



Professor of Economics Geoff Antrobus, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and Head of Department (Economics and Economic History) Professor Hugo Nel at a departmental tea held in Manuel's honour after he had received a Doctorate of Laws *honoris causa* from Rhodes University during its annual Graduation celebrations.

Pic: Roxanne van Winsen



During the University's biggest Graduation celebrations to date, more than 2000 students – some of them University employees from a range of academic departments – crossed the stage at the 1820 Settlers' Monument. Some students spent the brief walk staring at their feet, trying not to trip! One BCom graduate crossed the stage with an enormous sign pinned to her gown. As she knelt before Chancellor Professor Jakes Gerwel to have her degree conferred, the assembled parents, friends and guests roared their approval: the sign read "Thanks, Mom and Dad!" Some mouthed a thanks to the Heavens; others smiled and waved at the crowd.

And the upshot is this: Graduation 2006 was a huge success.

Rhodos spent April 6-8 visiting various departments and affiliates at their own Graduation functions, and was there to capture award handovers and commendations for excellent graduates.



Prize winners and members of staff at the graduation function (from left to right) Back: Prof Neil Harvey, David Winn, Rebecca Oosthuizen, Pamela Ruppig, Shafeek Sha, Albertina Jere, Renita Retief, Naomi Walton; Front: Trevor Amos (acting HOD), Delyse Shelton.



Trevor Amos (acting HOD) of the Department of Management with Delyse Shelton, a former staff member in the Department of Management, who graduated with a MCom.



Trevor Amos (acting HOD) of the Department of Management with Shafeek Sha, a staff member in the Department of Management, who graduated with a MCom.



Trevor Amos (acting HOD) of the Department of Management awards the Volkswagen prize awards for the top Management 3 student who registers for Management Honours the following year to Pamela Ruppig.



Trevor Amos (acting HOD) of the Department of Management with the joint winners of the Juta prize for the best Management 3 student graduating with a Bachelors degree to Rebecca Oosthuizen and Pamela Ruppig.



Trevor Amos (acting HOD) of the Department of Management awards the Juta prize for the top Bachelor of Business Science Management student to David Winn.

All photographs taken by Gregor Röhrig.



Graduation 2006 saw the highest number of graduates from the Academic Development Centre to date. Eleven Rhodes lecturers obtained the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education. They are Jeremy Baxter (Statistics), Emese Bordy (Geology), Roger Elliott (Management), Michael Herbst (Fine Art), Catherine Karekezi (Pharmacy), Rosaan Kruger (Law), Vanessa Malila (Journalism and Media Studies), Wandisile Mandlana (Law), Ané Oosthuizen (Ichthyology and Fisheries Sciences), Brett Pletschke (Biochem) and Sunitha Srinivas (Pharmacy). Two Rhodes lecturers were awarded Masters in Education degrees: Leonhard Praeg (Politics) and Alexandra Sutherland (Drama). In addition two ADC staff members graduated, Mthuthuzeli Vongo of the Extended Studies Unit with an MEd and Kevin Williams with a PhD. Finally, two students supervised by Prof Chrissie Boughey graduated: Lucie Allen received an MPharm degree and Sandy Blunt, a PhD.

Pic: Natasha Joseph



The Department of Mathematics handed out its annual awards to top undergraduate students on Wednesday 5 April. Awardees were as follows: David Williams Memorial Prize for Mathematics 3 - Nicholas Glover; Joe King Prize for Mathematics 3 - James Barry and Mark Robertson; Sydney Cruise Memorial Prize for Mathematics 2 - David Orpen and the Helmut Weigert Memorial Prize - Leezil Loubser and Andrea Müller.

Pic: Natasha Joseph



Dean of Commerce Professor Arthur Webb presents Simon Ferreira with the award for Top Economics Honours student 2005. Ferreira, who is currently lecturing in the Department, also bagged the award for Top Honours Research Essay.

Pic: Roxanne van Winsen



Ian Siebörger receiving the UPB Prize 2005 from the Head of the Department of English Language and Linguistics, Professor Vivian de Klerk. The prize is awarded each year to the best first-year student from the previous year.

Pic: supplied

The Department of Music and Musicology is very proud to present a piano evening on Friday May 5th at 7:30 pm in the Beethoven Room. This special concert marks the arrival of the brand new Kawai Grand Piano, a generous gift from Rhodes University to the Music Department this year. The piano arrived in Grahamstown on April 28th. The concert features ten students currently majoring in piano and Catherine Foxcroft. Entrance to the public is free, tea and coffee will be served at interval.

Proud moment for heart-transplant grad dad

By Michael Salzwedel

Surviving a heart transplant with the odds stacked against you is one thing. Going on to graduate with a PhD, together with your two children, is altogether another. Kevin Williams of the Academic Development Centre at Rhodes University can justly consider himself a lucky man. "He wasn't supposed to be around," says his son Adrian, 22, referring to Kevin's heart transplant in 2000.

But Kevin was indeed around at Rhodes' Graduation ceremonies this week. He was awarded a PhD in education, with daughter Alison, 20, graduating with a BA and Adrian with Honours in Geology to complete the triumphant trio.

Kevin's accomplishment is made even more phenomenal by the fact that he is the only post-heart transplant patient in South Africa to have been awarded a PhD.

His PhD thesis deals with the sociologies of education and pharmacy. His inspiration for this field of study came directly from his heart transplant. "I became more aware of issues relating to the lack of awareness on the part of health care professionals for the needs of people who use chronic medications," he says.

Through his thesis, as well as working with organisations such as the Transplant Support Group in Cape Town, Kevin hopes to "look at ways of changing outlooks on chronic illnesses".

Kevin started his academic career at Rhodes by completing a now no longer-available Bachelor of Theology degree. He obtained his honours in history from Unisa, and then went on to the University of Natal where he did his masters in adult education. Following that it was back to Rhodes where he has been a staff member since 1994 – first as a student support lecturer in the Divinity Department and currently at the ADC, where he has been since 2001.

Adrian and Alison both matriculated from Kingswood – Adrian in 2001 and Alison the following year. Adrian is currently busy with his MSc in Geology, a field which he got into primarily because Gary Hodgkinson, the brother of his step-mom Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams (responsible



Dr Kevin Williams celebrates his PhD with children Alison and Adrian.

Pic: Mike Salzwedel

for Information Communication Technology Education at Rhodes) was a geologist, and also because he was awarded a bursary in his first year to continue his studies in geology.

Alison is seemingly happier for her dad than for herself about the graduation. "He worked so hard on his PhD. Oxford University highly commended it," she says. Alison is currently doing joint honours in classical civilisation and German, and hopes to continue her German studies next year, hopefully combined with a trip to Germany.

Graduation 2006 will be something that sticks in Kevin's mind for the rest of his life. "I wanted to see these two [Adrian and Alison] out in the world, and us graduating together is the culmination of that – and that's a good feeling."



SECRETARY'S DAY! Odette Cumming graduates with a Postgraduate Diploma in International Studies from her own Department of Political and International Studies. With Odette are Professor Paul-Henri Bischoff, Director of Postgraduate Studies and on her left is Peter Vale, the Nelson Mandela Professor of Politics and Head of Department.

Pic: Gregor Röhrig.



