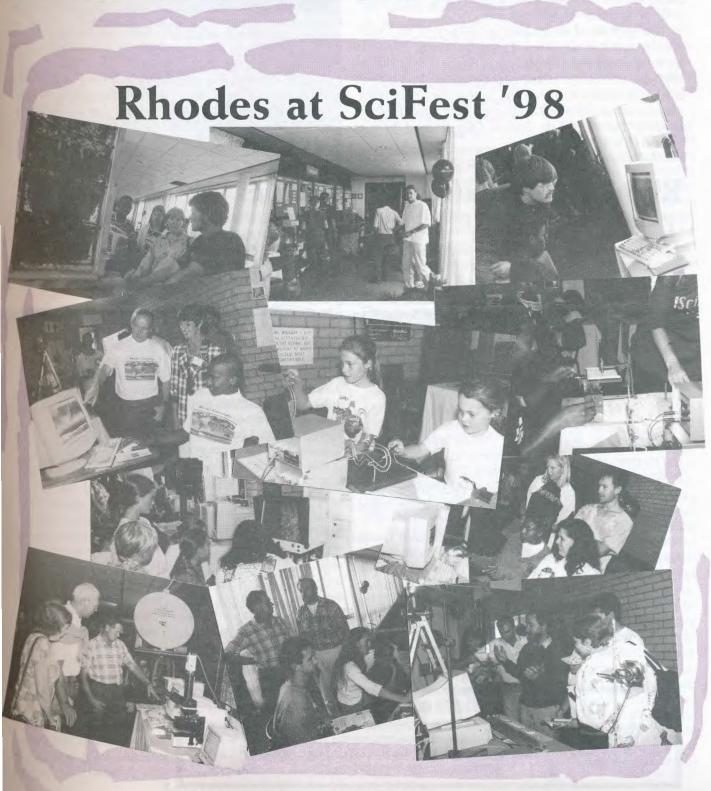


FOR HISTORICAL RESILERCH

RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

3 APRIL 1998 VOL 10 No4



Rhodes University featured strongly at the Science Festival this year with many hands-on interactive exhibits

Second-in-a-Row Win for Rhodes in Budget Competition

Emily Tyler from Rhodes University has been announced the winner in the undergraduate category of the 1998 Nedcor/Old Mutual budget speech competition.

Her win makes it two in a row for the University's Department of Economics and Economic History. Last year's winner in the undergraduate category, Ms Taryn Dinkelman, was also from Rhodes. Ms Dinkelman, who now lectures in the Economics and Economic History Department, was a finalist in the postgraduate category this year.

The sponsors of the competition will pay for Ms Tyler's honours studies at any South African University. Winner in the postgraduate category, Ms Jessica Heynis of Wits University won a scholarship to Cambridge University. Ms Elizabeth Hirshon (Stellenbosch University) came second in the undergraduate section and won R2 000, while Mr Phumelele Mbiyo from the University of the Western Cape received the third prize of R1 000.



Finance Minister, Mr Trevor Manuel (third from left) and Nedcor chairman, Mr Chris Liebenberg (left) applaud the 1998 winner in the undergraduate category of the Nedcor/Old Mutual, budget speech competition, Emily Tyler, while Mike Levett, chairman of Old Mutual looks on.

The competition is open to students from all South African universities. Students are invited to submit essays based on questions related to current economic issues. This year's question in the undergraduate category was: Is South Africa's tax structure consistent with the objectives of GEAR?

Rhodes Graduation Ceremonies

The Rhodes University annual graduation ceremonies will be held in Grahamstown on Friday and Saturday April 17 and 18 and in East London on Friday, May 8.

On Friday morning, April 17, degrees in the Faculty of Humanities will be conferred. An Honorary Doctor of Laws will also be conferred on Professor Jakes Gerwel, Director-General in the Office of the President and Secretary of the Cabinet. Professor Gerwel will deliver the graduation address.

