

RHODES UNIVERSITY

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S PROGRAMME

FOR 1985 GRADUATION

Friday 12 April

- 16h30 Rehearsal of graduation ceremonies in the Monument
- 18h00 Host supper party at The Lodge
- 19h45 Assemble at Robing Room for Chancellor's procession
- 20h00 Graduation ceremony
- Deliver address
- 22h15 Host coffee party in Delegates Lounge on top floor of  
approx Monument

Saturday 13 April

- 09h45 Assemble at Robing Room for Chancellor's procession
- 10h00 Graduation ceremony
- 12h30 Graduation luncheon in Kimberley Hall  
Propose toast to honorary graduates (Chancellor's toast  
list attached)
- 15h00 Greet guests at garden party on St Peter's  
lawns
- 15h15 Garden party
- 19h30 Attend Chancellor's dinner in Rhodes Union

## CHANCELLOR'S TOAST LIST 1985

1. When guests have reached their places at table, CHANCELLOR says grace.
2. After the first course has been cleared, CHANCELLOR proposes toast to:  
'The State President'
3. After coffee has been served the VICE-CHANCELLOR rises spontaneously to propose the toast to the hon. graduates.
4. After the Vice-Chancellor resumes seat, CHANCELLOR invites the three hon. graduates, Dr Cooke, Prof van Heerden & Dr Webb, to respond briefly, explaining that they will speak in alphabetical order.
5. After the speeches the CHANCELLOR rises to indicate the end of the luncheon.



13/4/85

TOAST TO HONORARY GRADUATES : LUNCHEON : SATURDAY 13 APRIL 1985  
*M. Chancellor, Distinguished Guest, Ladies & Gentlemen*

Over the years, Rhodes University has conferred many honorary degrees and ~~our~~ <sup>former</sup> honorary graduates, some of whom are here today, represent a wide variety of professions. This year's graduates come from very different fields and we could be forgiven if, at first glance, we concluded that a scientist, a miner and a poet, would have very little in common. On closer inspection of the careers of these three men, however, we ~~would~~ make interesting, and perhaps surprising discoveries. sh

Although one would expect Professor van Heerden to love and appreciate the arts, we discover that Dr Cooke and Dr Webb have this in common too.

In his days as a student at Rhodes, where he acquired the nickname, "Pluto", Dr Webb was a stalwart scene-builder and lighting man for numerous dramatic productions, and his interest in this field has continued.

Dr Cooke has been one of the engineers of the feast of artistic activity which descends upon Grahamstown each July, and he is as avid a theatre-goer and exhibition-viewer as the most determined Festival visitor.

X What of Professor van Heerden? <sup>The</sup> Arts, being his profession and love, we can understand his addiction to one of the most compulsive art forms ever created - the thriller!

Many great men and women throughout history have had one characteristic in common: a propensity to build things. Whether for their own benefit, or for the good of the wider society, whether pyramids in Egypt or a business empire in the United States, prominent people have been builders. We see Dr Webb, Dr Cooke and Professor van Heerden, as builders of this kind.

Bricks and mortar and all that goes with them are the province of Dr Thomas Webb, our scientist. His contribution to the improvement of building materials through his pioneering work in thermal analysis, for which he is best known, is only part of his involvement in the building industry. More recently, he has been active in the fields of industrial building and research management. Coupled with all of this is his deep concern for the urgent housing needs of the country. In this connection, he has appeared frequently on both radio and television.

Not only does Dr Webb work with the materials of the building industry, particularly clay, but he has been party to the design and erection of some very fine constructions of a different nature, within his field. As a member of organizations like the South African Institute of



Building and the South African Institute of Housing Management, he has contributed to much advisory and consultative work of great importance to the Industry at large. As a long-standing member of the International Confederation of Thermal Analysis, he has built valuable international links for South Africa. In all his endeavours, Dr Webb has shown himself a builder par excellence.

We have just come from the 1820 Settlers National Monument, the architectural feature which massively dominates the local landscape. Instrumental in the establishment of the Monument was our second builder, Dr Richard Cooke. His commitment to the preservation and enrichment of the inheritance of English-speaking South Africans saw him involved in the original 1820 Settlers Memorial Trust. In those early days he was tireless in his efforts at raising funds for the building of the Monument.

As Chairman since 1979, he has played an important role in developing the 1820 Foundation as a cultural and community organization. As an architect and builder of a valuable part of the cultural heritage of all South Africans, Dr Cooke has proved himself to be amongst the foremost builders in the land.

Though the poet among our group of builders deals in materials which would prove rather unstable if submitted to Dr Webb's thermal analysis, the results of his varied literary efforts are no less notable. In a graduation address delivered at the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Ernst van Heerden described himself and his Afrikaner colleagues as "the builders of bridges between us and our English-speaking compatriots". For his efforts during his career as poet, academic, critic and teacher, Professor van Heerden richly deserves the title of Bridge-BUILDER Supreme.

He is one in a distinguished line of Afrikaner academics who have found their place in English-speaking universities. Among them rank writers like W E G Louw, Elizabeth Eybers and Rhodes University's own Andre Brink. Professor van Heerden must be one of a small minority who can claim the peculiar distinction of having lectured in English at an Afrikaans-language university, and in Afrikaans at an English-medium university. It is this flexibility, this openness of heart and mind which have led him to contribute so significantly to the promotion of interaction and understanding between the Afrikaans and English cultures in this country.

X X "When we build, let us think that we build for ever," wrote John Ruskin, the English writer and art critic of the 19th Century. I ask you to rise and toast with me our Honorary Graduates, who each in ~~their~~ <sup>his</sup> own way, ~~have~~ <sup>had</sup> built for ever.