Seen at the annual lunch in the Department of Political and International Studies over graduation are Professor Peter Vale (Nelson Mandela Chair of Politics and Head of Department), Olivier Serrao (top Politics graduate for 2005) and Dean of Humanities Professor Fred Hendricks. Serrao received the Terence Beard Politics Prize which is the result of the generous personal donation of Connie Molusi, Chief Executive of Johncom and a graduate of the Politics Department.

Pic: Gregor Röhrig



Johncom CEO Connie Molusi unveils a plaque in the Africa Media Matrix. He is flanked by Professors Guy Berger and Larry Strelitz and Rhodes Vice-Chancellor Dr David Woods.

Pic: Matthew Middleton

Africa Media Matrix officially opened by top donors

The official opening of the Africa Media Matrix, the new state-of-the-art home of the School of Journalism and Media Studies was celebrated on Wednesday 5 April, just before Graduation celebrations kicked off.

Africa Media Matrix is a new R24-million teaching facility that is purpose built to be at the heart of journalism and new communication technologies in Africa. Its research and teaching programmes will keep the School abreast of the changing critical issues in South Africa and the continent.

“An indication of the sense of loyalty to the institution that Rhodes instils in its students is in the way in which various alumni have made possible this marvelous new building,” said Vice-Chancellor, Dr David Woods.

CEO of media company Johncom and School alumnus Connie Molusi

unveiled a special plaque, situated on the top floor which is funded by Johncom and houses a unique integrated newsroom that combines the disciplines of New Media, Design, Writing and Editing and Photo-journalism.

“This facility provides individual teaching areas for specialisations that also open up into a convergent environment where students learn to be multi-skilled,” said Prof Guy Berger, Head of School.

Berger said it had taken five years to reach the point of inaugurating the building. “Today we can say we are Africans, standing in the matrix of the African media,” he added.

Head of Department in charge of Academics, Professor Larry Strelitz commented on the significance of the Johncom contribution, in a time when the media industry invests very little into the tertiary education of media workers. “It

is against this background that the Johncom contribution to the building takes on particular significance. It is a vote of confidence from the media industry,” he added.

The ceremony was attended by the Rhodes board of governors and Council. Guests were taken on tours of the building, to experience how architecture, artworks, décor and technology all culminate into making the Africa Media Matrix one of the leading structures in the country and the Southern hemisphere.

Other donors include Pearson PLC, Multi-Choice, Media24 and the Ford Foundation.

“In other words, we have here a much-valued facility, respected and supported by many parties. Because of this I am confident that the inauguration of this new home will lead to even further strengthening of the School,” added Dr Woods.

Molusi graduates 20 years late

By Kerry Swift

It may have been 20 years late, but Connie Molusi, CEO of media giant Johncom, finally received a Bachelor of Journalism degree from Rhodes University in Grahamstown during its Graduation celebrations.

Molusi was one of a group of about 150 black students at Rhodes in the mid-1980s who boycotted the universities graduation ceremonies in protest against Apartheid education. He graduated in absentia in 1987.

“We were part of a national campaign to highlight the injustices of the educational system at that time and the fact that the university was administering an unjust admissions system. Boycotting graduation ceremonies was a minimum standard of protest,” said Molusi.

He said receiving his degree from Professor Jakes Gerwel was a “poignant moment” because under the old order Gerwel could not study at Rhodes because of his skin colour. Today Gerwel is Chancellor of the university.

“My capping by Jakes Gerwel represents what education in a free and democratic South Africa really means,” said Molusi.



Johncom CEO Connie Molusi and newly-capped Journalism and Media Studies graduate Siphon January at the Africa Media Matrix.

Pic: supplied

Rhodos

is a monthly newsletter produced by the Communications and Development Division at Rhodes University.

Contributions are welcome but we reserve the right to edit them.

Contact the editor
NATASHA JOSEPH
on n.joseph@ru.ac.za or ext. 8517
Read Rhodos online at
www.ru.ac.za/rhodos

Printed by Rhodes' Printing Unit

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the University.

Citation by Professor Pat Terry, Dean of Science, when presenting Professor Mike Brown for the degree of DSc in Chemistry, 8 April 2006.

Mr Chancellor, I have the very rare honour to ask you to confer the degree of Doctor of Science on the following candidate Michael Ewart Brown, in Chemistry. Passing out parades like this one are tinged with a mixture of emotions. For some there is the realisation that a chapter in life has passed, that they are seeing friends, and even this little city, perhaps for the very last time. For some there is relief that it is all over. For some there is excitement and anticipation, and indeed, for all there is probably some apprehension of what the future will hold. Small wonder then that such occasions have been the source of inspiration of songs such as the very well known "40 years on" which some of you may know, and if you don't - well you can't leave this place without becoming truly educated, so let me sing a bit of it to you:

Forty years on, when afar and asunder, Parted are those who are singing today, When you look back, and forgetfully wonder, What you were like in your work and your play. Then, it may be, there will often come o'er you, Glimpses of notes like the catch of a song. Visions of childhood shall float them before you, Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along.

Mr Chancellor, I don't profess to being able to look forty years on from here with any certainty other than by then I will be, probably, not "on" but "off", but allow me to look back forty years instead. On a somewhat sunnier Saturday than today at the beginning of April 1966 I had been summoned by this university to be invested with the bottle green hood of the Faculty of Science like those you now see so prominently on display on the stage. Of course, to make this investiture cost effective it had been decided that several other individuals should be processed at the same time, and so it was that there gathered together in our Great Hall a rather motley crew of fresh faced reprobates who had spent some time convincing their examiners that they had actually been engaged while at Rhodes in something other than what Marjorie Scardino so graphically described last year as "a great deal you can't tell your parents about".

Just a few names drawn from the programme for that day (besides my own, of course) may evoke memories for others in the congregation:

There was, for example, one Gavin Earnest Staude, now Director of the Rhodes Investec Business School, and the proud father last evening of a new LLB - Gavin graduated BComm with distinction in Economics

There was one Malcolm Montgomery Hack-sley, now Director of the National English Literary Museum, who graduated with Honours in English/Nederlands. Forty years on Hack-sley has celebrated one son obtaining a PhD in English this weekend, a daughter earning an

MA in English with distinction, her husband of a few weeks graduating MA in Anthropology with distinction, and another son graduating BA with distinctions in English and Latin

We also had with us that day, Elistan Patrick Glover, who forty years on finds himself as the father of our most outstanding graduate this morning, Elistan Nicholas Glover.

There was Paul Stephen Walters who obtained a first class Honours degree in English, which, of course, qualified him to be Public Orator, and you will be able to see how successful that was, a little later in the programme.

There was Timothy Phillips Woods, brother of the Vice Chancellor, with a first class Honours in History,

There was Ian Anthony Bunting, well known



Prof Michael Brown was awarded a Doctor of Science (DSc) degree for his published work in the field of thermal analysis and related areas of chemistry.
Pic: Kodak Express

in higher educational policy, making circles in higher educational policy perhaps we should say, who received his MA in Philosophy.

There was Timothy John Couzens, well known author, First Class Honours in English.

There was Ben Adolf Dekker, whom you will remember as an eccentric par excellence, who got a Bachelor of Arts

There was Robert Douglas Hancock, Professor of Chemistry at the University of North Carolina in America, who got a Distinction in Zoology.

And the list went on and on. Small wonder then that we have the motto "*Where leaders learn*".

