



The Column

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AN AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY

AS we go to press, the University of Durban-Westville Bill is being placed before the House of Assembly, its main purpose being to redefine the constitution and powers of the University. The most significant effects of the new Act will be the increased power accorded to Council in the running of the University's affairs and the application to Durban-Westville of all the provisions of the General Universities Act. In other words, the University of Durban-Westville will acquire the same level of autonomy as is enjoyed by all the older universities.

Under the terms of the new Act, this autonomy may take effect any time after 1 January 1984 but the exact date has still to be agreed upon by Council and the State President.

The Column asked the Rector to outline the main changes that will be brought about by the Act.

FINANCING

'I would first like to point out that we already have a high degree of autonomy', he said. 'We have been academically autonomous since 1971 and as such are fully responsible for course content, examinations and the awarding of degrees. The main changes resulting from our future operation under the General Universities Act will be in the area of financing. The University will now work to a budgeting system based upon a set formula, which will allow us greater flexibility in our expenditure. Ministerial approval will be needed only for acquisition and sale of property and for establishment of new faculties and institutes. For the rest, Council will be in full control.'

Another area where Council will have greater power concerns appointments to the posts of Rector, Vice-Rector and Registrar. Such appointments will be finalised by Council, without reference to the Minister, as is the case at the moment.

COUNCIL

Continued Professor Greyling: 'There will also be a change in the constitution of the University Council. The new Act provides for representation for convocation, donors, the Westville Town Council, the Durban City Council and other municipalities. Six or seven Council members will be appointed by the State President and Council itself may appoint up to three members.'

The University of Durban-Westville will now be fully represented on the Committee of University Principals and the entire infrastructure for autonomous universities. Together with these bodies, the Minister of National Education determines and defines the policy applicable to all autonomous universities. 'Our funds will then be provided by the Treasury, via the Minister in charge of our University', explained Professor Greyling. 'Exactly who this Minister will be under the new Constitutional dispensation has yet to be determined.'

As an autonomous university, we shall have to contribute 15 per cent towards future building projects, whereas at present capital development on campus is fully financed by the State. This point has led to the off-expressed fear that autonomy will mean a big increase in our fees. 'Whilst it is true', said the Rector, 'that some universities use as much as one-third of their students' fees for the redemption of loans against capital

projects, it is highly unlikely that this will be necessary in our case. Fortunately, our current expansion programme will be completed before we become autonomous and no further buildings will be required to accommodate up to 7 500 students.

LOW FEES

'Where extra funds are needed, we hope that the University Development Fund will be able to assist, and we are confident that our fees will remain low in comparison with those charged by other autonomous universities.'

Student administration will be eased by the fact that non-Indian students will no longer be required to obtain ministerial permission to attend our University. Under the General Universities Act, each autonomous university will itself regulate the enrolment of students, according to a population-group quota which has still to be defined.

CHANCELLOR RE-ELECTED

The Council is pleased to announce that Professor the Hon O. P. F. Horwood has been unanimously elected Chancellor of the University of Durban-Westville for a further period of five years. He has held this office with distinction since 1973.

COMPUTERS ON CAMPUS

Rapid advances in computer technology are such that every ten years performance improves approximately 100-times ... space needs decrease by 90 per cent ... and costs decline dramatically.

If the motor car had been involved in an equivalent technological advance, we would be driving a Rolls-Royce that cost R1 000 and could travel 2-million kilometres per litre of petrol.

The main computer power on the campus is housed in the Computer Centre in the Administration building. An ICL-2946 computer, comprising 6 megabytes (million characters) of memory plus 960 megabytes of disc storage is used to provide for

administration as well as academic processing. In July we shall be acquiring a second ICL-2946 comprising 4 megabytes of memory and 800 megabytes of disc. The second large computer will be housed at the old computer centre in the Engineering building (H1).

The computer in the administration block will be used for three main systems: the student system — providing all relevant information such as registration records, class lists, mark sheets and final examination results; the payroll system — dealing with the University payroll and related personnel records; and the finance system — controlling general accounting, orders, creditors, student fees and stock systems.

All these systems have been implemented and a network of terminals throughout Administration enables the sections concerned to capture their own information. The systems are currently being improved and enhanced to make the related administrative procedures more effective.

The new computer, to be housed in the Engineering building, will be for the exclusive use of academics and will support a network of terminals. Two months after the initial installation, this network will be augmented to comprise 16 terminals at H1 block, plus punch-card facilities and eight terminals at M block, where the department of Computer Science and the faculty of Commerce are located. During the year, consideration will be given to installing additional terminals at other strategic locations.

It is anticipated that within the next few years the campus will witness the advent of distributed processing. This will entail the installation of intelligent terminals (able to process a considerable amount of work themselves) in academic and administration departments. These terminals will be connected into a network of cables enabling a user to have access, from one terminal, to all the main computers throughout the campus.

FIRST OF ITS KIND

The University has installed a mini-computer dedicated to the Library. This is the first system of its kind in South Africa.

Following Durban-Westville's lead, the Universities of Natal (Pietermaritzburg), of the North, of Zululand and of Tasmania have opted to install the same system. Whereas other institutions have terminal facilities to a main computer, our new computer is dedicated to processing library information only. Already some 100 000 books have been catalogued and the total library stock of 160 000 should be entered on the computer's files by next year (1984).

In a recent co-operative project, the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal catalogued 10 000 life sciences books on to our computer from their own terminal. They have subsequently bought their own system.

The Library computer will control orders, book issue, cataloguing, enquiries and retrieval. While the hardware is housed in the Computer Centre, ten terminals are provided in the library building, for operation by trained library staff and also for individual enquiries by staff and students. The computer will also provide on-line service to the medical branch library at King George V Hospital.

In the long term, each faculty will have access, through a network computer terminal, to the Library system. It will then be a simple matter to find out whether a particular book is listed, whether it is available and, if not, when it is expected to be returned. A time-consuming journey to the Library, only to find that the required book is out on loan, will be a chore of the past.

This two-page feature has been compiled from information kindly supplied by: the Computer Centre, the Library, the faculties of Education and Engineering, and the departments of Optometry and Computer Science.

EXCITING PROJECTS

Computers are used extensively in different areas of the campus, for keeping records, training purposes and research. Among the departments which have their own computers are Chemistry, Physics, Pharmacy and Optometry. The latter also has a variety of computerised instruments for measuring errors of vision and detecting disease of the nervous system between eye and brain. Two of the most sophisticated of these instruments measure the 'Visual Evoked Response' and the 'Contrast Sensitivity Function'. There are only a few such computerised aids in the world and none other of their kind in Africa.

