ash Theo, **with distinction in** Mathematics
NISBET, Liam Matthew, **with distinction in** Chemistry
NOGANTA, Buntu, **with distinction in** Chemistry
NONDULA, Zenande, **with distinction in** Information Systems
NONGAUZA, Lathitha
NQWENISO, Abenathi Claire, **with distinction in** Biochemistry
NTANZI, Bongiwe Fanele Lethiwe
NTOMBELA, Bukho, **with distinction in** Zoology
NTOMBELA, Sithembiso James
NZUZA, Lindokuhle Silondile
PADAYACHEE, Aleesha Lee
PETERSEN, Nasreen
PHAKATHI, Amanda Nomthandazo
PILLAY, Deyuran
POSWA, Simamkele
QUVILE, Lathitha Ovayo
QWABE, Mawande Ayanda
RABOROKO, Kamogelo, **with distinction in** Biochemistry
RAJAB, Akimu Adam
RAMIAH, Ethan
RAMODIKE, Omolemo
RATHBONE, Andrew Mackinnon
RAUTENBACH, Thomas Michael, **with distinctions in** Applied
Mathematics **and** Computer Science
ROBERTS, Jack

ROLINYATI, Indiphile
SANDI, Sandisa Sonia
SHABANGU, Siphiwe Edwin
SHAW, Jodie Helen, with distinction in Zoology
SHONGWE, Nkosinathi Bongumenzi
SIBANYONI, Petros Lamson
SINGH, Sahil
SIWELANE, Vutomi Gareth
SOMAGACA, Amkhitha
SOMBHANE, Vutomi, with distinction in Applied Mathematics
SONGONGO, Anesipho
SPANGENBERG, Hermi
SZCZAWINSKI, Nicholas Loyd, with distinctions in Applied Mathematics and Economics and Mathematical Statistics
TENZA, Nonhlanhla Angel
TEO, Gomolemo
TSHAKA, Ntombizodwa
TYOPO, Ntsika Chumisa, with distinction in Chemistry
VELEZANTSJI, Thokoziswa
WANI, William Galla
WEITZ, Zanelle Rochelle
XAMSANE, Likho
XOLO, Pretty Siphokazi
ZULU, Buyisiwe Samkelisiwe

**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
(INFORMATION SYSTEMS)**

ABOAGYE, Derrick Asiedu, **with distinction in** Information Systems
GURURE, Wakanaka Annastacia
MAGQWASHE, Lihle
MAKHADO, Rinae
MAPOSA, Tanaka
MAPURANGA, Ashleigh, with distinction in Information Systems
MASINGILI, Thandekile
MDLULI, Akhona Amanda, with distinction in Information Systems

MPHELA, Amogelang, **with distinction in** Information Systems
RUNYOWA, Yeukai, **with distinction in** Information Systems
SITAMULAH, Chisha
ZENDA, Siyanda Nhlakanipho

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS)

ABREHA, Mekonen Shishay, in Ichthyology & Fisheries Science
BANZA, Etienne Ngoie, in Computer Science
BAQIWE, Sixolile, in Applied Mathematics
BARKER, Kelby Liesel, in Psychology, **with distinction**
BARRY, Mateenah, in Marine Biology
BAXTER, Tyler Elliot, in Computer Science
BOKABA, Kamogelo Glen, in Applied Mathematics/Physics &
Electronics
BOOI, Abongile Gift, in Physics
BÖTTCHER, Heidi Ellen, in Biotechnology
CENGANI, Sandile Wellington, in Information Systems
CHIEZA, Tawana Anita, in Microbiology, **with distinction**
CHOKOE, Molatelo, in Geology
CHUMA, Casey, in Applied Mathematics
CHUMA, Roland Tapiwa, in Computer Science
COOPER, Frederick Richard, in Zoology
DANA, Duma, in Drama
DE VOS, Ilse Stephanie, in Biotechnology
DLAMINI, Lungelihle Sinokuhle, in Environmental Science
DOS SANTOS, Sidonio Zaviér, in Chemistry
DU PLESSIS, Jan Abraham, in Chemistry
EDWARDS, Wynne Raymond, in Computer Science
FISCHER, Timothy Ronald Francois, in Computer Science
FOXON, Nicholas John, in Geography
FRACHET, Joshua, in Ichthyology & Fisheries Science
FULLARTON, Kyla Anne, in Biochemistry, **with distinction**
FUTHUSI, Siphelele, in Applied Mathematics, **with distinction**
GHEBREMESKEL, Kibrom Tekeste, in Ichthyology & Fisheries
Science, **with distinction**
GODLA, Liyabona, in Human Kinetics & Ergonomics

