



# RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

10 JULY 1998 VOL 10 No 11

## ABSA/CSD Early Childhood Development Project

Early childhood development in the Albany region will benefit significantly as a result of the ABSA Group's social investment programme for 1998.

In partnership with the Centre for Social Development, one of the initiatives will seek to train approximately thirty Early Childhood Development (ECD) Practitioners from the Albany region. These practitioners will be part of the CSD's unique whole school development whereby roleplayers are exposed to training.

The practitioners will undergo a three year course consisting of 20 modules. This training is non-formal and consists of intensive 'block' training and workshops, as

well as an ongoing teaching component. The contents of the modules range from working with children and adults, through to working with systems. Amongst the topics are Nutrition and Health Care, Child Development, Daily Programme, Planning, Administration, Fundraising, and Parent Involvement. This training will equip the practitioners to provide a safe, stimulating environment and lay a firm foundation for further education while at the same time empowering governing bodies and parents.

A similar project will be run in Queenstown catering for the surrounding area. Other early childhood development projects conducted recently included partner-



Andy de la Mare and Erik Petersen of ABSA Bank present Mrs Thelma Henderson and Ms Diana Hornby with a cheque for R45 000 for the CSD's Pre-School Training and Development Programme.

ships between ABSA and the Port Elizabeth Early Learning Centre, and the Community and Child Development Centre in East London.

ABSA Group Communications Manager in the Eastern Cape, Andy de la Mare, and Grahamstown Branch Manager, Erik Petersen, visited the CSD to hand over a

cheque for R45 000 for this project. According to Mrs Thelma Henderson, CSD Director: "There has been a long-standing partnership between the CSD and ABSA which has now been considerably strengthened. I am extremely grateful to ABSA and I hope that this relationship will continue to grow."

## Pearson sets up Chair of Economic Journalism at Rhodes

Global media company Pearson announced in Johannesburg this week it would contribute to upgrading economic journalism in South Africa by sponsoring a chair at the Rhodes University Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

The UK-based company, whose investment in South Africa includes co-ownership of Business Day, Financial Mail and I-Net Bridge, said it will underwrite the position for five years to the value of R1,8m.

Explaining the sponsorship, David Bell, Chairman of the Financial Times said: "We pledged when we invested in South Africa last year that we would contribute to promoting quality economic journalism. Key to achieving this goal is investing in future generations by providing high-level training to a broad spectrum of South African university students. I believe that a dedicated chair of economic journalism will go a long way to redress the imbalances of the past and contribute to the information needs of South Africa's growing economy."

"South Africa needs informed and intelligent communication about its economy. This chair empowers present

and future journalists to meet this challenge," said Professor Guy Berger, head of the Department of Journalism & Media Studies.

"Over the next five years, the chair would train more than 750 journalism students as well as provide annual short programmes to almost 50 working journalists," he said.

According to Prof Berger, the increasing importance of economic coverage has far outstripped the existing human resources to communicate the growing range of stories.

"Pearson's initiative means we can supply the media industry with value-added journalism graduates and better-skilled working journalists, so contributing to transformation and the African renaissance. At a time of hastening globalisation, local economic restructuring and black empowerment, the relevance of the chair could not be underestimated," said Berger.

While many Rhodes journalism graduates already work as business journalists in a range of media companies, the next generation would now carry specialised economic literacy skills when they enter the job market.



## International Relations Conference

Rhodes University International Studies Masters student, Mr Thembinkosi Lehloesa, was the only representative from Africa at an international relations conference held in Malaysia recently.

The 7th Harvard project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) conference was held at Kuala Lumpur. HPAIR is a programme of the Harvard University. Each year, the coordinators of the programme convene a conference for students from all over the world who either have an interest in Asia or whose field of study in international relations includes Asia. During these conferences, the students get an opportunity to interact with high-profile lecturers who have done research on issues that are relevant in that region. The theme of this year's conference was *Asia*



Rhodes MA student, Mr Thembinkosi Lehloesa (with shaven head) at an international conference in Malaysia recently.