Computers are important in all four branches of the Engineering Faculty. However, two special areas of interest may be mentioned. Staff and students of the department of Electrical Engineering are giving attention to the technical feasibility of verbal communication with computers and are researching ways of exploiting current technology in this field.

Computer graphics form an important part of an activity now commonly referred to as 'CAE' — computer-aided engineering — which embraces design, manufacture and testing. In this respect, staff in the department of Mechanical Engineering will be making good use of ICL's PERQ computer-aided design terminal and graphics plotting facility, recently obtained by the Computer Centre. Once fully operational, the PERQ system will be combined with the computational power and storage facilities of the main-frame computer, to enable computer-controlled machine tools in the Department to manufacture and test items that have also been designed there.

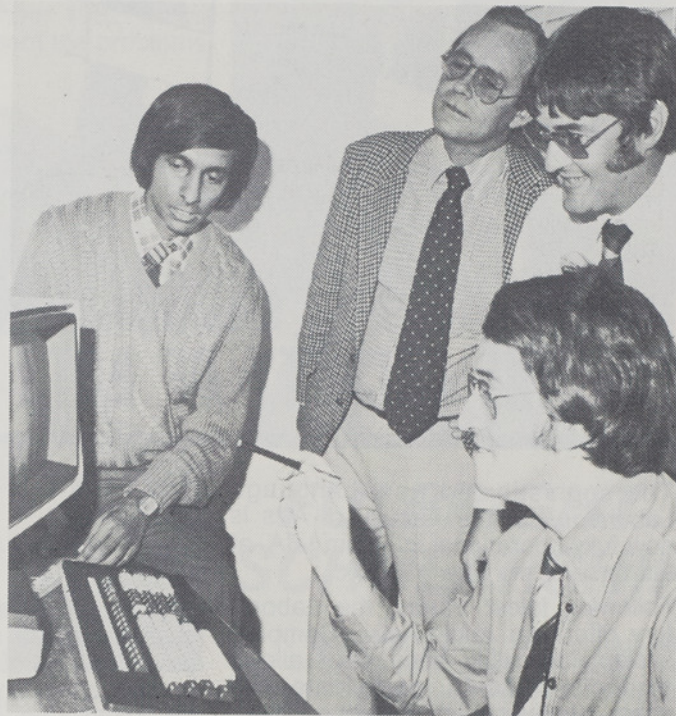
Valuable Collaboration with ICL . . .

The British-based computer organisation, International Computers Limited (ICL), is about to enter into a collaborative project with the University of Durban-Westville which could have far-reaching effects upon postgraduate Computer Science, not only at this University but also throughout South Africa.

Arrangements are being finalised for ICL to sponsor a Chair in Computer Science over a guaranteed period of three years, with the specific objective of establishing a postgraduate programme in Computer Science at this University. The first such Chair created for this purpose in South Africa, it will be known as the **ICL Research Chair in Computer Science**. The incumbent, who will be accorded all the rights of a full professor, will be employed on research projects and other academic activities at the discretion of the University. ICL will have the first right to purchase any resultant research papers. The post will be advertised locally and overseas and is expected to be filled by 1 July 1984.

The need for a well-established postgraduate programme in this field is indicated by the fact that South Afri-

The research team for the ICL project comprises both academic and administrative staff. From left are: Mr. S. Baboolal, Assistant Director (Academic) of the Computer Centre; Professor M. C. C. Laidlaw, head of Computer Science Department and project leader; Mr. S. M. Wood, Director of the Computer Centre and the project co-ordinator; and Mr. B. Kelly, Senior Lecturer in Statistics. The fifth member of the team, Dr. D. H. Pienaar, Senior Research Officer in Chemistry, was not available for the photograph.



can universities have awarded very few doctorates in Computer Science; and that most of our professors of Computer Science have doctorates in other disciplines. The proposed post-

graduate programme will enable our own graduates to advance their academic qualifications under the direction of a recognised expert in Computer Science and should help, in the long run, to alleviate the paucity of highly trained computer scientists in South Africa.

SUPERIOR TEACHING FACILITIES

Along with the rapidly expanding use of computers comes a growing need for computer education. This is undertaken to varying levels in a number of different departments on the campus. Some idea of the importance being attached to this field can be gained from the fact that Computer Science is now a recognised matriculation subject. In addition, some educationists are looking at the computer as a possible aid for remedial instruction. Since it is clear that teachers will soon be confronted by computers in the schools, the Faculty of Education has recently installed two micro-computers as a basis for providing its students with exposure to this new science.

Obviously, the main teaching computer on campus is to be found in the department of Computer Science. A Hewlett-Packard 1000 exists primarily to provide an educational service to the 180 undergraduates who are enrolled throughout the various courses offered by the Department. It is also used for postgraduate work and several important research projects, three of which involve staff from other departments.

The Department aims to provide each of its BSc undergraduates with a minimum of 200 hours on-line terminal time to the computer during his three years of study. This is judged to be sufficient practical experience to back up his theoretical education. To meet this requirement, there are 12 modern visual display terminals

attached to the computer and the Department is confident that the facilities provided are amongst the best in the country. The HP-1000 is a 'mini' computer with a main memory of 1/2 Mb and a secondary disc memory of 15 Mb. Compared to the main campus computer, it is a small machine, yet a student at one terminal is hardly ever aware that the computer is simultaneously attending to the work needs of eleven others. In addition, there is a number of peripheral devices such as a graphics terminal and flat-bed plotter, a card reader, several printers and a paper-tape read/write unit.

