



## DR. SALEEM BADAT, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF RHODES UNIVERSITY



Dr. Saleem Badat, the Vice Chancellor of Rhodes University and a recognized authority on higher education policy issues in South Africa, is visiting the USA from June through to September 2012. Based at the University of California in Berkeley, he will spend a short sabbatical completing his latest book *The Forgotten People: Political Banishments under Apartheid*. He will also spend time in Los Angeles, Seattle, New York and Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Badat is a highly regarded opinion leader on education policy, transformation and leadership ethics and an outspoken advocate for educational reform in South Africa. Whilst in the USA, he will speak to new areas of science, research and innovation currently being explored at Rhodes University. These include:

- Negotiations currently underway for Rhodes (along with Fort Hare and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Universities) to submit a bid to become a UNESCO Category 1 Water Research Institute.
- The University, despite its relative size and location in the country's poorest province, the Eastern Cape, enjoys an international reputation for outstanding teaching, learning and community engagement. It is also internationally recognized as a center for research excellence. The recent awarding of 15 chairs under the South African Research Chairs Initiative "is a testimony to Rhodes' commitment to knowledge and its outstanding track record in research." One of these, the prestigious SARChI Square Kilometer Array (SKA) Chair in Radio Astronomy Techniques, has recently been filled by Professor Oleg Smirnov.
- South Africa has just been awarded joint-host country status with Australia for SKA. Rhodes University played a significant role in South Africa's bid through Physics & Electronics Professor Justin Jonas, who is also the associate director for science and engineering at the SKA. Rhodes already has students on SKA scholarships in key areas such as mathematics and thereby hopes to further support the expansion of South Africa's knowledge economy.

Constitutional democracy in 1994 ushered in new imperatives, obligations and responsibilities, as well as new challenges and opportunities for South African universities. Under Badat's leadership, Rhodes has been recognized for being at the forefront of cutting-edge research. A new partnership between the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation and Rhodes University has led to the establishment of the Allan Gray Center for Leadership Ethics. The Center serves to grow understanding of responsible and ethical leadership, with a view to promoting and fostering such leadership in diverse contexts.

Badat has led the university in championing strategic responses to the growing education crisis in South Africa. This approach is best evidenced by the education faculty's professional teacher development program. He hopes this initiative will serve as a model for how university expertise and resources can be leveraged, through targeted and relevant community engagement and in so doing make an important contribution to changing the overall education landscape.

Similarly, the Rhodes Confucius Institute within The School of Languages has made significant strides in making its higher education facilities and various community



engagement projects more accessible to those who are not first-language English speakers. This being just one of several partnerships Rhodes University is fostering with Chinese institutions.

Notably, the university's prestigious School of Journalism and Media Studies hosts the Highway Africa conference, which is the largest annual gathering of economic journalists on the African continent, placing Rhodes in the forefront of ongoing debates around access to information in South Africa.

---

*Dr Badat is currently Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University. He was previously the first Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Higher Education in South Africa, which advises the Minister of Higher Education & Training on higher education policy issues. He holds Bachelors and Honors degrees in the Social Sciences from the University of Natal, a Certificate in Higher Education and Science Policy from Boston University (United States), and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology from the University of York (United Kingdom). In 2004 Dr. Badat was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Free State for 'outstanding achievements in the shaping of policies and practices of the higher education environment'. In 2008, he received another honorary doctorate, from the University of York, his alma mater. In the same year, he also received the Inyathelo Exceptional Philanthropy Award. Dr Badat is the author of *Black Man, You are on Your Own* (2010) and *Black Student Politics, Higher Education and Apartheid* (2002); co-author of *National Policy and a Regional Response in South African Higher Education* (2004); and co-editor of *Apartheid Education and Popular Struggles in South Africa* (1990).*