STELLA AURORAE:
THE HISTORY OF A SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

Volume 2
The University of Natal (1949–1976)

Bill Guest

Occasional Publications of the Natal Society Foundation
PIETERMARITZBURG
2017
In memory of the late Denise (1942–2001)
and for Cynthia,
with gratitude
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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 those references that imply a place or country of origin are given in upper case, for example, African, Afrikaner, European and Indian. References that denote dubious classification by skin colour are given in lower case, for example, black, coloured and white. No offence is intended in the use of these terms.
**ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACU</td>
<td>Association of Commonwealth Universities</td>
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<tr>
<td>AE&amp;CI</td>
<td>African Explosives and Chemical Industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEB</td>
<td>Atomic Energy Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFC</td>
<td>Academic Freedom Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>APC</td>
<td>Alan Paton Centre (UKZN, Pietermaritzburg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASA</td>
<td>Academic Staff Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASB</td>
<td>Afrikaanse Studente Bond</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (Honours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBC</td>
<td>British Broadcasting Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCL</td>
<td>Bachelor of Civil Law (Oxford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.Com.</td>
<td>Bachelor of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.Sc.</td>
<td>Bachelor of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.Sc. (Agric.)</td>
<td>Bachelor of Science (Agriculture)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.Sc. (Hons)</td>
<td>Bachelor of Science (Honours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAE</td>
<td>Centre for Adult Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBE</td>
<td>Commander of the Order of the British Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>COPHC</td>
<td>Community Orientated Primary Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSIR</td>
<td>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUP</td>
<td>Committee of University Principals</td>
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<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>curriculum vitae</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAR</td>
<td>Durban Archive Repository</td>
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<td>D.Litt.</td>
<td>Doctor of Letters</td>
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<td>DNA</td>
<td>deoxyribonucleic acid</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
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<td>DRAMSOC</td>
<td>Drama Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.Sc.</td>
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<td>ed.(s)</td>
<td>editor(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERH</td>
<td>Eleanor Russell Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCOM</td>
<td>Electricity Supply Commission</td>
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<td>FRD</td>
<td>Foundation for Research Development</td>
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<td>HSRC</td>
<td>Human Sciences Research Council</td>
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<td>IIC</td>
<td>Industrial Information Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISR</td>
<td>Institute for Social Research</td>
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<td>KCML</td>
<td>Killie Campbell Museum Library</td>
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<td>KZN</td>
<td>KwaZulu-Natal</td>
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<td>LLB</td>
<td>Bachelor of Laws</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>Master of Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBE</td>
<td>Member of the Order of the British Empire</td>
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<td>M.Comm.</td>
<td>Master of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIEE</td>
<td>Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.Sc.</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTB</td>
<td>Memorial Tower Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCSR</td>
<td>National Council for Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFA</td>
<td>Natal Field Artillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no.</td>
<td>number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPA</td>
<td>Natal Provincial Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRF</td>
<td>National Research Foundation</td>
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<td>NSF</td>
<td>Natal Society Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUC</td>
<td>Natal University College</td>
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<td>NUDF</td>
<td>Natal University Development Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUSAS</td>
<td>National Union of South African Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>OBE</td>
<td>Officer of the Order of the British Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR</td>
<td>Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDL</td>
<td>poverty datum line</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pmb.</td>
<td>Pietermaritzburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRI</td>
<td>Paint Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAU</td>
<td>Rand Afrikaans University</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>SABC</td>
<td>South African Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<td>SALA</td>
<td>South African Library Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMRC</td>
<td>South African Medical Research Council</td>
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<td>SANSPA</td>
<td>South African National Student Press Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>SASO</td>
<td>South African Students Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SASOL</td>
<td>South African Synthetic Oil Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATV</td>
<td>South African Television</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCA</td>
<td>Student Christian Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senex</td>
<td>Senate Executive Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPASEC</td>
<td>Students of Pietermaritzburg African Social and Educational Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRC</td>
<td>Students Representative Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCT</td>
<td>University of Cape Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UED</td>
<td>University Education Diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKZN</td>
<td>University of KwaZulu-Natal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKZNA</td>
<td>University of KwaZulu-Natal Archives (Pmb. campus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>University of Natal</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISA</td>
<td>University of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URC</td>
<td>University Research Committee</td>
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<td>URF</td>
<td>University Research Fund</td>
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FOREWORD

It is a fortunate coincidence that both the author and I attended the University of Natal during the period 1949 to 1976, first as students and later as members of the academic staff. Consequently, we are fairly familiar with the course of events during that period.

This book’s ten chapters each have well-chosen headings and are further sub-divided into sections that deal comprehensively with matters relating to those particular aspects. Professor Bill Guest is clearly a people person and it is uncanny how well-known and lesser-known characters flashed up on my memory screen while reading this work. For example, Chapter 1 highlights the sharp divisions that emerged between those who favoured further campus development in Durban and those who pushed the claims of Pietermaritzburg. The Faculty of Agriculture became a further bone of contention. Even that very level-headed Scotsman the Reverend Professor Robert Craig was tempted to weigh in about what he called this ‘common room neurosis’.

In Chapter 4, which deals with student life in the 1950s, Jack Frost (well known to Maritzburgers), is mentioned riding his pedal-powered bicycle (no sports sedan) from Oribi Village to the main Scottsville campus. Many former students of that era will remember (fondly?) Oribi Residence and how it was run under the watchful eyes of ‘Doc Black’ and Dr Lindsay Young. Mention is also made of that truly unique couple in the Zoology Department, Professor ‘Jakes’ Ewer and his wife ‘Griff’, who smoked a pipe. The former would start his practical classes with ‘on with the show and let joy be unconfined’. Both were active members of the Dramatic Society.

In Chapter 5 the University’s desperate campaign in the late 1950s to maintain autonomous control of its hard-won, blacks-only Faculty of Medicine is described. It seemed to be a never-ending battle. Further on, in Chapter 10, the protracted selection procedure to appoint a Principal in succession to E.G. Malherbe is sketched. Professor Owen Horwood emerged from a long list of powerful applicants and thereafter, amidst the turbulence of his contentious term of office, the University’s physical development continued unabated. Among many other staff members who are highlighted is Mrs ‘Stoffie’ Mey who worked her way up the ladder from administrative clerk to become a cornerstone of the University’s Research Department where her competence earned the praise of active researchers.
I believe that this book will revive wonderful memories for all former students and staff of the University of Natal.

Professor (Emeritus) Siegfried E. Drewes
Pietermaritzburg, April 2015
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Commenting on the draft of a history of the University of Natal that Professor Alan Hattersley had prepared in 1959 as part of the planned Jubilee celebrations for 1960, the Principal, E.G. Malherbe, stressed the importance of securing ‘little anecdotes from past students’ and of searching for information beyond ‘the dry bones contained in Minutes of the Council and Senate’. In doing so he pointed out that Hattersley himself had deplored ‘the paucity of material available’ from those sources.1

Anecdotal information, especially when based on distant memory, is often inadvertently inaccurate and, drawn as it is from various sources, sometimes contradictory. It is also tempting to be entertaining at the expense of truth, as far as that ideal can be achieved in a universally acceptable manner. I am therefore grateful to the many alumni and staff members who made a sincere effort to contribute their reminiscences to this work.

As every student of the discipline is aware any historical account, however brief or lengthy, involves a process of selection and abbreviation on the part of the author. The history of a tertiary institution, in which generations of scholars have been trained to be healthily sceptical, is bound to attract criticism for its selection and abridgement of information. These processes are, to a large extent, based on subjective choices, although their outcome is often also a consequence of the incomplete or inaccurate information available in surviving records.

In such a history there are unavoidable omissions and inaccuracies that are, at least in part, a result of the limited or incomplete material available. Some contributions, developments and individual successes will inadvertently have been under-emphasised or entirely overlooked. This is particularly the case with regard to the roles played by those who barely or do not feature at all in the University’s official records, most notably its administrative, technical and ground staff. Consequently, this lengthy work does not claim to be a comprehensive account of the University’s history during the period under consideration.

As a student and subsequently as a member of staff, serving in both centres, my association with the University of Natal extended well beyond 40 years. This book is therefore an admittedly subjective attempt to record as fully as possible the history of an institution that 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 shortcomings 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 (NSF) for providing me with an independent means of publication both for this book and for its predecessor on the history of the Natal University College. The NSF 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 subheadings 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 heavily on the index or wading through the whole work.

I am also indebted, as before, to Peter Croeser, Cathy Munro, Jo Marwick, Phila Msimang and Christopher Merrett for undertaking the onerous tasks of editing, design, page layout and proofreading. Not least, I am grateful to my wife Cynthia for her computer advice and for tolerating yet another of my research obsessions.

ENDNOTES

1 PAR A 1344 File 13 Hattersley Correspondence: E.G. Malherbe to A.F. Hattersley, 30 June and 29 December 1959.

Alan Hattersley’s typescript was never published, but E.H. (Edgar) Brookes subsequently made acknowledged use of it in writing A History of the University of Natal (Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press, 1966).

W.R. (Bill) Guest
PART ONE: 1949–1960
A SHORTAGE OF funds had always been an inhibiting factor throughout the 1909–1949 career of the Natal University College (NUC). This was compounded by the expense of its efforts to function effectively in two centres, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The early years of its successor, the University of Natal, were characterised by the same challenge, with no significant allowance made for its dual-campus nature in the annual state subsidy. Indeed, it was launched during an era of financial austerity as far as that major source of income was concerned and struggled to compensate for the loss in revenue. The situation was so serious that during the first decade of its existence the traditional dual character and further physical development of the University were seriously challenged.

The institution re-constituted
Private Act 4 of 1948, which incorporated NUC into the University of Natal, retained Council’s right (clause 21) ‘to refuse admittance to any student who applies for admission should they consider it to be in the interests of the University’ and (clause 24b) ‘to determine at which place under the control of the University a student shall attend for the purpose of receiving instruction’. This effectively enabled the new institution to continue its predecessor’s segregationist, whites-only tradition while still running a blacks-only Medical School and a downtown Non-European Section for non-medical black students.

During the House of Assembly debates on the Bill only M. Kentridge (Troyeville) and A.T. Wanless (Durban Umbilo, site of the new Medical School) expressed concern about the implications of these clauses. The vast majority of members seemed to welcome what J.H. Conradie (Gordonia) described as ‘the measure of “apartheid” that is going to be applied; the separate facilities that will be provided for Europeans and non-Europeans’. It was a reiteration of the segregationist principle that had previously denied NUC a place among South Africa’s ‘open’ universities and was to haunt the new University of Natal in the years to come. In the late 1950s the new Act was subsequently consolidated.
and amended, but not in any way to modify its segregationist tradition. This was merely to give it legal power to distinguish more clearly between the general regulations pertaining to degrees, diplomas and certificates and the specific rules, pertaining for example to student discipline, that governed its operation and to change these where appropriate.\footnote{1}

During the course of 1949 the Council, Senate Executive (Senex), Senate and Faculty boards of the new University were formally re-constituted, their respective powers redefined and all University legislation consolidated. Administrative procedures pertaining to such matters as degree regulations, class records, examinations, pass categories and certificates of merit were re-clarified. Among other things, the constitutions of the three Student Representative Councils (SRCs) and student Athletics Unions were also reviewed. It was decided that when the financial situation allowed it, a Chancellor’s throne should be provided in each centre for graduation ceremonies, with an embroidered covering tabard and cushion to accompany the Chancellor’s robes when he moved between the two centres.

