



RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

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Rhodes and PE Technikon win chair to train entrepreneurs

The Rhodes University / Port Elizabeth Technikon (PE Tech) consortium has beaten seven competitors and been awarded a joint international chair in entrepreneurship.

This venture will be established in cooperation with the University of Limerick in Ireland, which was selected as the international partner due to its proven excellence in entrepreneurship and its tremendous success in establishing a strong manufacturing base in the Shannon region. "This initiative will play a pivotal role in the economic development of the entire Eastern Cape and the development of products and services which will make us globally competitive," says Prof Hennie Snyman, Vice-Chancellor, PE Tech.

The chair focuses mainly on the developing entrepreneurship training programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate students in science, engineering and technology.

"Based on the specified criteria, the Rhodes/ PE Tech team came out tops" says Dr Tjaart van der Walt, Director: Industry/Academic Cooperative Research at the Foundation for Research Development (FRD). Among the criteria on which the decision to award the chair was based were, the nature of the partnership between the respective university and technikon partners as well as the commitment and involvement of the top management of these institutions.

Approximately R 750 000 per annum is required to finance the chair. The funds will

be provided by the FRD, the Anglo-De Beers Chairman's Fund, the Rhodes/ PE Tech consortium (including their business partners) and international groups. The Rhodes and PE Tech will be responsible for the provision of infrastructure for the required academic posts.

The steering committee of the chair will embark on a worldwide search for the incumbent of the chair, who is expected to have an in-depth understanding of the factors needed to drive entrepreneurship in higher education institutions. Rhodes Vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods says that this initiative "will stand as a model for such partnerships in the development of the study and practice of entrepreneurship".

Teams comprising of a South African university and a technikon were invited to submit proposals for the establishment of the chair on their campuses. Out of the seven teams that applied, three were given meritorious awards in recognition of the great potential displayed in their proposals. Plans are afoot to ensure that these proposals will be taken further and to explore the possibility of setting up similar projects in these institutions, with other international institutions that have significant experience in establishing the support environment for technology-based entrepreneurship.

The joint international chair in entrepreneurship will be launched at Port Elizabeth early in 1998.

Launching into retirement with a vengeance



Professor emeritus Robert Brookes has no plans to put down his brushes and go fishing. He officiated at the official launch of the book of Sue Ross' Doctoral thesis — *Painting in South Africa* — in P.E. at the Cuyler Street Gallery on November 5 and in Cape Town on November 12. Prof Brookes is the "King of Bad Taste" for the SAFM programme "The BigBIG Brunch on Saturdays. The picture below is his Internet image as pop guru on this programme.



Music course for primary teachers

The Department of Music has launched a music course aimed at upgrading the qualifications of Grahamstown's primary music teachers.

The course, launched at a well-attended ceremony held at the Music and Musicology Department on November 1- runs for four weeks with sessions on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. It is co-ordinated by HOD Professor Christine Lucia. Ms Daniela Heunis, Mrs Sally Kuiper and Ms Mandy Carver.

Dignitaries present included provincial Deputy Director of Arts and Culture, Miss Noluthando Mpola, Port Elizabeth-based

Regional Co-ordinator of Arts and Culture, Mr Charles Wessels, Deputy Chief Education Specialist, Miss Carina du Preez and Eastern Cape Schools Music Organisation President, Mr Vuyisile Jonas.

Speaking at the launch, Prof Lucia said that one of the reasons why she came to Rhodes University was the institution's commitment to its immediate community.

All the 12 participating teachers are from the city township primary schools. They were nominated by their colleagues. Prof Lucia said she hoped that each and

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The Editor,

In the "new South Africa" the active participation of the stakeholders and transparency in decision making are considered as a requirement for development or change. It would seem that this is not the case at Rhodes University. The decision of the administration to convert the martial arts building (dojo) into a new residence without considering the individuals who utilise this facility must be seen as insensitive. Particularly worrying is that the final decision to convert the dojo was made without consulting the sports administration. While we are all aware of the shortage of residence space for new students, I wonder if a similar plan of action would have been adopted had the clubs that utilise the dojo

been larger or of a higher profile. I think not!
Yours sincerely,

*William Froneman
Chairman: Aikido Club*

Editor

Whilst understanding (and to some measure sympathising with!) the sentiments expressed by the Chair of the Aikido Club, we must however make the point that the University has to react to changing circumstances which confront it. This year, the University has been faced with an unprecedented number of returning students requesting accommodation in the University's residences for next year, which means that there is less residence accommodation available for new first year students. As it is, we will have difficulty in accommodating a new student registration of 1100 (which is the same as last year — i.e., no growth factor).

