

# STELLA AURORAE

The background of the cover features a faded, light blue image of a large university building with a prominent dome and classical columns. Overlaid on the right side is a red-toned, sketch-like illustration of a clock tower with a face and a smaller building below it.

## THE HISTORY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

Volume 3  
The University of Natal  
(1976–2003)

**Bill Guest**

STELLA AURORAE:  
THE HISTORY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

*Volume 3*  
*The University of Natal (1976–2003)*

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Volume 3: The University of Natal (1976–2003)  
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*For  
my daughters Annabelle and Philippa,  
my step-daughters Linda and Diana  
and their loved ones*



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## **AUTHOR'S NOTE**

The use of racial terminology is always controversial and potentially offensive. This is particularly the case in the South African context in which, unfortunately, its extensive presence in historical commentaries and records makes it impossible to avoid. For the sake of consistency, in this book such references that imply a place or country of origin are given in upper case, for example, African, European and Indian. References that denote dubious classification by skin colour are given in lower case, for instance black, coloured and white. No offence is intended in the use of these terms.



## ABBREVIATIONS

ACCI	African Centre for Crop Improvement
ACU	Association of Commonwealth Universities
AECI	African Explosives and Chemical Industries
AFRA	Association for Rural Advancement
AGM	annual general meeting
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIPF	Associated Institutions Pension Fund
AITRP	Aids Training Programme
ANC	African National Congress
ANCYL	African National Congress Youth League
APC	Alan Paton Centre (UKZN, Pietermaritzburg Campus)
ATR	Alan Taylor Residence
AZASO	Azanian Students Organisation
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BA (Hons)	Bachelor of Arts Honours
B.Acc.	Bachelor of Accountancy
B.Agric.	Bachelor of Agriculture
B.Arch.	Bachelor of Architecture
B.Comm.	Bachelor of Commerce
B.Ed.	Bachelor of Education
BESG	Built Environment Support Group
B.Mus.	Bachelor of Music
BOSS	Bureau for State Security
B.Prim.Ed.	Bachelor of Primary Education
B.Proc.	Baccalaureus Procuratoris (Law)
B.Sc.	Bachelor of Science
B.Sc. (Agric.)	Bachelor of Science (Agriculture)
B.Sc. (Ag. Mgt.)	Bachelor of Science (Agricultural Management)
B.Sc. (Hons)	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
B.Sc.Ed.	Bachelor of Science Education
B.Soc.Sc.	Bachelor of Social Science
BSS	Black Students Society
BTF	Broad Transformation Forum
B.Th.	Bachelor of Theology
BTU	British Thermal Unit
BWO	Black Workers Organisation
CA	chartered accountant
CACE	Centre for Adult and Community Education
CADD	Community and Development Disciplines
CAE	Centre for Adult Education
CAMDEV	Centre for Advanced Management Development

CAO	Central Admissions Office
CAPRISA	Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa
CARE	Courtesy Accountability Respect Efficiency
CASS	Centre for Applied Social Sciences
CATNIP	Cataloguing Network in Pietermaritzburg
CBE	Commander of the Order of the British Empire
CCMA	Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration
CEAD	Centre for Environment, Agriculture and Development
CEAD	Centre for Environment and Development
CENGOPO	Centre for Government and Policy Studies
CEO	chief executive officer
CHESP	Community Higher Education Service Programme
CHES	Centre for Health and Social Studies
CoDAL	School of Community Development and Adult Learning
COSALC	Committee of South African Library Consortia
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
COSL	Community Outreach and Service Learning
CSD	Centre for Science Development
CSDS	Centre for Social and Development Studies
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CUED	Centre for University Educational Development
CUP	Committee of University Principals
CUR	Committee of University Rectors
CV	curriculum vitae
DBN	Durban
DEMSOC	Democratic Society
DESCOM	Detainees Support Committee
DET	Department of Education and Training
Dip. Acc.	Diploma in Accounting
DIT	Durban Institute of Technology
DMSL	Durban Medical School Library (UKZN)
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DP	Democratic Party
D.Phil.	Doctor of Philosophy
Dr	doctor
DRAMSOC	Drama Society
DSA	Durban Student Alliance
D.Sc.	Doctor of Science
D.Soc.Sc.	Doctor of Social Science
DSRG	Development Studies Research Group
DSU	Development Studies Unit
DUT	Durban University of Technology
DVC	Deputy Vice-Chancellor

EAP	Equity Acceleration Programme
ECC	End Conscription Campaign
ECI	Enhancing Care Initiative
Ed.D.	Doctorate in Education
ed.(s)	editor(s)
EMEC	Economic and Management Extended Curriculum programme
EMS	Enriched Management Studies
EMS	Extramural Studies
ERH	Eleanor Russell Hall
ERU	Economic Research Unit
esAL	Eastern Seaboard Association of Libraries
esATI	Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions
ESKOM	Electricity Supply Commission
FNB	First National Bank
FOYSA	Four Outstanding Young South Africans
FRD	Foundation for Research Development
FTE	full-time teaching equivalent
GCE	General Certificate of Education
GIS	geographical information systems
GPS	global positioning system
HAVEG	HIV/AIDS Vaccine Ethics Group
HDE	Higher Diploma in Education
HEARD	HIV/AIDS Research Division
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIVAN	Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
IBM	International Business Machines
IDT	Independent Development Trust
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INR	Institute for Natural Resources
INSEAD	Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires/European Institute of Business Administration
IRMA	Integrated Research Management Application
ISCOR	Iron and Steel Corporation
JASA	Joint Academic Staff Association
JBF	Joint Bargaining Forum
JMB	Joint Matriculation Board
JSPSAS	Joint Selection Programme for Science and Applied Science
KCML	Killie Campbell Museum Library
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal

LAN	local area network
LIASA	Library and Information Association of South Africa
LLB	Bachelor of Laws
LLD	Doctorate of Laws
LLM	Master of Laws
MA	Master of Arts
M.Agric.Mgt.	Masters in Agricultural Management
MASA	Medical Association of South Africa
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MBChB	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery
M.Comm.	Master of Commerce
MD	Doctorate in Medicine
MDM	Mass Democratic Movement
MEC	Member of the [Provincial] Executive Committee
M.Ed.	Master of Education
MEDU	Midlands Education Development Unit
MEDUNSA	Medical University of South Africa
M.Med.	Master of Medicine
MPLA	Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Angola
MRC	Media Resource Centre
MRC	Medical Research Council (South Africa)
MRI	Medical Research Institute (South Africa)
M.Sc.	Master of Science
MTB	Memorial Tower Building
NAMDA	National Medical and Dental Association
NAPAC	Natal Performing Arts Council
NASA	Non-Academic Staff Association
NCHE	National Commission on Higher Education
n.d.	no date
NDP	non-degree purposes
NED	Natal Education Department
NEHAWU	National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NIC	Natal Indian Congress
NICHE	Natal Institute for Community Health Education
NICRO	National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders
no.	number
n.p.	no pagination
NPA	Natal Provincial Administration
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSC	National Sports Council

NSF	National Students Front
NSFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme
NU	Natal University
NUC	Natal University College
NUDF	Natal University Development Foundation
NUSAS	National Union of South African Students
NWG	National Working Group
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OBE	Officer of the Order of the British Empire
OMI	Oblates of Mary Immaculate community
OPAC	online public access catalogue
PAC	Pan Africanist Congress
PACSA	Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness
PAR	Pietermaritzburg Archive Repository
PC	personal computer
PFU	Preparing for University programme
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
PMB	Pietermaritzburg
QC	Queen's Counsel
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAP	regional access programme
RAU	Rand Afrikaans University
RDP	Research and Development Programme
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects
RICP	Regional Institutions Co-operation Project
RMS	Risk Management Services
RSA	Republic of South Africa
s.	section
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SABINET	South African Bibliographic and Information Network
SACOS	South African Council on Sport
SACP	South African Communist Party
SADESMO	South African Democratic Students Movement
SAF	Students Action Front
SAIAE	South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers
SAICCOR	South African Industrial Cellulose Corporation
SALSA	South African Liberal Students Association
SANSKO	South African National Students Congress
SAP	South African Police
SAPPI	South African Pulp and Paper Industries
SAPSE	South African Post Secondary Education system
SAQA	South African Qualifications Authority
SASCO	South African Students Congress
SASLI	South African Site Licensing Initiative

SASO	South African Students Organisation
SASOL	South African Synthetic Oil Ltd
SASSU	South African Students Sports Union
SATISCO	South African Tertiary Institutions Sports Council
SATV	South African Television
SAU	South African University Sport
SAU-SRC	South African Universities Students Representative Council
SAUVCA	South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association
SC	Senior Counsel
SCA	Students Christian Association
SEAD	School of Environment and Development
SEM	scanning electron microscope
Senex	Senate Executive
SIMS	Student Information Management System
SLC	senior lecturer equivalent
SMA	Students Moderate Alliance
SRC	Students Representative Council
STD	sexually transmitted disease
SUCA	Students Union for Christian Action
TB	tuberculosis
TEFSA	Tertiary Education Fund for South Africa
TGWU	Transport and General Workers Union
THRIP	Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme
TTT	teach-test-teach
UCT	University of Cape Town
UDF	United Democratic Front
UDUSA	Union of Democratic University Staff Associations
UDW	University of Durban-Westville
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UKZNA	University of KwaZulu-Natal Archives (Pietermaritzburg campus)
UN	University of Natal
UND	University of Natal (Durban)
UNEIF	University of Natal Education and Innovation Foundation
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations International Childrens Emergency Fund
UNISA	University of South Africa
UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
UNITE	University of Natal Intensive Training for Engineers
UNP	University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg)
UNPF	United Nations Population Fund
UNRF	University of Natal Retirement Fund
URC	University Research Committee
URF	University Research Fund
UTAC	University Technology Advisory Committee

UTASA	University Teachers Association of South Africa
UWC	University of the Western Cape
VCR	Vice-Chancellor's Review
vol.	volume
WHO	World Health Organisation
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand
WOB	William O'Brien Hall
WRC	Water Research Commission
YMCA	Young Mens Christian Association

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## FOREWORD

At my retirement function held shortly before the University of Natal and the University of Durban-Westville merged, I expressed the hope that someone would write a comprehensive history of the former before things got lost in the mists of time. Of course nothing happened as the merger and its aftermath consumed all the time of those who had the interest and expertise and who might have considered undertaking such a time-consuming task. Fortunately, a true historian, Bill Guest, has now produced a comprehensive trilogy that covers the historical details blended with information on those who contributed to the development of the institution, and entertaining reminiscences of the staff and students, all meticulously referenced and presented in a most readable fashion. It is some fourteen years after the University of Natal, per se, ceased to exist, but the history that I hoped for has now been completed. I have read the three volumes with interest and enjoyment as old memories were awakened. It has been a long time coming, but it has been well worth the wait.

The first volume (1910–1949) is very much a historical record as only a lucky few would have personal experience of that period. It provides a detailed account of the problems experienced – at that stage the institution could be compared to a baby growing up in a relatively unsympathetic world. Its form and character were determined by a small number of men, and at least one woman, who had to fight for finance and other necessities. At that time no one could have imagined its future size and complexity.

The second volume (1949–1976) covers the period of an institution maturing, rather like a young adult, and then going on into middle age. There was still opportunity for staff to interact directly with students and get to know them on a personal basis. There was also room for memorable characters. I recall one respected professor who had a small white dog that slept under his desk at his feet during the day. At 10.00 am he would take this dog for a walk on the lawn in front of Howard College. After the dog had relieved itself he would lift its rear by its tail, give it a vigorous shake and tuck it under his arm before returning to his office, all the time puffing on his pipe. Sadly, this sort of thing has now virtually disappeared.

The third volume (1976–2003) covers the period when the matured institution was becoming so large that the personal interaction students and staff had previously experienced became uncommon. In the 1970s and early 1980s individual academic departments had a surprising level of independence. Indeed, there were some heads who considered they had divine

appointments and thus total authority in their own domains. As the institution grew in size, complexity and operational costs, such independence resulted in inconsistencies in academic and administrative operations. As someone who crossed the academic/administrative divide on various occasions during my time at the University, I was well aware of the need for a clear structure for academic and administrative functions even though this notion was not always well received. Encroachment on academic freedom was an objection often heard at this time. The various levels of administrative authority that were introduced are well described in this book, as are the reactions of the staff.

The other big change that occurred during the latter years was to the demographics of the student body. At the start of the period under review the students in residence were the main drivers of the 'university spirit'. Oppidani, that is non-resident students, tended to be considered by those in residence as just day visitors. Many activities, such as Rag, were very dependent on the support of the residences. On a personal note, I was a member of a team that built a representation of a Rolls Royce car that the mayor of Durban had rather controversially just acquired. He was the judge of the floats and awarded us the first prize of R10. This does not sound much, but in those days R10 bought quite a lot of beer. I find it rather sad that many extracurricular activities such as Rag have disappeared.

With the changing demographics of the student body there was pressure to provide additional accommodation in residences and some students were placed in lodgings distant from the campuses. In addition to accommodation issues, there were problems associated with academic preparedness and political pressures. All of these changed the way in which the residences functioned. Certainly the University of Natal found itself in a rather different world after the end of apartheid in 1994 and the way in which it responded to all of these matters is well documented in this book.

Any lengthy history such as this final volume needs some leavening. This has been provided by the inclusion of numerous anecdotes and reminiscences of students and staff members. These bring the history to life and should jog the memories of people who were involved with the institution during this time. They certainly had this effect on me.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been associated with the University of Natal for almost half of its existence. I hope other readers of these three volumes enjoy them as much as I did.

*Emeritus Professor Lance Roberts  
Botha's Hill, October 2017*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the staff of the Alan Paton Centre and the University of KwaZulu-Natal Archives (Pietermaritzburg campus), the Killie Campbell Museum Library (Durban) and the Durban Medical School Library for assisting me in locating relevant research material. I am also grateful to all those persons listed in the Bibliography who shared with me their reminiscences concerning the University of Natal and its staff. They added significantly to the information provided by the official sources, which tell only part of the story.

As every student of the discipline is aware, any historical account however long it may be involves a process of selection and abridgement. The history of a tertiary institution, in which generations of scholars have been trained to be healthily sceptical, is bound to attract criticism of choices made in this regard. These are, to a large extent, subjective although they are often also a consequence of the incomplete or inaccurate information available in the surviving records.

Some contributions, developments and individual successes will inadvertently have been under-emphasised or entirely overlooked. This is particularly so in the case of an institution that operated in two centres spread over three, and latterly four, campuses. Most notably, the roles played by many administrative, technical and grounds personnel as well as non-professorial members of the academic staff barely feature, or not at all, in the University's official records. Consequently, this lengthy three-volume work cannot claim to be an entirely exhaustive account of the University's history in all its dimensions.

As a student and subsequently as a member of staff, serving in both centres, my association with the University of Natal extended well beyond forty years. This book is therefore an admittedly subjective attempt to record as fully as possible the history of an institution which no longer exists under that name, but which played an important part in my life. Every effort has been made to recognise the University's limitations as well as its achievements, its darker moments as well as its highlights.

The work has not been commissioned or subsidised. I am grateful to the trustees of the Natal Society Foundation for providing me with an independent means of publication both for this book and its predecessors on the history of the Natal University College (1909–1949) and the University of Natal (1949–1976). The trustees imposed no restriction with regard to length. Consequently,

a much more detailed account has been possible than might otherwise have been the case. The chapter headings and sub-headings have been devised to facilitate access to those aspects of the University's history in which the reader may have a particular interest without the necessity of relying too heavily on the index or wading through the whole work.

I also wish to thank the trustees for undertaking the publication costs of my voluminous trilogy without any expectation of financial gain – just a shared conviction that the story of Natal University College and the University of Natal needed to be told, including its shortcomings and successes, while records and reminiscences are still available and before it is all quietly forgotten.

My thanks are also due, as before, to Christopher Merrett, the late Peter Croeser, Phila Msimang, Cathy Munro and Jo Marwick for undertaking the onerous tasks of editing, proofreading, design and page layout. I am particularly indebted to Christopher who carried the weight of additional responsibilities following the death of Peter. As on previous occasions, I am deeply grateful to my wife, Cynthia, for tolerating yet another time-consuming research enthusiasm and for contributing her computer expertise during moments of crisis towards its completion.

*W.R. (Bill) Guest*

## **PART ONE: 1976–1989**



# 1

## CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL experienced dramatic changes during the last two and a half decades of its existence. By the early twenty-first century what had been a dual-centred, tri-focal institution had assumed a multi-campus structure under another name. By then there had been major physical developments on all campuses as well as significant alterations to its academic and administrative organisation. The increasingly multi-ethnic composition of its growing student body from the 1980s onwards was not reflected as markedly in its academic staff complement in which there were, nevertheless, as in previous decades, numerous retirements and replacements. The late 1970s and 1980s were also characterised by several staff changes at senior administrative level. A series of cuts in state subsidies necessitated increased efforts to attract private donations, unavoidable restraints on building projects and library development in both centres as well as careful rationalisation and forward planning.

### **Central administration**

In September 1977 the Principal, Professor F.E. (Francis) Stock, retired. In contrast to that of his predecessor, Professor O.P.F. (Owen) Horwood, Stock's departure witnessed several farewell presentations by staff and students on the University's three campuses. Shortly before he left for his home in Jersey it was announced that he had been awarded the CBE for his services to education in Natal. Council congratulated him and paid tribute to Gwen Stock for being 'a gracious and consistent support to her husband'.

The president of the Pietermaritzburg Students Representative Council (SRC), endorsed these sentiments but not so its counterpart at Howard College. Council took strong exception when the latter wrote a letter to Queen Elizabeth II criticising her for making the award in view of Stock's alleged support of racial segregation on South African campuses and because he had 'failed dismally' to make any significant contribution to the University. Council sent Stock a message disassociating itself from this opinion, deprecating the SRC's action and recording its displeasure with it.<sup>1</sup>



### **The principalship: N.D. Clarence**

Stock's impending retirement gave rise to a review of the responsibilities attached to the post of Principal, the process of appointment, the length of tenure and the future of Campbell House as the official residence of the incumbent. Stock himself had raised the last two issues. He had argued that while tenure should depend upon the age of the appointee there was a broadly held view in international university circles that seven to ten years was the limit within which such a post could be held 'effectively' in view of the 'substantial pressure' involved. He had also suggested that Campbell House was 'comfortable to live in and suitable for entertaining' but 'too large for home and family purposes' and that its grounds 'could more appropriately be used for university development'.

A ten-strong screening committee, elected from Senate, was delegated to consider these issues prior to making a new appointment. The Finance and General Purposes Committee, in which Council and Senate were equally represented, recommended that no changes should be made to the existing 'loosely defined duties' attached to the post and that tenure should not exceed ten years with retirement at 60, but with the possibility of a five-year extension. If a candidate under 50 years of age were selected, the length of tenure should be discussed prior to appointment. Campbell House was to be retained as the Principal's official residence for the foreseeable future in view of its suitability, but consideration was to be given to eventually providing alternative accommodation.

It was suggested that the two existing Vice-Principals should be appointed Principal in each centre and their current posts disbanded. The cost of a new Principal's residence in Pietermaritzburg would soon be met by not filling the existing principalship and both centres would become 'more self-sufficient'. A further option was to alternate the posts of Principal and Vice-Principal on a two to four-year rotating basis between the two centres. These devolutionary proposals were considered, but not accepted after hearing the views of the two current Vice-Principals and assessing their respective workloads.

The principalship was duly advertised in the *Sunday Times* and *Rapport*, in the journal *Nature* as well as in the London newspapers *The Times*, *Times Higher Educational Supplement* and *Daily Telegraph*. In keeping with established procedure the outgoing incumbent requested nominations from members of Council, all the academic staff, the president of Convocation, the three SRC campus presidents as well as from relevant professional bodies and

prominent members of the academic community both within South Africa and abroad.

Professor H.B. Thom, chairman of the Universities Advisory Council, responded by referring to an earlier conversation with Stock in which they had agreed that 'suitable' candidates within the University enjoyed 'insight' that gave them 'great advantage over any outsider'. In Thom's opinion the University had two such candidates with 'a special claim for consideration' in professors N.D. (Desmond) Clarence, the current Durban Vice-Principal and J.V.O. (John) Reid, head of Physiology. Justice Cloete, chairman of the Rhodes University Council, advised Stock that both had been shortlisted for the principalship there when last the post was filled and Clarence would have been appointed had he been willing to leave Durban.

University principals S.P. Olivier (Durban-Westville/UDW), D.S. Henderson (Rhodes) and Robert Craig (Rhodesia) all nominated candidates. Sir Frederick Dainton, chairman of the University Grants Committee in Britain, nominated Norman Hunt, professor of Business Studies at the University of Edinburgh and by mid-December 1976 there were five other external nominations: F.G. Geldenhuys, professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; D.M. Joubert, former professor of Animal Husbandry at the University of Pretoria and future Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) vice-president; S.J. (Stuart) Saunders, professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT); S.A. Strauss, professor of Law at the University of South Africa (UNISA); and Niko Stutterheim, former CSIR deputy president. Subsequent nominations included G.D.L. (Deneys) Schreiner, the Vice-Principal in Pietermaritzburg and R.K. Dutkiewicz, professor of Mechanical Engineering at UCT.

Dr A.L. Kotzee, President of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), suggested that Stock should extend his term of office, but he was unwilling to do so except on a limited basis if there were any delay or difficulty in securing his successor. The screening committee met on three occasions, in late January and late February 1977, before making a decision. There were eventually 24 nominees as well as four applicants with one candidate being both an applicant and a nominee; 27 candidates in all. Eleven nominees were eliminated at the first meeting and eight subsequently declined to be considered. Three applicants were eliminated on grounds of inexperience or unsuitability, leaving five candidates to be interviewed.

There were only two on the final shortlist – Desmond Clarence and Deneys Schreiner. The former was chosen, having been nominated by both Stock and Olivier. As in the case of Owen Horwood in 1965, the screening committee

was clearly convinced that the two insiders had distinct advantages over the other candidates, despite the recent relative success of Stock as an initially neutral outsider.<sup>2</sup>

As described in volume one of this history, Clarence was a Natal and Cambridge alumnus who had been on the staff since 1946 and served as acting Principal in August and September 1977 while his predecessor took the leave that was still due to him. He was officially appointed from 1 October 1977, the day after Stock's formal retirement, until the end of the year in which he reached 65 years of age, unless an earlier retirement was agreed upon on or after his 60th birthday. Clarence was formally installed as the University's sixth Vice-Chancellor and Principal on 14 October 1977 in the Old Mutual Sports Hall on Durban's new western (Cato Manor) campus. His successor, P.de V. (Peter) Booysen, formerly professor and head of Grassland Science in Pietermaritzburg, was appointed Vice-Principal in Durban.

In his inaugural address Clarence made his position unambiguously clear on certain key issues. He was outspokenly critical of the ongoing segregation that government enforced on South Africa's universities; erroneously claiming that the University had been founded on the 'two basic principles' to 'serve all parts of this Province and all the peoples of this Province, irrespective of colour or race'. While this was true in the former regard, his assertion overlooked the consistent application of clause 20 of the Natal University College Act (18 of 1909) to exclude all prospective students of colour, without giving reasons, as well as its reiteration in clause 21 of Private Act (4 of 1948), which had constituted the University of Natal.

Clarence lauded the University's recent increasing admission of 'all colours' at postgraduate level, which had thus far resulted in the registration of 164 black students, but he decried the necessity for ministerial approval in all such cases. The relaxation of this restriction would, he contended, greatly improve race relations in South Africa as well as enhancing the image of its universities. The associated demands for such controls to be lifted and education placed under a single ministry became recurring themes in his subsequent speeches as Principal.

He also decried the emigration of staff members and recently graduated students who could not envisage a 'peaceful future' in the country. He appealed to all those with similar intentions to remain and 'mould the future', much as Principal E.G. (Ernst) Malherbe had pleaded years before. He clearly indicated his support for the recent devolution of administrative authority to academic departments and believed that each centre should be free to 'develop its own

characteristic stamp and style'. In his view, the University should nevertheless remain 'a unitary institution' with certain decisions, 'often the most difficult ones', made by central authority in the form of Council and Senate. This should include budgetary discretion to allocate financial resources between the two centres.

When, in June 1980, Clarence suffered a coronary thrombosis and was admitted to intensive care Booysen was appointed acting Principal for an extended period and served again in that capacity between mid-March and mid-June 1981. On the first occasion the need to replace him as Durban Vice-Principal was obviated by redistributing workloads in central administration, in consultation with the Registrar and Finance Officer. In Clarence's absence ways were found to lighten his future workload. On the second occasion Professor A.D.M. (David) Walker (Physics, Durban) was appointed Vice-Principal.<sup>3</sup>

Clarence's health was almost certainly affected by a succession of crises during his term of office, not least those involving the University's finances and disruptions in the Faculty of Medicine. At the end of June 1982 he gave formal notice of his intention to retire two years hence. In the tradition of his predecessor, Francis Stock, he expressed the opinion that 'in today's world with its ever-increasing pressures and demands, a University Principal should not hold office for too long a period'. He also pointed out that by mid-1984 he would have been in that position for seven years. By then he had served the University for 34 years, three as Vice-Principal. In June 1984 the chairman of Council formally thanked him for his 'wonderful performance' as Principal and for 'all the effort' he had devoted to the institution. Like all principals, there were to be mixed recollections of him. In Pietermaritzburg, J.A. (John) Benyon (Historical Studies) remembered him as 'a kindly, concerned Principal with a well-earned reputation for straight dealing'. A Durban colleague recalled that he was a 'reactionary ... jowly individual'.<sup>4</sup>

### **The principalship: P.de V. Booysen**

Following the announcement of Clarence's intended retirement in January 1983, the University again went through the now familiar process of selecting his successor. All members of Council, Senate and the academic staff were invited to make nominations, as were the president of Convocation and the presidents of the SRCs. The post was advertised in the press and, like his predecessor, Clarence personally called upon relevant professional bodies

and prominent members of the international academic community to propose appropriate candidates.

John Reid was again mentioned, being strongly recommended by Stuart Saunders, UCT's principal, after serving as a 'superb' deputy principal there since leaving Durban at the end of 1980. University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) principal, D.J. du Plessis, also nominated him, eulogising his 'impressive appearance' and 'appealing personality', being endowed with 'outstanding attributes of charm, public admiration and respect'. These, he believed, would compensate for 'many weaknesses', if they existed, and make him 'an excellent principal'. Du Plessis also recommended Booysen, less enthusiastically, as 'a reliable person with sound views and carefully considered statements' who could not be regarded as 'a charismatic leader', though 'in most universities this is not necessary'.

His strongest recommendation was reserved for Professor R.W. Charlton, currently a 'very popular and highly respected' vice-principal at Wits and formerly head of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology, in which capacity he had been 'an outstanding researcher' and internationally recognised author. He had also served on the South African Medical and Dental Council and as chairman of the Medicines Control Board and was described as 'highly efficient, hard working' and 'excellent' in his relationship with students. Indeed, according to du Plessis, Charlton's departure would constitute 'a most grievous loss to Wits'. It is uncertain which nominees agreed to be considered as candidates or how many other nominations were received, other than Professor André le Roux, rector of Edgewood College of Education whom H.M.J. Prins, president-in-chief of the Institute of South African Architects, recommended.

Booyesen indicated his own availability and nominated Clarence as one of his referees. He responded by giving the assurance that his Vice-Principal had 'sufficient' of the qualities necessary to make him 'a very strong applicant'. He declared that Booysen had demonstrated 'excellent' leadership ability as a school prefect, a student, a departmental head and in central administration. Clarence was happy to give him his 'unreserved support' in view of his proven ability as an academic and an administrator, the confidence he inspired in students and staff, his broad experience of the University at all levels and in both centres and his public persona. In the latter regard Booysen had greatly assisted the Natal University Development Foundation (NUDF) in its fundraising efforts, was well known in sporting circles as president of the Natal Rugby Union and had been instrumental in drawing academics and business



**P.de V. (Peter) Booysen** was born in 1930 at Graaff-Reinet and matriculated at Kingswood College in Grahamstown. He completed a B.Sc. (Agric.) in 1952 and an M.Sc. (*cum laude*) in 1954 in Pietermaritzburg before serving as a lecturer, senior lecturer and associate professor (1954–1973) in the Department of Grassland Science. He spent three years' study leave as a research assistant in Agronomy at the University of California (Davis) where he acquired a Ph.D. in Plant Physiology in 1963. He was appointed professor and head of Grassland Science in 1973, served as dean of the Faculty

of Agriculture (1975–1977) and then as Durban Vice-Principal (1977–1984) before becoming Principal (1984–1991). Prior to joining the Executive, Booysen produced 58 publications, including two books, three book chapters and six general journal articles. He was a popular warden of William O'Brien Residence (1967–1972) and served terms as president of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa and of the Agricultural Scientific Association of Natal as well as being a member of the CSIR's National Committee for Environmental Science.

Booyesen had an engaging personality, assuming various leadership roles as a student, and in 1951 received the Natal Agricultural Scientific Association Award for 'the best all-round student of the Agricultural Faculty'. He captained the University rugby XV, played provincial rugby for Natal and was subsequently coach, vice-president and president of the Pietermaritzburg campus Rugby Club. He was also president of the Maritzburg Sports Union and of the Natal Rugby Union as well as a Natal selector and provincial representative on the South African Rugby Board. The Peter Booysen Sports Park in Golf Road, Pietermaritzburg was named in recognition of his contribution to sport in KZN and in the University. He died in 2004.

persons together to establish Durban's Town and Gown Club.

The selection committee, which included Senate members C.O. (Colin) Gardner (English), Gordon Hunnings (Philosophy), Lawrence (Laurie) Schlemmer (Applied Social Sciences) and David Walker, recommended four candidates in order of preference: Peter Booysen, R.H. (Hugh) Philpott (Gynaecology and Obstetrics), C.de B. (Colin) Webb and R.W. Charlton. At a special meeting on 19 August 1983 Senate again settled for a well-known insider and recommended to Council that Booysen succeed Clarence in July 1984. Former Pietermaritzburg staff member Colin Webb, who was then UCT's King George V Professor of History, replaced him as Vice-Principal in Durban.

In June 1983 Dr B.A. (Bernard) Armitage resigned as Chancellor of the University. He had not been popular among students who considered his

speeches uninspiring and were angered by his refusal to address new students at the 1977 Durban enrolment ceremony because of criticisms of his previous performances. He declared that the freshers' reception committee should write his speech for him while some academic staff members and the Durban SRC called for his resignation. Justice R.N. (Ramon) Leon succeeded him in February the following year in preference to Dr L.S. (Lawrence) Robinson and D.C. Grice. World-renowned alumnus A.S. (Alan) Paton was a frontrunner for the position until he withdrew because a student lobby wanted N.R. (Nelson) Mandela to be appointed even though his ongoing incarceration would have made it impossible for him to fulfill all his duties as Chancellor.

Other changes in central administration that year included the replacement of all five deputy registrars and the appointment of T.E. (Tom) Cochran as Registrar in succession to A.K.B. (Athlone/Athol) Skinner. The latter, who joined the staff in 1953 as chief clerk in Pietermaritzburg, had kept a remarkably low profile since his appointment in 1969, quietly trying to strengthen ties between the two centres and between academic and non-academic staff members. He had initiated a regular briefing system of senior administrators as well as the publication of *NU Digest* to keep staff informed of University developments. He had also helped to provide stability during the difficult interregnum following Horwood's resignation. Affectionately known to Durban students as AK, he served as president of their Sports Union for several years and in 1992 the Athlone Skinner Conference Room was named in his honour.<sup>5</sup>



**T.E. (Tom) Cochran** was educated at Houghton College, completed a B.Comm. degree at the University of Natal and joined the University staff in 1956, serving as Assistant Registrar (Staffing) from 1962 before being promoted to Deputy Registrar in 1970. Well known for his knowledge of University protocol and procedures as well as his keen sense of humour, he served as Registrar from 1984 to 1988 and died in 2001.

All the changes at senior administrative level, coupled with what Booysen described as 'the growth from a medium to a large university' (reaching 10 000 student registrations in 1984) and the new technologies confronting management necessitated 'introspective analysis and administrative renewal' to ensure that effective structures were in place to achieve all academic objectives. In Booysen's view particular attention needed to be given to information

management, planning and resource allocation. These proved to be significant aspects of his tenure as Principal, as did the re-affirmation in his inaugural address of 'our firm belief that this university must be open to all those who meet our academic criteria for entrance, irrespective of race, colour or creed'.

Booyesen realised that the latter objective involved an enormous challenge in dealing with 'the inadequate university preparedness' of black school leavers while still maintaining 'high academic standards'. He proposed 'a more comprehensive and more meaningful programme of academic upliftment' for such students, more effective mechanisms for identifying those who had the potential to benefit from university education despite indifferent matriculation results and the use of the University's expertise to assist in enhancing the quality of teaching in the schools from which these candidates emanated. He recognised that none of these activities were traditionally part of any university's function and that in the absence of sufficient government funding they would necessitate assistance from the private sector.

With regard to postgraduate training and research Booyesen pointed to the need for more interdisciplinary programmes aimed at the development of Third World communities and their successful interaction with adjacent First World regions. He cited numerous examples of both in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), although the University's focus on local opportunities and responsibilities should not preclude it from maintaining 'the highest academic standards' consistent with ongoing membership of 'the international fraternity of universities'. He was adamant that these criteria should not be compromised, even to meet urgent 'short term needs' as the University pursued its four primary functions of gathering, expanding, extending and applying knowledge for 'the benefit of society'.

Booyesen was also insistent that academic freedom and university autonomy were 'important prerequisites' in the pursuit of 'academic excellence'. Both, he acknowledged, were at risk from internal and external abuse and implied commensurate responsibilities. Like his predecessor, he expressed his determination to continue running what had long since become a bi-focal unitary institution with 'autonomous government' in each centre 'to the maximum extent consistent with institutional unity' while defending both these principles in the best interests of the University as a whole.

His appointment more or less coincided with two major developments affecting South Africa's universities. The first was a series of significant cutbacks in annual government subsidies resulting in severe financial constraints that made it very difficult to introduce urgently needed student



support and other new programmes. The second was the struggle against the implementation of the 1983 Quota Bill, which removed the necessity for persons of colour to acquire ministerial approval to register at a previously ‘whites only’ university, but still empowered the minister to implement racial quotas on each institution. Booysen also had to wrestle with several of the recurring issues with which his predecessor had had to contend, including student protests against government policies and the University itself.

In 1989 he announced his intention to retire at the end June 1991 when he would have completed seven years as Principal. John Benyon recalled that he had ‘combined an affable disposition with the steel necessary at a time of transition. As a rugby player of distinction, he had the necessary physical presence to project the charisma expected of a University Principal’. Bill Freund (Economic History, Durban) remembered him as ‘a tolerant man with a dignified, large presence ... one felt he protected the decent name of the university even if he was not especially imaginative. He certainly was no friend of the National Party government’.

Indeed, although not always compliant to student demands at a time when there was a steady change in the University’s student composition, Booysen was to be fondly remembered for his consistent defence of academic freedom and university autonomy. At his farewell dinner in 1991 SRC president Lyndsay Brown referred to the ‘sense of justice’ and ‘passion for democracy’ that induced him to lead the 1984 march against the Quota Bill in Pietermaritzburg and the 1988 march on the Durban campus against government regulations that tried to force universities to accept responsibility for the actions of their staff and students. It was the same conviction that persuaded him to participate in the 1989 national day-long hunger strike to demand the release of political prisoners.<sup>6</sup>

Meanwhile in 1986 Council lost Lawrence Robinson who resigned after 24 years of service, nineteen as its chairman, as well as N.B. (Neil) Jardine, the Natal high schools’ representative. In the late 1980s there was another round of changes at senior administrative level when Colin Webb transferred to become Vice-Principal in Pietermaritzburg from January 1988 in succession to Deneys Schreiner and in response to requests from academic staff members there to do so. Schreiner had retired the previous year after a career stretching back to 1959, including sixteen years as professor of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry and then twelve as Vice-Principal. During that time he also ably chaired the University Research Committee (URC) in addition to his many

other administrative duties on campus and community involvements, some with his ever-supportive wife Else.

Fleur Webb recalled that her own husband had optimistically hoped to find more time for research than had been the case in Durban. Apart from his responsibilities in Pietermaritzburg, like Schreiner he spent countless hours travelling to numerous meetings in Durban – as many as three trips a day! Fleur Webb remembered that the many crises, coupled with pressure of work, resulted in her husband, like Schreiner and Booysen, losing the sight of one eye (from which only Booysen recovered) and possibly hastening his death in 1992. As John Benyon observed: ‘Kindly yet firm in his liberal principles, he was a worthy successor to Professor Schreiner. His premature death was a great loss’.

Professor C.F. (Christopher) Cresswell succeeded Webb as Vice-Principal on the Durban campus after the post had initially been offered to D.R. Woods, professor of Microbiology at UCT. Cresswell had previously served as head of the Department of Botany and as dean of Science at Wits. At the same time B.M. (Brenda) Gourley, professor of Accountancy in Durban and dean of the Faculty of Commerce, was appointed Vice-Principal (Finance and Technical Services). The latter part of her portfolio was intended to relieve the Principal and two existing Vice-Principals of the daily management of a variety of non-academic technical matters, including the increasingly important provision of computer services. Tony Leonard, financial resources manager, Lew Tudor, financial controller, and Ian Turner, deputy financial controller in Pietermaritzburg, were all appointed to report directly to Gourley. Registrar Tom Cochran took early retirement and in 1989 Professor B.X. (Ben) de Wet, formerly head of Classics in Durban, succeeded him.<sup>7</sup>



**B.X. (Ben) de Wet** was a senior lecturer in Classics at Rhodes University before being appointed in 1975 as professor and head of department in that discipline on the Durban campus. He was instrumental in establishing the Museum of Classical Archaeology there and also served as deputy dean and dean of Arts (1977–1983) prior to occupying the post of Registrar from 1989 until his retirement in 1993. He published four books and numerous articles; and served on the editorial board of *Acta Classica*, as vice-chairman and chairman of the Classical

Association of South Africa, and on the HSRC special subject committee.

### **Public Relations Office/Public Affairs Department**

There were also important changes in the University's Public Relations Office in each centre. They continued to perform their role organising social and other events such as exhibitions, opening and graduation ceremonies, inaugural and memorial lectures, retirement parties and campus tours for distinguished visitors. In September 1977 Nancy Knowler became publicity officer in Pietermaritzburg while Shelagh Cameron-Dow continued in the equivalent position in Durban. They collaborated in the collection of information for release to the press and radio and for use in the University's official publications.

Cameron-Dow still produced the campus newspaper *NU Chronicle* and, following the resignation of the editor in her office Annette Clifford-Vaughan, she assumed responsibility for all other publications except the prestigious *NU News*, which was shelved. As a further significant cost-saving measure she now designed, edited, pasted-up and proof read them all, including the Principal's Annual Report, graduation citations and addresses and career leaflets, with the Multicopy Centre undertaking the printing and only the typesetting outsourced.

Prior to his retirement Stock expressed the opinion that 'lack of adequate communication' had been a basic cause of student and staff unhappiness in the past, particularly during the tenure of his predecessor Horwood. He praised the sterling efforts of not always successful publications intended for either on-campus or external consumption, such as the *University Record*, *NU News* and, more recently, *NU Chronicle* as well as his own innovation of a Principal's Annual Report in seeking to meet this need. In 1979 *NU Digest* appeared as a monthly house magazine through which staff and students could be kept informed of important Council, Senex, Senate and Faculty Board decisions and as a means to express their opinions.

That year, as Vice-Principal in Durban, Booysen introduced a 'VP Newsletter' to keep staff members informed of physical developments on the local campus and also current thinking on various issues in central administration. It emanated from his office on an irregular basis as by then the Public Relations Office in Durban employed only two full-time members of staff and its Pietermaritzburg equivalent one with a half-day assistant. The staffing situation was greatly improved with the appointment in 1981 of Siegfried Schuman as overall director. In addition, Richard Morrison joined publicity officer Shelagh Cameron-Dow as assistant publications officer responsible for improving contact with schools and Pat Duminy was promoted to publicity officer.

With five staff members in Durban (including a senior administrative assistant and a messenger) and two in Pietermaritzburg (Nancy Knowler and an assistant) the Public Relations Office under Schuman's direction was much better able to cope with its workload. This included the numerous functions associated with the NUDF's major fundraising campaign, the opening of the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre and of the Mechanical Engineering Building, the centenary of the birth of Killie Campbell, an increasing volume of more general events and countless press releases. The new drive to project a more positive image in schools was launched by participation in the Manpower 2000 Careers Exhibition that the Natal Education Department (NED) mounted in Durban, Newcastle and Pietermaritzburg.

In 1981 the Public Relations Office's 'Margin of Excellence' was judged best entry in its category at the annual advertising awards of the South African Society of Marketers. Two years later the Public Affairs Department (as it was now called) was restructured and expanded under a director with responsibility for protecting and promoting the University's image as well as providing appropriate public relations support for the NUDF and for Convocation. A liaison officer was appointed specifically to increase contact with schools and to that end participated in careers guidance exhibitions in several urban centres and in a students' advice bureau in Johannesburg that generated numerous enquiries from Transvaal school leavers.

A schools lecture programme initiated in 1982 involved the delivery of more than 100 presentations by staff members, free of charge, in 1983: they were designed to introduce senior pupils to university-level teaching and research. In 1984 a very successful careers exhibition was organised in Durban in collaboration with the Rotary Club that attracted more than 2 500 pupils of all ethnic groups. For a time, from the mid-1980s, the University also attracted mostly favourable publicity from Dennis Henshaw's column 'From the ridge' in the *Natal Witness*, which focused on campus developments in Pietermaritzburg. Henshaw joined the University's public relations team and also published a series of similar feature articles in the *Natal Mercury* on activities on the Howard College campus.

The Public Affairs Department continued to perform its routine functions, as before, until 1989 when it was amalgamated with Alumni Affairs and the NUDF. This drew it more closely into the fundraising activities of the latter under Dirk Kemp as Director of Public Affairs and well-known senior journalist David Robbins as Director: Media and Publications.<sup>8</sup> Fundraising

was becoming increasingly important in view of the expected further decline in income from government sources.

### **Finance**

The anticipated cut in the state subsidy for 1977 was indeed implemented with the University receiving only R11 070 500 of the R11 556 579 due to it in terms of the earlier Van Wyk de Vries Commission's recommended subsidy formula. This covered 87.6% of its expenditure, necessitating substantial reductions where possible, including the freezing of 5.58% of academic posts, 3.38% of technical jobs and 3.07% of administrative positions. The R535 282 saved by doing this, pegging departmental running expenses at the 1976 level and limiting expenditure on laboratory equipment, furniture and minor building alterations, enabled the University to fall only R54 263 short of balancing its budget while avoiding the very real prospect of salary cuts. The NUDF contributed R50 000 towards meeting the deficit with the rest drawn from the general reserve fund.

The anticipated reduction in the rate of capital development also eventuated with only R3 590 000 of the R6 691 000 requested from government being approved so that work could continue on the construction of the Mechanical Engineering Building in Durban and Pietermaritzburg's Biological Sciences Building.

In April 1977 the Department of National Education announced that the country's combined university budgets would have to be trimmed by a further R7 million. In June outgoing Principal Francis Stock fired an uncharacteristically outspoken parting shot when he declared the 'long awaited' Van Wyk de Vries report to have been 'a damp squib ... The very idea that financing of universities could be based on a mathematically exact formula founded on the student numbers of the previous three years is itself a fallacy'. He argued that the incorporation of other factors, with annual adjustments to allow for inflation, 'would have been excellent' but that the changes made were a case of 'too little too late'. In his view the need to economise was, in some respects, beneficially cathartic but the government's tendency to make arbitrary cuts, even after the year had begun, rendered the subsidy formula 'useless' and created 'uncertainty about the future' that in turn 'breeds discontent and mediocrity'.

Incoming Principal Des Clarence endorsed these sentiments and bewailed the fact that, at short notice, no less than 49 vacant posts had been frozen in 1977 and in terms of the overly sensitive Van Wyk de Vries formula a loss of

100 students in a total of 8 000 had resulted in a R285 000 decline in subsidy. There was some uncertainty as to whether other institutions had been subjected to the same cavalier treatment but it was soon established that, for once, the University's dual nature had resulted in a financial cut that was less severe than those imposed on some others. Its 12% reduction compared favourably with the 13.8% imposed on Wits, but not with Potchefstroom's 5.4%.

Conditions of financial austerity nevertheless continued into the late 1970s with only an unexpected late allocation of an additional R348 000 making it possible to avoid drawing on reserve funds and achieve a modest budget surplus of R5 875 in 1978. This was partly due to a 10% fee increase for undergraduates and 5% for postgraduates. R50 000 was transferred from the R100 000 (later R250 000) worth of frozen staff posts to provide for additional graduate assistantships. In part this was motivated by the financial advantage of having more research students, given that a masters student counted for five units for subsidy purposes compared to only two for undergraduates.

In August 1978 Booysen participated in a Committee of University Principals (CUP) delegation to the ministers of Education and Finance to discuss the serious financial situation in which the universities now found themselves. On that occasion he formed the impression that there was a move towards gradually reducing the State's contribution towards financing universities from 87% to 70%. The anticipated deficit of R1 125 910 in 1979 was eased to some extent by government's decision to grant an enhanced subsidy of R500 000 for salary increases, which were implemented in April 1979. The budget was balanced by saving on a variety of items while still granting additional departmental allocations.

The University's capital development programme also continued to slow down with none of the R1 594 000 approved for 1978 being spent and R728 000 of the 1977 loan fund still unused at the year's end. Nevertheless, loans of more than R2 million were authorised for 1979–1980, primarily for Durban's new Mechanical Engineering Building and for the new Biological Sciences Building and Denison Residence (stage II) in Pietermaritzburg. The NUDF provided R250 000 to cater for the backlog in capital equipment arising from the earlier subsidy cuts in the loan programme.

Of potential significance for the future, in 1980–1981 the University made small savings through a buying consortium the CUP established on an experimental basis before deciding to make it a permanent facility. In 1980, for the first time, the Faculty of Medicine was incorporated into the University's financial accounts with an adjusted Van Wyk de Vries subsidy formula that

actually exceeded the basic provision. However, government indicated that this favourable arrangement would only be applicable for five years, during which the University would be expected to reduce expenditure and increase tuition fees sufficiently to revert to the subsidy formula applicable to all the other universities. With this prospect in view, Council budgeted for a R456 000 surplus in 1980 to be allocated to a stabilisation fund with which to balance the books after 1984. The credit balance proved to be R556 726 and during that year a further subsidy was received to assist with salary increases.

The University's financial statements now had to be completely revised to comply with the Department of Education's new South African Post-Secondary Education system (SAPSE). This was intended to collate comparable statistical information on the basis of which government would plan the future funding of all tertiary institutions. High interest rates earned on investments during 1981 generated an unexpectedly large surplus of R1 300 462 and increased the stabilisation fund to nearly R2 million. In addition, the University was authorised to raise R4 600 000 in loans for 1981–1982 but Council remained concerned that accumulated reserves would be insufficient to meet future shortfalls resulting from appointments, promotions, building projects and rising running costs. Due caution was exercised even in making priority appointments except for certain urgent library and technical posts.

There was further encouragement in 1982 when the University again achieved its budgeted surplus and was able to boost the stabilisation fund to nearly R3.5 million with another R2.391 million added to it the following year before government's transitional subsidy provision for the incorporation of the Faculty of Medicine ended. In 1983 the NUDF assisted in meeting all requests for capital equipment approved by the URC beyond the R357 813 granted by the Department of National Education.

That year the new subsidy formula for universities was implemented, based on 'the weighted average of student enrolments and degree credits'. Henceforth it was to be determined, in part as before, by the number of subsidy-earning students registered in any given year and on the relative weighting of student numbers in terms of their level of study. In addition, the number of degree credits students achieved was now also to play a part in calculating the annual subsidy awarded. The new formula had the virtue of being less sensitive than its predecessor to fluctuations in student numbers by introducing mechanisms to minimise their effects.

Separate provision was now to be made for the renewal and replacement of fixed assets including buildings, equipment, books and periodicals, some of

which had previously been financed by loan funds, and for research. This was based on the number of articles (earning the University R6 000 each) that staff published in approved journals. For the first time pressure was being exerted on South African universities to devote some resources to research but there was concern that only fifteen of the 8 000 journals on the initial accredited list were South African and that only 233 of the University's 866 publications in 1981 would have qualified for subsidy on that basis. It was uncertain how accreditation might impact upon future research without changes to the list and, initially, no provision was made for the publication of books. It was also unclear whether or not the University was to be funded as two campuses and, while some provision was made for the Faculty of Medicine, no assistance was provided for it to maintain the Alan Taylor Residence (ATR) at Wentworth.

The new subsidy formula proved to be a huge disappointment. Between 1984 and 1989 South Africa's universities were subjected to a succession of financial cuts that in the case of Natal amounted to 5%, 15%, 17%, 16%, 25% and 21%. In 1984 an initial R362 652 had to be taken from the stabilisation fund to meet the deficit with R202 440 and R242 000 set aside for entry bursaries and scholarships and for graduate assistantships. In 1985 another R1.9 million had to be drawn from that source. Only 14% of the University's total income of R114.4 million that year came from tuition fees and 9% from specified donations via the NUDF. This heavy dependence upon the State, amounting to 72% of income in 1986 and 73% the year after, made the consecutive subsidy cuts particularly severe.

Six areas were identified in which the University's expenditure compared unfavourably with its South African counterparts: staffing, fee remissions, catering, the ATR, housing subsidy voluntary excess and Ukulinga research farm. It was calculated that it would need to save 20% of the salaries bill (R12 million) to achieve the mean ratio of expenditure on staffing of all the local universities while the other five items of excess expenditure cost another R3.2 million. Unavoidably, this necessitated a variety of austerity measures including a 20% increase in tuition fees, freezing of vacant posts and imposition of heavier staff workloads as well as a further transfer of R600 000 from the stabilisation fund to balance the budget.

The 1987 subsidy cut necessitated yet another round of austerity measures that included more post freezing and delayed salary increases. It also involved non-replacement of equipment, reducing library expenditure, limiting plant maintenance to a minimum and cutting operating costs across the board. As URC chairman Deney Schreiner pointed out the University was accumulating



a serious backlog of necessary equipment, which could not be postponed indefinitely.

The 1988 cut, amounting to R26.3 million less than the subsidy entitlement of R105 million, was inflicted at a time when inflation was running at 15% and the University's financial commitment was increasing with a 4.6% growth in student intake. The annual subsidy cuts suffered since 1984 were rendering the new SAPSE formula almost meaningless. The University Planning Committee clearly had to switch to a more rational process of planned restructuring of all functions based on need and performance instead of random post freezing and across-the-board percentage reductions in its resource allocations.

When the Department of National Education invited the CUP executive to make proposals for the distribution of R1 085 879 000 among the seventeen universities in 1989–1990 the University was hopeful that it might enjoy a 7.3% increase over its 1988 allocation. Instead, the 1989 cut of R27.1 million left it with a R158.8 million budget of which as much as 64% was devoted to staff compensation with supplies and services the next most expensive area of expenditure at 15.5%.

It had become clear that government considered itself responsible for meeting at most only 80% of approved annual requirements for universities as calculated in terms of its own subsidy formula. It now expected the remaining 20% to be met by private sector donations and student fees. Even then over the previous six years it had not provided sufficient funds to meet this 80% subsidy entitlement. In the case of Natal the annual reductions as determined by Treasury had amounted to a R92 million shortfall between its formula entitlement and actual subsidy. It was a crippling limitation to bear, especially for what was still a fairly new institution with relatively little in the way of private endowments to sustain it when compared with some other South African universities. Between 1981 and 1990 its operating budget had increased 316%, with expenditure on staff compensation rising by 300%. These increases were mostly due to inflation with the additional R31.6 million in the 1990 budget representing in 1981 rand terms an improvement of only 21%.

Faced with the realisation that state subsidies were not likely to improve in the short term the University explored all three options available to it. Attracting private sector funding had already been addressed over several years and was ongoing. Further increases in student fees could ideally only be implemented gradually, especially as this had taken place above the rate of inflation every year since 1984 at an average annual rate of 20%. This

necessitated the fairly speedy implementation of the third option, namely drastic cuts in expenditure. Much attention was therefore given to possible rationalisation of existing establishment structures. Even so-called priority A expenditure items were at risk as all departments and faculties were required to undertake situation analyses and present proposals for the Planning Committee to prepare a University Forward Plan.

In addition, a new financial accounting system was developed for implementation in 1990 under the direction of Tony Leonard, previously financial resources manager, who was appointed to the re-established position of Finance Officer. This involved a minicomputer running application software in the central Finance Division with a local area network (LAN) to provide access for users on all three campuses. It was envisaged that each department would eventually have its own terminal with access for enquiries.

The process of minimising costs through greater efficiency was taken to a higher level when the CUP began to address the necessity for inter-university rationalisation and the possible elimination of duplicated facilities, at least at regional level. Meanwhile, by the late 1980s it had become obvious that financial support from non-government sources was becoming increasingly important and that ways of increasing revenue would have to be found not only through reluctant fee increases but also from contract research, consulting services and donations. The University's difficulty in meeting its obligations to the broader community at a time of financial constraint formed the basis of its ongoing appeal to industry, commerce and the public at large.<sup>9</sup>

### **The Natal University Development Foundation**

As before, the NUDF was a vital additional source of income with which to subsidise the variable annual state grant. In 1977, not for the first time, the Chamber of Mines of South Africa topped the donor list with R70 500 but the R535 554 raised that year was R11 500 less than in 1976. This reflected the prevailing financial recession, but more disturbing was the number of previously regular donors who for various reasons were now withdrawing their support, necessitating a quest to find replacement benefactors. The current instability of certain companies was such that Council took the precaution of instituting a review of University and NUDF investments in the industrial sector.

Unexpectedly, donations increased slightly by R40 030 in 1978 and another R159 739 in 1979. Gifts and grants received were the best ever that year with donations three times greater than in 1971, although an improved fundraising

effort was needed to counteract the effects of inflation. In 1980, as a result of improving economic conditions and closer liaison with the business community, the NUDF enjoyed its best year by garnering R1 420 421 with the number of donors rising to 402, led by African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AECI) with R82 936. Private endowments also helped to boost the total. They included Cecil Renaud's R200 000 to launch the Principal's Discretionary Fund, G. le Sueur's R33 000 for a scholarship in Architecture and Billie McIntyre's R15 000 gift to the Durban Department of History in memory of her late husband and its former departmental head Professor K.H.C. (Ken) McIntyre.<sup>10</sup>

These encouragements did not lead to complacency about the University's financial future. In 1980 G.R.L. (Roy) Canning assumed the leadership of a fundraising drive to accumulate R2 million a year for the next five years in endowments, in addition to the roughly R1 million acquired in donations. It was anticipated that this income would help to cover the University's share of interest and redemption payments on new buildings, contribute to the cost of new teaching and research equipment and to bursary and scholarship funds as well as assisting in the subvention of staff salaries to compete satisfactorily with private enterprise in the financial, scientific and legal fields.

A steering committee was appointed to develop a plan of action involving teams of volunteers to raise support from companies and later from alumni, friends and parents. In addition, the NUDF's constitution was changed to replace business representation on the controlling committee with trustees and governors willing to undertake individual responsibility in fundraising. In 1981 an attractive brochure entitled 'A Margin of Excellence' was published as well as a handbook to assist canvassers. As a further incentive to donors, it was decided that significant contributors would be recognised by attaching their names to buildings and sections thereof, or to chairs and fellowships.

That year, as the Principal put it in his Annual Report, the NUDF 'truly moved into the big league of gift producers for higher education' when it generated more than R2 million in donations, including R200 200 from Unilever South Africa. In 1982, in acknowledgement of that major contribution, the Unilever Laboratory was named in Durban's Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry. In addition, for its various contributions the Nedbank Seminar Room was opened in the Department of Business Administration. Donors increased by 10% to 740 in 1982 and donations by 50% to R3 176 886, including R531 223 from Anglo American. This enabled the NUDF to augment the University's operating budget with interest earned on its investments, while also allocating

funds to student bursaries and scholarships, purchasing items of major equipment, granting book allowances to new professors and implementing salary supplementation as specifically directed by donors.

In 1981 the Capital Gifts or Margin of Excellence campaign was launched. It aimed to raise R15 million over five years and in the hope that two thirds would take the form of endowments while the rest would be available to meet operating costs. Directed initially at major South African businesses it raised R6.5 million in commitments during the first year, rising to R7.1 million in 1982, redeemable over the following five years, with 40% coming from Natal-based companies. Another R3 million was contributed in 1983, including R463 030 from Anglo American and a now annual R100 500 from the City of Durban. With Dr Kees van der Pol particularly prominent, the success of the appeal was indebted to 60 business leaders who served as 'voluntary advocates' in approaching about 300 possible donors.

In 1984 there was a further 20% increase in cash donations, which rose to a record R3 768 137 with 77% coming from 284 corporate donors and ten of them contributing more than R70 000 each. Individuals donated ten times more than ever before, due largely to the anonymous contributions of R250 000 and R150 000 the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) and Faculty of Medicine received. Personal bequests declined, as did unspecified or free donations, severely restricting the University's discretionary distribution of funds.

There were also the substantial gifts in kind the University received in various forms. In 1977, for example, these amounted to R40 365 worth of instruments and equipment as well as several hundred books and 230 of the late Rosa Hope's oil and water colour paintings of uncertain but substantial value. In 1980, R33 642 worth of such gifts were received and R140 003 in 1982, including a computer package worth R100 000 for the Department of Chemical Engineering from Simulation Sciences Incorporated. That year the stewards of the Durban Turf Club met the catering costs for the University to invite 200 staff members and friends to a day of racing. Gifts in kind rose to as much as R540 998 in 1986.

By the early 1980s the NUDE, with Roy Canning in the chair, Lawrence Robinson as chairman of its Investment and Finance Committee and John Duley as director, had reason to be satisfied with its efforts but there was still concern that 90% of funds raised were contributed by approximately 100 donors. In 1982 a new fundraising division was launched under Mike Groves as chairman to elicit regular donations from fellow alumni. An initial

drive aimed at 600 former students raised R14 000 from 89 donors with staff members who were also alumni contributing another R2 000.

Engineering graduates launched their own drive to raise a R60 000 endowment in celebration of the Faculty's 60th anniversary the next year. During 1983 donor appreciation events included University Race Day at the Durban Turf Club and the premiere of a musical in the Sneddon Theatre. The introduction in 1984 of minimum gift clubs, including the Chancellor's, Keystone, Century and Shepstone clubs, attracted the interest of alumni and other individual donors and gave the University more in the way of urgently needed unspecified funds. So, too, did the R762 000 raised by way of interest income from the endowment fund.

In 1985 the five-year Margin of Excellence fundraising campaign came to an end. No less than R15 936 445 in cash and R662 263 worth of gifts in kind had been raised compared with the R3 311 396 in cash and R128 000 gifts in kind in the previous 1976–1980 period. This was remarkable even allowing for the effects of inflation and especially considering the long economic recession experienced during that time. There was also a 150% increase in the number of regular donors despite the reduction in corporate decision making that now took place in the province as a consequence of takeovers, mergers and liquidations. The growth in the Foundation's endowment fund was less spectacular, rising from R1 919 248 to R7 209 369 between 1980 and 1985 but the latter proved to be the seventh successive year in which the previous year's donations were exceeded, rising to a record R3 888 247 in cash and R311 344 in kind.

As usual, most donations were for specified purposes but that year there was a welcome 20% increase in unspecified donations although gifts to unspecified endowments declined by that amount. The yield on unspecified invested endowments raised R796 770 that year and after the deduction of fundraising expenses half was added to the year's unspecified gifts to give the University a valuable total of R750 000 in discretionary funds. Individual giving through minimum gift clubs raised R145 035 in response to the 75th Anniversary appeal but the 2% response from approximately 20 000 alumni was underwhelming and compared badly with most other universities. Similarly, only R142 488 was raised by these means the following year with R30 000 coming from Dr R.A. Dyer of Pretoria. Nevertheless, the University was grateful to all its donors, both corporate and individual, and to the staff members, alumni and influential businessmen who collectively helped in fundraising.

In 1986 the NUDF revised its constitution to streamline its management and control. Regional boards were established in Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg with another to follow the next year in Cape Town. Donations increased another 21.7% that year rising to R4.75 million with 70.9% of all funds raised being intended for research increasing to 72.1% in 1987. Faced with the fourth consecutive year of subsidy cuts, a re-intensified fundraising appeal was launched to generate a further R1 million to 'assist in bridging the inevitable gap between the aspirations of disadvantaged students and the requirements of First World technology'.

Donations to the NUDF increased by another 34.6% (R6.4 million) over the previous year, including a 35% increase in specified funds, mainly for research, a modest 6% in endowments and 55% in unspecified funds. Corporate donor contributions rose to an all-time high of 93.3% in 1987 with foundations and trusts providing 4.5% and alumni and other individuals a mere 2.2% (R141 937). In July Syfrets Managed Assets Ltd assumed responsibility for the NUDF's investment portfolio. After selling some holdings to align it with Syfrets' own investment strategy, R81 736 in capital profits was allocated to the investment reserve and R939 414 to endowment funds, which increased to R9 122 874 that year.

In 1988 C.M.L. (Cedric) Savage, executive chairman of Toncoro, succeeded Roy Canning as NUDF chairman and there were further increases in all forms of contribution. Corporate donations declined to 91.6% of the R8 667 011 total only because of a marked increase in bequests from R1 140 to R485 832. The Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund contributed R918 914 as part of a R4.5 million commitment for residences on the Durban campus and there was an increase of R436 000 for student aid due largely to such income now being channeled through the NUDF. Donations from alumni and other individuals increased to R241 881 (2.8%) but the decline in their numbers from 279 to 227 was again disappointing.

In 1989, when the aforementioned restructured Public Affairs Department, incorporating Public Affairs, Alumni Affairs and the NUDF, came into existence Bryce Biggs was appointed as director of the latter. The intention was that the three branches would in future co-ordinate their functions more closely and additional staff would be appointed to make the NUDF's fundraising efforts more effective. That year it attracted an astonishing R16.5 million in donations, which constituted an 84% increase on the previous year or 44% if donations to building projects, amounting to R4.837 million, were excluded. The Goldfields Foundation and the Anglo American and De Beers

Chairman's Fund provided for much-needed residential accommodation in Pietermaritzburg and Durban respectively while Cecil Renaud's generous R1 million contributed to the cost of extensions to the Library on the former campus which Council decided was to bear his name.

His generosity increased donations from alumni and individuals to 9.8% of the total that year but membership of gift clubs continued to decline. So, too, did corporate donations, endowments and bequests, which led to the decision to appoint a Bequest Officer in 1990. Unspecified expendable funds also declined as donors increasingly preferred to be associated with specific departments or projects. Correspondingly, donations for such projects increased from R3.583 million to R6.355 million while there were also pleasing increases in those for staff salary subventions and student aid. In addition, investment income from existing endowment funds and on current accounts and loans increased by 25% compared with 1988, amounting to R1 437 201 by the end of 1989.

During the 1980s donations had substantially exceeded inflation, averaging 31% annually to increase to R16.513 million in 1989. The top ten corporate donors all exceeded R1 million in contributions and collectively provided 44% of the total R52 million received in such contributions during that period. In alphabetical order they were AECI, Anglo American Corporation, Barlow Rand Ltd, Chamber of Mines of South Africa, City of Durban, De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd, First National Bank, Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd, Information Services Management (Pty) Ltd and the South African Sugar Association.

There were also eighteen individuals who contributed more than R10 000 during the same period, headed by Cecil Renaud whose donation constituted the largest ever made to the University by one person. Indeed, all such assistance for building projects was welcome compensation for the particularly heavy reduction of expenditure in that area necessitated by the subsidy cuts.<sup>11</sup>

### **Buildings and extensions**

In the prevailing circumstances it was decided to merge the two major aspects of planning, academic and physical, into a single division under the headship of the current academic planning officer, D.R. Masson. In view of government's limited approval of the University's rate of capital development for 1977 and other unavoidable expenses the funds available were only sufficient to complete three major buildings already under construction: Pietermaritzburg's New Arts Building (R89 000); and in Durban the multi-purpose Indoor Sports Centre (R670 000) and the George Campbell Building for Biological Sciences

(R213 000), which was opened in July 1977 with a memorial plaque at its entrance.

Francis Stock described the Hexagon facility, which formed a prominent part of the New Arts Building, as 'probably the most advanced design of an experimental theatre in the Republic'. At the official opening in May 1977 he announced plans to divide the Golf Road campus on which it was situated into three zones. The northern area nearest to the old campus, at the intersection of Golf and Ridge roads, was to be developed for academic purposes, hence the recent construction of buildings for Education and Educational Psychology, Psychology, Law, Commerce and now the New Arts Building. The middle section would eventually be utilised as an administrative centre while, more immediately, a residential complex eventually housing 1 600 students together with sports and maintenance facilities would be constructed at the southern end.

Stock said the intention was 'to make the academic area as compact as possible' in both centres, with a five-minute walking radius and ten-minute diameter being the ideal. It remained unclear what constituted the envisaged heart of each campus and how far this might be achieved. Lack of early planning had already resulted in the establishment of academic facilities on three distinct campus sections in Pietermaritzburg, with the Faculty of Agriculture largely self-sufficient academically speaking apart from the first year of study. In Durban academic departments were already strung out along the Stella Bush Ridge and down its slopes, not to mention the geographically distant, though largely also self-sufficient, Faculty of Medicine.

By the end of 1977 teaching floor space in Durban had almost doubled over the previous seven years and that in Pietermaritzburg had increased almost 50%. The University's building and land assets were then valued at more than R36 million. The unavoidable delay in beginning work on Pietermaritzburg's new Biological Sciences Building and Howard College's new home for Mechanical Engineering transferred additional strain onto the University's resources in subsequent years. The latter was eventually officially opened in 1981, as was Durban's Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre.

In 1978 it was decided to enclose the top floor of Pietermaritzburg's Rabie Saunders Building at a cost of R17 950 to provide additional lecture room and common room space. An important development that year on the original Scottsville campus was the closure of 5 500 square metres of the upper part of Milner Road and its inclusion within the University's boundaries at a cost of R8 250 as well as R7 300 in compensation to the municipality for prior road



development, R600 for the fire main and hydrant and R100 as a closure fee! In 1980–1981 extensions to Pietermaritzburg's Faculty of Law Building were authorised to the value of R181 952. It was also decided to acquire the property on the corner of Golf and Ridge roads for further campus development, but this was delayed by disagreement concerning its value. When the new Biological Sciences Building, adjacent to Rabie Saunders, was opened in October 1983 as the John Bews Building in honour of another campus stalwart some 200 invitees were introduced to the research projects currently in progress in the Botany and Zoology departments.

That year P.R. (Peter) Howe (M.Arch., Durban) joined the staff in Pietermaritzburg as physical planning officer. By then M.S. (Michael) Muir (formerly Physics, Durban) was head of the Planning Division, based in Durban, from whence Bruce Powers as director of physical planning had previously commuted to oversee developments on the inland campus. In practice as director of planning there Howe soon came under the authority of Vice-Principal Deney Schreiner and subsequently of campus Deputy Registrar David Beaven. The redevelopment of the former library in the Rabie Saunders Building presented an interesting challenge, as did the provision of more laboratory space in the basement where there were serious water and rising damp problems.

Howe largely had to develop his own job description and to some extent his holistic approach to campus planning overlapped with what Ray Hawksworth, manager of Grounds and Estates, regarded as his province. In addition to redeveloping open spaces and landscaping co-ordination on campus, Howe also assumed responsibility for such diverse tasks as data collection for SAPSE returns, on-campus traffic counts and the provision of adequate parking facilities. The Planning Office had already assembled much of the necessary information when a Durban consultancy was contracted to develop a campus master plan.

In Durban there was a major redistribution of space in Shepstone Building. The Reading Laboratory and School of Architecture and Allied Disciplines had to make room for a new Language Laboratory, the Department of Language and Communication, the Student Advisory Service and Extramural Studies Unit, the Audio Visual Centre and Electronics Services. During 1981 all the commercial outlets available on the lower concourse were leased out to a variety of businesses such as banks, book retailers and a sports shop.

The following year the National Monuments Council announced that the Old Main Building in Pietermaritzburg and Durban's Howard College and

Memorial Tower Building (MTB) would be declared national monuments on the strength of their 'architectural and historical importance'. The University Council welcomed this proposal, but doubted that the third of these edifices adequately met the necessary criteria for such recognition. It was also concerned that it might prove difficult to acquire permission for any future internal alterations, but was assured that the Monuments Council was concerned only to preserve their facades and foyers.

In 1984 Council approved the R150 000 purchase of municipal land on the corner of the then King George V and Queen Elizabeth Avenues to be rezoned for educational purposes. The cost was to be offset by the Durban City Council's payment of a similar amount for the alienation of University land on its re-aligned western campus. That year the Mathematics/Physics Building was named in honour of outgoing Principal Desmond Clarence and a committee was appointed to develop a policy for the future naming of buildings and rooms.

A 1980 government restriction of R12 million on applications for authority to raise loans over the next three years, coupled with a three-fold increase in building costs during the previous four years, limited the University to only one major building construction during that period. It also threatened to delay the start on either a new residence for medical students or the new Library in Durban. Similarly, in 1985 the University was authorised to raise only R5.3 million of the R8.8 million in loans that it requested. These funds were to be used for the completion of the John Bews Building and extensions to the Denison Residence in Pietermaritzburg as well as for site preparation for Durban's new Library and the preliminary phase of a new medical residence.

A new medical school to accommodate 200 students was also envisaged, eventually costing at least R52 million with annual interest and redemption charges of R1.4 million. The University argued that any reduction in capacity would not be in the long-term interests of the country and that an estimated saving of R13 million in replacement costs of its existing medical facilities would help to offset the expense involved. Eventually it was resolved that the University would be responsible for R15 million of the R90 million cost of the building, which would be double the size of the existing Faculty of Medicine.

This was not the only major construction project envisaged in Durban. The R9 555 000 in loans authorised in 1986 included no less than R6 million for the new Library.<sup>12</sup> Indeed, another highlight of campus development in the 1980s was the closure of King George V Avenue and reconfiguration of transit traffic necessitated by the construction of that facility.

## Library

As always, limited funding had a severely constraining effect on the completion of the new building and on the satisfactory development of all the University's library resources. In 1977 Principal Des Clarence observed that they were possibly 'suffering the most' from the prevailing financial austerity and were 'in reverse gear'. Like other sectors the grant to the libraries was pegged at the 1976 level and it was calculated that if their activities were expanded by only 5% in 1977 it would need an increase of 52% over the previous year to counteract inflation and currency devaluation. To compound the problem, while the cost of library materials was already increasing a 15% import tax was imposed on books and journals, most of which were published overseas. Despite the temporary increase in overall funding arising from the University's assumption of the Faculty of Medicine's finances, the diminishing value of library allocations in the face of excise duties and deteriorating exchange rates persisted into the late 1980s. In 1986 the Principal nevertheless calculated that during the previous five years the allocation to the libraries had increased by 224% while the average price of books and journals had increased by 204% and the state subsidy by 146%.

The introduction in 1979 of the SAPSE information system as the determinant of future university funding meant that henceforth libraries would no longer be financed on the basis of student numbers, but as fixed capital assets. Nora Buchanan's research has shown that the new system placed an extra annual burden on library staff by requiring them to collect statistical information relating to such matters as staff and student usage, building space and changes to the collections. This required an initial retrospective stock take of existing materials and then detailed annual reporting of acquisitions according to SAPSE categories. In the Pietermaritzburg Library, Colleen Vietzen was able to undertake the first retrospective and subsequent reports for several years relatively easily by virtue of its already computerised ordering and accounting systems while its Durban counterpart continued to struggle with manual counts for another decade.

Pietermaritzburg also enjoyed a relatively smooth transfer of control following the departure of D.E. (Donald) Schauder, after only three years in office, with the temporary and then permanent appointment in September 1978 of deputy Colleen Vietzen as University Librarian (Pietermaritzburg), the first female to fill that senior position. In November 1979 C.E. (Christopher) Merrett was appointed to her former post as deputy.



**C. (Colleen) Vietzen** graduated from the University with a BA (Hons) degree in 1966, followed by an MA *cum laude* in 1969. She also acquired a Diploma in Librarianship in 1961 at UCT and worked as school librarian at Girls' High in Pietermaritzburg before embarking on her career on the local campus. There she rose from assistant librarian (1963–1968) to librarian (1968–1970), deputy university librarian (1970–1976), acting University Librarian (1976–1977) and University Librarian (1978–1996). In 1966 she also worked as librarian at Het Zuid Afrikaans Instituut in Amsterdam and from 2003 until 2017 as part-time librarian at the Centre for African Literary Studies on the Pietermaritzburg campus. During her tenure as University Librarian she extended and enhanced the improvements that had been implemented by her predecessors, thereby maintaining the Pietermaritzburg campus library's reputation for efficiency and innovation.

In Durban Felix Scholtz completed seventeen years of service with his retirement in September 1984. In April 1986 E.M. (Molly) van der Linde, formerly deputy librarian in charge of technical services, succeeded him to become the second female to occupy that level post in the University. Vietzen remembered that there was 'formal contact' though little 'direct co-operation' between the two centres during Scholtz's tenure followed by 'a good working relationship' under his successor, 'although the two libraries were managed completely independently' until 2004.

The staffing structure and atmosphere in the two libraries was also markedly different. As Vietzen and Buchanan have both stressed, in Pietermaritzburg,



**F. (Felix) Scholtz** held the Diploma of the South African Library Association, a BA (UNISA) and BA (Hons) (Potchefstroom) in Library Science. He joined the Transvaal Provincial Library Service in 1945, becoming regional librarian in Kroonstad and then Bloemfontein from 1951 prior to being appointed city librarian in Pretoria in 1964. In that capacity he developed a municipal service involving more than 25 libraries as well as a travelling library before becoming University Librarian on the Durban campus in 1968.

where the Library was much smaller and personal, Schauder's horizontal rearrangement of the professional staff and equitable addition of functional portfolios to their responsibilities as subject librarians from 1976 was retained and expanded after Vietzen had worked out its practical implementation. Even the University Librarian and deputy shared managerial duties on a horizontal basis. This structure ensured an efficient service to users while reducing the expense of costly senior posts. Vietzen recalled that it built staff competence by encouraging initiative at all levels and maintained a strong service ethic, so much so that some academics complained about the comparatively poor service in the other centre.

Subject librarians were only introduced there in 1987 as Scholtz maintained a traditional, hierarchical structure with strict line management and staff categorisation. His term in office was controversial, not least because many academics considered him politically conservative as demonstrated by his strict application of the law pertaining to censorship and banned material. Persistent complaints about the Durban Library, emanating particularly from the Faculty of Arts, led to an investigation. In 1978 it concluded that the dissatisfaction was due, in part, to the Library's financial and spatial limitations and pointed to the urgent need for a substantial new building. As Buchanan has documented, the collections in the wholly unsuitable MTB had been rearranged no less than five times with numerous little-used items consigned to a closed stack in the Shepstone Building. This involved considerable extra work for the library staff and inconvenience to users. There were justifiable complaints with regard to book purchasing, the re-cataloguing of pre-1973 holdings, the closed access reserve book room, the management of the banned book collection and general security issues.

In October 1978 Senex requested the Durban Library Committee to investigate these issues, if necessary with the assistance of an outside professional expert. Reuben Musiker, the Wits University librarian, was prevailed upon for this purpose and in the interim the cost of installing a tattle tape system and book check unit in the Main Library was investigated. The necessity for these was stressed in the report that followed. By and large Musiker found no grounds to criticise the University Librarian or his staff, highlighting instead the 'severe physical disadvantages' from which the Durban Library suffered. He recommended that fundamental to improving the situation was provision of a new library building; but also the establishment of a new senior post at deputy university librarian level to supervise readers' services and liaison with the academic community, the development of an

audio-visual service, the retrospective re-classification of the book stock, the installation of improved signposting and the introduction of automation.

G.H. (Goolam) Haffajee, formerly assistant librarian for nine years at the Medical Library, was appointed in 1981, the first black staff member to acquire seniority in an historically white university library. His post was upgraded to deputy university librarian, but several of Musiker's other recommendations were delayed by the shortage of funds. So, too, was the proposal that there should be complete parity between professional librarians' salary scales and those of academic staff with University Librarian and deputy being equated with professor and senior lecturer. Bill Freund remembered that at Harvard the chief librarian was the highest-paid employee, second only to the University President. Colleen Vietzen recalled that in Pietermaritzburg there was also concern about the discriminatory conditions of service to which support staff were subjected.<sup>13</sup>

Automation was clearly an urgent priority. As early as 1975 the University had agreed to follow the lead of UNISA and Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) in computerising its libraries and that the two centres should embark upon this process jointly. On the advice of Professor M.C. Boshoff, head of Library Science at University of Pretoria, a common philosophy was adopted and a joint steering committee appointed to plan an automated library system. The committee established that library automation in both centres would cost between R250 000 and R350 000, far in excess of the R50 000 initially envisaged. In 1980 Council provided R10 000 for a pilot DOBIS project in Pietermaritzburg. Following the trial of the URICA system there as well, it was re-affirmed that the libraries should indeed be computerised despite the ongoing limited availability of funds. Fortunately, money was available for this purpose from the respective city councils.

Despite this promising start, as Nora Buchanan's research has shown, the two centres initially proceeded in different directions. Both systems were compatible with the South African Machine Readable Cataloguing format which subsequently provided the basis for co-operative cataloguing nationwide. Pietermaritzburg had begun in 1976 with a computerised ordering and bookkeeping system that Dave Wallis programmed for the IBM (later Sperry) mainframe computer in consultation with Colleen Vietzen. It was followed by a successful pilot project to computerise the catalogue. In March 1982 following consideration of other options URICA, a South African system, was chosen and installed on a REALITY minicomputer in the Library. A new catalogue on microfiche was then systematically developed, primarily under

Christopher Merrett's direction. This ultimately made for even greater service efficiency with copies being available in other buildings on campus.

The retrospective conversion in Pietermaritzburg took three years to complete. Thereafter Merrett won an award from URICA that enabled him to visit several British university and public libraries and the Welsh national library in May 1987 and make very favourable comparisons with what had been achieved in Pietermaritzburg. His duties had been changed in 1985 to enable him to focus fully on computerisation and other URICA modules pertaining to circulation and acquisitions that were implemented by 1987. Two years later a full-time database administrator was appointed. Many staff members agreed with John Benyon's assessment that it was a 'remarkable' achievement on Merrett's part 'at a time when other libraries hardly had such a mammoth task on their horizons' and further enhanced the Library's capacity as 'an excellent and responsive resource'.

Although the Durban City Council provided R300 000 for the project, the change to computerisation at Howard College was more problematic. IBM's DOBIS/LIBIS system was chosen, following the example of the CSIR, HSRC and Pretoria University but seemingly without input from the library staff. In 1983 the University acquired an IBM 4341 model for the campus Computer Centre on which the DOBIS/LIBIS system was installed. Assurances were given that other demands on this shared mainframe facility would not adversely affect the service it provided to the Library. From April 1984 the first aspect to be addressed was cataloguing using the online public access catalogue (OPAC) module with a printed catalogue being produced as back-up in case the system went down. It was intended that, as in Pietermaritzburg, further modules would be installed but the other demands on the Computer Services Division were such that by 1988 it was conceded that this would not be possible owing to insufficient expertise and inadequate disk space on the now-outdated IBM mainframe.

An investigation concluded that substantial savings would be made if Durban switched to the URICA system. In 1989 the relevant software was installed on an Ultimate 3040 minicomputer and the Library staff retrained. Work began on the new system in January 1990 with acquisitions, cataloguing and information retrieval modules being installed simultaneously to compensate for the time wasted. Although the two centres were now using the same computer system the possible development of a single structure was rejected as premature because of the unsatisfactory condition of the existing data links between the two. By 1986, however, as Buchanan has shown, both had

been linked to the new central South African Bibliographic and Information Network (SABINET) database. This was a national library network that came online in 1983 although it was only to become fully functional with the advent of the Internet in the 1990s and greatly improved the efficiency of the national inter-library loan system.

These developments were obviously of increasing value to library users. This was also eventually the case with online literature searching, which the CSIR installed in 1979 in the Science and Engineering branch library in Durban. It provided access to more than 150 databases via the DIALOG Information Retrieval Service based in California, but initial demand for the service was low owing primarily to the expense involved. Researchers in the Medical Library and in Pietermaritzburg made use of the Institute of Medical Literature's more cost-effective access to references, with the library staff serving as intermediaries. Established at Tygerberg in 1976, that system was linked to several databases of particular relevance to biomedical scientists. In addition, the Durban Library subscribed to the online database of South African press clippings the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of the Orange Free State compiled from 1984. Newspaper articles dispatched weekly on microfiche became readily available to researchers in both centres.

Other services to library users were also expanded, not least that of the subject librarian unit in Pietermaritzburg. As Buchanan has shown the service began in 1976 with just four subject librarians involved in book selection, classifying and assigning subject headings to new books as well as providing guidance and user instruction in their subject specialisations. By the late 1970s they were providing input on library matters at Faculty meetings and by 1983 there were eight of them serving six faculties. During the 1980s they assumed an increasingly educational role under the direction of deputy university librarian Christopher Merrett. This was achieved first by providing a selective dissemination of information service for the benefit of the academic community at large; and second, by offering more intensive library instruction in response to the arrival on campus of increasing numbers of disadvantaged and ill-prepared students who would otherwise have been unable to make use of the library facilities available to them.

User education started in collaboration with Arie Blacquiere's Language Laboratory, with Colleen Vietzen teaching and subject librarians providing hands-on exercises in the use of the catalogue, book retrieval and literature searches. This service eventually became more sophisticated with academic departments allocating lecture periods for library instruction early in the



year. As Vietzen recalled, this user education programme enabled students to become independent library users early in their campus careers. Subject librarians also assumed responsibility for the *Library Bulletin* while semi-professional or technical staff dealt with routine cataloguing, acquisitions, database management, periodicals and circulation.

The Durban Library eventually followed suit in appointing subject librarians eleven years later, although as early as 1958 it had employed an assistant to provide a reference service to staff, students and the new Industrial Information Service. In 1976 a library instruction officer was appointed to assist students in all faculties until 1987 when a senior librarian was delegated to investigate the subject librarian systems in other South African universities. This enquiry did not include the Pietermaritzburg Library which pointed to what Buchanan described as the ‘cordial but distant’ relationship existing between them. The six subject librarians appointed in Durban were specifically responsible for developing the collections, liaising with academic staff, providing a reference service and giving library instruction. A head of the subject librarian unit was appointed with line management responsibility and a cataloguing department was retained independent of the unit. This system may not have been as effective or as professionally satisfying as that developed in Pietermaritzburg, but the overall effect was a vast advance on the limited advisory service previously available to Durban users and a significant improvement in the relationship between academic and library staff.

As Colleen Vietzen remembered, the Pietermaritzburg Library also decided to transform the demographics of library appointees by preferring blacks where feasible and establishing internships for qualified black librarians who lacked appropriate experience. This process, initiated in the 1970s, was accelerated in the 1980s to the extent that a 90:10 white:black staff balance had changed to 50:50 by 1994. Several interns subsequently became subject librarians and moved into managerial positions. A close relationship was maintained with the Department of Librarianship (now Information Studies) and a joint student fieldwork programme was launched. The intensive training course that Vietzen and Christine Stilwell developed and located in the Pietermaritzburg Library compensated for the differential treatment fieldwork students received in host libraries with a range of library routines being simulated to give effective hands-on experience of a variety of day-to-day tasks.<sup>14</sup>

While the libraries in both centres sought to improve their service they struggled to maintain and advance their collections owing to financial shortfalls. In Pietermaritzburg numerous periodical subscriptions were cancelled when in

1977 it was discovered that, owing to the deteriorating exchange rate, the ratio of journal to book expenditure stood at 75:25 compared with 43:57 in 1970. This was changed to 65:35 and further regular annual pruning followed with Durban doing likewise, though less spectacularly. In 1982 it was resolved that despite prevailing financial constraints funds should be found, partly through NUDF grants, to provide staff and postgraduate students with the essential primary literary material needed to complete research projects. These were to include special grants for new departments, new developments within existing departments and book grants for new professors. The weakening rand exchange rate soon dampened these ambitions and by 1986 another round of subscription cancellations was unavoidable, including the elimination of unnecessary duplication between the two centres. So-called core titles could not be reduced in either centre, but Durban did cancel approximately 200 periodicals.

Books banned by government decree were another source of common concern, including those items that could not be possessed because they were not covered by the blanket permit granted to the University. A related issue was the ban on items such as the *Communist Manifesto*, which was of particular relevance to Political Science students and challenged the principle of academic freedom. In terms of the Publications Board permit only the Principal and Faculty deans were authorised to allow staff members and postgraduates access to banned books. These had to be kept under lock and key and under no circumstances copied; while a register of all users was to be maintained.

The Principal explained in a staff circular that the use of books could be restricted in terms of either the Publications Act (1974) or the Internal Security Act (1950). Under the former Act books were classified either as 'undesirable publications' or as those 'the possession of which is prohibited'. The University had been granted a general exemption in respect of the former category only, which included books that were not to be sold, displayed or circulated. The Internal Security Act applied to publications by banned or listed persons; or publications that had been specifically proscribed. Universities usually held only a limited number of such items and they were not readily available to staff or students because of difficulties in interpreting the Act.

Durban academic staff complained that the facilities provided for reading restricted material were inadequate and that librarians should desist from interrogating students wanting to read banned material. Further, that where possible the University should press for banned items to be reviewed. While

the Durban Library was decidedly guarded in its stance, adhering closely to the requirements of the law, its Pietermaritzburg counterpart adopted a much more liberal approach by making it clear ‘it was opposed to censorship that affected or encroached upon legitimate academic and scholarly activities’. It acquired banned books without requesting the necessary permission to possess them and allowed staff and postgraduates access to them on the same basis as ‘undesirable publications’.

The University declined to adopt a formal anti-censorship stance despite the efforts of Vietzen and Merrett. Meanwhile, the surrogate role of state agent assumed in Durban resulted in staff and students travelling to Pietermaritzburg to consult banned items. There, the various categories of banned books were stored in two locked steel cabinets but with as much flexibility of access as possible and despite two visits from the Directorate of Publications. In 1983, after further complaints about the Durban Librarian’s control of banned publications, formal procedures were devised whereby such dissatisfaction could be expressed. Following the unbanning of all liberation organisations in February 1990, such material was gradually returned to the open shelves in Durban from whence, unfortunately, some of it was subsequently stolen. Pietermaritzburg had quietly embarked on this process even earlier.<sup>15</sup>

The planning of Durban’s long-anticipated and desperately needed new central Library, envisaged as far back as 1974, had to be redrafted in 1980 to comply with government’s precise guidelines for library buildings in terms of the new SAPSE formula’s space norms. Initially a two-phase process was planned, comprising a new main building and a new Science and Engineering Library to be incorporated into the new building planned for those faculties.

In 1983 the University was at last successful in its negotiations with the Durban City Council to have King George V Avenue closed as a public thoroughfare because the new Library was intended to straddle that road on a site that lay at the very heart of the Howard College campus. Proceedings were delayed, in part, by the municipality’s initially impossible financial demands and by some public objections. They were also stalled by government’s refusal to pay the R545 000 requested for the purchase of the avenue and its conversion into a pedestrian mall and parking facility as well as adequate upgrading of the neighbouring Princess Alice Avenue as an alternative bus route.

Alternative vehicular and pedestrian access to the campus was envisaged by means of a road behind the ridge linking Francois Road (now Rick Turner Avenue) to Queen Elizabeth Avenue via the car park below Shepstone Building. This was subsequently named 75th Anniversary Avenue. The provisional

R30 000 due to the municipality to cover the cost of closing King George V Avenue was eventually reduced to R7 500 and a 50-year lease agreement was signed in lieu of outright purchase. In 1988, R46 000 was allocated for the re-alignment of the entrance and exit lanes on King George V Avenue and the construction of a control kiosk and electrically operated booms.

In addition to Science and Engineering other faculties, particularly Architecture and Law, did not favour losing their branch libraries to a single monolithic main building and there were proposals that two separate buildings or even several smaller facilities should be constructed. After funds for the first phase of the single building were at last approved, the plans were finalised in 1984. There were reservations in Council concerning the envisaged extensive use of glass with regard to aesthetics, safety and also comfort if the air conditioning broke down. Professor A. Broadhurst was appointed as acoustic consultant and more resources were provided from loan funds for additional traffic and parking arrangements necessitated by the closure of King George V Avenue. Funds also had to be found for furnishing and equipment, including computers.

Construction began in April the following year. It was sufficiently advanced by December 1987 to enable the Main Library to transfer its operations from the MTB. So did the Science and Engineering branch library, which moved from the Desmond Clarence Building along with the material in the Shepstone Building closed stack. The Architecture and Law branch libraries remained in their separate premises in the Denis Shepstone and Howard College buildings respectively. The latter's refurbished accommodation was much larger than it had previously enjoyed in the MTB as was that of the Eleanor Bonner Music Library following the vacation of offices in the Music Building to make room for it.

What was named the E.G. Malherbe Library, after the University's former Principal (1945–1965), eventually cost R12 442 671 to complete. It was available to users from January 1988 and officially opened in May. Ernst Malherbe did not live to see it as he had died in 1982, shortly after the publication of his autobiography *Never a Dull Moment*.<sup>16</sup>

In Pietermaritzburg the new Life Sciences branch library was opened in July 1983 in the recently constructed John Bews Building to accommodate the Botany and Zoology collections from the Main Library as well as material from the Agriculture Library. In the surprising absence of the involvement of librarians in the early planning stages it proved in some respects to be defective, especially with regard to space and provision for future expansion.

A downstairs reading room and remote, damp storage facility provided inadequate compensation. This was not true of the Main Library where earlier forward planning had allowed for expansion at minimal expense. In 1976 the basement space regained there from the Divinity Department and University Press as well as the enclosed parking area was converted into a reserve book room and late night reading facility. Unfortunately, the latter had to be closed in 1988 because the furnishings were vandalised.

The removal of the reserve collection from the first floor provided the rest of the Pietermaritzburg Library with sufficient additional space for the next decade. It facilitated a more user-friendly reorganisation of the collections while little-used material was consigned to the basement. Further forward planning was based on the knowledge that the building had been designed to support two extra floors. In June 1989 it was announced that Cecil Renaud had donated the aforementioned R1 million for the envisaged extensions, an amount Council subsequently matched.

There were other significant developments in Pietermaritzburg. Council's decision in October 1975 to provide funds for the secondment of Margery Moberly from the Library to become part-time archivist and press officer and her appointment in 1978 as full-time press manager was followed by the decision to establish an Archive on the Pietermaritzburg campus in 1984 and to appoint the necessary staff beyond the existing part-time post. Joicelyn Leslie-Smith was subsequently appointed archivist and also assumed responsibility for what became known as the Alan Paton Centre (APC).

Indeed, in April 1989, a year after Paton's death, the Pietermaritzburg campus gained another valuable library and archive resource when the Alan Paton Memorial Study Centre was opened with financial assistance from the *Sunday Tribune* and from Paton's close friend Peter Brown. Historian Professor Mark Prestwich and Deneys Schreiner had both earlier asked Paton to leave his papers to the University and Anne Paton provided the basis for the APC when she donated part of the contents of her late husband's study. This was in accordance with his wishes to be permanently associated with the Pietermaritzburg campus where he had enjoyed a happy student career at the Natal University College (NUC).

The APC came under the control of the Pietermaritzburg Library and was accommodated on University property in what had previously been a student residence at 165 King Edward Avenue. As Vice-Principal Colin Webb explained, the intention was to develop this core donation into an internationally significant research centre focusing on 'the politics and literature of intergroup

conciliation', which had been two of Paton's 'deepest concerns'. Early additions were the official papers of the Liberal Party and material relating to the Buthelezi Commission and KwaZulu/Natal Indaba. An advisory committee was formed and there were plans to establish an Alan Paton Chair in Political Economy, but the necessary external funding of R100 000 a year for five years was not forthcoming.<sup>17</sup>

Despite this and other financial disappointments the 1976–1989 era had witnessed significant improvements to the University's library facilities in terms of technological advances, more effective services in response to a growing and more demanding user base, improved collections and decidedly better accommodation. There were to be more dramatic changes in the decade that followed.

### **Forward planning and rationalisation**

The financial austerity of the 1980s promoted more cautious forward planning and raised the prospect of essential rationalisation. Booysen had closed his inaugural address by commenting that 'an effective and efficient administration is vital to the attainment of academic goals' and to that end he initiated a 'microscopic examination' of the University's administrative structure. In 1977 the Academic and Planning Committee had already divided itself into two sub-committees under the chairmanship of the two Vice-Principals to consider Deneys Schreiner's memorandum 'On the need to establish a policy framework in which planning takes place'. This reassessed the institution's dual-centred structure, the number of its faculties and an acceptable Faculty balance, their anticipated rate of growth and that of student registrations, as well as the proportion of students to be accommodated in residences.

Booyesen recognised the need for 'an effective and efficient information management system' that would be fully computerised. It was hoped that this would interactively incorporate every branch of the University's operation and in 1982 the consultants Deloitte, Haskins and Sells were engaged for several months to investigate information flow requirements before submitting its report. A three-day seminar involving the University's Executive and Computer committees was held on information gathering and dissemination as well as on the University's objectives and its strategies for achieving them. As John Benyon recalled, this was followed by a protracted and expensive series of meetings, which eventually produced a report 'as big as a thick telephone directory'.

The statement of management policy, objectives and strategies eventually formulated was intended to provide all departments and personnel with direction for future development while an ongoing investigation was conducted into departmental information needs. The post of Director of Academic Planning was then enlarged to Director of Information Management and Academic Planning. In addition, four new assistant administrative officers were to be appointed to provide more help to Faculty deans.

Attention was given to computer services, data processing and the commitment accounting system. Particular emphasis was placed on improving student records by introducing a new student information system (SIMS), on the allocation of resources, on a review of the University's common rules, on the rationalisation of course codes and nomenclature and on the introduction of a uniform course credit system. The Department of National Education's new policy document on the qualification structure for universities initially caused some disquiet. It was essentially concerned to establish a standard system of nomenclature for all future degrees, but in doing so it undermined the status of existing social science degrees and made an arbitrary distinction between basic and applied subjects that was quite inappropriate in the case of some faculties like Engineering and Medicine.

The University's overstressed management structure was also reviewed, particularly with regard to the number and size of its committees. The Academic Planning and Policy and Physical Planning committees were dissolved to form a University Planning Committee and the Academic and Non-Academic Staffing committees were similarly merged to form a University Staffing Committee. The Computer Executive and Information Management committees also subsequently followed suit.

Late in 1986 the Jarratt Report (1985) came to the University's attention. It was the outcome of an investigation chaired by Sir Alex Jarratt into the efficiency and management of British universities. Considerable time was spent discussing it together with a document that Mike Muir, Director of Information Management and Academic Planning, prepared on the lessons the University might learn from it. The University Planning Committee referred different sections of the document to working groups for analysis. At short notice and without an agenda the deans, who were still Faculty-elected, were then summoned to a meeting where they were confronted with the recommendations of what was referred to as the (David) Walker Report whose genesis, apart from the name of its author, was unclear. As David Maughan Brown (who was one of their number) recalled, the deans had played no part

in formulating its recommendations and were previously unaware of the Walker Committee's existence. They strongly resisted the numerical targets it set for substantial staff reductions in their respective faculties in the 'absence of anything resembling a Mission Statement setting out the university's objectives' or 'an agreed redundancy process and package'.

Consequently, the report was not implemented and instead faculties were now required to produce five-year plans to identify where such cuts could be made. While work began on producing a Mission Statement and redundancy procedure, the University had not heard the last of the organisational philosophy or managerialism underlying the initial Jarratt Report – which likened universities to corporate enterprises, students to consumers and academics to producers who should be carefully managed and required to maintain certain performance levels.

As part of a broader process of rationalisation that was now clearly necessary, CUP was adamant that all universities and other tertiary institutions should fall under one central authority, the Department of National Education; that the Universities Advisory Council should be empowered to advise the minister on matters pertaining to all such institutions; and that CUP and the Committee of University Rectors (CUR) should be amalgamated. In November 1986 the principals and vice-principals of the three eastern seaboard universities (UDW, Natal and Zululand) met to discuss the more effective utilisation of their collective staff resources, the organisation of teacher training programmes in the region and the possible rationalisation of part-time studies in the Durban metropolitan area. Concern was expressed about the proposal to establish what would be a third school of Engineering in the eastern seaboard region at the University of Zululand.

Several sub-committees were formed to investigate particular areas of interest and by 1989 there were discussions about sharing expensive capital equipment and rationalising Accountancy and Pharmacy courses. In the same month the University Technology Advisory Committee (UTAC) gave notice of 'a comprehensive investigation into the long-term development of university and technikon education'. The University was required, by the end of 1987, to submit a twenty-year plan, subject to five-yearly reviews, embracing the academic, financial and physical dimensions of its envisaged future. CUP established its own sub-committee to consider the process of rationalisation among universities and deferred the deadline for a year while it did so.

The University of Natal duly launched a planning process, beginning at Faculty level, while the Planning Committee went even further by examining



departmental situational analyses and expenditure patterns in relation to the severe subsidy cuts the University had experienced. By mid-1987 a document 'Toward a University plan' had been prepared and in April 1988 Senate discussed at length a further document entitled 'A short term plan for academic departments'. Its emphasis on the need for immediate financial constraints would eventually have to be reconciled with the expenses implied in long-term objectives. Short- and long-term projections of student numbers were prepared, as requested by the Minister of Education and Culture, inter-Faculty committees were appointed to assist the forward planning process and liaison committees embarked upon the analysis of all non-academic functions.

The heavy workloads of senior executives in administration were also examined and it was recognised that changes were necessary at executive management level. As a result the aforementioned third vice-principalship (Finance and Technical Services) was created. The appointee, Brenda Gourley, who assumed office on 1 October 1988, and the Registrar, Ben de Wet, were subsequently accorded the courtesy title of professor 'in recognition of their past professorial standing and academic achievement in the University'. The now three Vice-Principals and Registrar were supported at the next tier of management by the directors of Academic Planning, Public Affairs and Student/Staff Support Programmes.

It was expected that the rationalisation process would gather momentum after the Principal's Planning Committee had finalised a Mission Statement for the University. Indeed, many more staff members became involved as no less than 59 working groups were established to deal with specific issues, some of them arising out of the Mission Statement. By mid-1989 this had been completed (see Chapter 5) and both academic and non-academic rationalisation proposals were at an advanced stage. One of the areas highlighted as a consequence of the whole process was the need for affirmative action with regard to both student admissions and staff appointments. It was a term that was to be warmly debated in the decade to come.

In January 1988 CUP discussed at length its report 'An investigation into macro-aspects of the university within the context of tertiary education in the RSA'. Before the end of that year CUP had identified Library Science and Land Surveying as the two disciplines to be subjected to a trial run with regard to the comparative viability of departments in different institutions. Accounting, Fine Arts, Geology, Modern Languages, Music, and Speech and Drama were to follow in the 1990s. As part of the rationalisation programme at an inter-university level, CUP's finance committee established a working

group to re-examine the existing subsidy formula and government's departure from it over the previous five years in failing to fund approximately 80% of university running costs.

CUP also appointed a consultant to analyse public and private sector salaries while government announced an interim 7% salary increase for educators with, initially, no mention made of non-academic staff. Steps were soon to be taken to improve this increase and to narrow the gap between academic and non-academic salary scales. Early in 1988 a CUP delegation met the Minister of National Education to express its concerns, including the continuing inadequacy of university salary structures in relation to other parts of the public sector.<sup>18</sup> The loss of staff to better paid jobs and to politically motivated emigration was a growing source of concern.

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THERE WERE SOME significant improvements to staff conditions of service during the late 1970s and 1980s. These years also witnessed the amalgamation of academic staff associations and the establishment of new non-academic equivalents. The involvement of staff members in off-campus political activity intensified as the apartheid regime clung to power and there were also important academic course, syllabus and degree modifications as well as changes to the staff complement of all sectors of the University.

### **Conditions of service**

In 1977 a new Black Workers Organisation (BWO), which had been preceded by the Non-European Laboratory Staff Association, was elected. That year, for the first time, Council approved formal conditions of service for all non-academic employees graded from labourer to chief laboratory assistant. These related to their appointment, promotion and discharge, the granting of annual, sick, special and maternity leave, compulsory membership of a pension fund, payments to dependants in the event of death while in employment, an assisted education scheme to undertake courses of study and the remission of fees for those who wished to register for a degree or diploma within the University.

Council also resolved that from 1978 all African, coloured and Indian non-academic staff would be included in the University's group accident scheme. They would also be eligible to join its group life insurance scheme and participate in the relevant medical aid scheme it had adopted for their respective ethnic groups. The University undertook to bear the full cost of the group accident scheme and half the monthly contributions of the group life and medical aid schemes. All future eligible members would henceforth be required to join these schemes as a condition of service.

In August 1983 a non-racial, in-house staff medical scheme was introduced. It provided 100% benefits and was administered by Medscheme (Pty) Limited with a management committee comprising five Council-appointed members and four elected by members of the scheme, two from each centre. Council

subsequently resolved that from 25 March 1988 new members of staff would continue to pay their pro rata contributions to the medical aid scheme after retirement. Those retirees who had joined the University before that date remained on the old conditions of service as non-contributing members.

In 1980–1981 Council also agreed to assist black employees buy houses. It invested R208 000 with the KwaZulu Development Corporation for the purchase of 25 dwellings in the Durban region and another R100 000 for similar accommodation in Pietermaritzburg. Not for the first time, housing gave rise to discussion in Senate about the need for more efficient municipal bus transport, or a desegregated service, for black workers and students. Many continued to leave their distant homes daily at 4.00 am returning only at 8.00 pm while efforts were made to achieve an improved municipal service because the purchase of private buses was prohibitive.

The BWO continued to voice the grievances of black employees, in particular with regard to wages, job categorisation and dismissal procedures. In 1986, when the Durban branch sought recognition or affiliation to the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), Council decided to appoint a labour relations consultant, in part to provide advice in negotiating a recognition agreement. The following year, after parts of the province had suffered severe flood damage, including R69 000 worth on the Durban campus and R17 500 in Pietermaritzburg, the University established a natural disaster relief fund, administered by former Registrar Athlone Skinner, to assist staff members and students who had suffered property damage and the loss of possessions. By December 1987 as many as 832 staff members had submitted claims or been granted loans and there were 171 contributors to the fund using either one-off payment or monthly stop order.

As ever, salary structures were vital in attracting and retaining staff. Parity of salary scales among academic staff was, as before, affected by subventions in certain disciplines. The Department of Building joined those ranks when, in 1977, Council agreed to a request from the building industry's national development fund that the salaries of its three staff members be subvented from the annual R9 000 grant it awarded the University. Two years later AECI subvented the chair of Chemical Engineering and the Chamber of Mines the two chairs of Geology. By 1981 it was accepted that differentiated salary scales would also have to be extended to other disciplines such as Computer Science and Accountancy and that market value would form the basis for such differentiations even though complete parity in academic salary scales was the preferred ideal.

In 1978 there was general dissatisfaction when a government-approved 5% salary increase disadvantaged universities in relation to the teachers training colleges and raised concern that it might provoke an exodus of staff. This was resolved with a 9% increase across the board as from April 1979. Professorial salary scales rose to a maximum of R17 400, senior lecturers to R15 600, lecturers to R13 200 and junior lecturers to R8 550. The increments for lecturers were now regarded as a career grade although considered too small; and there was still some discrimination disadvantaging African, coloured and Indian personnel.

These increases did not apply to non-academic staff, but in 1978 it was decided to re-grade their posts and introduce new merit and service increments to salary scales to make them more competitive with those available elsewhere. In addition, the technical review committee, established in 1977, reported on the criteria for appointment to each grade and the need for in-service training to assist staff qualify for advancement. The Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) continued to campaign for improved general conditions of service as well as better methods of evaluating and rewarding staff to achieve parity with academic salaries and with equivalent posts in government service.

By 1985 there was widespread dissatisfaction among its members with regard to salary scales prior to the introduction of the Peromnes job evaluation system. This was considered an improvement in that all non-academic jobs would now be evaluated on a cyclical basis with the evaluating committees including persons working in the relevant field. In practice it gave rise to further dissatisfaction. It was not appropriate for all posts, recognised specialisation rather than the range of skills needed in some jobs, did not allow for varying volumes of work in similar posts, and the evaluation of qualifications and experience was prone to subjectivity. By the late 1980s there was talk of converting NASA into a trade union with a negotiated legal agreement with the University in respect of all conditions of service as a more effective means of protecting its members.

Medical Faculty salaries were a special case. In 1977 an important step towards complete parity was taken when the Minister of Education at last gave permission for the implementation of equal salary scales for all staff (white and 'non-white') in the Faculty of Medicine who were employed under the University's conditions of service provided that it met the additional cost itself. Salary increases of between 9.5% and 12% followed to bring them into line with those of the province, as the faculties of Medicine at Pretoria, Stellenbosch and UCT had already done, at a cost of R25 000 to



the Faculty's budget. From 1979 joint academic staff members appointed by the Natal Provincial Administration (NPA) who registered for higher degrees were granted the remission of fees already applicable to those employed on University conditions of service.

From January 1984 all salary scales were at the University's discretion. After protracted negotiations, the National Treasury released R25 million for academic salaries to be raised 7% from 1 December 1988 and 15% from 1 January 1989, on which date non-academic salaries were increased by 20% to narrow the gap between the two. Salaries had become more important than ever before with the University continuing to lose staff to the private sector and also to emigration as the political climate deteriorated. Professor A. H. (Andrew) Duminy (History) calculated that by 1989 senior academics were earning less in real terms on reaching the top of their salary scales than their starting salaries fifteen years previously. The real incomes of those who had been promoted to professorial posts more than a decade previously had dropped by as much as one third and in the last six years professorial salaries had declined in real terms to those of lecturers. Lower-level employees were even worse off while the implementation of differential salary scales had largely been to the detriment of the Arts and Social Sciences with adverse effects on living standards and academic productivity.

The University's staff selection procedures were another source of contention. These were reviewed in 1979 before it was decided to retain the peers-only rule with regard to professorial appointments with the provision that review committee reports be sent to all staff members in the relevant department and to its outgoing head. Faculty boards were requested to recommend between five and seven representatives on professorial selection committees and were permitted to drop the peers-only rule for the selection of non-professorial appointments. The monthly news sheet *NU Digest* introduced in October 1979 helped to keep staff members informed about Council, Senex, Senate and Faculty Board decisions and to encourage staff associations and SRCs to do the same.

Senate's establishment in 1979 of staff development committees in both centres initiated efforts to assist personnel perform more effectively, equipping them for career advancement and enhancing job satisfaction. Initial staff response was lukewarm, but from time to time lectures were given by foreign experts, seminars were conducted on subjects ranging from first-year teaching to postgraduate supervision, demonstrations of basic teaching techniques were held and induction courses were organised for new recruits.

Durban's Staff Development Committee paid particular attention to the needs of new staff members. By 1982 it was proposing the establishment of a Staff Development Unit with a director at professorial level, but the expensive prospect of eventual duplication was discouraging. In Pietermaritzburg the Staff Development Committee was subsequently amalgamated with the Student Development Committee because their interests and functions overlapped. The possibility of semesterising the academic year, in imitation of the Faculty of Agriculture, was widely discussed but initially met with some resistance.

By the early 1980s there was ongoing concern about the unsatisfactory development of computer services in the University, which affected both the teaching and research performance of staff members. A Senex sub-committee proposed that a fixed proportion of the annual budget should be allocated for computer services to facilitate forward planning, that a new management structure was required for this purpose and that some form of charge out was needed for computer use. In 1981 it was suggested that a free-standing computer should be installed in Pietermaritzburg to relieve the load on the existing UNIVAC computer and ensure the continuation of effective teaching. Approximately R200 000 was needed, which would also cover the cost of necessary alterations in Durban and the appointment of a systems programmer so that Commerce teaching commitments in Pietermaritzburg could be met.

In 1982 consideration was given to providing staff with word processors under the control of the respective computer centres. The situation did improve the following year with the installation in Durban of a new UNIVAC (SPERRY) and completion of a computer room but the demands of staff and of students doing computer-based courses steadily increased. Departments were required to assess their future computing requirements annually so that the University could plan the expansion of its facilities but, as always, development was inhibited by financial constraints. Considerable attention was also focused on the value and necessity of part-time classes and on the adverse impact they had on the research time and publication output of staff.

Academic furlough and leave conditions were revised and in 1982, in an attempt to spread the departmental administrative load and widen the experience of more senior staff members, a new system of non-permanent headships was introduced. It was probably the first in the South African tertiary sector, but did not affect existing heads unless they volunteered to relinquish that responsibility. All professors, associate professors and senior lecturers became eligible for appointment to headships following a review and selection process and for varying lengths of time to an initial maximum of five to seven

years. It was proposed that, where justified, administrative officers should be appointed in some departments to provide ‘organisational or management services of a qualitatively higher level’ than was currently available to them.

It was also decided that Faculty officers and/or temporary junior lecturers should be appointed to ease the workloads of deans by providing administrative or academic assistance. While the deans had initially led the way in resisting some of the University’s planning recommendations, based in part on the aforementioned Jarratt Report, from the mid-1980s their role changed as it came under closer scrutiny. L. (Lance) Roberts, who had considerable experience as dean of the Faculty of Engineering (1978–1980, 1989–2001), contended that in the 1970s deans had to rely heavily on their powers of persuasion rather than on the authority vested in them and that although the Executive probably exerted more influence by the 1990s much still depended upon their personal qualities in promoting the interests of their faculties.

Chetty and Merrett have argued that their traditional function was imperceptibly changing. Influenced by what they have described as ‘a global trend towards greater corporatisation, managerialism and neo-conservatism in higher education’ deans ‘ceased to be the elected advocates of their disciplines and collegial concerns; and became instead appointed line managers answerable to the Executive or its immediate subordinates’. As elsewhere, ‘the era of the often charismatic academic character working for the benefit of colleagues rapidly disappeared’ and gradually gave way to ‘that of the ambitious academic bureaucrat whipping a cowed group of academics regarded as labour units into line’.

Many universities were losing ‘their essential character as self-regulating communities of independent intellectuals’ in which disputes were frequent and vigorous opinions could be freely expressed in the name of academic freedom. Traditional collegiality, in the form of shared, collective responsibility in decision making, was giving way to a faster but impersonal corporate-style managerial structure. This may not have been immediately perceptible to many staff members, but for some it gradually engendered a sense of alienation and was even perceived to be a new internal threat to academic freedom. Colin Gardner, who had been a staff member since 1959, also formed the impression that by the 1980s and 1990s, as the University became bigger, more complex and impersonal, it followed a worldwide trend in losing its sense of unity and collegiality. However, he was not aware of any major complaints about the general conditions of service.

Indeed, not all staff members were dissatisfied. John Benyon considered the University a 'very fair employer', its leave conditions more generous than many other institutions and its Administration 'helpful and efficient'. He recalled that, during his professorial tenure (1977–1998), deans and departmental heads made it very clear that non-teaching personnel were to be known as the 'Administration' and not 'University Management' and that even the 'Executive', comprising the Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principals who

combined academic and administrative leadership ... could not go beyond an initiating role in Senate and its committees and ... would remain accountable for the functioning of the University to the broadly recruited Council ... any hint that the 'Executive' and the 'Administration' together formed a monolithic 'Management Bureaucracy' with an overall directing function over academic departments – or university policy more widely – would encounter a brick wall! ... In sum, 'constitutional relationships' were agreeably consensual at the University of Natal during my time there, with no significant attempts being made to step beyond the understood limits of one's position and function.

Ron Nicolson (Religious Studies) was an alumnus (BA (Hons), 1956–1959, Hons Divinity, 1964–1965 and Ph.D., 1969) who, after serving for twenty years as an Anglican priest, returned to the campus as a lecturer in 1981 and subsequently rose to become dean of the Faculty of Humanities and of Humanities and Business Studies (1995–2002) as well as acting DVC (Academic). He agreed that conditions of service were 'fair', salaries 'reasonable and, towards the end, even generous' with 'very little staff dissatisfaction' as far as he was aware. Prior to the centralisation imposed from the mid-1990s each campus functioned 'almost as a separate university', although the 'strong staff cohesion and collegiality' that had previously characterised the Pietermaritzburg campus noticeably declined during the 1980s and 1990s. There was far less personal interaction between members of different faculties than had formally been the case.

On a more positive note, in 1981–1982 for the first time the University bestowed official recognition on all those staff members who had given 25 years or more continuous service, whether academic, administrative or technical, with a long service award in the form of a gold watch. Among the deserving cases so rewarded was Muhanand (Michael) Ram. He eventually left the University in 1986 after more than 32 years service as laboratory/senior laboratory/chief laboratory assistant in the Department of Botany and then as laboratory technician in the Department of Dietetics, prior to which whites had held all such posts. Others who Ram recalled serving in similar positions for varying lengths of time included R. (Rajah) Cokool and A. Saravan (Botany), Ramdeen Singh (Zoology) and Mr Beekrum (Chemistry).<sup>1</sup>

In 1982 the subsidy formula made it possible to fund established posts of associate professor that had previously only been occupied on the basis of personal promotion. It was also decided that *ad hominem* appointments could henceforth be made at the level of full professor by virtue of demonstrated ability to initiate and supervise research or undertake other types of creative work, the quality of publications, performances or exhibitions, and teaching capacity.

In 1987 Council resolved to follow the Wits and UCT example by introducing a post level 7 salary scale from 1989 that would extend the professorial scale to attract and/or retain ‘sufficiently valuable’ individuals who might otherwise be lost to other institutions. Deferred compensation was also introduced to provide tax relief for senior staff members. A few years previously it had been decided that, except in special circumstances, the title of emeritus professor would be reserved for full professors who on retirement had held that rank for at least ten years and for principals and vice-principals during their terms of office. An early recipient was Professor Isidor Gordon who had occupied a chair in the Faculty of Medicine between 1954 and 1978.

Meanwhile the University began to implement the aforementioned management policy that had been formulated in the early 1980s for the guidance of all departments and personnel. It sought, among other objectives, to ‘serve the community in teaching, learning, scholarship and research’ to the highest possible standards. It also tried to ensure the excellence of all qualifications conferred, maintain an environment conducive to the further development of students and staff, use available resources effectively, uphold a favourable image for the University, and promote the academic autonomy and administrative devolution of the two centres under the authority of Council and Senate.

In so doing it reiterated the principle that Senate had approved in 1975 that the University should gradually evolve into two separate colleges. The University’s Act and statutes were duly amended to allow for separate faculties, boards and departments in each centre as they became necessary and even for separate Senex committees. By the end of 1982, apart from those faculties that functioned in one centre, Education was the only one whose board had not yet split into separate executive committees. In Pietermaritzburg, Arts was already proposing to conflate its Faculty and Board meetings and entitle all full-time staff members to attend the latter. Other faculties soon followed suit. In May 1984 guidelines for conflation were formulated and it was resolved to allow

boards to open their membership to all permanent academic staff, initially on a two-year trial basis.

That year plans were formulated to streamline Senex procedures. The need for separate meetings in each centre was obviated by introducing a Principal's Circular so that members could decide in advance which items needed to be discussed and which not prior to approval. By 1989 further concern about the inordinate length of Senex meetings was expressed in a proposal that sub-committees of campus deans should deal with centre-specific matters leaving only those issues of wider relevance for Senex's consideration once every two months. This would also reduce the heavy load of meetings Executive members had to attend.

There was no talk of splitting Senate, which by the end of 1989 had approximately 170 members including observers but met less frequently. Apart from some contentious issues it found itself divided in at least one respect. When in 1982 it was decided to allocate separate areas at meetings for smokers and non-smokers three-quarters of the members fell into the latter category. Long gone were the early NUC days of smoke-filled Senate meetings in Professor Frank Warren's office at the then Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) Museum.

As early as 1981 there were complaints that the University's own official documents, including some issued by its Public Relations Office, gave the impression that the institution was based only in Durban. For some in that centre Pietermaritzburg was already becoming a forgotten outpost. The discreet development of separate campuses did also open the door to the possible duplication of courses and appointments the University could ill afford at a time of severe financial constraint.

Indeed, between 1981 and 1990 the academic staff establishment increased by 26% from 631 to 795 while all other posts increased by 9.8% from 1 753 to 1 925. However, the necessity of post freezing during that decade meant that in real terms the academic staff actually occupying positions only increased by 11.9% from 612 to 685 while the number of non-academic posts filled decreased from 1 700 to 1 679. The overall student:staff ratio widened during that period from 14.6:1 to 19.9:1. By 1990 this translated to the new FTE:SLE ratio, which by then was being used for inter-university comparisons, of 15.3:1. FTE represented full-time teaching equivalents (students) and SLE denoted senior lecturer equivalents (staff) to reflect all funds spent on the academic staff, including part-time and temporary appointments.<sup>2</sup>

### Staff associations and political dissent

Prominent campus political activist Colin Gardner recalled that, with some exceptions, social and political awareness seems to have been a much stronger characteristic of staff members in the Arts and Social Sciences than in Agriculture, Commerce and Science. He regarded his own academic career (1959–1997) as having been pursued during an ongoing ‘socio-economic and political ... national crisis’.

As political tensions increased in the post-Soweto era after 1976 several staff members became victims of the prevailing security legislation because of their written and/or spoken criticism of government’s ineffective efforts to make its segregationist philosophy more acceptable with cosmetic reforms. In some cases the University was successful in coming to their assistance. C.E.W. (Charles) Simkins was able to assume his research post in Economics (Pietermaritzburg) after successful application was made, with support from the Anglo American Corporation, for a relaxation of his restrictions.

Meanwhile Durban Politics lecturer Richard (Rick) Turner continued to be subjected to the severe restrictions of his house arrest, but reported progress with his research which he hoped soon to publish. On 8 January 1978 he was assassinated at his Durban home by (as was subsequently confirmed) an agent of the Bureau for State Security (BOSS). Turner’s best known publication *Eye of the Needle* (1972) expounded his utopian philosophy while his charismatic influence as a teacher found expression in the political and trade union activism of the 1970s and 1980s. The oppidani common room at Howard College was subsequently named after him, followed by the whole Students Union Building and, later still, Francois Road on the southern perimeter of the campus.

Other less celebrated staff members were also political and social activists at this time. For example, Marie Dyer (English, Pietermaritzburg) was a longstanding member of the Liberal Party and Black Sash, a founder member of the latter’s Natal Midlands branch and active in its local advice office. She also served on the Detainees Support Committee (DESCOM), held literacy classes for factory workers in Cato Ridge and assisted the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA). In 1994, shortly before her death, President Nelson Mandela invited her to a celebratory gathering for struggle veterans in Pretoria.

In the mid-1980s several staff members were involved in forming the Liberal Democratic Society of South Africa. It was dedicated to promoting the cause of an independent judiciary, open and accountable government, equal political rights for all, regular free elections, majority rule with ‘minority participation

in decision-making', inter-group co-operation, and a 'just economic system' involving 'a balance between public and private ownership'. The society also declared itself implacably opposed to all forms of discrimination, totalitarianism and 'cruel and inhuman measures' to effect political and social change. Some of its members remained subject to close surveillance by the security police.

Bill Freund formed the impression that at that time the University was 'dominated by English speaking whites who could be described as conservative, paternalistic liberals'. His own 'more modernist and more left-wing' sympathies lay with 'the network of young staff members who tended to support the ANC and, more specifically, the burgeoning independent trade union movement' with the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) being launched in 1985 in the Durban Students Union. Freund recalled that this network was trans-disciplinary and inter-faculty, extending also to radical lawyers, trade unionists and the community service units that were multiplying on campus. He initiated a seminar series focused on critical social research and helped to start the journal *Transformation*.

The University's staff associations, along with many of their members, were almost certainly under security police scrutiny at this time. Nevertheless, they continued to make their presence felt in the interests of their members with regard to such issues as salaries, conditions of service, medical aid, furlough, leave allowances and departmental representation in academic selection processes. In 1979, following considerable debate in both organisations, the Academic Staff Association and the Lecturers Association amalgamated to form the Joint Academic Staff Association (JASA). In September 1980 it gained representation on the Physical Planning Committee in both centres and eventually on several other bodies, including the University Staffing Committee.

Government's proposal in 1979 to register all natural scientists was greeted with deep suspicion as a potential threat to academic freedom and university autonomy even though other professional groups such as engineers had already been required to do so. The intention was to establish a national council for professional scientists but only UNISA and the University of Port Elizabeth supported the draft legislation and CUP rejected it in principle, insisting on certain modifications to entrench university interests. After legal opinion advised that this was provided in the proposed legislation no further objections were raised.



The University community was generally opposed to any participation in the 1981 twentieth anniversary Republic Festival. After an extended debate Senate voted to that effect, but resolved that individuals should be free to participate if they wished to do so. Council's response was more muted and after considerable debate resolved that the Principal should 'act administratively in respect of individual events'. The University's representative on the Natal Festival Committee was withdrawn and medical students boycotted lectures for a week in protest at the republican celebrations, leaving their Faculty with a dilemma as to how teaching time was to be recovered.

The Principal and chairman of Council, along with those of UCT and Wits, were summoned to Pretoria to incur the Cabinet's displeasure at the manner in which their institutions had responded to the celebrations. When the director-general of National Education asked whether the University's facilities would be available for future official national events Council responded guardedly that this would depend on whether 'Council determines that this would further the interests of the community at large and would not conflict with the interests and educational objectives of the University as defined by Council and Senate'.<sup>3</sup>

In 1981 JASA asserted, not for the first time, its wish to see the introduction of an open-ended salary scale as soon as possible, as well as augmented salaries to attract staff to those departments perceived to be 'at risk'. It suggested that the necessary funding should be obtained externally rather than from the University's own resources. It was pointed out in Senex that not all professions were able to assist, but that the broader issue of salary subventions was currently under discussion with the Department of National Education.

In 1983 JASA experienced a major crisis when its Executive resolved to affiliate to the newly formed and rapidly growing United Democratic Front (UDF). This included numerous civic, political, religious, student, women's and worker organisations opposed to government policies and its divisive constitutional reform proposals. Many staff members felt that the University should be part of this new wave of democratic enthusiasm and special general meetings of JASA members supported their executive with a combined 77 votes in favour and 27 against with three abstentions.

Others questioned the validity of this decision in terms of JASA's rules. They argued that it should avoid the risk of dividing its membership by remaining a strictly staff association not formally connected to any organisation that was or might be politically affiliated, such as the UDF which was suspected of being closely connected to the still-exiled and banned African National Congress

(ANC). At a further heated special general meeting, held in October 1983 at their request, the proposal to affiliate was again carried. Those in favour were decidedly more conscientious about attending and the suggestion of a postal vote for those who were absent, on the grounds that no meeting time suited all members, was rejected. An attempt was subsequently made to 'democratise' JASA, with P.S. (Paul) Thompson (Historical Studies) to the fore, partly by implementing a more federal structure and on the grounds that by late 1983 it represented only 62% of the academic staff. This proved unsuccessful.

Although it lost numerical support as a result of its UDF affiliation in the late 1980s JASA continued to advance the interests of all academic staff and to contribute to the formulation of University policies. It gave attention to the efficiency of the libraries and censorship restrictions, the conditions of service of part-time and temporary staff, medical aid, housing subsidies, sabbatical funding and policy revisions with regard to appointments, probation, redundancies, retirements and personnel transfers from one centre to the other. JASA was at least partly instrumental in ensuring that from the late 1980s teaching ability was no longer accepted as a given and increasingly came to be recognised in recommendations for promotion and merit awards. In 1988 it was also heavily involved in launching the new broadly based Union of Democratic University Staff Associations (UDUSA).<sup>4</sup>

As in previous decades all facilities experienced important staff and other changes.

### **Science**

In 1977 the Science Faculty Board initiated new rules that for the first time allowed students to write third-level examinations in different academic years provided at least sixteen credits were achieved at that level in one subject in the same year. Henceforth, students were also permitted to write supplementary examinations in previously failed courses that were required to complete a degree. As a result, whereas in 1977 only 35% of students completed their degrees in three years the following year this rose to 55%, of whom 35% had written supplementary examinations in their first or second year.

In July 1977 the Faculty celebrated the opening of Durban's New Science Theatre Complex and George Campbell Building for the Biological Sciences, followed in September by the inauguration of the Foucault Pendulum. In 1978 the Psychology Department in Durban left the Faculty to join Social Science, although the discipline remained available as a possible major in the Science degree. Geography followed suit the following year to reflect changes

in departmental interest and the Faculty there decided to follow the example of Agriculture in implementing full semesterisation. Thereafter, students gradually began to take advantage, as intended, of the greater flexibility available to them in their choice of courses. Other innovations included the careers booklet Chemistry produced with the assistance of local industry and the course it organised with Physics and Mathematics to improve the effectiveness of African school teachers.

John Hanks was appointed professor and head of Biological Sciences in Durban in 1978 and two years later J.A.J. (Waldo) Meester transferred from Pietermaritzburg to succeed him. Chemists R.J. (Ray) Haines and S.E. (Siegfried) Drewes in the latter centre were also appointed to chairs in 1978 with the former assuming the headship of Chemistry and Chemical Technology. In March the following year the department launched its Grignard Society, named after the renowned French organic chemist Victor Grignard, to improve staff/student relations by conferring membership on all staff members, postgraduates and third-year students. Based on the green lawn east of the Denison Laboratory, glassblower Paul Forder, Les Mayne and others greatly improved its facilities, complete with pub and pizza oven, culminating in a formal opening in November 1994. The society soon had its own letterhead and tie, promoted the Prestige Lecture Series given by a succession of prominent chemists and became the social heart of the department by organising gatherings, excursions and an annual Chemistry quiz.