Council expressed some concern that in Senate the humanities were heavily outweighed by the combined numbers of agriculture, the sciences and applied sciences. The much bigger bone of future contention with which the Principal, E.G. Malherbe, and his successors would have to deal was the relative weighting between Durban and Pietermaritzburg-based members.

In November 1949 Malherbe returned from an extended visit to Canada and the USA where he focused on diverse issues pertaining to university education in general and on medical training in particular. At his behest, a committee was formed comprising all the deans and two lecturers’ representatives through which to disseminate for discussion among staff members the large number of publications relating to these matters he had accumulated while abroad.

Prior to that a Publications Committee was established to oversee University-generated publications and promote a favourable public image for the institution. A brochure entitled ‘Natal University College becomes University of Natal’ was prepared to ‘serve as a link between past and present students’. Initially it was decided that University Day or Founders Day should coincide with the annual graduation ceremony. Subsequently, it was resolved to celebrate it at five-yearly intervals in imitation of the festivities with which the 1949 inauguration of the University of Natal had been observed.

The 1954 fifth anniversary celebrations were not nearly as extensive as its predecessor. They included a Fine Arts exhibition in Pietermaritzburg and an exhibition of architectural drawings as well as a production of ‘King Lear’
in the downtown City Buildings Theatre Workshop in Durban. After some uncertainty, the University’s ‘non-European’ students opted to boycott the celebrations, although it subsequently transpired that the decision to do so was taken at a poorly supported meeting by about 40 of a potential attendance of more than 300 students. There was more adverse publicity when the University’s exhibit at Pietermaritzburg’s Royal Agricultural Show came in for severe criticism, to be replaced in future by an annual Open Day.

On a positive note, on Sunday 21 March various Christian denominations celebrated the fifth anniversary by conducting student church services while a series of public lectures included the distinguished South African poet Roy Campbell discussing his own work. A luncheon and Founders Day Ball followed the graduation ceremony at which Campbell delivered the address and received an honorary D.Litt. It was some consolation for his own unsuccessful efforts as a student in Durban and at Oxford as well as an act of forgiveness for his earlier disparaging observations about the institution his father, Dr Sam Campbell, had helped to establish.

In recognition of that effort Council resolved to name the Principal’s new residence on the Howard College campus Campbell House while his former home in Pietermaritzburg was modified into an annex of the University Hall women’s residence. In the same year D.G. (Denis) Shepstone, Chancellor of the University, agreed to its adoption of his family crest, ‘a red-tongued silver eagle, stretching its wings in front of two golden-shafted assegais with silver blades’, suitably differenced, for incorporation in that of its own. After G. (Graham) Botha, chairman of the South African Heraldry Society, had assisted in preparing the draft, A.R. (Anthony) Wagner, the Richmond Herald of the College of Arms, produced a coloured design of the University’s new armorial bearings on vellum. In 1958 a statement of their symbolic significance, which Professor Frank Bush had drafted, was formally approved and adopted. Henceforth this was to be included in the annual University Calendar and use of the armorial bearings was to be carefully controlled.²

Compared with the festivities of 1949, the relatively low-key fifth anniversary celebrations were appropriate in view of the University’s fragile financial circumstances.

**Finance**

Malherbe was convinced that NUC had always been disadvantaged with regard to the state subsidy formula because no cognisance was taken of the extra expense involved in its dual-centred structure and additional Non-
European Section, or what he later came to describe more accurately as its tri-focal nature. The new National Party government’s failure to acknowledge the latter complication was ironic given its preference for racial segregation rather than the integration already practised at the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand (UCT and Wits). The government’s contribution, roughly matching fee income and current donations on a pound for pound basis, was more or less keeping pace with the institution’s growth in terms of student numbers when the new University of Natal came into existence. Unfortunately, there was delay and uncertainty surrounding the implementation of a new subsidy formula, on top of which it inherited a deficit of £37 000 (R74 000) from its predecessor.

Devastatingly, the annual state grant was then pegged at £106 000 (R212 000) for the three years 1949–1951, with the addition of a special grant amounting to only £7 000 (R14 000) in the last year. This proved to be seriously inadequate for such a rapidly expanding institution, which now included a Faculty of Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg and a Faculty of Medicine in Durban. These straitened circumstances obliged the University to survive, in part, by means of a substantial bank overdraft.

The Secretary for Education’s minute of July 1949 indicating the necessity for universities to cut their expenditure further was referred to the Committee of University Principals (CUP), which formally objected to the principle involved. Reluctantly, that year it was still necessary for student fees to be increased by 10% at the University of Natal. Ex-servicemen were exempt and ‘non-European’ students were still granted a 40% discount on grounds of financial disadvantage. A joint Council/Senate Economies Committee appointed to find ways of reducing expenditure, which amounted to over £340 000 in 1950, soon found this impossible without seriously impairing the institution’s teaching and research functions.

In November 1949 Malherbe advised Senate that the University would have an accumulated deficit of approximately £49 000 (R98 000) by the end of that year and that its bank overdraft would reach £80 000 (R160 000) by the end of February 1950 because there was no inflow of funds during the first three months of each year. He urged economies wherever possible to avoid a 10% cut in staff salaries, or at the very least the withdrawal of cost of living allowances, for which only Natal and UCT paid full civil service rates.

The accumulated deficit at the end of 1949 was not quite as severe as anticipated, amounting to £30 409 (R60 818), but there was no prospect of additional revenue from non-government sources like municipalities or private
donations. The only possible source was increased student enrolment. There were simply no funds to send a representative to the conference of the proposed International Association of Universities held in December 1950 in Nice. It was decided that, if possible, the University should in future be represented at international congresses by staff members already overseas on leave.

Reluctantly, it was also resolved that a limited number of part-time courses that had been in some doubt would continue to be offered in Pietermaritzburg subject to sufficient demand, but the various Faculty boards reported that there were no other optional courses that could be dispensed with. Eventually it was proposed that members of staff should defer taking leave and that they should be charged 30 shillings (R3) a year for the tea supplied to them. Among other economy measures the contents of the annual University Calendar were reduced and Council declared that unspent year-end balances were to be cancelled. It was even suggested that the two centres might best be served by one maintenance team of artisans until it was shown that the travelling costs involved would make this impractical.

The estimates for 1951 anticipated saving £3 680 (R7 360) on departmental, administrative, and grounds and buildings expenses, but the University’s overall expenditure per student was still substantially the highest of all the universities in South Africa, with both centres making essential demands on the common exchequer. Consequently, by the end of 1951 the University’s accumulated deficit had risen to £65 000 (R130 000). The Minister of Education, Arts and Science had already made it clear that he did not approve the overdraft exceeding £75 000 (R150 000) and the Treasury was not willing to increase university subsidies until the expiry of the three-year period for which they had been pegged. Further student fee increases had to be formulated for 1953 amidst growing concern about the high numbers of students resident in university centres who reduced their expenses by opting to register as distance students with the University of South Africa (UNISA).

The Natal University Development Foundation (NUDF) continued its efforts, dating back to its establishment in 1928, to raise funds from private sources. In June 1949 its chairman, Humphrey Jones, appealed to Senate members to assist in raising funds through their close contacts with present and past students. By the end of that year the NUDF’s reserves amounted to £460 000 (R920 000) and by 1956 had improved to £611 191 (R1 222 382), including a donation of £50 000 (R100 000) from the Durban Corporation for building development.
In 1954 the NUDF launched a special appeal to support the new Medical School and the Chamber of Mines took the lead with a donation of £50 000 (R100 000). The NUDF’s general reserves continued to be bolstered by generous donations, several in annual instalments. Its secretary-organiser, Major Deighton, who succeeded the long-serving Mrs Forsyth, zigzagged thousands of kilometres all over the province to interview captains of industry, town clerks, farmers, farmers’ associations and others in an effort to tap every possible source of local income. Lever Brothers and J. Townley Williams contributed £2 000 (R4 000) each, the South African Sugar Association £2 500 (R5 000), Shell £5 000 (R10 000), African Explosives and Chemical Industries Ltd £6 000 (R12 000) and the estate of the late A.H. Smith £15 000 (R30 000), not to mention numerous smaller contributions from various companies and individuals.3

In August 1951 the first government Commission of Enquiry into University Finances and Salaries was appointed and chaired by Dr J.E. Holloway. During the first half of 1952 it at last visited Natal and Senex was able to present its recommendations with regard to university subsidies and staffing ratios. Unsurprisingly, it pleaded that in determining any general subsidy formula and staff:student ratio for South Africa’s universities Natal should be treated as a special case because it was teaching ‘three geographically and racially separated groups of students’.

On 4 May 1953 the Holloway Commission’s anxiously awaited report was published. It proposed a new, complex formula as the basis for future state grants to the universities. Student numbers were to be the primary consideration, with an additional subsidy equivalent to a professorial salary for each approved department. In effect, the state grant would meet approximately two-thirds of university expenditure with student fees and other sources of income expected to provide the balance. Encouragingly, it acknowledged that indeed ‘special consideration has had to be given to the case of the University of Natal, which has to duplicate certain courses in the humanities, in science and in commerce because of its approved dual nature’.

However, the commission report warned ‘against the extension of the field of duplication between the two official centres and against any attempt to create two or more universities in Natal’. It therefore proved to be a false financial dawn, for while it accepted the University’s need for duplication the recommended subsidy formula did not, in practice, provide sufficient funds with which to administer and develop a dual-centred, indeed triple campus, institution. Moreover, it did not accept the University’s proposal that it be
allowed to liquidate its accumulated £65 000 (R130 000) deficit on a pound for pound basis (i.e., government and NUDF sharing the cost), which meant that only £32 000 (R64 000) was available in the latter fund for building purposes.

The national Treasury’s curtailment of capital expenditure further ensured that the University would be unable to undertake any further major building projects for the foreseeable future. This meant that existing accommodation would have to be rationalised and, where necessary, shared. By 1953 all departments faced backlogs of equipment essential to their effective functioning while the cost of replacement continued to rise. That year course fees were increased by £3 (R6) in all faculties, including £1 (R2) to be devoted to the Library, making them amongst the highest in the country.

In May 1954 Malherbe advised Senate that the 1955 state subsidy would be a staggering £50 000 (R100 000) less than in 1954. This was partly attributable to a drop in registrations and to the government’s enforced exclusion of 64 pre-medical students whose previous inclusion in the calculations had helped to increase the subsidy. It was also due to the shortcomings of the Holloway Commission’s subsidy formula. He pointed out that whereas the University’s Pietermaritzburg, Durban ‘European’ and Durban ‘non-European’ operations had received a combined state grant of only £239 000 (R478 000) in 1954, the universities of Rhodes, the Orange Free State and Fort Hare, which were collectively similar in scope and size, had been favoured with a grand total of £373 967 (R747 934). While some universities had recently been able to supplement staff salaries, Natal could not afford such a luxury because its Council was virtually administering two universities (arguably even three) on a state grant more appropriate to a single institution.

