

## **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SENIOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD**

**Presented to Professor Russell Kaschula**

**17 April 2009**

Russell Kaschula began his teaching career as a junior lecturer in African languages at Rhodes in 1989. He was responsible for introducing the first ever "language and society" course taught from first year up to honours level. In 1990 he was appointed as a research associate at the University of Transkei. Later he taught isiXhosa at the universities of Western Cape, Cape Town and Stellenbosch and had a stint as a visiting lecturer to the University of Baltimore.

While at UWC, he taught oral poetry courses which were considered provocative and revolutionary. The material from these courses culminated in one of his seminal academic works: *The Bones of the Ancestors are Shaking: Xhosa oral poetry in context* published in 2002.

In 2005 he was appointed Professor Extraordinaire at the University of Stellenbosch, a post which he shared between Stellenbosch and Goucher College in the USA. At this time he was instrumental in developing and teaching an MA in intercultural studies which is still taught at Stellenbosch and draws students from all corners of Africa and indeed the world.

In 2006 he was appointed as Associate Professor and Head of African Language Studies at Rhodes University. In 2007 he became head of School of Languages and in 2009 he was appointed as full professor. He teaches students from 1<sup>st</sup> year through to PhD level.

In the teaching portfolio submitted by Professor Kaschula to the committee appointed to judge the award, there is ample evidence that the students with whom he has dealt have the utmost respect for his passion for his discipline as well as the expert way in which he has allowed students to conceptualise knowledge. However, his role as a 'distinguished' teacher goes far beyond that of the individual students whose lives he has impacted to include his leadership role in the School of Languages. Under his leadership the School of Languages and the staff who teach in the school have grown from strength to strength.

*Mr Chancellor, I have the honour to request you to present Professor Russell Kaschula with the 2008 Vice-Chancellor's Senior Distinguished Teaching Award.*