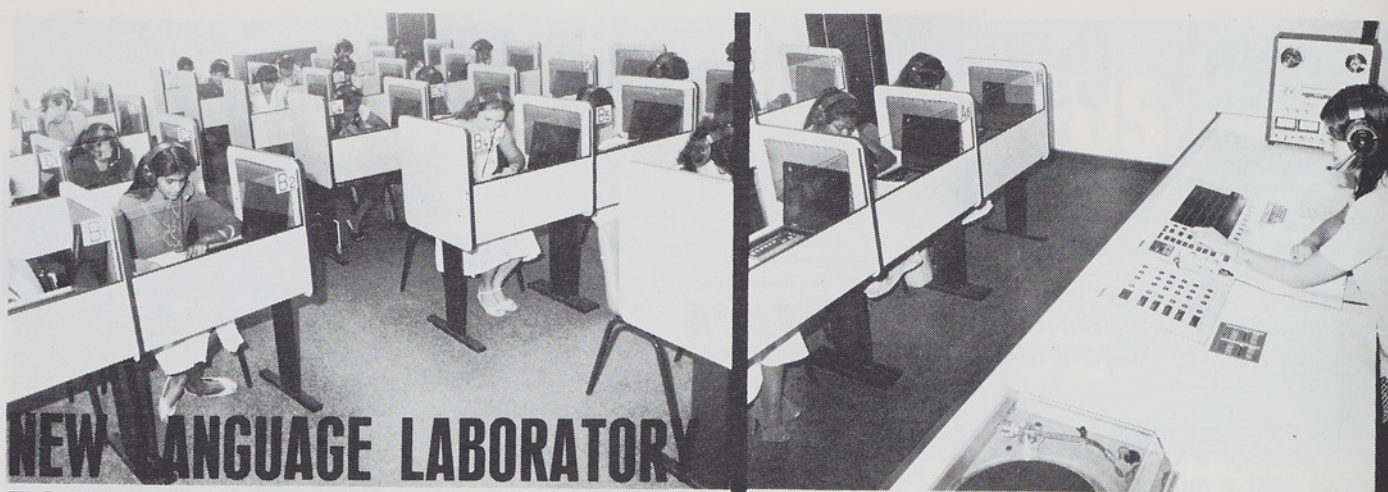
Software is an essential component, particularly in an educational environment where students should receive as diverse an exposure as possible. A number of computer languages is available, including ALGOL, PASCAL, FORTRAN, BASIC, HP ASSEMBLER and SAMOS. A unique piece of software has been specially designed in-house. Called the Student Manager, it makes the Hewlett-Packard system exceptionally 'user-friendly' and enables new students to commence productive programming within their first week at the University.

The University is committed to maintaining a high standard in computer education facilities. The annual expenditure on the Hewlett-Packard system is in excess of R50 000 and the estimated replacement value of the existing equipment and software is approaching R200 000.

In future, the University and ICL expect to work regularly together on the development of external systems and applied research into computer technology. One such project, which has already begun, involves a stand-alone data-capture system that was designed in Canada twelve years ago to allow large organisations to collect information on a mass basis. The system has to be converted for use on ICL's latest small distributed computer, of which one of the biggest users is South African Railways. Successful conversion will lead to the University's research team being involved in enhancing and maintaining the system for its expected life of about ten years. In addition, the system will probably be marketed worldwide by ICL and the University of Durban-Westville will retain the copyright.

For this project, ICL have given the University a small computer with four terminals, plus an additional stand-alone computer work-station.

This is the first time that ICL have commissioned a university to develop major software in South Africa. It is also one of the first times that ICL have developed this type of major software in South Africa.



NEW LANGUAGE LABORATORY FOR THE FACULTY OF ARTS

Miss GRE Blondeel, junior lecturer in Afrikaans and Nederlands, monitors her students' individual progress from the control desk in the new laboratory.

The sophisticated new Language Laboratory for the Faculty of Arts is now fully operational in Room L6A, at the base of the Tower Block.

Following latest trends, the Laboratory offers an Audio-Active-Compare system, so-called because it allows students to listen, participate and check on their own progress. There are 32 booths, each with a cassette deck and earphones and each fitted with padded side panels and a glass front to allow visual contact with the lecturer. Air-conditioning is silent and foam-backed carpet tiles give maximum noise absorption.

The Laboratory is also fitted with black dimlite blinds and a projection screen. Projectors of the overhead, slide, strip and 16mm-film variety are all available. A TV monitor and a video cassette recorder are planned for the future.

The lecturer's control desk acts as the central control system for both correlating and distributing the teaching material. There are four different programme sources — two master cassette tape decks, one open-reel tape deck and one turntable. Four different programmes can be distributed at any one time, to suit the needs of different groups of students, and up to eight students can be linked together for conversation practice.

LIBRARY MODE

The programme may be transmitted to the students direct, in what is known as *class mode*. Alternatively, students may be given pre-recorded cassettes and work at their own pace, in what is known as *library mode*. The latter is the most suitable method for language teaching, as the lecturer can monitor and correct the students as they go along.

The lecturer has operational control of the student cassette tape decks. Remote-control facilities are also built-in

for the open-reel tape deck, master cassette decks and strip- and slide-projectors. Through the intercom, the teacher can monitor a student without his knowledge and also engage in conversations on an individual or group basis. The lab speaker enables the teacher to break into a programme to address all students and also to send out a student's voice or a conversation to the rest of the class.

Although the new Language Laboratory has been installed for only a very short time, its Acting Director, Mrs M. T. Christensen, reports considerable interest in its versatility and an increasing demand for bookings. Clearly, the Laboratory is likely to appeal most to language departments. Classes in Arabic, Dutch,

French, German, Persian, Urdu and Zulu are already established and programmes in Hindi are being prepared for later in the year. Other departments which make use of the Laboratory include History, Music and Phonetics and Linguistics. A tape library and a catalogue are in preparation.

SIMPLE TO OPERATE

Says Mrs Christensen: 'although sometimes a little daunted by the apparent complexity of the equipment, lecturers soon agree that it is in fact quite simple — and that the value of this aid to both student and lecturer far outweighs the effort needed to put it into operation'.

Exhibitions Create Interest

Over the past six months the Documentation Centre has been invited to present three public exhibitions. The first of these concerned the history and development of the Aryan Benevolent Home and formed part of the Home's 60th anniversary celebrations during November and December 1982. The others were presented for the 75th anniversary of the Surat Hindu Association on 2 April 1983 and for the 50th anniversary of the Pathmajuranni Andra Sabha on 16 April. The Indian public showed considerable enthusiasm for the exhibitions and attendance exceeded expectations.

Mounting the exhibitions presented the Documentation Centre with an opportunity for in-depth research on specific subjects and involved the

staff in considerable preparation and organisation. The Centre's Director, Dr C. G. Henning, believes that both the Documentation Centre and the University benefitted from the excellent publicity generated by the exhibitions and from the improved relations which were established with the Indian public.

During the past year, more than 17 000 pieces of archival material were donated to the Documentation Centre. The largest collections were 9 280 items from the old premises of the Transvaal Indian Training College at Fordsburg and 4 000 from Professor S. P. Olivier. Other large donations included 425 items from Dr P. R. T. Nel, 377 from the South African Hindu Maha Sabha and 363 from Sastri College.

