

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 Leleti Khumalo for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Dr Leleti Khumalo will address the Congregation.

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

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs) will present Professor Sioux McKenna for the Vice-Chancellor's Senior Distinguished Teaching 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 uLeleti Khumalo owongwa ngesiDanga sobuGqirhalwazi kwezoMthetho, *honoris causa*.

UGqirhalwazi uLeleti Khumalo wenza intetho kwiNgqungquthela.

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

Umncedisi kaSekelangqonyela (imiCimbi yezeMfundo naBafundi) wazisa ngoNjingalwazi uSioux McKenna owongwa ngeMbasakaSekelangqonyela yokuba nguMhlohli oGqwesileyo kudidi looXholovane.

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. Lelethi Khumalo vir die Doktorsgraad in die Regte, *honoris causa*, voorstel.

Dr. Lelethi Khumalo sal die kongregasie toespreek.

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

Die Adjunkvisekanselier (Akademiese en studente-aangeleenthede) sal professor Sioux McKenna vir die Visekanselier se Senior Toekenning vir Voortreflike Onderrig 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 EDUCATION

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (Foundation Phase Literacy Teaching)

BALOYI, Basambilu Star, **with distinction**
BALOYI, Sindile Vinolia, **with distinction**
BALOYI, Tintswalo Shawn, **with distinction**
CHABALALA, Makopa Rainy
FISHA, Maserole Blantinah, **with distinction**
HAMISI, Hudivhannyi, **with distinction**
KHOSA, Vongani Susan, **with distinction**
KWINDA, Mashudu, **with distinction**
LEDWALA, Mashela Sandra, **with distinction**
MABOYA, Manthipileng Carol
MABULA, Ursula Nape Pontsho, **with distinction**
MACHABA, Thendo Comfortous, **with distinction**
MACHWEU, Patricia Mapula
MAEKO, Melidah Lucia, **with distinction**
MAGAELA, Glotildah Puseletso, **with distinction**
MAHLANGU, Tiisetso
MAKWALA, Dikeledi Bridget
MAKWALA, Mmatsee Adelaide
MALATJI, Maleeto Caroline
MASHELE, Patricia Phikiwe, **with distinction**
MASHITA, Mmaphuti Cathrine, **with distinction**
MASINGA, Pertunia Catherine, **with distinction**
MATLALA, Letletse Maria, **with distinction**
MATLOU, Christina Mokgaetji, **with distinction**
MATSETSE, Sellele Mavis, **with distinction**
MONAMA, Ramadimetja Maria, **with distinction**
MOTSABI, Maipato, **with distinction**
MOYO, Dalphy Terence, **with distinction**
MPOFU, Mampete Kholofelo, **with distinction**
MUCHAVI, Tinyiko Mavis
NGOVENI, Sinny Godwill, **with distinction**
NKUNA, Surprise Mathildah, **with distinction**

PADI, Elizabeth, **with distinction**
RACHIDI, Maphale Zebulon, **with distinction**
RAMAWELA, Rebecca Maruping, **with distinction**
RAMOSA, Florence Molebatsi
RAMOTHWALA, Yulenda, **with distinction**
RAMPEDI, Motsatsi Nancy, **with distinction**
SAKO, Lorna Pheeha
SEBOKO, Gladness Lesedi
SELALE, Life
SEMATA, Georgina Sewela, **with distinction**
THOBEJANE, Kgohu Daphney, **with distinction**
THOKWANE, Kekola Maggy, **with distinction**
TOLO, Pitsi Lynah

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
(Foundation Phase Teaching)

ADONIS, Elnorah Deborah
ANDREWS, Stephney
BATSHAMIKI, Keikantsemang Hilda
BEDENI, Olwam
BOKO, Nandipha Nosakhe
BOYI, Owethu Ovayo
CANNON, Renita Joan Elizabeth
CANNON, Tazmin Zeta, **with distinction**
CINANI, Anathi, **with distinction**
CUNTSULANA, Busiswa
DIPALI, Chanele Modine
DIPHAKEDI, Gasenna Grace
DOYI, Liziwe Mavis
DUBULA, Ziyanda Mavis
FRANCE, Nomsa Levitta
GCWABE, Emihle
GILLIES, Caylin Chervon
GININDA, Thuliswa
GODLOZA, Lucia

