



Consultation a prerequisite for new SRC

Credibility and respect — these are the two prime goals of this year's new SRC executive at Rhodes, according to President Chicco Khoza and Vice-President Linda Pledger.

Their self-imposed challenge is to achieve this state of affairs primarily with the student body and then with the staff and administration of the University. They believe that if the first is attained, the second will follow.

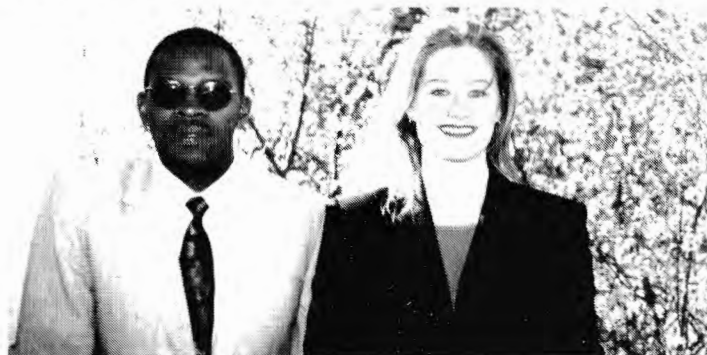
"It is not going to be an easy road", says Khoza. "Our credibility with the student body is negligible right now. So we have, as a priority, to work at persuading the students that we are here to represent them — all of them — and we are determined to do this."

"Our first objective is to transform the way the SRC is managed and led," Pledger

adds. "This SRC is going to be student driven."

"In order to achieve that" continues Khoza, "we are going to make it our business to communicate effectively with the students. We cannot afford to be sectarian — we have to inculcate a 'culture of debate'. We will make every effort to advise the students of any issue which is brought to our attention and to which we are asked to respond, before we do so. We will investigate the extent of the support for any matter which may be raised."

Chicco Khoza is a postgraduate student reading for an LLB at Rhodes after gaining his BA (Law) in Swaziland. He is in his second year of study and hopes to proceed to Masters studies next year. Linda Pledger is in her second year of study towards a BComm.



Chicco Khoza and Linda Pledger. They're encouraged by the highest percentage poll at any SRC elections across the country, but still see the establishment of credibility with the students as their prime objective. "High though the poll was", says Linda, "there were still far too many students who didn't vote. We want to know their views as well."

The pair see acceptance — and respect — from the staff at Rhodes as of critical importance to their success. They accept that this has to be earned but see that this in itself is a reciprocal affair. But rather than wait to see who should respect who first, they

have decided to start the ball rolling themselves. "We'll do what we can to win over the students," they say, "and we'll then expect to be given credit for it."

They are quite determined that they will consult with the

continued on page 5

Anti-cancer drug on Rhodes research agenda

Researchers in the Chemistry Department are currently investigating the development of new platinum-based anti-cancer drugs which will have the advantage of effectively treating a broader range of cancers, with fewer toxic side-effects.

The clinical success of the antitumour drug, Cisplatin, has stimulated a large amount of interest amongst researchers who are now trying to discover why Cisplatin works so well and then work on improving it. The other alternative amongst researchers, is to break away totally and look for new compounds which unlike Cisplatin, do not present problems in terms of toxic side-effects or

the development of resistance and which operate against a wider spectrum of cancers.

The present study, conducted by Dr Cheryl Sacht of the Chemistry Department at Rhodes University and her Masters student, Michael Datt and Honours student, Kerry Horne, focuses on the design and synthesis of a series of novel platinum complexes which have the ability to bind to DNA in two different ways. Studies are also being carried out to examine the biological activity of some of these complexes.

"As one of the biological targets for cancer agents is DNA," says Dr Sacht, "it makes sense to design compounds which

combine to DNA in different ways as they would therefore have a greater chance of success."

The studies conducted at Rhodes will continue as an ongoing project and any promising compounds, several of which have already come to light, will be sent to cancer institutes for further study.

Dr Sacht has just returned from an International Conference on Coordination Chemistry in Canada where she presented a paper on this project. The Conference was attended by over 900 delegates and consisted of nine sessions covering all areas of coordination chemistry.

Great resource noted

The Editor,
G'day,

What a great resource! I am a Kiwi studying Resource Management in the USA. We have to write a thesis for our Environmental Policy class. I had to pick a country and of course picked RSA. I spent 9 months there in 1994 and loved every minute of it. I thought I would spend days pouring over books, but found everything I needed right here (just about). Once I finish this degree I hope to be back in RSA working.

Pity your Rugby isn't up to scratch...

Again an excellent job!

Cheers,

Greg Lauer, Purdue University



*Letters to
The Editor*

Congratulations to all

The Editor,

BRAVO! This is a superb contribution to environmental law capability in South Africa and intern-ationally.

Congratulations to all concerned!

Best wishes,

Prof Nicholas Robinson, Pace
University School of Law Centre
for Environmental Legal Studies

Editor's note: The Southern African Environment Project home page may be visited at <http://www.ru.ac.za/departments/law/SAenviro/saep.html>.

Copies of inauguration speeches available in print

A Commemorative brochure which contains some photographs taken at the Inauguration Ceremony on August 30th, together with the text of the addresses which were delivered, has been produced by the Marketing and Communications Division.

A copy will be sent to each of the academic staff members who were seated on the stage and who were not able to hear the proceedings due to a fault in the public address systems.

Other staff members who wish to obtain a copy are invited to do so from the

Marketing and Communications Division.

