



RHODOS

RHODES UNIVERSITY STAFF NEWSLETTER



Thursday, 30 March 1995

Vol 7 No 2

Young scientists stimulate new research

A successful project carried out last year by two Stirling High School, East London, pupils which was judged one of the best by the Grahamstown Expo for Young Scientists, has stimulated a research project in the Department of Botany at Rhodes.

Sherelle Brits and Jeanine Coetzer's project based on *the selective absorption of rainwater by various soils* will now be expanded into an honours research project by Miss Janet Allsopp.

Sherelle and Jeanine (see picture at right, taken at last year's Schools Science Convention) carried out a series of experiments on the dune soils in the coastal forests near East London. They found that these soils are water-repellent, due to the waxes produced by the trees growing in the forest. The girls won a gold award for the project and travelled to the National Expo finals in Pretoria in October where they received a bronze award.

The study was supervised by Mrs Heather Page, Head of the Biology Department at Stirling High School. Mrs Page, a former



Rhodes student, encouraged the girls to make their findings available to her former supervisor, Prof Roy Lubke, of the Department of Botany, so that he could assist them in publishing their results in *The Naturalist*, a popular natural history magazine published by the Wildlife Society.

Preliminary studies along the Kleinmonde

coast indicate that different vegetation types have different quantities of the waxes in the soil and are differently water-repellent. Miss Allsopp is planning studies both in the field and using laboratory experiments similar to those done by the girls from Stirling High School.

Exciting plans for 1995 Convention

Dr Sirion Robertson will again be the quizmaster, testing the general scientific knowledge of some 300 school children, at this year's convention. He would welcome any contributions to his question list, which, together with the answers and references, may be forwarded to him at the School of Pharmacy.

The annual School Science Convention is again to be held at Rhodes this year, from June 27-29, and it promises participants a wealth of lectures and workshops.

"New and exciting things are planned for this year's convention", said Prof Roy Lubke, Chairman of the organising committee.

A large number of high school pupils are expected to attend the festival from all parts of the country. They will be accommodated in the University residences. The Grahamstown Regional Expo forms the first day of the Schools' Science Convention.

The theme for this year's convention is *Entropy: order and disorder*. A series of exciting competitions has been planned for the Science Olympics. They include the "chemical garden", which consists of

chemical plants made from salts such as copper sulphate and manganese chloride, which literally grow before one's eyes. The objective of the "egg drop", is to package an egg so that it falls from a specified height in the minimum time and still remain unbroken.

Another exciting competition requires participants to build a tower made of balsa wood which has to be 50cm high and not exceeding 500gm in mass. The tower which can support the heaviest weight of water in a tin can will win the competition.

This year, apart from the popular Chemistry magic show, there will also be a Physics magic show and a short story science fiction writing contest.

Prize giving for the Expo takes place on Monday, June 27 and for the Science Convention on Wednesday, June 29.

An 'undelivered inaugural'

The History Department is celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of Professor Michael Roberts assuming the Chair of History at Rhodes University. He retired in 1953. Now

aged 85, Prof Roberts will deliver a lecture entitled *The Naive Historian: An Undelivered Inaugural* at 17h15 on Thursday, 30 March in the Arts Minor Lecture Theatre.

**Centenary Fund
approaching
R 0,5 million mark**

see story on page 2

Half-a-million now in sight

The Rhodes Centenary Fund has received two significant donations recently, putting the total raised so far to within sight of the first half-million rand – a good start to the R 25 million sought over the next ten years.

Most recent of these is a donation of some R 200 000 worth of shares, from Mrs M Macintosh, the widow of an Old Rhodian. Her magnificent gesture follows shortly after R 250 000 was received from the Molteno Brothers Trust, a long time supporter of Rhodes University.

Many other people have donated money in their personal capacities; in amounts ranging

from R 27 to R 5 000. It is most gratifying that some of these represent the first only of annual pledges which will run right through until 2004.

The total, at the time of this edition of *Rhodos* going to print, stands at R 476 845,00.

Staff members who wish to contribute to the appeal are invited to contact Deputy Director of Public Relations and Development Neil Papenfus for details of how best to pledge support or contribute. Alternatively, cheques in favour of the Rhodes University Centenary Fund will be gratefully received at his office.

Camera 'completely negates the use of film'

Montgomery Cooper, Lecturer in Photojournalism in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, was recently awarded a Poynter Institute for Media Studies Fellowship to travel to Florida in the United States for two seminars.

Prior to going there, he visited the Digital Images '95 Conference in Wembley, London, where he was particularly interested by discussions on digital cameras in the commercial world and in two other seminars on digital Cameras in the Field. During their course, an *Evening Standard* photographer discussed the benefits of using a camera that completely negates the use of film.

This kind of electronic photography, says Cooper, puts an end to any reliance on the old adage that 'the camera cannot lie', and it was thus with great interest that he attended another seminar, on the development of the FBI coding system. This is a way of marking film almost invisibly so that any manipulation, whether by newspaper or magazine can be detected. This enables photographers to investigate possible fraud and to prove that a picture has been tampered with. The programme is still under development; while it was being demonstrated, a member of the audience stood up and 'cracked' the coding!

Ethics and leadership in Photojournalism

At the Poynter Institute in St Petersburg, Florida, Mr Cooper attended the Photojournalism Ethics and Leadership seminar as the only delegate from South Africa. He was joined by experts from all over America, mostly directors of Photography and two professors of Photojournalism for an intensive five days.

"We discussed the uneasy crossover between the traditional wet processing and the new digital methods of photography",

says Cooper. "It was fascinating and enlightening to learn how the ethics of the photojournalists differ across countries".

At a subsequent seminar, which dealt with writing and editing, delegates included some of the top newspaper and magazine journalists in America. "It allowed me to see how the latest technology is actually working in newsrooms and I was able to persuade several very 'high-brow' journalists who have invited our department to take part in a world-wide collaborative report on Juvenile Justice", Mr Cooper said.

A highlight of his visit, he added, was his visit to Rochester, New York, where Kodak has its headquarters. While in that city he was also able to meet several professors of Photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology, one of the biggest Photographic Institutes in the world. Cooper said that it was of particular interest for him to be able to meet Prof Owen Butler, the professor in charge of Military Photojournalism.