I urge those of you in the congregation to keep your programmes, so that in forty years time you will be able to look back, as I do, with the same fond memories of so many of the names on the programme.

But on that occasion I'd like to draw attention to one particular person, slightly more mature than the rest - and he was poised to take a name-changing walk across the stage. Up till

that time he had simply been Mr Michael Brown, with a BSc from some place called Wits. But henceforth he was going to be Dr Michael Brown, PhD(Rhodes). Alas for young Brown, he lost out on the bottle green, for as you have seen dramatically in the last few minutes, PhD degrees get red hoods, not bottle-green ones. He was awarded it for his thesis "A study of irradiation effects in solids", only the 16th PhD in Chemistry to be awarded in a Department which has gone on, as this year, to produce something like two PhDs a year on average.

Undeterred by this lack of green, Brown remained at Rhodes, and set out to forge a career and an enviable reputation as a distinguished and internationally renowned researcher. His contributions to the field of thermal analysis have included the publication of several books and numerous research papers; plenary lectures at international conferences; leadership roles in national and international professional societies - the kind of science of which our Honorary Graduate today would no doubt have been very proud, as we all are.

These contributions have been recognized in his receiving the 1996 Mettler Award of the North American Thermal Analysis Society; his role, since that time, as Secretary of the International Confederation for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ICTAC); the award of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Research Award at this university in 1998, and the Gold Medal of the South African Chemical Institute in 2000; an A-rating by the NRF - the first researcher to be so recognised at Rhodes University; and his election, in 2003, as the first South African to be honoured as a Fellow of the North American Thermal Analysis Society.

In 2005, after his retirement, Professor Brown applied to become a student again, and applied for registration as a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Science, and he was duly accepted - and I am sure he has paid his fees, or he would not be here today. In terms of the regulations then in force, he was required to submit six bound copies of his publications for assessment by a team of examiners - we don't give these degrees away, they have to be examined as all the others are. Somewhat of a stir was caused by a follow up request from Mr Brown that he be allowed to present this material electronically rather than on paper, and as Dean I had to make an impassioned appeal to the Senate

for Rule G.78 to be changed to accommodate this. In the best tradition of oratory I based my proposal on that well-known line of George Pope Morris "Woodman, spare that tree". I should have known better. Opposition came from less well-read colleagues on the left of the chamber, who wanted the motion changed to "Woodperson, spare that tree". So we had to find a compromise, which we did in the usual way for which our Senate is famed - the minute reads that the matter of tree conservation was referred by one Dr Woods to a subcommittee of the Joint Physical Planning Committee, who very kindly took time off from their hectic routine of building speed humps in every possible corner of the university, and the proposal was accepted.

And thus it is that I am able to show to the congregation proof - a copy of our graduand's collected works - on which the examiners unanimously heaped praise - and I can report to those Greens in the Congregation of Purples and Whites that no first year students were harmed in the production of Brown's magnum opus.

It is with great pleasure that I request you, sir, to confer upon Michael Ewart Brown the degree of Doctor of Science of Rhodes University, and you, Mr Registrar, when he has walked across the stage, to invest him, at last, with the bottle green colours of a Faculty which he has served with such distinction for so long.



Mr Pow Chong, Managing Director of Alpha Pharm EC presents a donation to Professor Izzy Kanfer, Head of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Pic: supplied.

ALPHA PHARM donates to the Faculty of Pharmacy

Mr Larry Pow Chong, Managing Director of Alpha Pharm East Cape, visited his *alma mater* last month with a fine donation from his company to the Rhodes University Faculty of Pharmacy. Pow Chong, himself a donor to the Rhodes Centenary Fund, presented a generous R25 000 from his company.

The Faculty of Pharmacy tea room held a lively group of students and staff at a cocktail function to thank Alpha Pharm for their donation. Prof Izzy Kanfer, in accepting the generous R25 000, told how he had earmarked the amount for the Pharmacy Library – an outstanding collection of material,

including some rare and valuable volumes.

Pow Chong was supportive of the Rhodes Faculty of Pharmacy and lavish in his praise of the caliber of students graduating from the department. This donation affirms the credibility of the Rhodes' faculty in the eyes of the Pharmaceutical Industry, and Pow Chong suggested that it was the beginning of an ongoing relationship.

His own experience of the faculty as a student, and his belief in its continued high standards, meant that the industry could continue to count on excellent graduates and research from Rhodes in the future.

Rhodes guns for multi-million rand research chairs

By Lionel Faull

Rhodes University is hoping to access a substantial share of a R687.5 million research fund made available by the National Research Foundation (NRF) over the next five years.

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI) is the first of its kind in post-apartheid South Africa. The initiative aims to increase the number of world-class researchers in South Africa. This comes at a time when no SA university is ranked higher than 248 in the world, according to the 2005 Academic Ranking of World Universities statistics. Rhodes is not among the four South African universities featured in the top 500.

The NRF will create 55 research chairs this year, with a total of 210 in place by 2010. Each research chair will benefit from a funding allocation up to a maximum of R2.5 million annually over 5 years, and renewable in five-year cycles thereafter for a total of 15 years. According to NRF guidelines, just over half of the annual allocation is earmarked for equipment and running

costs; the rest will be spent on salaries, fellowships and scholarships. Individual research chairs will earn a salary of up to R550 000 per year. There is no limit to the number of research chairs that may be awarded to any University.

Dean of Research, Professor John Duncan, believes that Rhodes's size will not affect its bid for research chairs: "Our re-

search output is among the top three in the country. We will do extremely well." According to Duncan, Rhodes could get up to six research chairs in 2006, given a realistic assessment of the University's strengths. If Duncan is right, R15 million could be coming Rhodes's way in the first year of SARCHI alone.

Rhodes has 44 NRF-
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Dean of Research Professor John Duncan presents Dr Paul Cowley with the S2A3 Bronze Medal. The Medal is awarded by the Southern Africa Association for the Advancement of Science, and was being accepted by Dr Cowley on behalf of winner, Amber Childs. The award is given to the most outstanding Masters Degree student in a specific discipline. Only one award is made each year. Childs is doing fieldwork in Angola, and could not be present to accept the award.

Pic: supplied



The Department of Political and International Studies had ten Masters and fourteen Diploma students graduate this year. From the left, Professor Peter Vale (HOD), Ms O Cumming (DIPLOMA), Ms T Madonka (MA), Professor Paul-Henri Bischoff (Director of Postgraduate Studies), Mr L Mahao (MA), Mr T Lekhooa (MA), Mr A Mohapi (MA).

Pic: Gregor Röhrig



Achieving Masters students! Tumo Lekhooa and Kevin Roussel with their supervisor, Professor Paul-Henri Bischoff at the function held at the Department of Political and International Studies.

Pic: Gregor Röhrig

IS hosts top UK academic

In March 2006, the Department of Information Systems hosted John Traxler, a visiting academic from the University of Wolverhampton, UK. John is a member of the Applied Innovative Digital Technologies Research Group within the School of Computing and IT at that institution. Together with Agnes Kukulsha-Hulme, John Traxler is Editor of one of the first books on mLearning 'Mobile Learning: A Handbook for Educators and Trainers', The Open and Flexible Learning Series, Routledge, October, 2005. He was in the country as a consultant for the British Council on a project concerning the use of SMS to support English teaching across Sub Saharan Africa. His further travel down to Grahamstown was funded by the Vice Principal's Visiting Academics Fund.

