



## RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

31 OCTOBER 1997 VOL 9 NO 18

## Sanlam "Ventures" onto the East London campus

By Siyanda Manana

Sanlam has given a Toyota Venture to the Social Work and Psychology Departments at Rhodes East London. This was due to the outstanding work done by students of the two departments in the disadvantaged communities of East London and at Cecilia Makiwane hospital.

The students counsel children who have been abused, sodomised, raped and emotionally scarred. This counselling also involves the children's families.

Those attending the handover ceremony were treated to the harmonious

voices of the East London students, who sang their hearts out - obviously showing their gratitude to Sanlam.

The party were then taken to the Cecilia Makiwane hospital where they were shown the rooms where the counselling takes place and had an opportunity to pose questions to the people in charge of the Centre about its workings and the workload they had to contend with.

The visitors were amazed at the kind of cases handled by Rhodes students each day.

This generous donation will enable students to travel more easily to the hospital and surrounding areas to continue their excellent work.



Seen with the new Venture at Rhodes East London are (from the left): Professor Andy Gilbert, of the Psychology Department; Mr Gerhard van Wessel, manager of Sanlam, Eastern Cape; Mr Ken Gardner, of Sanlam Corporate Affairs, Cape Town; Ms Felicity Coughlan, head of the Department of Social Work; and Mr Siyanda Manana, Capital Development Manager.

## V-C to address staff

The Vice-Chancellor will address a meeting of the University staff in the Zoology Major Lecture Theatre on Thursday 6 November 1997 from 17:00 to 18:00. The V-C will report on the

current situation at the University. Thereafter he will reply to questions received from members of the University community. Please note that questions must be submitted in writing to the V-C in advance of the public meeting.

STEPHEN FOURIE Registrar

## We're saving it

The Estates Division at Rhodes is researching ways of minimising the level of energy and water consumption on campus, said the Grounds and Gardens Manager Mr Mark Hazell.

Mr Hazell was speaking after a public meeting on the University's environmental policy which was held earlier this month at the Education Department.

He said that the Estates Division had an ongoing energy audit in which they looked at water and power consumption.

"We looked at ways of optimising power and water on campus. Certainly that will automatically have an impact on the amount of water and power used in the entire city," said Mr Hazell.

One of the methods used to save water is to put a brick inside each toilet on campus. "With the thousands of students and staff members on campus you can imagine the litres saved".

The energy audits indicated that about 70 percent of water from irrigation pipes on campus was lost through evaporation. Moreover, Mr Hazell said, the University lost an incredible amount of water through run-off.

"It's unbelievable to see what we lose even after a light shower. That is why we have built a weir below The Vice-Chancellor's Lodge to control water run-off during storms," he said.

Turning to his Division's activities to maintain the environment, Mr Hazell said that there seemed to be an unwritten rule that if there was

an area that needed to be repaired, instead of tarring it, they preferred to pave with red bricks, for environmental reasons. He said the option was viable because the repairs were done without any extensive digging. Also, bricks are more economically viable in the long run as they last a lot longer than tar and are environmentally friendly as they are earth-based.

He said that they had also minimised the use of inorganic fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides as much as possible.

He was excited that the planned Eden Grove building would be environmentally-friendly. "Actually, from now onwards, whenever a new building goes up, environmental aspects will have to be considered".

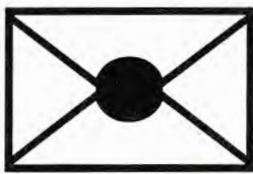
## Our apologies...

To Ms Salushka Munmohan, a fourth-year Pharmacy student, who pointed out that we misspelled her name in the September 19 edition of Rhodos. She also said that she is the Minutes Secretary of the Rhodes University Pharmacy Association (RUPSA), not the Community Service Representative.

## Staff pub open

Dave's Den will be open tonight (31 October). Staff and their guests are invited to join their colleagues after work, from 17:00





## Letters to the Editor

### The Editor

Why the lucky non-redundant Rhodes employee should resist redundancies and early retirements: The pension and provident funds.

If you take the fact that the AIPF paid over 65% of the actuarial value of the input funds you received 35% LESS towards the startup of the new funds. That had implications, at that time, in that your pension would take about 10-15 years to CATCH UP and leave you even with the change over. In reality inflation leaves you behind.

If anyone retires early (and there is a penalty clause which says that you lose 2.7% per year that you are LESS THAN 60 - about 13%) that is a drain on the fund especially if there are lump sum commutations which is probably invariably the case. This has big investment implications for the fund and its catching up.

The trustees have just reported that the fund is "80% funded" - in other words IT IS 20% UNDER FUNDED. It is R18 M in deficit, which will take 10 years to liquidate. Recouping this 18 M is based on the rate of contribution (7% of your diminishing, sub-minimal growth pittance, plus 15% from the employer). So the 10 years has to be optimistic.