Viewed latest technology

During his tour of one of Kodak's plants he saw some of the company's latest technological developments, especially related to the photo compact disc field.

He admits to having been fortunate to meet and stay with one of the leading professors in Photojournalism who heads up the Annual Electronic Photojournalism Workshop, held by the Press Photographers of America. It is attended by over a hundred photographers, designers and directors who produce several digital newspapers during the course of the workshop. These are completely digital, using no film whatsoever, but the very latest technology. Cooper hopes to be able to attend and, should this occur, he plans "to bring back these skills so that the Department of Journalism can reach the real cutting edge in high tech Photojournalism sooner than most".

90th Anniversary bursary awarded



Rhodes University has awarded the 90th Birthday Bursary to Mr Zanololo Nomana (above), of Xolani, Rini, who is reading for a Bachelor of Primary Education (BPrimEd) at the University.

After discussion with the Students' Representative Council (SRC) before the University celebrated its 90th anniversary last year, it was decided that instead of special anniversary celebrations for students, Rhodes would offer, on behalf of the 1994 students, a four-year bursary to cover tuition fees for a local resident.

The bursary is open for full-time study in any discipline at Rhodes for a maximum of four years, subject to satisfactory academic performance.

Mr Nomana completed his schooling at Ntsika Public Secondary School before beginning his studies at Rhodes.

Hodnett exhibits at Johannesburg Biennale

Noel Hodnett, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Rhodes and a well-known Eastern Cape artist in his own right, has recently exhibited his work, by invitation, at the prestigious Everard Read Gallery in Johannesburg.

The Exhibition, part of the Johannesburg Biennale, was opened by Christopher Till, Johannesburg's Director of Culture and himself a Rhodes graduate.

Mr Hodnett is Head of the Painting section of the School of Fine Art at Rhodes and his work was exhibited at the Cape Town Triennials of 1985, 1988 and 1991. His work was included in the IX International Biennial of Art in Valparaiso, Chile, in 1989. He was Artist in Residence at the 1992 Standard Bank National Festival of the Arts in Grahamstown. This was followed by a one-man exhibition at the Standard Bank Centre Gallery in Johannesburg. He is represented by works in several public collections in Southern Africa and abroad.

RU choreographer wins top award

Prof Gary Gordon, Head of the Department of Drama has won the 1994 FNB Vita Dance Umbrella Choreographer of the Year Award for his work *Shattered Windows*.

Prof Gordon, who returned last week from the Dance Umbrella in Johannesburg with his First Physical Theatre Company, where he received the award, was elated by the three-week long programme.

"The five main programmes, which form the Dance Umbrella, have opened up dance in this country as never before. All forms of dance are represented, from Spanish, tap and contemporary to traditional African and gumboot dancing. The different styles represented are almost impossible to list. This made it a true field trip for our students, who benefitted greatly from the experience", he said.

"The participants in the Dance Umbrella come from all parts of the country. They are by no means mainly from the Gauteng region. This is because there are three 'satellite' Dance Umbrellas in Durban, Bloemfontein and Cape Town. From these events participants are chosen for the annual Johannesburg Dance Umbrella. I hope that we may be able to start a similar event in the Eastern Cape", Prof Gordon said.

Further nomination, in Dance category

Further recognition was accorded to the company through the nomination for a dance award at the FNB Vita Dance Umbrella of Mr Lanon Prigge, an Honours student. He was nominated in the Most Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer in Contemporary Style category, for his performance in *Shattered Windows*.

East London Psychology goes international

Many months of planning and international correspondence culminated in two lecturers in the Department of Psychology at the East London Division participating in international conferences and workshops during the course of 1994.

Mrs Sandra Sparrius was invited to present a workshop on *Career Counselling: a Developmental Approach* in Coimbra, Portugal under the auspices of the Portuguese Association of Psychologists (APPORT) and the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (IEPP). The workshop and a subsequent lecture on "New developments in the treatment of headaches" were well received. Mrs Sparrius was struck by the high regard in which university education is held in Portugal; and particularly in Coimbra, where this regard borders almost on reverence.

Key participant at Lisbon discussions

From Coimbra Mrs Sparrius travelled to Lisbon to attend the 52nd Annual Convention of the International Council of Psychologists (ICP). There she attended Continuing Education Workshops on Attachment Theory and on Family Therapy. In addition she was a key participant in a round-table discussion on *Psycho-social dimensions of ecologically sustainable projects* hosted by the ICP Environmental Psychology Interest Group. Attendance at the ICP Convention was made possible by a travel grant from Rhodes.

Joint reserach discussed

In October Mrs Sparrius visited senior management of PAR (Psychological

Assessment Resources, Inc.) at their head office in Florida, America, to discuss joint research opportunities. PAR is one of the largest developers and distributors of psychometric materials in the United States of America.

A very warm welcome was extended to Mrs Sparrius; and exciting research possibilities in career development counselling are emerging from this international contact.

Paper accepted for publication

In September Mrs Judy Rankin attended the National Training Conference of Family Therapists and Supervisors in Hull, England. Funding received from Rhodes University and the De Beer's Chairman's Fund enabled Mrs Rankin to present a paper entitled: *A journey through neutrality*. Neutrality is a core concept in the Milan model of family therapy in which she has worked and trained other family therapists in Natal for many years.

The conference was attended by renowned family therapists from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland. The paper was well accepted and will be published by the Association for Family Therapy during early 1995.

This conference generated many ideas and support for the training programme amongst health professionals that Mrs Rankin is initiating in East London. The first basic training course is being run at the East London Division during February and March and is already oversubscribed.

Trainees include psychologists and social workers as well as psychiatric nurses involved in the Domestic Violence Project at Cecilia Makawane Hospital.

Rhodes collaborates on mussel study

Rhodes University scientists plan to collaborate with scientists from the University of Transkei (UNITRA) and the University of Fort Hare on a study of mussel reserves on the Eastern Cape coast, in an attempt to set up guidelines for the sustainable use of these living resources.

The study, which is being funded through the South African Network for Coastal and Oceanographic Research (SANCOR) by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Foundation for Research Development (FRD), will involve Prof Christopher McQuaid, Prof of Zoology in the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Rhodes, Prof Arthur Dye of UNITRA and Dr Rod Bally of Fort Hare. Two research students will come from Rhodes, one from Fort Hare

and three from UNITRA.