The eLearning Research Group at the Department of Information Systems organised a morning long seminar programme which was very well attended by about 50 people and included staff and postgraduate students from Rhodes University, the University of Fort Hare, Walter Sisulu University, and the Eastern Cape Technikon. The highlight of the event was John Traxler's presentation on mLearning: Theory and Practice', and the morning's



Presenters at the seminar were (l-r): Ingrid Brandt (ICTs for Disadvantaged Grahamstown Schools Project), Caroline Pade (Sustainability of ICT projects for Rural Development), Brenda Mallinson (eLearning Research Group and event organiser), John Traxler (mLearning expert) and Mamello Thinyane (Dwesa Sustainable Information Society Project). Pic: supplied

programme was completed by presentations from Rhodes University Information Systems and Computer Science postgraduate researchers.

Interested persons can access the presentations online at <http://moodle.ru.ac.za>, by navigating through to the Information Systems category and then choosing 'mLearning and ICTs for Rural Development Seminar 2006'. The discussion forums on the site are being monitored by the presenters who are happy to respond to any comments or questions concerning their research areas.

Research in the Social Sciences: Design and Implementation

The Design course is a popular short course with a long-standing history and a firmly established track record. The course is presented twice a year by the Education Department. Whereas over the last few years the focus of this course has been on Qualitative Research issues, this course focussed on Research in the Social Sciences looking at both qualitative and quantitative approaches and how they can be applied in social science research.

This year, as well

as having the usual Education Department MEd and PhD students (some part-time students coming from as far a field as Lesotho), we also had students and staff from various departments on campus. The course has also become well known for its high level of academic excellence amongst other Higher Education Institutions around the country. On this particular course, we had participants from the Durban Institute of Technology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of Fort Hare

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rated researchers from all fields, out of a national total of 1473 rated academics.

The various faculties at Rhodes are taking applications very seriously. Professor Fred Hendricks, Dean of Humanities, has implemented an internal advisory process to strengthen applications from the faculty before they are forwarded to the Dean of Research.

The Faculty of Science – Rhodes's research powerhouse – has had a two-pronged approach, calling for an initial expression of interest from all members of the faculty, and approaching select individuals with outstanding research records. Professor Ric Bernard, Deputy Dean of Science, says, "We need people who can hit the ground running. Getting a chair is all very well, but keeping it for 15 years might be more difficult."

Professor Vivian de Klerk, head of the Department of English Language and Linguistics is pleased with the way the applications procedure has been handled by Rhodes. "Rhodes has been very democratic in letting everybody know about the process. It may seem like a very exclusive and elitist process, but actually it is the criteria set by the NRF that are elitist."

According to the NRF's application guide, candidates must have a doctoral degree; demonstrate a sustained or upward trajectory of research output; have a track-record in supervising postgraduate students; show an ability to attract external funding and reside full-time in South Africa.

NRF spokesperson, Dr. Rob Drennan, agrees that the criteria are selective: "This is by design otherwise the decisions as to who gets funding will be based on subjective views, which is clearly not wanted."

Drennan denies that the initiative favours universities who already have strong research outputs over those that are weaker. "Firstly we look at strategic alignment of the chair with the university in the pre-

proposal phase - even the poorest universities can have a strategy on paper - and then the quality of the nominee, who can come from anywhere and not necessarily be home grown.

"Furthermore, remember that SARCHI is just one offering from the NRF and must be seen in context of the

large number of other offerings, some of which are specially geared to support those institutions which are still developing a research culture," Drennan says.

The NRF has made it clear that research chairs will initially be awarded to "suitably qualified candidates irrespective of their nationality, race or gender". However, the long-term aim of the initiative, according to its guidelines, is to "create research career pathways for highly skilled, high quality young and mid-career researchers that effectively addresses (sic) historical racial, gender and age imbalances".

Professor Mike Brown, a retired physical chemist and Rhodes's only NRF A-rated researcher, says, "The qualification procedure is very tough – whoever succeeds deserves their place."

Brown hopes that the SARCHI will still allow researchers to do some teaching: "In my experience, enthusiastic teachers often attract students to become researchers. Many students that I taught went on to do research with me."

De Klerk, another of Rhodes's most accomplished researchers, says, "The pressure will be huge. You've got to really need and want a research chair position, and be prepared to focus on just one thing."

The R550 000 annual salary on offer is not everybody's idea of heaven. De Klerk says: "I support the initiative in principle, but I don't know if I want to be sucked up in it. There are strings attached. I prefer to work at my own pace."

The final nomination deadline for Round 1 of SARCHI is August 30, 2006. This gives academics the chance to submit their proposals to their respective faculty deans and to the Dean of Research.

Outgoing Vice Chancellor, Dr. David Woods, and his successor, Professor Saleem Badat, will both have a say in Rhodes's final submissions to the NRF.



Participants in Rhodes's most recent Research Design course.

Pic: supplied

Research in the Social Sciences: Design and Implementation

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and Walter Sisulu University.

Presenters were mainly from the Education Department but we also had guest lecturers from Journalism, ISEA and ADC. Participants commented on the quality of course input and expressed their appreciation for the expertise and enthusiasm of the presenters. What participants found most appealing was the honesty of presenters as they afforded "an inside look" into their personal experiences of research and the challenges they encountered – or as one participant commented:

"...taking the mystique out of research by 'sharing the secrets' openly, honestly and with human warmth."

Once again it seems that the course is valued by those who have attended and that all have benefited in some way, as the following comments taken from the course evaluation reflects:

"The course really makes research come alive. I do not think that anyone who has been through

the course will put off embarking on their research any longer.

The feeling of empowerment and understanding is overwhelming."

"Great blend of concrete 'real world' examples with more abstract theoretical concepts.

Brought in excellent diversity of speakers, used variety of teaching styles, gave us lots of reading to ponder and references to follow up on."

"This course has also influenced my teaching practice (as a lecturer) as I enjoyed the hands-on nature of the workshops and saw how valuable experiential learning really is. Thank you!"

The next Research Design course will take place from 11 to 16 September.

If you are interested in attending this course or would like further information about the course, please contact Louise Mardon at the MIST Research Support Centre on email mist-ed@ru.ac.za or telephonically on 046 603 8700.

Rhodes research unit puts life-saving algae to work

A cheap and efficient use of algae could help save lives lost to infected water. The Environmental Biotechnology Research Unit (EBRU) at Rhodes University has developed an algal photosynthesis process which disinfects water carrying diseases like typhoid and cholera.

The presentation of this new biotechnology will be one of the highlights of the Water Institute of South Africa's (WISA) biennial conference in Cape Town in May.

There have been

repeated outbreaks of typhoid and cholera in South Africa, particularly in rural areas. Last year in Delmas, Mpumalanga, there were 594 cases of typhoid fever, and scores of fatalities. EBRU director Prof Peter Rose says this new technology is a "major development" in delivering the Government's millennium clean water targets for the year 2015.

"People go down to the river with a bucket on their head, scoop out twenty litres of water and go

back taking infectious water to their home," he said.

Rose and his colleague, Charles Wells, researched this problem and discovered that by using algal photosynthesis, they could save lives by treating water in a process which is both very cheap and highly efficient.

