

## NEW STAFF WELCOME

3 MARCH 2006

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues

Good evening and welcome to the new staff party.

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

This evening's gathering is to officially welcome you to Rhodes (and perhaps Grahamstown), and another attempt to make you feel part of the whole 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 50 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, 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 guided by and 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 intellectual, social and personal development of students, academics and, indeed, all members of Rhodes.

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 you and I have to 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 other staff and students
- Commitment to undertaking responsibilities to the best of our abilities

- Thinking critically and regularly about your work, and how you can improve your performance and your department/section and the University as a whole can improve its performance
- Being prepared to take 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
- Loyalty to the academic and social goals of the University.

Rhodes 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 huge and important role to play in helping us to make this contribution and also ensuring that we are an institution *Where Leaders Learn!*

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