In November 1954 the University’s formal protest concerning the inadequacy of the subsidy formula resulted in the visit of a sub-committee (Dr R.W. Wilcocks and Dr P.J. du Toit) of the Universities Advisory Committee. It proved to be more interested in cutting expenditure than in revising the subsidy and made the former a prerequisite for the latter. Protracted negotiations with the Department of Education, Arts and Science subsequently had the effect of seriously retarding further capital expenditure on buildings and the establishment of new posts.

Then, in 1955, what chairman of Council George Campbell described as the ‘most significant event in the history of this University’s development’ took place. The second Holloway Commission of Enquiry (1954–1955) at last concluded that henceforth state subsidy of universities should be determined in accordance with their needs and not their self-generated income, primarily
through fees and donations, as had been the case during the previous two decades.

The University of Natal was granted an extra R14 000 towards the additional cost of running its Non-European Section. However, in Natal’s case there were humiliating conditions attached to the new subsidy arrangement that were not immediately identified as such. As Malherbe later observed, in effect these meant that the institution was ‘severely discriminated against in comparison

G.G. (George Gordon) Campbell was the son of Dr Sam Campbell who had been instrumental in establishing the Natal Technical College and NUC’s branch in Durban. Educated at Hilton College and Maritzburg College, he graduated at NUC before proceeding to Edinburgh where his medical studies were interrupted by wartime service in the Royal Field Artillery and Royal Flying Corps. After qualifying as a doctor he emulated his father by becoming a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. While a student he captained Edinburgh University’s first cricket XI and in 1921 opened the batting in two international matches for Scotland against Australia. On his return to Durban, Campbell continued in general practice, except during World War II when he trained and commanded the 16th Field Ambulance in North Africa’s western desert. Like his father, he chaired the Council of the Natal Technical College for many years and was college president for 25 years. In 1935 he began 31 years of service on the Council of NUC and then University of Natal, becoming chairman in 1953. In 1966 he was elected as the University’s second Chancellor in succession to Dr Denis G. Shepstone and held the position until his resignation in 1973 due to ill health.

He also sponsored the establishment of Durban’s George Campbell Technical High School and chaired its Council. Among numerous awards for his contributions to education were the Coronation Medal in 1953, honorary doctorates the following year from Edinburgh and later from Natal, and Durban civic honours in 1966. In addition to serving as chairman of the Durban Child Welfare Society and of the South African National Council for Child Welfare, Campbell was also well known for his interest in the protection of South Africa’s wildlife. He was instrumental in the establishment of the South African Association for Marine Biological Research in 1952 and the Oceanographic Research Institute in 1959. He was elected a life member of the Fauna Preservation Society (London) and an honorary life member of the South African Wildlife Preservation Society. In 1947–1949 he led three expeditions on behalf of its Natal branch, of which he was life president, to study the biological diversity of Maputaland.
with other universities regarding its freedom of action’. Professor of History A.F. (Alan) Hattersley put it more bluntly in declaring that ‘when it accepted the additional basic subsidy, the University parted with its essential academic autonomy’, accepting conditions ‘the astonishing implications of which only slowly became evident’.

The first Holloway Commission had already warned against over-expenditure, but henceforth if the University reflected a deficit in any given year it would be placed under curatorial control and there was to be no further duplication of courses or departments without government approval. Consequently, by way of example, for a time white students in Durban could not take Geography or Latin beyond first-year level even though second- and third-year courses were already being offered in the Non-European Section. Similarly, Special Zulu could not be offered in Pietermaritzburg.

It was an outcome the Holloway Commission had certainly never intended in its genuine effort to find an equitable balance between university autonomy and unavoidable dependence upon state subsidy in the absence of substantial private endowments. After numerous letters and deputations the Department of Education, Arts and Science eventually relented, allowing the introduction of new courses, including Geography I and II in Durban and Special Zulu in Pietermaritzburg, provided the University did not claim any extra subsidy for them. Yet, as Hattersley pointed out, government readily agreed to the establishment of an Afrikaans-medium Faculty of Medicine in Stellenbosch even though one already existed in Pretoria and to a new Agriculture Faculty in the Orange Free State when there were already three in the country.

In Council’s 1955 report Campbell referred to earlier predictions that post-war growth would soon outstrip the University’s existing resources and pointed out that during the previous decade academic departments had consequently been obliged to limit their demands for additional staff and equipment. As a result, in some cases their teaching and research functions had been seriously threatened. Despite the conditions attached, it was now confidently expected that the new subsidy method would in future greatly facilitate the creation of new posts as well as the provision of capital equipment.

In that vein, Campbell was subsequently able to report that the ‘keystone’ of 1956 had been ‘undoubtedly one of development’ for the University of Natal ‘in terms of stature, student numbers’ and ‘the search for truth and its communication to succeeding generations’, despite the complexity of its ‘trifocal structure’. The fact remained that, as predicted, it had now ‘far outstripped’ its available resources in terms of classroom, laboratory, residential and other
accommodation. In the face of rising costs and an annual state grant that was still failing to keep pace with the University’s needs, the prospect loomed of yet another increase in fees and the exclusion of those students who simply could not afford them. Faced with these dire consequences Council again approached the government for special assistance, with Campbell emphasising the post-war economy’s ongoing need for more graduates in a wide variety of skilled professions.

In his quest to tap other sources of income Malherbe continued to argue, as before, that local municipalities should follow the example of several British towns in being more generous in their support of the local university. By 1949 it was hoped that the Durban City Council would agree to a 50% increase in its annual £4 000 (R8 000) grant-in-aid ‘as a result of the enhanced status of the University of Natal and the considerable increase in the burden of expense’. The Council did agree to contribute £10 000 (R20 000) from its rates income for the next five years to be used for capital expenditure and, as before, £4 000 (R8 000) a year for current expenditure in order to assist the University overcome its financial crisis. It also continued to offer one senior bursary a year to the value of £80 (R160) and two junior bursaries for half that amount, tenable for three years in Durban and available to white candidates who had lived in the city for three years immediately prior to matriculation. The Dick King Centenary Exhibition was also still tenable for three years to the annual value of £50 (R100) and, for the first time, the City Council decided to award an annual bursary in the social sciences to a ‘non-European’ student.

The Pietermaritzburg City Council, which had previously provided £1 225 (R2 450) a year, was requested to increase its new annual contribution to the University from £3 000 (R6 000) to £10 000 (R20 000) but agreed to an increase of only £1 000 (R2 000). In Malherbe’s opinion it was ‘obvious that Pietermaritzburg cannot afford a strong university’ and should not be surprised if ‘drastic and crippling cuts’ were to follow on campus. By the late 1940s Council still offered two bursaries to the value of £50 (R100) a year and subsequently agreed to increase this to £100 (R200) in 1949–1950, rising to £200 (R400) in 1950–1951 and £300 (R600) in subsequent years. A third bursary was awarded from 1951.

In 1956 the City Council approved a £11 060 (R22 120) loan, repayable over 20 years at 5.75% interest a year, to enable the University to buy 35 King Edward Avenue in Scottsville for use as an additional women’s residence. In 1960 a further loan, with a collective value of £12 600 (R25 200) at 6% a year, was granted for the purchase of the adjacent 29 King Edward Avenue and both
22 and 24 Milner Road, whose buildings were all subsequently demolished to erect a new women’s residence. In 1960 a further municipal loan of £10 000 (R20 000) was approved for sports field development, with the City Treasurer recording that ‘The principle of institutions providing their own sports facilities was strongly supported, not only for the direct benefit to their members but by their becoming more firmly established in the city and indirectly relieving the Council from constructing and maintaining further sports facilities.’

This was all money well invested. It was calculated that by 1961 the student population in Pietermaritzburg was spending R600 000 a year and the staff more than R400 000, excluding in excess of R10 000 a year in property rates. This did not include the unquantifiable cultural and educational benefits the presence of a University campus brought to the city.

Malherbe continued to complain frequently about the inadequacy of the state subsidy and appealed for private donations to universities to be made tax free as was the case with research grants from industry. By that stage the Durban Theatre Fund had been established to raise money and to agitate for the acquisition of a vacant plot adjoining the University’s premises in Warwick Avenue. The City Council scotched the proposal by indicating that it had already earmarked that site for the City Health Department’s new administration block. Another promising initiative, based on a generous bequest from an anonymous donor, was the proposal to establish an Institute of African Studies, endowed with a chair, library and museum. It also envisaged the acquisition of land ‘centrally situated and within close proximity of the Commerce Block’. In this way the new building could be regarded as an extension and the capital grant would then qualify for a pound for pound contribution from the government. As with the proposed theatre, the problem was to secure an appropriate site.

The financial challenges the University faced were formidable, not least with regard to its lack of ready capital and the high cost of building. Fortunately, in 1957 the State’s new policy for the subvention of buildings began to take effect. This made it possible to finance a major new building programme on the basis of private loans and to spread the repayment of 60% of the interest and redemption costs, amounting to more than £40 000 (R80 000), over 40 years with the State paying the balance. It was considered to be a worthwhile and necessary commitment in view of an anticipated increase in student numbers following the high post-war birth rate. As yet, with Durban having been slow to embrace tertiary education, there was still a substantially smaller percentage of whites in Natal attending university than in any other province; one in every
171 compared with as many as one in 121 in the Orange Free State, but this was expected to change.

Council embarked on the first phase of the programme by raising a £364,000 (R728,000) private loan as well as borrowing £330,000 (R660,000) from government to ease the University’s critical accommodation shortages and in anticipation of its projected needs for the next decade. Council was conscious of the fact that the limited residential accommodation on campus, particularly in Durban, was obliging increasing numbers of students to find lodgings elsewhere. Travel costs in terms of time and money were incalculable and also reduced opportunities to participate in the on-campus clubs, societies and other facilities that made for a full university life.

During the late 1950s, as increasing student numbers severely strained residential, classroom and laboratory facilities, the University continued to make progress on its building backlog, aided by the State’s generous interest and redemption allowances on private loans. Meanwhile, negotiations with the Minister of Education, Arts and Science for a revision of the general university subsidy formula and for improved salary scales continued, primarily through the medium of the CUP and the Universities Advisory Committee.

At last, early in 1959, following the recommendations of Professor Wiehahn’s 1958 commission, a revised version of the Holloway formula was finalised. The University of Natal was to receive a substantial increase of roughly 10% to allow for class duplication. As a result, in the late 1950s the state grant constituted 69.3% of total revenue compared with 26.5% derived from fees, which were raised again, with the small balance coming from municipal and other contributions. In addition, government advanced a loan to cover the University’s overdraft, subject to curatorial control if it incurred any further deficits.