Redundancies (which is what Rhodes is doing) will mean that all those kicked out will be paid out limp (sic) sums (the MINIMUM amount that the actuaries can think of: I suppose to save the fund not the individual). And, incidentally, a redundant person's pay out is the MINIMUM actuarial guess as to their fund value which, already, is minus the 20% present under funding

and the 35% loss on the change over amount - compounding to a 40 to 45% deficit. With the pension fund a cash commutation may have tax implications for the redundant person as well. Minimum here I imagine means start thinking zero.

This is what the trustees (of whom MANAGEMENT is the majority) wrote into the pension fund rules! Pension fund members are represented by the minority in a fund which belongs to them! - if this had gone to the Department of Labour for registration believe me it would not have washed.

But, anyway, this means drainage on the lump sum investment of the fund. Same applies to the Provident fund which simply loses lump sums.

Ok the notes: If you just take the 35% original loss - compounded with the 20% current under funding (further loss on top of that) amounts to about overall 42.5% underfunded fund and, if 30 people are withdrawn from the fund at say an optimistic average R 500 000 you can subtract R 15 M from the current fund holding reported this September. (The most reliable individual figure I know of is just over R 800 000 which would put the fund even worse off if it turns out to be the average.)

To make a realistic pension for the Lucky Stayons with a nett diminishment of its investment funds (it would be down from 88 Million to 63 Million) in the long term the pension fund will have to work pretty hard.

Can the trustees throw some light on this for the Lucky Stayons please and it seems a moral obligation rests on the employer to address this situation when kicking people out.

John Landman,  
Department of  
Human Movement Studies

Mr Bruce Smith, Director of the Personnel Division, replies:

### The Editor

John Landman's letter concerning the pension and provident funds is so inaccurate and misleading that it leaves me no option but to reply. I have sought the comments of the Fund Actuary, Mike Hayler, so that the facts provided are correct.

The Associated Institutions Pension Fund (AIPF) paid over 60% (not 65%) of the actuarial value. Be that as it may, the level of members' pensions (and other benefits) are not affected by the level of funding or the size of the deficit. However, the University's contribution to the Fund may be affected as it underwrites the financial soundness of the Fund. Mr Landman's statement that "your pension would take about 10-15 years to catch up and leave you even with the change over" is therefore complete nonsense.

There is no "penalty clause which says that you lose 2.7% per year that you are less than 60". What the Rules do contain is a clause that makes allowance for an adjustment factor of .25% per month for those who retire, having attained the age of 55 years, before they reach the age of 60 (previous AIPF members) and 65 for those who joined the new Fund. An adjustment factor is necessary because the member who retires early will receive a pension for a longer period. This must obviously cost more and therefore for the same amount of money the pension is reduced i.e. the money held in the Fund on your behalf is not reduced.

Members' contribute 7.5% and not 7% as claimed by Mr Landman. The deficit and therefore the contribution to finance it is directly related to the level of members' salaries. The level of salary therefore has no effect on the period over which the funding is paid.

Mr Landman's statement that "all those kicked out will be paid limp (sic) sums (the minimum amount that the actuaries can think of: I suppose to save the Fund not the individual)" is false, derogatory and libelous.

The Rules state that a minimum of the actuarial reserve, not the minimum actuarial reserve (an enormous difference) shall be paid to members whose posts have been abolished. This will be at least equal to or greater than the transfer value from the AIPF plus their own contributions with interest. If the Fund is in deficit, the payment of the actuarial reserve will increase the relative size of the deficit in the Fund and therefore increase the contribution from the University i.e. the employer.

The Fund's reserves are calculated on a set of assumptions which are used to calculate the members' actuarial reserve using a rigorous mathematical formula. To claim that "a redundant person's pay out is the minimum actuarial guess" is extremely defamatory as Mr Hayler would lose his professional status if this was the case.

While Mr Landman's statement that management has the majority of the Trustees is presently correct, this matter is being addressed. In any event, one of management's Trustees is a member of staff who certainly has, as do all of the Trustees, the members' interests at heart, including his own. No doubt Mr Landman will be surprised to learn that the Rules were submitted and accepted by the Registrar of Pension Funds. It should also be noted that the 40% (35% according to Mr Landman) deficit related to the AIPF has nothing to do with the Rhodes University Pension Fund. The equivalent figure for our Fund is now 20% which puts it in a sounder position than the AIPF!



If, as set out in Mr Landman's penultimate paragraph, R15 M is paid out of R88 million, the balance is R73 M, not R63 M. However, it should also be borne in mind that the liabilities of the Fund will also be reduced by the same amount.

I would like to re-assure members of the Pension Fund that whatever the financial position of the Fund or whatever redundancies occur, the accrued benefits of the remaining members will not be affected. The only thing that might have to change is the level of the University's contribution, but this is highly unlikely.