*in Transition: Beyond the Miracle.*

The major focus of the conference was the economy of the region: specifically the causes of the current crisis, its effects and the solutions to it," said Mr Lehloesa. On the Asian crisis, some speakers blamed internal factors such as corruption and the inflated value of local currencies, while others believed that the situation was worsened by the

foreign investors who pulled their monies out of the region when liquidity became apparent.

"Academics who addressed the conference did note the existence of corruption and nepotism in the region but there were fewer discussions on the democratisation of the region's political systems. This was despite the fact that President Suharto of Indonesia was forced to re-

sign a week before the conference," Mr Lehloesa said.

Meanwhile, Mr Lehloesa will be part of a group of post-graduate students from the Department of Political Studies who will visit the national Department of Foreign Affairs in August this year. This is the second time that students from Rhodes have visited the Department, following the success of last year's similar trip.

## Dr Woods' USA Visit



Dr and Mrs Woods recently spent 2 weeks in the United States following up on previously established relationships with donors and meeting with potential donors of the University.

Amidst a full programme of meetings was one with the USA Rhodes Charitable Trust, the Andrew Mellon Foundation (who provide bursaries in the Chemistry Department), the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Kellogg Foundation.

Seen at a dinner in Pittsburg with the Vice-Chancellor and Mrs Woods' were: Warne Boyce (O/R), Izzy Kanfer of the School of Pharmaceutical Science (O/R), Doreen Boyce, Archbishop Hurley, Daisy Loskin, Gustav Loskin, and Joe Kanfer (O/R).



# Garden & Home Club

The local Garden & Home Club recently visited the Rhodes campus as part of a community awareness programme run by the Marketing & Communications Division.

The aim of this programme is to show local interest groups that we do not only surround ourselves with text books and paper, but that much of the research conducted here is practical and of enormous relevance to the average person.

The Garden & Home Club were entertained by Rosemary Andersen of the Estates Division who described various humorous incidents that she has had to



Dr Martin Villet explaining some finer points to the Garden & Home Club.

cope with during her years in transit housing. Dr Martin Villet of the Department of Zoology and Entomology then took them up to the cabbage patch at the old Tick Research Centre for a worm-counting exercise. He covered topics such as indig-

enous plants and various practical bug-related issues. Lil Haigh of the Working for Water Project at the Institute for Water Research then spoke to the group about water-wise gardening.

If you know of any local group that may be interested

in visiting the campus, please contact Linda Haschick on ext 8457. An individualised programme will be planned for each group according to their interest and their visit can range from a couple of hours to a whole day.

## RUMEP Conference



Attending a RUMEP conference are: (from left to right) Ms Nosisi Feza of UPE, Dr Marilyn Nickson of Cambridge University and Zonia Jooste of the Western Cape.

Rhodes University Maths Education Project (RUMEP) recently held a two-day conference on *Reflective Practitioners in Mathematical Education*.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Dr Marilyn Nickson of the University of Cambridge. Dr Nickson has a long-standing relationship with RUMEP which began in when a United Kingdom non-governmental organisation, the Overseas Development Agency (ODE) wanted to fund a mathematics course at primary schools. RUMEP was the first organisation to take advantage of that opportunity.

One of the presenters at the workshop, Ms Nosisi Feza of the UPE's Centre for Continuing Education talked on *Family Maths: Engaging Parents and Facilitators*. Ms Zonia Jooste of the Western Cape-based Maths Learning and Teaching Initiative (Malati) is currently conducting a maths project among schools in the Western Cape. Her presentation was on *Development of Spatial Intuition and Understanding of Geometric concepts needed to function effectively in our three dimensional world*.