GOGWANA, Sinenjabulo, in Computer Science
GOODALL, Luke James, in Computer Science, **with distinction**
GUMEDE, Mcebisi Larry, in Chemistry
GUMEDE, Thobeka Khethokuhle, in Drama, **with distinction**
GXUMISA, Sesethu, in Environmental Water Management
HARVEY, Oliver Ross, in Entomology, **with distinction**
HENDRICKS, Eden Rhys, in Zoology, **with distinction**
HLOMENDLINI, Siyamthanda, in Computer Science
ISAAC, Mahta Goitom, in Ichthyology & Fisheries Science
JOJO, Masixole, in Applied Mathematics, **with distinction**
JONES, Calvin, in Environmental Science, **with distinction**
KHUZWAYO, Zamokuhle Madodafikile, in Information Systems
KILIAN, Wade Matthew, in Zoology
LEHLOENYA, Kata, in Ichthyology & Fisheries Science
LOLWANA, Lukhanyo, in Chemistry, **with distinction**
MACCARIO, Anthony Theodore, in Information Systems
MADIBA, Thato Kgomotso, in Environmental Science
MADIYA, Silindile, in Microbiology
MAGADLA, Ziyanda Aluncedo, in Human Kinetics & Ergonomics
MAHLANGU, Lindiwe Tshiamo Lillian, in Biochemistry
MAKAPELA, Lihle, in Microbiology
MAKHAFULA, Oratile Molebogeng Thato, in Biotechnology,
 with distinction
MAKHALE, Puleng Innocencia, in Geology
MAKONI, Tinotenda, in Information Systems
MALEBATJA, Matsobane Bernard, in Environmental Science,
 with distinction
MANGALI, Amahle, in Information Systems
MANTAY, Ismael Mohammedsaid, in Ichthyology & Fisheries
 Science
MATIREKWE, Panashe Phibion, in Computer Science
MATSELETSELE, Paballo Portiah, in Chemistry
MCCULLOUGH, Jordan Scott, in Botany, **with distinction**
MELES, Ataklti Nguse, in Ichthyology & Fisheries Science, **with
 distinction**
MEMELA, Siphumelele Perfect, in Zoology

MFAZWE, Lonwabo, in Computer Science/Mathematics, with distinction

MOFUBETSOANE, Kolitsoe Florence, in Biochemistry, with distinction

MOKANYANE, Lesedi, in Zoology

MPHOKANE, Kagiso, in Entomology

MUSARIRI, Farai Bodias, in Information Systems

MUSIIWA, Emmanuel, in Information Systems

MWANAWENE, Ian Brian, in Chemistry

NEL, Kaylee, in Human Kinetics & Ergonomics, with distinction

NGWENYA, Prelic, in Geography

NJOBE, Zimasa, in Biotechnology

NKOSI, Khanyisile Keamogetswe, in Biotechnology

NKUMANE, Zamokuhle Nompumelelo, in Information Systems, with distinction

NOMKHE, Ongako, in Psychology

NTSHAKAZA, Unathi, in Microbiology

NTULI, Nkosinathi Jabu, in Applied Mathematics/Chemistry

NWACHUKWU, Kelechi Iheanyi, in Information Systems

PITSI, Lesego Quincy, in Information Systems

QUVILE, Emihle, in Mathematical Statistics

RADEMAN, Caron, in Biochemistry, with distinction

RAKOESHA, Tsepiso, in Microbiology, with distinction

RANKAPOLE, Phillipine, in Economics

RIKHOTSO, Shongile, in Mathematical Statistics

SAMAKOMVA, Ronald Takudzwanashe, in Geology

SESHANE, Amanda Mmankoele, in Chemistry

SHELEMBE, Philile Silungile, in Biochemistry

SIBANDA, Mthokozisi, in Computer Science

SIFANELE, Lindani, in Environmental Science, with distinction

SIKUTSHWA, Abongile, in Botany

SONO, Simphiwe Eunice, in Mathematical Statistics

TOKWE, Siyolise, in Music & Musicology

TSABEDZE, Bongamusa, in Mathematics, with distinction

TSHAKA, Menezi, in Chemistry

ZINYANA, Buhlebenkosi Sibusisiwe, in Chemistry

ZITHA, Nolwazi, in Chemistry

ZULU, Nombuso Amanda, in Biochemistry

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

COBBING, Kathleen Margaret, MSc (Rhodes), PG Cert (Education) (Rhodes), in Physics, in the Department of Physics and Electronics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Developing the behaviours that we value in physics knowers through implementing aspects of the Investigative Science Learning Environment (ISLE) approach in a South African high school. Supervisor: Dr JA Williams.
Co-supervisor: Mrs JD Sewry.

GITHAE, Michael Mathenge, MSc (Nairobi), in Entomology, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Enhancing the effectiveness of the *Thaumatotibia Leucotreta* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) sterile insect technique release programme. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor MP Hill. Co-supervisors: Professor S Moore (CRI), Dr C Coombes and Dr R Mutamiswa.

