



Zachary Abel, SACS 2021



Amy Booth, SA-at-Large 2021



Buntu Fantoso, SA-at-Large 2021



Sasha Tinelli, SA-at-Large 2021



Gemma Houghton, St Andrew's/DSG 2021



# THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF RHODES SCHOLARS

## BON VOYAGE - TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

More than 120 Rhodes Scholars, elected from constituencies across Africa, attended *Bon Voyage* on 14 September 2021. Based in countries across the globe and representing seven decades of Scholars, the community gathered to meet the Scholars-Elect of 2021 from across Africa, and wish them well as they go up to Oxford University, as well as to connect with fellow alumni.

*Bon Voyage* is an annual event organised by the Southern African Association of Rhodes Scholars (SAARS), under the leadership of Lisa Klein (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's 1994) and her committee, comprising Charne Lavery (South Africa-at-Large & Balliol 2008) and Sha'ista Goga (South Africa-at-Large & St Antony's 2004).

The keynote address was delivered by the inspirational and ever-provocative Justice Edwin Cameron (South Africa-at-Large & Keble 1976), who cautioned that *“too much consensus leads to complacency; and too much complacency leads to numbness.”* He spoke about a new book by Robert Calderisi (Quebec & St Peter's 1968), entitled *Cecil Rhodes and Other Statues: Dealing Plainly with the Past*, and challenged the audience to consider how future generations may judge our choices, our views and our actions. This is complicated territory, and Cameron encouraged all to judge Rhodes and others, including ourselves and our morally-shortsighted choices, with humility.

The participants were treated to a beautifully narrated, evocative [photographic presentation](#) by Vinesh Rajpaul (SACS, Newlands & Merton 2013), who describes himself as *“an astrophysicist who likes taking photographs”*. All were in awe of Vinesh's creativity, talent and magnificent photographs. Selected with great care, his presentation gave our Scholars-Elect a taste of what awaits them, and for alumni a vivid reminder of their time, in Oxford.

The Warden, Elizabeth Kiss, who was travelling in the USA, dropped into the event to meet and greet all. Her warm and welcoming words of encouragement to the Scholars-Elect were greatly appreciated.

Four of six African National Secretaries were in attendance to bid their Scholars-Elect farewell. Malebogo Ngoepe (South Africa-at-Large & Wadham 2010) facilitated a novel, heart-warming and humorous session in which the Scholars-Elect introduced each other. The evening ended with Scholars spending time in virtual “catch up groups” chatting to old friends and making some new ones.

Our second virtual *Bon Voyage* was a collegial gathering of the Rhodes community, which highlighted the lifelong fellowship and friendships forged by the Rhodes Scholarship that traverses decades, disciplines, and international boundaries. One Scholar-Elect commented: *“Bon Voyage was a truly spectacular event and I left it feeling very welcomed and excited! Thank you!”*

From all at SAARS and the Rhodes Trust in South Africa, we wish the Scholars-Elect of 2021 every future success and happiness at Oxford University.

**Beverley Johnson**  
Regional Manager

Rhodes Scholarships for Southern Africa  
29 September 2021



Amy Paterson, KwaZulu-Natal 2021



Reantha Pillay SA-at-Large 2021



Maxine Smit, Paul Roos/Bloemhof 2021



Daniel Tate, Diocesan College 2021



Tinashé Ngwenya, Botswana 2021