

Mr. Harte

OFFICIAL OPENING OF RU SPORTS CENTRE : 11 JUNE 1980
POST OFFICE BOX 94
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"RHODESCOL"



RHODES UNIVERSITY
GRAHAMSTOWN
6140
SOUTH AFRICA

The Physical Education Department was established in 1945 when Rhodes was a constituent College of the University of South Africa. It was housed in a building built in 1896 which served in turn as an additional Military Hospital, the house of the first Registrar of Rhodes University, the first College residence and a home for the Rhodes University boxing club.

The first course offered was a B.Sc. degree with Physical Education as a two-year major with prerequisite Physical Education in the first year. Four women and one man enrolled for this course but only one woman graduated. This course was discontinued and a one-year Diploma course for graduates (with or without an Education Diploma) took its place in 1949.

In 1948 the Department moved to a newly built department which is adjacent to this new building. The cost of the building, with equipment, was £25,000. The Union Education Department contributed £615 per annum for 20 years to pay for the interest and redemption of the loan taken up. This Diploma, being a 4th or 5th year course, failed to attract many students, and in 1952 Physical Education was offered as a three-year major subject for the B.A. degree and later, in 1969, this course was changed to the B.A. (Physical Education) degree. From 1952 the Department's enrollment grew steadily each year and in 1967 a further addition to the existing department building was made. This new building was added in 1979. The staff has increased from 1 to 6 and to date 419 students have gained first degrees, 18 Honours degrees, 1 Masters and 1 Ph.D degree. Approximately 1800 students have registered for one or other course in the department.

This year 10 students are registered for the B.A. (Physical Education) Honours degree and one for the Masters degree.

However, this impressive new building became necessary not merely because more physical space was necessary, but because the discipline itself has undergone marked changes over the years. Earlier the study of human gross motor functioning, as applied in artificially created situations such as gymnastics, games and sports, placed the major emphasis on anatomy, physiology, kinesiology

and the practical skills. Historical and philosophical background along with educational principles completed a curriculum which by implication saw man as a dualistically developing organism, also many training and coaching methods were scientifically suspect and needed to be rigorously researched. This situation was progressively rectified by the introduction of additional sub courses which emphasise sociological and psychological aspects of holistic development, and now the addition of vital laboratory space has given yet another dimension to the study of the science of human movement.

While these laboratories will mainly be used in the study of human movement by Physical Education Department students the Exercise Physiology laboratory will in addition be used as a Sport Science Centre.

D S HENDERSON
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