

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 Public Orator, Professor Tom Martin, will present

Mrs Eugenia Mbekeni for the Degree of Doctor of Laws,
honoris causa.

Dr Eugenia Mbekeni will address the Congregation.

The Dean of Faculty will present the candidates for the conferral of
Degrees of Bachelor, Bachelor (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, Congregation members 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.

IsiThethi seYunivesithi, uNjingalwazi uTom Martin unikezela ngoNkosikazi Eugenia Mbekeni owongwa ngesiDanga sobuGqirhalwazi kwezoMthetho, *honoris causa*.

UGqirha Eugenia Mbekeni wenza intetho kwiNgqungquthela.

INTloko yeFakalathi unikezela abaza kuwongwa ngeziDanga zeBachelor, ezeHonours, nezeMaster.

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 prosessie die ouditorium binnekom.

Die kanselier sal die kongregasie konstitueer.

Die visekanselier sal die kongregasie verwelkom.

Die openbare spreker, professor Tom Martin, sal me. Eugenia Mbekeni voorstel vir die doktorsgraad in die regte,
honoris causa.

Dr. Eugenia Mbekeni sal die kongregasie toespreek.

Die dekaan van die fakulteit 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 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 HUMANITIES

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

AARON, Manana Ntombi
ALLIE, Raisibe Athalia
AROMOLARAN, Adedunni Lindi
AVERY, Dayton Cameron
BACHU, Chiara
BALA, Anita
BALOYI, Mzilawenkosi Mzila
BAMBISO, Abongile
BEDSER, Matthew
BEKANE, Refilwe Beauty
BENGU, Thandeka
BLIGNAUT, Vanya, **with distinction in** English
BOOYSEN, Haydrian Curtus
BOSI, Unathi
BUNGE, Thabsile
BUQA, Kholiseka Cherel
BUTHELEZI, Aphiwe Nomthandazo
CANGA, Mamohapi Emily
CEZA, Linda
CHAUKE, Kgotso
CHAUKE, Nokwethu Valencia
CHAUKE, Ripfumelo Pascalia, **with distinction in** IsiXhosa
Language Acquisition
CHILIZA, Luyanda
CHUMA, Mutsawashe
CONJWA, Karabo Senketse
DANIELS, Jordan Grant
DAVID, Luthando
DIALE, Masilo Frans
DLAMINI, Athandiwe
DLAMINI, Khanyisile
DLHAMINI, Ayanda Michelle
DLODLO, Marlene

DLUDLA, Thandolwethu
 DUBAZANA, Kwanele
 DUDUZA, Uviwe
 DYANTYI, Pamela
 DYESHANA, Mhlali Sinazo
 ERASMUS, James Alexander, **with distinction in** Journalism &
 Media Studies
 FANTELAS, Anastacia Mckaya
 FEBRUARY, Adél
 FROST, Catherine Susan
 FUBELA, Liyema
 FUNDZO, Yanelisa
 FUNO, Sisipho Khanyisile
 FYNN, Mathew (Jnr) Mark
 GAMA, Siyabonga
 GAOSSENKOE, Paballo
 GASELA, Yonela Thina Sisonke
 GCABA, Snenhlahla Sisanda
 GCWENSA, Siphokazi Minenhle
 GININDA, Quincy Thando
 GOXO, Gugu Sibusisiwe
 GREY, Lisakhanya
 GWENXE, Zamadinda
 HAFE, Alizwa
 HANGANA, Mila
 HLALUKANA, Nomathamsanqa Nomakhosi Lindokuhle, **with**
 distinction in Chinese Studies
 HOVE, Tsidzo Ella Jenni
 HUMAN, Leigh Deneal
 INAMA, Kgoshi Keorapetse Tebogo
 JACOB, Nwabisa
 JAMES, Ashley Sharon
 JASS, Duran John
 JELENI, Mncedisi
 JENTE, Siphosethu
 JILANA, Zandile
 JOSIYA, Stoney Dylan