"This study, in which we hope to discover the links between the ecosystems of the shores and the communities who use them, will help to set guidelines for the proper management of the mussel resource, particularly for those people who are living at a subsistence level and rely on the resource", said Prof McQuaid.

"When studying the living resources of the shoreline, it is important to take human ecology into account", he continued. The researchers will study the coastline from Algoa Bay to Natal in an attempt to discover more about the way the resources are used. "Little is known about this at present. How much of the resource do people use? What happens in villages where men are migrant labourers? Is the use of the mussel resource subsistence or cultural? None of these

questions have been asked before", said McQuaid. "We need to discover the extent of the ecological pressures. We know that some areas are massively overexploited, but we do not have the data to allow us to determine how much ecological pressure the resource can sustain. We also need to discover whether overexploited areas can be rehabilitated by re-seeding.

"A non-prescriptive management plan needs to be devised for the resource, in co-operation with the people who use it. In this way scientists would be contributing to co-operation and development through capacity-building", Prof McQuaid said.

"We also hope that this will lead to further collaborative studies between the three universities", he concluded.

On Occasion

A guest column written by invitation.

Three thoughts

Recent times at Rhodes, as elsewhere in South Africa, have seen a brisk burgeoning of buzzwords and assorted *newspeak*, which in many cases – far too many – have achieved the dubious cachet / reverence that is the perquisite of the freshly pupated cliché. If you think that this is an exaggeration, remember the media reign of *détente* some years ago.

The process has been particularly productive during the troubled saga attending the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor and, more recently, in the nascent drama engulfing that of the Registrar-that-is-to-be (and who knows what other positions?).

The media's hills are alive to the sound of Transformation: the Voice of the People is heard in the land (and in the Great Hall): Holders of Stakes spring up as from dragon's teeth and the great goddess Participation, clad in the whole armour of Relevance and cloaked in Transparency, stomps gaily through the porticoes of Empowerment.

The SRC and its partners-in-change are earnest and often uncritical wielders of these and similar Words of Power as they bay for representation, openness, etc, in committees, selection and otherwise, in governance, in

Senate and in Council.

As I shake the suds out of my hair, I leave you with three thoughts: one; if Council and Senate are so unrepresentative, in what way is an SRC, elected by a modest fraction of the student body, so representative? (Do members of staff, a number of whom are students, have representation? do East London students, currently some 12½% of the student body have specific representation?); two; should the SRC and all official student societies not be required to have on their governing committees members of the academic staff, in positions such as senior treasurer or auditor, as in, for example, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge?; three; with respect to transparency in administration, does confidentiality (I hesitate to use the old term *sub rosa*) now have no place? Perhaps the crusaders have not heard of the brash young executive who conducted his in-office affair in full view of passers by. The MD called him aside and upbraided him. "I only do openly what you old fogies do behind closed doors!", came his cocky reply.

"That's what closed doors are for – you're fired!"

Justin Case

Educationalist returns from 'very different' area

Dr David McKellar, Deputy Dean of Education, has recently been working in Botswana, at two primary schools in Maun and Sua Pan, where he conducted school audits. He also visited Francistown.

"Flying from Johannesburg to Sua Pan I found the area very different, in terms of humans agreeing to live in it", he said. "The massive soda ash plant has spawned a hot and very dry town on the edge of the extensive, flat salt pans."

Dr McKellar spent ten days at the two schools which he audited and visited a range of classrooms. He has produced comprehensive reports on each. While he was there he presented four papers to teachers from the schools and surrounding areas. Teachers travelled from as far away as Bulawayo in Zimbabwe to participate.

Dr McKellar said that he found the schools to be surprisingly well-equipped and up-to-date, particularly in the provision of books and the promotion of reading.

In the private Clifton School, in Francistown, Dr McKellar found an outstanding example of what can be achieved by interested parents and a dedicated, willing staff.

The trip was exhausting, he admits, "but well worth while in terms of the links established between Rhodes and teachers in Northern Botswana. I have suggested that they consider visiting us to meet others working in the field of primary education", he added.

Outdoor education for trainee counsellors

The most important ingredient, believes Dr George Euvrard, "in helping another person, is myself." Having moved his lecture theatre to the wild outdoors, he has confirmed this belief, and continues: "The kind of people that we are and our own psychological health is vitally important". Dr Euvrard is a lecturer in the Department of Education, who prepares postgraduate teaching diploma students as school counsellors.

He said, "Those of us involved in such work must go beyond 'training' and 'educating' our students in any academic sense. We must offer them opportunities for meaningful growth towards greater psychological health and maturity. But we cannot teach this to them. It involves a confrontation with the self and a grappling with issues."

Promoting personal growth

Dr Euvrard has chosen "outdoor adventure education" as a means of promoting personal growth. Outdoor adventure education may be defined as "a means of approaching

educational objectives through guided experience in the outdoors using as learning material the resources of the countryside and coastline". Activities include a night hike, orienteering, tubing down a river, rock-climbing and a night spent alone outdoors.

'Terrifying evening? Reality was different'

With this objective in mind, Dr Euvrard has taken his students to an isolated spot, a rugged area on a huge bend of the Fish River. Students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences both during and after the outing. After her night alone outdoors, one of the students admitted that "...I had pictured a terrifying evening in the veld. In reality, it turned out one of the most enjoyable evenings spent on my own for a long time."

Terry, another student explained, "You are left to think through your own thoughts instead of sharing them with someone else and then listening to their response. It allows you to move onto new unexplored areas".

Another student, "gained an awareness of overcoming fears by challenging them and realising that they are largely unfounded or exaggerated". Kate found that she had "learnt that I am more capable in such situations than I would have envisaged. This weekend helped me re-establish faith and confidence in myself and served to counteract some myths I have created in my mind".

Another reflected, "I learnt a few lessons from that mountain; one should not become disheartened and give up, as the feeling of accomplishment is worth the pain and fear; I should have more faith in my own potential and abilities".

The outings also improve group cohesion and teach the students much about taking risks. Dr Euvrard said that looking back months later, the students feel that these experiences weld the class together into the sharing and trusting group they have become.

Maths 'more fun' with new support materials

Maths classes have become a lot more fun for primary school pupils around the Eastern Cape since teachers began using support materials which aim to build self realisation and independency, and encourage a move away from being textbook bound, says Thandi Mboyiya, junior field officer at RUMEP, (Rhodes University Mathematics Education Project).