Degrees in the Faculties of Law, Education and Commerce will be conferred during the ceremony on Friday evening. Mr Jon Kani, Managing Trustee of the Market Theatre Foundation and internationally acclaimed actor, will deliver the graduation address and receive an Hon-

orary Doctor of Literature degree.

Saturday morning's ceremony will see degrees being conferred in the Faculties of Science, Pharmacy and Humanities (Social Science). An Honorary Doctor of Laws degree will be conferred on Dr Alex Boraine, Vice-Chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, who will also deliver the graduation address.

Both Professor Gerwel and Mr Kani are products of the Eastern Cape, having grown up in Somerset East and Port Elizabeth respectively.

The traditional Garden Party will be held on the St Peter's Lawns at the University on Saturday afternoon.

The department of Drama will present three of Chekov's short, farcical pieces, which delighted and

amused audiences in the late 19th Century. The production is directed by the award-winning playwright, Reza de Wet. The first two pieces, The Bear and The Proposal, deal with the absurdities of love, while A Jubilee, described by Chekov as 'a joke in one act' is about an award ceremony. There will be performances on Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18 at 20:00, with a matinee performance at 14:30 on Thursday, April 16. Tickets for these shows are available from Barbara Price on extension 8538, or on e-mail at: sdbp@warthog.ru.ac.za

The Rhodes East London graduation ceremony will be held in the East London City Hall at 18:00 on Friday, May 8. At the ceremony an honorary Doctor of Laws degree will be conferred upon Dr Ali Bacher, Managing Director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

PROPS NEEDED!

Do you still have Great-Aunt Gertrude's 1920's dress hanging in your cupboard gathering dust? The Drama Department is on the hunt for donations of clothing, hats, handbags, material, and items that could be used as props. Please contact Diana Cupsa (ext 8540) or Barbara Price (ext 8538) or e-mail: sdbp@warthog.ru.ac.za Collection of items can be arranged.

Law Professor Publishes Book

Professor Richman Mqeke of the Rhodes Law Department has recently published a book: Basic Approaches to Problem Solving in Customary Law: A study of conciliation and consensus among the Cape Nguni.

Due to the passing of the new constitution and the Bill of Rights, there needed to be an updated version of customary law. Prof Mqeke feels that his book is a useful addition to all the customary law books on the market.

A question that many people are asking is, what effect will the Bill of Rights have on customary law and whether customary law is compatible with the law of human rights. Prof Mqeke has addressed these problems in this book.

Prof Mqeke completed an LLB in 1978 at Fort Hare University, joined Rhodes to complete an LLM in 1986, and returned to Fort Hare to do an LLD in 1991. He has lectured in Customary Law for 21 years.

Rhodes Chemist visits India



Mike and Cindy Brown using a common mode of transport in Dehli during their visit to India earlier this year

Prof Mike Brown of the Chemistry Department, and Mrs Cindy Brown recently attended the 11th National Symposium and Workshop of the Indian Thermal Analysis Society (ITAS) at the University of Jammu. Prof Brown was the only foreign academic invited to attend. He presented papers on aspects of his research at the Symposium and at the Workshop.

About 150 delegates from all parts of India, including a large contingent from the Atomic Research Centre in Bombay, gathered at the postgraduate campus of the University of Jammu. Jammu is the winter capital of the Northern province of Jammu and Kashmir. "One of the highlights of the visit was flying past a section of the snowcovered Himalayas on a clear sunny day to reach the city which lies on the plains below the mountains," said Prof Brown.

This was the Browns' first visit to India which, unfortunately, coincided with the Indian parliamentary elections, but the accompanying unrest was fortunately only

seen on television and in the newspapers.

The conference was opened in a colourful ceremony with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp, addresses from various dignitaries, including local politicians and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu.

The social programme included a cultural performance with dancing and folk songs followed by a dinner hosted by the University. There was also a special ceremony to honour the retirement of a prominent Indian Chemist, Prof PS Bassi.