With reference to a letter to the Editor published in the last issue of *Rhodos* concerning the problems of hearing experienced by staff seated on the stage during the inauguration ceremony as a result of the technical hitch, it should be noted that the University has received a letter from the Chief Executive of the Grahamstown Foundation, Dr Richard Chernis, in which he has apologised to the Vice-Chancellor. The Foundation takes full responsibility, the letter states.

Rhodos 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.

It runs in the family!

James Gain, a part time lecturer in the Department of Computer Science, has been awarded a British Commonwealth Scholarship to register for a PhD degree at Cambridge. It is of interest that it is the same scholarship that his father won 28 years ago.

James was recently awarded his MSc degree with distinction after researching Virtual Reality and Solid Modelling (designing shapes on computer). He will be doing research in the field of Interactive Three-Dimensional Computer Graphics under the auspices of St. John's College.

The scholarship pays full fees and a living allowance.

James' father, Prof David Gain (a former HoD of Classics) was awarded the same Scholarship 28 years ago and chose to study towards a PhD in Classics at London University.

Check with Financial Aid office

Staff members and postgraduates at Rhodes should be aware that many invitations for applications to apply for scholarships are received by the Financial Aid office on a regular basis. A recent example is that from the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, in respect of the Mandela Cambridge Scholarships for South African citizens.

There are up to 20 scholarships for one-year taught postgraduate courses of study and up to ten scholarships for research leading to the PhD degree.

They are tenable for up to one year for the taught postgraduate courses and up to three years for a course in

research leading to the PhD degree. They will cover the University Composition Fee, approved College fees, a maintenance allowance sufficient for a single student and a contribution towards a return airfare.

Completed preliminary application forms, obtainable from the financial aid office, must be received in Cambridge before the end of October.

From Oxford University, Maureen van Hille, in the Financial Aid office, has received notification of the Canon Collins Educational Trust/Chevening Scholarships. These are available to students from South Africa entering a one-year Master's degree course in one of a wide range of subjects.

Travel costs included

Five in number, they cover University and College tuition fees with a grant for living costs. In addition the travel costs to and from the United Kingdom at the start and the end of the course are covered.

Applications for the scholarship must be submitted before 1 April 1997 by candidates who must have applied for admission to the University prior to January 1997. The Financial Aid office has details and application forms which may also be requested directly from the International Office at the University of Oxford by e-mail addressed to international.office@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Mrs van Hille advises staff and students to check regularly with her office for details of other opportunities. Tel ext 8175 or e-mail finaid@ru.ac.za.

Ergonomics no longer a mere buzzword

An initiative with great implications for Africa, first raised nearly a year ago at an International Ergonomics Conference held in Rio de Janeiro, has borne fruit with the launch of a combined venture of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) working with the International Labour Office and the Ergonomics Society of South Africa (ESSA).

The inauguration and presentation of a series of Roving African Ergonomics Workshops has provided Prof Pat Scott, of Rhodes' Department of Human Movement Studies and the ESSA, of which she is Secretary, with a long-awaited opportunity to become more actively involved in the

practical implication of ergonomic intervention in industry, an ESSA thrust of some ten years standing.

Working conditions in Africa are, generally, far from ideal, she explains in a report on the seminars to the IEA Council meeting in Colorado, USA at the end of July. Continual exposure to sub-optimal conditions has led to acute and chronic work-related injuries and diseases.

The IEA decided in Rio de Janeiro that its focus for 1996 would be towards industrially developing countries. A book entitled *Ergonomics Checkpoints* has been produced, which Prof Scott sees as a breakthrough. It was only published in June, by the ILO, and was used at the five

Ergonomic Workshops (Roving Seminars) conducted in June and July, the first of which was hosted by the South African Breweries in Port Elizabeth. Delegates at this and the others held in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and at the Jwaneng Diamond Mine in Botswana, were able to gain a far more critical and accurate understanding of ergonomic principles and their application in industry. No more is the concept merely a buzz word with which to sell office furniture.

Each workshop was attended by between 20 and 30 delegates comprising students, loss control officers, medical doctors, engineers and managers.

Prof Scott, who organised the seminars, was joined as a course leader by Prof Houshang Shahnavaz of Lulea University in Sweden.

"The workshops have certainly had great influence on managers", she was able to tell the IEA Council in Colorado, "and we have had requests for follow up seminars from many other areas in South Africa as well as from Kenya, Zimbabwe and Namibia." She has seen great interest and demand, with requests for follow-up workshops already to hand. Exciting news is that the IEA, in recognition of the value of the course, may well declare 1997 as a second year of specifically directed attention to the industrially developing countries.

Local company an early beneficiary

Grahamstown has already benefitted from the attendance at the Port Elizabeth Ergonomics workshop by Ms Linda Ngxakaza, a shop steward at Rosedale Dairy, and the company's Operations Manager, Steven van Zuydam. As a result of her experience Linda wasted no time in implementing certain ergonomic principles at work

and has become closely associated with one of Prof Scott's Masters students, Ms Karyn Jacka, in a programme of work hardening at Rosedale.

Rosedale's Managing Director, Robin Aliston, says that the adoption of Ergonomic practices has had far-reaching benefits. "Apart from the obvious gains in productivity and the decreases in down time, there has been

a noticeable (and measurable — the workers have established an active soccer team) improvement in team spirit", he says. "It has also become an integral part of our own new programmes concentrating on the development of people in the work place. Valuable contacts now exist between the Dairy and the Human Movement Studies Department. Ms

Jacka's 2-month programme has taught our workers to use their bodies effectively to lighten load while becoming more productive, and they are finding that they are enjoying it. From management's point of view we see an big improvement in motivation and the staff are certainly enjoying the attention they have been getting. It has been a great team building exercise!"