It appears from his letter that Mr Landman's understanding of certain pension issues is limited. I have offered to arrange for him to meet the Fund Actuary when he visits the campus later this month to clarify any problems he might have and, I hope, to apologise to Mr Hayler for his unwarranted statements.

Bruce Smith  
Principal Officer

#### The Editor

As a dabbler in the dubious art of editing myself, I would not like the resignation of your predecessor to go unremarked.

Chris Walwyn has epitomised for us the Homo

Rhodensis. No matter how early in the morning or late at night, in fair weather or in foul, indoors or out, with thirsty rugger buggers or the driest of academics, Chris has been there with his camera, his diffident smile, his gentle bonhomie and his relevant questions.

Editing an in-house newspaper is a hiding-to-nothing task. The vast majority of readers are concerned only with the bits relating to themselves and their departments, and the invisible editorial board is ever present to discourage the publication of anything which might be critical of the hierarchy. Extracting information of more general interest, or indeed, any information at all apart from unpublishable grumbles is a wearying battle, but Chris fought it well and honourably.

At the elevation of the graduands and at the going down of the rugby team (to say nothing of the second glass at Dave's Den) we shall remember him with appreciation.

Yours sincerely  
Michael Whisson

Yes, Chris put an enormous amount of time and energy into Rhodos, which was much appreciated - Ed

An elderly couple was sitting out on the porch.

"I'm going to get a big dish of ice cream," the man said.

"Would you like one too?"

"I'd like only one scoop with some chocolate syrup on it. You'd better write it down. You know how forgetful you are."

"I don't need to. I've got it. One scoop and chocolate syrup."

"Yes. And put some nuts on it. Can you remember that?"

"Of course I can."

"And put a cherry on top. Will you remember everything?"

"I've got it. Ethel! I've got it."

For the next ten minutes his wife could hear him rummaging around in the kitchen. Finally, he arrived, carrying two plates of scrambled eggs and bacon. "See, what did I tell you?" she said, exasperated. "You didn't write it down, and now you forgot the toast."

Submitted by Donovan Drayton,  
of the Print Unit

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.

## Rhodes hosted an open day for farmers last week



The visitors were taken to LIRI Technologies where they met the Director, Mr Dave Sweetnam and Mr Mike Ginn, Manager of the Arts and Crafts Leatherwork Division. The group then moved on to the Institute for Water Research where Dr Vladimir Smakhtin and Ms Shona Carmichael discussed drought patterns. After lunch the farmers went to Human Movement Studies where Professor Pat Scott, the head of department, demonstrated some of the equipment there and discussed agricultural ergonomics. The next stop was the Albany Museum, where Dr Tony Palmer gave a demonstration of his grazing capacity information system. Their final visit was to the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, where Mr Ferdi Endemann gave them a tour of the ornamental and experimental fish farm (above).

### WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & THE NEW WATER LAW

### INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESEARCH

### RHODES UNIVERSITY



#### OPEN DAY

Council Chamber  
Main Administration Building  
Rhodes University

10th November, 1997

10h00 - 16h30

OPEN TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED  
IN WATER RESEARCH  
ALL WELCOME



## Rhodes features strongly at UNITECH congress

Rhodes University had a strong presence at the recent congress of UNITECH, the Association of Marketing and Communications Personnel at Southern African Higher Education Institutions.

The association is funded by the Ford Foundation and has over 40 institutional members and more than 500 individual members. Its 1997 annual congress was held at Technikon Southern Africa in Roodepoort in October. The two-day congress was attended by 230 delegates, and was preceded by a two day workshop specifically for Communications personnel.

A week before the congress, Vice-Chairperson of the UNITECH executive, Rhodes director of Marketing and Communications Aletta de Villiers had to step in to chair the event on the sudden serious illness of the Chairperson. Speaking after the congress, she said, "It is possible successfully to chair a major conference at a week's notice, as long as you don't expect to sleep or eat during that time."

Other Rhodians involved were the Vice-Principal, Dr Michael Smout, who ran a highly successful breakaway Management Forum on new approaches to HEI management; Jonathan Stead (now at Technikon Witwatersrand but well remembered as our first East London Dean of Studies), who facilitated the Communications workshop; and brilliant guest speaker

Ann Jacquet, ex-Rhodes Rag Queen and now Senior Manager Internal Communications for First National Bank.

Judged through the evaluation forms as the association's 'best congress ever' for organisation and content, delegates were enthralled by prominent motivational speakers Mike Lipkin and Mamikie Molapo. Keynote speaker Clem Sunter prepared a special talk for his audience on what it will take for our universities and technikons to be worldclass. He highlighted the need for each institution to have focused areas of expertise, a sharply defined image, a global presence, to be perpetually innovative, flexible, willing to pay for talent and proactive about social and environmental responsibilities.

At the AGM held during the congress a new constitution was agreed which eliminates any distinction between universities and technikons and puts in place a regionally representative structure for the Executive. These moves were designed to bring the organisation in line with the thrust of the new Higher Education policies soon to be passed by Parliament, and will enable the association to align itself with the regional consortia of higher education leaders, also funded by Unitech's funders, the Ford Foundation.