Founded in 2003, the EBRU aims to help the environment by finding out what systems work in nature and using these to design treatment operations.



The facultative pond into which raw sewage collects and the process of disinfecting water begins. *Pic: supplied*

Cape Town, was to "see what has worked in the last three years, and what has not – and the way forward", says Hill. Unathi Heshula is a PhD student working with Professor Hill in the Weeds Research Division of the Department of Zoology and Entomology. Heshula "jumped at the opportunity" to apply for funds to complete a PhD through the capacity building project. "This programme is not only about the funding, which was important, but it also places previously disadvantaged students and institutions in collaborations and mentorships with leading scientists in this field in SA," says Heshula.

"This will in the next few years create a number of knowledgeable and qualified professionals who have been properly trained and supported in the study fields supported by the programme."

Students from other universities have also benefitted enormously from the capacity building project. "I know of students at Fort Hare who had their first experiences with biological control of weeds through this programme. One of them is now in KZN continuing her studies and has since embraced the field as a result," says Heshula.

The project has also linked previously disadvantaged institutions with those which are traditionally better-resourced, says Ahmed Kahn. Kahn is the Acting Deputy Director of Strategic Services for Working for Water. "Some institutions are starting from zero, so we link them with those institutions which have capacity," says Kahn.

Working for Water at Rhodes University

By Natasha Joseph

On the weekend of 10-12 March, a group of capacity building supervisors affiliated with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry Working for Water Programme gathered at Rhodes for a workshop. Professor Martin Hill of the Department of Entomology organised the meeting, and has been responsible for running a series of short courses based around the project. "A few years ago the Working for Water Programme were concerned about a lack of capacity in the field of biological control," says Hill. "Biological control is a vital tool in the control of invading alien plant species and has been practiced in South Africa since 1913."

The Programme made a sum of R7million available over a period of three years to increase capacity in the biological control field.

Some of the funds go towards bursaries for undergraduate and post-graduate students. Over 70 students have benefitted since the project started. Hill is responsible for running short courses to "improve the capacity of people who might be involved in the more technical side of biological control".

The purpose of the weekend, which drew supervisors from the Universities of Venda, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Wits, Fort Hare and

Not just playing with pebbles anymore

By Stephanie Gouws

Dr Emese Bordy is doing what she has always wanted to do. Sitting in her office plastered with photos, maps and diagrams Emese recalls: "My sister says I always played with pebbles and hardly had any dolls. One day I asked her who studies rocks and she said Earth Scientists. I said 'then that's what I want to be'. Knowing what she wanted to do with her life may have been easy but getting there certainly was not.

Emese was born in Transylvania, but the oppression during the communist regime of the 80s led her to flee to Budapest at 16. Emese lived by herself and while attending classes in the evenings to finish high school, she occasionally had to work four jobs simultaneously: full-time as a secretary for the Sociology Department of a medical university, as a secretary to a lawyer twice a week, cleaning an office twice a week, and cleaning a second office on the weekends.

Excelling at university, Emese was awarded many bursaries and received the Scholarship of the Hungarian Republic for highest recognition in the country twice. Emese insists: "I just do what I do well because I love it so much." Her love for Geology led to her getting her PhD at

just 28. Emese's current research is on a 230-200 million year old succession of sedimentary rocks in order to determine what South Africa used to look like back then. Reconstructing this palaeo-environment will be able to give us insight into what sort of events (such as



Dr Emese Bordy is fulfilling a lifelong ambition.

Pic: Stephanie Gouws

earthquakes) occurred around that time.

Emese is also doing research into some sandstone pillars which she interprets as ancient termite nests. The fact that sandstone pillars from 200 million years ago have not changed much indicates that termites had the same social behaviour as they do now. Scientists currently believe that social behaviour in insects only arose with the evolution of flowering plants, which appear in the rock record about 90

million years later than the sandstone pillars found by Emese. Unfortunately no termites have been preserved in these nests, but proving that the pillars were constructed by termites will challenge the way we think about sociality in insects.

Emese enjoys the outdoors and has two faithful companions who accompany her on fieldtrips – her husband Mamadou and Jack Russell Obi. Emese and Mamadou, a Senegalese artist and street vendor, met at the Grahamstown Festival in 2000 when she bought a shirt from him.

Emese proudly hands over a framed photo: "Mamadou tells me it was love at first sight and insisted we have our photo taken together". While it was not love at first sight for Emese, she agreed to go on a date with him,

and they were eventually married by March 2001. So what is being married to a Senegalese Muslim like for a Hungarian Protestant? "I get tired of having to justify our relationship to Home Affairs and even friends, but I love this man so much. I am in love with his morality and generosity."

Full of hearty laughter and contentment, it is clear that this geologist's infectious enthusiasm for life is that of someone who has fulfilled a life-long dream.

Draft audit report reaches Rhodes

Rhodes University has received a draft version of the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC)'s audit report on the institution.

During September last year, more than 300 members of the Rhodes community, including academics, administrative and service staff, alumni, students and senior management, were interviewed by the HEQC Audit Panel.

Rhodes approached the HEQC to arrange an audit of the university to follow on from the institution's internal Review of Academic Departments.

The draft document outlines areas in which Rhodes excels, and areas in which the HEQC – via comments from Rhodes community members – feels the institution can make changes and improvements.

Rhodes scored well in terms of teaching, research, community engagement and 'the student experience'. The draft document also offers some constructive ideas to assist Rhodes in continuing to tackle issues of transformation.

"Most of what were identified in the draft as 'challenges' are issues we've already identified internally and are working to change," said Academic Planning and Quality Assurance Director Sandy Stephenson.

As Rhodes went to print, the University's Audit Portfolio Committee was meeting to compose its reply to the draft document.

By May 9, Rhodes's official response will be sent to the HEQC, and we will await a final Audit Report sometime in June. Once the final audit is available, the document and relevant URLs will be circulated to all Rhodes University community members.

ISER hosts environmental historian

The Institute of Social and Economic Research recently had the pleasure of hosting Professor William Beinart for a guest lecture. Prof Beinart is a world renowned Environmental Historian and has published numerous books including: *Twentieth-Century South Africa*, *Social History and African Environments*, *The Rise of Conservation in South Africa* and, his forthcoming book, *Environment and Empire*.

Prof William Beinart and Dr Luvuyo Wotshela from Fort Hare University are currently researching the history and use of Prickly Pear *Opuntia ficus-indica* (itolofiya, turksvy) in the Eastern Cape. Prof Beinart presented a public lecture entitled: *Plants, Local Knowledge and the Informal Economy: Prickly Pear in South Africa*. The paper is based on the first chapter of a popular book on the social history of the plant in South Africa. Other chapters in the book will deal with the history of eradication of the plant.

The seminar was officially opened by Prof Paul Maylem, of the History Department, in his official capacity as a senior member of the ISER board. The seminar was well attended and was followed by a cheese and wine party in honour of Prof Beinart.

Rhodos worked closely with Writing and Editing students in the School of Journalism and Media Studies during the first term. Stephanie Gouws interviewed several academics as part of her term work, and we are pleased to feature one of these interviews here. Next month, we feature a profile on Dr Darlene Miller (Department of Sociology).