Ms Jacka is currently busy with similar courses at two other local companies, SA Bottling and Metro Cash and Carry.

Rosedale
DAIRY



From left to right Prof Pat Scott, Ms Linda Ngxakaza and Ms Karyn Jacka share the happiness of Rosedale workers who had just received certificates recording their completion of the 2-month course on work hardening. In the back row, fourth from right, is Rosedale Managing Director Mr Robin Aliston.

Their contribution to Rhodes recalled

Arbor Day was celebrated in what has become the traditional manner at Rhodes a fortnight ago when no less than ten people, all of whom had in common their

lengthy periods of service to the University, were invited to plant trees around the University's 'Red Square' precinct, near the Departments of Anthropology and Sociology.

Speaking on the occasion the Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, noted that the planters had recorded some 314 years of service between them.

Top of this list was Mrs J Prince, of the Laundry section, with

43 years to her name and she was closely followed by two of her colleagues, Mrs S Hector and Mrs N Abrahams, both of who started work at Rhodes in 1958. All three are still on staff.



The ten, photographed after their horticultural activity are, from left to right, Prof D Eve, Mrs N Abrahams, Mr W O West, Mrs J Prince, Mrs S Hector, Mr J O West, Mrs L Sha (who planted a tree on behalf of Mrs J Tshete, unable to be present) Mr J N Papenfus, and Prof F G Butler. In front is Mr W Mbumbu.

Nine different indigenous species were planted with Dr Woods able to describe each, and their various attributes and uses, to the approximately 50 people who attended the annual ceremony.

Hearing our voices

Being a language teacher does not simply mean standing up in front of a class and implementing a teaching method designed by some language education experts, nor does it mean following, uncritically, a syllabus which the state or provincial education department feel is appropriate for schools and language learners.

Central to the process of learning and teaching a language is the teacher, and this vital point, which is all too often forgotten, was the kernel of the inaugural lecture, *What's it like to be a language teacher?* Hearing our voices, delivered by Prof Gary Barkhuizen of the Department of Linguistics and English Language earlier this week.

Teachers get wrapped up in the fast moving world of planning lessons, getting

through the syllabus before the final exams, setting and marking classwork and tests, and dealing with students' learning and discipline problems" says Prof Barkhuizen, who went on to point out that teachers seldom stop to take a good look at themselves and decide where they fit in to the whole process, whether or not they are developing or learning, what exactly they are doing in their classes and what the role is that they play in making decisions which affect their lives.

During the lecture Prof Barkhuizen turned his attention to the lives of practising language teachers in South African schools. He focused on the lives of teachers within the classroom and discussed ways in which teachers are constrained to conform to various agendas

inflicted on them by the schools and the discourse of language teaching.

He was able to suggest ways in which teachers can counter these pressures and how by exploring their own teaching they will become more open to generating new ways of doing things.

"Independent critical thinking teachers are what South Africa has been lacking so badly," he said.

Julie Gibson

NEWS from RUSA

The Rhodes University Staff Association has elected its new Executive for the 1996/97 year at its Annual general meeting held recently.

The new Chairperson is Mr Dave Wilson and he is joined by Mesdames Mary Allen, Glynn Armstrong and Disa Dollar, Profs David Sewry and Roger Southall, Messrs Trevor Amos and John Landman and Dr Gary Baines. The Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer will be elected at the first meeting of the Executive.

Approximately six Lecturer's representatives on Senate will enjoy *ex officio* status on the RUSA Committee, as will Mr Chris Mzembe, of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union.

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S'Cool media workshop.

Teenagers inspired in journalism workshop

Some two weeks ago, over ninety teenagers assembled at Riebeeck College, Uitenhage, for S'cool Media workshops in writing, editing, photojournalism and design.

The purpose of the workshop was to create a newspaper. It was an initiative of Monty Cooper, lecturer in photojournalism at Rhodes and Yvette Swartz, an English teacher at Riebeeck College. The classes were supervised by three students: Kay Stead, Jackie Hillsdon and Leigh Kilpert.

The teenagers, from highschools in Port Elizabeth, Despatch and Uitenhage had, during the previous weekend, established a magazine committee consisting of seven girls and headed by Mrs Swartz. They

travelled to Grahamstown to be trained for the workshops.

The pupils' own writing and photographs made for an eight page newspaper called S'Cool Media.

The pupils enjoyed the immediacy of seeing their work in print and their digital photographs in the pages

One of the girls described the workshops as "a real eye-opener" in terms of technology. Some of the smaller, rural schools were inspired to start their own school newspapers.

Two interns will be chosen to participate in next year's International Photojournalism Conference and the annual National School's Festival held in July.

Leigh Kilpert

16 years' service recalled

Bill Mitchell, former Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work, has left Rhodes for Gauteng, on early retirement.

Dr Terry Marsh, Director of the East London campus, where Prof Mitchell completed his 16 years of service to the University, recalled his contribution to the life of Rhodes, and to the Centre for Social Development, when bidding him farewell and



handing over a gift from his colleagues to mark the occasion. They were photographed (above) at the farewell function in East London recently.

Consultation their guide

continued from page 1

students every step of the way. For this reason they are reluctant to identify any specific issues which they expect to tackle, but will do so when they have investigated the support from their constituency. They expect, however, that there will be some residual matters from the previous Council which will have to be addressed. The East London campus will also be demanding their interest and they expect to continue and develop the contact with their opposite numbers there.

Chicco believes that there will be opportunity to consult with the other tertiary institutions in our region as well. "Perhaps some kind of regionalised structure which brings us all together is not far away", he suggests. He has just returned from a conference of SRC leaders from across the country, where this was discussed.