RUMEP assists teachers in improving the learning of mathematics in the primary phase of education. RUMEP presents workshops and provides in-class support for teachers by working with teachers in classrooms, helping them to develop ideas and strategies to improve the quality of maths education. "We work in partnership and strongly believe that to build a sense of ownership, responsibility and commitment, teachers must identify the problems they experience in mathematics teaching and learning and bring them forward", says Ms Mboyiya.

The Eastern Cape has large numbers of school-going pupils who come from rural areas and who need extra attention. Ms Sue Southwood, who has recently joined RUMEP as Materials Development Officer, said that "we strive to provide the teachers with support and materials to encourage change in the classroom. Teachers attending our workshops get packs of our material with a resource book to be used as a reference", she explained.

One of the many ways in which the teachers



Sue Southwood (right), RUMEP's new Materials Development Officer with Thandi Mboyiya, Junior Field Officer, at a function held recently to welcome Ms Southwood to Rhodes University.

are involved in the workshops, is writing word problems in their mother tongue. They are encouraged to use the names of their pupils when setting these problems to make the activities more "real" and motivating for the pupils. Word problems have been developed in Xhosa, Southern Sotho, Afrikaans and English. These are then included in the resource books alongside the other activities.

"Our aim is to build on teachers' experience and self confidence. We encourage them to come forward with their ideas. We are also working with both teachers and pupils in evaluating the effectiveness of the new approach and materials", said Miss Mboyiya.

Director returns from US visit

Dr Stephen Fourie, Director of the East London Division has returned from a six-week trip to the United States with a number of practical ideas for university administration.

Dr Fourie was a member of a group of 28 people which visited several universities in the USA as part of the international visitor programme of the United States Information Agency.

"I was the only South African in the group, which represented twenty-five countries", Dr Fourie said. "All of the participants are involved in university administration and the group included several vice-chancellors and rectors of universities."

He explained that the group visited five contrasting American communities and a diversity of post-secondary institutions. "The project provided us with the opportunity of examining how our US counterparts are defining and responding to the changes and challenges facing administrators in higher education", he said.

"US administrators are finding that the tight

finances of recent years are not temporary, but a sign that universities, like businesses, must operate with greater efficiency".

"In efforts to balance budgets, administrators are making difficult decisions about raising tuition fees, eliminating academic and extra-curricular programmes, privatising services and scaling back administrative support", he added.

"Cuts in state and federal funding for education have led to a decrease in financial aid for students, reducing the accessibility of higher education. Changing demographics and increased cultural awareness are inspiring curriculum reforms to reflect the needs and interests of today's diverse student body", Dr Fourie said.

"It was also interesting to see how Americans view the mission of a university. In addition to teaching, research and community service, they include international service – some feel that an international component is an absolutely necessary part of a student's education in the modern world. At some institutions, students are encouraged to study overseas for a short while as part of

their degree".

Dr Fourie discovered that the problems faced in the USA are similar to our own. The three most frequently aired issues were those of access, funding and governance. He said that the universities also believe, "as we do, that their students are under-prepared for university education".

Dr Fourie visited a number of institutions which use interactive video technology and feels that there is potential in this medium has for bridging the two Rhodes campuses in Grahamstown and East London.

The visit also gave him the opportunity to collect practical ideas which could be implemented in East London to solve various problems. "For example, I noticed the extensive use American universities make of part-time student employment and I have already implemented this idea to reduce the administrative load created by our sudden growth in numbers. Students now act as receptionists at the East London Division to free the full-time administrative staff for more complex tasks."

Long service recognised



Two long serving staff members were recently honoured by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Derek Henderson. Between them they have 50 years of service to the University.

Dr Felicity Edwards, seen at left receiving her award from Dr Henderson, is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Divinity.

Mr Appolis Slingers (seen above with Director of Personnel Bruce Smith and daughter Ms Sharon Slingers, of the Dean of Students' Division) is Technical Officer in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies. Both staff members were presented with certificates of loyal service and cheques from the University.

CSD project transferred to the Community

An important event in the Social Development history of Grahamstown took place on Saturday afternoon when Mrs Thelma Henderson, Director of the Centre for Social Development of Rhodes University handed over the entire Sun City Project (Nursery School, Community Hall, Feeding Kitchen and Play Park), its ownership, management and administration, to Miss Rose Spanneberg, the Chairman of the Grahamstown Community Trust.

This took place before an audience of 150 adults, 80 pre-school children and 20 Sun City Brownies. The Saint City Messengers, the Nursery School children and the Brownies provided the entertainment. Mrs Henderson outlined the history of both projects and Miss Spanneberg explained the purpose of the Grahamstown Community Trust. Mrs Henderson presented the project with two framed illustrated histories of the work which has been done by the CSD in Sun City from 1987 to 1994. During that time an amount of R 316 000,00 was received in the form of subsidies and donations.

The grounds of the project were in immaculate shape, thanks to the hard work of Ms Katie Farrington, the Coordinator of the Project.

Representatives from Rhodes University included Dr Derek Henderson and Dr Michael Smout. Mrs Yvonne Logan represented Rotary, Mrs Margie Antrobus and Mrs Sonya

Brits the Brownies, Sisters Moira and Grace the Community of the Resurrection and Mrs Allison and Mrs Jones DSG and St. Andrews. The CSD contingent comprised Mrs Rosemarie Botha, Mrs Peta Bezuidenhout, Mr Brook Leiper, Mrs Katie Farrington and Mrs Alan Sanderson. The Grahamstown Community Trust was represented by Pastor Moodley and Mr Ranga Norkie. From the Albany Road Clinic came Sisters Blum and Haywood. Also present was Mr Douglas Botha who was responsible for the latest additions to the Nursery School and much maintenance work in the complex.

Early beginnings were in one small shack

The Centre was started in 1985 when Sister Edwina of the Community of the Resurrection built a small shack and rudimentary kitchen in order to provide a soup kitchen for needy residents. She ran it until 1991, when she went overseas on a three-year sojourn. Generous donations from Control Data Corporation, the Community of the Resurrection, the Equal Opportunity Foundation, Rhodes Rag, the Anglo American Chairman's Fund and ITHUBA Trust paid for most of the superstructure.