GROENER, Abigail Alethea
HING, Jade Elizabeth
JABARI, Mpho Rosina
JIKA, Bomikazi
JONAS, Leizl Theresa
KHOSA, Lunghile
KOBÄ, Lindiwe
KRISJAN, Yolande Kennedean
LANGENI, Tembakazi Mercia
LEBOGANG, Keboemetse Petunia
MAAKE, Vutomi
MABUTO, Zameka
MAGODLA, Zona Kamva
MAGWENZI, Trish Rutendo
MAHLANGU, Samkelisiwe Noluthando
MAKAE, Buhle
MALULEKE, Thapelo Nyiko
MANGESANA, Akhona
MANTYONTYELA, Analo
MAPENA, Thembakazi
MARAIS, Zoë
MARANJANA, Nontsingiselo
MASHIANE, Lethabo Jacky
MATEYISE, Nomakhaya
MATILO, Oreeditse Patience
MAWONGA, Funeka Patricia
MAXAKANA, Noxolo
MAYEKI, Asanda Amanda
MBOTYA, Buyelwa Faith
MENGU, Clementian Vuyolwethu
MGANDELA, Khanya
MGODUKA, Likuwe
MGWIGWI, Nwabisa
MHLABA, Nokuthula
MHLANGA, Hope Yandisa
MJEKULA, Thotyelwa Olivia
MJIBA, Bomkazi

MNINZI, Lungiswa Hilda
MOGASWE, Pelonomi Cynthia
MOKATO, Mamello Victoria
MOMBERG, Callum
MROBO, Nandipha Gloria
MTSHAKAZI, Nozuko Cornicia
NCWADI, Musa
NDLOVU, Busisiwe Precious
NDUVA, Seyamiso
NDZAWWE, Nandipha Princess
NDZHOVELA, Doreen Ebenezer
NGOEPE, Geraldine
NGWANE, Kediemetse Ivy
NJOLOZA, James
NKAWULE, Yolanda
NNOSANG, Boitumelo Yvonne
NOJUBALALA, Bulelwa
NOTSHE-NDUNENI, Nomawethu Florence
NYABA, Nosicelo
NYAMA, Ayanda
NYITANA, Asakhe
O'BRIEN, Keziah Kelyn
PANGOMSO, Olona
PHIKA, Busisiwe Portia
PRITCHARD, Kiara Gia
QELEWA, Nikilitha
RADEBE, Nofika Princess
SETLABA, Calestina Mohle
SHINTA, Asanda
SHUMANE, Zizikazi
SIMELANE, Ayanda Innocentia
SIMMONS, Jalin Michelle Tillian
SIPOLO, Elihle Pretty
SITHULI, Akhona
SIYOLO, Ntombikayise Adelaide
SKOSANA, Ntombizifikile
SOUTHEY, Erin Montagu

STUURMAN, Andiswa
TOKO, Neliswa
VAN VUUREN, Lané
VOLKERS, Camelita Maritza
WISO, Olwethu
XOMA, Linabile

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION SENIOR PHASE AND
FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING TEACHING
(Mathematics Teaching)

BOOI, Tandazwa
CHAGI-MNYAMENI, Unathi, **with distinction**
GUDLINDLU, Mandiluve
HINA, Brenda Norhandle
JONGILANGA, Gcobani
KALENI, Nomathamsanqa
KHWEZA, Soyisile
KUPISO, Refuwe
MAKOYI, Zuziwe Hilda
MAYONGO, Liziwe
MBANDAZAYO, Lupumlo
MELANE, Vuyokazi Viora
MGOQI, Nomfuzo
MHLUNGU, Tantaswa Hazel, **with distinction**
MKIZE, Tamsanqa Isaac
MPOFU, Welcome
MVILA, Silindelo
NDIBONGO, Teresita De Jesus
NDLODAKA, Odwa
NDULI, Senyukelo
NDZIMANDE, Bongumusa
NGQONGQO, Novelephi
NOTUTELA, Nomvuzo Theodora
PHAKATHI, Lindani Bhekithemba
SESHEA, Rapelang Sydney
SIKWEZA, Gcobisa

WASE, Lisolethu

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION
(Foundation Phase Teaching)

SISILANA, Athi-Lwanda

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION
(Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Teaching)