JURY, Kelly Lee
 KAKIA, Ruth Anne Akisa, **with distinction in** Chinese Studies
 KAMANA, Lisakhanya
 KANYILE, Tesa
 KGOPE, Refilwe Patience Sannah
 KHESWA, Ayanda
 KHEWU, Porsha Sive
 KHOTSO, Ntebaleng Patricia
 KHOZA, Confidence
 KHUMALO, Snegugu Tamia
 KHUMALO, Thembile
 KHUMALO, Valentia
 KLAAS, Iviwe
 KLAAS, Siyolise Anelisa
 KOLISI, Zubenathi
 KOSANI, Nobuhle, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
 KUBISA, Sandakahle Sinothando
 KUSCUS, Kirsti Anne
 KWENDA, Tinotenda Adrian
 LAMBANI, Andile, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
 LANDMAN, Jared Taine
 LANGA, Lungelo Nobahle
 LAWAL, Razaq Olatunji Banele Njabulo
 LEKAOWA, Ronny
 LEKGANYANE, Kganya Kedumetse Lusanda
 LESORO, Retshidisitswe, **with distinction in** Political &
 International Studies
 LESTER, Eden Grace, **with distinction in** French
 LINKOV, Aaliyah, **with distinction in** German Studies
 LINKS, Tshepang Ofentse, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
 LUKHELE, Nonhlanhla Gugu
 LYONS, David Cobus
 MABASO, Lusanda Nosipho
 MABO, Mhlali, **with distinction in** Art History & Visual Culture
 MABOTJA, Desiree Dimakatso
 MABUSELA, Khumoetsile Kaylor
 MADLADLENI, Zenande

MAGWAZA, Nkosiyapha
 MAGWAZA, Sinenhlanhla
 MAHOB, Bukho
 MAISELA, Samkelo Wiseman-Junior
 MAKHABANE, Basetsana Ntshelane
 MAKHENE, Lesedi, **with distinction in** Drama
 MAKHUBU, Rendani Ntokozo
 MAKOTI, Mpho Mmoane
 MAKWANE, Zusakhe
 MALATSE, Omphile
 MAMABOLO, Neo
 MANDYIKI, Nqabakazi, **with distinction in** African Language
 Studies
 MANJEYA, Thina Sinalo
 MANTJE, Tsebo
 MAPHANGA, Sinethemba Ayanda
 MARAIS, Caithlin
 MARTHINUS, Tarren Kerishné
 MARUMA, Omphilelethabo
 MASANGANE, Tshepo Victor
 MASE, Cebolethu, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
 MASHUA, Boitshepolo Joy
 MASI, Peter Dangelira, **with distinction in** Philosophy
 MATEMANE, Kgodisho
 MATHE, Melissa Nombulelo
 MATHEBULA, Itumeleng Mmamma
 MATHEKGA, Makgomo
 MATJOMANE, Keitumetse Mapotu
 MAVHUNGU, Solomon Junior Ncmulalo
 MAWONGA, Liseko
 MAWU, Unakho Gugu Lihlonele
 MBALI, Sinovuyo
 MBATHA, Elizabeth Muthoni
 MBEKELA, Qama Theo
 MBOYIYA, Sinovuyo
 MBUBE, Chulumanco Yondela
 MC THOMAS, Eslin

MCHUNU, Thabani
 MCWABENI, Onele
 MDIBI, Esihle
 MDINGI, Esona Lwethu
 MEDUPE, Katlego Jacqueline
 MEMELA, Suthukazi Aviwe, **with distinction in Drama**
 MEMESE, Yonela
 MENDU, Asamkele Alicia
 MENTE, Ntombizanele
 MIJUMBI, Jamilah Nicole
 MJEKULA, Sinovuyo
 MJUNGULA, Abukwe
 MKANSI, Kwetsima
 MKHIZE, Sinqobile Yenziwe Zodumo
 MKHWANAZI, Klwinti Nqayizivele
 MKHWANAZI, Lwandiswa Simphiwe
 MKIVA, Simamkele
 MLABA, Luyanda Samkelisiwe
 MLANDELWA, Alungile
 MLONYENI, Sonwabiso
 MNAPO, Anazo
 MNGONYAMA, Avela
 MNYANI, Anelisiwe
 MODIBELA, Khumo Casey
 MOHOLI, Eyam, **with distinction in** IsiXhosa Language Acquisition
 MOJAPELO, Keneilwe Mamakie
 MOKHUKHWANE, Khumoetsile Goabaona
 MOLAPO, Omphile Betty Nuria
 MOSIEA, Relebohile
 MOTAPA, Marcus
 MOTHIBA, Reabetswe
 MPAKAMA, Wenene Mhlobo
 MPATLANYANE, Boitumelo Lettiah Kediamohetse
 MPUPU, Amzolele
 MQOMBOTI, Azasakhe
 MRWETYANA, Wona Carol
 MTEBELE, Hlumelo, **with distinction in** Music Culture & History