Today the Centre has 93 children in the Nursery School, 400 meals a day are cooked in the kitchen and the Hall is used for weddings, funerals, clinics, choirs, discos,

Brownies and community meetings. The Centre serves a wide geographic area as the users are not exclusively from Sun City. Many of the children now come from the Black townships over the hill.

'Race run well'

In handing over, Mrs Henderson said: "It is with a feeling of great accomplishment and peace of mind that I officially participate in this ceremony today. The CSD has raised funds, established a great facility, trained the staff, gained government subsidisation and managed this project virtually since its inception. Our job is not to manage projects indefinitely. The time arrives when most projects should be handed over to the community. We have run the race well and now we hand over the baton to another organisation. The Grahamstown Community Trust is the right body. I have great confidence that the Trustees will treasure and care for this project and run it honestly, professionally and carefully. I therefore officially hand it over by symbolically presenting to its Chairman, Miss Rose Spanneberg, two framed and illustrated histories of the Nursery School and Community Hall Projects. May they and all of you – children, parents, staff and members of the Community, be richly blessed in the months and years that lie ahead."

'Ergonomics could improve productivity'

Efficiency in the workplace could lead to improved productivity and better response to workers' needs, says Prof Pat Scott, of Human Movement Studies.

Ergonomics, as yet not fully recognized in South Africa, refers to the study of the overall efficiency of the working environment, the aim being to improve working conditions and enhance worker well-being as well as to improve the quality and quantity of the end product.

"I strongly believe that if Ergonomics were given greater recognition in South Africa, we would be better able to meet the needs of the workers and industry in general which would result in improved productivity", said Prof Pat Scott of the Department of Human Movement Studies, on her recent return from conferences in Japan and Hong Kong.

Japan, one of the leading industrial nations

in the world, attributes its high productivity rate in part to Ergonomics intervention. Prof Scott met internationally recognized ergonomists in Japan and has established firm contacts with whom to discuss the role and development of University ergonomics programmes, including research, tertiary education curricula and applications within industry.

Japanese leaders in the field are keen to be involved in collaborative research. "These projects could play a major role in improving productivity in our country", said Prof Scott, "and would provide a great opportunity to draw on Japanese experience and apply it to the specific needs of workers and managers of

South Africa."

Prof Scott also participated in the Second International Congress of the Asian-South Pacific Association of Sport Psychology, where she presented two papers focusing on youth sport in South Africa – the athletes of the future.

"I believe that both Ergonomics and Sports Psychology are at a critical stage of development in South Africa. International experts must be encouraged to visit our country and more South Africans should make the effort to work at an international level and not stay within the confines of our limited resources", she said.

by Yashica Haribhai

Zoologists and aquatic scientists to meet

The Department of Zoology and Entomology and the Institute for Water Research will host a joint symposium for zoological and aquatic scientists at Rhodes from June 27 to 29. It will be mounted by the Zoological Society of Southern Africa (ZSSA) and the Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists (SASQS).

The multi-disciplinary meeting will address

all aspects of zoological and aquatic sciences. New developments and trends will be emphasised, with both local and overseas leaders in research convening and chairing sessions.

There will be a series of invited plenary papers followed by contributed papers and posters. Because of the broad scope of the symposium, several sessions will run in

parallel, although the organisers will attempt to integrate the aquatic and terrestrial components.

Both societies will award prizes for the best student papers and the best poster.

Those needing further information should contact the conference organisers, Professors Ric Bernard, Alan Hodgson and Jay O'Keeffe and Dr Chris Brown.

'Rhodes should be leading the process', says Prof

Why is Rhodes not involved; indeed, why are we not leading the process?, asks Prof Guy Berger, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

He is referring to a news report which recorded a resolution whereby the Universities of Fort Hare and Port Elizabeth have agreed to cooperate in the sharing of students and important guests.

In terms of the agreement, the institutions will recognise each other's qualifications to facilitate student and distinguished guest exchanges. Team teaching and cooperative research will be facilitated, they believe.

There is scope for the rationalisation of shrinking resources, they maintain, and point to expensive laboratory equipment which may only be available on one or other campus.

A statement issued jointly mooted the idea of 'sharing' the visits of distinguished academics and important personalities and suggested that, in some instances, "scholars of quality could be offered joint appointments at Fort Hare and UPE.

The two universities have agreed to investigate avenues of cooperation in the field of community outreach projects that address the RDP requirements.

Rhodes and Fort Hare combine to host conference

The 10th conference of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA), to be hosted jointly by Rhodes and the University of Fort Hare, will be held at Rhodes from July 3 – 7 this year.

The proposed programme includes paper and poster sessions, workshops and photographic

exhibitions.

Those needing further information about the conference should contact Dr Martin Villet at the Department of Zoology and Entomology on ext 31 8527 or by e-mail at zomv@hippo.ru.ac.za.

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Speak to Odene or Nikki at 31 2455, or 2 9536 (after hours).

RU researcher working on global warming project

Tiny marine plants could prove to be part of the solution of the problem of global warming, if they can be manipulated to absorb more carbon dioxide.

Dr Renzo Perissinotto, of the Southern Oceans Group, has completed his third voyage to the Antarctic, where he is researching the relationship between the Antarctic marine ecosystem and global climate as part of the first phase of an international ten-year programme.

"As a result of the use of fossil fuels and deforestation in many parts of the world, the concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have doubled. This means that radiation is not efficiently reflected away from the earth and, as a result, we could expect temperatures to rise by between one and two degrees in the next century, unless this process is reversed", Dr Perissinotto said.

"There are already large permanent polynyas (stretches of open water surrounded by ice) in the Antarctic pack ice. There have always been polynyas in summer but for the past three or four years they have not frozen over in winter. This means that the ice is melting as temperatures rise. This could pose a serious problem for coastal areas as sea-levels rise", he said.

There are three research programmes which make up the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study

and focus on the biological means of reducing the carbon dioxide over-concentrations.

"If the excess of nutrients could be taken up by phytoplankton, of which there are thousands per litre of sea water, they would, in the process of photosynthesis, use carbon dioxide, thus lowering the high concentrations of the gas. If we could make this biological pump work more quickly, we could push down the carbon dioxide levels significantly."