There are various reasons for this situation. An increasing number of students are choosing to stay in residence for the entire duration of their stay at Rhodes. According to several estate agents, there are fewer properties available for suitable digs accommodation. Students are also becoming less willing to accept unsuitable accommodation, preferring the convenience of residence facilities (meals, laundry facilities, security etc). The

hidden costs involved in living in digs have also contributed to the move back into residence.

When this situation became apparent (in September), the University explored every single option which could possibly provide additional accommodation, both on and off campus. A number of new double rooms have been created in the residence system (which is not an entirely satisfactory solution), several transit houses will be used, and one or two off-campus possibilities are being explored. This was however, still not sufficient to meet the demand, and so in consultation with Sports Administration, the decision to convert the Aikido building into a residential block was taken. The decision made by the Administration was endorsed by the Sports Administration on the understanding that the Administration would find an alternative venue for the martial arts club. We are doing our best to ensure that a new venue will be in place for the start of the 1998 academic year. We regret that the building in question has had to be converted at such short notice. We are sure that no matter what sports club was involved, the same decision would have been taken. As stated above, we are doing our best to ensure that nobody lands up losing out!

*Les Reynolds
Director: Estates*

*Iain L. Ange
Asst Dean of Students*

Investing in Grahamstown



The SDI International Investors' Conference was held in East London at the City Hall on Friday 7 November. The exhibition originally scheduled to be held on the grass in front of the Osner Hotel on the beachfront. However, gale force winds blew the marquee away and the venue was changed to a rather bleak and grubby warehouse. Grahamstown had its own stand involving Tourism Grahamstown, Rhodes University and the ISER rural handcraft project, the School Leavers' Training Project, Masithandane Craft Project, the Grahamstown Foundation and Koch Ceramics. Aletta de Villiers and Jenny Purdon of Marketing and Communications and Professor Hugo Nel of the Rhodes department of Economics and Economic History attended, and met several cabinet ministers and a large number of overseas investors who expressed great interest in the Grahamstown stand and in Rhodes University. Seen in the picture are (from the left): Jenny Purdon, Aletta de Villiers and Shelagh Stow.

Orientation Week Handbook

We will soon be preparing the 1998 edition of the Student Orientation Handbook. Although the booklet goes to print in early January, it is very difficult to get hold of people at that time, so we prefer to have all the alterations and/or additions submitted to us before the end of the fourth term — ideally before the end of November.

Will all those who have entries in the handbook please consult their copies of the '97 edition, and let us know, as soon as possible, of any additions or changes that are needed. Details can be sent to either of us as hard copy or to our e-mail addresses, which we have included below.

We will assume that those departments which submit nothing to us are happy to have their '97 entries repeated.

Sirion and Sally-Ann Robertson:
Conveners of Orientation Week. School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, pasr@giraffe
OR Education Department, educ@croc.

Going out in a blaze of — Sambuca?



Professor Peter Surtees, head of the department of Accounting and Master of the Founder's Hall retires at the end of this year. Seen at the party at which the University bade him farewell are (from the left): Mrs Val Searle, Administrative Assistant in the department of Accounting; Professor Surtees' wife, Mrs Coral Waite; his mother, Mrs Diana Surtees and; Professor Surtees



With the encouragement of Professor Philip van der Watt — Dean of Commerce — Professor Peter Surtees prepares to demonstrate his amazing skill as a flaming Sambuca swallower.

The millenium or not the millenium — that is the question

A great debate has begun in some administration circles. The topic? When does the next century begin — on January 1, 2000, or January 1, 2001? What do you think? The best argument for each date will be printed in the next Rhodos — the last edition this year.