Unfortunately, the improved grant was tempered by the requirement that the University should henceforth meet the staff’s cost of living allowances previously paid by the State and also budget for the much-needed increased salary scales. Malherbe pointed out to Senate that ‘because of its tri-focal nature’, it ‘was still in a relatively disadvantageous position in comparison with other universities’ and that this would necessitate the continuation of ‘separate representations with regard to the special circumstances applicable to this University’. Meanwhile, another 10% increase in fees was planned for 1960.4

By then the University had long since been obliged by its dire financial circumstances to streamline and economise on its administrative structure.
Central administration
The financial hardship experienced in the 1950s had an unavoidable impact on both administrative and academic staffing. By 1950 the financial situation was already so desperate and government pressure to economise and avoid duplication was such that Council and Senate were called upon seriously to consider concentrating virtually all of the University’s faculties in Durban. The proposal was to leave the existing academic and residential accommodation in Pietermaritzburg for the exclusive use of the new Faculty of Agriculture. Prodded by the departments of Agriculture, Education and Public Works, Malherbe first suggested this option on 31 March 1950, in strict confidence, to Senex. After lengthy discussion that body resolved to refer the matter to Senate and Council. Malherbe then presented a confidential memorandum, entitled ‘The present financial crisis and our University development: the need for rationalisation’ and dated 14 April 1950, to Senate. In it, he declared that Durban was ‘the growing end’ of the University and that, the surrounding farming community aside, the Pietermaritzburg public had ‘shown very little interest in the University’.

He advocated ‘tapering off” activities in the latter centre and ‘consolidation’ in the other in order to avoid inevitable rationalisation and lack of development in both of them. He proposed asking government for the £250 000 (R500 000) already committed to covering the entire cost of the new Faculty of Agriculture building in return for the University making its Scottsville buildings available as an alternative to that construction at an annual rental of £10 000 (R20 000) for the next five years. The University could then match this £250 000 (R500 000) to provide all the necessary facilities required in Durban, including hostel accommodation for students currently studying on the original campus.

Malherbe recognised that there were serious drawbacks to this proposal in that Pietermaritzburg staff would also have to move to Durban, the Faculty of Agriculture would be isolated from related sciences, the Faculty of Education would be separated from the Teachers Training College and the History Department would similarly be distanced from the government archive depot.

On the other hand, the perceived advantages included the elimination of expensive duplication and more effective administrative control by departmental heads, the provision of urgently needed instructional and residential accommodation in Durban, a more equitable choice of course options in the Non-European Section and more input from the biological sciences for the Medical School. In addition, the integration of some disciplines like Fine Arts and Architecture would become possible and there would be
ample building space and sports fields for ‘Ag Fac’ to facilitate its move from Oribi. Not least, the State would enjoy substantial financial savings through the elimination of duplicated courses and the University an increased annual income of £10 000 (R20 000) for five years, which would help place it on ‘a sound financial footing’.

Malherbe also pointed out that only 183 of the 584 students currently registered in Pietermaritzburg had their homes there, whereas 668 of Durban’s 1 144 students were from that city. Consequently, far fewer students would be affected by a shift to Durban than the other way around. In his opinion, the University urgently needed to choose ‘the lesser of two evils’ as it now faced ‘financial disaster’ or ‘radical curtailment of facilities, which means stagnation’.

Government encouraged this initiative by readily agreeing to pay the capital grant of £250 000 (R500 000) outright (less the cost of necessary alterations) to facilitate its implementation. Malherbe’s suggestion soon became public knowledge and provoked considerable discussion among students, in the local newspapers and on the Pietermaritzburg City Council. Municipal representatives on the University Council were requested to monitor the situation closely and oppose any formal proposal should it arise ‘in the interests of Pietermaritzburg’. Councillor Mason argued that the University had been founded in that city and that any developments in Durban should not be undertaken at the expense of the local campus.

A group of Pietermaritzburg professors, including John McKinnell, Geoffrey Durrant, Gawie Nienaber and Frank Bush, publicly disputed the claim that their centre was more of a drain on the University’s finances than Durban. It was agreed that all Faculty boards should be afforded the opportunity to discuss the matter before a final decision was taken and an opposing memorandum was prepared for discussion at a special meeting of the Arts Faculty Board on 29 April 1950.

Malherbe’s careful analysis nevertheless showed that the Durban centre was a much better ongoing financial proposition than Pietermaritzburg and indicated that the latter’s post-1945 growth owed much to the successful expansion of the former. At a subsequent meeting of Senate on 5 May 1950 it emerged that the faculties of Science, Engineering, Commerce and Social Science supported his proposal. Law and Education were lukewarm as they would still have to make provision for trainee attorneys and teachers in Pietermaritzburg and would therefore require substantial compensatory expenditure in one or other centre. Arts (which seemed to be the epicentre of
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resistance) and Agriculture opposed it, the latter due to its close association with Science, which it did not want moved to Durban.

In view of ‘sharp differences of opinion’, Senate resolved by 23 votes to 19 not to make a decision but to refer the Faculty responses to Council, giving rise to a four-hour debate in that chamber. Malherbe was obviously disappointed, pointing out that he had done his best to develop the University in both centres but that, despite the acquisition of a Faculty of Agriculture and of the accommodation at Oribi, his efforts had been greeted with ‘apathy’ in Pietermaritzburg. It was certainly the case that the Durban City Council and the Durban public had been much more generous to the institution than had the latter, less affluent centre where the existence of a university campus had perhaps come to be taken for granted. Malherbe also confided that his health had been adversely affected by his commitment to the two centres and warned of ‘very difficult times ahead’.

When the Minister of Education heard of the unfavourable reaction to the proposal the government withdrew its support and Council resolved to proceed with the already approved erection of the new Faculty of Agriculture building. For better or worse, a crucial opportunity to centralise the rest of the University in Durban had been declined. The University’s financial crisis nevertheless dragged on. In February 1951 Council and the NUDF jointly appointed the M.C. Botha/J.P. Duminy Commission to advise it on the University’s most appropriate organisation in relation to its financial circumstances and the most efficient use of its resources to meet the educational needs of the province. All interested parties were invited to submit memoranda, which Malherbe, for one, did at great length. In April 1951 professors Geoffrey Durrant and Jacob Krige carried a motion in Senate requesting the formulation of a five-year plan and a long-term development policy for the University.

The following month the commission endorsed the University’s policy of dualism but recognised that the Principal had become ‘a focal point of conflicting pressures’. It recommended that the central administration should be focused in Durban as ‘an urgent physical necessity’ because most future development was likely to take place there. Council was already in favour of such a move but on 8 November 1951 a memorandum entitled ‘Policy urgently needed’ and authored by V.V.A. (probably V.V. Victor ‘Bunny’ Austin, the Deputy Registrar) and the Principal himself, was presented to a joint meeting of Council and the NUDF. It pointed to the dire consequences of not immediately having taken Malherbe’s advice, arguing that the University had already ‘fallen into a quagmire of sentimental parochialism’ in trying to
maintain what other university heads doubtless regarded as ‘a rather crazy set-up’. It claimed further that ‘as the logic of the situation inexorably asserted itself’, tension was growing between the two centres and ‘the atmosphere of the University was becoming soured by petty parochialism’.

The memorandum stressed that the minister had since urged that duplication should be avoided as he could not permit ‘the development of what seems to be two universities in Natal’. It was argued that this ‘intolerable’ situation had placed enormous strain on senior staff, some of whom had ‘broken down completely’ or were on the verge of doing so. The memorandum insisted that had consolidation taken place, the University of Natal would already have escaped its debt, been well staffed and could have offered more scope for individual promotions.

The University Council concluded that it could not make a final decision without Senate’s assistance. After heated debate in that body and elsewhere, it was eventually resolved that the University should ride out the existing financial crisis and continue to develop each centre ‘according to its legitimate requirements’. The statement Council issued to that effect on 1 February 1952 indicated that every effort would be made to avoid ‘unnecessary duplication’ and that the University’s central administration would be moved to Durban.

It accepted the recommendation of the 1951 M.C. Botha/J.P. Duminy Commission approved by Senate that some measure of autonomy should be allowed in both centres, but adhered to the principle of unitary academic control entrusted to a single head of department on one or other campus. Ominously for Pietermaritzburg, it indicated that in future Council might be obliged to divide the annual government subsidy ‘in the ratio of their respective incomes derived from student fees and municipal grants’, with some ‘elasticity’ to allow for ‘the good of the University as a whole’.

It was another momentous decision. For the foreseeable future the University of Natal was to remain a dual-centred institution with three campuses, indeed four if the separate identity of City Buildings in Durban was recognised in addition to that of the Medical School, without including the Non-European Section in that city and the part-time classes still held in downtown Pietermaritzburg. The transfer of the central administration to Durban eventually took place in June 1953. It also involved the construction of a new home (Campbell House) on the Howard College campus for the Principal so that he could vacate his earlier home in Pietermaritzburg situated between King Edward Avenue and Milner Road.
His seemingly unnecessary departure was brought home to Pietermaritzburg students when in 1956 the house became a residence for ‘responsible’ fourth-year students. Although motor transport and road conditions had vastly improved over the years, the Malherbes continued to use the adjacent granny cottage for overnight stays on campus and periodically unwittingly treated their student neighbours to some ‘energetic arguments’. Acceptance of the principle of dualism created mounting administrative complications and expenses, but it did mean that large numbers of students in both centres had no need to leave their homes in order to study at tertiary level. In some cases, as Malherbe had hoped, they also benefited from being in smaller classes.

At the conclusion of Council’s annual report for 1956, chairman George Campbell confidently observed, somewhat prematurely, that the ‘old cleavages are disappearing and a co-operative spirit is developing which bodes well for the future’. In 1957 the Pietermaritzburg administrative offices enjoyed some compensation for their diminished status when the long-serving, ever reliable and popular Mrs D.M. (Dulcie) Somers-Vine was promoted to secretary/Registrar’s representative. In 1959 it was also resolved that a local committee of Senate should meet twice a year to consider and report on all academic matters of specifically local concern.

In 1957 the administrative staff in Durban suffered a setback with the death of the newly appointed sub-accountant, P.J. Burton. The following year D.W. Knox launched his career in that capacity while C.S. (Charles) Playfair began what proved to be a sadly brief tenure as Public Relations Officer. He was already well known as vice chairman of the Public Relations Institute of South Africa and for raising £8 million (R16 million) as organiser of the National War Fund. In Pietermaritzburg Mrs M.K. (Margaret) Wills began a much longer career when she assumed the post of telephonist.

The financial crisis of the early 1950s and subsequent removal of the central administration to Durban did nothing to reduce the traditional enmity between the two centres. Malherbe believed that this was, in part, an extension of the ‘parochial jealousies’ that existed between the two cities, aggravated by the University’s limited financial resources. Within months of the University of Natal’s 1949 incorporation the Pietermaritzburg Students Representative Council (SRC) had requested that its campus be named Bews College in honour of NUC’s first Principal. It was then, in Dr Mabel Palmer’s estimation, similar to ‘one of the small town colleges of the United States, such as Amherst or Berkeley’. Hattersley later observed that it had not, however, ‘achieved a tutorial system comparable with that of the older universities in the United
Kingdom, and it was not fair to assume that Durban could not develop as fruitful a residential life, once it had thrown off the burden of its part-time system.

