

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 the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Siphokazi Magadla, will present Ms Maureen Quin for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Dr Maureen Quin will address the Congregation.

The Dean of the Faculty will present the candidates for the award of Diplomas and the conferral of Degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctor of Philosophy.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) will present Professor Emeritus Ann Shuttleworth-Edwards for the Vice-Chancellor's Book 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

INgqungquthela iyacelwa ukuba iphakame ngexesha ikwayala icula uGaudeamus Igitur, kwaye uMkhosi wemithika ungena ngaphakathi.

INgqonyela imisela iNgqungquthela.

USekelangqonyela wamkela iNgqungquthela.

Intloko yeFakhalthi yeZoluntu, uNjingalwazi uSiphokazi Magadla, unikezela ngoNkosazana Maureen Quin owongwa ngesiDanga sobuGqirhalwazi kwezoMthetho, *honoris causa*.

UGqirhalwazi uMaureen Quin wenza intetho kwiNgqungquthela.

Intloko yeFakhalthi inikezela ngabaza kuwongwa ngeziDanga zeBachelor, ezeMaster kunye nezobuGqirhalwazi.

UMncedisi kaSekelangqonyela (uPhando, iNguqu noBambiswano lokuPhumeza iiNjongo zeYunivesithi) unikezela ngoNjingalwazi othathe umhlala-phantsi, uAnn Shuttleworth-Edwards owongwa ngeMbasa yeNcwadi kaSekelangqonyela.

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 dekaan van die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe, professor Siphokazi Magadla, sal me. Maureen Quin voorstel vir die doktorsgraad in die regte, *honoris causa*.

Dr. Maureen Quin sal die kongregasie toespreek.

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

Die onder-visiekanselier (navorsing, innovasie en strategiese vennootskappe) sal professor emeritus Ann Shuttleworth-Edwards vir die visiekanselier se boektoekenning 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 HUMANITIES

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

ADAM, Sonwabise
AGUMBA, Chidepere Mbalentle
ANTONI, Qamisa Live
AWASES, Sherleen Vivian
AZIH, Uchenna Reuben
AZUKA, Precious Chinyere, **with distinction in** Anthropology
BACELA, Sinovuyo
BACELA, Sinoxolo, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
BAKANA, Babalo Lutho, **with distinctions in** African Language
Studies **and** Drama
BALAKISI, Siphamandla, **with distinction in** IsiXhosa Language
Acquisition
BALOYI, Sukoluhle Wendy, **with distinctions in** Fine Art Practice
and Information Systems
BAMBISO, Nanda Banele
BANDA, Tshepang Lesley
BENNETT, Mitchell Gordon
BIXA, Mihlali
BLOUW, Jordyn Reece
BOBO, Anesipho
BOKO, Chulumanco
BROWN, David Simpiwe
BROWN, Taryn Rae Lindsay
BRUNETTE, Rachel Lynn
BUSIKA, Lubabalo
BUTHELEZI, Buhle
CARRINGTON, Courtney Tamryn
CELE, Bianca Lungelo
CELE, Luthando Sithembile Nompilo
CHAUKE, Ntsako Patience, **with distinction in** Journalism & Media
Studies
CHIPUNZA, Rumbidzai Ashlee
CHOKWE, Mashoto Madimetja

CUNGCU, Olunje
DHLAMINI, Thabang Thuto
DIKOTLA, Lesedi' Sechaba
DINDILI, Mlungisi Bealphi
DIRKSE, Quinn Jeffit
DLAMINI, Felicitus
DLAMINI, Lindokuhle
DLAMINI, Mazizi Victoria
DLWATHI, Asithandile, **with distinction in** Journalism & Media
Studies
DOLI, Tapelo
DOUBELL, Jared Ethan
DUBE, Blessings Masego
DUMELA, Thandokuhle
DYAFTA, Sive Neely
DYALOYI, Sanelisiwe
DYONASE, Cebokazi Siphe
EZEH, Shaylyn Chinyere
FAKUNI, Bulela
FALTEIN, Penelope Qhawe
FANI, Andile
FUNANI, Likho, **with distinction in** Instrumental Music Studies
GAGA, Sesethu
GAGA, Tabiso
GANISO, Siyakheka
GANYILE, Asiphe
GCIZINGANA, Siyamthanda
GCWATI, Thandile
GEORGE, Kerri-Anne Tasmin
GESWENDT, Robyn Jessie
GOBODWANA, Asakhe
GODWIN, Robin Mary
GOVENDER, Bianca Paige
GOVENDER, Melodie
GULUBELA, Okuhle, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
GULWA, Ayakha
GUMBI, Andiswa