The Vice-Chancellor's Address — questions from the floor

Mr Tim Huisamen, of the department of Afrikaans and Netherlandic Studies, asked about the ratio of administrative to academic staff and about limited terms for members of committees. He felt that there should be more turnover of committee members. He also said that it was difficult to find students for courses such as Afrikaans.

He went on to enquire about the procedures used for choosing people for the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching and Research Awards.

Dr Woods said that the ratio of administrative to academic staff was being looked at as part of the review process. He agreed that there should be a turnover of staff on committees, and pointed out that Senate had asked the Nominations Committee to ensure that this occurred.

However, he explained that this was not possible on all committees because Deans, for example, were ex officio members of some of these and some Deans were re-elected for two or three terms of office.

He agreed that students for courses in Afrikaans were difficult to recruit given the present climate. He said that nominations were made for the teaching and research awards, which were considered by a committee of experts who did an excellent job.

Mr Dominic Thorburn expressed concern about representation of the new Faculty of Humanities on committees.

Dr Woods said that the new Faculty will have a full-time Dean and a Deputy Dean who would both represent the Faculty.

Mr Nkosana Khuselo, NEHAWU Shop Steward, asked about the future of service staff and complained about the time of the meeting, as most people wanted to go home at 17:00.

Dr Woods said that the service staff were essential to Rhodes and were regarded as part of the administrative and technical staff complement which was presently under review.

He said that the meeting had been set for 17:00 because it did not cut into work time when most people would not be able to attend. This was the least inconvenient time for all staff and it meant that all staff got home late if they attended.

A letter from Ms Jane Thompson of the International Library of African Music, who asked a question about environmental policy at Rhodes, appeared in the last edition of Rhodos.

A celebration of the mundane

Book Review by Robin Palmer, Department of Anthropology, Rhodes University

***The Horn of Plenty*, by Chris Mann and Julia Skeen. ISEA, Rhodes University, Grahamstown. pp79, including title page and contents; 78 full-colour plates. Recommended retail price: R76**

As a "coffee-table book", *The Horn of Plenty* represents something of a departure for Rhodes's Institute for the Study of English in Africa, which is normally associated with modestly-monochrome academic publications.

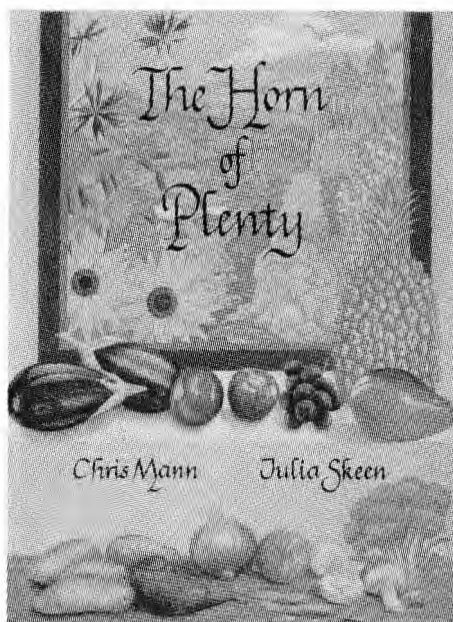
Horn of Plenty juxtaposes poems by Chris Mann with paintings by Julia Skeen. The book was launched at the Grahamstown Festival in July, so it is not exactly "hot off the press". There is, however, good cause for re-examining a recent publication of this nature, with the season of festive gift-exchange and, increasingly, international tourism (implying souvenir- and gift-buying) almost upon us. The book represents not only excellent value for money but also has local, regional, and even international relevance and interest, and so it is of particular relevance to these seasonal markets.

Noting that it is highly unusual for an academic research institute to publish a book capable of being (a) a Christmas present or (b) a tourist's souvenir of South Africa, this reviewer has to consider not only its suitability for such purposes but also whether appearances might be deceptive — is *Horn of Plenty* simply a colonial version of *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, or might there be more to it than that? Are we dealing with art as well as curiosity/diversion/sensuality ... all those lower-order needs and stimuli that large-format, copiously illustrated books are designed to deliver?