'Friends of India' Conference

Dr R. Sitaram, head of the department of Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Gujarati, delivered a paper at the Fourth International Conference of the Friends of India Society International, held in Bombay at the end of December 1982. In so doing, he became the first delegate from South Africa to present the problems of the South African Indian community at an international forum of this nature. Dr Sitaram's attendance was financed by the University and the Human Sciences Research Council.

The aim of the Conference was to bring together the various groups of Indians abroad, to enable them to exchange views, to outline the problems they face in their countries of adoption, and to give expression to their expectations of assistance from 'Mother' country India.

There are large numbers of Indians outside India; some settled many generations ago as labourers and traders, while others have emigrated more recently for professional purposes, or are resident in foreign countries for business reasons. It is interesting to note that statistics generally available in India do not mention the South African Indians, although their numbers are second only to those in Malaysia. The Conference as a whole subscribed to the view that Indians abroad should preserve and promote their cultural identity while participating fully in the national processes in their countries of residence.

The most widely experienced problems were related to religious and cultural aspects. Light was thrown on the



Dr. R. Sitaram

precarious position of Indian culture and values in some countries such as Guyana, Sri Lanka and Surinam, where political developments have seriously jeopardised the way of life of people of Indian origin. Dr Sitaram's paper emphasised the problems caused by the cultural, educational and religious isolation of the South African Indian community and called for a review of India's official policy in this connection.

POSITIVE SUPPORT

The Society accepted the fact that, as the only organisation of its kind, with considerable influence in India, it had an onerous role to play in the lives of Indians abroad, by providing a forum for an exchange of views, highlighting problems and directing appropriate appeals to the relevant authorities. It was also unanimously accepted that the Indian Establishment has to play a positive role with regard to the cultural needs of Indians abroad, and must assist them in various ways to preserve their identities and cultural values in the future.

Dr Sitaram comments that the ready acceptance and cordial treatment accorded to him as a South African delegate at this Conference was very encouraging. Indeed, the Society's goodwill was reflected in their election of Dr Sitaram to the executive committee of the New Cabinet of the Friends of India Society International.



FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Mr A. Sookdeo, above, who graduated with a BA Hons degree in History on 7 May, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, which will enable him to undertake postgraduate studies in the United States. He obtained the degree of BPaed (Arts) in 1980 and is at present teaching History and English at the Inanda Seminary.

Mr Sookdeo, whose special interests are African Studies and International Relations, will leave for America at the end of July. He plans to spend 18 months at Howard University, Washington, where he will join the African Studies programme and work towards an MA in African History, post-1945. The prestigious Fulbright Scholarship will pay for his fares and tuition, as well as meet some of his boarding and pocket expenses. He plans to return to South Africa to study for a PhD and hopes, eventually, to be able to take up a lecturing post at the University of Durban-Westville.

Counsel by Cassette

Professor N. Heuer, of the Faculty of Theology, has produced five publications with a difference. They are audio-books, each comprising two cassettes sealed between a hard plastic cover, and each one compiled and recorded personally at home on Professor Heuer's own equipment.

The first of these audio-books, called 'My Book of Life — for Children of All Ages', sold out twice in the first month of publication. The more recent ones deal with the subjects of divorce, executive stress, death and dying, depression and alcoholism. They are available at the main bookshops in Durban.

Professor Heuer is director of Crisis Ministry in Durban, an organisation to assist those in need of help or advice.

VISITORS TO THE USA

From July, Dr G. Naidoo, lecturer in Botany, will take up a year's appointment as Visiting Professor at the University of South Carolina. He has been granted an Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Fellowship, as well as funds from the CSIR, to enable him to pursue post-doctoral research on the physiological ecology of salt marsh plants.

★ ★ ★

Dr J. D. Randeria, Senior Research Officer in the Cancer Research Unit, presented a poster on Mammary Cancer in the Praomys (Mastomys) Natalensis, at the 13th International Cancer Congress, held in Seattle in February. About 8 000 people from 90 countries attended the mammoth Congress.

★ ★ ★

Professor A. O. Hawtrey, head of Biochemistry Department, is spending part of his year's sabbatical at the University of California and in the Hematology/Oncology Laboratory of Los Angeles Children's Hospital.

GRADUATION '83 . . .

The University of Durban-Westville awarded a record total of 792 degrees and diplomas at its two graduation ceremonies on Saturday 7 May. The Chancellor of the University, Professor the Hon O. P. F. Horwood, officiated at both functions, which were held before capacity audiences in the M. H. Joosub Hall.

Several degrees were conferred not only for the first time by this University but also for the first time in South Africa. Besides those mentioned elsewhere in this article, one such was the Master of Arts in Fine Arts (MAFA) in Jewellery Design, awarded to Mr G. N. J. Nel, a lecturer in Fine Arts. Another was the degree of Bachelor of Oral Health, awarded to Miss D. Naidoo; while Mr D. Sing became the first Indian South African to hold a doctorate in Public Administration.

Women who were applauded for special achievements included the Misses R. D. Pillay and G. M. Singh, our first Indian women Bachelors of Engineering. Two who succeeded against great odds were Miss S. Maharaj, BA with distinction in Psychology, and Miss V. Sagadavan, LLB. Both are blind.

Since space is at a premium, we are able to feature only a few of the more newsworthy awards on these pages. Nevertheless, we offer our congratulations to all the graduands of 1983.



The guest speakers at the University's two graduation ceremonies were, from left, Dr A. Solomon, retired Rector of the M. L. Sultan Technikon and now Principal Education Planner (Technical) in the Department of Indian Education; and the Hon F. W. de Klerk, Minister of Internal Affairs. Next to them in the above photograph are the University Chancellor, Professor the Hon O. P. F. Horwood; the Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Professor J. J. C. Greyling; and the Chairman of Council, Professor G. S. Nienaber.

First Time Conferred

The University conferred several degrees for the first time at this year's graduation ceremony. Some of the recipients were photographed and appear here as follows . . .



Above right: (from left) R. Jhaveri, V. Lokadasen and C. Jardine were our first Bachelors of Dental Therapy; while D. Naidoo became South Africa's first Bachelor of Oral Health.



At left: The Master of Medical Science degree is awarded by the Chancellor for the first time, to T. R. Scott.



At right: The Rector congratulates M Pillay on receiving the University's first Honours Bachelor of Medical Science.