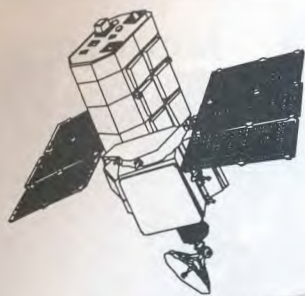
## Information access via the library's Web page

The library's recently revamped Web page (<http://www.ru.ac.za/library>) offers staff and students useful information access points. These include:

- \* a Web version of the library's catalogue (OPAC). This includes a self-service option, whereby users can reserve their own books and look up items they have out on loan;
- \* full-text electronic journals, which the library is able to access because of their print subscriptions;
- \* online databases, for example, Sabinet and the HSRC's Nexus Database System
- \* electronic theses and dissertations, including the first two Rhodes electronic theses;
- \* titles of new books on display in the library, updated weekly.

*Try out the site and send your comments and suggestions to the library's Webteam (e-mail: [I.Vermaak@ru.ac.za](mailto:I.Vermaak@ru.ac.za)).*





# Expo for Yo



The Grahamstown leg of the a held at Rhodes drawing 147 p rounding schools.

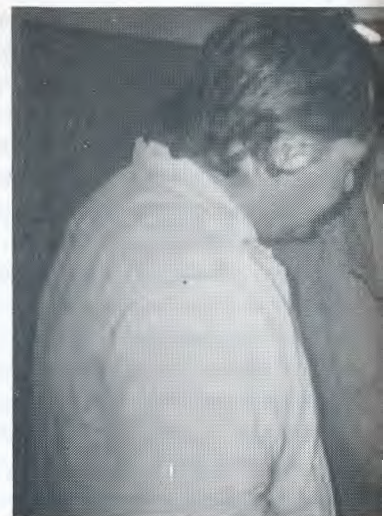
Nine finalists were selected to in Pretoria in October. The local w College, was awarded a Rhodes U *Study of Viscum* (mistletoe).

The 37 judges were mainly fr demics. According to Dr Martin Vanessa Twentymann-Jones: "It is a high standard of scientific investig of. The students benefit form the r use the expertise of the various dep their projects."

Brian Wilmot, Director of the F Grahamstown Region is renowned tion with no less that 51 awards l projects going forward to the Natio

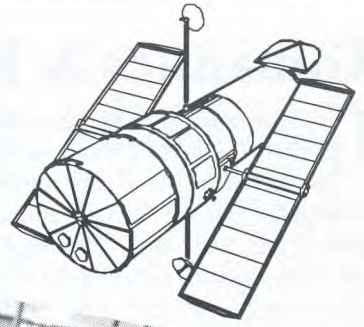


With Brian Wilmot, Director of SciFest, and Char Trevor Surridge of Graeme College. Trevor was a





# g Scientists



Young Scientists was recently  
93 projects from local and sur-

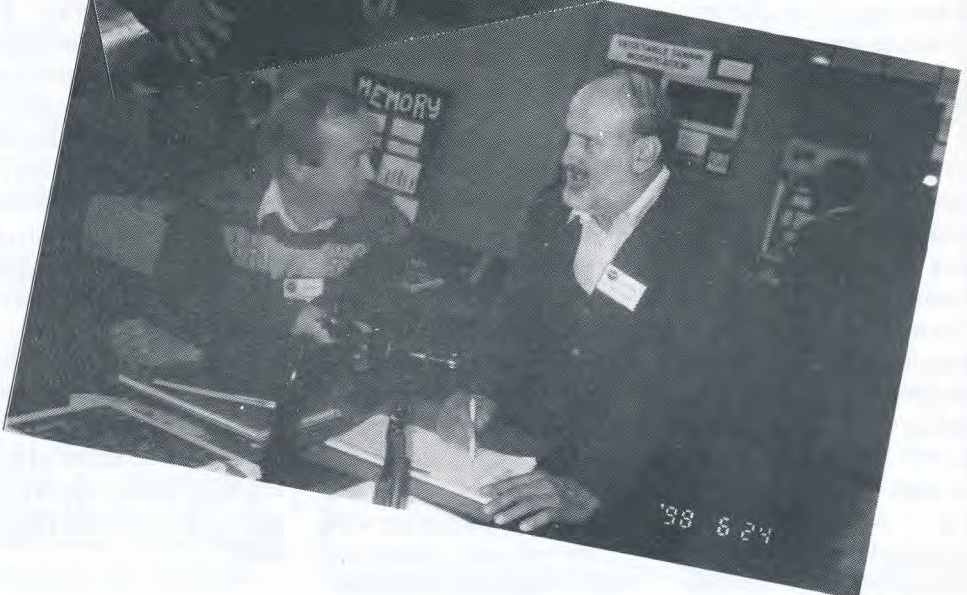
petition which will take place  
bridge, a Std 8 pupil at Graeme  
. His project was entitled *The*