B.Mc. (Brian) Nevin became professor and head of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics in Pietermaritzburg while A. Meijer was appointed to a chair in that discipline in Durban. This followed the retirement of F.J. Schuddeboom in 1979 after decades of service to the University, sixteen of them as departmental head, for which he earned the Vice-Chancellor's award for distinguished service. J.H. (John) Swart followed Meijer in 1980, in which year J.F. McKenzie from the Danish Space Research Institute also joined the department giving it three full professors. In 1989 it also gained the services of Professor J.R. Mika.

In 1980 Professor R.M. Robins-Brown was appointed head of Durban's Department of Microbiology. The following year the Faculty agreed to a new streaming system that demanded a higher standard of school Mathematics in the case of those students taking courses in Mathematics and the Physical Sciences. It remained to be seen if this would affect its 35% increase in student numbers over the previous five years.

C.A. Jermy was appointed to the new lectureship in Engineering Geology in

1980, which made Natal (Durban) the only English-medium university in the country to offer a course in this field. An honours option was also subsequently introduced. Durban's Professor P.E. (Peter) Matthews received an honour award from the Geological Society of South Africa for his 'outstanding research' on the upper Thukela catchment area that contributed significantly to the Thukela-Vaal water diversion scheme. In 1989 F.G. Bell was appointed professor of Engineering Geology and succeeded R. Taverner-Smith as departmental head of what in 1984 had become Geology and Applied Geology. Professor D.H. Cornell, who specialised in Geochemistry, Petrology and Economic Geology, also joined the department.<sup>5</sup>

In 1982 the University's close ties with the Technikon Natal, mainly through teacher training, were further strengthened when it was decided to collaborate in training pharmacists by offering a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree in Durban. A standing advisory committee representing both institutions was established under the chairmanship of Professor D.E.A. (David) Williams-Wynn to report to the Science Faculty Board on academic criteria for admission and the proposed syllabus. Basic scientific subjects were to be taught on the Howard College campus and more specialised courses at the Faculty of Medicine, but with the degree attached to the Faculty of Science in view of the 'blacks only' restrictions on the former.

Training started in 1983 with an initial quota of 30, subsequently increased to 53 students a year and with additional posts created in Biochemistry and Physiology. In 1987 the first B.Sc. degrees in Pharmacy were awarded to those who had completed the whole course at the University. Two years later this collaboration between the University and Technikon was successfully approved by the South African Pharmacy Council.



**P.E. (Peter) Matthews** was an alumnus of the University (B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc. with distinction, 1947–1950). Appointed lecturer in Geology (1954), he subsequently completed a Ph.D. in 1957 and was promoted to senior lecturer and associate professor before becoming a full professor in 1983. He was highly regarded as an expert on the structural geology of northern Zululand and among many other publications his seminal 1972 article in *Nature* was the first to explain the geology of the rocks found in the Thukela valley using the principle of plate tectonics. An admired lecturer and postgraduate supervisor, after retirement he served as an honorary research associate and died in 2016 at the age of 92.

In 1981 N.C.K. (Nic) Phillips became professor in Pietermaritzburg's newly independent Department of Computer Science with an HP 3000 computer at his disposal for teaching purposes. The following year Barclays Bank endowed his chair with funds that were used to improve working conditions for departmental staff. In Durban Computer Science was adversely affected by the resignation of Professor G. Joubert and some of its business data processing commitments were transferred to the Faculty of Commerce. In 1982 A.G. Sartori-Angus was appointed professor and head of that department.

M.R. (Michael) Perrin was appointed professor and head of Zoology (Pietermaritzburg) in 1981 and A. (Tony) Bruton assumed control of the Electron Microscope Unit. By the late 1980s it housed R1.5 million worth of equipment, was serving thirteen departments and had as many as 80 regular academic users. In 1984 J. van den Ende was appointed professor and head of Microbiology in Pietermaritzburg. Two years later there were important staff changes in the Department of Botany with Professor C.M. (Charles) Breen moving to the directorship of the INR, Professor R.N. (Richard, Dick) Pienaar transferring to the headship of Botany at Wits and herbarium curator Professor O.M. (Olive) Hilliard retiring.

In 1986 Ted Bosman retired as professor of Entomology and M. (Michael) Samways was appointed professor of Entomology in the new Department of Zoology and Entomology. The following year Professor D.J. (Denis) Brothers



**M.R. (Michael) Perrin** acquired a B.Sc. degree at Royal Holloway College, University of London specialising in mammalogy, an honours degree there and a Ph.D. at Exeter University. He lectured in Zoology at Makerere University in Uganda (1971–1973), worked as research fellow for the National Research Council of Canada (1973–1975) and as senior lecturer in Zoology at Rhodes University (1976–1981) before becoming professor of Zoology in Pietermaritzburg (1981–1986). He assumed the headship of the merged Department of Zoology and

Entomology (1987–1995) and in 1996 became director of the Research Centre for African Parrot Conservation. Perrin established an international reputation delivering many conference papers, supervising numerous postgraduate theses, editing more than twenty academic journals, authoring in excess of 150 articles, contributing to several books and writing a definitive work on African parrots. He was a member of several professional bodies and served on a variety of committees within the University.

launched a new interdisciplinary M.Sc. degree in Biological Systematics in that department and Professor J. (Hannes) van Staden became head of the Department of Botany. In 1988 his department restructured all its courses from first year to honours and introduced a course in Plant Bio- and Molecular Technology.

That year the Department of Physics (Pietermaritzburg) named its first-year laboratory the John Fairbrother Laboratory in honour of its former head and the Department of Computer Science completed its definition of the new computer programming language Octolisp. It was described as 'the final version of the family of languages that started in 1978' and met the requirements of being 'functional-applicative-relational' to achieve a particularly high level of 'programme productivity'.

Meanwhile the Department of Geology there had moved into its new quarters on the ground floor of the Science Building but by then, in common with other faculties, the scientists were becoming frustrated by the freezing of posts, inability to replace obsolete equipment and lack of space for further growth despite increasing admission applications. Even so, in 1989 Pietermaritzburg's Faculty of Science produced a record 125 graduates, of whom 16% were black, compared with 96 graduates five years previously of whom only 9% were black.<sup>6</sup>

### **Agriculture**

After several years of uncertainty concerning its future, in 1977 the Faculty embarked upon a phase of welcome stability, consolidation and growth. Although still quite distinct on its own campus, it was now fully integrated administratively and academically into the University. Since 1975 its first-year intake had almost doubled from 99 to 189 while its overall undergraduate numbers had increased from 237 to 376.

By 1980 there were 253 first-year students (103 from Zimbabwe and 73 from Natal) with its undergraduates numbering 587 altogether and postgraduates 93, making it the second largest Faculty in Pietermaritzburg in terms of students. Enrolments for both the B.Sc. (Agric.) and B. Agric. Management degrees increased, with the former primarily attracting students from urban areas and the latter (90 in 1978) largely from the rural districts. In 1979 the first four honours degrees were awarded in that field and at undergraduate level a new course, Agricultural Production in Underdeveloped Areas, was added.

Student numbers had risen to approximately 600 by 1981 but while B.Sc. (Agric.) registrations rose those for B. Agric. Management were declining by

the mid-1980s. The overall increase nevertheless stretched the existing lecture and laboratory facilities, which had been intended for much smaller numbers. This necessitated the transfer of some lectures to venues elsewhere on campus as well as the duplication of practical classes. The opening in October 1983 of the new John Bews Building eased the shortage of lecture rooms, but the mounting demand for laboratory space raised the prospect of limiting student intake and the availability of courses for those registered in other faculties. The introduction of what were regarded as essential courses in Agricultural Extension and the re-introduction of Forestry had to be delayed due to insufficient staff and facilities.

In keeping with the Faculty at large student numbers in Dietetics and Home Economics continued to increase. The new postgraduate diploma course in Hospital Dietetics was expected to attract even more students, although initially there were no hospitals in the province suitable for practical training, which had to be undertaken elsewhere. In 1978 the first three black students qualified for the diploma, a year after Professor E. (Eva) Ricketts retired as professor and head. In 1980 the department awarded its first M.Sc. to J.M. (Maryann) Green and two years later E. (Elma) Nel succeeded to the chair and headship. Following negotiations with the NPA in 1986 the postgraduate Diploma in Hospital Dietetics that had previously been administered with the assistance of the University of Pretoria and Transvaal Hospital Services was now run by the department itself with adequate staff and hospital training becoming available in the Durban/Pietermaritzburg metropolitan region.<sup>7</sup>

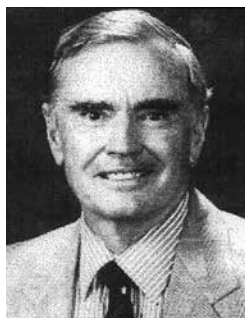
In 1977 M.M. (Mike) Martin became head of the newly renamed Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology and the following year H.N. (Neil) Tainton assumed the chair in the Department of Pasture Science, which in 1982 changed its name to Grassland Science, while J.M. (John) de Villiers assumed that of Soil Science and Agrometeorology. In 1984 alumnus P.J.K. (Pete) Zacharias (B.Sc. Agric. Production, M.Sc. Natal, D.Sc. Fort Hare) was appointed lecturer in Grassland Science. As a student he had been instrumental in persuading the Faculty Board to introduce student course evaluations with his 'best lecturer' Dieter Reusch (Genetics) serving as a guinea pig. It was soon to become the norm in all faculties while Zacharias subsequently worked his way through the staff ranks to become dean of Science and Agriculture in 2002.

By 1979 it was reported that the establishment of a second Faculty of Veterinary Science in South Africa was under consideration, but strong representations for it to be sited in Pietermaritzburg were unsuccessful. That year the School of Plant Production Science, incorporating Crop, Horticultural

and Pasture Science, was formed. Agriculture suffered a major loss with the death of long-serving K. (Karl) Nathanson, whom J.D. (John) Lea succeeded as professor and head of the Department of Crop Science. In 1988, following Lea's retirement, it amalgamated with Soil Science and Agrometeorology to form the new Department of Agronomic and Environmental Sciences under De Villiers' headship.

Another significant loss was that of A.A. (Arthur) Rayner, the first professor of Biometry (Statistics and Biometry from 1976) who retired in 1982 after making a huge impact on agricultural research in the country during the course of 33 years devoted to training students in biometrical methods. G.P.Y. (Peter) Clarke succeeded him the following year and long-serving H.I. (Ian) Behrmann retired from the chair of Agricultural Economics. In 1984 W.L. (Lieb) Nieuwoudt succeeded him and G.V. (George) Quicke, professor of Biochemistry retired after 35 years of service with M.F. (Mike) Dutton replacing him as substantive departmental head in 1985.

That year Neil Tainton received the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society's leadership award, F. (Frits) Rijkenberg an Ernest Oppenheimer memorial travelling scholarship and M.V. (Martin) Fey (Soil Science) a BP scholarship. Four years later Tainton became a Fellow of the University. In 1987 R.E. (Roland) Schulze was appointed professor in Agricultural Engineering after a brilliant student career and launching a Hydrology degree programme in 1981. B.N. (Nigel) Wolstenholme succeeded to the chair of Horticultural Science after Peter Allan stood down in 1988. That year Rijkenberg became professor



**B.N. (Nigel) Wolstenholme** was a graduate and post-graduate of the Faculty of Agriculture who joined the staff as a lecturer in 1960. He was promoted to senior lecturer in 1969 and subsequently to associate professor before being promoted to ad hominem professor and assuming the headship of Horticultural Science in 1988. In 1997 he was promoted to senior professor and was awarded a University fellowship prior to his retirement the following year, after which he became professor emeritus and senior research associate. By then he had

authored and co-authored more than 150 papers, many on growing subtropical nuts and fruits, especially pecans and avocado, for which he gained international recognition. In addition to his service in various administrative capacities, including two terms as assistant dean, he was regarded as one of the most effective and enthusiastic lecturers in the Faculty.



and head of Plant Pathology and yet another of the Faculty's exceptional students, R.M. (Rob) Gous, succeeded W.J. (Werner) Stielau as head of Animal and Poultry Science in 1989.

There were also important developments with regard to the courses that the Faculty offered. A B.Sc. Agriculture honours degree was approved, involving a fifth year of study for B.Sc. Agric. graduates without precluding direct admission into a masters degree. In addition a new major in Plant Breeding was introduced as well as a course component in Recombinant DNA Technology to meet the developing interest in Molecular Biology and its agricultural applications. By 1987 the Faculty's student numbers seemed to be in decline but while the refurbishment of its building was underway it was recognised that the prevailing financial constraints necessitated conservative planning for the future. Cost cutting affected both teaching and research as it did in all other faculties.

In 1988 M.A.G. (Mark) Darroch (Agricultural Economics) was awarded the medal of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science for the best M.Sc. thesis of the year. N.S. (Neil) Ferguson won it the next year and staff member Professor M.J. (Michael) Savage won a Jaycee award as one of four outstanding young South Africans. In 1989 it was also announced that over the next three years Kellogg would donate \$900 000 for the establishment of a School of Rural Community Development.<sup>8</sup>

### **Engineering and Architecture and allied disciplines**

Following the complete integration of the Faculty of Agriculture into the University it was decided in 1977 to transfer the administration of the Department of Agricultural Engineering from the joint control of the two faculties to that of Engineering. There were ongoing discussions with the Natal College for Advanced Technical Education to ensure that students who left the University before completing the first year of study were not lost to engineering by encouraging them to qualify as technicians.

The high first-year failure rate continued to cause concern with consideration being given to assisting students adapt from the rigid controls of high school to greater reliance on self-discipline in the less-regimented university environment. The possibility of limiting the Faculty's intake by raising its entrance requirements was hampered by the fact that University funding was so closely linked to student numbers. Such a measure also promised to ease the pressure that increasing first-year numbers placed on overstretched laboratory facilities. Prevailing financial constraints restricted the acquisition of new

capital equipment even though laboratory technology in several fields was advancing rapidly. Lack of funds also delayed the introduction of a planned Communications course, which the Faculty recognised its students urgently needed to improve their verbal and written skills. A limitation of approximately 300 on the annual first-year intake did eventually help to raise standards and reduce failure rates.

The Faculty also experienced difficulty in filling some staff vacancies. The Department of Land Surveying lost Professor B. Jones in 1977 but attracted D.P. (Dennis) Jenkins the following year as head. In 1979 Chemical Engineering lost professors Woodburn (to Manchester) and Everson (to Potchefstroom) while Civil Engineering lost Professor Hiemstra (to Stellenbosch) and Dr Bennett (to UDW), followed by professor and head of department K. (Ken) Knight in 1982 to retirement. In 1980 Professor M.R. Judd was appointed head of Chemical Engineering, J.D. Raal as second professor, G.R. Groves as research professor in that discipline and G.G.S. (Geoffrey) Pegram as professor of Hydraulic Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering.

In 1979 the Department of Electrical Engineering became a School, with Professor R.A. (Ronald) Hellawell as its chairman and still at its head. L. (Lee) Natrass remained as professor and head of Electronic Engineering which in 1981 became a separate department still accommodated in the same building with shared facilities. The former initiated a new course in Power Electronics as well as a popular extramural course in Variable Speed Drives. The latter continued to develop its Digital Processes Laboratory and provide computational assistance to other departments. In 1980 K.F. Poole was appointed to



**G.G.S. (Geoffrey) Pegram** graduated with a B.Sc. (Civil Engineering, 1962) and masters degree (1970) from the University of Natal, followed by a Ph.D. (1972) from the University of Lancaster. He was employed as assistant engineer for Rhodesian Railways (1962–1966) and briefly by Cementation (Africa) Ltd before working at the University as lecturer, senior lecturer and associate professor in Civil Engineering (1968–1979). He became professor of Hydraulic Engineering in 1980, professor and head of Civil Engineering (1988–1994) and acting

dean of the Faculty (1994). Pegram was a member of several professional bodies and established himself as an expert in water resources simulation and optimisation, gaining extensive experience in systems development and applications in various parts of southern Africa.

the subvented position of Post Office Professor of Micro-Electronics and, as student numbers continued to increase, Electrical Engineering was awarded the new AECI chair of Control. E. Eitelberg was appointed professor in Electrical Engineering in 1983 but three years later the department lost B. (Bruno) Letsekha after 37 years of unbroken service as laboratory assistant.

In 1979 Mechanical Engineering took delivery of a new computing/data collection and processing system in anticipation of moving into new quarters. Two years later Professor Maitland Reed retired and the department at last moved from Howard College into its own building behind the reservoir towards the south-western end of Stella Ridge. It included spacious lecture theatres, laboratories and testing facilities that were immediately made available to local industries. This move also gave Electrical and Electronic Engineering more space in the old Howard College Building for the equipment donated by the local electronics industry.

Most departments continued to make use of part-time and honorary lecturers drawn from industry who also served to maintain essential links with that sector. In 1984 S. Adali was appointed professor in Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty as a whole received a recognition visit by teams from the South African Council for Professional Engineers. This resulted in formal recognition of all its courses and activities for the next five years. As student registrations steadily increased they still had to be limited by careful selection. By the end of 1986 there was growing concern that the Faculty had only produced 162 of the country's 1 000 engineering graduates that year while demand for them was exceeding supply by 2:1. By then the government's austere subsidy policy was limiting annual intake to about 280 first-year students resulting in the selection of better-qualified white matriculants in preference to black applicants from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.

Nevertheless by the late 1980s the demographic composition of the Faculty's student intake was gradually changing with blacks constituting half the total in some departments. More staff and bigger facilities were needed as well as a bridging year to ease the transition from high school to University so that the Faculty could continue to grow and meet the need for qualified engineers as well as maintaining its new non-racial character. In 1988, not for the first time, there were far more applicants than could possibly be accepted and the HSRC subsequently conducted a three-year study of aptitude testing and follow-ups to establish appropriate selection criteria for first-year admissions. That year the Anglo American-sponsored Engineering Bridging Unit became fully operational and in 1989 produced its first intake of sixteen, primarily

African, candidates. Their results at year's end were better than the average achieved by students who registered without a bridging year. By then there was an increasing number of well-qualified Indian applicants arriving direct from high school.

All six departments in the Faculty again passed muster in 1989 after delegations representing the South African Council for Professional Engineers had evaluated their courses and degree structures. Chemical Engineering was also accredited by the Institution of Chemical Engineers (London) and Civil Engineering by the Institutions of Civil Engineers (London) and Structural Engineers (London).

Another source of concern was the prevailing shift in student registrations away from Civil and Electrical Engineering, two of the basic requirements of a developing economy, towards Mechanical and Electronic Engineering, with the former introducing two interesting new courses in Robotics. Even so, in 1989 Electrical Engineering numbers rose from 141 to 160, representing a 173% increase since 1985, with a first-year intake of 46 that was roughly half black. That year Mechanical Engineering produced 41 graduates, the largest in the Faculty, but financial cuts were particularly serious in all branches of Engineering due to the high cost of essential equipment for teaching and research.

Staff shortages remained an ongoing problem, particularly with posts being frozen and the gap between professional and academic salaries ever widening. In 1987 the only senior appointee was Professor M. (Matt) Mohtadi as head of Chemical Engineering. In 1989 Professor C.J. Fleming retired after more than 30 years in harness and P.L. Utting succeeded him as professor of Structural Engineering. Dr C.S. Roebuck was promoted to professor of Transportation Engineering, also in the Department of Civil Engineering. There were 26 students registered for the postgraduate diploma courses in Transportation Development and Flood Hydrology while a Transportation course with particular relevance to township development was also offered as well as two one-day courses on Road Safety and Traffic Engineering that were oversubscribed.<sup>9</sup>

During 1977 the four departments that comprised the School of Architecture and Allied Disciplines collaborated in rationalising and improving their various courses by establishing inter-disciplinary subject committees while Quantity Surveying began to revise its degree course. The Department of Building gained new staff members in P. Dobson and J. Hull, Town and Regional

Planning was strengthened by the acquisition of P.S. (Peter) Robinson and Architecture by the addition of D. (Derek) Wang.

Professor L.T. (Leslie) Croft, who had been associated with the University since 1950 and had headed Architecture since 1965, retired at the end of 1978. Professor E. (Edward) O'Brien eventually succeeded him and in 1980 Professor D.N. (Donald) Dyke-Wells, who had been a lecturer from 1953 to 1963 before going into private practice, assumed the headship. In 1979 D.L. Robins vacated the chair of Town and Regional Planning to which M. (Michael) Kahn, senior lecturer since 1976, was appointed in 1980. B.C. (Bruce) Boaden took the chair of Quantity Surveying, which he held until 1986.

The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Training and Education of Architects was eagerly awaited. The Minister of National Education had previously ignored repeated requests to grant the School recognition as a Faculty since it split from Engineering in 1972 and had thus far approved only two of its departments; namely, Architecture and Quantity Surveying and Town and Regional Planning. The School had also to contend with a decline in student registration, as much as 25% in 1979, as a consequence of the current lull in construction projects. This seemed likely to continue until there was an upswing in the national economy. Even so, by 1980 the Department of Land Surveying had established a thriving postgraduate programme with projects on computer-aided mapping from single photographs and the use of remote sensing methods and satellite imagery for land use mapping. Appropriately, in 1981 its name was changed to Surveying and Mapping.

Late that year the School of Architecture and Allied Disciplines was at last recognised as a separate Faculty. The Department of Architecture and Quantity Surveying was replaced by separate departments of Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Building Management that, with Town and Regional Planning, constituted the new Faculty. Architecture attracted 82 applicants for its first year course, more than double the previous year, but had the resources to accept only 40 of whom 40% were women. In 1985 the department launched a project, in association with the National Institute of Personnel Research, to reassess selection criteria by comparing the school and university performance of 900 students registered since 1959. First-year applications continued to increase despite the prevailing recession while a staff exchange scheme introduced in 1987 among South Africa's schools of architecture proved to be popular among both staff and students. In 1989 a new B.Arch. degree, shortened from six to four years, was devised and introduced the following year along with a new postgraduate diploma.

Third-year student Craig Hamilton won the new R4 400 Geoffrey le Sueur Prize for architectural study overseas and in 1986 students of the department won first prize in the national M & R Des Baker Design Award competition, with a project focused on the urban redevelopment of the St Wendolins area, as well as the first three prizes in the South African Permanent Building Society's national housing competition. Laura Hunt and Kenny Webster also won the former award three years later.

First-year Georgia Sarkin won several accolades, including the Natal Mercury/Corobrik Student Architect's competition for her design of a synagogue and mikveh. In 1988 fourth-year student Chandra Lee won the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) international student competition and two other departmental entries gained special mention. This was despite the RIBA's 1986 decision to withdraw its recognition of South African architectural degrees due to the insufficient admission of black students. Recognition was not reinstated until well after the 1994 democratic elections.

Quantity Surveying and Town and Regional Planning also experienced an increase in first-year intakes, the latter enjoying the largest of its kind in the country with 30 postgraduates – as many as it could adequately handle. In 1982 Quantity Surveying introduced a two-year M.Sc. degree as well as a course in Micro-Computers that was well received by the profession. It also changed its name to Quantity Surveying and Building Economics to reflect more accurately the courses it now offered. In 1988 representatives of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and of the South African Council of Quantity Surveyors visited the department and approved its B.Sc. programme for another five years.

By 1987 Town and Regional Planning's student numbers had doubled within four years. This included a significantly increased black intake but with attendant financial difficulties as they sought to untangle themselves from homeland government funding. The department's coursework masters programme continued to attract increasing numbers and in 1987 was formally recognised by the South African Council for Town and Regional Planners. By 1989 half of the department's student intake was black and foreign funding was being found for needy cases. In view of the changing applicant profile and rise in postgraduate fees some were permitted to meet the requirements for the two-year degree more gradually over a four-year period on a day release part-time basis.

Building Management gradually increased its numbers by making its existence more widely known to school leavers and their parents. It was

adversely impacted by the 1986 recession in the industry that resulted in 100 000 job losses and left the National Development Fund unable to supply it with a promised computer. Consequently, the department had to continue a while longer using manual and graphic analytical techniques in its courses on Design, Construction and Practice. This did not prevent it from being favourably reviewed in 1987 and granted further accreditation by the South African Institute of Building. By 1988 all four departments in the Faculty were at or near their student intake limit in relation to their staff establishments and available accommodation. Nearly half of the students in Town and Regional Planning were black.<sup>10</sup>

### **Medicine**

In 1977 the Faculty, whose students were all still black, experienced a boycott of classes sparked by its obligatory revision of the curriculum in terms of changes in the regulations of the South African Medical and Dental Council pertaining to the training of undergraduates. All formal teaching was now to be completed by the end of the fifth year with the sixth devoted entirely to clinical work and patient care.

The focus of the boycott changed when Minister of National Education Piet Koornhof deferred a final decision about the future of the Faculty itself, eventually indicating that henceforth all prospective African doctors would have to register at the newly established Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA). Medical students suspected that government (and the University) intended to replace black students with whites and when those currently enrolled reacted by boycotting lectures the Department of Bantu Education announced its intention to withdraw their bursaries.

Fortunately, further negotiations, coupled with the support of the Medical Association, the College of Physicians and other bodies, resolved the crisis and the boycott ended although year-end examinations were delayed. In January 1978 the Secretary for National Education gave the assurance that ‘a Medical School will remain with the University’ but that it would have to recognise the need for MEDUNSA, assist in getting it started and accept that its annual student intake would have to be ‘in accordance with the established needs of the various population groups’. The first two conditions, if not the third, were readily accepted but government would not entertain the possibility of admitting white undergraduates. The country’s huge demand for black doctors ensured that the University’s retention of its African trainees did not pose any threat to MEDUNSA and the future of the Faculty now seemed assured.

Yet, after facing the prospect of losing all its African students, the Faculty then seemed likely to be deprived of its Indian trainees. This followed government's decision to establish a separate medical school for them at UDW. The proposal was, however, delayed and eventually failed to materialise. Instead, an institute to train Indians in paramedical disciplines like Radiology, Optometry and Pharmacy was envisaged with the Faculty of Medicine acting in a consultative capacity. The University authorities continued to express the hope that the Faculty would eventually become completely multiracial and refuted the Medical SRC's allegations that it had dragged its heels in pursuing that objective. Council affirmed that the University was 'fully and completely committed to an open universities policy', but that in the event of being allowed to admit white medical trainees it would not do so 'at the expense of black students'.

When, later in 1979, a senior official in the Department of National Education surprisingly enquired of the Principal whether the Faculty would admit three white undergraduates the following year he reiterated this condition. He also pointed out that the University had requested a multiracial medical school since 1966, that it could not accept students at short notice or at the expense of prospective black candidates in view of the desperate shortage of black doctors and that the government had earlier declined permission for it to increase its first-year intake so that it would have places for some whites. In what was nevertheless seen as a step in the right direction, permission was granted for the registration of white candidates at the postgraduate levels of Master and Doctor of Medicine. The first two duly registered, in Gynaecology and Obstetrics and in Otorhinolaryngology.

In 1978 a delegation from the General Medical Council of Great Britain visited the Faculty and reported favourably on its 'overall operation', but while recognising the achievements of the Department of Psychiatry, expressed concern at its 'grossly inadequate' staffing and facilities. Yet another challenge arose when the NPA indicated its intention to terminate prematurely its existing joint medical scheme agreement with the University and negotiate a new one. A sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Durban's Vice-Principal, was appointed to seek an improved arrangement with regard to staffing and financing. Students were also increasingly feeling the pinch with a rising cost of living and bursaries that were no longer sufficient to meet all their expenses. Final-year examination results in 1978 were nevertheless among the highest ever achieved in terms of the number and level of passes recorded.



Negotiations were initiated in 1979 to revise the Faculty's system of funding, 40% of which was currently met by the Department of National Education and 60% by the NPA. Alarmingly, the former advised the University that by 1985 its annual grant would be calculated on the basis of the Van Wyk de Vries formula. The effect would be a 45% reduction, equivalent to R1 million, in the department's annual subsidisation of the Faculty. The University proposed that Treasury meet the deficit through the NPA's subsidy. The province would thereby take greater financial responsibility for the Faculty in exchange for its significant contribution to regional public health and its ongoing efforts to co-ordinate the NPA's services with those provided by the KwaZulu Health Department.

In 1979 the Faculty introduced an eight-week elective period into its fifth year of study, which was well received by students and by the health institutions that benefited from it. Some opted to visit hospitals abroad, others to work in remote rural mission hospitals, or to participate in research programmes and epidemiological surveys. In 1980 the Faculty welcomed the news that, after prolonged negotiations, plans were at last in hand to upgrade the neighbouring King Edward VIII Hospital, to complete the new Mlazi Hospital as another associated teaching institution, and to develop a new teaching hospital complex and medical school on an entirely new site. More immediately beneficial was the introduction of videotape and television facilities as well as equipment to produce tape and slide programmes for teaching purposes.

In 1980 medical students boycotted classes yet again, this time in protest against what they regarded as intrusions into academic freedom at the University of Fort Hare. They called it off after the director of Hospital Services warned that sixth-year students would be suspended and would not be paid for their hospital service while those who held provincial bursaries would lose them. Later that year the Faculty experienced yet another crisis when its undergraduate students participated in an extended countrywide boycott of academic activities in protest against the unsatisfactory secondary and tertiary education provided for blacks. This ended just in time to complete all courses, but only by cancelling vacations and postponing examinations until the end of the year. Although it produced lower than average results and caused considerable inconvenience to staff, the Faculty was able to maintain its academic standards without any unpleasant confrontation with its students. Yet another week-long lecture boycott followed in 1982 in sympathy with administrative action taken against Fort Hare students, again threatening bursaries and intern salaries.

In 1981 the Faculty fully met the new requirements of the South African Medical and Dental Council by introducing the student intern year for the first time. This sixth year devoted entirely to clinical work subjected the whole curriculum to a long overdue pruning to fit it into the first five years of training. The change greatly improved students' clinical skills and self-confidence while the payment of honoraria to interns made bursaries more widely available in the junior years. Another important teaching development was the establishment in 1982 of a Primary Care Centre and Residence to provide students with practical experience in that field. The Mahatma Gandhi Trust's provision of a site and basic facilities coincided with a generous R100 000 donation for five years to make this initiative possible. That year the Faculty also appointed its own academic support officer to assume responsibility for the administrative assistance and linguistic and study skills previously provided to its students by the University Academic Support and Linguistics and Communication departments.

A significant administrative change that year was the establishment of the full-time post of assistant dean/director of Continuing Medical Education with 50% of the appointee's time to be spent in each component and supported by a new secretarial post. The intention was to ease the heavy load of the currently still part-time post of dean, enabling that office bearer to spend more time in his/her own department and extending the Faculty's influence by more effectively co-ordinating the development of continuing medical education in the province. The six-monthly meetings of the new Committee of Medical Deans also soon proved beneficial to all the faculties involved.

Meanwhile the shortage of staff accommodation had become chronic, to the extent that the construction of a prefabricated wing was contemplated to ease the situation. In March 1983 Professor Hugh Philpott, then dean of the Faculty, outlined to Council the 'untenable conditions' in King Edward VIII Hospital and the 'unhappy situation' at ATR. These had reached a crisis point with the staff now 'questioning whether morally, medically and legally' they could continue with their teaching.

Since 1970 conditions at the hospital, which had not been built as a teaching facility, had become increasingly overcrowded and students were embittered not only by the shabby treatment meted out to them, but also to their black patients. Staff found less and less time for the research essential for personal advancement. While nothing had been put in writing, government's verbal promises of improved or even new facilities had proved empty. Yet major

hospitals had been constructed in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Tygerberg with R120 million now due to be spent on enlarging Groote Schuur in Cape Town.

Soon afterwards in 1983 government made the welcome and long-awaited announcement that a new medical school and academic hospital as well as a medical students' residence for African, coloured and Indian students would indeed be constructed. It was to be situated at Cato Manor on the western campus, behind and to the south of the Stella Ridge along which the original Howard College campus was situated. Provision was also made to upgrade the now desperately inadequate existing facilities at King Edward VIII Hospital, which was to remain part of the academic training complex. The University and NPA now established an Academic Hospital Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Durban's Vice-Principal to determine the future allocation of space to the various medical disciplines and to ensure that the design of the new medical school and adjacent hospital were appropriately integrated.

The Medical Graduates Association organised a symposium for staff, students and alumni to discuss the plans for the new complex with the basic design of the new Grey's Hospital in Pietermaritzburg being suggested as a model. There it was stressed that essential primary health care facilities should be provided in parallel with those of a sophisticated modern hospital to ensure a careful balance in future medical education. Meanwhile, further negotiations with the NPA were initiated towards effecting a new joint agreement to replace the existing undertaking that was due to expire in December 1985.

In 1984 there was yet another lecture boycott, on this occasion triggered by the exclusion of some third-year students who had failed their end-of-year examinations, resulting in the Faculty's closure for two weeks before the matter was resolved. The crisis had particularly serious implications for KwaZulu government bursary recipients who were now required to sign what amounted to a loyalty pledge. Those who refused to comply were threatened with the withdrawal of their monthly R200 subsistence allowance and exclusion from all KwaZulu hospitals as they would no longer be regarded as employees there. It had implications for the University as well because these students were likely to turn to it for financial assistance.

There was another stayaway later in the year coinciding with the national elections, but the Faculty Board had long since decided that it would no longer reschedule examinations to accommodate such boycotts, focusing instead on protecting those who did attend classes from intimidation. Sixth-year students who did not fulfill their service duties as a result of the stayaway risked losing their honoraria and being reported to the Medical and Dental Council until the

dean intervened with the NPA on their behalf. Henceforth, the Faculty was required to submit monthly statements to the provincial authority concerning student intern attendance.

By 1984 the Faculty had produced 510 African, 849 Indian and 85 coloured graduates since its establishment in 1951 and had emerged as the country's leading contributor of qualified doctors for these population groups as well as more than holding its own as a centre for specialist postgraduate training. One of its 1984 graduates was Dr Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman who was soon to gain international recognition as founder and leader of the renowned humanitarian Gift of the Givers Foundation. By 1985 there were 30 departments and sub-departments in the Faculty catering for 651 undergraduates and 257 postgraduate students while producing 102 qualified doctors that year and another 99 in 1986.

Despite prevailing countrywide unrest and uncertainty about the future administration of medical services, the same high standards were maintained and planning for the new medical complex continued with due attention to the First World/Third World needs of the communities it was intended to serve. There was, however, concern at ongoing proposals to develop a Faculty for dentistry that would be quite independent of these facilities and established instead at UDW. There was also frustration at the Faculty's current limited annual registration of 80 first-year students until it was increased to 120 in 1989. To some extent this relieved the pressure of heavy applicant demand, but it was hoped to increase the first-year intake to 200 students following completion of the new medical school. There was further student unrest in response to inadequate staffing and equipment to provide appropriate training at King Edward VIII Hospital as well as the longstanding deficient accommodation at ATR.

When in 1986 South Africa's New Health Plan was announced the proposed centralisation of health services was welcomed in the Faculty, but there was disappointment that it did not include a nationalised health service. In 1987 and again in 1988, in the absence of any boycotts or other disturbances, there was a celebrated 100% pass rate in the final examinations with 99 new doctors graduating in 1987 and another 102 the following year. After delays in the expropriation of the necessary land the planning of the new medical school and academic hospital continued on schedule. While a completion date of 2001 was projected, acute accommodation shortages in the medical residence persisted until the new Albert Luthuli Hall was at last ready in 1989.<sup>11</sup>

Meanwhile, as in previous decades, the Faculty experienced continuous changes in academic personnel and in the structure of its departments. In 1977 professors P.M. Smythe and J.N. Scragg retired from the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, as did John Wainwright, head of Pathology. That year Neurosurgery was separated from the Department of Surgery, as was Orthopaedic Surgery under Professor T.L. (Theodore) Sarkin, Ophthalmology under N.H. Welsh, Cardio-Thoracic Surgery under B.T. le Roux and Urology under J.H. Naude. C.M.C. Fernandes was appointed professor and head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, which in 1978 also became a separate department from Surgery with the latter now becoming known as the Department of General Surgery while an independent Department of Haematology was established under H.B.W. Greig.

That year the Faculty lost another of its longstanding stalwarts when Professor Isidor Gordon retired. It gained the valuable services of Professor A. Moosa as head of Paediatrics and Child Health as well as that of one of its first alumni Soromini Kallichurum as professor and head of Anatomical Pathology. In addition, I.W.F. (Ian) Spencer was appointed professor in the revived Department of Community Health and steps were taken to gain official recognition for the KwaDabeka Health Centre in Pinetown as the Faculty's primary health care centre for teaching, research and community service.



**I.W.F. (Ian) Spencer** acquired a medical degree (1942), diplomas in public health and tropical medicine (1956–1957) and a doctorate (1970) at Wits. He became a member of the Faculty of Community Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians (London, Edinburgh and Glasgow), gained experience in clinical and regional health services at Elim Hospital and worked in general practice and as assistant and then deputy Medical Officer of Health in Johannesburg. In 1972 he was appointed inaugural professor of Comprehensive and Community

Medicine at UCT and then head of the Department of Community Health in Durban (1978–1985).

Spencer arrived there as arguably South Africa's most highly qualified expert in his field and had just completed the only available textbook in it – *Community Health: An Introduction and Orientation for South African Students*.

After undertaking a similar task in Cape Town, the department he launched in Durban provided undergraduate training and community-based teaching; as well as further training towards masters degrees, and service and research facilities.

In 1979 Y.K. Seedat was appointed to head the Department of Medicine and three years later D.J. (Dennis) Pudifin joined him as fellow professor. In 1980 the Faculty acquired Professor J.P. Jordaan as head of Radiotherapy, the name of which was subsequently changed to Radiotherapy and Oncology, and J.R. (James) van Dellen as professor in the Department of Neurosurgery. Professor John Reid was lost to the deputy vice-principalship at UCT and professor of Psychiatry R.W.S. Cheetham to retirement. W.H. Wessels replaced him as professor and head of department the following year when professors J.P. Nel and J.G. Brock-Utne became heads of Forensic Medicine and Physiology respectively.

In 1981–1982 there was an unfortunate disagreement between the Faculty and the state health department, which had taken over the pathological services, as to whether or not heads and deputy heads of department who now found themselves under the National Health Laboratory Services were to be employed on the University's or the State's conditions of service. This seriously affected the appointment of new staff in the Faculty's four pathology departments – Anatomical Pathology, Chemical Pathology, Microbiology and Haematology.

In the Faculty's view it also posed a threat to the University's autonomy and to the continued effective functioning of these departments. By late 1982 the situation was critical, with the four departmental heads either leaving or on the point of departing and the Minister of Health refusing to rescind his decision that state conditions of service applied. The following year the Faculty reluctantly accepted this situation and advertised the relevant vacancies accordingly.

In 1982 W.W. Marszalek succeeded Naude to the chair of Urology, R.E. (Bob) Mickel was appointed professor of Paediatric Surgery and H.B.W. Greig retired from the chair of Haematology. The following year, I.B. Angorn, S.M. (Sam) Ross, W.E.K. Loening and J.P. Jordaan were appointed professors of Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Child Health, and Radiotherapy and Oncology respectively. In 1984 they were followed by P.L.A. Bill as professor in Neurology and M.A. Simpson as professor in Medical Education. In 1986 H.M. (Jerry) Coovadia was appointed professor in Paediatrics and Child Health, having joined the department in 1982.

In 1987 the Faculty gained no less than seven professorial appointees in D.A. Rocke (Anaesthetics), W.B. Murray (second chair in Anaesthetics), J.B.C. Botha (Forensic Medicine), Lourens Schlebusch (Medical Psychology), R.W. Green-Thompson (Obstetrics and Gynaecology), A.L. Peters (Ophthalmology) and J. Robbs (Surgery) as well as two associate professors in M. Adhikari and

A. Wesley (both in Paediatrics). The following year the Faculty welcomed James van Dellen back to the chair of Neurosurgery after a two-year sojourn in the USA, having previously raised the Neurosurgery Unit at Wentworth to great prominence.

In 1989 Professors B.T. le Roux (Cardio-Thoracic Surgery) and F.G. Mayet (Medicine) retired, along with J.S. Gouweloos (Psychiatry) and T. Pather (General Surgery). Professor Soromini Kallichurum succeeded Professor Bob Mickel as dean, but the intention was to make a permanent appointment to deal with the heavy and complex demands of the post. Early in 1990 Professor D. Arbuckle assumed the position and A. (Ariff) Haffeejee was appointed professor in the Department of General Surgery.<sup>12</sup>



**A. (Ariff) Haffeejee** was a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine, held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, lectured at the Welsh National School of Medicine and returned home to practise privately before joining the Department of General Surgery in 1980. There he served as transplant surgeon, senior lecturer and associate professor, becoming a full professor in 1990. By 2000 he had more than 150 publications across a range of research interests, was one of the country's pioneers in cancer research, introduced laproscopic surgery to King Edward VIII Hospital, directed the oesophageal unit there and was in charge of renal transplantation in the region. He also served on numerous national and international committees.

### Humanities and Social Sciences

In 1977 the Arts Faculty liberalised its degree regulations by resolving that henceforth students would need to take only four instead of five different subjects spread over ten credits. They could also opt to take as many as five instead of four courses in first and in second year, three instead of two in third year and as many as thirteen credits in total if so inclined. This was intended to introduce greater flexibility into the degree structure and enable more talented candidates to acquire more credits during their three undergraduate years.

It was now no longer necessary for students to take at least one course in the more philosophical '-ologies' but, although the Faculty Board was divided on the matter, the requirement that the degree should include courses in at least two different languages was, for the time being, retained. After prolonged

further discussion a compromise was reached and as from 1980 only one language was required except for those students majoring in a language who were obliged to take another language course.

Introductory Spanish was offered on a trial basis under the wing of Durban's French Department with the possibility of eventually establishing a fully independent department. Towards that end Spanish I was introduced in 1983 and four years later Spanish became a major option with the first masters students being enrolled as well. In 1989 French and Spanish was confirmed as one department under the headship of E.R. (Edgard) Sienaert.

In 1977 the previously independent Department of Language and Communication was absorbed into the Faculty and two years later J.K. (Keith) Chick became its head. Although all of its students were studying for degrees in Commerce it was anticipated that the department would eventually also provide courses in Linguistics for Arts candidates. In 1981 it was renamed General Linguistics and Communication and in 1983 its three-year major was approved. The department operated in Pietermaritzburg as well until 1989 when it ceased teaching there.

The decision was taken in 1977 to rename the Department of Fine Arts as Fine Arts and History of Art. A highlight of the late 1970s for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Pietermaritzburg was the official opening of the New Arts Building with the Department of Speech and Drama's performance of William Wycherley's *The Country Wife* in its new Hexagon Theatre, followed by the opening of the new Language Laboratory. Durban had to wait until 1981 for the completion of the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre and the conversion of the Howard College Theatre, which had previously been the main venue for theatrical productions on campus, to accommodate musical recitals.

In 1979 Political Science (Durban), under F.M. (Frederick) Clifford-Vaughan's headship, became a separate department from History, as did Economic History under acting head A.B. (Anthony) Lumby in 1984. In Pietermaritzburg Political Studies, under D.McK. (Douglas) Irvine, separated from Historical Studies in 1985 and the Department of Divinity changed its name to Religious Studies under the headship of V.J. (Vic) Bredenkamp.

In 1980 departments of Zulu Language and Literature emerged in both centres out of what had previously been known more broadly as Bantu Languages. In 1978 Anne Henderson was appointed to the Pietermaritzburg staff and in July that year Adrian Koopman replaced the retiring Dan Bang as lecturer. The following year M.A. (Msawakhe) Hlengwa joined the department as the first black lecturer on that campus. While Trevor Cope continued to



head the department in Durban, Koopman was appointed lecturer-in-charge in Pietermaritzburg until 1983 when A.S. (Anthony) Davey was appointed to the chair.

The subsequent introduction of part-time BA courses for black teachers in that centre provoked a huge demand for Zulu courses that led to the introduction of a parallel three-year mother-tongue major in the subject. This doubling of the departmental teaching load necessitated the appointment of another staff member, initially Nancy Tatham and from 1989 N.N. (Nelson) Ntshangase.

In 1981 the Arts Faculty Board resolved that it would no longer offer part-time classes except for those who were already registered to enable them to complete their degrees. The following year a generous grant from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund facilitated the launch in Pietermaritzburg of a scheme under the directorship of Jenny Beale to improve the standard of English of first-year students in any Faculty. That year the Board established an executive sub-committee in each centre to conduct separate meetings to deal with matters that concerned their own campuses and hold a joint annual meeting in May to discuss issues of common interest. It was clearly a step towards launching entirely separate faculties.

Other important developments in the Faculty included the establishment in 1985 of Durban's Contemporary Cultural Studies Unit under Professor Keyan Tomaselli's directorship. In addition, a B.Mus. Jazz Studies degree was introduced in 1984 and a B.Mus. Orchestral Performance course in 1986, which was affiliated to the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1989 a Centre for Jazz and Popular Music was added under the headship of Darius Brubeck.

In 1985 a Special Curriculum part-time BA course for black school teachers in the Natal Midlands was initiated, offering classes in a limited number of subjects between 3.00 and 6.30 pm on weekdays. The intention was that they would enroll for two subjects a year and take five years to complete the degree. In this way it was hoped to improve their qualifications overall as only 2.5% of them currently held university degrees and a mere 15% a matriculation certificate. In the absence of an initial government subsidy, funding was raised primarily from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund and British Petroleum to meet the cost of extra staff and other expenses. Initially, 147 students were enrolled, mostly from the Pietermaritzburg region but some from as far as 160 kilometres away. Eight academic departments were involved in teaching them, six in Arts and two in Science, each supplemented by a tutor.

It soon became evident that a straightforward repetition of full-time lectures was not sufficient and an English Second Language specialist was urgently

needed. Malcolm McKenzie was appointed to mount what was called English Studies on behalf of the English Language Development Scheme from 1986. The following year, after some pleasing examination results, the programme began the second phase of its six-year cycle with 75 students having done well enough to register for second-year courses in Geography, History, Psychology and Zulu. It provided invaluable experience of part-time distance learning, but it was not to last.

Another innovation introduced in 1985 was a credit-bearing first-year Language, Learning and Logic course intended for students arriving on campus with inadequate preparation for university-level studies. It was made available in all Pietermaritzburg faculties and involved the active participation of the departments of Language and Communication and Philosophy as well as the Student Advisory Service, the English Language Development Scheme and Arie Blacquiere's Language and Reading Centre.

A further development was the introduction of a four-year Bachelor of Theology degree offering a variety of options including Practical Theology and to be followed by a masters degree. This initiative was launched in Pietermaritzburg's Department of Religious Studies and was available to all suitably qualified students irrespective of their religious affiliation. Indeed, although funded by the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran Church in South Africa, it was intended to appoint permanent staff members drawn from all denominations to ensure ecumenical representation. In 1988 a separate Department of Theological Studies was established.

The following year Religious Studies and Philosophy experienced their first year as an amalgamated department and the inter-denominational Cluster of Pietermaritzburg Theological Institutions was formed. Ten years in the making and with Gunther Wittenberg playing a leading role, this constituted a significant advance in co-operative theological education. It included the Faculty's new Department of Theological Studies together with St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara and the Federal Seminary in Edendale. Seemingly intractable difficulties were overcome, including the issue of black students initially requiring permits to study at a 'white' University and living in what was still designated a 'white' suburb.

Meanwhile two years previously the Faculty introduced full semesterisation as well as courses in Linguistics leading to a major, a three-year major in French Culture, an honours course in Spanish and a part-time honours programme in Zulu. In 1989 the Department of Political Science in Durban was amalgamated with that of Comparative African Government, formerly located in the Faculty

of Social Science, to form a new Department of Politics under Professor M.L. (Mervyn) Frost's headship. That year a tutorial system was initiated under Mrs R. Searle's co-ordination to assist disadvantaged students by providing each department in the Faculty with a specialist tutor.<sup>13</sup>

Significant developments in the Faculty of Commerce included the resignation in 1977 of its deputy dean Professor I.R. (Ivan) Woods, head of the Department of Business Administration. That year the Faculty granted part-time students direct representation on its Board in recognition of the importance part-time studies played in its teaching. After a decade of significant growth in student numbers it also took the opportunity of a levelling off in registrations to reconsider curricula and the degree structure.

Commerce options in the two centres began to differ significantly as Durban, which had phased out the B. Acc. degree four years previously, offered students more flexibility in their course combinations with the possibility of completing a B.Comm. degree orientated towards Accounting, Actuarial Science, Business Administration, Economics or Personnel Management. These changes were generally well-received in business circles although Durban's abandonment of the traditional Accounting degree aroused opposition in the profession and there was a slight decline in Accountancy registrations there coupled with an increase in Pietermaritzburg. The situation was compounded by staffing difficulties and by the challenge of attracting capable recruits in competition with better-paid jobs in commerce and industry. This produced unfavourable staff/student ratios and unwieldy tutorial groups.

In 1979 David Clulow, who for some time had served in an acting capacity, became professor and head of Pietermaritzburg's Department of Accountancy and R.L. (Rob) Lee was appointed to the equivalent post in Business Administration the following year. In 1982 his department introduced a new course in Advertising. B.S. (Bruce) Stobie was appointed to a chair in Accountancy as was H. Shuttleworth in 1984.

In Durban Professor Tom van Waasdijk retired as head of Business Administration in 1980 and Professor Knut Reese replaced him the following year while D.S. (David) van der Merwe became professor and head of Accountancy there in succession to T.J.H. (Tom) Waldeck. In 1982 former director of the now defunct Non-European Section and sometime dean of Commerce I.K. (Ian) Allan retired as associate professor in Business Administration after 35 years of service. The following year the department's first group of postgraduates completed the Diploma in Industrial Relations and a new Diploma in Business Management was launched.

Following Van der Merwe's resignation and the creation of another chair, Professor K.S. Prinsloo was appointed head of Accountancy in Durban and B.M. (Brenda) Gourley and W.A.A. Maguire were also appointed as professors in the department. Close contacts were retained with the profession with Gourley and then Prinsloo representing the department on the Durban Regional Association of the Natal Society of Chartered Accountants.

Staff shortages continued to be experienced in both centres with the result that in Durban the introduction of a course in Public Administration had to be deferred, although the situation did not prevent the Faculty from assuming control of the Business Data Processing course from the depleted Department of Computer Science. In 1981 there was a further revision of syllabuses in Durban to meet the professional needs of students more effectively while retaining the emphasis on 'teaching concepts rather than detailed practice'. In Pietermaritzburg, the B.Comm. degree was restructured into clearer demarcated streams including Accounting, Business Data Processing, Business Finance, Economics, Legal Studies, Marketing and Personnel Management. That year the Faculty went further than that of Arts when it agreed to its complete separation at Board level. This was a logical consequence of having autonomous departments in each centre developing substantially different degree structures, but the machinery was still available for joint meetings when necessary.

By 1984 entry standards in Durban were rising following new procedures and the decision to limit growth in student numbers, which in 1985 rose to 12 126. Although part-time undergraduate registrations were declining, a part-time B.Comm. honours degree in Financial Management, as well as a Diploma in Taxation, was introduced and in 1984 there was an 86% pass rate in the postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy. The accountancy profession donated several computers to enable the Faculty to establish the University's third computer laboratory in Shepstone Building. A significant innovation was the installation in the neighbouring T.B. Davis Lecture Complex of several television monitors that enabled hundreds of students at one sitting to observe their lecturer doing computer calculations.

While part-time undergraduate numbers continued to decline, the new postgraduate diploma courses in Advanced Taxation and Management Accounting were still popular as was Business Administration's Diploma in Industrial Relations. A postgraduate course and an honours degree in Personnel Management were added in 1988. The following year, in response to increasing numbers of disadvantaged students, the Faculty launched a Bridging/First Year

University Bursary Scheme programme with the assistance of the director of Student Support Programmes, Hugh Philpott, and under the co-ordination of Bryce Biggs.

In 1984 Pietermaritzburg's Department of Business Administration became the first in South Africa to produce graduates in Purchasing Management while the Department of Accountancy's graduates and diplomates exceeded the national pass rate and continued to do so in the 1980s, as was the case in Durban. It also introduced a new course in Cost Accounting and Business Data Processing Applications and in 1985 a new B.Comm. degree in Managerial Accounting and Financial Management was introduced.

The part-time B.Acc. degree was out altogether due to declining registrations while the increase in full-time undergraduate numbers had to be curtailed due to limited capacity. Growth was, however, able to continue at postgraduate level and there was an ongoing demand for the Faculty of Commerce's specialist fields of Accounting, Managerial Accounting, Business Finance, Business Information, Economics, Financial Management, Law, Marketing and Advertising Management, Personnel Management, and Purchasing and Materials Management. In 1988 a new course in Administrative Science was introduced in Pietermaritzburg while the following year nineteen of the twenty candidates who wrote the qualifying examination of the Public Accountants and Auditors Board were successful, constituting the best pass rate among fourteen participating universities.

In Durban there was an 87% pass rate while the Faculty continued, as before, to be the largest on the campus. It became even bigger after 1988 when the Department of Economics, with its large undergraduate numbers, opted to join it, prompting a change in name to Economics and Management. Matriculation entrance requirements had continued to rise as student demand for places increased, but that year the newly restructured B.Comm. stream did allow for the admission of students without matriculation Mathematics by providing a new course in Quantitative Management to develop their skills in that area. In addition, a new first-year course in Business Accounting was designed to equip students with the necessary skills to grasp the application of accounting principles to business. Business Finance was now offered in the Department of Accounting as a two-year major.<sup>14</sup>

There were important developments in the Faculty of Education, which already offered a number of professional diplomas on its own or in conjunction with Edgewood College of Education or the Natal College of Advanced Technical Education. In 1977 the departments of Education, Educational

Psychology and Psychology collaborated to introduce a postgraduate course in Counselling Psychology and that year the experimental phase of the Second Language Experiment, otherwise known as English Through Activity, came to an end. Devised by Lionel Arnold and Alice Varty for application in African schools, it was still being extended to numerous areas and had attracted the attention of Maureen Michau of the Department of Education as a subject for research.

The number of B.Ed. and postgraduate Higher Diploma in Education (HDE) candidates continued to increase and in 1980 new B.Ed. and M.Ed. (Ed. Psych.) degrees were introduced and gained in popularity. In 1978, 33 students completed the HDE and the first group of secondary students at Edgewood College also completed the course. Renewed economic growth resulted in a shortage of graduate teachers after a phase of oversupply, with those whose qualifications gave them access to jobs in commerce and industry being particularly in demand.

In 1978 Natal's Director of Education gave permission for the HDE course to be offered to teachers already in service to enable them to acquire full professional recognition. By 1980 the HDE intake had stabilised in both centres at between 85 and 90 and some diploma courses taken at Edgewood were accredited towards the completion of a degree. This was in accordance with a pattern initiated at the Natal Training College and then at the Technikon that met special secondary school needs in its HDE courses.

In 1982, in recognition of their close and amicable co-operation with the University over several years, Council and Senate resolved to confer the status of honorary professor on both the Rector of Edgewood and the Director of the Technikon. By then consideration was also being given to the training of graduate primary school teachers as was already the practice in other faculties of Education. In 1983 the Bachelor of Primary Education degree was launched and the Faculty became directly involved in teaching it the following year with the first group of students in Durban completing the degree in 1986.

In 1981 F.J.D. (Fred) Hayward retired as professor and head of department in Durban and P.N.G. (Paul) Beard succeeded him the following year. The Faculty had come a long way since Professor J.G.W. (John) Ferguson's appointment to the new chair of Education in 1921 and now comprised 25 established posts spread over two departments in each centre with its HDE numbers alone exceeding the 152 students registered in that first year.

In 1984, for the first time, twenty HDE students undertook part of their practical teaching in KwaZulu homeland schools while in Pietermaritzburg the

new Specialised Diploma in School Librarianship attracted eleven students and a masters degree in Organisational Theory, Administration and Management in Education was introduced. R.K. (Robert) Muir was promoted from senior lecturer to the vacant professorship and became deputy dean while in Durban senior lecturer Hockly Buys retired after eighteen years of service. In 1985 C. Criticos was responsible for establishing a Media Resource Centre there to provide production facilities, disseminate software information and develop a media attachment programme to train educational media producers.

In Pietermaritzburg a grant from the Anglo American/De Beers Chairman's Education Trust financed the new Curriculum Development Unit intended to assist teachers develop pupils' analytical, problem-solving and decision-making skills while the Department of Educational Psychology resuscitated the professional training programme for the B.Ed. (School Counsellor) qualification. In 1986 the Durban department's masters course produced its first part-time graduates and, for the first time since the course was started in the 1950s, two black students completed its Diploma in Remedial Education. This course, together with the B.Ed. and M.Ed. in Educational Psychology, became increasingly popular among black students and the department found itself playing a much more significant role in training remedial teachers.

It was decided in 1986 to form two executive sub-committees of the Faculty, one for each centre, as an obvious step towards complete separation. This was followed in Durban by a thorough review of the HDE course in 1988 and subsequently by the introduction of two new coursework masters programmes in Social Theory and Curriculum Studies. A third, in Educational Administration, was added in 1989 and a Diploma in Specialised Education (Remedial) was introduced after the Department of Educational Psychology merged with that of Psychology in the Science Faculty. Negotiations were completed to transfer the B.Prim.Ed. course to Edgewood College from the following year.

The masters course in Curriculum Studies was also introduced in Pietermaritzburg but there was room for only seventeen of the 80 applicants. The establishment of the Science Curriculum Initiative in South Africa in 1989 further promoted the cause of curriculum development. There was a 100% increase in B.Ed. applicants since 1985 and the HDE also continued to be in demand. In 1989 the Faculty nevertheless re-evaluated all its courses in the light of changing needs in both the formal and informal educational sectors, including those it offered jointly with Edgewood College and the Technikon Natal.<sup>15</sup>

The Faculty of Law was grateful to be granted five additional senior lectureships in 1977 despite the University's severe financial constraints. It still considered itself to be short staffed in relation to student numbers and particularly with regard to professorships in comparison with Law faculties at other South African universities. This was important to the division of the Faculty into separate departments that was initiated with the establishment of Private Law and Public Law in each centre, in addition to Commercial Law and Adjectival and Clinical Law. The intention was to promote higher levels of specialisation, attract experts in particular fields, promote more effective teaching and research, and facilitate the introduction of additional optional courses.

In 1978 the Faculty began to revise its LLB degree curriculum with the intention of facilitating a more logical progression in legal studies and providing more flexibility. It was proposed that it comprise fifteen courses of which four should be selected from a variety of elective options and that the third of three full-time years should be devoted to practical experience to bridge the divide between academic study and legal practice. These changes were also related to the intended introduction of a law major in the BA, B.Comm. and B.Soc. Sc. degrees.

Several new course options were introduced into the LLB curriculum as well as a Diploma in Marine and Maritime Law in Durban. In 1979 D.J. (David) McQuoid-Mason was appointed professor (Adjectival and Clinical Law) there and the following year two professors of Commercial Law were appointed, J.S. McLennan as head of department in Durban and M.S. (Michael) Blackman in Pietermaritzburg. In addition, J.R. (James) Lund was appointed professor in Private Law in the latter centre. At that stage the Faculty had a 28-strong staff complement, sixteen in Durban and twelve in Pietermaritzburg, divided into six departments, four in the former and two in the latter centre.

In 1981 it was resolved that henceforth the last two would constitute a School of Law, Pietermaritzburg. A.S. (Tony) Mathews, who had served for nineteen years as head of the Durban centre, and Mary Mathews arrived as new staff members there. That year the Faculty, more particularly the Department of Clinical and Adjectival Law in Durban, joined the Association of Law Societies in running what was intended to become an annual practical training school for articled clerks. It also lost long-serving Emeritus Professor Maurice Sweeney as well as Professor Barend van Niekerk who died during a visit to South America. The following year R.I. (Raymond) Wacks succeeded him and in Pietermaritzburg Professor E.M. (Exton) Burchell died and L.G. (Lawrence)



Baxter was appointed to a professorship. When, in 1987, Jonathan Burchell became a professor there it continued a family association with the Faculty in Pietermaritzburg going back to his grandfather, F.B. (Frank) Burchell.

In Durban the Faculty and its library moved into the newly renovated Howard College Building, completing its transfer in 1983. That year it also established a new management committee of departmental heads, lecturer and student representatives and introduced a new masters degree in Maritime Law. In 1984 the School in Pietermaritzburg resolved that it would no longer offer the B.Proc. degree or the Diploma Irus (the Natal Public Servants Law Certificate), but in 1984–1985 both schools introduced the Advanced Diploma in Taxation in collaboration with the Faculty of Commerce. In 1985 the Pietermaritzburg School established a Centre for Commercial Law whose facilities were also made available to the local business community and the following year offered Legal Aid for the first time as a degree credit. In Durban a new Legal Studies major was introduced for students in Arts, Commerce and Social Science in 1985, including new compulsory courses in Labour Relations and Race Legislation, as well as the new curriculum for the LLB degree.

In 1986 a 60th anniversary development fund was launched in anticipation of the Faculty's birthday the following year. The subsequent celebrations in Durban included the first national Street Law conference, a conference of the Society of Public Teachers of Law, the Black Lawyers Association Trial Advocacy programme, a debate on the Freedom Charter for the legal



**J.M. (Jonathan) Burchell** graduated with a BA (1970) and Bachelor of Laws (1972 *cum laude*) on the Pietermaritzburg campus before being awarded an Elsie Ballot Scholarship to Cambridge where he earned a Master of Laws degree (1974) and a Diploma in Comparative Legal Studies (1975). In 1973 he was admitted as an advocate in South Africa and worked his way through the ranks to become professor (1982) and chairman of the governing committee of the School of Law (1986) at Wits. In 1985 he was awarded a Ph.D. there before being appointed professor of Law in Pietermaritzburg (1987). In 2001 he assumed the chair in Criminal Law and headship of the Department of Criminal Justice at UCT. Among other works, he published *The Law of Defamation in South Africa* (1985) and, with John Milton, *Principles of Criminal Law* (1991).

profession, an inter-schools Street Law mock trial competition and a 'fusion' debate between the Bar and the attorneys' profession with Justice A.J. Milne presiding. Sydney Kentridge SC spoke at the celebration dinner and I.D. (Irene) Sweeney unveiled a National Monuments Commission plaque at downtown Durban's Richie's Building where her late husband Maurice Sweeney had conducted his first law lectures.

During 1987 and 1988 the School also hosted its now annual practical training school for articled clerks while the moot court final competition was as popular as ever and attracted more than 500-strong audiences. The following year the School mourned the loss of Professor Ellie Newman, QC and decided to name it the Ellie Newman Memorial Moot in recognition of his initiation of the competition in 1970. In 1988 justices R.N. (Ramon) Leon and J.M. (John) Didcott were made honorary professors. By 1989, when G.E. (George) Devenish was appointed professor of Public Law, the Durban School was being overwhelmed by student demand and had to refuse more than 200 LLB applications as well as 900 for the B.Proc. degree.

Similarly, LLB numbers had nearly doubled during the previous three years in the Pietermaritzburg School, stretching its capacity to the limit. In 1988 agreement was at last reached on the structure of a new LLB curriculum, as Durban had done previously. Increased registrations highlighted the need for revised selection criteria to identify student potential despite different qualifications and backgrounds and for more financial support in deserving cases. At the same time the decision was also taken to follow Durban's example to introduce a Legal Studies major into the BA, B.Comm. and B.Soc. Sc. degrees in 1990.<sup>16</sup>

In 1977 the Faculty of Social Science in Durban lost its first professor and head of the Department of Nursing when Nelida Lamond resigned after serving in that capacity since its inception in 1971. The Department of Social Work attracted strong interest in its new Clinical honours course which produced an initial batch of fourteen graduates. In 1977 Laurie Schlemmer's Centre for Applied Social Sciences initiated its postgraduate diploma intended to assist Social Science graduates in the acquisition of practical skills for application in the workplace. In 1983 it introduced a new honours course in Applied Social Science.

In 1977 the Department of Psychology launched a clinical and counselling course at both honours and masters level so that students could meet the registration requirements of the South African Medical and Dental Council. The following year it produced its first group of clinically trained candidates for

the commencement of their internships. A system of streaming undergraduate courses was developed so that from second year students could opt to be trained as clinical, industrial or research psychologists. The department in Durban moved from the Faculty of Science to that of Social Science on the grounds that it was a social and not a natural science, only 10% of its students were registered in the former Faculty, and the divisions recognised by the Medical Council (counselling, industrial, clinical and research) corresponded more closely with those in the latter Faculty.

In 1979 a four-year curriculum for Social Work was approved and Industrial Sociology and Applied Studies in Social Science were introduced as new single courses; with the former developing into a popular major and an honours course being offered for the first time in 1984. In 1979 the Faculty welcomed the Department of Geography into its ranks and student enrolments increased by 12.6% compared to 3.4% and 6% in the previous two years. This was due to higher first-year registrations arising from restricted intakes in other faculties and difficulties encountered in administering the new matriculation points system.

In 1982 the Department of Nursing's first black postgraduates completed their honours degrees but the NPA's Department of Hospital Services initially withheld its permission for Africans, coloureds and Indians to register for the undergraduate Nursing degree. By 1983 a Natal College of Nursing was being planned with the Department of Nursing to moderate both the practical and theoretical nursing diploma examinations throughout the province. In the same year the Department of Social Work collaborated with the Student Advisory Service to start a Student Crisis Counselling Service on the Durban campus. In 1985 the Industrial Psychology Training and Research section of the Psychology Department was launched under the directorship of Professor Charles Cogill and the following year the first crop of students embarked upon the new integrated B.Soc.Sc. Nursing degree that was to prepare them for four categories of professional registration in place of the previous two.

In Pietermaritzburg Social Science registrations and, in particular, numbers in Sociology increased with third-year courses being offered in that subject for the first time in 1983. Students registered for Social Science degrees had risen from less than 50 to more than 300 when an executive sub-committee of the Board of the Faculty was established there to administer a group of departments and with a dean's representative, W.R. (Bill) Guest (Historical Studies), as a step towards eventually becoming an autonomous Faculty. The Faculty of Social Science in Pietermaritzburg was formally established in

1986, comprising four departments – Psychology (from the Science Faculty), Political Studies, Sociology and Library Science (from Arts) – thereby reducing the Faculty of Arts to a more manageable fourteen departments. In 1987 Douglas Irvine (Political Studies) was elected deputy dean with his departmental colleague Ralph Lawrence as assistant dean.

The following year Pietermaritzburg's Department of Economics moved from the Faculty of Arts to Social Science and by 1989 had exceeded 1 000 student registrations with more than 140 in Economics III and nineteen in the honours class. A coursework and dissertation masters programme was approved for implementation in 1990 to meet the country's demand for professionally trained economists. In response to its growth in student numbers during the five years of its existence, it was decided that a chair should be established in the Department of Sociology, which now moved from under the wing of Historical Studies to renovated quarters in the Psychology Building. Meanwhile Psychology introduced new course components which explored the relationship between that discipline and current key issues in South African society.

The Department of Library and Information Science acquired several computer software packages to integrate into its courses and in 1989–1990 successfully survived the intensive evaluation to which it was subjected as part of the CUP's national inter-university rationalisation scheme. Indeed, it was recommended that the other two departments in English-medium universities should be eliminated while Pietermaritzburg's department was recognised for its pro-active concern for both First and Third World community information needs. In 1989 Weldon Horton succeeded Cornelius (Cor) Mornet, head of department since 1981, and its name was changed to Information Studies to reflect a greater emphasis on Information Science and Technology. Two years later it moved from the Old Main Building to more spacious quarters in the so-called Monastery on Milner Road.

In common with the whole Faculty, student numbers continued to increase in both Political Studies and Psychology, but not in Social Work with prospective students being discouraged by poor professional salaries. In 1986, influenced by subsidy cuts, it had already been decided to rationalise postgraduate training in Psychology with clinical and counselling training being confined to Pietermaritzburg and industrial to Durban. The training of research and educational psychologists was to continue in both centres.

Two years later, as a step towards rationalising the whole Faculty in the interests of economy, Durban's departments of Psychology and Educational

Psychology merged. The consequent elimination of existing course duplication had an estimated cost saving the equivalent of three academic posts. The Department of Nursing was still able to open a clinical teaching laboratory, with financial assistance from Johnson & Johnson. In pursuit of maintaining a robust graduate programme, the Department of Social Work initiated a coursework masters programme in Developmental Research while the Department of Geographical and Environmental Sciences launched one in Environmental Management.

In a further effort to reduce costs through rationalisation, in 1989 Durban's departments of Sociology and Psychology launched a new course in Industrial and Labour Studies. This eliminated duplication by merging Industrial Sociology and Industrial Psychology, although the latter was still offered as a major. Yet another cost-saving measure involved restructuring the Department of African Studies with its Comparative African Government section merging with Political Science to form the Department of Politics in the Faculty of Arts and leaving Social Anthropology as a single department.

There was also some rationalisation of space with Educational Psychology and Nursing changing places in the Denis Shepstone and Memorial Tower buildings respectively. In 1989 the Faculty's student numbers exceeded 1 000 for the first time, due largely to the career and professionally orientated training offered by departments such as Industrial Psychology, Nursing and Social Work.<sup>17</sup>

As was the case in other faculties, during the 1970s and 1980s the Arts and Social Sciences also experienced some significant changes to their staff complement. In 1977 a new professor and head of department, M.G. (Murray) Schoonraad, was appointed in Fine Arts and in the same year Juliet Armstrong began a significant career lecturing in Ceramics. John Benyon was appointed to the chair in Historical and Political Studies, Gordon Hunnings to that of Philosophy and G.W. (Gustav) Fouché to that of Educational Psychology, all in Pietermaritzburg. M-L. (Marie-Louise) Tricaud retired from the chair of French there and Maria Schmidt-Ihms from that of German to be succeeded the following year by G.G. Sehm. In 1980, following an inquiry into the management of that department, his services were discontinued and he was succeeded by W.F.O. (Wolfgang) Freese who was killed four years later in a motor accident.

In 1978 E.E. (Etienne) Blondeel assumed Pietermaritzburg's chair of Economics and M.M. (Magnus) Henderson that of Classics. In 1979 the Faculty mourned the death of Emeritus Professor Alexander Petrie. Tragically,

Henderson, who was also serving as deputy dean of Arts, died suddenly in 1981 in his mid-40s, as did G.A. la Pierre, senior lecturer in Music, and associate professor H.L. (Hilda) Ditchburn retired after a distinguished career in Fine Arts. In 1982 Professor Owen Williams retired from Pietermaritzburg's chair of Geography after 33 years of service, eighteen as departmental head. A year later another Welshman, D.H. Davies, succeeded him, G.A.H. (Geoffrey) Chapman moved from Durban to assume the vacant chair of Classics, E.J. Hammond became professor and head of the Department of Psychology and A.E. (Tony) Voss was appointed to the second chair in the Department of English with a particular interest in South African literature.

C.J.M. Nienaber retired from Pietermaritzburg's chair of Afrikaans en Nederlands and W.F. (Wilfred) Jonckheere succeeded him in 1984. Long-serving senior lecturer John Sellers (Historical Studies) retired that year and Roger Grivil was appointed to the new chair in Economic History. In 1985 Terence King succeeded Murray Schoonraad as head of Fine Arts. The following year witnessed the resignation of Fern Rosetta after 21 years service and the death of Françoise Chupin after fifteen years, both of Pietermaritzburg's French Department, as well as the death of Gordon Hunnings who James Moulder succeeded to the chair of Philosophy.

In 1987 Frank Jolles assumed the vacant chair of German in Pietermaritzburg while Carole Beckett was appointed head of the Department of French. In 1989 M.D. (Mike) McGrath was appointed from Durban to the chair of Economics and Douglas Irvine to the new chair of Political Studies. Peter Stopforth was appointed associate professor and re-appointed as head of the Department of Sociology in which two more establishment posts were approved to cater for the rapidly increasing student numbers with another added to Political Studies.<sup>18</sup>

In Durban D.B. (Dov) Rosner succeeded Rabbi Abner Weiss to the chair of Hebrew and Jewish Studies in 1977. The following year J.W. (Jeffrey) Horton was appointed to the chair of History and Political Science there following the death in 1977 of Ken McIntyre and held it until his retirement in 1982. Edgard Sienaert assumed the chair of French while Noelle Hunt was appointed senior lecturer and acting head of the Department of Nursing. In 1979 a second chair in Psychology was approved for Durban which P.A. (Pamela) Sharratt assumed the following year. Professors R.C. (Ronald) Albino (Durban) and P.A. Theron (Pietermaritzburg) both retired from that department in 1981 and Sharratt succeeded to the former's chair while in 1982 Ronnie Miller was also appointed to a professorship in that discipline. Other Durban appointments that

year were G.F.G. (Gavin) Maasdorp as research professor in the Economics Research Unit and Jill Nattrass as professor of Development Studies in the Centre for Applied Social Sciences.

In 1983 Raymond Sands retired from the chair of English, which he had held since 1965 after joining the staff there in 1948, and long-serving Andrew Duminy was promoted as professor and head of the Department of History in Durban. In 1984 M.J.F. (Michael) Chapman was appointed professor in English and S. Decalo first professor in Comparative African Government. That year professors O. Brückl (German), Anna Conradie (Philosophy), Trevor Cope (Zulu Language and Literature) and F.C. Shaw (Social Work) retired. In 1985 Willy Michel succeeded to the chair of German, Bill Freund was appointed to that in the Department of Economic History and Professor I.C. Wakerley, head of French, died. The following year N.N. Canonici assumed the chair of Zulu Language and Literature, M.L. (Mervyn) Frost filled that of Political Science, G.J. Welch became professor of Social Work and L.R. Uys was appointed professor of Nursing, nearly a decade after Nelida Lamond's resignation.

In 1987 Professor Gerrit Bon left the School of Music, Professor John Hammond resigned from the Psychology Department and D.M. Mzolo retired from the Department of Zulu Language and Literature after 24 years of service. For a time Blade Nzimande, later to become South Africa's minister of Higher Education, joined him as one of the University's few black lecturers when he taught Industrial Psychology. In 1989 the Faculty of Arts mourned the passing of Griseldis Crowhurst-Bond, who had joined the Durban staff in 1968 and later became associate professor, head of the Department of German and dean.<sup>19</sup> Several of the aforementioned staff members, as well as numerous others, contributed to the University's important ongoing work in the fields of research and community service.

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THE FINANCING, PROMOTION and productivity of research and practical community service continued, as ever, to be a vitally important dimension of the University's life. New sources of funding and new incentives emerged during the 1980s while additional research centres and units contributed to the publication output and social contributions of already established departments and affiliated institutes.

### **Funding and research promotion**

Despite the prevailing financial constraints during 1977 the University's expenditure on research amounted to R1 464 493. Only R200 703 came from its own resources compared with R278 158 from the CSIR, R103 929 from the Medical Research Council, R47 747 from the Atomic Energy Board, R27 560 from Agricultural Technical Services and R18 434 from the HSRC. Funding increased in 1978 to R1 592 499 with the University improving its own contribution to R344 485, the CSIR providing R276 328 and the Water Research Commission (WRC) R205 750. Expenditure on research was still considered inadequate, but the Resources for Research Development Survey N10 rated it third among South African universities in 1977–1978 with R5 476 million spent on research activity, including the proportion of overheads and staff salaries devoted to that end.

By 1977 more than 10% of the University's students were involved in research and efforts were being made to improve their financial support. Funds previously allocated to specific departments for graduate assistantships were now pooled to provide bursaries for postgraduates in a much wider variety of disciplines than had earlier been the case. The effect was not only to broaden the range of research projects undertaken, but also gradually to increase postgraduate registrations although the number of full-timers was still considered too small.

In 1979 the University's annual grant to its own Research Fund was still a mere R30 000 as in 1974. The URC recommended that it should be increased

to R75 000, including supplementation of CSIR grants for equipment and assistantships. As a further incentive to publish it was suggested that departments might implement block lecturing so that staff members could concentrate on research for part of the year. For many there were practical impediments to such a strategy.

Another concern by the late 1970s was that further postponement of military service beyond an honours degree was now only possible for research projects deemed to be in the national interest. As these tended to be in the applied sciences the University's contribution to basic research faced curtailment while the current pre-occupation with military training threatened the production of more highly specialised manpower. The URC called for a clear policy allowing for the secondment of selected students to enable them to continue with masters level studies while undergoing military training and for undergraduates to be made more aware of the research opportunities the University offered.

The subsequent grant of deferment until after completion of a masters degree eased the situation, but students were still discouraged from extending their studies by the relatively small differential employers offered in initial salaries to recruits with postgraduate qualifications. The readiness with which commerce and industry was absorbing first degree graduates was a serious challenge and the reduction in honours degree fees did not induce any significant increase in postgraduate numbers. The long seven-year post-matriculation period involved in acquiring a masters degree and completing what was now two years of military service before earning a salary remained a serious discouragement for white males.

In a further effort to promote student research, in 1985 it was eventually agreed under certain conditions to classify some projects as confidential so that there was sufficient time for publication in the interests of commercial exploitation, patent applications or national security. The CSIR's new Co-operative Scientific Programme gave a welcome boost to the cause of research in general by promoting university co-operation in broader projects and creating a new method of funding. The HSRC provided a further research incentive when it significantly increased its student support as well as its larger grants.

In 1982 the University tried to boost research output by providing R20 000 a year for a separate fund from which grants could be made to newly appointed staff during their first two years in office. This, it was hoped, would help to launch them in that sphere of their careers at a time when they were not yet

known to the CSIR or HSRC. Another fund was established to supplement the limited CSIR and HSRC funding for staff and postgraduates to attend local conferences. This was based on a ratio that ensured applicants paid only 20% of the cost compared with 30% borne by the University and 50% by external bodies. As a further research incentive, in 1983 five two-year floating research fellowships were established, with two attached to the Human and three to the Natural Sciences.

A further factor seriously inhibiting research development was inadequate funding for equipment. It was often more difficult to meet the needs of the non-sciences in the form of sufficient books and journals than to acquire expensive scientific instruments for which commerce and industry was more willing to foot the bill. It was calculated that during the 1970s the contributions of governmental sources to research and development had increased significantly, but decreased between 1981 and 1983. Consequently the base provided in those years for subsequent increases tended to be lower than it should have been.

Despite the factors inhibiting it, during 1983 there was a substantial growth both in the University's research output and in the funding that made it possible. The R6 million spent on research that year reflected the increasing confidence public bodies like the CSIR and HSRC as well as commerce and industry had in the University's capacity to undertake high-quality work. Even so, the URC received applications from staff members that exceeded its available funds for research projects by 100% and for equipment by 300%. Much of the subsequent output, as in other years, took the form not of publications but of confidential reports to sponsors, practical applications and improved teaching.

In 1984 top researchers in the Sciences and Applied Sciences were given a boost when the CSIR'S new Foundation for Research Development (FRD) introduced a new method of funding by focusing on the quality of individual researchers rather than evaluating the projects on which they were engaged. This involved three major classifications. Those rated as *super novae* and those regarded as close to such grading henceforth qualified for comprehensive support for postdoctoral and technical posts as well as major funding for running expenses. The third group qualified for partial support similar to that previously received from the CSIR. In this way a much larger financial contribution was to be made to university research by concentrating more on what came to be known as centres of excellence developed around prominent individual researchers.

In the first round of evaluations the University was awarded much more than might have been expected for its size, with its staff coming third in the numbers graded in each of the first two categories and second in the third. The scheme did create new financial challenges for the University as there were aspects of the staff compensation involved in appointing new personnel under comprehensive support that the FRD grants did not include. Moreover, these awards did not cover the full cost of the expensive capital equipment required and additional office and laboratory space had to be found for newly appointed researchers and supporting technicians.

In addition, researchers in the Sciences who did not yet qualify for FRD rating in terms of their recent publication history had to be financed to improve their prospects of doing so, as did work in the non-Sciences. In the early 1980s the University still attracted relatively little HSRC funding for reasons that were not clear, although there was a reasonable publication output in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In 1981–1982 the University was awarded only 5.87% of the HSRC's largesse (including research, bursary and international contact awards) and 3.73% in 1983–1984. Pleasingly this increased to 9.9% in 1985–1986 and 9.6% in 1987–1988. The 66.3% success rate in applications compared with a 56.7% national average suggests that the University was not making numerous or large demands on the HSRC's coffers.

As far as the Natural Sciences were concerned in 1985, 1986 and 1987 the University again ranked third among the seventeen institutions receiving FRD awards behind its two older and larger counterparts UCT and Wits. Moreover, in 1984–1987 FRD bursaries awarded to local candidates increased by 14% a year and the University's share of the FRD's total awards rose by 0.4% whereas the share of its two nearest rivals dropped by 3.8% each. Its share under the FRD's national programme was 12.5% in 1987 (R1 411 132) compared with 11.5% the previous year but declined from 13.09% to 11.09% under the main research programme. Thereafter the University continued to hold its own among the top three FRD award winners.

Research funding attracted through the NUDF in 1986 amounted to R3 371 154 (37.4% more than the previous year and 70.9% of all the funds donated) despite the financial constraints prevailing in the private sector. The following year the NUDF garnered another R4 614 651 (36.8 % more than the previous year and 72.1% of total donations). This income was vital to the expensive research projects being conducted in the Sciences and Applied Sciences compared with the financially less demanding requirements of other

faculties. By the late 1980s there was a pleasingly steady increase in funding received from abroad for community development projects and rural studies.

By then a trend was developing in South Africa, similar to that in the USA and Britain, in which external funding and research activity was increasingly concentrated in fewer universities. Although it was situated in one of the economically fastest growing regions in South Africa, the University of Natal seemed to be falling behind those in other major centres. To varying degrees research activity was adversely affected in all fields by the six consecutive years (1984–1989) of state subsidy cuts, averaging 16.5% overall, coupled with the impact of inflation and unfavourable foreign currency exchange rates.

This reduction in income simply could not be absorbed in some irreducible areas of overhead expenditure such as staff salaries and so had to be carried more heavily, by as much as 40%, in others. These included general running expenses, the replacement of outmoded equipment and the purchase of expensive new items and books. In 1989, for example, the URC could meet only R2 million of the R5.5 million in requests it received for capital equipment. The effect was minimised to some extent by drawing on capital reserves, but this could only offer a short term solution.

It was accepted that research output was what distinguished universities from other tertiary institutions and upon which their international reputations were based. Yet the University was facing the unpleasant possibility of having to limit the number of fields in which it could afford to remain at the cutting edge of research, or else leave some of them entirely dependent upon external financial sources. The perceived danger of relying upon individuals to seek their own such funding was an increase in targeted research aimed at resolving specific practical problems at the expense of the basic research many staff members might otherwise prefer to pursue.

International academic boycotts posed another threat to research activity in the University, as in other South African tertiary institutions, and to research collaborations abroad. In practice this affected the Humanities and Social Sciences more adversely than the Pure and Applied Sciences. Most staff members in the latter fields had little or no difficulty in securing research collaborations, when appropriate, in being allowed to participate in international conferences, in being elected to serve in professional associations and in securing sabbatical appointments overseas.

There were incentives as well as threats to research endeavour. The University had hitherto always encouraged its staff to publish their research without influencing where they chose to do so, including publication in book



form with its own Press. From 1978 Margery Moberly ran this as manager and was no longer responsible also for developing the University Archives. From 1982 her post was designated University Publisher and the similarly hard-working Fiona Croeser was appointed as assistant editor. The Press was willing to consider all manuscripts of academic excellence but too specialised to attract a commercial publisher. It provided a valuable outlet for a variety of local specialists in topics ranging from regional history and poetry to botany, geology and ornithology. In so doing it greatly enhanced the University's academic profile even though its marketing network was somewhat limited.

In 1987 the URC appointed a sub-committee to consider the introduction of a staff publication incentive scheme like those already in operation in some other tertiary institutions. This was in response to the increasing number of academic journals that were now imposing substantial page charges on contributors and because of the additional subsidy to be earned if staff opted to publish their research in those which were SAPSE-accredited, as detailed in a 190-page document. The introduction of a prestigious teaching award was delayed lest this detract from staff research effort. There was also reluctance to accede to departmental requests to have the funds generated by their research channelled back to them out of concern that this might upset the balance between their teaching and research functions of which, in Booysen's view, the former was the more important.

At the end of 1987 the URC lost its longstanding and innovative chairman Deneys Schreiner to retirement. He was a heavy smoker who invariably filled an ashtray with cigarette butts by the end of each of the numerous meetings he attended in both centres. This was certainly true of lengthy, cloud-filled URC gatherings, which were characterised by the cut-and-thrust repartee he exchanged with zoologist Waldo Meester. The latter usually sat to his immediate right and enjoyed tweaking him with the nickname Ayatollah after the Iranian imam who similarly sported a long white beard. If the sometimes day-long URC meetings extended to 6.00 pm Meester could also be relied upon to produce a long-tom beer can from his briefcase and toast the chairman with a hearty 'Cheers Ayatollah' before downing it. Sadly, the briefcase and/or Meester's generosity was not large enough to provide refreshments for other tiring URC members.

The faculties of Agriculture and Science inaugurated the Deneys Schreiner Lecture Series, to be presented by their FRD comprehensive grant holders, in honour of his contribution to research and the University at large. Schreiner kept the beard that had made him so distinctive on campus and which he had

grown in protest against the removal of coloured people from the common voters roll in 1956, only shaving it off nearly forty years later when South Africa celebrated its first democratic election. Several former students enquired if he had indeed done so, but he declared himself 'disappointed' with the face revealed beneath.

Professor Chris Cresswell, Vice-Principal (Durban), replaced Schreiner as URC chairman. Several new research incentives were introduced with R250 000 budgeted for their implementation and in the planning of which Schreiner had been involved. They included the long-awaited research publication incentive scheme applied to articles that had appeared in journals the Department of National Education had approved for subsidy purposes and to specialist academic books the University had successfully submitted to it for the same purpose. The funds awarded to staff were to be used exclusively for research purposes.

Book authors were dissatisfied with the decision to quantify their work as the equivalent of a mere three articles, but they were grateful for some financial recognition of their efforts. There was also some consolation in the decision to award an annual book prize to the value of R5 000 to the author or authors among the full-time academic staff of what was deemed to be the best academic book of the year. In 1989 this was awarded to Waldo Meester for his publication *Classification of Southern African Mammals*.

Other new incentives included a Vice-Chancellor's Research Award of R25 000, which was restricted to full-time academic staff members under 40. Clearly this was intended to stimulate activity among younger academics who were already outstanding research achievers and they were free to utilise their awards however they chose in their areas of expertise. In 1989 the first recipient was O.R. (Ortrud) Oellermann, 'a highly productive' young member of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics (Durban) who already enjoyed international recognition and who also received the CSIR President's Award of the FRD.

Another innovation was the Fellowship of the University of Natal, which was intended to be the most prestigious award the institution could confer upon its staff members for research achievement. No more than three or four fellowships were to be awarded each year at one or more graduation ceremonies as they were to be confined to those who had made a 'substantial contribution to knowledge' in their respective disciplines and were 'widely recognised' for doing so. A final new accolade was the title Honorary Research Associate for academic staff members who continued to research after retirement.

There were no immediate awards in the latter category, but no less than six recipients of fellowships in 1989. In Pietermaritzburg they were chemists Siegfried Drewes and Ray Haines, widely known researchers on natural substances with medicinal value and on metal cluster compounds respectively, Law professor Tony Mathews who was an expert on South African security legislation and civil liberties and botanist Professor Hannes van Staden who was an established leader in plant physiology and also received the first of the Kirstenbosch Research Awards. The initial fellows in Durban were physicist David Walker, who was prominent among South Africa's space scientists, and professor of Electrical Engineering Ron Harley, eminent in the field of synchronous generators, induction motors and power systems. The Faculty of Science could take pride in the fact that four of the six newly appointed fellows were drawn from its ranks.

During the late 1970s and 1980s increasing encouragement was given to interdisciplinary research projects. In his capacity as Vice-Principal (Durban) Peter Booyesen actively promoted what he called 'co-operative research' by initiating a Durban University Research Promotions Committee but this was soon disestablished as it impinged upon the work of the already long-standing URC. For a time Booyesen nevertheless continued to promote such projects on a personal basis and sought to secure financial support for them. Several constructive suggestions for future co-operative research emanated from the questionnaire he distributed among Durban academic staff although by then such collaborations were by no means a novelty, particularly in the Science and Engineering faculties.<sup>1</sup>

## Science

A good example of the increasing number of interdisciplinary research projects being developed by the mid-1970s was that focused on the future provision of energy resources. In response to predictions about the eventual exhaustion of fossil fuel supplies the departments of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Chemical Engineering began to collaborate in exploring the biomass as a possible alternative and continuous source of energy; that is, 'the conversion of cellulose or cellulose-rich material to a fuel'. Chemists, engineers and geographers similarly co-operated in trying to find an effective method of capturing and storing wind energy.

Some of the Faculty's botanists, microbiologists and zoologists were involved in a broad interdisciplinary investigation of the Pongola River flood plains. University staff members comprised the majority of researchers

involved, which also included anthropologists, agriculturalists, economists and engineers. All were engaged in anticipating aspects of the changes likely to emanate from controlling flood waters to irrigate the Makhathini Flats, which in their natural course were vital to the fauna, flora and food production processes in northern Zululand. By 1978 entomologists, fine artists, geographers, surveyors and zoologists were all making use of the already established Ukhahlamba Research Station near Cathedral Peak for undergraduate training. Initiated in collaboration with the Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) Museum in Pietermaritzburg there were also several research projects underway there including some on erosion.<sup>2</sup>

That year the Durban Physics Department's Plasma Physics Research Group had the distinction to be expanded into a research institute with the injection of a substantial grant from the Atomic Energy Board. It soon had approximately a dozen staff members and students investigating superheated ionised gases. By 1987 T.B. Doyle and D.R. (Denis) Spalding were involved in a different branch of Physics: the production of high temperature superconductors in collaboration with D.W. Hamilton of the Department of Chemistry and Applied Chemistry.

The following year the Space Physics Research Institute was established under David Walker's directorship to formalise a research group that had been a leader in its field for almost forty years. In addition, an interdisciplinary research project was launched to study the ozone layer over southern Africa and the Antarctic region, involving L.F. Salter (Chemistry and Applied Chemistry) and M.W.J. (Martin) Scourfield (Physics). Professor Max Michaelis and his team took the world's first photographs through a telescope that focused light by means of a 'gas' lens made of warm air instead of using a glass lens or mirror.

Meanwhile Jim McKenzie's research group in Applied Mathematics bridged the gap between Physics and Mathematics and Henda Swart worked on graph theory and operations research. In 1989 S.W. Postma was successful in establishing the mathematical basis of the programme language Octoslip.

A decade earlier, with the assistance of the Natal Parks Board, the Thurlow Research Station was established on the shores of Lake Midmar for the Pietermaritzburg departments of Botany, Microbiology and Zoology and Entomology to conduct field experiments.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, the latter department maintained a close association with both the Natal Regional Planning Commission and the Parks Board, participating in various joint ventures particularly at Hluhluwe and Mtunzini. Its interests extended to both terrestrial

and aquatic life forms, including Michael Samways' research on butterflies and dragonflies and Mike Perrin's work on elephant shrews and gerbils.

In 1984 Gordon Maclean completed his revision of Roberts' *Birds of Southern Africa* and two years later his *Ducks of Sub-Saharan Africa* was published. C.W. (Colin) Sapsford co-operated with John Mendelsohn of the Durban Museum of Natural History in investigating the energy needs of free-living birds of prey in the Kalahari. In 1987 Samways was awarded an FRD comprehensive grant and the following year established the Insect Behaviour and Ecology Research Group, giving close attention to landscape and community ecology and conservation in the Drakensberg. That year Mike Perrin convened a mini-symposium on behalf of the Zoological Society of Southern Africa on 'The Biology of *Gerbillerus*'.

Durban's Department of Biological Sciences continued to pursue its research on the viability of seeds. In 1980 Professor Pat Berjak was invited to the Gordon Research Conference on Plant Senescence in the USA and was appointed a group leader of the International Working Group on Seed Research as well as participating in numerous conferences abroad. In 1988 Chris Cresswell established his Photosynthetic Nitrogen Metabolism Research Unit in the Biology Department after bringing his CSIR Unit and several staff members with him from Wits and subsequently gaining FRD recognition.

In Pietermaritzburg the CSIR established a Unit of Metal Cluster Chemistry in 1980 under Ray Haines' directorship. His arrival marked the beginning of major organometallic research in the Chemistry Department, strengthened by the inclusion of John Field, an M.Sc. graduate who in 1970 won an Elsie Ballot scholarship to Cambridge and was a specialist X-ray crystallographer. Field subsequently joined the staff and in 1981 a new X-Ray Crystallography Laboratory was commissioned under his supervision, due largely to the generosity of AECL. In 1988 a new X-ray automatic diffractometer, financed by the FRD and University Research Fund (URF), became available not only to the unit but as a regional facility for other researchers at the University and at UDW. The department's undercover parking area was enclosed to accommodate it as well as new laboratories. Also in the late 1980s, with the arrival of the computer age, AECL provided additional funds for a new computer-aided instruction facility.

In 1981 Siegfried Drewes supervised the completion of Herbert Magojo's doctorate. He was the first black student to attain this degree and all financed by his winnings on the Durban July Handicap. In 1988 Drewes and G.H.P. (Greg) Roos published a significant article in the international journal



**C.F. (Christopher) Cresswell** was a B.Sc. (1954), B.Sc. Hons (1955) and M.Sc. (1958) graduate of Rhodes University before completing his Ph.D. in 1961 at Bristol University. He gained teaching experience in Botany at Rhodes, King's College, London and Wits before becoming professor and head of the Department of Botany there and then head of Botany and Microbiology. He was founding chairman of the School of Biology, director of the CSIR/Wits Photosynthetic Nitrogen Metabolism Unit (1973–1984) and of its successor

the FRD-CSIR/Wits Unit (1984–1986) as well as serving two terms as dean of Science and facilitating a School of Science Education before moving to the University of Natal.

There his tenure as DVC and Vice-Principal/Campus Principal in Durban included short spells as acting Principal. Cresswell served on numerous bodies in and out of the University, including advisory positions for the Department of Agriculture and CSIR, director of the FRD/University of Natal Photosynthetic Nitrogen Metabolism Unit until 1993 and as chairman of the URC, in which capacity he promoted the cause of research by introducing several innovations. He was also instrumental in formulating the University's campus plan and in promoting Faculty restructuring, curriculum change and an educational development structure in response to financial and student needs. Despite campus unrest he remained popular with both staff and students for his persuasiveness and sincerity. As a scientist Cresswell authored and co-authored more than one hundred articles in national and international journals as well as over one hundred abstracts in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry. He won numerous academic scholarships and awards, including a Fellowship of the Royal Society of South Africa, the senior medal and life membership of the South African Society of Botanists and lifetime patron of the Fellows of the University of Natal. He died in 1998.

*Tetrahedron Reports*, which described a novel reaction for the formation of new carbon-to-carbon bonds and summarised some of the important research Drewes' Organic Research Group had conducted. Meanwhile, the Department of Biochemistry continued its survey on feedstuffs and food for mycotoxins working closely with the Mycotoxin Group of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Unit at Tygerberg. In 1986 that department received a High Performance Liquid Chromatograph from Bionics Ltd to conduct its research on cancerous tumours. Departmental research ranged from mycotoxins and plant toxins, with M.F. (Mike) Dutton well to the fore, to proteolytic enzymes in which Clive Dennison had a special interest.



**R.J. (Ray) Haines** acquired a B.Sc. (1959, first class), B.Sc. (Hons) (1960, first class) and M.Sc. (1961) from the University of Natal before being awarded a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of London (1966). He gained further research experience at ISCOR as well as teaching experience as a part-time lecturer at the University of Pretoria and as a senior lecturer at UCT where he was acting head of department before being appointed professor of Inorganic Chemistry (1976) and head of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical

Technology (1978–1992) in Pietermaritzburg. There he served two terms as dean of the Faculty of Science and on numerous internal committees as well as professionally related boards outside the University.

Haines won a number of bursaries and scholarships as well as several awards for his research achievements. He produced numerous scientific publications and in 1984 was among seventeen scientists in the University classified to receive major grants and one of only three who achieved an ‘A’ rating in terms of the FRD’s new system of financial support. In 1988 he became a Fellow of the University and he was a founder member (1994) of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

In Durban’s Department of Chemistry and Applied Chemistry D.A.H. Taylor continued his longstanding work on the isolation of limonoids, a series of natural products derived from certain trees, in which field he was a recognised international authority. By 1987 professors P.W. Hickmott and Salter were leading groups researching nitrogen organic chemistry and biophysical chemistry respectively. The latter group attracted funding from AECI and from the MRC while several members of the group won prizes and scholarships.

The Department of Geology and Applied Geology’s Coal Research Group explored Natal’s seams to improve mine planning and extraction methods. In 1984 the Geology Display Centre’s new exhibit ‘The engineering geologist and water supply’ attracted more than 1 500 Durban school pupils, 4 500 more the following year with its display of diamonds and as many again in 1986 with its ‘100 years of gold’. The Durban department also attracted large grants through its senior staff members for research as part of the National Geoscience Programme as well as acquiring funds from the CSIR and South African Chamber of Mines. This enabled it to commission new equipment for X-ray fluorescence studies on rocks while in 1986 E.D. Saggerson published his book on the *Identification of Metamorphic Rocks*.

The Geological Survey undertook to establish a Marine Geosciences Unit in the department to build on its reputation for sedimentological research and focus primarily on the Natal coastline's sedimentary dynamics including lagoons and estuaries. In 1989 T.R. Mason formalised the joint University of Natal/Geological Survey Marine Geoscience Unit while Professor Cornell attracted further significant support from the Goldfields Foundation to establish an ICP-Mass Spectrometry facility.

As co-ordinator of South Africa's Geology programme in Antarctica the Department of Geology and Mineralogy in Pietermaritzburg was awarded CSIR funds for research and bursaries and in 1980–1981 undertook preliminary reconnaissance expeditions to that icy continent. In 1986 the Goldfields Foundation supplied the department with an X-ray fluorescence instrument. D.R. (Don) Hunter represented South Africa in the collaborative programme on the Geology and Geophysics of Antarctica involving Norway, West Germany and Russia and became the first Natal academic in 29 years to be awarded the Council of the Geological Society of South Africa's Draper Memorial Medal. His departmental colleague Alan Wilson subsequently attracted international attention with his findings relating to the origins of platinum group mineralisation in the Zimbabwean great dyke.

Professor R.N. (Dick) Pienaar of Pietermaritzburg's Botany Department initiated a major investigation of the marine flora of the Natal and Zululand coastline. His work on marine nanoplankton and marine benthic algae, with the assistance of the transmission electron microscope in the Electron Microscope Unit, led to his election as first president of the Phycological Society of South Africa and president-elect of the International Phycological Society for the next two years.

In 1982 the CSIR sponsored the Growth Substance Control of Plant Development Research Unit, which his departmental colleague Hannes van Staden established; and in the same year the latter won the Kirstenbosch Jubilee Prize for his already substantial contribution to South African botany. Joyce Stewart co-authored *Orchids of Africa* as well as editing and contributing substantially to *Wild Orchids of Southern Africa*. Two years later Olive Hilliard won the senior medal of the South African Association of Botanists for her contribution to taxonomy.

In 1987 benefactor Dr R.A. Dyer donated a Beckham System Gold High Performance Liquid Chromatograph to the department and the following year all of its academic staff and postgraduate students formally associated themselves with what was now called the University of Natal-FRD Research



Unit for Plant Growth and Development. Another highlight was C. Stirton's FRD workshop on 'Immunology and protein electrophoresis in plant systematics'.

In the mid-1980s K.J. (Kevin) Hall of the Geography Department in Pietermaritzburg was investigating mechanical weathering processes as part of the British Antarctic Survey Fellfield Ecology Research Programme. He was subsequently elected to an international commission on frost action environments and participated in several expeditions in both hemispheres. His colleague D.G.B. (Graeme) Slade assisted future planning by researching black urbanisation and began an ongoing regional research programme. Three staff members contributed to the book *Pietermaritzburg 1838–1988: A New Portrait of an African City*, which colleague R.F. (Rob) Haswell co-edited with J.P.C. (John) Laband (Department of Historical Studies).<sup>4</sup>

At that time there was a significant increase in the research activity and postgraduate registrations of almost every department in the Faculty. This improvement was attributed, in part, to the CSIR's new research funding policy as operated through the FRD, but also to increasing demands from industry for high-level investigations and to the government's new subsidy formula for universities that rewarded published work.

In Durban the research groups led by professors Taylor (Chemistry) and Walker (Physics) attracted the highest levels of financial support possible under the new scheme. By 1985 there were 26 Faculty members receiving CSIR support through its FRD, wholly or in part half of them at the level of comprehensive support, and some were appointed FRD fellows. By the late 1980s there were grants from several sources for a variety of new research projects ranging from the beneficiation of ores and minerals using solvent extraction and DNA photochemistry to investigations into the depletion of the ozone layer and the analytical chemistry and properties of high temperature superconductors.

In Pietermaritzburg initially four members of staff were awarded FRD comprehensive support as from 1985. They were professors Haines and Drewes (Chemistry), and Pienaar and Van Staden (Botany), with the first's Metal Cluster Chemistry Unit and the last's Plant Growth and Development Unit receiving additional recognition by being designated University of Natal/CSIR research units. The Department of Chemistry was able to finance its SASOL Mass Spectrometry Facility with a large SASOL donation supplemented by grants from the CSIR's FRD and the URF. By 1989 eight Pietermaritzburg Faculty members enjoyed comprehensive FRD support and another 24 partial

support. The staff published 120 articles in refereed journals and graduated thirteen doctoral and 16 masters students, five and four respectively from the Department of Zoology.<sup>5</sup>

### **Agriculture**

In 1977 the Faculty took the innovative step of establishing its own research committee as well as various study groups to stimulate research in its departments and to promote a more interdisciplinary approach to resolving problems of importance to the agricultural sector. The following year some research projects, particularly those involving the orchard, suffered a setback when Ukulinga Experimental Farm at Mkondeni was hit by severe storms, highlighting the extent to which agriculture is vulnerable to the vagaries of nature.<sup>6</sup>

In 1981 the Department of Agricultural Economics established an Agricultural Policy Research Unit that greatly increased its postgraduate output. Departmental head Lieb Nieuwoudt published on a variety of topics, including the demand for crop insurance, the taxation of agricultural land and the impact of increased earnings from traditional agriculture. K.G. Fuller and Mark Darroch published on inter-relationships between financial ratios for summer crop producers and Gerald Ortmann on analytical tools in production economics. Agronomy maintained its research interests in Agrometeorology, Crop Science, Environmental Science and Soil Science with Michael Savage, Martin Fey and H. Frenkel among others publishing extensively.

The Department of Agricultural Engineering continued to research the mounting energy crisis, which was attracting attention in other faculties, in its case with particular reference to the consumption of fossil fuels in the agricultural industry. Its ongoing work on efficient tractor operation attracted worldwide interest and continued after 1977 when the department came under the administrative control of the Faculty of Engineering. In addition, Roland Schulze continued Jack Burney's hydrological research, authoring numerous articles and research/consulting reports, supervising several postgraduates and establishing an internationally renowned and externally funded Applied Hydrological Research Group. Meanwhile, Jimmy de Jager's crop growth modelling project PUTU (maize porridge in the Zulu language) for many years attracted further attention to the new Department of Agrometeorology.

By 1979 a research project involving the newly established Subsistence Agriculture Study Group and the KwaZulu Department of Agriculture had been launched. It was intended to promote an interdisciplinary approach to the

problems faced in the rural districts with particular focus on the improvement of subsistence agriculture by identifying viable crops for small farmers and accessing adequate water and energy resources. It initially concentrated on three wards in the Vulindlela district with the intention of later extending the project to the Imfume area in the Mbumbulu district and to a further area in the dry thornveld ecosystem.

The study group drew researchers from a variety of departments both within and outside the Faculty including Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Biochemistry, Crop Science, Economics, Geography, History, Dietetics and Home Economics, Pasture Science and Social Anthropology. Multidisciplinary baseline surveys were planned for the whole province's bioclimatic regions to provide a foundation for further research. In addition, a summer school training course for agricultural officers was organised.

Animal and Poultry Science's most active areas of research activity were poultry and pig production, mineral metabolism and reproductive endocrinology with 29 papers produced between 1985 and 1987. A.W. (Arthur) Lishman was engaged in improving the reproductive efficiency of cattle and sheep and there was collaboration with a local veterinarian in ovum transplant experimentation. Departmental head Rob Gous continued to head research projects intended to assist farmers in making decisions that would lead to maximum profitability, in particular with regard to growth simulation models designed to improve poultry and pig production. Poultry research attracted the most external funding because of its relevance to the immediate needs of the industry and its international reputation.

Newly acquired computers in the Department of Computer Science eventually helped to facilitate the development of expert systems for Third World agriculture. The Grain Crops Research Institute headed by H.O.G. (Hans) Gevers continued its work on the production of high lysine maize as a solution to the Third World scourge of kwashiorkor.

In 1979 the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology launched an epidemiological programme intended to co-ordinate more effective control of disease outbreaks by using management methods that had potential to make a significant cost-saving impact on the agricultural industry. Supported by a comprehensive FRD grant, departmental head Frits Rijkenberg conducted light and electron microscopic research on the early infection stages of rust fungi on their hosts. J.V. (John) da Graca enjoyed partial FRD support for his work on the identification and characteristics of plant viruses while Mike Wallis concentrated on fermentation microbiology with a particular interest

in converting agricultural waste into commercial products and in pollution control. M.N.D. (Mark) Laing's interests included diseases of vegetables and container-grown seedlings.

By 1980 a Pathosystems Research Unit had been formally established and attracted strong support from grower organisations. J.E. Vanderplank, the world's leading plant disease epidemiologist, spoke at the one-day national symposium held that year. The department was also a participant in the National Co-operative Scientific Programme on the production of fuel alcohol from waste matter and in 1988 the Natal Produce Growers Association donated a horticultural tunnel to promote research into plant diseases.

In 1980 the Department of Soil Science attracted international interest when it developed an acid-leach process to refine low-grade Natal bauxite, which had potential use in the production of aluminium sulphate for the manufacture of paper. Head of department John de Villiers continued his research on the environmental impact of mining, rehabilitation measures and the uses to which land could be put thereafter. From 1988 he occupied the South African Sugar Association Chair of Crop Science after it was formally endowed and following the merger of his department with Agrometeorology and Crop Science.

The Ukulinga experimental farm continued to prove its value after recovering from a spate of storms, although there was resentment at the manner in which the revenues it generated disappeared into the University's general coffers. The Faculty Board urged the University to recognise the farm as 'an essential but outdoor laboratory' and to see it and the Faculty as a 'shop window' to the agricultural sector and general public rather than to think of selling it. In 1986, when ownership of the property was at last transferred from the State to the University, a delegation of Council members visited it. Proposals to sell it off to alleviate the University's financial crisis were dropped when it was realised that it would revert to state ownership if not used for teaching and research.

The Department of Pasture Science maintained its prominence in the CSIR-sponsored project investigating the ecological effects of fire in South Africa's ecosystems. No less than twenty of the 29 papers delivered at the 1980 South African Grassland Society Congress were presented by staff members or by current and former students. In 1981 the department published its 481-page book *Veld and Pasture Management in South Africa* under the editorship of its head Neil Tainton who was later to become a Fellow of the University. As Grassland Science from 1982 the department's research was primarily focused on describing, analysing and classifying the natural veld, at managing intensive

grass/legume pastures and at planning land use practices in accordance with available natural resources. Closely related to this work was the improvement of livestock and game production while simultaneously protecting the resource base.

Nigel Wolstenholme and others in the Department of Horticulture conducted research into the improvement and production of sub-tropical fruit and nuts, which introduced new cultivars and systems of production into the industry with 50 000 avocado and 21 500 deciduous fruit trees established, while a new pawpaw variety also attracted commercial interest. The construction of another plastic tunnel and of an evaporatively cooled greenhouse served to ease the serious shortage of growing facilities and further promote its research. Peter Allan focused on improving the production of the papaw clone Honey Gold and also of macadamia nuts, peaches and kiwifruit. I.E. (Irwin) Smith researched the production of vegetables both in the field and under protection while P.J. (Pete) Hofman continued to work on an improved quantification technique for plant growth hormones.

Ongoing collaboration with the CSIR, HSRC, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the KwaZulu homeland government further enhanced the image of the Faculty while in 1982 more than 100 postgraduate registrations emphasised its research dimension. By the mid-1980s there was an urgent need to expand both its laboratory and field research facilities with the result that a major refurbishment of the Rabie Saunders Building was embarked upon to optimise the use of what was becoming increasingly inadequate space.

Despite these constraints, by 1987 four of the Faculty's staff members had become the recipients of FRD comprehensive research grants. By then the need to economise was impacting on all of the Faculty's activities, as it was on others, although staff members were still able to attract substantial research funding from external sources.<sup>7</sup> The same was true in Engineering.

### **Engineering and Architecture and Allied Disciplines**

By 1977 the constitution for a proposed Engineering Experimental Station had been drawn up but by then the University was finding it difficult to keep up with the increasing cost of establishing and maintaining specialised research laboratories. Fortunately, the number of industry-sponsored projects was also gathering momentum as the Faculty's reputation became more widespread and its research potential was recognised.

There were several projects relating to energy and fuel. The Department of Chemical Engineering won support from the National Materials Programme

and from AECI to conduct tests on a car using motor spirit from sugarcane waste (bagasse). By the end of 1978 the Chevallier 2.3 sedan donated by General Motors South Africa for this purpose had already travelled several thousand kilometres on a blend of ethyl alcohol, furfural and petrol. Mechanical Engineering was investigating the use of hydrogen to run engines and installed a spark ignition engine to run tests.

Agricultural Engineering, formerly part of the Faculty of Agriculture, still had two primary research interests: the effective utilisation of water through the hydrological management of agricultural catchment areas and the optimal achievement of tractor performance. In 1985 the University was awarded the funds to establish a national facility for water research in open competition with other institutions active in that field and the decision was taken to locate it in the Department of Agricultural Engineering. There was generous support from IBM in the form of funding and equipment spread over six years and from the WRC, which had initiated the idea of a national water research computer centre.

The award was an important recognition of the quality of work and publication output the department had already produced in the field of hydrological research and it was envisaged that a computerised network would eventually be developed linking relevant researchers throughout the country. The hardware provided also allowed for the associated INR to develop its natural resource base for the Natal-Zululand region independently and provide a reliable basis upon which future renewable resource usage could be planned. By 1988 the WRC had published three manuals on hydrological design for which the department was responsible and for which the South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers awarded the authors silver medals.

The Department of Agricultural Engineering also attracted CSIR support as it continued to explore alternative fuels as supplements to diesel. It developed an efficiency meter to improve tractor performance and a tractor test bay with full instrumentation and appropriate noise insulation. With this equipment it successfully ran a test tractor on a mixture of 85% diesel and 15% ethanol.

An interdepartmental project on wind power involved Mechanical Engineering focusing on wind turbines, Electrical Engineering on the development of suitable generators and Geography on wind data. A model of a vertical axis wind turbine was constructed with the electrical control system completed as a successful student project. By 1989 Agricultural Engineering's various research contracts amounted to more than R1 million worth.

By the mid-1980s Chemical Engineering had developed research interests in a variety of fields. One was to compensate for the poor quality of South Africa's coal resources by developing a method to gasify discard coal (so-called smalls and fines) to save energy. SASOL was understandably interested in the department's work on developing a new catalyst for the Fischer Tropsch process. By 1978 a unique supersonic nozzle reactor intended to convert methane gas directly into ethylene was at the testing stage and the National Programme on Coal Combustion was supporting the development of what was described as 'a fluidized bed high ash combustor' whose purpose was to convert 35% ash discard coal into low-BTU gas. It was anticipated that, when complete, the pressurised conductor would be 'one of the most advanced units in the world to handle duff discards and other, difficult to burn, materials'. In 1979 road tests were completed on a synthetic fuel mixture and further tests were conducted to overcome lubrication problems. By 1989 J.D. Raal had developed two new vapour-liquid equilibrium stills, which he successfully applied in analysing some of the chemical systems that were of industrial value to both SASOL and Karbochemicals.

Another area of departmental research interest was in the development of techniques to take advantage of South Africa's possession of most of the world's chrome reserves by producing chromium from chromite ore without roasting it at the usual hugely energy-expensive 1 800 degrees centigrade. In 1989 Professor R.I. Edwards' Council for Mineral Technology (MINTEK) Research Group concluded its extensive research on processing chromite ore to produce stainless steel more cost efficiently. The department had a further research interest in improved energy efficiency in ore milling processes and the National Institute of Mineralogy funded a project to develop a centrifugal mill for effectively processing ore underground.

Yet another research project focused on the monitoring of airborne pollutants and the purification of factory effluent. The WRC provided R300 000 for the further development of a pilot plant set up by the department's Pollution Research Group to treat effluents from the textile industry. By 1989 C.A. Buckley's team was investigating cross-flow filtration in order to achieve more effective water and effluent treatment in its application to industry.

The WRC also contributed R200 000 towards Agricultural Engineering's investigation of rural catchment areas in the interests of flood control and the development of a databank of autographic rain gauge records. The department quickly established a reputation for its expertise relating to ground water hydrology and by the late 1980s it had also developed a tubular filter press

to supply water to Third World communities by extracting it from sludges in waterworks. In 1987 the Computer Centre for Water Research was fully installed and the Minister of Water Affairs officially opened a prototype plant for the treatment of water works sludge using the tubular filter process. An international patent was registered for this method, which had been developed jointly by the Department of Chemical Engineering's Pollution Research Group, the Umgeni Water Board and the WRC. By 1988 several water authorities in the Vaal Triangle were considering the implementation of this novel process.

In addition the WRC contributed R79 000 to finance Civil Engineering's related project on flood control, which involved fitting a linear compartment model to the existing records of gauged stream flows in various parts of the country so that historical stream flows could be estimated in areas where none existed but rainfall data was available. The installation of a new mini-computer greatly facilitated research into rain run-off.

In addition to hydraulics, the department also conducted research on road surfaces and transport in which connection a two-week winter school was organised in 1978 for the South African Road Federation. The ongoing investigation into road surfaces and their foundations also involved the use of synthetic adhesives in their repair. Yet another departmental research interest was in the use of epoxy for building construction and in structural engineering. This led to the development of improved techniques in strengthening existing structures and the erection of new ones. The department's interest in low-cost road and housing programmes in the province was ongoing. In 1981 a further research dimension was developed when the Civil Engineering Waverider buoy was launched one kilometre off Durban's Country Club beach. The intention was to move it periodically to other locations to collect information about waves towards further investigations into coastal erosion.

Electrical Engineering worked on various aspects of the power application of electricity with research groups concentrating on electrical machines, power system stability, power electronics, variable speed drives and control systems. It concluded a project on 'possible subsynchronous resonance' of the generators that were to be installed in the nuclear power station at Koeberg in collaboration with ESKOM. This was undertaken using a laboratory-built scale model of the generators and resulted in a paper produced jointly with ESKOM staff that received an award as one of the best published in its field.

Professor Ron Harley's work on synchronous generators, induction motors and power systems was of vital importance to the development of the



whole ESKOM grid and gained international recognition through numerous conference papers as well as twelve articles published in the top two electrical engineering journals in the USA and Britain. Harley was duly appointed a member of the Subsynchronous Resource working group of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

The department was also working on the manufacture of integrated circuits. Its special laboratory was matched only by that at the CSIR and its research on the spectrum of daylight in Durban attracted attention from skin specialists and paint manufacturers. In addition, in 1988 the department launched a R250 000 two-year research contract on AC motor speed control for the National Energy Council and by 1989 had a research budget of R400 000.

The new Department of Electronic Engineering was focused on the use of electricity to generate, transmit and process information. It had four research dimensions: communication engineering, which concentrated on the use of satellites, meteor burst communication, acoustics and microwave systems; computer engineering, which was concerned with processing digital information, computer networks, the application of computers in design development and the use of microprocessors; solid state and materials research, which concentrated on silicon chips and the construction of electronic components; and electronic engineering, in which the focus was on electronic instrumentation, lighting assessment and photometry.

The department quickly acquired an international reputation as well as attracting funding from the CSIR and other sources, in particular for its research on communication and digital systems, solid state electronics, materials components and manufacturing technology and electronics and instrumentation. Close co-operation with both the public and private sectors ensured optimal utilisation of expensive capital items and attracted generous donations of equipment and funds, including the aforementioned subvention of the Post Office Chair of Microelectronics.

In 1988 the department became involved in developing a new method of measuring intermodulation distortion in television transmitters as well as collaborating with an American university in researching the reliability of integrated circuits. By the end of 1989 it had installed a LAN with 60 personal computers (PCs) on it for the benefit of staff and students. A cluster of HP Unix workstations linked to an Ethernet LAN replaced the Hewlett Packard HP9000 minicomputer with plans to link it to the PC LAN and to the campus and CSIR networks.

An electronic mail service (e-mail) was installed to provide local and international access to Europe and the USA as well as a news system to distribute bulletins from the international network. By way of experiment a research group using transputers sent a query to the Transputer Bulletin through this system and within days elicited time-saving responses from Britain, Europe, the Far East and USA.

Mechanical Engineering researched hydrogen combustion engines and computer-assisted designs for the manufacturing sector. It attracted support from the Department of Plural Relations and Development for its project on the use of solar energy for cooking purposes in rural areas. The acquisition of a new building enabled the department to accommodate several large items of equipment such as a computer numerical control milling machine and a cetane engine. New data capturing and control systems were installed in the laboratories and additional research contracts were undertaken for industry.

The department enjoyed ongoing support from the CSIR and other organisations for its work on turbo-machinery while new research was initiated in Robotics and its application to industrial processes following the arrival of advanced robots for the laboratories. Research in composite materials quickly extended beyond the already familiar fibreglass products. In 1989 the department concluded several new research contracts, the largest being with the CSIR amounting to R500 000 over two years while new staff member E.E. Aghion arranged contracts with several metallurgical organisations.

Land Surveying gained financial support from the Department of the Environment and from the Town and Regional Planning Commission for its work on the use of satellite and airborne imaging for mapping. As the renamed Department of Surveying and Mapping it continued its research on remote sensing and satellite imagery into the 1980s. It also collaborated with the Department of Architecture in studying squatter settlements around Durban and with Civil Engineering in monitoring soil subsidence over the Pigeon Valley Tunnel not far from the campus.

By the mid-1980s the department was actively involved in four areas: the production of maps using satellite imagery, aerial photography and research on the ground; an information systems division focused on researching geographical information to develop a database for future planning; an engineering division devoted to detail surveys, setting up ground works and heavy machinery and monitoring structural movements; and a legal division that concentrated on individual land rights and on land tenure registration systems in developing countries.

In 1988 the department completed the data capture of its ten-year HSRC-funded study of informal settlements in the Durban region. This involved aerial photography of the whole area inland to Pietermaritzburg, south to Umkomaas and north to Verulam before interpreting, counting and positioning every dwelling visible on three separate occasions – in 1979, 1983 and 1987.

In 1981, on behalf of the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, the Department of Quantity Surveying undertook to research the financial planning and control of the urban services provided by local authorities. Quantity Surveying and Building Economics, as it subsequently became known, later acquired specialist computer equipment to facilitate the development of a system for the direct measurement of drawings. In 1989 it also acquired an expert system programme from Britain to conduct feasibility studies and began to convert it to local conditions.

In 1985 the University Council allocated land on campus for the School of Architecture's research into the construction of cheaper buildings for the community at large. In 1988 the PG Glass Foundation contributed funds for conservation research and two projects were launched in the disadvantaged communities of St Wendolins and Clairwood. The following year PG Glass sponsored two publications on the School's projects, 'Upgrading of KwaMagaga' and 'The upgrading of houses in KwaMashu'. Members of staff delivered several papers abroad and Rodney Harber directed a series of television programmes on low-income housing technology.

Collectively during the 1980s Architecture and its allied disciplines continued to publish in the fields of building economics, urban and regional planning, developmental issues, housing delivery, alternative forms of construction, alternatives to community removals, and architectural conservation.<sup>8</sup>

## **Medicine**

As before, members of the Faculty of Medicine made substantial contributions to the region's health care services by extending its community service activities beyond the Durban peri-urban area into the rural districts and contributed to knowledge in their specialised fields of medical science through a steady stream of conference papers and publications in reputable journals. Much of this came from, or in association with, the various research institutes attached to the Faculty, including the Research Institute for Diseases in a Tropical Environment. Originally established as the Amoebiasis Research Institute, it acquired its new name in 1976 and continued to investigate amoebiasis, malaria, cysticercosis and other parasitic diseases to which humans and animals

were prone. The Institute also had a branch at Nelspruit with seventeen staff members.

Professor J.G. Brock-Utne and several departmental colleagues in Anaesthetics maintained their publication output on anaesthesia, on improved anaesthetic management, new synthetic analgesics and the reduction of anaesthetic mortality as well as on various aspects of anaesthesia in relation to, for example, caesarean section, cervical cancer, analgesics, lower abdominal surgery, gastro-intestinal endoscopy and the management of eclampsia. By the end of the 1980s under Professor D.A. Rocke the department's research was focused on improving the general standard of anaesthetic practice in the region, providing expertise in a number of sub-specialities and promoting clinical research projects among its more than 40 postgraduate students.

In Anatomical Pathology and Chemical Pathology M.M. Schonland and John Wainwright published on adenovirus pneumonias and toxic hepatitis, S.B. Akoojee on pancreatitis and (with Y.M. Coovadia) on hepatoblastoma while I.A. Jialal published on the management of non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus and with colleagues on thyrotoxic patients. R. Chetty and K. Cooper published on rhinosporidiosis and aorto-arteritis at King Edward VIII Hospital while Cooper and co-workers published on thyroid carcinosarcoma and light chain nephropathy. G.M.B. Berger investigated the role of high density lipoprotein in the promotion of coronary artery disease and worked on improving the diagnostic use of laboratory tests while R. Pegoraro studied the role of oestrogen and progesterone receptors in diagnosing breast cancer.

In 1979 Professor E.B. Adams published his substantial *Companion to Clinical Medicine in the Tropics and Subtropics*. The Department of Medicine's extensive publications also included his work on amoebiasis and typhoid, Brock-Utne and co-workers' research on the lower oesophageal sphincter, the work of C. Pillay, M.G. Moshal and colleagues on duodenal and peptic ulcers and that of Dennis Pudifin on immunological disorders. Y.K. Seedat and others published extensively on the treatment of hypertension, on acute renal failure among blacks and on high blood pressure in relation to race and environment and on drugs and the kidney. D. Gillmer published on coronary artery surgery and valve replacement, as did A.S. Mitha on mitral valve replacement and P.D. Naidoo and others on rheumatoid arthritis and gout in blacks.

G.M. Mody published on gout and M.A.K. Omar and colleagues on insulin resistance, insulin therapy and on disorders of the hypothalamus and pituitary gland. P.L.A. Bill published on headaches, A.S. Mitha on ischaemic heart disease and S. Vythilingum on exercise testing in coronary artery disease while

M.A.H. Bayles wrote on the management of deep mycoses, S. Naicker on acute renal failure, M.C. Rajput and colleagues on hypothyroidism, and Mody and others on cervical spine fracture and rheumatoid arthritis. K.E. Pettengell published on gastrointestinal tuberculosis and M. Sewdarsen and co-workers published on abnormal glucose tolerance in women with myocardial infarction.

In Medically Applied Psychology, Lourens Schlebusch published on psychological intervention following a community disaster, on the treatment of affective disorders and on health risk behaviour. He also published extensively on parasuicide and depression while A.L. Pillay wrote about emotional aspects of paediatric hospitalisation.

In Medical Microbiology, P.C. Appelbaum and others published on aspects of bacterial growth, salmonella meningitis and gastroenteritis in infants and streptococcus pneumonia while A.F. Hallett and colleagues did so on respiratory and other infections. H.B. Brooks and W.I. Hudson published on urinary catheters and catheter-related bacteriuria at King Edward VIII Hospital while A.A. Hoosen and co-workers published on the aetiology of acute urethritis in black males in Durban and D.F. Wittenberg and colleagues on diarrhoea in children. J. van den Ende published on the acquisition and mechanisms of resistance to infectious diseases, on antimicrobial therapy in hospital environments and with others on hospital-acquired systemic infections.

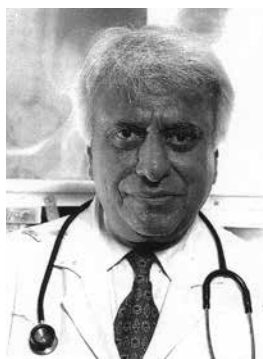
Dr Hoosen and co-workers continued their research on aspects of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), which were highly prevalent in the region, and their resistance to penicillin. The development of an in-house computer programme for antibiotic resistance surveillance helped to initiate a national programme in collaboration with the antibiotic study group and provide valuable advice with regard to hospital infection control.

In Obstetrics and Gynaecology, J.N. Moodley, R.J. Norman, T. Padayachi and colleagues published on aspects of eclampsia, pelvic inflammatory disease, caesarean section, labour inductions and pregnancy terminations. Ophthalmology examined glaucoma in black patients and cases of conjunctivitis while in Orthopaedic Surgery Professor T.L. Sarkin, R.F. Spencer and others researched such aspects of the field as bone fractures, benign cysts, dislocations, ligament injuries, deep temporal bone surgery, spinal scoliosis and other deformities, rotator cuff degeneration, ossification and hip replacement. The Department of Otorhinolaryngology investigated hypophysectomy.