Last respects for a colleague and friend



There was standing room only at the Memorial Service held in the Chapel of St Mary and All the Angels when her friends and colleagues came to pay their last respects to Rhodes employee Phindiwe Veronica Mzizi who died tragically recently.

But, for now, the pair are already hard at work making themselves and their views known to students and staff alike. They are visiting all the residences individually, will be making contact with the

Oppidans and are actively pursuing communication with senior members of the administration and other staff. "We need to sound out feelings and opinions and make it quite clear that the

opportunity for every student to voice his or her thoughts and opinions is a reality. Leadership is best when driven from the bottom up — not the top down," they insist.

New courses a feature of Rhodes' app

Music to his ears!

A recent and highly appreciated donation from Liberty Life has enabled the International Library of African Music (ILAM) to create a long-desired post of Ethnomusicologist and this, in turn, has provoked the planning of a new credit-bearing avenue of specialisation as part of the BMus degree offered at Rhodes.

The new Liberty Life Ethnomusicologist will be based at ILAM and he or she will have a broad area of responsibilities. Duties will be based on the "practical, useful and generous application and dissemination of the knowledge and materials of ILAM, and will include the creation of further teaching materials, the design and implementation of a community outreach programme (to cover schools and institutions as well) and the pursuance and supervision of research", says ILAM Director Dr Andrew Tracey.

Teaching duties, apart from those inherent in the collaborative BMus(Ethno) degree which will be presented by the Department of Music, will also extend to the training of researchers, in-service courses for teachers, lecturing undergraduates in the departments of Music, Anthropology, African Languages and Drama and extramural teaching, to individuals and groups, of performance, research, recording techniques,

transcription and instrument making and repair.

The incumbent will also support Dr Tracey in the editing and publication of ILAM's journal and symposia proceedings and the publication and dissemination of audio and video recordings.

Dr Tracey says that he is excited by the potential which the Liberty Life grant has brought within grasp. "Many ILAM initiatives have had to be curtailed and others have for a long time had to remain dreams", he said. "The Library has hundreds of recordings which, through sheer lack of resource, have never seen the light of day. My new colleague will be able to extend ILAM's profile in many ways and we will be in a position better to respond to the many of enquiries and research requests which we receive continually.

He also sees, in the pending appointment, an opportunity for succession planning at ILAM, something which has been in his foremost thoughts for some time.

The African music component of the BMus(Ethno) degree will be a four-year major. While the specifics will be influenced by the skills and experience of whoever wins the appointment, those studying may expect to be exposed to a wide spread of ethnic music from Southern African countries, with particular emphasis on that of South Africa and the Xhosa people. Instrument making and

performance skills will also be emphasised. In the third and fourth years the students will have the option of Ethnomusicology I and II. Graduate students will be able to perform all Xhosa styles, dances and modes from a large repertoire. They will also be able to compose and arrange works for choral and instrumental groups and handle recording equipment. They will have a high level of expertise in the context of the *marimba* family of instruments, integral to music from most of the African continent.

Throughout the course exposure to live music will be emphasised through visits by resident artists and field trip projects to explore the practical use of music and through performance and outreach efforts to local and other schools.

Dr Tracey admits that he is looking for a rare combination of qualifications, talent and experience. "Applicants should ideally have an outgoing personality; practical African experience; the ability to speak an African language, preferably Southern African; the ability to teach performance of traditional African musical styles; training in ethnomusicology and the ability to teach it at university level; a research interest; the ability to speak in public and computer literacy to enable the editing of publications", he observes. He's optimistic that such a person is out there, somewhere.

GIS the cherry o

In an exciting and innovative response to increasing demands from both the private and public sectors, Rhodes will, from 1997, be offering an Honours degree in Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Dr Trevor Hill of the Department of Geography says that while several tertiary institutions, Rhodes included, have for some years been teaching GIS within Geography degree courses, this will be a first for South Africa and it will enable post-graduates from many realted disciplines to add a significant commercial attraction to their qualifications. Over the past few years the Geography Department has been the recipient of dozens of phone calls and letters, towards the last quarter of the academic year, from prospective employers — all seeking GIS practitioners.

"GIS is more than an exciting field of study", says Hill. "It is one of the single most practical fields of



Dr Trevor Hill in the GIS laboratory

For your diary . . .

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will be visiting Grahamstown next week at the invitation of Amnesty International.

He will be speaking about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission during a public lecture, in the Great Hall on Thursday, 26 September at 18:30. Everyone is welcome.



ach to 1997

the top

interpretive science around, with immediate applications for the young graduate. It is hard to imagine a commercial, industrial or professional field of endeavour not using the science today", he adds, "particularly in such areas as environmental consulting, town planning forestry, agriculture, geology and eco-management. Organisations as diverse as the Johannesburg Municipality and the Shamwari Game Reserve are typical of the users."

GIS is a concept which explores the most sophisticated methods of data interpretation. It draws from space-age technology, such as remote satellite sensing, global positioning systems, spatial data analysis, map projection, and geological exploration. It has many applications, especially in modelling and prediction for strategic planning and scenario building. The process is extremely computerised and Rhodes is currently equipped with the most up-to-date hardware, such as computers,

scanners, digitisers and plotters, and software.

The Honours degree which Dr Hill and his colleagues will be supervising has practical and theoretical modules, each of five weeks duration, combined with two other courses of the student's choice. The theoretical component will address the history, development and basics of GIS, covering holistic skills, spatial data analysis and map projection among other aspects. "It is indicative of the high level of practicality of GIS," says Hill, "that the practical component will have our postgraduates working on 'real world' applications, on behalf of the many commercial clients — such as consultancies — who want to commission work. Students thus see the results of their endeavours almost immediately and gain experience and confidence through interacting with the GIS community prior to graduating."

