

STAFF NEWSLETTER RHODC

3 OCTOBER 1997 VOL 9 NO16

Gearing up for the future

Senate and Council approve significant staff resource changes

mportant strategic decisions approved at last week's meetings of the University Senate and Council will have far-reaching effects on the Rhodes of the future and will be recorded as of great significance in years to come.

Most of the proposals which had been submitted by the Academic Planning and Staffing Committee (AP&SC) were adopted by both bodies, reflecting an acceptance of the principle that staff resources need to reflect changing student enrolment patterns.

Innovative thinking on the part of the Faculty of Arts has led to the establishment of a new School of Languages. This will give Rhodes a significant competitive advantage over other institutions which are closing language departments, as it will enable language studies to continue while significantly reducing staff numbers in response to declining enrolment. The School will offer studies in German, French, African Languages, Afrikaans and Classics while the Departments of English and Linguistics and English Language will continue in their current form.

Senate and Council also approved proposals to increase staff numbers in the underresourced departments of Accounting, Economics, Information Systems, Computer Science, Management and Journalism and Media Studies, where enrolment is escalating at a rapid pace.

Amongst the proposals which were accepted was an agreement to amalgamate the Faculties of Arts and Social Science, to form a new Faculty of Humanities. This will take effect from January next year and will see the first ever appointment of a fulltime Dean, to be elected by members of the Faculty of Humanities, for a three year

A second full-time Dean, of Research, will also be appointed. This person will be responsible for liaising with industry to raise awareness of Rhodes research expertise and for promoting the research capacity of Humanities, Sciences, Commerce, Education and Law academics and ensuring that the research needs of all faculties are met. The Dean of Research will hold office for a period of five years.

The recommendation to establish majors in Environmental Science and Ichthyology, in the Faculty of Science, was accepted.

A decision on the proposed closure of the Department of Religion and Theology has been postponed for 12 months in order to allow more time for negotiation with the Churches involved.

In East London, it was agreed to place far greater emphasis on the BA degree over the next two years and then to review its future situation, based on enrolment figures.







hodes staff members Nontuthu Faku (above, right), Secretary in the Personnel Division and Elijah Ntentile (above, left), Officer in Charge of Janitoring and Cleaning Services, have been elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Grahamstown respectively.

They are both thrilled with their new positions although they realise the enormous task that comes with their responsibilities.

Elijah Ntentile, who is the Ward I councillor says, "I am looking forward to the development of the people of Grahamstown and I know the job requires lots of hard work."

Nontuthu echoed the same sentiments, saying "I am a little scared as this is not just an ordinary job and as a person with no experience I am going to need all the help and support I can get."

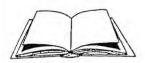
They are both open to new ideas and welcome

constructive criticism. They understand that the town is facing enormous challenges, as the closure of businesses leads to a higher unemployment rate.

"I think the university should be proud of the fact that both the mayor and her deputy are its employees." added Elijah.

Both of them served on the 96/97 council in the Personnel Committee - Ntentile as the Chairperson. Faku was also the Deputy Mayor.

Phumeza Maxashe



Valuable video collection for the library

number of academic departments will be pleased to learn that the local Amnesty International society has donated a collection of videos on human rights issues, says Jeanne Berger of the Cataloguing Department in the Rhodes Library.

These were received by the society from Amnesty International headquarters for viewing in advance of their international committee meeting to be held in Cape Town in December.

The 17 videos cover human rights abuses and education in countries such as Burma, the Sudan and a number in South America.

The videos will be on the New Book Display, opposite the Circulation Desk, during the week of 6-10 October. Subsequently they will be housed in the Multimedia section of the library and available for loan.

hodos invites correspondence on matters of concern to the University community which will indicate the wide spectrum of views held and will promote further discussion.

A pseudonym is acceptable, but the writer must supply his or her full name and residential address to the editor, who will respect confidentiality.

Scottish dancing — new members invited

school in Scottish country dancing in The Drakensberg.

They were Val Hodgson from Microbiology, Margaret Marshall from the Dean of Students' Division and Melanie Roome, who is the wife of a visiting Professor in Political Studies, from Australia.