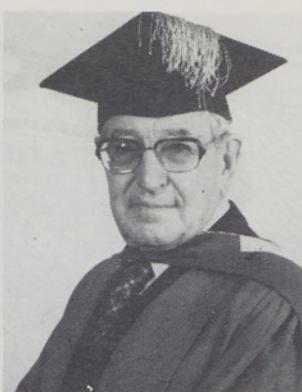
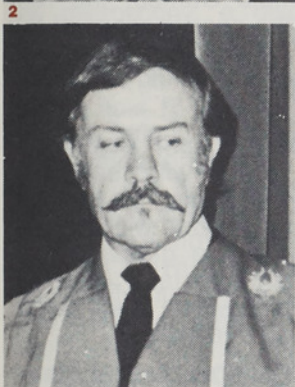


Bottom left: P. M. McKay and J. M. van Niekerk were awarded the first Master of Medical Science in Social Work.

Bottom right: The Chancellor caps F. N. Zaal, a senior lecturer in the department of Private Law, for the degree of Master of Laws, cum laude.



(See further photograph on page 10 of the University's first Bachelors of Optometry).



Seven Doctors

The University awarded seven doctorates, two of them *honoris causa* . . .

1. *EE Poodhun, lecturer in Criminology, received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his thesis on the role of Indian policeman in the South African police.*
2. *D. Sing, lecturer in Public Administration, became a Doctor of Public Administration for his thesis on the financing of Indian Local Authorities.*
3. *Professor R. R. Graser, head of the department of Criminology, obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his study of the South African parole system.*
4. *P. K. Gounden, lecturer in History of Education, Comparative Education and Educational Administration, became a Doctor of Education. His thesis concerned success, failure and drop-out at university.*
5. *R. Hemraj, lecturer in Physical Education, became a Doctor of Education for an analytical study of employee recreation programmes in business and industry.*
6. *G. T. Nieuwoudt, retired Senior Deputy Secretary of the Department of Indian Affairs and long-serving member of the University Council, was awarded an honorary doctorate in Public Administration, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to this sphere in South Africa.*
7. *Professor A. L. Behr was awarded an honorary doctorate in Education. He is a professor emeritus of this University, which he has served with distinction since 1964. He has achieved international recognition for his extensive and pioneering contributions in both general and special education.*

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMIN STAFF

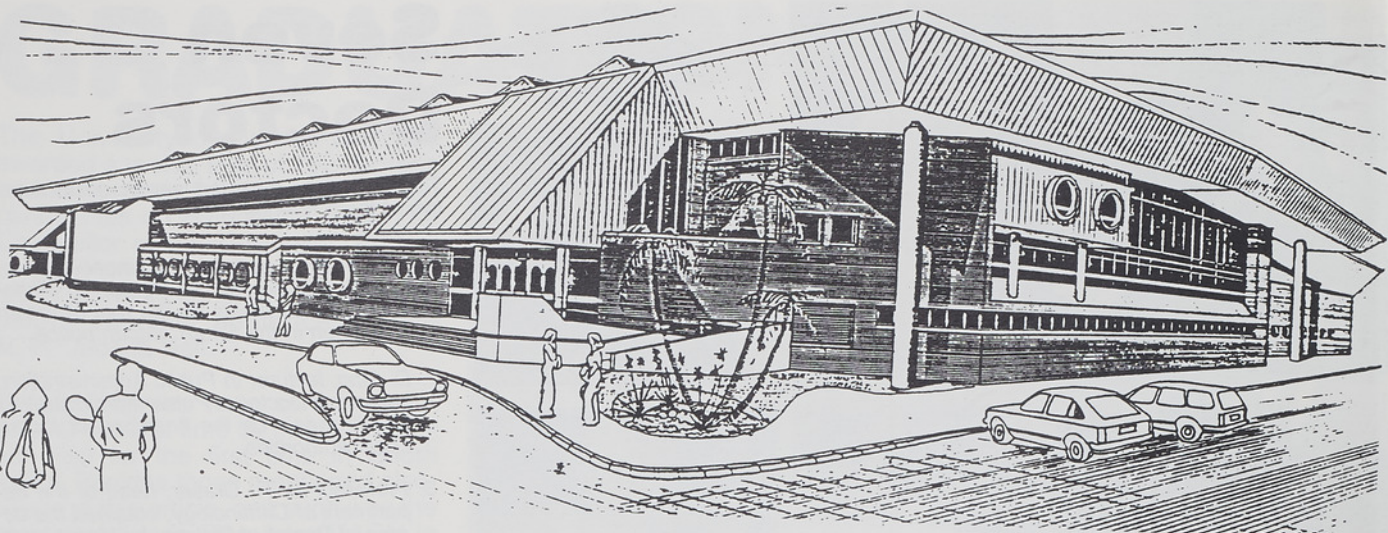
With interest focused mainly on academic matters, 'The Column' rarely features the University's administrative staff. However, no fewer than 13 of our 'backroom boys and girls' received degrees or diplomas at this year's graduation, which seems to be something of a record and provides a reason for the photograph at right. Their hard-won success follows long hours of study after a full day's work and our congratulations go to (from left):

Back row: S. Moonsamy and R. Jayaram, both Higher Diploma in Library Science; D. Munien, Advanced Diploma in Public Administration;

Middle row: B. Gangoo, Advanced Diploma in Public Administration; S. Dorasamy, Bachelor of Commerce; P. Sewpersad, Bachelor of Arts; P. Asrie, Advanced Diploma in Public Administration; R. Sheik Hamid, Bachelor of Arts; Y. N. Reddy, Bachelor of Bibliography;

Front row: G. Naidoo, Bachelor of Arts; K. Ramasamy, Bachelor of Bibliography; Y. Penceliah, Bachelor of Arts; S. Sewrajan, Bachelor of Commerce.





Sports Hall Will Open in November

The R6-million Indoor Sports Complex, which is presently under construction on the campus, is expected to be ready for use by November 1983.

Planned to provide students with high-class indoor sports facilities, the Hall will also be available for the use of local sporting associations, as well as for national and international events. In addition, it will be ideal for much-needed research in sport, as well as for refresher training courses for sport officials, umpires and administrators.

The many sports to be catered for include badminton, basketball, bowls, boxing, five-a-side soccer, gymnas-

tics, hockey, judo, karate, netball, squash, table tennis, tennis, volleyball and wrestling. In addition, provision is made for indoor cricket nets, for keep-fit and movement classes, for weights training and for swimming instruction in a shallow, heated swimming-pool.

INAUGURATION

Several sports bodies have already indicated interest in the Hall and an announcement will be made on the event that will officially open the Complex. To mark the inauguration, the University will make the Hall available at no fee other than reimbursement for lighting and cleaning. This arrangement will be in operation for the first six months.

