

NEW STAFF WELCOME

23 August 2007

The Vice-Principal, Deans, Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues

Good evening and welcome to the new staff party.

And to the new staff in particular, on behalf of Rhodes University a warm welcome to the Rhodes community.

This evening's gathering is to officially welcome you to Rhodes (and perhaps Grahamstown), and an effort to make you feel part of the Rhodes community. It is also an opportunity for you to meet and chat with other new staff members, share initial experiences of Rhodes and perhaps Grahamstown, as well as tips of how to cope and get on top with the new environment that you find yourselves in.

Just over ** new staff members have joined Rhodes University in recent months. Whoever you may be - new academic, administrator, technician, messenger, cook, cleaner, or gardener – and for whatever reason you have joined Rhodes University, I hope this will be a hospitable environment in which you can grow and develop personally, socially and intellectually.

You are joining an institution that is first and foremost a place of knowledge, a place of learning. Everything that you do, that we do and that I do must be geared towards contributing to and supporting the production and dissemination of knowledge, and ensuring that there is an environment at Rhodes – intellectual, cultural, social and physical – that is conducive to the development of students, academics and, indeed, all members of Rhodes.

As academics it is our responsibility to develop the intellectually talented women and men of our society and produce high quality graduates who have the knowledge, skills and values to make a significant contribution to economic and social development, and an equitable, just and democratic society.

As administrators and support staff we must create the best possible conditions to support our academics and students so that as a University we can achieve our goals and fulfil our responsibilities. This requires

- Integrity and honesty in conduct and dealings with students and other staff
- Commitment to undertaking responsibilities to the best of our abilities

- Thinking critically and regularly about our work, and how we can improve our performance and our departments/sections, and how the University as a whole can improve its performance
- Not being afraid of taking initiative in meeting challenges
- Making use of the opportunities that the University provides to improve your knowledge and skills
- Willingness to 'go the extra mile' and serve 'beyond the call of duty', and
- A critical loyalty to the academic and social goals of the University.

As a University has a vital contribution to make to the development of our country and continent and of new generations of students and scholars. You have a vital role to play in helping us to make this contribution and also ensuring that we are indeed an institution *Where Leaders Learn!*

My door and those of Deans HoDs and supervisors are always open to you should you wish to discuss anything.

I wish you a long, productive, fulfilling, and successful career at Rhodes.