The scientific programme included a large number of posters and short oral presentations. Several awards were made available by sponsors and Prof Brown was invited to be one of the panel of judges.

The Symposium was followed by a Workshop over a further two days. The programme was rather informal and speakers had to be prepared to deliver their papers at short notice, at times determined by the exhaustion of the previous speaker and, according to Prof Brown, some were very hardy! Topics for the Workshop tended to overlap and hence an early slot had advantages.

The perfect weather on arrival in Jammu deteriorated over the following three days, becoming cold with heavy downpours causing flooding in some parts of the city. The Browns' hotel was only about 1km from the University but they were grateful for the transport provided (even once in a covered 4-seater motor-scooter) with the bad weather and horrendous traffic.

The sun reappeared on the last day and the afternoon was available for sightseeing, but there were problems in leaving the campus because of blockades by students protesting the inequities of the university admission system. (These protests lead to a full strike on the day after the Browns left Jammu.) After the students had dispersed there was time for visits to a fort, a temple, a Maharajah's palace (now a museum) and for some shopping in the bazaars. Because of the problems in Kashmir, security at the airport was very tight and the Browns were searched five times between entering the airport and boarding the aeroplane for the internal flight to Delhi.

The conference was followed by some more traditional sightseeing in the "Golden Triangle" of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra. The trip remained eventful to the last day when a bomb was defused within 50 metres of the SAA check-in counter while the Browns were attempting to move through immigration to departure. "After all this, the homeward flight was a welcome relaxation. India was an interesting experience," said Prof Brown.

Dutch fish expert visits the JLB Smith Institute

Professor Ferdinand Sibbing from the Agricultural University at Wageningen in the Netherlands is presently visiting the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology for several weeks. He describes his visit as a "short sabbatical" and opportunity to meet researchers, explore ideas and see a new part of the world.

His host at the Institute is the Director, Professor Paul Skelton. The two scientists first met at an international conference on African fishes held in Senegal in 1993. Their common interests extend to the systematics of African fishes and in developing indigenous fisheries in high altitude lakes - Prof Sibbing through a project on the fisheries of Lake Tana in Ethiopia, and Prof Skelton through a project on the emergent fisheries of the newly created Lake Katse in Lesotho. Shortly after his arrival at the beginning of March Prof Sibbing accompanied Prof Skelton to Lesotho to visit Lake Katse.

Professor Sibbing's particular speciality is the feeding morphology of carp-like fishes, and the relationship of feeding morphology to the ecological interactions of feeding in fishes. His project on Lake Tana has provided him with a unique opportunity to test certain ideas on food resource partitioning and the evolution of a community of fishes. This in turn has provided valuable information for understanding and managing the fisheries of Lake Tana and offers an excellent example of how pure scientific research can lead to real practical benefits to people.

Erwin praises LIRI

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Alec Erwin has praised Rhodes University's LIRI Technologies for its training programmes aimed at making out-of-work people self-sufficient. The Minister was attending the Shoe Machinery, Accessories and Components Show at the Durban International Trade Centre, KwaZulu/Natal last

month. The show is held every three years.

LIRI Technologies was represented by the Director, Mr Dave Sweetnam, Footwear Technology consultant, Mr Melvin Rose, Footwear Education consultant, Professor Roux van der Merwe, Quality Assurance Manager, Mr Craig Cobus and Leathercraft Division Manager, Mr Mike Ginn.

Mr Ginn demonstrated training in crafting using alternative tools and afroleathercraft designs. Mrs Margaret Marshall of EMBO Crafts in Durban organised a group of unemployed people from nearby Botha's Hill to undergo training for the duration of the show.

"Although none of them had leathercrafting skills, they all made very presentable merino and goat leather outer slippers," said Mr Ginn.

