RHODOS

STAFF NEWSLETTER

28 August 1998 VOL 10 No14

First for Eastern Cape



Rhodes Botanist, Dr Nigel Barker, is the recipient of the prestigious Foundation for Research Development President's Award -the first for an Eastern Cape university.

Barker (35) joined Rhodes in February 1997 on a contract basis. He was then appointed to permanent staff in January this year. As a Plant Molecular Systematist, his research area includes the study of genes and gene sequences so that the relationships of various plant groups can be assessed in an evolutionary context. His interests also include a form of "DNA fingerprinting" of plants which has far-reaching implications in fields ranging from conservation management issues to forensic research.

The President's Award is a highly prestigious award and is made to young researchers (normally younger than 35) of outstanding achievement who have already shown exceptional potential as researchers during their doctoral studies and early postdoctoral careers, and as indicated by their research outputs, are recognised internationally as having the potential to become future leaders in their field.

Responding to this announcement, Professor John Duncan, acting Dean of Research, commented: "This is a landmark achievement in the history of research at Rhodes. We have a pool of excellent scientists and researchers and are delighted with this recognition. It also highlights the importance of young researchers at Rhodes and the potential that they have."

According to Dr Barker: "This award came as a complete surprise. I am well aware of the prestige attached to it as well as the enormous responsibility. This award will allow me to realise some of my dreams which includes the possible establishment of a Centre for Molecular Systematics which would look at the evolutionary process and relationships, not only in plants but other groups such

Research at Rhodes



"Rhodes has a unique environment for research - one that offers opportunities for interaction, collaboration and the development of new research programmes."

So says Professor John Duncan who officially takes on his new role as Dean of Research on Tuesday. "There are so many aspects of this new post that are exciting and I am looking forward to the challenge," he said.

According to Prof Duncan, the main function of his new role will be to administer all research at Rhodes, and, along with the Joint Research Committee, formulate policies for research at the University. "It is critical that we develop and market our research and research expertise and highlight the active and leading role that we play in our many specialities. We need to focus on attracting high quality post-graduate students, increase our research funding and stimulate the post-graduate bursary schemes and exchange programmes."

Prof Duncan also believes that it is important to create an environment that will attract quality new staff, especially black and female researchers. "I see the raising of the profile of Rhodes both internationally and nationally as one of my primary objectives. We do already have a good reputation, but it can be improved."

Much of Prof Duncan's time will be taken up by interfacing with research councils, various government bodies, and commerce and industry to identify opportunities that could be followed up in specific research areas. He will also ensure that more emphasis is placed on the East London campus.

"With my background being in the natural sciences, I am very excited about the opportunity of getting involved in the promotion of the human and social sciences," said Prof Duncan. "I will, however, be continuing with my own research programmes and believe that one cannot be effective as the Dean of Research if one is not involved in research!"

Prof Duncan is also excited about being involved in both the administration and academic spheres of the University. "I would like to develop an open and interactive association with staff and

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Student Bureau becomes a reality!

The restructured Registrar's Division, incorporating the newly established Student Administration Bureau, will move into their new home in Eden Grove to be ready for Registration 2000.

According to Dr Steve Fourie, Registrar, the Student Bureau has been established to present a more efficient service to our students. "We are trying to make things as easy as possible for them," he said. "In the past students have been sent from pillar to post to successfully complete various administrative tasks, whereas with the new development the staff in the

Bureau will be trained to handle most of their queries. We looked at the process holistically and focused on collaboration and co-operative efforts, whereas in the past some of our procedures tended to be counterproductive."

The Registrar's Division will now incorporate Financial Aid Administration, the Student Adviser's Office, Residence Allocation and the Sanatorium. Moving out of the Division are the Telephone/Reception function to Marketing and Communications, and the Mail Room to the Finance Division.

"We expect to move

into Eden Grove by the middle of next year," said Dr Fourie. "Once we are there we will have a link to Student Fees and we will also have a Cashier in the Bureau. In addition, we are working towards establishing a browser interface to the Division where students can submit information electronically."

The Eden Grove complex will house a computer laboratory with approximately 100 work stations, the Cory Library and the Registrar's Division. There will also be two lecture theatres and seminar space which will be hired out as conference facilities during vacations.