GUNGXWANA, Philasande
GUZINSKI, Jessica Catherine
GXONONO, Lelethu
GXWALINTLOKO, Ziyanda
HAAKONSEN, Lineo Nicole
HERMANS, Awongwa Tito
HLATSHWAYO, Thobile
HLOPHE, Lizzy Thandolwethu, **with distinction in Instrumental Music Studies**
HOYI, Hlumelo
IZALLY, Shakira Aaliyah
JANSEN, Lizwa, **with distinction in African Language Studies**
JANTJIES, Sanelisiwe
JEGELS, Sarah-Claire
JEZILE, Ayabulela
JODWANA, Lathi-Tha
JONATHAN, Lefika Lee
KAHLANE, Junior Jack Tiisetso
KEKANA, Kgaogelo Bridget
KERSPUY, Jade Courtney
KESWA, Kamvelihle Nwabisa
KGAGE, Akofang Mukololo
KGATLE, Karabo Nicol, **with distinction in Economics**
KHOBANI, Vukona Worship
KHUMALO, Amanda Pamela
KILIMANI, Luphelele
KIVITTS, Devon Kyle
KLAAS, Dumisani Richard, **with distinction in Afrikaans & Netherlandic Studies**
KOFI, Khanyisa
KOFI, Liyabona
KONDILATI, Alakhe
KONDILE, Siyamthanda
KOPO, Mihlali
KUBEKA, Linah Ntokozo
KUHLANA, Onke
KWETA, Asemahle

LACKAY, J-Shin Jodeci Sherigan Kirston
LANGALISEKI, Njongo
LEE, Jade Mary, **with distinction in** Psychology
LETEBA, Tshireletso
LEWACK, Brooklyn Courtney, **with distinctions in** Human Kinetics &
Ergonomics **and** Psychology
LIWANI, Anele
LOLIWE, Owam
LOTTERING, Enver Christo, **with distinction in** Afrikaans &
Netherlandic Studies
LOWOLE, Zaithwa
LUDICK, Sarah Kathleen
LUKE, Asemahle
LUKHOZI, Minentle
LUMKWANA, Zukhanye
MAAOTLA, Olwethu
MABANGA, Vika
MABI, Lindumusa Unathi
MADUNA, Nonzwakazi Camngca
MADYAKA, Kamva
MAGAZI, Vheneka Roy Dakarayi, **with distinction in** Chinese Studies
MAGIDA, Siphesihle
MAGONGO, Anovuyo
MAGQAZA, Sinehlombe
MAGUGA, Indiphile
MAHLO, Gugulabazali Shaney
MAKASI, Khaya, **with distinctions in** Classics **and** Psychology
MAKHUBA, Rivoningo Ntwanano
MAKINANA, Zandile Sandisiwe
MAKU, Sibusiso
MALELE, Lethabo Corlette
MALEPE, Tumelo
MALIMA, Xola
MALULEKE, Zanele
MAMA, Chumisa, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
MANELI, Sikelelwa
MANENZHE, Phungo Mariana

MANGESI, Lisakhanya
MANYATI, Lukhanyo D’Oshea
MAPESELA, Nomaeza Lucia
MASANGO, Siphellele Lindokuhle
MASEKO, Nompilo Khanyisile
MASIMINI, Lubabalo
MASINYANA, Thandile
MATANZIMA, Sisipho Princess
MATEMANA, Phillan
MATHEBULA, Hero Tiyiselani
MATHEBULA, Tiyani Jones
MATHOHO, Rendani
MATLOU, Joseph Mashamba Lucas
MATSHAYA, Qiqa
MAVUSO, Kamva
MAXEGO, Asenathi Felicia
MAYA, Hlubikazi
MAYEKISO, Hlomla
MAYEKISO, Lisakhanya
MBATHA, Cleo Junior, **with distinction in** IsiXhosa Language
Acquisition
MBATHILE, Keamogetswe
MBEKWA, Inam
MBESA, Andile Thabiso, **with distinction in** Journalism & Media
Studies
MBHALATI, Cyntherea Nkateko
MBIKO, Andisiwe
MBIYO, Phindile, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
MBODLELA, Siphatisa
MBOYA, Buchule Aviwe
MCHUNU, Zamachunu
MCPHERSON, Liam August
MDLALOSE, Lwazi
MDLALOSE, Samukelisiwe Lotanang Lizel
MEAD, Amy Ann
MEKENI, Anathi Jennifer
MELAPI, Siphokuhle