Close consultation with sporting bodies and other universities has ensured the highest standards for the Hall. The synthetic rubber flooring is of the type used for the Montreal and Moscow Olympic Games; the roof height meets the specifications of the International Tennis Federation; and the lighting satisfies filming and television needs.

The main playing floor comprises 2 050 square metres, with seating for up to 5 000 spectators. In addition, one of six squash courts will cater for competitions, with a glass-backed wall and tiered spectator seating. Playing conditions will be made pleasant by forced-air ventilation.

FACILITIES FOR DISABLED

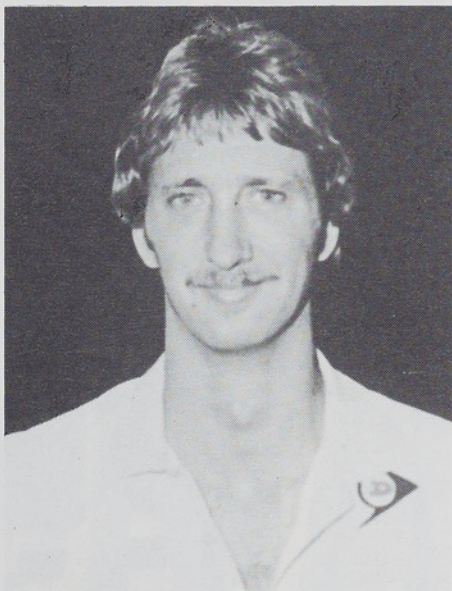
An area is set aside for wheelchair spectators, who will be able to use ramps to move with ease throughout the Complex. Special toilet facilities for the handicapped are also provided. There are several sets of changerooms, the main ones equipped with saunas, and two first-aid rooms. An open cafeteria will seat 160 students and there is a clubroom and VIP lounge.

The technical staff of the SABC were consulted regarding requirements for broadcasting and telecasts. Special press benches and telex facilities are to be provided.

Parking will be available for 300 cars in the immediate vicinity of the Hall. Outside normal university hours, other close parking areas include an adjacent sports field, from which the Hall can be reached by well-lit steps. During vacations, extra facilities that could be made available to approved sports bodies include residential accommodation, an Olympic-size swimming-pool, an athletics track, six all-weather tennis courts, a hall with seating for 2 000, several lecture theatres of varying sizes and the University cafeteria.

CHIEF SPORTS OFFICER

Responsibility for the administration and running of the new Indoor Sports Complex will fall upon Mr C. Hewitson, below, who assumed duty as Chief Sports Officer on 1 May.



Well known on the South African sporting scene, and especially for his contribution to the game of squash in Natal, Mr Hewitson was provincial squash champion from 1979 to 1981, during which time he was ranked No 4 in the country. Since 1979, when he became the first resident professional in Natal, at Westville Country Club, he has coached many promising young players into the senior ranks of provincial squash. For the past three years he has organised the Natal Open Squash Tournament and has arranged numerous challenge matches and exhibitions for visiting prominent squash players. His other efforts to promote the game have included an informative newsletter, called 'ProSquash News', which he will continue to produce.

Mr Hewitson's sporting background extends to most sports, including cricket, soccer and golf, and he has participated in junior provincial tennis and athletics. He is 28 years of age and holds a BComm degree from the University of Natal.

PORTFOLIO:

a series about people at work

No. 1: Two new heads of department

DR I. F. FORSTER Department of Geology

Dr Ingo Forster was born in Germany and graduated in Geology-Mineralogy at Heidelberg University in 1953. Whilst on a DAAD Postgraduate Scholarship to Stellenbosch he undertook two years of practical research in southern Africa, concentrating on the exploration and mining of gold deposits. He became the first man to recognise the occurrence of gold in komatiites through the use of ore microscopy, a discovery which earned him a doctorate 'magna cum' from Heidelberg in 1959.

For the next 15 years he practised as an exploration and mining geologist and mining engineer, with various major firms in South Africa. His projects included the development of a new and now well-established mining method for recovering diamondiferous gravel between high- and low-water mark; the opening of South Africa's first andalusite mine near Zeerust; and the mapping and development of her biggest iron-ore deposit at Sishen.

A turning point came in Dr Forster's career in 1975, when he accepted a post as lecturer in Economic Geology at Natal University. 'I saw this as an opportunity to learn, to integrate theory with my practical knowledge and, above all, to share this experience with my students', he says. He regards himself as a dedicated professional geologist and believes implicitly in the value of Economic Geology for university-trained geologists, since it combines academic study with practical examples of existing projects in South African mines and stresses the economic aspects of ore deposition. To this field he brings a knowledge of ore microscopy and of the theory of ore deposition — gained during his four-year assistantship to the world-famous Professor Ramdohr of Heidelberg — which is unique in South African universities.

Although he has been at this University for only six months, Dr Forster feels competent to judge that there is no difference academically between his present and former students. However, he does believe that



Dr. I. F. Forster

there is a great need to acquaint Indians with the environment of the professional geologist and to encourage in his students the necessary assertiveness and independence. Excellent opportunities await them, he says, since South Africa has a grave shortage of geologists.

PROFESSOR P. PILLAY Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

Professor Poobhalan Pillay holds the degrees of BSc (UDW), BScHons (SA), MSc (Chicago) and PhD (Witwatersrand). In 1969 he was awarded an International Institute of Education Scholarship for study at the University of Chicago and, one year later, received the Franz & Gertrude Meyer Award for Excellence in that University's Masters examination. In 1978, he visited Rutgers and Princeton Universities on an Anglo-American Post-doctoral Fellowship. He joined this University as a junior lecturer in 1967, eventually being promoted to Associate Professor and Head of the Department (until 1985).

Professor Pillay's specific field of interest is Algebraic Structures, with emphasis on Ring Theory. He has participated in several conferences in South Africa, the UK and America.

The department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics is experiencing exceptional growth, its first-year students totalling 665 this year, compared with 543 in 1982. Much of this increase is attributed to the introduction of a Mathematics I Terminal course, specifically designed for the needs of students in faculties as diverse as Arts, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences and Science. In addition, a record number of 35 students is offering Mathematics III.

Professor Pillay believes that the pass rate in this notoriously 'difficult' subject can be improved with more personalised instruction. The number of tutorial groups has therefore been increased and teaching methods are constantly under review. Part-time courses are offered to meet the very real need to improve the quality and qualifications of school mathematics teachers. In addition, staff are active in the mathematics programme of the Department of Indian Affairs, both at Subject Committee level and through the Teachers' Association.