According to Mr Ginn, Mr Erwin visited the LIRI stand and was very impressed. He recommended that the proceeds of the auction of a Cobbler be presented to LIRI in appreciation of what they are doing. "It was good for us to know that the Minister understands what we are trying to do," said Mr Ginn.



LIRI Technologies Leathercraft Division Manager, Mike Ginn presents national Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Alec Erwin with a leather pouch, while Professor Roux van der Merwe (far left) looks on. In the forefront are some of the unemployed people that the LIRI team taught leathercrafting skills

EL Director Recognised by Students

pr Terry Marsh, Director of Rhodes East London, was recently awarded a wooden giraffe by the Student Representative Council in recognition of his support for the students on the campus.

In a special ceremony organised by the students, Dr Marsh was presented with the giraffe - the symbol of "one who is tall and protective and looks over (after) people" - by the 1997 Choir. "I am so touched by this award," said Dr Marsh. "It is a symbol of the good relationship between the management and students on this campus."



Danish Exchange Programme

visit to Denmark by Dr Clive Smith, of the Department of Education, has resulted in a student exchange scheme being established between Rhodes and Danish trainee teachers. The Danish Training of Intercultural Competency programme is designed to give Danish and foreign (at this stage South African, Namibian and Nicaraguan) students first-hand cross-cultural experience that they will in turn share with their peers.

Four Danish students (two each from Vordingborg Statseminarium, south of Copenhagen and Odense Seminarium, on the island of Odense) spent four weeks in the Rhodes Education Department, from the February 23 to March 21. Four Rhodes Higher Diploma Education (HDE) students will visit these two colleges between September 7 and October 5 this year.

The Danish students participated in HDE classes, and visited Hobbiton, Hogsback. They held a forum discussion on the Danish education system and gave talks on Denmark at local schools. A similar programme will be provided for Rhodes students visiting Denmark. The Rhodes students' costs will be borne by the European Union through Ibis, a Danish NGO that is co-ordinating the exchange.

The Danish students said that they were pleased they had the opportunity to experience another country and a different education system to their own and that they all had a wonderful, learning experience.

Racism Workshop for Wardens

The internationally-acclaimed racism and sexism expert, Ms Margaret Legum, recently conducted a workshop on racism for residence wardens at Rhodes University.

Ms Legum is an Old Rhodian and the first woman at a South African university to be chair of an SRC. She studied economics at Cambridge University and is an associate of the Centre for Anti-Racism and Anti-Sexism (CARAS) Trust in Cape Town. Ms Legum conducts seminars and workshops internationally.

The workshop was also attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods and Mrs Charlotte Woods who participated in the entire session.

Dr and Mrs Woods found the workshop both an interesting and positive experience. "She dealt with the sensitive topic in a skilful and professional manner. Her initial approach to all present was to create an atmosphere of co-operation and confidentiality which prevailed throughout the weekend,"said Dr Woods.

Mrs Legum handled the workshop in such a way that participants were able to look at both themselves and their professional positions without being threatened or defensive. "This led to very constructive and productive dialogues which allowed participants to come away with an understanding of the difficult topics of racism and discrimination on both personal and institutional levels," Mrs Woods said.

Her content and examples were pertinent and relevant to the residence system and could be of direct assistance to wardens. "The workshop also provided an opportunity for wardens to meet over a lengthy period, to get to know each other and to discuss common problems and possible lines of action. Comments from all present were highly positive," said Dr Woods.

The wardens were equally pleased about the exercise. Ms Lisl Griffioen Paterson of Adamson House said: "Ms Legum made us look at ourselves, specifically at our own racist tendencies. She helped us come to terms with the fact that, to a certain extent, we are all racist". Ms Griffioen Paterson said she came out of the workshop a more aware person.

The participants also spent some time in groups sharing information, experiences and stories which was found to be very useful. "Another positive aspect about this seminar was that it gave us an opportunity to interact with fellow wardens. We don't really get a chance to see each other too often," said Ms Griffioen Paterson.