environment and were all aca-  
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ave every confidence that the  
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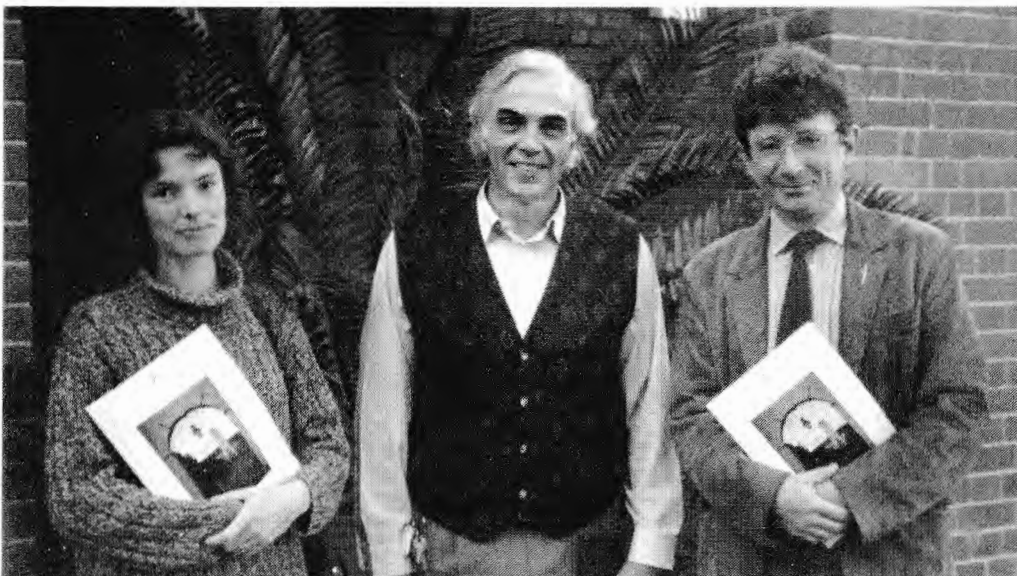
## Romantics & Revolutionaries

The Department of English recently hosted the annual AUETSA (Association of Universities English Teachers of South Africa) Conference entitled *Romantics and Revolutionaries*.

The umbrella title of this conference ensured a meaningful cohesiveness between papers although the concepts of both Romanticism and Revolution allowed for wide ranging foci of attention and discussion. Drawing 48 speakers, this was the first in a series of international conferences commemorating the bi-centenary of the publication of what keynote speaker, Professor Nicholas Roe called the "British Thunderbolt" i.e. *Lyrical Ballads*.

His first visit to South Africa, Prof Roe was impressed with what he had seen. "This conference in particular was very exciting - there were excellent speakers and a very full and interesting programme."

An ongoing discussion, prompted by various papers, was how writing from the British tradition could be deemed relevant to students, writers and readers in Southern Africa.



Professor Nicholas Roe of the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and Dr Jane Stabler of the University of Dundee, Scotland, were recent visitors to Rhodes while participating in the AUETSA Conference hosted by the English Department. Seen with them is Prof Paul Walters (centre).