To find out more about UNITECH, look at:  
<http://www.unitech.ru.ac.za/>

## Your chance for fame!

Jasmin Films in Port Elizabeth have informed us about *Take 5*, a popular education youth television magazine.

*Take 5* is a live interactive programme broadcast in the afternoon (Monday to Thursday). It is designed to provide curriculum support in a way that attracts and interests young people, develop a culture of learning and interest young people in learning by making areas like the natural sciences and social sciences come alive in a way that is interesting and relevant. The programme takes an integrated approach to youth development, combining curriculum-related programmes with vocational orientation with social and personal development.

The programme targets both primary and secondary learners and the emphasis throughout the programmes is on participation, identification and informality.

*Take 5* will run for two hours each day. The magazine format consists of 15 - 20 minute curriculum-related programmes.

The programme is subdivided into half hours related to learners' developmental stages and educational phases:

- \* Foundation (6 to 9 years)
- \* Intermediate (10 to 12 years)
- \* Senior (12 to 15 years)
- \* Further education (16 to 21 years)

The curriculum-related

series needs to accomplish two goals. They need to fit into the overall ethos and style of *Take 5* magazine. They also need to be able to stand alone as effective learning resources which could be used in classrooms and other learning sites.

The programme aims to support and foreshadow Curriculum 2005 in its programming targetted to school learners. It will be structured to conform with the ethos and values of Curriculum 2005.

The list of topics is too long to include here, but the broad subject headings are:

- \* Economic and Management Sciences
- \* Natural Sciences
- \* Mathematical literacy, Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences
- \* Life Orientation
- \* Language, Literacy and Communication
- \* Technology
- \* Human and Social Sciences
- \* Arts and Culture

If you are interested in leaning more about the topics, please phone Mary Burnett, ext 8517, who has a copy of the list.

If you are sure that you have something to offer, please phone Mike or Sharryn Vincent (who run Jasmin Films) and tell them about your idea. There is some urgency in this because they have to get the ideas to the relevant people at SABC very quickly.

Their telephone number is: 041-512-465.

## Filled with 'energetic ideas'

The new Rhodes SRC promised to make its presence felt as its

'beret' is filled with energetic ideas, says President Wamkele Mene.

He was speaking at a function hosted by the Dean of Students last month. "We are excited at the opportunity to represent our fellow students and the most important thing is to continue from the groundwork laid by the

96/97 SRC. We are going to make our presence felt," he promised.

He praised the university for its open-door policy saying that "We know that the administration can always be counted on to listen to our ideas, even though it may not always agree with them." The Vice-Chancellor, Dr

David Woods, said that the University was pleased with the 42% poll in the elections.

He said that an SRC can always build on the groundwork laid by its predecessors and continue to be the voice of its fellow students in the Transformation Forum and the Student Services Council.



# Eden Grove project gets into gear

Saturday October 19 was a busy day for Grounds and Gardens staff. Mr Mark Hazell and his staff supervised the removal of several large trees from the Eden Grove site. The hired crane and its crew moved the trees within a few hours and left the Grounds and Gardens Staff with the job of bagging and soaking the roots of the trees. Then came the task of moving them...



*The largest of the trees - a Coral tree - on its way to its new home. The Grahamstown army base provided a large forklift to move the trees from Eden Grove.*



Once the trees had been removed, it was on to the next step in the Eden Grove development. Dr Michael Smout, the Vice-Principal, turned the first sod. Ms Sandy Rowoldt, the Cory Librarian and Mr Malcolm Hacksley, Director of the National English Literary Museum had their turn next, followed by Mr Andrew Thomson, of the firm of architects responsible for the building, and Mr Les Reynolds, Director of the Estates Division.





## Ninth win for wine tasters

A team from the Rhodes Wine Tasting and Cultural Society has, for the ninth time, won the annual Nederburg regional Intervarsity wine tasting event, held at the University of Port Elizabeth at the end of last month.

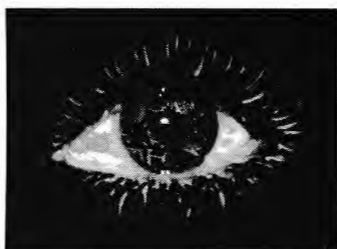
Bernd Sonnenberg, a past Chairman of the Society, was adjudged the best taster for Rhodes and of the competition. He will represent the eastern cape universities in the Nederburg Intervarsity finals, to be held at Paarl next month.

The Rhodes team, which has now won all but one of the ten events held to date, was led by Society Chairman Martin Donnelly.

## SciFest '98

Plans are afoot for South Africa's second celebration of Science, Engineering and Technology which will be held in Grahamstown from March 28 to April 5, 1998.