"It was a long drive for a weekend," said Melanie, "but thoroughly worthwhile. We had a ball — literally! It was so enjoyable meeting dancers from all over South Africa."

The weekend included with a social dance on the Friday evening, classes on the Saturday and Sunday mornings, and a ball on the Saturday night.

"Windows on three sides of the ball room overlooked the mountains and, in our free time we walked in the Drakensberg. We could have gone horse riding, but I wasn't game to put any new muscles to the test!" laughed Melanie.

Contrary to public perceptions, Scottish country dancing does not involve swords or highland flings. It is social dancing, usually done in two lines, sometimes in a square formation. Melanie explained it as "the grandmother of American barn dancing, and popular the world over, from Germany to Japan, with young and old, male and female. Scottish dancing is terrific low impact exercise, the music lifts your spirits and it's brilliant fun," she added.

"I was a beginner with the Grahamstown Group two years ago, and have now danced on three continents," she says with pride.

The Grahamstown Scottish Country Dance Group was formed some 19 years ago and meets on a



The Scottish country dancing demonstration team, at Bathurst Agricultural
Museum Open Day last year.

Monday evening at 19:30 in St George's Hall. Men and women of all ages are welcome to join or observe at any time. A six week introductory course for beginners is being offered, starting on Monday 20th October, at a cost of R 25,00. At the end of six 90-minute sessions, beginners will have been helped through all the

basic steps and formations, and have learned 15-20 dances. No kilts or partners required, just bring a pair of soft shoes. Interested people should phone Margaret Marshall on ext 8183.

The Group's demonstration team will perform at the St Andrew's Prep Carnival on 18th October.

We are doing linguistic research on what happens when people who speak different languages get married:

- ♦ Which language(s) do you use to speak to each other? Why?
 - ♦ Which language(s) do you use with your children? Why?
 - ♦ What is your child's language of learning? Why?

If you are willing to tell us more about your "language life" please contact us:

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akab@warthog.ru.ac.za

It's all about to happen on the Eden Grove site

ork is shortly to commence on a major building project on the Eden Grove site next to the Albany History Museum, which will provide much-needed library, archival, lecture and conference space. The cost is estimated at about R 20 million.

Dr Michael Smout, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, has been steering the project through the planning stages, and explained that the new building will also serve to link the two sections of our campus more closely.

'The University acquired the land from the then provincial administration in June 1993 and began planning to develop the lower half of the site to provide more lecturing, seminar and conference space, as well as a multimedia facility. We desperately need state-of-the-art lecturing facilities if we are to continue to provide our students and conference delegates with the service they



An architect's model of part of the proposed new building to be erected on the Eden Grove site.

have come to expect", Dr Smout said. "We initially planned a building that would have cost R 25 million, but have had to trim this due to financial constraints."

"This is admittedly a bold development project in the prevailing financial climate, but we cannot allow Rhodes to fall behind in the provision of excellent facilities", he said. The University Library is under great pressure for space and the new building will provide a controlled environment for the Cory Library for Historical Research, which will free space in the main library. A similar environment will be provided for the National English Literary Museum, at

present also in cramped quarters in Beaufort Street.

The project will go out to tender soon and it is expected that earthworks will be completed in 1997. Building should start early in 1998.

Dr Smout explained that the building will be funded by loans and the support of several donors.

Mary Burnett

Become proactive and political — a lesson for SA

Geographers

outh Africa's
Geographers must
become proactive,
responsive, coordinated and
above all, political, if they
want to keep their subject in
the school syllabus.

This was the upbeat message delivered by Dr Tony Binns, a visiting Human Sciences Research Council Fellow, at the recent AGM of the Society of South African Geographers, held at Rhodes for the first time. His address Geography Education in Britain drew strong parallels between the threats which faced British Geography some ten years ago and the problems of South African Geographers

under Curriculum 2005.
Heated discussions had earlier followed presentations by Dr Jaap Kuiper of Rhodes'
Education Department The New Science Curriculum and Professors Kate Rowntree and Roddy Fox's heartfelt critique Where has the Geography Gone?