Academic planning results in support for local community

Manufacturing industries in the East London area as well as fledgling small businesses should benefit from an undergraduate diploma in Manufacturing Management, to be offered, in terms of a proposal awaiting approval by both the University Council and the Minister, at the East London campus from next year.

With the opening of global markets and the political transformation of South Africa, there is a crucial need for a course which will prepare South African industries for the challenge of competing in an international market, whilst at the same time providing for the rapid development of a labour force disadvantaged by the apartheid era.

In his inauguration speech, the new Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University, Dr David Woods, acknowledged the university's responsibility in meeting an increasing demand for tertiary education in the wider community saying, "Major effort will be made at our already flourishing campus in East London to ensure that it will continue to grow to accommodate the many people from a populated hinterland who will benefit from a university education."

The three year Johnson and Johnson Manufacturing Management Diploma is geared towards bringing South Africa up to strength in overcoming the competitive advantage presently enjoyed by the international community in terms of hi-tech knowledge, knowledge of the best manufacturing processes and practices and highly developed human resources.

Based on the internationally acclaimed Bachelor of Manufacturing Management course at the University of Technology in Sydney, the course will offer a unique integration of business and

manufacturing strategy, with a curriculum designed to link traditional management skills such as finance and economics, with more specific manufacturing and production skills which will be honed through the completion of workplace-based projects.

The diploma, which could be the forerunner of a degree-level course in the Faculty of Commerce, will be run through the Commerce Faculty at Rhodes, with the Johnson and Johnson Institute for Leadership Development (formerly the Institute for Social and Individual Development in Africa, ISIDA), as the managing agent.

The Institute has successfully offered a variety of courses to the business and industrial community in East London for the past six years and this has led to the development of a strong relationship between the institute and local companies, many of which, including Mercedes Benz, Johnson and Johnson, Nestle and First National Battery have already expressed their support for the course.

The Diploma of Manufacturing Management will be offered on a full-time basis, with international lecturers from the University of Sydney presenting intensive two week courses and Rhodes University staff presenting lectures in the evenings. The course, which will be limited to 30 students next year, is presently open to those with a matric pass and five years relevant work experience.

"If it develops into a degree course, it may be opened to high-flying school leavers who intend developing a career in the manufacturing sector," said Prof Ken Dovey, Director of ISIDA, who may be contacted at Rhodes' East London campus for more information.



Rhodes, with two students working on digitisers and computers in the background.

To Spain for the Maestro's touch

A Rhodes University first year journalism student recently became the only musician from Africa to be selected for two weeks of music instruction under the guiding hand of one of the great masters of music at the University of Cantabria on the north coast of Spain.

35 pianists from all over the world auditioned for active pupil status, and Rhodes student, Michael Thorn was one of 13 selected for the two week programme.

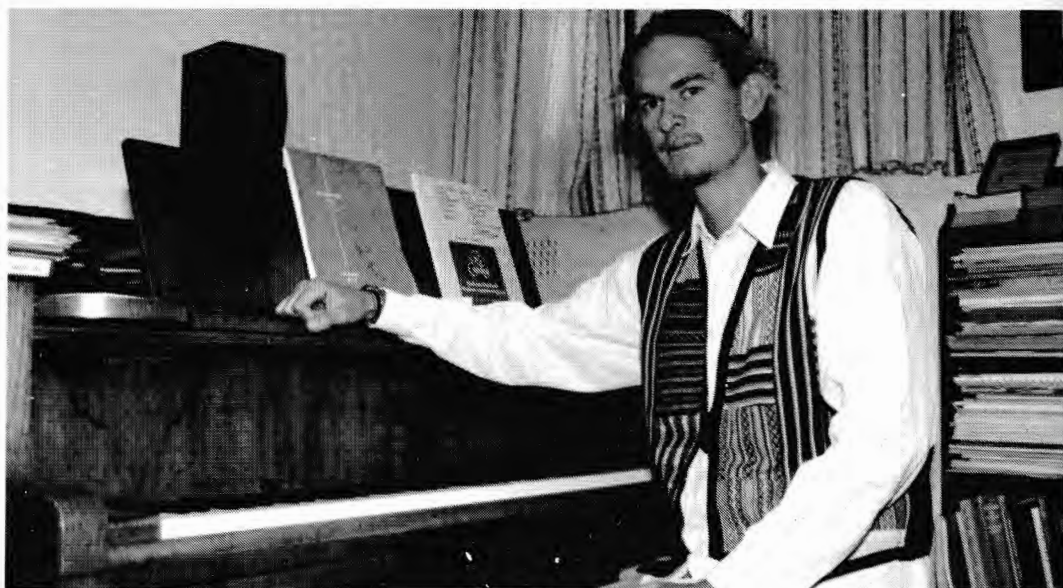
He was accepted into the course under the tutelage of concert pianist, Vitaly Margulis, a teacher of the Russian school of piano playing who now lectures at the University of California.

Each pupil attended three formal lessons during the fortnight, as well as those of their colleagues and it was this presence of his fellow pupils at each lesson that, according to Michael, made each lesson feel like a performance. "The atmosphere was really professional, everyone was working hard and this, as well as the beautiful instruments we had to practice on, really motivated me to work."

"For musicians in South Africa, courses like this are a real wake-up call," commented Michael. "European standards are very high, it's a case of a player rated average being really very good."

His time in Spain prompted some deep soul-searching and Michael is seriously considering a career in music. Whilst he has no definite plans yet, he may enrol for further study with renowned musician Joseph Stanford in Pretoria.