For more information, contact the SciFest offices at (0461) 23402, fax (0461) 27452 or e-mail [found.ru.ac.za](mailto:found.ru.ac.za) or check the SciFest Website at <http://www.nml.ru.ac.za/scifest>



## Africa needs to develop biochemistry

By Siseko Njobeni

There is a need to develop biochemistry and molecular biology in Africa's developing countries, says Professor Chris Whiteley of the department of Biochemistry and Microbiology.

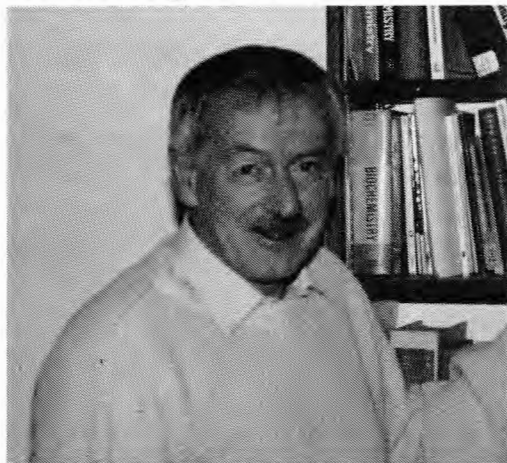
Speaking on his return from San Francisco where he attended the General Assembly of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB), Prof Whiteley said most African countries like Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan and Egypt had top-class biochemistry people but lacked infrastructure to deal with many diseases common in those countries.

To ensure co-operation between Africa's countries, the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (FASBMB) was launched in Nairobi in September last year. The FASBMB was formally accepted as a body in the Assembly.

Prof Whiteley was one of the two representatives of the South African Council for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SACBMB) at the Assembly. The other one was Professor I Parker of the University of Cape Town.

At another conference held at the same venue, Prof Whiteley presented two of his research papers in which he looks at ways of developing chemicals that can interfere with enzymes that are responsible for conditions such as blood clotting. "We are trying to devise drugs that will interfere with that enzymatic process," he said.

The Assembly, which meets once in three years, drew a number of delegates from different countries, including some from Africa.



Prof Whiteley

## They know their way around!

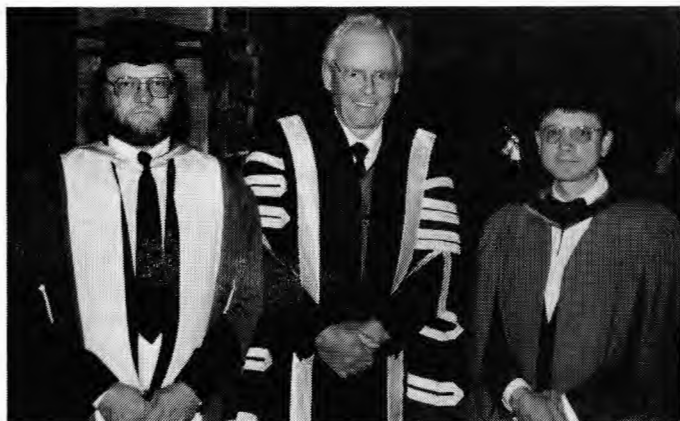
The Department of Geography recently awarded certificates in Map Reading to 17 local teachers and other interested individuals who came to study at the East London campus.

The course was presented for four hours on Saturdays, over a six-week period, and attracted 18 participants from Mdantsane, Komga, Transkei and other areas around East London.

Their six-week course was presented by Mrs Busi Mrawu (Lecturer-in-Charge) in the Department of Geography in East London, and Mr Evan Dollar, who has subsequently joined the Department of Geography in Grahamstown as a Research Officer.

The course, which is designed to improve mapwork skills for senior secondary Geography teachers and other interested parties, will be offered twice in 1998, in collaboration with All Saints Senior College in Bisho which is also involved in upgrading teaching skills in the Eastern Cape.

Modules offered included an Introduction to Maps and Map Reading, Direction, Area, Enlargement and Reduction, Representation and Interpretation of Relief, Applied Map Work, Aerial Photography and Orthophotography.



Professors Peter Wentworth (left) and David Sewry gave a joint colloquium instead of separate Inaugural Lectures earlier this month. They are seen with the Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods, who introduced them to the audience.



# Pharmacy Week generated much interest

By Siseko Njobeni

**T**he Rhodes University Pharmacy Students Association (RUPSA), held their annual Pharmacy Week recently.

There were a series of activities which centred on raising the local community's awareness about primary health care.

On the first day, RUPSA members conducted free tests for students and staff for asthma, blood pressure, eye tests, blood glucose content, body mass index, body fat percentage and haemoglobin content.

There was also a general advice desk, manned by Dr Anne Kench, a medical doctor who teaches in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The RUPSA chairman Anusha Mithal said that they hoped to make people aware that the tests were important in maintaining general health and preventing diseases. She said that the results would be used for research purposes by postgraduate students and lecturers.