Let me state right away that the book works very well at various levels. It is a very attractive production. Every page bar the Table of Contents and the fly-leaves is an A4 full-colour reproduction of an original water-colour surrounding a poem rendered in unfussy calligraphy.

Obligingly, the pages are only printed on one side, so it would be possible to frame all 78 of them. At a couple of cents more than a Rand a page (the book has been heavily subsidized), even with the addition of bulk-bought A4 frames, acceptable and economic presents could be concocted for a very long Christmas gift or tourist souvenir list!

Seriously, though, from the point of view of both the Christmas gift-seeker and the tourist inured to photographic essays of the kind associated with Struik, there is more than good value to be obtained here. *Horn of*



Plenty stands out among its coffee-table rivals because, like the Victorian sampler it evokes, the book reflects craftsmanship and hard work while it celebrates the commonplace in text, calligraphy and painting.

The subjects — literally common-or-garden vegetables and plants for the most part — are part of the international as well as the South African quotidian experience. For the tourist, especially, there is the thrill of the discovery of the familiar in exotic surroundings, an ordinary potato or cabbage lovingly depicted and described in South Africa, like finding Watney's on the Costa Brava, or Castle in London.

Every page simultaneously depicts and characterises a particular subject. Occasionally a mineral or animal replaces the vegetables or flowers which predominate. There is even a celebration of an animal product — water-buffalo manure!

The immediacy of the realistic, controlled, paintings is complemented by the engaging proximity of the verse, which occasionally catches itself going over-the-top. (That is when I like it the most.) This tendency is most apparent in *Broccoli* and in the closing lines of *Olives*:

The roots of olive-trees ...
... but cleave
the subterrestrial strata
with love's deep lightning strokes.
Olives taste most
when eaten with bread and wine.

The ironical self-regulation does not endure, however: the very next item following *Broccoli* is *Litchi*, a poem of unbridled sensuousness from beginning to end, against,

to my mind, the finest illustration of the lot. In similar vein, *Poinsettia*, *Frangipane*, and even *Potatoes* and *Cabbages* also represent the partnership at its most ... fruitful.

Sensuousness is a prominent theme in the writing, at its frankest in Mann's comparison of artichoke-eating with love-making. But so is erudition — and this is where the author of the pretty calligraphed coffee table book recedes and the renowned poet and scholar takes over. *Tomato* contains something you seldom see — a longish quote (from Thoreau) perfectly integrated in a poem. *Rice* includes a Chinese proverb. *Droppings* does much the same in the Hindu tradition. *Grapes* is a vehicle for poking fun at the early Christian and classical thinkers.

Mann's alternated verbal pyrotechnics and contemplations, in all their joyous verve, find in Skeen's paintings the perfect quiet, controlled, understated counterpoint. I wonder if there is any intentionality here. Had the illustrations been less restrained, the verse might have lost impact. Could some ancient truism of gender, denied in our epoch, be expressing itself without irony in this book which in so many other ways evokes another time? Yet it was no patriarch who celebrated, closely and jointly with his wife, the contributions of their small children in the epilogue, *Patterns*.

The paintings, considered by and for themselves for the moment, are at their most confident — and therefore competent and pleasing — when they deal with surface texture, extending to almost-flat entities such as leaves and petals, especially when these relate to each other in a design. Keen is less successful with globular, shiny shapes such as aubergines and a glass coffee-pot.

It is artificial to regard the paintings and text separately, however; for, as I hope I have already shown, the book is quintessentially a partnership between two different but complementary creativities. Together they celebrate, but also transcend, the mundane.

In the production of the book, Mann and Keen took the enormous risk of writing the poems directly onto the watercolours — the equivalent of tightrope-walking without a net. Why do it the difficult way when, besides the risk of spoliation, it required a special paper, absorbent enough for the water-colour, not too rough for the pen? I can only conclude that in this labour of love, as if to take short cuts would somehow diminish the result of this enormously onerous and time-consuming task.

Maybe there is a link between perspiration and inspiration: the book certainly provided me with hours of stimulation and delight; and it is the kind of book I shall keep handy and return to in the years to come.

