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Although South Africa as a whole is suffering set-backs on a number of fronts and the Eastern Cape, in particular, is living through one of the most difficult periods in recent history, Rhodes University can look back on 1985 with some satisfaction.

We have had, like everyone else, to tighten our belts financially but we have not had to curtail either academic or development programmes.

Student numbers increased slightly compared with 1984 to 3 500 and will probably settle at about that figure over the next few years.

There has been relative stability at Rhodes in spite of the unrest in the area, and lines of communication between the student body and administration have remained open.

A new residence, Gold Fields House, which augments the Kimberley Hall complex, was opened in February 1985 and has done much to alleviate our accommodation problems. A large piazza in front of the library which includes a student cafeteria, has also been completed.



A wide-ranging landscaping plan is being implemented to improve a number of aspects of the University environment, including parking, pedestrian and vehicular traffic and the removal of unnecessary and unsightly obstructions.

In 1986 Rhodes will continue its commitment to education and research in the Eastern Cape.