MTEKWANA, Liyabona
 MTHETHWA, Aphiwe Sibusiso
 MTHETHWA, Sanelisiwe Pearl
 MTHETHWA, Sifiso Goodman
 MTSHALI, Nomvelo
 MTSHAWULANA, Siphethuxolo
 MUGOZHI, Glenn Joseph
 MUKOSI, Phophi Martha
 MUKWEVHO, Hope Fhulufhelo
 MURRAY, Patrick Daniel
 MURUGAN, Varesha
 MUSIDA, Sinothando Ambani
 MUSTAPHA, Hope Ifomer Nosibusiso
 MUTSATA, Munyaradzi Anesu Keith
 MVULA, Siphesihle
 MXINWA, Tandokazi
 MYEKI, Ntombikayise, **with distinction in** African Language
 Studies
 MYOLWA, Hlumelo Qaqamba
 MZAMANE, Lwazi
 MZIZI, Liyema, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
 MZOBE, Noxolo
 MZOLO, Asanda
 NAICKER, Tenielle Annastasia
 NAIDOO, Shenka
 NANI, Amkhitha
 NCAPHAI, Siphokazi
 NCOKAZI, Boitumelo Peza
 NDLODAKA, Mihle, **with distinction in** Drama
 NDLOVU, Amanda
 NDLOVU, Sinenhlanhla
 NDOU, Ashton Khorommmbi
 NDOYANA, Sisipho
 NDUBELA, Linathi
 NELI, Ongeziwe
 NGALONKULU, Iviwe
 NGAMNTWINI, Sibulele

NGCABA, Zandi
NGOBO, Analo
NGUBO, Ntandoyenkosi Siphesihle
NGUYE, Chulumanco
NGWANE, Siboniso
NGXATA, Nondwe Primrose
NHLABATHI, Mzwakhe Mandla
NHLENGETHWA, Siphamandla, **with distinction in Economics**
NJOBE, Ukho Amvuye
NJOKO, Nothando Asanda
NJOKWENI, Zingaphi Zizikazi
NKOHLA, Sinesipho Zama
NKOMO, Melinna Taniah
NKOSI, Buhle Imahn
NKOSI, Cecilia Luyanda
NKOSI, Sibonakaliso Khethelo
NKUNA, Lesego Princess
NKWANYANA, Siphilile Sinenhlanhla
NOBADULA, Sonwabiso
NOFUNDE, Nomziyanda
NOGQALA, Ntando Kanya
NOMKOPO, Zamafaku
NONDZABA, Athi
NONGEBEZA, Sinathi
NOTI, Aphelele
NOTUKU, Liyabona
NQUMA, Silindokuhle
NQWENISO, Anam Jennifer
NSIBANDE, Nokulunga Akeda
NTEDISANG, Cinde-Lee Winkie
NTSHAKAZA, Lwando
NXUMALO, Nhlakanipho Phiwokuhle Hopewell
NYALA, Olwethu
NYANDA, Siphosethu
NYATHI, Hlelo
NYEDIMANE, Thapelo Elvis
OLAYI, Abusisiwe Lonah

OMAR, Mohammed
PETER, Zukhanye
PHINDANI, Sibongiseni
PHOLOGOLO, Mpho Keamogetsoe
PILISO, Chuma, **with distinction in** Drama
PLATT, Kyla Anne
POHL, Ezra Gabriel, **with distinction in** German Studies
POHL, Joshua Adam
PYLE, Serena Margaret
QINGANA, Takazelo Michelle
RALEPELI, Kopano Karabo
RALO, Indiphile Thanduxolo
REDDY, Leandra
RENAUD, Sabine Aurelia Shige, **with distinction in** Philosophy
ROBERTSHAW, Michael Craig
ROZANE, Nolwande
SAKI, Usiphe
SAM, Ayavuya
SANDI, Sisikelelwe Khayalentombi
SEBATA, Ayanda Lydia
SELOMANE, Moshe
SELUMI, Kago Forgiveness
SERWALO, Gomolemo
SESHIBE, Sello Tebogo
SHABANGU, Ntombizanele Thandekile
SHELENI, Andisa
SHIPALANA, Ntsako Lloyd
SIBAYA, Nothando Asanda
SIHLAHLA, Siyolise Soyama
SIKHAFUNGANA, Alizwa Mendy
SIKHWELA, Owam
SIMANGO, Tendai Lisa
SINEKE, Mbali
SINGATA, Ovayo Thimna
SITHOLE, Mvelo
SITHOLE, Rukudzo Great
SLOTILE, Kamva Ovayo