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as animals and fungi. I feel that this award also recognises the efforts and dedication of my MSc and PhD supervisors and acknowledges their input in my research interests over the years. I think that some strategic planning will be required to determine how not just myself, but the Botany Department and the University as a whole can get maximum benefit from this award."

Did you know ...

. . .that Dr David and Mrs Charlotte Woods were invited to President Mandela's 80th birthday bash in their official capacity?

What Chemists Talk About at Tea

Jacqui Pile



Pictured at the Barker Lecture were (from left to right): Dr Woods, Professor Klaus Koch from UCT, Kristie Johnson, Chairperson of the Chemistry Society, Dr Smout, and Professor Perry Kaye, Head of the Chemistry Department.

A recent lecture given by Professor Klaus Koch from the Department of Chemistry at UCT, gave new insight into what chemists talk about at tea-time.

Delivering the annual Barker lecture, this year entitled *Of Magnets, Molecules and Nuclear Magnetic Spectroscopy*, Koch discussed the development of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and its uses in the modern world.

Koch said that most modern technological advances would be inconceivable without the chemist's ability to manipulate the elements. NMR allows them to do this using magnets, electromagnetic radiation and resonance patterns.

Able to deduce the complex structure of molecules within a couple of minutes, chemists can now increase the pace of technological advancement and development.

Koch encouraged students and researchers to engage in the "cross fertilisation" of disciplines like maths, chemistry, physics and biology and to use what he refers to as "blue-sky esoteric research" to advance scientific knowledge.

Keswick Prize for Lucidity

Sir Chips Keswick, Chairman of Hambros Bank Limited, has established a prize to encourage the use of lucid and jargon-free prose in writing on technical subjects.

The Keswick Prize will be awarded to a third or fourth year student in any field who is adjudged to have written the most lucid essay between June 1997 and the closing date in 1998 on a technical subject without recourse to jargon. The essay must be in typed format and not exceed 2500 words. A list of references should accompany the essay. The style and level of presentation should be appropriate to adult, well-educated but nonspecialist readership. The University has appointed an assessor to select the winning entry.

The value of the prize in 1998 will be R3000.

Essays should be handed in to the University's Marketing and Communications Division, by 5pm on 21st September 1998. Late entries will not be accepted. Each essay should be submitted with a top sheet carrying the title of the essay, the name, student number, lo-

cal address and nom-de-plume of the entrant, and a brief, signed declaration that the essay is the unaided work of the entrant. The essay proper should carry only its title and the nom-de-plume of the author. The Marketing and Communications Division will detach and retain the top sheet of each essay, and will then hand the essays to the assessor. The assessor will not have access to the names of the entrants until after the winner has been announced.

The University reserves the right to make no award if, in the opinion of the assessor (with myself as Vice-Chancellor concurring), none of the essays is of a sufficiently high standard.

Heads of Departments are asked to make the existence of this Prize widely known.

Enquiries concerning the Prize should be directed, in the first instance, to Ms Janine Smuts, in the Marketing and Communications Division (Ext 8570).

Dr David Woods, Vice-Chancellor

Ilitha Workshop Wows Teachers

Over 120 primary teachers and educationalists recently attended Ilitha Art Education Project's afternoon programme "shOw B.E.". The Drama Department's Theatre complex was buzzing with people from as far afield as Alicedale who had come to be part of the innovative teacher "workshop" dealing with creative solutions to classroom and learning problems.

The theme was creativity in the classroom. The first half of the show was a piece of educational theatre scripted by Eileen Brannigan and directed by Joanna Parkes, the two dramatists who have been teaching in the Drama Department since May. The Educational Drama and Theatre students carried across the central metaphor of the new outcomes-based education philosophy as an apparently Titanic-esque ship



The cast and crew of Ilitha's "shOw B.E." held recently in the Drama Department.

with gusto in the roles of teachers in the government's Curriculum 2005 programme of redress.

Ilitha director, Richard Kilpert said: "We wanted to move away from the traditional workshop format to help teachers identify with the integrated approach of the new curriculum. It's not just about changing classroom practice, but addressing the way we ourselves were taught, and committing ourselves to developing creative thinkers."