In Paediatrics and Child Health, professors H.M. (Jerry) Coovadia, A.G. Wesley and other colleagues published on acute measles, post-measles

chest disease, physical growth and its retardation, the diagnosis of bacterial meningitis, the nephrotic syndrome in African and Indian children and tetanus, while J.N. Scragg and C.J. Rubidge published their research on infections and disease in black children and on intestinal parasites. W.E.K. Loening published on infant mortality, child abuse, retarded children, learning disability and breastfeeding support as did A. Moosa on child health, malnutrition, infant feeding and spinal muscular atrophy.

In 1984 professors Coovadia and Loening published their book on *Paediatrics and Child Health*, L.R. Naidoo and colleagues published on children with the nephrotic syndrome as did D.V. Naidoo with colleagues on black epileptics; while Loening published further on black child health and Coovadia and colleagues on measles immunisation and neonatal bacterial meningitis.



**H.M. (Jerry) Coovadia** matriculated at Sastri College but subsequently dropped out of the Medical School in Durban because, apart from the inspired preliminary course in English literature (his favourite subject), he found that ‘the atmosphere was absolutely stultifying’. Instead, he acquired his initial medical training in India (1965) and then at the College of Medicine in South Africa (1971), followed by an M.Sc. in Birmingham (1974) and an MD at the University of Natal (1978). He gained work experience in several capacities, including as a research fellow at the Institute of Child

Health in London and as a senior paediatrician/senior lecturer employed by the NPA before becoming an associate professor at the University of Natal (1982–1985), ad hominem professor (1986–1989) and professor and head of Paediatrics and Child Health (1990–2000) there. From 2001 he occupied the Victor Daitz Chair in HIV/AIDS Research and was director of the Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking.

Coovadia presented more than one hundred conference papers, authored more than two hundred important publications and chaired numerous bodies including South Africa’s National HIV/AIDS and STD Programme and the Commission on Maternal and Child Health. He was also a member of several professional societies from which he received a number of awards. Among the most prestigious of his accolades was the Order of the Star of South Africa Class V which he accepted in 1999 from President Nelson Mandela, a Medal for Excellence in Research from the MRC, the 2000 Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights and a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2006 HIV Congress in Mumbai.

In Paediatric Surgery, G.P. Hadley conducted a nutritional survey of children with soft tissue tumours and C.G. Constantinides researched ambiguous genitalia in patients with incomplete sexual differentiation. In Pharmacology (renamed Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology), A.C. Asmal and colleagues published on blindness caused by diabetes mellitus, on the early onset of diabetes mellitus and on diabetes diagnosis. P.H. Bach and others published their research on acute poisoning and alcohol-induced trauma while W.P. Leary, Asmal and co-workers did likewise on the treatment of hypertension, high blood pressure and on diuretics. B. Maharaj published on drug therapy of arrhythmias, on calcium channel blockers in hypertension and on liver disease.

In Physiology, C.I. Bhagat, John Reid and others published on the effects of vagal stimulation on coronary arteries while S.L. Gaffin and colleagues published on neonatal sepsis and shock. Research was also conducted on endotoxaemia during heatstroke, gastric aspiration pneumonia, muscle changes after ischaemia and aspects of amputation procedures.

In Psychiatry, R.W.S. Cheetham published on the psychiatric aspects of pregnancy, on the diagnosis of schizophrenia and with colleagues researched parasuicide in the Durban Indian community. He also published on the role of traditional healers as psychotherapists while W.H. Wessels published on healing practices in African independent churches as well as on transcultural aspects of Psychiatry. J.B. Carlile published on psychotropic medication in the management of pain, S.K. Kader on the treatment of borderline personality disorder, A.J. Lasich on that of antisocial personality and M.G. Nair on conversion disorders. A.J. Lasich published on common psychiatric problems encountered in general practice and A.L. Pillay on psychogenic pain disorder in children.

J.E. Boulton and others in the Department of Radiology published on ultrasound appearances in hepatocellular carcinoma, sub-diaphragmatic ruptures and on hepatic amoebiasis while J.M. Kalideen and colleagues published on renal injuries and post-traumatic haemorrhage. In 1988 M. Garb and H.E. Engelbrecht published their *Atlas: Normal Computed Tomographic Anatomy of the Head and Body* while B. Maharaj and colleagues published on aspects of liver disease.

In Surgery, I.B. Angorn, A.A. Haffjee and co-workers published widely on, for example, aspects of renal trauma and oesophageal carcinoma, M.G. Moshal, L.W. Baker and others on vagotomy and on the treatment of peptic ulcers, S.P. Pillay on peritoneoscopy techniques and carcinoma of the colon

and J.V. Robbs, Moshal and Baker on duodenal perforation, acute arterial occlusion and abdominal aortic aneurysms. Robbs also published on vascular trauma, injuries to the neck and, with colleagues, on abdominal aortic surgery and penetrating wounds of the back.

In Neurosurgery, R. Bullock and James van Dellen published on spinal epidural abscess and intra-cranial mycotic aneurysms while in Plastic Surgery, E.J. Bowen Jones and colleagues published on skin graft donor site healing and on a comparison of dressings used. In Thoracic Surgery, research was undertaken into the surgical treatment of chronic destructive pneumonia, myocardial biopsy, lung abscesses and tumours of the chest wall. J.A. Odell and co-workers published on bovine pericardial bioprosthetic heart valves and on bioprosthetic valve calcification. B.T. le Roux and others published on hydatid disease, lung amoebiasis, trauma surgery, bronchography and injuries to the mediastinum, trachea and major bronchi.

In Virology, I.M. Windsor and colleagues published on testing for antibodies among black women at antenatal clinics, the occurrence of hepatitis B markers among hospital staff, viral infections in clinical pertussis, the general spread of hepatitis B virus and the transmission of HIV to South African women.

During the 1980s the Faculty's research effort was boosted by several encouraging developments. In 1982 the University accepted an offer of R37 500 a year, renewable after five years, from the Stella and Paul Loewenstein Charitable and Educational Trust to establish a Chair of Maternal and Child Health under that name in the Department of Paediatrics. Three such chairs had already been established at Rhodes, UCT and Wits to promote health care among the underprivileged. The dean suggested that research in Durban might appropriately focus on pregnancy and the first five years of life. In 1983 the MRC provided a further incentive when it offered to pay 50% of the cost to appoint a co-ordinator of medical research/assistant dean for research to promote that dimension of the Faculty's activity.

Several clinical departments were involved in serving the Natal province and the KwaZulu homeland. In 1984 negotiations between those two administrations resulted in the Faculty extending satellite teaching status to several clinical sections at Grey's, Edendale and Northdale hospitals in the Pietermaritzburg area. It was intended that undergraduate teaching, community-focused research and primary health care services would all be provided at the new Mahatma Gandhi Prototype Primary Health Care Centre at Phoenix. The Faculty's School of Community Health established this facility



in collaboration with the trustees of the Mahatma Gandhi Settlement and with financial support from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund.<sup>9</sup>

In 1986 J.K. Naidoo became the Faculty's sixth graduate since 1980 to win the Regional Gold Medal of the South African Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The following year a Faculty Research Day was inaugurated to highlight achievements. In 1988 the animal research facility was upgraded to meet the high standards of the University Animal Ethics Committee, which included two veterinarians, and S.L. Gaffin was awarded the title of *ad hominem* professor for his exceptional contribution to medical science in the field of endotoxins.

Research in Anaesthetics was promoted by the appointment of W.B. Murray as research professor and the provision of a dedicated research laboratory, coupled with the appointment of a full-time computer programmer the previous year and of an anaesthetist with responsibility to the community in 1989. In addition, the NPA allocated R900 000 to initiate a provincial anaesthetic equipment pool and a technician was appointed to manage the laboratory.

By then Chemical Pathology had suffered a setback with the dissolution of the MRC-supported Pre-Clinical Diagnostic Chemistry Research Unit and the aforementioned resignation of four of the five consultant chemical pathologists. Fortunately, it still had its essential physical facilities and was in the process of recruiting new young staff while G.M.B. Berger established a Regional Lipid Study Group that served to integrate several local clinics with the chemical pathology laboratories and provided a basis for further research.

Professor P. (Perry) Leary, head of the Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, continued to conduct research into the misuse of prescribed drugs such as diuretics. Dr I. (Ismail) Bhorat conducted important research on eclampsia or extreme hypertensive crises during pregnancy. R. (Rajendran) Moodley worked on the elimination of the misdiagnosis of abnormal heart rhythms while E.M. Iruksen continued the work of the late Ronald Elsdon-Dew and others on the treatment of amoebiasis.

By the late 1980s there were several projects underway in Forensic Medicine. These included a variety of post-mortem medico-legal problems, deaths caused by substance abuse, the prevalence of HIV antigens and antibodies in those dying of unnatural causes, trends in this disease and the accuracy of testing procedures, the frequency and causes of cardiac death and improvements in heart dissection, and the epidemiology and pathology of death by violence and by suicide.

By then the Department of Medicine boasted several specialised fields with Professor Seedat and doctors S. Naiker, I. Naiker, S. Dawood and I.G.H. Randeree focusing on hypertension and renal disease, Professor P.L.A. Bill and Dr A.I. Bhigjee on aspects of neurology, professors Dennis Pudifin and G.M. Mody on clinical immunology and rheumatology, doctors R.B. Dyer, D.P. Naidoo and D.K. Desai on cardiology, V. Gathiram on infectious and tropical diseases, M.A.K. Omar and A.A. Motala on endocrinology; with Professor A.E. Simjee running the Gastro-Intestinal Unit, doctors U.G. Lalloo, R. Nader and E.M. Irusen researching aspects of pulmonology and both Addington and R.K. Khan hospitals involved in ongoing clinical research projects.

In Medical Microbiology, research continued in applied medical microbiology, including the diagnosis and therapy of infectious diseases, and the documentation of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. In 1988 Professor Sarkin (Orthopaedic Surgery) published his book *Seven Paths to Orthopaedics: A Textbook for Undergraduates and Postgraduates* and the following year his colleague R.F. Spencer published his doctoral thesis *The Effect of Head Injury on Fracture Healing*. Paediatrics and Child Health continued to focus on the major health problems affecting the region's disadvantaged children and the unusual patterns of disease identified there. Ongoing research was aimed at improving vaccination programmes and at examining the underlying causes of diarrhoea, birth asphyxia, kidney disease, blood, brain and endocrine disorders as well as mental and physical disabilities.

By the late 1980s the Department of Psychiatry was engaged in a broad range of basic and applied research projects with Professor P. Henzi leading a team working on animal behaviour from a field station at Mkuze, D. Basckin observing social behaviour in more controlled environments and Professor S. Tollman studying aspects of the aging process and exploring novel intervention techniques in rehabilitating injured persons through his Head Trauma Unit. By 1989 the sub-department of Medically Applied Psychology was investigating the high instance of suicides in the Durban area in the light of a national rate that was reaching endemic proportions. In addition, it was assessing psychological problems associated with end-stage renal treatment, the cross-cultural psychological variables associated with renal transplantation and the motives underlying elective cosmetic surgery.

In General Surgery, specialised areas of interest had emerged in addition to broad aspects of surgery, prompted in part by an increase in emergency surgical referrals. Professor A.A. Haffjee and J.V. Bryer continued to investigate appropriate surgical procedures for malignant oesophageal disease while

F.M. Luvuno's research on the pathophysiological aspects of complicated amoebiasis had already resulted in revised surgical management procedures, a significant decline in mortality rates and international recognition of his work. In addition, Haffejee and colleagues were studying nutritional disorders in surgical patients while the acquisition of a duplex scanner facilitated widening research interests in vascular surgery and vascular trauma under J.V. Robbs' direction. Other interests included new approaches to the treatment of general surgical trauma, the more efficient control of intensive care units, and micro-vascular surgery.

Head of Virology I.M. Windsor continued her longstanding interest in viruses associated with hepatitis A and B and extended it to include hepatitis C virus with the availability of reagents to test for it. By 1989 she had also become involved in screening hospital patients for HIV infection and monitoring the course of the epidemic in the region, which was evidently much more severe than elsewhere in South Africa. Dr D. Tait investigated an outbreak of adenovirus pneumonia at King Edward VIII Hospital and also pursued an ongoing investigation of the viral aetiology of aseptic meningitis in the Durban area.

A major highlight of the late 1980s was the Faculty's first successful separation of Siamese twins by a team the dean, Professor Bob Mickel, headed.<sup>10</sup>

### **Humanities and Social Sciences**

In 1980, A. Ussher of the Department of Accountancy in Durban published a series of articles in the *Journal of the Institute of Credit Management* adjudged the best to appear in that publication that year and he was duly awarded the Floating Trophy of the Credit Guarantee Insurance Corporation of Africa Ltd. In 1988 Professor P.J.C. (Peter) Sénéque of the same department won the Standard Merchant Bank Prize for an article in *De Ratione* and was subsequently appointed its editor. In Pietermaritzburg, Accountancy was conscious of its low publication output and formed a research group to improve the situation.

The Department of African Studies published the first report on its investigation into white kinship in 1977 and the following year a festschrift, edited by W.J. (John) Argyle and E.M. (Eleanor) Preston-Whyte, was published under the title *Social Systems and Tradition in Southern Africa: Essays in Honour of Eileen Krige*. The department also continued its research on Zulu oral history and in 1981 secured an HSRC grant to research black women working in the rural informal sector.

Meanwhile D. van der Berg of the Department of Afrikaans-Nederlands collaborated with H. van Coller (University of the Orange Free State) to produce *Keursteen*, which was intended to assist students comprehend literary texts. In Business Administration, P.M. Miller, W.B. (William) Roome and G.E. (Gavin) Staude published their book *Management in South Africa: An Introductory Text*. Roome also researched the relationship of share prices to inflation and J. (Jacqueline) Matthews published articles on South Africa's external relations.

Other members of what was now the Faculty of Economics and Management in Durban were also publishing. Merle Holden edited the *South African Journal of Economics*, A. (Alan) Whiteside edited a book *Industrialisation and Investment Incentives* and several colleagues gave papers on the economic future of the Durban functional region at Tongaat-Hulett Properties' Planning Forum, which Gavin Maasdorp helped to organise. The Economics Department, in conjunction with the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa, hosted a conference on the economic implications of the ANC's constitutional guidelines.

While Classics in Durban opened its Museum of Classical Archaeology, Michael Chapman of the English Department won the 1987 Sanlam Award for Non-Fiction for his book *South African Poetry: A Modern Perspective*. The following year volumes 3 and 4 of *The Collected Works of Roy Campbell*, of which Chapman was co-editor, were published and Keyan Tomaselli of the Centre for Cultural Studies won the KWANZA Honours Award from the Africa Network (USA) for his book *The Cinema of Apartheid: Race and Class in the South African Film Industry*. He followed this with another work on media studies *Currents of Power: State Broadcasting in South Africa* while Tony Voss of Pietermaritzburg's English Department completed his final report for the HSRC on 'The education of Thomas Pringle'.

Jenny Clarence, director of the English Language Development Scheme in Pietermaritzburg, conducted research at the Institute for English Language Education, University of Lancaster, which proved its value as part of the Unit's contribution to the B.Ed. degree with regard to the theory and practice of teaching English as a second language.

In 1989 the Department of English launched its journal *Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa*, which Margaret Lenta initially edited. It was the third journal published in the Durban Faculty, with the Department of History's *Journal of Natal and Zulu History* and Economic History's *Transformation* already into their eleventh volumes. That year Michael

Chapman published two more books *The Drum Decade: Stories of the 1950s* and (with E. Perreira of UNISA) *The African Poems of Thomas Pringle*.

Durban's Department of Geography researched the effectiveness of town planning in Natal with the assistance of the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission and by the late 1980s Rosemary Diab was conducting research into wind energy with funding from the National Energy Council. A. Ilan (Hebrew and Jewish Studies) published his *Bernadotte in Palestine* which examined Count Bernadotte's attempt in 1948 to mediate during the first Arab-Israeli War.

As Milner Snell's study of local academic historiography has shown the Africanist approach, which Colin Webb had largely introduced into local historical research in the early 1970s, was continued into the 1980s. This was partly under the influence of Marxist-influenced revisionist theory gaining currency abroad, the re-emergence of black resistance to apartheid ideology and the establishment of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) in Natal. The liberal-radical debate about theoretical approaches to the discipline was expressed both in publications and in the way courses were taught, but was not as acrimonious as in some other institutions because the local academic community was small and the radical element was not numerically strong. The revisionist emphasis on the impact of a developing capitalist system and class conflict in southern Africa nevertheless influenced a move away from the previously strong focus on political history and race relations towards underlying economic and social issues and from white settlers and their leaders to African history and ordinary individuals.

In 1978 the History departments in the two centres, together with the Advisory Committee of the Killie Campbell Africana Library, were instrumental in launching the Killie Campbell Oral History Project. Two full-time researchers, Andrew Manson and Deanne Collins, were appointed to conduct interviews relating to selected aspects of local African experience and activity. Some 75 interviews were taped during the first year. Thereafter the HSRC and URC provided funding for a further three years at the end of which 240 interviews had been conducted, many in Zulu, with Colin Shum (African Studies) as chief interviewer and project organiser.

In 1985 a conference on Oral Tradition and Literacy led to an eagerly awaited publication that was sold out in six months. A subsequent public debate on the Shaka Zulu controversy was well attended and in 1986 an interdisciplinary Oral Documentation and Research Centre was formally launched in Durban to record and study oral traditions and testimonies. Meanwhile, Colin Webb

and John Wright continued to work on their James Stuart project, which Webb had initiated in 1970 with the first volume published in 1976. By the late 1970s their research had come to international scholarly attention as a prime source of pre-colonial Zulu history. Wright continued to work on the project following Webb's death in 1992 and by 2014 six volumes had appeared with at least one more to come.

There were a variety of other publications in the historical field. In 1978 academics from several disciplines collaborated to produce *Constitutional Change in South Africa*, which Pietermaritzburg's Professor of History John Benyon edited and emanated from a conference on campus. Andrew Duminy (History, Durban) and Bill Guest (Historical Studies, Pietermaritzburg) edited *Natal and Zululand from Earliest Times to 1910: A New History*, which reassessed historical writing on the region during the previous two decades. In 1987 they also published their biography of Sir Percy FitzPatrick entitled *Interfering in Politics*. Ruth Edgecombe and Guest researched Natal's coal mining history and Guest and J.M. (John) Sellers published *Enterprise and Exploitation* (1985). It was a collection of essays on various aspects of the region's social and economic history written by a team of specialists who highlighted both the positive and the negative effects of colonialism.

Pietermaritzburg colleagues P.S. (Paul) Thompson and John Laband produced a number of books on the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War, including their much-used *Field Guide* (1979), making it their specialist field of study. Laband also joined forces with urban geographer Rob Haswell to edit *Pietermaritzburg, 1838–1988* in celebration of the city's sesquicentennial. In Durban Bill Freund wrote *The African Worker*, the history of an emerging wage-earning class, while Charles Ballard published *The House of Shaka Illustrated* and Paul Maylam produced *A History of the African People of South Africa: From the Early Iron Age to the 1970s* (1986). In the late 1970s he, Ros Posel and Iain Edwards began to develop an interest in local urban history.

Andrew Duminy's 1976 launch of a monograph series in the Durban department was followed in 1979 by the *Journal of Natal and Zulu History*, which student Athol Turrell originally suggested. Along with *Natalia*, initiated in 1971 by Colin Webb under the auspices of the Natal Society in Pietermaritzburg, it provided another vehicle for the publication of what was then becoming an increasing and much more diverse local research output as a growing number of staff and postgraduate students focused on specialised fields of interest. As Snell has argued, by the late 1970s the days of a single

pre-eminent individual dominating local historical writing, as Hattersley, Brookes and Webb in turn had done, were over.

In the Psychology Department Pam Sharratt researched metaphoric process in early cognitive development, Lance Lachenicht undertook a cross-cultural study of the universality of meta-motivational states while another departmental research project explored the psychological effects of job loss and unemployment in collaboration with the Centre for Adult Education. B.J. (Bev) Killian co-authored a book on *Causes of Child Abuse from a South African Perspective*.

Fatima Meer of Durban's Sociology Department published her book on *Race and Suicide in South Africa* and members of the Department of Social Work gave evidence to the Buthelezi Commission and commented on the draft Child Care Bill. Indeed, much of the research conducted in the Faculty of Social Science lay more in the applied field of community service rather than in pure research.

The same was true of the Faculty of Education which, in 1989 for example, produced 34 publications in a variety of forms. In Durban's Faculty of Law, Tony Mathews published *The Darker Reaches of Government* while David McQuoid-Mason produced his book on *The Law of Privacy in South Africa* and with Ellie Newman the second edition of Lee and Honore's *The South African Law of Obligations*. In 1983 Pietermaritzburg colleague John Milton co-authored a posthumous edition of the late professors Burchell and Hunt's *South African Criminal Law and Procedure Volume I*, followed the next year by Lawrence Baxter's 800-plus page work on *Administrative Law*. In 1988 the bilingual *South African Journal of Criminal Law*, edited primarily by members of staff, was launched.<sup>11</sup>

### **Community service**

The various research institutes attached to the University continued to play a major role as far as its community service was concerned. B. Appadoo, Peter Brain, M.O. Bubb and others in the Natal Institute of Immunology actively published in their specialised fields, including research findings on antibodies in human sera, HLA antigens and cancer and hemagglutination inhibition in capillary tubes. Meanwhile the Computer Centre for Water Research under M.C. (Mark) Dent's management continued to promote and co-ordinate water research in the interests of developing and effectively utilising southern Africa's water resources.

The staff of the Wattle Research Institute, including A.P. Brice Bruce, D.C.F. Garbutt, K.M. (Kay) Nixon and colleagues furthered their investigations into the production and protection of wattle bark, tannin and timber. This produced a steady stream of publications on such aspects as developing nursery stock, the establishment of wattle plantations, tannin analysis, the air-drying of debarked logs, and the control of introduced acacias and of insects. In 1984 an associated Institute for Commercial Forestry Research was established under J.A. Stubbings as director with University and external funding. Its purpose was to expand the commercially orientated research of the Wattle Research Institute to embrace all commercial timber species. It also accommodated the Natal Unit of the Plant Protection Research Institute and ran a field experiment station on a 270 hectare farm near Pietermaritzburg.<sup>12</sup>

In 1977 the Centre for Applied Social Sciences (CASS), in existence since 1954 and known as the Institute for Social Research until 1976, became prominent under the directorship of Laurie Schlemmer. The following year it published eighteen research reports and articles as well as launching a five-year research programme on black job advancement in industry. In 1979 the Ciskei Commission sponsored a major survey among blacks of Ciskeian origin or residence and another of white attitudes in the Eastern Cape. The centre's subsequent reports influenced the commission's findings concerning the Ciskei's political future. It continued to publish numerous reports and articles on its various research projects while its director attracted a variety of invitations, including joining a team in Freiburg, Germany researching the prospects for peaceful change in South Africa.

In 1980 Schlemmer was appointed secretary of the KwaZulu government's Buthelezi Commission on the Future of Natal and KwaZulu for the duration of his current sabbatical leave. It presented its final report in 1982, in which year CASS launched the journal *Indicator S.A.* intended to monitor change in the country and identify problematic issues on which influential persons could have beneficial effects. Thereafter it grew in stature to become a major information resource on South Africa's social challenges.

Schlemmer was also appointed to the HSRC Council in succession to H. (Hilstan) Watts (Sociology) who had served on it for nine years. CASS continued to receive requests to conduct targeted research on particular socio-economic issues and in 1982 it launched a nationwide enquiry into the quality of life among all population groups. The following year it was accorded further recognition when Schlemmer was elected president of the South



African Institute of Race Relations and invited onto the board of the KwaZulu Training Trust.

In 1984 his *Indicator* research on black attitudes towards disinvestment in South Africa drew particularly wide publicity and in 1988 attracted R166 833 in donations followed by another R205 500 in 1989. In 1984 the trust established by the late Maurice Webb facilitated the appointment of Paulus Zulu as the first Maurice Webb Race Relations senior research fellow/senior lecturer in the centre. Unfortunately Schlemmer left for Wits in 1986 after his home and office were mysteriously fire bombed and much of his research material was lost.<sup>13</sup>

In 1978 Council approved the establishment of the aforementioned Plasma Physics Research Institute to be accommodated within Durban's Department of Physics. This was a consequence of ongoing research that its staff had been conducting in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Board, which now undertook to contribute R40 000 a year to the institute for its first three years. It was also due recognition of the expertise in plasma physics the institute had at its disposal and its possible future importance in supplying energy. The Faculty Board was represented on the committee of control along with David Walker, head of the Physics Department, and Manfred Hellberg, the institute's first director. It was formally opened in 1979 after which planned development of research became much easier as its funds were now no longer available only on an annual basis.<sup>14</sup>

In 1979 Arthur Bowmaker was appointed as the new director of the Oceanographic Research Institute in Durban. That year the University gained yet another new research centre when the INR was established in Pietermaritzburg on the strength of an initial R30 000 annual donation for a period of fifteen years from the K.F.E.Taeuber Management Trust, among whose objectives was promotion of research into the preservation of fauna and flora.

This made it possible for John Hanks to resign from the chair of Biological Sciences in Durban in March 1980 to become director of the new institute and to provide him with some supporting staff. The post was not advertised as Hanks had been instrumental in establishing the institute during the previous decade. An endowment of R450 000 had soon been raised involving the Taeuber Management Trust in association with the Bayer/Taeuber and Corssen group of companies.

Beginning in March 1980 the institute's primary function was to develop a databank on Natal and KwaZulu's natural resources, their distribution and



**J. (John) Hanks** gained a private pilot's licence on an RAF scholarship and proceeded to Magdalene College, Cambridge on a County Major Scholarship where he completed an honours degree in Zoology (1965) and a Ph.D. (1971) with the sponsorship of the World Wildlife Fund. He worked as a contract biologist in the Kafue National Park, Zambia and for the National Council for Scientific Research in that country and then in various capacities in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) before assuming the post of chief professional officer with the Natal Parks Board (1975–1978). There he was engaged in and supervised a number of research programmes before being appointed professor and head of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Natal (1978) and then director of the INR (1980). During his career he served on numerous local, national and international committees and established his reputation as a world authority on large mammal population dynamics and subsequently in the promotion of human ecology.

use. On this basis a complete 'ecological understanding' of the region was envisaged to improve the way in which its natural resources were utilised and minimise the damaging effects that human beings were having on it. By 1981 it had already presented the Office of the Prime Minister with its feasibility study for a computer-based databank of the province's natural resources and completed the first phase of a multidimensional rural development project for it called 'KwaZulu Area No 2'.

The INR also envisaged making a contribution to the University's postgraduate teaching and in 1981 a new degree, Master of Resource Planning, was approved. Its situation was greatly enhanced with the acquisition of its own building and in 1982, through the efforts of Mary Rose, the institute raised another R308 535 in donations, with more following from the WRC and the IBM Projects Fund.

In 1986, when Charles Breen succeeded John Hanks as director, the institute attracted another R1 166 065 (24.5% of the funds raised through the NUDF that year and 34.6% of the amount raised specifically for research). The following year it attracted another R1 706 874, R1 314 656 in 1988 and R1 592 002 in 1989. Breen had extensive research experience on aquatic ecosystems, including estuaries. His work on the Pongola floodplain drew attention to what he called 'the interconnectedness of people and resources' and

motivated him to join the institute. It also inspired him to establish the Centre for Rural Community Development that Stan Sangweni initially headed. The institute developed particularly strong community service through its training farm Nansindlela near Cato Ridge and elsewhere, as well as promoting small-scale forestry. For a time it also conducted a teacher enrichment programme involving graduate students helping teachers to better understand their subjects. The INR continued to attract donors and secured support for several staff members to undertake masters degrees abroad and for Edwin Ngidi to study for a doctorate.

In 1988 the institute's Anthony Balfour-Cunningham published his research on the herbal medicine trade in KwaZulu-Natal, which led to the launch of a three-year ethno-botanical project to research the use and conservation of natural plant products. That year KwaZulu's chief minister, M.G. Buthelezi, opened the first phase of the Ndundulu Service Centre, which was part of the Biyela integrated rural development project that included training and community centres, a clinic and accommodation for extension officers.<sup>15</sup>

Meanwhile, back in 1980 the Principal, Desmond Clarence, felt it necessary to defend the University against suggestions that the research being conducted in it, as distinct from that of its associated institutes, was 'irrelevant, ivory



**C.M. (Charles) Breen** was awarded B.Sc. (1960, majoring in Botany and Zoology), B.Sc. Hons (1961) and M.Sc. (1965) degrees at Rhodes University, followed by a Ph.D. (1970). He gained teaching experience there and was a research fellow at Indiana State University before being appointed John Bews senior lecturer (1972) and associate professor (1980) in Plant Ecology and Microbiology in Pietermaritzburg. He did extensive field work in Tongaland and published widely prior to and after his appointment as director of the INR (1986). He was subsequently promoted to senior professor and in 1997 was elected a Fellow of the University. In 1999 he was awarded the gold medal of the Limnological Society of Southern Africa and took early retirement at the end of that year to focus on research and research supervision. He was appointed professor emeritus and won the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Award in 2000 and the Mondi Wetlands Award in 2014 to add to his other accolades. He retained his research association with the University, especially through the Centre for Environment and Development, subsequently Centre for Environment, Agriculture and Development (CEAD), which he helped to establish.

towerish' and 'concerned with furthering high level technology' because that was where research funds were 'more easily obtained'. In the process, it was ignoring the reality that South Africa was 'a contrast of first world and third world' and overlooking the urgent needs of the latter.

Clarence probably reacted with some feeling being an internationally known 'blue sky' physicist. He insisted that the University was actually achieving a reasonable balance in the attention its staff and research students gave towards resolving First and Third World problems, as attested by the conferences it sponsored and its annual publication lists. In his 1977 inaugural lecture he had already argued that the University should be a 'place where research of all kind was able to find a home' and that it should be an essential part of every staff member's 'normal work' if only because it enhanced teaching and inspired students similarly to engage in independent thought.

As if in support of his contention, the following year a Development Studies Unit (DSU) was established on the Durban campus with the generous financial support of the Anglo American/De Beers Chairman's Fund. To some extent it may have been spurred on by a Durban student body motion, which protested that most of the University's research and teaching effort served the interests of commerce and industry instead of the underdeveloped sectors of the community. It was seen as complimentary to the INR in Pietermaritzburg and its purpose was to integrate the economic, social and physical dimensions of development studies to achieve their more practical application in urban, peri-urban and rural areas and especially in Third World contexts.

The DSU was located in Schlemmer's CASS with Jill Nattrass as its head and in 1983 it, in turn, initiated a Rural-Urban Studies Unit with HSRC funding. By 1984 the DSU had focused on two major areas of research: trade unions and Indian politics in South Africa; and the problems faced in Natal/KwaZulu's rural/peri-urban districts, particularly Vulindlela near Pietermaritzburg. The latter gave rise to research into the incomes of African households in that area and the kind of informal work that was undertaken as well as a commissioned survey into domestic energy use for the Energy Research Unit at UCT.

In 1984 the Ford Foundation provided funds for the training of black researchers. This led to the appointment of Yunus Carrim and Yusuf Bhamjee, both of whom had studied abroad. The former concentrated on trade unions and politics, the shop floor and trade union relationships between African and Indian workers as well as trade union groupings in Natal. The latter investigated socio-economic stratification among South Africa's Indian population and its relationship to their political behaviour.

In 1987 CASS and the more recent DSU were integrated into the Centre for Social and Development Studies (CSDS), falling under the directorship of S.D. (Simon) Bekker following the departure of Laurie Schlemmer. It then included three specialised units in the form of the Indicator Project South Africa, established in 1982 to monitor development and social change in southern Africa; the Rural-Urban Studies Unit launched in 1983 to focus on the KwaZulu-Natal region; and the Maurice Webb Race Relations Unit formed in 1984 to conduct educational programmes and socio-political research. In 1989, following her tragic death, the Jill Nattrass Rotating Research Fellowship was established in CSDS.

The debate as to where the main emphasis of the University's research should be placed continued unabated. Some suggested that where possible funding should favour those projects 'concerned with the immediate and relevant problems of our society'. As Clarence again pointed out, this tended to ignore, for example, the many years of research already conducted into the region's economic development, the production of high lysine maize and of solar cookers and other means of inexpensive small-scale energy sources. In 1983 Senate established an Advisory Committee on Social Responsibility, comprising six staff members and three students, whose purpose was to make the University community more aware of what was already being done with regard to research and teaching in relation to South Africa's socio-economic challenges and to identify those areas currently neglected.

In his inaugural address on assuming the principalship in 1984 Peter Booysen, who had already made a significant research contribution of his own in the field of pasture science, stressed the University's international, national and, in particular, regional role in 'serving the complex needs of all the communities of Natal and KwaZulu'. He pointed to its 'unique position to meet these requirements' and argued that virtually every department could contribute in some way in the crucial areas of 'education, health, urbanisation and rural stabilisation'. By the late 1980s the University's Register of Socially Aware Research already comprised 24 pages of brief summaries outlining more than 200 projects.

Indeed, as before, several faculties and individual departments were already contributing in one way or another to the University's community service, other than those already mentioned whose research and publication output was primarily of practical application. In 1982 Dan Smit led fourteen staff members of the Faculty of Architecture and Allied Disciplines in forming the multidisciplinary Built Environment Support Group (BESG), which was a

revised version of the Building Advisory Group established in 1972. Its purpose was to provide disadvantaged communities with free environmental, planning and related services that they could otherwise not afford and to serve as a sounding board on issues that concerned them. Within a year its members were involved in several community projects related primarily to accommodation matters, but ranging from flood-damaged housing in Nyuswa (Botha's Hill) and the planning of Clairwood to an upgrading project at St Wendolins, a community centre in Phoenix and a child guidance clinic in Mlazi.

In 1985 two further developments emerged out of the BESG; namely, the University of Natal Alternative Housing Technology Unit and an education and training programme intended to broaden community involvement in what were specialised professional activities. Both reflected the Faculty's concern for its teaching and research to be of relevance to the built environment of both its urban and rural surroundings. In 1986 the BESG and what was now called the University of Natal Appropriate Housing Technology Unit were formally inaugurated, large-scale funding from several sources, including the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, was announced and Protas Madlala was appointed as the first liaison officer.

In 1987 the emphasis began to shift more towards greater responsibility and affordability on the part of residents, on the need for greater community training, and from planning to construction. The BESG responded immediately to the floods experienced in September 1987 with surveys of the affected areas using student volunteers and community skills. Subsequent flood damage projects involved both the BESG and the Housing Technology Unit as the former continued to grow while extending its interests into training and research. This included the establishment of a resource centre for the use of community groups and students, the production of workshop packages and fact sheets on various issues, and experimenting with new techniques for building on steep slopes.

By 1988 the BESG staff comprised two architects, one planner, a researcher, a liaison and communications officer and a part-time publications and office administrator. The following year it acquired two more staff members and opened a branch office in Pietermaritzburg. It also began to focus on planning and architecture in informal settlements and introducing these issues into practical student training. More training packages, handbooks and fact sheets were produced, papers were delivered on the BESG's work and its architectural section won an award for its concept of stilt housing at the design and development competition in Johannesburg. The Department of

Town and Regional Planning's two-year postgraduate course was similarly focused increasingly on issues of urban and rural development affecting the impoverished sectors of society.<sup>16</sup>

The Durban Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology's Food Research Unit became operational in 1977 under the directorship of H.J.H. de Meulenaere. Its research laboratory was appropriately named the Food Corporation Philip Hind Laboratory in recognition of one of the pioneers of the province's food industry. Meanwhile, the departments of Chemistry and Physics jointly publicised Science as a career through the medium of special supplements and open days for teachers and the general public. They also became involved in the Saturday School, which with funding from the Urban Foundation coached black teachers and pupils in Physical Science and Mathematics.<sup>17</sup>

The Pietermaritzburg Department of Education's Second Language Experiment (English Through Activity) continued to make a considerable contribution towards effectively teaching the language in African schools over a wide area. In 1978 an Educational Research Fund was established to promote research into black education with particular emphasis on communication studies. The department was actively involved in the Urban Foundation's efforts to improve teacher training methods in KwaZulu while J.M.Z. (Maureen) Michau and others worked on producing pilot television programmes intended to improve instruction in the English language. It was hoped that the KwaZulu government would use these in its colleges of education.

In July 1978, in collaboration with the Department of Health and other bodies, the Department of Educational Psychology in Pietermaritzburg established the Child and Family Centre to serve the dual purpose of training postgraduate students and providing a community facility that was not previously available in the region. Its remedial and counselling services proved to be of inestimable value in a variety of ways. In 1984, for example, at the request of Glen Park Primary School for the Learning Disabled, J. Strydom gave a month-long course to assist parents manage their children's behavioural difficulties.

In 1985 the departments of Educational Psychology and Psychology combined to launch an HSRC-funded research project on 'The Child as a Witness' and the following year a substantial grant from the Anglo American Corporation/De Beers Chairman's Fund made it possible to appoint a director for the now autonomous Child and Family Centre. The first incumbent was D. Donald who unfortunately was lost to UCT in 1989. Similarly, Pietermaritzburg Professor of Educational Psychology G.W. (Gustav) Fouché's research

interest in children at risk led to an honorary appointment in the out-patients development clinic of the Red Cross Hospital for Children in Cape Town.

Towards the end of 1980 the Faculty of Education as a whole became involved in the broad HSRC (De Lange) investigation into education with professors Jack Niven and A.M. (Tony) Barrett as well as B.A. (Bruce) Dobie joining various work committees. Niven was eventually released from his departmental duties to assist full-time with further investigations and collating the reports. Dobie was also a member of the Buthelezi Commission investigating future political and other options for the region and, along with Faculty colleagues, served on various professional and examination boards.

The De Lange Report estimated that as many as 80% of teachers involved in African education had a qualification no higher than Standard 8 (now Grade 10). In 1983 the University's Ohlthaver Trust Teacher Upgrade Scheme had a good start under Jack Niven's direction with KwaZulu teachers drawn from the Durban and Pietermaritzburg areas completing courses designed to improve primary school teaching of English and Mathematics. It was intended that the experience gained from this experiment would establish a model to upgrade teachers all over the province.

The 1985 establishment of a Curriculum Development Unit in Pietermaritzburg, in part to identify promising young scholars in what were still diverse school education systems, was followed by several workshops. They included one that Belle Wallace Adams conducted for the Ministry of Education in Zimbabwe. She was subsequently elected to the executive committee of the International Association of Education of the Gifted and participated in its conference in Sydney. In February 1985 Pietermaritzburg dean of Arts Vic Bredenkamp enlisted 160 local teachers in an effort to 'upgrade their education and through them that of their scholars'. Their poor standard of English induced him to spend his subsequent sabbatical in the USA researching English second-language courses so that he could contribute towards assisting the University's black students.

Durban's Media Resource Centre (MRC), also established in 1985, was similarly active in community outreach programmes, in its case assisting with the provision of useful teaching materials. In 1987 it hosted a symposium and study tour entitled 'Resource Transfer' and in the same year a Research Unit in Education was approved to investigate black education in the Natal/KwaZulu region. The following year, with funding from the Anglo American/De Beer's Chairman's Fund and from the Equal Opportunity Foundation, it embarked upon a major evaluation of the pre-service teacher education courses available



to black teachers in the province. In 1988 the Education Project Unit was launched in Durban, with Blade Nzimande as co-ordinator, using a database to identify the region's educational needs and formulate suitable responses to them.

The MRC continued to offer informal advice and training, presented 66 media workshops for the Faculty and for community organisations and held another successful conference on 'Experiential Learning in Formal and Non-Formal Education'. The Association of Episcopal Colleges in the USA awarded its director, C. Criticos, a visiting fellowship and by 1989 external funding made it possible for the centre to appoint its first full-time staff and establish the Educational Resources Information Service. Its computer database of free, low-cost educational resources had reached 4 000 entries by the end of 1989 while the MRC produced several publications including a book based on its earlier conference on experiential learning. The MRC also hosted a seminar 'Educational Media in the 1990s' as well as media workshops for students and short courses for external organisations.

Other research interests in Durban's Department of Education included the use of stimulant medications among pupils, the reactions of children to stressful events and remedial education, in which connection R.A. Farman conducted ten workshops throughout KwaZulu and Gazankulu. The Science Education Project extended its efforts to upgrade black science teachers while in 1987 a Computer Literacy Programme was initiated in Pietermaritzburg to promote computer literacy among community organisations. George Kendall published his research on the development of scientific concepts among children in Bophuthatswana schools and the following year submitted a final report to the HSRC on developing scientific concepts among primary school pupils. Harvey Adams and Belle Wallace Adams investigated the development of learning potential among black school pupils.

In 1988 curriculum development was further promoted with the establishment of the Science Curriculum Initiative in South Africa with C. (Carmel) McNaught as a member of the co-ordinating committee. She and Maureen Michau participated in a 'people's seminar' intended to establish closer links with the greater Pietermaritzburg community and which contributed to the subsequent establishment of the Tembaletu Community Education Project. The Faculty in Pietermaritzburg continued to serve the community through several of its units, notably the Child and Family Centre, the Curriculum Development Unit and the Midlands Education Development Unit (MEDU),

which sought to stimulate research on progressive education and promote so-called People's Education.

The University was as active as ever in other fields of social work, especially in community-related research and in a variety of community upliftment projects. The Department of Social Work was deeply involved in the University of Natal Community Project at Austerville and Wentworth where, under Jill Jesselman's co-ordination, it continued to assist as best it could in an area characterised by increasing unemployment. In 1978 building at last commenced on its community centre there and the following year it was formally opened. Social Work and Nursing both continued to expand their programmes and held conferences for those actively involved in their respective fields. The latter investigated nursing practice in South Africa on the strength of a large HSRC grant and Heidi Brookes was awarded honorary life membership of the South African Nursing Association for her contribution to the profession in Natal.

In 1982 Sociology launched its community and labour relations research group with a Ford Foundation-funded project on black women in industry, followed in 1983 by an investigation into contemporary trade unionism. In 1984 Fatima Meer, Ari Sitas and R.V. Lambert received large grants from the Ford Foundation for a variety of research projects, while the last two also enjoyed continued support from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation with Lambert comparing social change in South Africa and the Philippines.

That year the Economic Research Unit (ERU) celebrated its 40th birthday. It remained attached to the Economics Department in Durban but, from 1982, under the full control of Gavin Maasdorp. By then the ERU's main focus was on economic relationships in the subcontinent and on various aspects of transport. In 1984 it published a study of the transport policies of eight southern African countries, as well as a project on sea transport for the National Transport Policy Study, reports on transport and employment in the Durban and Pietermaritzburg areas, a report on the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference for the South African Institute of International Affairs, and the first section of its investigation into labour relationships in the subcontinent for the National Manpower Commission.

Geographical and Environmental Sciences initiated research on soil erosion in the Thukela basin while by 1987 Jeff McCarthy had co-authored a three-volume report to the Private Sector Council on Urbanisation. As part of its ongoing research on the Makhathini Flats, African Studies established a learning centre in that area in conjunction with the HSRC and the ERU. In 1987

the department's P. Derman started the Centre for Community Organisation, Research and Development.

By 1988, with the assistance of foreign support, the Faculty of Social Science in Durban also hosted the Trade Union Research Project, the Youth and Unemployment Study, the Industrial Health Unit and the Culture and Working Life project of the Department of Sociology. In addition, Social Work had attracted further funding to initiate a bigger research project on child abuse as well as continuing to be involved in other community programmes including the Natal Community Project and the Community Service Training Programme, which attracted support from the West German government.

Durban's Psychology Department established what was possibly the most advanced laboratory in South Africa for Developmental Psychology with a working group focusing on pre-linguistic communication between children and their parents. By the late 1980s it had also launched a new Adult Training Centre and Sheltered Workshop for mentally retarded persons, a new KwaZulu Remedial Education Centre, a support group for adult dyslexics and a Society for Remedial and Special Class Teachers. In addition, in 1987 G. (Grahame) Hayes of the Psychology Department and Mike Morris of CASS initiated the Natal Family Project.

The Pietermaritzburg Psychology Department's G.C. (Graham) Lindegger was a consultant at Town Hill Hospital and at Grey's Hospital Pain Clinic. By 1989 staff members were establishing consulting psychology services for various hospitals and other institutions as part of the postgraduate course in Clinical Psychology and they and their students participated in developing the Organisation for Appropriate Social Services in South Africa.

Pietermaritzburg's Development Studies Research Group (DSRG), headed by Norman Bromberger and now part of the Faculty of Social Science, attracted sufficient external funding to appoint four new research fellows and participate in the Midlands Regional Studies Project. By 1989 Library and Information Science was providing a valuable community service and source of research information through its Pietermaritzburg Resource Centre project, which Ms L. Rayner co-ordinated, and the Community Resource Centre project that Jenny Bowen directed. The department's staff members were also active in researching the library-related difficulties encountered by second-language students and, with Ford Foundation funds, the reading and information needs of residents in Edendale and Lamontville.

During the 1980s a substantial part of the Faculty of Arts' community service comprised involvement with the University's Schools Lecture Programme.

Hebrew and Jewish Studies was particularly active, although in 1984 the Durban English Department's Phil Joffe won the prize as the most frequent contributor. Members of the Department of Classics gave talks at local schools on topics related to the Latin syllabus and Ann Gosling arranged illustrated lectures on Greek and Roman art in the department using its valuable collection of vases. There was also a course on ancient Greek culture for pupils affiliated to the Natal Association for Gifted Children and annual tours to prominent sites of the classical Greek world continued to be offered to adults. In 1989 the department organised a special exhibition of ancient coins drawn mainly from its own museum and loaned material to the Durban Art Museum for an exhibition of Greek pottery and sculpture.

The Faculty of Commerce offered courses in Financial Modelling to the general public and in Financial Accounting to articled clerks. In 1983 Neville Herrington (Speech and Drama) produced a film entitled 'Chartered accountancy – a great tradition – a great future', featuring several staff members, which was subsequently screened as part of the national Careers Guidance Programme of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. The faculties in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg maintained close contact with the Accountancy profession with several staff members, including professors Prinsloo, Maguire and Gourley, serving on various professional bodies.

In Pietermaritzburg the services of the School of Law's Legal Aid Clinic were extended in 1984 to an additional Saturday clinic in nearby Edendale and attracted a grant of \$10 000 from the United States government. In 1985 alone it dealt with 273 new cases and recovered R6 000 for its mainly indigent clients, followed by another R7 500 the next year when it also gained representation on the executive of the new Association of Legal Aid Clinics. In 1987 the Attorneys Fidelity Fund made a R50 000 grant towards its operational costs. Further support was subsequently received from that source as well as from other quarters.

In addition, the School held a successful one-day seminar on investments and their tax implications for businessmen as well as a mock trial and seminar on the obligation of soldiers to obey orders that coincided with the Natal Association of Performing Arts (NAPAC) production of *Breaker Morant*. Practical training schools for articled clerks were held and in 1989 a new service was introduced when arrangements were made for leading law firms to come on campus to interview prospective articled clerks.

That year the Centre for Criminal Justice was established in response to the apparent failure of the criminal justice system to cope adequately with

the current political violence in the province. Its purpose was to promote the cause of human rights, to press for immediate improvements and to develop a more effective system for the future post-apartheid era. In the late 1980s staff members also participated in initiating the Pietermaritzburg Small Claims Court and John Milton, James Lund, M.L. (Mike) Lupton, M.G. (Mike) Cowling and B.T. (Bruce) Dalling were all appointed court commissioners.

Similarly in Durban, where from 1978 Legal Aid was offered as an optional credit course, David McQuoid-Mason trained several commissioners, the Legal Aid Clinic conducted thousands of interviews and in 1985 opened more than 600 files. The Department of Adjectival (later Procedural) and Clinical Law continued to organise its medico-legal series and in 1989 conducted lectures on medico-legal issues as well one on conveyancing. In 1986 McQuoid-Mason initiated the Street Law Legal Literacy Programme and Chris Albertyn was appointed director of Durban's newly established Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, succeeded in 1988 by M.K. Robertson. Its purpose was to train community organisers, trade unionists, mediators, arbitrators and recently qualified candidate attorneys as well as administering the Street Law Programme funded by the Association of Law Societies of South Africa.

Mr M. Mchunu was appointed Natal co-ordinator of the latter and proceeded to train staff of all ethnic groups from 48 schools in the greater Durban area. He subsequently ran numerous street law training workshops for teachers and community organisations in the province, as did Albertyn and I. Moodley, for trade union officials and candidate attorneys. In 1988 and 1989, the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies conducted the first two labour law conferences, both of which attracted more than 400 delegates from the trade unions, commerce and the legal profession. In addition to the annual Black Lawyers Association/National Institute of Trial Advocacy Training Programme, the School of Law also hosted a televised inter-school mock trial competition and seminars on new taxation legislation and medico-legal issues. In 1989, Mchunu and C. Baekey arranged the first annual inter-provincial street law mock trial competition.

In both centres the annual moot court competition continued, as before, to attract student and public interest. A Community Law Centre was established in 1989, incorporating the Legal Aid Clinic and Community Law Project. The former, under L. de Bruin's directorship, held more than 2 000 consultations that year and recovered in excess of R100 000 for disadvantaged clients while the latter developed a network of rural advice offices and training courses under Baekey's directorship. That year the Department of Public Law was involved in co-ordinating the Durban chapter of the Society for the Abolition of the

Death Penalty with George Devenish as local chairman while the recently established annual Judge-in-Residence programme provided an informative connection with the judiciary.<sup>18</sup>

The University's performing arts departments undertook community service of a rather different sort. The Department of Music continued to give frequent free lunch-hour concerts, about 30 a year by the early 1980s rising to 50 in 1987, featuring staff members, other well-known musicians from within the country and abroad and increasing numbers of students. These performances included classical Indian and Western music, traditional and popular African music, and American and South African jazz. Occasional celebrity concerts were also presented, such as the 1977 festival that commemorated the 150th anniversary of Beethoven's death. By 1979 the Oude Meester Foundation for the Performing Arts had greatly strengthened this programme by undertaking partial subsidisation of a number of celebrity concerts each year including, among others, performances by staff members Gerrit Bon and Isabella Stengel. In addition, the Natal University Orchestra under the baton of Alfredo Stengel performed at a number of Durban schools while Elizabeth Oehrle's University Singers participated in numerous musical festivities. Staff members, including Bon, Ruth Goveia and Stengel, gave individual tuition in singing and a variety of instruments as well as recitals on concert platforms and for radio and television. Students taking the B.Mus. Jazz Studies degree, introduced in 1984, and the B.Mus. Orchestral Performance degree, introduced two years later, also gave instrumental performances from time to time with as many as five students sometimes joining the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra to which their course was affiliated.

In 1988, as part of the Oude Meester Concert series, the department organised a Sicathamiya competition which aroused public interest, particularly the north Indian classical music concert that featured Deepak Ram and was recorded by the SABC. Elizabeth Oehrle launched a programme for township musicians with the financial assistance of Shell SA and for which there were more than 100 registrations. The department also collaborated with the Durban Arts Association to organise the first Maskanda competition that attracted musicians countrywide and was broadcast in part on SATV. The winner, M. (Mgqashiyo) Ndlovu, recorded an album of his guitar music. The competition was held again the following year and attracted another 600 entrants.

In addition, in 1988 Darius Brubeck's group The Jazzanians performed at the National Association of Jazz Educators national convention in Detroit and on American network television as well as cutting their first LP, 'We Have

Waited Too Long.’ The following year the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music was established under his directorship to organise educational events and sponsor concerts as a community service in those fields of music. In 1989 the department also presented its first opera performance, Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*. Several of its students won various accolades. Christopher Duigan tied for first place in the piano section of a national competition, flautist Laura Allen came second in the Sasol Music Prize competition and the Melvin Peters Quintet won the Carling Circle of Jazz competition in Cape Town.

From time to time staff members also gave courses in conjunction with the Extramural Studies and Extension Unit. These included Beverly Parker’s series ‘Ways of listening’ and ‘Six musical works’ in 1981, Veit Erlmann’s course ‘Music of man: current issues in ethnomusicology’ in 1982 and Darius Brubeck’s ‘Understanding jazz’ in 1983. The following year he also broadcast a weekly programme ‘Jazz radio’ on Radio Port Natal as well as conducting concerts locally and abroad. In 1989 Jürgen Bräuninger started a series of talks on modern music for the SABC entitled ‘Music now’. Several of his compositions were performed and the SABC broadcast extracts of the soundtrack that he and visiting lecturer Dan Wyman produced for the film *The Dead Pit*.

As before, Speech and Drama (Durban) staged numerous productions through its resident company at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre and postgraduate Theatre-in-Education company; as well as programmes that toured provincial schools and gave performances at the annual Grahamstown Festival of Arts. Most were directed by members of staff including Pieter Scholtz, Ann Wakefield, Roger Orton, Jillian Hurst, Neville Herrington and Peter Larlham. They featured undergraduate and postgraduate students both on and backstage and ranged from Aristophanes, Shakespeare, Dickens and Stoppard to locally written and choreographed plays and dance performances.

In addition, the department’s Shoestring Company presented new indigenous plays for youngsters in the Open-Air Theatre including *Thurkaari*, *Demon of the Curry Powders*, *The Proving of Isikovo the Owl* and *London Adventure*. In 1987 alone there were 45 productions, including twelve by the visiting Market Theatre Company and Pieter Toerien Productions as well as the Ninth Durban International Film Festival. All of these were held in the Sneddon Theatre with others staged in the Open Air Theatre and in the smaller Square Space and Studio Five theatres, which were more suited to student and experimental productions.

The following year, in addition to performances of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, Robert Hewett's *Gulls* and Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca*, the department hosted a festival of indigenous South African plays. In 1989 it staged the rock-gospel musical *Mister Messiah* and entered its production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* for the Grahamstown Festival of Student Drama. Its Theatre-in-Education programme presented three plays to more than 110 schools, the Open Air Theatre was the venue for another three children's plays and Jillian Hurst won the Edinburgh Crystal Glass Award for innovative choreography.

Speech and Drama (Pietermaritzburg) also staged performances periodically and further stimulated interest in theatre by inviting established professionals, including Pieter-Dirk Uys, Dorothy Ann Gould, Nicholas Ellenbogen and members of the Loft Theatre Company, to discuss the productions in which they had been involved. Rosemary Bamford worked with Mabongi Mtshali of the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO) on their Black Community Project devised for Standard 3 pupils at the Mthethomusha Community School and second-year students assisted them with rehearsals in Edendale before they presented their programme in the department.

They also helped NICRO with its English Language Project while in 1987 a programme based on the Zulu folk tale *The Magic Bird* was performed for school pupils at the University Open Day and at Caversham Mill. Rosemary Bamford was involved in another community project involving teenagers in the Eastwood coloured suburb that resulted in an original play about their own community and was presented in the Eastwood Community Hall. In 1988 the department presented plays in the student section of the Grahamstown Festival.

Fine Arts staff members including Juliet Armstrong, Ian Calder, Henry Davies, B.J. (Jinny) Heath and Dick Leigh as well as students and staff from other art schools continued to hold public exhibitions on and off campus of ceramics, drawings, paintings, photographs, prints, quilts and sculpture. The Jack Heath, Corobrik and Tatham galleries in Pietermaritzburg, the Jock Leyden Gallery at the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre and the Natal Society of Arts Gallery in Durban as well as the Michaelis School of Fine Art Gallery in Cape Town were used regularly for this purpose as well as to promote the work of other artists such as members of the newly formed Midlands Arts and Crafts Society in the 1980s.



In 1987 a Natal Art Teachers exhibition displayed the talents of several school art teachers, some for the first time. The following year student art from seven tertiary institutions was included in the department's Art of the Eastern Seaboard exhibition and an exhibition of African masks, drawn largely from local collections, proved both educational and valuable for student drawing classes. The Jack Heath Gallery also hosted the Natal Arts Trust Biennale Exhibition while the students' annual exhibition, for which they selected works themselves, continued as before.<sup>19</sup>

In addition, extramural extension lectures remained an important and widening part of the University's service to the broader community.

### **Extramural and Extension Unit/Centre for Adult Education**

By the mid-1970s the need for a University extension service and for its further development had been well established. It was envisaged that, in addition to offering lectures of general interest to the public, it should become a research unit focused on training teachers in community education and on gaining further expertise in adult education. Although Francis Stock later claimed to have been instrumental in initiating this facility and in his inaugural address Desmond Clarence enthusiastically envisaged its further growth, it enjoyed no special treatment. Expansion remained constrained by limited financial resources as the unit continued to be self-funding with no immediate prospect of any state subsidisation of the University's adult education service or any alternative source of financial support.

Consequently, the unit's primary activity continued to be the provision of 'non-vocational culturally orientated courses' delivered as evening lectures in the two centres. In 1977 there were 10 000 attendees as the interest of the local press, general public and academic staff continued to increase. The courses offered ranged across the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities from Biology and Physics to Psychology, the South African Economy, Slavery, Music Appreciation and Philosophy. In addition, several cultural and educational films were screened, a July Winter School was held and, in collaboration with the Department of Classics, conducted tours of classical Greece and Italy were arranged.

A significant area of self-funded expansion took the form of pre-registered classes in specialised fields of study that involved more intensive teaching and active participation on the part of attendees. There was a marked increase in demand for these and in the late 1970s they included business courses delivered in both centres and in several smaller towns as well as Zulu, Italian

and Spanish language instruction conducted through the University's language laboratories, courses in Music, Public Speaking, Behavioural Psychology and X-rays, art workshops, a two-day photographic workshop, a ten-day winter field school in Archaeology and a pre-University programme for prospective Durban students.

In 1978 the director, Tony Morphet, spent a sabbatical year in Edinburgh studying community education and in his absence R.D.A. (Robin) Mackie took charge. Moves were afoot to establish the unit as a department in the Faculty of Education and the following year Mackie moved, as deputy director, to establish Extramural Studies (EMS) as a department on the Pietermaritzburg campus. By then the work of the unit had divided into three fairly distinct categories: evening extension lecture courses on topics of cultural interest; more specialised extramural classes intended to impart particular skills; and films, tours and public lectures. Another dimension of the work of EMS involved maintaining contact with other organisations active in adult education in order to exchange information about the community's educational needs in that field.

By the end of the 1970s clear trends had emerged: a steady growth in the number of courses offered and in participants, a movement towards registration for full courses in preference to isolated lecture attendance and the development of business and practical language courses. In 1979 the division of the unit into three sections was approved: that is, liberal studies, professional studies, and social and community studies. In addition, the director gained a seat on Senate and the advisory committee was restructured. Limited financial resources still made it difficult to serve the needs of the community at large other than those who were affluent enough to pay for their courses.

By the late 1970s there was evidence of a greater national interest in continuing education initiatives with the State providing a small but still inadequate subsidy for that purpose. As evidence of this interest, in 1980 UCT held the second national conference on the role of universities in continuing and adult education while the unit hosted two of its own. These were a University Teachers Association of South Africa (UTASA)-sponsored conference on the university's role in serving the community and a Manpower 2000-sponsored gathering on job creation. In addition, with support from some of the academic staff, a community education project was launched under the wing of the social and community studies section.

The restructured advisory committee focused on future funding and also commissioned an evaluation of the unit's work. The report recommended a

redistribution of workloads and a clearer focus of intent. After Tony Morphet resigned to assume a post at UCT, Robin Mackie succeeded him as director and in 1981 John Aitchison was appointed deputy director responsible for activities in Pietermaritzburg.

A re-evaluation of the unit's objectives that year produced a document that Senate accepted as a policy statement for future development. This included the ongoing provision of educational opportunities for university-level adults, support for groups involved in community development, and continuing education and the provision of programmes to assist adult educators develop their professional skills. In an attempt to involve more academic staff and outsiders in its activities an irregular newsletter was launched for circulation among 80 'Friends of the Unit', some of them already involved in the liberal studies and professional studies courses offered in a wide variety of subjects. The unit also provided an initial home for the new Science Education Project within its social and community studies section whose avowed purpose was 'to shift the balance towards working with the underprivileged and educationally dispossessed'. Funded in Natal with an initial R125 000 from the C.S. Barlow Foundation, during 1981 this initiative was active in eighteen black secondary schools for which it provided equipment and in-service training while undertaking research into adult education.

By 1982 the unit had established a fourth clearly distinct section, the adult education division, with the specific intention 'to contribute to the professional development of adult educators'. The liberal studies division continued to offer single-event lectures, seminars, conferences and films, as well as extension lecture series on topics of general interest and more practical extramural courses aimed at the acquisition of practical skills. Similarly, the professional studies division pursued its objective of upgrading professional and vocational skills. In the process it widened its initial focus on business management and from 1980 assumed responsibility for co-ordinating the University's contribution to the provincial Department of Hospital Services Diploma in Nursing Administration.

It subsequently also conducted a counselling skills course for hospital matrons in response to a request from the Department of Hospital Services. In addition, it took over the Science Education Project which by 1982 involved 31 schools, 76 teachers and 10 000 pupils in the greater Durban area. The unit provided administrative support for the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies and in Pietermaritzburg it became involved in the bridging courses offered to first-year students. There was, however, some concern

that the University still had no clear policy with regard to the mounting of extramural courses, thereby enabling academic departments to run their own independently of the unit. It was suggested that they should at least contribute to the University for using its facilities and that the latter in turn should make some financial provision for the unit.

By the mid-1980s there was a significant growth pattern with the courses offered increasing from 45 to 60 between 1982 and 1983, student numbers (excluding single session events) rising from 1 655 to 2 311 and contact teaching hours increasing by 60% from 1 156 to 1 854. There was also a discernible shift from liberal studies to a more balanced distribution of interest and activity in all of the unit's divisions. The social and community studies division employed a part-time tutor and resolved to offer courses on management for non-profit organisations, the design of educational events and committee skills; but in the absence of a substantial government subsidy for continuing education, the development of all the unit's initiatives continued to be inhibited.

In 1984 its name was changed to the Centre for Adult Education (CAE). Originally called the Extension Lecture Programme in 1972, this name change like its predecessors reflected the evolutionary function of the CAE. It was now seen as an adult education service that provided educational opportunities to adults through a variety of courses, programmes and projects while simultaneously seeking to develop adult education as both a field of study and of professional practice. There were two more important developments that year with the introduction of a two-year, part-time postgraduate Diploma in Adult Education and the development of the Community Organisations Project.

The former attracted students from a wide variety of employment backgrounds, which greatly enriched and helped to shape the course. The latter comprised twenty workshops held in Durban and Pietermaritzburg on a variety of issues that were of concern to persons active in community organisations such as fundraising, budgeting, time management and planning educational events. Meanwhile, the liberal studies division ran more than 30 courses on a wide variety of subjects, as before, with those on language, creative writing and fine arts attracting particularly good attendances.

In 1986 the CAE received its second intake of students for the Diploma in Adult Education and was also formally integrated into the Faculty of Education through which that course was run. Thereafter the CAE continued, as before, to offer its various non-formal educational options to the general public. In

1987 it conducted a symposium on the provision of shelter for the homeless, a conference for university-based educators and a three-month course on administering voluntary organisations for black youths.

The following year the CAE's community organisation and liberal studies programmes were merged to form the community extramural programme and its Community Education Project was reviewed. The Adult Basic Education Project continued to address community needs as before while the Computer Literacy Project assisted community organisations to develop computer systems, provided information about available software, ran courses to train staff and offered ongoing advice. Indeed, support and consultation had become expanding areas of activity.

By the late 1980s one of the CAE's more important projects was to research, document and publicise both nationally and internationally the violence that characterised the Pietermaritzburg region and which, by the end of 1988, had resulted in more than 1 000 deaths. In assuming this undertaking it was able to take advantage of its established regional associations, its ability to communicate with these communities and its computer expertise. Its activities were severely inhibited by insufficient staffing and by its efforts to meet the demands made upon it within and without the University in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

One of its three-person complement was seconded to co-ordinate the new Intermediate College project while the CAE was also involved in planning alternative methods of catering for underprepared students and in restructuring the two faculties of Education in response to the call for rationalisation. It nevertheless continued its efforts to monitor the unrest in the Natal Midlands, initiated research on farm schools, registered 2 353 people for 69 different courses and another 500 for single events and continued to run its diploma course while preparing for the introduction of certificate-level courses in Community Education.<sup>20</sup>

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By the end of the 1980s the University had arguably been successful in its efforts to maintain what Peter Booysen described as 'a balance between research which keeps it in the forefront among universities of the industrialised western countries, and that research which fulfils the University's obligations towards serving the needs of the developing communities'.

With regard to the former, as he pointed out, several of its natural scientists had established international reputations in such fields as the chemistry of

natural products and metal clusters, in molecular, plasma, solid state and space physics and in plant physiology and seed storage. In addition, there were by then more than 200 projects listed in the University's Register of Socially Aware Research with the work of some individuals amounting to 24 pages in that document. The register included all those endeavours that sought to identify and analyse the needs of disadvantaged communities, to recommend and implement remedial strategies and to anticipate future needs in a post-apartheid South Africa. The University had also provided an ever-widening variety of other community services ranging from musical and theatrical productions to extramural lectures and adult education programmes.<sup>21</sup>

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# 4

## STUDENT LIFE

THERE WERE DRAMATIC CHANGES in the number, composition and distribution of the student body between the mid-1970s and late 1980s. Increasing attention was given to meeting the needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds as greater numbers of them were admitted to the University and medical, academic and advisory support services for all students were steadily improved. Despite the construction of more residences the overall percentage of students living on campus continued to decline with the provision of sufficient accommodation for black students and medical trainees in particular becoming a major source of concern.

### **Registrations**

By January 1977 the CUP was discussing the establishment of a central student register, with some reservations about divulging students' personal details for such a purpose. Contrary to expectations in the late 1960s that numbers would increase by 5% or 6% a year, registrations declined markedly in the mid-1970s to the extent that an increase of no more than 2% or 3% was expected for the next few years. This was due in part to a drop in part-time numbers in view of the limited options now available to them and the cheaper courses UNISA offered.

Overall registrations still reached 10 479 in 1984, when a new points system was introduced and subsequently refined to assist the selection procedure and an annual 4% increase was projected. By 1987 only 46% of applicants were successful but there was concern that this would still translate into a 50% increase in student numbers over the next decade that would not be manageable in terms of the limited accommodation and facilities available. In January that year the Minister of Education imposed a zero growth policy on all universities, which he revised in November 1988 to a maximum 2% growth in first-year numbers at the University of Natal with the threat of penalties if it was exceeded.

This posed a challenge after the University had experienced 5.4% and 4.6% increases in 1987 and 1988. The increasing number of applicants, 8 000 for the 2 770 places available on the three campuses for 1989, created serious selection difficulties despite an increase in admission requirements, as did the task of comparing matriculation results from numerous examining bodies. A slight decrease in white matriculants helped to ease the situation but it was calculated that the increase in black student admissions was now 20% per annum. The rise in overall registrations from 7 952 in 1976 to 12 981 in 1989 amounted to a 63% increase. By then there were 4 407 students (34% of the total) in Pietermaritzburg with Durban's 8 574 (66%) constituting a slight decline from 68% in 1976 although the number of medical students had increased from 594 to 971. By the mid-1970s there were 746 black students (African, coloured and Indian), still amounting to less than 9.5% of total registrations.

As far as undergraduates were concerned, in 1989 the Faculty of Commerce, not Arts, now had the most students with 2 125 registered compared with 1 515 in 1976. Arts had just over 2 000 and Social Science 1 500 compared with 1 953 and 412 respectively in 1976. As these figures indicate, Social Science experienced a 264% increase during this period compared with a 40% increase in Commerce registrations and only 2.4% in Arts. Engineering registered 1 140 students in 1989 compared with 872 in 1976 and Science 1 172 compared with 940, amounting to increases of 30.7% and 24.7% respectively. Law had the smallest number of undergraduate registrations (50) but the largest at postgraduate level (570). Education (515), Arts (460) and Science (428) followed.

By 1989 Commerce had overtaken both Arts and Science in graduating 460 first-degree students as well as conferring 101 diplomas. Arts (494 degrees and three diplomas), Social Science (305 degrees and 49 diplomas) and Science (238 degrees) followed. That year Engineering conferred 178 first degrees, Law 175, Agriculture 114, Education 109 (and 322 diplomas), Medicine 87 and Architecture 50, though any inter-Faculty comparisons should bear in mind that in some cases the first degree involved four or more years of study.

At the postgraduate level in 1989 the University produced 413 honours, 192 masters and 53 doctoral graduates. This comprised 25.2% of all the degrees awarded if one includes the 87 MBChBs conferred, compared with only 16.3% in 1976. That year the Faculty of Arts boasted the best output with 178 (135 honours degrees, 33 masters and 10 doctorates). It was followed by Science with 165 (111 at honours level, 35 masters and 19 doctorates) and by Social Science with 134 (101 honours degrees, 30 masters and three doctorates).

Agriculture produced 16, 23 and 6 graduates in those categories, Engineering 25 masters and six doctoral graduates, Education 21 and three, Medicine ten and four and Architecture eleven and one. Law graduated three students at masters level; and Commerce only one at masters and one at doctoral level but 50 with honours degrees.

In the late 1970s the new requirement of two years basic military training threatened to have an impact on white student numbers but an increase in postgraduate registrations was assisted by the willingness of the military authorities to grant deferment beyond honours level on the grounds that the research so generated was in the interests of the country. The pre-university course that the Faculty of Engineering ran for ex-servicemen early in 1979 proved successful because the 27 who attended (fifteen from Rhodesia) were above average academically and well-motivated, which encouraged its repetition. That year the Principal joined an invited group of educationists on a three-day visit to the military operational areas to establish the future educational expectations of current trainees. By late 1981 the military authorities were suggesting the formation of a University army unit through which students might meet their obligations, but the SRCs were opposed to it.<sup>1</sup>

The most significant long-term change in the University's student body during this period was in its racial composition (see next chapter). Partly because of this, the availability of scholarships and bursaries and the issue of failure rates were more important than ever before.

### **Scholarships, bursaries and failures**

In the late 1970s there was concern, not for the first time, at the University's inability to attract first-class matriculants due to the inadequacy and limited number of scholarships it offered. By 1979 it was awarding R395 492 in bursaries, primarily on the basis of financial need and R53 000 in scholarships for academic achievement. Only R203 260 was raised from external sources for these purposes compared to the R245 232 allocated from University funds, of which R190 832 was channelled into the graduate assistant bursary scheme.

The number and size of awards clearly had to be increased, particularly with regard to entrance scholarships and more effort was needed to publicise the University through a schools lecture programme and campus open days. Indeed, the institution's local image had to be improved by whatever means possible. It was decided that the schools lecture programme to be launched in 1982 should be a joint venture of the two campuses with co-ordinators to

establish the availability of lectures in each centre, a brochure to advertise them and funds set aside to cover lecturers' travelling expenses.

An extra R180 414 was budgeted for bursaries and scholarships and R220 000 for graduate assistantships with further increases in subsequent years. The most lucrative undergraduate award then was the Prestige scholarship valued at R2 420, in addition to which there were another nineteen entrant scholarships.<sup>2</sup> As in previous decades there was a fair crop of outstanding students who won prestigious awards with which to pursue postgraduate studies. In 1984, for example, eight of the Faculty of Agriculture's 137 graduates were awarded their degrees *cum laude* while G.F. Dollar won a Zimbabwe Rhodes Scholarship and R.F.G. Cadiz gained a *summa cum laude* distinction and a Beit scholarship to study further in Britain.<sup>3</sup>

Failure rates, especially among first years, continued to attract attention as they did in other South African universities. In 1978 the Principal, Vice-Principals, Manfred Hellberg and P.S. (Paul) Walters represented the University at the CUP's conference on the 'Transition from School to University'. Among the recommendations with which the delegation returned were that there should be an easier interchange of students between universities; technikons and training colleges could overcome mistakes in initial course choices without necessitating a recommencement of studies; counselling services should be improved; and bridging-the-gap programmes might be expanded.

It was further suggested that lecturers should be offered courses in teaching methods, that there should be ongoing assessment of curricula and that universities should give more recognition to exceptional teaching ability. The following year, as previously mentioned, Senate appointed Staff Development and Student Development committees in each centre with Academic Support Services committees subsequently charged to co-ordinate their efforts to implement these recommendations and make further proposals for the promotion of more effective curriculum development, teaching and assessment.

There was also particular focus on providing adequate academic support for the University's disadvantaged or non-traditional students who might need assistance in improving their competence in English, study and mathematical skills, or who were generally ill-prepared for university-level studies. By 1980 the new bridging-the-gap programmes were proving successful but raised accommodation difficulties to cater for all those who wanted to enroll for them, with places for only 150 of the more than 300 applicants each year.

In Durban efforts were made to ensure more effective co-ordination among the bridging-the-gap, orientation, introductory chemistry, science and engineering courses that were now available. In 1981 a co-ordinator of Support Services was appointed for this purpose as well as to assist in establishing new programmes, counsel students and organise financial aid for those who were disadvantaged. More funds were invested in bursaries and scholarships specifically for black students. In 1983 it was announced that Shell South Africa wanted to establish a multiracial Science and Mathematics Education Centre on the University's Durban campus to upgrade the training of black pupils by offering intensive coaching for those in Standards 9 and 10 (Grades 11 and 12). Shell undertook to bear the cost of building, equipping and furnishing the facility as well as employing staff and transporting pupils to it.

By 1984 consideration was being given to dropping the requirement of a 'C' aggregate in the matriculation examination to become eligible for a bursary because this disqualified many of the students most in need. Moreover, the new and gradually more refined selection procedures now provided sufficient indication of academic ability and enabled the University to assist disadvantaged students with potential who did not have the requisite symbol. Council resolved not to drop the 'C' requirement, 'at least for the time being' and a newly established Student Selection Committee, which the Vice-Principal (Pietermaritzburg) chaired, developed a new matriculation points system according to which admission requirements varied from Faculty to Faculty. Fears that the University's admission policy was doing some population groups an injustice were proved unfounded by a 36% increase in its black student population in 1984 compared with an 18% increase for Indian, 0.8% for coloured and 2.8% for white students.

In 1985 Pietermaritzburg's Faculty of Arts introduced its first-year Language, Learning and Logic course specifically for those students inadequately prepared for university-level studies. It was available to students in all faculties and unlike the earlier English Language Development Scheme was credit-bearing towards the completion of a degree. The departments of Language and Communication and Philosophy as well as the English Language Development Scheme, Language and Reading Centre and the Student Advisory Service were all actively involved.

These various remedial efforts seemed to have an impact, for by 1986 the pass rate among first-year students had improved by 4.5% despite the steady increase in numbers from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Pass rates among first-year black students increased from 18.8% in 1984 to

54.9% in 1986. A further refinement was added when, in December 1988, the University conducted an experimental two-week teach-test-teach (TTT) programme to identify the potential of students to succeed at tertiary level. School principals in the province nominated 43 of their pupils to be assessed regarding their increasing ability to cope with learning tasks in arts and social science subjects. As a result, 34 of them were registered the following year in those faculties, twelve in Pietermaritzburg and 22 in Durban.

By 1989 the University's efforts to assist underprepared students with the potential to succeed were broadening out into all its faculties. A director of Student Support Services was leading this initiative with a head of services in each centre and (thus far) five Faculty co-ordinators – in Engineering/Commerce (Durban), Science/Agriculture (Pietermaritzburg) and Arts/Social Science (Durban and Pietermaritzburg). In Engineering a foundation year was launched in which students were initially registered for non-degree purposes (NDP) and tutored before starting their formal studies. In other faculties students were registered with varying workloads and supported with parallel support courses. The University paid the salaries of the director, campus heads and three of the five co-ordinators, but other expenses were met from outside sources including R620 000 for Science/Agriculture, R500 000 for Engineering and R300 000 for Arts/Social Science.

A CUP/Department of Education task group reported in 1989 that 54% of South Africa's student population was 'at risk' of failing, ranging between 8% and 18% at the top five universities and between 38% and 99% at the other institutions. Booysen informed Council that Natal's admission procedures had ensured that its 'at risk' students had declined from 48% in 1983 to 14% in 1988, but there was no room for complacency and the need for support services was as urgent as ever.<sup>4</sup>

### **Student medical, academic and advisory services**

The University clinics continued to operate in both centres, but in 1973 and again in 1977 Council declined the Durban SRC's request to pay for the installation of a contraceptive vending machine to meet what the SRC president regarded as its duty to save students from the 'undesirable predicament' of being 'hurled into the torment of an unwarranted pregnancy'. Instead it appointed a committee that included the Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics and the sister in charge of the Campus Health Clinic to recommend what advice and help should be offered to students in this regard. That year the Pietermaritzburg SRC decided to promote the cause by drawing the attention

of students to the clinic on campus, run by Sandy Rutsch, where among other things contraceptive advice and practical assistance were readily available.

The demand from students and prospective students for academic information and assistance continued to increase and a registered clinical psychologist was employed to cope with the rise in cases requiring psychological help. By 1989, when Devi Rajab joined the staff, the Students Counselling Centre attended to 4 000 students in Durban alone, where Ian Gibson was head, 60% of them in connection with degree and career choices. In addition, the Advisory Service was involved in school visits, organising and distributing career leaflets, maintaining contact with school counsellors and industrial personnel officers, participating in bridging-the-gap week, running study skills courses, scoring and interpreting course preference tests, investigating failure rates and other student issues, assisting students find vacation jobs, and arranging campus recruitment visits by companies seeking prospective graduate employees.

In 1980 it was decided to establish Academic Support Services committees on each campus to investigate the problems students from different educational systems experienced at the University and suggest ways of overcoming them. By the early 1980s students were making increased use of the services provided by way of personal interviews, loan schemes and tutorials both in specific subjects and in English proficiency and study skills. In 1981, with financial assistance from the Anglo American Corporation, a co-ordinator of Academic Support Services was appointed.

In Pietermaritzburg a tutor system was introduced in some departments to provide mentors for those who needed them, but students did not take full advantage of the service and the number of staff volunteers soon declined. In the short term there was an insufficient number of volunteers to launch a similar



**D. (Devi) Rajab** was a Fulbright scholar and a masters and doctoral graduate of the universities of Kansas and Missouri. She lectured in Psychology at UDW and worked in private practice before joining the University's Counselling Centre as a senior counselling psychologist. She was subsequently appointed as its director and as dean of Student Services as well as serving on several trusts and boards, including the Broadcasting Monitoring and Complaints Committee from 1996. She published both locally and internationally on prejudice, inter-group relations and women's issues.



scheme in Durban. The Student Development Committee did successfully organise a ten-day programme that co-ordinated all pre-university courses on offer, including the SRC's fresher activities and study skills courses.

By late 1982 students referred to Academic Support Services there were also being tutored on a one-on-one or small group basis, but the Faculty of Engineering's tutorial scheme was proving to be 'a disaster' as the disadvantaged students for whom it was intended were not showing much interest. A part-time schools liaison officer visited virtually every secondary school in Natal to give the institution better publicity and answer the questions of potential students. In 1983 it became a full-time post and a further valuable facility was provided when the Department of Social Work co-operated with the Student Advisory Service to establish a student crisis counselling service on the Durban campus.

Pietermaritzburg's Department of Chemistry was one of the first to provide coaching assistance to those students who needed it no matter what their schooling background. Jennifer McKenzie was one of those many largely unsung stalwarts who contributed over several years in helping students to cope with university-level studies. In 1985 the Faculty of Arts there introduced its credit course specifically for disadvantaged students who had obtained a matriculation 'D' or less in a first language. There were reservations about the possible lowering of standards and it was pointed out that at Wits a similar course was offered as a pre-university module. Commerce, Science and Social Science nevertheless all agreed to accept the course on a two-year trial basis. That year a joint Arts/Social Science Faculty symposium on disadvantaged students pointed to the need for a systematic method of improving their language deficiencies.

The aforementioned introduction in 1985–1986 of Language, Learning and Logic and English Studies courses went some way towards meeting that



**J. (Jennifer) McKenzie** was a M.Sc. (Pretoria) and D.Phil. (Oxford) graduate who gained lecturing experience at Roma University (Lesotho) and in Pietermaritzburg before resigning to raise a family. She returned to the Chemistry Department there as a beginners' tutor (for students who had not taken the subject at school) and from 1994 served as the Chemistry co-ordinator in the new Science Foundation Programme until her retirement in 1998.

demand as did the reading improvement courses that the Language and Reading Centre provided. In 1986 it was further decided to upgrade the co-ordinator Academic Support Services post to director charged with co-ordinating all academic support services in both centres and anticipating future needs. In addition, an applied linguist was appointed to support the English Language Development Scheme in Pietermaritzburg. Examination structures and the wording of questions in a range of disciplines also came increasingly under the spotlight.

In 1989 it was calculated that 60% of South African university students had an 'E' matriculation aggregate whereas Natal's percentage was 21% and its success rate was improving. In 1987, 36% of students were reckoned to be 'at risk' of failing. Natal's students in that category declined from 41% in 1983 to 12% in 1988 while the average annual increase in black student numbers was 20%. Even so, the University took the initiative in spending a great deal of time and energy organising campus workshops preparatory to a national seminar on a CUP proposal that the establishment of intermediate colleges might resolve the problem of inadequate preparation for tertiary studies. Enthusiasm for this option faded during the 1990s, although some of its features were revived in other forms. By 1989 the low pass rate among black students, especially in the Sciences, nevertheless prompted the need for a reassessment as well as a revival of schools liaison efforts to identify and attract the top black matriculants.<sup>5</sup>

### **Residences**

By 1977 there were approximately 300 students officially residing in the grossly overcrowded ATR at Wentworth. There were six male and three female residences at Howard College providing accommodation for 669 and 260 students respectively. Louis Botha (130), Ernest Jansen (102), Florence Powell (73), Ansell May (164), Townley Williams (105) and Mabel Palmer (95-A Block) halls provided housing for males and Charles James (63), John Bews (102) and Mabel Palmer (95-B Block) for females. In Pietermaritzburg there were three residences for men and five for women accommodating 568 and 454 students respectively. William O'Brien (WOB, 410), Malherbe (110) and Denison (48) accommodated men and Eleanor Russell (ERH, 165), University (110), Lodge (38), Malherbe (93) and Denison (48) accommodated women with the last two being mixed-gender residences.

In all there were 1 951 students in residence, 929 at Howard College and 1 022 in Pietermaritzburg, approximately 2 250 if those at Wentworth are

included. Collectively they amounted to roughly 29% of the University's total student population, with 16.5% of Durban students in residence and 44% of those in Pietermaritzburg. By 1990 there were 2 900 students in residence, including 20% of those studying at Howard College and 25% of those in Pietermaritzburg. The latter was ever less the residential campus it had once been.

In 1977 the Howard College residences suffered a loss when C.McN. (Cyril) Cochran retired as senior full-time warden with nearly 1 000 students in his care as well as responsibility for monitoring the campus refectory. He had held the position since 1973 after serving as assistant registrar in the Faculty of Medicine from 1962 and as warden of Louis Botha Hall. He and his wife Jean were to be remembered, among other unobtrusive kindnesses, for producing hot soup throughout each Rag float building night and for assisting those students who had indulged in excessive intakes of other types of fluid. He was succeeded by M. Southwood (MA Oxon), who had previous experience at the universities of Rhodesia and Lesotho, and then by M.R. McDonald. By 1990 his deputy wardens T.R. Mason (men) and Pat Duminy (women) had been succeeded by A. Auret and S.P. (Sue) Budd respectively.

In 1977 the senior Pietermaritzburg warden staff comprised D.S. (David) Raven (WOB), K.I. (Kim) Mackenzie (Petrie Hall, including ERH, University Hall and Lodge), B.A. Eagle (Malherbe) and R.H. (Roger) Ellis (Denison). By 1990 after some intermediate changes they had been succeeded by Greg Roos, B.J. Davies, James Moulder and Trevor Wills respectively.

Unlike previous years the residences in both centres produced pleasing financial surpluses in 1977. This was due partly to lower than anticipated catering costs per student, but also because of income received from numerous conferences and sporting events held on campus during vacations. The student refectory in Pietermaritzburg incurred a smaller loss than anticipated, but those at Howard College and Medical School reflected substantial losses that were charged to the University revenue account and Medical School budget respectively. In 1978 those outlets continued to return deficits, but a process of centralised catering produced a small surplus in the Durban residences and there was an even bigger profit in Pietermaritzburg where the residences and refectory still ran separate kitchens.

In 1979 room vacancies coupled with wage increases resulted in the Durban residences running at a substantial loss while Pietermaritzburg's residences were full and turned a modest surplus. By 1980 both centres were running at a loss as expenditure on wages and food increased though thereafter in

some years Pietermaritzburg managed to show a profit. By 1989 it was being suggested that the University should make more use of its residences during the vacations and that their availability should be advertised as the University of the Orange Free State and UCT were doing.<sup>6</sup>

While all the other residences were expected to be self-supporting, in 1978 government fortunately provided a R117 000 subsidy for catering at ATR and another R154 307 in 1979 but thereafter it expected that facility also to become self-supporting in accordance with the new financial arrangements for the future funding of the Faculty of Medicine. Accommodation for medical students increasingly became a major preoccupation for the University as it proved more difficult to maintain its traditional policy of providing rooms for all students admitted to the Faculty.

In 1977 ATR was so overcrowded that common rooms had to be subdivided and three prefabricated buildings from a provincial school were disassembled and re-erected to create sufficient but very cramped bedrooms for all the residents, some of whom had been sleeping in bunks or on the floor. The University was reluctant to embark upon any major extension of residential accommodation on this increasingly unsuitable site in the vain hope that government might yet grant it permission to establish more convenient accommodation somewhere nearer to the Faculty's building. In the interim those students who had to endure shared accommodation were granted a 10% reduction in residence fees.

In 1979 many ATR inmates were still experiencing transport difficulties to and from classes at the Faculty of Medicine. So too were another 43 non-medical students who took courses at Howard College and were similarly still barred from using whites-only municipal buses. In his capacity as Principal Booysen reported to Council that travel was 'time consuming, unreliable, inconvenient and costly', being particularly difficult after dark, and that approximately 600 black staff members also experienced difficulties commuting to and from campus, along with some whites. After the ERU submitted a report on commuting difficulties to and from campus the Durban Transport Management Board eventually agreed to add two additional services between ATR and the University, but desegregation of public transport still lay in the future.

Meanwhile government remained adamant that universities should build residences for 'non-white' students in their own group areas. When, in 1979, a few black students applied to undertake postgraduate work in the Department of Town Planning special permission was nevertheless sought to find them accommodation on or near the Howard College campus. It was unsuccessfully

argued that the homeland universities offered no such courses and ATR, which also housed some non-medical students, was full to overflowing. Permission for one Indian and one coloured student to be admitted into an on-campus residence was flatly refused and a request for host families to be allowed to accommodate two Africans was also unsuccessful. In Pietermaritzburg accommodation was found for some black students at the Ecumenical Centre in Edendale.

The Minister of National Education insisted that the accommodation of black, coloured or Indian students in any of the University's residences other than ATR without the necessary permit would render the University and the students concerned liable to prosecution under the Group Areas Act. The Minister of Indian Affairs offered assistance in constructing residential accommodation for that population group in the appropriate area, but the University declined as this ran counter to its goal of achieving full residential integration.

In 1980 the Department of National Health at last approved R4.4 million for the construction of a new medical residence which, it was envisaged, would be built adjacent to King Edward VIII Hospital but this was delayed while the future of that major facility was contemplated. Government eventually decided to upgrade it, but then balked at building a student residence adjacent to it. Instead, it was suggested that African students should move to the distant Mlazi or Kwa Mashu townships.

Meanwhile the accommodation situation at ATR remained critical. There were now 371 residents, 308 of them medical students, with 32 in double and 72 in multiple bedrooms. In 1981 another 54 rooms were created for medical students by moving first-year Biology classes to Howard College and subdividing the old Biology teaching block into 30 units as well as providing 24 more by erecting two additional prefabs in the familiar World War II style. There was talk of moving first-year medical classes to the previously whites-only campus to convert all the vacated Wentworth classrooms into residential accommodation but, while the funds were available, it was still hoped that official permission would soon be granted to construct an urgently needed new residence, preferably for 450 students. This had become even more essential as a result of the recent changes in the medical curriculum that required fifth- and sixth-year students to be readily available for night duty. Mpala House (for interns) could accommodate only 30 to 40 senior students and there was now an urgent need to find places for up to 400 students altogether. It was realised

that even then ATR would still be required to meet the needs of black students in other faculties.

Despite the attempts of the Vice-Principal and the dean of Medicine to intercede there was further trouble at that residence when students demanded the removal of the warden, Dr Luvuno, who was forced to leave and resign after damage was inflicted on the house that he and his family occupied. Hugh Philpott was appointed to act in his stead and to report on what improvements could be made until such time as urgently needed alternative accommodation became available. He reiterated the often-repeated complaints about overcrowding, limited reading and recreational facilities, inadequacy of existing bursaries, unpleasant proximity of the smelly and noisy oil refinery and the 10 kilometre journey to the Faculty of Medicine. He also suggested that house rules should be revised and that an assistant dean should be appointed to liaise between the students and administration.

In the interim, efforts were made to allay other student grievances including floodlighting the football field. At the considerable expense of R52 000 a year, the University itself at last provided bus transport between ATR and lecture venues on the Howard College campus. This resulted in a substantial saving for the students enabling them to spend more money on refectory food, the cost of which rose by 20% following an increase in state medical bursaries. By 1985 teaching at hospitals other than King Edward VIII was being seriously disrupted by lack of funding for student transport. Meanwhile the University continued its longstanding campaign to persuade Durban Transport to desegregate the City-Howard College bus service.

Another welcome development was the language coaching and training in study skills the University's Academic Support Services and Department of Linguistics and Communication provided for first- and second-year medical students. This was further enhanced by the appointment in 1982 of the Faculty's own aforementioned academic support officer, but these improvements could not compensate for the now traditional dissatisfaction with the seemingly eternal temporary residential accommodation provided. While government continued to prevaricate about authorising the construction of a new medical students' residence, in 1982 it also imposed a restriction on any further improvements to the accommodation provided at ATR. This made it difficult to explain to students why the space provided by moving their Physics classes to Howard College was not being utilised for that purpose. When the Principal alternatively asked for certain residences on the Howard College campus to be granted so-called international status so that some black

students could be housed there the Minister of National Education referred to a Cabinet decision that required universities to negotiate with their local authorities for accommodation in an appropriate group area.

An initial five black students were given blanket permission to register for the B.Th. degree in Pietermaritzburg but they were to be accommodated in a house close to the campus that the Lutheran Church owned and not in a University residence. By 1984 the Minister of Education and Culture (white) was allowing the University to admit a small number of black students into its residences on condition that this was not regarded as a precedent. By then there was no prospect of increasing residential accommodation in either centre as both were more than 50% in excess of the permissible amount in terms of the SAPSE norms compared with between 18% and 23% at most other universities.

When in 1983 government at last announced that, in addition to the aforementioned new medical school and academic hospital, a residence for medical students would also be constructed (see Chapter 2), it was hoped that that the latter facility would be prioritised. There was by then a critical need for it, particularly as plans to build a new residence in Umbilo Road were now immediately withdrawn. As completion of the new building clearly still lay far ahead, the University successfully sought authorisation to expand the existing facilities at ATR.

By then what was described as ‘a reign of terror’ prevailed in the overcrowded conditions there involving the intimidation of students who did not comply with lecture boycotts and even incidents of assault and rape. All first-year medical teaching was at last moved to the Howard College campus with ministerial approval and the remaining classrooms and laboratories were converted into student bed/study rooms. The accommodation crisis nevertheless persisted with work on the new residence only expected to begin in 1988 and rooms available three years thereafter.

It had to be made clear to students that academic admission to faculties other than Medicine did not guarantee residential accommodation. Nevertheless, in 1985 there were approximately 50 students who registered without any place of abode. When other students at ATR took them in the congestion there became even worse and the special bus service, which was then costing more than R100 000 a year to run, was also adversely affected, necessitating an additional morning and late night service. Under pressure from the Black Students Society (BSS) the University felt obliged, with great difficulty, to find whatever alternative accommodation was available at a reasonable

price. An investigation into the apparent lack of discipline in the residence unsurprisingly pointed to the urgent need for improved living conditions even though the number of beds available there had risen from 371 in 1981 to 534 in 1985.

The crisis was compounded when black non-medical students, some of whom were living illegally in ATR, drew attention to their need for accommodation by setting up a squatter protest tent camp on the Howard College campus. The BSS argued that ATR and Mpala House as well as the new medical residence should be open to all black students and that the admissions policy for all residences should be revised. None of this was possible in terms of the prevailing legislation and financial situation, although the University undertook to assist in finding alternative accommodation, to provide additional buses between Wentworth and Howard College, to review admission procedures and 'to press on every reasonable occasion' for exemptions from the provisions of the Group Areas Act. By mid-1985 the University had unofficially admitted 30 black students into its Howard College residences amid indications that the regulations might soon be relaxed. This proved to be false and, following the Principal's meeting with the Minister of Education and Culture, further prefabricated accommodation was erected at ATR to meet the immediate demand.

There was talk of initially building the new medical residence immediately south of the main Howard College campus and then providing further accommodation at a later stage near the new medical school and academic hospital on the proposed Cato Manor site. The land initially identified proved inappropriate as it encompassed 160 suburban residential plots. Approximately 6 of the neighbouring 20 hectares the University eventually acquired for the new medical school complex was earmarked for the residence which, it was envisaged, would be constructed on high ground but protected from the inclement south-westerly weather and with easy access to the Medical Faculty, Howard College and sports fields. Further delays and uncertainty did nothing to improve student, or staff, morale and there was concern that with the lease on ATR due to expire at the end of 1988 the University might find itself faced with an even worse accommodation crisis, quite apart from having to house 230 non-medical students who were now living there although it was not permitted to expand it any further.

In March 1986 the Principal, accompanied by Messrs Canning and Van der Pol representing the NUDF, spent a week in Johannesburg visiting major donor companies in an effort to raise funds for additional accommodation



on the Howard College campus. There were also negotiations to purchase a neighbouring property in King George V Avenue with a house that could be converted to accommodate 32 students, as well as incorporating the property next door to it. At the other end of the campus on Francois Road (Rick Turner Avenue) a cluster-type complex providing accommodation for 96 non-medical students with an eventual central communal facility for 480 students was envisaged, to be funded at least in part by the Anglo American/De Beers Chairman's Fund. A new site close by was sought for the medical residence and an application was made for exemption from the Group Areas Act to make this feasible. Government agreed to fund 85% of the cost of the interest and redemption charges on the capital loan that had been approved back in 1982, substantially reducing the University's financial commitment from the usual 50% for residential development to 15%.

At last, in 1988 construction of the new residences south of the main Howard College campus began, with the first cluster block due for completion in February 1989 and the new medical residence by the end of that year. By August 1989 students had already moved into the former where the opportunity presented itself for a new residence culture to develop with black and white, male and female students sharing the facilities. It was expected that ATR, which had served its purpose since the Faculty's inception but had long outgrown its capacity, would now soon be closed. This event was celebrated with a successful reunion of former residents at which doctors Mamphela Ramphele and Aaron Motsoaledi among others spoke and Darius Brubeck's Jazz Ensemble performed.

The current generation of students could now move into the new Albert Luthuli Hall, completed in 1989, which was so much more conveniently situated and better appointed than its shabby predecessor. The new hall there was to become a dining and social centre for both the cluster and tower block complex, which had previously only been identified alphabetically or numerically. Council resolved that the name Alan Taylor would be used for a residence for senior medical students it was intended to construct close to the new medical school.

In December 1989 Council also decided that Charles Smith Hall, named after another early benefactor, would henceforth define the existing residential complex on the Howard College campus and would embrace the facilities already named John Bews, Louis Botha, Charles James, Ernest Jansen, Ansell May, Mabel Palmer, Florence Powell and Townley Williams. It was further

resolved that the Jubilee Hall student club would be renamed the Jubilee Centre and continue to form part of Charles Smith Hall.

Tom White (Durban, 1975–1978) was a resident of Ansell May Hall, which for some years had its own magazine *Alfie* in which he was heavily involved. Apart from the house president's reports it included club, sports and literary sections in which contributors could exercise their prose and poetical talents as well as information and commentary on contemporary campus issues such as Freshers Week, Rag and student apathy. As White observed in the commemorative edition of *Alfie*, published in 2016 when 'Annie May' residents had a reunion to celebrate their 'glorious years' (1970–1980), 'If you weren't in Residence, you missed out on much of what university was about'. In Durban those who enjoyed that privilege were always in a minority.

By the mid-1970s the residences in Pietermaritzburg were accommodating more students than they were originally designed for and all had long waiting lists. ERH was worst affected, with common rooms, sewing rooms and ironing rooms converted to take in twelve extra students. WOB still retained much of its traditionally boisterous character. Richard Rowland (1972–1975 and Dip.Acc., 1982), who subsequently pursued a successful career in auditing, 'thoroughly enjoyed' his sojourn there, 'too much in some years – hence the length of time it took me to complete my B.Comm.' Nicholas Wellington (BA (Hons) part-time, 1977–1984) found WOB a 'strangely schizoid experience' providing 'liberation from boarding school' but with many fellow residents who were 'profoundly rightwing' and probably suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in either the South African or Rhodesian military. 'They wore very tight shorts regardless of the weather, hurled abuse at the young women who were brave enough to enter the premises, drank copious quantities of Lion Lager, smoked heavily, spoke in monotones without effect.'

WOB's new warden, Englishman David Raven, caused a stir when he spoke at a formal dinner with a 'plummy' accent but won his audience over by referring to what was regarded as 'the most important organ in WOB' with the reassurance that 'I will not speak for long – I know as well as you that strength is not judged by length alone'. Wellington subsequently moved to Denison which had 'a very different co-ed atmosphere'.

By the mid-1980s the residential situation was still far from ideal with some students finding accommodation at the distant Jan Richter Youth Centre or in nearby homes. Many students off-campus maintained what Rob Bury (B.Soc. Sc., 1983–1986) remembered as 'questionable living standards' that were not always conducive to study. Several well-established digs had become veritable

institutions in what was jokingly referred to as ‘the red suburb’ because of the relatively left-wing views of some staff and students. Russell Wallace (BA, LLB, 1983–1990) and Matthew Temple (1982–1985) recalled that these included Toad Hall, Copes Folly, The Knoll, Fudruckers, where parties often ended in an early-hour ‘grand prix’ through the sleeping streets, and Stabbos whose spring garden parties – complete with brass band – were important social events in the student calendar. Most digs supplemented their income with beer sales at parties that were often held on a quarterly basis and sometimes lasted for days, much to the displeasure of the neighbourhood. Students formed a ‘digs co-op’ to provide those living off-campus with advice about retail outlets offering student discounts and other benefits.

As warden of Malherbe during the 1980s staff member Ron Nicolson recalled that most residence students ‘had a great time’, with at least ten formal balls a year and a quarterly formal dinner. This was in contrast to the nightly occasions of the 1950s but still included sherry for the house committee and a three-course meal with wine served by the cleaning staff dressed as waiters and followed by coffee and liqueurs. There were still occasional inter-house raids for trophies like female underwear and illegal res pubs, which at least reduced the risk of off-campus drink-drive offences. Chris Turner (BA, 1984–1987) nevertheless remembered that downtown hostelries like the Polo Tavern and the Thistle (otherwise known as the Boshoff Street Country Club) became ‘legendary watering holes’ for students.

Shelagh McLoughlin (three-major BA, 1982–1985) recalled the many interesting conversations that took place in the dining hall and regretted that meals taken as a resident community subsequently became a thing of the past. She then discovered that life in a digs also added to the ‘sense of community’ while ‘the quality of student life was excellent’. Linda Turner (née Dreboldt) who resided in Lodge during the late 1980s agreed. The residences were ‘well run and there was a general sense of happiness and well-being on the campus with lots of camaraderie especially evident over “float building” during the annual Rag.

Ron Nicolson reminisced that it was, in retrospect, ‘the end of what many white students would have seen as the golden years for student experience’. As the proportion of blacks in residence steadily increased they ‘boycotted balls and formal dinners as racist colonial practices’ and rejected the authority of elected house committees by electing shadow committees of their own. Inter-house raids had to end, ‘for imagine the outcry if white students had raided the rooms of black women students’. As Nicolson remembered, it was

‘a sharp learning experience’ for wardens like him. Inter-racial friendliness characterised the early years of residential integration, but as the demographic profile on campus began to change and black student confidence increased, ‘the easy relationships (possibly because the ease was a false ease) gave way to very strained relationships’.

At the other end of the Pietermaritzburg campus the relatively new Denison Residence complex proved to be very popular with no more than 48 students accommodated in each tower block. The recent extensions were even more popular, involving a new concept in university accommodation that Bruce Powers, director of Physical Planning, had devised. These comprised six intimate maisonnette-style, two-storey clusters providing room for no more than twelve students in each, six per floor with communal lounges, kitchens and ablutions. The mobile homes brought there in 1983 to accommodate an overflow of 35 students were decidedly less comfortable. The success of Denison as a mixed residence raised the issue whether all the others should not similarly accommodate both sexes with separate bathroom facilities, or at least allow more lenient visiting hours.

A 1981 innovation also welcomed by many Durban students was the decision to separate feeding and lodging charges, with more than 47% of them opting to cater for themselves after dissatisfaction with the service provided on campus. Catering, and the manner in which the black staff involved were allegedly treated, continued to be an ongoing source of student dissatisfaction in both centres. In December 1988, after operating on campus for seventeen years, the Fedics catering contract came to an end. It was replaced by Petite Suisse (later Fat Albert) as the refectory caterers, with Ajunta servicing the Faculty of Medicine and ATR and Feed’em the other residences.

These changes by no means ended periodic student complaints about the quality and/or prices of the cuisine provided, including at the cafeteria in the new shopping concourse below the E.G. Malherbe Library. The caterers, in turn, complained about the theft of their plates at the rate of 40 a day. The Howard College residences continued to run at a small annual loss while their Pietermaritzburg counterparts turned a substantial R74 654 profit in 1982, but that year the University was obliged to subsidise ATR by as much as R328 184, R555 999 in 1983 and R504 787 in 1984.

In Pietermaritzburg additional accommodation was provided adjacent to the Golf Road campus in the form of the aforementioned hostel for theology students who were training for the Lutheran ministry. Apart from being convenient for the students concerned, its new government-approved

multiracial nature made it a welcome innovation for the University although it had to overcome objections from some residents concerned about property values in what had previously been a whites-only suburb. In 1982 several other black students approached the BSS to find them accommodation with the University's accommodation officer Nancy Charlton doing her best to find private lodgings for them. In 1984 Denison quietly began admitting black postgraduates, followed by undergraduates in 1985. Other residences followed from 1986 onwards.

In 1983 twelve women were accommodated in WOB, previously the largest all-male residence in the country, because more females than males were admitted to University under the new points system and the women's residences were full. Campus Vice-Principal Deneys Schreiner saw it as a way to 'civilise' WOB and favoured full residential integration as was the case in European universities. Desperately needed additional accommodation for another hundred white students was found by leasing Hattersley House, the nurses' home at the old Grey's Hospital (which some students thought was haunted) until the NPA gave the University notice to vacate in 1988.

This further aggravated the accommodation crisis with off-campus dwellings being increasingly hard to find, especially for black students and because ratepayers were complaining about rowdy digs parties that resulted in some evictions. Rooms were again found for 75 students at Jan Richter House and another 35 became available at the Martha Jansen railway hostel. Both were within long walking distance of the campus but at least 30 students were lost in 1989 due to the accommodation shortage. It was hoped that the construction, at a cost of more than R4 million, of more accommodation at Denison in the popular cluster style would ease the situation by eventually providing rooms for a total of 216 students. Meanwhile alumni gathered to reminisce about their years in residence. Former Oribi residents met for a campus tour and dinner in August 1987 and some of those who had lived in its successor WOB enjoyed a similar occasion in September 1990.

By the late 1980s house rules at WOB were being tightened up, particularly with regard to the consumption of alcohol and the wearing of T-shirts displaying political slogans. In Malherbe the new warden, James Moulder, allowed the house committee to draw up its own rules, with 'don't make a nuisance of yourself' being the general guideline. At Petrie, where alumnus Mrs Davies replaced Mrs Broster as warden, the rules remained much the same. The re-introduction in 1977 of the residence tutor system, involving senior students from various faculties, was focused on the WOB reception

lounge and provided first-year students with a useful means of acclimatising themselves to the vital academic dimension of university life. In response to growing demand the service was expanded in 1981.<sup>7</sup>

### **Academic activity**

From 1977, with traditional local suppliers no longer able to meet the University's requirements, students had to order their graduate regalia from Messrs T. Birch and Company of Grahamstown, now the official robe makers. The local firms Adams and Griggs were subsequently appointed official stockists of graduation dress.

By the late 1970s, with Afrikaner nationalism still in the ascendancy, the academic interests of Afrikaans speakers in Natal were under review. The Principal was invited to discuss the proposed establishment of an Afrikaans-medium university in the province with the chairman of the Universities Advisory Council. The University's own Council adopted the view that it was willing to consider offering classes through that medium in either centre when the demand justified it, but that as only 426 Afrikaans-speaking pupils had matriculated from Natal schools in 1977 the expense of establishing a separate campus was not warranted. At another meeting in Pretoria in May 1978 the Principal reiterated the University's position to the Universities Advisory Council. The University of the Orange Free State's student newspaper reported that a campus would be established near Ladysmith where a farmer had offered a large sum of money for this purpose and that it would be attached to that institution, but the scheme failed to materialise.<sup>8</sup>

In 1982 procedures were formally adopted whereby students could criticise courses, lecture techniques and individual lecturers. The instructor concerned was to be approached in the first instance to resolve any dissatisfaction, after which the head of department and Faculty dean could, if necessary, be consulted. A reasonable amount of time was to be allowed between each step with due caution taken by complaining students to ensure that any criticism was well-founded and supported by others taking that course.

Future staff member Alan Matthews had an early introduction to the 'rich, multi-disciplinary community' at Howard College through his academic parents, Peter (Geology) and Jackie (Business Administration). He completed a B.Sc. Hons (1980–1983) in Durban followed by a Ph.D. at Cambridge (1988) and a three-year postdoctoral programme at the Observatory of Paris. He was grateful to his 'dedicated teachers' in Physics and Mathematics in Durban and had particularly fond memories, among others, of 'philosopher-

physicists' Don Bedford and Peter Krumm, 'eminent researchers' Dave Walker and Manfred Hellberg, and Terry Doyle, a 'solid state physicist who could answer any question on any area of physics and could tell a damn good joke'. Matthews recalled that while some 'reactionaries' downtown referred to the campus as 'Moscow on the hill' because the majority of staff members were 'anti-apartheid' and some were 'activists in The Struggle', to most of Durban's citizens it was 'a beacon of light'.

Howard College continued to offer an increasingly wider variety of options, other than Agriculture and Fine Arts, but Pietermaritzburg still had the attraction of being a smaller, more intimate campus even though the majority of students were no longer living in residences. Moira Bolton (BA (Hons), 1981–1984) recalled that it 'certainly was a great place to study – open spaces, lovely views, residences within easy reach of lecture venues, plenty of opportunity for sport and culture, particularly with the Hexagon Theatre'. She was sufficiently attracted to the campus to return in 1989 and become a valued member of the central administration. Nicholas Wellington remembered John Wright's honours seminars on pre-colonial history as 'an intellectual turning point' in his life, going on as a political refugee to work in the film and multimedia production industry in California where he subsequently rose through the legal ranks to become deputy attorney-general in the Department of Justice there.

Verne Harris (MA and tutor, 1978–1984) subsequently had experience of foreign universities before becoming Director: Research and Archive at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, serving as Mandela's personal archivist. He recalled that after completing military service he 'needed to study South African history in order to make sense of the experience'. He later rated Pietermaritzburg's History and English departments as being 'in the top drawer', exposing him to 'enquiry and teaching of the highest order'. He remembered student life on campus as 'rich in possibility and promise' and considered that the University was at 'the forefront of resistance' as far as that was possible for a 'white university', with some 'pockets of reactionary energy'.

Harris was particularly impressed by the work of the INR, the various programmes on campus designed to assist disadvantaged students, the 'activist energy' that the SRC and Students Christian Association (SCA) gave to 'broader social engagement' and the 'service of exceptional efficiency' the Library provided. He recalled that his years on campus not only released him from religious fundamentalism but taught him 'critical analysis and historical materialism', enabled him to 'develop a political consciousness' and embark

upon a 'path to anti-apartheid activism', experience 'the first deep friendship across racial lines', find his 'intellectual and moral home' and meet his 'life partner'!

M. (Mark) Coghlan (BA (Hons), HDE, 1980–1984, Ph.D., 2000–2002) who subsequently pursued a career in Museum Services was another who underwent military service prior to arriving on campus where he 'became more aware of the crisis in the country at that time'. He recalled that John Benyon's 'dream team' made history his 'core subject', reinforced by other scholars who were only temporarily on campus, most notably Benyon's leave substitute Donal McCracken. He enjoyed life in the Denison flats, scorning 'the constant complaints about the food' after years at boarding school and in the army.

Chris Turner remembered the generally high academic standards on campus and was particularly impressed by the 'groundbreaking research in agriculture and the consistent production of world class accountants'. His wife-to-be Linda (née Dreboldt) similarly looked back with pride at the quality of the courses where she acquired her degree (B.Soc.Sc., 1986–1989) before embarking upon various work experiences, having a family and acquiring both a Draughting Diploma in Interior Design and an honours degree in Psychology (UNISA). In common with Rob Bury and many others she recalled with affection the 'eccentric and inspiring' lectures of Bruce Faulds (Psychology) who was 'passionate' about statistics while Yunus Carrim (Sociology) 'certainly kept us informed as to the current political situation'.

Richard Rowland considered Exton Burchell to be his 'best lecturer' because he would 'talk about the subject for the first half of the lecture period and then dictate very good concise notes which made studying for exams very easy'. Shelagh McLoughlin felt that standards in the mid-1980s 'varied', with courses taught by Graham Lindegger and Doug Wassenaar in Psychology and Francis Antonie in Politics, among others, being superior 'in teaching and composition' to those in English, her third major.

Margaret von Klemperer (Pietermaritzburg BA (Hons), 1985–1989) who arrived with three British A-levels and subsequently had a successful career on the *Natal Witness*, was not much taken with the first-year course in Sociology, the only one in which she did not achieve a first or one of eight certificates of merit in her first degree. By contrast, she found her two-year major in Classical Civilisation 'thoroughly enjoyable' thanks to the 'obvious enthusiasm for their subject' displayed by staff members Geoff Chapman, Pat Bruce, David Pike, Mike Lambert and Peter Tennant. She similarly enjoyed her major and



honours degree in English, especially Don Beale's 'brilliant' but sometimes 'incomprehensible' lectures, those of Bill Bizley, 'a superb teacher', and David Maughan Brown's first-year tutorials, which 'could be terrifying', for his was 'an intimidating presence', but to which she attributed 'a lot of my later success' because of 'the start he gave me and the challenges he expected students to handle'.

Von Klemperer recalled that being what was termed a 'mature student' (she was in her thirties) proved to be an interesting experience with classmates in their late teens being mostly friendly but apparently regarding those of her age and more as 'old' ladies. There were some lecturers who seemed to resent having 'mature students' in their classes but most of them were 'excellent, supportive, and opened my eyes to all kinds of things that had passed me by before'. In retrospect, she felt that students were 'over-taught, particularly at honours level' because 'university surely has to be about learning to discover things for yourself, and learning to work independently'. It was fair comment, although the approach in honours classes did vary considerably from department to department while undergraduate lecturing had long been influenced by limited library resources and the varying quality of high school education from which students emanated. University teaching, as she surmised, as distinct from lecturing was to become more intensive in the next decade as the University registered increasing numbers of students from disadvantaged school backgrounds.

Pietermaritzburg student Russell Wallace, who did not come from such circumstances and subsequently completed an LLM at UCT before pursuing a successful career as a legal adviser, initially found the gap between school and university 'quite large'. In common with many other students he felt out of his depth, barely passing his first English essay and experiencing tutorials that were 'very intense'. He eventually found his History and Politics majors 'enjoyable and exciting', broadening his horizons and promoting 'deep reading and arguing', even allowing for the odd lecturer who 'mumbled into his beard ... or spoke in riddles'! He was impressed with the strong research tradition in History, stretching back to Hattersley, and the high teaching standards. Local graduate and lecturer John Laband assured him that when he enrolled at Cambridge he had been 'more than adequately prepared'.

Duncan Macleod (B.Sc. Hons, 1977–1980) who subsequently worked as a geologist recalled that there were numerous students on campus attempting to forget the unpleasant experience of military service, in either the South African or Rhodesian army. For many of them involvement in socio-political issues



**D.R. (Don) Hunter** was a King's College, London (B.Sc. Special Honours) graduate employed on the East Rand gold mines before joining the colonial Geological Survey in Swaziland. He worked there for 21 years pioneering mining geology and becoming director of the Swaziland Geological Survey and Mines Department as well as commissioner of mines and chief inspector of machinery. He mapped about two thirds of the country concentrating on the Archaean granitoid terrain, fieldwork that provided the material for his M.Sc. (London) and Ph.D. (Wits). Following his resignation in

1970 he was awarded an OBE in recognition of his services.

Hunter worked as a research fellow in the Economic Geology Research Unit at Wits before assuming the chair of Geology in Pietermaritzburg in 1975, holding it until his retirement in 1992. He continued his research interest in Archaean geology but developed an interest in the geology of Droning Maud Land, Antarctica following his appointment as the South African representative on the working group on geology of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research. The Geological Society of South Africa awarded him its Jubilee medal (1970), honorary membership (1990) and the prestigious Draper medal (1998) after serving as its honorary secretary and president. He published more than one hundred articles of international standing and was involved in supervising more than a dozen masters and Ph.D. candidates.

'did not rank highly' as they sought to launch professional careers through serious study. He remembered Don Hunter as a 'most patient man' who was heavily involved in teaching from first year through to the honours class but was 'a chain smoker, barely managing to get through a lecture without a cigarette'. Vic von Brunn was also 'a stalwart' of the department, 'renowned for his ability to out-walk entire geology classes during field trips'. Macleod considered the academic standards in the Sciences to be 'top class' and the facilities and quality of student life 'excellent.' Rag was 'for most a big party, but money collection was taken seriously, and honestly'.

Rhodes doctoral graduate Charles Breen, who arrived in 1972 in Pietermaritzburg as senior lecturer in Plant Ecology, confirmed that academic standards in the 1970s and 1980s were high. Thanks to exceptional staff members like Kathleen Gordon-Gray, Olive Hilliard, Chris Bornman and Hannes van Staden, the Botany Department produced numerous graduates who assumed senior positions in South Africa and abroad. Among others, Law



**J. (Johannes) van Staden** graduated from Stellenbosch with a M.Sc. in Botany (1960–1964). He was employed as a lecturer at UWC and at Stellenbosch before becoming a lecturer, senior lecturer and associate professor at the University in Pietermaritzburg (1967–1983) where he acquired a Ph.D. (1970). He was rewarded with his third personal promotion to *ad hominem* professor (1984–1986) prior to becoming professor and head of the Department of Botany (1987–1998) and then director of the Research Centre for Plant Growth and Development (1999). Van Staden was awarded an FRD ‘A’ rating as a

researcher and in 1993 the South African Association of Botany’s gold medal. He was known to students and colleagues as a scientist and supervisor who demanded exceptionally high academic standards of himself and all those who worked with him. During his career he supervised numerous postgraduate students, conducted research at several foreign institutions, delivered a number of conference papers and authored/co-authored hundreds of publications in reputable journals.

students in both centres were similarly fortunate to receive a first-class training from staff members, several of whom like David McQuoid-Mason, had published extensively and enjoyed national and even international reputations.

Following his return to campus in 1981 as a lecturer Ron Nicolson formed the impression that, if anything, academic standards had improved compared with his student days in the 1950s and 1960s. Sabbaticals in Britain and the USA brought him to the realisation that the University’s ‘bright students’ were ‘just as good as, and in many cases better than, students there’. While weaker students who should have failed were allowed to pass with marks in the 50–59% range during the 1980s and 1990s, as was the case overseas, those who scored upper seconds and firsts ‘were really just as good, or better, than students had ever been’.

Colin Gardner had similar recollections, remembering that with some exceptions students were generally ‘less studious and maybe less thoughtful’ than in Britain due to the absence of ‘a general culture of wide reading’ but that, as before, many of the better students went on to successful postgraduate careers at foreign institutions. He recalled that in the 1980s and ‘maybe well beyond’ the University’s academic standards were ‘quite good’ and also ‘very consistent’ due to the extended Faculty examination meetings at which marks were compared and every effort was made ‘to do justice to each student’. This



**D.J. (David) McQuoid-Mason** graduated from the University of Natal (B.Comm., 1964, LLB, 1966 and Ph.D., 1978) and acquired an LLM from the University of London (1979). After serving articles he worked as a lecturer, senior lecturer and associate professor of Law in Durban (1971–1978) before being appointed professor and head of the Department of Procedural Law (1979–1987). He served two terms as dean of the Faculty, founded the South African Street Law Legal Literacy programme in 1986, was appointed national co-ordinator of it in 1990 and was president of the Commonwealth

Legal Education Association among many other prestigious positions. In 1973 he also started the first local legal aid clinic, served on numerous professional and University committees and as a member of several editorial boards; as well as visiting well over one hundred countries in connection with training, curriculum and materials development and assisting in the drafts of legal aid legislation. His research interests included legal aid and legal education, street law, human rights, privacy, consumer law and medical jurisprudence. He authored well over 150 articles, more than 60 book chapters and co-authored at least seven books in these and other fields as well as organising and participating in hundreds of national and international seminars and conferences.

was in contrast to many foreign (particularly American) universities where staff members applied their own marking systems and standards.

Gardner was also confident that, with its foundation courses and other forms of assistance to the disadvantaged students who came onto campus during the 1980s and 1990s, the University did well ‘in smoothing the transition from a monoculture to a difficult and sometimes contested multiculture’. This was despite some resistance from conservative staff members and parents who were concerned that the move towards a predominantly black student body was too rapid and consequently sent their children to other universities where the transition was much slower out of fear of declining academic standards.

Regrettably, in the 1980s the traditional weekly University Lecture disappeared, but survived into the next decade as a more occasional event. It had covered a wide variety of subjects and was always well attended by students and staff, thereby promoting the impression that the campus was a ‘fairly unified place’. Its gradual demise was a casualty of physical expansion and a more complex teaching timetable as the University followed a worldwide

trend in losing its traditional ‘concentrated and unified form’.<sup>9</sup> It also marked the loss of what had been a unique feature of the cultural life in both centres.

### **Cultural activity**

*Nux* and *Dome* continued as before to serve the Pietermaritzburg and Durban campuses as a medium for the distribution of news and opinion. The service was greatly assisted when in 1977 the Durban SRC bought a complete press unit for R15 000. That year, not for the first time, *Dome* incurred the displeasure of the University administration when it published what was considered to be pornographic material. In what for some must have been an uncomfortable echo of the Horwood era, Council threatened that it would withdraw the funds made available for its publication if it produced issues that were deemed ‘harmful to the image of the University’.

It adhered to this decision even though Senate appealed for reconsideration of what amounted to ‘an undesirable form of prior restraint on publications’ and because the criteria for imposing such a penalty were ‘too vague and uncertain to constitute a reasonable guide’. Council members Justice Shearer and Exton Burchell pointed out that as it was virtually impossible to define obscenity and pornography, any rules for student publications as proposed by Deneys Schreiner would have to be ‘based on agreed value judgments’. The matter was referred to an ad hoc committee after the Durban Co-ordination and Liaison Committee recommended that Council’s decision be rescinded because it implied a threat to the SRC’s budgetary powers and therefore to its independence.

Meanwhile that year three student publications were banned by government without reasons given. They were *Crux*, the mouthpiece of the Association of Critical Thought in Pietermaritzburg, the Engineering Society’s *Throb* and the Students Democratic Association’s *So-Where-To* (an obvious reference to the 1976 Soweto uprising) as well as four of its posters. *Crunch*, launched by Pietermaritzburg’s Moderate Thinkers Society, escaped but did not survive long. Neither did *Raw Material*, initially published in 1981 for circulation among members of the new BSS there.

*Nux* 7 of 1979 was banned and that year, after *Dome* 9 (29 September 1976) had been banned and three students were subsequently acquitted on a charge under the Publications Act, the Durban SRC demanded an apology from the University Council for the stance it had adopted on this matter. The chairman declined to include the item on its agenda on the grounds that Council’s view had been founded ‘on issues wider than those of pure legalities’. The

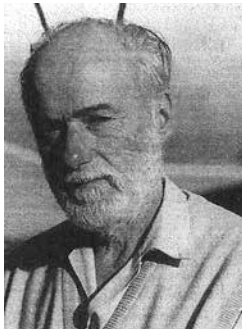
following year two more issues of *Dome* were banned and the Rag magazine *Nucleus* incurred Council's displeasure for including a parody on Psalm 23. The Principal undertook to discuss with the editors and Rag chairman the need to exclude material that caused religious or racial offence but, in the interim, it was officially declared an undesirable publication in terms of the 1974 Publications Act.

Government's 1979 banning of *Varsity* and *National Student* was followed by the banning of all further editions of the official newspaper of the South African Students Press Union. It was seen as a setback for the student press in general and obliged other publications to engage in careful self-censorship. In 1982 *Dome* again displeased the University authorities when it published an article that further complicated a current investigation into the Department of Political Science on the Durban campus. In 1983 parts of the annual Rag magazine *Nucleus* were censored and the following year Council approved the establishment of a committee comprising the Principal, Vice-Principals, director of Public Affairs and SRC presidents to advise on future editions.

In 1981 *Dome* Music Radio, which had been initiated fifteen years earlier before losing its broadcasting licence, was revived after suffering serious equipment failure. In August 1982 the Pietermaritzburg campus also acquired its own radio station NUTS, equipped with a R5 000 studio and with initially limited broadcasting hours. Like its Durban counterpart, under Paul Forsyth's direction its purpose was to provide news and entertainment, advertise campus activities and promote local musical talent. Both soon extended their broadcast area campus-wide and affiliated to the National Student Radio Organisation.<sup>10</sup>

Another nationwide association was established when in 1980 the non-racial Students Union for Christian Action (SUCA) appeared in both centres to stimulate the socio-political education of its members and co-ordinate their community projects. It subsequently focused on the major issue of resettlement after visiting Nqutu in Zululand. Christianity was not as overtly strong on campus as it had been in earlier decades, but in 1981 both centres experienced a further wave of evangelism with the arrival of the Pentecostal Student Mission and in 1983 the Anglican Society in Durban closed in the interests of promoting greater Christian unity. The Student Christian Fellowship enjoyed support in ATR, promoted by the interest of some staff members including Professor Sam Ross.

When in April 1985 Council concluded an agreement with the Islamic Council for the construction of a prayer building on the Pietermaritzburg campus it established a precedent: previously only non-denominational



**S. (Sam) Ross** joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the late 1980s after serving for seven years as departmental head at the medical school in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia prior to its closure. He had previously worked for twelve years in Nigeria where he met Professor Hugh Philpott. After publishing a book on nutrition during pregnancy in 1986 he co-authored an Obstetrics textbook with Philpott. Ross became a pioneer in Community Obstetrics in South Africa establishing support for midwives in Mlazi and KwaMashu and initiating a training programme in advanced midwifery

in Durban whose influence spread all over the country. He subsequently retired from his department to join Philpott in the Centre for Health and Social Studies (CHESS) where he concentrated on strengthening health systems in midwifery and women's health throughout South Africa.

Students admired Ross not only for his professional achievements but also for his mentorship and spiritual support. He defied the Group Areas Act by accommodating black students in his white suburban home when in need and established the KwaMashu Christian Care Home for the elderly prior to his death in 2015.

facilities had been approved. It was followed by a request from the Students Islamic Society for permission to build a mosque on the Howard College campus. This raised concern in Senex and Senate, to which Council responded by suspending the first agreement pending an investigation. Its arrangement with the Lutheran Church involving the provision of academic facilities was not seen as analogous. Senate eventually supported Council's conclusion that the ground used for this purpose should not be consecrated and that any facility erected should be available only to staff members and students.<sup>11</sup>

In Durban the SCA published *Campus* which survived from the late 1970s into the 1980s and for a time was the largest and most regular student newspaper on that campus. It was regarded as fairly left-wing in its political stance, but claimed to be middle-of-the-road and appealed to readers to consider its articles 'critically', although it was 'confident in the truth about Jesus Christ and the kingdom he proclaims'. It was also influential in promoting the Big Brother tutoring scheme that involved students in coaching school children who lived in orphanages and participating in various outings including weekend camping trips. *Nexus*, the Arts and Social Sciences Faculty Council newspaper, made a

brief appearance in the late 1980s but struggled to survive on a small budget and few staffers, as did *Times*.<sup>12</sup>

By the late 1970s Pietermaritzburg's Music Society was in a state of decline despite the efforts of English lecturer Bill Bizley but in 1977 it produced a very successful Mozart Evening and later that year Bizley deservedly received the *NUX* cultural award for reviving the society's fortunes. By 1981 it had a 70-strong membership. The traditional campus interest in drama was still strong, although Llewellyn Alexander recalled that the development of the Speech and Drama Department made DRAMSOC increasingly redundant. Dennis Schaffer's production of *Country Wife* opened the new Hexagon Experimental Theatre in 1977 and Jane Voss's subsequent production of John Osborne's celebrated *Look Back in Anger* promoted more interest by being performed in several of the residences. Richard Aitchison, Jane Harter, Tony Voss and Hazel Barnes, among others, helped to maintain the momentum with on-campus productions featuring casts of students and staff.