Telephonists on the line

Telephone assessment of participants in the 1996 Frontline courses

At the end of September a freelance communications practitioner was contracted to survey and assess a sample of those who attended the Frontline Courses in 1996.

The responses were judged on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 to 3 = Poor; 4 to 6 = Average; 7 to 9 = Good and; 10 being Excellent

Responses to a set of questions were assessed for

- a) Friendliness
- b) Courtesy
- c) Clarity of Communication
- d) Product Knowledge

Participants were also assessed on the manner in which they answered and ended the call.

The surveyor enlisted the aid of a Xhosa friend to test the switchboard staff's reaction to callers speaking only Xhosa and was pleasantly surprised to discover that the operators who took the call did their best to assist with the queries, although they were not able to respond fluently.

Twenty-one people were telephoned and the following results obtained.

Start/end call: Two were rated at 4 on

the scale; two at 6; three at 7; ten at 8; four at 9.

Friendliness/helpfulness: One was rated at 4 on the scale; two at 6; four at 7; six at 8; six at 9; two at 10. Clarity: Two were rated at 4; four at 6; four at 7; five at 8; six at 9.

Product knowledge: Two were rated at 4; one at 5; three at 6; five at 7; five at 8; four at 9; one at 10. On the whole, the results were encouraging. It appears that callers are generally treated in a helpful and friendly manner. Although not poor, the starting and ending of calls could be improved as could the area of product knowledge. The evaluator made the following general observations: The Rhodes staff surveyed deserve a medal for patience. Some of the questions were really awful.

Teatimes, lunchtimes and Friday afternoons are not good times to get through to individual departments and the switchboard staff aren't keen to take messages. This is an area which needs to be improved.

Telephones often ring for ages before being answered and I was often left "hanging on" for ages while information was being obtained, or I was being referred to someone else.

Access to water a political issue

Rhodes University's Institute for Water Research (IWR) last week held its Open Day in which staff members took turns explaining some of their activities this year.

The Institute has been holding Open Days since its inception in 1991. The theme this year was "Water Resource Management and the New Water Law".

Among the visitors were representatives from the IWR Board of Control, the National Parks Board, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, universities of Zululand and Stellenbosch, the Water Research Commission and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

The Director of the IWR, Professor Denis Hughes said that the idea of Open Days emanated from the need to report on the Institute's work. Normally IWR Open Days coincide with the annual meeting of their Board of Control.

One of the highlights of this year's Open Day was a presentation by Dr Tally Palmer who serves on the Ministerial Water Advisory Council and has been involved in the drafting of the country's new Water Law. Explaining the need for a new water policy, she said that access to water was inevitably a political issue "because it is influenced by access to land".

Professor Jay O'Keeffe's address was on the conservation of aquatic environment

and the estimation of the rivers' "Reserve", defined as the water required to meet people's basic domestic needs and the needs of the environment.

Prof Hughes and Dr Vladimir Smakhtin discussed the provision of hydrological data for water resource and integrated catchment management.

Ms Shona Carmichael presented the Institute's project on design of the decision-support system for rural water supply, with the emphasis on ground water. Explaining the purpose of the project later,

Prof Hughes said: "On the planning stage of any rural water supply system, there are a number of things that need to be taken into consideration. These include, amongst the others, how a particular community wants to organise its water supply system, how much the project will cost and who is going to pay," he said.

Dr Patsy Goetsch and Mrs Lil Haigh reported on the project which deals with environmental toxicology and "health" of rivers in terms of water quality.

Besides extensive research and teaching, the Institute is doing a lot of environmental consulting work. Ms Delana Louw, representing the recently established consulting branch of the IWR in Pretoria, the involvement of the Institute in various projects of that kind.

Obituary

Mrs Hester Locke

Mrs Hester Locke, who retired from the Department of Psychology in 1982, died last week after a short illness at the age of 77. She was born in Adelaide, where she completed her schooling before completing a primary teachers diploma at the Grahamstown Training College.

She lectured at the Healdtown Training School and the King William's Town Training College before returning to the Grahamstown Training College.