MEMANI, Yolisa
MENTE, Welekazi
MGXOTENI, Liphopho
MHEYAMWA, Danisah Ruvimbo
MHLANGA, Thabang Isaac
MHLONGO, Nontando
MHLONGO, Rethabile Angela
MHLONGO, Ziyanda Khanyisile Nomasiko
MHLOPHE, Amahle Snegugu Sbusisekile
MJULENI, Buhle
MJULWA, Sivuyisiwe
MKHABELA, Maria Zanele
MKHATHALI, Anganathi
MKHATSHWA, Simphiwe Tebenguni, **with distinction in Political & International Studies**
MKHIZE, Atlegang Otshepeng
MKHIZE, Nompumelelo Angel
MLOBELI, Sesona Athenkosi
MLOKOTI, Khanya
MNCWABE, Amahle Lisanda
MNGQOLO, Dimitri
MOATSE, Lehlogonolo Evelyn
MOFAMATE, Deborah
MOFOKENG, George
MOGASHOA, Tebogo Segodi, **with distinction in Journalism & Media Studies**
MOHLALA, Molebogeng Onthatile
MOKAE, Modisagaarekoe Didintle Michael
MOKO, Ombesa
MOKWENA, Paballo Tshepiso Rorisang
MOLEKANE, Lethabo
MOLODI, Beng
MOTSHOBA, Cynthia Nande
MPAKO, Siyanda
MPANGE, Sinalo
MPUKUZELA, Minentle
MPUPA, Onesimo

MSIZA, Asakha Ayanda
MSWELI, Philile Gugu
MTHALANE, Sinenhlanhla Nobuhle
MTHOMBENI, Gugulethu Nomzamo
MTIYANE, Okuhle
MTONGANA, Siphesihle
MTSEWU, Uviwe Okuhle
MVAMBO, Mbalentle Nkcubeko
MVUNELO, Hlonipha
MZAWUZIWA, Qawe
NCAPAYI, Olwethu
NDABULA, Sazikazi Sinenhlanhla
NDINISA, Masande
NDWAYANA, Masiwonge
NGCAWE, Lihle, **with distinction in** Instrumental Music Studies
NGCINGWANA, Elethu
NGCOBO, Andile Samkelo
NGOBESE, Lwazi Philasande Thembelani
NGUGI, Brian Njua
NGWEKAZI, Sinokholo Thina
NGWENYA, Girlfina
NJEZA, Sikhona
NKETSHENI, Luyolo
NKOSI, Nkosana
NOBAZA, Vile Avuyile
NOKWE, Cingile
NOMBILA, Sinovuyo Hope, **with distinction in** Psychology
NOMBOMBO, Lindisipho
NONGAUZA, Indiphile
NORMAN, Khanya
NOSILELA, Amahle
NTHUNYA, Rosina
NTISA, Sikhusele
NTLANGANA, Kamvelihle
NTULI, Busisiwe Faith
NUKERI, Xihlovo Shaleen
OBASI, Great Chijioke

PAKGADI, Kamogelo Mokgohlwe, **with distinctions in** Psychology
and Sociology
PAPU, Yolanda
PENI, Asiphelona
PETER, Hlumela
PHANYA-PHANYA, Anelisa
PHOKO, Sisipho, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
PIENAAR, Michaela
PIETERSE, Batroniesa, **with distinction in** Afrikaans & Netherlandic
Studies
PIETERSE, Vuyolwethu
PILANE, Pako Neo
QOTOYI, Yonda
QWELA, Neema
RAMARHU, Masala
RAMASAWMY, Zoë Ileana, **with distinctions in** Classics **and**
Psychology
RAMASHILO, Tumisho Lesibe Frans
RAMBA, Onele Manelisi
RANTAO, Palesa Rose
RANTJIE, Bunono Lesedi
RAPODILE, Moteane Petrus, **with distinction in** Instrumental Music
Studies
RASIMENI, Athenkosi Zintathu
RATHBONE, Patrick Douglas
RATHOD, Amita, **with distinction in** Classics
ROUX, Jano Rouhan
RWAMBI, Okuhle
SABA, Mihle
SAPTOE, Sherwin
SELANI, Akhona
SELAO, Nokuthula
SHEMA, Luyanda Eyenhlanhla
SHWALA, Prayer, **with distinction in** Instrumental Music Studies
SIBANDE, Lungile Philadi
SIBUTHA, Nozuko