On the second day, RUPSA members went out to local pharmacies to conduct more tests, free of charge. "We had incredible support from the Grahamstown community and we hope to expand on this next year," she said.

The third day was, according to Ms Mithal, "the speakers evening". A number of high profile speakers, among whom was Rhodes' Vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods, who

talked on the importance of pharmacy at Rhodes.

A local pharmacist, Mr Martin Ellenberger, and Dr Christopher Stubbs of PharmaCare Lennon talked on the future of pharmacy in retail and industry, respectively. The Head of the Rhodes School of Pharmacy, Professor Lambe Parolis, spoke on what pharmacy in academia entailed, while Mr Gavin Steel of Cecilia Makiwane Hospital looked into the future of clinical and hospital pharmacy. Representing the Eastern Cape Department of Health was Dr Humphrey Zokufa who spoke on the government's view of pharmacy.

On the fourth day, RUPSA members offered free health services to members of Antics, an entertainment centre for elderly people. The centre is one of the Association's adopted projects. Dr Ben Potgieter of the School of Pharmacy at Rhodes gave them an informal lecture on basic health care and medical usage.

In the evening there was a party and a slave auction to raise funds for RUPSA's community projects. On the fifth day, two medical dramas, *Extreme Measures* and *Unforgettable*, were screened.

Finally, RUPSA members visited Assumption Clinic, which they have also adopted. There, they helped with the dispensing of medicine.

# LIRI's Shoe Train stoked up

**T**he Footwear Industries Training Board has made a further quarterly payment of R 90 000 to LIRI Technologies.

The Board has sponsored LIRI's "Shoe Train" programme for over R 1 M over a period of three years. 1997 has been the second year of technical training courses, on which over 200 students, from 20 factories, are enrolled.

This was consistent with the Department of Labour's

Skills Development Bill which seeks to encourage, and in some cases compel, South African industries to provide more and better training for employees, as a means to become competitive, according to Professor Roux van der Merwe of LIRI's Footwear Division.

"The footwear industry will be well-placed when the Bill becomes law, as it has researched and developed up-to-date technical courses in shoe manufacture which are being distance delivered at the workplaces through a system of LIRI-trained mentors and co-ordinators," he said.



*The Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods congratulates Dr Brenda Nicholls, of the Department of History, on winning an Alty Award. Looking on are the Dean of Arts, Professor Ian Macdonald and the head of the Department of history, Professor Paul Maylam.*



*The Rhodes University Toastmasters Club is one of the largest in the world! Seen at their last formal meeting for the year were (from the left): Michael Watson, Vice-President (Education); Tina Gia-Coletti, Sergeant-At-Arms; Sascha Stolp, Area Governor; the guest of honour, Dr David Woods; Donna-Jane Marais, President; Ranganai Mutasa, Vice-President (Public Relations); and Zabeer Surka, Vice-President (Membership).*



## Two from Rhodes to Kruger

Dr Chris Brown and a PhD student, Mr Dean Peinke, of the Department of Zoology and Entomology have recently returned from the International Conference on Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry held at Skukuza in the Kruger National Park.

The conference was attended by some 150 delegates, about 100 of whom were from overseas.

It focused on how animals function in stressful environments. Papers included a study of how studies of blood flow and blood pressure in giraffes were applied to NASA astronauts in microgravity and one dealing with the structure, function and evolution of animal anti-freezes.

Conference sessions began at 07:00 to allow plenty of time for game-viewing in the afternoons - opportunities appreciated by overseas delegates, many of whom were visiting South Africa for the first time.

In a paper presented to the meeting, Dr Brown described work done on physiological differentiation in vlei rats, which he carried out in collaboration with a Rhodes student, Miss Vicki Everitt, and a University of Fort Hare lecturer, Mr Rod Baxter. Mr Peinke delivered a paper discussing how springhares are able to maintain body water and electrolyte balance when they don't drink water.

## The enchantment went both ways

Miriam Margolyes, star of stage and screen, who enchanted a packed Rhodes Theatre with her show "Dickens's Women" on Sunday, October 12, was enchanted in turn by students of the Department of Drama, when she gave workshops for them during her stay at Rhodes.

Dr Wendy Jacobson met Ms Margolyes at a conference in the USA and invited her to come to a conference on Dickens hosted at Rhodes by the Department of English last year. This proved to be impossible, but when Dr Jacobson heard that she would be in South Africa for the filming of a British/US production "The Place of Lions", she invited her to visit Rhodes.

"The Drama students, for whom I gave two workshops, were wonderful, talented and prepared to show me what they could do. I was impressed with their energy and inventiveness. Several of them could go straight into professional productions", Ms Margolyes said.

She went on to say that she was impressed with the South African theatre she had seen during her visit. "You have nothing to be ashamed of - your theatre is world-class, but it appears not to be well-supported. I urge South Africans to get back into the habit of going to the theatre - you are missing so much", she said.