## Irish Drama Personalities Visit

Drama in Grahamstown stands to benefit from the expertise of two Irish arts and culture personalities who are here at the invitation of the Department of Drama.

During their stay in Grahamstown, Eileen Brannigan and Jo Parkes will, amongst other activities, work with third-year and Honours Drama students. They will also conduct workshops for some local schools and cultural organisations including GADRA and Victoria Girls High School. They will also share their experience with one of Grahamstown's leading drama groups, the Masizame

Cultural Group, led by Lennox Faba.

Through their interaction with locals, the Irish visitors hope to bring another dimension to the teaching of drama - one which is vibrant and exciting. Ms Parkes said that drama is about selecting topics and making them "real" so that people can relate to them.

Ms Brannigan, who is a writer by profession, will be involved with the Eastern Cape art and cultural publication, *Artreach*. She will source and write stories for the newsletter and hopes that, through her association with it, she will get a glimpse of what is happening in the East-

ern Cape, culturally. With the annual Standard Bank Arts Festival underway, Ms Brannigan is also putting her writing skills to good use, doing reviews for papers in the United Kingdom and Ireland. After the arts festival, they will busy themselves with the schools festival, "which will be a new experience for us because there is nothing like it back home".

Through the Ilitha project, they will run workshops for local teachers "to show other effective ways of teaching drama and we are hoping to learn from them as well".

## G'day mate!



Dr Thomas Martin recently arrived at Rhodes to do his post-doctoral studies in Philosophy. He hopes to be here for at least 12 months with a possible extension to 3 years depending on the availability of funding.

Dr Martin received his PhD at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. His particular field of interest is the philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre and existentialism which he hopes to reconfigure and make more useful. In particular he will look into the motivation and behaviour of sexists and racists.

While at Rhodes he will be conducting research and writing papers on this topic in preparation of writing a book. He will also look at including the aspect of multiculturalism in this research. "Australia is also at a crucial time in its history. Our two countries have a lot in common but also a lot that is very different."

His impression of Grahamstown so far is that "there is always a lot going on here - especially in the arts." (This interview was conducted before the Festival!). "The attitude towards races, sexual lifestyles and the like, is probably more liberal here than in other places. I must admit that I was rather nervous about coming here as the news that we get in Australia about South Africa is that it is a dangerous place! But I am having a wonderful time so far - I find that the University people are especially friendly and accommodating."



# Moscow Visit

Professor John Duncan, Head of the Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology, recently returned from a visit to Moscow where he found Russian scientists were desperate for contact with colleagues from other countries. Professor Duncan's trip was funded by the Foundation for Research Development (FRD) as part of an effort to initiate collaboration between South African and Russian scientists. He was specifically requested to investigate areas of common interest in the field of Environmental Biotechnology.

Professor Duncan spent the first three days at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry (part of the Russian Academy of Science) holding discussions with the Director of the Environmental Protection Group, Dr E Elyakova and the Head of the Biotechnology group, Dr L Kirillova. All discussions were done through an interpreter, an exhausting experience. These

groups are interested in investigating the potential of different forms of microbial biomass to remove heavy metals from water systems, an area of research in which Professor Duncan's group is actively involved. It was agreed that a preliminary collaborative project would be initiated where the Russian group would conduct structural studies of metal binding polymers on the surface of biosorbents currently used by Professor Duncan's group, while his group would in turn carry out Electron Microscopy studies on the Penicillium biomass used by the Russians for bioremediation.

He was also hosted by Professor Orlov and Dr Pankov of the department of Geology at Moscow University. They are involved in Environmental Impact Studies and Assessment in the Moscow area mainly aimed at reducing and clearing up of the extensive pollution of water systems and underground

water supplies in and around Moscow. A number of areas of mutual interest particularly with regard to bioremediation of heavy metal containing effluents were identified.