In May 1960 Malherbe prefaced a Senate meeting by referring to the ‘old, haunting suspicion and fear’ that the Pietermaritzburg campus would be closed down and future development focused on Durban. He gave the assurance that this possibility was a thing of the past and that, despite the expense and difficulties involved, he was fully committed to the existing ‘dual-centred arrangement’ from which two independent institutions might eventually emerge.

In a long personal and confidential letter to Edgar Brookes at the end of 1958 Malherbe bewailed the parochial bitterness and defensive negativity that still prevailed in some quarters, particularly in Pietermaritzburg, despite his efforts to generate a common esprit de corps. He did not find this to be the case in Ag Fac which was removed from the main Scottsville campus and from what Robert Craig, Professor of Divinity, called its ‘common room neurosis’. He attributed this, in large measure, to the ‘negative dampening influence’ of certain senior staff members who had so strongly opposed the proposal to remove all but Ag Fac to Durban.

Elsewhere Malherbe expressed disappointment with the ‘consistent opposition’ of Science Faculty members in Pietermaritzburg to the ‘development of the much-needed biological sciences in Durban’. He also found ample evidence of the parochial loyalty that he was struggling against on the University Council. Its chairman, Dr William O’Brien, bemoaned the fact that university studies had ever been started in Durban despite the £480 000 (R960 000) thus far raised there in public donations and the increased subsidies generated by offering arts and science courses in that centre.

In June 1959 Malherbe privately expressed the view that ‘during the last decade there have been very clear signs that future development will involve two separate universities, one in Pietermaritzburg and one in Durban. Already Pietermaritzburg is larger than Rhodes and deserves full university status on all counts’. Hattersley added that in terms of student numbers it was also larger than any of the other universities had been when they were granted their independence. A few months later Malherbe conceded that if separation were ever effected, the smaller centre would struggle without financial assistance from the subsidy and student fees arts and science courses generated in Durban. He might have added to that the private donations the NUDF was raising in the larger centre.
Malherbe nevertheless bewailed the fact that government had not already recognised the two as separate institutions, in which case Natal would have benefited from another £160 000 (R320 000) a year in subsidies. With regard to libraries and laboratories, for example, the University received the same grant per student under the existing formula as did single-centred institutions. Consequently, in 1959 it was denied an estimated £40 000 (R80 000) that it would otherwise have received while Stellenbosch University, which was roughly the same size, benefited by more than £2 000 (R4 000). The University’s dual, indeed, ‘treble set-up’ had also meant that several ‘important facilities’, like departments of Music and Domestic Science (Home Economics) and a chapel, had not yet been provided because of the cost of replication.

On 22 August 1959 Malherbe issued what amounted to a policy statement for the future in the form of a circular letter to members of staff. Henceforth durable, unpretentious buildings were to be erected on campus and ‘modestly furnished’ because expenditure on staff was a higher priority. He offered them hope of better salary scales in the not-too-distant future as well as ‘disability allowances for those whose duties are clearly divided between the two limbs of the powerful tree’, that is Pietermaritzburg and Durban. He declared that the University should try to attract ‘the very best men and women’ to its staff and then ‘fight to keep them’. This was an advance on a decade previously when he seemed to think only in terms of attracting ‘good men’.

However, staff members who performed ‘outside work’ were expected to withdraw from such commitments as soon as possible to obviate criticism from parents and prospective donors. Professors and heads of department were to be entrusted with more non-academic responsibility to relieve the currently overloaded administrative staff. Teaching and research was, nevertheless, to receive Malherbe’s ‘special attention’ as this was ‘the yardstick by which an institution is measured’. Administrative structures and Senate procedures were to be streamlined, unnecessary committees disbanded in the interests of greater efficiency and more executive powers entrusted to Faculty deans.

Malherbe’s circular letter was clearly also, in part, an attempt to reassure any lingering doubters as to the Executive’s intention to continue developing the University in both centres. Admittedly, by the end of the decade only six of the 45 administrative posts and three of the sixteen supporting non-administrative posts in the University were based in Pietermaritzburg. Yet he affirmed his confidence in the institution’s future ‘with its entrenched seats of learning in Pietermaritzburg and Durban’ and expressed pride in the fact that there had been no more talk of rival claims ‘in recent years’. In emphasising the unity of
the centralised administration, Malherbe declared: ‘If, in the execution of my multifarious and widespread duties I unwittingly create the impression that I am more interested in the welfare of one centre at the expense of the other, I charge you to speak to me directly about the matter wherever I may be’. He also stressed his belief in straight talk and his intention to spend a full day every week in his Pietermaritzburg office to make himself readily available for such discussions there.

However, pride of place in the Principal’s letter to staff was devoted to an attempt to forestall a looming administrative crisis involving the Registrar, P.G. (Peter) Leeb-du Toit and certain of his subordinates. Malherbe announced that, after 22 years of ‘uncertainty regarding his status and conditions of service’, his ‘partner in administration, Mr Peter Leeb-du Toit’ had been accorded a status and salary equal to that of the Registrar of ‘any other senior university in the country’. Further, he assured the staff that, in terms of Private Act 4 of 1948 (sections 5, 6 and 11), the Principal and Registrar ‘are the only recognised officers of the University who are charged with the control of ALL the functions of the very complicated Administrative machinery of the University. I am happy in the thought that many of you have known him for a number of years and that ALL will extend to him their full support and co-operation.’

This statement may well have been intended primarily to reassure Leeb-du Toit himself and for the information of his administrative subordinates, but it did not avert a tense situation in the University’s central administration. On 27 August 1959, five days after Malherbe issued his circular letter, the Registrar confronted him and Campbell with a strictly confidential, eleven-page memorandum in which he explained that he (Leeb-du Toit) had recently been ‘a very sick man’ having ‘hovered on the brink for a few days’ as Campbell, his personal physician, would be able to attest. His unspecified illness was seemingly a nervous breakdown, but he declared that he had now ‘passed the crisis’ and was looking forward to completing his ‘life’s work’ by the time he was due to retire at the age of 65 in December 1971. Leeb-du Toit explained that, in order to do so, he needed to be ‘assured of peace of mind with a well-run office and loyal employees, each one doing his best and a little more’.

In that connection he made a number of serious allegations against Deputy Registrar, Victor ‘Bunny’ Austin, and University Accountant, A.J. Lyle. He was convinced that in the application for his post, the former had composed one of his own glowing testimonials. Leeb-du Toit listed several instances of Austin’s subsequent alleged incompetence. These included the mismanagement of
subsidy claims following the post-Holloway Commission implementation of a new subsidy formula, the botched launch of a student identity project, and the purchase of the ‘most expensive furniture’ for the central administration when it was moved from Pietermaritzburg to Durban without any quotations being submitted to the Principal.

Leeb-du Toit was convinced that Austin had gained a ‘sinister hold’ over Lyle and that he also ‘dominated a very fine lad, Tom Cochran’, an administrative staff member and future Registrar. Further, that Austin had alienated two other administrators, R.S. (Dick) McKie Thomson and Major G.P.R. Hind, from the Assistant Registrar at the Medical School, A.K.B. (Athol) Skinner, who was ‘a wonderful lad – loyal, conscientious, hardworking’ and had ‘the makings of one of the greatest Registrars of the University’. Leeb-du Toit also alleged that at a cocktail party in Pietermaritzburg Austin had claimed ‘he had the Principal under his thumb and could mould him as he liked’ and made derogatory remarks about the Registrar.

It is highly unlikely that Austin claimed any hold over Malherbe, although they were personal friends. The former referred to the latter as ‘Oubaas’ after serving as a clerk in the Union Department of Education during the 1930s when Malherbe was director of the National Bureau of Educational Research. Malherbe had a high regard for him and in subsequent referee’s reports referred to him as ‘the most efficient yet unobtrusive secretary of committees’ who was ‘a perfectionist’ with ‘a good sense of humour’ and ‘readily sees through pose and humbug’.

Leeb-du Toit argued that he personally liked Austin, but that he still felt he was serving the interests of his ‘beloved University by disclosing a sinister influence and a danger to its well-being’. However, no action was taken against Austin and Lyle and, following a private meeting with Malherbe, Leeb-du Toit insisted that there could be no ‘patching up’ between him and his two subordinates. On 14 September he formally requested the Principal to establish a committee of inquiry to investigate his long list of allegations against them, arguing that Lyle, having been ‘led by the nose’, was nevertheless ‘a very active partner in many of the items of unauthorized expenditure’ involving ‘many thousands of pounds’.

On 16 November, after the enquiry had not turned out as he had hoped, finding inter alia that Austin had not composed his own testimonial, Leeb-du Toit informed Malherbe that he could ‘only conclude that my mental state must be such that I am no longer of any use to the University’. He requested him and Campbell to assist in effecting his retirement on the grounds of mental ill-
health to protect his 35 years of ‘loyal service’. Instead, he was given extended recuperative leave.

A year after the inquiry, he informed Campbell that he was enjoying his ‘rest cure’ but dreaded ‘going through all I have gone through for a THIRD time with Austin (and his senior partner, ERNIE)’. By that stage he had clearly concluded that Malherbe was also part of the problem in central administration as he perceived it. ‘Ernie we can never change & so we must just accept him, but Austin is not worthy of becoming a Registrar of a great University’. He recommended to Campbell that a Finance Officer should be appointed, with Skinner as Deputy Registrar and Austin demoted to Assistant Registrar, but with the retention of his current salary. ‘I’m afraid ERNIE Boy is not going to like his A/C Austin being shackled – but this is the only way and if my services are to be kept in good health. ERNIE must be steamrollered by the Campbells’. Leeb-du Toit declared that if these steps were not taken, he would be obliged to resign.

He subsequently returned to his post and retired in 1968, three years short of his 65th year. Skinner did eventually succeed him as Registrar, but Austin was not demoted and later became administrator of the 1820 Settlers Foundation in Grahamstown where he rendered valuable service. Prior to his departure there he was reportedly ‘a new man – he smiles again, he is genial in conversation and his confidence is coming back to him by leaps and bounds’. Austin remained in friendly correspondence with Malherbe, as indeed did Leeb-duToit and his wife.7

This unhappy episode not only exposed inter-personal stresses in the University’s central administration but in some cases, like that of Leeb-du Toit, a serious work overload. It also severely strained the relationship between the Principal and the chairman of Council. The crisis was compounded by the fact that, unwisely perhaps, Campbell was both Leeb-du Toit’s employer and his personal physician. As such he was unwilling to give Malherbe ‘unlimited support’ for any action he deemed necessary in the matter on the grounds that it might eventually come before the Council over which he presided and perhaps also land in court.

Campbell rejected the proposal that the Registrar be certified unfit to perform his duties and suggested that he should rather simply withdraw his allegations of financial dishonesty against Austin and Lyle. He argued further that all parties should be told to ‘sink their differences & work together for the good of the University’ and that any further friction should be referred to Council. Campbell declared that what he interpreted as Malherbe’s ‘demand’
for support in this crisis was like ‘an order that you might well give to one of your subordinates, but is scarcely expected from the Principal to the Chairman of Council’.