Ms Margolyes also found time to meet students from the departments of Journalism and Media Studies and English.



## Silver medal for Skelton

Professor Paul Skelton, Director of the J L B Smith Institute of Ichthyology, has been presented with the silver medal of the Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists, for his book "A Complete Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Southern Africa".

The medal was presented to Professor Skelton during the annual Fish Supper at the Institute, by the President of the Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists, Professor Jay O'Keeffe. "A Complete Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Southern Africa" has filled a major gap in southern Africa's natural history literature and the book, published in both English and Afrikaans has enabled anglers and naturalists to find all they need to know about southern Africa's 245 species of freshwater fishes.

## New books in the RU Library

The following is a selection of new books in the library which have recently been added to the collection.

*The forbidden experiment: the story of the wild boy of Aveyron* by Roger Shattuck, with a new introduction by Douglas Keith Candland. 155.4567 SHA

*The Java sourcebook: the complete guide to creating Java applets for the Web* by Ed Anuff. 005.133 JAV/ANU

*Heart of whiteness: Afrikaners face Black rule in the New South Africa* by June Goodwin & Ben Schiff. 301.4510968 GOO. "A remarkable portrait ... a unique reflection of the white tribe as it now confronts its final reality" (Donald Woods).

*WINDOWS 95 connectivity* written by Rob Cima ... [et al.]. 005.446 MIC/WIN

*The NEW Rolling Stone encyclopedia of rock & roll* edited by Patricia Romanowski and Holly George-Warren; consulting editor, Jon Pareles. Revised and updated REFERENCE 780.42 NEW

*The Enola Gay and other battles for the American past* edited by Edward T. Linenthal and Tom Engelhardt. 940.5425 HIS. "Explores the continuing American struggles with Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

*The Heart in exile: South African poetry in English, 1990-1995* edited by Leon de Kock & Ian Tromp. 828.91914 HEA. "An important new collection of South African poetry."

*The illusions of postmodernism* by Terry Eagleton. 301.201 EAG. "A new critique exploring the beginnings, ambivalences, histories, subjects, fallacies and contradictions of post modernism."

*Art at auction in South Africa: the art market review 1969 to 1995* by Stephan Welz. 709.68 WEL "Lavishly illustrated -- a unique overview of art and antiques of South African

Eileen Shepherd

Rhodes University Library



# Looking back to the slow old days

By Justin Jonas

In 1981 Claire Flanagan (now Dr Flanagan, director of the Johannesburg Planetarium) did her honours project in Radio Astronomy with me as co-supervisor (still plain Mr, still at Rhodes, but that's another story). She developed an image processing application that enhanced the contrast of our radio maps, which we could only display as contour maps or very rough grey-scales printed on one of the first dot-matrix printers on campus. The contour plots could only be run at night and took many hours. Because each user was limited to 8000 'mill seconds' (i.e. 8000 cpu seconds) per day on the ICL mainframe her program took the best part of a week to run (and then she had to wait for a clear night on the plotter).

I reworked her program on our linux box last night - the program now runs in a few minutes, X-windows pop up all over with colourful graphics and images...

Well, I guess this could degenerate to "when I was a youngster we had to pedal to generate electricity for our 1 millihertz processor with half a bit of memory".

Still, the history of computer graphics at Rhodes is quite interesting. Pete

Mountfort and I had a lot of fun getting 6800 micro's to talk to all sorts of strange devices, including oscilloscopes with cameras taking long time exposures. That was after we got the Chemistry Nova computer to talk to the ICL and a Tektronix graphics storage screen...

I still have (somewhere) a serial interface card for an Apple II that Pete and I made so that we could download data from the ICL. I have probably spent two full years of my life building electronic devices and writing software that has all been replaced by the functionality of a standard PC with software off the Net. Was this a waste of time - no chance - I had a lot of fun and learnt a lot about how things work.

Those were the days when we in Physics & Electronics were trying to sell image processing to other departments and were being told that it would not catch on.

So, who is going to write the definitive history of computing at Rhodes? Perhaps this might be a nice topic for some Journalism student?

Darn it, my program has finished already, better get back to work. Damn these new fangled machines that run so fast, and generate next to no heat on cold nights.

## Chemistry III Industrial Projects

As part of their third year course Rhodes Chemistry students are required to design an industrial chemical plant. Guided by retired chemical engineer and manager, Mr Tino van der Zeyde, three teams of students tackled the design and operation of chemical plants to manufacture urea formaldehyde resin, carbowax and alkyd resin. Not only do the projects require a detailed understanding of the chemical processes involved,

they also require the students to become acquainted with chemical engineering, finance, marketing and environmental issues. The projects were adjudicated by Mr van der Zeyde, Mr Arthur Byrns from DULUX, Dr Hannes Lessing from FORMALCHEM, Mr Joss Welman from the Department of Management and Professor Emeritus Douglas Rivett. Salary and running costs for the projects are covered by a generous grant from the Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund, while Merck Ltd very kindly provide medals and a monetary prize to the winning team each year.