The money for Michael's trip came from winning the top prize, two years ago, at his music school in Namibia.



Piano Man, Michael Thorn, returned from Spain inspired by European musicians.

Well-travelled Geographer

Not inappropriately perhaps, the members of the Geography Department at Rhodes seem to travel widely — a credit to their own skills, qualifications and experience and also to the University.

A good illustration is to be found in the passport of Etienne Nel, Lecturer in the Department. He has addressed three international conferences at foreign venues since April and is about to depart for a fourth.

In April and July he was an invited guest speaker to conferences in Kenya and Australia respectively where he delivered papers on *Small Town Development in South Africa* and *Applied Community Economic Development in South Africa*. Last month, in Scotland, he addressed some 30 delegates from specialised fields on *Localised Development in the Marginal Areas in South Africa* and he leaves later this month, for his third guest speaker's berth, for Ireland and a conference presented by the Commonwealth Association for Local Administration and Economic Development

(CALAED) with a paper entitled *Global Economic Change: Localised Responses*.

In Scotland last month Nel, and colleague Dr Roddy Fox, were amongst representatives, in a small study group, from 16 countries. They addressed development issues in marginal areas of the world, looking at implications on economics, agriculture and transport planning and the unique local responses to the varying situations. "There were great differences in development needs, from country to country," says Nel, "but a remarkably similar approach to intervention. Governments and agencies have found, as have we in South Africa, that facilitation, not domination, is the key."

He was further interested by the higher profile played by Universities abroad, and specifically their organised and affiliated development units, while functioning as extension divisions. "They see it as their function to assist economic developmental interests: perhaps there is a

potential role here for us, in South Africa."

Nel's talk provoked many questions, he recalls, "an indication of the high level of international interest in our country, especially with regard to policy development and constraints."

The conference in Ireland later this month will concentrate on Southern Africa and Nel will be one of a delegation of seven — and the only academic — from here. The Irish President will participate and so will our own, when President Mandela makes use of a live video link to join the delegates. This link will also see invited delegates in east London participating from the Escom Building in that city. CALAED wishes to learn from the South African experience and the issues which we have had to face up to, says Nel. "The delegates wish to explore the potential of economic development as a contributing factor to peace, especially in Ireland."

'Back to my roots'

Professor Barbara Bosch has "Been there, done that!", she feels, after her recent trip to the Netherlands. Together with post-graduate student Surita Joubert, Prof Bosch attended a four week course entitled *Kursus Nederlandse Taal en Kultuur*.

"I recognised my roots", commented Prof Bosch. "I saw both similarities and differences between Dutch and Afrikaans culture. The similarities in language, the value system, ways of thinking and certain characteristics struck me," she said.

According to Prof Bosch, the Dutch are very punctual and straightforward. "I

recognised myself," she smiled. She was also impressed by how much the Dutch are influenced by water.

Om jou kluts kwyf te raak, a term familiar to Afrikaans-speakers, took on new meaning for Prof Bosch when she visited a Vlasmuseum during one of her tours. Such examples, she commented, made her recognise her own culture in the Netherlands.

"Groups stick together," she said. "If you are Catholic, you buy grocery from a Catholic and your friends are Catholic. It is the same with the Protestants."

While she was there, Prof Bosch came into contact with

colleagues from Dutch universities, one of whom will be coming to Rhodes next month. She learnt anew the theory and methods of foreign language teaching.

Groundwork for future collaborative research has been established.

"In the Netherlands, there is high activity and energy in the level of academic discourse. The academics are very hard-working," she observed. Rhodes' own research into language and linguistics is of a very high standard and this was very motivating.

Rhodents Romp to Rhodes Reunion

A handsome number of Rhodents scampered out of the everyday rat-race of their present lives and back to their alma mater for the annual Rhodes Romp and Convocation Meeting last weekend. The dramatic rise in attendance figures led to the first quorum at the Convocation/Old Rhodian Union AGM in several years.

With 63 Old Rhodians attending the AGM, 60 munching the lunch on Saturday, 100 stomping energetically in sixties' fashions at the Sixties Stomp on Saturday night, and about 45 old Rhodents attending the full weekend of events, the 1996 Grahamstown Reunion reflected well on the Alumni Office and the Old Rhodian Union Committee who organised the event.

Rhodes graduates, old and young, were represented at the weekend, with Mr Derek Collet of Grahamstown representing the class of 1934 and Ms Helen Dagut of Johannesburg, the class of 1991.

The President of Convocation, Judge Zietsman, and the President of the Old Rhodian Union, Professor Desmond Eve, were both re-elected to office, whilst Mrs Lil Haigh, who has previously served as a general office bearer on the Old Rhodian Union Committee was "promoted" to Vice-President of the committee at this year's meeting.

In his address to Convocation, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, spoke on the future of Rhodes and the way certain items in the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) Report would influence this.

He pointed out the need for good academic planning and the growth of transdisciplinary study, particularly as the adoption of a new programme-based approach to higher education would improve the university's chances of being favourably assessed and would allow Rhodes to reap the benefit in terms of government funding.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his support for the idea of regional cooperation suggested in the NCHE overview document and stated that Rhodes was already involved in the Eastern Cape Trust which includes the six universities and four technikons operating in the area. Dr Woods stressed that whilst cooperation between tertiary institutions was important, it was also vital for each to maintain their own individuality.

"I would like to create an environment at Rhodes where everyone feels at home and has a part to play", said Woods, who promises to build on the university's reputation as a centre of excellence through: the development of the East London campus, by chairing a committee which will review student services at Rhodes and through an ongoing commitment to transformation that will lead to the enhancement of its graduates.