The Warden of Olive Schreiner House, Mrs Ruth Jackson, said she thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. "At first I was horrified at the thought of spending a whole weekend there, but it was really great. The facilitator, Ms Legum was really professional, caring and down to earth. She related some of her own experiences.

"Although things are still going well in my residence, I will certainly be more aware of what to look out for as far as racism is concerned and I will know how to handle the situation,"said Mrs Jackson.

Mrs Jackson feels that other University staff members would benefit from such a workshop. This view is shared by Mr John McNeill of Winchester House who thinks that all staff members should be given an opportunity to attend similar workshops. "It was both enlightening and uplifting. It was one of the best workshops that I have been on," said Mr McNeill.

Although Kimberly Hall Warden, Mr Mike Oelschig could not attend the entire workshop, he was impressed with what he heard on the Sunday morning. "Reports that I have received from those who attended the full seminar are that it was really worthwhile, and a great deal was learnt," said Mr Oelschig who is also the Warden for Gold Fields House.

However, there were some wardens who felt that more attention could have been paid to how the University is addressing past imbalances through processes like transformation and affirmative action.

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BRN 186320

Thirty five years at Crown Point Press: making prints, doing art / Karin Breuer, Ruth E. Fine, Steven A. Nash - 1997 769.973 BRE

BRN 2385264

Death and deliverance: "euthanasia" in Germany c. 1900-1945/ Michael Burleigh -1994

943.086 BUR

BRN 2462609

The Celtic world / edited by Miranda J. Green - 1995

936.4 CEL

BRN 1456544

Evolution of the brain: creation of the self/ John C. Eccles - 1989 612.82 ECC

BRN 2990577

On the other side of life: exploring the phenomenon of the near-death experience / Evelyn Elsaesser Valarino; translated by Michelle Herzig Escobar - 1997 133.9013 ELS

BRN 3050332

The restoration of love / W. ter Horst; translated by John Medendorp - 1997 177.7 HOR

BRN 2941310

Modern times: a history of the world from the 1920's to the 1990's / Paul Johnson - 1992 909.82 JOH

BRN 1453028

Letters: new poems / Don MacLennan - 1992 828.91914 MAC

BRN 3014570

Trapped in the net: the unanticipated consequences of computerization / Gene I. Rochlin - 1997 301.243 ROC

BRN 2903846

Unchained voices: an anthology of Black authors in the English-speaking world of the eighteenth century / Vincent Carretta, editor - 1996

828,9908 UNC

English Teachers Conference

ne of the most important literary anniversaries being celebrated this year is the publication, in September 1798, of a small but highly influential volume - Lyrical Ballads - the anonymously published work of two young friends, William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

To commemorate this event, the theme of the annual Association of University English Teachers of Southern Africa (AUETSA) conference will be Romantics and Revolutionaries. The conference will be hosted in Grahamstown by the Department of English at Rhodes University at the end of June.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Nicholas Roe, of the University of St Andrew's, Scotland, who is a noted authority on some of the major writers and thinkers of the romantic period. He has concentrated on the 1790s and the radical writers and writings of that decade. The titles of three of his monographs, Wordsworth And Coleridge: the Radical years, The Politics of Nature, and John Keats and the Culture of Dissent underline his interest in the inter-relationship between politics and literature which is a mark of the turbulent

revolutionary period.

Beside his monographs and his editions of the works of Wordsworth and Keats, his many articles on those poets, as well as those of Percy Bysshe Shelley, Robert Burns, John Thelwall and Leigh Hunt, have amply demonstrated the breadth and depth of his scholarship in this field.

Professor Roe will give three lectures and lead a series of seminars during his stay in Grahamstown. His wife, Dr Jane Stabler, also a romanticist, will also present a paper at the conference.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor

In a Pharmacy Faculty meeting on 17 March I understood the Vice-Chancellor to report that the Grahamstown campus had achieved a growth of 2% since last year. We were told that this represents an optimum growth rate in terms of certain legislated constraints.