Despite a heavy teaching load, several of the academic staff participate in conferences and contribute to internationally recognised journals. A series of seminars — the most recent led by Professor S. Zlobec, an eminent Canadian mathematician — have stimulated interest in departmental research. 'I anticipate that we shall become a strong research unit in time,' says Professor Pillay.

Professor P. Pillay



Multi-disciplinary Teams Provide Vital New Services

For most of us, Dentistry probably means six-monthly check-ups, fillings, extractions, injections . . . But the profession embraces various other aspects of which many of us are perhaps unaware. The University's department of Dentistry, although only recently established, has already extended its activities in this regard to enable it to play a significant role in the provision of new services for certain major oral afflictions, which previously were not catered for to any great extent in Natal.

A Maxillo-Facial and Oral Surgery Prosthodontic Unit was established in the Department last year, to treat patients with serious abnormalities of the facial and oral regions, resulting mainly from surgery to deal with cancers. The most common problems have been large defects or openings between the oral and nasal cavities as a result of resections of the upper

jaw. The Unit's high number of appreciative patients of all races point to the outstanding success rate achieved in its first year of operation.

This year, the Unit has expanded, to include on a part-time basis Dr G. Powder, a highly experienced private practitioner in prosthetic work, and Dr W. Aulsebrook, who besides being an experienced dental practitioner is the team's medical artist, attending to the replacement of extra-oral structures such as noses, ears and eyes. The services of a maxillo-facial dental technician will be added in the near future. The surgery is performed by maxillo-facial and oral surgeons, by plastic surgeons or by ear, nose and throat surgeons. The Unit's multi-disciplinary aspect will be extended still further in the near future with the expected greater involvement of speech therapists and clinical psychologists. Oral hygienists also play a vital role in

the management of the Unit's patients.

CLEFT PALATE UNIT

The department of Dentistry is also participating, with colleagues from the University of Natal Medical School and the Department of Health, in a new Unit for the management of cleft palate and hare lip cases. The Cleft Palate Unit will be based initially at Wentworth Hospital.

Until now, the treatment of cleft palates in Durban, and indeed the whole of Natal, has been haphazard and unco-ordinated. After surgery there has been very little follow-up and later management. Those who can afford it have gone to private orthodontists and speech therapists — but for the majority virtually no post-operative treatment has been available.

Members of the department of Dentistry who will play a significant role in the new Cleft Palate Unit include a maxillo-facial and oral surgery prosthodontist, an orthodontist and a dental technician. Oral hygienists and speech therapists will also be closely involved in the management of the Unit's patients.

OUR FIRST BACHELORS OF OPTOMETRY

Four of the University's first group of Optometry students passed their final examinations at the end of last year. Before being allowed to practise their new profession, all BOptom graduates are required to subscribe to a special declaration. It is worded as follows:

I solemnly declare that as an Optometrist holding the Degree in Optometry of the University of Durban-Westville, I will exercise my profession to the best of my knowledge and ability for the good of all persons whose health and eyesight may be placed in my care, and for the public weal; that I hold in due regard the honourable traditions and obligations of the Profession of Optometry and that I will do nothing inconsistent therewith.

The first four graduates took their oath in the Council Chamber before a special gathering of University officials and the graduates' relations and friends.

Photographed below, after the ceremony, were from left (behind) Miss H. Bhoola, Mr M. Y. Asmal, Mrs M. Mehta and Miss F. A. Kolia; and (in front) Professor J. St E. Pretorius, Registrar Academic; Professor J. J. C. Greyling, Vice-Chancellor and Rector; Professor D. K. Turnbull, head of the department of Optometry; and Professor F. J. Burger, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.



INAUGURAL LECTURES

Three heads of departments in the Faculty of Health Sciences will be delivering their inaugural addresses during the second semester. Traditionally delivered by each incumbent of a Chair, soon after taking office, the inaugural lecture provides the opportunity for a new professor to outline his approach to his discipline before the entire University community. Inaugural addresses are thus important events in the academic year, to which all staff, students and interested members of the public are invited.

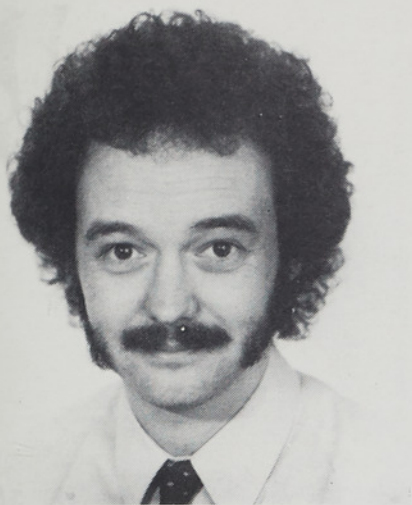
The programme is as follows:

Professor J. H. J. van Rensburg, Dentistry — Friday morning, 12 August;

Professor G. J. Kane, Anatomy — Tuesday evening, 23 August; and

Professor D. K. Turnbull, Optometry — Thursday evening, 20 October.

Details will be publicised later.



DR J. F. BUTLER-ADAM has been appointed Professor and Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research, following the retirement of Professor T. J. D. Fair. Professor Butler-Adam joined the Institute as Senior Research Officer in 1979 and became Deputy Director in 1980.

INSTITUTE IS 10 YEARS OLD

The Institute for Social and Economic Research celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. It has come a long way since 1973, when Professor J. J. C. Greyling, as founding director, with one secretarial assistant, but no telephone, set up the Institute's first office amongst the display units in the University's Geology Museum. Their first major research projects involved education, employment, labour and Indian agriculture. By 1979, when Professor Greyling became Vice-Rector, he and his staff had ensured a sound base for future growth in both the University and the community.

This strong foundation was built upon and extended during the next four years, under the directorship of Professor T. J. D. Fair. Investigations into educational problems were expanded; housing and informal settle-

ments became subjects of major studies; and leisure issues formed the basis for new projects. Further studies of economic and social problems, undertaken at the request of community organisations, included investigations into local Indian areas under threat of change; crime levels and patterns; and social attitudes. The growing staff became involved in community projects and developments, as well as in several applied educational and housing programmes.

Staff also participated in research in other University departments; and several became involved in regular part-time teaching on campus, in areas as diverse as Social Work, Psychology, Education, Geography and Business Administration.

Focus on the Community

In this, its tenth year, the Institute for Social and Economic Research has a committed community focus, based on a rapidly developing programme of investigations involving 'social issues'.

Dr T. Bell, recently appointed Deputy Director, has launched a study of the economic growth of the Natal Region, in an attempt to assess its likely future impact on the employment and income levels (and hence the quality of life) of the region's four main population groups.