Dr Dan Wylie: demythologising mythology/demystifying mystery

By Aretha Phiri

An individual, “used to dangerous things like climbing mountains and writing history”, is how Dr Dan Wylie, lecturer in the Rhodes University English Department, was described by Professor Paul Maylam of the History Department, in what was a well-attended book launch held at Eden Grove Blue on March 2.

Dr Wylie does little to play down the apt literary portrayal, describing his recently published biography, *Myth of Iron: Shaka in History*, as an “anti-biography” of a household name in African history – Shaka Zulu.

In what is his second publication on the historical African leader, the first being *Savage Delight*:

White Myths of Shaka, Dr Wylie openly disputes conventional “misconceptions and myths about a historical Frankenstein”.

It is the first scholarly biography produced to date and was inspired (among other things) by a series of explosive lectures conducted by Professor Julian Cobbing of the History Department.

In it, Dr Wylie interrogates the so-called ‘evidence’ of descriptions of the ‘warrior’ Shaka and challenges virtually every single story encapsulated in conventional accounts of Shaka, stories he admits to being part of his upbringing in colonial Rhodesia.

He laments what he calls the “evolutionary textuality of history” – what he sees as a dilemma of

contemporary literature in which “identities and cultures are constructed out of symbols and written stories, not out of truths”.

Myth of Iron: Shaka in History takes a refreshingly bold approach, drawing primarily on Zulu oral ritual and history, rather than the literary “speculations” and subsequent myths of white colonial masters.

Dr Wylie’s journey of discovery was by no means an easy one and required not only much “desk work”, perusing and researching original archival documentation, but also physically visiting many of the geographical locations in KwaZulu Natal, from which Shaka operated.

Despite five years of working

diligently on the book, Dr Wylie is aware that his views as a scholar are disputably “limited”.

A self-proclaimed “outsider”, he admits that history is indeed “very problematic” and as such, anticipates criticism.

The process was culturally enlightening however. “I grew more respectful and impressed by the complexity of Zulu culture,” he says.

Dr Wylie is a firm believer that progress is achieved when “historians and people learn about each other” and hopes that his controversial book will generate further scholarly debate on the mystery that is Shaka.



Mr Andre Adriaan (left) and Dr Ron Cosser (right) receive their long service certificates from Dr David Woods.

Pic: supplied

Long service awards in Chemistry Department

Two members of the Chemistry Department staff recently received certificates for 25 years service to Rhodes University from the Vice-Chancellor Dr Woods at a recent function held in the Department.

Dr Ron Cosser and Mr Andre Adriaan both joined the Department in 1981. Dr Cosser, a senior lecturer in physical chemistry came to Rhodes from the University of Zimbabwe while Mr Adriaan, the University glassblower, served a six year apprenticeship with the former glassblower Mr John Murray before he was promoted to his present position of principal technical officer.

Dr Woods thanked both recipients of the long service awards for their dedicated service to the University over the last 25 years and their ongoing contributions to the success of the Chemistry Department.

Physics celebrates its graduates

The Physics and Electronics Department gathered for its annual graduation lunch during graduation weekend. There was a large turnout of graduates and their families and friends to celebrate the achievements of the past year. Head of Department Professor Justin Jonas congratulated all the graduates

Elijah Oyeyemi received his PhD degree, having been commended by his examiners with outstanding reports. He has remained associated with the department as a post-doctoral researcher, continuing his good work in ionospheric physics in collaboration with the Hermannus Magnetic Observatory (HMO).

There were two MSc graduates in the Physics and Electron-

ics Department, Laura Richter in Radio Astronomy and Joel Botai in Ionospheric Physics. Laura was awarded a distinction in her MSc degree and is the only woman to have graduated with a postgraduate degree in Physics this year. Along with Elijah, she has also continued with the department and is now registered for a

PhD.

There were three Honours graduates, of which one, Oliver King has remained to continue with an MSc.

Of the nine BSc graduates there was one woman and three have remained to do honours degrees.

After the formalities, an excellent lunch was enjoyed by all during which there was the opportunity for catching up with those who left Rhodes University at the end of last year.



Physics PhD graduate Elijah Oyeyemi with his supervisor Prof Allon Poole.

Pic: supplied

Meeting a founder of the RU Mentoring Programme

By Daksha Naran

Dr Derek Riley, one of the TAI mentoring programme's start-up donors, received an honorary doctorate from Rhodes University this year. Some of the TAI participants welcomed the opportunity to meet with him during his visit to Grahamstown.

He was accompanied by his daughter to an informal meeting with mentors, mentees, supervisors and the mentor co-ordinator.

When asked how he came upon the idea of mentoring as a tool for assisting first year university students he said that he was inspired by conversations with his daughter about her university mentors. He said she spoke about the support and

inspiration her designated mentors gave her and he was inspired by the idea to initiate a mentoring programme at Rhodes, his *alma mater*. Dr Riley graduated with a BCom degree from Rhodes in 1950.

The TAI mentoring programme was developed to support incoming, historically disadvantaged students in their transition into university life – a factor often cited as a major hurdle to achieving academic success. The programme's design and structure were strongly influenced by this institution's culture, and the ADC staff played a significant role in moulding Dr Riley's idea into a workable programme. The TAI Mentoring Programme now in its fourth year, and is an integral component of the Rhodes Extended Studies Unit.



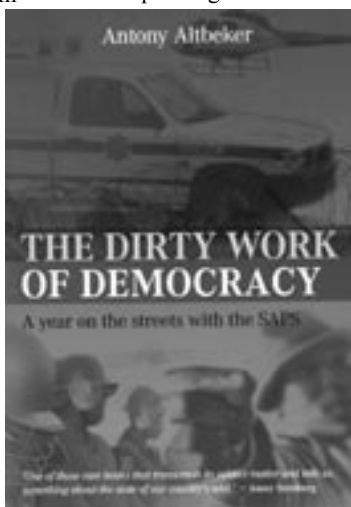
Dr Derek Riley chats to mentees during his visit to the Extended Studies Unit. *Pic: supplied*

Catch up on current issues at Wordfest 2006

Currently in its sixth year, Wordfest has established itself as a national multilingual festival of South African literatures. A project based at the Institute for the Study of English in Africa at Rhodes, Wordfest the festival has a developmental emphasis and promotes a culture of reading and writing in South Africa. Creative writing workshops, readings, performances by word-artists and singer-songwriters and many book launches entice all word lovers to have fun with words.

Wordfest also has a number of thought-provoking panel discussions and launches on this year's programme for festival-goers who want to keep abreast of South African trends. And who better to provide a forum for discussion than published experts who cut to the heart of current issues? This year's line-up sees a number of Rhodes academics and professionals from further afield discuss issues of social, historic and political importance.

A senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies studying crime and policing, Antony Altbeker will take a graphic look at policing in South



Africa at the launch of his book *The Dirty Work of Democracy*. The DALRO Debate on Plagiarism and the Literary Arts in South Africa will be led by experts Carlo Scollo Lavizzari, international copyright attorney; Gerhard Robinson, CEO DALRO; Robert Greig, poet and arts editor of the Sunday Independent, and Professor Chrissie Boughay of Rhodes who runs an

electronic program that screens student work for plagiarism. Listen to charismatic human rights activist and protest poet Dennis Brutus speak at the launch of his latest book *Poetry & Protest*. Known as the "singing voice of the South African Liberation Movement", he is a professor of African Studies and African Literature and Chair of the Department of Black Community Education Research and Development at the University of Pittsburgh. Rhodes historian Professor Paul Maylam takes a clear-eyed look at Cecil John Rhodes in history at the launch of his book *The Cult of Rhodes*. Media fundi and former head of Rhodes Journalism, Gavin Stewart, will talk about the SA media during our first 10 years of democracy while the current head of department, Larry Strelitz, will launch and discuss his book *Mixed Reception: SA Youth and their Experience of Global Media*.

