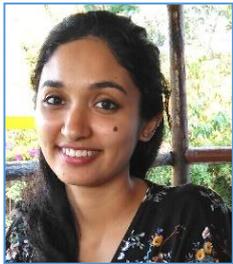




Emma Dreyer (St Andrew's/DSG, 2020)



Kgosietsile Diphokwane (SA-at-Large, 2020)



Lisha Jeena (KwaZulu-Natal, 2020)



Seluleko Ngcobo (SA-at-Large, 2020)



Natali van Zijl (Paul Roos/Rhenish Girls, 2020)

# THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF RHODES SCHOLARS

## BON VOYAGE

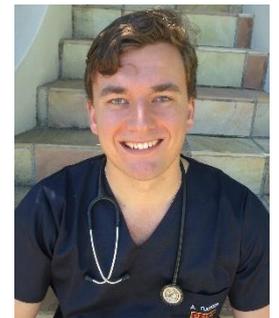
THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2020



Muhammed Razzak (Diocesan College, 2020)



Towera Moyo (BLMNS/Malawi, 2020)



Andrew Tucker (SACS, 2020)



Tala Ross (SA-at-Large, 2020)



Nerissa Naidoo (SA-at-Large, 2020)

Rhodes Scholars from across the world and across the decades joined staff and Friends of the Rhodes Trust for the first ever virtual *Bon Voyage* on 17 September 2020. The Scholars met the 2020 Scholars-Elect from the African constituencies (Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, East Africa and West Africa), welcomed them into the Rhodes community, and wished them well with their travels and studies at Oxford University in the years ahead.

The Alumni Affairs Team at Rhodes House, working with the SAARS Committee, comprising **Lisa Klein** (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's, 1994), **Charne Lavery** (South Africa-at-Large & Balliol, 2008) and **Sha'ista Goga** (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's, 2004), choreographed a wonderful programme which featured an inspirational keynote address by **Edwin Cameron** (SA-at-Large & Keble 1976) and a wonderful talk by **Elizabeth Kiss** (Rhodes House Warden, Virginia & Balliol 1983).

Edwin delivered a powerful plenary, which touched on topics such as moral complexity, cancel culture and the silver lining of online virtual events. The Warden addressed strategic imperatives and some of the challenges faced by the Trust this year.

The Scholars-Elect from across Africa were introduced to the Rhodes Scholar community by **Nick Ferreira** (Deputy National Secretary, SA-at-Large & Wolfson 2003); and each briefly shared their Oxford hopes, dreams and aspirations. The National Secretary of Southern Africa, **Ndumiso Luthuli** (KZN & St Peter's 2000) welcomed the Scholars into the Rhodes community and wished them *Hamba kahle!*

This year's virtual event was the first time that Scholars from across the African continent were able to participate in *Bon Voyage*. **Andrew Craig** (St Andrew's (Grahamstown) & St John's 2008) commented: *"I thought the virtual Bon Voyage worked surprisingly well! I was worried that because we've all been on a million Zoom calls these past months that it might be a bit flat, but it was really wonderful to see how engaged everyone was. One of the real features was "all" of the African scholars being able to meet one another. When I was at Oxford the South Africans were quite a tight group but we didn't interact as much as we should have with the other scholars from Africa. Hopefully this will be a first step to connecting them better to one another."*

*Bon Voyage* 2020 was an inspiring and warm welcome to our new Scholars and a wonderful reminder to all of the vast and supportive network of Rhodes Scholars across the world. The event highlighted the lifelong fellowship and intergenerational bonds forged by the Rhodes Scholarships, transcending disciplines and international boundaries.

From all at SAARS and the National Secretariat in South Africa, we wish the Scholars-Elect of 2020 every future success and happiness in Oxford.

**Beverley Johnson**  
Regional Manager, Rhodes Scholarships for Southern Africa  
25 September 2019