Debbie Smuts, who de-

signed the programme, said that the idea was to excite teachers with creative experience on which they could model lessons. "If a workshop can stimulate teachers like this, then I hope they will take the inspiration back to their classrooms and show that any lesson can be a memorable experience if the learners' imaginations are activated," she said.

After the show, teachers were able to view innovative displays from RUMEP, the Molteno Project, NELM, Enterprise Dynamics, the Mobile Museum service, and the JLB Smith Institute. There was a lot of interest in the CSD's Early Childhood Development papier mache teaching aids and puppets put together by Anna Woolf.

This is just the first in a series of follow- up "happenings" planned by Ilitha. A repeat performance of "shOw B.E." had to be held due to demand.

First Visiting Professor

The first appointed Visiting Professor to Rhodes under the new Visiting Professor Programme was Malcolm Sainsbury. A previous HOD of the Department of Information Systems, Professor Sainsbury is currently Company Director of Sun Couriers in charge of Information Technology. He spent four weeks in the IS Department presenting the IS Honours Information Systems Management Course.

Other visitors to the Department recently were Robert Radley, a management consultant at Paras, and Jane Hanou, an independent consultant. Robert, a Rhodes graduate, spent two weeks in the Department presenting the 3rd-year Information Systems Management Course, while Jane spent three weeks here presenting the 2nd-year Decision Support Systems Course.

According to Professor Dave Sewry, Head of the Department: "It is vital that our students are exposed to external players in the IS and IT fields. They need the industry perspective to balance the theory that they get in the classroom."

The worldwide demand for IT professionals has grown at an increasingly rapid pace in recent years. Vacancies have become hard, if not impossible to fill, and human resource divisions frequently return from recruitment drives empty-handed. At present, it is estimated that there are approximately 50 000 IT professionals in South Africa. The USA alone has shortages of 50 000 in specific areas of the industry - given the entire local personnel base, it would not solve their problems! The local shortage is exacerbated by the flight to overseas destinations of approximately 200 IT professionals a month.



Visitors to the IS Department with Professor Dave Sewry (seated) were (from left to right): Malcolm Sainsbury, Robert Radley and Jane Hanou.

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post-graduate students. I will adopt an open door policy and would like to set up discussion forums to stimulate interaction across the disciplines."

In paying tribute to the previous Deans of Research,

Prof Duncan said: "Although they have previously worked in a part-time capacity they have laid an excellent grounding for me to build on. I have a very genuine belief that the University is committed to research and the promotion thereof."

Japanese Visitor



Professor Shuriso Ishihara, former Director of the Geological Survey of Japan recently paid a visit to the Geology Department. Professor Ishihara was in South Africa as a FRD Invited Fellow based at Wits, and has been comparing the young granites around the Pacific with the older rocks of South Africa. The granites found in Japan are around 180 million years old, while those in South Africa are 3 800 million years old.

Here he is seen with Dr Eric Ferre (left) and Professor Roger Jacob (right) of the Geology Department, testing a portable susceptometer which is used to determine the magnetic susceptibility of various rocks which will impact on the planning of geological surveys. This instrument provides on-site analyses, where previously one had to take core samples and return to the laboratory for analysis.

25 Years of Service



Professor Arthur Webb of the Department of Economics and Economic History, and Deputy Dean of Commerce, recently celebrated 25 years of service to Rhodes. Here he receives his long-service award from Dr Woods.

Carr on CARR

Carr, has been named as one of 50 women to know in new media, by the US-based Online Journalism Review. The recognition comes in response to her teaching a Computer Aided Research and Reporting (CARR) course to fourth year journalism students. (The article has been published at http:/ojr.org).

The research results generated by the 14 students on her last semester's course are up on the web to see. The URL showcasing their work is http://www.nml.ru.ac.za/ carr. The course is designed to teach people how to conduct internet research and how to develop their skills in the areas of html, spreadsheets, advanced search language, file transfer protocol and web design. According to Carr, the research skills students acquire serve to empower the individual, and make him or her eminently more marketable in an increasingly computerized environment. She believes that students have enjoyed the course, given that it has active, hands-on interaction with computers.