The winning team with their MERCK certificates and medals from left Dawn Holmes, Richard Cock, Jennifer Molwantwa, Minesh Manga and Mr Tino van der Zeyde.

## First Rhodes Tutor Colloquium a success

The first tutor colloquium organised jointly by Colleen Higgs, tutor co-ordinator in the Department of Politics, and the Academic Development Centre, has been a great success.

Tutors were reassured about the value of their efforts and were able to reflect on their year's work as teaching partners in departments. In turn, it became clear that tutors cared deeply about creating environments in which real learning can happen. The tutorial setting offers students an opportunity to learn as much from other learners as they do from lecturers and tutors.

Tutors from the Departments of Politics, Linguistics & English

Language and Law participated. Politics tutors presented a roleplay of a typical tutors' reflection and preparation meeting. They discussed some of the problems faced by tutors and, through a group brainstorming session, were able to identify possible solutions to various challenges such as encouraging students to participate in discussions, motivating students to prepare for tutorials and the facilitation of peer review of essays by all members of a tutorial group.

Tutors from the Law Department presented a case study of the development of a problem-solving exercise over a three year period. They showed how tutors can play a significant role in the develop-

ment of a curriculum in a particular course through participating in an action research process with tutorial co-ordinators.

Linguistics tutors spoke about the importance of departmental support. The Department has developed a method of tutor support where tutors reflect on their classroom experiences through journal writing. The tutor co-ordinator responds to these journal entries by offering suggestions and encouragement and support. One tutor remarked that the journal writing and response process offered her "a shoulder to cry on". This process also provides the Department with valuable insights into the

experiences of tutors and their first year students' experiences of the course.

Rhodes takes great pride in the academic benefits it offers students through the tutorial system.

Lectures are opportunities to share information and motivate students to learn more about a topic, while tutorials have the complementary role of developing students as active participants in their own and each other's learning. The role of the tutor is crucial in offering first year students the opportunity for active collaborative learning. This is not easy, even for seasoned lecturers. The role tutors play in the teaching and learning process at Rhodes needs to be supported and acknowledged by the institution.



# **Intervarsity in the Chemistry Department**

Over eighty young chemists from seven tertiary institutions in the Eastern Cape recently met in the Chemistry Department at Rhodes University for a post-graduate research symposium. This event, jointly sponsored by SA Druggists' subsidiary, Pharmacare, and the Eastern Province Section of the South African Chemical Institute, was also attended by the National President of SACI, Professor Ernst Breet. Professor Breet gave a short talk on his vision for the South African Chemical Institute entitled "Paradigm shifts and Chemistry" and later presented the James Moir medals to the two best 1996 Chemistry Honours students in the region, Miss K McPhail of Rhodes University and Mr R Beretti of the University of Port Elizabeth. At the end of the symposium Dr Lawrence Penkler, presented the Pharmacare gold medals for the best research presentations to Miss S Vilakazi of

## **Rhodos invites contributions from staff members and other readers.**

Articles should be forwarded to the Editor, at the Marketing and Communications Division. Articles are preferred on diskette in any of several common formats, including ASCII, Word Perfect and Xywrite. Text may also be e-mailed to [rhodos@ru.ac.za](mailto:rhodos@ru.ac.za). Photographs and line art are also welcome.

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Rhodes and Mr N Stephenson of UPE. Silver medals went to Mr P. Makhumula-Nkhoma of UPE and Mr S Hlohlosa of PE Technikon. This is the fourth consecutive year that Rhodes has won a gold

medal in this annual Eastern Cape "Chemistry Intersivity".

*Joint Pharmacare gold medal winner, Miss Sibolilo Vilakazi from Rhodes University receives her medal from Dr Lawrence Penkler of Druggists Group Research.*



## **RHODOS STAFF**

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RHODOS is produced fortnightly by the Marketing and Communications Division of Rhodes University, Grahamstown. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Rhodos staff, or the University. The Editor welcomes all contributions but reserves the right to edit these.

## **Smalls**

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Small bar fridge (2nd hand). Contact Lee-Ann at Admissions or e-mail [gelf@warthog](mailto:gelf@warthog).

### **BABY SITTING**

Rhodes babysitting club offers experienced babysitters, most with first aid certificates, supervised by a parent. Will collect children from RU Day Care centre. Contact Ronwyn Coulson for further information. Tel: ext 8134 (w); e-mail: [adac@giraffe](mailto:adac@giraffe).

### **FOR SALE**

Two pine desks in excellent condition. Each has three drawers, large space for chair and lots of leg room. R550 each or R1000 for both. Contact Aidan or Mandy. Tel 311773. e-mail: [Aidan@guppy.ru.ac.za](mailto:Aidan@guppy.ru.ac.za)  
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**Copy date:**

6 November

**Publication date:**

14 November