Despite the absence of a once-popular formal Debating Society on the Pietermaritzburg campus, in 1977 Ashley Binns-Ward and Gail van Zyl came first among the English-medium universities at the inter-varsity debating competition and in 1978 first-year Cora Hoexter won Jaycees National Speaker of the Year Award. Perhaps to fill the gap, in 1983 a new society called Forum was established to promote the cause of debate on all issues and later that year combined with the campus Wildlife Society to discuss the ivory trade.

The Film Society organised regular shows and continued to hold its annual festival, which was particularly successful in 1980, while the French Society maintained its close contacts with Alliance Française in town. The following year the Democratic Students Society was formed to promote cultural and political awareness on campus. In 1988, as the ethnic composition of the Pietermaritzburg campus changed, a Drama, Arts and Poetry Association and an Oriental Society were launched. The former sought to promote a 'people's culture' and 'bring township cultural programs to campus'. Later that year it collaborated with the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) to hold a successful non-racial cultural week. The Oriental Society aimed to develop 'cultural understanding' while arranging classes in classical Indian dancing, yoga, oriental music and cooking.<sup>13</sup>

In 1977 the Historical Society was revived on the Howard College campus and engineering students started the Gavel Club to promote the art of public speaking. By the 1980s, the SRC budget there supported three dozen clubs and societies, including the relatively new BSS, Islamic Society, Media Society,



Nursing Society, Survey Society, Women's Movement and a Rhodesia/Zimbabwe Society. As before, these enjoyed varying degrees of support and not all of them survived for long.

The Film Society, assisted by the Durban Film Circle, showed movies of artistic merit not readily available on the general circuit and the weekly Forum Lecture featured talks on current and/or controversial topics. The Wildlife Society remained committed to promoting conservation and from 1977 undertook an ecological survey of the Craiglee Krantz area in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. That year a Literary Society was formed to promote greater appreciation of literature and allied subjects. The revived Photographic Society, equipped with its own darkroom facilities, attracted increasing membership through its regular outings, slide evenings and 'print of the year' competition.

The Jazz and Contemporary Music Society promoted jazz and rock concerts on campus while in 1988 the Jazzanians, a nine-strong group of Durban students, accepted an invitation to perform at the National Association of Jazz Educators conference in Detroit. The campus choir, formed in the mid-1970s, continued to perform under the baton of Elizabeth Oerhle as did the wind band and string ensemble, all comprising music students and others who wished to participate.

Theta, a new campus dramatic society, was formed to explore the stage possibilities in African literature. Stage productions continued to feature in the Open Air Theatre and Square Space while in 1980 theatre goers welcomed the news that the construction of the Department of Speech and Drama's theatre complex was at last underway. It was situated adjacent to the Principal's home, Campbell House, after students had objected to its initial siting close to their residences in case building operations disturbed their concentration. Yet another new theatre company, comprising Drama honours students, was formed to take advantage of this facility.

In 1979 the Women's Movement, formed in 1977, investigated conditions in the female residences and organised a poorly attended Focus on Marriage Week. In 1981 it formed a committee to establish a crèche for the children of both students and staff members including those at the Faculty of Medicine.<sup>14</sup> With or without parental responsibilities, as before students found various ways to enhance their social life.

### **Social activity**

In 1977 the Durban SRC attempted to launch a student market to offer those with artistic or creative talents an opportunity to convert them into cash.

During the 1978 July vacation students from both centres discovered another off-campus diversion that generated income when they participated as extras in Samarkand Motion Picture Productions filming of *Zulu Dawn* at Babanango and in Pietermaritzburg.

Shelagh McLoughlin found life on the Pietermaritzburg campus during the mid-1980s ‘very convivial and stimulating’, getting involved in the Arts Students Council, NUSAS, NUTs and *Nux*, meeting ‘an interesting bunch of good-hearted free thinkers’, developing ‘a common understanding among us about how we viewed the world, and a sense of purpose and involvement in a bigger project, challenging the status quo, even if we also did the usual student things (drinking, partying, staying up too late and missing dawnies)’. Dress for almost all occasions other than graduation was informal in both centres. Alan Matthews recalled that in Durban’s heat most male students wore ‘shorts (or jeans), T-shirts (with some wacky statements), and sandals (or veldskoene with no socks if you were an ex-Rhodesian). Also, long hair’.

The University provided funds and space for a number of recreational activities. In Pietermaritzburg the Miralto coffee bar provided after-hours meals and entertainment but Senex was concerned about the heavy consumption of alcohol by residence students in both centres. Some progress was made with regard to a more acceptable form of social recreation for both staff and students when Pietermaritzburg’s on-campus Club was granted a liquor licence and conditions pertaining to the Durban on-campus Club’s malt and wine licence were relaxed to enable all ethnic groups to use it. The University was advised to apply for international status for these clubs, which were subsequently opened to all students, but Pietermaritzburg temporarily lost this permission due to the small number of blacks who took advantage of it. When Durban students organised a bierfest the prevailing liquor laws prevented the blacks among them from participating. Consequently the subsequent Rag social was unofficially arranged as a B.Y.O.G. (Bring Your Own Grog) occasion to circumvent the regulations.

Russell Wallace and Matthew Temple recalled that in the 1980s the Pietermaritzburg Club was a popular venue where staff and students could meet informally, but by 1989 it was in danger of closing down due to unruly student behaviour and a financial crisis arising from the non-payment of fees by student members. Among its more genteel clientele were the revived Empire Loyalists (Wilde Society) of yesteryear. In 1977 the Loyalists also made a reappearance on the Durban campus with an acorn-planting ceremony in April at Mitchell’s Park and a banquet in June to celebrate the Queen’s Silver Jubilee.

The more serious Wine Tasting Society had a small membership but in 1988 its two-person team comprising Janet Sutherland and Victor Hugo won the national inter-varsity competition held at Oude Libertas. That year the traditional orientation week for first-year Durban students included a cultural evening in collaboration with the BSS, the Medical Faculty's SRC and that of UDW. In pursuit of the theme 'A new nation a new culture', various township groups performed as well as gumboot dancers and the band Sabenza.<sup>15</sup>

In 1989 the hours of informal residence beer clubs were restricted to control consumption. Alcohol continued, as before, to be a worrying feature of the otherwise admirable annual charity Rag in both centres, although student enthusiasm and the standard of float building varied from year to year. In 1976–1977 Durban's drum majorette squad were the national champions but the tradition of having troupes of well-trained female drummies to lead the street parades began to be questioned in the late 1970s. The Womens Movement in Durban actively discouraged students from participating because it perpetuated gender stereotyping and inequality. Some Pietermaritzburg students followed suit by forming a Group against Sexism as the desirability of the annual selection of a Rag Queen and Miss Freshette was also questioned for the same reasons. In 1978 the latter was cancelled in Durban and then replaced by a joint Mr Fresher and Ms Freshette competition.

By 1980 a further concession had been made by placing greater emphasis on personality in the selection process and Rag Queens came to be regarded more as ambassadors actively involved in fundraising, although it was suspected that looks still counted for much more. The innovation of clowning male drum-major squads called bummies did nothing to silence the criticism, especially as their gestures were sometimes crude and interpreted as a mockery of their female counterparts. At the national Rag conference in 1981 the Pietermaritzburg Rag Committee pushed for the abolition of drummies as sexist and expensive and later that year became the first in South Africa to act on that proposal, although it was later rescinded.

By 1982 another women's movement, Organisation Against Sexism In Society, had been formed to promote the cause of gender equality and soon turned its attention to the rules pertaining to women's residences as well as organising self-help groups and literacy classes. In 1983 a minor triumph was the discovery, shortly before her departure for Cape Town, that much-loved personality Boots, a brick-chewing neighbourhood dog who wandered the Pietermaritzburg campus, was actually a female called Douglas!

The Teachers Training College students there were also actively involved in Rag, particularly in raising funds in the country districts and providing a number of Rag queens. *Rag Variety* continued to be a lighthearted amateur production of fluctuating quality and no theatrical pretensions. The Rag Relay was taken more seriously and was divided, as Pietermaritzburg participant Mark Coghlan recalled, into 6 to 8 kilometre sections between the two centres along the Comrades Marathon route. Other traditional Rag activities, including the dinner, film premiere, ball and, not least, the downtown float procession were joined by more recent innovations such as a bierfest, a trolley race and a Rag Stag evening.

In 1986 the National Rag Council introduced the buddy campaign in co-operation with the National Road Safety Council to ensure that students on drinking binges had a reliable buddy who remained sober to provide transport home. Another constructive advance was the launch in 1987 of Project Foundation, which involved Rag in raising funds for the upliftment of pre-school education in the Natal inland region in consultation with community leaders. In 1989 float building on the Pietermaritzburg campus was moved to a Rag farm at the Epworth end of Golf Road to minimise the disruption to suburban Scottsville.

Similarly in Durban, where a record R180 000 was raised in 1981, several Rag traditions were retained, like race day and golf day, while others like the film premiere were revived. Some, such as alcohol 'down-downs' and more recent innovations like hamburger-eating competitions and egg- and cake-throwing fights, were discouraged amid calls for greater awareness of the broader society in which Rag operated and the primary purpose for which it was intended. New fundraising initiatives included a 40-hour Rag fast as part of a greater element of social awareness introduced by the Rag Committee. By 1982 Rag was also facing opposition from the BSS on the grounds that such charity organisations should not be necessary at all.

Pre-Rag downtown publicity stunts were as popular as ever in both centres. In Pietermaritzburg there was a Mad Hatter's Tea Party, which degenerated into a custard-pie fight, a bogus escape from the lunatic asylum, which was unexpectedly disrupted by a crash-tackling member of the public, and a mock funeral procession that ended in the city centre with the 'corpse' springing out of the coffin to the consternation of passers-by.

All these activities were still intended to raise funds for worthy causes, amounting to R200 000 in Pietermaritzburg by 1989, while enjoying what was one of the social highlights of the year, along with the inter-college sports

competitions. By the end of the 1980s the future of Rag seemed uncertain in view of mounting student indifference and rising costs that in 1989 resulted in an overall profit of only R100 000 for charity instead of the anticipated R250 000.<sup>16</sup> Most sports clubs did not experience such apathy.

### **Sporting activity**

As in previous eras, the balance of sporting strength oscillated between the two centres and was reflected in the annual inter-college tournaments. As before, these were sometimes demeaned by excessive drinking on the part of spectators. This was particularly serious in 1989, to the extent that top rugby players on both sides threatened not to participate the following year unless crowd behaviour improved. These events provided the basis for selecting combined teams that were usually more formidable when pitted against other universities. However, in several sporting codes they still chose to compete separately.

In 1977, for example, the combined rugby team defeated Wits 38–18, in 1988 drew 17–17 with Stellenbosch and the following year beat Pretoria. In 1977 the combined cricket and men's hockey sides won the inter-varsity competitions as did the soccer (1978), squash (1983) and cross-country (1984) teams with the under-20 rugby side beating Stellenbosch 13–12 for the first time ever in 1984. The men's volleyball team also won the inter-varsity tournament (1982 and 1984), as did the fencing (1985), canoeing (1988) and aquatics squads (1989).

Interest in sports varied from campus to campus. At ATR, where the students were excluded from both inter-college and inter-varsity tournaments by the Group Areas Act and liquor laws, they formed their own Black Athletic Union. In 1978 they agreed to amend its name to University of Natal Black Sports Union, but refused Council's suggestion that its chairman should be a staff member. It remained affiliated to the South African Council on Sport (SACOS), established in 1973 in opposition to South Africa's segregated sports structures and arranged events with other black campuses. These are unfortunately unrecorded.<sup>17</sup>

By the mid-1970s there were 23 sports clubs operating on both the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses. They were Aeronautics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Canoeing, Cricket, Fencing, Golf, Hockey (Men), Hockey (Women), Judo, Karate, Mountain Climbing, Rowing, Rugby, Soccer, Squash, Swimming/Water Polo, Table Tennis, Tennis, Underwater Sports, Weightlifting and Yachting. In addition, Durban also had Gymnastics,

Motoring and Surfing clubs while Pietermaritzburg sported a Rifle club, from 1986 a Waterskiing club and from 1988 a Cycling and Triathlon club.

There were, as before, two independent Sports Unions and a Joint Sports Union, which controlled the award of University colours and organised inter-varsity competitions and tours for combined teams. Both campuses had a full-time sports supervisor – T.L. (Trevor) Goddard in Durban and L.J. (Laurie) Templehoff in Pietermaritzburg, subsequently succeeded by C.R. (Poenie) Holm and D.C. (Dave) Edmonson respectively. In 1977 the issue as to how long after graduating a student could continue to represent a university appeared to be resolved when CUP decided that those who completed their studies in mid-year could participate in inter-university events in July while those who finished at the end of the year could participate in such events during November/December.

That year government announced a change in its policy relating to inter-varsity sports competitions that made it possible for students from designated 'black' and 'white' campuses to compete with each other provided the requirements of the Department of Sport and Recreation were met with regard to the necessary permits and permission for blacks to attend either as players or spectators. It was a welcome development, but CUP recognised that this would require the establishment of an appropriate controlling body and that it was advisable to start with competitions of limited scale, perhaps initially involving tennis and athletics. In 1981 a meeting of the Sports Council of the South African Universities called for the normalisation of sport at inter-university level. In response CUP appointed a commission to investigate such immediate issues as open participation and the award of South African Universities (SAU) sport colours as well as the eventual establishment of a single all-encompassing body to control inter-university sport. This was only realised some years later.

By the 1980s there was concern, not for the first time, about the number of students who chose to play sport for outside clubs instead of the University. When in 1979 Dave Zietsman arrived in Durban as the first executive rugby officer he found that at least 45 students were playing for outside rugby clubs in the local under-20 league alone, while a second division club was offering rugby bursaries to students that were at least competitive with those provided by outside donors through the University. In Durban the Sports Union tried to improve its relationship with local schools. It also proposed that its constitution be amended to make all registered students automatic members of the Union

and to prohibit all full-timers from playing for outside clubs without written permission.

Council discussed this proposal at length, but it was pointed out that despite significant improvements in on-campus facilities and the various efforts of the sports supervisor, Poenie Holm, it had not been possible to reverse this trend. It was, however, reluctant to dictate to students where their sporting loyalty should lie until Holm and the Sports Union president, Gavin Maasdorp, made personal representations and undertook to amend the constitution in more positive terms. There was some consternation in October 1985 when Pietermaritzburg's new sports head Gavin Cowley opted to play for an outside 'A' division cricket club rather than the 'B' division campus team.<sup>18</sup>

The University continued gradually to develop the extensive new sports complex on Howard College's western campus where non-toxic waste had been dumped on the undulating ground over several years, crushed and levelled with 150 mm of compacted soil. In 1978, for example, R75 000 was found to build three new squash courts at the sports centre there. In August 1979 it was officially opened as the University of Natal Old Mutual Sports Hall, followed by a tennis exhibition on the R12 000 indoor surface imported from the USA. The hall included two volleyball courts, two basketball courts, six badminton courts as well as facilities for table tennis, gymnastics, judo, karate, fencing, a mountaineering wall and, from 1978, indoor hockey. Elsewhere on campus there were six (later nine) squash courts, tennis courts, an athletics stadium, rugby, cricket, soccer and hockey fields, a swimming pool and Sports Union clubhouse as well as equipment for yachting and rowing on Durban harbour. *Dome* suggested that as the University had benefited from Group Areas legislation when it obtained the land for its western campus it would be appropriate to make the facilities there available to non-racial sports bodies in the Durban region.

Decidedly less attention was given to improving sports facilities in the other centre, which government regarded as a low financial priority. In 1978, for example, R2 500 was provided for floodlights at one hockey field at Dalry Park, a leased municipal property. In 1986 a long-delayed, all-purpose floodlit sports field was provided on campus. That year a combined committee of the SRC, Sports Union and members of Council undertook an inspection tour of student sport and other facilities on the Pietermaritzburg campus after persistent complaints about their inadequacy in *Nux* and a report from the self-styled University Action Group. The provisions made for hockey, tennis, squash and weightlifting were found to be seriously deficient, the fields at

Dalry Park for cricket, rugby and soccer too distant and poorly floodlit, the change rooms in all cases inadequately equipped or non-existent, and the Sports Union Hall over-utilised by several indoor activities and with a floor surface beyond repair.

The matter was referred to the Physical Priorities sub-committee for urgent attention with the recommendation that the balance of the 1986 maintenance budget be allocated to address the most critical issues and that further sponsorship of sports facilities be sought in collaboration with the NUDF. By then there was also the possibility of buying or leasing the R2.4 million YMCA property at nearby Woodburn as a means of compensating for the lack of sports facilities on campus and also perhaps to provide additional student accommodation. Another option was to secure more rooms by leasing a site on the corner of Milner and Coronation roads from the YMCA, but this did not offer any additional sports facilities.<sup>19</sup>

In 1978 the Pietermaritzburg Canoe Club, which was not dependent upon on-campus facilities, took the first four places in the individual competition at the Natal Canoe Union's annual provincial slalom championships with Rory Pennefather leading the way. It also won the first two places in the team event. That year the club won the inter-varsity against Durban as well, with Durban winning the competition involving all sports overall. The Sailing Club was not as successful, although it was the best-equipped university club in the country and its sailing competitions on Midmar Dam were well attended.

The Squash and Badminton clubs were also well-supported while the Mountain Club retained its small but enthusiastic membership, mixing its usual annual expedition to Malawi with one to Namibia in 1978. The men's table tennis team won the national inter-varsity competition that year and Tim Allen won his Springbok colours for basketball. In 1977, for the third time, the Rowing Club was voted club of the year on campus for its various successes and in 1979, continuing in this vein, four of its members won Protea colours. Unfortunately, two years later, after considerable expenditure to participate in the Henley-on-Thames Regatta, the club's eight was disqualified for not arriving in time at the start of its heat. In 1986 its first-ever women's eight won the annual Port Alfred inter-varsity boat race.

The Hockey and Rugby clubs were reviving after some lean years, as was the Athletics Club with its members winning five gold medals at the 1979 Natal championships while students claimed the top three places in the provincial under-23 squash competition. That year, after winning the inter-varsity tournament in 1977, the two campus Cricket clubs decided to split



again and field separate teams to expose more players to inter-city first league experience. They subsequently met with mixed fortunes, as did the Soccer Club, although Rob Bury enjoyed playing for the self-styled Sidewalk Surfers. The Golf Club was as well supported as ever and in 1983 won almost all the trophies at the inter-varsity competition.

The Rugby Club won the local York and Lancaster Cup (Pietermaritzburg and the Midlands) in 1977, 1978 and 1985 as well as the under-20 Frank Norris Trophy seven times in the decade ending in 1988. The club benefited from the presence of sports officer Dave Pearse, ably assisted by Dave Anderson and Mike Albers. Pearse gained provincial colours along with club members Henry Coxwell, Pete Smith, Dave Spence, Herman van Heerden, Craig Jamieson, Gareth Jones and Andrew Aitken.

Numerous other students gained provincial, South African universities and in some cases national colours. Among the latter were Rory Pennefather (canoeing), Cormac Cullinan and Paul Zaloumis (fencing), Graham Wright (windsurfing), Ken Tarboton (sailing), Debbie Hill and Lyn Rankin (squash), Barbara Hudson-Reed (basketball), Alick Rennie (slalom), Geoff Rushmere (rowing) and Jonty Rhodes (cricket). In 1989 Gary van Wyk won the national biathlon title.

As before, students from both campuses competed in the annual Comrades Marathon and the Duzi Canoe Marathon between the two centres as well as the Midmar Mile swim and the Pietermaritzburg Capital Climb, with varying degrees of success. In 1979 Tim Biggs won the Iron Man trophy for the best average over the three events with his brother Danny emulating him in 1981–1982. Pietermaritzburg student Lindsay Weight won the female section of the Comrades (1983 and 1984), John Edmonds won the Duzi (1985) and Warren Peterson the Capital Climb (1989). Mark Coghlan was another who more than earned his Natal University running vest, competing in the Rag relay, several marathons (including a Comrades run), two Duzis and a triathlon.<sup>20</sup>

A number of Durban-based students similarly distinguished themselves and their clubs also met with fluctuating fortunes. Shaun Tomson gained an international reputation after winning several major surfing competitions and yachter Ivan Gibbons became national champion in the Laser class. The Underwater Club provided three of the 1979 four-man Springbok team: D. Airey (captain), M. Platt and R. Scully with G. Mercer as a reserve. Rob Mortassagne was selected for the South African universities karate team that year as was Gary King for gymnastics while in 1986 Lance Sibbald was chosen to tour Europe with the Junior Springbok squash team and yachtsman

David Hibbard won the USA and subsequently the South African Laser championship.

Among other Durban students who gained national colours in the 1980s were Giles Bonet and Paul Logan (hockey), Guy Mottram (water polo), Bruce Savage, Rowan Clark, Dave Collins and Kim Johnson (yachting and boardsailing), Martin Walsh (rowing), Rory Mapstone (swimming) and Jenny Napier and Dave Haskins (volleyball). Tony Watson, Ross Cooper, Jonathan Roche, André Combrink, Brett Lambert, Shaun Gage, Dave Reynolds, Brad Smith, Andrew Aitken and Joel Stransky (who played for both centres) all gained provincial rugby colours at this time, with the last two later playing for South Africa and Stransky kicking the winning drop goal against the All Blacks in the 1995 World Cup final.

After success in the Moor Cup inter-city competition the fortunes of the Rugby Club waned in the late 1970s, with the senior side sinking to the local second division in 1980 despite the coaching efforts of Fran Cotton, Poenie Holm and Dave Zietsman. With the assistance of current Springbok coach Wynand Claassen as player-coach and the implementation of a bursary scheme to attract promising players, the club eventually recovered its first division status in 1984 and won the Moor Cup in 1988.

In 1977 the Fencing Club won the inter-varsity tournament and the male basketball team won the local knockout competition. In the late 1970s the Weightlifting and Bodybuilding Club revived with improved equipment and keep-fit classes for women were started with the result that by 1989 it had 2 000 members, one of the largest clubs on campus. The trimpark, climbing wall and scrambling track on the western campus provided additional facilities for those who were more independent-minded.

The Yachting and Rowing clubs continued to be well supported with members of the former enjoying partial membership of the Royal Natal Yacht Club at a reduced rate. In 1987 and 1988 the club won the national inter-varsity competition and the following year hosted the prestigious Lipton Challenge. The Aquatics Club did likewise and the Underwater Club (scuba diving, spear fishing and underwater hockey) retained its popularity, but surfing and paddle surfing were particularly strong in Durban: the inter-varsity title was won for the tenth time in 1979 and several times more during the 1980s.

The Soccer Club fielded sides in the Natal Premier League and Natal League and in 1989 reached the inter-varsity final for the first time in eleven years. The Basketball, Cycling, Canoe, Parachute and Table Tennis clubs were also well supported with the parachutists and canoeists winning their

inter-varsity tournaments in 1987 and Gavin Mulvenna the Natal road cycling championship in 1988. Hockey was still a popular student sport as was Indoor Hockey in which the campus team emerged winners of the local league in its first season in 1978. The Hockey Club combined the previously separate male and female sections and in 1981 won the mixed gender De Klerk Trophy competition in Pietermaritzburg. By 1988 it was rated the best university hockey club in the country after winning the inter-varsity competition four times in six years. The Volleyball Club, established in 1977, set a new all-Africa record for continuous volleyball amounting to 50 hours, 40 minutes and 10 seconds.

By 1989 there were thirty clubs on the Durban campus enjoying facilities that were still vastly superior to those in Pietermaritzburg except for the swimming pool, which was not Olympic size. There were also thirty annual sports bursaries available, rising to as much as R7 000 for a provincial rugby player and R2 000 for Natal schools players. By then the number of black students participating in campus sports was still very small although the Sports Unions insisted that they were completely non-racial. The organisation of campus sport became more complicated as the ethnic composition of the student population changed because various items of segregationist legislation still made the existence of entirely multiracial clubs difficult if not impossible. In 1988 the Pietermaritzburg Sports Union drafted a new sports constitution that was acceptable to the non-racial South African Tertiary Institutions Sports Council (SATISCO, formed in 1987) in that it sought to accommodate the sporting aspirations of all students by making them automatic members of the Union whether they chose to play in SATISCO or South African Students Congress (SASCO) leagues.

Little is recorded about sports activities at ATR in the 1980s as in the 1970s but in 1989, competing as the Durban branch of SATISCO, its residents lost a rugby match to the Beaufort Cape College of Education and won the soccer and netball encounters comfortably. The affiliated Karate Club won all its inter-campus competitions that year. In July sports administrator Poenie Holm and seven Durban members of SATISCO attended the first conference of the newly formed National Sports Congress (NSC), which sought to achieve non-racial sports unity, recognised the non-racial SACOS, and allied itself with the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM). As before, campus sport and political activity were inextricably linked.<sup>21</sup>

### **Political and social awareness**

The already established principle of student representation at all levels of the University's administration, if only with observer status in Council and Senate, continued to provide a useful means of disseminating information and avoiding many of the misunderstandings of the past concerning internal campus politics. Successive student representatives soon found that most of the day-to-day business of these bodies was of little, if any interest, to them. On the other hand the formulation of University responses to contemporary political issues was of considerable relevance to their constituencies. By 1983 Council had accepted that, subject to ministerial approval, student representatives on Senate and Council should be full members with voting rights, but that they should still be excluded from the restricted business of those bodies. Student representation on Senate was subsequently doubled, but without voting rights for the additional members.<sup>22</sup>

Student enthusiasm for NUSAS continued to vary, as in previous decades, with student apathy towards meetings of any sort a recurring source of concern. In May 1977 Council nevertheless agreed to an SRC (Durban) request that, in addition to the annual SRC affiliation fees, a 'voluntary' R2 levy should be added to all student fee accounts as a donation to NUSAS. In the same month the security police continued to make their presence felt when they raided the SRC and *Dome* offices in Durban, apparently looking for banned literature.

Following Pietermaritzburg's 1976 disaffiliation the allegedly undemocratic features of the NUSAS constitution, which gave bigger campuses a larger role, were eliminated and it became, in effect, a federation of SRCs with some devolution of power to its constituent units. The Pietermaritzburg campus re-affiliated and in November 1977 the organisation held a successful five-day conference there at which the theme of 'Education for an African future' was launched with the objective of persuading students to regard themselves as Africans and not as 'displaced Europeans'.

The political event of the student year if not the decade, however, was the arrest and death in detention of Steve Biko, founding president of the South African Students Organisation (SASO) and a former student in the Faculty of Medicine. On 15 September students in Pietermaritzburg held a memorial service and protest meeting during which security police removed their posters and served a magisterial order on the organiser. The following day John Reid pointed out during discussion in Council that while Biko's academic performance had been 'less than desirable, he was known to the Medical Faculty as the soul of young African thought and was held in high regard for

his understanding and leadership qualities'. It was suggested that a formal response should be made to his death in detention but, after establishing that he had repeatedly failed his second-year examinations and was not a graduate of the University, it was decided that 'it was not incumbent on the Council to issue such a statement'. The long-term significance of the event was clearly not appreciated at the time.

As Vanessa Noble's research has shown, following Biko's death and the banning of SASO as well as all other black consciousness organisations in 1977, student activists began to shift their allegiance to the still underground ANC and to the all-embracing UDF following its formation in 1983. Many medical students were among those who subsequently joined the non-racial South African National Students Congress (SANSCO), which was one of more than 500 civic, worker, educational, religious and other organisations affiliated to the UDF.

Consequently, during the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s ATR and the Faculty of Medicine continued to be centres of political activism with some students, as before, focusing more on pursuing the cause of liberation than on their own education. SASO-inspired community service in the fields of health, education and building were not neglected and support was also given to the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA) formed in 1982 in competition with the largely white Medical Association of South Africa (MASA).

For a variety of reasons, boycotts 'became a way of life' for the University's medical students as Y.K. Seedat recalled of his undergraduate years. Noble has recorded that some of these were in solidarity with protests on other campuses and in the broader community from whence they came. Others were in opposition to the creation of the Africans-only MEDUNSA, in defence of workers' and pupils' rights or, as in 1984, in opposition to the government's new ethnically based tricameral parliamentary system and to the 1985–1986 declarations of states of emergency.

There were also boycotts directed against the University itself in protest at the inferior accommodation provided and the sense of isolation from the rest of the institution that it engendered, against high failure rates and consequent exclusions, against inadequate transport and catering facilities and against the non-promotion of African staff members. Some of the last moved to MEDUNSA where they achieved professorial status and one, E.T. Mokgokong, became vice-chancellor. Traditionally from 1979 the annual graduation ceremonies were boycotted until 1995 when a symbolic reconciliation graduation was

held by way of apology to former medical graduates. In 1989 the guest speaker and honorary graduand Mamphela Ramphele, who herself had graduated in absentia from the Faculty of Medicine in 1972, boycotted the ceremony in sympathy with the students leaving Professor Peter Scholtz to deliver her address.

As Noble has pointed out, by then many students, as before, had paid a high price for their political activism in the form of police harassment, lost study time, examination failure (exceptionally high in the mid-1980s), exclusion from the University and, in some cases, exile. Noble has demonstrated that some staff members and senior administrators simply did not comprehend how central political activity was, of necessity, to the lives of their students. Among those who sympathised some nevertheless disapproved of the form that protests took or chose to remain politically silent. There were several who willingly rescheduled classes and examinations in the wake of stayaways and assisted their students in making up for lost time. Some deans, notably Gordon and Sarkin, tried to protect students from the security police, negotiated bail to secure their release from detention or arranged for examinations to be written in jail. The advent in the mid-1980s of a more liberal-minded Principal in Peter Booysen was welcomed, but this did not put an end to the boycott lifestyle.

It also found expression on the University's other campuses from time to time. In October 1977, after four students had been arrested during a police raid on ATR, four more were arrested under the Riotous Assemblies Act during a gathering outside the main gates of the Pietermaritzburg campus to protest against government's decision to ban a variety of organisations. The release of the latter four on bail of R50 each led to speculation that many more students might be arrested in the coming months, as a result of which Council agreed that cash should be set aside to ensure their prompt release so that impending examinations were not disrupted.

In 1980 there was another lecture boycott led by the Medical and Howard College SRCs in solidarity with the coloured community, which was protesting at the inequality between coloured and white school facilities. Students were free to attend or miss classes as they saw fit and staff members were at liberty to make additional arrangements for those who lost ground as a result. Medical students extended the boycott following the detention of their SRC president and vice-president and acts of violence on the UDW campus. Boycotters ran the risk of having their state bursaries withdrawn and special arrangements had to be made to extend the academic year and delay examinations so that the medical syllabi could be completed that year.

In 1984 medical students were joined by others at Howard College and in Pietermaritzburg in a two-day stayaway that coincided with national elections, but classes continued for those who wished to attend. The following year the University protested vehemently to the commissioner of police when members of the force were found on campus using false names. The Minister of Law and Order subsequently responded that ‘under normal circumstances’ the police would in future seek permission before entering the campus. However, in September 1985, when police raided a Pietermaritzburg residence and removed literature relating to the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), the campus Vice-Principal was only informed after the event.<sup>23</sup>

Political enthusiasm and broader community concern was not as consistently strong and active on the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses as it was among medical students. In 1977 on the former campus a reform alliance was launched with the avowed intention of promoting ‘the development of individual people’s political thinking, aided by communication between people of differing views’ in a way that, it contended, no existing political party or student organisation was doing. In addition, a social action co-ordination group was launched to facilitate communication among the various campus organisations active in social work. That year the Wages Commission, originating in 1971 to investigate the working conditions of the University’s own employees, embarked upon several projects to assist workers in general, including the distribution of pamphlets to advise African and Indian workers in the Durban area on the unemployment insurance fund. It subsequently switched from assisting in the formation of unregistered black trade unions to undertaking research for them and offering advice to workers following the spate of bannings that had impacted on students as well as trade unionists.

In 1978 the Durban SRC organised a series of lectures on student protest, featuring alumnus Alan Paton and distinguished theologian Manus Buthelezi, among others, partly to re-activate political enthusiasm. The percentage poll in the SRC elections that year was 34% and 16% the following year compared with 30% in Pietermaritzburg. In May 1979 a mock procession of ‘Franciscan monks’ carried a coffin through the Durban Students Union refectory to represent the death of ‘student spirit’ resulting from ‘a grave case of virulent Natal fever’. This was evident also in attendance levels at inter-college competitions.

Perhaps in an effort to revitalise political interest NUSAS held its 57th congress on the Durban campus and resolved that exposing the government’s total strategy would be its theme for the next year, followed in 1981 by the

theme 'students for a democratic future'. In April 1980 a 1 500-strong student body meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of a day-long lecture boycott in solidarity with the strike called by their black contemporaries. Some 800 of them attended addresses on academic freedom and the state of education.<sup>24</sup>

Meanwhile on the Pietermaritzburg campus the Community Service Commission (Comm-Comm) was formed in 1977 as an SRC sub-committee under the leadership of first-year James Shepherd, assisted by Julia Martin, Christopher Parish and Tim Dunne. Its initial purpose was to solicit food house-to-house in Scottsville for a welfare society in Edendale and to collect books and assist in building a desperately needed school near Wartburg and another in Kranskop. Its activities were low-profile and mainly off-campus during vacations until 1984 when it offered English classes for students. A few years later when the Msunduzi overflowed its banks many students voluntarily assisted those whose homes had been flooded.

By 1978 the Pietermaritzburg SRC as well as virtually every other leadership position on campus was pro-NUSAS and a referendum in favour of remaining affiliated was won by 960 votes to 705 in a 63% poll. Yet an audience of only 500 attended alumnus Alan Paton's lecture on campus that year. Domestic campus politics was becoming more complex as black student numbers increased and there were periodic allegations of racism pertaining to such matters as residential accommodation, the use of the student canteen, the use of the University Club for private parties, multiracial socialising and sport.

Student politics did have its lighter moments. Nicholas Wellington electioneered to petition the government to declare the basement latrines in the Old Arts Building a national monument. He was not elected. In 1980 a conservative SRC was voted into office in Pietermaritzburg in a 46.2% poll and promptly disaffiliated from NUSAS. It also closed *Nux* for alleged administrative inefficiency and was then accused of malpractices of its own by a substitute newspaper called *Not Quite Nux*. *Nux* was soon restored to more leftist control. Shelagh McLoughlin, who subsequently pursued a successful career in journalism and freelance editing, recalled the 'camaraderie of all-night *Nux* production sessions' in the mid-1980s, suspicious phone calls to student digs that were probably from the security police, police searches of those premises, meetings with activists off-campus and friends either being detained or going into hiding. She remembered that from her association with *Nux* and other campus activities she learnt a great deal about South African society and politics, 'probably as much as I did in my formal lectures'.



Russell Wallace recalled that in the 1980s student life was ‘saturated with politics which, on reflection, was incredibly enriching even if it signalled desperate times for life off campus’. While the University itself was ‘an island of relative tranquility’ the political debates among students were ‘heated and often rowdy’.<sup>25</sup> Indeed, by the mid-1980s new political organisations were making their appearance on campus. The Liberal Association of South Africa stressed the ‘dignity of the individual’ as ‘the cardinal principle of a democratic society’ and called for the reform of student government to ensure that it was ‘open, democratic and fair’ as well as being focused on student interests. Optimistically, it aimed to realign student forces by means of a populist movement based on liberal values that would develop a ‘clear vision’ of ‘life after apartheid’.

In 1983 a branch of the Azanian Students Organisation (AZASO), in 1987 renamed SANSCO, was established in Pietermaritzburg to represent the interests of the gradually increasing black student body. It began to question black participation in various student activities, including Rag whose charitable objectives it construed as a consequence of the inadequacies of capitalism. In the same year the anti-NUSAS Students Action Front (SAF) was launched in both centres. It avowedly had close contacts with the Student Moderate Alliance (SMA), a national organisation which, in turn, allegedly had close links with the National Party. The SAF soon found itself in conflict with the SRCs, which objected to what were regarded as its right-wing publications. It could not prevent the Pietermaritzburg campus from re-affiliating with NUSAS in August 1983, after a three-year absence, by 1 031 votes to 903. This was followed by the election of a pro-NUSAS SRC, which participated in that organisation’s congress in December.

In 1988 the Pietermaritzburg SRC’s tutoring project was launched, co-ordinated by Gertrude Wittenberg and Angus Douglas, to offer weekend coaching in various subjects to school pupils who were soon attracted in increasing numbers. In Durban students travelled into two black townships every Saturday to tutor disadvantaged pupils in the hope of improving their chances of higher education and jobs. The political climate was also changing at Howard College. In 1984 a 1 000-strong student meeting there applauded listed person Helen Joseph and enthusiastically supported the ‘million signatures campaign’ launched by the newly formed UDF. The following year there was also strong student interest in the ECC, first formed in 1983, when it opened a local branch.

In 1986, when NUSAS proposed to open dialogue with the still-exiled ANC, the Principal informed the campus SRCs that they were at liberty to associate themselves with this initiative 'in accordance with the philosophy of freedom of expression and exchange of ideas'. In May the SRC's Bruce Robertson was a member of the NUSAS delegation that visited the ANC leadership in Harare to discuss the political future. In 1988 a Durban campus concert to protest the banning of the ECC was prohibited but the following year a Conscription Advice Service was opened on the Pietermaritzburg campus and in Durban a new group, Resist Apartheid Wars, was launched to make conscripts more aware of the options open to them.

Conflict between the SAF and black students on the Pietermaritzburg campus was narrowly avoided when, in March 1986, the SAF organised a lunch-hour meeting addressed by senior officials of UNITA, the pro-Western faction involved in the Angolan civil war in opposition to the pro-Marxist MPLA. In October another potentially violent confrontation was nipped in the bud after black students burnt pamphlets issued by the SMA-affiliated Durban Student Alliance (DSA) on the Howard College campus. There was friction of another sort when in May 1987 the South African Union of Jewish Students took exception to pamphlets distributed on the Durban campus by the Muslim Students Association. In the same month the DSA and SAF erected posters and mounted a petition in support of protest by the conservative National Students Front (NSF) against terrorism and a campaign to have 20 May declared a holiday in memory of the victims of the previous year's Pretoria bomb blast. There were vigorous objections in both centres and in Pietermaritzburg posters were destroyed. In August 1989 a DSA meeting was banned as a source of 'potential provocation'.

Relations between NUSAS and SANSCO remained cordial with both supporting the principle of non-racialism, though in the late 1980s black students were still not participating in on-campus structures like SRCs and house committees. When SASCO was restricted in 1988, along with numerous other organisations, NUSAS launched a nationwide protest and both centres sent delegations to join a student demonstration outside the Union Buildings. Meanwhile the BSS assumed the mantle of addressing the problems black students were still encountering on campus. In 1989 the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) established a campus branch in Pietermaritzburg to mobilise Indian students who were not active BSS participants.

By the late 1980s there was strong concern in Council about recurring acts of violence on campus, politically inspired or otherwise, including assault

and even rape, with serious consideration being given to appropriate forms of punishment including fines, expulsion and referral to the courts of law. An after-dark campus escort service was introduced and it was hoped that the appointment in Durban of the first female campus security officer in 1989 would make it easier for women students to report incidents of sexual harassment or assault. There were also more cases of theft and, as campuses became more multiracial, there were increasing incidents of racial abuse, for which the unregistered White Student Society was partly responsible. Student disciplinary rules were substantially revised, the discipline court panel enlarged and a University Prosecutor proposed.

In 1988 committees were appointed in both centres to consider the most appropriate methods of dealing with conflict situations. In response to police concern Booysen gave the assurance that all meetings on campus were ‘properly organised’ and that the issues discussed ‘were matters which members of a university community could be expected to debate’. Further, that the University would not condone any ‘racism, violence or illegal action’. This did not restrain the police from advertising the fact that they had spies on all campuses or from listing incidents dating back to 1977 in support of the contention that the ANC was using the campus ‘as a springboard for certain acts of terror in Durban’. Unfortunately, bombs were subsequently found on University property, which the police were quick to publicise and there were further police raids on campus with, as before, ATR under particular suspicion of revolutionary activity. The commissioner of police was invited to attend a meeting of Council to present his interpretation of what was happening at that residence, but did not find it possible to do so.

In August and September 1989 there were further police intrusions onto the campuses in both centres with birdshot, teargas and water cannon used to break up legitimate student meetings. In September a medical students’ march towards Howard College was intercepted and 200 students were arrested before being released on bail. That year some Pietermaritzburg students joined the NUSAS nationwide hunger strike in sympathy with political detainees. As the National Party government came under increasing pressure both domestically and internationally certain university campuses were clearly seen, more than ever before, as hotbeds of conspiracy.<sup>26</sup>

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## DESEGREGATION AND CELEBRATION

IN JUNE 1977, prior to his retirement as Principal, Francis Stock reiterated his consistent conviction that his position required him to be ‘above politics’ being ‘neither for nor against either Government or opposition’ in fulfilling his obligation to provide an efficient administration that would ‘ensure that the academic staff are able to achieve the University’s purpose’. He was, however, willing to express an opinion on the contentious matter of desegregating the country’s tertiary campuses, which was and always had been as much a political as an educational issue. Stock insisted that ‘full integration’ would not be feasible until ‘equal educational opportunities and attainments exist at primary and secondary school level’ and the admission of students ‘on high academic merit alone’ had then become possible. He did believe that the time was now opportune for a start to be made in that direction by integrating all universities at postgraduate level.

In September 1978 a ‘broad-ranging discussion’ on the issue of admission of black students to ‘white’ universities with particular regard to residential accommodation and the application of the liquor laws on campus was discussed at a meeting in Pretoria. It was attended by all the university principals, some cabinet ministers, representatives of the four main political parties and the University Advisory Committee. The Principal reported to Council that he was ‘heartened by the open attitude’ that prevailed even though the outcome remained uncertain.

In 1980 the Academic Freedom Committee re-affirmed the University’s long-held position with regard to education in South Africa:

The University of Natal has for many years believed in the right of all suitably qualified people, regardless of race or creed, to have access to non-discriminatory education. Our dedication to this ideal remains unchanged, and has indeed strengthened with time. However, even if our University were at this stage to be given the legal right to accept all students of our choice, it would not in reality be an *open* University, since the evident inequalities existent in the pre-university schooling of the various ethnic groups in this country ensure that far fewer Black (i.e. African, Coloured and Indian) students can qualify for university entry than should naturally be the case. As a consequence there is serious loss



of trained manpower, frustration and tension in the social structure, loss of credibility in the international academic community, and limitation on the University's ability to perform its proper function within a South African context. Further, there is inevitable spread of the effects of loss of freedom in academic matters and of impaired education to many other aspects of life. In the light of all these considerations, the University must strongly associate itself with the present call for immediate and drastic reformation of education in South Africa in such a way as to ensure equal educational opportunities for all people in a unitary system.

In the same year Senate resolved that henceforth, other than those relating to items on its restricted agenda, all its discussions would be open to the press in accordance with the University's own belief in free and open speech and in the realisation of its responsibility to the broader community from which it drew much of its funding.<sup>1</sup>

In 1981 Senex resolved that the University should develop a complete record of its own actions in relation to academic freedom. This was to be prefaced by definitions of the terms 'academic freedom' and 'university autonomy' and was to be based on P.J. (Pamela) Anderson's research project entitled 'University of Natal academic freedom and university autonomy: aspects of the University's response to legislative restrictions' and on further research into the records of various staff and student organisations.

Two years later, when the University's Academic Freedom Committee's terms of reference were being revised, academic freedom was described as existing 'when scholars are able to pursue and propagate knowledge through teaching, research and the exchange of ideas without restriction upon their access or upon freedom of expression'. University autonomy was described as existing 'when a university manages its own affairs without interference from outside authorities and bodies, including those on which it depends for finance'.

In 1981 the Minister of National Education informed the chairman of CUP that government remained committed to the provision of separate university and technikon training facilities for the different 'population groups' but that 'non-whites' could be admitted to white institutions by special arrangement, particularly 'with regard to the needs relating to high-level manpower'. In 1983 the National Party government introduced its Extension of Universities Education Bill. It became known as the Quota Bill because its intention was to replace the 1959 permit system of admissions by empowering the Minister of National Education to impose quotas on the registration of students drawn from the various officially designated racial groups in different subjects.

This was in contradiction of the recommendations of the recent De Lange Commission and of the opinion of CUP, which both contended that universities should be entitled to formulate their own admissions policies. There was concern that the implementation of this legislation would drive them further into international academic isolation and that the university community would be split if it was obliged 'to act as the Government's agent and administer a scheme of racial discrimination in respect of admission'. The University of Natal protested with vigour and joined South Africa's three other English-medium universities in sending a statement to that effect to the minister. On 3 May 1983 assemblies chaired by the Chancellor and involving all the relevant constituencies were held in Durban and Pietermaritzburg at which the Principal, chairman of Council, representatives of Senate and Convocation and the SRC presidents all delivered addresses before motions of protest were sent to the minister. Two days later 800 Pietermaritzburg students, complete with symbolic coffin, mourned the death of academic freedom and sang freedom songs outside the Administration Building.

On 14 May a public academic freedom concert, in the organisation of which the students had tried to meet all the necessary formalities, was brought to a sudden end by the intervention of the riot police. On 24 May the Principal flew to Cape Town to meet representatives of the three main political parties and to emphasise the University's 'strong opposition' to the Bill to the Minister of National Education. The latter had already stated in Parliament that he hoped universities would give preference to students requiring degrees that were not offered at 'their own' universities and warned that those institutions which did not comply with the new legislation would be jeopardising their subsidies.

In an attempt to raise awareness of the implications of the Bill, Alan Paton spoke at a 2 500-strong public meeting in the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, which was preceded by a protest march down Church Street led by him and the University's senior administrative officers. Colin Gardner subsequently told Paton that his speech had been 'magnificent. I've never heard you speak more effectively'. The Pietermaritzburg SRC requested that the University follow the example of Wits by removing all references to racial classification from its application and registration forms, but it was pointed out that this information would then have to be gleaned by another administrative procedure as it was an essential requirement in completing the SAPSE returns necessary for subsidy funding.

The Principal continued to negotiate with the minister at least to ameliorate the quota system. He pointed out that if the University were completely 'open'

students would be admitted on the basis of academic merit, but it would certainly not be able to cope with more than a 5% a year growth rate. It was all seemingly to no avail. The Bill was enacted into law later that year, though the minister did not immediately implement his new powers, other than to restrict the number of Africans being registered for Dietetics, Land Surveying and Pharmacy, none of which had a significant impact on the University's student intake. It had already been decided to limit overall growth to 4% a year, a figure based on recent annual registrations that was known to be manageable in terms of available staff and facilities. This did imply student selection based on academic merit, which was problematic as far as those from disadvantaged circumstances were concerned.

JASA was very critical of the manner in which the Principal and Senex had responded to the Quota Bill crisis without consulting Senate, the Academic Freedom Committee or JASA itself. Its executive argued that what might be construed as a 'privately negotiated deal' with the minister could be interpreted as a 'compromise with apartheid legislation which would justify an intensification of the international academic boycott of our universities'. In response, Senate almost unanimously supported the Principal. In January 1984 its Advisory Committee on Social Responsibility, which included representatives of the three SRCs, came into existence to keep the University up to the mark as far as awareness of its obligations to the broader South African community were concerned, not least with regard to research.

In his installation address in March that year the University's new Chancellor, Justice R.N. (Ramon) Leon, focused on the concept of freedom and stressed the importance of continuing the struggle for academic freedom and university autonomy. He appealed to government to reconsider allowing for open universities free of any restrictions pertaining to student enrolment, arguing that the current 'racial tensions' in South Africa would have been far 'less intense' if its universities had been allowed to provide 'a forum for intellectual contact' among the future leaders of all ethnic groups.

It soon became clear that as a result of the chorus of protest the new quota system would not be imposed. By the end of that year, while the Faculty of Medicine remained closed to white undergraduates, all other faculties were celebrating the fact that they were now able to select students entirely on the basis of academic merit with no reference to 'sex, colour, race or creed'. This novel situation gave rise to a new challenge in that socio-economic and educational disadvantages still made it very difficult, if not impossible, for many students to compete for places entirely on the basis of academic merit.



**Justice R.N. (Ramon) Leon** acquired a BA and LLB at NUC (Pietermaritzburg) where he was president of the SRC, chairman of NUSAS on campus and national treasurer, chairman of the Law Students Council and the Debating Society and a keen tennis and cricket player. For eighteen years he developed a highly successful practice as an advocate in Durban specialising in insolvency and company law. In 1959 he took silk at the unusually early age of 33 and in 1966 became a judge of the Supreme Court in Natal until his retirement from the bench in 1987. In that capacity he dealt with several high-profile

cases, including the conviction and sentencing to death of ANC bomber Andrew Zondo, which he was obliged to do in terms of the law as it stood then, although he subsequently claimed to have ‘hated the death penalty’ and was prominent in championing its abolition. He was also the first South African judge to intervene on behalf of a political detainee. In 1985 he ordered the release of Paddy Kearney after Archbishop Denis Hurley (later to succeed him as Chancellor) had brought an application against his arrest under the Internal Security Act, even though judges were forbidden in terms of that Act to pronounce on its constitutional legality.

During his career Leon came to be regarded as an exceptionally distinguished jurist renowned for his ‘perceptive judgement of people and affairs’. He eventually extended his association with the University to 50 years, serving on the executive of Convocation and becoming its president in 1962. That year he joined the Board of the Faculty of Law on which he served until his full retirement. He was also a member of the moot court for fifteen years from its inception in 1972, serving as its president and contributing the Ray Leon Trophy for the best moot court student. He was an external examiner for final year LLB candidates for two decades and served three three-year terms as Chancellor prior to his retirement in October 1992.

Nevertheless, in 1984 the number of black students in the Faculty of Science in Durban, for example, increased to approximately 15%. The following year the University’s total student numbers increased by 2.6% with a significantly larger increase (7.7%) among black students (African, coloured and Indian) than among whites (1%).

In 1982–1984 other potential threats to academic freedom were recognised. The requirement that all professional scientists should be formally registered and subject to a Natural Scientists Council in terms of Act 55 of 1982 was seen as interfering with research and its supervision. The publication in 1984 of the Department of National Education’s ‘A qualification structure for universities

in South Africa' did not affect existing degrees but changes in their designation and applications for the introduction of new degrees would henceforth have to be based on this policy document that seemed to favour uniformity among universities.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to the apparent non-implementation of the Quota Bill there was other cause for celebration in the 1980s.

### **The 75th anniversary celebration**

In anticipation of the University's 75th anniversary in 1985, and doubtless in conscious imitation of its 50th anniversary celebrations in 1960, Council appointed a Celebrations Committee. It was chaired by Gordon Hunnings with J.R. Carroll as organiser to oversee a programme of conferences, drama and musical performances as well as sporting events and to invite foreign participants. The circumstances in which this milestone was observed were rather different. Although the National Party government was still in power, the University was now experiencing a gradual relaxation of segregationist legislation in contrast to the tightening grip of the 1959 Extension of University Education Act. This had deprived it of its so-called Non-European Section



**G. (Gordon) Hunnings** studied in the extramural department of the University of Manchester as well as undergoing training in radiotherapy at Christie Hospital and the Holt Radium Institute where he served as radium curator in the 1940s. After studying privately to complete his GCE and part-time at the Nottingham College of Technology he completed a BA (Hons) in the School of Philosophy at Bristol University (1964) and a Ph.D. in Philosophy at University College, London (1966).

Hunnings worked in the Hogarth Radiotherapy Centre in Nottingham and lectured in Radium Therapy. After completing his doctorate he lectured in Philosophy at the University of Khartoum, subsequently serving as senior lecturer and professor of Philosophy at the University of Malawi before becoming principal and vice-chancellor there (1973–1977) and then assuming the chair of Philosophy in Pietermaritzburg. His publications ranged from aspects of radium treatment to philosophy and education. He came to be regarded as one of South Africa's most distinguished academics with a wide variety of interests and was admired for his high educational standards, deep understanding of human beings and ready sense of humour. He died in 1986 while serving his second term as acting Vice-Principal.

and seriously threatened the autonomous control of its blacks-only Faculty of Medicine.

There were some reasons to celebrate. Not only had the University reached an important milestone but it was also the 150th anniversary of the formal establishment of Durban (previously known as Port Natal) and the 50th anniversary of its achievement of city status. Moreover, the National Monuments Council confirmed its decision to declare three of the University's buildings national monuments, which the Minister for National Education subsequently gazetted on 7 March 1986. They were its oldest building, Pietermaritzburg's Main Arts or Clock Tower Building (1912), the Howard College Building (1931) and the neighbouring MTB, affectionately known as the Taj Malherbe, which had been completed in stages between 1947 and 1960 and came to be regarded as a war memorial.

The Celebrations Committee recommended that the occasion should be used to 'project an overall picture of the University as a centre of excellence' with respect to teaching, research and community service, and to 'launch a large-scale public relations exercise' in conjunction with the fundraising drive the NUDF was planning. It was proposed that sponsorship should be sought for each event with the University underwriting all costs so that their planning could be initiated as soon as possible. In Durban the Department of English envisaged holding a poetry competition, Music a series of 'most promising musician' concerts and Speech and Drama an indigenous drama festival. In Pietermaritzburg the Faculty of Agriculture considered holding a series of farmers' days and awarding trophies in various categories of endeavour. There was also talk of a special graduation ceremony, a film festival, tree planting ceremonies, a special edition of *Convocation News* and a University supplement to the *Financial Mail*.

Numerous conferences were contemplated and it was recommended that funding should be sought for a maximum of two foreign and four South African visitors per conference. In addition, it was proposed that a 'principal lecturer' and a 'banquet speaker' from overseas should be budgeted for. In order of priority internationally renowned scholars and authors Carl Sagan, Sally Ride, Milton Friedman, V.S. Naipaul and Kenneth Boulding were recommended for the former role with stage, radio and television celebrities Peter Ustinov, Frank Muir, John Cleese, Janet Suzman and David Attenborough proposed for the latter. It was subsequently decided that there were other 'less costly, but more effective' alternatives available, but it was also intended to have University exhibits at Pietermaritzburg's Royal Agricultural Show and at the Durban

Expo as well as a town and gown dinner and a staff pensioners' luncheon in addition to the main University banquet.

An overall cost of R417 742 was envisaged with an additional R149 490 in expenditure that would probably be recovered. These figures were subsequently revised to R493 900 and R145 000 respectively and all departmentally organised conferences were expected to be self-supporting with any surpluses to be used to offset the University's own running expenses. It was already committed to spending R159 000, subsequently rising to R189 000, primarily for professional societies and national bodies to hold their conferences on campus. On reflection, Senex called for a reconsideration of the appropriateness of celebrations in view of the prevailing economic situation. By October 1984 the Celebrations Committee was recommending that the anniversary activities be restricted to these events to effect a substantial saving.

In view of what Booysen described as the pervading 'climate of crisis', coupled with 'economic stringencies', it was eventually decided that 'banquets and receptions would not be the most appropriate means of celebration'. It was, after all, a year of demonstrations, riots, acts of terrorism, police raids, bannings and eventually the declaration of a partial state of emergency. Amid similar protest action elsewhere, there were mass meetings on campus. Booysen issued a statement on behalf of the university community that called upon government to 'address immediately the issue of the democratic rights of all the peoples of this land by a process of reconciliation and negotiation with all the recognised leaders of all communities'. He declared that the 'present situation is of such gravity that only extraordinary measures of a non-repressive kind will suffice to establish the conditions that are necessary for South Africans to find their way forward in peace'.

In view of the prevailing socio-political circumstances the focus of the University's anniversary observances was ultimately not so much on celebration as on academic activities in both centres to project the institution's image as 'a centre of excellence'. A number of publications were produced as commemorative editions with staff members contributing most if not all the articles in them. One such example was the celebratory edition of the *South African Journal of Science*.

There were also well in excess of 50 concert and theatrical performances, exhibitions and conferences involving all the faculties in one way or another. Speech and Drama in Durban mounted an extensive programme of ten productions as part of a festival entitled 'Focus on South African playwrights', including two premieres, Harold Kimmel's *The Cell* and Geraldine Aron's

*Same Old Moon.* The Department of Music's regular lunchtime and evening concerts continued to showcase the talents of staff, students and visiting artists with no less than 36 recitals that year, excluding students' examination performances. In Pietermaritzburg, Fine Arts organised a series of well-attended exhibitions including that of alumnus Marion Arnold, who was the 1985 Standard Bank Young Artist's Award winner. Speech and Drama offered the Slade/Reynolds musical *Salad Days*.

Several of the conferences held on campus were those of learned societies timed to coincide with the anniversary while others were specially arranged to reflect the University's various research interests. In Pietermaritzburg the Faculty of Science's contribution towards marking the 75th anniversary comprised three national conferences; those of the Operations Research Society of South Africa, the Electron Microscopy Society of Southern Africa and the Zoological Society of Southern Africa. Drama hosted the annual congress of the Association of Drama Departments of South Africa and the annual general meeting of the Committee of University Heads of Drama Departments of South Africa. Fine Art and History of Art hosted a major conference of the South African Association of Art Historians.

In Durban the Computer Science Department hosted the third South African Image Processing Symposium and the 12th South African Symposium on Numerical Mathematics. Accountancy organised a conference for the Southern African Society of University Teachers of Accountancy, attended by 232 delegates including three foreign speakers. In addition, the Commerce Students Council held its first Open Day for Durban school children, which was well-attended. The faculties of Arts and Social Science jointly hosted a multidisciplinary conference, the Department of English held a symposium on Roy Campbell's work *Wyndham Lewis*, History hosted a conference focusing on Natal and Zululand and Elizabeth Oehrle organised the first National Music Educator's Conference.<sup>3</sup>

### **Towards an open university**

Amid the 1985 anniversary celebrations the University community did not lose sight of its troubled socio-political environment and of the urgent need, despite the recent relaxation with regard to student admissions, for a completely unified system of education. The affirmation first made in 1959 continued to be reiterated annually at the Academic Freedom Lecture:

We are gathered here today to affirm in the name of the University of Natal that it is our duty to uphold the principle that a University is a place where men and women without regard



to race and colour are welcome to join in the acquisition and advancement of knowledge, and to continue faithfully to defend this ideal against all who have sought by legislative enactment to curtail the autonomy of the University. Now, therefore, we dedicate ourselves to the maintenance of this ideal and to the restoration of the autonomy of our University.

To reinforce this stance, from 1985 the Principal's Annual Report was prefaced by variations of a statement to the effect that:

The University of Natal is committed to serving the community, through excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship and research. As a non-racial University, its educational objectives of teaching and research through scholarship, and its social responsibility of service, must be seen in the context of the unique geographical location in which it exists – in the heart of the laboratory of urban and rural development, and First and Third World economies – which make up Natal/KwaZulu. The challenge of the future for the University of Natal, is to meet our collective responsibilities to the entire community while maintaining, simultaneously, the highest academic standards.

It was the beginning of the formulation of a detailed Mission Statement intended to guide the University into the future and was to become a prominent feature of the last stage of Booysen's term as Principal. Within a couple of years the last paragraph of this statement of intent had been modified to read that the university community 'recognises that in ways yet unknown, the thrust of its activities will certainly be modified as Black and White mingle in a University continually becoming more manifestly "open" but, in its vigorous pursuit of the redressal of disadvantage, it will resolutely maintain at their height its best standards'.

Meanwhile the socio-political tensions that characterised South Africa in the early 1980s continued into the second half of the decade following President P.W. Botha's much anticipated 'Crossing the Rubicon' address at the National Party's August 1985 Natal Congress. This effectively frustrated any expectations of major political change and plunged the value of the national currency into free fall. In terms of the Public Safety Act (1953) the State had four sets of emergency regulations at its disposal that comprehensively dealt with security, prisons, media and educational institutions. The partial state of emergency the State President declared in July 1985 and continued until March 1986 did not directly affect Natal, although in August 1985 security police raided the ATR threatening staff and students and causing extensive damage to University property.

Student demonstrations followed in both centres and Booysen protested vigorously, though the University's case was weakened by the discovery and removal of petrol bombs from ATR prior to the raid. After consulting with its legal advisers Council decided not to press charges against the police for their

forced entry and violent actions, but the Faculty of Medicine published its own deep concern about the escalation of violence in the country and allegations of torture inflicted by the police on detainees.

In September 1985 Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke on the Pietermaritzburg campus, declaring that he was still hopeful of peaceful change but calling on the youth to pressurise government to that end. There was a glimmer of hope for the future when in December it was announced that ministerial approval would no longer be necessary for blacks to embark on undergraduate studies in Agriculture, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Surveying and Veterinary Science as well as paramedical courses. However, at a meeting with university principals and council chairmen in October that year the Minister of National Education indicated that government had no intention of responding to calls for the establishment of a single Department of Education and that it was concerned about 'subversive' activities on some campuses. In response, the need for rapid reform was stressed, as well as addressing illegal police actions and supporting the 'free exchange of ideas' in universities.

There was some encouragement from abroad when in 1985 a meeting of fifteen presidents of American universities and foundations reconsidered their stance towards their South African counterparts and offered the prospect of financial and other support to those committed to pursuing non-racial policies. The following year the Association of American Colleges representing 575 institutions unanimously passed a resolution expressing sympathy with the 'plight' of South African universities and support for all who were working to achieve 'a multi-racial democracy'. This was followed by seven bursaries to the value of \$2 800 each for black students in the name of seven New England colleges, negotiations with Pennsylvania State University concerning a possible staff and student exchange programme, and an offer of \$400 000 from the Kellogg Foundation to finance bursaries for blacks over a five-year period.

Booyesen followed this up with a trip to the USA later in 1986 to visit sympathetic universities, foundations and government agencies there. Two years later he, together with professors Philpott and Webb, visited Zambia and Zimbabwe to establish contacts with their universities. They appeared to have far less knowledge of the University's academic support efforts than did the still-exiled ANC with whom the delegation had round table discussions on educational issues. These included the need to maintain links with other African tertiary institutions, the University's efforts with regard to academic

support and bridging programmes, and the broader need to upgrade teachers and overcome educational backlogs.

That year Booysen also attended the 900th anniversary celebrations of the University of Bologna where he joined other university principals from around the world in signing a charter in support of civil and academic freedom. In 1989 he was invited to give a paper at a conference in France on non-racialism in South African universities and took the opportunity to strengthen links with several British universities. He also joined a delegation of South African university principals to Canada and the USA for the same purpose.

Booyesen protested again when the state of emergency was re-proclaimed in mid-1986, this time extending over the whole country and lasting into 1987. In June 1986 police raided the homes of several students and staff members as well as the ATR and dispersed a 100-strong student protest at the Faculty of Medicine, making three arrests and injuring several other participants. The release of those apprehended was successfully negotiated, as was that of two detained Howard College students.

In a further protest on behalf of the University, Booysen stressed that the emergency regulations subverted 'the universal principles on which education should be based'. They restricted access to and the publication of information in many areas of teaching and research, inhibited discussion through the broad definition of what constituted 'subversive statements' and intimidated university communities through the uninhibited invasion of premises, seizure of documents and detention of individuals. He linked these concerns to current socio-political issues by declaring that the emergency was 'the product of the lengthy delay in extending basic political and civil rights to the majority of the population' and called for the lifting of the state of emergency and the initiation of negotiations 'to reach a political settlement in which democratic rights may be exercised by all'.

Campus protest meetings in both centres during June 1986 were packed by staff and students concerned by government's drastic action and by reported large-scale countrywide detentions. In Pietermaritzburg DESCOM, including some staff members, used the campus several times as a relatively safe haven for meetings and soon listed 50 known detainees. Among them were members of the University community, including JASA members Yunus Carrim and Yusuf Bhamjee, and eight students. Several other students, among them Martin Wittenberg, went into hiding while Father Theo Kneifel, the Roman Catholic chaplain on the Pietermaritzburg campus, was detained.

Librarian Christopher Merrett, then JASA's assistant secretary based in Pietermaritzburg, became DESCOM's information gatherer using a database package on the University's mainframe computer to collate information supplied by the CAE, the Progressive Federal Party and the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness (PACSA). There was a risk that this information could be viewed by less sympathetic members of staff but, in an era before desktop computers and e-mail had arrived on campus, a list of detainees was also kept on the University Library computer while a telex machine provided contact with Amnesty International in London.

For varying lengths of time several staff members, including Merrett, his (now late) wife Pat and Library colleague Colleen Vietzen, harboured at least one potential detainee who was on the run. Some, including Merrett and Colin Gardner, received visits from the security police while the homes of Mike Hickson and Terri Broll as well as Mike Hart and Juliet Armstrong were searched, as was John Aitchison's campus office. A bogus pamphlet inciting workers to strike was distributed at night under the names of Merrett, Gardner, Wittenberg and fellow student Sandy Jocelyn in an obvious attempt to discredit them. Whatever its source, it was clear that not all staff members, or students, were sympathetic towards those who expressed their opposition to the emergency measures that resulted in a sharper polarisation of political opinion on the campuses.

A much more drastic protest action had taken place on 21 March 1986, during Rag float building night, when explosive fires were deliberately started in the Memorial Tower and Shepstone buildings on the Howard College campus. There was speculation as to whether this constituted an attack from the left or right of the political spectrum, but the prime targets appeared to be the offices of Professor Laurie Schlemmer, who was closely associated with the ANC's rival Inkatha at the time and left Durban soon afterwards, and the Politics Department. The latter was then under the headship of Professor Frederick Clifford-Vaughan, a Korean conflict veteran and former prisoner-of-war in Manchuria, whose conservatism many students and some staff regarded as reactionary in the wake of the much more radical Rick Turner and Michael Nupen era.

The conflagrations resulted in R800 000 worth of damage to both University and staff property, including at least R500 000 worth to buildings alone. Staff losses of research material and other personal possessions were such that the University felt morally obliged to establish a relief fund. The twenty academics involved were compensated to the amount of R186 730

and granted extra furlough. A tender of R666 000 was eventually accepted to repair the damage to the buildings. Fire-fighting equipment, which had been tampered with and proved inadequate in this emergency, was updated and security across all campuses was tightened with single after-hours entry and exit points identified for all buildings. The refurbishment of offices and lecture venues was completed in August 1986 but as government disclaimed responsibility for the cost of replacement and the University was only covered for 15% in terms of its insurance policy it was obliged to appeal to the State for a R900 000 increase on its approved capital loan for 1986–1987.

The official police investigation remained inconclusive as was the University's own 40-page report submitted by the Faculty of Law's Professor Ellie Newman. The damages were eventually attributed to 'political riot', though probably involved only one individual – a student was suspected. Bill Freund later recalled being questioned by the security police as he knew the suspected perpetrator, an 'intelligent and obviously idealistic boy' who fled the country, joined Umkhonto we Sizwe and was subsequently jailed after attempting to escape that organisation by hijacking an aircraft in Tanzania.

On 23 June 1986 the ongoing treason trial held in Pietermaritzburg ended with the release of the remaining accused. Thereafter, other detainees, including members of the University community, were also set free. Four days later Booysen made a further statement criticising the government and its state of emergency and on 7 August students Sandy Jocelyn and John Jeffrey described their experiences as detainees to another packed lunchtime meeting in Pietermaritzburg.

On 15 August 1986, in solidarity with similar meetings held at UCT and Wits, Booysen followed up his earlier objections and convened a University Assembly to protest at the ongoing state of affairs and against the circumstances that had brought it about. Colin Gardner and SRC President Kevin O'Brien both addressed the meeting and a statement, issued jointly by Natal, Rhodes, UCT and Wits, was read to the gathering. It argued that the 'primary task' of the universities to advance knowledge through teaching and research and 'according to the dictates of reason' was being seriously impeded by the prevailing state of emergency, which subverted 'the principles of justice' in several relevant respects. It prevented research in a number of areas by restricting access to information and stifled 'critical discussions and analysis' through its broad definition of prohibited 'subversive statements'. It also allowed for premises to be searched and confidential documents to be seized without warrant and opened the door to the intimidation of members

of the university community because of the opinions they held by means of 'detention without charge or trial'.

The statement also expressed concern at the impact the state of emergency was having upon the careers of countless numbers of school pupils. Many had been detained and the Department of Education and Training's strict new regulations were having 'a profoundly negative effect' on black schools from which future university students would be drawn. It was pointed out that the current 'disruption to the flow of students through the educational system will be felt for years to come' and that 'normality' needed to be restored. The statement argued that the prevailing crisis was 'a product of delay in extending basic political and civil rights to the majority of the population' and that 'black education has become a focus, a symbol and a cause of most serious social unrest'.

The signatories called for a cessation of all violence and for government to end the state of emergency, release or charge all detainees, remove the curbs imposed upon the 'free flow of information' and, not least, immediately address the existing problems in black education 'through negotiation and with a receptive spirit'. They emphasised that special attention would have to be given to those whose educational progress had been 'neglected or disrupted'. They pledged themselves to continue assisting students who had been educationally disadvantaged as well as to support 'reasonable, rational and non-violent attempts to establish democracy, academic freedom, freedom of association, freedom of speech and the Rule of Law in this land'. Despite the prevailing state of emergency they undertook to continue providing forums for 'the exercise of critical thought and the transmission of information in the service of the wider community'.

In the prevailing circumstances of increasing tension throughout the country and some polarisation of political opinion among staff and students, Booysen also deemed it necessary during the course of 1986 to issue a code of conduct to be observed by all members of the university community. It re-affirmed the basic human right of the individual to 'freedom of conscience, opinion and expression' and of the need for 'a free exchange of views amongst members of the university community' provided the views expressed on campus did not support violence or infringe 'the dignity and fundamental rights of others'. Booysen's code therefore prohibited any interference with the right of individuals to express their opinions 'by means of speech, writing or print, or other media', any threats or acts of violence, or anything intended to provoke 'acrimony or violent conflict'.

It was a wise precaution on his part as the following year witnessed further tension between those who wanted the institution to become entirely 'open' and autonomous of governmental control and those who in the earlier Horwood tradition would, as Booysen put it, 'have its university be a placid trainer for careers'. He argued that the University community was but a part of the society in which it existed and that academics themselves had long since replaced the notion of a university being a remote 'ivory tower' for one of 'service and involvement'. It was therefore not sufficient for such an institution merely to 'respond unquestioningly' to society's manpower needs and train students for their various professional careers 'in blinkers'. It was essential, not least in a country characterised by 'dissension and turmoil' like South Africa, for a university to offer a more 'broadening education', to question the 'values and practices' prevalent in its society and to contribute to its 'development and upliftment'.

There was still concern for some individual members of the University community. In June 1986 the Pietermaritzburg Catholic chaplain Theo Kneifel of St Joseph's Scholasticate at Cedara was forced to leave the country. Jo Beall, lecturer in African Studies and JASA secretary, was held in detention in December 1986 before being transferred to hospital apparently suffering from depression. In January 1987 the University published a formal objection to arbitrary detention without charge, legal counsel or trial, signed by the chairman of Council, G.C. (Graham) Cox, the acting Principal, Colin Webb and JASA's chairperson, Paul Maylam. Beall was eventually released in February 1987 and the University continued to press for the release or provision of study materials to three of its detained students – Ms N.B. Sangweni, Ms N. Madlala and John Jeffrey.

In May that year the general election for the still all-white House of Assembly gave rise to several acts of protest and violent confrontation both on and off the country's campuses, including the University of Natal. This prompted a special meeting of Senate followed by yet another public statement. It expressed the University's deep concern for the ongoing restriction of 'essential freedoms' that were the cause of the prevailing endemic violence and the extent to which 'the confrontational struggle' taking place in South Africa was penetrating the campuses and putting at risk the very values that were essential to achieving a 'just, stable and cohesive society'. It also condemned all forms of violence from whatever source, including provocation by the police in enforcing restrictive laws. It affirmed the University's right to peaceful protest and confirmed Senate's commitment to achieving a democratic society in which justice

and fundamental human rights were assured for all. Senate also successfully recommended to Council that the University should be closed for a day (with teaching time made up afterwards) as an expression of the strong sentiments that underlay this statement.

The second half of 1987 was characterised by another furore on campuses countrywide when government issued eight 'prescriptive conditions' to all university councils that were to be respected in their entirety under threat of cuts in the state subsidy. Superficially these appeared to be concerned merely with the proper maintenance of the usual university activities and expenditure of public funds. In reality they sought, as Booysen put it, 'to constitute the universities as the enforcement agencies, both on and off campus' for government's security legislation as far as staff and students were concerned and, in effect, 'to extend political control to the university campuses'. The laws the universities were now expected to enforce sought to suppress political dissent, undermined safeguards that protected the individual from injustice and entrusted public officials with unlimited powers.

The University, through Senate and Council, publicly declared its opposition to these conditions and inability to comply with them. It also expressed its intention to continue with its internationally recognised efforts to advance and disseminate knowledge by maintaining orderly conditions on campus, thereby facilitating unimpeded enquiry and the free exchange of ideas, opinions and information. As Booysen described it in his 1987 Annual Report, the conditions government sought to impose would jeopardise rather than assist the University's efforts by undermining its internal disciplinary procedures, creating dissension on campus, alienating it from large sectors of the broader community and isolating it from tertiary institutions abroad. In brief 'the conditions were an intolerable intrusion into university autonomy and freedom, a recipe for strife and disorder and a threat to the entire academic enterprise'.

They were also perceived to be 'an improper exercise of statutory powers'. Accordingly, the University challenged their validity in court, as did UCT and UWC. The Natal and Western Cape divisions of the Supreme Court both ruled that the minister's proposed conditions were *ultra vires*, thereby finding that it was illegal to adjust a university's subsidies in response to its Council's actions on disciplinary issues and that staff and student discipline was the responsibility of councils and not of the minister. The University affirmed its intention to continue the pursuit of its declared academic objectives, to use state funds efficiently and to maintain order on its campuses by re-stating its



new code of conduct and revising its disciplinary procedures for students. The Principal and chairman of Council were summoned to Pretoria following their refusal to comply with the minister's requirements but he appeared to accept their right to do so. The minister may have lost the legal battle but in 1987–1988 the universities still suffered from severe subsidy cuts for the fourth and fifth consecutive years.<sup>4</sup>

In February 1988, spurred on by Senate, the Principal protested against restrictions on seventeen organisations, a few of which were directly involved with the University. In June that year the Commissioner of Police (Port Natal) and head of the Security Division visited the Durban campus and the heads of the Midlands SAP and Security Division did so in Pietermaritzburg. They expressed their concern at a perceived escalation in the number of meetings on campus that were of 'a highly political and revolutionary nature' and warned that the University could not expect immunity from any consequent disorder. Both Vice-Principals repudiated the allegation that the emergency regulations had been infringed and suggested that the police re-examine their evidence. On 16 June there was yet another intimidatory raid on the ATR.

While government maintained its rigid nationwide state of emergency the following statement began to appear on all of the University's official stationery: 'The University of Natal rejects apartheid. It is an equal opportunities, affirmative action university.' As Booysen pointed out in his 1988 Annual Report, it was not the declaration of 'a policy utterly new in evolution and execution' but a clear assertion of 'the only just and effective basis on which we can realise our potential as a worthy institution of higher education and a healthy social force in South Africa' as well as 'an important and effective instrument for necessary change in society at large'. 'Moreover,' Booysen added, 'we do not regard ourselves as a "White" university; we are well on the way to becoming what we want to be: simply, comprehensively, and fully, a South African university.'

The letterhead statement reflected the 'University of Natal Mission Statement for the 90s', which updated the document initiated in 1982 (see Chapter 1). The Planning Committee produced this under Booysen's chairmanship and with substantial input from Brenda Gourley as well as broad consultations throughout the University community, including the SRCs and BSS. It underwent numerous permutations and was intended to establish a sense of 'collective responsibility' that Senate and Council unanimously approved. The document was subsequently published and distributed within and beyond the University in a detailed twenty-page format entitled 'The role in society of the

University of Natal: 1989 onwards' and in an abridged brochure 'Partners in progress'.

The Mission Statement was also made available in a digestible point form, prefaced the Principal's 1988 Annual Report and was published elsewhere for easy consumption:

*The University of Natal strives to serve all sections of its community through excellence in scholarship, teaching, learning, research and development.*

1. It rejects apartheid and, as a non-racial university, its community consists of all people in all social circumstances, developed and developing, urban and rural.
2. It seeks to honour its commitment to being an Equal Opportunities/Affirmative Action university and promote, internally and externally, the achievement of a free, just and equitable order, rejecting any form of discrimination based on race, colour, creed, sex or nationality.
3. It seeks to achieve the highest level of scholarship through academic integrity, pursuit of knowledge, creative endeavour and application of these to the benefit of its entire community.
4. It seeks to achieve excellence in teaching by recruiting the best staff, rewarding excellence in teaching and establishing vigorous programmes of staff development.
5. It seeks to achieve excellence in learning by admitting students of high academic potential, providing conditions that will enable them to realise their academic potential and offering good courses and curricula leading to reputable qualifications.
6. It seeks to achieve excellence in research by recruiting the best staff, encouraging and rewarding the research endeavour and providing the best possible facilities.
7. It seeks to achieve excellence in programmes of development by mounting appropriate curricula and undertaking research leading to the advancement of the community in all its diversity.
8. It seeks to maintain the highest standards in all its teaching/learning and research/development programmes, whether they be pure, applied or developmental in objective.
9. It seeks to protect for itself and other universities the highest levels of University Autonomy and Academic Freedom.

10. It seeks to grow so that it satisfies both national and community needs for high quality academic and professional tertiary education.
11. It seeks to mount efficient and effective services in support of its academic objective.
12. It is committed to the preservation and conservation of the environment and natural resources of the region.

In a circular letter to staff members Booysen expressed the hope that the Mission Statement would become 'a living document within the University' on the strength of extensive staff input in its formulation and the numerous working groups that had been established to consider its implications and subsequent effective implementation. An additional abbreviated version was also produced for distribution among alumni, donors and the public.

In an interview Booysen explained that the Mission Statement had been born out of the need for a broad assessment of the University's future as an institution so that faculties and disciplines could plan effectively for their individual futures. Unlike previous planning exercises the 1989 Mission Statement had been the product of a bottom-up process involving many constituencies instead of a traditional top-down series of decisions. The basis of the statement, he declared, lay in a 'realistic analysis' of demographic changes in South Africa and, more particularly, KwaZulu-Natal in order to anticipate the likely needs of the 'wider community' it now professed to be serving. It was realised that to succeed the University would have to evolve away from its 'colonial tradition' and become 'a truly South African university as opposed to a European university transplanted into South Africa'. External funding would have to be sought to Africanise curricula and university structures to meet the needs of society at large.

Indeed, promoting the best interests of the University as well as active concern for its socio-political environment had long since become increasingly indistinguishable. By the late 1980s the university community was becoming much more aware of the factional violence sweeping through the province with township dwellers seeking accommodation in white suburban backyards and the smoke from burning buildings in Edendale valley visible from the Pietermaritzburg campus. The new Social Responsibility Advisory Committee recognised that, in its efforts to serve the community, the University should promote socially aware research and periodically 'compare its own perception and provisions of the community's needs with the changing requirements of the various communities'. In the circumstances prevailing in the 1980s some

academics considered it their responsibility, as Christopher Merrett put it, 'to engage in research and writing connected with the human rights situation'. For some this took the form of monitoring and recording the various stayaways and strikes taking place at that time as well as government responses to them. In the case of John Aitchison's aforementioned group based in the CAE, it involved monitoring the violence in and around Pietermaritzburg.

In June 1989 Booysen again registered the University's 'emphatic objection' to a further renewal of the state of emergency and reiterated its appeal for government to attend to 'the obvious need to extend political and civil rights' as the means of achieving 'a secure and peaceful future'. In July 1989, having earlier been asked to convene a peace process, he chaired a meeting of carefully chosen staff members. All were already interested or involved in recording political unrest and focused their discussion on the feasibility of establishing within the University an effective means of monitoring the violence in the Durban-Pietermaritzburg region in an effort to re-establish peace there. A committee comprising Michael Sutcliffe (convenor), John Aitchison and Grahame Hayes was selected to carry the process forward.

On 4 September 1989 students in Pietermaritzburg planned a protest march against the imminent whites-only general election and the offensive Labour Relations Amendment Act. After police had fired birdshot at student protesters in Durban on the same day, injuring twenty of them, on 5 September separate staff and student meetings on the Pietermaritzburg campus led to a joint march that attracted the attention of the general public as well as representatives of the local and foreign press. It was led by representatives of the staff, the SRC and the BSS and included members of the Federal Theological Seminary and St Joseph's Theological Institute.

Raucous but peaceful, riot police prevented the march from leaving the campus, surrounded the protesters, confiscated all posters and formally arrested a select few in terms of the Internal Security Act (1982 s. 57(1) (c)) before loading them into police vans. The rest of the marchers sat down before peacefully boarding a shuttle service of vans that conveyed them all to Halfway House, the riot police depot situated at the temporary Pentrich Police Station. As they were removed, more students joined the sit-down protest on campus until the holding rooms became so congested that the police refused to make any more arrests.

The 400 persons in jail, 10% of them staff, then heard brief speeches given through a megaphone by representatives of JASA, the SRC, the BSS and the NIC. All pointed to the widely representative, non-racial solidarity the occasion

had engendered. The megaphone was confiscated after Yunus Carrim shouted ‘Long live the ANC-SACP alliance, long live!’ but an attempt to drown out a rendition of what was expected to be the future national anthem with a siren proved unsuccessful.

After long delays the prisoners were eventually released on bail in batches from the Magistrate’s Court, with the assistance of Ilan Lax from Lawyers for Human Rights and campus Principal Colin Webb. The last of them departed at 1.45 am the next morning, with the SRC providing transport back to campus. James Lund recorded that, apart from a few verbal insults, the police had behaved with ‘commendable restraint’ and that the campus Principal and Deputy Registrar had provided ‘exceptional support’ to the



**C. de B. (Colin) Webb** graduated in 1952 with a first-class BA (Hons) degree in History at Wits on a Barclay’s Bank scholarship and secured a postgraduate teacher’s diploma at Pretoria University before proceeding on an Elsie Ballot scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge. In 1957 he completed an upper second in the modern history tripos there which in 1963 matured into an MA. In 1963–1964 he won a British Council bursary for research in Britain and became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1979.

In 1957 Webb was appointed temporary lecturer in History and Political Science in Durban, permanent lecturer there in 1960, senior lecturer in Pietermaritzburg two years later and associate professor in 1971. He proved to be an inspiring teacher and was much in demand as a platform speaker in defence of academic freedom and university autonomy. In 1976 he assumed the King George V Chair of History at UCT, which he held until his appointment in 1984 as Vice-Principal in Durban. His subsequent occupation of the equivalent post in Pietermaritzburg lasted from 1988 until just prior to his death in 1992 at the age of 61.

During his career Webb served on numerous campus and off-campus bodies, including the JMB, the central history syllabus committee, the HSRC research priorities committee, the Buthelezi Commission and as president of the South African Historical Society. He was also instrumental in establishing the Alan Paton Centre on the Pietermaritzburg campus and the journal *Natalia*, which he edited. Although he never completed a doctorate Colin Webb was a prolific supervisor at honours, masters and doctoral level. Among his publications he was best known for his *History of Natal*, co-authored with Edgar Brookes (1966) and the multi-volume *James Stuart Archive of Recorded Oral Evidence Relating to the History of the Zulu and Neighbouring Peoples*, which he co-edited with John Wright who continued the project after his death.

arrestees, thereby reaffirming the University's commitment to 'fundamental liberties' and strengthening the 'unity of purpose between staff and students in this regard'. Later that month JASA and other members of the University community participated in massive public marches in downtown Durban and Pietermaritzburg, with no police intervention. Senate decided against any official participation, or to close the University for the day, in the absence of official permission but it affirmed 'the rights of freedom of speech and association, including the right to hold peaceful protest'.

In mid-October 1989, possibly to circumvent any further protests, it was revealed that there would be no court appearances arising out of the 5 September campus march. Earlier that year Booysen had already decided that the situation, and the international standing of South Africa's universities, had improved sufficiently for him to persuade four other principals, those of Rhodes, UCT, UWC and Wits, to join him in visiting several Canadian vice-chancellors who had indicated a willingness to review their stance towards South Africa. Based in Ottawa and then in Washington, they were to meet a number of other senior officials and representatives of educational organisations, subsequently extending their tour to Europe.

The state of emergency ended in June 1990, but continued in Natal until October. This and other events that year marked the beginning of a new era for South Africa, and with it the University of Natal.

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Since the late 1970s the University had continued to edge towards the ideal of becoming the completely 'open university' it had never been. In June 1977 Council resolved that all future advertisements for staff posts would include the statement 'The policy of the University is that all persons, regardless of sex, religion, race, colour or national origin, are eligible for appointment'. Yet by 1990 the academic complement was still 90.3% white, 4% African, 5% Indian and 0.7% coloured. These disparities pointed to the difficulty of finding suitable candidates for appointment who were not white. A survey of the academic staff in the late 1970s overwhelmingly confirmed the long-held view that the University should have 'an open admission policy' based only on academic criteria.

In 1979, in addition to the 714 African, coloured and Indian students registered in the Faculty of Medicine, there were 284 'non-white' students registered in Durban and 154 in Pietermaritzburg, but all were there only by virtue of ministerial permission. By 1989, when the University's student body

totalled 12 981, 67.2% were designated white, 17.4% Indian, 13.2% African and 2.2% coloured in terms of South Africa's prevailing race classification system. Collectively blacks then constituted 32.8% of all registered students, a marked change since 1983 when ministerial permission for student admissions was lifted and the University was able to begin applying a policy of non-racialism. At that stage 81% of the student body was white and collectively blacks constituted only 19% – 5.5% African, 11.2% Indian and 2.3% coloured

Between 1983 and 1990 the average annual increase in numbers was 20.1% for African, 13.4% for Indian, 3.5% for coloured and 1.4% for white students. The average annual increase in registrations during the 1980s had been 4.8%, or 52.1% overall, amounting to 13 630 students by 1990. The impact of implementing a non-racial admissions policy in all the other faculties during that period becomes more evident if registrations in the Faculty of Medicine, which had always been exclusively black, are excluded. On that basis in 1981 students of colour represented only 7.5%, not 15.9%, of the University's 8 958 total compared with 32.8% by 1989. More than half the 2 900 students then accommodated in University residences were white.

The 1983 relaxation of racial restraints on student admissions also meant that government was open to review of its traditional exclusion of white candidates from the Faculty of Medicine. At the time of its establishment the University had hoped to include aspiring white doctors but now took the view that it would only register such applicants in conjunction with a significant expansion of its available facilities and provided suitable students from disadvantaged backgrounds were not thereby excluded. This accorded with its own affirmative action policy and acknowledged the existing racial imbalance in available medical training when whites could apply to five other medical schools, though regrettably not within the province.

In 1989 it was anticipated that only by 2010 would the University's student numbers be somewhere closer to reflecting the demographic composition of the population at large with roughly 67% African, 20% white, 10% Indian and 3% coloured. Booysen estimated that if the current national ratio of 9.1 students at university per 1 000 head of population were to be maintained, all of South Africa's universities would have to become completely non-racial and those catering to the needs of KwaZulu-Natal (Natal, UDW, Zululand and UNISA) would all have to make provision for an annual 6.4% increase in student registrations until 2010. In addition, the growth of African student numbers would have to continue at a much faster rate than that of other racial groups, as currently defined, and a decline in Indian and white registrations

would have to take place. This was based on a projected 97% population increase for the region and as much as 113% in the case of Africans, coupled with the calculation that in 1985 only 0.8 per thousand of its Africans were university students compared with figures of 6.2 for coloureds, 17.9 for Indians and 21 for whites. All of these numbers were substantially lower than the national averages.

The University's leadership recognised that South Africa as a whole desperately needed more tertiary education graduates if it was, at very least, to maintain its economic status as what the World Bank defined as 'an upper middle income country'. It also accepted that, by international standards, the University's admission levels had been too low and that, while the institution needed to grow, it also had to raise its entry requirements. At the same time it was essential to 'treat all races equally and fairly', but it could only do so by assessing applicants on the strength of their 'potential to succeed' at tertiary level rather than by their earlier performance in what were very disparate schooling systems.

Underpreparedness, especially among African applicants, had already been identified as the primary challenge to academic standards and in response a variety of support programmes had already been implemented. By 1989 there was some indication of success in addressing this problem with first time African first-year students having improved their examination success rate from 30% to 60% since 1984. There was, however, no cause for complacency as the average first-year success rate was then 75%, pointing to the need for increasing emphasis on academic support programmes to improve the pass rate without lowering standards.

To that end in 1989 a new Division of Student Services was established under a dean of Student Support Services, Hugh Philpott, formerly of the Faculty of Medicine and more recently director of Student Support Services, who was to assume office in 1990. The purpose of this new structure was to co-ordinate the wide variety of support services that already existed on all campuses and thereby not only eliminate unnecessary duplication but identify those aspects which might previously have been neglected. A CUP discussion about the increasing numbers of underprepared students and the possible future of academic support initiatives prompted a conference at the University on 'The intermediate tertiary college: is it the answer?' It was an option that attracted both local and international interest and for a time gave rise to serious consideration for the future.



For several years universities had been wrestling with the additional complication of trying to admit more blacks, but not being allowed to increase student numbers. In 1989 this was eased when government at last authorised a 2% growth in first-year registrations. As the decade ended Booysen echoed the Mission Statement, whose production had been a major feature of his principalship, when he declared:

In preparing to meet the challenges of the 90s the University has set itself the goal of serving all sections of the community. To do that we must become a truly South African university. This does not mean that everything must change – much will stay in place, some programmes will be adapted and some new ones will need to be developed. As we address community needs in terms of our teaching and research programmes we become alive to the development needs of most sectors of our society. This leads to the recognition of development as a major area of endeavour alongside teaching and research. Out of all this endeavour must come graduates, research and a variety of development programmes for the advancement of all sections of the South African community.<sup>5</sup>

Amid the challenges of a dramatically changing student population and ongoing financial constraints the compass had been set for what would prove to be the last full decade of the University of Natal's existence under that name.

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## **PART TWO: 1990–2003**



# 6

## CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ON 2 FEBRUARY 1990 PRESIDENT F.W. DE KLERK announced the unbanning of several previously prohibited organisations, including the ANC, South African Communist Party (SACP) and Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), as well as the release of numerous political prisoners and the lifting of various restrictions imposed by the State of Emergency.<sup>1</sup>

Further dramatic changes that characterised the 1990s as the apartheid era gave way to the ‘new’ South Africa impacted in a variety of ways on the higher education sector. For the University of Natal this culminated in January 2004 with an obligatory merger with UDW, its Durban neighbour. Prior to that, the university was committed to realising the goals outlined in its newly published Mission Statement and to implementing several significant changes in campus administration and development.

### **Central administration**

In February 1992 Colin Webb retired as DVC and Vice-Principal (Pietermaritzburg) and died shortly afterwards. A.A. (Tony) Tarr replaced him on a five-year renewable contract. A 39-year-old Pietermaritzburg-born alumnus of the University (BA, LLB) with an LLM (Cambridge) and a Ph.D., he came with extensive teaching and research experience and had served as dean of Law at Bond University in Australia. Soon to be remarried, he apparently expressed delight at being back in his home town but left almost immediately, presumably to return to Australia. He was remembered thereafter as ‘Two-day Tarr’.

David Maughan Brown, professor of English and a former dean of the Faculty of Arts, succeeded him, prophetically writing his letter of acceptance ‘with a student protest in full spate outside the Admin building’. His former student Moira Bolton, who in 1989 had become secretary to Deputy Registrar and director of Campus Affairs David Beaven, recalled that there was ‘a collective intake of breath’ among administrative staff as they thought: ‘We’ll have to jack up our English’. In Durban Errol Haarhoff, dean of Architecture

and Allied Disciplines, was appointed Pro Vice-Principal to assist the campus Vice-Principal in managing student affairs.

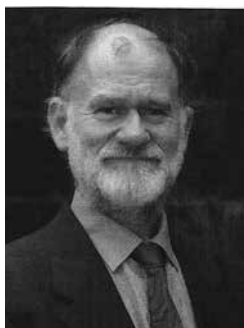
In 1993 Ramon Leon, QC retired as Chancellor after completing the maximum three terms in office and Denis E. Hurley OMI, emeritus Archbishop of Durban, succeeded him as the sixth incumbent in that office. He, in turn, retired after serving two three-year terms but retained his link with the University by heading the Archbishop Denis E. Hurley Educational Fund to provide bursaries for disadvantaged students. In 1998 Justice Pius Langa, formerly deputy president of the Constitutional Court and the University's first black titular head, was selected from a field of six nominees to succeed him. In September 1993 John Boulle was elected president of Convocation in succession to John Pet who had given ten years of devoted service to that office. In 1999 Convocation elected Terry-Lynn Zietsman as its first female president.

At the end of October 1993 Ben de Wet retired as Registrar, having previously served for eighteen years as head of the Classics Department (Durban). George Trotter, longstanding professor of Economics on the Durban campus, succeeded him as Registrar. In the mid-1990s there was a further restructuring and redistribution of increasing workloads at executive level. In 1994 Eleanor Preston-Whyte was appointed to the new post of DVC (Research and Development) and the role of Vice-Principal was redefined to reflect a greater devolution of authority to each centre with Maughan Brown and Cresswell becoming Campus Principals. Moira Bolton remembered that



**Most Reverend D.E. (Denis) Hurley** was born in 1915 in Cape Town and educated at St Charles College in Pietermaritzburg. In 1931 he joined the missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and after ordination in Rome rose rapidly through the local clerical ranks (1946–1992) to become Catholic Bishop and later Archbishop of Durban, the youngest in the world at the time. As chairman of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference he was an outspoken critic of apartheid. In 1978 the University awarded him an honorary D.Litt. and he held honorary degrees from eight other institutions, six of them abroad.

In the 1980s he led a delegation of Catholic bishops to Namibia and followed this up with a highly critical report of the South African government's role and military intervention there. He died in 2004.



**G. (George) Trotter** was a masters graduate of Duke University who joined the University's Durban staff in 1959 and as a 29-year-old was subsequently appointed to the William Hudson Chair of Economics there, a post he held until becoming Registrar in 1993. At different times he served as dean of Arts and of Commerce and served on numerous committees on and off the campus. The latter included those of the HSRC, the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, the Natal Chamber of Industries and the Durban Chamber of Commerce.

after she became the former's secretary members of the Human Resources Department would rely on her degree in English to vet selection committee reports for grammatical errors before forwarding them to him for approval.

In 1995 Professor E.A. (Emmanuel) Ngara (Ph.D. London) became DVC (Planning and Resources and subsequently Academic), J.D. (John) Volmink was appointed Vice-Principal (Durban) and Professor P.M. (Paulus) Zulu Pro Vice-Principal there. Professor A.C. (Ahmed) Bawa assumed the office of Vice-Principal (Pietermaritzburg). In June 1996 he became Durban campus Principal following Christopher Cresswell's retirement after what the latter described as 'the richest eight years of my life' and Andrew Duminy's acting role in that capacity. This made Bawa the University's first black appointee at that level. Collectively these appointments increased the Executive to eight, including the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, while also ensuring that it was no longer exclusively white.

In 1997 another reshuffling of executive responsibilities resulted in a series of new reporting lines with, as the Principal stressed, the most significant change being that 'each portfolio operates across all campuses'. That post remained unchanged but was now officially named Vice-Chancellor and Principal (formerly University Principal) while Maughan Brown assumed the new role of Senior DVC in charge of Administration, Resources and Planning. His previous office as Campus Principal was disestablished along with those of Bawa, who now became DVC (Academic) and Volmink, who was seconded to a project in the Western Cape. Preston-Whyte remained in charge of Research and Development with additional responsibility for the International Office while Ngara became DVC (Students and Transformation), assisted by Zulu as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students).



There were several more changes in the University's executive management at the turn of the century. In 1999 George Trotter retired after 40 years of service and Pieter Malgas from the University of the North succeeded him as Registrar, the post not being disbanded but no longer part of the Executive. The following year Zulu became Pro Vice-Chancellor (Development) and Professor Andrew Kaniki was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) in support of Bawa. At the end of 2000 Preston-Whyte retired and in July 2001 Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim succeeded her as DVC (Research and Development).

That year Bawa resigned after five years in office to assume a post with the Ford Foundation. His successor, Andrew Kaniki, resigned in 2002 as did the Registrar Pieter Malgas with his predecessor George Trotter returning in an acting capacity. Maughan Brown also resigned that year and Lance Roberts (Mechanical Engineering) replaced him as acting Senior DVC. Anthony Leonard left the University in February 2002 after nineteen years' service, twelve of them as University Finance Officer and his deputy Hollie Clarkson succeeded him.

Ron Nicolson served as acting DVC (Academic) from November 2002 until late March 2003 when D. (Deney's) Schreiner (junior) replaced him on grounds of ill-health, but he remained as special adviser to the Vice-Chancellor until the end of the year. Schreiner continued in office until December 2003 while at the beginning of that year R. (Ronnie) Miller was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Merger and Planning) and in June P. (Pitika) Ntuli was appointed to focus on organisational culture.

Law professor Hilton Staniland served a term as DVC (Administration and Finance) and during the course of 2003 several temporary Pro Vice-Chancellors were also appointed to assist in various portfolios as the obligatory merger with UDW loomed large. They were Professors Frits Rijkenberg and David Walker (Research), Peter Stopforth (Academic) and John Swart (Academic Staff) who joined existing incumbent Paulus Zulu (Students). At the end of 2003 Pius Langa came to the end of his distinguished term as the last Chancellor of the University of Natal and Alec Rogoff was awarded an honorary doctorate in Economics after his seven-year service as chairman of Council, having succeeded Kees van der Pol in 1997 on completion of his fifteen-year term.

The portfolio reshuffling that characterised the Executive during the 1990s reflected a process of restructuring that was ongoing for more than a decade, involving the entire central administration and eventually the whole

University. Since the mid-1970s, in response to the energy crisis and the increase in student intake and staff, each centre had functioned almost as a separate institution. There was one Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor/Principal, Council, Senate, Registrar and some central committees in Durban involving fundraising, planning, public affairs, research and resource allocation; but the two centres had their own Vice-Principals, finance, human resources and sports divisions. Duplicated departments and new chairs led to the creation of independent faculties in each centre.

This was followed in the 1990s by budgetary and further administrative devolution; hence the promotion of the campus Vice-Principals to DVCs and centre Principals with Vice-Principals to support them. This enabled the Vice-Chancellor to give more attention to fundraising and promoting the University's external relations. In 1992 Council and Senate even approved the disestablishment of Senex in favour of two campus-based Academic Affairs Boards with executive committees assuming responsibility for the implementation of campus policy, strategic planning and resource allocation.

A Student Affairs Board assumed responsibility for formulating policy and co-ordinating student-related matters on each campus while the URC's function was also devolved along with the Centre for University Education Development (CUED) board of management. In 1994 these decentralising structures were further reinforced when Graham Fraser and David Beaven were appointed as Directors of Administration in the two centres with responsibility for budget processes, computer and technical services, estates and risk management, human resources and student academic affairs.

To some extent academic rules and even degree structures varied as each campus enjoyed a large measure of independence and developed its own ethos. Pietermaritzburg had the traditional advantage of being relatively small and congenial with a higher proportion of students in residence and easy face-to-face contact between administrative and academic staff. Much of this was lost as financial and other pressures unavoidably led to some administrative centralisation focused on the other centre. There were suspicions that Durban enjoyed more favourable financial allocations – with staff: student ratios, the prevalence of air conditioners and superior sports facilities cited as evidence.

For most Pietermaritzburg staff members, apart from occasional conferences, meetings and ceremonial functions, Durban was what John Laband called 'a foreign country'. Without access to the real financial implications many Pietermaritzburg staff members would have favoured separation if given the choice and, although not widely known, by the early 1990s their campus was

40% larger than Rhodes. Many in the bigger metropolitan centre had the same attitude towards Pietermaritzburg and some resented having to attend occasional meetings there as much as their counterparts did the concentration of the administrative bureaucracy in Durban. Senior academic staff members like John Benyon who served on central committees had more contact with their counterparts in the other centre. As a member of the Pietermaritzburg campus administration Moira Bolton recalled that contact with Durban was otherwise ‘more or less restricted to the Executive and their secretaries’.

In 1996 a further important connection between the two centres was established when Jasper Cecil and Roger O’Neill of the audio-visual centres facilitated a long-awaited video-conferencing link that made round-table meetings possible without the need for expensive and time-wasting travel. This seemingly reinforced the case for continued devolution, but in the late 1990s yet another internal review recommended a reversal of that process in favour of recentralisation.

By then devolution had been shown to inhibit budgetary flexibility and university-wide planning, making it difficult to maintain common policy with regard to important matters such as educational development and research. Recentralisation promised to facilitate more effective use of limited resources and eliminate unnecessary duplication. It also ensured consistency in the rules governing degrees and course credits, open learning, a common core curriculum and academic development with each campus still retaining a large measure of academic independence. Improving road conditions made inter-campus travel faster and less stressful while the availability of video-conferencing helped to sugar the pill by eliminating the need for many journeys.

Among other changes, the posts of Campus Principal therefore gave way to university-wide portfolios with the ambitious intention that all the DVCs would spend at least two days a week in Pietermaritzburg to allay suspicion there that it was being entirely controlled from Durban. Senior DVC Maughan Brown remained based in Pietermaritzburg where his secretary Moira Bolton found that his university-wide responsibilities involved contact with Durban deans and senior managers including the likeable professors Trotter, Hellberg, Lumby and Roberts. Computer services and human resources were also recentralised and a common dean of Students and dean of Student Development were appointed. Towards the end of 1998 a Joint Senate Executive (Senex) was re-established in lieu of the two Academic Affairs Boards that had replaced it earlier.

Understandably, there was some staff opposition in Pietermaritzburg following the phase of welcome devolution, although features of the latter were retained in the interests of speedier administration. With student numbers declining there in the 1990s in relation to those in Durban the original campus had increasingly become a poor relation and simply had to accept recentralisation as a financial necessity to ensure its survival. Moreover, it had become increasingly evident in both centres that a common purpose was essential to meet the financial challenges and significant changes in national higher education policy which characterised that decade.

In 1998 virtually all sections of the University were affected by the Year 2000 Project, which addressed mounting concern about the anticipated impact of the impending millennium on date-related systems. IBM was contracted as external consultant and nine teams were appointed to complete an inventory of all the University's computer and embedded systems containing a microchip or clock.

Three years earlier there had been concern of a different sort when it was discovered that South Africa's new interim constitution made no provision for university autonomy and an appeal was made through Senate and Council for this to be rectified. In its latter years the University Council was constituted under the Higher Education Act of 1997 and functioned in terms of the University's statutes approved in 1999. There was further widespread concern that year about some of the substantive changes state legal advisers proposed making to the University of Natal (Private) Act involving a significant shift in responsibility for the University's academic integrity from Senate to Council. This was in terms of the new Higher Education Act, but essentially meant entrusting greater responsibility to what was a non-academic body and this concern was expressed in a letter to the Minister of Education.

On the eve of its dissolution in December 2003 the 42-strong Council included nine members of the University Executive and senior administrators, fifteen independent non-executive members including Durban and Pietermaritzburg City Council representatives, four employee and four student representatives and ten government appointees. Senate then comprised approximately 130 members, including two Council representatives, nine Executive members, eleven deans including the dean of Students, four deputy deans, 43 heads of schools, 40 professorial and other academic staff representatives, two librarians, seven support staff representatives and twelve student representatives.

This and other forms of employee and student participation were intended to maintain good relations as was Council's and the University's proclaimed

adherence to the principles of corporate governance advocated in the 1994 (Mervyn) King Report on Corporate Governance and as set out in the King II Report. Council's Audit Committee was intended, in part, to ensure compliance with the high standards set by these documents. Its Remuneration Committee focused on salaries, benefits and improved conditions of service, its Planning and Resources Committee on medium- and long-term strategic planning and its Finance Committee on financial accounting and control, investment management and compliance with financial regulations.

In 1996 the staff in all divisions of central administration were involved in a series of workshops intended to achieve greater efficiency and coherence, particularly at peak times like student registration. Central administration, numbering close to sixty posts in both centres excluding the Executive, did not escape the major process of restructuring and downsizing – or rightsizing as it was more positively termed – to which the whole institution was subjected during the mid- and late-1990s to make it 'leaner and more effective' in facing prevailing challenges and financial constraints. Teams of administrators from various divisions undertook a complete audit of the entire structure and fed the information gathered into a systems development process. Following the decentralisation the two administrative centres had experienced in the 1970s, they now underwent recentralisation in order to 'optimise effectiveness'.

Despite the downsizing process there were some additions to the staff. Veryll Mackrory secured a temporary post in Human Resources and from 1995 a permanent position, beginning what she described as 'a long, happy and fulfilling career at UN'. In 1998 she was promoted to human resources manager (Pietermaritzburg) and transferred a year later to Faculty manager for Science and Agriculture with further promotion and two degrees *cum laude* to follow after 2003. She recalled that her administrative colleagues were 'outstanding' in providing ample opportunity to develop 'both personally and professionally' on a 'beautiful' campus that was 'safe and friendly' and conducive to work.

Mackrory also remembered the competent efforts of Estates Division manager Warren Forsyth, Ronnie Govender and his gardening team and the efficient cleaning efforts of Custodial Services, which Ronnie Wilmans managed. She recalled that while campus administration meetings chaired by David Maughan Brown 'instilled great doses of fear into many', followed by a grateful 'retreat to the safety of their offices', she had fond memories of the academic staff whom she encountered, including Linda and Ray Haines, Siegfried Drewes and Neville Richardson.

Both centres lost valued members to retirement. Among them were Pietermaritzburg stalwarts Bernard Emmerich, Assistant Registrar (Academic) in 1990 after seventeen years' service and Laurie Hearn (Salaries) in 1994 after nearly 25 years' service. Merle Vahey retired in 1998 after joining the staff in Pietermaritzburg in 1989 as assistant administration officer in the Registry in succession to Louise Heath. Case (Cees) Binnendyk also retired that year after joining the University in 1972 as Faculty registrar for Science, Agriculture and Engineering on both campuses before becoming the Registrar's representative, head of Student Affairs and assistant to the Vice-Principal in Pietermaritzburg the following year. The diversity of his responsibilities meant that, for a time, he and Dulcie Somers Vine virtually ran the central administration in that centre. In 1976 he was called upon to initiate a Personnel Division (subsequently Human Resources) there which had developed into a fourteen-person section by the time of his retirement. By then he had become by far the longest-serving member of the central administration on that campus and was to be remembered for his sympathetic and conciliatory approach to dealing with staff issues.

In 2001 John Critien, director of Administration (Pietermaritzburg), relocated to UCT and in 2002 the University lost its Durban-based finance officer Tony Leonard who had joined its ranks in 1983 before being appointed to that office six years later. In that capacity he had developed an exceptional understanding of the complexities of university finances in South Africa as well as a broad grasp of academic activity and the importance of its development.

There were other significant changes in central administration. The Publicity and Communications Division, amalgamated with Alumni Affairs and the NUDF in 1989, was further consolidated in 1996 under William Saunderson-Meyer's directorship. Two years later it launched an aggressive marketing and fundraising campaign, complete with a logo featuring a superman-type figure wearing the University's emblem on his shirt. It was the most vigorous such effort to date by a local university and proved to be an award winner. In 1999 a radio advert comparing USA President Bill Clinton's well-publicised liaison with Monica Lewinsky with the advantages of an ethics-based education at the University of Natal won a bronze medal in the corporate image section at the New York Festival in competition with 1 297 entries from 31 countries.

In addition, that year the University won a golden arrow award for advertising in the education category of a *Professional Management Review* competition judged by creative directors from all over South Africa. The Pietermaritzburg campus won the *Mail & Guardian's* award for the best university website and

for the best in the education category as a whole. At the annual Ford Foundation-sponsored conference that year the University won the best website and the best external publication categories for its *Focus* magazine. It was also placed second in the annual report and marketing campaign categories, winning a special trophy for overall marketing excellence.

In 2000 *Focus* again won an award for excellence in journalism while the University's marketing campaign continued to attract favourable attention as it began to concentrate on the strengths of specific faculties and courses, using not only radio and the print media but



*University of Natal marketing logo: in 1998 the University's new marketing campaign attracted attention and won awards both locally and abroad.*

also posters on street lamp posts in the drive to attract funding and students. This vigorous campaign was necessary in the face of competition from other universities and new varsity-type colleges. There was also public uncertainty about the learning options it offered as it dramatically restructured its format at the turn of the century as well as the quality of its degrees. In 2001 Kerry Pearson replaced Lee Williams as web manager and to assist in training staff members in the use of the website to promote their faculties and courses.

A further significant development in central administration during the 1990s was the establishment in 1994 of an International Office. It was a reflection of the University's growing links with the international academic community as South Africa underwent socio-political transformation towards full participatory democracy and the academic boycott, more severely felt in some faculties than in others, became a thing of the past. Indeed, the promotion of international associations became one of the University's strategic initiatives after decades of isolation.

This new office, under the direction of Roshen Kishun, was specifically intended to strengthen these connections; attract foreign students (particularly postgraduates); promote student and staff exchanges as well as joint teaching programmes and collaborative research; assist staff travel arrangements; and provide staff with information about foreign funding agencies. Within a few years it became necessary to enlarge the office from its initial two full-time staff members and provide part-time assistance in Pietermaritzburg and a graduate assistant in Durban. By 2000 it was called NU-International with its mission, vision and values more precisely defined and approved by Senate.

By the mid-1990s funders were becoming more interested in promoting South-South rather than South-North student exchanges, but in 1995 the visit of a delegation from Ohio State University led to the signing of a formal record of understanding between the two institutions. This not only promised a variety of academic benefits but also the promotion on campus of a developing interest in basketball, a game in which Ohio State was currently a leader among American tertiary institutions. As the boycott barriers dissolved, links with various other foreign universities were further promoted by the visits of their vice-chancellors and/or presidents, including those from Cambridge, Louisiana State, Manchester and Hokkaido (Japan).

Collaborative research projects were discussed with the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique, one of the University's first tertiary associations in neighbouring southern African states. Agreements were also negotiated with the universities of California and Michigan, Kazan State Technical University (Russia) and Wilfrid Laurier University (Canada). In addition, formal links were forged with the New York School of Public Health at Albany and the State University of New York; and a joint masters and doctoral programme in educational leadership was formulated with the University of Nottingham.

Other indications of South Africa's increasing international acceptance included the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to the Durban campus and the attendance of Sonia Gandhi, widow of the late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, at the launch of Fatima Meer's edited work, *The South African Gandhi*. The establishment in 1995 of the University's campus information system on the Internet meant that its home page provided another useful means to advertise its activities and courses. Within a year nearly 700 students from 58 countries registered for varying lengths of time, mostly from other parts of Africa but some from Britain and the USA. By 1997 the University had 840 registered international students drawn from 60 countries and generating



more than R9 million in accommodation and tuition fees. It also had over 240 links with foreign institutions. Further connections as well as relationships with donors were either newly forged or strengthened by individual staff members through personal visits, video-conferencing and the Internet, but also by increasing tours abroad of the University's own leadership.<sup>2</sup>

In that regard the last years of the University of Natal also witnessed a succession of three Principals and Vice-Chancellors who held office for varying lengths of time.

### **The principalship: Professor J.V. Leatt**

At the end of June 1991 Professor Peter Booysen, who had served as Principal since 1984, retired and was succeeded by Professor J.V. (James) Leatt. The selection committee compiled a preliminary list of eleven potential candidates from the numerous applications and nominations received after the post was advertised. Some declined nomination and the remaining five were interviewed with emphasis avowedly placed on their academic credibility and experience, understanding of and commitment to the University's Mission Statement, leadership qualities, sound judgement, decision-making skills and ability to relate to students and staff.

Three candidates were then shortlisted with an outsider, Leatt, preferred this time 'by a clear majority' over insiders Colin Webb and Christopher Cresswell. These were apparently not part of the selection committee's considerations but the former was said already to be suffering from what proved to be terminal illness and it was rumoured that Booysen had not liked the otherwise popular Cresswell for reasons that remain obscure. At the age of 51, Leatt's relative youth was considered an advantage over the other two as a tenure of at least eight years was envisaged prior to the compulsory retirement age of 65.

An interview seemed to confirm his 'exceptionally favourable' referees' reports from UCT's chairman of Council, vice-chancellor, a deputy vice-chancellor and an immediate past president of the SRC, as well as the chairman of the National Education Co-ordinating Committee, Vusi Khanyile, and the Bishop of the Methodist Church of South Africa, M.S. (Stanley) Mogoba. Senate supported the recommendation of the selection committee by 62 votes to 34, but student representatives complained about their non-involvement in the selection process. They gave notice of their intention to press the Principal-elect to present himself before an 'open hearing' of the student body.

Leatt had enjoyed a rapid rise at UCT from part-time lecturer in 1976 to DVC in 1987. At his installation he initiated a comprehensive Vice-Chancellor's



**J.V. (James) Leatt** matriculated at Muizenberg High School and embarked on a career in banking while taking the preliminary examinations for that profession. In 1959 he became a candidate for ordination in the Methodist Church and before completing the examinations in 1965 also took a BA at Rhodes University. A BA (Hons) in Social Anthropology (1968) and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies (1973) followed, both at UCT. While studying, Leatt worked as a Methodist minister in the Cape peninsula, was appointed to the inner-city Methodist mission in 1968 and served as its superintendent (1971–1973). He then lectured at the Federal Theological Seminary of South Africa and served as deputy/acting principal of the constituent John Wesley College (1974–1975).

In 1976 he was appointed director of urban ministry of the experimental Ecumenical Venture and lectured part-time at UCT. Leatt subsequently became a senior lecturer in Religious Studies and in the Graduate School of Business and then professor (1983) in the latter where he occupied the first chair of Social Ethics in a South African business school. In 1987 he was appointed DVC of UCT after acting in that capacity in 1985. Leatt supervised several masters and doctoral candidates in Religious Studies and related fields and had a number of publications to his credit prior to arriving in Natal.

Review (VCR) of the institution prompted, in part, by the severity of recent government subsidy cuts. At the time the University had frozen R14.5 million worth of posts but had no available funds for salary increases, or for educational development, financial aid or an affirmative action programme. The purpose of the VCR which, it was claimed, was the first of its kind in a South African university, was to streamline the University's complex executive, administrative and committee structure, to devise a comprehensive five-year strategic plan and to launch a major fundraising campaign. Leatt observed that the agenda for the first Senex meeting he chaired weighed 4.5 kilogrammes and that one dean laboured the point by bringing his copy in a wheelbarrow!

Brenda Gourley was released from her duties as Vice-Principal (Finance and Technical Services) to lead a team of senior staff members and outside consultants in conducting the first review stage, which was then to move into a strategic planning phase that would eventually give expression to the Mission Statement. Indeed, with some justification the University could claim to have embarked upon fundamental change ahead of the national political process with the document it had first published in 1989 after consultation with all its

major stakeholders. The intention was that once the University had revised its internal structures it would review its own position in relation to the other eastern seaboard universities.

The review team acknowledged in its 150-page report that the University was ‘more complex than most’ functioning as it did (including the Faculty of Medicine) on ‘three campuses in two cities, at a crucial transitional stage in South Africa’s history’. While it favoured the devolution of administrative authority to campus level, it did not recommend moving towards the creation of separate universities. There were administrative as well as structural challenges involving a traditional organisational ethos that could also not be easily changed and in planning for the future it was anticipated that there were even bigger state subsidy cuts to come. The VCR was coupled with a fundraising appeal in an effort to maintain the University’s ‘core activities’, including essential teaching and research equipment and the libraries.

Against the national background of fundamental socio-political change the University embarked upon a process of major transformation aimed at organisational efficiency and more effective decision making at all academic and non-academic levels. This also involved the aforementioned rearrangement of executive portfolios, the appointment of a joint executive committee comprising representatives of Council and Senate and the greater devolution of authority to campus level with Faculty boards reporting to local Academic Affairs boards and to a campus executive. The new boards comprised 26 members including the University Executive, senior members of central administration, the relevant campus deans, three representatives of the academic and two of the support staff as well as two SRC members. Henceforth these boards were to deal with all uncontroversial campus issues while referring controversial and University-wide matters to Senate.

The second phase of the VCR was initiated in February 1992 with a time frame of 32 weeks to develop the strategic plan for the next five to ten years. A team that included John Fielden, an international higher education consultant Leatt had met during an earlier review at UCT, had already assisted in designing the first phase. Numerous discussions with various parts of the University community followed as well as the preparation of planning papers on a wide range of topics. In response to the VCR’s recommendations and student demands in August 1992 a committee to review Council was appointed, comprising elected representatives of the various constituencies within the University as well as members representing business, labour and education.

Despite the funding implications at a time of severe financial constraint the VCR's proposed strategy of 'quality with equity', as enunciated in its discussion document 'Choosing a focus' published in September 1992, was also accepted with both aspects being recognised as equally essential for the future. Strategic planning guidelines were debated throughout the institution with each Faculty being called upon to develop a strategic plan designed to promote both quality and equity while balancing these against financial viability and academic effectiveness.

The University thereafter declared that its pursuit of quality would continue to be maintained and reflected through the high standard of its research output and the recognition accorded it by independent evaluators as well as by the standard of its degrees. The latter would continue to be maintained, in part, by regular reviews of its departments that included relevant professional outsiders on the scrutinising committees and by examinations in all courses which were compulsorily moderated by external examiners. Similarly, it declared that it would continue to maintain and pursue the goal of equity by exploring alternatives to the traditional matriculation examinations as a means of identifying student potential to succeed at university level and by providing appropriate support systems to ensure that those from disadvantaged backgrounds were able to meet the high degree standards set.<sup>3</sup>

In 1991, during an extensive tour of Britain and the USA, Leatt met Dr R. Adie, director of the Alumnus Association in Europe, which he hoped would assist in fundraising. He also made contact with several American foundations that already had ties with the University and met the presidents of the Kresge and Mellon Foundations. His impression was that, as competition for funding increased, a collaborative approach involving other eastern seaboard institutions was more likely to be successful. In Washington the proposed amendment to the Foreign Aid Bill, which would allow federal funding to South African educational institutions, was defeated but several political sources there led Leatt to believe that the prevailing view would soon change.

Contact with representatives of the sub-Saharan branch of the World Bank also gave him the impression that, subject to International Monetary Fund (IMF) support, financial assistance for educational purposes might also soon be forthcoming from that source. In 1993 Leatt attended a conference of the 25-year-old Association of African Universities in Ghana during which it was resolved to develop closer relationships with South African tertiary institutions in anticipation of a new political dispensation there and the country becoming a member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

During another of Leatt's absences early in 1992 there was a crisis on campus when some students complained that one of their number, Durban law student and SRC member Knowledge Mdlalose, who was excluded for failing to meet required academic standards, had actually been victimised. The protest meeting in support of his immediate reinstatement deteriorated into isolated incidents of violence and intimidation, the disruption of lectures and a 300-strong march on the Francis Stock Administration Building where the glass doors to the foyer were broken open and a security staff member injured.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Chris Cresswell took the necessary but unprecedented step of summoning police assistance, which was then followed by protracted negotiations. These involved the protesters' representatives, named the Committee of Ten, and included ANC facilitators Jeff Radebe and Blade Nzimande as well as the Principal who cut short his holiday in the Drakensberg. Eventually a special Senate review committee was agreed upon, including three Senate members, an advocate (future chancellor Pius Langa) and a community leader (Jeff Radebe). Fortunately, this episode caused only minor physical damage but the head of campus security, Steve Petzer, suffered a major heart attack. A strained atmosphere on the Durban campus lasted for several weeks, including the threatened disruption of a graduation ceremony, while the special Senate review committee under the chairmanship of the then acting Vice-Principal (Pietermaritzburg) David Maughan Brown prepared its recommendations.

On 14 April Senate accepted its proposal that Mdlalose be excluded from the Law Faculty, but rejected its recommendation that he be re-admitted into the Faculty of Humanities. Amid ongoing student protests and an allegation that the Principal had breached an oral agreement to act executively on behalf of Senate, that body re-affirmed its decision on 6 May and Mdlalose was finally excluded. He eventually left the campus late in June, but the perpetrators of violent acts could not be prosecuted for want of identification.

The Knowledge Mdlalose affair as it became known not only stretched student-administration relationships on campus, but generated an inevitable round of quips such as 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing' and 'don't abuse knowledge' as well as a great deal of unfavourable publicity. The Principal tried to counteract this by speaking at four public meetings in Durban within 24 hours as well as a special meeting of Convocation and a lunchtime gathering of newspaper editors. Brenda Gourley addressed the Natal Teachers Organisation and an assembly of school principals and counsellors was also organised.

The 1993 report of an independent commission of inquiry into the Law Faculty the review committee had proposed found no grounds for the allegations of victimisation and cleared the names of the academic staff concerned. Senate also appointed a committee to review the procedures governing appeals against exclusions and subsequently implemented several improvements with full student support.

Leatt himself had been subjected to criticism even before his installation. The student newspapers objected to the expense of refurbishing the Principal's official residence Campbell House, the proposed employment of a chauffeur for the new incumbent and his alleged intention to install a car telephone, all involving expenditure that, it was argued, could be more usefully deployed elsewhere. For more than a year there was rising discontent against Leatt's management style and administration of the University. This involved several matters including the Mdlalose affair which, it was felt, were inadequately handled. Waning confidence in Leatt's leadership within the Executive led to Christopher Cresswell taking early retirement in March 1993 with both staff and students expressing sympathy with him.

The Durban deans all signed a letter to Council formally expressing their loss of confidence in the Principal, but at a meeting in the other centre they were unsuccessful in eliciting the support of their Pietermaritzburg counterparts. After several Council and Senate meetings it was concluded that Leatt indeed no longer enjoyed the academic staff's confidence. He effectively retired in March 1993, being granted special leave from April to consider his position before formally leaving the University's employ on 1 June 1993.

Inaccurate press reports that the staff's dissatisfaction was due to his efforts to trim costs were refuted and assurances given that the VCR would continue independently of any decisions made about his personal future. Speculation was rife on campus concerning Cresswell's retirement and Leatt's departure with *Dome* reporting that, contrary to rumours, the latter's severance package amounted to 'substantially less than R1 million'.

There were calls for a review of the procedures governing executive appointments, which had remained largely unchanged since the mid-1960s, with emphasis on the need for entirely independent referees' reports and the introduction of a probationary period in office. Cresswell was re-installed as DVC and Durban Principal with strong student support because he was committed to transformation. Brenda Gourley served as Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal until December 1993 and assumed the role on a permanent basis with effect from 1 January 1994.<sup>4</sup>

### The principalship: Professor B.M. Gourley

Gourley's appointment was the culmination of an extended nine-month selection process. According to confidential information prematurely leaked to the press the shortlist for the post involved three candidates; but one dropped out followed by the second, Professor Stewart McNeish of the University of Birmingham, because his wife was seriously ill. A subsequent request for his application to be reconsidered was refused. It had been intended that he and Gourley would both address the university community and field questions on 'My vision of the role of the vice chancellor in a period of change' to make the selection process more transparent and accountable than had previously been the case.

Gourley still talked to several constituencies and an open meeting of Senate before a final decision was made without the post being re-advertised. The selection committee unanimously recommended her for her leadership and managerial ability, sympathetic understanding of the problems staff faced,



**B.M. (Brenda) Gourley** matriculated at Parktown Convent in Johannesburg where she was head prefect, qualified in 1966 as a chartered accountant at Wits and in 1978 acquired a Master in Business Leadership degree from UNISA. After some years in practice and working as group accountant for retailers Norman Anstey & Co. she became a part-time tutor at the University of Natal while raising a family (1970–1973). Gourley subsequently joined the permanent staff in Durban as senior lecturer in Accounting and Finance (1974–1982) and was appointed professor and section head: Financial Accounting (1983–1988), as well as an associate partner in the firm of management consultants and brokers Alastair Macduff and Associates (1982–1987). During that time she served as dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management (1983–1985), the first woman in South Africa to be appointed to such a post, before becoming Vice-Principal (Finance and Technical Services) in 1988. Her permanent tenure as Vice-Chancellor and Principal lasted from 1994 until her resignation in 2001.

As an academic Gourley attended a number of conferences and seminars as well as publishing several occasional papers and journal articles. During her career she chaired innumerable professional and university committees, received honorary degrees from several universities and was identified as one of Global Business Network's 'remarkable people'.

vision of the University's future, administrative and planning experience and 'insight into the academic ethos' even though 'the lack of a research degree may at first appear to be an academic disadvantage'. Senate reportedly voted in favour of the recommendation by 86 votes to 11.

On 12 April 1994 Gourley was formally installed as the University's ninth Principal and seventh Vice-Chancellor. She was the first female principal in a South African university and at that time one of only a few in the world, just two of them in Britain's 72 universities. Shortly after assuming the principalship she introduced a *Vice-Chancellor's Newsletter* emanating from her office to keep staff informed of the many developments taking place in the University. In addition, a series of executive visits to departments and divisions was initiated to exchange views and answer questions on matters of concern. Indeed, her eventful tenure straddled one of the most challenging phases in the history of higher education in South Africa. She continued implementing the findings of the VCR that her predecessor had initiated, the first phase of which had been conducted by a team she led.

The committee appointed to review the University Council re-affirmed the function which it performed but, against the prevailing background of national socio-economic transformation, recommended that its composition should be more representative of the broader society in which it was situated. Council promptly appointed a working group on transformation to explore ways of accelerating this process but, on legal and practical grounds, it rejected the demands of students chanting outside the chamber that it resign immediately. Extensive consultation followed with a variety of interest groups before the recognised stakeholders, including the business sector, community organisations, staff and students from all three campuses, elected their representatives in 1994 to a newly constituted Council.