Added to this is the fact that it can be effectively married to the various disciplines, like Design and Writing and Editing. The result is that her students "do more than they are expected to because it's interesting". Students who took the course last semester confirm it involved a strong measure of self-motivation, dedication, and steady work. Part of the requirement of the CARR course is that each student monitors a different topic on the internet (for example, hate speech, the top South African companies online, video conferencing, or copyright ethics) as part of their course evaluation.

Off to Oxford!



Grant Olwage from the Department of Music and Musicology has been awarded a prestigious Commonwealth Overseas Scholarship for post-graduate study at Oxford University.

Grant is currently registered for an MA on Aspects of pre-Modern Thought in the Conception and Structure of Modernistic Music - Towards a Redefinition of Neo-Classicism. He will interrupt his studies at Rhodes to do the Master of Studies degree at Oxford, possibly followed by a D.Phil. He will be attached to Christchurch College.

Grant has an outstanding academic career: a top pupil at Drakensberg Boys' Choir School, he matriculated in 1993. At Rhodes he completed a BA with distinction,

majoring in Music and Journalism (his marks were the highest in the Faculty of Arts for that year), and then completed an BA Honours in Music, also with distinction, in 1997.

He has also been active as a performer - on harpsichord and piano - and has organised a number of concerts under the auspices of The Rhodes Camerata which he founded several years ago. The proceeds of these concerts were given to charity.

"Performance is important to me," says Grant. "It keeps the music which we study academically alive. I hope I'll be able to get involved in some kind of Early Music performing at Oxford. Obviously I am very excited about going to Oxford - it is something everyone aspires to - but at the same time I am a bit apprehensive as Oxford is a place of awesome traditions!"

Grant will be starting the Oxford leg of his career as another brilliant Rhodes music student, Shannon McKellar (1994) finishes hers. Shannon also did the Master of Studies in Music and went on to do a D.Phil.

Alty Awards



Arona Dison of the Academic Development Centre receives her Alty Award from Dr Woods. Ms Dison obtained a Masters Degree in English Second Language. With her are Mrs Lynn Quinn, Learning and Language Consultant from the ADC and Prof Vivian de Klerk, Head of the Linguistics and English Language Department.



Janet March received an Alty Award for obtaining her Masters Degree in French. Here she is seen with Dr Woods and Professor Fein, Head of the School of Languages.

The Love of a Nightingale

by Timberlake Wertenbaker directed by

Andrew Buckland and Dion van Niekerk

from Wednesday 2 September to Saturday 5 September

at 19:30

in the Rhodes Theatre

Tickets available from Grocott & Sherry or at the front of house prior to the performance

Academic Freedom



Professor Denis Davis of UCT presented the annual DCS Oosthuizen Memorial Academic Freedom Lecture. Here he is seen with Wamkele Mene, SRC President, Dr Woods and Professor Malvern van Wyk Smith, Chairperson of the Academic Freedom Committee.

Danish Visitors



ikke Malmberg and Rune Baeklund from Roskilde University Centre in Denmark have spent five months in South Africa doing research for their joint thesis about community participation and local economic development in Stutterheim. Rikke and Rune met Mr Etienne Nel, Senior Lecturer in the Geography Department, in Ireland. "I was lecturing at St Patrick's College of the National University of Ireland in Maynooth and Rikke and Rune were in my class. I discussed Stutterheim in a lecture and in later discussion we agreed that conducting more research there was viable," Mr Nel said.

The objective of their research has been to explore and understand the processes that changed apartheid to integrated development and the dynamics excluding or including people from decision processes that involve their own development. It is a study of how social forces and problems affect a local place and how local areas affect national processes.

"We chose to study Stutterheim because it is a place that has recently been through fundamental changes and has a reputation for success. It has become a model for other towns," Rune commented.

"I am glad that we choose Stutterheim to do our research, South Africa is a beautiful country and we both thoroughly enjoyed our short stay," Rikke said.

Dr Mary Gregory of Oxford University will present a seminar entitled

International trade, technological change and unemployment

on Monday August 31 at 14:15 in ECO's A

Dr Gregory is a guest of the Department of Economics and Economic History

Mission Statement

The Governance Sub-Committee of the Transformation Executive Committee (TEC) of Rhodes University has completed the first draft of the University Vision and Mission Statement.