Watch this space for more on Rhodes authors and other guests appearing at Wordfest from 1 – 7 July 2006.

Cuppa for CANSA is back!

By Minoshni Pillay

The annual Cuppa for CANSA returns at the end of this month. Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) and the Grahamstown community will once again come together to host the third annual Cuppa for CANSA 2006.

This year's Cuppa will take place in two phases, with the first phase pulling in students and staff members from the University (Friday 26 May) and the second phase (Saturday 27 May) that aims to target local Grahamstown restaurants and coffee shops. Over just three days in two years, the Grahamstown Cuppa has contributed just over R5000 to the national Cuppa's fundraising efforts. Last year's event was well supported by Rhodes staff and students and the Cuppa raised approximately R3000 in the space of only a few hours.

The CANSA organisation aims to substantially reduce the impact of cancer by promoting health in all communities within South Africa, through advocacy and the substantial facilitation of research, prevention, early detection and care.

Cuppa for CANSA is one way that organisations, friends, families and donors around South Africa have come together over a cuppa, in aid of this organisation's positive contribution to the health of our society.

With every cent going towards CANSA, students, staff and all community members are challenged to come out in full support of this exceptionally worthy cause. RMR's flagship show, *The ABSA RMR Top40*, will lead the Cuppa Challenge as DJs attempt to drink as much tea or coffee in one minute as they can. The Cuppa will be held on May 26 at the Eden Grove Concourse, from 10am-2pm.

For more information or ideas of how you want to contribute to the Cuppa, contact: Minoshni Pillay – 083 718 8116 //minoshni.pillay@ru.ac.za Magriet Cruywagen – 083 320 9593 // g03c1948@campus.ru.ac.za

RAFSOC breaks its own record!

At a RAFSOC function at the Drill Hall on 31st March, 915 partying students raised R13 180 towards the Safe House project (assisting Child Welfare to provide emergency shelter for children at risk). In addition to this record-breaking figure, about 20 bags of clothing were collected to be distributed by welfare NGOs and community development practitioners.

Comments Grant Howarth, RAFSOC Chairperson "We are extremely proud of the amount of money raised, as our previous best was R8000. For 2006 we are aiming to raise a total of R50000. The success of RAFSOC is proof that fund raising for charity at Rhodes approached in the right manner and taking into consideration the Rhodes student culture of having a good party, can be very easy and very successful"



left to right: Jay Pillay, Luthando Ntile, Xoliswa Hloyi, Effie January.

Pic: supplied

Linking teaching with community needs

A new resource is available for academic staff who wish to know more about integrating meaningful community service into the curriculum. Staff can point their browser to the intranet at www.ru.ac.za/community/service_learning_internal. The website offers papers on service learning, links to key websites and other service learning teaching resources.

More and more academic staff are contacting Community Engagement Manager Ingrid Andersen asking how to structure Service Learning components to courses. Service learning is community service that is integrated into the curriculum, is required of students and bears credit. Currently nine departments run a variety of courses that include service learning components.

"Service Learning is becoming increasingly popular as staff see the benefits of experiential learning that meets community needs as well as offering added learnings to students such as increased maturity, greater responsibility and societal awareness". Andersen stresses that a key component of service learning involves preparation and reflection processes. "The Pharmacy CEP programme does this extremely well."

Note: Emory University academic Cornelia Lindenau of the Centre for International Programmes Abroad (CIPA) addressed Rhodes staff on service learning on May 2nd.

Olympic Gold

Don't miss your chance to see a real Olympic Gold Medal in Grahamstown! Tebogo Mokgalagadi and Nicholas Newman will be at the Eden Grove RED lecture Theatre on Thursday 25th May at 19:00 to talk about their experiences at Athens 2004 and about South Africa's position in the international sport arena for athletes with a disability. Ari Seirlis, the National Director of QASA, will be introducing the two South African Olympic Gold Medallists. There will also be a 12-hour indoor cycling marathon event at the Health Suite from 08:00 to 20:00 on Fri 26th May to raise funds for QASA.

New training initiative at St Mary's kitchen

In a groundbreaking outreach by Rhodes University into the community, two learners, Luthando Ntile and Xoliswa Hloyi joined the kitchen staff of St Mary's kitchen under mentor Effie January at the beginning of March. They came to Rhodes from Kuyasa Special School, a school which caters for mentally handicapped children from 6 to 18 years.

The project was initiated by Riana Henning of the Recruitment and Selection Section last year. Riana Henning, Di Hornby (CSD), and Jay Pillay (Catering) engaged Jill Rothman, Principal of Kuyasa Special School in a discussion around possible partnerships. It is an ongoing challenge for the school to place learners in employment.

Ntile and Hloyi are participating in a Learnership which involves on the job training for a duration of a year. The students will work full time, with a training component which will be conducted at Rhodes in a variety of special needs areas such as daily functioning, safety factors and basic budgeting. At the end of the year, the learners may apply for permanent positions as kitchen attendants.

Contact: Ingrid Andersen i.andersen@ru.ac.za or ext 8573

Editor's note to contributors

Please note that while we welcome contributions from all and any members of the Rhodes University community, we have a limited amount of space available in each edition.

We ask that any written contributions not exceed 300 words. If you supply photographs, please send these to the editor in a JPEG format rather than copying them into a Word document.

Also, please supply captions for photographs.

Deadlines for the rest of the year are as follows:

May 19 (edition due out June 2)

June 23 (edition due out July 7)

July 21 (edition due out August 4)

August 21 (edition due out September 1)

September 25 (edition due out October 6)

October 20 (edition due out November 3)

November 17 (edition due out December 1)

We will not accept late submissions, and remind you that photographers should be booked AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

Please also note that if you regularly contribute to Rhodos, or are assigned to do so, but are unsure of how exactly to put together an article, the Communications team is available to help.

We are working on a "dos and don'ts" list, to be made available online within the next month, so watch this space!

For any complaints, queries, suggestions or lavish examples of praise, please contact the Editor (Natasha Joseph) at n.joseph@ru.ac.za or on (046) 603 8517.

Carnegie visits Rhodes

Dr Narciso Matos of the Carnegie Corporation of New York visited the Education Department at Rhodes University on Monday 10 April. Dr Matos is the chair of the International Development division overseeing sub-Saharan Africa projects. This division focuses on strengthening higher education in select African universities. The intention of his visit was to meet with current grant holders – the MIST project in the Education Department – as well as others at Rhodes University.

The Education Department at Rhodes University received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation in 2002 which included seed funding to start the Mathematics, Information Communication Technology, Science and Technology (MIST) Education Research Centre as well as a MIST bursary programme. The grant period extends from January 2002 to December 2007. The MIST Centre has been visited by Carnegie representatives in the past – with Courtenay Sprague (former Program Associate with the International Development division) visiting us in 2002 and 2003. This was, however, Dr Matos' first visit to this project and we were pleased to have the International Development Chair as our guest.