Other aspects of the VCR phase 1 report that were implemented included the aforementioned appointment of a DVC (Research and Development) to meet perceived need. Cresswell strongly advocated for full-time senior executive management of this important portfolio. As previously indicated, the role of the two Vice-Principals was also redefined and they were redesignated as Campus Principals (Durban and Pietermaritzburg centres). In addition, the attendant decision to devolve a large measure of administrative management and decision making to campus and Faculty level was accompanied, in phases, by the devolution of budget management. The computer services, finance and personnel divisions were all subjected to value-for-money audits and process



re-engineering reviews before approved changes were implemented in the interests of greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The VCR's second phase focused on strategic planning with its first discussion document, the aforementioned 'choosing a focus' and its 'quality with equity' strategy, providing the basis for exhaustive debate throughout the institution. In consultation with the deans the Executive produced another discussion document about strategic planning guidelines for consideration by all Faculty boards. The strategic planning initiatives document, as it became known, charted the University's trajectory for the next decade and was unanimously adopted by Senate and Council. It recognised that its various functions – teaching, learning and research – demanded a well-integrated approach to ensure success in a changing environment and increasing financial constraint.

The transformative changes implemented during Gourley's tenure impacted upon all aspects of the University, not least its staff and student demographic profile coupled with appropriate curriculum development. In 1994 an investigation was undertaken under Eleanor Preston-Whyte's direction into the University's current practices with regard to affirmative action and equal opportunity. It produced what the Principal described as 'a sobering and distressing' statistical analysis of the staff complement and prevailing staff perceptions. The Equal Opportunities Policy Consultation Committee drafted a policy framework pertaining to these issues and Senate and Council unanimously approved its proposals. It was calculated that the process of redressing the historical ethnic imbalances in the University's staff complement would take until 2005 to complete.

Gourley was convinced that, contrary to those who believed that 'affirmative action' and 'equal opportunity' were contradictory terms, there could be 'no equal opportunity without affirmative action. If we do not give people the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities, how are we going to find out about their potential to succeed and therefore have an equal opportunity to bid for the positions available?' In that vein the University committed itself to a five-year scheme designed to change its demographic staff profile by encouraging promising postgraduates from disadvantaged circumstances to embark upon academic careers. The NUDF secured generous foreign funding towards establishing 102 student bursaries, 51 new posts and 30 junior lectureships as well as a suitably qualified employment equity officer and an administrative assistant to manage these internships for four years.

Between 1999 and 2002 this Equity Acceleration Programme, which was a national groundbreaker, recruited 28 promising new academics who were employed on three-year supernumerary contracts involving formal mentoring and professional development. Three resigned for other careers and seven were eventually mainstreamed into permanent posts as lecturers and senior lecturers. In addition to its own resources, used in part to provide scholarships for black honours and masters candidates, the University received significant funding for this programme from Atlantic Philanthropies, the Canon Collins Educational Trust and the Mellon Foundation. During 2002 four students were awarded Mamphela Ramphele/Chevening scholarships as honours and doctoral candidates to attend British universities for a year to finish their degrees before entering three-year supernumerary contracts with the University. Three were subsequently offered such posts.

There were also intern programmes designed to develop the skills of disadvantaged candidates in the University's support sector, including the Information Technology and Finance divisions. The learnership programme in the former section involved acquiring general skills during the course of eighteen months, with the assistance of mentors, followed by the development of more specialised skills for a further six months. By 2002 eight interns had been employed on this basis, two of whom were disabled. Five of them proceeded to permanent posts.

As a further dimension to its transformation strategy and with financial assistance from the Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund, the University also began to implement the curriculum development proposals identified in the 1994–1998 planning guidelines Senate had approved in 1993 and eventually involved every Faculty. In response to the VCR's declared objective of producing 'a new kind of graduate' and to meet the needs of a changing student body, a comprehensive reassessment of the design and delivery of all courses was envisaged. This was to include alternative methods of learning and assessment as well as a core curriculum intended to ensure that all graduates became lifelong learners.

It was envisaged that they would become familiar with contemporary moral issues and be equipped with the numeracy, computer, language proficiency, problem solving, presentation and other skills needed to succeed in their changing environment at university and beyond, whether in employment or self-employment. The expertise developed during the course of these deliberations subsequently enabled some staff members to make an important

contribution to the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) and in the formulation of related government policies.

In his new full-time capacity as co-ordinator of curriculum development, Andrew Duminy produced a discussion document with James Lund as a basis for the formulation of final proposals. The former undertook a brief tour of British universities and the latter had already visited Australia to investigate relevant developments there. A significant aspect of the new process of curriculum development was the emphasis on a more multidisciplinary and, in some cases, developmental approach. Several schools that cut across traditional Faculty boundaries now emerged. They included Development Studies, Environment and Development, and Rural and Community Development.

Other important changes at that time included attempts to improve access to university education, such as the after-hours certificate courses offered in Commerce and the distance learning initiatives of that Faculty and Education. These contributed significantly towards the notion of open learning based on a mixed-mode approach that would enable students to undertake courses either on or off campus over several years. It was hoped that such an approach would provide an adequate response to changing national policy and help meet the increasing demand for tertiary education that was anticipated in the next few years. Other new approaches included the emergence of problem-based learning programmes in the Faculty of Architecture, a materials-based Economics 1 programme and foundation programmes in Humanities and Social Science. These were all in accordance with the new national trend towards a programmes approach in tertiary education.

The University's progressive new curriculum proposals began to be fully implemented from 1997 in all faculties. By then Brenda Gourley had already expressed her delight by declaring that the University was now 'a fully fledged Learning Organisation' according to the precepts of Peter Senge, the author of *The Fifth Discipline*, whose ideas had attracted the interest of Cresswell and others. Senge was so intrigued by the University's move in that direction that he made a presentation on campus in 1995. Gourley also gave due recognition to the collaborative effort of both staff and students in developing and pursuing 'shared goals aimed at leading the institution into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. A new, more flexible modular degree system was by then being developed with multiple entry and exit points to the various courses the University and other institutions offered, based on the accumulation of credits and in conformity with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

Foundation programmes, appropriate to the University's changing student intake, were being introduced in several faculties, partly to introduce students to a variety of subjects before selecting their areas of specialisation, along with the core curriculum now considered so essential to their future success as lifelong learners. A Centre for Organisational Learning was planned to support the University's further efforts in that direction by conducting appropriate research and promoting learning organisation practices. It was envisaged that the centre would offer teaching programmes in organisational management and development with particular emphasis on systemic managerial thinking.

While striving to make the University's learning programmes more accessible and relevant to an ever-widening student intake, there was also concern for the maintenance of its academic standards. An important part of Emmanuel Ngara's portfolio, when appointed DVC (Academic), was the maintenance of quality assurance and the assembly of a team to develop appropriate quality standards. The subsequent launch of a Quality Assurance Unit was an important step in that direction.

Meanwhile, efforts to identify and assist students with academic potential to complete their degrees were ongoing as integral parts of the University's Quality with Equity strategy. In 1996 useful contacts were established abroad when David Maughan Brown, Sipho Khuzwayo and Khosi Mazibuko visited several institutions and attended a partnership conference in Minnesota. Their interest lay in linking up with local non-governmental and community organisations to establish a Midlands community college structure in Pietermaritzburg. It was hoped that this would more effectively provide selected disadvantaged students between 18 and 25 years of age with courses leading to higher educational qualifications along the lines of the urban partnerships currently operating in sixteen American cities, which sought to draw minority (in South Africa disadvantaged) students into degree programmes.

The University hosted half of the 1998 week-long US Urban Partnership conference and for a time the Ford Foundation financed this initiative, but unfortunately not long enough for it to become self-sustaining before it switched its funding to a service-learning programme. This caused some misdirected community resentment towards the University. As Maughan Brown recalled, while the University was hugely indebted to such charitable foundations, 'accepting funding from international funding agencies risked allowing their agendas to start determining ours'.

Many staff members like Andrew Duminy were convinced that, as proposed in the late 1980s, some form of intermediate college in which underprepared

students would qualify for an initial first-year-level diploma was the most effective way to meet the challenge but by the mid-1990s the University's TTT Access programme, inspired by Reuven Feuerstein's research on dynamic learning, had gained national recognition as an alternative to the traditional matriculation route into university. From 1997 it was being implemented as a regional option.

Early in 1996, following its own consultations on the subject, student leadership suggested the establishment of a Broad Transformation Forum (BTF) to oversee and accelerate the transformation process. The University's Interim Transformation Committee had already been considering that idea and, after further deliberation, Senate approved its recommendation for such a forum in April 1996. The BTF was in accordance with the recommendations of the new NCHE. Its wide representation included the Executive, Council, Senate, the deans, staff associations, support staff, student bodies, Convocation and the community at large. Its function was to advise on transformation in the widest sense, including the redress of traditional gender and racial inequalities. Sub-committees of the BTF were formed to investigate such issues as admissions, appointments and promotions, curriculum reform, governance, human resource development and the possible renaming of facilities.

Following the promulgation of the Higher Education Act (101 of 1997) this body was transformed into a statutory institutional forum with similarly broad representation. It was now authorised to receive minutes from Council and other important bodies, submit advisory reports to Council on such issues as race and gender, and have observer status in the selection of senior managerial officers. When in 1999 Senate restructured its own composition the BTF enjoyed some success in arguing that the proposals that body made to Council were not in accordance with the spirit of the new Higher Education Act. They were in the old tradition of participative rather than more widely representative and accountable democracy, as was now reflected in the recently restructured Council.

A transformation workshop, which the BTF organised in November 2000, was the first of several and led to the appointment of a task team under the DVC (Students and Transformation) to formulate what became University policy with regard to attracting more Africans into its academic ranks. The BTF also participated in the formulation of revised recruitment, selection and appointment procedures, the treatment of persons with disabilities and the advancement of women in leadership, an employment equity strategy for 2001–2005 and a sexual harassment policy. This was revised in 2002 and

advisers were trained on all campuses to support both victims and alleged perpetrators. Information leaflets and a dedicated website assisted in making the University's 'quality with equity' and related policies better known within the University community.

An Equal Opportunity and Employment Equity Committee, a sub-committee of Council and Senate that the DVC (Students and Transformation) chaired, monitored compliance with the University's equity and related policies. In 2001–2002 the committee was reorganised to comply with the consultation requirement of the Employment Equity Act (55 of 1998, s. 16), thereby including trade union and student representatives as well as equitable gender, race and occupational representation. All committee members were familiarised with recruitment and selection procedures, the employment equity officer became *ex officio* a member of virtually all Council and Senate sub-committees and every effort was made to ensure compliance with the Employment Equity Act, with some divisions and faculties appointing their own employment equity committees. By 2001 the University had also formulated an over-arching code of ethics that committed itself, staff and students to 'the highest standards of integrity' as well as a written policy, which obliged all those with 'decision-making authority' to ensure that University business was conducted 'only through the use of fair practice'.

Dramatic structural transformations, coping with state funding cutbacks, assisting disadvantaged students and dealing with periodic student unrest, not least over inadequate financial aid, were not the only significant aspects of Gourley's term of office. The process of downsizing, or rightsizing as the Executive preferred to call it, which led to the reduction of the staff complement in those departments and divisions that were not cost-effective was another major necessity but also a source of dissatisfaction in both centres (see Chapter 7).

Gourley also took advantage of the receding international academic boycott of South Africa to promote the University's image abroad as a dramatically transforming institution. She represented the CUP at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) first meeting since sanctions were lifted and presented two papers at a conference involving more than 250 vice-chancellors. In 1993, while Maughan Brown visited South and North America in conjunction with his investigation into schools of rural community development, Gourley travelled overseas to garner increased funding from donors, concluding 37 appointments in seven European capitals within nine days. The VCR had anticipated the importance of these missions when it

recommended that 60% of the Vice Chancellor's time should be devoted to such external activities and only 40% to domestic University matters.

In 1995 the Principal met representatives of several institutions at the Association of African Universities conference in Maseru and numerous others during an extended visit to the USA and Britain, calling in on the Carnegie Corporation and the Ford, Mellon and Rockefeller foundations. The Commonwealth Secretariat hosted her at a conference held to discuss how South Africa might best be assisted at that time of rapid transformation while she also addressed the representatives of 65 British universities at South Africa House. Several visits to Natal resulted from this occasion. In addition, Gourley met a number of government and university representatives as well as potential funders during the course of a visit to China, Taiwan and Japan.

As chair of the ACU, in which capacity she served two terms, Gourley visited numerous other universities in several different countries. She was able to raise the University's profile even further after being elected to the executive of the Forum for African Women Educationalists, which sought to promote the cause of female education in Africa. As South Africa's only representative the University readily participated in the Commonwealth Benchmarking Programme, which involved members in the regular analysis of their own administrative systems followed by plenary meetings at which reports were compared and benchmarks established. In 1998 the Benchmarking Club met in Pietermaritzburg as a further indication of the University's international standing. It was a useful means of ensuring the maintenance of internationally acceptable standards in which the University participated until 2003.

Gourley was also an honorary member of the Global Business Network, vice-chair of the International Partnership Network and a board member of the International Association of Universities. In 2000 the University co-hosted the Association's eleventh general conference; attracting 326 delegates from 120 countries to Durban's International Convention Centre, most of them university vice-chancellors and principals or technikon rectors.

Gourley resigned as Principal that year to assume the post of Vice-Chancellor of the Open University in Britain early in 2001. She was the first woman to head that institution, which boasted 200 000 students, apparently the first person appointed without an Oxbridge degree and she was to occupy the post for eight years. In the prominent role of Principal and at a time of radical change her performance at the University of Natal unsurprisingly received mixed responses. Alex Rogoff, chairman of Council at the time of her retirement, admired her for her 'no-nonsense' ability to call 'a spade a club'

in rejecting ‘unconstructive conventions with characteristic expressiveness’, questioning ‘commonly accepted precepts’ and promoting ‘a sense of what is right’. He also marvelled at her stamina in undertaking, by his reckoning, 35 gruelling trips to raise funds and/or represent the University abroad.

R.W. (Bill) Johnson, who had completed a degree at Howard College (BA 1961–1963) before embarking on a career at Oxford, believed that her managerial skills were better suited to a commercial enterprise. Bill Freund did not like her ‘managerial practices’ either, but did concede that she ‘understood very well what middle class white Natalians wanted in a university and was able, in the Mandela and early Mbeki years, to balance this against the dictates of the post-apartheid government very skillfully’. Without being specific he added that she had ‘made a few affirmative action appointments of people with little competence but in situations where they could not do much harm.’ John Benyon admired her “‘Thatcherite femininity’... [and] respected ... her hard-headedness and forceful language, when necessary. But she knew, too, how to “temper the wind to the shorn lamb””.

In an article based on an interview conducted several months before the Principal left office staff writer Sharon Dell declared that

In many quarters, Brenda Gourley is credited with having led one of the most successful transformation processes at a South African university. In other quarters, she – and other members of the university executive – are accused of embracing a culture of ‘managerialism’ – a culture, her critics argue, that is alien to the very idea of a university, a culture which seeks to make the university more like a business than an institution which nurtures the skills and confidence needed for its members to dissent when necessary with prevailing opinion.

According to Dell, while Gourley conceded that the University’s organisational culture had indeed changed, it was her contention that “‘Managerialism is borne out of an increased pressure for accountability – both to the government and the public – as a result of present funding dynamics. We’ve had to do the same with far less money ... Under the prevailing circumstances some adaptation was inevitable.’” Gourley had therefore sought to make the University more businesslike without seeking to turn it into a business and believed, as Dell put it, that she had successfully ‘struck a balance between participative decision-making and a more business-like working environment’.

Senior DVC David Maughan Brown saw it as a more cumulative process, affirming that between 1970 and 2000 ‘the university ceased to be merely “administered” and came to be managed ... By the 1990s the university was vastly more complex and finances, in particular, needed to be managed



very carefully.’ He sought to counter managerialism by trying to promote a ‘collegial ethos and to consult as widely as possible’; by, for example, establishing staff open forums in Pietermaritzburg and subsequently also on the Durban campuses so that staff had the means ‘to raise issues and discuss developments’.

Gourley’s departure marked the end of a 28-year career at the University, approximately eight of them as its Vice-Chancellor during which the institution had experienced a process of dramatic transformation and restructuring. Doubtless she, too, had experienced more than her fair share of what Evelyn Cresswell recalled in the case of her late husband Chris as a journey that was ‘rich and varied, from the networks of political intrigue (both internal and external) through the daily rough and tumble to the real “funnies” of situations’, though they may not all have seemed so at the time. Maughan Brown was appointed to serve as Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal until Gourley’s successor assumed office.<sup>5</sup> The notion of a learning organisation seemed to lose momentum thereafter, but there were further transformative changes as well as debates about managerialism to follow.

### **Finance**

During the 1990s financial constraints continued to be a major preoccupation of the University Executive in its efforts to meet the ongoing requirements of campus development, staff and students. In 1990 the government subsidy was cut by another R33.2 million following the R27.1 million reduction in 1989 and resulted in an estimated R20 million deficit. The subsidy and other governmental contributions constituted 66% of the University’s income of R185.4 million while tuition fees contributed 25%. Staff compensation remained by far the largest item of expenditure at 66.5% followed by supplies and services (16.5%).

There was a 32% cut in 1991 amounting to R55.5 million as well as a reduction in grants from research councils and foundations, which effectively reduced the funds available to postgraduate students and eliminated any possibility of reducing student fees. R3.5 million had to be taken from reserves to meet urgent repairs and maintenance. This was followed in 1992 by an even more severe 39% cut necessitating radical economy measures and an average 21% increase in fees rising to as much as 25% in some disciplines. As a result the University’s income derived from that source rose from 20% in 1987 to 33%. This obviously had adverse effects on the institution’s quality with equity strategy for the future and lent greater urgency to the need for

large-scale fundraising from other quarters, with particular emphasis on the increasingly urgent need for more student financial aid.

Fortunately in 1993 the University enjoyed a one-off subsidy increase to R173.5 million compared with R139.7 million the previous year. This welcome windfall made it possible to cut student fees by 5% after they had increased faster than inflation during the previous five years, but the improved subsidy was rapidly swallowed by the demands of financially disadvantaged students. Only R2.8 million could be devoted to replacing research equipment and maintaining essential infrastructure while some of the funds withdrawn earlier from reserves were recouped.

Previous demands on the NUDF to meet student needs were clearly no more than a short-term solution and the minister of education's announcement that a commission on higher education would address the issue was welcomed. The proposed, but long-delayed, full-scale National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) was becoming even more urgent as the whole tertiary education sector found itself under increasing financial strain. The 1993–1994 revised SAPSE subsidy formula set limits to the annual growth in student numbers its predecessor had unintentionally stimulated and downscaled certain of the co-efficients previously applied. The new formula was used until 2003.

A significant financial saving was achieved in 1994 when as many as 91% of the University's staff were persuaded to leave the Associated Institutions Pension Fund (AIPF) and join a new University of Natal Retirement Fund (UNRF). It was an important switch because every staff member who opted to change relieved the University of the contribution it had legally been obliged to make on their behalf to the government pension scheme. It was, however, a source of considerable debate and ill-feeling among staff members for some years to come. The following year a comparative investigation established that Natal was eighth out of sixteen universities (excluding distance education institutions) 'in terms of costs per effective subsidy student' at R20 000 each and, ominously, that a 25% reduction in staffing levels would relieve it of its immediate financial difficulties.<sup>6</sup>

In 1997 the University appeared to face what was arguably its worst ever financial crisis when it was informed that its state subsidy was to be another R28 million less than anticipated. Fortunately, this was substantially reduced to R8 million, but there was no indication as to what subsidy level could be anticipated in subsequent years. Student numbers were expected to double within the next decade with financial resources, at best, remaining static. Reluctantly, staff were subjected to yet another traumatic experience when

the Planning and Resources Committee initiated a reduction in the overall complement. Staff compensation (63.75%) and support services (18%) were still by far the biggest items of expenditure in the University's R381.1 million main fund operating account, 64.25% of which came in the form of government subsidy and 31% from student fees.

A structures and funding report estimated that the salary bill would have to be reduced by 22% (approximately R60 million), amounting to 645 posts, over the next five years to avoid salary cuts, fee increases and a decline in expenditure on buildings, refurbishment, computers, laboratories and libraries. The 'painful rightsizing exercise' as it was termed in Executive circles was understandably implemented more severely in those faculties and departments where student numbers were small and staff:student ratios therefore not cost-effective, but also across the board in support service and administrative divisions. Restructuring task teams assessed all academic and non-academic functions performed in the University to eliminate unnecessary duplication and considered whether any of the latter could more effectively be performed by outsourcing.

In an August 1997 letter to alumni Brenda Gourley outlined the latest financial crisis, involving the R8 million subsidy cut, with the prospect of more to come. By the end of 1997 about 400 jobs had already been identified at an estimated average annual saving of just under R100 000 per package, including benefits. Voluntary severance packages were offered in some divisions and accepted in sufficient numbers for the University to meet its immediate goals. These cuts were yet another source of alienation felt among some staff members during the 1990s.

In addition to staff reduction it was also intended, with the use of technology, to make all the University's internal systems much more efficient and cost-effective. The (Mike) McGrath Report, named after its principal author, the professor of Economics in Pietermaritzburg, offered a more equitable and rational resource allocation model for the future to be based on a recentralised University structure that no longer featured two centre budgets. The task team the Planning and Resources Committee appointed to make recommendations towards improving 'academic, administrative and management structures' reported that while government subsidies had 'fluctuated wildly' between 1988 and 1996 the 'real subsidy' per FTE student had actually declined. It also anticipated that, in common with other formerly whites-only institutions, the University would experience further substantial subsidy reductions to realise the NCHE's vision of transformation and redress. In 1997 universities were

informed that in future government subsidies would no longer be allocated on the basis of student numbers, but for registered programmes and that provisional registration of these would have to be completed by the end of that year.<sup>7</sup>

In 1999, a R16 million budget deficit was met out of reserves but, reluctantly, student fees still had to be increased by 7.5%. There was general concern about a decline in student numbers, which was impacting on fee income, and several other universities were being adversely affected by accumulated student debt with at least six institutions now in serious difficulty. It was estimated that 500 000 students were registered in rapidly developing private sector institutions compared with 375 000 in the public sector while the impact of AIDS, increasing use of the Internet and the blurring of distance and residential education were all contributing to declining numbers.

The University responded with a vigorous marketing campaign to attract non-traditional students. Encouragingly, the annual financial statements, now prepared in terms of the requirements of the Higher Education Act, indicated that by 2000 the University's financial situation was sufficiently sound to limit tuition fee increases to 5%. These had earlier been successfully changed from a 'fee by year' to a 'fee by course' system. That year its general operating budget exceeded R500 million for the first time and its general reserve fund, independent of the operating account, was valued at R41 million. This was in accordance with Council's established policy of maintaining reserves at a level of at least one month's operating costs.

The University continued to grow in terms of externally funded research contracts and grants as well as student numbers. In 2001 tuition and other fee income rose by 18%, in 2002 by 36% and in 2003 by R58 million despite increases being maintained below inflation levels. This was due partly to the University's incorporation of Edgewood College of Education and income generated by self-funded and distance-based programmes.

Increasing student numbers resulted in pressure to increase staff and infrastructure but caution on these fronts contributed to a consolidated surplus of R35.9 million for 2001 and R21.7 million in 2002 despite operating deficits in the previous three years and again in 2001 (R12.2 million) and 2002 (R12.1 million). These had to be met out of the general operating reserve, a trend that caused great concern with the fund standing at R5.3 million in 2001. A task team was therefore appointed to review all budgetary processes as well as possible means of cost containment and income generation.

In 2003 the University was still in a fairly sound financial position. Its Council-controlled main operating fund income amounted to R886.9 million, of which 56% was derived from government subsidies and grants and 32.3% from tuition and other fees. It exceeded total expenditure by R28.171 million (3.2% of income). Personnel costs (61.6% compared with the 63% government benchmark) and other operating expenses (30.1%) were the most expensive items with 3 412 full-time and 3 146 part-time staff employed that year. The estimated operating deficit had declined from R5.06 million to a mere R70 000 and the general reserve fund (as distinct from the operating reserve) stood at R39.9 million in December 2003 with an underlying market value of R51.8 million. The UNRF was also in a sound condition having been unaffected in 1995 when R22 million was drawn from the University's general reserves to top up the benefits of some former AIPF members who were disadvantaged by the change. Similarly the death, disability and funeral benefits account exceeded its underlying liabilities by R24.3 million.

In 2003 the University's investments were worth R251.423 million, including R179.743 million in local and international equities. Its total assets amounted to just over R1 billion, with property, plant and equipment valued at R374.927 million, including land and buildings (R255.502 million after allowing for depreciation). There was still some uncertainty about the future as the Ministry of Education intended to phase in a new funding formula over a three-year period from 2004 without, as yet, any clear indication as to the basic subsidy unit or the treatment of multi-campus institutions.

The University's sound financial situation was due, in part, to its longstanding systems of internal control, financial reporting, auditing and continuous review of all aspects of its risk profile.<sup>8</sup> Its financial circumstances in 2003 were also due, in part, to the University's own ongoing fundraising efforts.

### **Natal University Development Foundation**

In the wake of the spectacular inflow of donated funds in 1989 these increased by another 13% to R18.722 million in 1990. Corporate donors contributed a far lower proportion than in 1989, a decline from 80.3% to 64.2 % but foundations and trusts provided 32.6% compared with 9% reflecting, in part, the recent appointment of a bequest officer. There was a slight increase in gift club membership from 211 to 221 after several years of decline. Increasing numbers of donors continued to indicate the projects on which they wanted their contributions spent as reflected in a 6.7% decline in unspecified donations, but there was a further increase in support for student aid (R1.2 million to

R3.3 million) and salary subventions (R481 126 to R847 433) in 1990. There was only a slight increase in income from existing endowment funds and on current accounts while the market value of the University's endowment funds increased less than 1% to R20 056 269, reflecting current poor performance by the stock market. Gifts in kind increased from R168 000 to R464 000 primarily as a result of Information Services Management's further donations of computer equipment to the Computing Centre for Water Research.

In view of reductions in government subsidies it was fortunate that donations to the University almost trebled between 1986 and 1991. In 1990–1991 another capital appeal campaign was launched in the hope of raising R100 million over six years. It was a reaction to the subsidy cuts and in justifiable expectation that there were even heavier reductions to follow. Staff members gave advice about the institution's most urgent requirements and alumni assisted in advising where best to seek funds. Richard Keefe from one of the Downes Murray associate companies in the USA was employed to assist with a 'key gift phase' intended to raise R40 million from major foundations and corporations locally and abroad.

By late 1993 this had already raised R12 million with the promise of more to come. From 1992 staff and Council members responded to a University Family Campaign and a steering committee chaired by alumnus Warren Clewlow began to call upon potential donors while several regional fundraising projects were also launched within and beyond the province as part of the broader 'partners in progress' campaign. Council approved the registration of a fundraising corporation named Friends of the University of Natal Bursary Fund for Black Students as well as Educational Projects for the Advancement of Black South Africans.

At the end of 1993 Cedric Savage retired after a five-year stint chairing the NUDF board of governors, which had witnessed an increase in the annual contribution to its funds from R8.7 million in 1988 to R36.3 million. He was succeeded by Clewlow. Donations declined briefly to R31.8 million in 1994, of which as much as 42.5% came from foreign sources and in 1995 a generous donation from Barlow Ltd facilitated upgrading the University's library computer system in both centres. Bruno van Dyk succeeded Bryce Biggs as what was termed executive development officer in the NUDF, now an integral part of renamed Communication and Development under the direction of William Saunderson-Meyer.

In 1996 fundraising enjoyed a boost when a voluntary group of well-connected Americans formed a branch of the Friends of the University of

Natal with tax exemption status in the USA and began to assist in soliciting donations overseas. As state funding became increasingly less dependable, greater efforts had to be made to raise funds from other sources, including numerous alumni functions held in South Africa and abroad. In an increasingly competitive environment the University's relationship with some of its established donors had to be renegotiated as they reassessed their priorities in post-1994 democratic South Africa.

In 1996 the Board of Trustees of the Ford Foundation visited the University (the only one so favoured in the country) and a multidisciplinary team presented a new major funding proposal to the Mellon Foundation. The Far East, in particular Japan, now came under consideration as a source of potential funding. Brenda Gourley visited the United Nations University in Tokyo where initial funding of as much as R700 000 was offered to launch courses in Asian and Oriental Studies while a new Indian Ocean Rim initiative also held promise for the future.

In 1998 DVC Ahmed Bawa undertook a USA-sponsored visit to investigate how universities generated income there. He found that large state universities relied on government for only 25% of their budgets and that the University of Iowa had a 200-strong staff in its Development Foundation that raised \$200 million a year while research contracts raised the equivalent. That year John Volmink, formerly Durban Vice-Principal and already well-known in fundraising circles, became director of the NUDEF. Faced with increasing competition and donor fatigue, alumnus Jack Hulley suggested the establishment of the 50th Anniversary University Endowment Fund as a commemoration of the class of 1949's graduation and the change in the alma mater's status that year from Natal University College to University of Natal.

Hulley appealed personally to all his fellow graduands of 1949 to make R50 donations and multiples thereof in anticipation that subsequent alumni would similarly be approached on the 50th anniversary of their graduations. In 1999 Volmink accompanied Denis Hurley on a trip to the USA to generate income for the recently established Archbishop Hurley Education Fund for bursaries and scholarships and, among several other ventures, undertook another trip there with Gourley in part to re-activate the flagging Friends group.

In 1999 Alan Rycroft and the Friends of the University of Natal in the USA persuaded Ethel Kennedy, widow of the late Senator Robert Kennedy who spoke on the Durban campus in 1966, to support additions to the Law Library that would include a Human Rights Centre and be renamed the Robert F. Kennedy Law Library. In addition, the Hurley Fund was also launched in

Britain as was a campaign to finance the proposed opera school and voice academy in Durban's Department of Music with five students performing at a recital in South Africa House. Gourley's numerous public relations and fundraising trips abroad prior to her resignation included yet another to the USA, which involved visiting seven foundations, seven corporate organisations and seventeen individuals as well as several speaking engagements.

In 2000 the NUDF's structure was overhauled and relationships with potential donors strengthened in the face of ever-more challenging fundraising conditions. That year R20 million was raised, followed in 2001 by R51 million in donations and R141 million in pledges. In 2002 endowment funds increased by R17 million and another R42.5 million in donations was attracted during 2003. These were encouraging indications of the confidence the local and international donor community placed in the University's future.<sup>9</sup> Campus development also continued with an eye to the future, as and when affordable.

### **Buildings and extensions**

The shortage of laboratory and teaching space in Pietermaritzburg was greatly eased when the new Life Sciences Building was completed adjacent to the Faculty of Agriculture's building. In Durban a nearby house on King George V Avenue was bought for R1.4 million from the Shell Science and Mathematics Centre Educational Trust, which had initially acquired it to accommodate its Science and Mathematics Resource Centre but now donated the purchase price for the University to build more suitable premises. The subsequent relocation of Public Affairs and the NUDF to Shell House relieved the space shortage for Administration in the Francis Stock Building, but it required an additional R400 000 for refurbishment.

In 1993 Council approved the construction of a two-storey, 800 square metre Muslim prayer room on the Durban campus, subject to its proposed tower feature being excluded and the design being in conformity with the surrounding buildings. In 1994 the Campbell Building was altered to accommodate Geology and provide facilities for Botany. That year a building for the new University of Natal Education and Innovation Foundation (UNEIF) was completed on Francois Road (later Rick Turner Avenue) as part of the University's effort to promote research and community service.

Meanwhile the government at last decided to forge ahead with the construction of a new academic hospital on a pre-chosen site at Cato Manor that, it was estimated, would take seven years to complete at a revised cost of R400 million. A joint working group was formed between the University and



the Cato Manor Development Association (formerly Development Forum) in order to address issues of common concern with regard to the future use of that area. Council approved a proposal that the western valley section of the campus known as the Shepstone Reserve be declared a nature reserve in perpetuity. It also agreed that the western campus should be developed in partnership with outside bodies and be income generating where possible, but with no land leased beyond 30 years. In 1996, S. Schwenke, who had international planning experience, was appointed consultant to what had become known as the Cato Manor Project.

In Pietermaritzburg during the 1990s virtually every building was subjected to least cost changes to allow for the expansion of student numbers and courses. In 1994 the new Audio-Visual Centre was completed and the following year the Law Library was modified, a laboratory for Genetics was upgraded and the Principal's flat was converted into an executive dining room. Some R400 000 was spent on purchasing the property at 1, Ridge Road from the Lutheran Church because it was a central topographical site on the campus guide plan and would almost certainly be needed for further growth.

There were also changes to the accommodation of the University Administration on that campus. Among other rearrangements, Registry was transferred to refurbished offices, Student Admissions and faculty officers for Humanities and Science and Agriculture were housed in the front half of the Main Administration Building with their deans and administrative assistants upstairs. The rear ground-floor foyer was refurbished and the beautifully panelled Vice-Chancellor's office to which it led retained its antique furniture, including the chairs from the Natal colonial government's offices donated to the University at the time of Union in 1910.

Shatterproof glass was installed in the windows as well as in the Deputy Registrar's office together with steel in place of wooden shutters as a precaution against any further violent student protests. The Human Resources Division was moved to Milner Road where fences were removed and the Planning Office consolidated all buildings acquired over the years into one landscaped block of undulating lawns and shrubbery with integrated parking facilities where necessary.

In the Chemistry, Commerce and Education buildings ground-floor parking spaces were converted into much-needed teaching and office facilities with air conditioning where necessary. In the Science Building a staircase was attached to the external wall and another floor was added to provide for additional map teaching space. In addition, during the early 1990s appropriately located and

secure cycle bays had to be provided as more staff and students took to cycling to the campus.

By mid-decade the Planning Office's personnel in Pietermaritzburg had grown from one to five but the University's ongoing financial crisis so inhibited its functions that staff were redeployed to other sections while the head, Peter Howe, took voluntary early retirement but retained his association with the institution as a consultant. Despite the financial climate, in 1996 it was decided to contribute R100 000 to underwrite the employment of a director for an envisaged basketball academy Campus Principal David Maughan Brown actively promoted. Pietermaritzburg's Transitional Local Council showed interest in this initiative and it was envisaged that the building for it might also constitute an indoor sports centre and examination/graduation venue, but the scheme did not materialise.

In 2003 the Pietermaritzburg campus did acquire 16, Milner Road for R200 000 with another R120 000 spent on refurbishment, the intention being to use it for postgraduate and senior student accommodation. In addition, the main entrance to the Scottsville campus was relocated from Durban Road (Alan Paton Avenue) to King Edward Avenue. In response to the mounting need for more effective security, road booms and access control to buildings were installed together with a complete perimeter fence. This was after R1 million worth of property had been stolen from the campus in 1995 and another R2.8 million in 1996, R307 000 and R895 000 worth of it respectively being University-owned. Similar security measures were implemented in Durban.

In 1995 Protection Services changed its name to the more widely used Risk Management Services and more effective multi-purpose identity cards, which included a bar code and magnetic strip, were introduced for both staff and students. Bruce Stead undertook the aesthetically more pleasing task of comprehensive landscaping on both the Pietermaritzburg and Howard College campuses. On the former the Old Main Building was refurbished and in 1992 the Colin Webb Hall was named while the Council Chamber was named after Registrar, Peter Leeb-du Toit.

The University naming committee also addressed the matter of previously unnamed roads on the Pietermaritzburg campus, adopting Moira Bolton's suggestions of William O'Brien Close, Studio Close, Chemistry Close, Hexagon Lane, Denison Drive and Agric Avenue. In addition, at the far end of the Golf Road campus the Peter Booysen Sports Park was established. In 1989–1990 the Estates Division was restructured in accordance with the

recommendations of the Hesketh Report, which also proposed outsourcing the facilities management function at Howard College.

There was a major renaming process on that campus, too, with the Students Union Building named after Richard Turner thirteen years after his murder and the conference room in the Administration Building renamed after Athlone Skinner. Several internal roads were renamed, including Mkhumbane Road (off Francois Road, later Rick Turner Avenue, to the new Albert Luthuli Complex), Science Drive, Manor View and Scully Road, Residence Crescent, Thusini Walk, Chemistry Close, Devil's Drive and Jubilee, Howard, Memorial Tower, Centenary and Theatre lanes.

John Benyon summed up the architecture in both centres as “undistinguished”, though there are some notable exceptions. In a university, however, one must remain mindful that it is not the “externals” that count!’ It was evident to him, as to others previously, that there had been ‘no consistent effort to produce a uniformity, or at least a harmony, between the buildings – as was followed in the case of Rhodes, or UCT ... Whatever the architectural mode-of-the-moment happened to be – Edwardian, Tween Wars Art Deco, Wiener Bauhaus, Frank Lloyd Wright, Modern or Post-Modern – the “powers-that-were” enthusiastically embraced for their latest building.’

Hence Pietermaritzburg had its Old Main Building that ‘imitated a Victorian or Edwardian “red brick” high school’ and its Library ‘with mosaic tiles that made it look a little like an aquarium’ although the additional storey and roof ‘brought it more into line with the “red brick” motif’ of the old campus. Its new campus, however, comprised a ‘mix of concrete styles, one of which was described as a “Bunker”’. Similarly Durban had its ‘mix-up of styles with Tower Building “impressive”, although some were churlish enough to dub it “Stalinist”!’<sup>10</sup> In July 2003 a R5.8 million red-brick building, for which BHP Billiton had contributed R1 million, was opened on the corner of Golf and Ridge roads to accommodate the rapidly growing Science Foundation and MBA programmes in Pietermaritzburg. It was the first significant academic building to be erected on that campus in 22 years.

In 2000 the University sold a portion of land on its Howard College western campus for R442 330 in order to facilitate municipal road development and in 2003 Council approved, subject to ministerial condonation, the donation of another section for the construction of a proposed Cato Manor Forced Removals Museum and Heroes Memorial Park, which was to be accompanied by an apology for the University’s involvement in the policy of forced removals.

The land was of no practical value to the University and it was an appropriate gesture in view of the numerous, largely Indian-occupied properties that had been expropriated in that area to make room for campus expansion, although the process had not included the former Cato Manor settlement. The conservation pond on the western campus, used by students for various projects, was named the Amaselesele Pond (pond of frogs), which was fortunately too far distant to disturb nocturnal users of the Library.<sup>11</sup>

### **Library**

The inadequate funding that, to varying degrees, had always constrained library services was eventually formally acknowledged in the last days of the University of Natal. As Nora Buchanan's research has shown, at least as early as 1989 it was recognised that the financial allocation for books and journals (R4.9 million or 3% of budget) was significantly less than the libraries generated in terms of the Department of Education's SAPSE formula. In a report submitted to the Planning and Resources Committee in December 2003 David Walker showed that in 1997 this amounted to 6% less for library materials than had been allowed for by that formula.

During the subsequent six years the funding of library services deteriorated even further to reach a crisis situation in 2002, even though government's allocation for libraries rose from 4% to nearly 6% of the University's total subsidy in 2000. As Walker's report revealed, 18% of the funds intended for the libraries was being used for other purposes while no allocation at all was made to them from non-subsidy sources of income. This continued an historical tradition of neglect that seriously handicapped the University's teaching and research functions.

The Planning and Resources Committee responded by recommending to Council that the government's estimation of 6% of its total allocation should henceforth be earmarked for library services. This broke with the longstanding tradition of usually calculating the annual library budget on the basis of the previous year's expenditure, a method that did not seem to change following the establishment in 1998 of an Academic Resource Allocation Committee. The new proposal also conformed with an independent study, which concluded that expenditure of 6% of the subsidy component was essential to ensure the provision of an 'excellent' library service as distinct from one which was 'acceptable' (5%) or 'minimal' (3%). The committee responded more immediately to the 2002 crisis with a top-up grant to assist in meeting

journal subscriptions, which had increased markedly due, in part, to inflation and a deteriorating rand exchange rate.<sup>12</sup>

By then a number of subscriptions, particularly in Agriculture, Medicine and the Sciences, had already been discontinued in the course of yet another unpopular round of rationalisation. In 1989 the University's Planning Committee made a recommendation to that effect as part of an across-the-board attempt to reduce expenditure. Four years later, in response to increasing budget constraints and the expectation of external donors that tertiary institutions should share their resources, the Pietermaritzburg Library staff initiated discussions with their Durban counterparts about sharing journal subscriptions. For several years the former had sought to maintain an even-handed 50:50 expenditure on books and journals while the latter had tried to maintain its journal subscriptions to the detriment of book purchases.

After protracted negotiations focusing on those journals that currently cost more than R2 000 a year, a substantial saving was achieved by eliminating 144 duplicate titles, but not without causing considerable dissatisfaction among academic staff in both centres. After 1995 approximately R50 000 worth of journals were cut in Pietermaritzburg and R60 000 in Durban. This understandably placed greater dependence upon an efficient inter-library loan service, but it was also evident that duplication could not be entirely eliminated without the complete rationalisation of academic departments.

According to Buchanan the crisis was eased to some extent by access to online searching which had had its origin in Durban's Science and Engineering branch library in 1979 before being taken over in 1981. Nicole Geslin, a temporary researcher, was now employed to identify resources that were freely available on the Internet and to approach a variety of organisations to facilitate access to their free or discounted material. By the end of 2003 the University's libraries were able to list more than 600 electronic journals freely available on the Internet together with other subject-specific and general websites.<sup>13</sup>

In some cases negotiations with publishers to authorise multi-campus access to free electronic journals were initially hampered by the distance between the University's two centres but this was overcome by participation from 2002 in the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI). Multi-site licences at last made it possible to access a journal simultaneously from both centres on payment of a single shared subscription. Buchanan has shown that in 2003 the University gained access to seven databases via SASLI, effecting a saving of R783 832. Access to SASLI was, in turn, one of the significant benefits of being a member of the Eastern Seaboard Association of Libraries (esAL),

launched in 1996 and the recently formed Committee of South African Library Consortia (COSALC). esAL had emerged out of the so-called Regional Institutional Co-operation Project (RICP) funded by the Ford Foundation.

RICP's various initiatives included the formation of a committee to improve closer library co-operation with representatives from the University's two centres as well as from UDW, the University of Zululand, UNISA's Durban branch, Technikon Natal, Mangosuthu Technikon and the M.L. Sultan Technikon. The formation of esAL made it possible to build on this initiative as well as on the closer regional co-operation already achieved through the short-lived Regional Libraries in Natal organisation and the Committee on Library Co-operation, which included the University of Natal (Durban and Pietermaritzburg), UDW and Zululand. The inclusion of the three local technikon libraries brought esAL a step closer to realising its avowed objective of developing a single resource base for all its members and thereby also contributing towards the completion of a national bibliographic network.

Task groups were established to collaborate on such matters as cataloguing, user education and networking. The Mellon Foundation provided the financial means to assist the Technikon Natal Library to convert its bibliographic database to the URICA system already used by all other consortium members and to implement enhancements to their software, thus creating a virtual catalogue embracing all participating libraries. Unfortunately, the networks between them proved slow and sometimes unreliable. In May 2003, after reviewing the now more than twenty-year-old URICA system, the esAL steering committee accepted the need for change and the rest of the year was spent preparing for the implementation of a new system.<sup>14</sup>

There were also significant developments in the more immediate Pietermaritzburg area. In 1992 the local Theological Cluster was given access to the University Library's computer system to develop 'a central bibliographic database for Pietermaritzburg's main theological libraries'. The following year the privately established Natal Society Library, which for decades had served as the city's municipal library, began to add its titles online to the Cataloguing Network in Pietermaritzburg (CATNIP). This further expanded the developing local online database, which effectively documented the collections of participating libraries for the benefit of both teachers and researchers without the necessity for large financial and staffing resources. As Colleen Vietzen recalled, with its own computerisation completed well in advance of its regional associates, the Pietermaritzburg campus library took the lead in this

process by capturing data on their behalf and providing a centralised data storage facility without charge to all CATNIP users.

In Durban, following the University's incorporation of the Edgewood College of Education in February 2001, the relatively small Edminson Library became a branch library under the authority of the University Librarian in Durban. There were less than 1 000 students to cater for at Edgewood and the library staff establishment was reduced from nine to three. While some difficulties were encountered, the computerised catalogue was absorbed into that of the E.G. Malherbe Library on the Durban campus and all the material there relating to Education was transferred to the Edminson Library.

This provided useful experience for the subsequent more complicated link up of the University of Natal libraries with that of UDW following government's decision to merge the two institutions. Natal's holdings then comprised more than one million items, 650 000 in Durban and 420 000 in Pietermaritzburg, while UDW's 310 000-strong collection was accommodated on a single campus but in a main library with two small branches. A ten-person merger task team, drawn from Durban and Pietermaritzburg, was formed in 2002 to prepare for negotiations with their UDW counterparts.

The first meeting, scheduled for January 2003, was unfortunately delayed until June by circumstances beyond the control of the two teams but by the end of that year the library merger process was reportedly well underway. Henceforth, five campus libraries were to form a unitary system under a Director of Libraries. It was, as Buchanan suggests, reminiscent of the Coblans era of the late 1940s when similar efforts were made to integrate five libraries in two centres into a single structure.

Library associations and services at the national as well as the regional level were entering a new era. For a time the Library and Information Workers Organisation of South Africa maintained its position as 'an independent activist organisation involved in social transformation', providing 'a forum for the voiceless, the marginalised and the non conformist' in that sector at a time when the country was still undergoing 'a difficult period of transition' in which vigilance was essential to ensure that 'the new order is not simply an extension of the old'.

In July 1997 the new Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) was established following an earlier conference held jointly in Durban by its predecessors the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science and the African Library Association of South Africa. Later that year at its congress in Denmark the International Federation of

Library Associations concluded a long era of international isolation for the country's librarians when it formally admitted LIASA to its ranks safe in the knowledge that it had dedicated itself to addressing 'past imbalances' and providing 'quality library and information services' for all.

Back home there was a brief setback when in 1999 the South African Universities Vice Chancellors Association (SAUVCA), successor to the CUP, disbanded the Inter University Library Committee in an effort to reduce the number of committees under its control. The latter had contributed a great deal to higher education in the country for more than a quarter of a century. In order to retain their established links and continue to interact with both SAUVCA and the Council for Higher Education, university librarians responded to its demise by forming the short-lived Forum of University Librarians of South Africa.

Following a series of meetings with the Inter Technikon Library Committee a merger was approved in May 2003 and a joint interim committee was elected. In June 2004 the Committee for Higher Education Librarians of South Africa was launched to represent all of South Africa's tertiary education libraries with the technikons now formally known from October 2003 as universities of technology.<sup>15</sup>

The integration and merger of the University of Natal's library systems into those of other local, regional and national library services would not have been possible without the advent of the Internet. Staff and student demand for access to electronic material increased exponentially and in 1997 both of the University's libraries established their own websites, which soon provided an overview of all aspects of the service they provided. The process of integration and merger could also not have been achieved without successfully completing the libraries' own automation programme or, more accurately, that of the Durban Library which lagged behind its Pietermaritzburg counterpart.

As Buchanan has shown Durban's successful conversion of the bibliographic database from DOBIS/LIBIS, which it acquired in 1984, to URICA from 1989 in imitation of Pietermaritzburg was followed by rapid progress with cataloguing – as many as 20 000 items in 1991. Within two years only 10% of Durban's card catalogue still needed to be converted while acquisitions, circulation and short loan modules had also been installed. In 1994 modern Unix servers followed in both libraries to replace their outdated minicomputers and provided efficient access until the 2004 merger with UDW necessitated the implementation of a new system.<sup>16</sup>



Automation, the Internet and electronic access to the resources of other libraries inevitably had a dramatic impact upon the University's traditional hard copy collections and their usage. In November 1989 both of its libraries acquired a workstation, comprising a microcomputer and CD-ROM player, to provide access to databases. The new technology had first appeared nearly a decade earlier but local use of databases was initially slow because subscriptions to them were more expensive than hardcopy versions. Demand nevertheless increased and by 1996 the libraries were subscribing to 33 of them in total with only three duplications.

That year the URC demonstrated its commitment to the new technology by financing a shared subscription to the Institute for Scientific Information's Science, Social Sciences and Humanities citation indexes on CD-ROM. Thereafter Durban researchers were no longer obliged to rely upon the hard copy versions to which only the Pietermaritzburg library had subscribed. The new technology enabled scholars to conduct their own literature searches for material relevant to their interests more effectively while librarians increasingly found themselves imparting the necessary skills for them to do so instead of conducting searches on their behalf.

Buchanan's research has shown that access to electronic databases and other material impacted not only on research within the University but also modified its teaching methods. Most notably, the Medical Library's website was developed to assist in delivering a new problem-based learning programme in that Faculty. In 1999 the libraries in both centres acquired access to several web-based databases that made a wide variety of material available, primarily in the Humanities and Social Sciences but also to Medline, an important medical database. This was facilitated by the National Electronic Information for Libraries Direct Initiative, promoted jointly by the Open Society Institute and the commercial firm Ebsco Publishing. As more online databases were acquired both students and staff indicated an increasing preference for electronic material rather than print-based collections and the libraries moved accordingly in that direction.

Similarly SABINET, established in 1983 and to which the University was eventually linked from 1986, had previously provided access to the national union catalogue in the form of the *Union Catalogue of Theses and Dissertations* and the *Index to South African Periodicals*, but now began to provide access to a much broader range of online information after being bought by SABINET Online in 1997. This private company developed its technical infrastructure and offered improved support to its client base by successfully collaborating

with several international partners. The University's libraries and their users also benefited from the Ariel software that was affordable through SABINET Online and worked with the interlibrary loans service to deliver information conveniently via users' desktops.<sup>17</sup>

By 2000 the increasing demand for Internet facilities had obliged the University to increase its budget for bandwidth from R1 million to R2 million but SAUVCA's negotiations with Telkom to secure a bigger bandwidth for the whole higher education sector at a favourable price to be funded by the Mellon Foundation offered the prospect of considerable savings. By then the University's Internet line was described as 'hopelessly congested' with adverse effects on its academic activities. After various efforts to limit unnecessary bandwidth use Council was reluctantly drawn to the conclusion that, while it wanted students to become computer literate and benefit from the information available on the Internet, from 2001 charges would have to be introduced beyond the provision of a basic monthly 5MB allowance.

The gradual shift among readers towards electronically available texts was evident in their changing use of the short loan (reserved) collections in both centres. These had previously grown steadily in size in response to the expectation of lecturers that students should consult a variety of specifically recommended readings and to ensure that all the candidates in any given course had a fair opportunity to do so, particularly with regard to the preparation of compulsory written assignments. In the absence of multiple copies of the relevant material, which library budgets could not afford, the reserve collections became an unavoidable necessity. Consequently, they expanded from a few shelves behind the issue desk in Pietermaritzburg to a separate section in 1973. They eventually occupied the whole first-floor reading room in Durban's MTB before even more space was provided with the opening of the E.G. Malherbe Library.

Increasing use was also made of photocopied material to meet the need for multiple copies of some items, to the extent that in 1999 a copyright officer was employed to ensure that lecturers secured copyright clearance before resorting to this measure. As a result the quantity of photocopies placed on reserve declined significantly, although the overall use of short loan collections was already decreasing in line with national and international trends. In Pietermaritzburg's Main Library there was a decline of 70% and in Durban a reduction of 65% between 1995 and 2001.

This may have been due, in part, to the introduction of printed course packs and other changes in undergraduate teaching methods or to a decline in

lecturers' reading expectations of their students. Yet the simultaneous shrinking of short loan collections and the increasing acquisition of online resources in both centres seem to have been more than a coincidence. As Buchanan has indicated, a notable exception was the Medical Library for which extra funds had to be provided to buy more books and the whole budget devoted to periodical subscriptions to support the new 2001 Problem Based Learning programme.

Student access to an ever-widening range of resources through the Internet vastly broadened their horizons of knowledge and created new learning and teaching opportunities. The scrapping of the libraries' banned collections also gave them ready access to material that had previously been tightly controlled. This followed President de Klerk's February 1990 unbanning of several political organisations opposed to the National Party government. Numerous items were technically still subject to the 1974 Publications Act but in August 1990 the University libraries resolved simply to ignore the existence of any surviving censorship regulations. They thereby at last eliminated a longstanding source of irritation between themselves and the academic staff, more particularly on the Durban campus.<sup>18</sup>

As Buchanan's research has revealed, there were also important developments in both centres with regard to library accommodation, administration and staffing. By the early 1990s accommodation was at a premium in Pietermaritzburg's Main Library as well as in the Medical Library and branch libraries in Durban. Cecil Renaud's generous R1 million donation provided the basis for R3 800 000 worth of alterations which in 1990–1991 refurbished the interior and facade and added another floor to the main library building in Pietermaritzburg in preference to an alternative lateral extension of all three existing floors. An additional extra floor, as planned in the 1960s, was not possible as it threatened the structure's load-bearing capacity.

Durban's somewhat neglected branch libraries were refurbished and in 1992 a spacious new medical library was constructed in the original quadrangle to accommodate its 87 000 volumes of material. In 2002 the law library was expanded into one of the interior garden courtyards of the Howard College Building whose exterior could not be altered as it was a designated national monument. This provided improved seating and computer facilities as well as natural lighting through a glass roof.<sup>19</sup>

By then improvements to the administration of the University's libraries were already more than a decade old. Following James Leatt's 1991 VCR the Medical Library Committee became a sub-committee of the Durban Library

Committee. After a further review, the responsibilities of the Muckleneuk Management Committee pertaining to the Campbell Collections (Africana Library, Furniture and Art and Ethnology) were transferred to a new academic director who reported directly to the campus Executive in Durban and subsequently to the DVC (Academic). The 31-year direct association of those collections with the University Library ended in 1996 as they now formed the basis of a graduate research centre under the directorship of Professor Iain Edwards (formerly Economic History, Durban) and from 1999 under Professor Yonah Seleti (formerly History, Durban) to which the Faculty of Humanities Oral Documentation and Research Centre had already been attached.

Other initiatives included the digitisation of the photographic and ethnographic collections there with funding from the URC as well as a national collaborative project, Digital Innovation South Africa, which attracted external funding to develop a database of significant socio-political material. Among other new acquisitions the Campbell Collections acquired the family papers that N.I. (Newman) Robinson had bequeathed it, including 130 diaries stretching from the 1880s to the 1970s. In 1997, on the strength of a R2.9 million Mellon Foundation grant and another R1 million in 2003, the Killie Campbell Africana Library became the centre for a national imaging project and a base for training conservation officers working at museums all over sub-Saharan Africa.

Following the 1997 restructuring of the University Executive, from 1998 both libraries were required to report to the DVC (Academic) instead of their campus Vice-Principal. Regular meetings with the DVC, often via video-conference, helped to promote the exchange of information and the development of common policy, to the extent that the two deputy university librarians, Cara Pretorius and Nora Buchanan, were tasked with developing shared mission and vision statements. After protracted discussions with library staff these were formally adopted in October 1998. They provided useful common ground in the merger negotiations with UDW that were to follow.

The reporting line established in 1998 continued until August 2003 when, following the further redistribution of workloads within the University Executive, the libraries were instructed to report to the DVC (Research). Moreover, in view of the negative impact the merger process was expected to have on the University's research output, a part-time Pro Vice-Chancellor was appointed to assist in maintaining the research impetus and assume responsibility for the libraries. The close association of the two indicated a growing emphasis on the importance of the University's research function.<sup>20</sup>

There were several changes in the libraries' staff personnel at senior management level. In 1990 Molly van der Linde retired owing to ill health after dedicated service as University Librarian in Durban since 1986. Goolam Haffajee, a deputy university librarian there, succeeded her. His support for participative management helped to ameliorate the staff difficulties experienced in the Durban Library while his disestablishment of the deputy's post he had vacated helped to align it more closely with the structure of its Pietermaritzburg counterpart. In 1991 Reigneth Nyongwana was appointed senior librarian in charge of the Medical Library where she had worked since 1976 while acquiring an honours degree and diploma in Library Science and visiting repositories in the USA on an international visitors' programme.

In 1996 Colleen Vietzen retired after eighteen years of conscientious service as University Librarian in Pietermaritzburg and was succeeded by deputy librarian Christopher Merrett. Following his appointment in 2002 as Director of Administration (Pietermaritzburg) and Haffajee's retirement neither post was filled in view of the impending merger with UDW. Instead, the deputy librarians were appointed in an acting capacity to negotiate that uncertain process.<sup>21</sup>

Buchanan has pointed out that during the course of the 1990s library staff, like other members of the University's 'non-academic' complement, had to adjust to a new process of job evaluation, salary increases that applied only to 'educators' and the financial crisis that necessitated the overall disestablishment of 600 posts, both academic and non-academic. For a number of reasons, the Peromnes system of job evaluation introduced from March 1988 caused dissatisfaction among Durban librarians as much as it did among other members of the non-academic staff. In addition, professional librarians considered the distinction drawn between academic and non-academic staff as



**G.H. (Goolam) Haffajee** was a graduate of Durban's University College for Indians (later UDW) and held a masters degree from the University of Natal. He served as a deputy university librarian on the Durban campus for some years before assuming the post of University Librarian there. He was actively involved in the University's process of transformation, serving on its BTF and the Equal Opportunities and Affirmative Action Committee.



**C.E. (Christopher) Merrett** was a graduate of the universities of Oxford, Sheffield, Natal and Cape Town and served as deputy university librarian in Pietermaritzburg from 1979. Prior to his promotion to University Librarian in 1996 he had already published a number of significant articles and established his reputation as a hardworking and efficient administrator while supervising the computerisation of Pietermaritzburg's library systems. Merrett was responsible for initiating the journal *Innovation: Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa*, which was

based in the Pietermaritzburg Library, and later gained SAPSE accreditation and international recognition. He also served JASA in a secretarial capacity (1983–1987), chaired the University Lecture Committee (1985–1987) and was a member of the Academic Freedom Committee (2001–2003). In 2002 he assumed the post of Director of Administration in Pietermaritzburg until taking early retirement in 2007 to become a journalist at the *Witness*.

quite arbitrary in its application to professionally qualified individuals such as themselves who were not regarded as members of the teaching staff, but who nevertheless were actively involved in educating students and in conducting research. The Faculty of Arts in Durban was the first academic body in the University formally to recognise this but government's additional grant in March 1990 to enable universities to increase the salaries of educators caused further dissatisfaction among those designated as 'non-educators'; that is, non-academic staff members.

In May 1990 some of the Pietermaritzburg library staff staged a brief stayaway from work in solidarity with non-academic staff who were protesting about discriminatory salaries and, in particular, the arbitrary distinction drawn between academic staff and professional librarians. Durban subject librarians expressed their dissatisfaction with the inadequacies of Peromnes in assessing the complexities of their jobs by embarking upon non-voluntary participation. Pietermaritzburg subject librarians, semi-professionals and administrative staff were evaluated more favourably in that system because of their diverse duties and the level of responsibility already devolved to them within the Library's horizontal structure. Colleen Vietzen and Anndora Twigg gained an appreciation of the Peromnes system by becoming evaluators and were adept at writing accurate job descriptions.

After a promised comparison of the salary scales of qualified library staff at the University with those in the technikons failed to materialise the University of Natal Durban Library Workers' Association was formed to promote librarians' interests. With regard to salaries they continued to argue that staff members, particularly subject librarians, should also be regarded as educators.

In April 1991, following the appointment of Registrar Ben de Wet's commission to investigate non-academic salary scales and those of professional library staff in particular, a sub-committee of the De Wet Commission met library staff in both centres. In February the following year an analysis conducted by the Durban staff demonstrated that qualified librarians and assistants at the University were being paid 30% less than their counterparts at five other educational institutions in greater Durban. After the Registrar's conciliatory address to library staff in July 1992 and the University's acceptance of the pre-conditions they had stipulated, the grading process was at last able to proceed in the Durban Library as well as in Pietermaritzburg.

In common with the rest of the University, the library staff was also adversely affected by the financial crisis of the late 1990s. As part of the overall attempt to reduce costs by cutting posts and achieving greater efficiencies, a library task team was established to investigate the budgets and staffing structures of the libraries, consider the possibility of centralising their functions and management, propose plans for their future and calculate a 22% reduction in their salary bill over the next five years. The Durban University Librarian eventually indicated that eight posts could be disestablished there, even though a local review committee had established that the staff complement had already declined nearly 20% from 113 in 1990 to 91 in 1996. The Pietermaritzburg University Librarian proposed a reduction of no less than nineteen posts, amounting to a 31% saving on the current 61-strong establishment, which was significantly more than the 22% required. By 1999 the overall library establishment had already been reduced by twelve posts but with unavoidable consequences in terms of providing a slower service for a growing number of users. It was fervently hoped that the forthcoming merger with UDW might ease the situation through a further process of rationalisation involving both institutions.<sup>22</sup>

Indeed, there were numerous staffing and other expectations attached to that process.

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## STAFFING AND TEACHING

DURING THE LAST YEARS of its existence the University experienced course, curricula and staff changes as it had done in previous decades. It also felt the impact of significant financial constraints and a transformation of the national educational landscape resulting in traumatic alterations to staff pension options, a downsizing of its personnel and concerted efforts to reform its ethnic and gender composition. In the late 1990s the University also underwent a major restructuring of its academic activities. This included the implementation of common course credit rating and quality index systems, semesterisation, efforts to become a learning organisation, the amalgamation of faculties, absorption of traditional departments into multidisciplinary schools, and the incorporation of the Edgewood College of Education.

### **Conditions of service**

Job evaluation of non-academic posts became a particular issue of contention during the 1990s. This had first been introduced in the 1970s as a means of comparing posts to establish differential pay scales. The modified version of the Institute of Office Management's clerical job grade scheme that was initially implemented proved to be unsuitable and from March 1988 the Peromnes system, which facilitated comparisons with pay rates in other organisations, was introduced.

Six committees, each including a Human Resources Division representative, were trained in the relevant evaluation methods but the implementation of the scheme soon caused dissatisfaction. Explanatory letters issued to staff were described as incomprehensible, those trained as evaluators were not necessarily deployed to assess posts within their own areas of expertise, and the findings of the whole process were not communicated and implemented promptly. In 1990 revised conditions of service were introduced for non-academic staff with the option of converting to them. Both academic and non-academic staff benefited from lower finance charges, insurance rates and tax

reductions following more flexible salary packages plus the introduction of a staff motor vehicle scheme.

The University was particularly concerned that its academic salaries compared so unfavourably with those in the private sector and also with some other universities following the lapse of an earlier agreement concerning uniform pay scales. The Raab Committee was appointed to investigate the matter further. The situation was compounded for non-academic staff when, in March 1990, government allocated the University an extra R4.1 million specifically to increase the salaries of its educators by 12%. Considerably more was needed to implement it, but this understandably caused further dissatisfaction among supposed non-educators, that is non-academic staff members. Government subsequently announced a 10% non-pensionable allowance for all public sector employees, but provided the University with only 80% of the funds needed to meet it.

After revising its 1990 budget the University granted a minimum 13% non-pensionable allowance to all employees with adjustments for different staff categories in relation to comparable wages in the private sector. A salary enhancement fund was established for this purpose by drawing at least R1 million a year from the reserve investment portfolio. An 18% increase was granted to post level six professors and 23% to their post level seven colleagues. Semi-skilled and labourer grades were also awarded 18% but those employees unsuccessfully went on strike for a 30% improvement until the 18% was backdated to the beginning of the year. When technical and administrative staff objected to that increase compared with their own 13% the University undertook to investigate inappropriate gradings within the new Peromnes system and the salaries paid in specialist areas of non-academic expertise. The SRCs argued that differential increases were divisive and contrary to the spirit of the Mission Statement.

It was pointed out that while complete parity was not always possible the University offered what was arguably the best overall benefit package among similar institutions and was confident that it was now much better able to attract and retain all levels of staff. Even so, Council recommended that, where possible, departments should henceforth consider making appointments at lower levels than established grade posts or on short-term contracts to reduce salary costs and facilitate greater flexibility for future long-term planning. The Registrar, Ben de Wet, led a further investigation into non-academic salary scales and submitted a report that resulted in some grading anomalies being resolved and non-pensionable allowances increased.

In 1996, after extensive negotiation, academics were awarded another 14% increase and non-academics 12.5% with notch increments. That year, after dissatisfaction concerning the non-disclosure of executive salary scales, they were made available to all the staff associations. This revealed that 63% of South African universities were paying more than Natal at that level while academic and non-academic salary scales were on the 50th percentile. By then graduate assistantships were below basic subsistence level, obliging many appointees to seek extra part-time work to the detriment of both their own studies and important undergraduate teaching duties. The salaries and fringe benefits of medical staff had to be considered separately as they were still employed either on joint or provincial conditions of service that were determined by the Medical Association of South Africa.

There was growing disquiet among some staff members about the changing appointment procedure and role of deans, already perceptible in the mid-1980s when faculties still elected them to represent their best interests. It was prompted by the deans' collective rejection at that time of the Walker Report, which had recommended reductions in the staff complement of faculties (see Chapter 1). This was followed by considerable discussion at Faculty board level, Senate and Senex concerning a document 'Role of the dean' that the Vice-Principal (Finance and Technical Services) Brenda Gourley circulated. The University Executive argued that as it was intended to delegate a 'substantial' amount of the authority and responsibility previously entrusted to the Principal and Vice-Principals to the deans, 'it seemed reasonable and appropriate' that the Executive should have 'input' into their selection and appointment process.

Among other reservations expressed in this regard the Pietermaritzburg Faculty of Arts Board in particular unanimously rejected 'the process of selection as a replacement for the present system of election followed by ratification'. Nevertheless, in March 1990 Senex unanimously resolved that henceforth deans would be selected from the nominations and applications received from individuals or faculties by a committee comprising the Principal, Campus Vice-Principal, one Senate member and four elected Faculty representatives. Such appointments would require a majority of five votes, including at least two of the Faculty representatives and would be for a four-year term. As deans were now centrally appointed and were to be directly responsible to their campus Vice-Principals it remained to be seen how strong an independent voice faculties would continue to enjoy. Much still depended upon the personality and persuasive skills of individual deans as well as their loyalty to faculties ahead of the University Administration.

In the early 1990s those in Durban were still influential enough to lead a movement that resulted in the resignation of James Leatt as Principal while the Pietermaritzburg deans took their own decision not to become involved. The role of deans in ensuring the maintenance of academic standards and the implementation of policies relating to finance, staff and students was also subsequently clarified. Henceforth, faculties would be rated in terms of the number of their departments, staff complement, undergraduate and postgraduate student headcounts and attached research groups and institutions.

By 1995 the need for assistant deans in some faculties was recognised, primarily to focus on education development and on those students who were encountering academic difficulties. Significantly, perhaps, the Executive decided that deans, whose independence was by then well in decline, would not be required to participate in the decision making involved in the restructuring of the late 1990s, avowedly to spare any new, inexperienced appointees the difficult task of reducing their staff.<sup>1</sup>

There was a further crisis, this time relating not to salaries but to staff pensions, when in 1994 the University established the UNRF, apparently to 'safeguard the financial interests of staff and as an alternative to the underfunded and beleaguered government pension scheme', the AIPF to which all permanent staff members and some associated organisations belonged. The Korsten Committee had investigated the AIPF for some time, primarily because a September 1991 actuarial valuation had established that its funding level was only 58.6%. This was due partly to the nature of its investments in government stock and to the unrealistic basis on which members had been permitted to buy back their pensions.

The Korsten committee's proposals to revitalise the AIPF raised its funding level to 70% but was primarily achieved, at great cost, by increasing the University contributions from 2.04 to 3.7 times that of employees. Government subsidised the University's additional R9.95 million expense in 1993 with R6.7 million, but there was no certainty that any further assistance would be provided in subsequent years and there was the prospect of a further R3 million deficit in 1994 alone. In terms of the new April 1994 regulations, contributing institutions could retain all their employees and pensioners in the AIPF or establish their own pension funds. Individual employees could choose either option, if both were available, or resign from the AIPF and defer their pension payout until retirement. After explanatory meetings on all the campuses, which were characterised by some warmth of feeling, as many as 91% of the staff elected to transfer to the University's new, more flexible option.

It enabled staff to choose between a provident fund or monthly pension, was much more sympathetic to those who took early retirement or resigned, while males and females were no longer obliged to make contributions at differing rates with different financial benefits. Moreover, the University community was now able to appoint its own board of trustees, with Alexander Forbes serving as actuary and administrator. The fund was to be based not on defined benefit (final salary) but on defined contribution (the total sum paid into it).

However, there was considerable dissatisfaction about the lump-sum payouts that the AIPF granted those who withdrew from it, amounting to a 39.5% loss in their investment capital. This alleged underpayment of transfer values was pursued by several universities, but eventually dropped. Some staff members who were close to retirement opted to remain with the AIPF but a few who were between five to seven years from pensionable age were faced with a dilemma as to which alternative to choose. The University contributed R22.5 million from its reserves so that the transfer values of those members who joined the UNRF and were due to retire within five years could be compensated with a top-up for their losses in doing so.

An unspecified number of staff members, uncertain about the future of both the AIPF and the UNRF, opted for the additional permissible choice of investing their lump-sum payouts in private retirement annuities. At the time these were being promoted by external financial advisers who were active on campus and reassuring about recovering capital losses before retirement. Some who took this route were aggrieved by their exclusion from the University's top-up benefit when it was extended to those who were within eight years of retirement after they had made their choice on the basis of only five years. They eventually resorted to unsuccessful litigation with the University.

Staff members were well aware that while their withdrawal from the AIPF did result in an additional responsibility and administrative workload for the University, it was also of great financial benefit to it in that it substantially reduced the contribution it had legally been obliged to make to the AIPF on behalf of each and every one of them and was also now no longer subject to its managerial decisions. Rightly or wrongly this crisis, for crisis it was in the lives of many employees, caused considerable ill-feeling and a sense of alienation from the University. According to unsubstantiated rumours some subsequently felt that they had made the correct choice and others not. A few, it was said, fell upon hard times and tried to launch alternative careers in their twilight years. It was also alleged that, as a result of all the withdrawals and



conservative attendant payouts, the AIPF was in much better financial shape than it had been in years!

The financial crisis inflicted upon the University by successive subsidy cuts had yet another traumatic impact on staff members in the form of its 1997 decision to downsize, or rightsize, its complement to make it leaner and more cost effective. Among academic departments the Arts were particularly hard hit in both centres but major reductions were also implemented in other areas. These included the Registrar's office, technical support, grounds, maintenance and risk management, residences and student administration, computer services, the registry, the finance, physical planning and human resources divisions and Ukulinga Farm.

There were sixteen enforced retrenchments with other posts being abolished by means of voluntary early retirement, redeployment or voluntary retrenchment. Almost all the severance packages offered to employees in the cleaning and custodial services divisions were accepted, probably because they were generous due to the earlier persistence of staff associations and oversight on the part of Council. This greatly facilitated subsequent outsourcing.

Approximately 350 of the 400 posts identified to be discarded by the end of 1997 were non-academic. It was anticipated that the balance of the 600-odd envisaged for eventual elimination would be realised through natural attrition; that is, resignation, retirement and in some cases disestablishment thereby achieving savings of R60 million within five years. Of these, 338 posts were identified for disestablishment by the end of 2001. Although more severely felt in some parts of the institution than in others, the downsizing crisis contributed further to the sense of alienation felt among staff members in the mid- and late-1990s. Some debated the issue on the Internet, prompting a flood of worldwide criticism directed at members of the Executive who were obliged to answer approximately 700 messages. There was also extensive national press coverage, some of it sensational and ill-informed, to which Gourley responded by meeting several editors.

By the early 2000s attention had switched to the University's medical scheme with complaints being investigated about continual increases in member contributions allegedly not commensurate with the benefits offered, even though the fund had improved from a R7.3 million deficit in 2000 to a R4.9 million surplus two years later.

There were several other issues that attracted staff attention during the 1990s. Despite the obvious health benefits, the 1991 ban on smoking in all campus buildings was not universally well received. By contrast, the principle

of affirmative action and the proposals emanating from the equal opportunities policy consultation committee were generally supported. Most departments accepted the switch to semesterisation in 1995 without much resistance even though it did not suit all disciplines, especially the languages, and was implemented with difficulty in some faculties.

The same was true of the simultaneous implementation of common university-wide credit rating and quality index systems, adapted from the American grade point average system. This was generally welcomed in the interests of maintaining some uniformity of academic standards and as a means of assessing students' performance more effectively in a semesterised course structure. The formulation of a University language policy in terms of the 1997 University Education Act was also willingly embraced, serving both to ensure greater proficiency in English as the primary language of learning and instruction while promoting multilingualism in acknowledgement of the language clauses in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The recognition of excellence in teaching, supported by teaching portfolios in applications for personal promotion, was readily accepted alongside the traditional emphasis on research capacity. The new emphasis on teaching ability, which had previously (and in some cases erroneously) been taken for granted, was a direct consequence of the increasing intake of disadvantaged second-language speakers and the prolonged persistence of the academic staff associations. So, too, were the introduction of distinguished teacher awards at the annual graduation ceremonies and the notion of formal staff and course evaluations.

The reassessment of all courses with regard to design and teaching methods and the formulation of new multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary programmes were understandably also matters for considerable debate at departmental and Faculty level with Andrew Duminy and James Lund's discussion document providing a useful starting point. The various proposed strategies for identifying and ensuring the academic success of students with learning potential from disadvantaged backgrounds were matters of great interest among staff. Following the University's adoption of its new strategic guidelines there were further extensive discussions in all faculties concerning the development of foundation programmes, the introduction of new, more appropriate courses for a changing student intake, the feasibility of distance learning, and income-generating possibilities.

Staff members were actively involved in promoting the University's strategic goal to become a learning organisation in the full sense of the term

by reformulating curricula and degrees as well as restructuring faculties. This was undertaken at a time of declining annual state subsidies and increasing numbers of students, many of whom were in need of financial aid. It was an environment that required what for some staff was a difficult change of mindset. Trained facilitators attended numerous staff and student meetings to promote a spirit of co-operation and ownership of the changing institution.

By the turn of the century the University was not only committed to being a learning organisation, but also to the promotion of open learning as one of its strategic initiatives by widening access to its modules as far as possible. Several mixed-mode (contact and distance learning) programmes had been offered at postgraduate level as early as 1996. From 2000 some undergraduate programmes were offered in this format to assist students who could not remain on campus consistently to complete their degrees and to reinforce the philosophy of lifelong learning. A few programmes were beginning to make use of the Internet as a means of delivery, depending on the market at which they were targeted.

Not all staff members were necessarily convinced of the necessity or desirability of these changes, but there was general concern about maintaining academic standards despite having to teach increasing numbers of students from disadvantaged circumstances with less funding available to do so. Brenda Gourley insisted that, while the University had accepted the need for a broader admissions policy to cater for an intake drawn from seventeen vastly different education departments, it was ‘a mistake to believe that commitment to an excellent end product is incompatible with this commitment. Exit standards are fiercely guarded. Quality of performance is still tightly maintained through both external and internal vetting.’

As David Maughan Brown recalled, the staff, media and general public had to be convinced that concern for standards needed to be focused on exit rather than entry levels. Staff welcomed the establishment in 1998 of a Quality Promotion Unit under Maughan Brown’s supervision. This followed government’s creation of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and NQF to co-ordinate quality assurance in terms of the recommendations of the National Commission on Higher Education (1997). Maughan Brown was appointed to the board of the Higher Education Quality Committee and chaired the first quality assurance inspection of a South African university in Pretoria. Some staff members were frequently requested to advise other institutions on matters of quality assurance, further testimony to the University’s leading role in that field.

The academic staff also enjoyed greater interaction with the international community of scholars after South Africa successfully completed its transition to a new democratic dispensation with the 1994 general election. The longstanding worldwide academic boycott, more severely felt in some faculties than in others, became an unpleasant memory as virtually the only restraint to international interaction was the availability of sufficient travel funds. The e-mail system, to which all staff members now had access as the University sought to install a computer on every office desk, provided an even quicker means of exchanging information worldwide.

Some staff experienced the novelty of increasing numbers of foreign students in their undergraduate classes. This often made for much livelier interaction as well as boosting the University's fee income with the additional levy they paid. In addition to those from elsewhere in Africa there were several from Scandinavia and the USA, including Rutgers, the University of California and a medley of New England colleges. Others were attracted to the Winter School courses a few departments offered from the late 1990s. It soon became evident that some foreign students were in need of assistance with regard to English language proficiency and in 2001–2002 appropriate courses were introduced for them in both centres.<sup>2</sup>

The Skills Development Act (7 of 1998) and Employment Equity Act (55 of 1998) became an important focus of attention with regard to the University's staff composition and conditions of service. Staff development had already been identified as one of the University's strategic initiatives and as a designated employer it readily complied with the requirements of these acts to align itself with national equity strategies. By 2001 it was listed in the Department of Labour's register of equity compliant employers with all of its faculties and support staff divisions having developed approved plans in accordance with its own Employment Equity Programme. Completed in 2000 and revised the following year, this aimed to transform its staff and management with particular emphasis on affirmative action. Unfortunately, by then the University was encountering increasing difficulty in complying with Department of Home Affairs policy when it wished to appoint staff who were not South African citizens to academic posts in which they would clearly benefit the country and for which there were no suitably qualified local candidates.

In addition to employment equity the University also made provision for the retention on full benefits of some current staff members beyond the normal retirement age of 60. They had to be identified as 'essential to the institution's endeavours' and an appeal process was provided for those who

were not so selected. Similar provision was made to extend the tenure of the Vice-Chancellor and DVCs beyond superannuation date, subject to a revision of the relevant criteria. The University acknowledged the difficulties staff had experienced in recent years by launching its CARE initiative (Courtesy, Accountability, Respect and Efficiency) in December 2001. It was intended to improve staff morale, engender greater mutual consideration, improve internal communications and develop a more caring attitude among the different sections of the University as well as towards the public. In 2002 CARE launched its own website.

That year the Equity Acceleration Programme (EAP) attracted further funding from the Mellon Foundation and more financial resources were allocated to the provision of honours and masters-level scholarships for promising black students. The appointment in 2003 of Professor Pitika Ntuli to concentrate on transforming what was termed the University's organisational culture further helped to advance the EAP. So, too, did the Equal Opportunity and Employment Committee, which included trade union representation. Its members were trained to assist in promoting equity and in ensuring compliance with policy in relation to recruitment, selection, promotion, staff development, merit awards and procurement.

By the end of 2003 the EAP had ensured the appointment of 30 black male and female lecturers of whom eleven were mainstreamed and five unfortunately resigned to assume other posts. Late that year it was given a further boost with a R9.5 million donation from Atlantic Philanthropies to finance another twenty teaching posts. There were further improvements to the programme, including a research and conference fund for appointees and an international mentorship scheme. The loss of black academic and support staff to much better-paid and sometimes more congenial positions in both the private and public sectors remained a perennial problem. Other programmes provided internships in finance and information technology and by 2003 yet another was planned to prepare women for leadership roles. That year the University also adopted a prevention of unfair discrimination and harassment policy with training provided for harassment advisers and workshops organised for managers.

The Institutional Forum continued to pursue its avowed objective of promoting teaching, research and an enabling learning environment based on 'tolerance and respect for human rights'. In 2003, under the chairmanship of Emmanuel Ngara, it focused, among other issues, on refining the existing procedures for appointments to executive positions following the difficulties that had arisen between Council and Senate in connection with the recent

appointment of a new Principal and Vice-Chancellor. During that year it also recommended policies to Council that sought to achieve appropriate diversity on University committees, assist persons with disabilities and advance women to leadership roles. In addition, it considered the reports of the Director of Transformation and Equity, approved the University's Equity Report for 2003 and made a unanimous successful nomination for the post of interim Vice-Chancellor of the merged UDW and University of Natal (2004). A proposed transformation indaba was deferred in view of that impending event.

Transformation, affirmative action and curriculum changes also led to the voluntary departure of some established staff members. By the early 2000s John Laband, for one, had come to the conclusion 'that circumstances at the University of Natal were such that I had an uncertain future there as a white academic and understood that I would in any case be compelled to retire at the age of sixty, if not before.' This prospect, coupled with the realisation that 'the humanities were increasingly under threat and that my own discipline of history was declining severely' in student numbers, induced him to take early retirement in 2002 at 55 and accept a post in Canada. There he was able to extend his career into his late sixties in a History Department with 23 tenured staff members, several thousand students and flourishing masters and doctoral programmes. Many of Laband's contemporaries who remained in Natal were indeed obliged to retire at 60, some with very mixed feelings towards the University.

Another issue that alienated some academics and evoked unfavourable responses on other university campuses was the dismissal of Professor Caroline White. The daughter of a former professor of Classics, K.D. White, she had been a student in Pietermaritzburg (1959–1961) and had acquired a D.Phil. at Sussex. In 1997 she was appointed to Durban's Chair of Anthropology having previously had a distinguished career at UCT, UWC and the independent Centre for Policy Studies in Johannesburg. In addition to serving on several other bodies, including the Council of the Technikon Witwatersrand and as deputy chair of the National Affirmative Action Alliance, she was a NUSAS honorary vice-president and in 1993 had been a founder member of the South African Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

For these and other reasons she was clearly well known and highly regarded but in 2000 while still on probation she was controversially suspended, banished from the campus, eventually found guilty of misconduct and dismissed with immediate effect and three months' salary. Both parties agreed that her employment relationship with the University had irretrievably broken

down but Council's committee of inquiry also concluded that 'the University is not without blame for the manner it handled the dispute'. In White's opinion this unhappy episode in the University's history demonstrated that those 'who thought that the freedom to criticise administrative actions was inseparable from the freedom to criticise academic ideas are mistaken in South Africa in the year 2001'.

It was alleged that a petition in her support, which elicited over 100 signatures from all over the world, was somehow never tabled at Council. The UCT Academics Association established a similar online petition and several individuals contributed to White's considerable legal costs. A positive consequence was the finalisation of amended conditions of service and new disciplinary procedures Senex hoped would make staff more aware of the available grievance procedures and 'would ensure that most of the adverse situations which had arisen ... did not occur in the future'.<sup>3</sup>

There were many other matters that concerned staff members and their associations.

### **Staff associations and political dissent**

Despite incomplete records it is evident that during the 1990s NASA was active in protecting and extending its members' interests in several directions. These included conditions of service such as housing subsidy and fee remission, grievances pertaining to salaries and the unsatisfactory implementation of the Peromnes system as well as numerous interventions in disputes between individuals and their supervisors or the University. Communication between NASA and its members was greatly improved by implementing *NASA Newsflash* to provide short, frequent messages while its executive gained representation on several decision-making committees relevant to non-academic staff. Careful consideration was given to formulating a recognition agreement with the University as an option in relation to the advantages and disadvantages of unionisation.

By 1991 NASA boasted over 700 members, more than any other staff association or union on campus. Closer contact was subsequently established with JASA, BWO in Pietermaritzburg, TGWU in Durban and the new Secretaries Forums that Moira Bolton and Sally Paterson established during 1992 in the two centres. While each had its own agenda, both were intended to provide training and support for secretarial and administrative staff to achieve greater expertise and job satisfaction. Their name was subsequently changed to the Office or UN Admin Forum to reflect more accurately a broad

administrative membership. They focused primarily on monthly training videos acquired through the University Library and lunchtime talks given by outside speakers or University managers. These covered a wide range of topics from dressing for the office, stress and time management to the functions of various divisions such as Finance and Student Services.

By 1995 there were 152 members in Durban and 70 in Pietermaritzburg but the establishment of a staff training centre on the latter campus during the late 1990s made the Forum's training function redundant and dwindling support eventually led in 1999 to its closure. Fortunately, there was also a Campus Women's Group, which Dulcie MacMillan had founded in 1971. It was open to all women associated with the University and similarly invited speakers to its monthly lunches as well as awarding an annual bursary to a deserving female student.

In 1994 the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) replaced the TGWU on campus and a new University of Natal Staff Association was formed in 1995, composed primarily of NASA and BWO members, to represent the interests of all non-academic staff groups. These organisations were heavily involved in discussions with the University concerning fringe benefits and housing allowances while the constitution for a joint bargaining forum was being formalised.

By contrast during the early 1990s JASA experienced a disturbing decline in membership. As some had warned at the time of their resignation, this was possibly due to a perception that it had become a political organisation following the decision to affiliate with the UDF and that it was no longer a staff association in the strict sense. Its March 1994 AGM was inquorate and only eleven members attended the reconvened meeting a few weeks later. In a July 1994 appeal to all members the interim chairperson, Denis Brothers, pointed out that JASA represented the interests of the academic staff in a wide range of negotiations with the University Administration and, along with the other staff associations, was a member of the Joint Bargaining Forum (JBF), which made a variety of informal recommendations to it on their behalf.

He reminded members that JASA had been a founder member of UDUSA, which had initially been formed to oppose apartheid but now represented the interests of staff employed at all tertiary institutions at a national level. It was concerned with a number of issues relating to changes in education policy as well as offering several membership benefits. Unfortunately, a substantial increase in UDUSA's fees had all but depleted JASA's financial reserves, which required the latter's members to decide on future membership and, if



possible, on ways of significantly augmenting their numbers. At a subsequent meeting it was agreed (by eighteen votes to one) that JASA would remain affiliated while UDUSA restructured itself in accordance with dramatically changing educational circumstances.

It was also resolved that JASA needed ‘to become more vibrant, active and should have a higher profile’, particularly with regard to salaries and conditions of service. Its committee made every effort to comply, though on some issues it was unsuccessful. These included its attempt to ensure that, particularly at a time of severe financial stringency, the salaries of the University Executive became transparent because public funds were involved. However, it was alleged that they continued to be paid through an outside company to ensure secrecy.

Amid all the distractions of ongoing national transformation and the participation of many staff members in it, the University community did not overlook its now longstanding defence of the principle of academic freedom. There was increasing concern during the early 1990s about internal threats to this cause in the form of intimidation and coercion among students. The Academic Freedom Committee formed a working group to find ways of counteracting these tendencies.

In July 1993, after staff members were expelled from the University of Bophuthatswana, staff and students held protest marches in both centres though to little effect. In the same year, when the new national draft Constitution endowed the Minister of Education with extensive powers of interference in the functions of the senates and councils of tertiary institutions, the University played a prominent role in the subsequent lobbying that resulted in an amendment to the draft. There was further concern when the Higher Education Act (1997) ascribed powers to the minister that were again perceived as a potential threat to institutional autonomy.

With few exceptions the academic staff had always been opposed to apartheid, with varying levels of activism and armchair criticism. There was now sometimes heated debate, as there had been in the 1980s, between those who favoured stable, gradualist reform in creating a new South Africa and those who demanded rapid, radical change.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, as before, there were staffing and curriculum changes in all faculties.

### Science

Following several retirements and new appointments, by the 1990s Durban’s Department of Geology and Applied Geology was unique in the country in

that it offered degrees in both general and applied branches of the discipline with a particular interest in Engineering Geology. After David Williams-Wynn retired as dean of Science in 1991 it became a full-time post to which David Walker was appointed with M.A. (Manfred) Hellberg succeeding him as head of the Department of Physics. Two other departmental heads, Waldo Meester (Biology) and L.J. Bayles (Chemistry and Applied Chemistry) also retired that year with John Cooke succeeding the former in 1992 and Trevor Letcher the latter while T.A. (Anthony) Ford was appointed first professor of Theoretical Chemistry.

In 1991 a new four-year B.Sc. Augmented Curriculum was implemented for selected disadvantaged students with external financial support. It was designed to ensure that the degree so earned was of the same standard as its traditional three-year counterpart. In 1993, 25 candidates were admitted and for the first time specially selected tutors were appointed to promote their success. That year saw the last class of B.Sc. (Pharmacy) students as part of a regional rationalisation process that centralised pharmacy training in the province at UDW. An increased number of ordinary B.Sc. students were registered to compensate for the loss in numbers and a Foundation Mathematics course, designed for students in all faculties, was initiated under Istine Swart. Professor Lonsdale-Eccles came from the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases in Kenya to assume the headship of Biochemistry.

In 1994, in response to the University's new strategic planning guidelines, the Faculty in Durban launched the multidisciplinary School for the Environment, which from 1995 offered majors in Environmental Management and Environmental Science. In addition, a new four-year Bachelor of Science



**T. (Trevor) Letcher** had published more than 170 papers in scientific journals, primarily on the separation of pure liquids from mixtures, by the end of the 1990s. Acknowledged internationally as a leader in his field, in 1999 his book *Chemical Thermodynamics for the 21st Century* was published and the SA Chemical Institute awarded him its prestigious gold medal. He was one of the world's ten most respected scientists invited to lecture at the London International Youth Science Forum and in 2001 also won the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science (S2A3) gold medal, one of the highest accolades accorded to a scientist in the subcontinent.

Education (B.Sc.Ed.) degree was planned as an alternative means of producing science teachers for schools other than the traditional B.Sc. plus HDE. In 1994 alumnus and Cambridge graduate Alan Matthews was appointed Physics lecturer and promoted to senior lecturer in 2001 in a fourteen-strong department, nearly half of whom were Oxbridge products. 1995 John Hey became professor of Experimental Physics and zoologist Professor Anne Alexander was tragically killed. Professor Roy Osborne (Chemistry) won the University's distinguished teacher award as did Michael Laing (Chemistry) and David Schuster (Physics) the following year; while Professor Chris Appleton joined the Biology Department.

The amalgamation of the Geology departments on the two campuses continued apace and the Campbell Building was altered to accommodate Geology and Applied Geology from 1995 as well as improved facilities for Biology. From that year Geology's courses were concentrated in Durban with Professor Allan Wilson and three technicians moving to that centre. The department in Pietermaritzburg was closed with only a first-year course offered there under the direction of Professor Vic von Brunn.

The compulsory Literacy course introduced in 1995, primarily as a service course for the Humanities and Social Sciences, soon attracted 250 students per semester while in 1996 Scientific Writing and Reporting was introduced as a compulsory course for students doing the four-year B.Sc. Augmented Curriculum programme. In 1997 a former student of the Joint Selection Programme for Science and Applied Sciences (JSPSAS) registered for a Ph.D. after beginning his university career with 21 matric points. That year Professor Alan Amory (Biology) won a distinguished teacher award.

In Pietermaritzburg the Faculty experienced a major restructuring of its degree and course options in 1990 with the introduction of semesterisation. Its ten departments and six in other faculties that contributed further options towards its degrees offered a wide range of courses attracting a record 247 new students that year. Amid an encouraging revival of enquiries from foreign job seekers local applicants R. Finnie and J.J. (Jeff) McCarthy were appointed to the chairs of Computer Science and Geography respectively. The latter department restructured its courses in all three undergraduate years and gave senior students a choice between Human or Physical Geography or a combination of the two. The Department of Botany now offered a full major in Plant Molecular Biology in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry and also made it available at honours level.

In addition physicist Diane Grayson was appointed co-ordinator of the pioneering new Science Foundation Programme, the first phase of which was initiated in 1990. From 100 black applicants selected to attend a ten-day July course, 31 were chosen (twelve women and nineteen men aged between 17 and 33) to take specially designed interactive year-long foundation courses in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics during 1991. All their expenses for the next three years were covered by outside funding, partly from Caltex and Barlows Limited.

The programme's first cohort registered as fully fledged students in 1992 and 80% of them did well enough to proceed to second year. In 1994 the first intake completed their degrees and gave the programme their unqualified approval as did M. Peacock, who evaluated it on behalf of current sponsors USAID. The following year the Science Foundation courses were integrated as credit-bearing parts of the B.Sc. programme, an initiative that foundation courses in other faculties were soon to follow. USAID continued to provide funding and in 1996 the intake was increased to 110 from 244 applicants, of whom 79 did well enough to continue with the degree programme.

By then its success was beginning to benefit the University in terms of the subsidy earned for registered students. In 1997 the importance to the Faculty of what had become known as the Gencor and then the Billiton Science Foundation Programme was acknowledged when five of its members were appointed to the permanent staff. By the time it celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2000 the programme had admitted 811 students, 67% of whom proceeded to a degree while 76% of the first six cohorts had graduated or were about to do so. Together with the TTT programme, it proved to be one of the University's most commendable and successful innovations with regard to academic admissions and support.

In 1992 Don Hunter retired as head of Geology in Pietermaritzburg and Professor Roger Raab (Physics) was appointed Pro Vice-Principal (Medical Faculty). Four new professorial departmental heads were appointed in 1994: Rob Dempster (Computer Science), Rob Fincham (Geography), Jamshid Moori (Mathematics and Applied Mathematics) and Clive Graham (Physics) with his predecessor Paul Jackson being recognised as professor emeritus. In 1995 Professor Glynn Davies (Physics) won the University's distinguished teacher award, as did Professor John Akhurst (Chemistry) the following year; Duncan Reavey was appointed co-ordinator of the new coursework masters degree in Environment and Development; and a new course in Ethno-Botany was launched.

After the retirement of Siegfried Drewes in 1996 John Field became head of the Department of Chemistry, which continued to attract large numbers of students. So too did Geography with its focus on geographical information systems (GIS) for which there was a strong demand in both public and private organisations as a tool for spatial planning and analysis. Development and Environmental Management also drew increasing numbers into postgraduate programmes.

By 1996 the faculties of Science and Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg were holding discussions about possible restructuring that would transcend traditional faculty boundaries, rationalise several existing courses and draw expertise together to form new multidisciplinary programmes. The following year they agreed to merge into a single Faculty and task groups were formed to investigate aspects of the amalgamation process.<sup>5</sup>

### **Agriculture**

Following the formulation of a new Faculty plan in 1989 and a think tank held at Midmar in March 1991 there were several significant developments. That year M.J. (Michelle) van Schoor was appointed as research and development officer with the task of fundraising and promoting the Faculty's offerings through schools, the corporate sector and alumni. The staff re-affirmed its commitment to maintaining 'the highest international standards' in producing 'specialised professional manpower for commercial agriculture and allied activities' but also undertook to assist in developing and uplifting rural communities.

The new School of Rural Community Development under the direction from 1992 of S.S. (Stan) Sangweni and then of M. (Malefane) Maema was identified as an appropriate means of achieving the latter objective. The need for curriculum development, including the possibility of new three-year degrees and the formation of other schools of cognate disciplines, was also recognised in part to make agricultural education more attractive and accessible to disadvantaged students. From 1994 a three-year diploma and a certificate programme in Rural Community Development was offered, initially without any state subsidy but financed by fees and generous corporate donors. In 1996 the first intake completed the course and the following year ministerial approval was eventually granted for a state-funded three-year B. Agric. degree. By then CEAD, another affiliate of the Faculty, was running a coursework masters programme to meet the perceived demand for trans-disciplinary research training in that field.

During the 1990s the Rabie Saunders Building and its surrounds enjoyed much-needed refurbishment as well as improved facilities including better security, computer equipment and Internet connectivity. In 1990 Professor Andrew Cairns assumed the South African Sugar Association Chair of Crop Science, Professor Robin Moritz that of Genetics and Professor Eric Senior the Waste-Tech Chair of Waste Technology in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology. Moritz soon left, necessitating a series of interim appointments. Senior's arrival was closely associated with plans to begin both teaching and research in the field of waste technology, drawing on expertise in several other disciplines in Agriculture and Science. A subvention from the private sector facilitated the establishment of a chair in that field as well as two contract posts and in 1992 Senior established the International Centre for Waste Technology (Africa). When he subsequently relocated to Durban to become director of the University's Education and Innovation Foundation, Mike Wallis moved from heading Genetics to succeed him to the chair of Microbiology and Plant Pathology before retiring in 2005.

By 1990 Biochemistry, under its new head Mike Dutton, was oversubscribed in student registrations while increasing interest in Molecular Biology/Biotechnology necessitated the creation of two new posts as well as additional facilities. In 1995 Clive Dennison succeeded Dutton after being promoted to professor the previous year. By 1992, when E.H. Meyer was appointed professor of Genetics, his department together with Biochemistry and Microbiology were drawing much closer together over both teaching and research, a process that the appointment in 1994 of molecular biologist J.W. (John) Hastings further strengthened.

During the early 1990s there were increasing applications from foreign students, particularly for postgraduate courses, as well as visits by foreign scientists for varying lengths of time. Following its 1982 move to the main campus, Biometry under the headship of Peter Clarke maintained a presence in the Faculty by continuing to provide an invaluable consultancy service to staff and postgraduate researchers.

Student demand for training in Dietetics remained high but declining interest in Home Economics prompted a reassessment of the degree programme in that field. Several new courses in Community Resource Studies were introduced as options in the B.Soc.Sc. degree and after the last student graduated in Home Economics the department applied to change its name to Dietetics and Community Resources in order more accurately to reflect its new curricula. By 1991 Genetics, Grassland Science, Soil Science, Microbiology and Plant

Pathology were all offering majors in the Faculty of Science. The following year the Fedics Laboratory for Food Service Management was commissioned and opened in 1993 for student training in the B.Sc. Dietetics degree. Dietetics celebrated its 21st birthday with an alumni reunion and named the Barbara Brodie Room in honour of a benefactor.

That year P.W.L. (Peter) Lyne succeeded Potgieter (Pottie) Meiring as professor of Agricultural Engineering before taking early retirement in 2003. Frits Rijkenberg (Microbiology and Plant Pathology) was elected a fellow of the South African Society for Plant Pathology and the Minister of Environmental Affairs appointed Neil Tainton (Grassland Science) to the Council for the Environment for 1993–1995.

A series of income-generating short courses were offered, focusing on farm valuation, fodder production planning, greenhouse technology and modelling biological systems. In addition, a joint one-year Diploma in Poultry Management was planned for 1994 in conjunction with the new Natal Poultry Institute. The Poultry Management Training Centre, which the Institute established at Ukulinga, attracted R877 000 from the European Union through the Kagiso Trust for all its equipment requirements. Rob Gous succeeded Werner Stielau as head of Animal Science and Poultry Science having been promoted to full professor in 1989 with Arthur Lishman achieving that status in 1993.

In 1990 Agrometeorology was discontinued as a major due to a declining student intake but Mike Savage's post was retained for its valuable research output and to co-supervise postgraduate programmes. That year the Department of Agronomy (formerly Agronomic and Environmental Sciences) was formed and in 1995 Savage became its head in succession to John de Villiers who retired after many years of service to the Faculty. John Hastings became head of Genetics while Neil Tainton retired as head of Grassland Science.

The following year Gerald Ortmann was promoted to professor and eventually succeeded Lieb Nieuwoudt as head of Agricultural Economics while Tim O'Connor assumed the chair of Grassland Science and subsequently initiated yet another departmental name change to Range and Forage Resources that reflected more accurately its teaching and research profile. The Faculty initiated a compulsory course in Computer Literacy for second-year students under Mike Savage's guidance. He subsequently also initiated a coursework masters and certificate course in Environmental Instrumentation designed to update researchers in measurement and control technologies.



**M. (Michael) Savage** was an alumnus of the University who joined the staff in 1977 and rose rapidly through the ranks after being awarded his Ph.D. and promoted to senior lecturer in Agrometeorology in 1982 through to senior professor (post level 7) in 1994. After assuming the departmental headship in 1995 he subsequently became head of the new School of Applied Environmental Sciences and of its successor the School of Environmental Sciences (1999–2007). The FRD funded his research from as early as 1977 in which connection he focused on soil-plant-atmosphere energy and water relations, acquiring an international reputation for his work. Among other forms of academic recognition he was a Fulbright scholar, won a FOYSA award for ‘outstanding young South Africans’ in 1990 and was made a University Fellow in 1995.

In 1994 the Faculty formulated what was described as ‘a new and exciting vision’ for the future during the course of a successful two-day strategic planning workshop that Professor Robert Klitgaard (Economics, Durban) facilitated. Another such gathering followed in 1995 to consider further extensive curriculum changes, a new course evaluation procedure and postgraduate administration. Sir Colin Spedding from the University of Reading spent a week with the staff during which he promoted the notion of developing a common vision of agriculture and agricultural training, suggesting the establishment of a Department of Agricultural Systems to that end. In 1995 the Faculty eventually followed the example of others when it conflated its Board and Faculty meetings in the interests of more streamlined administration.

In the new spirit of closer collaboration, by 1996 there was talk of establishing the Farmer Support Group on campus and of developing a major extension programme with the University of Western Sydney and the local School of Rural Community Development. Sadly, that year the director of the school, Malefane Maema, and his wife were killed in a motor crash. In addition, efforts continued to draw the Agriculture faculties of Fort Hare, Natal, Swaziland and Zululand together and to cover the cost of a collaborative extension project that included the regional and national departments of agriculture. Among the foreign students attracted to the Faculty at that time were a group of Eritreans funded by their government.



In 1996 Professor Eleni Maunder assumed the headship of Dietetics and Community Resources in succession to Elma Nel and subsequently introduced an integrated programme in nutrition leading to B.Sc., honours and masters degrees and a postgraduate Diploma in Community Nutrition. That year Professor Dick Haynes became head of Soil Science while Pete Zacharias was appointed deputy dean, a new level of post in the Faculty and the University. Student intake increased by 29% that year with the new Wildlife major proving to be a particular drawcard. In 1997 new majors were also launched in Agribusiness, Forestry and Community Forestry with the latter two enjoying support from the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research and Mondi.

In partnership with two Dutch and two other South African universities, the Faculty was awarded a R6 million contract, supported by the Dutch government, to develop teaching packages and databases for small-scale farming schemes. The KwaZulu-Natal Minister of Agriculture Ben Ngubane and Secretary for Agriculture Louis Kruger visited the Faculty, and were particularly interested in its extension activities that were supported by the new Rural Development Information in RSA through Telematics project.

In 1998 there were several more important developments in the Faculty. Nigel Wolstenholme, head of Horticultural Science and promoted to senior professor in 1997, retired and subsequently became professor emeritus and senior research associate. The 50th anniversary of the Faculty's foundation was celebrated in a number of ways, including a formal dinner for more than 200 and a students' golf day. The Faculty, along with six others, was also awarded the R10 million Agrarian Rural Development Programme. In addition, a formal agreement was signed by the University and the Pietermaritzburg Transitional Local Council to link the neighbouring Bisley conservancy with 100 hectares of the southern section of Ukulinga Farm to form Bisley Nature Reserve. This would provide improved teaching and research facilities in wildlife and environmental studies. The first four B.Sc. (Agric., Rural Resource Management) degrees were awarded and Arthur Lishman's long career in the Faculty ended with the conferment of a D.Sc. Not least, the merger of the Faculty with that of Science in Pietermaritzburg was finally completed.<sup>6</sup>

### **Architecture and Allied Disciplines**

Applications to the Faculty continued to increase with more than 500 in 1990 to fill 110 undergraduate places and over 85 for the 20 vacancies in the postgraduate course in Town Planning. Admissions were based on a combination of matriculation results, evidence of potential to succeed and

affirmative action considerations. In 1990 the first group was admitted to the new four-year degree in Architecture. Professor Don Dyke-Wells retired and an additional chair was created with Errol Haarhoff and Brian Kearney filling the vacancies, the former also as dean and the latter as departmental head. Kearney retired in 1992 due to ill health and Ambrose Adebayo joined the department as senior lecturer, while a masters degree in Housing was initiated.

Professor Dan Smit filled the new joint post in Architecture and Town and Regional Planning following his two-year stint with the Urban Foundation. Professor Michael Sutcliffe of the latter department continued, in part, to be seconded as associate director of the NUDF. William Roome left Building Management, Paul Bowen left Quantity Surveying and Building Economics and Mark Grierson was appointed lecturer.

In 1992 that department merged with Building Management under the name Property Development and Construction Economics with the two professorial posts retained. Rob Taylor filled the chair of Construction Management and in 1994 the two streams were more closely co-ordinated while Robert Pearl assumed the chair of Quantity Surveying. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the South African Council for Quantity Surveyors accredited both of the department's undergraduate degrees until 1998 and for another maximum five years after that. In 1996 the department held a symposium on construction procurement procedures attended by delegates representing more than 50 countries.

In 1993 the departments of Architecture and Town and Regional Planning reached full student capacity. The South African Council for Town and Regional Planners accredited the department's masters degree while the day release system enabled increasing numbers of students to complete the two-year programme part-time over four years. An interdisciplinary coursework masters programme in Housing was also introduced with financial assistance from Murray and Roberts and the Natal Building Society, followed by another in Development Studies.

In 1994 Ambrose Adebayo assumed the directorship of the Housing programme and by 1997 several masters graduates had already assumed prominent managerial positions, including the directorship of the provincial Housing Board and most of the provincial deputy-directorships in other provinces. That year a review of the programme involving alumni, industry and housing organisations assisted in formulating strategic improvements for the future. It attracted students from all over southern Africa and in 1998

Pauline Adebayo was appointed to direct it in preparing recruits for the new metropolitan Housing Department.

Professor Dennis Radford filled a chair in Architecture in 1994 and Dan Smit was seconded to serve as CEO of the Cato Manor Development Association. That year the new multidisciplinary School of Development Studies was established in accordance with the University's strategic planning guidelines and thereafter attracted increasing numbers of high-quality students to its masters degree. It was hoped that the School would soon involve other areas of the University's expertise and extend to offering undergraduate courses as well as more research and community outreach. Thereafter the School worked closely with the Centre for Social and Development Studies to produce graduates with much-needed skills to address developmental challenges by providing relevant training in development policy, research and teaching. The Department of Town and Regional Planning restructured parts of its programme to link up with modules offered in Development Studies and in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences.

In 1995 the Faculty began to introduce problem-based learning programmes that focused more on students. A new degree structure was formulated comprising a three-year Architectural Studies programme followed by a two-year degree in Architecture to replace the current four plus one year system. Dennis Radford became head of Architecture and Wally Peters assumed the second chair in the discipline. The following year, after a lengthy interlude, a joint inspection committee from the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Commonwealth Association of Architects conducted a successful re-accreditation visit to the Faculty of Architecture and Allied Disciplines.

In 1997 the new '3+2' degree structure was implemented and the first group of Bachelor of Architectural Studies students wrote their final examinations. They were also the first to have been trained entirely with the new problem-based methodology with pleasing results. Architecture and Town Planning graduates formed a team that won the international housing generator competition. In 1998 Arthur Kingsland, an acknowledged expert in problem-based learning, visited the department by which stage that approach had been adopted throughout the degree. Doctors Harrison and Todes completed their doctorates, making Architecture the only department of its kind in South Africa with such a highly qualified staff complement.<sup>7</sup>

## **Engineering**

Engineering, like Architecture and Allied Disciplines, was faced with large numbers of good-quality applicants, three times more than it could accept in 1990, as well as a steadily increasing intake of students from disadvantaged backgrounds since the mid-1980s. That year it registered 35 of the 50-odd candidates from those circumstances who had completed the Engineering bridging year, which provided assistance with communication skills, Mathematics and Science. In 1994 the modified University of Natal Intensive Training for Engineers programme (UNITE) was implemented. It included the earlier material but also allowed for credits to be gained in Mathematics and Engineering Drawing and it was confidently expected that 60% of its intake would complete their degrees. A Faculty plan was developed that provided for an increased first-year intake to accommodate student demand and national needs. In 1995 first-year registrations reached a record 411. Two years previously all departments in the Faculty received their regular maximum five-year accreditation from the Engineering Council of South Africa and this was renewed in 1998.

In 1990 the NU Civil Engineering Support Group, comprising six 1961 graduates, initiated a scheme to subvent academic salaries in Civil Engineering by raising funds from major industries. That year the department also named the Murray Lecture Theatre after Ian Murray, a 1934 graduate who left it a generous bequest. In 1992 Chris Krogscheepers joined Professor Roebuck in promoting Transport Engineering and there was a big increase in registrations for the M.Sc. Transportation Engineering by coursework. Roebuck continued to develop what was termed the Eastern Centre of Transport Development with students in both centres.

In 1985 the Albert Baumann Chair of Chemical Engineering, which M.R. Judd occupied, was established with a R400 000 grant from the Baumann Trust. The staff shortage in Chemical Engineering improved further with the appointment in 1992 of Professor Loveday as Chamber of Mines Professor of Mineral Processing while Professor M. Dohnal assumed responsibility for lecturing in Reactor Technology among other topics. In 1994 there were 27 students registered for postgraduate diplomas and masters degrees and a record intake of 85 into Chemical Engineering the following year. This initiated the construction of two 110-seater lecture theatres on the mezzanine level as well as laboratory expansion while the staff complement increased to nine. In 1996, when the new facilities were opened at a cost of R2.4 million, Chemical Engineering had 286 undergraduates, the largest number in the

Faculty, rising to 330 the following year and by 1998 its intake all had ‘A’ and ‘B’ matriculation symbols.

In Electrical Engineering student numbers rose to 180 in 1990, double those of 1985, the final year class was 25 and there were fifteen postgraduates. In 1991 there were 191, including 37 final years and 37 postgraduates and a record 269 in Electronic Engineering. In 1990 Professor D.S. Swift occupied the alarmingly named High Voltage Chair while two years later L.T. Grujic assumed the post of AECI Professor of Control (presumably not to control the high voltage switch). For three consecutive years students won the South African Association for the Advancement of Science medal for the best masters thesis, all under Professor Ron Harley’s supervision. In 1997 Swift retired and Ed Boje was promoted to professorial rank while the following year Professor E.J. Odendal won the South African Institute of Electrical Engineering (SAIEE) Engineer of the Year award.

In 1994 Electronic Engineering introduced new courses in Artificial Intelligence, Digital Processes and Superconductivity while Electrical and Electronic Engineering together prepared new courses on Business and Entrepreneurship, which were now regarded as essential preparation for graduates before embarking on private practice. In 1996 the former discipline registered its largest ever final year class of 46, while the latter department accepted a record 93 first-year students. Professor A.D. Broadhurst became head of Electronic Engineering and F. Takawira the first Telkom Professor of Digital Communication.

In 1990 Mechanical Engineering boasted nineteen masters and doctoral candidates while six of the seven *summa cum laude* Engineering degrees were awarded to students in that department. Dr Maniatty and Mr Kaczmarczyk assumed posts in Solid Mechanics and Machine Dynamics in 1991. The following year Professor V. Verijenko joined the department in the field of Solid Mechanics and P. Gleeson in Control Systems. The micro steamcar challenge, which the department had been running as a fun training exercise for its own students, was expanded that year to include competitors from other tertiary institutions and from schools, while in 1993 it became an international event with the inclusion of British entrants.

In 1992 Professor Laurence Eckhout retired as professor and head of Surveying and Mapping and the department moved from the ‘huts’ where it had been accommodated since it was launched 35 years previously to new premises shared with Civil Engineering. In 1991 the expensive but little-used University aeroplane had been sold and in 1993, in collaboration with

Technikon Mangosuthu, the department bought a Global Positioning Unit for use in co-operative teaching. In 1996 it started a coursework masters programme in Land Management and Land Information Management. A donation of R118 000 enabled it to upgrade its primary item of equipment, a pair of geodetic quality GP5 satellite receivers. The department suffered a setback with the death of its new head (since 1992), Professor Herman van Gysen and in 1997 lost a senior lectureship and two senior technician posts in the University's downsizing process.<sup>8</sup>

### **Medicine**

Like Engineering, the Faculty was also highly productive in graduate output, 83 in 1990 as well as seven B.Sc.(Med.Sci.), fifteen M.Med., one Ph.D. and five MD degrees. By then it had 664 undergraduates, 343 students registered for masters degrees and 28 for doctorates. The refurbishment of its existing facilities and the completion of an entirely new complex were therefore eagerly awaited, but seemingly indefinitely delayed by a cost-driven government moratorium on the further development of academic hospitals as well as deliberations as to their future management. In 1991 the Faculty celebrated its 40th anniversary with an open day for alumni and a gala dinner, all held under the cloud of uncertainty that still hung over its future and that of the affiliated King Edward VIII Hospital. It, too, desperately needed refurbishment upon which depended the improvement of health services for the whole region.

At the end of that year, after several meetings with the minister of health, the Principal was advised of the Cabinet's decision not to construct any of the three academic hospitals currently proposed in view of the prevailing financial climate and estimated R3 billion cost. Instead of moving, as had been envisaged since the mid-1980s, to the new Cato Manor site the existing Faculty building was to be developed as a corporate headquarters for a multi-site medical school. This was to provide a full range of training facilities from community care to tertiary and even quaternary hospitals with a postgraduate centre attached to the latter and a 20% increase in students. It was estimated that this would cost the Department of Education R50 million, but save it at least R115 million by not building a new medical school.

Government readily embraced this more cost-effective option and provided further funding to improve the existing facilities. With R30 million in 1990 and nearly R10 million in 1991–1992 the construction of a new library made it possible to expand the space available to several previously overcrowded departments as well as providing new seminar rooms and a 200-seat lecture

theatre that greatly improved the available teaching facilities. The overnight student residence Mpala House was converted for administrative purposes, thereby also creating more space for academic activities. Improved student recreational facilities were provided, existing buildings were upgraded and eventually a six-storey tower block was constructed to provide more office space.

The provision of primary health care was clearly a government commitment and it was therefore more inclined towards a major upgrading of King Edward VIII Hospital as well as the Prince Mshiyeni Hospital as a cheaper alternative to constructing a new academic hospital until a feasibility study established that this was simply not realistic. In 1992 a supervisory board under T.G. Cleasby's chairmanship, with direct responsibility to national government, was at last established to manage the existing academic hospital and included representatives of the University, health authorities and broader community.

In February 1993 the Principal led a delegation to plead the urgent need for a new academic hospital in the province at a meeting with the State President. This was followed by another with KwaZulu-Natal premier and alumnus Frank Mdlalose who agreed to support the cause in negotiations with the new ANC government in Pretoria. The latter's long-awaited approval of the new academic hospital at Cato Manor was welcomed, but the envisaged seven-year construction period meant that the Faculty would have to manage with the existing overcrowded clinical conditions in the neighbouring King Edward VIII Hospital. This was now due to be refurbished to serve eventually as a regional rather than an academic facility. A provincial committee tasked with investigating the matter also eventually lent its support to the construction of a new hospital, much smaller than that initially envisaged but still costing an estimated R600 million.

Meanwhile the Faculty took the recommendations of the Vice-Chancellor's Independent Review Group into consideration when in 1993 it introduced a new system of internal governance involving greater participation by rank-and-file staff members as well as students. By then it could claim to have successfully trained more than 80% of South Africa's black doctors but the curriculum was also subjected to review. In 1994 the first problem-based, integrated learning module was introduced as an experiment at second-year level.

Staff shortages threatened to loom larger in the face of emigration and as both professorial and middle-order academics drifted increasingly out of public sector into private employment. The mounting crisis did serve to promote

debate about future national policy with regard to the admission of medical students and also led to closer collaboration among medical faculties. Another positive development, a reflection of the socio-political transformation that South Africa was undergoing, was the permission granted in 1994 for the Faculty to admit undergraduate students of all races from 1995 for the first time since its establishment in 1951. Selection continued to be a difficult process with places for only 120 first-year students from about 1 500 applicants each year.

In 1994 the Faculty hosted the College of Medicine specialist examination ceremony in which its own candidates were prominent and two of whom were awarded medals of honour. Its own graduation ceremony in December that year witnessed the end of a student boycott that had prevailed for decades. In December 1995 the Durban City Hall as well as the nearby Royal Hotel's video-linked Yellowwood Room were packed to capacity by more than 1 000 people, including 400 medical alumni, some from overseas, for a symbolic Medical School reconciliation graduation. In previous years they had boycotted their graduation ceremonies in protest against the University's earlier segregation practices, but now at last officially graduated.

Their distinguished ranks included KwaZulu-Natal premier Frank Mdlalose and the provincial MEC for Health Zweli Mkhize. In an atmosphere charged with emotion the Principal, Brenda Gourley, delivered a formal apology to them all on behalf of the institution and honorary doctorates were conferred upon two former students, Minister of Health Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Ben Ngubane. The University won widespread approval from politicians and the public at large for this important conciliatory gesture and the Faculty ended the year by graduating more than 100 new doctors. A similar reconciliation ceremony was planned for the alumni of the University's former Non-European Section, which segregationist legislation had closed down in the 1960s.

The Faculty's new affirmative action policy was challenged in the Supreme Court that year, but it continued to refine its admission criteria to ensure an output of graduates from all ethnic groups and in 1995 its new open admissions policy witnessed the registration of the first white undergraduates. The refurbishment of its facilities made working conditions more congenial but there was ongoing concern about the heavy burden of regional health services that made it difficult to concentrate on academic activities. By the mid-1990s the Faculty had to cope not only with dramatic changes and budget cuts in higher education but also in health services. Considerable time was devoted to



further curriculum development as well as a new programme in Public Health. By then the Faculty had almost as many postgraduates as undergraduates and hoped to define four distinct divisions: undergraduate education, postgraduate education, research, and community development.

In addition, it was proposed that the regularly renewed joint agreement between the University and NPA, originating in 1954, should be replaced by one more appropriate to changed circumstances and differentiated more clearly between the Faculty's academic and service responsibilities. By 1997, in the light of major restructuring in both the educational and health sectors, new relationships with the regional health service authorities had become absolutely essential. It was evident that the envisaged move towards a primary health care approach was going to be restricted by lack of adequate funding and manpower with sufficient staff available for only half the clinics that had already been constructed.

Moreover, the loss of staff due to stressful working conditions and more attractive options elsewhere continued unabated and the intended reconstruction of the Durban region's hospitals as part of the new range of training facilities did not progress as planned. The community demands upon the Faculty adversely affected its academic function and the ongoing absence of a renewed joint agreement between the University and NPA aggravated the situation.

Inadequate funding continued to inhibit training. In 1999, for example, the Department of Ophthalmology lacked the resources to provide practical experience in cataract operations. In addition, as Vanessa Noble has shown, the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which was particularly severe in KwaZulu-Natal, was felt throughout the Faculty, both in terms of altering the focus and training provided in many departments as well as time devoted to patients. By 2001 as many as 65% of in-patients at King Edward VIII Hospital were HIV-positive with potential risk and disheartening effects on both staff and students in the absence of any cure or a speedy implementation of antiretroviral treatment by government.

The Faculty nevertheless continued to focus on the required new five-year curriculum in response to changes in national health policy and was encouraged to increase its student intake by a proposed fundraising drive on the part of the Durban South Doctors Guild. The advent of the Internet, access to a rapidly expanding range of electronic resources and the introduction in 1997 of library websites in both centres paved the way for the increasing use of these resources for teaching purposes. The library staff carefully designed

the Medical Library's website to assist the Faculty in developing the topic/problem-based learning programme that it fully adopted in 2001. In this way the library became a learning laboratory with the librarians helping to develop instructional material to assist students in their new learning environment.<sup>9</sup>

During the 1990s, as before, there was a steady turnover of staff. In 1990 professors Theodore Sarkin (Orthopaedic Surgery) and Bob Mickel (Paediatric Surgery) retired. The following year K.S. (Krishnasamy) Naidoo succeeded to Sarkin's chair before retiring in 1996 while Anil Madaree was appointed head of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. New appointments in 1992 included Professor Michael Dutton (Physiology), Professor Kanti Bhoola (Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology) and Professor A. Smith (Virology).<sup>10</sup>

### **Humanities and Social Sciences**

The early 1990s also witnessed several changes in the Arts Faculty (Pietermaritzburg). The six-year-long Special Curriculum programme that had enabled black school teachers to complete a part-time BA was concluded in 1990 with its final crop of graduates. Meanwhile preparations were underway to develop a more flexible degree structure and semesterise all the Faculty's courses. Several departments became actively involved in the Educational Development programme and departmental tutors were appointed specifically to assist in modifying courses and teaching methods in accordance with the perceived needs of disadvantaged students. In 1993 the faculties of Arts and Education resolved to amalgamate into a new Faculty of Humanities controlled by a single dean and Board, which materialised in 1995. A joint faculty committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of offering a distance-taught BA for the Griqua-Kei area of southern Natal, probably to



**A. (Anil) Madaree** graduated at Natal in 1981 and acquired an M.Med. there in 1992. As head of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery from 1991 he was promoted to full professor in 1994. The department serviced half of the Eastern Cape as well as KZN with 120 to 150 patients in the wards at Wentworth Hospital, providing ample postgraduate experience as well as research opportunities on birth defects, skin cancers, trauma caused by accidents and attacks, burn reconstruction, scarring, cleft lips, neck and craniofacial surgery.

be based in Kokstad, but this promising initiative did not materialise despite Professor M.H. (Martin) Prozesky's sterling efforts to launch it.

In 1994 it was decided that although Philosophy and Religious Studies had functioned as a single department for some years the anticipated academic benefits from amalgamation had not emerged and they should again be formally separated. Increasing student enrolments ensured that, with Commerce, the Faculty was still the largest in Pietermaritzburg, boosted by a high number of postgraduate registrations in the School of Theology. Faculty task groups began to assist in formulating new interdepartmental first-level courses as part of the process of curriculum reassessment. In 1995 English began to develop a two-track set of programmes, one requiring discussion and reflection, the other more reading.

During the 1990s the Department of Zulu attracted considerably more registrations, an indication, in part, of the changing composition of the student body but this was due also to the double majors in Zulu (mother tongue) and Zulu (non-mother tongue) it now offered. Mary Hammond (later Gordon) replaced Nancy Tatham in Pietermaritzburg and took over first-year non-mother tongue teaching with Mbali Shabalala (later Machaba) subsequently joining the department as an equity acceleration junior lecturer. In 1991 colleagues from both centres celebrated the 21st birthday of the Department of Bantu Languages (aka Zulu Language and Literature, and Zulu) with a colloquium and braai.

By 1996 new programme-orientated interdepartmental courses were being planned in, for example, African Studies, African Languages, Literature and Language, World Civilisation and a collaborative masters programme in English and Applied Language Studies. Not all of these were launched. It was correctly claimed that at the time more people spoke French than any other language in Africa and that there were more of them than in France itself. The French and German departments were boosted by external assistance from the French cultural attaché and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. This enabled the former department to publish a journal *La Revue Française* and launch the New Arts Press; while the latter, assisted by visiting staff members, developed an outreach programme into rural schools to provide training in teaching German as a third language.

In 1997 the Faculty suffered the trauma of being one of the more severely affected by the University's decision to reduce expenditure by downsizing staff numbers. Afrikaans-Nederlands, Classics, German, Drama Studies, Fine Arts and History of Art and Historical Studies were all affected. Some

specialities, but no whole disciplines, were lost. Although student numbers in foreign language courses were small, full majors could still be offered in French, Latin, German, Greek and Hebrew as well as in Afrikaans, English and Zulu.

In addition, a Centre for Ethics in a Democratic Society, subsequently named the Unilever Centre for Comparative and Applied Ethics in acknowledgement of substantial donor support, was initiated under Martin Prozesky's direction. This had a currently fashionable multidisciplinary emphasis that included not only traditional approaches to moral philosophy and religious and secular ethics but also historical, social, scientific and literary dimensions that highlighted the cultural diversity of the KwaZulu-Natal region.

In 1998 some departments participated in the new international Winter School which, it was hoped, would become an annual event and generate additional income by attracting foreign students who sought to earn credits at home by studying abroad. It involved a rearrangement of sessional dates to allow for an eight-week term in mid-year during which local students could also gain extra credits towards their degrees, diplomas and certificates and was a response to the Commission on National Education's report that recommended greater use of university facilities.<sup>11</sup>

As always there were staff changes. In 1990 Professor Vic Bredenkamp retired after a distinguished career in the Department of Religious Studies beginning in 1961 and Professor Zola Packman assumed the chair of Classics, followed in 1992 by Professor Serge Menager who occupied the chair of French that had been vacant for several years. Anthony Davey retired in 1999 and Mandla Maphumulo succeeded him to Pietermaritzburg's chair of Zulu.

Theological Studies was renamed the School of Theology and honoured by the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, which declared it a Community of the Cross in recognition of its academic and social achievements. The School continued to grow in the 1990s while many similar faculties elsewhere merged or closed. In 1998 more than 100 postgraduates, many from foreign countries and some from the nearby St Joseph's Theological Institute, were attracted to its emphasis on theology in relation to economic and development issues.

Sculptor Henry Davies was one of those obliged to take early retirement after being associated with the Pietermaritzburg campus as a student (1963–1968), sub-warden, deputy warden and warden (1973–1980) and staff member (1972–1999). It was the sad loss of a specialist but Fine Arts continued to maintain its good reputation, particularly in Ceramics and Printmaking. In 1998 a generous bequest enabled it to begin offering postgraduate bursaries.

By then the English Department was offering various modules for different student abilities, ranging from second language speakers to advanced writing levels alongside its traditional courses in literature. Applied Language Studies had long provided courses in academic English for those who needed them and was increasingly now also catering to the needs of foreign students. During 1998 Zulu courses for non-mother tongue speakers were revised on a communicative language teaching basis with a separate major still being available for those students whose mother tongue was Zulu. The Faculty continued to offer majors in various foreign languages, including Classics courses.<sup>12</sup>

In 1990 the Faculty of Arts in Durban changed its name to the Faculty of Humanities more accurately to reflect its activities and counteract the notion that the BA degree it offered was vocationally meaningless. Significant restructuring in the Faculty, not least for financial reasons, saw the departments of French and Spanish, German, and Hebrew and Jewish Studies merging to form the new Department of Europe Studies. In this way the four languages continued to be taught along with a new Literary Studies major and a Europe Studies programme.

A new BA in Music was introduced for students who did not meet the requirements of the B.Mus. degree so that they could specialise in Music by completing all the credits except for the second major and the compulsory language course. In 1992 Hugh Masekela was appointed director of the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music and Joseph Shabalala, leader of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, became visiting professor of African Music. Professor Darius Brubeck was elected president of the International Association of Jazz Educators but sadly Bongani Mthethwa, appointed lecturer in Ethnomusicology in 1987, was murdered.

