

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR THE BULLETIN

December
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In October I completed ten years in office and was invited by the Senate of Rhodes University to look forward to the developments that are likely to take place in the next decade. I learnt - as others have done before me - that "it is difficult to prophesy, especially about the future".

In a Christmas message one is not expected to make a thorough review, but I would like to draw your attention to a few points. The conclusion of two senior professors who reviewed the previous ten years a week before I spoke, was that Rhodes is efficiently and openly administered. I have stated that I fully intend to maintain, indeed to improve upon, the University's administration. Although it is not an end in itself, effective management exists to promote and facilitate the attainment of the goals of maintaining Rhodes University as a community of scholars that will be judged by the impact of our scholarship and teaching and by our cohesion as a community.

It is pleasing to be able to point to a study by Professor D J Botha of the University of the Witwatersrand that Rhodes's academics are better qualified than virtually any other university in South Africa and that a recently reported figure of merit for scientific research indicated that we shared the top spot with one other institution. I can also report that our overall examination pass rate of just under 80 percent stands reasonable comparison

with others. We certainly have no call to rest on our laurels but I think it right to assure those who support Rhodes University that you are getting reasonable value for your money.

You demonstrated your continuing support by overtaking the 1984 total of R1,85 million in donations before the middle of November when I wrote this message. The total then was R1,9 million. It included two large gifts, a few from new donors, and increases from certain donors. Everyone at the University is grateful for this show of confidence in us during these difficult times.

We have learnt that the reduction in our subsidy for 1986 will be no less than ^{in 1985.} ~~this year's~~. Plans are being laid for another year of financial stringency and we are reorganizing ourselves for several more years of reduced income from government. We can survive in the short term, but teaching and research work must suffer if subsidy reductions continue for too long.

In my recent prognostication I stressed that our success in the future depends not on the Vice-Chancellor, or the Senate and the Council, but on every member of the University and I regard you, the donors, as very much part of the University and I have confidence, despite these trying and depressing times, that Rhodes will maintain and enhance its standing if we all determine that it shall be so.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to wish you all, many
of whom I know personally, a good Christmas and a happy New Year.

Dr D S Henderson
VICE-CHANCELLOR