Malherbe explained that as Leeb-du Toit had involved both of them in his allegations, unilateral action on his part would have been ‘presumptuous and ill-advised’. He had therefore felt it appropriate to consult Campbell in his ‘dual role of medical adviser and Chairman of Council’. He pointed out that Leeb-du Toit’s request for medical boarding was ‘virtually’ what the committee of inquiry had recommended, but that he had been reluctant to follow that course ‘chiefly because of my personal regard for Peter and of the repercussions which any such action would inevitably cause’. He also indicated his willingness to attempt a reconciliation, but was not hopeful of success unless Leeb-du Toit was prepared to make some effort to ‘heal the grievous hurt’ he had inflicted on his colleagues. Unfortunately, he had not confined his derogatory opinions of Austin and Lyle to Campbell and Malherbe, but had also expressed them to the committee of inquiry and other members of the University community ‘both in writing and in speech’.

While Malherbe was willing to ‘try and patch up this affair’, even at the risk of a recurrence, he disagreed with Campbell’s opinion that Leeb-du Toit would be unable to maintain discipline in administration if he apologised for impugning the integrity of his colleagues. He concluded by insisting that he had merely been seeking moral support from Campbell as a friend, not issuing an order, and that the Registrar’s letter of 16 November (proposing premature retirement) had put the onus in the first instance on Campbell as his medical adviser.8

It was a jarring note on which to end the decade and its subsequent effect on relationships within the University Executive and the central administration remains uncertain. Perhaps fortuitously, there were numerous other distractions that demanded attention, not least the financing of urgently needed teaching as well as residential accommodation.

**Buildings and extensions**

The shortage of funds in the 1950s also had an inhibiting effect on the construction and expansion of buildings, though some significant progress was made. At Howard College Charles James Hall for women and the Denis Shepstone Dining Hall were completed in 1949 and Ansell May Hall and Townley Williams Hall, both for men, followed in 1952 and 1956 respectively. As Malherbe pointed out, this was due largely to the earlier 1946–1947
fundraising campaign that for a few years enabled the University to share the cost of the construction of all its academic buildings on the previously agreed pound for pound basis with government. It also ensured that there was little in the way of loans to be repaid on its student residences. Consequently, until the late 1950s Natal had the lowest redemption and interest costs of any South African university.

During 1949 and 1950 the War Memorial Reading Room was completed on the Pietermaritzburg campus, as well as extensions to the Biology Block. In Durban there were similar extensions to the Science and Technology Building as well as ongoing alterations to the facilities at Wentworth (1952–1957). In addition, a caretaker’s flat and workshop were completed on the Howard College campus and from 1950 to 1951, £97 000 (R194 000) worth of funds already committed to building projects was spent on extensions to existing residences. The Library Tower and Geology Wing of the Science and Technology Building, officially known from 1952 as the Memorial Tower Building (MTB), was eventually completed in 1960.

Despite national Treasury’s 1953 curtailment of further capital expenditure several other buildings were completed, or at least partially completed, during that year. Prominent among these was the new Faculty of Medicine Building on Durban’s Umbilo Road at a cost of £407 000 (R814 000), £8 000 (R16 000) worth of additions to the hostel at Wentworth and £43 200 (R86 400) worth to the Administration Block at Howard College. In addition, there was a further extension to the MTB as well as expenditure on the Principal’s and Registrar’s residences on that campus. By 1953 it was recognised that, in view of the limited resources available, a careful ten-year development plan was needed and local campus committees were appointed to assess various urgent accommodation needs.

In 1954 the Theatre Workshop in City Buildings was improved and better ventilated by incorporating the adjacent veranda. By then Council, supported by many members of the Durban staff, was strongly in favour of concentrating all the classes for Durban’s ‘European’ students, part-time as well as full-time, at Howard College and disposing of City Buildings. Unfortunately, that move could not readily be completed, particularly in view of the needs of part-time Law and Commerce students but also those in Arts and Social Science working in the city centre. In 1957 Pietermaritzburg’s growing number of Law students was eventually accommodated by moving the Law Department from its traditional downtown home in Greene’s Chambers to the new City
Permanent Building in Longmarket Street where there was space for three lecture rooms, four offices and a large library.

In 1954 the Faculty of Agriculture’s new building near Epworth School was opened and in 1955 Ansell May Hall extension two, the men’s residence on the Howard College campus, was also completed. That campus had changed particularly rapidly since 1945, the developed area having increased from less than one to twelve hectares in a 76 hectare property that included nearly five hectares of sports fields and eight tennis courts. There were still an estimated 2 100 trees on the Howard College campus, 60 of them having been planted to replace those removed in building operations.\(^\text{10}\)

Despite the upswing in the University’s financial fortunes, 1956 was a quiet year as far as building development was concerned, the notable feature being the purchase of the property at 36 King Edward Avenue in Pietermaritzburg as the proposed site of a new women’s residence. By contrast in 1957, as the University’s new building programme was launched on the strength of the State’s revised policy with regard to the subvention of buildings, several new projects and extensions were initiated. The most expensive of these were a new Chemistry laboratory in Pietermaritzburg, the addition of a third floor to the Biology Block to house the Physics Department and the completion of a new lecture theatre in Durban’s MTB.

The programme continued to gather momentum during 1958−1960 with £495 000 (R990 000) committed to new residences on the Durban campus, further extensions to the MTB, construction of a Students Union Building with a cafeteria, and a large staff common room, 1 200-seater hall and lecture theatre and library at the much-neglected downtown City Buildings. In 1958 a new Aeronautics Laboratory was completed for the Department of Mechanical Engineering, enabling Electrical Engineering to expand into the old one. In August the following year the departments of Architecture and Civil Engineering moved into the new Centenary Building. Its design had been the subject of an architectural competition and in 1954 the Durban City Council had provided £100 000 (R200 000) for its construction. It was eventually completed in 1960, as was the Jubilee Residence Complex, comprising the Jubilee Dining Hall, Florence Powell Hall (for women) and Louis Botha and Ernest Jansen halls (both for men).

Despite criticisms, Malherbe was particularly proud of the new residences built below Howard College, which he described as ‘airy and comfortable and command from their windows incomparably attractive views. They are set in wooded grounds which are, despite being in a city, just as quiet as any
quadrangle of the older English universities’. Professor of Architecture Ronald Lewcock disagreed. He insisted that the awkward site at Howard College ‘should have been carefully zoned into administrative, academic, residential and sporting facilities down the slope’ instead of the ‘chaotic’ situation that had been allowed to develop. He believed that the residences – Charles James, Ansell May and Townley Williams – had been poorly situated and designed. In his opinion the location of the Library in the tower of the MTB did not provide the requisite easy access and circulation while City Buildings (1936) was similarly badly planned and expensive to maintain. In addition, most offices and residence rooms on campus faced either east or west instead of enjoying a northern aspect most suited to Durban’s climate.

In 1959 the Faculty of Science formally expressed its concern at ‘the unfortunate siting and design of some of the buildings’ on both campuses. By then there was already a technical advisory committee in Durban to assist in this regard and it was belatedly agreed that in future ‘general schemes’ pertaining to campus development in both centres would be made available for comment before implementation.

In Pietermaritzburg as in Durban there was a particular need to cater for larger first-year numbers. Consequently, a total of £310 286 was earmarked for further additions to the Biology Block (completed in 1960) and for renovations to the Chemistry Department (completed in 1962), as well as for the first of four sections of a new women’s residence (Eleanor Russell Hall). The whole building was completed in 1962, in which year squash courts were provided on both campuses. During 1960 the University spent £839 763 (R1 679 526) on new buildings and extensions, including a new men’s residence, William O’Brien Hall. In Durban, £403 493 (R806 986) was devoted to the construction of a Chemistry Building (completed in 1962), as well as to completion of the Students Union Building at Howard College, men’s residences (Louis Botha and Ernest Jansen halls), extension of the Alan Taylor Residence for ‘non-European’ students at Wentworth and a swimming pool on the main campus.

The Arts Faculty complained about the ongoing inadequacy of its accommodation on both campuses and stressed a need for new buildings instead of being required always to occupy rooms that had been vacated by ‘more fortunate Faculties’. Senate responded by recommending to the Sites and Buildings Committee that the amount of £35 000 (R70 000) for an Arts Building in Durban be placed on the estimates of any future building programme.
While Malherbe drew some satisfaction from the University’s development with regard to building construction during the 1950s, he opposed the erection of the new men’s residence on what was then a rugby field on the Scottsville campus. This had gone ahead despite the objections of the students and of neighbouring residents. Completed in 1961 at a cost of £330 000 (R660 000), William O’Brien Hall did provide urgently needed accommodation for 400 male students to replace the Oribi hostel, but Malherbe saw no point in ‘prematurely crowding’ the Scottsville site when the 16 hectares available near Epworth offered a more suitable alternative. In his view the main campus could have been reserved for future academic buildings and women’s hostels. In addition, Council now had to pay the local rugby union £350 (R700) a year for use of its playing fields down the hill at Woodburn.

By the early 1960s the University’s buildings were worth a combined £4 million (R8 million) in its two centres and all but £216 000 (R432 000) worth had been constructed since the end of World War II. Since then £2 047 500 (R4 095 000) worth of academic buildings had been constructed and at least £1 million (R2 million) worth of residences, with another £246 000 (R492 000) spent on staff and student amenities and £134 000 (R268 000) on minor improvements and staff quarters. In 1960 stone portals, financed by the NUC Past Students Endowment Fund and designed by Professor Connell of the School of Architecture, were erected at the main entrance to the University campuses in both centres to commemorate the institution’s 50th anniversary.11

Impressive as they were, the new portals were not nearly as important to the future of the University as further development of its library services.

Library
The effervescent J.W. (John) Perry (1954–1961), a Cambridge and London trained historian with several years of library experience at UCT and elsewhere, succeeded Dr H. (Herbert) Coblans (1946–1953), a former member of the Chemistry Department, as University Librarian. The Library continued to be administered by three standing committees − Durban, Pietermaritzburg and a Joint Committee − with the last subordinate to the other two and the University Librarian ex officio a member of all three.

In 1955 a Medical School sub-committee of the Durban Library Committee was also established. It comprised representatives not only of the University but also of the Provincial Administration and medical profession, both of which were heavily involved in the school. Its loan policy was more restrictive than other branches because of its much broader user base. Uniquely, that
Faculty financed its own library and from 1958 another Medical Library sub-committee, a sub-committee of the Faculty, was formed. It included Mrs B.H. (Beatrix) Robinow, the assistant librarian in charge and eventually also the University Librarian. This committee soon assumed most of the administrative functions involved in running the Medical Library.