SMATA, Thabang Lovemore
 SMITH, Lihle
 SNANDILE, Qaphela Jasper
 SONGCATA, Sinesisa Phumela
 SONTSELE, Mondekazi
 SPAYILE, Nosibusiso
 SPRINGBOK, Aviwe
 STELLENBERG, Monsaniqué Tazlin
 STOFIE, Olwethu Grace
 STOFIE, Xhanti
 STUURMAN, Lacreitia, **with distinctions in** Afrikaans &
 Netherlandic Studies **and** Drama
 SWANEPOEL, Broghan Pieta, **with distinction in** Classics
 SWARTZ, Nuraan Jessie
 SWARTZ, Wendy Veronica
 TANDA, Thato Mpumelelo
 TEMBA, Kamohelo Khensane
 THAMAE, Bonolo
 THWALA, Slindokuhle
 TIZORA, Praise Paidá, **with distinction in** Journalism & Media
 Studies
 TSHABALALA, Lungile Mirriam Wonderful
 TSHAWÉ, Siyabonga Gift
 TSHUNUNGWA, Bulelani
 TSILI, Ayathandwa
 TULK, Elouise Allison
 TYHALWA, Nokukhanya Happygirl
 TYUSHA, Asathola
 VALELA, Zandile Zusonge
 VALIPHUMILE, Masithembe Musa
 VAN DER MERWE, Emily Melissa, **with distinctions in** Human
 Kinetics & Ergonomics **and** Organisational Psychology
 VITI, Masimbonge
 VUMBA, Sililiso Natasha
 WAIRE, Misheck Tonderai
 WAPHI, Bonga
 WEHR, Kristen, **with distinction in** Political & International Studies

WESSELS, Davian Nayne
WILLEMSE, Johannes
XABA, Nonjabulo Nosihle
YOSE, Aqhamile
ZIKHALI, Andiswa, **with distinction in** Drama
ZIKHALI, Ntokozo Luyanda
ZILANI, Sinokonwaba
ZITHA, Cynthia
ZITO, Silindokuhle
ZONDANI, Lazola
ZONYANI, Solwethu
ZWANE, Nompumelelo Cebile

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF FINE ART

BISSETT, Karisna, **with distinctions in** Art History & Visual Culture
and Fine Art Practice
HLATSHWAYO, Langa Dumisa
LAMOLA, Molebogeng Mothiba
MAAKE, Masaku Tony, **with distinctions in** Art History & Visual
Culture **and** Fine Art Practice
MABASA, Sbongile Glynis
MAPHUMULO, Snelihle Asanda, **with distinctions in** Art History &
Visual Culture **and** Fine Art Practice
NETJIES, Kamvelihle
NHLAPO, Noxolo Grace, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
NJOKWENI, Ezona, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
NKWALASE, Sabelo, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
THOMSON, Rebecca Catherine, **with distinction in** Art
History & Visual Culture

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (HONOURS)

BASI, Thulisa Tule, in Political & International Studies
BRITS, Nadine Sonja, in Anthropology, **with distinction**
CAKANA, Alizwa Precious, in African Language Studies