AMNER, Sebastian John

BABA, Sive

BAILEY, Monique Ilse

BANGISO, Nomthandazo

BEDSER, Matthew, **with distinction**

BEKEQULA, Ntombisithi

BILANA, Zizile

BIYANA, Asonge

BOOI, Lisakhanya

BOOYSEN, Haydrian Curtus

BUNGE, Thabsile

BURGESS, Conway Luke

CAKANA, Alizwa Precious

CHIDI, Kamogelo Mitchelle

CUBEKA, Mkhanyiseli

DE KLERK, Douglas Julius

DLAMINI, Thamsanqa Mfanafikile

DONYELI, Lindani Peter

DUBAZANE, Kwandiswa Khulekani

DUBE, Noluthando

FOBE, Okuhle

FOCA, Pamella Primrose

FUNDA, Thozama

GAOSENKOE, Paballo

GROOTBOOM, Nwabisa

GWENXE, Zamadinda

HAFE, Alizwa

JACKSON, Victoria Elizabeth
JASS, Duran John
JIJANA, Ayanda Nana, **with distinction**
KALANI, Onke
KHESWA, Ayanda
KHEWU, Porsha Sive
KHONYANA, Afika
KHOZA, Confidence
KITI, Siphamandla
KOLISI, Zubenathi
KOPO, Khanyisa
KOSANI, Nobuhle
LIMAPI, Phiwokuhle Yolisile
LISTER, Russell Crawford, **with distinction**
LOLIWE, Ongezwa
MABODLA, Sanelise Gary, **with distinction**
MADYINI, Njongo, **with distinction**
MAGOSO, Samkelisiwe, **with distinction**
MAHLAULE, Vuxaka, **with distinction**
MAKALIMA, Lulibo Azukiwe
MAKHAVHU, Phalanndwa Patrick
MAKI, Inga
MAMVE, Kanya
MAMVE, Son
MANKUNTYWANA, Asemahle, **with distinction**
MATIWANE, Bulelwa
MATIWANE, Lusanda
MATSHOTYANA, Siphamandla
MBALI, Sinovuyo
MBAXA, Sinentlahla
MBODLA, Mihlali
MENE, Mihlali Onam
MJEKULA, Sinovuyo
MJEZU, Mihlali
MKAZA, Nonkululeko
MKIZWANA, Gcinile, **with distinction**
MLOTSHWA, Uyanda Akhona

MSIBI, Nothando, **with distinction**
MTHINTO, Luyanda
MTSHAWULANA, Siphethuxolo
MTSHELU, Sesethu, **with distinction**
MYEKI, Ntombikayise, **with distinction**
NDUBELA, Linathi, **with distinction**
NDZOBONGO, Akule
NELI, Ongeziwe
NGAM, Buhle
NJINGOLO, Lufefe
NJOKO, Nothando Asanda
NJOTI, Zinzi
NOBANGELA, Iviwe, **with distinction**
NOMAQHIZA, Yolokazi
NOMBANJANA, Thandiwe Anesipho
NOMBEWU, Sinoxolo Elove
NONKWENKWE, Eliza
NOQAKALA, Emihle
NOQAYI, Yonela
NORMAN, Khanya
NTENGENYANE, Nontathu
NUNU, Lwazi
NZUZO, Sakhele
PHIWAYO, Nyameka
PONDO, Yibanathi, **with distinction**
RAISIBE, Palesa
SCOTT, Sean Christopher
SIGOLOZANA, Sisipho
SINGATA, Ovayo Thimna
SIWEYA, Botshelo Charmaine
SOBOPHA, Siyabonga
SOMPANI, Lisakhanya
SONGONGO, Anesipho, **with distinction**
SPARKS, James Peter, **with distinction**
TATA, Ayanda
TSHITHUKHE, Adivhaho Martia
TYHALWA, Nokukhanya Happygirl, **with distinction**

TYHOBA, Nolwethu
VOXEKA, Nothukela, **with distinction**
XOLO, Zandiswa
ZINGELA, Luthando