Julie Gibson

Brink on Shakespeare

Published by the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa, Andre Brink's latest book, *Destabilising Shakespeare*, was introduced to the public at a lecture held by the Society at Rhodes last month. It is a lucid, very readable, account of the author's current view of Shakespeare. Influenced by contemporary writing in a post-structuralist, deconstructionist and post-colonial vein, *Destabilising Shakespeare* comprises five essays and an introduction. Focusing on problems of gender and kingship in Shakespeare, Brink looks briefly at these issues in *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*.

Far from being a subversive, iconoclastic attempt to read Shakespeare against the grain, *Destabilising Shakespeare* sets out to show the extent to which Shakespeare's plays are themselves fraught with destabilising energies, and the limits of these energies. The book is dedicated to Guy Butler.

Shakespeare has been a career-long preoccupation of Brink's from his days as a graduate student at Potchefstroom University. He has translated plays into Afrikaans (notably *Romeo and Juliet* and *Richard III*) and after his move from the Department of Afrikaans and Nederlands at Rhodes, where he taught for 30 years, to the English Department at UCT, he has returned to Shakespeare as a special field of interest.

The book has been produced for the Society by the Institute for the Study of English in Africa (ISEA) Rhodes University, and is available from the ISEA at a cost of R 50,00 inclusive of VAT and postage.

Fashions of a bygone era



Those accompanying the delegates to the 10th Annual Family Practitioners Congress, held in Grahamstown last week, were treated to several events on campus, including, a Chemistry Magic Show and a Victorian Tea Party and Fashion Show on St Peter's lawns. Seen here in the fashions of a bygone era, is Janet Hall, one of the models in an informative and entertaining show put on by the Albany Museum.

Executives on Leather Course

Strategic planners from the Leather and allied Industries recently attended an Executive Leather Course at the Leather Industries Research Institute (LIRI).

LIRI gave an intensive three day course for six executives from Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The Institute pulled the entire technical staff together and delivered short, focused lectures and hands-on practicals.

The delegates learnt about the complete Leather Treatment process, from an initial examination of the Skin Structure to Liming, Curing,

Retanning, Dyeing and Fatliquoring of the hides. They were taken on a tour of LIRI's effluent treatment plant and the Algal Wastewater Treatment plant.

The executives were given an opportunity to get their hands dirty and participated at every stage in the Leather treatment process. After they had done the final finishing stage, which includes spraying and pressing the leather, they were allowed to take home the finished product.

Due to the popularity of the course, LIRI plans to host a similar Executive Leather Course in two months time.

Story and picture: Gemma Gain



The Executives in LIRI's Tannery watching Dennis Jacobs cutting a cured hide. From left to right: Karl Flowers, Leather Technologist at LIRI, Dr Clive Jackson-Moss, Manager of LIRI's Leather Science Division, Dr Gustav Klingbiel, Head of Production and Research, Meat Board, Pretoria, Mr John Nurse, MD — Botswana, Kolosus, Mr Tabona Masuku, Chief Hide Improvement Officer, Botswana Government, Mr Gunther Butter, Manager QA Department, SA Trim and Mr Richard Billing, Trading Director, Kolosus, Zimbabwe.

Township pupils have gift of the Grab

A newspaper published on the internet and in print by pupils from Grahamstown's destitute townships is flourishing.

The paper, Grab, is about to move from its home at the Rhodes Journalism and Media Studies Department to three township schools, Rhodes University announced today.

This followed a donation from the Anglo American De Beers Chairman's Fund to buy computers, said Prof Guy Berger, Head of the

Department of Journalism and Media Studies. "It started last year with 20 teenagers from township schools being coached by senior journalism students", Berger said: "This is an enormously successful project. It shows how the community, academia, the media and especially business can work together to help the youth of the community."

Berger said the computers would be purchased and installed in the schools by the end of the month and that

they would be used to train pupils in basic media skills and computer literacy.

"Although six schools were involved with the paper, three would miss out as the schools had no electricity", he added.

Berger said that in the year since Grab members produced their first edition on the internet, the pupils had become seasoned writers and could lay out pages and design advertisements.

Most of the pupils had never touched a computer before joining the project.

Sandile Jack, 19, one of Numbulelo High School pupils who gave up his Saturday mornings to work on the project, said: "We had never worked on computers before and most of us were afraid of these thinking machines. Now I can type quite well and know the basic functions. This is a big step for me."

continued on page 12

Seeking more marketable graduates



Smiling Physicists. . . From left to right, Mr Pastor Qhobosheane (UNW), Richard Grant (Rhodes), and Dr Stephen Katashaya (UNW) in the Electronics Laboratory in the Department of Physics and Electronics.

How can we make our graduates more marketable?

This is the question that prompted two staff members from the University of the North West to visit Rhodes University's department of Physics and Electronics. Their pursuit? To find out how Rhodes manages to produce more marketable graduates in Physics and Electronics.

For Dr S Katashaya, the principal technician, and Mr P Qhobosheane, a lecturer, both at UNW's (University of the North West) Physics Department, this was a trip to look at the Physics and Electronics department and to see what they can gain from it for their own department.

"The direction taken by our department is intended to produce a marketable graduate in physics as happens at Rhodes. We are looking for co-operation in curriculum development and in the level of staff and student exchange," commented Dr Katashaya.

Dr Katashaya's and Mr Qhobosheane's visit was prompted by the need to improve their own physics graduates. Their focus on this visit was to look at the electronic component of the physics course. "UNW has this component but not at the same level as Rhodes. With us electronics is offered in the 3rd and 4th year of study whereas at Rhodes it is from the first year onwards," said Dr Katashaya.