IZALLY, Sharkay Ruwade, MSc (Rhodes), in Mathematical Statistics, in the Department of Statistics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Bayesian inference for Cronbach's alpha. Supervisor: Professor L Raubenheimer. Co-supervisor: Professor AJ van der Merwe (UFS).

LEGODI, Portia Potasi, BSc (Limpopo), BScHons (UCT), MSc (Rhodes), in Physics, in the Department of Physics and Electronics. Degree by thesis. Thesis: New insights on classical radio galaxies from MeerKAT and uGMRT. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor OM Smirnov. Co-supervisor: Dr T Venturi (IRA).

MARTINS, Vusumzi, MSc (UFS), in Environmental Science, in the Department of Environmental Science. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Bushmeat hunting and use by rural communities living adjacent to indigenous forests in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor CM Shackleton.
Co-supervisor: Professor A De Vos (Stell).

MINUTI, Gianmarco, BSc (Milan), MSc (Vrije, Brussels), in Entomology, in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: FOLLOW THE YELLOW FLAG ROAD. Advancing the biological control of a global wetland invader, and a case study on ecosystem recovery. Supervisor: Professor JA Coetze. Co-supervisor: Dr I Stiers (Vrije).

POKWANA, Sihle, BScAgric (Hons) (UFH), in Environmental Science, in the Department of Environmental Science. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Evaluating social effects of arable field abandonment in communal areas of South Africa. Supervisor: Distinguished Professor CM Shackleton.

SINGINI, Edith Joana, MSc (Wits), in Botany, in the Department of Botany. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Physiological responses of savanna grasses, encroaching, and non-encroaching tree saplings to changing water availability and elevated atmospheric CO₂. Supervisor: Professor BS Ripley. Co-supervisors: Dr C Osborne (Sheffield) and Professor S Archibald (Wits).

XOXO, Beuten Sinetemba, MSc (Rhodes), in Hydrology, in the Institute for Water Research. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Mainstreaming equitable decision-making under uncertainty at the Water User Association level using a reallocation model in the Western Cape, South Africa. Supervisor: Dr J Tanner. Co-supervisor: Professor SK Mantel.

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.

Yintoni uthweso-zidanga?

Uthweso-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 yothweso-zidanga, umbuzo ophambili ngowokuba lo mnyhadala, inkoliso yavo 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 bakwaqeleshwe ukuba bajonge izinto ngamehlo enkazo-bungcali(theory). Inkazo-bungcali ifana nqwa neelensi kwiintanyongo. Isinceda ukuba sibone izinto ebisingenakho ukukwazi ukuzibona ngaphandle kweetantonyongo, okanye sibone izinto ngendlela eyahlukileyo. Kuba inkazo-bungcali isincedisa ukuba sibone izinto ebisingenakho ukukwazi ukuzibona, isinceda ukuba sibe nomfanekiso-ngqondweni wehlabathi elingekabikho, ihlabathi eliguquke kakhulu kwelo siphila kulo ngoku. Ezi zizidingo ezibaisekileyo kwindawo yokuxelengela yaye kungoko abo bathweswa izidanga belangazelelw. Babaluleke ngokukhethekileyo, ingakumbi kulawulo lwentando yesinanzi efana neyethu esakhulayo.

Njengoko abo bathweswa izidanga behamba kwiqonga namhlanje yaye bethatha inxaxheba kwizithethe ezingenangcambu ezikumhlaba waseAfrika, enye yeendlela zokubona ukuqhutywa kwalo mnyhadala kukubonisa inguqu ngokobuni. Oku kuyafana nokuba kwezinye iinkubeko, umzekelo, amatyendyana anganxiba iimpahla ezintsha emva kolwaluko. Ukunxitywa kwestidanga kuphawula inguqu ekubenil wo uthweswa isidanga uye abe ngubani na. Le nguqu iye iqinisekiswe yiNgqonyela eye ibabethe entloko noMabhalajikelele weYunivesithi oye abaxakathise. Iintloko zamasebe, iimfundimanekunye nalo lonke uluntu lweYunivesithi, bayabukela – bebhiyozela bekwaqaphela impumelelo yabafundi bethu.

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

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 registrator 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 procedures, 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 gegradeerde 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 gegradeerde 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 gegradeerdes 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 verbeeld 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 gegradeerdes gesog is. Hulle is veral belangrik in 'n jong demokrasie soos ons eie.

Soos wat gegradeerdes 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 gegradeerde nou geword het. Hierdie verskuiwing word erken deur die kanselier wat hulle op die kop tik en die registrator 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 gegradeerdes en, inderdaad, in die geskiedenis van ons land.