"We are trying to discover why the phytoplankton leave three-quarters of the nutrients in the water. If iron were added to the water this would stimulate the phytoplankton to use more carbon dioxide, because iron is essential for chlorophyll synthesis and the uptake of nutrients, especially nitrates," he said.

Other researchers are studying other parts of the Southern Ocean food chain in an attempt to solve the problem of global warming. "Food chains in cold climates are short, consisting of phytoplankton, which are consumed by zooplankton, which in turn are consumed by fish, penguins, seals and whales. This means that the Southern Ocean is an ideal field laboratory where it is possible to study the effects of manipulating the processes in the food chain", Dr Perissinotto said.

'Sun Stoves' make for low-cost cooking

A low-cost solar stove project to be launched in April, aims to save scarce resources, says Ms Eureka Janse van Rensburg, Research Officer appointed to the Murray and Roberts Chair for Environmental Education.

The 'sun stove' project, to be launched once funding has been confirmed, has been designed with the help of Ms Mathilda Roos, who is an environment and development consultant in the Orange Free State. The stove is a box lined with aluminium foil which cooks a meal by trapping the rays of the sun. The project has been designed especially for people living in rural areas where there is no electricity. The ovens are reasonably low cost and do not have to be constantly replaced. Women are taught how and why to use the ovens as part of the project. One of the aims is to discourage people from chopping down trees for firewood.

"The Department of Mineral Affairs, which sponsors the project, will also be involved in the research components of the project", said Ms Janse van Rensburg. The project is to be implemented in KwaZulu Natal, the Orange Free State, Eastern Transvaal, and North West Province.

Ms Janse Van Rensburg has also been involved in several research projects to develop the formal school curriculum for environmental education at a national level. Some of these projects involve Masters students in Environmental Education at Rhodes University.

Basic Xhosa offered to teachers

The basic Xhosa course run by the Community Interaction Programme (CIP), has focused on teachers this year. The 12-session course for which 27 teachers are enrolled is designed for people who have never spoken Xhosa before and who need help in starting to communicate in the language.

This project, backed by the Departments of Linguistics and English and African Languages, began in 1993 when workers in Rhodes library asked for help in speaking Xhosa with the people they serve. A course was created and, in two years, attracted some 370 learners, including people from business, social services, local police, municipal workers, the professions, the churches, museums and schools.

A meeting with local teachers in late 1994 highlighted the need for help with Xhosa communication as teachers in historically English or Afrikaans schools begin to teach Xhosa pupils. The need for Xhosa communication is great in the primary schools.

"The next step is to extend our training of Xhosa tutors", said CIP coordinator Ms Priscilla Hall. "Xhosa speakers who have never taught before are learning to teach the course. We have been developing this training since 1993 and have now created a formal course with four trainee tutors. It will be presented for three months up to April."

'Learning and retention much easier'

The learners are enthusiastic. "I am thrilled that I have been able to follow quite a few conversations out-of-class", comments one student. Others remark: "It enables one to understand the culture of others", "I like the practical applicability of the course", "The dialogue and constant repetition makes learning and retention much easier."

What of the trainee tutor course? "It's too soon to say", Ms Hall responded, "but we hope it will work well. All those involved will help evaluate progress."



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Course expansion to meet demand

The radio spectrum in South Africa is set to expand dramatically this year with the opening up of the airwaves by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA). Rhodes has prepared for the new demand for well-trained radio journalists by expanding its course options in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, where students will in future be able to specialise in radio journalism.



George Mazarakis

Although the Department has offered courses in radio journalism in the past, both the course content and the facilities have been expanded and upgraded.

Radio Journalism will be offered both as a general introductory course at second-year level and as a specialist option in the third and fourth years of the Bachelor of Journalism degree. Students reading towards the Honours degree or the postgraduate Higher Diploma in Journalism will also be admitted to the radio option.

The course will be run by Mr George Mazarakis, an Old Rhodian, who joined the staff of the Department last year after several years of experience in both radio and television.

"The course includes a strong theoretical and historical component. There is also, of course, a crucially important practical element which has been designed to develop the potential of talented radio journalists", Mr Mazarakis said.

"Stylistic and conceptual approaches to news and current affairs broadcasting, research methods for investigative documentary programmes and analysis of broadcasting systems will all be included, along with a look

at the role of the IBA", he said. Students will also study world radio history, the history of early broadcasting in South Africa and apartheid broadcasting and its socio-political impact.

"Students will be encouraged to experience the world of radio news and current affairs by interviewing real role-players in the field. They will also be taught editing and compilation techniques which they can apply in the production of recorded programmes for Rhodes Music Radio, the University's radio station", Mr Mazarakis said. Senior students will be trained in the techniques of Talk and Access Radio and will also be expected to produce radio commercials.

"The studio consists of a small continuity/news presentation studio served by a central control room, which also doubles as a current affairs production area. Apart from the equipment in the control room, students also have access to a pool of portable equipment. Later this year we hope to expand the capacity of the radio studio by adding a digital editing facility and increasing the number of portable recorders for field use", Mr Mazarakis added.

Foss attends conference on computer controlled sound

Richard Foss, of the Department of Computer Science, has recently returned from a conference on computer-controlled sound systems in Dallas, Texas, where he presented a paper on network control of music studios.

The 13th International Audio Engineering Society (AES) Conference sought a standard which manufacturers around the world could adopt for the control of large sound systems.

Delegates from North America, Japan, the United Kingdom, Europe and South Africa attended the conference, which was entitled *Computer-controlled Sound Systems*.

A range of sound systems was described for airports, convention centres, theatres, legislatures and stadiums, all of which need computer control. "Airport and convention sound systems must be capable of routing voice and music to particular areas, and it must be possible to switch on and off loudspeaker clusters and to delay sound in stadiums and theatres. All sound systems must be capable of volume and equalisation control", Mr Foss explained.

During the conference Mr Foss was also invited to participate in a panel discussion entitled *Why do sound systems need computer control?* He said that the panel and the questions from the floor were particularly interesting in that they highlighted the range of audio applications which need networked control. "I have started viewing our work in a new light and seeing a far broader scope of application", he added.