To carry this process through to the next stage, the subcommittee would like to solicit comment from all stakeholders. The document below is in draft format and is for discussion purposes only.

Kindly submit your comments by fax (046 - 6224345) or email (pora@warthog.ru.ac.za) to the Convenor of the Governance Sub-Committee, Dr Rok Ajulu.

VISION

Rhodes University's vision is to receive national and international recognition as an excellent teaching and research university which produces outstanding graduates, advances international scholarship and contributes to the society in which it is situated.

MISSION

In pursuit of its vision, Rhodes University acknowledges its African identity and context; commits itself to democratic values; strives to promote a life-long love of learning, sound moral and ethical values, and social responsibility; and to generate the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the national and global environment.

Accordingly, the University undertakes:

- To commit itself to academic and intellectual freedom, the recognition of the importance and free flow of ideas, open and critical inquiry and rigorous scholarship.
- To develop shared democratic values which embrace basic human and civil rights.
- To acknowledge and be sensitive to the legacies of the past and, in particular, to reject all forms of unjust discrimination and to ensure that appropriate corrective measures are employed to redress past imbalances.
- To promote equity and equal opportunity.
- To develop a service-orientated citizenry and to participate actively in the development of our society.
- To pursue academic, scientific and social excellence.
- · To be outstanding and innovative in its teaching.
- To create a teaching and learning environment which is supportive of personal and academic development.
- To produce innovative, articulate, adaptable and wellrounded graduates.
- To develop communities through service, assistance, resources and facilities.
- · To strive for excellence in all its activities.

All members of the University are committed to this mission and undertake to promote these core values in their daily activities.

Comparative Law Conference



Lirieka dvocate Meintjes-van der Walt, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, recently returned from the XVth International Congress of Comparative Law held in Bristol. The quadrennial convening of this congress under the auspices of the International Academy of Comparative Law is a major entry in the calendars of compara-tivists throughout the world. This is the first time that South Africa formally took part in the IACL Congress.

Over 400 delegates from more than 40 countries attended the Congress, which was held over seven days. 35 sessions covering a wide range of legal topics were held, of which many were chaired by senior members of the British judiciary. During these sessions, general and national reporters provided overviews on the positions in their respective legal systems. Adv Meintjes was not only the only national reporter on DNA evidence in the Criminal Justice System, but was also one of the three national reporters invited to deliver input on the particular problems surrounding criminal databases, statistics and population genetics which affects the probative value of DNA evidence. While these presentations will be published in the conference proceedings, negotiations are underway to publish the presentations on DNA evidence in book form. Insight into, and understanding of other jurisdictions will be of great value to Adv Meintjes who has been invited to act as an advisor to the proposed South African Forensic Science Council.

Adv Meintjes said the Congress created an occasion to reflect critically upon important contemporary problems, through the comparative study of solutions proposed by different legal systems.

On the last day of the Congress, Adv Meintjes was introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh who, on meeting her, wanted to know whether she was a lawyer of a wife?!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Mail and Guardian of last Friday (21 August) contained a supplement on education. After careful reading I was dismayed to realise that Rhodes had the following: an interview with Guy Berger of Journalism and an ad for doing an MA in Linguistics. Other than these two items there appeared to be nothing advertising Rhodes. Wits and UCT had taken full advantage of the opportunity and flooded the insert with ads and information. The Universities of Natal and Stellenbosch had also managed to get some information about themselves "out there".

Could someone from Marketing and Communications please explain why Rhodes did not take this opportunity to advertise itself whilst the other major universities did so? Surely no one is satisfied with Rhodes being seen as a university offering little more than degrees in Journalism (no matter how good that department may be)?

Yours sincerely "Just Asking"

Mary Burnett, Communications Manager, responds:

 The Mail & Guardian ran a similar Fair last year for schools. They guaranteed that the supplement produced to promote the Fair would go to all schools. This did not happen, the Fair was poorly organised and was not a success. After discussion with the Student Recruitment Manager, it was decided that we would see how the Graduate Fair went before having our fingers burned again.