SIBUYI, Jessicah Hlengiwe
SIGWEBELA, Iphendule
SIJENDU, Likhona
SIKAFU, Andisiwe
SIKINA, Libone Mpho
SIKITHI, Liso
SIKO, Ibanathi Ogiyonke
SIMON, Jade
SITHOLE, Sizwe Salome
SIWA, Esethu
SIWADAWADA, Akonaho
SIWELA, Mhlahli
SIXAXA, Siyabonga Sydney
SIYALI, Angel Ovayo Phelela
SMITH, Cleo Ruth
SOMANDI, Anovuyo
SONAMZI, Sinalo, **with distinction in** Classics
STOBBS, Roslyn Emily, **with distinction in** Afrikaans &
Netherlandic Studies
STONGA, Emihle
STRYDOM, Ané
STRYDOM, Luka
SWARTBOOI, Awonke
TALI, Lisakhanya
THELEJANE, Mosa
THULELO, Khanya, **with distinction in** Instrumental Music Studies
THYSE, Noah Sean
TITUS, Musa
TJALE, Mpho Gift
TLOU, Motsei Ditsamai
TSHABALALA, Edward
TSHENTU, Kuhlekonke
TSHUKULANA, Sonwabo
TSOLO, Okuhle
TSOMO, Yonela Lihle, **with distinction in** African Language Studies
TYHALITI, Liso
TYITYI, Ntutuzelo

TYOTA, Sisipho
VALELA, Zubenam
VAN AST, Martin Isaak, **with distinctions in** Human Kinetics &
Ergonomics **and** Psychology
VAN DER LITH, Donna-Lee
VERMAAK, Curt Razaak
VILAKAZI, Mabasazi Promise
VILAKAZI, Mpho
WHITTAL, Rebecca Joy, **with distinction in** Chinese Studies
XABA, Nontokozo Nomonde
XABANISA, Anovuyo
XENZA, Sinenjongo Owam, **with distinction in** Psychology
XWETHU, Sinoyolo
YAPHIE, Philasande
YATES, Duncan Christopher Alistair
ZANI, Philisa Ntombizanele
ZONDANI, Luvuyo, **with distinction in** Sound Technology
ZONDI, Siboniso
ZONDO, Siyanda Dumisani Hopewell
ZONO, Lindokuhle
ZONO, Nomfundo Innocentia
ZULU, Noluthando Comfort Samukelisiwe
ZUNGU, Zenani Alindele

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF FINE ART

DANIEL, Monique, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
GERMOND, Zaza Idelette, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
GXIYA, Khakhalethu
LOBB, Jessica Amy, **with distinction in** Classics
NTOMBANA, Sive, **with distinctions in** Art History & Visual Culture
and Fine Art Practice
PORTHEN, Cee-Jay Harry, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
QOKO, Sipiwe-Sami Anele, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice
SPEELMAN, Onikayo
VOLKER, Sarah Leigh, **with distinction in** Fine Art Practice

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MUSIC

FAKUDE, Sakhile Hope, **with distinction**

KOELA, Moleboheng Matshediso

MAKGATO, Musa

MATI, Malibongwe Ntsikomzi

MOLOKWU, Thebe Michael

MONEL, Seretse Eli

SOPELETSILE, Kabelo Eddie P

THERON, Wilene

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

MNYAKAMA, Sinazo

SIMELANE, Siviwe, **with distinction**

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM

LEPONESA, Maleruo

MATALAJOE, Karabo

MBATHA, Nomfundo Londiwe

MOKONYANE, Chalotte, **with distinction**

NJEMLA, Dideka Vuyo, **with distinction**

NTSALUBA, Gcina

PHEME, Malebo

DEGREE OF MASTER OF FINE ART

EDOM, Jascy-Leigh, BFA (Rhodes), in the Department of Fine Art. Degree by practice as research and thesis. Practical component: Family tree: Growing through grief. Thesis: Making art and the memory of place. Supervisor: Ms R Munnick.

Co-supervisor: Professor S Fóláránmí.

LÉ KAY, Caryn Britney, BFA (Rhodes), in the Department of Fine Art. Degree by practice as research and thesis. Practical component: The

remnants of space. Thesis: Safe space? A visual dialogue through the art of trace-making and storytelling. Supervisor: Professor M de Jager. Co-supervisor: Professor R Simbao.

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

NGOBENI, Nyiko Condry, BTech (TUT), MMus (Longy), in Music, in the Department of Music and Musicology. Degree by thesis. Thesis: An assessment of the work-readiness of graduates of vocal studies at universities in the Eastern Cape. Supervisor: Dr L Watkins.

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, 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 abasithwesweyo.

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 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 iqinisekisewe yiNgqonyela eye ibabethe entloko noMabhala-jikelele 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 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 kleres 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.