She was a talented artist and, for twelve years she was designer and head of department at the Grahamstown Potteries. She was also one of the illustrators of Professor JLB Smith's book, *The Sea Fishes of Southern Africa*.

She completed a BA and Honours degrees at Rhodes and joined the staff of the department of Psychology as a Junior Lecturer in 1968. She did a Master's degree in Clinical psychology in 1977.

Several years ago she and her husband, Professor Emeritus Eugene Locke, a former head of the Human Movement Studies, moved to Port Alfred, where they had built their dream house on the marina.

They had not been their long when Professor Locke had a cycling accident which, tragically, left him severely incapacitated. Hester cared for him devotedly until she was taken ill herself. She leaves her husband and a son, Neilan, and his family.

Launch of music course for primary teachers

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every one of them would be able to put into practice the skills learnt from the course, for the benefit of those who could not attend.

She thanked Dr Ishbel Sholto-Douglas, the Dean of Arts Professor Ian MacDonald, Marketing and Communications Director, Mrs Aletta de Villiers, Prof Paul Walters and John Stoker.

Shortly before the end of the ceremony, the teachers burst into a song, led by Ms Mpola and Chris Jamela.

One of the teachers, Ms Yvonne Qona of Archie Mbolekwa Primary School said the course was what she had always longed for. She said she was impressed with what they were taught. "It's a pity that the course is only four weeks," she said.

Jet-setting fish researcher

By Siseko Njobeni

A Research officer in the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Mr Tony Booth last month attended a Fisheries Stock Assessment Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

The conference was the largest gathering of fisheries modellers to date. It dealt with the development and application of new fisheries stock assessment models.

Mr Booth presented a paper dealing with spatial analysis and its application in fisheries management. He has developed a Geographical Information System which enables him to do mathematical and statistical modelling of fish populations.

This area of research, according to Mr Booth, is relatively new in the world of fish-

eries and is part of a continuing work to develop the first large-scale geographical information system for assessment in the management of marine fisheries.

In addition to the conference, Mr Booth had the opportunity to visit institutions such as the School of Fisheries at the University of Washington and the National Marine Fisheries Service — both in Seattle.

"The trip was a rewarding experience for me. I had the opportunity to meet colleagues in my field of research and discuss future collaborative work," said Mr Booth.

Mr Booth has also attended a workshop held in Madras, India in June this year. The workshop, sponsored by the British Commonwealth, dealt with the use of remote sensing for the management of coastal zones and oceans.

Interdepartmental bowls tournament



Les Reynolds of the Estates Division (above) and Dr Jaap Kuiper (below) from Education, battle it out in the interdepartmental bowls tournament earlier this year.



Smalls

Accommodation wanted

Young, female professional seeking accommodation for 1998, in modern house in secure area. Non-smoking. Off-road parking. Phone Elizabeth at 311317 (h)

Politics Lecturer seeks 1 bedroom furnished flat/cottage from January 1998. Contact David Pottie, ext 8356, e-mail: podp@giraffe

Accommodation offered

BED and BREAKFAST. Self-contained flatlet, pool, private entrance. R55,00 p.p. Contact Sheryl-Anne Drennan at ext 8298/9 (a.m.); 27189 (h) or cell 082 657 0359.

Kidds Beach Self-catering flatlet. Bedsitter with 1 double bed and fold-out two-seater couch; TV. Separate kitchen with double hot-plate and fridge. Shower/toilet. Ideal for a couple with one or two children. R120 per night. Available for weekends and vacations. Some Dec/Jan dates still available. Phone 0431 811671 evenings

Miscellaneous

Housesitter available. January — April 1998. Conducting research in Geography Department. Contact Gina at g97zc008@giraffe

Would you like your house occupied over Christmas? We have family visiting who would be happy to look after your home/pets in return for accommodation. Contact Julia Goodwin tel (w) 318366 (h) 28176 or email j.goodwin@ru.ac.za



THE MUSTARD
SEED

HEALTH
SHOP

A Slimming Menu. Are you too busy to plan, prepare and cook good food? Let us do this work for you. We offer healthy, tasty food and deliver it. We can cater for your specific dietary needs. Please contact the Mustard Seed at 311 496 or 311 174