Curriculum 2005 has split Geography into two Learning Areas, (Natural Sciences and Human and Social Sciences) and this was seen to be a major problem to a discipline which prides itself on being integrative. The irony of this was not lost on the meeting since Rowntree and Fox showed that the first key principle in Curriculum 2005

was "integration". Further problems were the lack of spatial concepts in the two Learning Areas and the apparent lack of transparency and accountability in the new Curriculum process. Delegate after delegate from the Eastern Cape levelled criticism at the developers of the curriculum who attended, for their apparent lack of consultation. Not surprisingly, the Geographers were unhappy with this state of affairs since the foundations of the discipline had been incompletely and inadequately drafted into the svllabus.

Dr Binns' remedy was to follow the example of the British Geographical community which successfully mounted a decade long campaign to keep Geography as a compulsory school subject. This was achieved through lobbying at the highest level, preparing a "Case for Geography", before the Government examined the discipline, and building up extensive support and exposure from the classroom level. These are lessons which the South African Geographical community must take up if they are to survive.

Roddy Fox: Associate Professor, Department of Geography

Academic excellence rewarded

iesel Botha and Mogola Mokola, a second-year BCom (Accounting) and third-year BA Law students respectively, have been awarded the Sanlam Subject Prize for excellent performance in their academic work during the past year.

Mr Glen Coetzee, Sanlam's Grahamstown branch Manager, says that his company considers giving awards of this nature a top priority as it regards education as being important for the future of this country.

Dr Moosa Motara, the Dean of Students said: "We are immensely proud of our students and hope that more students can work hard and aspire for this award."

Both students said that they were happy that their hard work had paid off, as this made their parents proud and boosted their confidence.



Mogola Mokola and Liesel Botha (front row, left and right respectively) are congratulated by, from left, Mr Coetzee, Mr John Gillam from the Financial Aid office, Dr Motara and Professors Richman Maeke and Peter Surtees from the Law and Accounting Departments respectively.

Growing international links in hydrology

loser links between the Institute for Water Research (IWR) and Ecole Nationale Supieure d'Agronomy (ENSAR — the French National School for Engineering in Agronomy) are developing as more students from the French institution are choosing the IWR for

their practical training.

For the second-year in succession a student from ENSAR, in Rennes, has joined the IWR for practicals in the field of Hydrology and Water Resources. She is Ms Marion Toulouse who has just completed her two-month internship with IWR. "Last year," recalls IWR Senior Research Officer Dr Vladimir Smakhtin, "ENSAR final-year student Emeric Creuse-Naudin chose the IWR for his six-months of practical training. He was able to assist IWR researchers on a project on Low-Flow Hydrology,

funded by the Water Research Commission of South Africa.

Shortly before leaving for France to complete her studies in Hydrology, Marion said that her choice of the IWR as a place to work had enabled her to improve her English and meet new people.

The IWR has apparently become a hit with ENSAR students "so much so," said Marion, "that there is a high possibility that another

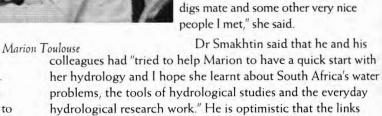
student from the institute might come to Grahamstown for practicals next year."

During her stay at the IWR, Marion helped Dr Smakhtin in his work on daily stream flow data analysis. She was also involved in

IWR's long-term project The integration and application of daily flow analysis and simulation approaches within Southern Africa.

"It is really interesting for me because I am learning a lot about Hydrology and how it is like to be a hydrologist," she said.

While in Grahamstown, Marion, on her first trip to Africa, shared digs with a Rhodes student. "I have really enjoyed my stay in Grahamstown, thanks to the hospitality of the Smakhtin family, my digs mate and some other very nice people I met." she said.



between IWR and ENSAR will continue to grow.





Boost for disadvantaged postgrads

he Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, has announced that The Andrew W Mellon Foundation in New York, USA, has donated US\$ 1 million (R 4,5 million), over five years, towards the postgraduate education at Rhodes of students from disadvantaged educational backgrounds.

These new postgraduate scholarships, which are available to Masters and Doctoral students, will enable Rhodes to develop further strength in postgraduate studies in all faculties. "Rhodes will become a leading institution in 'growing our own timber' for the future academic and research needs of both Rhodes University and the South African University system as a whole", Dr Woods said.