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ALLSOBROOK, Christopher John
ANTONI, Xolile Lucas
CHIKIWA, Samukeliso
EGUNLUSI, Ayodeji Olatunde, **with distinction**
FORSSMAN, Timothy Robin, **with distinction**
GWALA, Lindokuhle
HELLEMANN, Phemelo Cordelia, **with distinction**
KLAAS-MAKOLOMAKWE, Gladys Nkareng
LUKHELE, Themba Mfanafuthi
MABATE, Blessing
MAKUZVA, Washington
MAQUBELA, Lucille Nonzwakazi
MHLARI, Rudzani Marry
MNQETA, Zezethu
MTYELWA, Chuma
MUSODZA, Belinda Rindai, **with distinction**
MUTAMISWA, Reyard, **with distinction**
NDUKU, Xola Pauline, **with distinction**
NEDZIWE, Cecilia Lwiindi, **with distinction**
NGANTWENI, Xolelwa, **with distinction**
NGCOZA, Vusumzi
NODANGALA, Norless Zibele
PITSO-MBILI, Adeliade Rethabile Motshabi
QIKANI, Siphokazi
UZUEGBUNAM, Chikezie Emmanuel, **with distinction**
XABA, Lucky Nomusa, **with distinction**

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN
BILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR DIVERSITY AND ACCESS

MPAXA, Lizeka Thembela
PRINCE, Hope
SENGA, Sphesihle, **with distinction**

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN
EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

BARNARDT, Lizé
BRIDGER, Sasha-Lee Tasmin
BUSHER, Gizelle Kaydene, **with distinction**
GCASAMBA, Khanyisa
HULU, Phelela
NJEZA, Mawande
NQONO, Sanelisiwe
TROLLIP, Ruth Shirley, **with distinction**
TYALA, Aviwe
VOKWANA, Nomaxabiso Precious

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

BOOI, Zanele Alberica
DLAMINI, Naledi Tanya
KEYE, Vuyolwetu
MBOTOZA, Sibongile
SMAILE, Lamla Oyama

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

ADAMS, Phozisa
CUNNINGHAM, Shaney Melissa
KAREL, Mabel Keneilwe
LUKWE, Athenkosi

MANDERE, Kelvin
MNGQIBISA, Axole
MSUTU, Anathi, **with distinction**
MXABANGELI, Tingazwa Linah

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN
MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

ALLY, Ilyaas, **with distinction**
LUYABA, Thembaletu
MBANGATA, Luyanda, **with distinction**
NDLOLE, Avuma
USORE, Tendai, **with distinction**
WILKINSON, Heather Angela, **with distinction**

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN
PRIMARY EDUCATION

CHASO, Yonelani
GIGABA, Akhona Janine
MAGWEVANA, Esethu
MAKALO, Gcobisa
MAKAYA, Laeticia Mmanoko
MANTYI, Lihle
MAQOLO, Ubenam
MATYA, Siyasamkela
MZOBE, Sisekelo Olwami Sinenhlanhla
NDINISA, Simyaleza Anesipho
ROBERTSON, Craig Campbell
THIAM, Bouso

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN
SCIENCE EDUCATION

MOJELA, Benny
MTHIYANE, Mthiyane Louw
NGEYAKHE, Paula

DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION

BENNETT, Justine Caroline, BFA, HDip (Education) (Rhodes), in Education, in the Institute for the study of the Englishes of Africa. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Investigating IsiXhosa Home Language teachers' practices for advancing reading for meaning-making: A case of three Grade 2 teachers in the Sarah Baartman District. Supervisor: Professor M Mbelani.

MALEMELA, Makgwedi Calendula, BSc (Limpopo), PGCE (Unisa), BEdHons Rhodes), in Science Education, in the Department of Secondary and Post-School Education. Degree by thesis. Thesis: From field to classroom: Bridging maize farming and mechanical energy conservation. Supervisor: Professor Emeritus K Ngcoza. Co-supervisor: Professor C Simuja.

MLUNGU, Fezile Cecil, BA (Education) (UNITRA), BPhil (Stell), PGDip (HE) (Rhodes), in Higher Education, **with distinction**, in the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning. Degree by thesis. Thesis: Investigating design principles for lecturers using Learning Management System data in large first-year university courses. Supervisor: Dr N Pallitt.

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

VORSTER, Kelly Michelle, MA (Rhodes), in Education, in the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning. Degree by thesis. Thesis: “It’s not just about me”: A social realist study of responsibility, voice, and becoming for Humanities students at a South African university. Supervisor: Professor MAL Blackie.

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 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 noMabhala-jikelele weYunivesithi oye abaxakathise. Iintloko zamasebe, iimfundimanekunye nalo lonke uluntu lweYunivesithi, bayabukela – bebhioyozela 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 bstry 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.