CELE, Nhlakanipho, in Political & International Studies, **with distinction**

CHIKUHLWA, Kyra Paidemwoyo, in Political & International Studies

DIKOBÉ, Regomoditswe Leboletswe, in Anthropology

DU PLESSIS, Jeneé Danielle, in Psychology

DUBE, Sibusisiwe Nonhlanhla Azola, in Organisational Psychology

DULAZE, Yomelela, in African Language Studies/Political & International Studies

FINGER, Lesedi, in Psychology, **with distinction**

FRAZER, Casey Mary-Claire, in Sociology

FUMBATA, Siphelele, in Anthropology, **with distinction**

GIBA, Kwakhanya Precious, in Political & International Studies

GUMBI, Zibele, in Psychology

GUMEDE, Ziphozonke, in Industrial & Economic Sociology

GWAYANA, Martha Bukho Nonelela, in Interdisciplinary Studies

HALE, Yolanda, in Psychology, **with distinction**

HERMUS, Trisha Yasmin, in Anthropology

HOYI, Anathi, in Political & International Studies

JAKO, Sinalo, in Political & International Studies, **with distinction**

JANTJIE, Imi, in Political & International Studies

JINGQI, Bathandwa, in Anthropology

KOBE, Oratile Kealeboga, in Anthropology

KULA, Onke Thamsanqela Lizwi, in African Language Studies

LETSEKA, Moipone Rebecca, in Anthropology

LUGOGWANA, Khanyisa, in Industrial & Economic Sociology

MABANDLA, Lusanda, in Interdisciplinary Studies

MABASO, Sandra, in Economics

MABENA, Bongile Millicent, in Development Studies

MABHULA, Onke, in Environmental Water Management

MAJODINA, Suphile Xoliswa Nonhlanhla, in Political & International Studies

MAKHATHINI, Olwethu Thabiso, in Environmental Science

MANKGA, Fortune Boshegoana, in Political & International Studies

MARAIS, Ernst Jacobus, in History

MASISI, Kutloano, in Political & International Studies

MATIWANE, Bulelwa, in Economics

MATOPE, Sanchez Nyasha, in Political & International Studies

MATYOLO, Emihle Zintle, in Environmental Science
 MAVUNDUKURE, Rumbidzai, in Economics
 MBULAWA, Ayanda Mitchel, in Philosophy
 MELAPHI, Sinoxolo, in Sociology
 MELATO, Vanessa, in Anthropology
 MFAKU, Yakhananinande, in Information Systems
 MGANDELA, Mivuyo, in African Language Studies
 MHLONGO, Musa, in Political & International Studies
 MKHANYA, Luleka, in Interdisciplinary Studies
 MOHLABENG, Mothelo Precious, in Psychology, **with distinction**
 MOKOENA, Hlengiwe Winnifred, in Industrial & Economic
 Sociology
 MONK, Bradley Wayne Michael, in Psychology
 MSEBI, Afikile, in Psychology, **with distinction**
 MSIZA, Babalwa Silindokhuhle Boitumelo, in Organisational
 Psychology
 MULEKA, Simbulele, in Journalism & Media Studies, **with
 distinction**
 MULUMBA, Desanka, in Political & International Studies, **with
 distinction**
 MUSUNGA, Mwenya David, in Philosophy
 MUTUNGWE, Nothando Tendai, in Sociology
 MVELASE, Luncedo Luyanda, in Linguistics & Applied Language
 Studies
 MZIMANE, Nomvuselelo Anitha, in Geography
 NDABA, Londeka Petronella, in Political & International Studies
 NGONYAMA, Athenkosi Sibusiso, in Sociology
 NGUBANE, Sindisiwe Joyce, in Political & International Studies
 NKUHLU, Ahlume, in Organisational Psychology
 NTLOKWANA, Asavela, in African Language Studies
 NYANGIWE, Zanoxolo, in Interdisciplinary Studies
 OTI, Christabel Agyemang, in Economics
 SONDZABA, Esethu, in Environmental Science
 TANA, Anesipho, in Economics
 TOWELL, Robyn Emily, in Industrial & Economic Sociology, **with
 distinction**
 VALLY, Tazmin Palesa, in Development Studies

WITBOOI, Hlumelo Olona, in Political & International Studies
XOLO, Sindi, in Linguistics & Applied Language Studies

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

BIKITSHA, Tina Sisanda, BA (Unisa), BSocSciHons (UFH), in Journalism & Media Studies, **with distinction**, in the School of Journalism and Media Studies. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Use of Social Media by Parents Raising Autistic Children in East London, South Africa. Supervisor: Dr C Uzuegbunam.
Co-Supervisor: Professor L Dalvit.

CHAKABUDA, Tatenda, BSocSciHons (Rhodes), in Psychology, in the Department of Psychology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Alcohol-Related Harm in Relation to Demographic Factors: A Longitudinal Analysis of South African University Students.
Supervisor: Dr S Zondo. Co-Supervisor: Professor CS Young.

MASHAMBA, Nyaradzo Faith, BScHons (Midlands State), in Development Studies, in the Department of Sociology. Degree by coursework and thesis. Thesis: Creating a home away from home: Examining the working conditions of housemothers employed in a public all-girls boarding school in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.
Supervisor: Mr KL Ntikinca.

MUFUKARI, Panashe, BSocSciHons (Rhodes), in Political & International Studies, **with distinction**, in the Department of Political and International Studies. Degree by coursework and thesis. Thesis: Labour in Global Value Chains: The Case of South African Fish Exporting Companies. Supervisor: Professor S Matthews.

ZONDI, Babazile Jessica Lerato, BAHons (Rhodes), in Sociology, in the Department of Sociology. Degree by coursework and thesis. Thesis: A critical exploration of the personal experiences of the shifting womanhoods practices and values between the traditional and contemporary contexts of the Basotho cultural group.
Supervisor: Dr TA Sipungu.

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 uthweswo-zidanga?

Uthweswo-zidanga lixesha lobhiyozo elikhulu kubafundi neentsapho zabo. Lixesha lokugcoloda nokuchulumancela impumelelo, ukuthatha imifanekiso nokugcina iinkumbulo, ukuqhwebela 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 isincedisela 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 ezingenangcambu 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 noMabhala-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.

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.