The Faculty continued to be actively involved in educational development, planning a new course structure, foundation courses and a vacation school and successfully appealing for outside funding in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Science. In 1992 the Department of Philosophy launched its foundation course while English introduced its first semester course that was not based on traditional book studies. Both were aimed at assisting educationally disadvantaged students acquire the skills necessary for university study. The following year English and Afrikaans both introduced coursework masters programmes designed to train teachers in curriculum development. The dean, Andrew Duminy, produced a widely circulated document 'The case for the Humanities' that stressed the importance of that Faculty's disciplines for a

rapidly transforming South African society in which ethical issues were gaining increasing significance.

Following the inclusion in 1995 of Education and Psychology in the Faculty, new foundation courses and a restructured BA degree were proposed appropriate to the dramatic social changes then taking place. New interdepartmental courses were planned with the overall intention of imparting 'communicative and analytical competence' and producing more 'critical' graduates. Ms J. Bradbury and the English Department's course development group won the University's distinguished teacher award for their contributions in this regard while at the other end of the academic scale the Faculty's postgraduate courses attracted more students from neighbouring countries.

Ongoing curriculum development included further media degrees offered in the Centre for Cultural and Media Studies as well as vocationally focused degrees in Afrikaans, Education, English, Linguistics and Music. A new Centre for Creative Writing was established in 1995 to provide training in writing for radio, television, translations and poetry, with assistance from Breyten Breytenbach. As visiting professor of Writing, he spent several months each year at the centre. In his first year he worked with Professor Mazisi Kunene, poet laureate of Africa, and local poet and honorary graduate Douglas Livingstone. In 1997 a Poetry Africa Festival attracted a number of South African and international poets.

In 1996 a Centre for Gender Studies was established, adding yet another dimension to the increasing variety of options available to students. A year later, in common with its counterpart in Pietermaritzburg, the Faculty was severely affected by the rightsizing of staff in those departments that were not cost-effective in terms of student numbers. To some extent the blow was softened by the disestablishment or freezing of academic and support sector posts that had fallen vacant during the previous three years. Even so, Afrikaans-Nederlands, Classics, Drama Studies, Europe Studies, German and Music were all hard hit, although they were still able to continue offering all their courses except for those in Spanish.

Faced with increasing student interest in courses that were more obviously job related, and with staff morale at low ebb, the Faculty sought to develop new ways of promoting its core values. These included critical evaluation, aesthetics, philosophy and the importance of language. New courses were developed that combined these with vocational relevance such as a Media and Communication programme and Translation Studies leading to a Certificate of Proficiency in Translation.

During the 1990s there were numerous staff changes. In 1990 Koos Stofberg assumed the chair of Philosophy, which had long been vacant following Anna Conradie's retirement and senior lecturer Anne Mackay was promoted to the chair of Classics Ben de Wet had occupied prior to his appointment as Registrar. In 1992 renowned classical scholar Bernard Kytzler was appointed as the first professor of Europe Studies, Professor Edgard Sienaert was seconded to the Campbell Collections to establish the Oral Studies Centre there and J. J. (Jeff) Guy assumed the chair of History.

Mervyn Frost (Politics) visited the USA on a US Government International Visitors programme and was a member of the South African delegation to a conference on federalism in Hanover, Germany. His colleague Ian Phillips participated in a military research group investigating the possible merger of police forces and armies in a future South Africa while Keyan Tomaselli (Centre for Cultural and Media Studies) was the first South African to be invited to a general assembly of the International Association of Film and TV Schools in Munich.<sup>13</sup>

Commerce continued to attract students into its various specialised fields with the numbers in the final year B.Acc./Dip.Acc. courses in Pietermaritzburg doubling from 27 to 54 in 1990 and total registrations rising to 1 078 in 1991. For the second and third years running the Department of Accountancy there produced the best results (93% and 90%) among candidates from fourteen participating universities in the qualifying examination of the Public Accountants and Auditors Board. Similar successes followed in subsequent years and were an important consideration in continuing to attract good quality entrants. Agreement was reached with the British Chartered Institute of Marketing to enable B.Comm. (Marketing) graduates to write its examinations for graduate membership. B.Comm. (Purchasing and Materials Management) graduates were now similarly able to qualify for membership of the British Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

In 1993 a number of promising disadvantaged students were selected for the new Foundation Educational Development programme intended to prepare such candidates prior to embarking upon a B.Comm. or B.Acc. Meanwhile, the Faculty reassessed all its courses to ensure their relevance in a rapidly changing environment. In 1994 a popular Human Resource Management Diploma was introduced and was followed in 1996 by diplomas in Finance, Banking and Investment Management and in Marketing and Supply Chain Management. In 1994 plans were discussed for the implementation of a new B.Acc. degree that

allowed for greater flexibility in the training of accountants. This comprised ten courses spread over three years in place of the previous four-year degree.

In 1995 the Business Management Certificate was offered to part-timers, not only to impart skills but also as an alternative access to degree programmes. A new bachelor degree in Business Administration was also developed leading to a masters degree available through distance education. Several part-time diploma courses followed that were not only self funding but income generating and offered previously disadvantaged students vocational skills that were in demand. Registrations in all these courses continued to increase as they did in the Faculty's Alternative Access programme. In 1997 the Institute of Financial Management in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, affiliated to the Faculty leading to formal accreditation of its programmes and staff interaction.

Economics and Management in Durban was the largest Faculty in terms of student numbers, offering a wide variety of specialised courses. In 1990 it introduced a new stream to its B.Comm. degree and new courses in Business Accounting, Quantitative Management and Finance while Economics responded to professional demand by introducing a coursework masters degree with specialisation in Econometrics. The demand for first-year places was high, as indicated by the application of a rising matriculation point cut-off. In 1990, 84% of candidates who sat the Public Accountants and Auditors Board examination passed and similar successes were experienced during the 1990s.

In 1992, when enrolments reached 1 800 (with 1 146 in Pietermaritzburg), the five-year restructuring of the curriculum was completed in response to a changing student body and business environment. Economics then embarked upon extensive syllabus changes and began to develop computer-aided learning for first-year students followed by a shift from a large-group, lecture-focused approach to a smaller-group, materials-based emphasis. In 1992 the first students to have enrolled in the Economics and Management Extended Curriculum programme (EMEC) completed their four-year B.Comm. degrees as did the non-accounting B.Comm. stream. By 1998 more than 100 students of the former programme had graduated and many went on to complete the Dip.Acc. postgraduate year. A three-year major in Business Information Systems was initiated while there was ongoing demand for the Department of Business Administration's honours programme and postgraduate diplomas in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management.

In 1993, newcomer to the Department of Economics Professor Robert Klitgaard introduced a new course in the Economics of Organisation and



Information, Associate Professor Anthony Lumby initiated a new major in Environmental Economics, and a postgraduate Diploma in Personnel Management was approved for introduction in 1995. Professor Lindsay Mitchell was appointed head of the Department of Accounting and Finance and I-Net, a division of Ivor Jones & Co., gave the department their historical database and financial statements analysis package. Devi Tewari (Natural Resources) and Toko Shezi (Personnel Management) added further dimensions to the study of Economics. The Faculty as a whole strengthened its links with several international graduate schools, including the Open University, which gave advice on distance learning materials.

In 1997 the first groups of students in the Faculty's Access programme completed the Certificate in Business Studies (with access to B.Comm. studies without credit for courses passed) and the Advanced Certificate in Business Studies (with credits). In addition, the EMEC programme enhanced its reputation for selecting and developing students from disadvantaged circumstances and involved them in spawning a foundation course, Integrated Business Studies, as a pilot project for further refinement.

The Department of Accounting and Finance introduced a new double major in Business Information Systems and Information Systems Technology as well as a popular contact and distance learning postgraduate Diploma in Accounting. This involved registering no less than 750 students in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Cape Town and East London and by 1998 there were 1 250 students attending contact sessions in the five centres. The departments of Business Administration and Economics planned a two-tier specialist MBA programme, the first part of which, a postgraduate Diploma in Business Management, was launched in 1998 with the second to follow in 1999. At the same time the new coursework Masters in Organisational and Management Systems was absorbed into the Faculty.<sup>14</sup>

During the early 1990s the Faculty of Education in Durban developed several new courses including a further Diploma in Education (Physical Science) in 1991, a Diploma in Specialised Education (Remedial) in 1992, an HDE (part-time) in 1993 and, in collaboration with the Faculty of Science, a four-year B.Sc.Ed. degree. It also increased its coursework and dissertation masters options. While becoming a School of Education within the new Faculty of Humanities in Durban in 1995, new M.Ed. options were developed in the form of degree programmes in Media Education and Education Resource Development as well as diplomas in the latter and in Adult Education. In addition, the Centre for Adult Education became an academic department and

a new division of tertiary education was to be formed as part of a reorganisation process. In 1996 modularised courses were initiated at B.Ed. and M.Ed. level to meet the needs of teachers. The new School of Education also collaborated with the Institute for Partnerships between Education and Business to initiate a new Diploma in Education and Innovation.

That year the School was selected to partner the South African College of Teacher Education, the country's largest distance learning teacher training institution. In the interests of upgrading in-service teachers it was decided to admit those with a four-year college of education diploma into the degree programme. This was to be practically orientated, materials-based and include tutorial assistance so that it could be offered in both Pietermaritzburg and distance centres. By 1998 it already had more than 700 students. There was also closer liaison with the Natal College of Education in Pietermaritzburg, although this appeared to be at risk with the formation that year of a new regional South African College of Open Learning comprising that institution, Springfield Training College and Mlazi College of Education.

The 1990s were also characterised by important changes in Education in Pietermaritzburg. After extensive discussions about the Faculty's future direction it was resolved to retain its existing structure but to add a new Department of Adult Education and a Department of Second Language Studies. The former was to be closely associated with the CAE which, for all practical purposes, was based in Durban. This became feasible because the staff of the existing Language and Reading Centre and the English Language Development Scheme agreed to amalgamate and join the Faculty.

There was also strong support for the establishment of a Centre for University Educational Development in addition to its traditional commitment to the training of school teachers. In 1990 Tony Barrett, Gustav Fouché and George Kendall all retired after many years of collective service; and Bruce Gillmer became the director of the Child and Family Centre, which continued to provide invaluable practical experience for students on campus.

In 1992 Professor A. (Alan) Penny resigned from his chair in Education, Professor K.L. (Ken) Harley was appointed as head and M.V. Joseph assumed the new chair in the Department of Second Language Studies. That year it was decided to form a new School of Education within the envisaged restructured Faculty arrangements in Pietermaritzburg. While B.Ed. enrolments increased, HDE and Specialised Diploma in Education (School Librarianship) numbers were maintained at 100 each. New curricula for the HDE and B.Ed. were introduced and a B.Ed. in Second Language Teaching was planned. Student

numbers increased significantly when from 1994 the self-funding two-year part-time B.Ed. offered to in-service teachers in the Newcastle/Madadeni region began to gather momentum.

In 1990 the School of Law in Pietermaritzburg celebrated its 80th anniversary with a series of lectures delivered by distinguished local and foreign scholars and a gala dinner attended by several members of the bench and legal profession as well as numerous alumni. In the early 1990s the schools of Law in both centres were inundated with B.Proc. and LLB applicants, with only 10% of the former and a third of the latter being accepted in Durban. By 1991 there were also 63 LLM students at that centre, mostly part-timers. The process of selection, incorporating an affirmative action policy to identify disadvantaged students with potential, necessitated regular evaluation. In 1992 the Pietermaritzburg Law School had places for only half its applicants.

The following year it re-introduced a part-time B.Proc. degree to create a ladder of qualifications enabling students to improve their qualifications incrementally and prepare them to practise in a reformed legal system. The School also introduced an initial two after-hours certificate courses in Labour Law and Company Law as well as opening the Lawyers for Human Rights Centre for Computer Training to improve students' skills. In July 1993 Tony Mathews died and John Milton succeeded him to the James Scott Wylie Chair of Law while Jonathan Burchell took over from James Lund as dean.

In 1994 formal ministerial approval was granted for a new undergraduate degree in Pietermaritzburg and all of the School's programmes were fully semesterised. Student demand for the LLB degree continued to exceed the available places and by then Environmental Law had emerged as an area of strength with courses at LLB, LLM, postgraduate diploma and certificate level. In 1997 an agreement was concluded with Nottingham University to launch a joint masters programme in Environmental Law.

Professor Nic Olivier assumed a chair in Material Property Law in 1994 and the following year the School underwent a comprehensive review by a distinguished panel whose report was discussed at length during a two-day planning workshop. New courses in Local Government Law, Intellectual Property, and Gender and the Law were initiated while a new masters degree was offered in Legal Education in collaboration with the School of Education. In 1998 all courses were revised to ensure that key proficiencies necessary to practise law in the upcoming century were included and new requirements in relation to computer literacy, ethics, language, numeracy and reasoning

processes were introduced. It was also accepted in principle that henceforth all final-year LLB students should perform community service.

In 1994 Durban's School of Legal Practice was formed under the directorship of M.L. Pillay in accordance with the University's new strategic planning guidelines and the following year Alan Rycroft won the University's distinguished teacher award. In 1996 as many as 392 B.Proc., 247 LLB and 54 LLM students were registered there with the overall majority (51.5%) being female for the first time. A new teaching methodology was introduced into the first-year B.Proc. course with the emphasis on individual reading, fortnightly essays, tutorials, seminars and worksheets.

In 1997 the Faculty in Durban celebrated its 70th anniversary with a reunion dinner for alumni and the launch of a major fundraising campaign to enlarge its library. In 1998 the Georgetown Law School Project was initiated as part of the Faculty's transformation strategy with two graduates, Phumelele Madala and Stephen Sibanda, awarded scholarships to study for the LLM degree in Washington DC before returning to teach law in Durban and Pietermaritzburg for two years.

In common with several other faculties, Social Science (Durban) also experienced a substantial increase in student registrations, rising to 1 106 in 1990. By 1993, 62% of the Faculty's students were black and all departments were implementing intervention programmes and revised curricula with students from disadvantaged circumstances in mind. Psychologist Dr Craig was seconded to assist in developing foundation courses for the TTT programme. That year Steve Piper was appointed senior lecturer and consultant in statistical methods and computers while Psychology's Centre for Educational and Psychological Counselling began to focus on the practical training of postgraduate students seeking recognition from the Professional Board for Psychology.

In 1992 the four-year degree offered by the Department of Nursing underwent major revision and in 1994 the first students were registered for the new programme focusing on a community/problem-based curriculum but the department resisted VCR proposals that it be relocated in the Faculty of Medicine. An exchange programme between the Centre for Industrial and Labour Studies and the Centre of African Studies at the University of Mozambique was introduced.

South African Pulp and Paper Industries (SAPPI) sponsored a lectureship in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences in 1991 while Richards Bay Minerals facilitated the launch of a postgraduate Environmental

Education course. In 1994 Professor Gerry Garland assumed the directorship of the School for the Environment and the Faculty developed a School of Industrial, Organisational and Labour Studies. Sociology lost several staff members who were appointed to senior civil service posts, but gained new leadership with the appointment of Professor Charles Crothers. Social Work also acquired a new head in Professor Marilyn Gray and started a Diploma in Community Development. In 1995 the School of Development Studies was initiated under the directorship of Professor Mike Morris and reviewed its teaching and research in accordance with the University's Mission Statement. Gerhard Maré assumed the directorship of the Centre for Industrial, Organisational and Labour Studies, which similarly revised its interdisciplinary options and developed a new more flexible set in accordance with the new Education Act's definition of programmes.

By 1997, as part of the new programme-based interdisciplinary approach the University had adopted, Geographical and Environmental Sciences as it was now called was developing new options in Ecological Conservation and Management and an MBA in Environmental Management was envisaged as well as an interdisciplinary programme in Tourism. Social Work prepared a new Community Development programme to launch in 1998 and the Department of Nursing integrated the outreach programmes it offered through the Institute of Nursing into a formal degree. Anthropology and Sociology similarly revised their offerings focusing on Development, Governance and Social Policy while Bill Freund, Harald Witt and David Moore introduced a popular new undergraduate major in Development Studies.

In 1997 two core courses were introduced at first-year level on Individuals, State and Society and on Research Methodology. In accordance with the University's overall strategy they were intended to equip students with the conceptual and methodological skills common to all the Social Sciences. By that stage a complete restructuring was envisaged leading to the possible emergence of a new Human Sciences Faculty embracing both the Arts and Social Sciences. In 1998, for the first time in four years, there was a decline in the Faculty's intake of black students of African descent due to the insufficient availability of financial aid packages. The majority of its students (72%) were female as had been the case for some time.

The relatively new Faculty of Social Science in Pietermaritzburg celebrated its fourth year with more than 500 enrolments and a 97% pass rate in the final-year examinations including twelve certificates of merit. The increase in student registration in 1990 was to some extent relieved by more staff appointments

– Johannes Fedderke (Economics), Sipho Shezi (Political Studies), Claire Bless (Psychology) and Debbie Bonnin and Tessa Marcus (Sociology). This also facilitated the introduction of some new courses, for example in Gender Studies and Rural Sociology. Malcolm Draper (Sociology) was appointed lecturer in 1992, as were D. Frank and R.J. Otto (Economics) and Andrew Kaniki (Information Studies). The latter assumed the chair in 1996 and was subsequently elected to serve on the standing Committee on Education and Training for the International Federation of Library Associations for 1997–2001.

Student registrations increased by another 10% in 1992 and it was decided to semesterise the B.Soc.Sc. degree. Fiona Bulman was appointed to guide the Academic Support component established within the Arts/Social Science Educational Development programme and academic support tutors were assigned to an initial three departments. All departments began to reassess their courses, textbooks, teaching methods and examination techniques and introduced tutor training and essay writing assistance. In 1994, an Academic Development Forum was initiated and CUED was requested to undertake an assessment of some departments.

At postgraduate level, in 1990 Economics and Information Studies initiated new masters programmes while the latter's doctoral programme also gathered momentum. The Faculty's development orientation was further strengthened by the introduction of an honours programme in Community Resources, a masters degree in Rural Sociology and a postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Sciences. In 1993 Peter Stopforth assumed the new professorship in Sociology and two years later new courses were offered in Economics and Information Retrieval and in Society and Development with an introductory course in the latter becoming part of the Foundation programme. The Faculty also became involved in the new masters programme in Environment and Development.

In 1994 Ralph Lawrence, an alumnus who had joined the staff in 1982, became head of Political Studies. He was sent to strengthen ties with Rutgers University where there was strong interest in contributing to the development of democracy in South Africa and a particular focus on such fields as nutrition and education. In response to the growing demand for service learning a community service programme, Citizenship and Community Studies, including practical placements, was launched in terms of an agreement with Rutgers which had students keen to take such a course. This was followed in 1996

by reciprocal staff visits and that year Lawrence received the distinguished teacher award and Christine Stilwell a teaching excellence certificate.

In 1997 the Centre for Government and Policy Studies (CENGOPO) was launched from the Department of Political Studies to teach and research public policy and offer much-needed in-service training to government officials and politicians. A project on co-operative governance and inter-governmental relations under Lawrence's directorship was initiated with a R1.6 million grant from the Venice Commission (Council of Europe). In 1998 the centre hosted a seminar Know Your Constitution with the new Chancellor Justice Pius Langa as the keynote speaker. Lawrence became professor of Government and Public Policy and Anna Stanton was appointed to a lectureship while the chair in Politics was left vacant. In 2000 a new Policy and Development Studies programme was started with extended funding from the Venice Commission.

In accordance with the University's overall transformation process the Faculty took the decision in 1997 to restructure itself into three new schools focusing on Human and Social Studies, Management, and Psychological Studies. Professor Linda Richter was appointed head of Psychology while N. Kusi and S. Mainardi became associate professors and a new curriculum was developed for a postgraduate Diploma in Psychology. Similar diplomas were initiated in Museology, School Librarianship and Rural Resource Management and some staff members became actively involved in the schools of Rural Community Development and of the Environment. As in all other faculties much time was spent in 1998 discussing restructuring arrangements for the future.<sup>15</sup>

### **Restructured faculties and new schools**

The University's restructuring process was long in the making, going at least as far back as 1991–1992 when the Executive requested deans to consider amalgamating faculties in the interests of cost saving and greater efficiency. This was preceded by the unpleasant but necessary exercise of downsizing or rightsizing in the face of mounting financial constraints. The adoption in 1990 of a common course-credit rating system and acceptance in 1995 of semesterisation by all faculties made amalgamations much more feasible.

Following proposals in the 1993 strategic planning exercise 'Planning guidelines 1994–1998', the process eventually came to fruition in 1999. As David Maughan Brown explained, it was partly in response to a deteriorating financial environment that required a more rational distribution of limited funds but also to dramatic worldwide changes in the higher education sector. These

included increasing competition from other service providers, the demand for lifelong learning, a multiplicity of alternative sources of knowledge, and a trend towards provision of programmes rather than discipline-specific degrees.

In this climate there was a perceived need for a more effective and attractive way of organising academic activity other than the traditional discipline-based departmental structure, which in some respects was disparate and not cost effective. It was intended to group cognate disciplines into more effective schools within a reduced number of faculties. These declined from sixteen to nine, subsequently ten – six in Durban, two in Pietermaritzburg and one, eventually two, functioning in both centres.

Approximately 120 departments and half a dozen schools were absorbed into 40 multidisciplinary schools. While some lost their former identities this did give rise to new opportunities for teaching and research as well as curriculum rationalisation and the co-ordination of expertise. The deans who now assumed much greater responsibility were to be given additional administrative support the extent of which, together with their own emoluments, was to depend upon the size of their faculties. 'A' category faculties (Medicine in Durban, Humanities, and Science and Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg), as distinct from 'B's, were those which offered twenty or more programmes and had more than 150 staff members.

Several were little changed from their predecessors, but some were significantly new in their composition and there were some subsequent rearrangements within and between the new schools as disciplines settled into more congenial partnerships. Schools, each with its own Board, were henceforth to be the smallest academic units and programmes could be taught within schools, across two or more of them or even across faculties provided responsibility for them resided in one designated school. Each programme had its own director who was responsible, if applicable, for securing degree accreditation from professional bodies. Senate also approved the establishment of two cross-faculty colleges, one for the Sciences and the other for the Human, Social and Applied Sciences. They were intended as an intermediate level of administration between Senate and the Faculty boards to facilitate discussion on matters of common interest and make recommendations in both directions.

Not all staff members favoured this new, supposedly more flexible arrangement and there were reservations about the loss of Faculty identity. Bill Freund for one was convinced that it was 'a terrible idea' and an expensive example of the consequences 'when managers have too much power' with



new schools being formed ‘whether or not they made any academic sense and whether the units therein actually wanted this merger to take place’.

A revision of the relevant rules in 2000 established that a module was to be regarded as ‘a self-standing generic term which carried a certain number of credit points’ while a course constituted a ‘combination of modules’. A pass at 75% or above was still regarded as a first in any module, 68% to 74% as an upper second, 60% to 67% as a lower second, 50% to 59% as a third and below 50% as a failure. The system of continuous assessment had already created venue and timetabling difficulties in the case of larger classes but some departments had found that, in combination with a final examination, this was the most effective means of academic evaluation.

By late 2003 an Honour Code had been formulated and all faculties had agreed that henceforth students and staff members should sign it as a contractual obligation to the University. In addition, staff were expected to discuss the principles of the code with their students on a regular basis, to clarify what was meant by ‘own work’ and to ensure that there was no cheating.<sup>16</sup>

### **Community and Development Disciplines (CADD, Durban)**

As an entirely new combination the Faculty comprised five, subsequently four, schools drawn from four previous faculties.

The School of Anthropology and Psychology, which Freund considered ‘ridiculously matched’, included the Centre for Social Work established in 1999 and found common academic ground by offering a new four-year Bachelor of Psychology, which brought together the previous majors in General and Industrial Psychology and included ancillary modules in Anthropology and Social Work. This met the new policy requirements of the Professional Board for Psychology and prepared graduates for the national examination necessary to register as practitioners in specific fields of the discipline.

Reconstituted as the School of Psychology and the Centre for Social Work from 2001, with Social Anthropology moving out, it continued to offer its professional coursework masters programmes in Counselling Psychology and Organisational/Industrial Psychology as well as an academic coursework masters in Psychology and Society. In 2002 head of school Grahame Hayes organised a lecturer exchange programme with Britain’s University of East London and Manchester Metropolitan University. Professor Vishanthie Sewpaul of the Centre for Social Work formulated a draft global qualifying standards document for the International Federation of Social Workers relating to social work education and training.

The School of Architecture, Planning and Housing finalised a new programme in Interior Design with assistance from Mike Molloy from the Queensland University of Technology. Staff exchanges were initiated while a new link with the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen led to the first group of staff and students being sent there in 2001. Town and Regional Planning formed links with Griffiths in Australia and with the University of Zimbabwe while the Centre for Housing Development and Research within the School was contracted to provide training programmes for provincial Housing Department staff members. Strong emphasis was given to integrated development planning in offering two new interdisciplinary programmes in Development Planning and Environment and Planning in collaboration with Development Studies and Geography respectively.

By 2002 the Planning and Housing programmes were attracting predominantly African students with Architecture not far behind registering several doctoral candidates from elsewhere in Africa. Student exchanges with the University of Stuttgart were initiated and at the first Planning Students Conference held in Durban the African city was investigated using several local case studies. In 2003 the architectural studios were successfully digitalised.

The School of Development Studies expanded its graduate teaching programme and in 2001 introduced a new masters degree in Population Studies. The United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), in collaboration with the South African National Population Unit, facilitated the launch in 2000 of an Applied Population Sciences Training and Research programme that provided short modules for local and national officials as well as non-governmental planners. These were on population-related themes and development strategies in accordance with government's new population policy. The UNPF also seconded Peter Ubomba-Jaswa to assist in imparting the necessary skills and participants from South Africa and other African countries attended the initial training sessions. The School continued to expand its graduate programmes in Development Studies and Population Studies as well as teaching Development Planning in collaboration with Town and Regional Planning and offering a research-based doctoral programme. By 2002 the School was generally regarded as arguably Africa's leader in development studies.

The School of Education had a brief sojourn in the Faculty before reconstituting itself into a Faculty of Education operating in both centres (see below). In 2000, in addition to its usual activities, the Centre for Adult and Community Education (CACE) focused on consolidating the Community Development programme with the first intake of students completing the

postgraduate diploma that year while the first group of distance students registered for it. When the new Faculty of Education was formed in 2001 the School of Education in CADD was dissolved, but CACE decided to remain in a new School of Community Development and Adult Learning.

The School of Nursing now offered Critical Care and Trauma Nursing at postgraduate level and Professor Thandi Gwele was involved in initiating a masters degree in Nursing Education in the United Arab Emirates as part of the collaboration between the School and the institutes of nursing there. As a World Health Organisation (WHO) collaborating centre for nursing and midwifery in 2001 the School improved contacts by hosting a workshop for seventeen African countries to agree on regional guidelines for basic nursing and midwifery education. In addition, the first Neonatal Nursing courses were provided as part of the undergraduate degree for registered nurses as well as courses in Primary Health Care, which provided training in the diagnosis and treatment of minor conditions. These were taught to large classes at five different venues with the support of the provincial health department.

In 2001, in collaboration with UNISA and the University of Botswana, the School initiated an African Honour Society to develop academic nursing on the continent with its own head Leana Uys as first president. The following year the School also provided a home base for a collaborative Pan African Project, funded by the WHO to develop capacity in institutional self-evaluation. In 2002, together with WHO (Afro) and the Rwandan government, T. Khanyile started an honours programme in Nursing Education in Rwanda on behalf of



**L.R. (Leana) Uys** was a qualified nurse, psychiatric nurse and midwife who held several degrees from the universities of Pretoria and the Orange Free State, including a D.Soc.Sc. in Nursing Science (1980) and an honours degree in Philosophy (1984), as well as undertaking graduate studies in the USA. In the 1970s and early 1980s she worked in a hospital at Zebediela and lectured at the University of the Orange Free State before being appointed professor of Nursing on the Durban campus (1986–2001). Uys served on several committees, as director of the WHO's Collaborating

Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Development (1997–2004) and, from 1990, as director of the Institute of Nursing, which provided distance education for nurses. She also published extensively, acquiring a 'B' NRF rating as a researcher (the first in Nursing) and undertook numerous consultancies.

the School for the benefit of the nursing staff at the Kigali Health Institute. That year Professor Nomthandazo Gwele succeeded Leana Uys to become the first black head of School in an historically white School of Nursing in South Africa.

The Faculty also provided a home for the office of Community Outreach and Service Learning (COSL) established in 1999 to co-ordinate community partnerships and service learning as well as being a tangible expression of the University's commitment to this new form of learning and teaching. It offered a new accelerated programme in Community and Development Studies as well as several service learning modules in the undergraduate Psychology and Community Development programmes. In addition to its teaching activities in the community it also launched a masters degree in Childhood and Youth Development in collaboration with the School of Anthropology and Psychology.

In 2001 the Community Outreach office joined Social Anthropology, the Centre for Adult and Community Education, Community Development and the Unit for Continuing Education in forming a new School of Community Development and Adult Learning (CoDAL). This combination offered a first degree in Community Development for both full and open learning part-timers, attracting students from as far away as Queenstown. Community-based learning was expanded at both undergraduate and postgraduate level with the introduction of a masters degree in Community Development in addition to the postgraduate qualifications offered in Adult Education. Students gained valuable experience through community-based learning modules and the School as a whole was strengthened by the arrival of Sylvia Kaye, who had experience in workplace learning, and Mvusi Mgeyane, who specialised in poverty alleviation and social policy.<sup>17</sup>

### **Engineering (Durban)**

The Faculty differed only partially from its pre-1999 composition but now comprised five schools. Quantity Surveying and Building Management (Property Development and Construction Economics) moved from the previous Faculty of Architecture and Allied Disciplines to join the new School of Civil Engineering, Surveying and Construction but retained a longstanding association with that Faculty. In 2000 Engineering celebrated the 75th anniversary of the awarding of its first three degrees, having been one of the initial cornerstones of the Howard College campus.

The UNITE programme, providing alternative access to the Engineering programmes and now in its 11th year, enjoyed eight different sponsors in 1999 when it had 43 students of whom 29 did well enough to progress. Overall Faculty registrations that year were 376, a 7% decline from the record number of 1998. This was in keeping with national trends in some branches of Engineering although masters and doctoral registrations increased from 117 to 183. In 2003 the Faculty boasted 1 500 undergraduates and 300 postgraduates with a 65-strong academic staff complement. All its teaching programmes were accredited by the relevant authorities; that is, the Engineering Council of South Africa, the South African Council for Technical Surveyors and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The newly named School of Bioresources Engineering and Environmental Hydrology became the home of the B.Sc. (Agric.) and related degrees. By 2002 strong connections had been established with the UNESCO programme on Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy and with the international Dialogue on Water and Climate as well as with several other institutions abroad. In 2003 a new course on the Management of Climate Variability and Climate Change in Water Resources was developed.

The School of Chemical Engineering, with nine full-time lecturing staff, one part-timer and thirteen support staff, attracted increasing student numbers by offering postgraduate modules in Advanced Process Control along with its undergraduate programmes and existing courses in Water Chemistry. In 2003, 36% of its 410 students were female and its graduates were still much in demand by international companies. The School continued to maintain and broaden its links with universities abroad with senior staff spending periods overseas and the number of foreign visitors steadily increasing. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the University's first chair in Chemical Engineering, the School opened its own museum of artefacts and documents with financial support from Shell and BP South African Petroleum Refineries.

The School of Civil Engineering, Surveying and Construction comprised 22 academics and twelve support staff who liaised in the development of co-operative teaching proposals. While existing postgraduate programmes were still offered, a new coursework masters degree in Property Development was initiated. In 2001, among other new appointments, Professor Philip Everitt was appointed head of School. Land Surveying developed a masters module in Land Information Management, which Mwitwa Chilufya advertised in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The School enjoyed modernised teaching facilities and the latest software tools thanks to the generous financial support of the engineering firm Aveng. Training programmes in Surveying Procedures were developed for land clerks and administrators in terms of the Communal Land Rights Act (2004). In 2002 an advanced postgraduate diploma and a coursework masters degree were offered in Construction Project Management. That year the transfer of the Property Development programme from a four-year to a three-year bachelors plus one-year honours degree was completed. The following year it assisted with empowerment-related issues through the Black Developers programme.

The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering had a staff complement of nineteen academics, 25 support staff and in 2003 a record 523 undergraduates. It allowed students to opt for either the Electrical or the Electronic programme and to benefit from fields of common interest between the two. The former was pursued by students wishing to embark on careers in power engineering, the latter by those specialising in information engineering including communications and computers. From 2002 it not only offered degrees in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, but also in the rapidly growing field of Computer Engineering.

In the School of Mechanical Engineering the new approach to final-year design projects initiated in 1998 was further refined with projects being assigned to teams of three students. The objective was to provide experience and emphasise the importance of design teams in solving applied problems, many of them suggested by industry. In 2000 the School hosted the third South African Conference on Applied Mechanics, which attracted 150 local and international delegates. The following year Lance Roberts was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Medal for 'exceptional service' to the University and Glen Bright organised an international conference on Robotics and Factories of the Future. Two more big conferences were held in 2003 on Composite Science and Technology and on Applied Mechanics and Materials.<sup>18</sup>

### **Human Sciences (Durban)**

The Faculty was unchanged in terms of departmental membership but in 1999 its new structure was a decidedly different model to that adopted in all the others, comprising first-level study, undergraduate studies and graduate studies. The first level was reminiscent of the proposals made in the late 1980s to establish intermediary tertiary colleges, but without the expense involved in introducing an additional fourth year of study.



**L.W. (Lancian/Lance) Roberts** completed a degree in Engineering at Howard College (1962) followed by an M.Sc. (1965) while serving as an assistant lecturer. He was appointed lecturer in 1965 and, after acquiring a Ph.D. at Imperial College London (1967–1971), he secured a post at UDW. In 1974 he was appointed senior lecturer and then professor (1975) and senior professor (1990) in Mechanical Engineering at Howard College. He served the University in several administrative capacities including two terms as head of department and two as dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and on various occasions during the 1990s respectively as acting DVC (Planning and Resources, and Administration and Academic) as well as Durban Campus Principal. This gave him experience of all three campuses, including the Faculty of Medicine, and he was also heavily involved in the 2001 incorporation of the fourth, Edgewood Teacher Training College, as well as the VCR committee. Roberts served on numerous other committees, including Council (2000–2002) and professional bodies off campus. He was also an Honorary Fellow of the South African Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

After an initial year of general education and discipline-specific introductions, an innovation that other institutions copied, students would henceforth be able to choose between studying for an Arts or Social Science degree in a wide variety of courses or a more vocationally focused package such as Media and Communication. Thereafter, they could pursue graduate studies that were now rationalised into various interdisciplinary honours and masters programmes. The team that developed the new first-level programme – Professor Michael Green, Heather Hughes and Nicole Geslin – won distinguished teacher awards.

Professor Lydia McDermott (Afrikaans and Nederlands) won that award in 2001 while Professor Elizabeth de Kadt (German and then head of the School of first-level study) won the Bram Fischer Oxford programme award and Thenjiwe Magwaza (Zulu) the University of California Education Abroad Exchange programme award. In 2002 David Spurrett launched the field of Cognitive Science, including Artificial Intelligence, in the Faculty while Industrial, Organisational and Labour Studies introduced Global Studies, which involved international exchanges of staff and attracted students from several other parts of the world.<sup>19</sup>

**Management Studies (Durban)**

The Faculty of Management Studies remained largely unchanged with its existing three departments reorganised into three interdisciplinary schools, all of them served by the EMEC programme. In 2000 it was the largest Faculty in the University in terms of student registrations with 4 642, rising to 8 806 by 2003 of whom 47% were postgraduates. This reflected an ongoing demand for the marketable qualifications it had to offer.

In addition to the established degrees in Commerce and Accounting, which in 2001 were re-introduced on a part-time basis in response to demand, the Faculty offered a new four-year Bachelor of Business Science degree. This, too, proved to be popular and provided for specialisation in one of Actuarial Science, Economics, Finance, Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations, Information Systems, Management and Marketing. In 2003 all appropriate undergraduate modules became available to part-timers and a record twenty first degrees were awarded *summa cum laude*.

The Faculty's computer laboratories were expanded to provide all its students with essential access to computer technology. In 2000 a postgraduate LAN room was equipped with the latest hardware and software to facilitate research and in 2001 a fourth undergraduate LAN room was added in which to undertake high-level studies. One of them, which the Anglo American Chairman's Fund co-sponsored, was dedicated to the Enriched Access programme. Such facilities were also essential to meet the growth in honours and masters programmes, especially in Accounting, Economics, Finance and Information Systems, as well as postgraduate courses in Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations and Marketing Management. By 2003 the Faculty had seven LAN rooms, five for undergraduates and two for postgraduates.

The School of Accounting and Finance comprised the four major accountancy disciplines – Auditing, Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting and Finance, and Taxation – as well as Information Systems and Finance. The School's candidates continued as before to achieve high levels of success in the Public Accountants and Auditors Board final qualifying examinations. In 2000 Robert Kelso won first place in part II of the examinations and 140 of its black students completed part I, the highest number in South Africa. Two years later the School produced the most qualified accountants from disadvantaged circumstances in the country and consolidated this position in 2003.

There was an increasing demand for the School's Information Systems programmes and for its postgraduate diploma and honours degree in



Accounting in both its contact and distance learning modes. The Open University in Britain provided useful advice with regard to the preparation of distance learning materials. International links were also established with the University of Asmara in Eritrea, which had World Bank funding to send postgraduate students to Natal. In 2000 the postgraduate diplomas in Accounting and in Management Accounting were both redesignated as honours degrees in accordance with the recommendation of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. The following year changes were also made to the first degree in Accounting to comply with the requirements stipulated for the new, first level of professional accountant or associate general accountant. New coursework masters programmes in Financial Accounting and Information Systems were subsequently introduced alongside that of the popular Master of Accountancy in Taxation.

The School of Economics and Management offered programmes in Economics, Industrial Relations, Management, Marketing and Personnel Management. It also offered Applied Economics III as a companion major to Economics III, accommodated new developments into its postgraduate Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations programmes and introduced a new module in Project Management and a postgraduate Diploma in Marketing Management in response to demand. In 2002 the School was the only one in the country to win Support for Economic Growth Analysis bids in all three areas of specialisation (Environmental Economics, International Economics and Trade, and Health Economics) to offer coursework Master of Commerce in Economics degrees for financially supported applicants from disadvantaged circumstances. In 2003 it also introduced Entrepreneurship as a new elective in response to a perceived need for more extensively trained undergraduates.

The Graduate School of Business ran the two-tier MBA programmes, the first part of which, the postgraduate Diploma in Business Management, had started in 1998. From 1999 the second tier offered a variety of specialised MBA programmes in mixed-mode delivery, which also proved to be very popular. In 2000 the University allocated the former Education and Innovation Foundation Building to the School, renaming it the University of Natal Graduate School of Business Building. That year the postgraduate Diploma in Management was offered in both contact and distance learning mode and the one-year Management Advancement programme was offered as an alternative to the postgraduate diploma for candidates with substantial work experience. During 2003 preparations were completed to offer all of the School's qualifications in

mixed-mode delivery so that students could enjoy maximum flexibility in their choice of classes.

The Leadership Centre also introduced three new coursework masters programmes – Community Higher Education Service Partnerships, Leadership Studies and Project Leadership. In 2002 the School set itself the goal of acquiring international accreditation for its MBA programmes and by 2003 there was strong demand for all its masters options.

At the other end of the learning scale the Faculty continued to draw successful candidates from the EMEC programme for high-achieving academically disadvantaged students, eight of whom won dean's commendations in 2000 and twelve in 2001. In 2002 this was converted into the three-year Enriched Management Studies (EMS) programme intended to offer an enriched curriculum for previously disadvantaged high achievers. As before, in 2002 and 2003 several students won certificates of merit and dean's commendations while the Alternative Access programme continued to offer the Advanced Certificate in Business Studies as a means to enter B.Comm. studies with credits for all courses passed.<sup>20</sup>

### **Medicine/Health Sciences (Durban)**

Two years of planning came to fruition in 1999 when the Faculty reorganised itself into four schools: Clinical Sciences, Family and Public Health Medicine, Medical Sciences, and Pathology and Laboratory Sciences. In collaboration with Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and the New England Medical Centre, the Faculty also undertook to serve as the centre in Africa for the United States National Institute of Health's R4.5 million programme that sought to link clinics, hospitals and medical schools in sub-Saharan Africa to the Internet.<sup>21</sup> Professor Maurice Mars (Physiology) was appointed to manage the project in Africa with the Faculty's computer resource facility proving very useful. The recent dramatic increase in undergraduate (80%) and postgraduate (20%) registrations nevertheless pointed yet again to the desperate need for a new, adequately equipped building.

In 2000 the name Faculty of Health Sciences was adopted to reflect a more holistic approach to medical education. In February that year its main teaching venue was renamed the Steve Biko Memorial Lecture Theatre in honour of that now internationally renowned former student of the 1970s in the presence of his widow Ntsiki Biko, his sons Nkosinathi and Samora and the KZN MEC for Health, alumnus Zweli Mkhize. At the 50th anniversary banquet on 29 July, which 1 300 alumni and dignitaries attended in Durban's International

Convention Centre, Nelson Mandela announced that the Faculty was to be named the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine and unveiled a plaque to that effect.

Since its foundation in 1951 it had graduated nearly 3 000 black doctors and trained more than 600 specialists. Its many distinguished alumni included Mamphela Ramphele (World Bank director), Ben Ngubane (Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology), Ayanda Ntsaluba (director-general of the Department of Health), Zweli Mkhize, Ronnie Green-Thompson (KZN health secretary), Malegapuru Makgoba (president, Medical Research Council), Professor Soromini Kallichurum (president, Health Professions Council) and Brigadier Vejay Ramlaken (Military Health Services). The Faculty had survived chronic shortages of staff, space and equipment attributable primarily to inadequate funding; as well as political harassment, police raids, arrests and sometimes violent student protest. Some speakers took advantage of the anniversary banquet to criticise the University for the Faculty's skewed demographic profile and one alumnus published a newspaper article attacking its staff in what the Principal described as 'an overtly racist manner'. A discussion group was subsequently formed with some 'concerned black doctors' to resolve the issues that had been raised.

As Vanessa Noble has pointed out, since 1995, when white students were first registered, the admission committee had aimed to achieve an intake of 69% African, 19% Indian, 9% coloured and 3% white in an effort to match the national demographic profile and address the shortage of African doctors. In practice it was sometimes difficult to meet the African quota but there was success in changing the gender profile to the extent that by the 2000s the majority of the approximately 200-strong registrations were women. The Faculty continued to experience racial tensions among students and sometimes between students and staff. Well-matriculated Indian applicants contended that the quota system disadvantaged them while some African graduates felt that they were actively discouraged from specialising and from joining the staff.

There were other significant changes. The curriculum development task force completed Curriculum 2001 after four years of intensive planning. With the approval of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, the new curriculum placed emphasis on prevention rather than cure. This constituted a shift from a curative hospital-based service to the community-based and primary health care approach that Sydney Kark and others had sought to promote in the 1940s and 1950s. In accordance with global trends it also involved a more integrated,

problem-based group learning approach embracing both the basic and clinical sciences while also stressing the importance of moral and social ethics.

Medical students were henceforth to be organised into small study groups required to work their way through a wide variety of book and journal reference material relating to the 30 modules, spread over five instead of the previous six years, which covered all the essential disciplines in the curriculum. This shortened degree was to be followed by a two-year internship and, from 1998, a paid post-graduation community service year intended to provide more practical experience while alleviating staff shortages in the public sector. Twenty facilitators were trained in the underlying principles and holistic philosophy of the new curriculum to co-ordinate the small-group learning central to the new programme.

It was the second of its kind to be introduced in South Africa based on the model already in operation at Harvard and Maastricht. It was implemented following the introduction of WebCT and of medical Zulu and an English skills course as well as a Skills Resource Facility, a virtual hospital that enabled students to perfect a variety of clinical procedures and medical techniques using models. The Professional Provident Fund provided R350 000 to finance it while Professor Vivien Chrystal (Pathology) won the University's distinguished teacher award for her role in developing the new curriculum after teaching for 26 years.

Despite periodic criticism concerning selection and admission policies there were still large numbers of prospective students to choose from – 1 500 from all nine provinces for 200 places in 2001. There were also outstanding results, including five *summa cum laude* and two *cum laude* graduates that year. In 2002, the 139 students who sat the final examinations enjoyed a 91% success rate, four graduating *cum laude* and one, Kim de Vasconcellos, who passed *summa cum laude* also won twelve prizes. There was a 92% pass rate the following year with two students passing *cum laude* and six *summa cum laude*. Another four graduated *cum laude* in the Masters in Clinical Pharmacy programme.

The Medical and Dental Professional Board accredited all the undergraduate programmes, Professor Yackoob Seedat was appointed chairman of the South African Medical Association and rheumatologist Professor Girish Mody won the Mary Weston Achiever award for service to his discipline. Meanwhile Bilkish Cassim assumed the Aaron Beare Chair of Geriatric Medicine established on the strength of a R2.2 million grant from the Beare Foundation to meet a serious skills shortage in the sphere of geriatric care. In addition,

the Servier Chair in Family Medicine was established, thereby emphasising the movement towards patient-centred treatment and in accordance with government's primary health care policy.

By 2001 there were 31 departments and sub-departments but the staff had decided that the University's new schools structure was 'wholly unsuitable' in its case and that there was a need for it to be substantially revised in the near future. Meanwhile, all services and departments were successfully transferred from the old Faculty of Medicine Building and the King Edward VIII, Addington, R.K. Khan and Wentworth hospitals to the new Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Cato Manor, which was officially opened in 2002. It was now no longer to be just the originally envisaged teaching hospital but a technologically advanced tertiary-level facility intended to address the needs of all the institutions involved in health training in the region.

A university-owned private company, NU Health (Pty) Ltd, was established under Dr Anushka Jamuna's direction to investigate the possibility of initiating revenue generating programmes that would also meet the needs of the corporate sector. It was recognised that it would take a few years for the company to show a profit, but the intention was that, in view of increasing financial constraints and limited donor funding, this would be used for future development and long-term viability. In 2003 the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Affairs was initiated, as was the African Systems of Health Care that involved signing a memorandum of understanding with indigenous healers in KwaZulu-Natal. That year preparations were made to receive



**J.R. (James) van Dellen** completed a medical degree at Wits (1966) and specialised at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh (1971), registered as a specialist neurosurgeon in South Africa (1973) and was awarded a Ph.D. on lumbar disc disease at Wits (1984). He gained extensive practical experience at Baragwanath and Johannesburg General hospitals. As professor and head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Faculty of Medicine (1980–1986), he also taught nurses and students at Wentworth Hospital, UDW and the College of Medicine (SA) before resigning to assume a post abroad. He returned as chief specialist/professor and departmental head in 1988 and, after serving briefly as acting DVC and Vice-Principal, became full-time dean of the Faculty for five years. He published extensively and served on numerous professional bodies prior to his departure in 1999.

Cuban students for the first time in terms of an agreement between the two governments whereby 360 trainees from that island would complete their final year in South African medical schools.<sup>22</sup>

### **Science (Durban)**

In 1999 the Faculty assumed a slightly enlarged form by grouping the seven existing departments into five schools, three of which were cross-disciplinary: Geological and Computer Sciences; Life and Environmental Sciences (including the associated School of the Environment and Department of Geographical and Environmental Sciences); Mathematical and Statistical Sciences; Pure and Applied Chemistry; and Pure and Applied Physics.

New offerings included level II and III modules in Actuarial Science that exempted graduates from some of the requirements for registration as an actuary in Britain and attracted several top matriculants to that programme in the School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences. These and other new courses, as well as an initial 12% increase in first-year registrations, resulted in the establishment of new posts in Actuarial Science, Computer Science and Mathematics. Increasing numbers necessitated extensions to the Computer and first-year Chemistry laboratories. The traditional fairly flexible B.Sc. was retained but nine more focused degree programmes with clearly defined curricula were phased in over three years.

There was particularly strong interest in the Bio-Medical Science and Information Technology programmes and at the postgraduate level in the new coursework masters programme in Environmental Management introduced by the School of Life and Environmental Sciences. It also developed a multidisciplinary coursework masters programme in Marine and Coastal Management to be introduced in 2002.

The Augmented Curriculum programme under Jean Parkinson's direction continued to draw students from educationally disadvantaged circumstances and many went on to complete their degrees. The Faculty was fortunate to have an enthusiastic Science Students Council to assist in maintaining good staff-student relations. In 2003 it established a Public Relations Committee and organised a successful postgraduate research day involving good quality poster and oral presentations. Staff members in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences were involved in the Mathematics Popularisation Initiative, which included public lectures, talks to teachers and problem-solving clinics for learners preparing for the annual maths challenge and mathematics olympiad. Durban's Astronomy Society hosted several public

viewing evenings during the Mars approach in August and September 2003 using the telescope mounted on the Desmond Clarence Building.

As in previous years there was a loss of valuable expertise to retirement and resignation. In 2000 the dean Manfred Hellberg (Physics) retired, as did Glenn Campbell (Biology) and Peter Krumm (Physics) who had joined the University in 1966 and 1968 respectively. So, too, did Ken Prentice after lecturing in Mathematics for 31 years; and Professor Fred Bell (Geology) also departed. The following year long-serving Don Bedford (30 years) and David Schuster (26 years) left the School of Pure and Applied Physics while Professor Hugh Brookes (32 years) and senior technician Selvan Petersen (17 years) left the School of Pure and Applied Chemistry. In 2002 former dean Johann van den Berg (Mathematics, 42 years) retired, as did another former dean David Walker (Pure and Applied Physics), one of South Africa's first 'A'-rated research scientists, as well as colleague Denis Spalding, who died shortly afterwards.

Sandile Malinga joined the latter School under the accelerated internship programme, among other new staff members. Additions in 2003 included Deshendra Moodley (Computer Science), Stephanie de Villiers and Melanie Rademeyer (Chemistry) and Gareth Amery, Kavilan Moodley, Megan Govender and Anesh Maharaj (all Mathematics).<sup>23</sup>

### **Human Sciences/Human and Management Sciences (Pietermaritzburg)**

The new Faculty comprised 4 000 students and 140 academic staff drawn from the former faculties of Arts, Commerce, Education and Social Science, which from 1998 constituted five separate schools: Business (including Accounting, Economics and Business Administration); Education; Human and Social Studies (including Information Studies, Political Studies and Sociology); Psychology (now including Educational Psychology); and Theology. In 2001 Education was re-constituted as a separate Faculty. The traditional two-major degrees continued to attract most students, but increasing numbers were drawn to new named BA or B.Soc.Sc. degrees focused on particular fields such as Drama, Fine Art, Professional Language Studies and Psychology.

A Joint Access course was developed for all the degrees involving the careful selection of disadvantaged students with poor matriculation results based on their Grade 11 school performance and ranking in class, coupled with testing and interviews on campus. In 2001 the first 80-strong intake was separated into Business, Education and Humanities streams, all of which had to take core modules in English, Computer Literacy and Social Studies.

The new and varied degree structure upon which this was built now made it possible for Arts students to major in Marketing or Management together with a traditional Arts major, while their Commerce counterparts now took modules in Public Speaking and Writing and could also study Graphic Design. New interdisciplinary programmes within and external to the Faculty included links between Information Studies and Policy Development, Sociology, Media and Communication, Psychology and Theology. Student registrations continued to increase at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

New postgraduate degrees and diplomas were available to graduates from any background who wished to improve their employment prospects in a particular direction with, for example, Commerce graduates taking a Diploma in Psychology and Arts graduates a Diploma in Human Resource Management. There was increasing demand for applied masters degrees with many more applicants than could be accommodated in the School of Psychology.

Martin Prozesky's multidisciplinary Unilever Ethics Centre and Ralph Lawrence's CENGOPO in the School of Human and Social Studies both also attracted students. The masters programme in Comparative and Applied Ethics was designed to train educators and managers and in 2001 had more than 40 applicants, of whom only eight could be accepted. The diploma and masters programme in Policy Studies drew a number of local government employees. In 2000 the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation, UDW and UWC joined the University in forming the Public Policy Partnership, which the Mellon Foundation funded as a programme designed for students intending to enter politics and public service. Ethics meanwhile became a major available in both the Arts and Social Science programmes as well as a component in the School of Business Studies Management courses.

There was an increase in postgraduate registrations in English but the Faculty's largest numbers at that level were in Theology – 49 doctoral and 64 masters candidates in 2000, many from elsewhere in Africa and from Germany and the USA. That year Steve de Gruchy was appointed director of the Theology and Development programme which, prior to his untimely death in 2010, came to be widely known throughout the continent as a centre for postgraduate study. Registrations were expected to increase following the planned integration of the Lutheran Theological Training Institute with the School.

Numbers in the part-time undergraduate degree in Business Administration grew by 20% a year while the School of Business Studies new MBA also proved popular and a specialised MBA in Water Management, unique in Africa,



was launched with the support of Umgeni Water and the secondment of Bill Richards to serve as programme director. This development established closer ties with industry and met an increasing need for skills in water management and community water services, attracting students from far afield.

In the School of Human and Social Studies new modules were offered in Academic Communication and Writing with classes for foreign students who had little or no English much in demand. Information Studies, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1998, continued to attract students and now administered the Diploma in School Librarianship. The emphasis on maintaining high academic standards remained in the traditional disciplines that fed into the new multidisciplinary and vocationally orientated programmes. Even though registrations were declining in many of them as student demand changed, the Faculty still offered modules in classical and European languages including Greek, Latin, Hebrew, French, German, Dutch and Spanish.

Despite similar challenges, in 2001 the Centre for Visual Arts began to offer new modules in Graphic Art and the following year exchange arrangements enabled its students to spend extended periods studying art in Japan and Sweden. In 2003 the fundraising concert that the NUDF assisted in organising in New York, involving six student and two staff performers, raised \$80 000 for the centre's opera school and choral academy.

In 2001 the Faculty changed its name to Human and Management Sciences in recognition of the fact that more than half of its students were registered for Commerce and Management degrees. Student numbers in those programmes continued to increase but there was also a rise in first-year Arts and Social Science registrations for the first time in some years. South African dramatist Greig Coetzee was playwright-in-residence for part of 2001, benefiting students with his talent by helping them develop the innovative play *Look Out*. In 2002 Jenny Clarence-Fincham and Jill Arnott won distinguished teacher awards and the Faculty held a successful Winter School in which North American students gained external degree credits for modules in Language and Culture, History, Politics and Zulu Art.

The following year a grant from Atlantic Philanthropies and further financial support from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund, the University's own Research Fund and the national Department of Arts and Culture made it possible to bring the world-renowned Lindfors Collection of African Literature back to the continent and to launch a new Centre for African Literary Studies in the old Gatehouse on the Scottsville campus. In 2004 a School of Zulu

Studies was to be formed, independent of the other languages still being taught in both centres.

In 2003 the School of Psychology introduced a much-needed course on HIV/AIDS counselling. Relatively few new staff members were appointed to the Faculty but in 2003 two emerged from the University's Equity Acceleration programme and many of the more than 100 doctoral candidates registered that year were black. This was promising for efforts to change the staff profile.<sup>24</sup>

### **Science and Agriculture (Pietermaritzburg)**

The close relationship between Science and Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg began in the late 1940s because of the initial year that the latter's undergraduates traditionally spent doing basic science courses. Possible amalgamation was discussed as early as 1988 and in 1993 a joint research committee was established. Close dialogue followed to develop a 'shared sense of direction' based on 'a common scientific culture'.

When the new Faculty was eventually formed the eighteen existing departments were appropriately organised into six schools: Agricultural Sciences and Agribusiness; Applied Environmental Sciences; Botany and Zoology; Chemical and Physical Sciences; Mathematics; Statistics and Information Technology; and Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. These combinations, coupled with the University's new outcomes-based approach to teaching, gave rise as in other faculties to the development of a variety of training opportunities in the form of numerous new programmes introduced in 2000 as well as a wide range of collaborative interdisciplinary research possibilities.

There were, for example, new named degrees in Agribusiness, Biocomputing, Biomolecular Technology, Bioprocessing Technology, Chemical Technology, Computational Physics, Ethnobotany, Ecological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Food Security, Information Technology, Resource Ecology, Rural Resource Management, Sports Turf Management and Wildlife Science. The traditional degree programmes were also still available with such majors as Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Community Resources, Computer Science, Dietetics, Entomology, Genetics, Geography, Grassland Science, Horticultural Science, Information Systems, Mathematics, Microbiology, Plant Pathology, Statistics and Zoology.

The De Beers Educational Trust donated R250 000 for a computer network to be made generally available to students but, in particular, for the Computational Physics programme. By 2000 increasing registrations in the

Information Technology programme necessitated the construction of a new computer laboratory for students studying Computer Science and Business Information Systems in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Information Technology. This added 40 more PCs to the 50 already available and included up-to-date hardware and software that facilitated multimedia computer-based training.

Agribusiness absorbed the School of Rural Community Development, which was renamed the Centre for Rural Development Systems, while what had been designated the School for Environment and Development (SEAD) was incorporated into the School of Applied Environmental Sciences as the redesignated Centre for Environment and Development (CEAD). This, in turn, embraced the Farmer Support Group as well as the Centre for Rural Development Systems, launched in 1985 and 1999 respectively. It attracted the participation of partner universities from Denmark and Botswana in its Environment and Development coursework masters programme.

In 2002 the Faculty offered more new programmes in Industrial Bioprocessing Technology, Land Information Management, Operations Research and Protective Area Management. Neil Ferguson (Animal and Poultry Science) won a certificate of excellence for creativity and innovation in teaching while Sheryl Hendriks (Agricultural Sciences and Agribusiness) won a distinguished teacher award. In 1998 she initiated the new African Centre for Food Security, which sought to draw expertise from a variety of fields to undertake training and research towards lasting solutions to the widespread challenge of food insecurity. In 1999 she and Maryann Green, who had been the first two students to gain an M.Sc. in Community Resource Management, launched a new Community Resources programme after that discipline split from Dietetics. Dietetics and Human Nutrition in turn implemented new B.Sc. and postgraduate programmes.

Among staff changes in the agricultural disciplines in 1999 Janusz Zwolinski led the new UKZN Forestry Initiative and John Bower succeeded Nigel Wolstenholme to the chair in Horticultural Science. In 2000 Mark Laing succeeded Frits Rijkenberg to that in Plant Pathology, which split from Microbiology. In 2001 Kevin Kirkman succeeded Tim O'Connor to that in Range and Forage Resources, which reverted to the name Grassland Science, and John Hastings resigned from the chair of Genetics.

In 2003 the opening of the R5.8 million BHP Billiton Science Foundation Programme Building in Pietermaritzburg gave further impetus to the training of underprepared science undergraduates in the form of much-needed extra

space with student numbers growing from 30 in 1991 to a record 285 in 2001 and 240 in 2003. It also provided accommodation for the expanding Graduate School of Business. That year the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences was the first in the country to acquire an SAB-sponsored microbrewery for instructional purposes while Grassland Science officially opened its N.M. Tainton Arboretum established in 1990 as an outdoor training and conservation facility. Mark Laing's African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI) celebrated the acquisition of much-needed space with the official opening of ACCI House at Ukulinga Research Farm where, with Rockefeller Foundation support, it proposed to train doctoral students from all over the continent to tackle the challenge of food security in Africa.<sup>25</sup>

### **Law (both centres)**

The merger of the University's two schools of Law, with Alan Rycroft as first dean, made the new Faculty one of the strongest in the country. In 1999 the new four-year LLB programme was implemented. This still accepted students who had already completed another qualification but was designed to provide a specialist degree with a sound basic training that could lead to several career options other than law. Students who chose first to finish another degree could still complete the LLB in two years afterwards provided they took a law major and could transfer from one programme to the other with minimum disruption. Durban's first batch of students completed the new programme in 2001 and Pietermaritzburg's in 2002.

A successful 'by appointment' programme, linked to schools liaison and open days, was initiated to improve the quality of first-year students with prospective entrants being invited onto campus and informed about the LLB programme and career prospects. This proved highly successful with several top achievers, including at least ten with six matriculation distinctions, being attracted into first-year studies in 2003. The community service aspect of this training remained as important as ever. So, too, did the Moot Court programme in which all final year students were obliged to participate in order to gain experience of the cut and thrust of court argument. In 1999 a joint Durban/Pietermaritzburg student team comprising Natalie Brown and Jabu Thobela beat its British counterpart in the finals of the Commonwealth Moot Court competition with Thobela being chosen as best advocate. The Durban team regularly featured in the top ten of the All Africa Human Rights Court competition and won it in 2003 while a Pietermaritzburg team won the African International Humanitarian Law competition.

The reduction of the traditional five-year postgraduate degree in law to a four-year undergraduate degree created greater demand for masters degrees and a number of new coursework programmes were offered at the LLM level. This attracted interest among local and foreign students as well as members of the legal profession, which further boosted the Faculty's registrations. While both centres offered general coursework masters programmes, Durban also offered specialist qualifications in, for example, Maritime Law and Advanced Corporate Law.

Pietermaritzburg specialised in Environmental Law, which attracted good quality students through an agreement with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's regional office for southern Africa. As a result of these developments the Faculty was granted four additional posts and a School of Postgraduate Legal Studies was envisaged bridging both centres to cope with increasing demand and as a means of creating further cohesion between them.

There were other important developments in the new Faculty, including the establishment in 2000 of a chair in Human Rights and Ombudsman Studies at the suggestion of the South African Public Protector, Selby Baqwa, who was an alumnus. It was the first in the country and was intended to promote both teaching and research in this field. The following year Pietermaritzburg professors John Milton and Michael Lupton retired after a combined service of 64 years to the University and in 2003 the Moot Court lecture theatre there was named in honour of the former. That year its Moot Court team, partnered with the Ivory Coast's Université de Cocody, won the African Human Rights competition with students Andreas Coutoudis and Alison Wixley rated second and third in the English oralist category.

In 2003 the Faculty of Law, which had long been involved with human rights issues, opened its Centre for Global Law and Human Rights with its own International Advisory Committee including Cherie Booth, QC, the wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Its objective was to strengthen the commitment of those countries comprising the Southern African Development Community to democracy and social justice and to promote the moral legitimacy of business in the region in its involvement in the global economy. Construction of the centre was initially linked to a desperately needed extension to the Durban Law Library for which the University subsequently provided R1.6 million in funding, thereby doubling its size. Moves were soon afoot to move the African Ombudsmans Association from the University of Tanzania to the Faculty.<sup>26</sup>



**J.R.L. (John) Milton** served the School of Law in Pietermaritzburg for nearly 40 years during which he was dean of the Faculty for four, director of the School for nine, acted as legal consultant to the University from 1983 to 1995, assisted as acting Vice-Principal for a term and was a member of Council for a decade. He also served as president of the Society of Teachers of Law (1980–1981) which awarded him its gold medal, edited at least three professional journals and was a member of Lawyers for Human Rights and the Society for the

Abolition of the Death Penalty. Among other off-campus contributions he was a member of the Judicial Services Commission and chairman of the National Monuments Council. Milton published extensively and was perhaps best known for his three-volume work with Exton Burchell on *South African Criminal Law and Procedure*, which became a standard reference in the profession and, in collaboration with Jonathan Burchell, *Principles of Criminal Law* and *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law*, which were used extensively as student textbooks.

### Education (both centres)

In 2001 Education completed a long journey when it re-constituted itself as a new Faculty straddling both centres after existing as two separate faculties in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, merging with the Humanities and then joining the Faculty of Community and Development Disciplines in 1999. From 2001 new modules were devised in Mathematics and Science Education, Disability Studies and Pastoral Care, Gender Regimes and Justice, and Gender and Education at the B.Ed. level as well as a widening variety of alternatives that included Educational Management, Education for Justice and Democracy, School Improvement, and Teacher Education.

Nine fields of specialisation were offered at M.Ed. level as registrations increased. An Ed.D. was initiated in collaboration with the University of Nottingham with the emphasis on school effectiveness while a new doctoral programme with a strong focus on both teaching and research was developed in collaboration with Stanford University and several local institutions. In addition, the postgraduate Certificate in Education replaced the HDE while in 2000 more than 1 500 in-service teachers were registered for the honours degree in Education.

A controversial highlight of the early years of the new millennium was the University's incorporation of Edgewood College of Education, which had been established in 1966 on a 35-hectare site on the outskirts of Pinetown at a cost

of R20 million. As early as 1969 the National Education Policy Amendment Act had declared that teacher training for secondary schools should be placed under the wing of universities while that for primary schools should be undertaken in close co-operation between colleges and universities. Under the Natal Plan that came to be adopted throughout the country for teacher training colleges, the province had continued to fund Edgewood, which still enjoyed a large measure of autonomy under a council including representatives of both the NPA and the University.

In 1996 the report of the National Commission on Higher Education had gone further in recommending that all South Africa's colleges of education should be incorporated into its universities and technikons. The proposal appeared again in the government's 1997 white paper on higher education as a way of rationalising and hopefully improving the quality of teacher education. In June 2000 Minister of Education Kader Asmal announced that, with effect from February 2001, teacher training was indeed to be removed from provincial control and incorporated into higher education with a staggering 106 colleges due to be closed and only 25 retained. Edgewood was to be absorbed into the University of Natal without any indication as to what funding would be made available to effect this and despite an initial survey indicating that incorporation would not be viable without a significant and rapid increase in student numbers as well as sufficient financial aid to support it.

The subsequent implementation of this proposal reduced the number of institutions in the immediate region offering teacher training from seventeen to three – the universities of Natal and Zululand and Technikon Natal. The first did indeed assume control of Edgewood, with which it had enjoyed a particularly close association since 1976 and which it had successfully supported in appealing against government's proposal to close it in 1991. The University also established stronger links with the Natal College of Education as its interest in distance education gathered momentum. The Cedara Agricultural College and the South African Distance Teachers Training College, the latter based in Pretoria and boasting 11 000 students, also asked to be affiliated but this did not materialise.

Minister Asmal declared the outcome a 'successful conclusion' to 'the incorporation of all teacher education into higher education', but not everyone considered it entirely for the better. Many argued that, in the name of quality, it greatly reduced the number of teachers subsequently produced. Relations between the University and Edgewood had always been very cordial, not least between Peter Booysen and the previous rector Professor André le

Roux (1975–1993), who was recognised as an honorary professor. Even so, the complicated process of incorporation was not as smooth and amicable as Asmal seemed to believe and neither the University nor Edgewood favoured it, preferring an expansion of their established working relationship.

Indeed, Edgewood had hoped to remain a campus in its own right. Alexander Coutts (BA, B.Ed., M.Ed., D.Ed., 1974–1982, D. Phil., 1989) lectured in Physical Education, headed several departments and eventually served as deputy rector there. In his view the college regarded itself as ‘a “Centre of Excellence” that should be retained and used to retrain persons of any race’. Le Roux favoured expanding all the colleges of education into community colleges similar to those that he had visited in 1991 in the USA and might have provided another route for suitable candidates to achieve degrees, similar to the intermediary tertiary college concept that was considered and discarded. Edgewood was already offering B.Ed. degree programmes with the University conferring the qualifications and claiming the student subsidies.

Admittedly, both institutions were subjected to factors beyond their control but several of the changes implemented on the Edgewood campus to bring it into line with University policy were not well received and were even considered arrogant. These included the replacement of the traditional old-fashioned college method of training teachers with a more academic style, the introduction of integrated residences in place of gender-specific hostels, and the replacement of the black security, cleaning, maintenance and gardening staff with outsourced contracted employees whose performance at Howard College, in the University’s opinion, reflected a superior work ethic. The treatment of the then rector G.C. (Gordon) Nicholls also caused considerable resentment, being described by one source (without elaboration) as ‘outright immoral’. His post and that of the registrar became redundant.

From the University’s perspective, Edgewood’s incorporation was a government requirement and the loss of independence involved in conforming to University regulations and procedures was unavoidable. Although demand for the HDE programme at Howard College had declined to the point of closure its equivalent in Pietermaritzburg remained viable. The 2 500 students currently registered for the University’s B.Ed. degree was testimony, if any was needed, to its ongoing commitment to teacher training and upgrading. Indeed, this was one of its major growth areas in view of the critical national shortage of teachers compounded by a high HIV/AIDS mortality rate, especially in KwaZulu-Natal. Alan Whiteside (Economics) calculated that the province



should be producing up to 7 000 qualified teachers a year, far more than the current output of less than 1 000.

Unfortunately, Edgewood's incorporation was fraught with difficulties for the University's Council and Executive. This necessitated the initial appointment in May 2000 of the joint task team to which Senior DVC David Maughan Brown was virtually seconded for six months to lead and undertake a detailed feasibility study in the interests of the University's staff and those of Edgewood. There was particular concern about the effective transfer of assets and about what was regarded as grossly inadequate funding with which to assume and develop this additional responsibility in an already difficult financial climate.

It also became necessary to brief senior counsel with regard to labour relations issues pertaining to the incorporation. There was disquiet about the legally vague arrangements concerning what the University considered to be the over-hasty absorption of some of the college's staff and the redeployment or retrenchment of others in the absence of a reassuring framework agreement with the educational authorities. This was eventually finalised at the eleventh hour in December 2000, less than two months before the incorporation was due to be completed. It eliminated the possibility of the staff concerned instituting legal action to declare the incorporation *ultra vires* in terms of the Higher Education Act. It was followed by a memorandum of understanding with the provincial Department of Education and Culture with regard to the transfer of the Edgewood property to the University.

Despite official assurances to the contrary the process of incorporation, in which Lance Roberts and James Trinder played prominent roles on behalf of the University, had proved to be stressful for all concerned. On 1 February 2001 Edgewood College duly became part of the University's re-constituted Faculty of Education, which included the School of Education in Durban and the School of Education, Training and Development in Pietermaritzburg. Trinder recalled, 'what a day! 18 hours of toil and sweat - the campus had been trashed the day before by the outgoing cleaners and the outgoing security company threw a bag of keys – not a single one labelled – at us at 6 am and immediately departed!'

Amid many other teething problems, Trinder recognised that 'changes of this kind will inevitably cause tensions and concerns, even when every effort is made to attempt to minimize these through many meetings and many other forms of communication'. While some among Edgewood's support and academic staff 'appeared to want to make things difficult, they were in a

minority. A great effort was made to be understanding, patient and sympathetic, to avoid talk of “taking over” and to stress incorporation and co-operation’, even though it might result in unemployment or, at best, redeployment.

Maughan Brown was surprised by the ‘staff unhappiness’ that subsequently surfaced having attempted at the time ‘to allay concerns by being as consultative as possible’, but surmising that at that time Edgewood’s staff may have been ‘more reticent about voicing their complaints to senior management’ than was the case with University staff and students. There were understandably some who resented retrenchment or redeployment, with the University employing approximately a third of them. They now found themselves answerable to a more distant management, the loss of a closely-knit institutional culture and the expectation that they should all be involved in research as well as teaching. Some felt that the college’s traditional emphasis on the latter was now to be sacrificed on the altar of the former to the detriment of their students, with teaching loads remaining three times higher than the University norm.

In Trinder’s opinion Edgewood offered ‘much potential’, including a Students Union Building and a wood-panelled board room superior to those at Howard College, spacious grounds and under-utilised residences and facilities, some of which were being used by ‘external organizations claiming some link to education’. As Coutts explained, this was intended ‘to keep the institution useful to the wider community’. The substantial reserve funds in an Edgewood trust account were transferred to the University with much of the money used to repair the otherwise magnificent swimming pool, fill in a donga on the sports field, replace perimeter fencing to prevent outsiders using the campus as a shortcut and install a ten-bay LAN facility in the library. Unfortunately, there was still no clarity from government regarding ad hoc funding and future national loan funding. Student numbers at the college had declined from 1 150 in 1996 to 414 in 2000, but a vigorous advertising campaign eased concern by attracting more than 200 first years.

This contributed further to what was arguably then the strongest such facility in South Africa with a wide range of postgraduate and professional courses. It was anticipated that the consolidation of resources would result in much more efficient training and an increased output of desperately needed teachers in the province. In 2001 the new Faculty comprised 4 865 students and more than 100 staff members who reflected the country’s demographic diversity. In 2002 it welcomed the additional expertise of professors Claudia Mitchell, Nithi Muthukrishna and Linda Chisholm, the last on a part-time basis from the HSRC. It also welcomed a new dean, Professor Tuntufye Mwamwenda,

whose appointment reflected the gradually changing ethnic composition of the University's staff.

As one of the largest faculties of Education in the country it offered a number of new advanced certificates in Education as well as two four-year programmes in the form of the B.Ed. (Foundation and Intermediate) for primary school teachers and the B.Ed. (Further Education) for high school teachers. At the B.Ed. Hons level more than twenty modules were offered from which students were required to choose eight while more than 40 semesterised options were available for students to take either a general M.Ed. (Educational Studies) or a variety of more specialised degrees including Curriculum Studies, Educational Resource Development or Media Education among others.

In addition an Ed.D., a taught professional doctorate in Educational Leadership, was introduced for senior school and educational administration staff. Higher degrees by thesis alone were also available while between 2001 and 2004 the Faculty was part of a consortium that attracted Spencer Foundation fellowships enabling students to study for doctorates in Education Policy. In 2003 the Faculty graduated as many as 2 300 students, including 664 B.Eds., 65 masters and two doctoral candidates. It continued to be one of the largest and fastest growing faculties of its kind in the country. That year its Howard College section, primarily involved with postgraduate studies, transferred with all its instructional and library resources to the Edgewood campus, which had previously been primarily for undergraduates. The Pietermaritzburg section was later to follow suit, with some staff members in both centres doing so reluctantly.<sup>27</sup>



**T.S. (Tuntufye) Mwamwenda** was a Tanzanian who graduated from Spicer Memorial College in India, completed masters degrees at the State University of New York and Ottawa and a doctorate (1981) in Educational Psychology at Alberta. He taught in primary and secondary schools in East Africa, lectured at the universities of Botswana and Transkei where he became a professor, departmental head, dean, acting DVC and executive assistant to that office before being appointed dean of Education at Natal. He published extensively in Education and Educational Psychology.

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THE 1990s WITNESSED FURTHER advances in the University's research output and involvement in community service. As South Africa underwent major socio-political transformation towards full participatory democracy the domestic isolation experienced as a result of the University's opposition to segregationist policies came to an end. Both teaching and research benefited as its staff members also began to enjoy much greater interaction with the international academic community than had been the case during the apartheid era. Many of them participated in an advisory capacity in formulating policies for the new dispensation, in reorganising the civil service and, in some cases, serving in the new government at provincial or national level.<sup>1</sup>

### **Funding and research promotion**

In 1990 the University increased its funding from the various research councils by 66% in the Natural Sciences, 43% in Medical Science and 26% in the Social Sciences and Humanities compared with the previous year. This was despite further cuts in the discretionary budgets of statutory bodies and contrary to the slower momentum among most other South African universities in attracting research funds. Expenditure on research from the University's own resources declined with the URC able to meet only R2 million of the R5.5 million worth of applications received from staff members and only R2.25 million of the R10 million requested for capital equipment in 1991.

Thereafter, the University tried to increase its annual allocation to research funding but cuts in government subsidies and a 39% decline in research donations from the private sector emphasised the need for much closer, mutually beneficial links with commerce and industry. There was a welcome 400% increase in contributions from foreign and local foundations and trusts, but these could not be relied upon as a consistent source of future income. The FRD remained as vital as ever. The R1.7 million it awarded in 1991 made the University the third highest recipient of bursary funding among South African



universities, but there was concern that cutbacks in government funding for postgraduates would have an adverse effect on the training of future scientists.

The University retained its five-year ranking as the third highest recipient of rolling grants and remained among those institutions with the largest number of rated scientists and highest publication rates. Publication output was indeed 21% better in 1990 than in 1987, but not as high as anticipated. There was a further increase in 1991 with, for example, the publication of books and contributions to books increasing from 30 in 1986 to 98 in 1991 and publication in SAPSE-accredited journals improving 75% in Humanities (Durban) during the same period. There were aspects of the subsidy formula that were still unsatisfactory, including the secrecy surrounding the evaluation of books and the failure of the system to reward certain types of achievement in the Humanities such as art, drama and musical productions.

By 1990 there were 170 projects listed in the Register of Socially Aware Research, but many community-based programmes that included research components were not yet included. Among these were projects focusing on alternative housing, appropriate technology training, legal education, research training, rural development and teacher upgrading. An important innovation was the establishment that year of the School of Rural Development in Pietermaritzburg, which fully embodied the University's Mission Statement in that it not only promoted research but also teaching and development in the wider community.

Research was further promoted by the creation of two postdoctoral fellowships in each centre that attracted high-quality applicants from far afield. The URC was concerned to promote the quality as well as the quantity of research output. Pleasingly, in 1993 the MRC ranked the University as the most productive per rand spent on research in South Africa. It continued to be regarded as one of the country's leading research universities, being listed among the top two or three in virtually all categories of FRD funding in the Pure and Applied Sciences. From time to time individuals further promoted the University's research profile by gaining national and international recognition.

By 1993 approximately 3.5% of annual income was being spent on research-related projects, attendance at conferences and capital equipment. The ongoing decline in the value of the rand made financial demands in the latter category particularly challenging, but the generosity of donors and grant-giving agencies continued to make large-ticket purchases possible. In 1993, for example, a new transmission electron microscope was acquired for

the Durban centre with the assistance of a major FRD award in the face of stiff competition from other universities.

That year, in yet another attempt to promote new research projects of socio-economic benefit to the broader community and KwaZulu-Natal in particular, the UNEIF was established with engineering professor Lee Natrass and Christopher Cresswell actively involved in its promotion and Council approving a R10 million investment in facilities for the purpose. The intention was that this independent trust would assist the now more than 80 research units and groups in the University as well as its academic departments in transferring their fundamental research expertise to those in the community who could most advantageously benefit from it. It was hoped that by identifying gaps in the market, promoting inventions in response and developing them into new products, some research findings would effectively be transformed into commercially applicable technology that would generate wealth for the benefit of the community. Two of the University's primary objectives, research and community service, would be more effectively intertwined and students would also be assisted in developing appropriate innovative and entrepreneurial skills.

There was also the prospect of significant financial gain for the University, as had been the experience of other institutions abroad that had taken this step, eventually paying for as much as 50% of operating expenses in the case of the University of Warwick. It was anticipated that UNEIF would rent office, teaching, laboratory and workshop premises from the University and sublet them to appropriate tenants. By late 1994 the R11 million building was complete, including a large exhibition space, auditorium, restaurant and bar. Eight NGOs were already occupying offices and engaged in enterprises that were consistent with the reconstruction and development programme.

Among the first of these were the Durban Legal Aid Clinic and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies as well as the School for Legal Practice, which was a joint venture between the Association of Law Societies and the University. The donor-funded Natal Institute for Community Health Education (NICHE) soon joined them and by the end of that year the UNEIF was organising appropriate short courses and conferences. In August 1995 Professor Eric Senior assumed the directorship with J. Lord as his deputy while Lee Natrass joined the board of trustees at Warwick University whose very successful Science Park had offered to assist in developing the UNEIF.

Another important development in the promotion of research was the appointment from 1994 of Professor Eleanor Preston-Whyte of the Department



*In August 1995 Lee Natrass handed over the directorship of the University's Education and Innovation Foundation to Eric Senior, formerly professor of Microbiology in Pietermaritzburg.*

of Social Anthropology to the newly established post of DVC (Research and Development). It was a further timely indication of the emphasis the University placed upon this dimension of its activity and her interest in the integration of the Applied and Social Sciences was particularly apposite in further promoting both research and community service. The University Research Office was also expanded to that end.

The URC continued to subject staff applications for funding from the University's own resources to rigorous analysis and peer-review evaluation. During the early 1990s the emphasis shifted when the new output-based research incentive scheme for subsidy-earning publications was implemented with articles published in accredited journals initially earning R500 and books R1 500. These amounts constituted



**E. (Eleanor) Preston-Whyte** was awarded a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology (1969) for her work on black women migrants working as domestic servants in Durban and subsequently published widely in a variety of fields before focusing on the impact of HIV/AIDS in the subcontinent. There were significant developments during her term as the University's first DVC (Research and Development) including the formulation of policies relating to intellectual property, contract research and income generation, as well the restructuring of the Research Office and the establishment of a University

research contracts and consultancy office within it.

Preston-Whyte raised research funds from various sources and helped to promote new research units, including the Africa Centre for Population and Development Studies and, after her retirement, HIVAN with Jerry Coovadia as well as a multidisciplinary programme for doctoral students in the School of Development Studies. She maintained her own high research and publication profile, which was a requirement of that post, and continued to pursue that dimension of her career after retiring.

an unspecified percentage of the publication subsidies awarded annually (but three years in arrears) by the Department of Education and Culture to the University and were not initially paid to the individuals who earned them, but to their departments to avoid the tax implications.

The URC did give special attention to new staff members by encouraging their research interests with financial support and recognising exceptional promise and achievement. The accomplishments of established researchers also continued to be acknowledged by designating them Fellows of the University of Natal. Some staff members continued to gain national and international recognition for their research efforts. Six more of them acquired FRD 'A' ratings in 1994, another in 1995 and five more in 1996. This enabled the University to retain third position in terms of the number of scientists so classified in the country despite being financially far less well-endowed than its more established counterparts.

Senior researchers continued to serve on the governing bodies of statutory funding organisations. That year, for example, professors Ahmed Bawa and Eleanor Preston-Whyte were members of the FRD Council with the former as its chairperson, Professor Jack Moodley sat on the MRC, while other staff members served on FRD evaluation and specialist panels. In the Human Sciences there were eight University representatives on the Centre for Science Development's (CSD) recently elected disciplinary advisory panels.

In 1995, in response to the current processes of transformation and to ensure the continued relevance of its own efforts in promoting research, the URC initiated a phase of review and strategic planning that reassessed the University's research structure and output as well as the challenges facing it. On the basis of a subsequent position paper that addressed the issues of future research directions, training and funding the URC was granted an increase in its budget of from 3.5% to 4% of the University's overall expenditure. This re-emphasised the importance attached to the research function despite prevailing financial constraints and enabled the URC to update research and teaching equipment as well as finance new initiatives.

Graduate students were now invited to participate in all research policy and allocation committees so that they could learn about and contribute to this important dimension of the institution's life. Access to research funding was now made available to all non-academic staff members, including research technicians and to the members of affiliated research units, subject to the same evaluation criteria applied to the projects of academic staff. Further, a special fund was started to promote applied and development research, available to all

permanent and contract staff, to encourage projects that specifically addressed community needs.

In anticipation of further state subsidy cuts efforts were intensified to find more external funding and the new International Office was able to assist as far as prospective foreign donors were concerned. In July 1996 the Research Office was restructured in the interests of greater efficiency. Andrew Gialerakis retired as director and was succeeded by S. (Stoffelina/Stoffie) Mey. It was a popular appointment as she had gained a reputation for pleasant efficiency over 21 years, initially as a clerical assistant and latterly as manager of the Research Office. Professor Siegfried Drewes assisted in assessing the effectiveness of current research procedures and Christopher Cresswell retired as URC chairperson. An award-winning biologist in his own right, he was to be remembered for introducing several innovations intended to promote research output during his five-year term in that position. In 1996 the URC also introduced a companion to the University book prize, in this case for a popular work of scholarship. The first of these was awarded to John Pampallis of the Education Policy Unit in Durban for his *Foundations of the New South Africa*, which was already prescribed in local schools and colleges.

During 1997 a new research policy in tune with international trends was formulated for implementation the following year as well as a comprehensive research strategy that complemented the academic restructuring process currently being implemented. Research funds were henceforth to be channelled directly to non-taxable individual staff research accounts, based on their publication outputs, at an initial rate of R7 000 per accredited journal article and on the understanding that these funds were to be used strictly for research. A special effort was made to encourage new staff as well as established staff members who were trying to revive an inactive research career. In this way the URC sought to promote research activity in all faculties, particularly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary team projects that involved graduate students, young staff members and those serving local community and national needs. It also tried to improve the University's existing stock of equipment and documentary materials by helping researchers to raise the necessary funds.

In that regard a University Research Contracts and Consultancy Office was established within the Research Office to assist researchers attract external funding and provide advice on the protection of intellectual property in connection with partnerships that the University and its staff entered into with various outside bodies. Links with the restructured NUDF were also formalised to facilitate fundraising for research purposes. The University Press

continued to publish worthy academic books and its marketing dimension improved significantly with the appointment in 1998 of a new publisher in alumnus Glenn Cowley with extensive experience both local and at Random House in New York. In 1999 the Press published several new titles, including textbooks, enabling it to turn a profit for the first time with sales amounting to R1.3 million.<sup>2</sup>

That year Senate clarified its policies relating to income generation through private remunerative work and consultancies as well as approving substantive changes to the URC constitution. This resulted in the installation of a significantly new URC, twelve of whose seventeen members were now appointed by the nine faculties in proportion to their relative size. It was part of the overall restructuring of the University's committee system and was linked to changes in the Faculty and inter-Faculty research committee system in accordance with the new research policy. Chairpersons of Faculty research committees became members of the inter-Faculty committees from which, in turn, URC members were usually drawn to maintain continuity at all levels. In addition, conference grant allocations were now devolved to deans and Faculty research committees to allow for peer-group decision making and the circulation of conference reports at Faculty and School level. Michael Savage, former vice-chairman of the URC, developed a multi-criteria decision-making programme to assist the peer-review process.

In addition, Eleanor Preston-Whyte initiated a series of policy workshops to familiarise URC members and other senior researchers more effectively with current international trends and with relevant government policy. In 1999 professors Michael Gibbons, secretary-general of the ACU, and Richard Bawden of the University of Western Sydney conducted the first two of these. Subsequent workshops analysed the implications of the dramatic changes in higher education and in national science and technology funding. The development of new research partnerships and inter-Faculty networks arising out of restructured faculties and schools was also actively encouraged.

The availability of computer equipment continued to play an important role in the efficient functioning of all aspects of University life, not least research and publication output. After buying 4 000 computers from various suppliers over a number of years, in 1999 it was decided to standardise on the good-quality Dell products and to lease rather than purchase them to eliminate post-delivery service and support costs that were much higher than the initial capital outlay. Approximately R2 million a year was allocated to replace all computers over the next five years.

By the end of 2000, when Eleanor Preston-Whyte retired after administering the research and development portfolio for six years, research funding attracted to the University had risen almost three-fold from R45 million to R130 million and SAPSE publications had increased very favourably in comparison with other universities. In 1999, when some appeared to be in decline, Natal was one of only three (the others being UCT and Wits) with an annual output of between 0.5 and one article per staff member and was rated third overall.

David Walker's subsequent investigation revealed that, on average, the University's yearly publications had increased between 1987 and 2001, along with Stellenbosch and Pretoria, while those of UCT and Wits had declined. However, from 1997 Natal's output had also done so. This was variously attributed to the distractions of planning the transformation process, increased teaching and administrative loads, a decrease in funding, the quality of equipment and library resources, the number of research students, the loss of prominent researchers to retirement and resignation, and an increasing focus on income-generating programmes.

Among other recommendations Walker argued that appropriate output targets should be set for all schools, leave conditions should be related to research productivity, a postdoctoral programme was needed to retain the best Ph.D. graduates, a postgraduate office should be established to serve the needs of students and affiliated research centres, while all units should be more effectively integrated into the University's activities. Annual publication figures and the SAPSE returns to government that reflected them had become increasingly important in terms of subsidy generation with a calculation error in 2001 threatening to result in a R16 million shortfall in income.

That year the University was informed that it had been successful in bidding for R9.5 million from the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology to establish a KwaZulu-Natal Innovations Support Centre under the direction of G. Diana of the School of Electrical Engineering. Its purpose was to assist entrepreneurs within and outside the University effectively commercialise new technologies and other inventions with advice, software, quality assurance and business development. The University was also awarded R10 million for a Centre for Non-Profit Studies to investigate the role in democracy of the non-governmental sector as well as community-based organisations.

At that time there was concern that so few members of the academic staff held doctorates and it was decided that new appointees would henceforth be expected to demonstrate progress in that direction while on probation. There was consternation that year when the NRF refused applications from some of

the University's best researchers on appeal, necessitating the expenditure of a large amount of URC funding to compensate for their loss. This was attributed partly to financial constraints but also to a new preference for applied and product-based rather than fundamental research which, it was feared, might remain the case for some time.

In July 2001 Professor S.S.A. (Abdool) Karim succeeded Preston-Whyte and the following year Professor R. (Ramesh) Bharuthram was appointed as the new director of the Research and Development Office. An alumnus of the University, Bharuthram was an NRF 'B' rated physicist and a former departmental head and acting DVC (Research) at UDW who had subsequently served as director of research at M.L. Sultan Technikon.

Karim consulted widely within the University's research community before implementing further changes to its research policy in 2002. These were intended to reverse the decline of recent years in publication output and enhance the University's research profile by making it more successful in attracting funds in what had become an increasingly competitive global environment.



**S.S.A. (Abdool) Karim** completed a medical degree in Durban (1983), followed by an M.S. in Epidemiology at Columbia University, New York (1988), a diploma in datametrics at UNISA (1989) and further qualifications in community medicine (1991) and community health (1992) prior to completing a Ph.D. at the University of Natal (1999). During the 1980s and 1990s he gained extensive practical and teaching experience at UDW, Natal, the MRC and MEDUNSA as well as holding professorships at Columbia and Cornell universities in the USA. At the time of his appointment as DVC

(Research and Development) at Natal he was director of the HIV Prevention and Vaccine Research Unit at the MRC (2000–2001) having previously directed its Centre for Epidemiological Research in South Africa (1993–2000).

Karim was a member of several professional bodies and served on a variety of committees, including those of specialist journals and as a reviewer for international research agencies. As a prominent clinical epidemiologist he attracted many large research grants, supervised postgraduate students, produced numerous publications on infectious diseases and became internationally renowned for his considerable contributions with regard to HIV/AIDS prevention and vaccine trial initiatives. In 2000 he played a leading role in the international AIDS conference held in Durban.



The new policy was based on a more streamlined administrative system that was still reward-based and intended to promote both research productivity as well as quality output. Established researchers were still to benefit from their earlier productivity in the form of peer-reviewed publications, creative work and the supervision of successful masters and doctoral candidates, but URF awards were now to be regarded merely as seed funding.

More encouragement was to be given to applicants for competitive grants from both foreign and local funders and the useful Community of Science funding notifications were regularly distributed. Special attention was given to encouraging staff to take advantage of the commercial potential of their inventions and to generate further income for themselves and the University by protecting their intellectual property rights. In addition, a strategy of competitive grants was to be introduced for young and new researchers whose proposals were to be subject to peer review. A new postdoctoral fellowship programme was also introduced to enable recent doctoral graduates convert their theses into articles publishable in SAPSE-approved journals. By 2002, in addition to those in the Sciences, eighteen staff members in the Human and Social Sciences had also undergone successful NRF evaluations and achieved ratings that greatly enhanced the University's research profile.

That year it attracted more than R500 million in external research grants, much of it for HIV/AIDS related projects. By then five major strategic research initiatives had emerged within the University relating to economic development, forestry, invertebrates, and water; in addition to HIV/AIDS. The Research Office developed its capacity to support all research grant preparations while the formulation of a new intellectual property policy further assisted staff to commercialise their own inventions.

In 2003 Karim helped to raise more than R107 million in research grants. The NUDF attracted R42.5 million for four key areas of research interest: ethics and governance, public-private and community centre partnerships, sustainable rural livelihoods, and HIV in relation to teacher training. The HIVAN received grants amounting to R5 million from Atlantic Philanthropies and the Carnegie Corporation. In August the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria announced that the South African government had approved its allocation of \$72 million to the provincial Enhancing Care Initiative (ECI) partnership led by the University's Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine and the provincial Department of Health.

The co-founder and chair of SAP Software, Hasso Plattner, announced a £6 million grant towards the establishment of *Isombululo* (Xhosa meaning

‘solution’), an HIV/AIDS education and prevention programme involving collaboration with UCT and a partnership with the Western Cape’s Department of Health. The Carnegie Corporation favoured the Centre for the Advancement of Science and Mathematical Education with R1 million while the Andrew Mellon Foundation awarded a similar amount to the Campbell Collection for its Digital Imaging South Africa project, which sought to make local material of socio-political interest more accessible.

In October 2003 the NUDF helped to organise a fundraising concert in New York for the Opera School and Choral Academy. ESKOM funding enabled six students and two staff members to travel there and perform at a concert in the Tishman Auditorium of the New School University in Manhattan that raised \$80 000. Meetings were held in Japan with members of staff at Ryukoku University with a view to establishing a Centre for African and Asian Studies in Natal and the Japanese government gave its approval to a feasibility study. Individual staff members also continued to attract external funds and recognition for their various research projects.

The cause of research and community service was given another boost in 2003 when the University participated in signing a memorandum of understanding with the eThekweni Umcity, the Durban Chamber of Commerce and the Durban Institute of Technology (DIT). Its purpose was to promote the Umcity’s Integrated Development Plan through collaboration in knowledge management, research and human resource development and to establish closer links with the business sector to mutual advantage. The intention was eventually to extend this partnership to Pietermaritzburg where local government and business had also indicated interest.

Research output was further promoted by the University’s increasing emphasis on incentive-driven, productivity-based funding. Staff members were now required to submit information pertaining to their annual research output online through in-house software known as the Integrated Research Management Application (IRMA). This still included their production of approved articles, chapters, books, patents and graduating masters and doctoral students. These incentives continued to have the desired effect, with the University’s 2002 research output improving nearly 14% over the previous year from 500 to 567 units as measured by the Department of Education’s criteria. However, by 2003 the University had not yet achieved its declared target of one publication per staff member per year and it was evident that it needed to improve its performance in some areas. A high percentage of the improved productivity was due to 30% of the top authors but, even so,

the number of published authors in the University increased by nearly 23% between 1990 and 2005, from 591 to 726.

By 2003 the University boasted two NRF ‘A’ rated staff members (‘leading international scholars’) – Michael Chapman and Pat Berjak – 47 in the ‘B’ category (‘considerable international recognition’), 67 in the ‘C’ (‘established researchers with a sustained recent record’), four ‘P’s (young researchers under 35 years of age ‘considered likely to become future leaders in their field’), ten ‘Y’s (young staff with ‘the potential to establish themselves as researchers within a five-year period’) and four ‘L’s ( staff under 55 years of age ‘capable of fully establishing or re-establishing themselves as researchers’). The more-recently evaluated Human and Social Sciences produced 28 of the 134 staff members currently evaluated, including one ‘A’ and ten ‘B’s. Science and Agriculture (Pietermaritzburg) had 41 evaluated staff members and Science (Durban) 35. In all, barely 20% of the academic staff had been evaluated. While allowing for the fact that in many disciplines research and publication was possible with little or no external funding, there was still clearly room for improvement.<sup>3</sup>

As always, research activity and publication output varied from faculty to faculty prior to restructuring in the late 1990s.

### Science

An encouraging aspect of the Faculty’s research activity was the increase in postgraduate students with, for example, 41 masters and doctoral degrees awarded in 1993. There was a great deal of research activity in Durban’s Department of Biology. Pat Berjak and others continued to collaborate with researchers in the USA assessing the role and state of water in desiccation-sensitive seeds to improve their storage stability. In 1990 they co-authored a chapter in *The Basis of Recalcitrant Seed Behaviour: Cell Biology of the Homoiohydrous Seed Condition*. That year the Small Mammal Speciation Group completed its inter-population breeding experiment, which demonstrated the association between chromosomal mutation and marked reduction in reproductive success between populations.

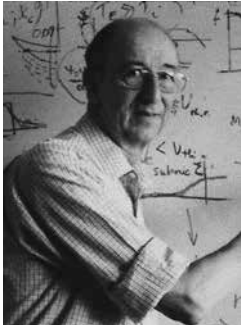
In 1993 the FRD granted R1 million spread over five years for a major interdisciplinary research programme on indigenous plants and their medicinal use. Under Pat Berjak and John Cooke’s leadership, the team included anthropologists, chemists, computer scientists, inyangas and NPA officials, effectively combining scientific research with community service.

Durban analytical chemist Roy Osborne continued his research on cycad biology. In Inorganic Chemistry significant research, supported by industry, was conducted on the electrochemistry of metal surfaces and an analysis of urinary calculi by X-ray diffraction while the Physical Chemistry research group was also very active. In 1993 Mike Laing (Chemistry and Applied Chemistry) was awarded the chemical education medal of the South African Chemical Institute. Many Faculty members already had high FRD ratings and in 1992 M.W. Raynor (also Chemistry and Applied Chemistry) won the FRD president's award for outstanding achievement by a young scientist. So too did Wayne Goddard (Computer Science, Durban) and Michael Henning (Mathematics, Pietermaritzburg) in 1995.

Recent staff changes in the Department of Geology and Applied Geology produced new research directions during the 1990s and even stronger links with industry and the broader community. The already established Marine Geosciences Unit continued to extend and publish its expertise in coastal geology. The national and international reputations of staff members attracted financial support for the establishment of their specialist facilities, including a computer laboratory, an engineering geology laboratory, an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry laboratory and a wet chemical analysis laboratory. Faculty researchers continued to attract funding from a variety of sources including the FRD, the Atomic Energy Corporation and the Department of Environmental Affairs in addition to industrial companies.

Members of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics extended their interest in differential equations and the South African Association for the Advancement of Science awarded Ortrud Oellermann the 1991 British Association medal; while in 1996 Henda Swart, along with Pat Berjak and Trevor Letcher (Chemistry), became fellows of the Royal Society of South Africa. In 1997 Swart produced her first issue as editor-in-chief of the internationally recognised journal *Utilitas Mathematica*.

Meanwhile the Solid State Group of Durban's Department of Physics embarked upon large-scale research on soft magnetic alloys while the Space Physics Research Institute maintained its established partnership with the South African Weather Bureau in investigating South Africa's ozone layer. In 1990 Manfred Hellberg was re-elected to the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Commission on Plasma Physics. In 1993 he became a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, as did Roger Raab (Physics, Pietermaritzburg) and in 1998 Hellberg was elected a fellow of the International Institute of Physics. Other staff members also continued to gain recognition for



**M.A. (Manfred) Hellberg** graduated at UCT before acquiring a Ph.D. at Cambridge (1965) in theoretical plasma physics while sharing an office with Stephen Hawking. After working at UCT and the Culham Laboratory in Britain he rose through the academic ranks at Howard College from lecturer to senior professor (1965–1989) and departmental head in Physics. He served the University as dean and on the Executive in various acting capacities as well as on numerous committees, including the URC (1984–1995 and sometime chair), as well as on many professional advisory bodies both local and abroad.

Hellberg was a member of several learned societies and director of the Plasma Physics Research Institute (1979–2003) where his research focus shifted from waves and instabilities in fusion-related plasmas to waves in space plasmas. He published well over 100 journal articles in addition to reports and conference proceedings, attracted several FRD/NRF grants and achieved a ‘B1’ rating, was awarded a number of fellowships and other honours, and supervised more than two dozen postgraduate theses. Following his retirement in 2003 he continued to publish as emeritus professor and senior research associate and to assist the national Department of Science and Technology as a senior specialist and adviser.

their research efforts, with David Walker retaining his FRD ‘A’ rating in 1996 for world prominence in Space Physics.

The following year, under his leadership, the department’s Southern Hemisphere Auroral Radar Experiment came to fruition. It was initiated in 1992 and financed by the British National Environmental Research Council, the USA’s National Science Foundation and South Africa’s Department of Environment and Tourism with the country’s own Antarctic Programme contributing to operating expenses. The project made it possible to measure the ionospheric electric field over several million square miles as one of ten similar radars comprising the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network in both the southern and northern polar regions and brought the University into a research association with institutions in several other countries. In 1998 Walker was awarded the South African Institute of Physics De Beers gold medal for his lifelong work.

In addition, collaboration between Durban’s Space Physics Research Institute and the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm led to Natal physicists under Arthur Hughes constructing a satellite telemetry station in

Antarctica to record data from the Swedish Astrid-2 satellite during its passes over that continent beginning in 1998. That year a 28-year-old member of the Institute, Conrad Mahlase, became the first black scientist selected to work on South Africa's Space Research Programme in Antarctica. Lindsay Dawes became the first female scientist to over-winter there while Samantha Perrit was the first female geologist to undertake a summer research visit.

Not for the first time, in 1997 the Chemistry Department produced the most papers in Durban but individual researchers as distinct from teams also continued to gain recognition for their efforts. Professor F.G. Bell (Geology) won the University's 1997 book prize (his second) for a popular work and Professor J.R. (Janos) Mika and J. (Jacek) Banasiak (Mathematics) won the equivalent for a scholarly book. Wayne Goddard's work in Computer Science on graph theory won him the British Association's silver medal, that of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science and the Vice-Chancellor's award to a young staff member with exceptional research potential.

In 1998 Anthony Ford (Chemistry) won his second AECI gold medal for the best series of papers published in the *South African Journal of Chemistry* in 1993–1995. He and Peter Leach (Applied Mathematics) were elected fellows of the Royal Society of South Africa, the sixth and seventh in the Faculty. Alan Amory (Biology) won an award at the Ed-Media and Ed-Telekom international conference for his computer game Zadarh, designed to teach evolution. That year Dulcie Mulholland (Chemistry) and colleagues secured significant funding from the Wellcome Foundation for a 400 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. With further financial assistance from the University they were able to acquire a more sophisticated version, which provided greater flexibility for the future by allowing for further adaptations.

In Pietermaritzburg several departments in the Faculty of Science as well as a number of outside bodies benefited from the efficient services of Tony Bruton's Electron Microscope Unit. In 1993 the FRD considered it the best in the country when awarding it R300 000 for an EDX micro-analyser, with the URC providing R180 000. In 1995 research in Pietermaritzburg enjoyed another enormous boost with a R363 000 FRD grant towards the R1 563 000 cost of a new electron transmission microscope with the University providing the balance.

Research and teaching in both centres relied upon the availability of a variety of support services. In Pietermaritzburg, for example, Alan Cullis and Guy Dewar did sterling work in the Electronics Workshop as did Martin

Hampton in that of the Botany Department. Chris Morewood continued to run the Mechanical Instrument Workshop until his retirement in 2001 and eventual departure two years later. While still closely associated with Chemistry the workshop repaired, modified and devised items of equipment for at least twenty other departments as diverse as Animal Science, Fine Arts and Geography. Among other contributions Morewood also maintained the Old Main Building's clock, developed interactive exhibits for the annual Grahamstown Science Festival and served for 22 years on the medical scheme committee.

During the 1990s the Faculty in Pietermaritzburg gained a number of accolades in recognition of its research achievements. In 1990 the Botany Department's Herbarium received the first consignment of 13 000 algae from the Compton Herbarium as a permanent loan in confirmation of its reputation as one of Africa's pre-eminent collections frequently used by botanists from abroad. Hannes van Staden (Botany), Siegfried Drewes and Ray Haines (both Chemistry) and Don Hunter (Geology) were all elected fellows of the Royal Society of South Africa among ten scientists so honoured and Hunter joined the others to become a University Fellow. The FRD also recognised R.P. Beckett (Botany), N.D. Emslie (Chemistry), J.G. Raftery (Mathematics/Applied Mathematics) and D. Strydom (Geology) as young researchers.

In 1992 Van Staden was awarded the Havenga prize of the Suid Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns in recognition of his outstanding contribution to biological science. This was followed the next year by the senior gold medal of the South African Association of Botanists and the Schonbrunn Professorship of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Haines was awarded the gold medal of the South African Chemical Institute in recognition of his contribution to organic chemistry. In 1994 Van Staden and Haines were elected founder members of the new Academy of Science of South Africa. The following year they were joined by Durban colleagues Ahmed Bawa, Christopher Cresswell and David Walker.

The University added R40 000 to the R135 000 Van Staden generated from consultancy fees to buy a property adjacent to its Faculty of Agriculture campus to be used for the propagation of plant species. In 1996 he was a UNESCO-invited guest lecturer in plant biotechnology and travelled extensively in connection with collaborative research while the Department of Botany maintained its research momentum in ecology, molecular biology, physiology and taxonomy.

Siegfried Drewes won the gold medal of the SA Chemical Institute and the Chemistry Department was awarded generous funding from AECI for a computer-aided learning laboratory and from SASOL for an ICP (inductively coupled plasma) spectrometer. Drewes extended his established investigations into the chemistry of muthi plants beyond his retirement in 1995. He was appointed an honorary research associate and attracted several students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds who became involved in postgraduate work in this field. In 1994 the Chemistry Department's high resolution nuclear magnetic resonance laboratory was officially opened as a facility available to researchers on both campuses with Martin Watson and then Craig Grimmer as operator. Three years later, thanks partly to major external funding, it acquired a stopped flow spectrometer and a 500 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance graphics origin 2000 workstation.

Winton (Wog) Hawksworth continued his research in electrochemistry and, following his retirement in 1995, concentrated on the detection of illicit drugs in sportspersons for international organisations. His former M.Sc. student John Field put his expertise as an X-ray crystallographer to good use working in collaboration with Ray Haines' metal-cluster group but later focused on electrochemistry and research on platinum complexes. Among others who contributed significantly to the Chemistry Department's research activity were newcomers D. (Deogratius) Jaganyi on kinetics, R. (Ross) Robinson in organic chemistry and O. (Orde) Munro whose varied research interests attracted considerable funding and was largely responsible for the car park under the Physical Chemistry block being enclosed to accommodate a new instrument laboratory. The department continued its established research projects in both organic and inorganic chemistry while in 1996 new industrially financed projects were initiated on the kinetics of tea extraction and the corrosion of concrete. Meanwhile the Department of Geology's expedition team under Johan Krynauw continued to conduct its research in Antarctica and Professor Jam Moori became the first in South Africa to implement the Cayley system for research in pure mathematics.

Following the trend of recent years, the Faculty's publication output was second only to that of Medicine. This included Gordon Maclean's *Ornithology for Africa* and Professor R.C. (Rob) Hart's co-authorship of *Inland Waters of Southern Africa: An Ecological Perspective*. In 1992 the Department of Zoology and Entomology produced three more books: Maclean's sixth revision of *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa*, Michael Samways' *Invertebrate Conservation Biology* and Barry Lovegrove's *Living Deserts of Southern*





**G. (Gordon) Maclean** acquired a B.Sc. (Hons) from Rhodes (1963) and a Ph.D. (1968) as well as subsequently being awarded a D.Sc. for his pioneering research on desert birds. After spending some time in the USA he joined the Zoology Department in 1968, rising to full professor in 1986. He gained public prominence by re-writing the 5th and 6th editions of *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa* (1985 and 1993), which initially sold more than 125 000 copies. His many other publications included *Aids to Bird Identification in Southern Africa* (1981), *Ducks of Sub-Saharan Africa* (1986, winner of

the Lady Usher prize) and *Ornithology for Africa* (1990). The SA Ornithological Society awarded him its Gill memorial medal and in 1998 he chaired the committee that organised the 22nd International Ornithological Congress, which attracted more than 2 000 experts in the field to Durban. He retired in 1997.

*Africa*, which won the 1995 University book prize. In 1994 Samways published two books on insect conservation.

By the mid-1990s other departmental research projects included Mike Lawes' interest in forest ecology and utilisation, Mike Perrin's work on the biology and conservation of parrots and Rob Hart's collaborative investigation of coastal lakes in Mozambique with the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo. In 1993 physicists Owen de Lange and Roger Raab won the University book prize for their *Operator Methods in Quantum Mechanics* and the former became a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. The following year they won the Bill Venter Book Prize, Pro Libro Excellent, for the same work and their departmental colleague Glynn Davies became the first Pietermaritzburg staff member to win the University's distinguished teacher award. Theresa Coetzer (Biochemistry) won a Fulbright scholarship and Duncan Hay of the INR a Global Security fellowship to Cambridge.

In 1994 Jeff McCarthy, head of the Geography Department, co-authored *Geography in a Changing South Africa*. Diane Grayson, co-ordinator of the Faculty's Educational Development programme, was elected first chairperson of the Southern African Association for Research in Science and Mathematics Education and organised a workshop on that topic. In 1995 newly arrived N. (Nithaya) Chetty (Physics) won the FRD President's award and Cordelia Chinake (Chemistry) won it the following year. A previous awardee, mathematician Michael Henning, won the 1996 Vice-Chancellor's research

award, including R63 000 towards further research, for his work on graph theory, graph algorithms and complexity. In 1998 he also won the South African Association for the Advancement of Science's Meiring Naudé award.

By 1996 Pietermaritzburg's Physics Department boasted four active research groups: Roger Raab's on optical physics, Owen de Lange's on operator methods in quantum mechanics and another on oscillations in confined gases, as well as A.S. Ilchev's group examining lattice gauge theories. In addition, Nithaya Chetty was soon to lead a group investigating computational solid state physics. In the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems fields of research included intelligent scheduling, logic and category theory, multi-criteria decision making, and systems thinking. In 1997 it was decided to equip it with a modern computer laboratory, in part as a teaching facility. That year Peter Clarke and Linda Haines (Statistics and Biometry) along with Sui-Ah Ng (Mathematics) were awarded FRD 'B' ratings for their research.

In addition, with funding from the FRD and URC, Pietermaritzburg's Molecular Biology Unit became the first in South Africa to acquire a fully automated protein sequencer. John Hastings (Genetics) provided the necessary direction to ensure that the University's expertise in molecular biology technology was readily available to other tertiary institutions and to the public and private sectors. In 1998 the Department of Botany established a medical plant reference garden and Chemistry acquired a R3.2 million Varian Unity Inova 500 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer with the assistance of more than R1 million from the FRD.<sup>4</sup>

### **Agriculture**

Numerous developments during the 1990s impacted on research in Agriculture. In 1998, after several proposals and much re-planning, it was decided that Ukulinga Farm would be managed by a micro-policy group comprising user and some non-user departmental heads as well as an executive management group representing the livestock, plant and extension groups, which would report to it. An ostrich patrol was installed in a corridor on the western boundary to improve security and approximately 100 hectares of the southern part of the farm was amalgamated with the municipality's 250 hectare Bisley Valley Conservancy to provide a convenient area in which students taking the new wildlife option could conduct their practical work. The Faculty's important Phytotron complex was upgraded, particularly its lighting and temperature control, while the Electron Microscope Unit's acquisition of

more sophisticated equipment and the construction of a long-awaited isotope laboratory provided a further boost to research.

The staff continued to attract funding from a number of sources including the Department of Agricultural Development, ESKOM, the FRD, the HSRC, the National Energy Council and the WRC. An Agricultural Research Council was established to determine future policy and distribute government funds. During the 1990s individual evaluation for FRD grants became standard practice for all scientists with 'A', 'B' and 'C' level support, which contributed significantly to the Faculty's income.

In 1990 Gerald Ortmann won the BP Research Scholarship in Agriculture to pursue his studies at Purdue University. The primary research thrust of Agricultural Economics was through the Agricultural Policy Research Unit and focused on issues concerning both rural development and commercial farming. Following his appointment that year, Professor Eric Senior began to develop the new Research and Training Centre for Waste Technology. In 1992 a research laboratory was opened for what was called the International Centre for Waste Technology (Africa) as well as a meat science laboratory and pig experimental facility at Ukulinga Farm.

Honours showered on Faculty staff that year included the ADSA Floro award given to Elma Nel (Dietetics and Home Economics), the BP Research Scholarship in Rural Development to Michael Lyne (Agricultural Economics), the Fertiliser Society's silver medal to Martin Fey (Agronomy) and the Agricultural Writers Association of Natal's recognition of Neil Tainton (Grassland Science) as agriculturalist of the year. He retired in 1994 and the following year the Agricultural Research Council's Range and Forage Institute awarded him its director's award for his 'outstanding contribution to the advancement of grassland research and the development of grassland science'. His department continued, among other projects, to monitor change in grassland and savanna, plant selection by game and domestic animals, the impact of animals and fire on vegetation, and appropriate management programmes for grazing and for wetlands.

In 1995 the Faculty attracted considerable publicity when the work of Arthur Lishman's Animal Science research team, including Dallas Shaw and Chloë Bowles, resulted in the birth of Africa's first test-tube calf and the following year produced the first calf from a sexed embryo. In addition to embryo transfer in cattle, Lishman also led research on suckling beef calves while another project sought to produce dairy cows that combined the high

milk yield of Jerseys with the hardiness of the indigenous Nguni for the benefit of local small-scale farmers.

That year a Faculty group visited Ohio State University to establish how a land-grant university successfully integrated its teaching and research with community outreach initiatives. Two reciprocal visits were followed in June 1996 by the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the two universities and their faculties of agriculture. Contact was also made with Wageningen University in the Netherlands and new links with Australia resulted in a substantial AU\$200 000 agreement dubbed 'strengthening poultry development in SA through education'.

In 1996 Rob Gous became South Africa's first agricultural and animal scientist to receive the FRD's 'A' rating and was made an honorary life member of the South African Poultry Association for his ongoing work on the development of simulation models to predict the growth and food consumption of broilers and pigs. He received more funding to improve the poultry research facilities at Ukulinga while Neil Ferguson researched the growth of pigs and Ignatius Nsahlai pursued his investigations into sheep growth, fertility in young merino rams and the influence of dietary energy on feedlot cattle.

Mike Dutton (Biochemistry) developed his Mycotoxin Research Group and analysis laboratory prior to his departure in 1992 while a subsequent occupant of that chair, Clive Dennison, led an internationally recognised Protease Research Group that attracted funding from a variety of sources. Albert Modi (Crop Science) became similarly acknowledged for his work on seed physiology and on indigenous plants and their cultivation for the 'organic' market.

Dick Haynes (Soil Science) and Nigel Wolstenholme (Horticultural Science) gained a 'B' rating while the latter's department maintained its high publication output and its reputation in the horticultural industries. It continued to serve those on the eastern seaboard with its postgraduate output and ongoing research on subtropical fruits and nut crops, low-chill stone crops, citrus, greenhouse vegetables and ornamental plants, floriculture and the investigation of crop-specific problems.

Eleni Maunder, head of Dietetics and Community Resources, was director for KwaZulu-Natal of the national Food Consumption Survey of children from one to nine years of age; Maryann Green was a member of the FRD-funded team that assessed housing education and training needs in the country; and Sheryl Hendriks researched the influence of farm and non-farm income on KwaZulu-Natal households.

Microbiology and Plant Pathology continued to work on microbiological aspects of various environmental problems, fermentation technology, waste technology and the disposal of toxic materials. Its interests also included such aspects of plant growth as the evaluation of rust/host interactions on coffee, maize and wheat and the use of probiotics as a growth stimulant. Research projects in Range and Forage Resources varied from communal farming systems to elephant impact on woodlands and the growth of recreational turf. In Genetics research continued on plant breeding and plant molecular genetics, animal genetics and microbial genetics.

The FRD continued to fund Michael Savage's research in Agrometeorology on plant-water relations. In 1998 the South African Society of Crop Production awarded him its gold medal and the Soil-Plant-Atmosphere Continuum Unit was formed under his leadership. Its purpose was to investigate the physical processes impacting upon that continuum in order to overcome environmental problems and improve agricultural efficiency, its work being facilitated by linking up with the CSIR's Forestry Hydrology group. In the same Department of Agronomy Dick Haynes began research into the fertility of KwaZulu-Natal agricultural soils while Jeff Hughes continued to work on the use of organic wastes as composts and Peter Greenfield researched lucerne, maize and fodder root crops. Daniel Mataruka researched intercropping with maize and beans and examined the potential of high-value crops for small farmers. Until his death in 2002 Mike Johnston was well-known for his research on soil salinity/sodicity and its structural condition.

In 1998 Lieb Nieuwoudt (Agricultural Economics) won an Ernest Oppenheimer travelling fellowship to study water markets in the USA. The previous year the Environment and Agriculture Systems Research Institute was established to deploy the existing expertise in those areas in developing new farming systems for the benefit of emerging and small-scale farmers. Peter Lyne (Agricultural Engineering) initiated research into more effective transport systems in the sugar and timber industries while Roland Schulze's Applied Hydrological Research Group continued to gain wide recognition.<sup>5</sup>

### **Architecture and Allied Disciplines**

In the 1990s Faculty staff were engaged in a variety of research pursuits, including the application of computer-aided design and drawing in teaching architecture, design methodology, the documentation of traditional rural living and the development of community facilities, alternative building technology and materials, eighteenth and nineteenth century systems of environmental

control, and an analysis of early Natal architect William Street-Wilson's drawings and buildings. Various aspects of housing were investigated, among them housing types in relation to climate and slope, high density housing, and alternative housing models and construction technologies in the Natal region.

Research in Building Management was inhibited by the industry's disinclination to reward postgraduate study but Edward O'Brien continued his work on deterministic models of the valuation of leasehold property. There was also some research on construction cost and procurement practice, constraints on delivery capacity and housing policy development.

Local and national workshops were still held to assist members of the profession. In 1991 Errol Haarhoff became the first recipient of the research award of the Institute of South African Architects. Final year architecture student P.A. du Buisson won the National Corobrik overseas travel scholarship for the best design thesis produced that year in all the country's schools of architecture.

The BESG continued to expand its activities while staff in the Department of Town and Regional Planning investigated regional economic and industrial restructuring, development control, metropolitan changes and transportation. They participated in several other projects including the Greater Cato Manor planning, national housing and economic development forums. In 1998 Faculty staff supervised research on indigenous architecture and on contemporary architectural challenges while continuing to advise statutory bodies on conservation issues and in the compilation of inventories of architecturally significant sites.<sup>6</sup>

### **Engineering**

During the 1990s Agricultural Engineering, the Faculty's only department in Pietermaritzburg, still concentrated primarily on two broad areas of research: power and machinery; and soil and water hydrology. The now well-established tractor research programme continued to attract substantial funding from the sugar, timber and vehicle manufacturing industries. Its focus was on the application of machine vision and A.C. (AI) Hansen spent some time in the USA working on the development of multimedia-based courseware and machine vision microscopy research. In 1990 he won a best-paper award from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers and similar awards in 1992. That year new investigations were launched into developing emission indices for engines using diesel fuels and calculating the energy requirements of local broiler houses.

Similarly advanced research into hydrological modelling was, as before, well supported by the WRC, the Sugar Association and overseas agencies. There were currently three major programmes with the one focusing on the Umgeni catchment attracting a R1.6 million grant. Research interests included precision agriculture focusing on production capacity with minimal fertiliser and water inputs and long-range climate forecasts in relation to hydrology. Other interests included the further development of a computer model designed to undertake risk analysis of water resources and crop yields as well as water quality modelling of pesticides and feedlot nutrients.

In 1990 Roland Schulze won the South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers gold medal, followed in 1993 by a fellowship of the Royal Society of South Africa. By 1994 the department was also developing a research interest in multimedia-based education tools and subsequently maintained extensive interactions with researchers abroad, establishing important contacts with organisations such as the British Institute of Hydrology. Hydrological modelling was also deployed to resolve conflicts in catchment water allocations and in 1997 Schulze and others published the *South African Atlas of Agrohydrology and Climatology*.

In Chemical Engineering Professor V.G. Jenson developed a manifold for the even distribution of slurries and liquids on behalf of the WRC while Chris Buckley's Pollution Research Group completed the third volume of the commission's series 'Guides for the Planning, Design and Implementation of Waste-Water Treatment Plants in the Textile Industry'. During the early 1990s the group was busy with no less than ten projects on the processing of water and treatment of effluents attracting R1.4 million in funding. Its work for the WRC and Umgeni Water Board was ongoing and in 1993 alone its assistance in solving effluent problems saved industry more than R4 million. In 1994 the group concluded an agreement with the University Innovation Centre concerning the sharing of royalty income derived from crossflow filtration technology. In 1995 the basement of the building was upgraded to accommodate both pollution and biochemical research. Two years later Buckley was appointed lead South African consultant for a government interdepartmental project on waste minimisation and cleaner production.

David Raal completed his development of a high-pressure vapour liquid equilibrium measurement device for commercial application and subsequently won the Institute for Chemical Engineers award for innovation. Professor M. Mulholland launched new projects on reactor control in ethylene polymerisation and in wax chlorination. In addition, research on microflow

calorimetry was initiated as well as five industry-linked projects concerned with process modelling, optimisation and control.

In Civil Engineering material and structural testing continued to be a major focus but, like Chemical Engineering, the department was heavily involved in projects undertaken for the WRC and Umgeni Water. Professor C. Roebuck conducted an important seminar on land use development and traffic impact and in 1996 the national Department of Transport appointed Civil Engineering as the primary institution for research into public transport with Roebuck managing its tertiary education and development programmes for the whole region. The following year a proposal was submitted to the national and provincial departments of transport to establish a Centre for Road Transport Safety to reduce the death rate on the roads. In addition, a contract was negotiated with the International Labour Organisation in Geneva for research on labour-based construction and the department was also involved in computerised construction management, environmental fluid dynamics and geotechnical engineering.

In Electrical Engineering staff and senior students continued to publish on motion control, power system dynamics and machines, power engineering, transputer-based control systems and artificial intelligence. In 1992 Ron Harley was elected one of only three South African fellows of the IEEE and in 1995 a member of the new Academy of Sciences. The following year the FRD again awarded him an 'A' rating.

The materials science laboratory in Electronic Engineering worked on a variety of experimental microwave travelling tube amplifiers. An automated outdoor microwave antenna test range was developed using a Hewlett Packard HP8510B vector network analyser and was deployed to examine the directional properties of different microwave antennas. Research on non-linear optical effects in superconductors was ongoing while various collaborative research projects emanated from Nobel prize winner Alexander Prokhorov's invitation to Mr Thebock to present his work at Moscow State University.

There were also research projects in the acoustic, digital signal processing, electronic mail, meteor scatter, microwave, optical and parallel processing, and radio access fields. In 1993 the department's expertise in the installation of the eight-node Hicom 300 PABX telephone system greatly assisted in upgrading the University's own internal communications and two years later its own materials science laboratory programme for developing travelling wave tubes was completed. From the mid-1990s a new long-term research project, named the Centre for Radio Access Technologies, linked the department with Alcatel,



Altech Telekoms, Telkom and the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP) which collectively contributed R900 000 a year towards an investigation of radio communication networks. Under Professor F. Takawira's leadership it involved both staff and graduate students and was concerned with digital communication, image processing, advanced digital, propagation and antenna design, and resource management in wireless access networks.

In Mechanical Engineering major research interests included the mechanical behaviour of composite materials and structures, metallurgy, turbo machine vibration, machinery and heat transfer, flow patterns around turbine blades, fluid flow problems, manufacturing systems, mechatronics and robotics. In 1995 Professor Sarp Adali gained an FRD 'A' rating and a collaborative programme was initiated with M.L. Sultan Technikon to develop a manufacturing cell. Thereafter there was increasing support from industry in the form of new equipment and bursaries.

The Department of Surveying and Mapping concentrated on improving its expertise in satellite surveying and its students used GPS satellite surveying equipment when faced with the challenge of mapping the Siyaya estuary in the coastal dune forest near Mtunzini. In 1994 the department completed a major report for the South African Council of Surveyors that contributed to the finalisation of new land laws.

Subsequent research on land issues, led by Dr Fourie, was undertaken for the Department of Land Affairs, the United Nations and Swedish Aid. In 1998 the first survey camp was held with an on-site LAN, software and electronic data capturing that produced useful map and GIS information, but research productivity was adversely affected by Professor H. van Gysen's death and J. Krynski's return to Poland.<sup>7</sup>

### **Medicine/Faculty of Health Sciences**

By 1990 research output of the Department of Anaesthetics was benefiting from the 1988 appointment of a full-time research professor, as well as that of a technologist and a research nurse to collect patient data, from improved facilities and the presence of a record 28 specialists on its staff. Seventeen articles were published that year and twenty presentations made to local and international conferences.

General Surgery focused, among other fields, on cancer immunology (especially bone marrow transplantation and nutrition in cancer patients), on trauma management and minimal access surgery; while Medical Microbiology

concentrated on the diagnosis and therapy of infectious diseases and antibiotic resistance in bacteria. Paediatrics and Child Health investigated infectious diseases and other afflictions among disadvantaged children while Virology researched retroviruses, respiratory virus infections in children and viruses associated with hepatitis. Staff losses through retirement and resignation as well as heavy clinical responsibilities in the wards inhibited research in some departments such as Anatomical and Chemical Pathology, Ophthalmology, Paediatric Surgery and to some extent Medicine. In the first of these there was, however, work on aspects of maternal deaths, hyperplasia and intestinal disorders.

In 1992 the Faculty welcomed the establishment of the Aaron Beare Family Chair of Rheumatology on the strength of a R1.5 million donation from the Beare Foundation. This promised significantly to promote research and patient care in the field of rheumatic diseases. In 1994 the Faculty acquired two important and unusual items of research equipment – an automated sequencer and synthesiser for use in molecular biology research that was the most advanced of its kind in South Africa and, with the FRD's financial assistance, a confocal microscope.

The following year Professor Y.K. Seedat became a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and professors K.D. (Kanti) Bhoola and H.M. (Jerry) Coovadia were elected members of the new Academy of Sciences. In 1996 the FRD awarded Bhoola, head of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, an 'A2' rating and he was also awarded the E.K. Frey-E. Werle commemorative medal, the highest recognition for scientists in that field, for his research on the key components of a kallikrein-kinin system. He sought to develop the department's research profile by appointing young staff members and forming new research teams under senior staff that were as well equipped as possible. That year Trevor Letcher became a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and Professor Larry Hadley, head of Paediatric Surgery, led a Faculty surgical team in a twelve-hour operation that successfully separated human conjoined twins.