The Mellon scholarships will enable black students with excellent academic potential to stay within the academic system and become academics or researchers themselves.

"South African universities are frequently criticised because they have so few black academic staff. The truth is that we cannot compete with the state and commerce and industry for the best black graduates. These scholarships will help us to begin to redress this imbalance", Dr Woods said.

The first disbursement of R 1,215 million, to cover the first two years of the grant, will be made to graduate students continuing their studies at Rhodes in 1998.

"This grant will not only enhance our reputation as one of the centres of excellence in the country, but also contribute much-needed highly qualified graduates to make their mark in the development of South Africa" Dr Woods believes.

Further details of the scholarships can be obtained from the Dean of Students, Dr Moosa Motara, on ext 8181 or by e-mail addressed to admz@kudu.ru.ac.za.

Economic development for rural communities

onducting research in low-income communities, with a focus on identifying areas in which

economic development and improvement has occurred and can occur is of essential importance in a province like the Eastern Cape says Dr Etienne Nel, a lecturer in the Geography Department.

Dr Nel has
returned from a
Community Development
Society Conference held in
Athens, Georgia in the USA.
He presented a paper entitled
Reflections on the Experience of
Selected Rural, Community
Initiated, Economic Self-Reliance
Strategies in South Africa.

The conference examined community development issues, especially in rural areas, comparing experiences from the different parts of the world and addressing development interventions and the monitoring of developmental programmes. This was of particular interest to Dr Nel who has done much work in the field of community-driven, self-reliance strategies and local economic development in the former Ciskei homeland and neighbouring areas.

He has worked with the people of Stutterheim, Hertzog and various local authorities and says that, around Hertzog, for example, a cooperative of small scale African farmers is now successfully cultivating vegetables on the banks of the Kat River. This endeavour is the result of a community-driven initiative and access to land and irrigation equipment and has measurably improved

living and employment conditions in the valley.

"Research has shown that rural (former homeland) areas

are often environmentally degraded as a result of past realities and that the primary sources of rural income are often in fact from urban areas, namely migrant remittances and state old age pensions. In many of these areas less than 1% of Africans

can be classified as full time commercial farmers," he said.

Despite significant policy changes in the country there has, to date, been only limited progress in terms of the economic development of many areas. The greatest successes have been achieved in the areas of infrastructural improvements.

Dr Nel says that as the agricultural economy often tends to be dominated by large businesses with their buying power and legacy of fixed suppliers it is difficult for new, under-resourced and small scale operators to penetrate this established market and compete effectively.

He remains committed. however, to assisting in the development of policy guidelines and has presented a paper to a Parliamentary Committee on local government in Cape Town. Some of his findings are contained in the community development programme document of the National Business Initiative as well as a SANCO (South African National Civics Organisation) publication on local economic development.



Dr Etienne Nel

Obituary — Professor Bernard Dietrich

former Dean of Arts and Head of the Department of Classics, Professor Bernard Dietrich, passed away in Aberystwyth, Wales, on September 11 after a short illness. He was 69 years old and was buried in Aberystwyth on September 17.

Before coming to Rhodes in 1963, Prof Dietrich was a senior lecturer at the University of West Indies.

He resigned from Rhodes at the end of 1977 to head the Department of Classics at the University College of Wales. He had a considerable reputation as a scholar and teacher. Under his guidance, the Department of Classics flourished. Prof Dietrich contributed greatly to the field of Greek religion.

'Music to our ears'

arol Schutz and Sally Imrie, Honours students in Music, were invited to give a recital last month in Beethoven House in the Department of Music and Musicology.

This followed Carol's performance for the UNISA Performers' Licentiate at Stellenbosch University earlier in September.

Both said that they had been excited about the wellreceived recital and that "It was an honour for us that this has finally happened. We were delighted to be doing it together."



Carol Schutz, left, and Sally Imrie: happy about their joint recital.

A British invasion

he English Department was recently 'invaded' for a week by the charismatic Professor Jon

Stallworthy

from Oxford University.

He was invited by the Department to give a series of lectures and poetry readings. His lectures focused on the aspect of post-colonial theme of imperialism. He analyzed a case study of India and compared the

way the

British write about India with the way the Indians write about India.

