Professor the Hon Rex Nettleford, OJ, is one of four Rhodes Scholars from around the world who will be awarded the Doctor of Civil Law (honoris causa) degree by the University of Oxford on July 3 this year.

The awards will take place as part of the Centenary celebrations of the Rhodes Scholarships during 2003. During January of this year, the Rhodes Scholars gathered in Cape Town, South Africa for the first of two reunions to commemorate the celebration. The second reunion will take place in London and Oxford between July 2-5.

The other three Rhodes Scholars to be honoured in July are Bob Hawke (former prime minister of Australia), David Woods (vice-chancellor of Rhodes University, South Africa) and John Brademas (former US Congressman and President Emeritus of New York University).

Professor the Hon Rex Nettleford, OJ, OM, was educated in Jamaica and was awarded his (London) BA at the University College of the West Indies. After a year as resident tutor in the Extra Mural Department, he went to Oriel College, Oxford (of which he is now an Honorary Fellow) in 1957 as a Rhodes Scholar and was awarded the MPhil.

He then returned to Jamaica and held a number of academic posts in Extra Mural (later Continuing) Studies at what became in 1962 the independent University of the West Indies, being appointed director in 1971 and professor in 1976. He served as pro vice chancellor (Outreach and Institutional Relations) from 1988 to 1996 and deputy vice chancellor from 1996 to 1998, when he was appointed vice chancellor. He has been editor of Caribbean Quarterly since 1967 and is a Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica.

Professor Nettleford has not only had a long and distinguished association with UWI, which has been a major influence in the cultural, social and educational, development of the West Indies, but he has also published on a wide variety of issues affecting the life, politics and development of the Caribbean. He was awarded the Order of Merit in 1975.