As Nora Buchanan has shown in her doctoral study of the University of Natal libraries, the institution’s library book stock and services grew substantially in size during the terms of office of Coblans and Perry. Under the former’s guidance the book stock in Durban doubled while that on the more established Pietermaritzburg campus increased by 50%. Collectively they exceeded 95 000 items in number but, on arrival, Perry was not unduly impressed because duplication of courses between the two centres had inevitably led to the duplication not only of textbooks but also of reference works and all but the more expensive journals, which were circulated among the branches. The situation was compounded by the Durban Library Committee’s 1937 decision to prohibit ‘non-European’ students from using the Howard College Library. As a result, in order to expand the book stock in all the branches heavy reliance had to be placed on donations and exchange agreements. In this respect, as before, the publications of the University Press served as a useful aid.

Perry was also concerned that the Library catered largely for the utilitarian needs of undergraduates rather than those of researchers and that there was a shortage of material, including incomplete journal runs, with which to promote broader reading and scholarship. The University Library’s limitations as a research facility had indeed already been exposed by the fact that it had continued to be a net borrower of items on inter-library loan, receiving on average approximately double the number of items loaned each year between 1949 and 1953 and as many as 1 510 compared with 577 in the last year. In an effort to improve and enlarge the Library’s holdings, Perry discarded obsolete items and actively encouraged monetary and book donations to the extent that by the time of his departure in 1961 the book stock had increased by 71% to 162 767 items.

Coblans and Perry continued to implement the unitary library system that the former had initiated in the late 1940s. In the process they brought much greater administrative order to the University’s widely dispersed structure, developing a central catalogue, uniform lending rules and standard book ordering and classification procedures. During the 1950s the heavily congested Howard College, City Buildings and Pietermaritzburg branches were all substantially expanded to accommodate the steady increase in student numbers. In July
1951 Durban’s main campus library was transferred from the original Howard College building to the neighbouring, newly constructed, nine-floor tower of the MTB. The views both inland and over Durban harbour from its secluded study alcoves were spectacular, but the unique design soon proved to be administratively impractical and wasteful in terms of space utilisation.

This was followed in 1952 by the move of all downtown full-time classes to the Howard College campus and the transfer of approximately 8 000 books to the MTB from the Commerce Library in City Buildings where the floor could not be loaded any further. Thereafter, the latter facility was open only from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm to cater for part-timers. There was talk of expanding the MTB Library on the building’s larger lower floors as academic departments moved out to other quarters, but a much-needed extension was completed only in 1959.

Excessive loading also became a problem with regard to the upper floor of the Library in Pietermaritzburg. It was reclaimed from its academic occupants in November 1949 but steel columns were eventually added to it only in 1957 to allow for the weight of extra shelving. The two rooms still occupied upstairs by Philosophy and Fine Arts were not taken over until 1961. The new Memorial Reading Room, attached to the building and dedicated in June 1951, continued for a time to ease the shortage of seating space. Unfortunately, there was no scope for any further expansion as the foundations had not been designed to support additional floors. Discussions about a new library building began in May 1960 but were delayed by the retirement of Dr H.L. Maple, Deputy Librarian in Pietermaritzburg, and the departure of Perry for Wits in 1961.

In 1954 the latter supervised the removal of the nascent Medical Library at Wentworth into permanent premises in the Faculty of Medicine building in Umbilo Road. The directors of Barclays Bank donated £2 000 (R4 000) for the purchase of chairs, tables and shelving while numerous donations of books and journals were added to the collection that had been growing at Wentworth since 1951. Medical students thereby acquired much more spacious library facilities adjacent to their classrooms that were to remain in place until 1992 when a new building was constructed.

Durban’s separate ‘non-European’ Library continued to function in a congested ex-army hut at Sastri College. An extension was provided in 1956 and had to suffice until the Library’s removal in 1958, along with the classes it serviced, to Marian Buildings in Lancers Road. Perry supervised its subsequent closure in 1960 and removal across the road to City Buildings as
that section of the University’s teaching operation wound down in compliance with new legislation. The dwindling remainder of the non-medical ‘non-European’ students thereafter enjoyed a larger and more varied book stock at City Buildings. At last, with the permission of the Library Committee, they also gained access to the library facilities that had for so long been denied to them on the Howard College campus.12

As Buchanan’s study has shown, while the perennial challenge of inadequate space was to some extent eased during the 1950s the problems raised by the shortage of funds and staff were ongoing. Coblans was highly critical of what he considered to be the University’s unreasonable expectations in trying to maintain a multi-branch library system with funds that were barely sufficient to run one. The financial situation was compounded not only by the University’s dual structure, but also by the 1949–1951 pegging of the state subsidy. The 1951 Botha/Duminy Commission supported his contention that the University’s expenditure on its library facilities was inadequate and the following year Coblans persuaded Senex to add an additional £1 900 (R3 800) to its initial allowance of £3 400 (R6 800).

In 1952, following the 1948 Carnegie Corporation’s grant of $15 000 (then worth approximately R45 000), the Library enjoyed another windfall when Mrs F.A.E. (Florence) Powell, later known as the Library’s ‘fairy godmother’, donated £500 (R1 000) towards the establishment of a special fund to buy books in both the social and technical sciences. She followed this with £2 000 (R4 000) to finance the Medical Library’s Florence Powell Cancer Collection and £1 350 (R2 700) for a special collection on the history of science and engineering. During the 1950s other donations in the form of books or funds were received from Maurice Webb, Mabel Palmer, the Indian High Commissioner’s Office, the South African Medical Association and the Ford Foundation.

Unfortunately, the Holloway Commission’s report of May 1953 did not recommend that any special consideration should be given to the University’s multi-branch library services and the institution itself did not even adhere strictly to the level of subsidy the commission recommended for the Library within its broad subsidy formula. Perry’s 1956 investigation into library expenditure at ten British and South African universities found that Natal compared quite favourably with the latter category, although the higher cost of duplicated services was most obvious in the 69% of Library budget spent on staff salaries. From 1954 the increase in the number and cost of journal subscriptions resulted in over-expenditure by 1958 and eventually necessitated
a cessation of all book orders. This was to herald a phase of severe financial hardship for the University’s library services.

During Coblans’ extended study and work leave between December 1948 and January 1951 the Library’s chronic staff shortage of the mid-1940s deteriorated even further in the face of increasing book stock and borrower numbers. In 1952 he calculated that, in terms of the standards set by the South African Library Association (SALA), the Library’s twelve-strong staff complement should then have numbered eighteen and its 65 000 book stock should have amounted to 200 000 in order to cater adequately for the University’s 1 880 students. The situation was compounded by salary scales that were decidedly inferior to those offered, for example, at UCT and Wits. The University did request a regrading of its senior library posts, but in January 1953 Coblans returned to the library of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) where he already had work experience (1949–1950). Maple and Miss B.D. (Barbara) Fraser, then senior assistant librarian in Durban, substituted for him in turn.

On arrival Perry enjoyed the benefit of the regrading process when he was appointed University Librarian with the status and salary of a full professor. During his watch the staffing situation was to some extent eased by an increase from 12 to 19, of whom seven were qualified librarians. They included S.P.M. (Shelagh) O’Byrne as assistant librarian in Pietermaritzburg and Barbara Fraser, Beatrix Robinow and E.H. (Enid) Rees as assistant librarians in Durban. In addition, in May 1954 L. Milburn, a London History and Library diploma graduate with several years of library experience was appointed Deputy Librarian in that centre. These appointees were indicative of a national trend among South African university library personnel, whereas previously it had been difficult to attract staff with minimum professional training and experience. At the end of the 1950s it was, however, still the case in Natal as elsewhere that males usually filled senior posts (all three of them) while females predominantly occupied lower-paid positions (13 of the 16 junior posts).

Nora Buchanan’s research has revealed that among the more innovative features introduced into the University’s libraries were Coblans’ ongoing efforts to give practical substance to his conviction that the Library also had a teaching function. To that end he continued to promote subject-focused library user education by means of regular weekly lectures. These, he hoped, would eventually be extended from B.Sc., Masters and fourth-year Engineering students to all third-year and postgraduate candidates. He also maintained his
initiative to broaden the reading habits and general knowledge of students by means of lectures, film shows and displays of new books and modern fiction.

In 1957 Perry revived Coblans’ initiative to give lectures to third-year Engineering students on the sources of technical information. In the same year a new service was launched for the benefit of local industry, possibly the first of its kind offered by a South African academic institution. The Industrial Information Centre (IIC) was established in collaboration with the Durban City Library and with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Natal Chamber of Industries, which collectively contributed an initial £2 100 (R4 200). A management committee representing all interested parties was formed to oversee the acquisition of relevant literature. In 1958 Mrs C. Perrett, a B.Sc. graduate, was appointed to deal with queries in the science and technical fields from University staff, students and those local firms that paid the annual fee.

In pursuit of his broader objectives, during Perry’s tenure special collections in a variety of fields were acquired as the utilitarian character of the book stock was gradually modified and increasingly began to resemble that of an academic institution. In December 1956 a University Bindery was established on the ninth floor of the MTB and Mr P. van der Busken and two assistants were appointed to staff it. This was followed in 1957–1958 by the launch of a Photoduplication Unit in the Durban Library. As the demand for its services grew, it later became a separate Multicopy Centre on that campus and, in 1972, a similar facility was provided in Pietermaritzburg.13

In 1960, when the University of Natal celebrated its golden jubilee, its library services were in reasonably good condition but, in common with several other sections, still faced a shortage of funds and staff. While some faculties were much more dependent upon an efficient Library than others, this was obviously as vital as ever to the teaching and research activities of academic staff.

ENDNOTES


DUALISM AND DEVELOPMENT


DUALISM AND DEVELOPMENT


In 1937 the Library on the Pietermaritzburg campus was moved from the Main (Clock Tower) Building (at right) to its own home (at left), with Fine Arts occupying the upper floor until 1949. The Library remained there until 1965.

The Library on the Durban campus was moved in 1951 from the original Howard College Building to the tower of the neighbouring Science and Technology (Memorial Tower) Building (above). Impractically, it remained there until 1987–1988 when the new purpose-built E.G. Malherbe Library was completed (from Natal University News 19, Spring 1975: cover).
DURING THE EARLY 1950s the University of Natal experienced difficulty in attracting good quality academic staff and had limited funds with which to do so. The situation improved in both respects in the latter half of the decade making it possible to offer a greater variety of courses in ever-widening fields as its academic departments became stronger and more sophisticated. At this time the two new faculties, Agriculture and Medicine, in Pietermaritzburg and Durban respectively, established themselves as important additions to what more accurately had become a tri-focal rather than a dual-campus institution.