"The AES conference was a career highlight. I intend sharing my knowledge with South African companies involved in the installation of sound systems", he said.

by Yashica Haribhai

Polish linguist visits Afrikaans & Nederlands

"The University of Warsaw is hoping to enlarge the Dutch Division by adding an Afrikaans component to it", said Dr Zofia Klimaszewska, Head of the Dutch Division, who delivered two lectures for the Department of Afrikaans en Nederlands during a recent visit. These covered the study of Dutch and Afrikaans in Poland and Eastern Europe and *Vaste woordverbindinge in Afrikaans en Nederlands*.

Dr Klimaszewska is on a study visit to all Afrikaans en Nederlands departments at South African universities. She majored in Dutch and German at the University of Leipzig and completed her PhD at the University of Warsaw. Apart from speaking Polish, her mother-tongue,

she is fluent in Russian, German, Dutch and Afrikaans. She is the official interpreter for the Polish President when visiting Dutch speaking countries.

Dr Klimaszewska has taught German, Comparative Linguistics and Dutch at the University of Warsaw. She said, "I have made contact with many lecturers and have collected much study material." She is in the process of compiling a Dutch/Polish dictionary and has translated Afrikaans short stories into Polish, for publication in Poland. Some of these are the work of Prof Etienne van Heerden, Associate Professor of Afrikaans and Nederlands at Rhodes.

Recommendation presented

The RUSA sub-committee developing a draft Recognition Agreement (RA) document has completed its work and will be presenting its recommendation to the Executive Committee of the Association for discussion within the next week or two.

The Executive regrets that this document cannot be distributed to members individually. The text will, however, be posted on the "bulletin-board" services by Computing Services from where it may be accessed and read. Computing Services will send a general message to all registered users advising when the document has been placed and how to access it. Copies will be available for reference purposes only in the RUSA office.

RUSA members should watch for a *rusaFORUM* dealing with the document and attend a Special General meeting which will be called to address interests and queries of members.

RUSA is also watching developments surrounding the Labour Relations Bill, presently open for comment, and will note the proposed changes in relation to the RA document.

The RUSA office will be moving temporarily to the Union building (the old First National Bank offices) from the Linguistics Department Building in the near future.

Rusa remains on selection committee

Rusa has opted to remain as an active member of the selection committee established to appoint a new Registrar, in terms of a motion passed by its members at the recent Special general meeting.

At that meeting, a motion was passed whereby the RUSA executive were asked to suggest to the committee that the process be delayed until such time as a new Vice-Chancellor had been appointed.

This was not agreed to, however, and so, in terms of a second motion, RUSA then decided to remain part of the process so that it could influence the decision from within the system.

RUSA Chairman Mark Hazell said that certain other matters had been clarified during the discussions, however. Amongst these was the question of the selection criteria and representation on selection committee. NEHAWU will now also be represented on the committee.

Obituary: Professor Emeritus John Nunn

by Professor Doug Rivett

Professor Emeritus John Richard Nunn, a former Head of the Department of Chemistry, died at Betty's Bay on Sunday, March 5, 1995, at the age of 76.

Professor Nunn was the first Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University in 1962 and was Head of the Department of Chemistry from 1966 until his retirement in 1980.

He completed his schooling at Wynberg Boys' High School in Cape Town before completing the BSc and MSc degrees at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

After a short time at the Leather Industries Research Institute (LIRI) at Rhodes University, Prof Nunn saw active service in the Second World War, first with the Artillery and then with the Natal Mounted Rifles in North Africa and Italy. After the war, he returned to UCT as a Junior Lecturer and completed the PhD degree.

In 1948 he joined the National Chemical Research Laboratory (NCRL) of the newly-established Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and was sent to Bristol University, England, in 1951, where he spent a year specialising in polysaccharide chemistry.

On his return, Prof Nunn was put in charge of the Seaweed Unit of the NCRL at UCT. He returned to Pretoria in 1956 as the Head of the Organic Chemistry Division of the NCRL.

He published widely on gums and algal polysaccharides and was an acknowledged

authority in this field. Later he also became interested in the high incidence of oesophageal cancer in rural communities in the Transkei and showed that this was due to the presence of carcinogenic nitrosamines in food plants.

He served on numerous committees of the University and on other bodies. He was Dean of Science at Rhodes from 1967 to 1969, Senate representative on the Board of LIRI and a member of the Council of St Andrew's College. He was a faithful and active member of the congregation of the Cathedral of St Michael and St George and served for many years as a lay minister and as a member of the parish council.

His colleagues remember him as an excellent administrator, firm and often outspoken. He enjoyed working with his hands, particularly woodwork. He took a great interest in buildings - their erection, maintenance and improvement.

Besides playing a central role in the design of the present Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences building at Rhodes, he daily kept a critical and watchful eye on its construction and did not hesitate to bring shortcomings to the notice of the builders. He lovingly improved and re-decorated his home, previously that of the first professor of Chemistry at Rhodes, Sir George Cory.

He leaves his wife, Avril and three children, Janet, Ruth and Gavin, and the widow of his son Brian, and their families.

'Bring sense and harmony to teaching'

South African academics were urged to "bring sense and harmony" to the various elements involved in teaching, and to look at teaching and learning simultaneously rather than as separate programmes. The occasion was a workshop organised by the Academic Development Programme, where the guest speaker was Mr John Boughey, director of the Academic Support Programme at the University of Zululand.

The workshop was one of a series of meetings aimed at constructing a staff development programme at Rhodes that would allow for adaptations in teaching and curricula to suit changing student needs. The overall objective is to promote a high standard of education throughout the University and to ensure a realistic chance of academic success for all students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Before coming to South Africa in 1989, Mr Boughey spent seven years in the Gulf, four

in Yemen and two in Spain, working in the field of applied language studies. He is currently a key member of the Regional Institute for Tertiary Studies (RITS), a working group representing the Universities of Durban-Westville, Natal and Zululand.

"In all my travels", he said, "I am struck by the similarity of the problems affecting those involved in education, whether they are teachers or learners. Despite South Africa's uniqueness, it has a lot in common with other countries."

Stressing the need for a deeper understanding of the teaching and learning process, Mr Boughey said that he prefers to work with staff and students together - with what he calls "the dynamic triangle" of academic development staff, lecturers and students. Academics should be encouraged to reflect on what they are doing, and why, he claims, for staff development is central to academic development.



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New staff for LIRI

At the beginning of this year, and following recent re-structuring and United Nations support for new training programmes, three new members of staff joined LIRI Technologies.