Professor Jon Stallworthy

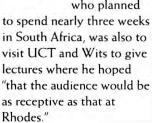
Stallworthy said that he was delighted to be invited as he has many friends in the

country and knows quite a few Old Rhodians who work in England.

He found this, his

second visit to the country "which I knew had lots of potential", exciting because so many changes had taken place and said he appreciated the "kindness and generosity of Rhodes University" which had made his visit possible.

Prof Stallworthy, who planned



The niceties of legalities

he Accounting
Department's annual
moot court saw some
14 Tax Law students from the
Rhodes Accounting
Department appealing and
responding in a lively case of
a jockey who felt that he had
been harshly treated by the
Receiver of Revenue.

The "court" heard that the jockey had been paid R 200 000 by his employer, as a guarantee that he would not ride racehorses for other people, on a freelance basis, in a competition in which his employer's horses took part.

The Commissioner for Inland Revenue declared this amount taxable and the

jockey appealed before Mr Acting Justice A J G Lang.

Counsel for the appellant was Robert McIntyre and we are sure that all Rhodos' readers wish him great success and happiness in his future career. Such was the strength of his argument and the depth of his research that the Receiver (represented by Kevin Barnard), who wins such cases more often than not, went away empty handed! Judge Lang, in consultation with the Accountant and Commercial Members, Mr J D Inge and Mr G M Louw respectively, ruled in favour of the jockey.

Phumeza Maxashe

Senate representation

n a recent election, the following people were elected as Lecturers' representatives to serve on the University Senate during 1998:

Professor M B Bunting Dr M H Burton Mr N S Coughlan Professor A N Hodgson Mrs S K Sparrius Dr G M Watkins

Maths specialists in town

he Mathematics
Department was
recently visited by
several specialists for a month.
Two of them, Professors
Klawonn, from Germany, and
Garcia, from Spain, were
especially interested in Fuzzy
Set Theory and Applications.

Happy to be at Rhodes are, (from left, back row) Dr Babington Makamba, Mr Andre Swartz and Dr Mike Burton and (front row) Prof Venkateswaran Murali, Prof Frank Klawonn (Germany), Prof Wesley Kotze and Prof Javier Garcia (Spain).



The French connection

he French city of Bordeaux was recently flooded with academics who attended a conference whose theme was Man and His Destiny in French Literature during the inter-war years of 1918 and 1939

Dr Francois Jaques, a senior

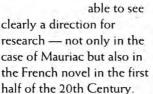
lecturer in Rhodes Department of French and Italian, the only representative from the African continent, was one of the delegates. He presented a paper entitled Innocence, Guilt and Destiny in the novels of F Mauriac.

"The paper was a result of research I have carried out over a number of years on the author", he said. "The focus of the conference was on literature published between the two world wars. Other delegates talked about poetry, theatre and political writings of authors of the prescribed era."

"I chose a theme from the novels of Mauriac, the 1952 Noble Prize winner because I think he has to

> come to grips with fundamental, philosophical and religious issues confronting 20th Century man," he added.

Dr Jaques was able to make numerous contacts and was



Phumeza Mgxashe

Young mathematicians strike gold

sponsored mathematical camp on our campus in April, will have watched closely the fortunes of the South African team sent to the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO).

Contenders for places in the team which travelled to the Argentine for the event were coached here at Rhodes. The team of six, plus a reserve, were named shortly after the camp and, led by Rhodes' Prof Nic Heideman, with Dr Graeme West of Wits as deputy leader, did very well while overseas, Prof Heideman says.

"South Africa improved its position from last year's 43rd out of 75 countries to 38th out of 82 countries, winning a gold medal and two bronzes", he says. "Our previous best was to gain three bronze medals. We have never won a silver or a gold medal before."

"We had a very young team", he added. "Only one member is in matric, and the gold medal winner is only in standard 7. So almost all the members of the team are eligible for selection again for the 1998 team to the IMO in Taiwan. In Argentina we beat most European countries including Norway, Denmark

Ireland, Italy & Spain, and New Zealand. The top scoring team was that of China

Heideman was part of the jury which selected questions for the Olympiad from a list of 26. There was a strong move to choose problems which require ingenuity and lateral thinking as opposed to intensive coaching in advanced techniques. This decision favoured smaller countries like ourselves.