With the help of Richard Grant, who has been their liaison person in organising the visit, Dr Katashaya and Mr Qhobosheane look forward to a long relationship with Rhodes staff members. "We are grateful to our Physics HOD who approved the visit and the Dean of the School of Education at UNW for procuring the funds for the visit," said Dr Katashaya.

LIRI — saving Australian wetland

The Leather Industries Research Institute (LIRI) is helping to save some of Australia's wetland by upgrading one of the biggest ponding systems in the world, situated near Melbourne.

Mr Pieter Meiring, one of South Africa's leading consultant engineers and Dr Oleg Shipin, from LIRI, were recently invited to Australia. Their challenge was to use a low tech and low cost water treatment system to upgrade Melbourne's wastewater treatment system, allowing them to meet more stringent discharge regulations.

Dr Shipin says the plant, known as Werribee, situated on the outskirts of greater Melbourne, is an internationally recognized natural wetland system with exuberant bird and animal life. This declared sanctuary has over 250 bird species, with the abundance of black swans on the sewage ponds being particularly impressive.

It is thus vital that the plant, Australia's largest wastewater treatment facility, is not upgraded to a high technology system which will inevitably damage the ecosystem. There is a need to continue to operate the current ponding system while

upgrading to an efficient low technology system.

This is where Mr Meiring's and LIRI's (Prof Rose's and Dr Shipin's) work on the PETRO process proves invaluable. PETRO is an acronym for Pond Enhanced Treatment and Operation, an advanced process for treating wastewater, which results in the production of sparkling, clear effluent.

Werribee's existing ponding system does not comply with stringent regulations introduced recently for treated wastewater discharged into Port Phillip Bay, situated near Melbourne.

Dr Shipin says PETRO is characterised by very reliable parameters of discharged water which would make it possible for Melbourne to comply with current and even more stringent forthcoming regulations. *Melbourne Water*, an organisational body, was impressed by the PETRO system.

They plan to build a pilot plant at Werribee and to upgrade the whole facility at a later stage. At the moment they treat approximately 500 ML of waste per day.

The problem at Werribee is that high nitrogen concentrations and algal

numbers are found in the final effluent. Dr Shipin says that the PETRO process allows for very efficient algal and nitrogen removal, which is quite problematic for other low tech systems. In the PETRO process algal removal occurs due to the fact that the algae is absorbed in a trickling filter and produces mucilage, facilitating solids removal. This accounts for the high quality effluent.

Dr Shipin says there is tremendous potential for the PETRO system to be used in other places to upgrade smaller ponding systems, such as those in Maffra, a town not far from Melbourne. There are numerous ponds in the area which are due to have stringent regulations imposed upon them.

There is also great potential for other low tech South African systems to enable Australia to comply with stricter environmental regulations.

Before returning to South Africa, Dr Shipin and Mr Meiring both presented papers on the PETRO process at a conference in Singapore on Appropriate Low Cost Technology for South East Asia.

Gemma Gain

The Department of Education has been expanded to two.

The Departments of Education and Primary Education are situated on the Grahamstown and East London campuses respectively.

Smalls

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Respectable and responsible family require a 2 or 3 bedroomed flat/townhouse/ house to house-sit and/or rent from 1 January 1997, preferably on a long lease. Contact Barbara on ext 8538 (w) or 2 2572 (h) or e-mail sdbp@warthog.ru.ac.za.

URGENT SALE

Fridge to go; R 250. Contact Chere' on ext 8397 or by e-mail at palib@giraffe.

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. . . in private home. Single post-graduate student / working person (preferably female) wanted to share a house with young working woman. The room is partly furnished, with built-in cupboards and a single bed. R 500,00 (includes rent, electricity and domestic). Please phone Judith at ext 8383 (work), 25130 (home) or by e-mail at edjg@croc.ru.ac.za. Or enquire at 9 Shepperson Lane (weekdays).

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Piano. R 2 700. Tel. 27597 after 6pm.

JAM JARS WANTED

Glass jam jars (standard size) urgently wanted. Prepared to pay 50c per jar, and collect them. Please contact Judith at edjg@croc.ru.ac.za, or phone 2 5130 (after hours).

Classical tour to Greece and Turkey.

Warren Snowball, of the Classics Department, will this year be leading a Classical tour to Greece and Turkey, departing by air from Johannesburg on Monday, 25 November and lasting 24 days.

If you go on it, you'll be home in time for Christmas!

It will largely be a repeat of a very successful 1984 tour. Although the primary focus will be on the ancient Greek civilisation, other cultures will be covered as well, such as Hittite, Mycenaean, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic.

Among the places to be visited will be Athens, Olympia, Delphi, Epidaurus, Mycenae, Troy, Ephesus and Constantinople.

"The advantages of such a tour are that it brings together a group of people with similar interests and gives them a chance to see some famous places at a price that would normally be the case" says Snowball.

He is working with Belinda Tudge at Tom Tits Travel on the arrangements. Further details may be obtained from either of the two.

The gift of the Grab

continued from page 10

"We did not believe we could ever do this," said Norman Pantsi of Kuhliso Daniels Secondary School. "Our school will not be able to have a computer as we do not have electricity, but if there is more money in the future it would be very exciting to eventually have a machine in our own school."

Rhodes is now busy training another group of "Grabbers" who will to work on the next edition which should be published in 10 weeks time.

The 'experienced' journalists have started the Grab Club as a way of taking their skills back to their schools", said Berger

By Andiswa Nyobole, ECNA

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