

**Welcome Message from the  
Vice-Chancellor, Dr Saleem Badat**

A warm welcome to all our new students to Rhodes University and Grahamstown! After a quiet few months, it is wonderful to have our campus and town buzzing again with your animated conversations, laughter and energy.

You join Rhodes as among the most intellectually talented women and men of our society. You have made an inspired choice in choosing Rhodes, given our proud record of cultivating high quality graduates and producing knowledge that can contribute to economic and social development and creating a more just society.

Rhodes is a place of *knowledge – indawo yolwazi*. By joining Rhodes you commit yourself to learning, research and community engagement, and the pursuit of knowledge that can help us understand and change our country and world for the better.

Our University slogan is *Where Leaders Learn*. This expresses our goal to produce graduates who are both knowledgeable and skilled professionals, as well as critical intellectuals and caring and compassionate people.

The years that you will spend with us are an exciting new phase in your intellectual and personal development. Our academics, administrators and support staff all work hard so that you can fulfil your potential and dreams.

We have among the best undergraduate pass and graduation rates, postgraduate success rates, and research output per academic staff member in South Africa. Grab the opportunities that Rhodes provides to develop your intellect, talents and promise to the full.

Orientation Week is an opportunity to discover Rhodes, the academic courses that we offer and the support that is available to help you succeed. Choose the courses that excite *you* and are appropriate to *your* interests and abilities.

Discover the wide range of community engagement, cultural and sport activities that you can participate in through various clubs and societies. These activities are a way to acquire wider knowledge, awareness, expertise, and skills, and should be seen as part of your overall education and development while at Rhodes.

You will soon discover that reading for a Rhodes University degree is challenging. Please take seriously the considerable demands that academic study will make on your mind and time. It is very important that you strike a good balance between the requirements of your academic studies and the many temptations of a vibrant campus life.

Your future is in your hands. I wish you an exciting, rewarding and productive 2014 and look forward to meeting you.