Professor Orlov is also keen to make contact with other South African scientists involved in Environmental Impact Assessment. Professor Duncan's final visit was to the Institute of Microbiology where a number of projects of mutual interest were discussed with Russian colleagues. During these visits it was apparent that funding for research in Russia is extremely limited and will limit the progress of potentially very productive research groups even in laboratories that are relatively well equipped as a result of donations from the West. It is also clear that Russian scientists are desperate for interaction with colleagues from other countries but again this is restricted because of a lack of travel funds. Professor Duncan was extremely well treated by his Russian colleagues and besides the for-

mal part of his visit, in addition to the usual sites such as Red Square and the Kremlin, he was taken to a number of impressive museums, the Moscow Ballet in the State Theatre in the Kremlin and the Moscow circus! One day was also set aside for a tour of Moscow with an interpreter in a chauffeur driven Institute car. This proved to be a harrowing experience at times as the car would not have passed a roadworthy test in Grahamstown and the chauffeur obviously had was a very interesting city the general poor state of the economy was reflected in the state of repair of buildings and roads. It is interesting to note that Professor Duncan's hotel room in Moscow (equivalent to a 2 star in SA) cost more per night than the monthly salary of his Russian colleagues.

\*Professor Duncan is the newly appointed Dean of Research at Rhodes. He takes up this post on 1 January 1999.

## AANS Conference

Dr Godfrey Meintjies, Senior Lecturer-In-Charge of Afrikaans and Netherlands in the Rhodes School of Languages, recently attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary conference of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, USA.

Dr Meintjies presented a paper on post-colonial historiography in Afrikaans prose published after Apartheid. He has previously presented papers in the field of postcolonial studies at conferences as far afield as Bad Boll in Germany, London and New York.

The conference in Madison was attended by scholars from different parts of the world, including USA, British Isles, Western and Eastern Europe.

Dr Meintjies said that the value of the Internet in publicising Rhodes University internationally was illustrated by the Dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor Phillip Certain. "In his opening address, Prof Certain mentioned that, minutes before the meeting, he had visited the website of the Afrikaans and Netherlands Studies Division in the Rhodes School of Languages and was well informed about the activities of this Division".

## Points to Note:

- As of 27 July, no smoking will be permitted in University buildings, with the exception of the residences (who determine their own rules) and the Students' Union, and a designated area of the Senior Common Room (Grahamstown Campus) and the balcony off the Staff Room (East London Campus).
- The Minister of Education has approved the introduction of a Postgraduate Diploma in English Second Language.
- The Department of Human Movement Studies is changing its name to the Department of Human Kinetics and Ergonomics.



## Classifieds

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### FABLES BOOKSHOP

Lists of recent Africana acquisitions available by email from [tumbleweed@imagnet.co.za](mailto:tumbleweed@imagnet.co.za)

**THE PROPERTY SHOP** Estate Agents and Appraisers. Please contact us for a whole range of houses and farms for sale in the Grahamstown area. Tim Willats (046) 6361174.

## Long Service Awards

Celebrating 25 years of service to Rhodes recently were:



Allon Poole and Ray Haggard of the Department of Physics and Electronics,



John Haigh of the Department of Pharmacy,

and Cathy Berkinshaw of the English Department. Congratulations.

Please note that the next edition of Rhodos will be published on Friday 31 July

### Advertising Rates

Advertising rates for Rhodos are:

SMALLS: 30c per word; DISPLAY ADS R3-50 per column centimetre

RHODOS is produced fortnightly by the Marketing & Communications Division of Rhodes University.

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. E-mail: [adlh@warthog.ru.ac.za](mailto:adlh@warthog.ru.ac.za)

## Generation of Hope

In a joint effort with the local Bahá'í community, a group of international artists will be visiting Grahamstown on 23 July.

The aim of the group is to address pressing social issues through the visual and performing arts and multi-media presentations. Topics such as the elimination of racism, oneness of humanity and equality of men and women are portrayed in the artistic presentations.

There will be no charge for this performance and all are encouraged to attend. Watch notice boards for venue and time details.