They are Prof Roux van der Merwe, Dr Oliver Hart and Mr Mark Bodly.

Prof Van der Merwe will be responsible for the restructuring of education and training in footwear technology at the Institute.

He did pioneering work in the 1950s and 1960s in developing education and training programmes in footwear technology.

In 1971 Prof Van der Merwe became the first Volkswagen Professor of Industrial Relations at the University of Port Elizabeth and returned to Rhodes as Vice-Principal in 1986. He retired from this position in 1991.

Dr Hart has joined LIRI Technologies' Environmental Division from his position as senior research manager at the Water Research Commission (WRC), where he has directed research in the field of industrial effluents for the past 17 years.

"One of the major tasks in 1995 is the development of environmental managements and waste water treatment plant operator courses for the leather industry," said Prof Peter Rose, Director of LIRI Technologies. "Together with the research programmes associated with the new WRC experimental treatment plant at LIRI, this represents a unique educational development with world-wide applications. The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation has indicated its support for the courses and will send students from other African countries".

To meet the need for staff training in quality assurance, Mr Mark Bodly has been appointed at LIRI as the manager of a new quality assurance division. Courses will be offered at the operator, supervisor and quality management levels.

"With falling protection barriers, technical consultancy back-up on quality of the finished product has become a priority in building international competitiveness in the leather and footwear industries", Prof Rose said.

What a Victory!

Rhodos apologises to the author of this article for its omission from the last edition.

Rhodes Staff began their cricket season with a gutsy, nail-biting victory over Electrical Contractors in the Business League at the end of January. Batting first, the staff scored 136 all out with useful contributions coming from Malcolm Sainsbury (26), Clive Smith (24) and George Euvrard (21). The most radically improved batsman must, however, be newcomer Mike Drewett. After watching some of his hair-raising attempts at acquainting willow with leather, Dean Sieberhagen advised Mike to run out and 'clap' the ball, whereupon the latter immediately responded with a four and the only six of the match!

Following the traditional braai-break Electronics had a sparking start (oooh) and soon had 50 on the board off nine overs for the

loss of only one wicket. Before long they needed a mere 30 runs with an abundance of wickets and overs in hand. Enter the Sainsbury sizzler. It wasn't that he bowled fast, or that he swung or even spun the ball. The secret of his ensuing success was that he introduced the novel phenomenon at this level of cricket of directing the ball roughly in the vicinity of the stumps, and had it hit the ground before reaching the batsman. This new style of bowling totally flummoxed the opposition, and one by one they succumbed to give Malcolm his first five-wicket haul and Rhodes Staff an exciting 12-run victory.

Well done, Staff – all those practices are beginning to pay off!

George Euvrard

Local fish farmers compete with the best

South African tropical fish farmers are in a position to compete in the international market because the other major producers in Asian countries are experiencing environmental problems, says Mr Peter Britz, a lecturer at the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science (DIFS).

The DIFS is collaborating with Amatikulu Hatcheries, a large tropical fish farm, to develop technology for small scale ornamental fish farming. Amatikulu hatchery and its satellite farms produce more than three million tropical fish a year, a large proportion of which are exported. The hatchery, a novel aquaculture enterprise, was established 10 years ago in rural KwaZulu/Natal. "It has grown steadily and is now one of the biggest tropical fish farms in the world, employing more than 150 people", Mr Britz said.

Large export potential

Motivated by the large export potential of tropical fish, Amatikulu Hatchery has embarked on a plan to expand fish production and stimulate small business enterprise in the area. Mr Britz said, "They have contracted live-bearer fish production to independent satellite fish farmers with loans from the Small Business Development Corporation." Live-bearers are fish that give birth to live young. This includes many popular aquarium fish such as Guppies, Mollies and Swordtails.

"We are doing research to provide technical support for these farmers and are hoping to promote a similar model elsewhere", he said.

Dr David Kruger, also of the DIFS, and project research officer for the Amatikulu hatchery project, is concentrating on

improving the feeds used on the farms. This has been identified as a major factor limiting reproduction. "The Amatikulu model demonstrates that if appropriate infrastructure and services are provided, rural small scale farmers can participate in intensive farming and produce a profitable export crop", said Mr Britz.

Job creation in rural areas

"These are high value export products that can create jobs in rural areas. Most fish on the world market come from Singapore but, because that area is experiencing environmental problems, South Africa can compete on the international market by applying intensive farming technology", he continued.

A fourth aspect of research focuses on product quality. "The key aspect of ornamental fish", he explained, "is their colour. We have a research contract to evaluate colour enhancing properties of a pigment called Astaxanthin. Fish in the wild get pigments from plant material in their diet which enhance their colour. Because we have taken the fish out of the wild we have to introduce these pigments into their diet. This is now being done on goldfish."

The DIFS at Rhodes University is also developing breeding techniques for high-value African fish species for export. African freshwater fish are sought after by the ornamental fish trade. "By captive breeding the more valuable species, jobs and industry can be created in South Africa. Because these species are rare, exploitation pressure in the wild is great", he said.



Saturday, 1st April

Rugby

RURFC U21B vs Uitenhage *From 13h10,*
RURFC U21A vs Despatch *at Rhodes.*
RURFC 1st Reserves vs *1st XV match*
Crusaders *at 15h30*
RURFC 2nd XV vs Crusaders
RURFC 1st XV vs Crusaders

AprilFest

Oompah Band – *From 15h00 in the Union*
Traditional German Fare. Rhodes Union
members and their guests are welcome. Watch
the rugby from the balcony.

Thursday, 6th April

Inaugural Lecture by Prof *20h15;*
J R Midegey *Arts Major*
Community Policing: Tentative steps towards
true reconciliation.

RHODOS DEADLINES

Copy Date

Publication Date

18 April

29 April

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RHODOS is produced monthly by the Public Relations and Development Division of Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Rhodos staff, or the University.

The Editor welcomes all contributions but reserves the right to edit these.

Rhodos invites contributions from staff members and other readers. Articles should be forwarded to the Editor, at the Public Relations and Development Division.

Articles are preferred on diskette in any of several common word processing formats, including ASCII, Word Perfect, WordStar, Xywrite and Multimate.

Text may also be e-mailed to adjw@warthog.ru.ac.za. Photographs and line art are also welcome, either as stand-alone items or illustrative of articles.