In 1997 the Wellcome Trust, based in Britain, contributed R40 million to a consortium comprising the University, UDW and the MRC to launch a major five-year research initiative, the Africa Centre for Population Studies and Reproductive Health. Its purpose was to further promote the work already being done on reproductive health and HIV, partly in response to the estimate that 1.8 million people in the region were infected with the virus, more than half of them females of childbearing age, but also to enhance the various diplomas



**K.D. (Kanti) Bhoola** matriculated at Sastri College in Durban and completed a medical degree at University College, Dublin (1957), followed by a Ph.D. at University College, London (1961) and an M.D. at the National University of Ireland (1967). He acquired considerable practical experience in Britain and taught at the universities of London, Singapore and Bristol as well as at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School (1961–1994). After being appointed professor and head of Durban's Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology in 1992 he revamped the research unit.

He served on numerous committees in and outside the University as well as being a member of several professional societies and a 1995 founder member of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

In addition to his 'A2' FRD rating as a scientist, among other awards he won the MRC gold medal in 2000, primarily for his cutting-edge work on proteases and vasoactive peptides in inflammation and cancer. His research in these and related fields attracted many substantial research grants and by 2001, prior to his departure for the Asthma and Allergy Research Institute at the University of Western Australia, he had published 164 peer-reviewed articles.

and degrees then being offered in public health. As a multidisciplinary project it involved not only members of the Faculty, but also social scientists in Durban and Pietermaritzburg including established leaders in HIV/AIDS research. An initial base was established in the Hlabisa district of KwaZulu-Natal for field research in demography and related issues of health.<sup>8</sup>

By the late 1990s the loss of specialist consultants to emigration and the private sector, coupled with the government's moratorium on the registration of foreign graduates, was having an adverse effect on research productivity in some branches of the Faculty, reducing them to little more than service departments, as was the case in Anaesthetics. So too did funding cutbacks that, for example, inhibited research in cardiothoracic surgery on mitral valve replacement with a pericardial valve.

Several departments still managed to conduct important research for which they gained recognition. In 1998 the Biomolecular Centre and Optics and Imaging Centre were established while Professor Runjan Chetty, head of Pathology, won the Vice-Chancellor's research award. Pharmacology continued its evaluation of drugs in cardiovascular medicine along with other projects. Led by Professor Lourens Schlebusch, Medical Psychology

investigated the ravages of increasing stress levels, health-risk behaviour leading to lifestyle diseases and the prevention of suicides. Psychiatry focused on psychiatric disorders in gynaecological and surgical wards and on marital rape. The Department of Medicine's research was conducted through its respiratory, endocrine, renal, rheumatology, gastrointestinal and infectious diseases units.

Neurosurgery published extensively on neurosepsis and neurotrauma in response to the admission of large numbers of patients with those conditions, while research was also conducted into neuroinfectious disorders and neuromuscular diseases. Cardiology focused on rheumatic heart disease and such specialised interventions as the use of beta-blockers and multi-vessel angioplasty while Plastic Surgery worked on several projects relating to wounds as part of Professor Robbs' Wound Healing Group.

Physiology pursued its research on the role of mycotoxins in disease and their presence in food as well as on sports science. Radiology focused on magnetic resonance imaging techniques of the brain and spinal cord; Surgery on vascular and gastro-intestinal disease, trauma and critical care and endoscopic surgery; and Urology on the early detection of prostate carcinoma.

The Department of Community Health continued its research into the cost-effectiveness of antenatal care and deliveries in clinics and regional hospitals, improving the health of rural primary school pupils and rationalising regional hospital services. It was also involved in evaluating the primary school nutrition programme, investigating the effect of environmental pollutants on African communities and the control of parasitic and sexually transmitted diseases amongst primary school children.

Several departments were heavily involved in researching aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Virology had the advantage of a well-developed infrastructure to meet that challenge, Forensic Medicine used autopsies to monitor HIV prevalence, Haematology investigated bone marrow morphology and coagulation abnormalities in HIV positive patients with deep vein thrombosis, and Medical Microbiology researched HIV-related opportunistic infections as well as TB. Obstetrics and Gynaecology focused on preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission and teenage pregnancy while Paediatrics and Child Health was similarly heavily involved in HIV/AIDS prevention with Jerry Coovadia, Anna Coutsoydis and Kubendran Pillay prominent.<sup>9</sup>

### Humanities and Social Sciences

In 1990 Pietermaritzburg's Karl Nurnberger (Theological Studies) published an edited collection of essays on *Conflict and the Quest for Justice*. In 1993 Professor David Attwell (English) won the Vice-Chancellor's research award for an outstanding researcher under 40 years of age after establishing his international reputation as an expert on the South African author J.M. Coetzee by publishing his book about and with Coetzee *Doubling the Point: Essays and Interviews*. In 1995 he won the University book prize and was subsequently co-winner of the Bill Venter award. In Fine Art Juliet Armstrong attracted attention for producing stronger bone china without the use of bone!

In 1993 the Faculty hosted a conference to mark the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's seminal sojourn in Pietermaritzburg. In addition to local contributors it attracted several prominent international academics including Judith Brown (Oxford) and Stewart Sutherland (Vice-Chancellor, University of London). Carole Beckett (French) discovered that there was an indigenous French literature in the Comores and her findings were subsequently published in Paris. In 1994 Gerald West (Theological Studies) won the Vice-Chancellor's research award for younger researchers and John Laband (Historical Studies) won the 1996 University book prize for his *Rope of Sand: The Rise and Fall of the Zulu Kingdom in the Nineteenth Century*.

Indeed, interest in the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War and other fields of historical research continued into the 1990s. John Wright worked on the Stuart Archive series, Ruth Edgecombe and Bill Guest dug deeper into the records of the Natal coal industry and developed an interest in the relatively new field of environmental history. In 1996 they organised an international environmental history conference, which was followed by the publication of *South Africa's Environmental History: Cases and Comparisons*, co-edited with Stephen Dovers, and by Edgecombe's publication *The Constancy of Change: A History of Hlobane Colliery, 1898–1998*.

Guest and John Sellers published an edited sequel to *Enterprise and Exploitation* entitled *Receded Tides of Empire: Aspects of the Economic and Social History of Natal and Zululand since 1910* while Paul Thompson published *Natalians First*, a study of white separatist politics. There was also a growing interest in women and gender in history, but the liberal-radical debate among historians receded with the decline of radicalism following the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, the re-emergence of mass action in the country and indications that nationalist ideology was on the wane. Instead, some

historians found themselves debating vigorously with local politicians about interpretations of the early history of the Zulu kingdom.<sup>10</sup>

The HSRC assisted in publishing the proceedings of the eleventh conference of the South African Association of Jewish Studies hosted by Durban's Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies in 1988. Edgard Sienaert co-edited a translation of Marcel Jousse's *The Oral Style* in 1990 and members of the English Department there contributed to the publication *Teaching English Literature in South Africa* while the second number of its journal *Current Writing* concentrated on women's writing in South Africa. In 1992 Michael Chapman co-edited *Perspectives on South African English Literature*, Margaret Lenta edited Olive Schreiner's *Thoughts on South Africa* and Sally-Ann Murray edited her *Trooper Peter Halket of Mashonaland*. Murray also won the National SANLAM award for her poetry collection and Samuel Decalo won the University book prize for his *Psychoses of Power: African Personal Dictatorships*.

The following year Peter Strauss (English) published *Talking Poetry* and his colleague Margaret Daymond edited Bessie Head's hitherto unpublished novel *The Cardinals*. Christopher Ballantine (Music) published *Marabi Nights*, a study of black South African music, and colleague Veronica Franke won first prize in the international Palestrina competition for her work on the sixteenth-century Italian composer. Further books followed in 1995, authored by Margaret Lenta (English), Kenneth Christie (Politics), Bill Dominik and Steven Jackson (Classics) and Bill Freund (Economic History).

In 1996 Ballantine won the CSD's top researcher award for his work (with its financial assistance) on the social role of black jazz and vaudeville between the 1920s and 1940s. In 1998 Michael Green (English) won the ACU Commonwealth fellowship and Volker Wedekind (Education) the academic staff scholarship. Green also won the University book prize for his verse novella *Sinking* and Michael Chapman for his *South African Literatures*, which was subsequently also co-winner of the Bill Venter literary award. Anne Harley, John Aitchison, Elda Lyster and Sandra Land were similarly recognised for *A Survey of Adult Basic Education in South Africa in the '90s*.

Economic History continued to publish its journal *Transformation* and History its now well-established *Journal of Natal and Zulu History*. Bill Freund published on the local Indian community *Insiders and Outsiders: The Indian Working Class of Durban, 1910-1990* and Paul Maylam and Ros Posel (History) maintained their research interest in urban history. Maylam and Iain Edwards co-edited *The People's City: African Life in Twentieth-Century*

Durban while Posel became increasingly interested in promoting the field of women and gender in history. In 1991 the Faculty of Humanities hosted the first conference in southern Africa in that field. Politics organised an important colloquium on Mfecane theory and the Oral Documentation and Research Centre's third conference focused on oral tradition and innovation.

The schools of Law in both centres continued to publish prolifically. In 1990 John Milton and Michael Cowling produced the second loose-leaf edition of *South African Criminal Law and Procedure, Volume III* on statutory offences and R.D. (Rob) Sharrock co-authored a new fifth edition of *Hockley's Insolvency Law*. The following year Milton and colleague Jonathan Burchell published *Principles of Criminal Law* followed in 1992 by *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law* while Sharrock edited *Business Transactions Law*.

Two books, on delict and negotiable instruments, were published in 1993 and in 1994 Robert Williams published two more on income tax and corporate law. Eight more books followed in 1997 as the Pietermaritzburg School retained its reputation in criminal law and criminal justice while also developing its presence in environmental law by publishing the *South African Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*. In 1998 Jonathan Burchell published a major new work *Personality Rights and Freedom of Expression: The Modern Actio Injuriarum* while B. (Brenda) Grant produced *Administrative Law through the Cases*. In Durban Alan Rycroft co-authored *Mediation: Principles, Process and Practice* in 1997 and David McQuoid-Mason collaborated with colleagues to produce *Consumer Law in South Africa*.

By 1990 staff members in Social Science (Durban) were publishing at a SAPSE calculated annual rate of 0.75 papers each, but many were also actively involved in various forms of community outreach as outlined below. Professor Tollman established a Neuropsychological Unit and Professor Henzi a Drakensberg primate research site and with colleagues launched a Behavioural Ecology Unit. By the mid-1990s the Faculty's research interests focused primarily on the environment, human resource management, community experience, organisational life and socio-economic development. Many staff members were actively engaged in post-apartheid policy development and reconstruction.

Social Science (Pietermaritzburg) tried to promote more research activity and interdisciplinary co-operation with a series of seminars. Following the enriching visit of Stan Newman (University College, London) to the Psychology Department, a joint staff project was launched to investigate the role of motivational and cognitive process on HIV/AIDS and preventative

behaviour in young people. In 1993 it received a grant of R1.2 million to assist child victims of violence in the province. Other collaborative research initiatives included that of Psychology with the University of Wisconsin and the Economics Department/HSRC investigation into income distribution. During the mid-1990s there were also projects focusing on income inequality in South Africa, environmental economics and ecotourism, on the survivors of violence and on educating rural communities about the provision of information.<sup>11</sup>

### **Community service**

Community service was as important a dimension of the University's life as ever and increasingly regarded as a desirable part of students' training in relevant academic fields. During her installation address in April 1994, Brenda Gourley referred to the presidential report of 1988 by Derek Bok at Harvard University that at some stage of their four-year degrees more than 60% of undergraduates there became involved 'in teaching children in public housing projects, staffing shelters for battered women, working with prison inmates, teaching illiterate adults to read, or acting in some other way to help people in need'.

The Farmer Support Group, launched with Kellogg Foundation funding, drew on the Faculty of Agriculture's expertise to disseminate useful information and promote appropriate agricultural methods among the region's small farmers by various means, including its news magazine *Vikela Izithombo*. In 1990 the Indicator Project SA received 22% more in funds raised through the NUDE, rising to R251 000, but the R1 434 000 the INR attracted constituted a 10% decline. In 1996 the latter was eventually restructured into a trust that conducted its own fundraising and a section 21 company in charge of its own operations, with the University continuing to provide some support for the next three years.

The BESG, still closely associated with Architecture and Allied Disciplines, became an NGO but continued to draw on expertise in that Faculty and primarily on funds from the European Community to offer advice to community organisations in relation to the built environment. By 1990 it was already involved in 30 projects as the political climate changed and as it developed a more pro-active approach to community needs and a greater emphasis on research. Planning and housing development policies for a post-apartheid South Africa gained increasing urgency and in 1994, when Nora Walker was appointed director, the BESG began to focus more specifically



on the implementation of low-cost housing. As a result, some cost recovery became possible and there was less dependence upon international funders.

Engineering professor Lee Natrass together with Christopher Cresswell was heavily involved in launching the UNEIF with the intention of marrying the goals of research promotion and community service while generating income for the University. In the same Faculty the Department of Quantity Surveying and Building Economics attracted 60 delegates from the countrywide property industry to its one-week career development programme and also assisted black builders with management and quality control in their businesses.

In 1990 the ERU in Durban held a successful symposium on socio-economic statistics. During subsequent years it conducted projects on economic co-operation in southern Africa, the post-apartheid economy and AIDS, sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, European Community and the African Development Bank. In 1992 Gavin Maasdorp and Alan Whiteside edited *Towards a Post-Apartheid Future: Political and Economic Relations in Southern Africa* and worked on a manuscript on AIDS. Two years later the unit celebrated its golden jubilee with a successful conference and in 1998 it received a R1 million USAID project award when it established its Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division to undertake investigations and provide regular briefings in that field for central and local government.<sup>12</sup>

Several departments continued, as before, to provide services to the community in their respective fields. For example, Linguistics (Durban) still assisted in the training of teachers of English in black schools. In 1990 Durban's Department of Accounting and Finance held a series of seminars on taxation and investment and in 1992 Economics and Management, in conjunction with the Faculty of Commerce in Pietermaritzburg, negotiated an agreement with the Centre for Advanced Management Development to offer management development programmes as well as short courses. By the mid-1990s both faculties had recognised the strong demand for after-hours community courses in a variety of fields; and that these might not be merely self-funding, but profit-making for the University. In addition, staff members continued to consult with business and government bodies as well as international agencies while members of the local professions also periodically drew upon their expertise.

Numerous staff members from a variety of departments participated in the process of national transformation during the 1990s. They contributed to forums that dealt with future policies relating to the economy, education,

health, language, local government, population, research and science as well as to the Kempton Park negotiations on a new constitution. George Devenish served on the technical committee which drafted that document. Colleague David McQuoid-Mason was appointed to the Legal Aid Board and to a panel for the recognition of foreign legal qualifications.

Ruth Teer-Tomaselli and emeritus professor Fatima Meer were elected to the SABC board while the former also led the Democracy Education Broadcasting Initiative. Durban economists Charles Meth and Trevor Jones served in advisory capacities to the central Statistical Services and the Maritime Transport Policy Working Group respectively. Keyan Tomaselli and others assisted in drafting a white paper on film in the cultural life of South African society while Yonah Seleti and Jeff Guy helped to revise the school history syllabus.

Some staff members became candidates for the new national and provincial parliaments or were selected to work in the new administrative structures. Others joined students in assisting with election monitoring, voter education and vote counting. From 1994 liaison with government departments in the formulation of policies was such that several senior ministers visited the Durban campus. They included the first Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, Professor Sibusiso Bengu (Education), Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (Health), Ben Ngubane (Arts, Culture, Science and Technology) and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose. These and other ministerial visits raised the prospect of future large-scale collaborative projects related to the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

Several departments in the Faculty of Engineering similarly shared their expertise with relevant sectors of commerce and industry. In 1991 Civil Engineering conducted a continuing education course on appropriate technology, focusing on township services, and a seminar on transport development and the urban environment. The following year it held a traffic calming seminar and a bridge building competition for tertiary institutions and high schools.

In the early 1990s the Research Unit of the Faculty of Education (Durban) completed its survey of black colleges of education. Among other activities, including publications and video productions, in 1990 the Media Resource Centre organised its sixth annual national conference on developing media education. In 1993 the Natal Resource Centre Forum commissioned it to develop voter education programmes. Improvements were also made to the

Educational Resources Information Service to facilitate access to educational resources for information workers and teachers.

The Child and Family Centre attached to the Faculty of Education (Pietermaritzburg), under its new head Bruce Gillmer, was incorporated in 1995 into the Department of Educational Psychology. It continued to perform both a useful research and teaching function while assisting families and schools, as did the Curriculum Development Unit and the MEDU. For example, in 1990 the former initiated curriculum projects at the Indumiso and Umbumbulu colleges of education as well as an in-service education network for high school teachers in QwaQwa. The latter established several projects relating to non-racialism, subject development and access to teaching resources as well as serving in a consulting capacity for numerous informal educational schemes.

A full-time co-ordinator ran the Midlands Partnership Project that emerged, attracting Ford Foundation funding. Similar to a Ford partnership programme in the USA, it drew together a variety of stakeholders including the University, local and provincial government representatives, community structures and the local Chamber of Commerce. In 1992 the MEDU began a co-operative venture with the Research in Education Unit at the Institute of Education (London) towards a curriculum materials development course. The previous year the Education Faculty Forum met for the first time to strengthen connections among all those involved in educational development and research.

In 1993, after two years of planning, a parliamentary amendment to the definition of the seat of the University made it possible for the Faculty of Education to take the lead in distance learning by offering its part-time postgraduate B.Ed. (Second Language Learning and Teaching) degree at the Siza Centre in Madadeni/Newcastle from 1994. An initial eighteen students registered. Staff travelled there at weekends to teach the materials-based course, which was intended for practising teachers who wished to upgrade their qualifications. After initial teething difficulties the new semesterised and modularised degree structure was sufficiently effective to enroll a second intake in 1995 and thereafter registrations continued to increase, rising to 2 522 in 1998. Meanwhile several staff members were involved in contributing towards the formulation of the National Commission on Higher Education's final report published in 1996.

In 1993 staff in the Faculty of Commerce began teaching in the joint University of Natal/Centre for Advanced Management Development (CAMDEV) programme for the benefit of local commerce and industry.

Meanwhile, as before, the Law schools in both centres were actively involved in community service. In Durban the Department of Public Law continued to co-ordinate the local chapter of the Society for the Abolition of the Death Penalty under George Devenish's chairmanship. Procedural and Clinical Law hosted practical training schools for articulated clerks, which the Association of Law Societies ran, as well as a series of seminars on medico-legal problems.

David McQuoid-Mason conducted street law workshops and mock trial training programmes throughout the country as well as the first African conference on human rights education in 1994. In 1995 he with Robin Palmer, Karthy Govender and Ronald Louw conducted trial advocacy training courses for lawyers in Malawi and Zambia while the School co-hosted a Commonwealth Law Teachers conference. Govender and Devenish also advised in the drafting of the new constitution of KwaZulu-Natal. The former was involved in various investigations in his capacity as a human rights commissioner as well as being invited to visit India and several African countries and teach at the University of Michigan.

On behalf of the United Nations, Hilton Staniland conducted a course on maritime law for civil engineers and port captains from a number of African countries and his draft legislation on wrecks and salvage was passed by Parliament. In 1999 a new School of Maritime and Marine Studies, the Maritime Initiative, was launched under Staniland's direction. It involved the marine industry as well as the University's own expertise in a variety of fields including engineering, marine science, natural resources, pollution and trade economics; and promised to serve as both a research and teaching facility. On the strength of this, government provided R500 000 for a public awareness programme and the Department of Foreign Affairs subsequently nominated the University to be 'the academic focal point for the Indian Ocean Initiative' or what became known as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation.

Supported at ministerial level as 'a national initiative', at least three masters programmes were envisaged as well as short and other courses while seeking also to promote the region's economic and political coherence by means of cultural, economic and trade interaction throughout the Rim. This had obvious potential benefits for Durban, already the busiest port in Africa with 5 000 ships handling more than 45 million tonnes of cargo annually and more than 50% by value of the country's trade. As a gateway to the region and for KwaZulu-Natal as a whole the local business sector, harbour and naval authorities, Natal Sharks Board and Oceanographic Research Institute all showed great interest.

The City Council and province provided R35 000 to develop a business plan for an annual maritime festival, run by the City of Durban, which was intended to draw attention to the region's tourist attractions and to Durban as South Africa's premier maritime centre.

Similarly the W.K. Kellogg Foundation selected the University to host a Centre for Leadership Studies and provided a \$75 000 planning grant for what was intended eventually to benefit the whole subcontinent through leadership skills and exchanges. Among other Law School initiatives P.D. Glovovic, director of the Institute of Environmental Law, established the first environmental law firm in the country and in 1993 was appointed to the SAPPI Chair in that discipline. In 1994 a constitutional litigation certificate course attracted 120 practitioners while the Association of Law Societies ran practical training courses in procedural and clinical law for candidate attorneys. Some staff members assisted the Independent Electoral Commission to conduct South Africa's first democratic elections.

Community service continued to be regarded as an important dimension of legal training and Durban's Centre for Socio-Legal Studies held conferences of value to students and practitioners as well as conducting training seminars for trade unionists and inter-provincial street law mock trial competitions. In 1990 the centre published the first issue of the *South African Conflict Monitor* and the first volume of the *South African Human Rights and Labour Law Yearbook*, followed by two more in 1991 and 1993. In 1992 the centre was restructured and M.A. Mchunu was appointed director and national street law director attached to that site. It also hosted the annual labour law and industrial court conferences as well as the 1994 street law mock trial competition and space colony project.

The Legal Aid Clinic continued to be much in demand by disadvantaged communities and in 1992 advocate R. Palmer was appointed as its director. In 1994 it appointed its first interns in the Legal Aid Board's community service programme. The Community Law Project, under C. Baekey's direction, moved out of the Law School as its network of paralegal rural advice offices and training programmes expanded. In 1994 it published *Creating Your Constitution* and assisted with pre-election voter education.

In 1990 the Pietermaritzburg School of Law's Centre for Criminal Justice, established the previous year to promote human rights, secured sufficient funding to appoint three researchers and an administrative assistant. It focused on the policing of political conflict in the region and embarked upon a collaborative research programme with the Centre for Criminal Justice at

Harvard University. In addition, a joint citizen's elementary legal education project was launched with the Tembaletu Trust. By the end of 1991 it had introduced its Street Law and Human Rights Education programmes in several schools and community organisations and held conferences on policing in the new South Africa in 1991 and again in 1992. The centre also mediated in discussions between the police and local communities regarding the introduction of community policing. It steadily expanded its network of victim support centres that assisted women and children at police stations throughout the region.

The School's Legal Aid Clinic continued to be active with financial aid from the Attorneys Fidelity Fund and other sources, in 1994 gaining the Legal Aid Board's accreditation. The practical training school for articled clerks continued to be in demand and in 1992 a thirteen-week Certificate in Labour Law was well received by the local business community. In 1995 Nic Olivier joined the task group on governance in tertiary institutions and became involved in drafting the new legislation in this regard as well as developing joint research on traditional authorities. Jonathan Burchell was part of a national task team working on restructuring legal education while James Lund furthered his work as a co-ordinator of curriculum development and reform in the University and presented a report to the National Commission on Higher Education. In 1996 John Milton was appointed chairman of the National Monuments Council.

Both faculties of Social Science were actively involved in offering services to the broader community with the campus providing a base for the Community Based Organisations Network. The Department of Nursing's Institute of Nursing helped to improve health care in KwaZulu-Natal and Transkei through demonstrations, educational programmes and research. By 1992 it accommodated 230 students in community health programmes in Empangeni and Ixopo, a continuing education programme in Newcastle and a psychiatric nursing programme in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith. In 1994 the Institute developed modules in its educational programmes that were specifically designed for rural areas. By then the Faculty's various outreach efforts incorporated 520 community-based adult learners.

The staff and students of the Department of Social Work continued to participate in the Community Service Training programme and University of Natal Community Work project. Final year training in Nursing and Social Work included community work and the department initiated a retraining programme for community workers already active in the field. By 1998 there were 1 122 students upgrading their qualifications while serving in rural

hospitals and eleven completing advanced studies while working in the United Arab Emirates. In 1995 a collaborative psychiatric nursing programme with the Netherlands was initiated with funding from the Kellogg Foundation.

In 1993 Durban's Centre for Industrial and Labour Studies was reviewed and two of its sub-disciplines, Industrial Psychology and Industrial Sociology, were integrated. Two years later the Centre for Development Studies returned to the Faculty and with it a number of research initiatives including a new Quality of Life-RDP monitoring project. It was intended thereafter to become increasingly self-funding, like the INR, in order to reduce its dependence on the University.

Some staff members became involved in formulating a social welfare policy appropriate to the new South Africa's needs. Other Faculty members participated in a variety of policy debates associated with South Africa's political transformation in the early 1990s, including environmental and human resource management, health policy and community care, welfare and policing, economic and industrial strategies, and gender issues. Several became active in the National Arts Coalition, SABC Board, National Welfare Social Services and Development Forum and the regional and national health forums.

Yvonne Muthien was appointed co-ordinator of the Public Service Commission, Paulus Zulu joined the advisory panel of the deputy president's office and Cheryl Walker was seconded as land commissioner for KwaZulu-Natal. The Ministry of Welfare chose Francie Lund, senior researcher in the CSDS, to lead what became the Lund Committee of Enquiry into the R1.22 billion state maintenance grant for single women and children. In 1998 Mel Gray (Social Work) led a multidisciplinary group of researchers in securing a R3 million Innovation Fund award to work on links between socialisation, social conditions and learning. That year Ari Sitas was elected onto the executive council of the prestigious United Nations-inspired International Sociological Association.

In Pietermaritzburg the Department of Information Studies started the privately funded resource centre project accommodated off-campus to provide information to charitable and civic organisations. It complemented the Community Resource Centre training programme that functioned in both centres. Faculty members were also involved in a variety of other community outreach projects. Psychology, for example, was associated with the Rehab Trust and Rape Crisis Centre while George Oldham (Economics) was a member of the economic affairs committee of the Pietermaritzburg Chamber

of Industries. Some staff members participated in the KwaZulu-Natal Regional Economic Forum and the World Bank's Rural Restructuring programme while in 1994 Douglas Irvine was transferred on a twenty-month secondment as an adviser to the Commission on Provincial Administration. The following year Andrew Kaniki was invited onto the board of overseers of the South African Archives and the inter-ministerial working group on Library and Information Services.

The Faculty's interest in social change and development was reflected in a variety of research projects, including those on African librarianship, AIDS, communications, environmental and resource issues, KwaZulu-Natal politics, land reform and the survivors of violence. The Faculty maintained close links with the School of Environment and Development and in 1996 Mike McGrath led an FRD-funded investigation into the economics of South Africa's coastal fisheries. It involved three universities and three research institutes before its results were presented to the Ninth South African Marine Science Symposium in Cape Town. In 1997 Professor R. Griesel was awarded a R500 000 CSD grant to investigate child development and, as one of fifteen principal investigators, Linda Richter shared in the Wellcome Trust grant to establish the African Centre for Population Studies and Reproductive Health. In 1998 Stuart Anderson's (Psychology) research on the effects of hangovers attracted public attention and featured on the television programme 'Carte Blanche'.<sup>13</sup>

During the 1990s the visual and performing arts departments continued to provide their own form of community service while simultaneously training their students. In Pietermaritzburg there were periodic productions in the Hexagon Theatre and elsewhere while Drama Studies presented community theatre and educational theatre workshops on various social issues as well as drama in education projects. Among other well-known performers in 1992 the department hosted storyteller and playwright Geina Mhlope. There were numerous art exhibitions in the Jack Heath Gallery that attracted favourable public responses.

In Durban Speech and Drama produced a succession of plays, usually directed by staff members, including an annual musical – *Anne of Green Gables* in 1990, which Pieter Scholtz directed and Patti Slavin designed. That year the department also presented a five-month series of plays for children in its open-air theatre and a number of productions in the local Sunday at Six supper club while Scholtz's play *Samantha Seal* was performed for three weeks at the Edinburgh Festival. In 1991 there were 29 productions offered to the public in the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre, the square space theatre and



the open-air theatre and another sixteen in 1992. Honours students took their 'drama-in-education' to primary schools in various parts of the province and in 1993 professor emeritus Elizabeth Sneddon won the Edinburgh Crystal Award for her contribution to South African theatre over many years. In 1997 what was now called the Department of Drama and Performance Studies staged the Bhambayi peace and development celebration, a community project that featured on national television.

The Department of Music continued to offer its weekly lunchtime concerts on the Durban campus where the third Maskanda competition for African township musicians was held in 1990. Laura Allen gave a flute recital in Malawi and the Centre for Jazz and Popular Music continued to be active. Darius Brubeck and the Ntoni Quartet appeared at the second Grahamstown Jazz Festival and at the New York Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans. Brubeck, his father and three brothers also gave three performances with the London Symphony Orchestra in honour of his father Dave's 70th birthday. The following year, back on campus, the centre presented a celebrity jazz concert in collaboration with NAPAC and continued to draw on the talent of visiting jazz musicians throughout the 1990s.<sup>14</sup>

### **Centre for Adult Education**

As its activities continued to expand, the CAE in Durban embarked upon a restructuring process with two new posts and four new projects established. During 1990 there were 1 066 lecture attendees at 41 extramural courses but community education was still a major focus. This included the adult education course to produce trainers in service organisations and trade unions, the community development training project comprising two major and several short courses, and the computer literacy project that provided community organisations with computer support and training.

In 1990 the CAE contributed to international literacy year by holding a conference and launching the New Readers' Project and Learn with Echo in local newspapers. The former was intended to produce 30 readers within two years for the use of adults who were newly literate. It also conducted a survey of formal education in the Pietermaritzburg region and continued to offer an advanced Diploma in Adult Education while introducing a new B.Ed. option from 1991. In addition, the Community Adult Educator Training Project began to run year-long courses.

The acquisition of additional staff in 1993 made it possible to extend the production of readers for adults, consolidate the resource centre and plan a

regional support agency in collaboration with the English Resource Unit. By 1995 the resource centre had its own librarian and was co-managing the new Natal Adult Basic Education Support Agency. Enrolments in the CAE's formal courses continued to increase, a certificate course for young community workers was introduced and staff conducted workshops in neighbouring southern African countries on behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross Societies. A new chapter in the centre's history was opened when, in 1995, it became a department in the new Faculty of Humanities, of which the former Faculty of Education was now a part.<sup>15</sup>

### **Restructured faculties and new schools**

Despite the distractions of developing new Faculty and School synergies and launching new programmes and modules, research output and community service continued, to varying degrees, to be important activities in all academic sectors. Unfortunately, by the mid-1990s the University's service as a banker for certain NGOs attached to it and the employment of their staff under its own conditions of service had resulted in substantial financial loss. On the other hand its involvement in community service and, not least, its association with the Community Based Organisations Network helped to realise the principles of the Mission Statement and attracted government attention at Cabinet level.

Efforts were made to draw those units that wished to remain affiliated to the University more closely into its research and teaching activities in exchange for the space they occupied. In 1995 there were 64 centres, institutes and units involved in research and/or community service associated with the University (35 at Howard College, 10 in the Faculty of Medicine and 19 in Pietermaritzburg) but by 2003 more stringent regulations and funding had reduced them to 40.<sup>16</sup>

### **Community and Development Disciplines (Durban)**

Staff members in the new School of Anthropology and Psychology published thirteen refereed articles in 1999, another seventeen in 2000 and more than 40 in 2003, in addition to their community activities. By 2002 Stephen Cowley was engaged in two international research projects on cross-cultural mother-infant communication. Staff members of the Centre for Social Work presented numerous conference papers, served on professional bodies, published in scientific journals and were heavily involved in community outreach initiatives while Vasintha Veeran secured funds through the British Council for her project on specialist community youth work training and development.

In the School of Architecture and Housing, Derek van Heerden won first prize for his design of the new Cato Manor Development Corporation's office building and senior student Georgina Walker did likewise in the International Federation for Housing and Planning's competition in Glasgow. Staff members in Town Planning contributed to several provincial planning proposals while the Centre for Housing Development and Research greatly assisted the provincial housing department with its capacity-building programmes for staff members. By 2002 architecture in relation to HIV/AIDS had become a significant research theme along with new ways of designing community and public buildings. So, too, had sustainable construction and development, new methods of land use management and reassessments of urban environments.

Financial grants to researchers in the School of Development Studies exceeded R7 million in 1999 including R3.5 million from the government's Innovation Fund for multidisciplinary research on crime prevention in KwaZulu-Natal schools. In 2001 the School acquired another R20 million, including funding from the McArthur, Mellon and Nuffield foundations as well as the World Bank, European Union and the Innovation Fund, the last to investigate the implications of the globalisation of technology transfer in collaboration with Toyota. In 2003 the School attracted at least five more major research grants involving Adam Habib and Vishnu Padayachee (who was also appointed convenor of the Economic Development Strategic Initiative), Thokozani Xaba and Pranitha Maharaj as well as Imraan Valodia. In that year the School produced sixteen journal articles, three edited books and eight book chapters.

International research contacts were strengthened with the Centre for Research into Innovation Management (Brighton), the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics (Wisconsin), the Institute of Development Studies (Sussex and Nairobi) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (Oxford Brookes University). With six major teaching/research areas of interest in economics, global trade and transportation, governance and civil society, population studies, social policy and urban-rural development it was widely regarded as a leading development studies centre in South Africa.

In 2000 the MRC awarded staff members in the School of Nursing and the Faculty of Medicine/Health Sciences a research development grant to launch a partnership with one of the province's health districts, the first of its type in South Africa, which opened up useful research possibilities. In 2001 members of the School attracted more than R500 000 for research projects and a full-time nurse researcher was appointed on contract. In addition, a forum on HIV/

AIDS attracted nurses from as far afield as the USA. Staff became involved in several collaborative projects with researchers in other parts of Africa including one on HIV/AIDS with nurses in Tanzania, Nigeria and the USA. In 2003 Leana Uys acquired R15.9 million in funding for a multi-country investigation into the care afforded to AIDS victims.

In CoDAL research was conducted on the partnerships emerging between communities, service organisations and universities. Between them the School and the Centre for Civil Society within it drew more than R20 million in grants from Atlantic Research Philanthropies and others to fund projects that included finance and banking; industrial, labour market and macroeconomic policy; the informal economy; population and demography; poverty and inequality; and race, culture and civil society.<sup>17</sup>

### **Engineering (Durban)**

Research in the School of Bioresources, Engineering and Environmental Hydrology was concentrated on power and machinery using vehicle simulations and on soil and water/hydrology. In 1999 the School attracted research grants exceeding R2 million and continued its co-operative projects with partners abroad. This included funds for precision agriculture involving remote sensing of agricultural potential. Two major reports were completed that year, on the design of rainfall estimation techniques and on potential climate change impacts on the country's water resources.

By 2000 there were six groups active in water research, including resource management in the Sabie, Mkomazi and Mbuluzi catchment areas and in one case leading to the formulation of an MBA in Water Management. In addition, a website was developed that demonstrated the University's consultancy and research abilities in that regard with each group articulating which part of the new Water Act it sought to support. In 2001 two major reports on hill slope hydrological processes and integrated water resource management were published while research continued on rainfall statistics mapping, on the impact of land use on water resources, and on climate change and climate forecasting. New projects were launched to investigate nitrate and phosphorus movement in catchment areas.

Indeed, water had emerged as one of the University's internationally recognised major strategic research initiatives. It involved units in several faculties, training programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and collaboration with other major role players in the field. These included the CSIR, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Umgeni Water Services

and the WRC. In 2002 two major reports on flood estimation and rainfall in South Africa were completed for the WRC and the latter awarded new contracts for the development of a continuous modelling system for flood estimation.

Research continued on rainfall statistics mapping and the impact of management practices on water resources. In 2003 five more major reports were completed for the WRC and four new research contracts amounting to R9 million were awarded. Numerous contacts and research collaborations were either maintained or developed with institutions abroad and Roland Schulze was awarded life membership of the International Water Academy (Norway).

The School of Chemical Engineering embarked on major research projects in 1999 costing R4 million for the year provided by the WRC, industry and international donors. It also attracted 41 masters and nine doctoral students including some from abroad. Chris Buckley's Pollution Research Group continued its work on several water-related projects, in which connection research fellow Susan Barclay won a Women in Water award in 2003.

In 2000 Lignotech SA, a joint venture between SAICCOR and Borregaard (Norway), internationally prominent in the wood pulping by-products industry, selected the School as its preferred partner to conduct research into its own processes and products. Substantial funding was provided for this purpose greatly enhancing the University's established commitment to the forest products sector. Deresh Ramjugernath's Thermodynamics Group expanded its international collaboration through more research contracts with high temperature processing, minerals processing and reactor technology being fields of particular interest. In 2003 the Pollution and Thermodynamics groups both won international awards for their publications and Buckley was appointed to the National Water Advisory Council. The secondment of Iain Kerr to the School enhanced its capacity in paper and pulp research while a reactor pilot plant developed patents to practical application.

In 1999 the School of Civil Engineering, Surveying and Construction attracted a number of full- and part-time researchers into its postgraduate programmes. In March that year, after protracted negotiations, KZN Transport MEC Sibusiso Ndebele handed over an initial R1 million to finance the Asiphephe Road Safety programme. This was a partnership involving the provincial Department of Transport, the CSIR, the University's interdisciplinary Accident Research Centre (in which Philip Everitt played an important role) and other local tertiary institutions. The centre had already achieved a reduction in road fatalities through its research and evaluation of the effectiveness of current road safety practices.

By 2000 new research projects in environmental engineering attracted R300 000 in sponsorships and there was collaboration with the University of California (San Diego) in environmental fluid dynamics. The following year what became known as the Centre for Research into Coastal Hydrological and Environmental Engineering was launched and it extended its research into coastal pollution and estuary water balance, waste management and short-term flood forecasting.

Land Surveying (Geomatic Engineering) staff embarked on collaborative research with the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences on the distribution of hippopotami in Lake Malawi. They subsequently worked on developing a GIS including virtual models of rock art sites and on local empowerment projects in the uKhahlamba/Drakensberg. Research was also initiated into learning programmes in Construction and Quantity Surveying.

By 1999 there were nine broad fields of research interest in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering involving 47 masters and nine doctoral students, rising to thirteen of the latter in 2002. It continued to attract substantial research funding and had strong collaborative links with American and Italian universities. Ron Harley's Motion Control and Power Systems Dynamics groups still conducted valuable research with industrial applications as did Professor Mac Hippner on electrical machines design and conditioning monitoring.

In Electronics, Professor Fambirai Takawira's research focused on enabling technologies that would facilitate IP (Internet Protocol)-based broadband wireless networks in the future. In 2003 the Centre for Radio Access Technologies, established in 1997, was voted best centre of excellence among fifteen local tertiary institutions. The Motion Control Group won the Siemens automation and Drives Cyber Junk Yard challenge and South African Breweries offered to fund Bruce Barton to develop a brewery in collaboration with the School of Chemical Engineering.

In 1999, postgraduate registrations rose to 33 in the School of Mechanical Engineering. The substantial research funding that staff members attracted facilitated an upgrading of laboratories and equipment while the NRF, URC and industry all contributed to postgraduate research projects. Research in metallurgy had moved on from a focus on Ni-Chrome alloys to aluminium alloys and their commercial potential while in fluid and thermodynamics Jeff Bindon and Graham Smith contributed to the safe operation of gas turbines.

In 2001 Renault awarded Professor Evgeny Morozov and Stefan Kaczmarczyk a research project on the crash capacity of automotive composite components while research agreements were contracted through NRF international programmes involving France (Smart Materials), Germany (Smart Composites) and the Collision Management Centre. Morozov's paper on the design of silos made from composite materials won the Donald Julius Groen prize in 2002 and Professor Viktor Verijenko attracted an Innovation Fund grant for his research on magnetostrictive materials and the production of prototype smart bolts and reinforcing bars.

Christopher von Klemperer continued to work on the environmental degradation of composite materials and Professor Glen Bright developed a robot lawnmower. Research continued on the development of a solar-powered racing car, primarily comprising aluminium and carbon fibre-reinforced plastics, to compete in the 2005 world solar championships in Australia.<sup>18</sup>

### **Human Sciences (Durban)**

The new three-tier structure the Faculty adopted in 1999 concentrated its research activity in the graduate school directed by Professor Johan Jacobs. A concerted effort to increase applications for funding to the URC and NRF was accompanied by careful internal screening, which resulted in an initial 45 successful research grants and another 37 in 2000. That year a series of support workshops resulted in Faculty members securing R850 000 worth of NRF funding for their projects. In addition, research proposal workshops for postgraduate students significantly improved the success rate of submissions to the higher degrees committee. Multidisciplinary graduate studies conferences at which students gained experience in presenting papers on their research topics became an annual event.

The Faculty was also the home of several accredited journals edited by staff members. They included *Agenda*, *Critical Arts*, *Current Writing*, *Dubbelfluit: Tydskrif vir die Onderrig van Afrikaans as Tweede Taal*, *Nomina Africana*, *Scholia*, *Society in Transition*, *Transformation*, *Journal of Natal and Zulu History*, *Theoria*, *South African Journal of Linguistics*, *South African Journal of Musicology* and *Voices: A Journal of Oral Studies*.

In 1999 several books were published as well as 34 chapters and articles in refereed journals, followed by 78 in 2000 and numerous other publications. Margaret Lenta (English) published *The Cape Diaries of Lady Anne Barnard, 1799–1800* with former staff member Basil le Cordeur (UCT) and won the 2000 University book prize for major edited works; Professor Bernhard Kytzler

(German) published *Ancient Mythological Women*; and his departmental colleague Professor Jürgen Lieskounig published two critical works as well as a novel. In 2000 Duncan Brown won the Vice-Chancellor's young researcher award and Ileana Dimitriu published a study of the novelist Nadine Gordimer. Professor N.M. Kamwangamalu published edited works on *Language and Institutions in Africa* and *Language and Ethnicity in the New South Africa*.

Bill Freund (Economic History) and several colleagues were involved in a three cities research project involving UDW and the universities of Aix-en-Provence and Cocody (Ivory Coast). In 2000 Freund published *M.D. North-Coombes: Studies in the Political Economy of Mauritius*, a collection of articles authored by his brilliant young Mauritian colleague Dan North-Coombes and intended as a tribute to him following his tragic premature death. Keyan Tomaselli and Ruth Teer-Tomaselli directed a UNESCO-funded survey of employment distribution in local media companies and the latter organised six planning workshops for Durban Youth Radio.

Vasu Reddy (Afrikaans and Gender Studies) investigated gender discrimination and the law while other gender-related projects focused on race and gender in the academic world and women in higher education. Professor Charles Crothers participated in data acquisition for Statistics South Africa and in a study of the state of Sociology in the country. In recognition of the need to produce researchers for the future in 1999, for example, the Faculty graduated 91 honours, 73 masters and ten doctoral candidates with postgraduates then comprising 30% of its student registrations.

In 2001 Faculty members published 76 peer-reviewed articles and 53 book chapters as well as several significant books. Jacqueline Machabéïs published *Malraux: La Tentation du Sacré*, John Hilton co-authored *Apuleius: Rhetorical Works* and Bernhard Kytzler *Unser Tägliches Griechisch*, while Jeff Guy published *The View Across the River: Harriette Colenso and the Zulu Struggle against Imperialism* which won the University book prize (academic) the following year. Doctoral student William Heuva produced *Media and Resistance Politics: The Alternative Press in Namibia, 1960–1990*, Michael Chapman's revised edition of *The Drum Decade: Stories from the 1950s* appeared and he won the Bill Venter award for his earlier *Southern African Literatures*. English Studies colleague Duncan Brown won the University book prize (academic, edited) the following year while Thokozani Khuzwayo (Zulu Language) won a research award from the University of California (Berkeley).



Cultural and Media Studies worked on several international research projects, including one on the political economy of the southern African media which received NRF and other funding and another under Keyan Tomaselli's direction involving a comparative analysis of cultural tourism and visual anthropology of the San and Zulu. Several other Faculty members attracted large research grants during 2001, including Angela Impey for her music research in South Africa and Robert Balfour for the English Language Proficiency and Research project (2001–2002). The ongoing three cities project was awarded more than R1 million from the NRF and other sources while Bill Freund co-edited the subsequent published findings *The (D)Urban Vortex: A South African City in Transition*. The NRF also funded Industrial, Organisational and Labour Studies for a project on organisational reconfiguration in post-apartheid South Africa.

In 2002 Michael Chapman published his 500-page anthology *The New Century of South African Poetry*. The following year he became the University's first NRF 'A'-rated researcher in the Humanities and Social Sciences in recognition of his international reputation for expertise in the field of South African literature. That year David Spurrett, director of the Philosophy programme, also received a presidential rating from the NRF as



**M.J.F. (Michael) Chapman** trained as a teacher at Durban Teachers Training College, taught at New Forest High in Durban and acquired a degree in English with honours as a distance student of the University of London. He eventually relocated there and worked as a credit controller to finance his studies before returning to South Africa to a primary school post. He completed an MA under Colin Gardner, secured a lectureship at UNISA in 1979 and published his first book, on the poetry of Douglas Livingstone whom he considered to be of global significance.

In 1984 Chapman assumed the chair of English on the Durban campus. At a time when the F.R. Leavis tradition was losing its pre-eminence and there was gathering interest in literature written in English all over Africa his subsequent major publications on South African literature attracted several awards. These included the Bill Venter/Altron Literary Award and culminated in his FRD 'A' rating that acknowledged his international standing as a world leader in his field. While local interest was shifting from Shakespeare to the poetry of Soweto he taught the former prior to his retirement in 2010, believing that the bard was still 'ahead of his time'.

well as a Colenso scholarship to Cambridge and the Vice-Chancellor's research award for his efforts to draw the fields of philosophy, psychology and science together. His extensive publications included work on the philosophy of the mind, theoretical aspects in developmental psychology, metaphysics, attempts to teach language to apes, cognitive science including artificial intelligence, causation in physics, and post-modern interpretations of Science and the seventeenth-century world view.

In 2003 Radhamany Sooryamoorthy (Sociology) was engaged in an investigation of communication in the science community in South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and India and fifteen staff members and 40 English Studies students were involved in an NRF-funded project on a South African perspective of post-colonialism. Lawrence Hamilton published *The Political Philosophy of Needs*, Jack Kearney (English) published *Representing Dissension: Riot, Rebellion and Resistance in the South African English Novel* and his colleague Margaret Daymond co-edited *Women Writing Africa: The Southern Region*. The Faculty as a whole produced six doctorates and 33 book chapters and peer-reviewed articles, and had seven NRF-rated researchers.<sup>19</sup>

### **Management Studies (Durban)**

The now-established EMEC prompted an investigation into educational development in Commerce, with particular focus on the value of case study teaching and on effective tutoring methods in Accountancy. The School of Economics and Management within the Faculty continued to research important developmental issues through its well-known ERU, the oldest of its kind in South Africa, and its HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD), which under Alan Whiteside's direction steadily enlarged its reputation for conducting research on macro-economic issues relating to the impact of AIDS.

Professor G. (Geoff) Harris researched the economic aspects of conflict and security, Professor D. Tewari focused on the economics of environmental issues, J. Hart worked on post-Keynesian economics and economic methodology, Trevor Jones on transport economics and K. Bhowan on women's entrepreneurship. In 2001 Dorrit Posel won a NRF President's award for young scientists and subsequently an NRF 'P' rating. Her research interests were in development and labour economics, labour migration and mobility and household structure and survey design. L.D. Mitchell published prolifically on aspects of taxation and related issues. In 2002–2003 there were publications in a variety of fields, including trade policy and liberalisation, entrepreneurship, employee reporting and labour standards. Whiteside published two book

chapters on aspects of the AIDS pandemic after publishing, with Clem Sunter, *AIDS: The Challenge for South Africa* in 2000.<sup>20</sup>

### Medicine (Durban)

The restructured Faculty continued to research the African continent's three major epidemics: HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB. The growing HIV/AIDS pandemic, at its worst in KwaZulu-Natal, was impacting upon the training the Faculty provided and, understandably, increasingly became a major research focus. In 1999 international attention was attracted through publication in *Lancet* of the significant research into breastfeeding and HIV/AIDS that Anna Coutsooudis and her team were conducting and which called for change in the treatment of HIV-infected mothers.

In 1999 the NRF and Cancer Association of South Africa undertook to provide R1.2 million a year for three years to enable the Faculty to conduct multidisciplinary research on oesophageal cancer. That year Kanti Bhoola (Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology) and Jerry Coovadia (Paediatrics and Child Health) were the first black academics to be awarded the MRC's gold and silver medals respectively. Bhoola's was in recognition of his research on cancer and on enzymes and peptides in relation to inflammatory disorders like arthritis and asthma. Coovadia's was for his investigations into paediatric diseases including malnutrition, measles and nephrosis. In 2000 Bhoola also won the gold medal of the Southern Africa Association for the Advancement of Science and Coovadia received the Vice-Chancellor's medal for his enormous contribution to teaching and research. He also won the International



**A. (Anna) Coutsooudis** led the research team that achieved a major breakthrough in the investigation of breastfeeding and HIV/AIDS when its study of 547 HIV-infected women at King Edward VIII and McCord hospitals established that exclusive breastfeeding during the first three months of a baby's life carried a significantly lower risk of HIV-1 transmission from mother to child than mixed feeding (other foods), which was common in Africa and Asia. It was regarded as one of her Faculty's most significant discoveries. In 2001 she won a La Leche international award and also initiated the iThemba Lethu breast milk bank for babies orphaned by AIDS and subsequently also won the Mary Weston award.

Association of Physicians in AIDS Care's Heroes in Medicine award and the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights. That year he chaired the Thirteenth International AIDS Conference in Durban, which attracted 13 000 delegates and at which several other staff members delivered papers.

Other researchers in the Faculty also gained recognition. In 1999 Yuben Moodley won the 3M Pharmaceuticals Research Fellowship of the South African Pulmonology Society for professional chest specialists and the following year Denis York won an Innovation Fund grant to develop an HIV viral load assay and an STR (short tandem repeat) multiplex forensic kit that could serve as prototypes from which molecular kits might be developed for use in other research fields. In 2000 Professor Miriam Adhikari won a University fellowship for three decades of work in neonatal health care and extensive publications. Professor Peter Corr became the first African to win the International Society of Radiology's Bécélère Medal for his contribution to the discipline while Professor Thandinkosi Madiba (General Surgery) was awarded the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons international scholarship to study in three prominent colorectal centres in the USA. Professor Julia Botha (Clinical Sciences) won the University book prize (general) and Professor Lourens Schlebusch and his team won R500 000 towards further work on cancer and stress when the Cancer Association of South Africa recognised his as the 'best final research report 2000'.

In July 2001 Eleanor Preston-Whyte, recently retired as DVC (Research), became co-director with Coovadia of the new HIVAN. This was intended to provide a hub for more effective HIV/AIDS research and intervention in the region and helped to maintain the Faculty's international prominence in that field. Coovadia was the first occupant of the Victor Daitz Chair in HIV/AIDS Research established with a R4.5 million grant from the foundation of that name and in 2003 attracted more than R5 million from the Carnegie Corporation and Atlantic Philanthropies. By 2000 HIVAN's multidisciplinary approach to both research and training already incorporated 160 projects, which ranged from biomedical work on the molecular biology of the virus to social and behavioural science and learning through drama. HIVAN was an expression of 'the University's commitment to development through partnership-building' or a 'scholarship of engagement', working in close collaboration with the campus HIV/AIDS support units in trying to promote a co-ordinated response to that scourge.

The University's various research projects collectively made HIV/AIDS one of its major strategic research initiatives. In addition to Alan Whiteside's

HEARD in Management Sciences and Graham Lindegger's HIV/AIDS Vaccine Ethics Group (HAVEG) in Pietermaritzburg's School of Psychology, the Centre for Health and Population Studies under the direction of Michael Bennish continued to collaborate with the MRC and UDW in conducting rural demographic surveillance and various HIV/AIDS and STD studies including HIV transmission by breastfeeding. The Faculty of Medicine's HIV pathogenesis programme conducted research on HIV immunology and pathogenesis while the Southern African Fogarty AIDS Training Programme (AITRP), under the direction of DVC (Research) Salim Abdool Karim, sought to develop scientific capacity in the subcontinent to counteract both HIV/AIDS and TB.

In 2002 the HIV Enhancing Care Initiative, which Professor Umesh Laloo and Robert Pawinski directed in collaboration with the provincial Department of Health, the Durban Chamber of Commerce and several NGOs, acquired a \$72 million grant from the United Nation's Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It also attracted a visit from former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalind. In addition, the United States National Institute for Health and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases awarded \$12 million to Karim's new Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA). It involved a consortium that included UCT and UWC as well as the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and the Trustees of Columbia University, New York. Its purpose was to conduct advanced research on HIV prevention and treatment and to provide infrastructure and training for HIV/AIDS researchers in South Africa.

In 2002 the University of Natal AIDS Plan: 2002–2004 was launched. It was an acknowledgement of its responsibility, situated as it was at the very epicentre of the South African HIV/AIDS epidemic, to conduct appropriate research and provide preventative and support programmes in that regard for its own staff and students. HIV/AIDS research, along with other fields of medical investigation, was greatly promoted by the eventual opening in July 2003 of the long-envisaged, custom-designed, 7 000 square metre Medical Research Institute (MRI) south of the medical campus. Carefully planned under the chairmanship of Professor Runjan Chetty, it took 24 months to construct in two phases at a cost of R40 million and constituted another major milestone in the Faculty's 52-year history. It was intended to promote greater collaboration in addressing the many health challenges facing the region by accommodating all of the Faculty's researchers and providing the facilities for

advanced research at molecular and bio-molecular levels in accordance with accepted international standards.

It was officially named the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute because the \$1.5 million received from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in the USA constituted the largest donation among others raised by Professor Barry Kistnasamy and Nceba Gqaleni's project team. The University committed R5 million (subsequently R6.5 million) as seed money with additional funding coming from the Africa Centre/Wellcome Trust, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Pharmacia, the Stella and Paul Loewenstein Trust (SA) and government agencies in Flanders and Japan. This gave the Faculty of Health Sciences (as it was now called) one of the largest medical research facilities in Africa and the first of its kind in KwaZulu-Natal. It made it possible to contribute much more effectively towards counteracting the ravages not only of HIV/AIDS but also of malaria, TB, STDs, cancer and other diseases prevalent on the continent as well as malnutrition. The Institute incorporated several research laboratories and centres including the Pfizer molecular biology research laboratory, CAPRISA, the Wellcome Trust's Africa Centre, the HIV Pathogenesis programme and the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health.

A second Doris Duke grant in 2002, amounting to \$2.25 million spread over four years, was intended to support the multidisciplinary pathogenesis programme involving collaboration with researchers at the Harvard Medical School and the Partners AIDS Research Centre at Massachusetts General Hospital. Its co-leaders were Bruce Walker (Harvard), director of the Partners AIDS Research Centre, Philip Goulder (Oxford), assistant professor of Medicine at the centre as well as Jerry Coovadia and Photini Kiepiela. Although it was based primarily in Durban the programme was also intended to support relevant research and training in Cape Town and Johannesburg to develop a new generation of clinical investigators.

Other research funding awarded to the Faculty in 2002 included R75 000 from the URC for Jack Moodley's MRC Pregnancy Hypertension Unit towards research into the aetiology and management of hypertensive disorders in pregnancy. The Fogarty International Centre awarded the Faculty four grants for research into infectious diseases, maternal and child health, medical informatics, and occupational health. A fifth Fogarty programme on AIDS training and research was also based in the Faculty and it was HIV/AIDS research that attracted more than R1 billion in funding during 2002. This included \$72 million from the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the HIV Enhancing Care Initiative, \$12.5 million from the

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the USA for CAPRISA, \$2.44 million for Professor Jack Moodley's work on the role of prophylactic antibiotics in counteracting morbidity in HIV-infected mothers and \$550 000 for Anna Coutsooudis's mother-to-child transmission research programme.

In 2003 a request was received from the Gates Foundation for strategic advice on the global vaccine enterprise. Carol Hlela won the Galderma Fellowship award and colleague Anisa Mosam won the World Education Task Force scholarship and the Dermatology Society of South Africa's research grant. Coovadia facilitated the Hasso Plattner Foundation's donation of \$1.35 million for the establishment of senior research posts in health management and infectious diseases to conduct a community-based HIV/AIDS intervention project in the southern Cape in collaboration with UCT and the provincial government. While CAPRISA continued to strengthen its local and international collaboration the HIV pathogenesis programme gathered important information on immune protection against the particular HIV strain prevalent in the country with a view to developing a suitable vaccine and means of monitoring its effectiveness. In 2003 the Faculty graduated eleven doctoral candidates and produced well over 100 accredited journal articles and book chapters.<sup>21</sup>

### **Science (Durban)**

The School of Life and Environmental Sciences pursued a variety of research interests including social spiders, human parasites, invertebrate diversity in savanna and the biogeography of invertebrates. Rob Slotow co-ordinated the Inland Invertebrate Initiative launched in 2001, which brought together a number of biologists, ecologists and taxonomists to promote invertebrate conservation. This included an Earthwatch project on invertebrate diversity at Mkuze Game Reserve with research there and at other valuable wetlands continuing apace. Fred Ellery had for several years been studying the physical and human ecology of the Mkuze wetland and with Swedish collaborator Annika Dahlberg promoted research in that region. In 2002 they held a wetland workshop there and stressed the importance of a shared vision involving managers, scientists and the local community. Several of the School's geographical research projects had become focused on KwaZulu-Natal's north-eastern coastline, which was now designated a world heritage site known as the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park and Dianne Scott was seconded there as research director.

From 2001 several staff members and a number of students in the School were involved in a collaborative NRF project on environmental decision making. Alan Amory served as principal investigator in a research programme involving other institutions, which attracted R4.4 million spread over three years from the national Innovation Fund that deployed information technology to establish a virtual learning environment. He was also involved in the use of computer technology in teaching while Chris Appleton focused on medical parasitology and malacology and Pat Berjak led a group researching non-orthodox seeds, which cannot be stored by conventional means, and those that are desiccation-sensitive.

In the School of Geological and Computer Sciences Alan Wilson continued to work on platinum in a major partnership with Anglo Platinum underwritten by the NRF. He also investigated the subcontinent's ancient volcanic rocks while Professor M.K. Watkeys was interested in dykes and other planar igneous intrusions better to understand the break up of the supercontinent Gondwana more than 180 million years ago. G.P. Whitmore and R. Uken researched the titanium deposits in the coastal dunes of northern KwaZulu-Natal and with D. Meth published the brochure *KwaZulu-Natal: 3 500 Million Years of Geological History*.

As before, individual researchers received recognition for their achievements. In 1999 Rob Slotow won the Vice-Chancellor's research award, his primary zoological research interest then being the evolution and maintenance of gregarious behaviour and sociality applied to issues in conservation. Trevor Letcher's book *Chemical Thermodynamics for the 21st Century* was published in 1999 and he won the South African Chemical Institute's gold medal, followed in 2001 by that of the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science as well as the eThekweni mayor's achievers award.

In 1999 Fred Bell won the University's book prize in the general category for his *Environmental Geology: Principles and Practice*. He also became a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and won the British Geological Society's Coke Medal for his substantial contribution to the discipline. In 2001 Pat Berjak won the silver medal of the South African Association of Botanists for her outstanding research and the following year she was awarded an NRF 'A' rating. The Electron Microscope Unit, which she chaired, made good progress in desiccation biology and in cryogenic storage which relied on the use of low temperature microscopy.

In 2000 members of the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences – Peter Leach, Sunil Maharaj, Frits Schuddeboom, Henda Swart and Mary Jane



Prentice – won gold medals from the South African Mathematical Society. In 2002 four members of the same School – Jacek Banasiak, Peter Dankelmann, Valentin Gutev and Peter Leach – were recognised as being among the twenty most active South African mathematicians in terms of publications during the period 1999–2002 and Leach won an excellence award from the South African Mathematical Society. His areas of research included rational epidemiology, nonlinear systems and differential equations and ecology. Colleague Johan van den Berg continued to pursue his interest in ring and module theory and, in particular, torsion theory. Professor J.G. Raftery worked on universal algebra and algebraic logic, K.S. Govinder on differential equations and Professor S.D. Maharaj on symmetries of the space-time manifold.

Among other interests, the School of Pure and Applied Physics continued to run two major research institutes focusing on space and plasma physics, including spectroscopy and laser physics. In 2001 Peter Barrett (Pure and Applied Physics) won the University book prize (academic). The South African Institute of Physics awarded his colleague Manfred Hellberg lifetime membership in acknowledgement of his services to the discipline while Thomas Moyo won his second Third World Academy of Sciences-UNESCO associate membership, which enabled him to undertake two visits to the Centre for Brazilian Research in Physics. That year a liquid helium cryostat was installed in the Solid State Physics Group's vibrating sample magnetometer facility, the only one of its kind in South Africa and an important step towards establishing a materials science centre.

In 2003 Council approved the establishment of the Amarula Elephant Research Unit in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences with Distell, the manufacturers of amarula cream liqueur, pledging R3 million towards work on elephant management and conservation. Alan Wilson's Geochemistry Unit installed a laser ablation system to conduct on-site trace element analyses of ablate materials. It was intended for teaching and research as well as providing a service to mining and the minerals industry. Dulcie Mulholland's Natural Products Research Group attracted several postgraduate students from elsewhere on the continent and she received a special award at the 2003 Convocation dinner for her expertise in African medicinal chemistry and contribution to the University. That year the Faculty's staff included 35 NRF-rated scientists, including 20 'A' and 'B' rated individuals, and produced nine doctorates as well as 96 SAPSE-accredited journal articles and seven books and book chapters.<sup>22</sup>

**Human Sciences/Human and Management Sciences (Pietermaritzburg)**

The Faculty published several dozen peer-reviewed articles in 1999 and almost as many in 2000. An interest in issues of gender and sexuality was evident in various disciplines while in applied language studies Rosemary Wildsmith-Cromarty received URF funds to investigate second language acquisition and the acquisition of Zulu morphology at primary schools in particular. Jennifer Clarence-Fincham studied skills acquisition and capacity building among paralegal workers in KwaZulu-Natal while the School of Business was engaged in a number of applied research projects relating to fields such as monetary economics, banking services, labour markets and strikes.

Among five books published in 2001 was John Laband's *The Atlas of the Later Zulu Wars 1883–1888*, Paul Thompson's *The Zulu Rebellion of 1906 in Maps* and John Wright's fifth volume of the *James Stuart Archive*, which was subsequently awarded the African Studies Association's text prize. The Unilever Ethics Centre was heavily involved in producing the *Handbook for the Professional Code of Ethics for the South African Council of Educators* while Christine Stilwell, Athol Leach and Simon Burton launched the first of an intended research series entitled *Knowledge, Information and Development: An African Perspective*. Wilfred Jonckheere published *Die Platgetrapte Kroontjie: Afrikaanse en Nederlandse Gedigte oor die Anglo-Boereoorlog*.

The Centre for Visual Arts continued to hold exhibitions of its work and curated others featuring local indigenous art and there were several dramatic and dance productions involving students. The School of Psychology attracted substantial research funding, particularly for Graham Lindegger's HAVEG and the Birth to Twenty initiative, which investigated long-term variables in child development. In 2000 Kevin Durrheim won the Vice-Chancellor's research award for his investigation into the reproduction of racism in post-apartheid South Africa and was chosen as Colenso Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge. Nhlanhla Mkhize won the Bram Fischer award to work at Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities and in 2002 Adrian Koopman won the University book prize (academic) for his *Zulu Names*, which followed his *Zulu Language Change* published in 1998.

The School of Theology continued to be particularly active in terms of publication output. Steve de Gruchy and Jonathan Draper edited the *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa* and *Neo Testamentica* respectively. De Gruchy was particularly interested in the relationship between religion and sustainable livelihoods in Africa while maintaining a longstanding interest in Church-State relations. Draper investigated African modes of hermeneutics and

was then leading research on indigenous interpretive responses to the Bible. Philippe Denis was actively involved in recording family and community oral histories and Gerald West focused on indigenous resources in African biblical interpretation and their interaction with other knowledge systems.

In 2003 the Faculty celebrated the publication of the 100th edition of *Theoria*, launched in 1947. The establishment of the Centre for African Literary Studies in the Gatehouse building on the old campus under Nomonde Maqubela's curatorship was expected to attract international researchers of African literature to its valuable Lindfors collection of African writing which was one of the most comprehensive in the world. In 2003 the Faculty graduated twelve doctoral candidates, produced 44 SAPSE-approved articles and 25 books and book chapters.<sup>23</sup>

### **Science and Agriculture (Pietermaritzburg)**

The new Faculty maintained the ability of its predecessors to attract substantial research funding and the Innovation Fund awarded plant pathologist Mark Laing and his collaborators R6.1 million for his Biocontrol for Africa research programme, with more to follow. In addition, the NRF contributed R1.25 million to assist the Faculty's Centre for Electron Microscopy acquire a R3 million Philips XL30 LaB6 low vacuum environmental scanning electron microscope (SEM). It was to be made available as a regional facility and at the time was considered to be 'the most comprehensive installation of a SEM of its type in the world'. This made it possible to study specimens (cultural cells and bacteria) in their natural state, which was not the case with conventional scanning electron microscopy.

Plant pathologist/mycologist Frits Rijkenberg headed the new Centre for Rural Development Systems, formerly the School of Rural Community Development prior to its incorporation into the School of Agricultural Sciences and Agribusiness. Mike Perrin pursued his research interest in African parrots and the captive breeding of rare parrots while colleague Colleen Downs focused on a variety of southern African vertebrates.

Their School of Botany and Zoology continued to research the systematics of various wasp groups, plankton in reservoirs, Caradina growth rates and diet in Lake Victoria and the biogeography and conservation of invertebrates. At the Invertebrate Conservation Research Centre established in 1992 Michael Samways still worked on aquatic, marine and terrestrial invertebrate conservation. The Invertebrate Conservation Network comprised seven

groups researching in a variety of areas from ecology and plant pathology to the genetics of invertebrates.

Similarly, the Forestry and Forest Products Network was the largest in the country embracing the entire range of research in that field. In 2000 the Forestry and Forest Products Research Centre was launched as a joint venture involving the CSIR and industrial stakeholders, including SAPPI and Mondi, with the Institute of Commercial Forestry Research and the Faculty adding their expertise. It was decided to establish an overarching Forestry Centre in 2002 to become the premier focus for forestry training and research in the subcontinent by bringing more than 60 researchers from a variety of disciplines together. Other groups within the University with relevant interests and expertise included the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research, the Land Use Hydrology Group of the CSIR and the INR.

In 2000 the School of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences was equipped with an Applied Biosystems Model 3100 Genetic Analyser that could determine nucleotide base sequences (that is, DNA sequencing) in a variety of biological specimens including animals, bacteria, humans and plants. It was an instrument with a wide range of applications apart from its value to molecular biology research. Rob Gous and Neil Ferguson (Animal and Poultry Science) were awarded R1.6 million through THRIP for their work on poultry and pig research. In 2002 the NRF awarded them R350 000 and the Protein Research Trust R236 000. Between 1987 and 2005 Gous attracted more than R25 million in research funding (excluding contract projects of less than R10 000). The improved pig and poultry facilities at Ukulinga became one of the best internationally for nutrition and lighting research and developed programmes on food intake and growth that were used worldwide in poultry and pig production.

A consortium that included Theresa Coetzer and Dean Goldring (Molecular and Cellular Biosciences) as well as groups in Burkina Faso, France and Kenya was awarded €700 000 to investigate a new approach to immunological control of livestock trypanosomiasis. Coetzer was subsequently awarded an NRF 'B' rating. John Hastings and his team continued to identify antimicrobial compounds that might potentially be used in crop protection or as food preservatives and therapeutic agents. In 2001 Andrew Mitchell began researching biogeography and conservation genetics of African lepidoptera.

The Faculty maintained its links with the Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) Museum and Durban Natural History Museum and with local conservation agencies. It continued to produce the largest output of published research



**M.N.D. (Mark) Laing** joined the staff in 1988, was promoted to senior lecturer in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology (1996), acquired a doctorate (1997) and in 2000 assumed the chair of Plant Pathology. The following year he became director of the new ACCI, which attracted R50 million from the Rockefeller Foundation and was subsequently also funded from the Gates Foundation.

The first of its kind in Africa, its intention was to improve food security through the applied breeding of African crops that were drought and pest resistant by combining traditional knowledge with modern scientific techniques adapted to local regional conditions. To that end it was intended to produce an initial 40 or 50 multinational Ph.D. graduates in plant breeding and biotechnology who were drawn from all over the subcontinent and expected to work on topics relevant to their home countries by completing two years of course work on campus and three years in the field under UKZN and home country co-supervisors. By 2008 the Centre had produced fourteen graduates, all of whom returned home to apply their knowledge to local plant breeding and crop research programmes. In addition to turning out highly trained graduates, Laing maintained his own interest in bio-control, cabbage diseases and plant breeding.

in the University and to draw substantial funding on the strength of it. In 2001 Mark Laing established the ACCI and in 2003 attracted R7 million to start a National Plant Biotechnology Innovation Centre. In 2002 the Midlands Investment Initiative awarded Horticultural Science R145 000 for investigations into protea farming and research and the School of Chemical and Physical Sciences enjoyed a boost with the acquisition of a R3.5 million area detector X-ray diffractometer.

As before, individual Faculty members were recognised for their research achievements. In 2000 Deogratius Jaganyi (Chemical and Physical Sciences) won a year-long Daimler/Chrysler research grant at the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. Lieb Nieuwoudt (Agricultural Sciences and Agribusiness) became the first South African to be elected an honorary life member of the International Association of Agricultural Economists and his School colleague Rob Gous was elected a vice-president of the World Poultry Science Association, subsequently also being awarded the South African Society of Animal Science's gold medal.

Michael Samways became a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and in 2001 secured an NRF 'A' rating. Barry Taylor won the University

book prize (academic) for *A Guide to Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World* while Steve Johnson (Botany and Zoology) and Orde Munro (Chemical and Physical Sciences) won five-year FRD/NRF President's awards, the fourth and fifth Faculty members to do so. Arthur Lishman's lifetime work was acknowledged when he was awarded the South African Society of Animal Science's gold medal. In 2001 Catherine Cress (Chemical and Physical Sciences) won the NRF President's award for young scientists while John Hearne (Mathematics, Statistics and Information Technology) won the Tom Rozwadowski medal for the most outstanding publication in operations research during that year. In 2002 his colleague Michael Henning won the Hall Medal of the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications for his contribution to combinatorial research.

The University of West Hungary awarded Hannes van Staden (Botany and Zoology) an honorary doctorate for his internationally renowned work. The quantity and quality of his publications was such that in 2002 the Institute for Scientific Information recognised him as one of the most highly cited authors in the world, an elite group of scholars who constituted less than 0.5% of those who had published. By 2002–2003 his Research Centre for Plant Growth and Development had been functioning for five years and won first prize as the best performing research centre in the University two years running. By then his team were collaborating with local and foreign groups in investigating the role of plant hormones in growth regulation. They were also working in the field of traditional medicinal plants using biotechnological techniques to study plant biodiversity and medicinal properties in cultivation.

Stephen Johnson's Vice-Chancellor's research award in 2002 was the latest of several accolades in recognition of his achievements. In 1994 he was voted



**C. (Catherine) Cress** was an astrophysicist whose NRF 'P' rating recognised her as a researcher under-35 years of age who had exceptional potential and was a leading national and prominent international figure in her field. Her work embraced theoretical and observational cosmology, using radioastronomy to investigate the structure and distribution of matter in the universe. After completing her doctorate in the USA in record time she played a prominent role in course and curriculum design in Pietermaritzburg's School of Chemical and Physical Sciences and was awarded the SA Institute of Physics silver jubilee medal in 2003.

the best young scientist at the South African Association of Botanists annual congress and in 1996 the association awarded him its junior medal for best Ph.D. thesis. He was UCT Smuts Fellow (1995–1997) before assuming a senior lectureship in Pietermaritzburg. He won scholarships, bursaries and research grants from UCT and Natal, the UCT meritorious book award for his co-authorship of *Table Mountain: A Natural History*, the FRD, the National Botanical Institute and the NRF President's award in 1999 followed by a grant emanating from a Sweden/South Africa research agreement.

In 2003 the Department of Science and Technology awarded animal evolutionary physiologist Nomakwezi Mzilikazi the R100 000 African Scientist Fellowship to pursue her research on mammals while in Animal and Poultry Science Ignatius Nsahlai continued his work on the productivity of farm animals in resource-limited communities. Sui-Ah Ng of the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Information Technology won the University book prize for a new approach to problems of financial mathematics as explained in *Hyper Models in Mathematical Finance: Modelling via Infinitesimal Analysis*.

In 2003 Chemistry acquired a R1.2 million gas chromatography mass spectrometer, which led to the opening of the Sasol Mass Spectroscopy facility comprising several sophisticated instruments that were vital to further advances in Chemistry. That year the Faculty produced seventeen doctorates, had 41 NRF-rated researchers including thirteen who were 'B' rated and produced 150 accredited journal articles and book chapters in addition to Clive Dennison's 249-page *Guide to Protein Isolation*. At the end of the year it showcased its research output, one of the largest in the University, with a day in which its promising younger scientists gave talks and a poster display highlighted current research activities ranging from wild orchid pollination and forecasting sugarcane production to astronomy.<sup>24</sup>

### **Law (both centres)**

In 2000 George Devenish won the University book prize (academic) for *A Commentary on the South African Bill of Rights*. The Faculty published 32 SAPSE-approved articles and eleven books and chapters in books, 34 articles and nine books in 2001 and 27 articles and 27 book chapters in 2002, maintaining its output as one of the highest in the University and among South African Law schools. Other notable achievements in 2001 were the publication of *Administrative Law and Justice in South Africa* by Devenish and others and *Jurisprudence: A South African Perspective* by D. Johnson and others, followed by R.D. Sharrock's substantial *Business Transactions in Law*.

In 2003 research output virtually doubled and thirteen staff presented papers at a major conference in Windhoek, the largest Faculty representation in South Africa, while T.J.A. Cohen and others published their 600-page *Labour Law through the Cases*.

The Street Law Research Unit maintained its involvement in a number of focus groups directed at policy developments in several fields. After co-editing *The Guide to Forensic Medicine and Medical Law* (1999) David McQuoid-Mason maintained his 'B' NRF-rating with a stream of publications and continued to conduct street law training workshops in various parts of the world. He served for a time as president of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association and on the editorial boards of international law journals while Karthy Govender was appointed to the Publications Appeal Board and still served as a human rights commissioner.

Mike Cowling continued to monitor the criminal justice system and analyse the relationship between various institutions within it while Michael Kidd focused on environmental law, pollution control and water protection. The development of a course work LLM in environmental law made this an important field of research with the *South African Journal of Environmental Law and Policy* based in Pietermaritzburg.

Warren Freedman researched the restitution of land rights and the work of the Land Claims Court, Ronald Louw was interested in the notion of criminal capacity in criminal law and in sexual orientation and the law, while Robert Williams worked on income tax, capital gains tax, corporate law and trusts. John McLennan was also interested in corporate law, Nicci Whitear-Nel worked on labour law, legal ethics and the law of evidence, while James Lund investigated the practice of suspending whole or part of imposed sentences. There was also Faculty interest in commercial and industrial law and general legal practice.<sup>25</sup>

### **Education (both centres)**

In 1999 A. (Anne) Harley and R. Fotheringham published *Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA): 20 Years in the Land Rights Struggle* while the CAE (Pietermaritzburg) published *The Women's Handbook: A Guide to Legal Rights and Resources* for which it won the University book prize (general). The CAE was also heavily involved in international research on project-based learning with collaborators in Belgium and Denmark and at UCT.

In 2001 Mary de Haas received a R345 000 grant from Norwegian People's Aid for her *Natal Monitor* research and interventionist project on violence,



human rights and policing. In 2000 Professor N. Muthukrishna won a R1.9 million tender for a pilot project on building an inclusive education and training system involving thirteen schools and subsequently attracted R1.25 million for a national audit on special education provision in South Africa.

Robert Morrell became involved in an international project entitled 'Making a new world: working with men against violence'. He held an NRF 'B' rating and in 2002 won the University book prize (academic, edited) for *Changing Men in Southern Africa*. The Faculty continued to improve its output with more than 60 books, book chapters and journal articles, followed by another three books, eighteen book chapters and 21 SAPSE-approved journal articles the next year. Roger Deacon maintained his interest in the development of early modern education and John Aitchison in adult education. Other research projects focused on the transformation taking place at school and tertiary level. The Faculty's accredited *Journal of Education* became the country's first major means of research dissemination of its kind when it expanded to four issues a year and various efforts were made, including a research day, to improve staff capacity.<sup>26</sup>

### **Community service**

Throughout the 1990s, as before, much of the University's community service was conducted through its affiliated research units, including those involved in commercial forestry, education development, electron microscopy, medical, natural resources, oceanic, trade union and water research, as well as ethics and sugar milling. In previous decades and particularly during the 1980s, the University had provided shelter for numerous community-based organisations and NGOs that were better able to survive through formal affiliation to it. In several cases the University had ventured bridging funds to tide them over in expectation of donations that did not always materialise but, in exchange, they drew it closer to the broader community it sought to serve. Following the unbanning of the ANC and the lack of any need for protective affiliation, the University faced the delicate task of gradually encouraging those that were not essential to its core activities to spread their independent wings. By the end of the decade their numbers had been greatly reduced.

Within the formal School structure community service took a wide variety of forms. In 1999 Community and Development disciplines received R3.5 million from the Innovation Fund to facilitate student participation in community service. Leana Uys served as principal researcher for a Department of Health Service development and research tender focused on home-based care for

AIDS patients. That year her School of Nursing launched its Primary Health Care for Rural Women project with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, McMaster University and the provincial Department of Health. Its primary care courses given at five provincial venues to assist nurses in diagnosing and treating minor ailments were similarly of inestimable value to the community.

COSL's three academic staff members, all on secondment, were actively involved in the Crime Reduction in Schools project, which the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology supported with R3.8 million and attracted staff and students from other disciplines including Drama and Music. COSL also represented the Durban campus in the Community Higher Education Service Programme (CHESP), which the Ford Foundation and Joint Education Trust initiated to promote university-community partnerships. COSL's non-formal teaching activities in 2000 included training in trauma debriefing for 45 members of the public and counselling courses conducted for the AIDS Foundation. Jill Bradbury (Psychology) served on the Council for Higher Education's access, admissions and student development consultative panel and participated in national workshops on higher education entry requirements.

In the new School of Community Development and Adult Learning the New Readers Project continued to promote mother tongue literacy and multilingualism and to extend its distribution network. By 2002 it was publishing easy readers in several local languages while as before the Unit for Continuing Education offered a variety of short courses of interest to the general public. Senior students were gaining valuable practical experience through community-based modules that introduced them to the broader Durban metropolitan area. The School continued to hold workshops on adult education, to develop learning and teaching materials and offer consultative and training services as well as other support to community-based activities.

Senior staff members in the School of Development Studies were all assisting in formulating national, regional or local development policy and many were involved in research projects for NGOs, the private sector and trade unions. By 2003, the Faculty as a whole had established strong fieldwork relationships with the Faculty of Engineering and with the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine (in connection with HIV/AIDS prevention and eradication) and was maintaining its community outreach activities through the University of Natal Community Projects, Open Learning, the Unit for Continuing Education, the Centre for Civil Society and the Centre for Housing.<sup>27</sup>

During the 1990s several members of the new Faculty of Human Sciences in Durban continued to be involved in community-based projects and in advisory capacities to government departments. Monique Marks worked with colleagues in Belgium and Northern Ireland on the transformation of public order policing and in 2001 Jeff Guy was appointed to the ministerial Advisory Committee for History. In 1999 Patricia Opondo's African Music project, which the South African Sugar Association and Swedish donors funded, provided in-service training for rural and township school teachers. Mervyn McMurtry (Drama and Performance Studies) worked with the Cape Town-based Zip-Zap Circus, Oxfam (Canada) and the Iowa Cirque du Soleil to investigate children as survivors of violence. It was a partnership that complemented a Westville Prison-based project on theatre for educational development including life skills and AIDS awareness. For a fortnight in September 1999 Drama celebrated its 50th anniversary with a number of public performances on the Durban campus.

The Flatfoot Dance Company continued to serve as a cross-cultural dance training facility combining African, Indian and contemporary dance forms. In 2000 and thereafter it performed locally and abroad, held guest classes with local and international dancers and won FNB Vita performance awards. The following year Drama and Performance Studies entered into a contract with the Department of Prison Services to research prison theatre at the Umzinto and Westville prisons. Under Professor Lynn Dalrymple's direction a primary schools life skills project was developed with funding from Richards Bay Minerals, as well as an HIV/AIDS community training forum with assistance from the Canada Fund and HIV/AIDS peer life skills training courses that the British Consulate financed.

In 2000 the Faculty of Human Science's Centre for Creative Arts developed several outreach initiatives involving disadvantaged township schools and a variety of arts festivals, some of which became annual events that attracted the general public to the Sneddon Theatre. These included Awesome Africa Music, Guitars for Africa; as well as Jomba! Contemporary Dance, Poetry Africa 2000, the Durban International Film Festival and Time of the Writer (which inspired creative writing programmes in English and Zulu). By 2003 this six-day festival involved twenty writers from fifteen countries discussing their work in the evenings and stimulating reading and writing with book launches, workshops and school visits by day.

Jürgen Bräuninger produced several of his own compositions on CD in 2000 and, echoing a similar event ten years earlier, Darius Brubeck performed

his own work at the Dave Brubeck 80th birthday concert with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre. In 2002 generous funding from Atlantic Philanthropies facilitated the introduction of an Opera and Choral Studies programme that was intended to develop the musical talent of the whole region. In 2003 Patricia Opondo, Darius Brubeck and others produced acclaimed CDs that attracted more attention to the Faculty. Ikusasa Lethu, a performance ensemble from the African Music and Dance programme, represented the country during a Celebration of Africa week in Copenhagen, drama students participated in the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, and Christina Marcham (Sociology) co-ordinated a 'health focus' embracing all the campuses that highlighted AIDS as a sociological concern.<sup>28</sup>

In 2000 the Faculty of Management Studies School of Economics and Management Studies collaborated with Pietermaritzburg's School of Business to establish the Centre for Entrepreneurship. With support from the Anglo American Chairman's Fund and the NRF, it sought to encourage an 'enterprise/learning culture' by promoting the necessary skills, talent and technology transfer. It hoped to serve the broader community by also making students more sensitive to the needs of small business and to the non-formal business environment in which they might devise their own employment opportunities. In 2001 Professor Abhijit Bhattacharya, formerly director of the Nirma Institute of Management in India, was appointed first professor of Entrepreneurship in the centre. He worked towards the inclusion of modules in entrepreneurship in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and during 2002–2003 also conducted numerous workshops on small business development in disadvantaged communities.<sup>29</sup>

Much of the Faculty of Medicine's research, as before, was directly or indirectly related to community service. Exposure to the health conditions that students were likely to encounter as qualified medical practitioners had always been considered a vital dimension of their training. In 2001 the Faculty's teaching sites were extended in the province's Midlands region with Edendale, Fort Napier, Grey's, Northdale and Town Hill hospitals all helping to broaden students' experience of service delivery while promoting the notion of a multi-site campus.

In 2003 Rajen Naidoo and Umesh Laloo began preliminary work as part of a team investigating the health implications of air pollution in the south Durban basin for which the eThekweni Municipality contributed R6 million. That year the launch of African Health Care Systems, coupled with a memorandum signed on behalf of the Faculty and KwaZulu-Natal's traditional

healers, recognised the role played by the latter in the province. This paved the way for new training programmes, the development of indigenous health care knowledge and the conservation of plants used for health purposes.<sup>30</sup>

The Faculty of Engineering's community involvement continued to be primarily through its practical research associations with commerce and industry. The contribution of Durban's Faculty of Science to community service was most obviously through its research towards environmental conservation and the preservation of flora and fauna as well as a better understanding of the physical world at large.

In the Faculty of Human Sciences/Human and Management Sciences (Pietermaritzburg) Drama Studies was supported by the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund in 2000 to launch its Y2Kids project, which organised Saturday drama classes involving students and school children. Service learning was reinforced as an important dimension of the Faculty's mission when in 2001 CHESP funded eight exemplar modules in community-based service learning on the campus to provide students with more work experience in that area as part of their undergraduate degrees.

That year the Unilever Ethics Centre was involved in producing the handbook for a professional code of ethics for the South African Council of Educators. The School of Theology raised in excess of R2.5 million for its various community-based projects, including one on indigenous knowledge, its worker ministry project and its Institute for the Study of the Bible. The Sinomlando Centre sought to recover the oral testimonies of communities that had been victims of apartheid and offered training and research with regard to issues such as family histories and gender. The centre's memory box programme recorded the messages of parents who were ill with HIV/AIDS for their soon-to-be-orphaned children.

By then many of the Faculty's community-outreach projects were HIV/AIDS related with all its schools actively involved in one or other aspect of the prevailing pandemic, although there were other dimensions to its contribution to the broader community. The Centre for Visual Arts gallery continued to mount frequent exhibitions of its own work and that of other artists such as internationally renowned, Rorke's Drift-trained Azaria Mbatha and John Muafangejo from the Aitcheson Collection. In 2002 Clive Hunter of the School of Business was elected an honorary member of the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Business and his colleague Professor Darma Mahadea was appointed special adviser to the South African Reserve Bank.<sup>31</sup>

Much of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture's research activity was community-related and the emphasis in virtually all its programmes was on community service and on strengthening relationships between community members and students.

CEAD continued its established programme of relevant professional training with a focus on parliamentarians who served on the National Council of Provinces and the National Portfolio Committee for the Environment and Tourism. In 2000 the establishment of the Centre for Rural Development Systems effectively combined the former Farmer Support Group and the School of Rural Community Development with a Dutch-funded research initiative and community representatives working at Ukulinga Research Farm to investigate the difficulties that confronted the region's small-scale farmers. Rural development students were placed in communities and expected to make a tangible contribution to them, such as developing a useful product.

In 2002, in association with the INR, CEAD assisted rural women to establish a business making bags from wetland reed fibre. This not only provided income, but also drew attention to the sustainable management of wetlands. Crop Science worked with the Mbumbulu community where Albert Modi and colleagues assisted subsistence farmers with regard to conservation, food security and marketing traditional crops. His team collaborated with the Ezemvelo Farmers Organisation, the first group of black farmers to acquire organic certification, to produce crops that were graded and packaged in Assagay for sale in Woolworths outlets all over South Africa. Maryann Green (Community Resources) evaluated biogas systems for community use and Winnock International funded her gender impact study of technologies on communities.

With the official opening in 2003 of ACCI House at Ukulinga it was intended to double the number of trained African plant breeders from 50 to 100 within nine years under Mark Laing's direction. That year Mike Lyne (Agricultural Economics) investigated land reform projects to establish the best institutional practices in those involving co-ownership. The INR won the National Green Trusts award for leading the Eastern Cape Estuaries Management programme and CEAD received the last of its funding from SAPPI for its protected-area management programme. This made a significant contribution to conservation as well as to the centre's research and teaching. Mondi Forests, which had assisted the Farmer Support Group's natural resource management activities, provided further funding for the development of a monitoring system to

assess its returns on continuing to finance the Corporate Social Investment programme.

Law students still performed community service, 25 hours in the final LLB year, as an important practical dimension of their training. This was implemented through the agency of the new combined Faculty of Law's association with the campus law clinics in both centres, the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies and Community Law Centre in Durban and the Centre for Criminal Justice and the Legal Advice Centre in Pietermaritzburg. All of them were involved, as before, in community outreach programmes.

The importance of the clinics as legal laboratories was formally acknowledged with both directors appointed as permanent staff members instead of being externally funded by the Attorneys Fidelity Fund as elsewhere. Apart from their teaching function they continued to take a keen interest in such initiatives as the Gender and Child Abuse and Land Reform projects. The clinics offered a further invaluable community service by providing assistance to those who qualified for their help in terms of the Legal Aid Board's means test. Advice on establishing legal clinics was given to interested parties in Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mongolia and Somalia. In 2002 the South African Police Service's area commissioner commended the law clinic in Pietermaritzburg for its contribution to the campaign against domestic violence and the following year the Durban campus law clinic hosted the first all-African clinical law conference.

By 2000 David McQuoid-Mason's Street Law programme was a country-wide operation familiarising school learners and other community members with legal principles and the concept of human rights. He also conducted training programmes in eastern Europe on behalf of the Open Society Foundation while Karthy Govender visited Fiji, Malawi and Thailand in his capacity as a human rights commissioner.

In 2001 Pietermaritzburg's Centre for Criminal Justice received the Impumelelo award for its Community Outreach programme, which sought to protect the rights of rural women and children and provide them with access to justice. The Centre for Public Service Innovation rewarded it with a certificate, trophy and R30 000 towards marketing its services. Government was very keen for its community-based support centres to be replicated throughout the country. In 2003 the School for Legal Practice hosted the international client counselling competition. The Medico-Legal Unit affiliated to the Faculty produced a training manual for multidisciplinary groups of district medical officers, NGOs, nurses, police officers and prosecutors with a focus on dealing with crimes against women and children.<sup>32</sup>

In 1999 the Faculty of Education was commissioned to develop a diploma for industry-based groups of trainers in Durban and Cape Town. Costas Criticos served as technical consultant to the University of Namibia in developing its library and regional centres while Linda Chisholm assisted the Gauteng Department of Education and UNICEF with their annual strategic planning exercises. Robert Morrell helped the latter body in formulating a gender education policy for the Northern Province's Department of Education and was also a member of the HIV prevention trials network responsible for the 'Be Proud' curriculum in KZN schools.

In 2000 Chisholm was chosen to chair the minister of education's Curriculum 2005 committee, to which Cassius Lubisi and John Volmink also contributed and was subsequently appointed to oversee the implementation of its recommendations. Prior to its 2001 incorporation into the new School of Community Development and Adult Learning, CACE was involved in several other policy research and implementation projects at both national and provincial level. These included planning the national literacy initiative and the incorporation of teacher training colleges into universities. Ben Parker assisted in the latter regard and in developing new norms and standards for educators. While promoting the development of faculties of education elsewhere in the subcontinent, Education's acquisition of the Edgewood campus in 2001 had increased the University's student body by 508 undergraduates.

That year Brenda Gourley estimated that 30% of the University's students were participating in service-learning activities of one sort or another and expressed the hope that community service would eventually form part of the curriculum in every Faculty.<sup>33</sup> Student life in all its dimensions continued to be as important a feature of the University as ever.

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DURING THE 1990s there were several changes to the life experienced by students at the University as it purposefully pursued the goals identified in its Mission Statement. Among these objectives was a substantial increase in student numbers and the provision of equal opportunity for all to embark upon university studies. This was to be achieved by placing greater emphasis on the potential to succeed as a basis for admission rather than traditional reliance on school-leaving results emanating from seventeen different and in some cases unreliable examination systems. It necessitated the development of more efficient methods of identifying academic potential and a commitment to affirmative action to compensate in some measure for the disadvantaged schooling and financial circumstances from which many students emanated. From the University Executive's perspective the 'three-fold combination of disadvantaged educational background, no fail-safe way of assessing academic potential, and inadequate financial support, made life extremely challenging'.<sup>1</sup>

### **Registrations**

In the mid-1990s the University installed its new student information (BANNER) system, which not only made for greater efficiency but also eased pressure on its IBM mainframe computer. In 2000 this was replaced by a new information technology system. There were dramatic changes in student registration numbers during the 1990s with an increase from 12 981 in 1989 to 31 794 in 2003. This was despite concerns about the University's infrastructural capacity and an initial restriction of growth to 2% a year with a subsidy penalty for exceeding it.

In 1991 the last provision on the statute book that entitled government to impose racial restrictions on the admission of students to universities (University Act, 61 of 1955 section 25) was abolished. Africans comprised 48% of the total student body in 2003 compared with 13.2% in 1989, Indians 29% compared with 17.4%, whites 20% compared with 67.2% and coloureds 3% compared with 2.2%. Collectively 80% of the student body was black in

2003 compared with 32.8% in 1989 and only 19% in 1983 when governmental permission for admission was first relaxed.

By 1992 the majority of students in the Faculty of Education were already black (201 Africans, 97 Indians, 14 coloureds and 185 whites) and by the time of South Africa's 1994 democratic elections whites were in a minority in Pietermaritzburg's Arts Faculty for the first time. Although they could now be admitted to the Faculty of Medicine, by then whites also constituted a minority in the University overall, numbering 6 967 (45.9%) in a total of 15 194 enrolments compared with 4 000 Africans (26.3%), 3 841 Indians (25.3%) and 386 coloureds (2.5%).

During the 1990s there was an increasing intake of foreign students, especially from the USA and other parts of Africa, amounting in 2001 to 9% of the student population. Even so, by 1996 the University could claim to have enrolled a higher proportion of local black students than any other historically white tertiary institution. Whites (32.87%) then constituted a smaller percentage of the student body than African students (34.61%) while on the Howard College campus they constituted the smallest (27.58%) of the three then recognised major population groups. The University was on its way towards reflecting more accurately the demographic profile of the KwaZulu-Natal region, although in the mid-1990s Africans constituted nearly 83% of the population, Indians more than 8%, whites 7% and coloureds barely 2%.

In 1990 only 4% of Engineering students were female compared with 70% in Social Science and 60% in Education, but by 2003 55% of the student body overall was female, compared with 42% in 1989; and 32% of students were postgraduates. There were then 22 609 students in Durban (including Health Sciences/Medical School) of whom 30.6% were postgraduates, 7 626 in Pietermaritzburg (38.4% postgraduate) and 1 559 at Edgewood Training College (25.8% postgraduate).

By 1998 it was necessary to hold six graduation ceremonies in Durban where 1 340 undergraduate degrees and diplomas were awarded. By 2003 by far the biggest Faculty/School was Management Studies in Durban with 8 931 students, followed by Human and Management Sciences in Pietermaritzburg (3 666), Community and Development Disciplines (2 952) and Human Sciences (2 397), both in Durban. All the other faculties/schools had less than 2 000 students with Law (397) and Agricultural Engineering (86) in Pietermaritzburg being the smallest, although most of the Faculty of Engineering was based in Durban. Education in Pietermaritzburg had the highest proportion of postgraduate students (71.9%) followed by Management

Studies (47.8%), Science and Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg (38.2%) and Health Sciences (Medical School) in Durban (37.7%).

At the turn of the century there was a troubling decline in student registrations due partly to inadequate funding and an insufficient flow of suitably equipped matriculants from the school system. The nationwide decline was particularly noticeable in Agriculture, Architecture and Engineering although in 2000 Science experienced a 10% increase on the Durban campus. Greater use of the Internet was also having an impact, but a further source of concern was the inroads that private institutions, some of which were not registered, were making in enrolling students for Law, Commerce and Technology courses. Large registration numbers in these fields had previously assisted public universities by cross-subsidising their more expensive offerings in Engineering and Science. In addition, some foreign institutions were also entering the local market with uncertain academic standards and financial viability.<sup>2</sup>

### **Scholarships, bursaries and failures**

Ron Nicolson, who served as dean of Humanities in Pietermaritzburg, recalled that 'by the 1990s black students on campus were thoroughly politicised and quick to stand up for what they perceived as their rights. Deans, faced with student demands to pass weak students or to overlook unpaid fees, lived under a great deal of tension' while the University relied on their discretion. In March 1991, following meetings in both centres, a 500-strong group of students marched on the Administration Building in Durban to hand in a list of grievances to the Principal Peter Booysen while another delegation met Pietermaritzburg Vice-Principal Colin Webb. As part of the NUSAS and SANSCO-led Right to Learn campaign they demanded that the University should 'transform itself into an institution accessible to all'. The primary focus of the demonstration was the exclusion of certain students on the basis of poor examination results. It was agreed that an appeal board would be established for them to plead their cases and that they would be allowed to continue studying while awaiting the outcome.

Financial aid for deserving students was still a recurring challenge and by 1992 some 25% (3 500) of them received it, with all bursaries and loans now exceeding R25 million. This constituted more than 25% of the residence and tuition fees levied, but there were then only two major sources of funding available: Kagiso, which provided funds from the European Community, and the Independent Development Trust (IDT). The latter helped to ease the mounting financial challenge by providing R3.6 million for student loans but

there was a R1.7 million shortfall to meet bursaries and loans already awarded to students on academic merit. By the end of 1993 the R3 million budgeted for these purposes proved insufficient and another R3 million was urgently needed to fund 300 new entrants the following year, which the NUDF was requested to find in an effort to preserve the credibility of the University's affirmative action policy.

In 1994 the JMB agreed that universities could admit students without matriculation exemption although subsidy funding for them was still uncertain. That year the University allocated R6.5 million to financial aid but only R3.5 million had to be drawn from its dwindling reserves thanks partly to R1 million the British Overseas Development Agency donated while the W.K. Kellogg Foundation undertook to provide R3 million over the next three years for student bursaries. In 1995 only R4.5 million of the R9 million from reserves was actually utilised.

Despite the generosity of local and foreign donors and the funds, including its own reserves, the University devoted to the cause, it was increasingly evident that a state-funded loans and grants scheme was desperately needed. Only in this way could the rising demand for student financial aid be met as the universities simply could not continue to satisfy it from their limited resources. The proposed scheme was slow to be established, due partly to events prior to and during the 1994 change of government. Its initial form was the Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa (TEFSA), launched in 1991 as a non-profit organisation to provide higher education loans. It was not expected to resolve the financial aid challenge entirely, but at least provide some sort of standardisation of criteria for qualification. Discouragingly, in 1995 it was announced that it had still not been decided how the long-debated NSFAS would be structured and financed. In the meantime TEFSA administered the annual government allocations made to each institution of higher learning on the basis of the racial composition of their student enrolments rather than the numbers in need of financial aid.

In 1996 government contributed R15 million in financial aid to the University and after including donors' contributions the estimated shortfall of R6.5 million was financed from the previous year's unspent balance and R2 million from the NUDF. By 1997 the NSFAS was still not fully in place but several donors were delaying their contributions in expectation of seeing it established. There was increasing reluctance on their part to fund individual universities, but they were willing to contribute to a national scheme as a more effective means of overcoming the current financial aid crisis. The University then faced a R13.7

million shortfall in funds needed to avoid an otherwise catastrophic decline in student numbers. Government contributed R12.5 million via TEFSA, but R2 million alone was needed to attract the best matriculants and another R6.5 million to enable returning students to complete their degrees.

With government seemingly unlikely to establish a fully effective system of financial assistance for needy undergraduates, Gourley made several unsuccessful attempts, at least one in the company of student representatives, to see the minister of education. She was eventually able to impress upon his deputy the urgency of the financial aid crisis on behalf of the University and of CUP, which she chaired. Meanwhile Council was simply unable and unwilling to borrow or draw any more from financial reserves to meet the shortfall. In 1998, amid extensive student unrest, the University nevertheless committed another R14.5 million of its own funds towards the R38 million it disbursed in bursaries and loans that year.

By then it had allocated a staggering R31.5 million of its resources to financial aid. There was mounting pressure to increase fees, but also concern about the enormous loans many students would be expected to repay on completing their degrees and their capacity to do so. In 2000 TEFSA was eventually reconstituted as the NSFAS in terms of Act 56 passed the previous year. At its inception SASCO officials argued that 60% of the funds provided should take the form of a bursary and only 40% should constitute a loan instead of the reverse.

In 1999, as an additional resource, the Archbishop Denis E. Hurley Educational Fund, which the NUDF administered, was launched in Durban followed by similar occasions in the USA and Canada and the next year in Britain. In London the fund was launched at South Africa House together with the drive to generate support for the new Opera School and Voice Academy. The purpose of Hurley's fund was to provide bursaries for academically qualified students who were financially disadvantaged and to contribute towards the University's general development requirements.

Meanwhile, the University continued to dig into its own resources to provide financial aid for needy students, amounting in 2000 to R12 million in loans and R8.7 million in scholarships with the total financial aid programme funded from all sources reaching as much as R36 million, now primarily from the NSFAS. Much of the 13% increase in student numbers in 2001, rising to 25 764, was attributable to the growing provision of financial aid for needy students, with the University's contribution to scholarships rising to R13 million that year and R9 million to the student loan fund in 2002. A particular



effort was made to attract quality students onto engineering courses to meet the country's chronic shortage in that field.

By the end of 2001 nearly R156 million had been loaned to the University's students amid growing concern about the recoverability of debts in view of the difficult prevailing economic climate and rising levels of unemployment even among graduates. Debts exceeding one year then stood at R6.9 million with the debt write-off for 2001 representing only 0.4% of total fee income that year but, as previously, with exclusions applying to some students. The following year, a review of the recoverability of loan advances, and current accounting policies in that regard, was undertaken to ensure the future viability of the student loan fund. On the strength of that, in 2003 another R9.9 million was drawn from the University's operating budget to augment the fund thereby raising the overall total advanced to students to R167.6 million. By then the University's medical students had meanwhile benefited by as much as R7.9 million from the Medical Education for South African Blacks Fund established in 1988, with 62 of them receiving R600 000 that year alone.

There were also students recognised and rewarded for their academic achievements as distinct from potential. By the mid-1990s those who matriculated with six 'A's were awarded full tuition scholarships and those with five were rewarded with R5 000. Department of Education and Training (DET) products with two or more 'A's were also eligible for scholarships intended to attract the best students in a recruitment climate that had become aggressively competitive. Some institutions were already accepting students provisionally on the strength of their Standard 9 (Grade 11) results, thereby establishing an early association with more promising pupils. The University's own schools liaison function, which had been subjected to criticism, was reviewed and restructured to improve its performance.

As before, there was also recognition for achievers at the other end of the undergraduate journey. In 1990 Bernadine Simpson and Bryan Byala of the Department of Accounting and Finance (Durban) were placed first and second among the 1 452 candidates countrywide who wrote the qualifying examinations of the Public Accountants and Auditors Board. In 1990 the design project of Civil Engineering graduate D.N. Kalyan was adjudged the most outstanding and he was chosen to represent the University at the Gold Fields national engineering award functions in Johannesburg. In 1992 Udesb Pillay won the bronze medal of the South African Geographical Society, Penny Boswell won a national student award (both Social Science, Durban) and sociologist Kuseni Dlamini won a Rhodes scholarship.

In 1994 Pietermaritzburg's Faculty of Humanities awarded six degrees *summa cum laude*, four *cum laude* and four HDEs with distinction. Dion van der Riet won the S2A3 bronze medal for the most outstanding M.Agric. Mgt. thesis, Dallas Shaw (Department of Animal Science and Poultry Science) received the Eli Lilly postgraduate bursary and David Clark the South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers bronze medal for the best 1993 final year student.

In 1995 Law student Richard Power won the annual Institute of Life and Pension Advisers prize as well as a Cecil Renaud scholarship to study at Cambridge. B.Comm. student Kevin Slaney was the top candidate in the Public Accountants and Auditors Board examinations and fellow Commerce student Melody Memela became the first female to win the annual IBM/Wits Information Technology competition. A group of fourth-year Architecture students came second in an international design contest involving entrants from all over the world.

The following year Elena Pascola won the Corobrik Architectural student of the year award and fourth-year B.Mus. student Jonathan Oshry won UNISA's P.J. Lemmer overseas scholarship. Michele Dougherty and Gary Zank, doctoral graduates in Applied Mathematics in the late 1980s, were among seven outstanding young scientists awarded the International Zeldovich medal at the premier committee on space research conference. C.J. van Alten won the S2A3 bronze medal for his M.Sc. thesis in Mathematics and S. Boswell the South African Mathematical Association's bronze medal as the most outstanding honours student in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics while LLB student Ross Garland joined several others who won a Rhodes scholarship during the 1990s.

In 1999 Peter Hare won the South African Association of Botanists medal for the best Ph.D. submitted to a local university, doctoral student Brendon Price (Molecular and Cellular Biosciences) was awarded the Aaron Klug bursary and masters student Fabie Field (Botany and Zoology) the Xerces Society's Joan DeWind award for insect conservation. The following year Durban Law graduates Lance Luthuli and Murray Wesson won Rhodes scholarships, as did Economic History student Buntu Siwisa and political scientist Gareth Morgan. Pietermaritzburg Science and Agriculture students Lyndy McGaw, Craig Peter and Jocelyn Taylor won NRF Ph.D. bursaries while Clinton Carbutt won the Mark and Joy Ward Memorial Bursary. In 2003 Thushka Maharaj (Applied Mathematics) won a Rhodes scholarship and Jolyon Clulow (Mathematics) a Cecil Renaud scholarship.<sup>3</sup>

**Student academic, medical and advisory services**

By the early 1990s the University had become much more aware of the needs of its differentially abled students with regard to access to facilities and the need for appropriate equipment to assist them in their studies. They included the deaf and the blind, of whom there were four registered in Durban in 1990 and two in Pietermaritzburg. Some administrative and counselling staff members, notably Julia Freestone on the latter campus, were already spending considerable office and personal time assisting these students.

As their numbers increased attention was given to the modification of buildings and the more effective integration of differently-abled students into the university community to realise their full learning potential. *Dome* criticised the University's tardiness in this regard and in both centres a Disability Office was eventually established to provide orientation training and counselling, administrative support and specialised computer and other equipment. By 1997 there were 107 differently-abled students registered in both centres. By then psychologist Navin Nursoo had been appointed co-ordinator of differently-abled students to provide an improved range of facilities and preparations were in place to assist deaf students with readers, tape recorders and computer technology.

There was a steady improvement in the availability of computer equipment for all students with computer laboratories available on both campuses on presentation of valid student cards. The multimedia learning centre installed in Durban's Memorial Tower Building was a state-of-the-art facility with a 40-seat LAN, two language learning laboratories and studios for sound and video editing. The new computer information system installed in 1991 in the Malherbe Library was an invaluable additional resource serving as an electronic notice board and was at the time unique in the country. Initially e-mailing was available only to postgraduates but in the mid-1990s this was eventually extended to undergraduates.

Unfortunately, by 2000 heavy use of the equipment and access to the Internet for purposes other than course related-study led to proposals that free browsing of the Web should be replaced with a scale of charges for both students and staff. By 2003 the University had provided students with a very usable website, Student Central, which was both fast and secure in providing access to such items as registration details, photo cards and examination results.

All full-time students were covered by improved medical emergency and rescue services for a small addition to their fees. The campus counselling and health centres, which Devi Rajab and Inge Kelly headed in Durban with Julia

Braine and Sandy Walters in Pietermaritzburg, continued to provide a valuable service, with as many as 6 530 students making use of the latter in 1991 alone. David Maughan Brown was subsequently to discover that the service available in Britain's higher education sector was 'light years behind' what the University offered both students and staff with regard to mental health 'during the sometimes traumatic changes in the 1990s'. The student employment and housing offices were also invaluable for those who sought vacation jobs or who needed affordable accommodation on or off campus via lists of approved digs that were regularly updated. Unfortunately, with national unemployment figures rising, students encountered increasing difficulty in finding temporary work. The opening of a crèche on the Pietermaritzburg campus in 1992 provided a welcome additional service to parents, both student and staff.

By the early 1990s vocational guidance posts were disappearing at many schools. The University's principal liaison officer, Marianne Wybrow, recognised this as an important dimension of student recruitment to ensure that candidates were suited to university education and that they registered for appropriate degrees. The annual open days were also an effective means of introducing prospective students to what the University had to offer by way of opportunities and facilities.

Efforts were also made during the 1990s to improve the orientation programme for first-year students by combining the best features of what was offered in both centres. In 1991 the SRC and BSS orientation committees at last merged to produce an entirely non-racist, non-sexist programme for the new student intake. However, the committee refused to attend the annual enrolment ceremony on the grounds that it was 'irrelevant and outdated' and because only three of the 150 academic awards made went to black students, thereby demonstrating that the policy of affirmative action was not really working. As before, the programme continued to be reassessed from time to time with divisions within the organising committee, the intrusion of politics and non-attendance by students being sources of debate. Marie Odendaal of Student Development and the Leadership Training programme in Pietermaritzburg, among others, suggested ways of re-stimulating the event and helped to organise the 2003 version although financial constraints were still an inhibiting factor.

The Student Counselling services in both centres continued to assist students to make course and career decisions and deal with other personal issues. As the University attracted increasing numbers of foreign students a wider range of such challenges presented themselves. By 1992 condom-dispensing

machines were being installed on the campuses and AIDS testing facilities were provided together with pre-test counselling. By 1995 the University was nevertheless encountering the beginnings of an AIDS pandemic with Durban residence staff having to look after two students with a full-blown condition who had been discharged from hospital without any home to which to return. In the absence of adequate facilities or funds to cope with what seemed likely to become a growing challenge, the University turned to the national departments of welfare and health to address it.

During the 1990s the University also gave more practical effect to its commitment to students from academically and financially disadvantaged backgrounds. Computer literacy courses for all undergraduates were eventually offered on a regular basis as more equipment became available. Earlier proposals to establish intermediate tertiary colleges through which such students might gain university access lost momentum due, at least partly, to the cost and subsidy implications. Instead, the University eventually established an Education Development programme in all its faculties, assisted by Centres for University Education Development set up in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg and by a Student Financial Aid Office. The intention was to co-ordinate student, staff and curriculum development. Consequently, greater emphasis was placed on the need for staff/professional evaluation and there was also a re-evaluation of teaching programmes in terms of their relevance to a changing student clientele and broader social circumstances. The maintenance of academic standards and the need to protect the value of qualifications that alumni had already earned were also recognised.

Several donors assisted in launching the Education Development scheme, which by the end of 1991 had been established in the faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences in both centres with an Education Faculty Forum co-ordinating the efforts of all those involved. This was in addition to the privately funded bridging units that already existed in Economics and Management and Engineering in Durban and the Science and Agriculture Foundation programme in Pietermaritzburg.

Similarly, the University's alternative TTT selection programme continued to function with the financial support of the Ford Foundation, the Kagiso Trust and the IDT. In 1991 the first TTT students wrote their final degree examinations and for the first time the programme began to test students in regional centres instead of requiring them all to attend in Durban. Work continued on a credit-bearing foundation course, Development and Production of Knowledge, and



**Diane Grayson** was a B.Sc. graduate of the University and subsequently completed a Ph.D. at the University of Washington in Seattle. As co-ordinator of Pietermaritzburg's Science Foundation Programme in its crucial early years from 1990 she successfully increased its student intake and strengthened its contacts in Africa, the USA and Australia. In 1995 Joan Houston (B.Sc. Pretoria and STD, UCT) succeeded to the directorship of the programme.

on providing core discipline texts for a foundation series to form a basis for prepared-assessment selection and university admittance.

A new Department of Second Language Studies, with specific focus on English as a second language, was launched that year in Pietermaritzburg by merging the staff and resources of the English Language Development Scheme and the Language and Reading Centre. In 2000 the School of Language, Culture and Communication established a new Language Centre complete with a language laboratory in which students could study intensively or part-time to improve their reading, writing and verbal skills as beginners through to advanced postgraduate level.

In 1993 the University initiated an equal opportunities/affirmative action project to develop policies to achieve those objectives and research the experience of other institutions as well as monitor the University's own progress. By 1996, under the direction of Durban Dean of Students Ann Harper, who in 1992 had succeeded Hugh Philpott as head of Student Services there, the University was also developing policies relating to diversity. This was to support its increasingly multicultural student body by making everyone feel more at home on campus in a congenial learning environment. In the interests of open learning access it also became possible for adult learners to be admitted to degree programmes without a matriculation exemption.

In addition to TTT, by the early 2000s there were six alternative selection programmes through which disadvantaged students could gain admission other than the traditional requirement of a senior certificate with matriculation exemption. In Durban these were the sponsored UNITE programme for admission to Engineering degrees, a special route for admission into Music Studies, the EMEC programme (with senior certificate) into Management Studies and that Faculty's EMS programme for selected small groups. In

Pietermaritzburg there was the Science and Agriculture Foundation programme and the Business Management certificate (with a senior certificate or business experience).

In 2003 the University Council approved several items important to both student and staff medical care and protection. These included an elimination of unfair discrimination and harassment policy, an HIV/AIDS prevention policy developed with the assistance of expert consultants within and outside the University, comprehensive student HIV/AIDS prevention, a treatment and care policy, a management of sexual assault policy, and a policy concerning occupational exposure to the hepatitis B virus and HIV.<sup>4</sup>

### **Student representation, discipline and campus crime**

In 1990 each SRC was granted two representatives, with voting rights, on Senate in the interests of continuity and the Faculty councils in each centre were also granted representatives thereby increasing student representation on that body to eight and eventually to twenty. Students gained further representation in the administration of the University when in 1991 Senex offered observer status to the presidents of the SRCs with speaking but not voting rights during the unrestricted sections of its proceedings. They were, however, unsuccessful in proposing that restricted agendas should be abolished in all Faculty boards and committees. By the mid-1990s students were also successfully agitating for representation on academic staff selection committees. Beginning in 1999 Student Leadership Development, with Marie Odendaal as co-ordinator, ran a voluntary annual student leadership programme for incoming SRC members and also offered it to house committees and student clubs across all campuses. In addition, it developed the Alternatives to Violence project, which sought to engender the ability among students to manage conflict without aggression.

Disciplinary action and security measures had always been unpleasant but necessary aspects of campus life. The 1980s and 1990s produced some cases not experienced before, including a fatal knifing at a student concert, incidents of rape and an attempt to iron a female student's back with an electric iron for failing to prepare her boyfriend's shirts satisfactorily! Students were no longer allowed to get free lifts between the two centres after the University's mail van was hijacked in 1990 and the driver injured.

For a time security dogs proved quite effective in reducing car thefts but the contract was terminated after two handlers and a student were bitten. Employees of another off-campus security firm were subsequently arrested for thefts in the residences. From 1992, to counteract vehicle theft access to

and from campus parking areas was subject to security control points where student, staff or visitor cards had to be produced. Even then the SRC lost two vehicles from the campus overnight.

That year, in addition to the aforementioned Knowledge Mdlalose affair, the Durban campus experienced a hand grenade explosion in the Chemistry laboratory (though some believed it was an electrical fault), there was another near disaster involving a limpet mine placed under a car and R16 000 was stolen at gunpoint from a cash outlet at the medical campus. All these incidents increased tension and attracted adverse publicity. There were also disturbing acts of intimidation including threatened disruptions of presentations by visiting speakers, forced participation in lecture boycotts and SRC attempts to isolate students suspected of being police informants. Participants in a medical graduation were accused of being traitors for not joining the boycott, the ceremony was delayed by a placard demonstration and lectures were interrupted.

Some cases proved difficult to prosecute because of the reluctance of witnesses to testify. In 1993 there was another all-too-familiar lecture boycott by medical students in sympathy with the exclusion of three of their number. Classes were resumed when the chairman of Council threatened disciplinary action or suspension. In 1997 there was another boycott during which two weeks of classes were lost and yet another in 1999, sparked by dissatisfaction over assessments in a fifth-year course. Some students were again intimidated into participation and others complained that their freedom to learn was being infringed. Another protest followed in 2001, this time over high failure rates.

During the early 1990s there were two significant changes to the regulations governing student behaviour. In March 1992, after eighteen months of negotiations during which there was some resistance before student representatives made a significant contribution, Council ratified a new code of conduct governing those in residences on the Durban campus. In addition, the Mdlalose affair did have the beneficial consequence of a review of procedures governing appeals against academic exclusion.

Improvements in regulations and in review procedures did not put an end to disciplinary breaches in either centre. In the early 1990s there was an alarming increase in the physical and verbal abuse of women on campus and of students participating in orientation week, with consequent disciplinary procedures. In 1993 alone there were 285 incidents of petty theft, 25 house burglaries, nineteen car thefts, twelve thefts from cars and 43 bicycle thefts in and around the Pietermaritzburg campus with WOB and Denison being hotspots. In 1995



there was a bomb scare in Durban's main examination hall necessitating the metal detector screening of all student baggage and there was a noticeable increase in the theft and vandalism of library material in both centres. The following year there were further protests relating to a variety of issues ranging from failure rates, the quality index system and re-admissions to financial aid, overcrowded lecture theatres and alleged racism on the part of staff, resulting in more unfavourable media coverage. It was clear that improved means of communication between Administration and students was needed, as well as between staff members who were expected to deal with campus crises as they arose.

By 1997 there were rumours of multiple rapes, the intimidation of witnesses and a general impression that organised crime syndicates were targeting the campuses, not least in connection with car theft and even car hijackings on campus as was the case at other tertiary institutions. The Student Counselling Centre assisted rape victims and others in need of support while Risk Management Services (RMS) offered to escort students and staff members across campus after dark if required. A weapon-free campus campaign was launched as increasing numbers of students began to arm themselves with knives and guns.

The following year secure parking was provided for a fee on the Pietermaritzburg campus and limited access control was eventually installed on all campuses. In 1998 three staff members were charged with the theft and distribution of examination papers but fortunately there were only a few student beneficiaries as the asking prices were high. That year the cafeteria on the Howard College campus was robbed twice. Tragically, when two outsiders gate-crashed a Durban residence party and one of them produced a knife, he was badly beaten and died of his injuries. This induced a further reconsideration of disciplinary rules to cope with such extreme occurrences. It also necessitated a more aggressive advertising campaign to improve the University's waning image and to find ways of identifying and expelling students who were known to be involved in criminal activity.

By 1999 *Dome* and *Nux* were providing their student readers with regular updates about campus crime, advising them about taking precautions to avoid becoming victims and also about resisting the growing tendency to carry firearms. By then RMS closely monitored campus crime statistics and published them on the internal electronic network. Categories like assault and car theft were on the decline but by 2003 these had increased again in Durban and vandalism was unusually high in some Pietermaritzburg residences. The

theft of computers and other equipment as well as personal possessions from offices had become a fairly common occurrence but the situation was little different for those living in nearby digs.

It was not assumed that students were responsible when in 2000 the building supervisor and a traffic shift officer were shot during an armed robbery at the Engineering Bookshop in Durban's Student Union Building. In 2002 students themselves organised a march against crime on campus while RMS sought to improve security with the installation of new CCTV cameras. Crime and disciplinary issues were, of necessity, taken increasingly seriously. The handling of cheating in class tests and assignments was standardised and in 2003 Council formally approved a student disciplinary advisory forum as one of its own sub-committees.<sup>5</sup> Discipline was an increasingly prominent aspect of campus accommodation.

### **Residences**

In 1991 there was considerable tension on the Pietermaritzburg campus when the expulsion of a student from WOB was followed by demands that he be reinstated and residence staff members dismissed. Controversially, the Principal James Leatt overruled the wardens and campus Vice-Principal Colin Webb. He reinstated the student pending an appeal hearing but allegations of racist behaviour on the part of the staff proved to be unfounded.

In 1992–1993 a concerted effort was made to close down residence social clubs in both centres and replace them with more acceptable alternatives that conformed with the licensing regulations and ideally took the form of multi-purpose recreational centres. In Durban there was an alleged gang rape in residence coupled with the alleged intimidation of witnesses. In addition R75 000 worth of damage was inflicted on a new dining hall when students took exception to the catering arrangements.

During the 1990s new disciplinary rules, which amended those previously approved in 1987, were also implemented with specific regard to the residences. In the interests of 'the quality of life' and 'the fabric of orderly existence' these reinstated the earlier clause that allowed for the immediate expulsion of any student charged with a serious misdemeanour in any of the residences instead of having to await the prolonged outcome of an inquiry. In February 1996 the Durban house committees met to formulate a uniform residence constitution that would address some of the shortcomings of various existing rules and be implemented by the house presidents' council. In addition, Durban's senior wardens promoted the notion of a social contract

between themselves and resident students to deal with at least some breaches of the regulations more promptly outside the formal framework of rules and procedures. After nine months of negotiations the idea was dropped because the existing arrangements arguably made it unnecessary. Improved security was, however, deemed essential on all campuses, as was the prohibition on alcohol in residence rooms. The WOB wardens claimed that almost all disciplinary breaches were alcohol-related.<sup>6</sup>

Ngqabutho Bhebhe (Pietermaritzburg MA 1990–1996), in his senior years a residence warden and graduate assistant, recalled that as the black student intake gathered momentum in the 1990s there was a perceived shortage of accommodation on campus as well as dissatisfaction concerning such issues as security and catering. These were recurring issues of contention in student newspapers. Following the 1983 removal of ministerial restrictions on university admissions the previously established pattern of providing accommodation for approximately 25% of students in Pietermaritzburg and 20% at Howard College (with a much larger percentage at Wentworth) had to be relaxed. By 1989 there were 302 black students in Pietermaritzburg residences, amounting to 60% of the 504 who were registered there. At the beginning of the following academic year there were about 60 of them without accommodation, some late applicants, resulting in a toyi-toyi demonstration in front of the Administration Building.

On the basis of a 4% annual increase in accordance with the Mission Statement (and possibly as much as 6%), it was estimated that over the next five years the demand for places would amount to expenditure of R23 million in Pietermaritzburg alone and R50 million on all campuses. The University declined the opportunity to acquire Pietermaritzburg's downtown Ansonia Hotel, which would have required major refurbishment. Instead, the R2.6 million purchase of two blocks of flats in King Edward Avenue, Brucian Hall and Robleigh Mansions close to Malherbe, helped to ease the situation by providing rooms for another 135 students.

In addition, other properties including Lindley House in Alexandra Road, a dwelling in Hodson Road and dormitories at St Nicholas School in Loop (Jabu Ndlovu) Street were leased. A house adjacent to Malherbe was also acquired to provide temporary accommodation for staff members. The number of student places increased from 1 381 to 1 556 between 1990 and 1991, aided by the expansion of Denison Residence. In 2003 another block of flats, Wildon Hall on King Edward Avenue, was acquired to provide fully furnished accommodation

for 60 postgraduates, although students complained about the fees compared with other residences.

By the mid-1990s, as black students moved into the residences in increasing numbers, their white counterparts were moving off campus into digs and elsewhere, with not more than a few left in WOB by 1995, its well-known sub-culture long since gone. By then Scottsville residents were complaining about the proliferation of digs and the misbehaviour of students in the area. The City Council tried unsuccessfully to persuade the University to assume responsibility, but it saw no reason to interfere in an off-campus issue. Instead, the onus was placed on property owners to take action if students renting their premises disturbed the neighbourhood and the Pietermaritzburg SRC elected one of its members to represent digs inmates at future meetings with the City Council. Digs dwellers themselves formed a crisis committee to protect their interests against the perceived threat of all such premises being closed down.

By 1997 the City Council required all digs landlords to apply for boarding house licences on the grounds that they were, in effect, operating businesses. Householders complained that they also constituted a security risk, being vacant for several months in the year and that their presence devalued neighbouring properties. Ron Nicolson, whose time as a warden in Malherbe ended in 1990, confirmed that by the time he retired in 2003 on-campus residents in Pietermaritzburg were almost entirely black. White students preferred to live in digs as they were 'uncomfortable to be in a minority and uncomfortable with different cultural practices'. Their social lives now revolved more than ever before around off-campus parties, downtown hostelries and night clubs.

The Howard College campus followed a similar, more dramatic trend. White students complained about insufficient consultation when, from 1990, the rules for acceptance into residence were no longer based on academic merit but primarily on need. Cognisance was taken of the Group Areas Act, which made it so difficult for black students to find accommodation in close proximity to the campus, but many white students who were in good academic standing were now refused re-admission into residence. They too struggled to find digs in the vicinity of the campus in what was largely an upmarket residential suburb that offered little in the way of such accommodation. More distant alternatives also confronted them with expensive and time-consuming transport difficulties.

While the ratio of black to white students varied from one residence to the next the average immediately changed from approximately 60:40 in 1989 to 70:30 the following year. By then a new challenge had arisen with a number

of rooms on campus standing empty because some black students could not afford the increased residence fees while waiting for their bursaries and loans to materialise. After mid-year others chose to move into cheaper off-campus digs, resulting in severe financial losses to the University.

Wentworth's ATR had at last been vacated and taken over by Engen as part of the neighbouring oil refinery complex. Following the relaxation of group areas legislation, the 500 medical students could be integrated into the general resident student body either by accommodating them in the new, incomplete Albert Luthuli Hall off Francois Road (Rick Turner Avenue), which could immediately house 300 of them, or in the older residences below Howard College. Mrs Kwenaitse transferred from Wentworth to become the new senior warden there, the first black woman to do so. In 1991 she was succeeded by another woman, former ANC exile Thuthukile Radebe, and two years later Louis Botha Hall became the first mixed-gender residence to elect a female house president, Dudu Magakoa.

In 1990 medical students boycotted lectures and held a protest march because the transport provided to and from ATR was not replicated from Francois Road. It was pointed out that the distance involved was now only 2 kilometres compared with the previous 16 and that public transport was available. It was eventually agreed that transport would be provided at students' expense with interest-free loans to cover the cost where needed.

At Howard College there was ill-feeling about the establishment of black house committees alongside their existing counterparts and the acceptance, willingly or otherwise, by black inmates of the BSS policy of non-participation in traditional residence activities such as social sport and beer clubs. Other traditions like Freshers Week were also fading away and in 1990 the (white) Townley Williams house committee resigned in protest because the residence had no white freshers at all. Following its completion at a cost of R13 million in October 1991 Nelson Mandela officially opened the new Albert Luthuli Hall. It could accommodate 550 students in its tower and cluster residences with a shared dining room. Many students felt that the R50 000 allegedly spent on the opening was excessive, although half of it apparently came from donors. Three students left their rooms almost immediately in the belief that part of the building was haunted by a murder victim in what had been a notorious area before the residence was constructed.

