

## Desidre Coompasmay – Accounting



Desidre's earliest memory of Rhodes University is of her sitting in her brother's office reading a book about one's life purpose and dreaming about being a part of the Accounting department's Thuthuka programme.

The Chartered Accountant had just left a lucrative job as an assistant manager in Auditing for internationally acclaimed audit firm, PriceWaterCoopers after a five-year stint. She had also just returned from working as an auditor for six months in Boston, USA.

"I love auditing, but I hated having to be a watchdog for big companies, and constantly being under pressure. The work was a direct contrast to my character. I left everything without a clear plan, but I knew I wanted to align myself with higher education," she remembers.

The Port Elizabeth born scholar spent a lot of time in Grahamstown helping her father with deliveries for a feeding scheme project. On one of her visits to her brother who is a lecturer at Rhodes University, she came across information that would give her the purpose she was in search of.

She discovered the nGAP and took advantage of the opportunity within the Accounting department. She lectures Auditing for first year students, assists with the

Thuthuka programme and is doing Masters in Fraud and Risk Management. Her research interests are in Money Laundering and investigating cyber-crimes.

She obtained her qualifications from Nelson Mandela University (Bcom) and UNISA (CTA).

"The nGAP has been a beautiful surprise. It only has benefits and advantages for the individual, the institution as well as young aspiring scholars. I have always wanted to study here because Rhodes students have an incredible reputation. It is incredible to think that I am here being mentored by the best," she said.

Her highlight of her first year in the department has been the exposure to new areas of research and being able to incorporate newly acquired knowledge into her lectures.

"I have job satisfaction, I am part of change in many respects and I am well received in the department. The complimentary nature of the work we do as part of this programme is ground breaking," she concluded.