A complementary study by Ms M. Padayachee, of market gardeners and gardening in the Durban Metropolitan urban-rural fringe, investigates the economic problems caused by the expansion of urban areas.

Mr D. Chetty is investigating the recreation needs of the metropolitan population and people's attitudes towards the use of integrated recreation facilities. The project will be an exercise in co-operative research as assistance has been offered by researchers and students at Natal and Zululand Universities.

The literacy unit, now in its second year of operation, has three sessions for participants at varying levels of initial proficiency. A former headmaster, Mr N. S. Naidoo, is assisting Mrs J. E. Butler-Adam and Ms Padayachee with the classes, which cover a wide range of topics besides basic reading and writing. Courses in cookery and home management are planned. Although primarily a service project, the literacy unit is also part of extensive research by Mrs Butler-Adam into non-formal and adult education.

Mr S. E. Rankin has embarked upon a multi-phase study of Coloured housing problems in Durban. Funded by the HSRC, this project will be the first such comprehensive study in many years.

Mrs W. M. Venter and Professor Butler-Adam have finalised their five-year investigation into Indian housing — a project financed by the University and the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission. Following a successful public symposium last November on the Durban component of this study, the recently completed Pietermaritzburg report was discussed at a similarly well-attended gathering in that city on 17 June. The proceedings were opened by Mr P. Cronje, Deputy Minister of the Department of Community Development.

Among the publications scheduled for 1983 are the first in the Institute's Fact Paper Series: a study of crime in Austerville, by R Graser and S Rankin; and a study of Grey Street residents' housing attitudes and needs, by S. Omar and D. Chetty. To these must be added two Occasional Papers: on the Clairwood Business Area, by P. Bendheim, and on transport issues in Phoenix, undertaken by the department of Geography.

The Institute is also launching a new series of 'theoretical' research studies, as an indication of its concern for high quality, socially relevant research of all kinds. The first such monograph is 'The Dynamics of Philosophical Argument', by Professor G. A. Rauche. Published under the Institute's Report Series, it highlights the significance of non-empirical research in social investigations.

The public functions planned for 1983 include a seminar, to be organised by Mrs J. E. Butler-Adam in August, which aims to inform firms about their employees' educational status and aspirations, as well as encourage in-service training and non-formal education programmes. A day-long conference on relationships between research and social change is also planned for August/September, to mark the Institute's tenth anniversary.

The Institute was represented at local, national and international conferences. The number of published reports increased rapidly and three well-supported publication series were established. Staff received invitations to contribute to several international publications.

OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Today, with a local and international reputation of some standing, the Institute for Social and Economic Research pursues a research policy which involves advanced social research methods and highly practical, applied approaches to social issues.

The Institute is consulted by many private, community and public organisations concerning research, training and social problems. Eleven research, technical and secretarial staff, all employed by the University, are involved in some 14 research projects, most of which are substantially financed (with the exception of salaries) by outside organisations. Indeed, the University Research Fund now accounts for no more than some 10 per cent of the Institute's current research grant.

The Institute's new Director, Professor J. F. Butler-Adam, is keen to encourage visits to the Institute by the general public. He looks forward to productive interaction with everyone interested in the Institute's activities and he invites comment on planned projects which he believes can and will produce positive changes in the metropolitan area. 'The Institute's future lies very much in the needs, prospects and successes of the communities it exists to serve', he says.



TAKING OFF FOR A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

On 21 April, 60 second-year Geography students took to the air for a new experience in air photo interpretation. Mr B. Maharaj, senior laboratory assistant, is seen above, at left, with the last of the eight groups to fly in the specially hired nine-seater plane. Although some students had flown in SAA jets, this was their first chance to fly 'low and slow' in a small aeroplane. From Louis Botha Airport, their 200 km flight took them northwards over Durban Bay and the seafront to Verulam, westward over Inanda and the Valley of 1 000 Hills, then via the Cato Ridge industrial complex and the Fields Hill bypass, to Chatsworth and Umlazi. It was certainly the most popular of the air photo practicals organised by the Geography Department.

Water Savings

On 11 May, Professor A. M. Guthrie and members of the Faculty of Engineering organised a one-day conference on Water Conservation. It aimed to provide industrial concerns with an opportunity for two-way discussion on a matter of vital importance to the future of Natal industry.

The Conference was practically oriented, the main objective being to enable management to obtain information on various methods of water conservation that could be employed at their own factories. Some speakers, from concerns such as AE & CI, Beacon Sweets and Rowen (SA) Ltd., outlined their firms' proven saving measures, while others, from research organisations and water engineering bodies, discussed the results of their own investigations. The keynote address was delivered by Mr P.E. Odendaal, Chief Advisor to the Water Research Commission.

There were 50 participants, all of whom agreed that the discussions were most valuable, although they were already taking active steps to conserve water. It was generally regretted that certain companies which would have benefitted most from the Conference did not find it necessary to send delegates. The proceedings are to be published.



it's the udw wind band

The newly established UDW Wind Band seems to have got off to a good start, with a fair number of enthusiastic and capable players, of all ages and varying levels of experience. They are photographed above, at rehearsal, under the baton of Mr Glenn Meyer, recently appointed woodwind specialist in the department of Music.

THREE PENSIONERS DIE

We regret to report the deaths of three retired members of staff:

Professor RV Andrew, Education;
Hon A. S. Bodley, Law; and
Professor J. le R. Cilliers,
Education.

We offer our sincere sympathy to their families.

THE COLUMN aims to inform on matters concerning the University. It is distributed free to staff, fee-payers (mostly parents), and industrialists, educationists, government and other interested members of the community. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor, nor of the University.

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MORE INFORMATION PLEASE!

We are always pleased to receive notification of an address change because it indicates that the writer is interested enough in *The Column* to want to continue receiving it.

However, we have about 10 000 people on our mailing lists, which sometimes makes it difficult to trace the person concerned if he supplies only his name and the new address. This is especially so if the name is a fairly common one.

We would therefore ask for your co-operation in providing us with the *old* address as well as the new one. It would help still further to have some indication of the reason for your interest in *The Column* — for example: *graduated LLB 1980* or *educationist* or *donor*, or any other suitable description. Thank you.

The Band, which is open to all woodwind, brass and percussion instrumentalists who can read music, aims to promote music of all styles and to participate in the musical life of Natal. There are no fees for membership of the Band and rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings, from 7 pm to 9 pm, in the Music Department.

It is anticipated that the Band will give its first public performance at the University within the next few months.