

Dec 1983

THE YEAR 1983 HAS BEEN ONE OF SOLID AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACHIEVEMENT FOR US AT RHODES - AND I USE THE BUILDING METAPHOR IN ITS LITERAL SENSE, AS BRICKS AND MORTAR ARE THE TANGIBLE SIGNS OF OUR PROGRESS THIS YEAR.

IN APRIL, THE UNIVERSITY RECEIVED ITS LARGEST EVER SINGLE DONATION - HALF A MILLION RANDS FROM THE GOLD FIELDS FOUNDATION, SUFFICIENT TO PAY HALF THE COSTS OF A NEW RESIDENCE ^{FOR} ~~TO ACCOMMODATE~~ 78 STUDENTS. THE RESIDENCE IS ^{to be} NAMED GOLD FIELDS HOUSE, AND WILL BE OPENED IN JULY NEXT YEAR.

THE END OF 1983 ALSO MARKS THE FINAL STAGE OF OUR BIGGEST EVER BUILDING PROGRAMME, THE QUAD II PROJECT. CONSTRUCTION WORK IS

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VIRTUALLY COMPLETE, AND WILL HAVE COST NEARLY R4 MILLION. THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MOVED INTO ITS SPLENDID QUARTERS IN SEPTEMBER, AND GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY WILL BE MOVING DURING THE CURRENT VACATION.

OTHER BUILDING OPERATIONS HAVE INCLUDED TWO RESIDENCE ANNEXES PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR 33 STUDENTS AT A COST OF R¹₄ MILLION. A FURTHER R¹₄ MILLION ^{Similar sum has been spent} ~~HAS BEEN USED~~ TO BUILD EIGHT DOUBLE STORY MAISONETTES FOR MARRIED POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS.

A POTENTIALLY INVALUABLE PROJECT WHICH WAS ALSO ^{inaugurated} ~~FINALIZED~~ THIS YEAR IS THE FISH HATCHERY AND FISH FARM, A JOINT PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE JLB SMITH INSTITUTE OF ICHTHYOLOGY. RHODES IS THE ONLY UNIVERSITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA OFFERING POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN THIS FIELD, AND IT

IS HOPED THAT THE TRAINING AVAILABLE HERE IN AQUACULTURE WILL LEAD TO THE ALLEVIATION OF PROTEIN DEFICIENCIES IN THE RURAL HOMELANDS.

PERHAPS THE MOST REWARDING DEVELOPMENT OF ALL HAS BEEN THE COMING INTO BEING, AFTER FIVE YEARS OF NEGOTIATION, OF A HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FOR OUR BLACK WORKERS. THE SCHEME, WHICH WAS WORKED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ~~SA~~ ^{TWO} PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY^{IES}, OFFERS HOME LOANS ON EXACTLY THE SAME CONDITIONS AS FOR WHITES. IT IS THE FIRST SUCH SCHEME FOR UNIVERSITY STAFF IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND A RECENT VISIT TO THE SITE WITH SOME OF THE PROUD OWNERS BROUGHT HOME TO ME WHAT A MAJOR STEP THIS HAS BEEN IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE NORMALIZATION OF OUR SOCIETY.

[WPU.6754C] In in all 1983 has been a successful year for the university and we look forward with confidence to further progress in 1984