- 2. The Department of Linguistics and English Language had planned an ad for the supplement, but the Mail & Guardian ran it early. The response was so good that in consultation with Linguistics, it was decided not to press the matter. The Mail & Guardian made a mess of the School of English ad and will therefore have to run it again free of charge.
- 3. We receive at least five requests to advertise in education supplements EVERY WEEK. We have a limited budget for both corporate and academic advertising and, therefore, plan to use it to the best effect possible. We always consult the people working in the market (e.g. Student Recruitment) before spending thousands of Rands on advertising that has little likelihood of reaching the target market.

If "Just Asking" would like to come and see me, I should be happy to explain how we apply our advertising policies.

them personally and from what I've seen around."

Sonjica, his cast of five high school pupils, and his stage manager are hoping to create an awareness of the types of lives the street children live so that people can be made aware of the present circumstances. Through this awareness they believe that parents, companies and the government could start co-operating to get the children off the street. In an attempt to spread this message the group plans to tour the Cape Province in December, performing in shelters.

Street Wise - Siyaphila

Street Wise - Siyaphila, a play which was run during the Festival this year, was performed again earlier this month, compliments of the Sociology Department for the first-year Sociology of Poverty course.

The play was written and directed by a second-year student at Rhodes, Mahlubandile Sonjica. His motivation for creating this play was to "carry the voices of street children." Sonjica believes that "they are in the street, they cannot talk for themselves."

Sonjica's interest in the problem of street children was pricked when he worked with street children in Uitenhage through the Brighter Future Theatre Project. This project aims to teach street children life skills. While taking part in the project Sonjica became familiar with and disturbed by these children's situation. He says: "What I have written about is what I have heard from

Classifieds

KOELFONTEIN FARM

Cradock. Self-catering accommodation from R40 p/p. Luxury chalets, all mod cons, R240, sleeps 4 (groups up to 18). Birdwatching, hikes, horse-riding. Springbok, venison and karoo lamb meals on request. Contact Chris Hood (048) 8813825 or email koelfontein@eastcape.net

WRITING WORKSHOP

"Live Writing" - a creative writing workshop to be held in Nieu Bethesda, 24" - 26" September at the Ibis Art Centre. Facilitated by Colleen Higgs and Joan Metelerkamp. The course promises to stimulate your imagination, provide feedback and will suggest ways of editing your writing. For more information contact Mark/ Noelle at the Ibis. Tel (04923) 602 or ibis@ilink.nis.za

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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.

HOUSES FOR SALE: 24 Oatlands Road

Stylish zero maintenance modern facebrick home, architect owned, designed and built. Carpeted throughout. Spacious loungediningroom/entertainment area and TV room, both with jetmaster fireplaces and glass sliding doors leading onto patios. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, maid's room with flat potential, storeroom, lock-up garage and alarm system. All this for only R255 000.

82 Bathurst Street

Three/four-bedroomed, two bathroomed house, fitted carpeting, Hi-Tech, good condition. Currently let to four students for income of R2000. Gift at R149 000. Phone Gareth at Rhodes ext 8403, or 622 4321 a/h, for appointment to

Rocking Rounders!



Ros Parker with the victorious Rock Stars!

An evening of great fun was held recently when five teams participated in the Rocking Rounders tournament! The Marketing Movers, Library Bookworms, Whitely Warriors, and the Rockstars 1 and 2 took their task seriously, despite the various forfeits of downing drinks for home runs and having to dress up if you were too good a player! Congratulations to the Rock Stars 1 on winning the tournament, and especially to Ros Parker for organising the event.

Founders Day Ball

Date: 12 September Time: 19:00 for 19:30

Venue: Hugh Chapman Memorial Dining Hall

Live Band! Spot prizes to be won!

Tickets: R50-00 per person, available from Shelly Samuel in the Marketing & Communications Division 603 8520 or email ados@warthog.ru.ac.za

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The Institute for the Study of English in Africa The British Council and the English Academy of Southern Africa present

The Changing Face of English

a public lecture by **Tom MacArthur** (founding editor of the Oxford Companion to the English Language)

> Thursday 10 September at 20:00 St Peter's Building

Advertising Rates

Advertising rates for Rhodos are: SMALLS: 30c per word; DISPLAY ADS: R3-50 per column centimetre

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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

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