

REVIEW OF 1982 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1983

Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University Dr Derek Henderson

The main subject of discussion at Rhodes University is growth and how best to control it. There were 3 202 students registered at Rhodes this year. It is the first time that we have exceeded 3 000 and, apart from 1946 when large numbers of ex-servicemen came back from the second world war, it is the first time that our numbers have increased by over 200 in a year.

We have already received about ten per cent more applications for next year than we had for this and, as both residential accommodation on campus and student accommodation in town are full, it seems that we might be facing a bit of a problem. However, it is one that we welcome for a number of reasons. The main advantage of a university having more applications that it can accept, is that it can select its students, and we are now devising the best means of choosing our 1983 crop.

On the academic front the renamed Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry offered a fully fledged course in biochemistry for the first time and this will be expanded next year into a two-year major.

The Department of Education introduced a computer literacy course for teachers in conjunction with the Department of Computer Science. Computers also featured in another new course in business data processing introduced by the Department of Business Administration. Some of the language departments have co-operated in the introduction of a course in Modern Fiction in Translation.

In East London ninety students registered for the part-time Bachelor of Commerce degree with a much lower drop-out rate than in 1981.

The new East London premises came into use at the beginning of this year and are becoming a centre for informal community-oriented courses. Investigations are being made into what new courses are needed in the East London area.

The major building work in the centre of our university is proceeding according to schedule. The departments of English, Geography and Geology should be moving into their new premises in the July vacation. The project will have cost about three-and-a-half million rand.

I think that the prospects of new academic buildings and large numbers of good students augur well for Rhodes University in 1983.

DR D S HENDERSON

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