All students in South Africa are encouraged to be part of the Talent Search Program which was designed to develop problem solving skills. Participation in local Maths competitions also helps to develop problem solving skills.

"Later this year we will be restarting a program of training for Grahamstown students in order to prepare them for Maths competitions," Prof Heideman said.



Dr Francois Jaques: delighted with his French visit

Today's pharmacists 'more patient-orientated'

ombasa Hewana believes that "the Rhodes rugby team is the fittest sports team on campus."

The second-year Pharmacy student was one of those testing the fitness of people on our campus during the course of Pharmacy Day last month and commented favourably on the good turn "in spite of the tests proving hectic and physically challenging."

Mr Lenard Paton, a senior lecturer in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, said that pharmacists today are more patient-oriented. "They are involved in health issues at the primary health care level. The practice is no longer about handing medicine over the counter but of giving

advice and listening to them," he explained.

Ranga Mutasa and Salushka Munmohan, third- and fourthyear Pharmacy students respectively, expressed the same sentiments. "We are the only health science facility on campus and it therefore makes sense to have a day like this. It is more a practice session for us and we have gone a long way in tackling the misconception that the tests which we run merely investigate the current state of health of individuals," he believes.

"We think we have made people realise that being fine now does not mean you must not do exercise. We need not suffer in our old age as did earlier generations before us," he elaborated.



From left, hudding pharmacists Chetan Gandhi, Lauren McGill, Amit Harilall, Anusha Mithal and Hussein Kalla during the annual Pharmacy Day presented by the RU Pharmacy Students' Association.

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Staff pub open tonight!

ave's Den will be open tonight (3 October). Staff members and their guests are invited to join their colleagues after work, from 17:00.



Smalls

SITUATION WANTED Domestic Workers, recommended: (a) one able to work from midday on weekdays: (b) another able to

weekdays; (b) another able to work part-time/flexi-time to suit individual needs. Phone Monica at 2 5296, evenings.

FOR SALE

Jackson Electric Bass Guitar with case, cable and strap: R 2 000,00. Contact Andrew in Room 211 Jan Smuts House. Tel: 2 2229 or e-mail: tkawonza@sunbird.ru.ac.za

BED AND BREAKFAST Guest flat in relaxed country setting with private entrance, off-street parking, in easy walking distance of university and centre of town. Tel Monica at 2 5296 or email monica@gaybba.ru.ac.za.

BIRTH NOTICE

Mackinnon: Scott and Helen are proud to announce the long-awaited arrival of their beautiful daughter Margaret ("a precious pearl"). Maggie was born on August 20, 1997 at St George's Hospital, Port Elizabeth.

FOR HIRE: KENTON ON SEA

Rustic cottage close to Kariega River and beach. Sleeps 2. Shower and flush toilet. Gas stove in kitchenette. Double bed. R 60,00 per couple per night. Contact Mrs Sylvia Wootton at Kenton on Sea (0464) 8 1870 (after hours) or business (0464) 8 1972.

RHODOS DEADLINE DATES

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BED and BREAKFAST Self-contained flatlet, pool, private entrance. R 55,00 p.p. Contact Sheryl-Anne Drennan at ext 8298/9 (a.m.), 2 7189 (h) or cell 082 657 0359.

TRACKSUITS

Rhodes tracksuits for sale above Kaif, Monday and Thursday afternoons during term. Price R 190. Enquiries to Julia Goodwin, ext 8366 (mornings).

DE WIJN HUIJS Cawood Street. Now carrying wines from 104 Estates and Co-ops. Prices ranging from Plonk to Posh! Come do the wine route with us. Informal tastings done every Saturday from 09:00 to 13:00. We gift wrap your choice wines for special occasions. Tel: Marinda at 31 1356.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Six-week introductory course for adult beginners. Commences Monday, 20 October: 19:30 to 21:00. R 25,00. St George's Hall. Tel: Margaret Marshall, ext 8183.

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Classifieds: 20 cents per word.

Advertising copy must be supplied in writing, on diskette or by e-mail and must be accompanied by full payment (cash, cheque or IDO).