Dr Matos was escorted by Ken Ngcoza (Science Education lecturer), Prof Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams (ICT Education lecturer) and Adele van der Merwe (Coordinator of the MIST Research Support Centre) to Nathaniel Nyaluza Senior Secondary School. In planning Dr Matos' visit, we felt that it would be important for Carnegie to see how the generous funding they



Dr Narciso Matos of the Carnegie Corporation visited the Department of Education at Rhodes recently.

Pic: supplied

have provided since 2002 has impacted the local community.

Dr Matos was met at Nathaniel Nyaluza by Matole Maselwa (Science Educator) who is a past Carnegie bursar. Maselwa received Carnegie funding to complete his MEd in Science Education. Maselwa gave Dr Matos a tour of his science laboratory and discussed some of the challenges that science educators are facing in our local classrooms. Joy Turyagyenda (Economics Educator – making use of ICTs in innovative ways in the school) then took Dr Matos on a tour of the school's computer labora-

tory and spoke about the challenges our schools face in integrating ICTs into the classroom.

Turyagyenda completed her MEd in ICT Education in the Education Department under Prof Hodgkinson-Williams' supervision.

Dr Matos then attended various meetings in the Education Department and had an opportunity to discuss with the staff the impact that Carnegie funding has had on the disciplines of Mathematics, Information Communication Technology, Science and Technology (MIST) Education and also the impact on MIST research.

Siyaphambili pass rate rivals that of University student pass rate!

In December 2005, 23 Siyaphambili learners wrote the IEB level 1 to level 4 English communication exams. For the first time, one learner also wrote the IsiXhosa level 1 mother tongue examination, having joined the programme not able to read or write in his home language. Of the 23 learners that wrote, 20 passed and three failed -- a pass rate similar to that which the University achieves with its students!

Ms Xako, the motivational speaker for the day, started the Siyaphambili programme in 2004, and in December passed her level 3 examination. She spoke of what the programme had done for her, improving her English reading, writing and speaking skills and teaching her how to type. In her speech, she encouraged other learners to join the programme and improve their education,

stating that she regretted not starting earlier.

Ms Xako spoke of her dream of typing and producing her own documents on her own computer one day. This dream is shared by many others and is not far-fetched as staff like Roselyn Yaphi (a past Siyaphambili learner now completing her matric) show. According to Ms Xako, learners involved in the programme are "moving forward, moving forward and moving forward."

Also joining the Siyaphambili ranks this year are three foreigners who have joined the programme to improve their English.

Nontuthuzelo Faku, the ABET Co-ordinator, encourages staff to keep "moving forward". If you are interested in acquiring English reading, writing and speaking skills, you can contact her on 8006.



Some of this year's Siyaphambili learners show off their certificates.

Pic: supplied



Eight in nine speak out at Rhodes

By Larissa Klazinga

August 1994, months after South Africa's first democratic election, the Rhodes SRC, led by then President Carla Tsampiras and the Gender Forum organised a "Take Back the Night" march, highlighting issues of safety on campus and violence against women.

Ten years later, Tri-variety 2004 saw a Rhodes student gang raped outside the Union Building. In numbers not seen since the end of Apartheid, students marched on campus demanding improved safety and an end to violence against women on campus.

Two years on, students and staff have been galvanised by national events to add their voice to the growing call for an end to violence against women. In fact, on 24 March 2006, Grahamstown's demonstration in support of the One in Nine campaign was the largest in the country, a surprising fact when you

consider our size relative to Johannesburg or Cape Town.

I have been asked by a number of people why I think that demonstration was so successful and in formulating the answer to that question I have been forced to examine the circumstances that make Grahamstown's response so "disproportionate".

It would seem that Grahamstown, and Rhodes specifically, is proving to be an environment that allows women to speak out, either in solidarity with survivors or about their own experience as rape survivors.

I believe that Rhodes is a unique environment, which due to its geographical location and its transitory population, provides a "safe-space", far from family fall-out and community condemnation. This allows residents the freedom to express themselves without the consequences they might face elsewhere.

This is illustrated by the fact that on the day of the demonstration I was approached by several women, both staff and students, thanking me for organising the event and confiding in me that they are one of the other eight, the silenced eight that the One in Nine campaign refers to.

A secondary reason for our successful mobilisation around this issue positively reflects the Rhodes maxim, "Where leaders learn".

Carrie Shelper, the POWA spokesperson and a key One in Nine organiser is a Rhodes graduate. Friendships made during her time at Rhodes have endured, and this has enabled her to reach out to those of us who returned to our *alma mater* for assistance.

This reflects the experience of generations of Rhodians that friendships made here tend to last a lifetime.

Rhodes exposes its students to a diverse array of cultures, religions and ideologies and this bonds us together in unique a way.

Gender issues have been championed by a series of student leaders and staff members over the past decade and optimistically, I'm hoping that this work is finally paying dividends.

The second One in Nine demonstration, which took place during graduation in April, attracted staff and students, graduates and their parents, members of the Rhodes community and residents of Grahamstown.

It would seem that this issue has struck a cord. Perhaps we are finally ready to take a stand on this issue as a University and more broadly, as a community.

Long may it continue.



Contacting the World -- education empowerment

Simthembile Myiwana (pictured above with a fellow festival participant – Myiwana is on the right), a first year student at Rhodes, travelled to London to prepare for Contacting the World, a festival which is staged as a way of developing theatre with young people in different countries across the world. The Ubom! Art of the Street Project, based at Rhodes, was chosen as one of six international companies to present a play at the festival in Manchester in July. Local audiences will get a chance to see "Sho't Cut Corner" at the National Arts Festival Street Theatre programme.

Myiwana was elected as one of the oldest serving member of the group to represent them on a trip to London in March 2006.

"We also lead one workshop, where we taught the group some fun easy Xhosa songs, a bit of gumboot dance, and other improvisation exercises we have used to create theatre," said the play's director, Alex Sutherland, who was in London with Myiwana. "I was amazed at Simthembile's confidence, risk taking, and commitment in these workshops. He threw himself into each experience, took initiative, stretched himself and others' abilities," she said.

In next month's Rhodos, Myiwana reports back on his experience of London.

	
	
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May 5 - 7:30 pm - Piano concert celebrating the arrival of the new Kawai Grand piano. Performances by Ms Foxcroft and students. Entrance free. Beethoven hall.
May 20 - 9:30 - 5:00 - Music Department Open Day.

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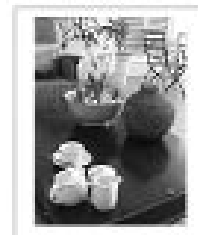
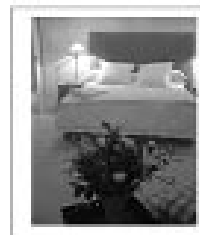
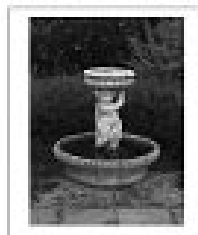
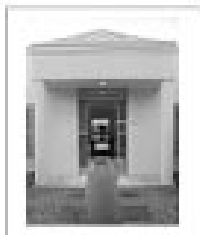
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