In 1993 it was calculated that the overall waiting list for residence rooms in Durban was 365 of which all but 87 had found alternative accommodation. While some students were housed in downtown Anchor House, transport to

the campus proved a problem. The University pondered the alternatives of buying off-campus buildings, constructing new hostels or leasing premises from UDW to meet this demand and thereby increase the level of resident students on campus from 16.5% to at least the 20% national average. By 1996, as the Director of Accommodation Douglas Jansen explained, the 1 679 places in residences at Howard College were still insufficient to meet demand. Further rooms had to be provided at Ella Sands House and the Winston Hotel, together with bus transport and meal cards for use on campus. Despite the accommodation shortage another problem arose in the form of squatters in residences, resulting in the expulsion of at least one student who was harbouring three of them, presumably paying rent to share his bed by sleeping in shifts!

During the 1990s there were several incidents of unrest in the Durban residences, including violence in Albert Luthuli Hall that attracted adverse publicity and raised concern that acts of intimidation were disrupting students' studies and might increase failure rates. The Durban SRC established a refectory action committee to deal with complaints about food, but the majority of students opposed the renewal in 1992 of the Fedics catering contract after supporting a pay strike by its employees as well as plans to centralise two residence kitchens to reduce labour costs. Sean van Wyk (BA LLB LLM *cum laude* 1987–1994) had mostly fond memories of living in Louis Botha Hall but not of 'what passed for food', not least the mince 'which seemed to be served at every meal'. The closest escape was Jubilee Hall where the 'Jubes canteen served a great cheeseburger which was cooked in front of you'.

In 1993 a twelve-week boycott of the catering services in sympathy with the salary and staffing demands of the catering company's employees cost the University R211 000 in mediation fees as well as alternative catering arrangements for conference delegates who had been booked into the residences during the summer recess. The caterers also had reason to complain, with polystyrene plates being briefly introduced into the refectory at Howard College because students stole all the crockery. In 1994 there was further dissatisfaction on both campuses about the award of catering contracts, including boycotts and mass meetings, and there was an unrelated instance of arson at Denison. There was another extended dining hall boycott on the Howard College campus in 1995 also aimed at terminating a catering contract. The implementation of a meal-booking system encountered teething problems as did a subsequent swipe-card method of ordering meals. There were also strong objections to subsequent periodic food price increases. Not all students were dissatisfied. Senzo Mkhize (Pietermaritzburg BA, Information Studies

Diploma and Library Science Honours 1996–2000) had to work before coming on campus and remembered a choice of ‘low cost ... healthy and quality food’.

By the early 1990s another food-related problem had arisen in the form of increasing numbers of feral cats attracted to the campuses by scraps in and around residence and refectory dustbins. Some compassionate students fed them, but this source evaporated during the long vacations. Staff members stepped in with Elizabeth Sneddon launching a feeding programme in Durban and Julia Braine and others doing likewise in Pietermaritzburg. In the former centre Alley Cats Allies were called in to capture them for removal to the SPCA while in the latter a system of spaying and neutering was implemented.

In 1996 black students, now in a substantial majority, proposed that some of Durban’s older residences should be renamed. Charles James, Mabel Palmer and John Bews were seemingly to remain as such; but Ansell May should become David Webster Hall (after the liberation struggle martyr), Ernest Jansen be called Lesedi Hall (Sotho meaning ‘light’), Florence Powell (a benefactor) be named John Dube Hall (after the ANC’s first president), Louis Botha be changed to Steve Biko Hall (after the black consciousness leader) and Townley Williams (a benefactor) to Enoch Sontonga Hall (in memory of the composer of *Nkosi sikelel’i Afrika*). A new residence opened in 2000 was named Pius Langa Hall in honour of the University’s Chancellor.<sup>7</sup>

### **Academic activity**

Orientation into a new learning environment had always been more of a challenge for some new arrivals on campus than others. As clergyman Dr Radikobo Ntsimane (Pietermaritzburg B.Th. 1995–1998, Ph.D. 2013) put it, for them ‘the anxiety of the unknown is not dissimilar to a Grade R learner who goes away from the comfort zone for the first time’. This was certainly the case for numerous aspiring graduates emanating from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds as they came to terms with a multiracial tertiary environment in which the majority of staff members were white.

An alternative Preparing for University (PFU) programme was launched because black students felt that the existing well-established orientation arrangements were not adequately meeting their particular needs. Senior students and some staff members, including Thami Mseleku and Zwelethemba Mpono, ran the PFU programme and gave second- and third-year student mentors a week of prior training. Effective use of the library, note taking, careful reading and critical thinking were all skills that the instructors sought to impart while recalling their own experience of township and rural schools.

Students, especially reticent females, were encouraged to interact with each other and to feel welcome in their new environment.

As Ntsimane recalled, by the early 1990s, with many black new arrivals also coming from previously whites-only model C schools, moves were afoot among the students themselves to integrate the orientation programmes without losing the PFU's important educative dimension that disadvantaged individuals still needed. From 1996 there was one, fully integrated orientation programme on both campuses. In 2002 Mabel Palmer residents in Durban felt it necessary to launch their own mentoring programme to provide first-year students with ongoing assistance to adjust to the university environment. Albert Luthuli Hall followed that example the following year.

As already indicated, students in both centres were also actively involved in the broad process of transformation the University underwent to become a 'learning organisation'. One of their major contributions to that end was in pressing for the establishment of the widely representative BTF as a means of accelerating and guiding the process. In 1994 Senate resolved, with student approval, that future graduation ceremonies should be given a more African flavour by being concluded with the singing of both national anthems.

Amidst allegations of racism in some faculties, Durban's Law Students Council initiated an important change when it proposed that only student numbers and not names should be reflected on test and examination scripts to maintain anonymity in the process of marking. Despite some logistical difficulties, from 1996 this was implemented throughout the University. Most departments still adhered to the rule that 33.3% of all final examination assessments should be based on students' class records with some gaining special permission to raise that percentage as long as at least 50% of the final mark was based on work judged by an external examiner to maintain objective academic standards.

Diane Slater-Kinghorn (Pietermaritzburg B.Sc. Honours 1993–1996), who subsequently pursued a career in pathology laboratories in London and Limerick, was impressed by those standards in the Sciences and particularly in the Chemistry department which had 'an excellent reputation' and in which she completed her degrees. Among others, she enjoyed Winton (Wog) Hawsworth's lectures, which he always concluded punctually by recharging his pipe with tobacco preparatory to 'his between-lecture "fix", often enjoyed in the lecture hall itself'. She also recalled how her six-person Biochemistry honours group observed the developing romantic relationship between two



staff members in which ‘the manner of their discourse betrayed their little secret’ and culminated happily in marriage!

Annabelle van Reenen (née Guest, Pietermaritzburg BA and Dip. Human Resource Management 1991–1994), who later held a managerial position with Rio Tinto in South Africa, enjoyed the lectures of Bill Bizley and Anton van der Hoven (English) and the broadening classes of Patrick Maxwell (Religious Studies) on Eastern faiths. Philippa Warden (née Guest, Pietermaritzburg B. Soc. Sc. Honours and Dip. Marketing/Supply Chain Management 1993–1997), who subsequently became a registered psychologist in Australia, also recalled the challenging academic standards and helpfulness of the staff. She fondly remembered James Lund’s dry sense of humour in Law lectures, Ron Nicolson’s thought-provoking classes in Religious Studies, not least the debate for and against the existence of God and the concept of ‘process theology’, as well as the thoroughness of Mike Poulter’s lectures on supply chain management.

Warden regarded Psychology as ‘a fantastic department’ in which to have majored and completed an honours degree, thanks to the teaching of Lance Lachenicht, Kevin Durrheim, Graham Lindegger and others. She had particularly fond memories of Bruce Faulds (B.Sc., B.Ed. Natal, Ph.D. Princeton), his penchant for photographing students during and after the orientation process (especially good-looking girls) and his related ability to remember names. She also recalled his somewhat intimidating demeanour in first-year lectures (presumably intended to reduce the class to manageable proportions) and his unfailing helpfulness to senior students who struggled with the statistical dimensions of their research projects. Like many other former students she was deeply distressed to hear of his untimely death in 2004 when hit by an allegedly drunk driver while taking his dog for an early-morning walk.

Sinothi Thabethe (BA Honours 1996–1999) enrolled in Pietermaritzburg with the intention, like many of his friends, of qualifying as a teacher, partly because they were largely unaware of the wide range of other career options. The subsequent redeployment of what were mistakenly regarded as excess teachers caused him to reconsider. He was grateful to the History Department, in particular Jabulani Sithole, for persuading him to complete honours and masters degrees that led him to become curator of the Luthuli Museum at Groutville.

Students generally continued to regard academic standards as high and those from disadvantaged school backgrounds were particularly impressed by the

available facilities. Senzo Mkhize, who subsequently became senior librarian at the Killie Campbell Africana Library, recalled the ready access to computer laboratories and libraries and considered the academic demands made upon students to be excellent. He enjoyed what were considered the eccentricities of some staff members like John Wright (Historical Studies) who wore shorts to his lectures on the pre-Shakan kingdoms of the subcontinent. Diana Dreboldt similarly recalled the eccentric but always entertaining mannerisms of some Fine Arts instructors. She was a mature-age student and established artist when she spent time on campus, enjoying the relaxed studio atmosphere and, in particular, the knowledge and expertise of Jinny Heath.

Praversh Sukram had extensive experience of academic standards on the Pietermaritzburg campus (B.Soc.Sc., postgraduate diplomas in Information Studies, Human Resource Management and Management, a masters in Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Management Studies, 1988–2010). He considered them to be ‘high’, the staff ‘very efficient and helpful’ and joined their ranks as manager of the Library there. Ngqabutho Bhebhe, who later embarked on a career in heritage and museum services and in 2010 became head of the secretariat/chief executive officer of the Ingonyama Trust Board, was also impressed by the academic standards and enjoyed his studies, particularly the interaction with staff and the discussions that took place at postgraduate level.

Professor Colin Gardner believed that by the time of his retirement at the end of 1997 academic standards in his own English Department and ‘probably in others’ were ‘as high as they had been at the upper levels, but that at the pass level there was a certain limited degree of leniency’. Historian John Laband agreed that standards had always been ‘almost unfailingly high’ with good students fully equipped to further their studies anywhere else in the world and that they continued to be ‘as demanding as ever’. However, in his opinion, it could not be denied ‘with transformation and an influx of poorly prepared students that passing standards at the bottom end of the spectrum were steadily dropped to accommodate them’.

Similarly, John Benyon’s impression was that, at the upper levels, the University’s academic standards ‘were much in line with the best in South Africa and comparable with similar institutions in the Western World’, pointing out that ‘many of our graduates have made successful careers overseas’. He remembered star black students like Sibongiseni Mkhize who went on to head the Msunduzi-Voortrekker Museum, the Market Theatre in Johannesburg and then the Robben Island Museum.<sup>8</sup>

All faculties faced the challenge of maintaining standards while ensuring that students were given the opportunity to attain them and, if possible, proceed to research degrees. At the other end of the scale there were several staff members who, while maintaining a prominent profile in their own research fields, still found time to be actively involved in promoting interest in their disciplines among prospective and newly arrived students on campus. They included chemists Wog Hawksworth in Pietermaritzburg and Michael Laing in Durban. Among other inspiring teachers in the Faculty of Medicine was Professor K.S. (Krishnasamy) Naidoo, affectionately known as ‘KS’.

Bill Freund, professor of Economic History (1985–2009) came to the Durban campus from what he remembered as an educational and teaching background ‘in elite private institutions in the USA’ and ‘a world of bright students curious about the wider world, small classes and very large and prestigious history departments with world class library and research facilities’. His impression on arrival was that Science in South Africa was not in the same league as the USA or Britain in terms of ‘wealth or prestige’ but that it ‘did probably compare very decently’ with Australia and Canada. On the other hand ‘you could compare the humanities/social science network of staff in Durban at best to the most modest of American state colleges with some university features rather irregularly added on.’ It included ‘full professors who had never written a research paper or taken a higher degree and academics who were at best suited to be devoted high school teachers’.

Freund conceded that he did witness some improvement in staffing and research in the Human Sciences during his tenure but ‘the low level of student



**K.S. (Krishnasamy) Naidoo** undertook his undergraduate and specialist orthopaedic surgical training in India, Britain, Switzerland and South Africa. He served the Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery for more than 23 years rising in 1991 to chief specialist/professor and head of department. He was involved in establishing the spinal, hand and paediatric units there and made significant contributions in dealing with upper limb trauma, including hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder injuries. Following his retirement in 1996 he was re-appointed as a dedicated teacher to a temporary full-time post as senior specialist/senior lecturer. In

1998 he became principal specialist at Addington Hospital and was sorely missed following his death in 2001.

culture was equally shocking' and similar to his experience at Wits. The performance of two thirds of his students 'varied between outright failures up to marginal second class marks', mostly females who were 'notable for their polished nails ... and their childish round handwriting.' Students were generally 'uncomplaining and passive ... undergraduate education, life-changing for me, for them was comparable to going to the dentist – unpleasant but probably necessary. The boys were much happier on the sports fields.' In Freund's view approximately 10% were 'solid II.2 students', mainly males hoping to be accepted into LLB programmes who 'could at least be taught and were worth a chat', although their workloads were 'too light by international standards'. In his opinion roughly 15% of students were 'substantial and serious, earning upper second and first class marks'. The majority of these were also female, some of whom hoped to move on to foreign universities but only a few, including male draft dodgers, stayed on to complete higher degrees.

Freund found that not much was demanded of him academically, leaving time for research and travel abroad but that changes in the ethnic composition of the student body increasingly became 'a roller-coaster ride'. Most black students proved to be 'even quite a bit worse than their mediocre white predecessors and basically unequipped for university level studies', either failing or happily just scraping a pass. In his view, 'only a small minority' could 'respond to questions of standards and quality as they would be understood internationally'.

There were notable exceptions, including Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, who served a term as national deputy minister of health, Gordon Fakude who became a lecturer in Economic History on campus, Buntu Siwisa who completed a masters degree before following it with a doctorate at Oxford and another masters student Lungisile Ntsebeza who subsequently joined the UCT staff. Successful doctoral candidates included environmental consultant Wendy Annecke, Rod Crompton who went on to manage the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) and staff colleague Rob Morrell who subsequently assumed a senior administrative post at UCT. Despite what he considered to be the 'modest intellectual life' that he initially encountered at Howard College, Freund conceded 'a strong attachment to the place without ever being blind to its limitations'. He mostly did not regret that he was 'never offered the kind of position I felt I deserved at a major university because of how much I learnt and how rich my experiences were'.

Vanessa Noble (Durban MA 1994–1999), who subsequently completed a doctorate (Michigan 2005) and from 2006 assumed lectureships in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, remembered the ‘wonderfully stimulating’ History Department at Howard College and, in particular, Jeff Guy’s enthusiastic first-year lectures and Catherine Burns’ thought-provoking modules on women and gender in history as well as her encouraging thesis supervision. Noble also recalled Keith Breckenridge’s knowledge about the use of computers, research databases and the Internet for historical research purposes, which led to the establishment of the department’s own postgraduate computer laboratory that was the envy of students in other disciplines.

Not least, Noble enjoyed the department’s ‘challenging’, internationally recognised History and African Studies seminar series, which attracted scholars from far afield to test their research in its highly critical ‘lion’s den’ environment and exposed local students like herself to the cut and thrust of vigorous historical debate. Stephen Sparks (Durban MA 1999–2004), who also subsequently completed a doctorate abroad (Michigan 2011) before being appointed in 2012 to a post at the University of Johannesburg, had a similarly high regard for the ‘outstanding’ training he received in Durban’s History Department and the inspiring ‘formative’ postgraduate seminar series that he attended there. On the strength of this he considered himself ‘better prepared to do original primary historical research than the majority of my peers at Michigan which included students who had done their undergraduate studies at top American and other global universities’.

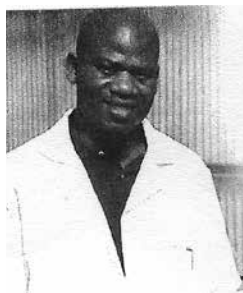
This estimation echoed the long-held opinion of Pietermaritzburg alumnus Professor Colin Tatz (BA Honours 1955 and MA 1960), who became head of the School of History, Philosophy and Politics at Macquarie University in Sydney, where he worked in aboriginal affairs for more than three decades. He recalled that ‘When I came to Australia I wondered how my “little provincial red-brick education” at Natal would help me compete with the Oxonians and Harvardians, etc. It more than helped: my training was as strong and solid as anything in the business.’ In the 1990s other alumni who had graduated as far back as the 1950s and had remained in the academic world were also still singing the praises of their alma mater. André Goosen (B.Sc. Honours, M.Sc. and Ph.D. 1950–1960) who joined the staff before assuming a chair in Port Elizabeth remembered the exceptional lecturing and research output in Chemistry as well as the ‘excellent’ supervision of Professor Frank Warren.

By the turn of the century there was a variety of exciting new options available to students at postgraduate level, including those offered in Agriculture by, for

example, Albert Modi . There were also research and training for employment in the non-profit sector the new Centre for Civil Society was beginning to offer along with short-term courses from 2001 in the School of Development Studies under the direction of Professor Adam Habib.<sup>9</sup>

### Cultural activity

There were approximately three dozen cultural and social clubs on both the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses by the mid-1990s, though the number enjoyed by medical students is uncertain and was almost certainly far fewer. These organisations included a branch of Earthlife in Pietermaritzburg, which was dedicated to tackling environmental challenges at community level, and the formation in 1990 of the Living Environment Action Front in Durban with much the same objectives and a strong emphasis on recycling. In addition, there was an International Student Association in both centres to cater to the special needs of the growing numbers drawn from other countries.



**A. (Albert) Modi** completed his initial university studies at Fort Hare and in 1990 joined the Department of Agronomic and Environmental Sciences as a lecturer. He took three years of unpaid leave to complete a Ph.D. in the USA and as the department expanded its traditional postgraduate programme he became particularly well-known for his research on seed physiology and in promoting the knowledge and use of traditional plants as a source of local food and as commercially viable crops.



**A. (Adam) Habib** was a Politics and History graduate of Wits (BA (Hons) 1988) and Natal (MA 1992) who completed an M.Phil. and Ph.D. at the Graduate School, City of New York (1998). He joined the UDW staff as a lecturer in 1989 and by 1999 had become associate professor in Politics before being appointed professor in the School of Development Studies and director of the Centre for Civil Society in 2001 at Howard College. He published extensively and acquired considerable administrative and managerial experience before subsequently being appointed DVC at the University of Johannesburg and in 2013 as Vice-Chancellor and Principal at Wits.

In 1990 a new means of communicating forthcoming events appeared on campus in the form of SRC-erected graffiti walls. The student newspapers *Dome* and *Nux*, both of which were still affiliated to the South African Students Press Union, experienced mixed fortunes during the 1990s after the protest movement against apartheid came to an end in 1994. *Nux* virtually faded away for lack of student interest and inadequate funding. By 1998 it was reduced to a single sheet of photocopied paper until new editors Fiona Tobin and Debbie Clark, assisted by others including Kieran O'Neill and Cori Wielenga, revived it and it became a tabloid-size newspaper once again. Dean of Students Trevor Wills provided new computers, a scanner and printer while two successive workshops inspired the emergence of new groups of aspiring young journalists to maintain the momentum. The first *New Look Nux* under the editorship of Vhangwele (Vacks) Phupheli appeared all over the campus in October 2000 for the first time in years. Thereafter there were eight issues of 2 000 copies, maintaining its claim to being the oldest (1934) surviving student newspaper in South Africa. By late 2003 plans were afoot to revamp *Nux* in preparation for its 70th birthday the following year, including classified columns and a regular feature on HIV/AIDS.

*Dome*, founded in 1939, also organised training workshops to attract new recruits and maintain its quality, winning the *Mail and Guardian/SL Magazine* best student newspaper award in 1997–1998. It did not experience the lean times of its older sister publication but in 1997 became another victim of campus crime when its computer equipment was stolen, reducing it temporarily to brief photocopied editions. As sometime editor of the weekly *Times* on the Howard College campus, Sean van Wyk, although 'predictably nervous', enjoyed meeting several members of the Executive. They included Christopher Cresswell, 'a willing interviewee' whose 'passion for the creation of a truly non-racial university shone through'. In the mid-1990s *The Vibes* made its appearance on the Faculty of Medicine's campus. It was a revival of the *UNB Bulletin* (University of Natal Black Section), which had been banned years before and was intended to provide a means of disseminating information as well as airing the opinions and grievances of medical students.

The campus radio stations continued to flourish with varying quality, as before, with the University as licensee. The revived Natal University Transmission Service (Nuts) in Pietermaritzburg overcame its financial difficulties and enjoyed a range of 5 kilometres from 1993 when it began broadcasting from the nearby high-rise Nedbank Plaza. This was a move towards becoming a community radio that reached at least some of the digs

as well as providing students with experience in radio journalism. After broadcasting only to students for nearly 30 years, in 1993 Dome Music Radio became the Durban Youth Radio, operating as a community radio station with a 40 to 50 kilometre radius and access to 95 000 listeners. It targeted 16 to 24 year olds and sometimes up to 35 years of age, broadcasting 70% of the time in English and 30% in Zulu. Unfortunately, by 1997 it was the subject of a commission of enquiry into the alleged misuse of funds and suffered the theft of R5 000 worth of equipment.

In 1995 an important addition was made to the academic and cultural life of the University when, following South Africa's re-emergence from isolation, professors Jonathan Draper, Manfred Hellberg and David Maughan Brown, with Moira Bolton's assistance, began to organise the Colenso Lecture series. Its purpose was to feature an annual succession of speakers from St John's College, Cambridge which they and the celebrated nineteenth-century Bishop John William Colenso had all attended. For a few years at least it provided some compensation for the earlier loss of the weekly University Lecture which until the late 1980s had been a significant feature of campus life.

Drama and dance productions at Pietermaritzburg's Hexagon Theatre continued to attract student and public attention. Paul Datlen's *Dance Landscapes* (1992), Peter Mitchell's innovative *Noises Off* (1995) and *Joseph and the Technicoloured Dreamcoat* (2000), choreographed by Anton Immelman, were particularly memorable. In 1991–1992 Piwe Mkhize secured sponsorship for his own drama group, which performed awareness plays *Why AIDS* for youth structures in the Midlands followed by *Together We Stand* which focused on child abuse, group pressure and crime. The Drama, Arts and Poetry Association promoted the cause of non-racism on campus by trying to integrate different cultures.

The Wildlife Society was one of the most popular groups on campus with regular trips to game reserves and other places of environmental interest, some in neighbouring countries. Following the dissolution of the ECC after the termination of compulsory conscription, its leaders replaced it with Peace by Piece, which was committed to promoting tolerance and reconciliation on campus. In 1993 the Jazz and Fusion Society was resurrected and a year later the Communist League registered as a campus organisation to promote Marxist-Leninist thought and the interests of working-class students. The Chess Club attracted a growing membership with Ruddy Sibiya being selected to represent the province at the 1999 national tournament where he was selected for the new South African Students Sports Union (SASSU) team.



At the turn of the century there were about fifteen cultural societies advertising their presence on the Pietermaritzburg campus, including two religious groups, the Association of Catholic Tertiary Students and the Anglican Society. The others included branches of the International Association of Students in Economics and Management (AIESEC, with headquarters in Brussels), SASCO, the Azanian Students Congress (AZASCO), the Black Management Forum, the Pan African Students Movement Association (PASMA) and the South African Liberal Students Association (SALSA) which in 2003 held a successful summer school and congress on campus.

There was also a Differently-Abled Students Action Group, the Democratic Society (DEMSOC) which campaigned for students' rights, the French Society, the International Students Association, the Wine Tasting Society and STEERS (which involved training and fattening beef cattle). In 2001 a Film Club was formed and there were also other less formal groups such as the Drumming Circle, which gave performers a weekly opportunity to demonstrate their expertise. By 2002 the University of Natal Chorale, which embraced both campuses, had a membership of nearly 100 and was one of the most active student societies with regular performances on and off campus.<sup>10</sup>

In Durban the University Forum, run by a committee of staff, SRC and BSS representatives, provided a platform for critical debate on a wide range of issues pertaining to the campus and to society at large. In 1992 the Pan Africanist Student Organisation (PASO) held its first meeting on campus with the aim of promoting scientific socialism as well as Africanising and democratising the University. A year later it ran into trouble for allegedly displaying a 'one settler one bullet' poster. In 1993 the SRC recognised the campus Rick Turner branch of the South African Communist Party as an affiliate and DEMSOC, affiliated to the DP Youth, was revived amid debate as to whether or not political parties should be represented on campus.

In 1992 music student Sikelela Msibi's Manzini Adult Choir of Swaziland hit the headlines after winning the 1991 Ford Choral Music competition, touring extensively in southern and east Africa and being invited to compete in France. The Chess Club was resuscitated and in 1994 won the inaugural tertiary institutions' championship. There were also Jazz and Winos clubs and a branch of the South African Union of Jewish Students. The East-West Network sought to correlate religion, tai-chi and environmentalism and there were classes in transcendental meditation.

By the mid-1990s interest in most societies and clubs seemed to be flagging. In 1994 Varun Gupta's informal group Presence responded to

claims that nothing ever happened on campus by organising Rose Day, which constructively attempted to promote non-racial, non-sexist interaction among students through the friendly exchange of roses. It proved moderately successful and raised R1 500 for charity. In 1999 the Student Counselling Centre in Durban hosted a cultural awareness campaign that included music and dance to coincide with the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Department of Speech and Drama.

By the early 2000s there were eleven religious and faith groups on the Howard College campus, including the Amanazareth Society, which promoted the values of Amanazareth among students, the Anglican Society, the Association of Catholic Tertiary Students, the Bhakti Yoga Society (associated with the Hare Krishna Movement), the Campus Crusade for Christ, the Hindu Students Association, His People (which was a non-denominational Christian organisation that ran a Bible college and church), the Seventh Day Adventist Student Society, the Student Christian Fellowship, the Islamic Society and the YMCA/SCA/Students Christian Organisation (SCO) Alliance.

The number of cultural societies still listed had declined to six. They included the Creative Arts Society, which as a choir participated in various University functions; an Arts and Poetry Society whose regular open mike sessions in the Howard College theatre for campus poets, singers and comedians proved an entertaining success; a Debating Society, whose team were 2003 national university English second language debating champions; a Hip Hop Association, which promoted the appreciation of hip hop music; a Wine Tasting Society; and a Tolkien Society that encouraged the study of J.R.R. Tolkien's literature and proclaimed 'a lifestyle of bohemian decadence' with an annual medieval feast to prove it. Alan Matthews remembered it as a 'refuge' for 'alternative types who dressed in black, wore silver earrings, played Dungeons and Dragons, and went to raves on weekends. They were quite intellectual, arty, progressive and open to new and unusual ideas ... a kind of cultural refuge in a changing university'.

There was a more serious Law Students Council and a Students Engineering Society, as well an International Students Society (with more than 300 members by 2000) and five country-based societies that were not exclusive but promoted the interests and interaction of students from Botswana, East Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.<sup>11</sup> These were as much social as cultural organisations.

### **Social activity**

Yet another traditional dimension of student life, the annual charity Rag that had originated in the 1920s, came under threat during the 1990s as the criticism to which it was subjected in the previous decade gathered momentum. A Durban-based commission, representing the SRC, Rag Committee and BSS (which for some time had advocated non-participation), investigated what were regarded as its contentious aspects. These included sometimes drunken misbehaviour at float building, sexist selection of Rag queens at cattle-show-type events, failure to explain to students where the funds raised were spent, a claim that insufficient numbers of them participated in selling the Rag magazine to justify Rag Friday being a University holiday, and allegations that related social events were Eurocentric and that Rag had not adopted a suitably anti-apartheid stance.

The BSS contended that charities like Rag provided only temporary relief from the poverty that was the State's duty to alleviate; and that it did nothing to eliminate social inequality, served only to salve the consciences of those who were privileged and was 'a strategy by the oppressor to buy time'. Moreover, in its view Rag had 'a history of discrimination towards Black students who had in previous years, much to their regret, participated'.

Rag organisers refuted most of these criticisms, arguing that it was not a charity but assisted those organisations involved in self-development while avoiding any sense of dependency. They agreed to adapt Rag socials to suit multiracial participation even though support from the residences, which were now primarily occupied by blacks, had declined significantly. They insisted that Rag was non-discriminatory and should not be politicised lest it lose some of its generous donors. The selection of Rag queens was retained as a valuable means of fundraising but in Pietermaritzburg the crown was abolished and they came to be known as Rag ambassadors with their princesses as sub-ambassadors and emphasis placed on their interpersonal and fundraising skills. In 1996 *Nux* was still proud to report that Law student Carol Becker had become Miss Universe South Africa!

In Durban the Rag Royalty competition was opened to men as well as women and all contestants had to raise R1 000 in three weeks. Friday night float building continued to be the main social event with organisers trying to strike a balance between preventing over-indulgence and imposing stifling control. It was also agreed that Rag should henceforth be regarded as a service organisation, but it remained to be seen how exactly it would be structured and whether this would ensure its survival. There were still instances of

over-indulgence and new undesirable activities, such as pig wrestling in Pietermaritzburg, which had to be banned.

From 1990 Rag allocations there were entrusted to an outside body, which focused on projects that promoted self-reliance and the active participation of beneficiaries. In 1995 it was resolved to favour fewer of these with larger amounts and R40 000 was allocated to the community development organisation Project Gateway. By 1997 Rag seemed to be faltering in Pietermaritzburg with only seven floats of varying quality in the Saturday procession and a poor turnout of students joining in. In 1997–1998 the Rag holiday was abolished, first in Pietermaritzburg and then in Durban, with student approval.

In 1998 Lee Joseph, a Psychology honours student and 2001 KwaZulu-Natal sportsman of the year, was appointed as Durban's Rag community service director. In that capacity he helped to re-envigorate the annual event, with the inclusion of new dimensions such as a fashion show, comedy evening, soccer tournament and Uno jam, which involved 'the delicate art of squashing as many students into a small car as inhumanly possible', all in the cause of fundraising. Rag's profile was further improved by a partnership with NUDF and East Coast Radio with the funds raised being channeled to such causes as the Hillcrest Aids Society, the Queensburgh Cheshire Home and Baumann House for blind children. Now known as Remember and Give, by 2002–2003 Rag was still going fairly strong in Durban.

At the turn of the century it was still active in Pietermaritzburg, describing itself as 'a dynamic student led organisation dedicated to the upliftment of our community' and including a variety of functions ranging from the traditional float parade and sale of magazines to fundraising golf and race days, a 'big bleed' and a beerfest. However, 'boat racing' (competitive drinking) was officially banned and, as during the year, the 'buddy campaign' was still in operation to provide transport home for those students who had over-indulged. Rag beneficiaries there included Awethu, a daycare centre in Edendale, The Haven, a refuge for battered women, and the Pietermaritzburg Association for the Aged. Contrary to popular belief, Rag was not just a week-long event but operated from September to May the following year collecting funds and much-needed household items for its worthy causes. In both centres it encouraged student participation in a variety of community service projects. In 2001 a seven-year record of R92 000 was raised in Pietermaritzburg but in some respects interest in Rag still seemed to be flagging, for example in float building and the procession through town.

This also appeared to be the case with regard to other aspects of traditional social life on campus, at least for those students who were able to compare their experiences with parents who had been there before them. There were also innovations. In the early 1990s the Hyboria (games club) in Pietermaritzburg provided some students with amusing distractions, a highlight being its annual fancy-dress banquet. In 1991 a Gay and Lesbian Organisation was formed on campus and liaised with the already established Otherways group. The Durban branch, revived in 1990 after disbanding in 1987, persuaded the University to amend its Mission Statement to include a rejection of any discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation.

That year the University Club in Pietermaritzburg celebrated its 21st anniversary and, with a new management committee, sought to increase its 100-strong membership while continuing to provide a convivial venue for social interaction among both students and staff. Other less desirable activities that briefly emerged and caused some damage in both centres were bush diving and car sliding, both attributed in part to inebriation. Alcohol consumption was a source of growing concern on the Pietermaritzburg campus which by 1993 was said to have the highest intake per head among South African students judging by sales at Rag events, disruptions at social functions and an increase in the number of drinking clubs.

The situation was not improved by the long-time closure of the Big Chill restaurant and bar adjacent to the Students Union Building, coupled with the closure in 2002 of the University Club. This was due to the operation of pool tables, illegal in terms of its restaurant liquor licence, and complaints from neighbouring householders about late-night noise. This encouraged students to look off campus for alternative venues but early in 2003 the Chill re-opened, with disc jockeys and the promise of other attractions to make it a social focal point as before. The Club also re-opened later that year, but for staff members only.<sup>12</sup>

What may have started as a form of entertainment-cum-commercial experimentation soon became a highly successful business when, in 1991, Pietermaritzburg students Craig Mackenzie and Andrew Harvey began to develop the highly successful Debonairs Pizza. After selling six such items on their first day of trading out of the bakery section of a family-owned supermarket their business subsequently expanded nationwide and in 1996 was acquired by the Steers Group. It was the first such enterprise in South Africa to offer free delivery, employing well-dressed fellow students ('we can

get it to you smartly') to perform the service and the first in Africa to offer online and mobile delivery.

Diane Slater-Kinghorn considered the quality of social life on the Pietermaritzburg campus to be 'top notch' with 'the small-town feel' adding to its 'charm'. 'Life at UNP was wonderful' according to Senzo Mkhize. While not all black students agreed with him, he remembered the good quality and low cost of the food, the financial aid that saved him from going hungry, as well as the sports facilities and ample areas for relaxation. Philippa Warden also recalled that life on campus was 'awesome' with several forms of entertainment available when needed and 'a variety of events' held in the Students Union.

In 1995 one such jovial social occasion in that venue unfortunately ended in chaos when a rock concert intended for an audience of 800 attracted 2 000 to 3 000 enthusiasts including many from off campus. The incident caused R15 000 worth of damage, attracted a great deal of unfavourable publicity and prompted a review of University policy, which led to greater administrative control of student-organised events. By contrast in Durban that year the president of the Residences Council and his organising committee arranged an impressive Albert Luthuli Memorial Day, which the guest speaker, Deputy State President Thabo Mbeki, described as a model of constructive co-operation that the whole region should emulate.<sup>13</sup>

Njabulo Kheswa, who arrived on the Pietermaritzburg campus in 2001, enjoyed the 'diverse community' and variety of entertainment he found there. Vanessa Noble remembered the interesting experience of studying on what by the mid-1990s had become a multiracial Howard College campus in the new South Africa after attending a model-C high school in which less than 10% of the pupils in her class were black. Much as her lecturers had predicted, friendships were formed that blurred ethnic distinctions in multiracial classes and extended beyond third year with a dozen students going on to complete honours degrees together and some relationships continuing for years thereafter.<sup>14</sup>

Participation in sport was another means to form lasting friendships.

### **Sporting activity**

By the mid-1990s there were almost three dozen sports clubs on both the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses with many, though not all, being replicated. Poenie Holm was still head of sports administration in Durban while in Pietermaritzburg, where Dave Edmondson held the equivalent post,

there was ongoing dissatisfaction with the inadequacy of the facilities available. Several sporting codes enjoyed a boost in the 1990s with the opening in 1994 of the Peter Booyesen Sports Park, formerly the Rag Farm, at the extreme end of the Golf Road campus. In addition to a clubhouse, meeting facilities and change rooms it included cricket fields and a netball court and incorporated the swimming pool and original campus stadium.

It was so named on the occasion of Booyesen's retirement and paved the way to handing the 5 kilometre-distant Dalry Park sports grounds back to the Pietermaritzburg-Msunduzi Transitional Local Council in 2000, having been made available to the University for many years in terms of lease agreements in 1959 and 1972. Six new tennis courts were now also added on campus but the Students Union Hall, used for a wide variety of functions, remained the only indoor facility there despite longstanding assurances that a new indoor complex was envisaged. In Durban the expansive new western campus sports complex was further developed and a golf driving range was included on a 4 hectare site that had been a waste dump and was unsuitable for building purposes. Both campuses benefited in 2000 when two full tuition scholarships were awarded to first-year top sport achievers Charl van der Merwe, a member of the under-21 national squad for the world hockey cup, in Pietermaritzburg; and Emmanuel Madondo, who represented the country in basketball at the All Africa Games, in Durban. In addition, 62 first-year sport scholarships were awarded.<sup>15</sup>

In 1990 the sports unions in Durban and Pietermaritzburg administered all sports clubs whether they were affiliated to SAU or SATISCO, formed in 1987 to promote non-racial sport. Students were free to join either of these bodies, which collaborated through a sports liaison committee, but they were not permitted to play for an outside club without written permission. In 1991 SATISCO merged with the non-racial South African Tertiary Institutions Sports Association to form the South African Tertiary Institutions Sports Union (SATISU). Its local branch subsequently refuted allegations of corruption and of focusing too much on soccer at the expense of other sporting codes. The fully united SASSU eventually followed with the assistance of the CUP. It began with the selection of a non-racial soccer team and the Durban basketball clubs drawing closer together. The process was prolonged, eventually being concluded in 1993–1994, but it was not without ongoing internal tensions.

In 1994 yachtsman Dave Harden, who had already served as secretary and contributed towards sports unity on campus, became the first student to be elected president of the Pietermaritzburg Sports Union. By then there was

growing interest in paragliding and indoor hockey in addition to the traditional sporting codes pursued on campus. In 1995 a women's football club was formed while canoe polo was also gathering momentum. Unfortunately, in common with campus cultural societies, by the mid-1990s there was an overall decline in interest in sports activities. The sports administration tried to revive enthusiasm by distributing questionnaires to establish what codes were most likely to attract students. This was coupled with the offer of fourteen swimming lessons for a mere R5, presumably to raise recruits for aquatics which seemed to be sinking rapidly. On a brighter note, in 1997 Marissa Londwa was elected the first female president of the Durban Sports Union. In Pietermaritzburg campus sport lost the services of Dave Edmondson in 1998 and Jane Manser became head of the sports administration staff with Dave Evans (Estates) maintaining the grounds and facilities. At the turn of the century there were still more than 30 sports options available to students with dance sport, fly fishing and karate and tae-bo recent additions.

Several sports involved active campus leagues in both centres but the annual sporting highlight was still the inter-college competition. In 1990, after drunk and disorderly behaviour the previous year, the sports unions officially dropped the inter-college label. An attempt was made to make the final first XV rugby match a low-key event that would attract only 1 000 genuine rugby supporters instead of the usual 4 000 revellers who abused the occasion. The Vice-Chancellor was not invited to preside and the now traditional drum majorette and parachute displays were dispensed with. In 1991 the culminating rugby clash disappeared altogether after 75 years of intense rivalry.

Due to a decline in numbers, aggravated by the recruitment drives of local open clubs, Durban amalgamated with its traditional rival to form a single team in local leagues. Travel made this arrangement impractical and in the mid-1990s Durban reverted to fielding its own teams again, but in the lower leagues. Inter-college matches were replaced by annual combined matches against Wits. The under-21 sides continued to compete separately with the Durban team undertaking a European tour in 1993 and winning both the Frank Norris and Basil Medway trophies. Thereafter under-21 rugby also went into decline, being unable to field a side as players joined other clubs, with further adverse implications for the campus senior sides.

Rugby continued to hold its own in Pietermaritzburg although from the mid-1990s the era of professionalism, increasing opportunities abroad and changes in student sporting preferences all had an impact. At the turn of the century it was still possible to field three senior and three junior sides in the



local leagues, but thereafter playing strength went into what was to prove a long decline.

By the early 2000s the other traditional inter-college competitions were still being held but spread throughout the year. Pietermaritzburg usually emerged as overall winners after breaking Durban's winning streak in 1994 but with the competition ending in a tie in 1997 and Durban again winning narrowly in 2001. The KwaZulu-Natal Students Sports Union organised regional competitions in all sports and University teams also competed in the bi-annual (summer and winter) competitions that SASSU held at different tertiary institutions over several days each year and at the end of which national teams were selected. Students also continued to compete in the annual Comrades and Duzi marathons between the two centres. Staff members, including Mike Cowling (Law) and Peter Tennant (Classics), also participated regularly in the Comrades and by 1994 Ronnie Govender (Estates, Pietermaritzburg) had completed nine.

There were still more than 30 different sports available to students on the Howard College campus with aikido martial art and full contact karate kyokushinkia among the more recent additions, together with a Boxing Club launched, briefly, in 1994. All of them were under the control of UND-Sport which was still headed by Poenie Holm and recognised by both Council and Senate. Students had at their disposal the extensive facilities situated on the eastern campus down the slope from the residences and on the more recently developed western campus with most indoor activities accommodated in the impressive Old Mutual Sports Hall. Medical students, who had previously enjoyed very limited facilities at ATR in Wentworth, had easy access to all these options after their accommodation was located at the new Albert Luthuli complex.<sup>16</sup>

Various clubs enjoyed success from time to time in local competitions. In Pietermaritzburg the Rugby Club continued its winning run in the local league in 1990, 1991, 1993 (with Police), 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001–2008 and 2010. In 1996 the Canoe Club won the national inter-club championships and, not for the first time, in 1999 the men's hockey first team won the Midlands league and the women's K4 team won the provincial inter-club canoe championship. As in previous decades combined campus teams enjoyed some successes over other institutions. The celebrated rugby draw with Stellenbosch in 1988 and victories over Potchefstroom, Pretoria and UCT in 1989 were followed in 1990 by similar triumphs over Rhodes and Wits as well as the badminton team's first-ever victory at the SAU competition that year.

At inter-varsity tournaments Pietermaritzburg's cricket team were joint winners in 1995, the squash team won the SASSU competition in 1996 and again in 1997, as did the men's table tennis and hockey teams. The women's rowing team did so in 1998, also winning the South African A8 championship, while the men's basketball team won the inter-campus championships in 1996, 1998 and 1999. In 2002 Pietermaritzburg canoeists comprised 60% of the SASSU team sent to the world student sprint championships and the following year won the men's and women's SASSU championships while the men's hockey team was again similarly successful.

The Durban campus also had its successes, for example winning the inter-varsity synchronised swimming (which it had done every year since it started in 1969) and water polo tournaments in 1990 as well as the sprog, laser and windsurfer classes in yachting. The men's indoor hockey, water polo and synchro swimming teams all won their tournaments the following year, as did the badminton and men's field hockey teams. The badminton team won the men's tournament and mixed doubles in 1992 and the aquatics team won their competition the following year.

There were also students in both centres who distinguished themselves in one or other sports code, not to mention those who represented other national teams and the many who gained provincial colours. For example, in 1990 Jonty Rhodes of Pietermaritzburg was selected for the national hockey squad and subsequently for the cricket team as well while weightlifter Rob Townsend broke the world under-23 dead lift record with 322.5 kilogrammes. In 1991 John Edmonds won his second Duzi and Bernard Masher was selected for the SAU national soccer side. In 1994 Mike Short, Roy Dunlop, Rich Colombinew, Bruce Gordon and Yvette Sadie were selected for the Protea rowing squad and Dave Hamilton-Brown for the world canoeing championships the following year. In 1996 S. Fischer and K. Goddard won gold medals in the Duzi, as did J. Carter at the SASSU championships while J. Fourie broke the national 50 metre butterfly record.

In 1997 Nathan Benn was fatally injured playing basketball for South Africa in Senegal while B. Foss, D. Cech, A. Rose and C. Bennett were all selected for rowing regattas in England. Cech subsequently competed in the world championships and the 2000 Olympics. In 1998 O. Dube was selected for the SASSU national 4x100 metre relay team and in 1999 Ruth Mackinnon of the Pietermaritzburg Rowing Club represented South Africa at the women's Henley Regatta while table tennis player J. Maxwell represented the country at the All-Africa championships. Catherine van Lienden and Dave Hardy

were selected for the SASSU national squash team while Haydon Ponsford, V. Dlamini, N. Maputla and N. Taylor played basketball for South Africa at the World Student Games. Kirsten Oliver became the South African women's canoe champion and Debbie Whitton won the women's Duzi canoe marathon as well as captaining the national team in the canoe polo arena.

By the turn of the century the Pietermaritzburg campus Rugby Club had produced more than 60 provincial players as well as several Springboks, including Gary Teichmann, Mark Andrews, John Smit, Jacobus van der Westhuizen and Richard Sowerby of recent vintage with Teichmann and Smit both captaining the national side. In 2000 soccer player Mzo Zuma made it into the world of local professional football and the following year hockey players Ryan van der Riet, Gary Royston and Richard Stewart were selected for the national under-21 squad.

In 2001 Darren Holcomb gained both provincial and national colours for basketball, as did L. Mndaweni and R. McFie, all being selected for the World Student Games in Beijing. Sharleen Lupke had the distinction of being awarded national colours in judo and equestrian sports while Zack Khuzwayo, a prestige scholarship recipient, was selected for the Natal and national disabled teams as a table tennis player and represented South Africa at the 2000 Sydney paralympics. By 2003 canoeists Shaun Biggs and Wayne Thompson had won multiple colours at provincial and national level while Laurel Oettlé was selected for the national whitewater rafting team to compete in the world championships.

Durban students also achieved sporting prominence. In 1989 honours student Dumisane Shandu joined semi-professional Amazulu Football Club as a goalkeeper. Those who won inter-varsity and/or national honours in 1989–1990 included Katherine Woods and Lauren Wulfsohn for synchronised swimming, Guy Mottram for water polo, Christo Oosthuizen for swimming, Ian Ainslie, Janice McKenzie, David Hibberd and Andrew Haliburton for yachting, and Kim and Ian Johnson for windsurfing. So, too, did yachtsmen Merrin James and Jerome McLaughlin, synchro swimmer T. Kruger, athlete Kevin Banks and water polo players Cameron Daylis, Guy and Haden Mottram, D. Coetzee and A. Shedlock (coach) in 1990–1991 while Doug Bitcom broke the national steeplechase record.

Also chosen for the Protea and/or SAU national teams were squash player Lance Sibbald, basketballers Craig Leppan, Mike Haliburton and Guy van der Post, fencer Anna-Marie Salvo, volleyball player Richard Matthews, surfers Cullum Murrell and Bruce Poacher, gymnast Dean Casey, badminton

players Gavin Polmans and Colin Shaw, field hockey players Warren Bond, Gavin Rogers and Craig O'Hagan, and soccer players Warren Kemp, Sean Fenger and Mark Labuschagne. In 1992 Andrew Hudson was selected for the Cricket World Cup competition in Australia and Rowen Meth represented South Africa at water polo. The following year several students gained SAU selection, including Errol Stewart (cricket), M. Wakefield (tennis), M. Dorkin (yachting), S. Cullinan, T. Theunissen and D. Sparg (underwater sports) and L. Wulfsohn (aquatics). In 1995 Richard Diamond won the SASSU gymnastics tournament while he and Jerome Singh gained provincial colours.

The following year Lungi Zuma won the women's under 60 kilogramme division at the SASSU national karate tournament, Buyile Mbanga was selected for the SASSU table tennis team to compete in the students' world cup and Thato Ntsekhe was chosen as coach, Arabella Carbutt was selected for the national students' basketball team, Navin Surendra for the volleyball team and Anthony Fani for the students' rugby world cup team. Guy Kebble played rugby for South Africa in 1993–1994 and former student Andrew Aitken in 1997–1998. In 2000 national sprint champion Matthew Quinn of Durban excelled at the SASSU championships.<sup>17</sup>

### **Political and social awareness**

Academic, cultural, social and sports activities aside, the atmosphere on all campuses was often as tense as it was at other universities against the background of endemic violence and inter-party negotiations leading towards the establishment of a more democratic political dispensation in South Africa.

In 1990 the Inkatha Youth Brigade in the Vulindlela region outside Pietermaritzburg insisted that employees who were ANC members were making use of University facilities to print party political pamphlets and organise an up-coming rally. The University refuted this allegation, although it did concede that the ANC had paid the Pietermaritzburg SRC, which owned its own printing press, to produce 50 000 pamphlets. Inkatha also objected to the use of the Durban campus for an ANC southern Natal regional conference, claiming that it had itself previously been denied access to University facilities. Senate subsequently refused the ANC Midlands branch permission to hold its regional conference on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Council agreed that, ideally, its facilities should be available to all political groupings but this was not possible while 'the current level of intolerance' prevailed.

This did not mean an end to intense political debate on the campuses. A highlight was the visit in August 1991 of Chris Hani, ANC national executive

committee member and Umkhonto we Sizwe chief-of-staff, who gave a lunchtime talk to 200 students and staff members in the Students Union Hall. Durban students were reminded of the violence that had been wracking the Natal Midlands and elsewhere for some years when *Dome* dedicated its May 1990 edition 'to all the people killed by Apartheid in Natal'. In Pietermaritzburg distant smoke could be seen from time to time billowing from burning homes in the Edendale valley. Some students came from that area and it was brought home more forcibly to all of them by the murder in 1992 of one of their number, S'khumbuzo Ngwenya Mbatha.

Interest in SRC elections fluctuated on both campuses, with a 33% poll in 1989 rising to a pleasing 47% in 1990 in Pietermaritzburg which outdid the 46% achieved in Durban. It was said to be the highest there ever for a record 27 candidates but in a subsequent by-election only three candidates stood for three vacancies. The Durban SRC's projects committee aroused some enthusiasm by drawing students' attention to the government's suppression of extra-parliamentary opposition and organised a 400-strong protest march to the Umbilo police station in response to the detention of a local student, Anesh Sanker, and others.

Despite the prevailing political tension and disappointingly low polls, an important step towards the development of a more integrated student body was taken when in 1991 the first non-racial SRC elections were held on each campus. This was facilitated by NUSAS's adoption in 1989 of the Freedom Charter as official policy, by the decision of NUSAS and SANSCO (to which medical students were affiliated) to merge, with the former being dissolved in July 1991, and by the BSS's resolve to terminate its policy of non-participation in student politics. There was a poll of only 33.3% in Pietermaritzburg, but the University Council welcomed this development and also the subsequent election of non-racial house committees, of which Denison's was one of the first.

In 1991 a non-racialism project was launched on the Pietermaritzburg campus to further promote the process of integration, but while NUSAS and SANSCO were finding common ground both were at daggers-drawn with the SAF, the local affiliate of the NSF, as to how the transition from apartheid to non-racialism could best be achieved. The BSS, founded in 1979, subsequently disbanded in May 1992 much to the disapproval of the Azanian Students Convention, which rejected the non-racial SRC. Meanwhile in September 1991 the non-racial SASCO was launched in succession to both NUSAS and SANSCO after nearly eighteen months of discussions.

However, the tension continued with Inkatha Freedom Party's affiliate, the South African Democratic Students Movement (SADESMO), attempting to establish branches on campuses countrywide. When in 1992 the Administration summoned the police onto campus, perhaps out of fear of violence, they broke up a peaceful student protest that resulted in damage to cars and other property. In August that year the University closed for two days in the interests of student and staff safety when the ANC called for a national stayaway and SASCO campaigned against the ongoing countrywide political violence. In Durban lost lectures were recovered by holding them on two subsequent Saturdays while in Pietermaritzburg the term was extended by two days. In April 1993 classes were cancelled for a day in deference to student marches in protest against Chris Hani's assassination.

There were also student demonstrations focused on essentially campus as distinct from national issues. That year the local press criticised the University for cancelling Friday afternoon lectures in the face of a mass student protest demanding the urgent implementation of proposals to transform its Council. The intention was to avoid a confrontational situation similar to recent events at Wits and to prevent any possible collateral destruction of University property.<sup>18</sup>

In 1994 a national student initiative, in which the Pietermaritzburg SRC played a prominent role, led to the formation of the South African Universities Students Representative Council (SAU-SRC), which was intended to bring students from across political and racial divisions together to address matters of mutual concern. The new SALSA was also formed, vowing to win back its campuses from SASCO and restore liberal values to them. That year the SRC elections in Pietermaritzburg were characterised by the success of an unprecedented number of independent candidates who challenged the dominance that SASCO had been establishing and called for a broader representation of student opinion and the depoliticisation of the SRC.

Philippa Warden remembered that in the immediate post-1994 era there was a 'heartwarming' acceptance on the Pietermaritzburg campus of the need for reform in general with the University itself setting an example with its bridging courses and emphasis on the academic potential of students from disadvantaged backgrounds rather than on their matriculation results. There was still concern about student apathy, reflected also in cultural and sports activities on campus. In 1995 the Pietermaritzburg SRC launched a General Students Council, comprising representatives of house committees, Faculty councils, the sports executive and all SRC-affiliated clubs and societies,

to promote more discussion among them about issues of common interest. Divisions within the SRC did not promote that cause. In 1996 DEMSOC briefly published *Not Nux*, avowedly in response to student apathy and the low 15% SRC election poll that year.

The Durban SRC was in some disarray after its treasurer resigned in 1994, accusing that body of corruption, in particular with reference to exorbitant transport and telephone expenditure. There was also concern that there were no female candidates for the upcoming elections with women having failed to sustain the advances of earlier years. Suggestions that prospective SRC members should be offered incentives such as bursaries and fee remissions met with a mixed response. The 1995 elections attracted a 25.5% poll but were mired in controversy and followed by a number of expulsions and resignations.

Despite the establishment of a democratically elected government in 1994, in the preparations for which several staff members had played significant roles, there were still issues of both national and local concern that gave rise to student unrest. By then demonstrations pertaining to campus matters had become the norm during the early months of each academic year. As David Maughan Brown recalled, the ‘pattern of protest seldom varied’. Negotiations with student leaders concerning exclusions due to academic failure or outstanding debts carried over from the previous year would be further complicated by lack of financial aid for all new arrivals on campus. Unsuccessful demands for the cancellation of lectures to provide time for student meetings would be followed by placard-carrying protest marches to the administration buildings



**G.E. (George) Devenish** was one of several staff members who contributed to the successful launch of the new democratic South Africa in 1994. A graduate of Wits (B.Sc.) and Unisa (LLB and LLD) he worked at the universities of Fort Hare, the Western Cape and Bophuthatswana before joining the University of Natal in 1986 and being appointed professor of Public Law in 1989. Thereafter he published several major books including *A Commentary on the South African Bill of Rights* which won the University book prize and subsequently the Bill Venter/Altron Literary Award. He

was a member of the scholarly team that drafted the 1993 interim constitution and was also a legal adviser in drafting the KwaZulu-Natal provincial constitution. He served as a Durban metro councillor and in 1999 was a candidate for the National Assembly.

that sometimes changed course to disrupt academic activities in lecture halls, laboratories and libraries.

Although that was not their primary objective, in Maughan Brown's view 'campuses provided ideal testing grounds for student leaders who aspired to political roles in the nascent democracy that had been heralded by Mandela's release in 1990'. The toyi-toying that accompanied marches 'was said by psychologists to produce a kind of euphoria which, combined with the heat, a genuine sense of grievance, and the political history of protest, produced a potentially volatile mix'. It therefore became necessary on such occasions to take precautionary measures such as locking the library doors with students still studying inside and to equip the administration buildings with steel shutters and heavy bars across the doors.

Ngqabutho Bhebhe recalled that prior to the mid-1990s student dissatisfaction in Pietermaritzburg was not yet related so much to financial aid as to accommodation, residence meals and a racially divided student body. As the intake of black students increased, discussions about transforming the staff began to gather momentum, as did the need for more infrastructural development. As far as Senzo Mkhize could remember, although there were several competing political organisations, demonstrations were not as violent as those some two decades later and University property was not damaged except for overturning and burning rubbish bins. This attracted media attention and primarily inconvenienced the cleaning and gardening staff.

Alarming, members of the Executive were (peacefully) taken hostage on two occasions and Maughan Brown was once jostled by protesters but, as he attested, during the 1990s little physical damage was inflicted in Pietermaritzburg. This was largely achieved by impressing upon successive SRCs that the University sympathised with their academic and financial challenges and respected their right to protest provided it was peaceful and those who preferred to attend classes were not interrupted.

However, 1996 was the most turbulent year thus far experienced on campus. The lecture boycott by medical students, sparked by academic exclusions, resulted in the abusive treatment of those who did not support it. In April lack of sufficient financial aid due to government's ongoing delay in launching the NSFAS caused considerable unrest at Howard College and in Pietermaritzburg, as did alleged financial exclusions and dissatisfaction with the recent SRC elections. In Pietermaritzburg lectures were disrupted while in Durban protesters invaded the Administration Building, damaging the foyer and Research Office where personal property was stolen. Academic activities



were suspended after lectures were disrupted and SRC member Gustaf Swart and his female companion were assaulted for objecting to the protests.

No disciplinary action was taken because offenders could not be identified as the security camera video evidence was inconclusive and witnesses declined to co-operate. The protests seemed to be part of a co-ordinated nationwide campaign that simultaneously disrupted other campuses. The situation in Durban was further complicated by dissatisfaction concerning examination procedures, overcrowding in some lecture venues and the coupling of student grievances with those of NEHAWU union members who demanded the resignation of a grounds supervisor. Encouragingly, President Nelson Mandela summoned a meeting of all tertiary sector principals to discuss the handling of student protests while the Commissioner of Police made proposals concerning their future containment.

A second round of protests followed in August, ostensibly concerning the interpretation of the SRC constitution but also about issues that were unresolved earlier in the year. Lecture disruptions, acts of vandalism and a confrontation between SASCO and a group of independents led to police intervention, arrests and an unfortunate escalation of racial polarisation on campus. Some students reportedly armed themselves with cricket stumps and baseball bats in defence of their right to attend lectures. After contested elections SASCO eventually gained a majority on the Durban SRC and control of most of the major portfolios in an unusually high 44% poll.

In September there were protests in Pietermaritzburg against disciplinary action taken against three students alleged to have committed assaults during the earlier demonstrations, two of them being fined and suspended. Diane Slater-Kinghorn recalled that at that time expensive centrifuges located in the Biochemistry corridors for lack of space were vandalised and lectures were disrupted although Clive Dennison's class continued when he refused to oblige the demonstrators who barged into it. A couple of the Chemistry Department's laboratory cabinets were overturned releasing a toxic gas in the direction of the campus crèche and a neighbouring school but fortunately no harm was done. There was some disruption of academic activity elsewhere but the teaching year finished on schedule. On a positive note, the need for new codes of conduct was accepted in both centres and in the same year the University also experienced its biggest-ever peaceful student demonstration.

There were further protests about inadequate financial aid the following year even though there was sufficient for those in need who had performed sufficiently well academically. There were sit-ins at Executive offices in both

centres, marches, lecture disruptions, destruction of windows, furniture and rubbish bins, blockades of access roads, acts of intimidation in the residences and several physical assaults. Professor Mike Kahn, dean of Architecture, was hospitalised with a head wound, Pietermaritzburg Chemistry technician Paul Forder was hit in the face with a brick and numerous students were injured by a baton charge and while resisting arrest when the police were summoned to intervene. By then the apartheid-era Riotous Assemblies Act had been replaced by the Political Gatherings Act, in terms of which the University was obliged to inform the police of any impending protest but could take some comfort in the knowledge that any decision on their part to take action on campus was now on behalf of a democratically elected government.

Amidst all the distractions on campus several students still found time to engage in community outreach programmes like the one Senzo Mkhize remembered as having given him the ‘wonderful experience’ of assisting communities as far away as the Natal south coast. Njabulo Kheswa also recalled the numerous community development projects launched on campus. Many participated in the tutoring project established back in 1987, which soon attracted hundreds of school pupils onto the campus on Saturday mornings to be coached in preparation for their matriculation examinations. For others community service took the form of participation in the annual Charity Rag and the ‘big bleed’ blood donation campaign on campus. In 1992 third-year architecture students began designing first aid clinics for the Valley of a Thousand Hills, not only to improve health care facilities there but also to serve as community centres. There was also greater awareness of the needs of students themselves with the 1999 SRC being involved in a five-day AIDS and sexuality campaign involving invited speakers.<sup>19</sup>

In Durban in the early 2000s there were four service learning and community-based groups. Roots and Shoots was intended to stimulate a service ethic on campus and assist impoverished communities; the South African Students Volunteers, established in 1993, provided placements for students wanting to do volunteer work; the Entrepreneurial and Management Association assisted students in acquiring practical experience in the business world; and the Golden Key Society promoted leadership and community service among the academically top 15% of students. There were also activist societies that included branches of Amnesty International, the Black Lawyers Association, the Black Management Forum, the Otherways Society, which sought to assist homosexual students, and the Young Women’s Network that advanced the welfare of females.

In the late 1990s SRC politics continued to meet with mixed fortunes. In Durban students were briefly united in protesting against further state subsidy cuts, which impacted also on the availability of financial aid, but differences within the SRC resulted in court action. By 1997 all three SRCs were in dispute with University Administration over the alleged violation of their constitutional rights, in particular with regard to their budgetary discretion. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) Paulus Zulu was far from satisfied with the Durban SRC's 1997–1998 annual general report while SASCO alleged that SALSA members on the SRC were representing the interests of the University Executive and that Zulu's post had been 'manufactured with the sole purpose of stripping off powers from the students'.

Other politically affiliated societies there included the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL), the South African Communist Party and SADESMO, to which the SRC attempted, not for the first time, to deny recognition as a campus society due to the movement's alleged history of violence. Shortly afterwards the Durban SRC was subjected to allegations of mismanagement, corruption and drunken driving. There were more low polls and delays over constitutional issues and the legitimacy of the election process. A new precedent was set in April 1998 when the entire Pietermaritzburg SRC resigned in response to student apathy. In 1999, amid attempts by some students to overthrow the Durban SRC, two office bearers allegedly came to blows over a confidential document. That year and again in 2001 the installation of a new SRC there was postponed by groundless charges relating to elections.

Vanessa Noble's research suggests that, following South Africa's 1994 democratic elections, the previously highly politicised medical students tended to focus increasingly on their demanding studies and on achieving



**P.M. (Paulus) Zulu** was an associate professor and head of the Maurice Webb Race Relations Unit prior to his appointment as Pro Vice-Principal in 1995 and in 1997 as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students). A graduate of the University and of UNISA, he was a specialist in socio-political research. In addition to teaching, he had also undertaken extensive private consultation as well as being on the executive of the South African Black Social Workers Association, appointed to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences by Pope John Paul II and holding several other positions.

the qualifications that would open the door to professional success. There was some resistance to the admission of white students into the Faculty on the grounds that more blacks should first be registered at historically white medical institutions. Academic exclusions, catering issues and the provision of transport between residence and classes still generated occasional protest, but the political anger and social responsibility of previous decades was no longer evident. In the opinion of some longstanding staff members it had been replaced by a much more 'mercenary attitude'.

Even so, the political life of all three campuses continued to be unavoidably complicated by party political allegiances and fluctuating enthusiasm for various causes but by the early 2000s the ANCYL and ANC-aligned SASCO had confirmed their dominance in both centres. In 2001 the former won nine of the ten SRC seats in Pietermaritzburg and SASCO the remaining one while SALSA lost the three that it had previously held. In Pietermaritzburg there was ongoing debate about the election process, ethnic representation and allegations that the SRC was preoccupied with national rather than campus politics as well as allegedly making reckless use of the vehicles at its disposal.

Late in 2003, as the merger with UDW loomed and indabas were held to discuss possible student governance models for the future, the student bodies on the Edgewood and Faculty of Medicine campuses gave their SRCs a mandate to extend their terms of office to the end of the year, instead of holding the elections now due, in the interests of continuity while a future student governance structure was being discussed. The Pietermaritzburg student body eventually followed suit but contentiously at Howard College elections were held for a new SRC to hold office for the last few months of that year until the University of Natal was dissolved.<sup>20</sup>

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AMONG THE MANY CHANGES characterising the new South Africa that emerged after the first democratic elections in 1994 was the rationalisation and transformation of the higher education sector. By the late 1980s financial stringency, increases in the size of student intake and the prospect of impending socio-economic change not only necessitated cutbacks and careful forward planning within universities, but also increasing regional collaboration among institutions. What was now recognised as the ANC government-in-waiting attached great importance to this and prospective funders were keen to benefit whole regions rather than particular places of learning.

### **Regional co-operation**

The Department of Education instructed the CUP to engage in inter-university rationalisation, giving special attention to academic departments with a student:staff ratio of 10:1 or less. An early step was taken with the ministerial decision in 1990 to concentrate Pharmacy training at UDW. A review of other disciplines followed, including Geology, which the University eventually concentrated in Durban. There was concern in Pietermaritzburg that this might be the first move toward creating a single centre of excellence on the larger campus, a suspicion that the Principal was quick to refute.

Rationalisation at the provincial level had begun as early as November 1986 (see Chapter 1) and was promoted during the 1990s by the RICP. The Ford Foundation funded this initiative to redress prevailing inequalities, restructure higher education and co-ordinate regional planning. By 1991 a collaborative research project including UNISA and Vista was addressing the need for both distant and part-time teaching in the region. In 1993 Brenda Gourley observed that the other original signatories to the RICP proposal dating back to the mid-1980s, UDW and the University of Zululand, had been slow to respond actively, but by the end of that year its scope was being widened to include the local technikons.

In 1994 the RICP established a Health Forum to promote provincial collaboration in the Health Sciences. This was expected to become even more important once the new, long-awaited academic hospital had been built to the west of Howard College. In 2000 the University began to offer a joint coursework masters degree and postgraduate diploma in Public Health in conjunction with the Mangosuthu and M.L. Sultan technikons, Technikon Natal, UDW and the University of Zululand. Similar collaboration was planned in other fields at what became regular meetings of principals and rectors and in 1995 the Ford Foundation provided R469 000 to maintain the momentum, subsequently followed by the rand equivalent of \$250 000. Professor J. (John) Butler-Adam, UDW's vice-rector, was seconded as full-time director of the project with J. (Jonathan) Gunthorp as project manager. In August 1995 Pietermaritzburg's School of Law held a conference on regional collaboration among tertiary institutions in KZN.

By 1996 RICP had become known as the Eastern Seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions (esATI), based at the University of Natal. That year the Regional Access Programme (RAP) launched its Distance Learning Unit, which sought to prepare learners from disadvantaged circumstances for admission to university-level courses. With the prospect of government taking the lead if regional collaboration did not gather momentum there were several other initiatives. These included the esAL to improve closer library co-operation; an international partnerships office (with the National Centre for South African Partnerships based at the University); investigations into the feasibility of access and open learning; shared computer, teaching and research equipment; a research cluster programme; and a collaborative qualifications structure.

The last involved what the new NQF called 'a ladder of learning' comprising certificates, diplomas and degrees as well as agreement on the most effective methods of teaching a variety of common disciplines. By 1998 there was even agreement that the province's tertiary institutions should submit a collective three-year rolling budget plan to the Department of National Education embracing all their financial requirements.

There were also efforts to integrate and improve the processing of student applications to all local institutions. Unfortunately, the Central Admissions Office (CAO) made a slow start in 1999 with delays in sending out handbooks and forms, the application process falling up to three months behind schedule and many students registering for distance learning with UNISA instead. The University eventually mounted a rescue operation to ensure that as

many potential students as possible did eventually receive the necessary documentation to avoid a decline in numbers that would have serious financial implications.

A dual registration system was planned for 2001, similar to that which UNISA already operated and withdrawal from the CAO was even considered. By then the scheme was functioning more satisfactorily despite a mounting overdraft and further difficulties relating to the introduction of a new information technology system. The University decided to discontinue dual registration to avoid confusing students and to improve the system by installing more conveniently situated CAO computer registration facilities on campus. There was also disquiet about the reliability of certificates being issued by the new RAP. These were supposed to certify the suitability of students who were working or did not have sufficient university entry points for acceptance into tertiary institutions, but those being registered via that route were underperforming and the JMB began to question their acceptability.

Meanwhile, as early as 1994 an eastern seaboard network of agricultural faculties at Fort Hare, Natal, Swaziland and Zululand was working towards closer collaboration while similar approaches were being made towards Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique.<sup>1</sup> By the turn of the century much closer collaboration not just of faculties but of whole universities, even merger, was becoming a distinct probability. This was hardly surprising in view of the regional rationalisation that had already taken place.

### **The merger process**

In January 1995 President Nelson Mandela initiated an extensive consultative process when he appointed the NCHE to provide a new policy framework for the fundamental reorganisation of the higher education sector. In 1996 it finalised its extensive eighteen-month investigation with a report – ‘A framework for transformation’ – that recommended numerous changes to the organisation, governance and financing of higher education in South Africa. As current CUP chair, Brenda Gourley was invited to participate in a week-long international conference in Salzburg at which this document was discussed. It provided a further opportunity to influence future policy as well as meet some of the most prominent individuals in higher education.

A government green paper based on the report was published in December that year. The higher education white paper and Bill that followed led in 1997 to a revised Higher Education Act to which the University became subject along with the revised statutes approved in 1999. The participation

in this process of several staff members ensured that the University played a significant role in helping to shape the future of higher education and approved of most, though not all, of the reforms implemented. There was already concern in some quarters about the future of university autonomy in the face of a new threat of increasingly centralised control. The Higher Education Act led, in turn, to the formulation in March 2001 of a national plan for higher education and the appointment of a National Working Group (NWG), under the NCHE's chairman Sakumzi (Saki) Macozoma, to advise the minister on the restructuring process.

The NWG visited all the campuses and a variety of options and new combinations was debated. Its investigation into the feasibility of regional institutional mergers was understandably of particular interest to the University of Natal. In 1999 esATI considered the possibility of merging all seven tertiary institutions in the region, including its three universities, into one institution. The universities of Transkei and Fort Hare were presumably beyond the ambit of possible inclusion, although they were also in the greater eastern seaboard region. The report of John Fielden, whom the University commissioned to investigate the success rate of such mergers elsewhere in the world, was not encouraging. Indeed, the conclusion was that all the ingredients for failure existed in the prevailing circumstances although some esATI members were convinced that complete merger was the only realistic course. The NWG rejected that option, except under centralised control.

David Maughan Brown produced a position paper which argued that while regional co-operation was essential, forced mergers elsewhere had simply not worked. Senate and Council duly affirmed their commitment to developing higher education in the region but expressed the conviction that merger was not in anybody's best interests under existing circumstances. Following a difficult meeting between a University delegation and the NWG this was amended to stress the University's willingness 'to entering into discussions about a possible reconfiguration of the landscape of Higher Education in the region without any preconditions'.

The University also presented the NWG with a report on its progress towards transformation during the previous decade but expressed its concern about the possible implications of restructuring, including the expense involved in mergers, the need for realistic planning and time frames and, not least, the maintenance of its own academic standards and reputation. An October 2001 meeting of SAUVCA had been unable to reach consensus on the issue of mergers. Gourley among others called for the matter to be further researched

and Senate appointed a task team to consider how higher education might best be reconfigured in the region.

On 11 February 2002 the NWG published its report – ‘The restructuring of the higher education system in South Africa’ – in which it proposed a merger between Natal and UDW to create ‘a large multi-campus university’. It was the biggest of those envisaged, but the announcement of this decision was delayed by an investigation into the prevailing disarray in UDW’s council and administration. Even so, by 2006, in an avowed attempt to democratise the whole structure of higher education and make more efficient use of limited financial resources, the number of tertiary institutions in South Africa had already been reduced from 36 to 23 and eventually to 21 through a process of incorporation and merger with only one university (Vista) actually being disbanded. The 2001 national plan for higher education included the so-called technikons that provided a more specifically technical training. By then the first merger, a voluntary one between the Natal Technikon and the M.L. Sultan Technikon, had already been negotiated and was implemented in April the following year to form the DIT, subsequently renamed the Durban University of Technology (DUT).<sup>2</sup>

In some ways the University of Natal’s incorporation of the Edgewood College of Education in February 2001 provided useful experience for the much bigger merger that seemed increasingly likely. In anticipation, by the end of that year Senate’s task team was serving as a source of reference for the Charter Group that grew out of the earlier esATI and included representatives from various constituencies in both institutions. This sought to formulate a charter to govern the merger through discussions. At UDW’s insistence the University of Zululand was included, until it became clear that the more distant institution would probably escape the merger process and retain its independence.

Usefully, Senate’s ten-person task team included four staff members who had previously worked at UDW. It based its deliberations on the assumption that a unitary rather than federal merger would be in the best interests of the University, which was struggling to cope with the increasing student inflow, and that no existing campus (including Pietermaritzburg) would be able to continue relatively unchanged. It surmised that this would also be in the interests of UDW, in which the State had made an enormous financial investment but now appeared to be in a parlous situation and faced with a serious outflow of both students and staff.

The failure of mergers elsewhere was reviewed and it was recognised that the existing distrust between the two institutions needed to be defused. It had to be made clear that what was envisaged was indeed a merger with and not an incorporation or hostile takeover of UDW by its larger more established neighbour. The University's Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal David Maughan Brown argued unsuccessfully against advertising and attempting to fill the post of Vice-Chancellor as this would be interpreted 'as a wholly unambiguous statement that what we were intending was an incorporation rather than a merger'. In his view a more diplomatic course of action would have been to await the merger announcement and then advertise a permanent principalship for the impending merged institution. This might have attracted more, preferably black, candidates from whom to make a selection.

Maughan Brown did not therefore apply for the post advertised but allowed himself to be nominated for it. The subsequent withdrawal of his acceptance of nomination served to provide UDW with some reassurance that a takeover was indeed not intended. His withdrawal immediately after the publication of the NWG's restructuring report also facilitated the possible appointment of an appropriate black candidate in an educational and political climate that now seemed to expect, if not demand, it.

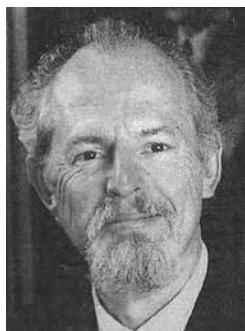
While this improved the environment for a genuine merger to take place there was resentment within the University at the growing public perception that the country's top universities were now those that were to be unaffected by mergers; that is, UCT, Wits, Free State, Rhodes, Stellenbosch and Pretoria. By implication this excluded the University of Natal, seemingly consigning it to a secondary tier along with Potchefstroom, Port Elizabeth and RAU. They were similarly to be subjected to mergers instead of merely incorporating other institutions as did Pretoria and Free State. Some staff members would have preferred a similar incorporation of UDW rather than a merger of what appeared to be two unequal partners. There were also serious reservations with regard, for example, to the resources that would be invested in the new institution but there was some reassurance from the Department of Education that it would provide the necessary support over a five-year period to launch merged institutions on a sound financial basis.

In March 2002 the Charter Group produced a vision statement that, following the approval of both councils and senates, helped to shape subsequent planning for the merger. In May the University's Institutional Forum discussed a variety of issues relating to this process with Maughan Brown stressing likely benefits such as the acquisition of more infrastructural support. As Acting

Vice-Chancellor he tried to establish closer relations with UDW's Executive, prepare staff members for the seemingly inevitable union and negotiate with the national Department of Education for as much funding as possible with which to lubricate a process that was expected to cost in excess of R120 million.

It was suggested that UDW should merge with the new DIT but this was not taken seriously. At the end of June 2002 Minister of Education Kader Asmal formally announced that the universities of Natal and Durban-Westville would indeed be merged to form a single institution. This, he insisted, included the Pietermaritzburg campus even though the 70-plus-kilometre distance from Durban had long proved expensive in terms of time and funds.

Staff members at the University of Natal were now concerned about a proposed reduction in the future authority of Senate, academic standards and possible retrenchments. Many like Bill Freund were convinced that, as far as UDW was concerned, the minister 'was desperate to save what had become an impossible situation there and used the merger route as a solution.' Chetty and Merrett have described what was at that time 'UDW's deeply embedded poor standards of governance, culture of conflict and lack of collegiality and respect.



**D.A. (David) Maughan Brown** graduated from UCT (BA) and St John's College, Cambridge (BA Honours and MA) before subsequently acquiring a D.Phil. from the University of Sussex. In 1970 he joined the University staff in Pietermaritzburg as a lecturer in English and gained promotion to senior lecturer (1980), associate professor (1985) and professor (1990) when he became departmental head. He served as dean of the Faculty of Arts in Pietermaritzburg (1986–1988) and Campus Principal from 1992 before being appointed Senior DVC in 1998 and acting Vice-Chancellor in

2001. Among other responsibilities he was a member of the Natal Council for Education (1992–1994) and of the council of the Midlands Urban Partnership (1995–2002) as well as serving on the South African National Higher Education Quality Committee (1998–2002) and on the HEQC's Executive Committee (2002). Maughan Brown was awarded the title of professor emeritus on his resignation from the University the following year to join York St John University in Britain where he subsequently became deputy principal (2002–2006) and DVC (2006–2013). In addition to numerous articles, book chapters and reviews on African and South African literature he is the author of *Land, Freedom and Fiction* (1985, republished 2017).



No thought was given to the impact this would have on the new university'. Students were also worried about the unstable situation at UDW and their own University's lack of sufficient consultation with them. In Pietermaritzburg there was fear that a merger would effectively marginalise the region's original university campus.

In common with other tertiary institutions during the previous two decades, UDW had been subjected to all the distractions and pressures attendant upon South Africa's socio-political transformation. It had also experienced severely destabilising domestic tensions involving divisions within the student body and among staff in addition to serious problems of governance, with some students and staff pitted at one stage against management. There was also uncertainty concerning UDW's current financial condition and the possible implications of this for the proposed merged institution. Professor Donal McCracken, dean of Arts/Humanities at UDW when the merger took place and subsequently dean at UKZN until 2009, recalled that the 'inevitable' union was accepted 'with no great excitement by either staff cohort'.

However reluctantly, the University of Natal prepared a positive response to the minister before the stipulated 4 October 2002 deadline after extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders. In anticipation of the merger announcement preparations had long been well underway with increasing time and energy diverted to merger-related matters at the level of central administration, faculties and schools. A Merger Steering Committee, already in place by June 2002 to oversee the process, was a sub-committee of Council and Senate that included representatives of all sectors of the university community including students and the trade unions. From July it held monthly meetings and subsequently formed a three-person Merger Secretariat under Professor Ronnie Miller, interim Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning), to help co-ordinate and maintain momentum by collating staff and student opinions and keeping them informed about developments. While Brenda Bell and Sharon Dell worked solidly behind the scenes the Vision Task Team and the Governance Task Team assisted in formulating the University's stance on various aspects of the impending merger and Senate held extra meetings to deal with merger-related business.

The various constituencies of the University community were all encouraged to play an active role in the ongoing discussions and contribute towards formulating the University's consolidated submission to the minister of education. To that end, in August 2002 an internal bilingual newsletter and an interactive merger website were introduced while Maughan Brown

conducted forums in both centres to elicit opinion and answer questions. In addition to the library merger team drawn from both centres all the faculties were engrossed in deliberations and some, together with the disciplines within them, were already liaising with their counterparts at UDW in anticipation of their impending academic nuptials.

The Law schools had been holding discussions for some years after accepting that their geographical proximity necessitated co-operation in streamlining courses and improving the standard of legal education in the region. In 2003 all their staff members from both universities were involved in three indabas during which it was agreed to implement a single LLB programme in 2004 with first-year courses being offered only at Howard College and in Pietermaritzburg and the Westville programme already being phased out.

In 2003 the schools of Community Development and Adult Education, Nursing, Psychology and Social Work in the Faculty of Community and Development all engaged in merger-related discussions with their UDW counterparts. So too did the faculties of Education and Human Sciences (Durban). Among other pre-merger preparations in central administration the Research Office completed a due diligence exercise with regard to its management of the University's research activities. Council chairpersons of the two institutions also maintained regular contact and held joint meetings with the minister of education to ensure that the merger stayed on course. Although the University remained without a permanent Vice-Chancellor and Principal following Brenda Gourley's resignation the previous year, in August 2002 the executives of the two institutions began a series of joint meetings to collaborate on various aspects of the merger and other issues of common concern.<sup>3</sup> By then, after a long delay, the University was close to installing a new leader.

### **The principalship: Professor M.W. Makgoba**

The appointment of Gourley's successor began with a selection committee meeting in September 2001. Due process was followed in advertising the post and interviewing short-listed candidates before a further committee meeting on 25 January 2002 resolved that M.W. (Malegapuru William) Makgoba and D.A. (David) Maughan Brown were both suitable appointees. The latter's aforementioned withdrawal of his candidature was expected to accelerate the process, which would otherwise have involved both of them giving presentations in both centres before the University community and Senate members voted in two separate secret ballots. The selection committee

would then have considered the outcome prior to making a recommendation to Senate and Council.

Instead, progress was delayed, partly by the release of the NWG's recommendations which indicated that any appointment would be short-term in view of the proposed merger, but also because of a breach of confidentiality concerning a referee's report and because the selection committee's vote on the final shortlist had been conducted by show of hands and not by secret ballot. There were hotly refuted allegations that Kader Asmal had interfered in the procedure as well as lengthy debate and some disagreement in both the selection committee and Council. It was eventually decided that the selection process had not been sufficiently compromised to discontinue it and that the possibility of a short-term appointment could be negotiated with the candidate.

Makgoba then duly gave presentations to the University community in both centres and met several stakeholder groups. Two secret ballots were held in terms of the agreed procedure but, in spite of 678 votes in favour of his appointment and 187 against, the subsequent secret selection committee poll was only sixteen votes to eleven in his favour, thereby failing to win the required two thirds majority. With the prospect of the matter being referred to the CCMA and amid many expressions of dissatisfaction with the outcome, including a student protest march, the opinion of senior counsel was sought.

In view of the inordinate delay in making an appointment, on 25 April 2002 the University's Institutional Forum held an emergency meeting and concluded that what amounted to a crisis involving tension between Council and Senate was due in large measure to the guidelines in the document 'Procedures for the appointment of a person to an Executive post at the University of Natal'. It insisted that the selection committee should reconvene and, if unable to achieve a two thirds majority vote, refer the matter to Senate which should then forward its recommendation and that of the selection committee to Council.

The latter bore these recommendations in mind when it met on 3 May 2002. It was also confronted with a memorandum from the three SRCs, supported by the national president of SAU-SRC, SASCO and by representatives of various residences on the Durban campus. It demanded Makgoba's appointment, accusing University management of resisting transformation. After further lengthy debate, Council eventually resolved by eighteen votes to five with five abstentions that, notwithstanding the selection committee vote, Senate should consider Makgoba's candidature for the post and make a recommendation back to it.

On 22 May Senate recommended by 87 votes to seven with one abstention in a secret ballot that the appointment process should be terminated and the existing procedures for appointing a Vice-Chancellor be thoroughly reviewed. Thereafter the post should be re-advertised and Makgoba be requested to allow his nomination to go forward for appointment to a short-term post as Principal of the University or as head of the new merged institution. The three SRC presidents disassociated themselves from these recommendations and withdrew from the meeting.

At a further extended Council meeting on 31 May 2002 this proposal was lost by twelve votes to sixteen with one abstention. Instead, Council eventually decided by eighteen votes to nine with two abstentions to offer the position to Makgoba after concluding that final responsibility in the matter lay with itself following consultation with Senate. In terms of the Higher Education Act, university councils had indeed acquired greater authority in relation to senates, whose decisions had previously seldom been questioned. Council acknowledged the considerable effort the University community had devoted in good faith to this protracted selection process and the stress to which it had been subjected, as well as the procedural issues Senate had raised.

Doubtless anxious not appear out of touch with the climate of change, Council argued that the 'national agenda of transformation' had to be borne in mind, that no valid reason had been given for opposing this appointment and that in many ways the candidate was eminently qualified for it. He had gained valuable experience of mergers as a member of the NWG and, not least, was a world leader in a research field in which the University had the capacity to lead. The need for a conciliatory process within the University was also recognised 'with a view to healing the divisiveness that currently existed' as a result of this protracted episode.

At a subsequent Senate meeting on 5 June 2002 Council's chairman Alex Rogoff explained how this decision had been reached and answered questions. After further lengthy discussion Senate approved, by 80 votes to nil with eight abstentions, a strongly worded statement expressing its belief that Council had acted 'arbitrarily and illegitimately' in ignoring legal opinion, which recommended re-advertising the post as an interim appointment only, as well as 'its own requirement of a two thirds majority in the Selection Committee and the required support of Senate', which had been confirmed in October 2001. It also contended that by acting 'in the interests of expediency' Council had 'brought the University into disrepute' and 'seriously threatened' its ability to 'act effectively and equitably in the future'.

Council's action was clearly interpreted as a betrayal of trust and a threat to Senate's academic authority. The latter now proposed that the Department of Education should review the composition and authority of university councils, called for a joint meeting with Council to discuss relevant issues of governance and acceded to Makgoba's request to meet with it. In what had increasingly become a struggle for institutional control between Council and Senate the Academic Freedom Committee, which had responded to so many perceived threats to academic freedom in previous years, met for the last time in March 2002 and thereafter remained uncharacteristically silent. Amid mounting concern about the future implications of this struggle the University community as a whole was also surprisingly quiet, perhaps in the belief that Senate would still effectively protect its interests.

Alternatively, like academics elsewhere it may have become neglectful while living in what Chetty and Merrett have described as the 'falsely euphoric years of the 1990s when optimism, fatigue and complacency in the wake of the fall of apartheid disabled the South African human and civil rights movement'. The National Tertiary Education Staff Union at the University had tried to assist in the formulation of opinions by circulating a legal summary as well as arguments for and against Council's decision. During 2002 concerned Pietermaritzburg staff members did establish an independent higher education monitoring group which enjoyed wide support but, perhaps out of fear for their future careers, few openly joined it.

At the special meeting of Senate held in June 2002 Makgoba welcomed the opportunity to counteract the negative publicity the protracted selection process had generated and to resolve the divisive issues that had arisen. Senate was obviously concerned about the erosion of its own powers as a result of what it perceived as Council's disregard for legal process and feared that the latter body might in future be used to govern the former. Makgoba stressed that his purpose was not to defend Council's actions, which he felt had been in the University's 'best interests', but appealed to Senate to 'move forward' and contribute towards developing a collective team spirit for the good of the University. He also observed that it might be opportune to review the relationship and balance of power between those two bodies. In response to appeals that he decline the post offered to him in view of Council's allegedly dubious course of action and as a demonstration of his own 'commitment to principle', Makgoba confirmed his intention to accept the opportunity to lead his alma mater at this time of important transformation.

In August there was a joint meeting of Council and Senate, which the Chancellor Justice Pius Langa chaired, avowedly to clear the air between those two bodies. As chairperson of Senate, David Maughan Brown provided some context by reminding those present of the traditional responsibilities of councils and senates and the relationship between them, as well as recent developments in that regard in the South African higher education sector. During a lengthy debate it was agreed that a code of conduct and induction programme on University governance should be developed for Council members in view of their high turnover, particularly of those representing external constituencies. In addition, Council's chairman again offered an explanation as to how it had reached its decision to appoint Makgoba.

A statement was then adopted that seemingly sought to paper over the cracks by affirming the joint belief of both bodies in 'the principles of good governance and due process' and in the authority of both Senate and Council without articulating what these were in relation to each other. It also announced the establishment of a joint sub-committee to investigate issues of governance and declared 'full support' for the new Vice-Chancellor and current leadership of the University while calling upon all stakeholders to 'go forward as a united institution'. There was no audible opposition to this conclusion but it had not been an ideal start to what was, traditionally, a close working relationship between Senate and the new Executive.

Makgoba assumed office in September, a year after the selection process had begun. He became the University's ninth and last Vice-Chancellor and Principal and the first black appointee to that position, the year after its first black appointee at Executive level Ahmed Bawa resigned. The title of professor honoris was conferred on Makgoba, as it had been on previous incumbents of that position. As suggested at his installation in October 2002 it was, in a sense, a homecoming for an alumnus who had graduated nearly 40 years earlier from the University's Faculty of Medicine. Some prominent members of the University community were reportedly absent from the ceremony, possibly in silent protest at Council's action or at Makgoba's acceptance of the post under disputed circumstances; or both. The baton of leadership had nevertheless been transferred into his hands.

### **The merger completed**

Makgoba was to remain in office at the University and its successor until 2014. As far as the University of Natal was concerned, his primary role was to guide it in its crucial twilight months towards the obligatory merger with UDW.



**A. (Ahmed) Bawa's** early involvement in the liberation movement resulted in thirteen months in solitary confinement in terms of the Terrorism Act (section 6). While subsequently employed as a laboratory assistant at the University he completed a B.Sc. (UNISA) and B.Sc. Honours (Natal), followed by an M.Sc. in Nuclear Physics *cum laude* at UDW and a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics at Durham. He returned to UDW as a lecturer, was promoted to associate professor and served for a time as acting dean of Engineering there.

The Douglas prize as the country's top Indian matriculant in his year had been followed by other accolades culminating in the FRD President's award in 1991 for his extensive publications in Physics, Physics Education and transformation in higher education. He served on numerous outside bodies, including the National Energy Corporation's board of directors and chaired the FRD council. He was appointed to write the green and white papers on science and technology, was a member of the five-person task group of the National Commission on Higher Education and chaired the National Technical Committee on Research and Graduate Studies. His service to the University as Campus Vice-Principal (Pmb 1995) and Campus Principal (Durban) from June 1996 ended with his resignation in 2002 to join the Ford Foundation in the USA. He subsequently returned to assume the principalship of the DUT.

Within a fortnight of assuming office he and the chairman of Council met a representative of the minister of education to discuss the implementation of that process with regard to timeframes, the constitution of an interim Council, the role of the new Senate and funding. In addition, another joint executive meeting was held with UDW attended by the deans of both institutions. It was decided to seek advice from the DIT concerning its recent merger experience while Makgoba announced his departure for London to meet staff at Imperial College and University College that were also about to merge.

Planning gained further urgency when on 9 December 2002, following Cabinet's approval, the minister of education declared that the merger with UDW would be effected on 1 January 2004. It was still seen as part of a strategy to overcome the historical divide between 'white' and 'black' institutions, reduce unnecessary duplication and competition while consolidating and offering a wider variety of educational programmes and promoting staff equity. These objectives were not pursued uniformly throughout the country, but locally the pace began to accelerate with several joint task teams already formed to deal

with various merger issues relating to administration, technology, finance and staffing.

When Kader Asmal visited the two institutions it was suggested that UDW should also form a Merger Steering Committee with commensurate skills so that Natal's Merger Secretariat might develop into a joint merger office. This was subsequently established, though there was concern that UDW was not keeping pace towards the joint objective. In April 2003, following further extensive consultations at Executive level, the University Council approved a memorandum of agreement governing the relationship between the two institutions prior to their merger. It recognised them as equal partners in a



**M.W. (Malegapuru) Makgoba** was born in 1952 in Sekhukhuneland and matriculated first class at Hwiti High School. He graduated from the University's Faculty of Medicine (1971–1976) and was the first black South African to be awarded a Nuffield Dominion scholarship. He acquired a D.Phil. (Oxford) in Human Immunogenetics, became a member of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. In 1994 he was a founder member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa and an alumnus of the INSEAD Advanced

Management programme in 2000. In 1986 he received the Outstanding Young South African award and during his academic career acquired numerous honours, research grants and fellowships.

Between 1977 and the mid-1990s Makgoba gained extensive practical and teaching experience in South Africa and Britain before becoming DVC (Academic Affairs 1994–1996) and an ad hominem professor of Molecular Immunology (1996–1998) at Wits. He published numerous scientific articles as well as several book chapters and four books and served on many medical and educational bodies both before and after becoming president of the MRC in 1998. Subsequent to assuming the post of Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Natal Makgoba received the Science for Society Gold Medal Award of the South African Academy of Science and in October 2002 he was inducted into the USA's National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine as a foreign associate member. This made the University the only one in South Africa with two elected members of that Institute, the other being Hoosen (Jerry) Coovadia. In December 2003 Makgoba was elected Interim Vice-Chancellor of the new University of KwaZulu-Natal and in December 2004 was appointed to a permanent position in that capacity, which he held until 2014.



joint decision-making process with full disclosure of all relevant information on both sides.

That month Makgoba addressed staff meetings on all five campuses. This gave rank-and-file staff and students an opportunity to ask questions about the merger and the envisaged future of the institution, although seemingly not all were reassured. By then he was proposing significant future modifications to the Executive structure in response to changing circumstances both on and off campus and in the interests of greater efficiency. Makgoba envisaged an Executive comprising a Vice-Chancellor, five DVCs, four Pro Vice-Chancellors (two part-time) and a Registrar who should again become a member of that team.<sup>4</sup>

The new leadership would certainly have significant challenges to overcome. While both institutions had enrolled increasing numbers of black students following the 1983 relaxation of official restrictions on admissions policy, the prevailing ethos in each of them was considered to be very different. Natal was regarded as an ‘historically advantaged’ institution, being a predominantly white-populated product of the colonial period. Its marriage partner was regarded as ‘historically disadvantaged’, having been established in 1960 during the apartheid era on Salisbury Island in Durban Bay as the University College for Indians. In 1971 it had moved to a new campus called UDW intended for the same population group in the Indian suburb of Reservoir Hills, subsequently renamed Chiltern Hills. What was now envisaged and widely marketed was the creation of ‘a Truly South African University’, though Senate did agree to early graduation ceremonies in December 2003 so that final year students could complete their studies with University of Natal degree certificates.

The ongoing discussions and considerable planning involved in the merger had the effect of increasing workloads for virtually all staff members but especially at Executive and senior levels. It is impossible to quantify the extent to which individuals were distracted by this process, but all were to feel the impact of administrative and financial restructuring. This was also the case at UDW, which had similarly been through an extended process of departmental closures and personnel reductions. At least one senior staff member, Professor Irina Filatova (History), resigned rather than endure a prolonged series of merger meetings. While other discussions continued there was by then an unfortunate lack of consensus at joint executive level, which led to the minister of education summoning a meeting of the two vice-chancellors and Council chairs to overcome the impasse.

With a view to the future Makgoba still made time in 2003 to hold discussions with the local business community and to visit the USA with John Volmink on a trip the South African Embassy hosted to explore various academic and business partnerships. They met 50 business leaders as well as several congressional representatives and the president's adviser on health. Specific fields of particular interest with regard to possible future funding were identified there: the impact of HIV/AIDS on teacher training, food security, land tenure, public/private partnerships, and corporate governance and ethics.

Meanwhile a concerted staff effort made it possible for the University to meet its initial mid-year obligations to the Department of Education. These included assurances that satisfactory consultations concerning the merger had been conducted with students and trade unions, as well as submission of nominations for the nine-member interim Council, a suggested official address for the new institution and an indication of the preferred name for it. A majority in Senate favoured University of KwaZulu-Natal and elected two representatives to a joint naming committee.

A joint submission could not be made to the minister of education in the latter regard as suggestions emanating from UDW were that the new institution be named after Walter Sisulu, or the Thukela or Mgeni river. Interim Council nominations also had to be submitted separately but there was agreement on the proposed conceptual framework of the new institution and on such issues as its vision, mission and goals, on the principles underlying its academic structure, on draft conditions of service and on the integration of information technology. The Department of Education contributed R1 million for the last purpose and in all allocated R150 million to complete the merger process. In addition, a R250 million loan was obtained from the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the University drew a further R70 million from its own capital budget. There were also donations from other sources, including ESKOM.

An academic task team was established to assist the University's Merger Committee and co-ordinate the academic planning process while various other task teams were also meeting regularly. By August 2003 the joint Executive had resumed regular meetings and a joint merger office had been formed. Following discussions between the two Council chairmen, Senate agreed that, in accordance with the Department of Education's guidelines for mergers and incorporations, the two institutions would continue to offer their existing programmes in 2004 prior to the implementation of new alternatives. Senate also agreed that the status quo could not be the default option for the new

university, that there would be a common curriculum across all campuses, as well as single schools and faculties, that such single disciplinary or inter/trans-disciplinary schools would form the academic basis of the institution and that all available accommodation would be allocated as equitably as possible while making full use of the facilities available.

Pietermaritzburg was not to escape the consequences of the merger but, more immediately, during 2003 Senate accepted that in Durban the Faculty of Management Studies should be concentrated on the Westville campus and Education at Edgewood College. All other faculties with the exception of Health Sciences would remain on the Howard college campus but in some cases with multiple delivery sites. The Executive and several administrative support departments not involved directly with students would be located at Westville, thereby hopefully removing any surviving misgivings that UDW was simply being taken over by its larger neighbour. Rumour had it that the Executive offices there were rather more salubrious than those on the Howard College campus, though Chetty and Merrett have suggested that Edgewood would have been a physically more accessible, operationally more practical and politically less loaded compromise with which to launch the new institution.

There were further meetings at managerial level with Saths Cooper (UDW vice-chancellor) and Makgoba co-chairing meetings between the two executive committees. Senate condoned a draft policy on access programmes approved by the joint executive of the merging institutions to ensure more effectively the success of future under-prepared students. It was jointly agreed that a new uniform fee structure should be phased in during 2004, beginning with first-year students but that those already in the system would initially pay the fees applicable where they had originally been registered. Future access and fees had been particular sources of concern among UDW students.

In October 2003, following extensive student discussions in both institutions, a three-day joint student summit involving 30 delegates from all five campuses was held at the Umhlanga Hotel to develop an agreed model for future student governance. The joint student merger task team produced several resolutions and a memorandum of understanding to guide future merger discussions among students. The University's dean of Students assisted the debate by presenting a possible model for future governance, parts of which were adopted. In addition, the University's Proctor presented proposed disciplinary rules for the new institution.

By then the University's external auditors KPMG had completed the required due diligence exercise that UDW had not yet begun but a joint draft budget

for 2004, in excess of a billion rand, was finalised. At its last meeting Senate approved a revised language policy. This met the Department of Education's requirements to promote multilingualism and specifically encouraged the use of the Zulu language as a means of communication among staff, students and their parents.

By the end of that year the University had met all of the requirements in terms of the Department of Education's stipulated guidelines relating to mergers and incorporations. The necessary audits were completed and all staff members were informed of the vision, mission and goals that the two merging institutions had devised towards what it was hoped would become not only the largest contact university in the country but the 'premier University of African scholarship' geared to the needs of the continent in the twenty-first century. This notion was further promoted by means of a year-end, three-day seminar.

On 14 November 2003 the minister of education confirmed that the merger would be effected on 1 January 2004 in terms of s.23(1) of the Higher Education Act. After a countrywide campaign attracting more than 1 500 suggestions the naming of the new merged institution was delayed by a succession of further crises at UDW. It was a highly emotive issue but eventually the most widely popular choice of name, which was still Senate's preference, was selected. The University of KwaZulu-Natal appropriately echoed the name of the province but was not unanimously well-received at UDW where some still regarded the merger as an adoption, if not a takeover and there was also some dissatisfaction at the University of Zululand.

A R25 000 prize attracted more than 200 proposals for the design of new armorial bearings, complete with crest, shield and motto. A final shortlist of



The new armorial bearings of the University of KwaZulu-Natal did not conform to traditional heraldic conventions or attempt to merge the armorial bearings of its two predecessors, but did retain the symbolism of half an African shield. This represented the protection of education and culture and was combined with half a globe, symbolising international recognition, from which rays of sun emanated to represent the five campuses of the new institution. The symbol of a book, representing the universal knowledge to which the new institution provided access, was also retained in the form of a single wavy band.

options was presented on all five campuses and, following staff and student opinion polls and expert deliberations, Mlazi designer Zaba Ngubane won the competition with a creation that was quite distinct from what had previously represented the two merging partners. The new institution's physical address was to be the exotically named Chiltern Hills, the site of UDW and of the new Executive offices, a decision to which the University of Natal quietly acceded.

The minister also announced a nine-person Interim Council under the chairmanship of BHP Billiton SA chairman Vincent Maphai and including the former Council chairpersons of UDW and Natal, Namane Magau and Alex Rogoff respectively. At its first meeting on 11 December 2003 this Council elected Malegapuru Makgoba ahead of UDW's Saths Cooper to the post of Interim Vice-Chancellor, following the receipt of nominations from the convocations, executive management, institutional forums, senates, staff trade unions and SRCs of both universities. He in turn appointed an Interim Executive. In addition, the two convocations were merged with Zolile Mlisana, currently Natal's president, as chair; but the SRCs temporarily retained their separate identities.

In November and December 2003 the University of Natal's Senex and Senate held their last meetings and its last Chancellor, Pius Langa, retired from office. A process that was allowed to take five years in the case of Potchefstroom and the University of the North West had been undertaken with unseemly haste by comparison, avowedly to meet the demands of the Department of Education, but was still far from complete in all its dimensions. This sense of urgency



**Justice P. (Pius) Langa** was born in 1939 in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, into a family of seven children. He passed Standard 8 (Grade 10) and worked in a factory as a shirt sorter while completing his matriculation. As an external student he graduated with a B.Iuris. (1973) and LLB (1976) from UNISA and in 1977 achieved an LLD (*honoris causa*) at the University of Zululand. He worked as a public prosecutor and magistrate, qualified as an advocate and gained senior counsel status before becoming a judge of the Constitutional Court in 1994 and its deputy president in 1997. Langa was involved

in many landmark case decisions, one of which abolished juvenile corporal punishment, and he became a member of the Human Rights Commission as well as serving on several important professional committees before assuming office in 1998 as Chancellor of the University.

caused concern for the future and even suspicion in some quarters, not least in Pietermaritzburg. Nevertheless, on 1 January 2004 the University officially lost its identity in the merger with UDW to form the University of KwaZulu-Natal.<sup>5</sup>

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### **The University of Natal in retrospect**

The University brought an impressive though not unblemished reputation and dowry into its arranged marriage with UDW in terms of facilities, resources, research expertise, community service and, not least, commitment to teaching. In material terms it contributed four campuses: the original base in Pietermaritzburg (founded in 1909–1910), as well as Howard College (launched in 1931), the Medical School (established in 1951) and Edgewood Teachers Training College (incorporated in 2001).

UDW added its Chiltern Hills campus (opened in 1971). Its other contributions to the merger were no doubt substantial but, in the absence of a detailed history of that institution since the early 1980s, it is difficult to be precise. As a showpiece for the National Party government's policy of segregated tertiary education the facilities initially provided on its 202-hectare site were impressive in terms of functionality if not appearance. They boasted an overall design that was missing from the University of Natal's campuses and together with equipment was already valued at R110 million in 1980 with further extensive developments to follow.

UDW had made some significant advances in research, particularly in Engineering and the Sciences, Science and Technology policy, the Health Sciences and teacher education. Donal McCracken recalled that there were some 'remarkable centres of excellence', including Botany and his own discipline, History. During the 1990s research projects and postgraduate scholars had attracted increased funding while the award of postgraduate degrees and accredited journal output had also gathered momentum. The institution had been actively involved in community service, most notably in providing instruction in the health professions, health and legal clinics for underprivileged communities; training programmes for government departments; and investigation of economic challenges in both urban and rural areas. Much of this had been undertaken in addition to heavy teaching loads.

Despite reservations within the community about registering at an apartheid showpiece institution, UDW had contributed significantly towards producing Indian (and latterly also African) graduates in several professions, not least

teaching. It had also introduced innovative degree courses in Education, Engineering, Commerce, Health, Oriental Studies, Religion and the Social Sciences as well as undergoing a process of degree restructuring and curriculum revision. In 2003 it registered 11 178 students, of whom 57.3% were African, 56.2% were female and 18.1% were postgraduate.

In common with other tertiary institutions UDW had experienced serious financial difficulties, not least in its latter years. At the time of merger its main budget was R250 million compared with the University of Natal's R1.2 billion, excluding research funding from external sources. However, according to Chetty and Merrett, the merged institution also inherited what had become UDW's 'toxic culture' of staff and student grievances. McCracken insisted that, through all its travails, there was still 'a great sense of community about UDW', which was lost in the merger and not dissimilar to the earlier Edgewood experience. It remained to be seen what culture would emerge in the future with the new university taking on inhibiting 'associated legal costs'.

Insufficient funding had been an almost perennial challenge for the University of Natal, compounded by its dual and eventually multi-campus structure. It is tempting to speculate whether this expensive arrangement could have been avoided by accepting Charles Mudie's strong recommendation in 1905 that the institution should be based exclusively in Pietermaritzburg with bursaries provided for promising students from elsewhere in the region. His case might have been strengthened had the technical college in that centre promised as strong an initial partnership as that in Durban.

It still seems unlikely that the inhabitants of the rapidly expanding harbour city would indefinitely have accepted the provincial capital as the region's primary tertiary education centre. Once a growing number of its residents somewhat belatedly realised the desirability of having a university as well as a technical college in their midst, Durban always offered far greater potential for future growth in terms of matriculants and donors. Even then, in Bill Johnson's opinion, the University always suffered from 'a very thin institutional structure' and was handicapped by the fact that Durban's resident Jewish population was relatively small compared with Cape Town and Johannesburg. Consequently, UCT and Wits had traditionally been able to attract 'lots of bright Jewish students and faculty plus lots of endowments by rich Jewish philanthropists'.

What was probably the last opportunity to revert to something close to a more economical single-centre structure presented itself in the early 1950s when serious consideration was given to closing all faculties in Pietermaritzburg except Agriculture. Instead, sentimental attachment to the institution's original

campus won the day over harsh financial realities. The occasionally discussed option of creating two entirely separate universities held some promise with the 1973 academic separation of the two centres, complete with parallel but not fully duplicated faculties. This was belatedly reinforced by the devolution of administrative authority in 1992 with the Executive still seemingly committed to maintaining a tri-focal institution (including the Faculty of Medicine) with maximum local autonomy until this was firmly reversed five years later in favour of strong recentralisation.

The financial implications of complete separation never appealed to the pre-1994 national government and had become even less viable following the additional expense of establishing the universities of Zululand (1970) and Durban-Westville (1971) in pursuit of its segregationist philosophy. The post-1994 ANC government was faced with a multiplicity of new socio-economic demands on its limited financial resources. Consequently, in its twilight years the dual-centred, multi-campus University of Natal found itself struggling with what was but the latest financial crisis emanating from yet another phase of reduced annual government subsidies that made little allowance for what was, in the South African context, its unusual structure.

Even so, in 2003 the University was in reasonably sound financial condition with income exceeding operating expenditure, if only just, and its general reserve fund amounting to R39.9 million. Increasing expenditure on financial support for disadvantaged students and operating deficits in recent years were sources of some concern, as was the decision of the merged Interim Council to draw on its reserves to finance an anticipated 2004 budget operating deficit. In their final annual financial review of the University the chair of the Finance Committee Alex Rogoff and the Finance Officer R.H. (Hollie) Clarkson urged the incoming Council to review this matter, stressing the need to find ways of increasing the new university's general reserves and to develop 'a sustainable medium-term budgetary framework' as soon as possible to tailor future plans to available means. While the merger did offer opportunities for further rationalisation and fundraising, prudent financial management was clearly going to be as essential as ever in the face of uncertain state subsidies and the ongoing challenges of running a multiple campus institution.<sup>6</sup>

Despite its recurring financial difficulties by 2003 the University of Natal's facilities in both centres were extensive and had been surrounded by security fencing with controlled access and improved signage. A conscious effort had been made in recent years to improve the appearance of all the campuses, although the choice of contrasting architectural styles had done little to promote



a strong sense of institutional identity. The possible exception was part of the original Scottsville campus where the Clock Tower (Old Main) Building had been joined by an Administration block (previously the Library), Science and Chemistry Buildings and a revamped Library surrounding an expanse of lawn.

In addition, several residences and a Students Union complex had been constructed and adjacent residential properties along Milner Road acquired for a variety of purposes. Within walking distance to the south-east two large buildings had been provided for the Agriculture and Biological Sciences and a few kilometres beyond that the Ukulinga Experimental Farm had been well established. The new Golf Road complex behind the original campus already comprised a succession of buildings that provided office and teaching accommodation for Education, Psychology, much of the Arts and Social Sciences, Commerce and Law, as well as an experimental theatre and a club house. There was still ample room for further development on what had been the municipal golf course while at the far end a new modern residential complex had emerged with sports and maintenance facilities beyond it.

Developments in Durban had been even more spectacular, if initially poorly planned, since the 1931 erection of the Howard College Building on Stella Bush Ridge. Now occupied by the Faculty of Law this edifice had been followed by the construction in stages of the neighbouring MTB, administrative and other facilities to the north, a succession of buildings to accommodate Science and Engineering departments along the southern ridge, the additional lecture and multi-tiered Shepstone complex on its inland slope and a Students Union Building, residential blocks and a theatre on its sea-facing eastern gradient to the south of the Principal's home.

The new western campus now accommodated a large residential complex that more than compensated for the closure of the uncomfortable ATR at Wentworth for medical students, as well as a modern sports complex with ample room for future expansion. Not least it was also the site of a modern technologically advanced tertiary-level hospital to meet the practical needs of all the institutions in the region that were involved in health training. The Faculty of Medicine was still situated a few kilometres away in Umbilo Road, but with vastly improved and still developing facilities that were far less expensive than building the new medical school initially envisaged.

The same could not be said of the neighbouring King Edward VIII Hospital that was traditionally so closely associated with the Faculty and where conditions had reportedly deteriorated since 1994, contributing to staff shortages and emigration. City Buildings downtown had long ago been sold

and, with its Non-European Section forced by segregationist legislation to close even earlier, the surviving part-time classes had moved to the Howard College campus, at the centre of which stood the imposing and still relatively new E.G. Malherbe Library.

The services provided by the University's libraries had always been inhibited by budget constraints, aggravated by periodic inflation, unfavourable exchange rates and the sometimes exorbitant price increases imposed by commercial publishers. As early as 1951 Durban Librarian Herbert Coblans complained about the University's inadequate expenditure on its libraries. Until its twilight years they were still not allocated the full amount of financial support to which they were entitled in terms of the annual government subsidy formula. Despite the necessity for a rationalisation of journal subscriptions, first broached as early as 1958, the libraries so essential to its teaching, research and community service functions still comprised more than one million items, 650 000 in Durban and 420 000 in Pietermaritzburg.

Moreover, by the early 1990s the automation of collection management had almost been completed, making it possible for the professional library staff to improve the service provided to users. The introduction of CD-ROMs improved the storage of and access to large index and abstract databases while the installation of links to SABINET made it possible for users on both campuses to search the online catalogue in the other centre. By 2003 the University's connection to the Internet in the mid-1990s had given staff and students access to an increasing volume of information without displacing the importance of the traditional hardcopy collections in print form.

By then user services had vastly improved, from the first librarian D.A. Henry's military-style imposition of regulations through the gradual assumption of a teaching role to the appointment of subject librarians and the creation of user education programmes as automated cataloguing liberated staff from their traditional routine duties. The pace of change varied significantly in the two centres but became increasingly important from the mid-1980s as the University registered growing numbers of disadvantaged students who were unfamiliar with the notion of independent study and the use of a library. User services changed even further with Internet access to electronic information although the financial necessity for staff rationalisation in the late 1990s, in common with the rest of the institution, made it difficult to continue providing a service adequate to the needs of a growing number of users.

The importance of library services were clearly emphasised when, in terms of the 1997 restructuring of Executive workloads, the libraries in both centres

were required to report to the DVC (Academic)) instead of their campus Vice-Principals and then, from August 2003, to the DVC (Research). As Buchanan has pointed out, this was financially beneficial in that it aligned library services with one of the institution's primary focus areas. The centralisation of authority helped to revive the development of the unitary library system that had characterised the tenure of forceful chief librarians Herbert Coblans, John Perry and S.I. Malan between the 1940s and late 1960s before it gave way to an era of increasing devolution of decision making and policy choices by Felix Scholtz and Molly van der Linde in Durban and Ron Brown and Don Schauder in Pietermaritzburg.

This led to insufficient collaboration on important issues like the choice of computerised library systems but it was in keeping with broader trends in the University, particularly from 1973, as it appeared to be evolving towards a federal structure if not complete separation into two distinct institutions. The renewed closer co-operation between the two libraries in the 1990s, although they retained their separate identities, was reflected in the development of common mission and vision statements for the future and facilitated their preparations for the impending merger.<sup>7</sup>

By 2003 the University's Mission and Vision Statement was little changed from its initial formulation in the 1980s. The former declared that 'The University of Natal strives to serve all sections of its community through excellence in scholarship, teaching, learning, research and development.' Its Vision Statement read:

The University of Natal has a strategy of Quality with Equity. It dedicates its excellence in teaching, research and development to progress through reconstruction. It serves South Africa, and the KwaZulu-Natal region in particular, by delivering quality teaching which enables students from all backgrounds to realise their academic potential and to obtain degrees of a continuing international standard. It undertakes quality research to national and international standards and provides development services which meet community needs.

The longstanding Academic Freedom Committee was seemingly no longer the strong voice of previous decades. Yet many staff members remained as committed as ever to the principles of academic freedom and university autonomy as essential prerequisites to achieving academic excellence while recognising that, as ever, these were potentially at risk as much from internal as external abuse.

The institution had much to contribute towards the establishment of what was then envisaged as the 'Premier University of African scholarship'. Many of its staff members had achieved national and even international recognition

for their research achievements and community service projects. Since 1989 more than 50 of them had been recognised as fellows of the University of Natal. The title of professor emeritus had been awarded to no less than 80 individuals, some for administrative and teaching contributions but many primarily for their research endeavours as full professors over more than a decade. At the time of the merger current staff members held R500 million worth of externally awarded grants.

There were then numerous University-wide and Faculty-specific research centres, including those focused on Africa, Agriculture and Development, the Built Environment, Child and Family, Creative Arts, Crop Improvement, Economic Research, Entrepreneurship, Environment, Ethics, Food Security, Forestry and Forest Products, Geoscience, Health Economics, HIV/AIDS, Leadership, Maritime Studies, Oceanic Research, Plasma Physics, Rural Development, Socio-Legal Studies, Space Physics and Sugar Milling. The University held a particularly prominent position in numerous areas of research and/or community service, too many to mention them all. These included economic development, ethics and governance, forestry, HIV/AIDS, public/private and community sector partnerships, sustainable rural livelihoods, teacher training and water.

In these and other connections a variety of partnerships had been established with reputable local and more than 200 international institutions as well as with major donor organisations. In recent years the University had received several awards from the National Innovation Fund and had established its own policies with regard to income generation as well as a research contracts and consultancy office to improve funding. The increased emphasis on incentive-driven, productivity-based financial rewards within the University was having the desired effect in virtually all academic sectors. The goal of one publication per staff member per year had not yet been achieved but the number of its published authors was increasing: 134 held NRF ratings (including two 'A's and 47 'B's) and the University was holding its own at the top of the national rankings with UCT and Wits in terms of research output.

It could also boast a wide range of distinguished honorary graduates. They included Raymond Priestley and Basil Schonland (1949), Jacob Pierneef (1951), Reginald Banks (1952), Raymond Dart and Donald M'Timkulu (1956), Uys Krige (1958), Julian Huxley and Harry Oppenheimer (1960), Simon Biesheuvel (1964), Guy Butler (1970), Eric Barker (1974) and André Brink (1976). They were followed, among others, by Denis Hurley (1978), Phillip Tobias (1980), Athol Fugard (1981), Ian Player (1984), Lionel

Abrahams (1986), Abdullah Ibrahim (Dollar Brand) and Beyers Naudé (1990), Wally Serote (1991), Nelson Mandela (1992), Richard Goldstone and Breyten Breytenbach (1994), Desmond Tutu (1995), Mother Teresa and Cyril Ramaphosa (1996), Helen Suzman and top scientist George Ellis (1997), Tholakele Madala, the University's first black graduate to become a judge (1998), Simon Wiesenthal and poet laureate of Africa Mazisi Kunene (1999), Miriam Makeba and Tito Mboweni (2000), HIV/AIDS investigator David Ho, Thabo Mbeki and Walter Sisulu (2001), Trevor Manuel (2002), renowned primate expert Jane Goodall and Nobel prize-winning economist Amartya Sen (2003).<sup>8</sup>

With regard to teaching, by 2003 the University was prominent in curriculum development with semesterisation, a course credit-rating system as well as voluntary staff and course evaluation by students well established. It was quite well advanced in the incorporation of indigenous knowledge into its curricula and boasted several multidisciplinary centres of excellence in, for example, entrepreneurship, environment and development studies, ethics and leadership. Teaching ability was firmly recognised as an important consideration for promotion and since 1995 more than twenty members of staff had been formally recognised as distinguished teachers. Its ten restructured faculties embracing numerous schools were firmly in place and all its programmes were reformatted in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education. Many of them were community-based and/or had a strong emphasis on service learning. Its Quality Promotion Unit was recognised as the best in the country with Kathy Luckett having been seconded to SAUVCA's office to assist in that direction for two days a week.

On the eve of the merger the University had become decidedly multiracial and of mixed gender, although this was far less the case with regard to staff than students. From June 1977 all staff vacancies had been advertised as being open to 'all persons, regardless of sex, religion, race, colour or national origin'. Yet it was still difficult to attract and retain qualified staff of any sort due to unfavourable salaries in comparison to governmental departments and the private sector. While there were many outstanding teachers and researchers who served the University exceptionally well over many years these attractions tended to negate affirmative action strategies.

The Equity Acceleration Programme was really still in its infancy but had been firmly launched in the hope of developing a new generation of suitably qualified black scholars and administrators that would establish an appropriate ethnic and gender balance in the University's personnel. By the late 1990s

whites comprised approximately 83.5% of the academic staff compared with 90.3% in 1989, Indians 9.5% compared with 5%, Africans 6.7% compared with 4% and coloureds 0.3% compared with 0.7%. Some 71.9% of white academics employed in the late 1990s were male as were 74.2% of Indians and 65.2% of Africans.

By 2003 the University's student intake had increased from the original 57 in 1910, of whom 15% were female, to 31 794, of whom 55% were women and 32% were postgraduates. Following the relaxation of the Quota Bill in 1983 and the abolition in 1991 of the last legal provision entitling government to impose racial restrictions on student admissions to universities (University Act 61 of 1955 s. 25) the student body had not only grown exponentially but also democratically towards reflecting more accurately the demographic profile of the KwaZulu-Natal region. Approximately 48% of students were categorised as African, 29% Indian, 20% white and 3% coloured.

Pleasingly, pass rates were improving and Makgoba attributed the 80% undergraduate pass rate in 2002 at least in part to the University's effective access programmes, although it may also have been due to fewer off-campus socio-political distractions. In recent years the student leadership had displayed an encouraging maturity in its negotiations with Administration on a variety of issues. The great era of political protest seemed largely to have ended with the democratic elections of 1994 and with dissatisfaction now focused mainly, but not entirely, on domestic campus issues. This was true even of medical students whose Faculty the National Party government had financed as a segregationist showpiece but who for decades had been particularly vociferous critics of the philosophy underlying its existence.<sup>9</sup>

As far as student registrations, if not its staff complement, were concerned by 2003 the University was well on its way to becoming the multi-ethnic 'truly South African university' that had been envisaged during the merger process. It could have been much further advanced in that direction had its Council and/or Senate not chosen, at least until the late 1970s, to apply its right to exclude persons of colour from registering as students without giving any reasons.

A succession of principals had seemed reluctant to provide leadership in pushing the frontiers of white acceptability in the opposite direction. The first, John Bews (1928–1938), envisaged developing a university comprising a federation of ethnically-segregated colleges, possibly as a step towards eventual integration. The second, Robert Denison (1938–1944), gave no indication of any interest in either of those options and was largely preoccupied with wartime financial restrictions. The third, Ernst Malherbe (1945–1965),

was a self-proclaimed liberal but preferred the Bews strategy because he feared the loss of white students and donors. He remained convinced that local white public opinion was simply not yet ready to accept a fully integrated institution. The University's fourth Principal, Owen Horwood (1965–1969), was opposed to both options, eventually subscribing openly to the National Party government's policy of complete segregation at all educational levels.

His successor Francis Stock (1970–1977) was seemingly reluctant as a foreigner to challenge the status quo but did favour gradual integration, beginning with the registration of persons of colour at postgraduate level. This process, which in the opinion of many critics was far too slow, gathered momentum under subsequent principals Desmond Clarence (1977–1984), Peter Booysen (1984–1991), James Leatt (1991–1992) and Brenda Gourley (1992–2001). It was greatly assisted by the relaxation of the permit system in 1983, to the extent that at the turn of the century senior DVC David Maughan Brown could claim that the University was by then 'widely regarded as having been in the forefront of the process of transforming higher education in South Africa'.

Bill Johnson probably expressed the view of many alumni in subsequently arguing that the merger with UDW might nevertheless have been avoided had the University's leadership been proactive in effecting more significant transformation from the 1980s onwards, including the appropriate renaming of buildings and adopting the name 'University of KwaZulu-Natal' as early as 1994. In that way it might have been more obviously seen to lead the process of change, leaving UDW to be effectively reformed as a separate institution concentrating on fields of tertiary education its neighbour did not offer.

Even if the NUC had plucked up the courage to move towards becoming an 'open' university prior to the advent of the National Party government in 1948 it is certain that segregation would subsequently have been forced upon it as it was on UCT and Wits in terms of the cynically named Extension of University Education Act (1959). This obliged the University to close its own separate Non-European Section. Complete integration was similarly a certainty after 1994, although by then that process was already voluntarily underway if not as rapidly as some would have liked.

The University's merger with UDW was one of the few government forced on big city universities, others being RAU and Port Elizabeth. Problematically it included the distant Pietermaritzburg campus, but not the even more remote University of Zululand. The necessity for the merger was generally accepted as part of the broader process of integration and the geographical proximity

of the Howard College and Westville campuses, less than 10 kilometres apart, made the extensive duplication of courses there an impractical legacy of the apartheid era. Merger offered more space and a much wider variety of facilities as well as the prospect of new collaboration in teaching and research and more course options for students, not unlike the recent domestic restructuring process the University of Natal had undergone.

Any justification for the merger on cost-saving grounds, which seemed reasonable at the time, became questionable in view of government's subsequent decision to embark upon the huge expense of creating two more entirely new such institutions. In any event, for better or for worse, January 2004 witnessed the end of the University of Natal's 93-year history and the opening of a new chapter in tertiary education in the province. Alan Matthews' recollection of what had gone before may be too idealistically selective for some, but not for others:

I was born into the academic community of the University of Natal in Durban. My parents were professors in its rich and active life, and I was there for my undergraduate years and then as a young academic for the last ten years of its existence before the merger with UDW that formed UKZN. Looking back, I can say that 1977–2003 were golden years, despite the background of the injustice of apartheid that ended in 1994. They were golden years because UND and UNP had the character of a classic scholarly community that practised the ideals of the ancient academic ethos, and was loved and supported by the wider community.<sup>10</sup>

#### ENDNOTES

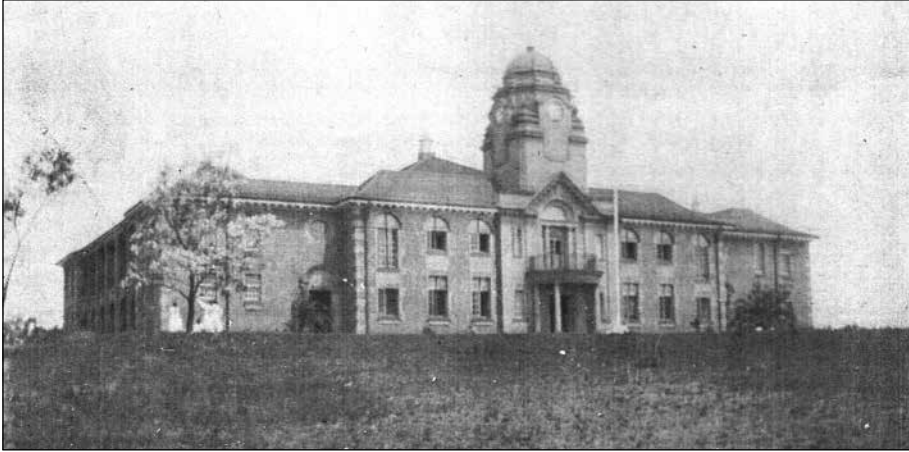
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## THE FOUR CAMPUSES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL



*Pietermaritzburg's Old Main (Clock Tower) Building, circa 1920s*



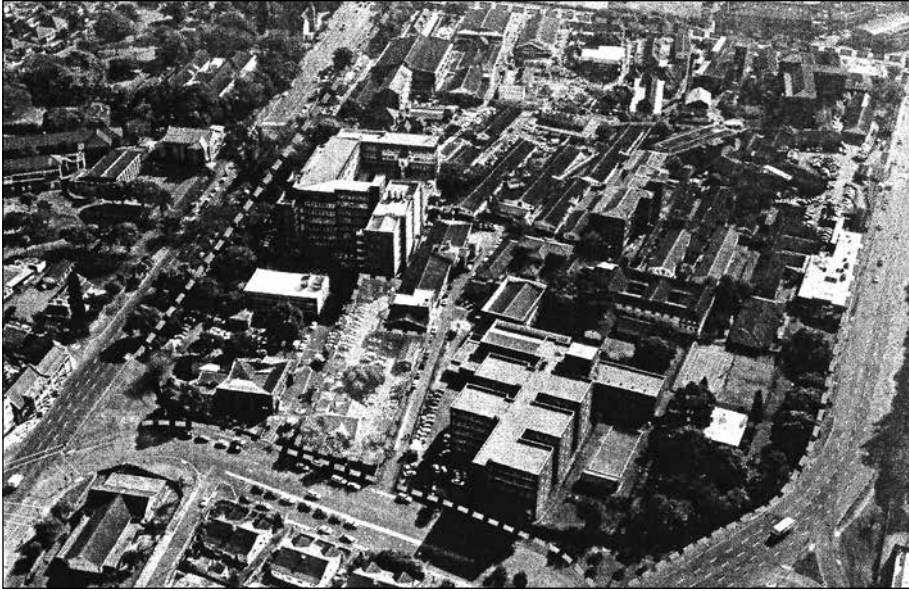
*Durban's Howard College Building, circa 1936*



*Pietermaritzburg campus, late twentieth century. Note the absence of a second floor on the Library Building (right centre) and incomplete construction of Denison Residence (in the background)*



*Howard College Campus, early twenty-first century*



*School of Medicine in 2001, prior to the construction of the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute (in the space bottom centre) in 2003*



*Edgewood College in 2001*

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