I was therefore surprised to read, in Rhodos of 20 March, that undergraduate numbers the on Grahamstown campus have increased by 5.9%. I am happy to be told that I misunderstood what was reported to us, but at face value there seems to be a significant discrepancy - particularly as we were told that we get "penalised" if growth is above 2%.

In view of the fact that the size and growth rate of the Grahamstown campus is recognised as being important from several points of view, I imagine that many staff members would be interested to have the matter clarified.

May we have some comment please? Yours etc. Sirion Robertson

Dear Sirion

You are indeed correct! There was an error in the student records system which has now been identified and rectified. The correct figure is just below 2%. - ED.



It's time to start scratching in your cupboard for those old bellbottoms, waist-coats, headbands, etc! Don't forget the 60's party on May 15 in the Senior Common Room.

Tickets are R15 per person and available from Shelly Samuel on ext 8520.

The winners of the newly established Rhodes University Postgraduate Scholarships are Musicology students Grant Olwage (piano) and Itamar Cohen (cello).



Grant Olwage finished his BA Journalism and Music degree in 1996 and was the top graduate at Rhodes University in that year. He received the Rhodes University Foundation Scholarship and completed his Honours in BAMus last year and was the top student in the Faculty of Humanities. Grant is now doing his MA in Music. He has arranged Baroque concerts involving 99% of the music students, performing his usual high standard of work.



Itamar Cohen completed his BMus Degree in 1997 and is one of the first candidates, along with Susan Gough, to do the MMus in Performance this year. The new Head of Department, Professor CE Lucia, introduced the degree this year. Itamar received the prestigious LRSM (Licentiate of Royal School of Music) in both teaching and performing.

This is the first year that the scholarship has been awarded. It is open to all students in the Faculty of Humanities.



Competition Winners

The Rhodes Library current awareness competition took place during Learning Week (16-20th March). The aim was to raise awareness of the library amongst students and was held in conjunction with instruction sessions on how to use the library's on-line catalogue, the CD-ROM databases and the printed reference collection. The competition was open to all first year students.

Winners were:

1st prize (Dictionary): Asanda Plaatjies 2nd prize (Scientific calculator): Blondie Kgomongwe 3nd prize (Watch): Nomozibulo Ndikinda

Consolation prizes of stationery were awarded to:

Thabo Takalani, Richard Asher, Thabo Makeleni, Fumba Lwandile, Jonathan Shaw, Nomzamo Matyumza

Grocott & Sherry and U.P.B. kindly donated the prizes for the competition.

Classifieds

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Secretary's Lament

Is your secretary happy, or is that smile really no more than gritting of the teeth? And if she's not happy, can it possibly be your fault? This is The Secretary's Lament:

- Never give me work to do in the morning.
 Always wait until about 4pm and then bring it to me. The challenge of a deadline is refreshing.
- 2. If it is a rush job, run in and interrupt me every 10 minutes to ask how it's going. That really helps.
- Always leave without telling anyone where you're going. It gives me a chance to be creative when someone asks where you are.
- If my arms are full of papers, boxes, books or supplies, don't open the door for me, I need to learn to function as a paraplegic and opening doors is good training.
- If you give me more than one job to do, don't tell me which one has priority. Let me guess.
- Do your best to keep me late. I like the office and really have nowhere to go or anything to do.
- 7. If a job I do pleases you, keep it a secret. If you don't like my work, tell everyone.
- 8. If you have special instructions for a job, don't write them down. In fact, save them until the job is nearly done.
- Never introduce me to the people you're with. When you refer to them later, my shrewd deductions will identify them.
- Be nice to me only when the job I'm doing for you could really change your life.

(Published in the Financial Mail, March 20, 1998)

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RHODOS is produced fortnightly by the Marketing & Communications Division of Rhodes University. 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. E-mail: adlh@warthog.ru.ac.za