**Conditions of service**
The recruitment of suitable academic staff proved to be a perennial challenge in the post-war era, even among local graduates who often found posts elsewhere after postgraduate training abroad. The existence of a Lecturers Association with representation on Senate, coupled with improvements in the conditions of service, were obvious ways to attract them. Late in 1949 the new Faculty of Agriculture’s staff formed their own committee that subsequently developed into the Natal Agricultural Research Institute Staff Association. In the same year Senex resolved that in spite of dissatisfaction with prevailing salaries, staff members should not be permitted to undertake private coaching as this could have adverse consequences for the University. Further, Council’s permission should be sought for any private work undertaken with an assessment of what it involved. Senate and Senex were in agreement that there should be a minimum basic professorial salary applicable to both sexes, but both bodies opposed the notion of additional allowances for ‘personal distinction’ or for heads of large departments who, instead, should be given extra clerical assistance.1

In 1954, following some adjustments to basic salaries and conditions pertaining to the Provident Fund, a long-awaited increase in academic salary scales was introduced. Professorial scales improved from £850 (R1 700)–£1 200 (R2 400) to £1 200 (R2 400)–£1 400 (R2 800) per annum, those of senior lecturers from £600 (R1 200)–£900 (R1 800) to £900
(R1 800)–£1 200 (R2 400) and those of lecturers from £550 (R1 100)–£725 (R1 450) to £650 (R1 300)–£900 (R1 800), all excluding cost of living allowances. Four years later technicians’ salaries were also eventually raised to a proposed range of £250 (R500)–£370 (R740) a year for juniors and to £800 (R1 600)–£1 000 (R2 000) a year for senior technicians. In 1960 new salary scales were implemented in the Faculty of Medicine to ensure equivalence between staff members on the joint medical staff establishment and those in medical schools elsewhere in South Africa. This did not apply to black doctors in the wake of the 1957 announcement by the Natal Provincial Administration (NPA) of differential scales for blacks and whites.

In addition to salaries, a new Accident Insurance Scheme was implemented, providing coverage for all categories of staff whether on duty or not. A booklet entitled ‘Conditions of service for permanent members of the academic staff’ was made available and revised from time to time. Salaries, post re-gradings and conditions of service for non-academic staff, including workshop assistants and technicians, were also periodically reviewed and moderately improved.

When, in 1955, the possible extension of the retirement age beyond 65 years came under consideration the Lecturers Association, which had developed gradually over a number of years, opposed the proposal. It argued that other ways of retaining the services of valued staff members should be explored, such as associate professorships and fellowships. Further, that if the retirement age were raised alternative promotion opportunities for new young staff members needed to be created. It was subsequently resolved that the services of both male and female staff members could be retained up to but not beyond 65 years of age. Gender discrimination had clearly not yet been entirely eliminated when it was decided that men could continue to contribute to the Provident Fund up to that point, but women could do so only to 60 years of age. At the other end of the scale new conditions of service for junior lecturers were formulated, as were fees for demonstrators.

The 1958 proposal that staff members be granted a fee remission to undertake postgraduate degrees was unsuccessful, but the children of permanent academic staff continued to be eligible for an annual £50 (R100) bursary while staff could attend the odd course for non-degree purposes without paying fees. In 1959 Chemistry Professor Frank Warren proposed a free in-service training course for approximately two dozen black laboratory technicians who were already in the University’s employ on the Pietermaritzburg campus in order to improve their efficiency. The Department of Bantu Education refused
permission although it had already been granted to the Faculty of Medicine, presumably because that facility was for ‘non-European’ students.

In 1960, after consultation with the Lecturers Association, members of the academic staff were offered a choice between new conditions of service and those that had applied at the time of their appointment. By then the association had gained two representatives on the standing sub-committee on salaries. Among other more mundane issues that concerned it was the provision of a mixed common room in Pietermaritzburg, in addition to the existing separate facilities for males and females. This, it insisted, was a domestic matter to be dealt with appropriately on each campus. The creation of urgently needed new posts was an issue that concerned both centres.

Academic staffing
The prevailing financial crisis was reflected in the limited number of new academic appointments made during the University of Natal’s early years. New or re-graded posts were not to be filled unless the Department of Education could be assured that sufficient funds were available, excluding the approved bank overdraft. In 1949 one new senior lecturer (Speech and Drama) and one lecturer (Architecture), both in the harbour city, was added to the staff complement, though several vacancies in existing posts were successfully filled. No new posts were established in 1950 other than that of an acting part-time dean for the Faculty of Medicine.

Some existing professorial vacancies were also filled in Durban, but there was growing dissatisfaction among lecturers there that full-time, part-time and ‘non-European’ student numbers were increasing and classes replicated without a commensurate increase in the staff complement. A sub-committee of Senate was appointed to investigate the difficulties that had arisen. Meanwhile, Malherbe expressed the opinion that much of the University’s future development lay with the Non-European Section and that the Wentworth site had been chosen because population trends suggested it would be at the centre of industrial expansion and a growing ‘non-European’ community. In Pietermaritzburg the teaching of Economics faced an uncertain future without an increase in staff as third-year students already had to travel to Durban for most of their lectures and those wishing to major in Agricultural Economics also required three years of Economics.

In June 1950 a sobering circular letter from the Department of Education, Arts and Science re-affirmed that before making appointments to any new or
re-graded posts the University was expected to have sufficient funds to meet the expense and still reduce its accumulated deficit at the end of the year. In 1951 the chair of Agronomy and a senior lectureship in Agricultural Engineering were filled, as was the post of botanist in the Wattle Research Institute, but other newly created posts in Medicine and Engineering remained vacant due to the University’s financial circumstances. In that year Senate emphatically re-affirmed ‘the cardinal principle of recognising in the University one single department in each of the fields of learning, under the control of a single Departmental Head who shall be responsible to Senate and Council for the supervision of the Department’.

There was, nevertheless, a strong ongoing tendency towards administrative autonomy and the development of separate courses in each of the two centres that would have to be resolved as part of the University’s strategy for the future. The Faculty of Arts, for example, successfully suggested the appointment at least of a lecturer-in-charge in the centre where a departmental head was not resident and of committees of studies in each centre to deal with local administrative matters. In the same year, at no additional expense, it was resolved to confer the title of professor emeritus on all retiring professors who had occupied a chair for ten years or more and on others only by special resolution of Council.

In 1952 staff additions were primarily confined to the new Medical School where departments of Anatomy and Physiology were established. Chairs and senior lectureships were created in both of them as well as senior lectureships in Biochemistry and Histology. The following year a Department of Pathology was added to the Medical School and in 1952–1953 several new posts were created across the board in the Arts, Architecture and Science faculties. In 1954 departments of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Medicine and Surgery were established with professorships and senior lectureships in all of them as well as a senior lectureship in Clinical Psychology. An Institute of Social, Preventative and Family Medicine was added to the Medical School (now the Faculty of Medicine) in 1955, staffed by a professor, two senior family physicians/lecturers and a family physician/lecturer.3

In contrast to the situation prevailing in 1949 and the early 1950s, the second half of the decade witnessed a marked improvement in the creation of new staff posts, as in other aspects of the University’s development. In 1956 there were fourteen new academic appointments, seven in each centre, including a chair in Educational Psychology in Pietermaritzburg. Council also approved the creation of new posts of junior lecturer, to serve as academic apprenticeships
for a maximum of three years, and junior technical assistants for a maximum of six years, to assist students complete part-time B.Sc. degrees. The following year chairs in French, German, and Speech and Drama were established in place of senior lectureships in those disciplines.

Professor Leo Kuper (Sociology and Social Work) successfully presented a memorandum to Senex proposing the creation of associate professorships as an intermediate level between senior lecturer and professor at roughly the equivalent of readerships in British universities. This was intended as a means of attracting and retaining the services of staff of ‘outstanding academic merit’ who might otherwise be lost to other institutions. The first round of recommendations for promotion was ‘kept down to an absolute minimum’, doubtless with costs in mind. Although they did not all remain in service, the first batch were Dr J.J. Frankel (Geology), Dr A.P. Grové (Afrikaans-Nederlands), C.C. Turpin (Law) and Dr J. Wainwright (Pathology). Professor E. (Ella) Pratt-Yule (Psychology) proposed that a responsibility allowance be paid to lecturers/senior lecturers who carried onerous departmental responsibilities in the centre at which the head was not resident.

In 1958 another two dozen new lectureships were established, two thirds of them in Durban, and ten were re-graded to senior posts. The following year 22 new posts were created, including chairs in the departments of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Mathematics, both in Durban. In 1960 departments of Anaesthetics and Paediatrics were established, together with another six new senior lectureships and seven lectureships, five of the former and four of the latter in the harbour city. Durban was clearly continuing to grow more rapidly than was the University’s original seat in Pietermaritzburg. In that year there were 53 new academic appointments and promotions, 62% (33) of them in the coastal centre as well as 64% (7) of the eleven non-academic appointments and promotions.

Reviewing the first decade of the new institution, in 1949 the University had a permanent academic staff complement of 135 members, including 35 professors. There were 40 staff members in the Arts Faculty (ten at professorial level), 26 in the Faculty of Science (six professors), 22 in Agriculture (six professors), twenty in Engineering (five professors), thirteen in Commerce and Public Administration (three professors), eight in Social Science (two professors), four in Law (two professors) and two in Education (one professor). There were also fifteen temporary lecturers.

By 1960 there were 250 permanent members of the academic staff, including 58 at professorial level. The Arts Faculty still had the largest staff complement
with 67 (twelve professors), followed by Science 58 (thirteen professors), Agriculture 37 (thirteen professors), Engineering 30 (five professors), Medicine 26 (eight professors), Law ten (two professors), Commerce and Public Administration nine (two professors), Education seven (two professors) and Social Science six (one professor). The only two associate professors that year were in the Science and Medical faculties. The number of temporary and part-time staff members had increased to 132, spread over all faculties with the largest numbers in Medicine (37), Education (26), Arts (22) and Science (19).

Between 1949 and 1960 there were separate boards of Arts and Social Science but the latter was not yet recognised as a distinct faculty. Geography and Psychology were listed in both Arts and Science, but in 1954 the former moved to the Faculty of Science. The Department of Accounting and Economics was listed as part of the Faculty of Commerce and Public Administration and Educational Psychology fell under the Faculty of Education.

Gender ratios were not recorded, but by 1960 the proportion of women employed in full-time academic positions had barely changed from the estimated 13% in 1949. There were approximately 32 of them, including seven professors and they were mostly in the humanities and social sciences. By contrast, 35 of the administration’s 45 staff members (nearly 78%) were female, as were all of the sixteen non-administrative support staff and all but one were in junior positions. As previously mentioned, thirteen of the nineteen Library staff members (68%) were women and all were similarly in lower-paid posts. Among the academic staff in 1960 the only ‘non-European’ was G.L. Mangoaela, a Bantu Language assistant and among the non-academic staff A. (Annette) Thabethe, a library assistant in the Non-European Section. All 22 members of the University Council were white and male.

Members of staff would have been pleased when, in 1954 to coincide with the new institution’s fifth anniversary as an independent entity, the University launched its official *University of Natal Gazette*. It was funded by Council with Mrs F.M. (Florence) MacDonald as voluntary editor. Its primary purpose, as Malherbe explained in his foreword, was ‘to keep members of the University in touch with one another and one another’s work’ and to foster ‘that sense of unity and corporate feeling so necessary in a university as widely dispersed as ours’.

Indeed, by that stage the staff complement was spread across 50 departments and nine faculties whose function was complicated by the University’s tri-focal structure and geographical dispersal. In Pietermaritzburg the Faculty of Agriculture’s campus and experimental farm were situated some distance
from the main Scottsville campus while part-time lectures were conducted in the city centre. In Durban classes for ‘Europeans’ were conducted at Howard College and downtown at City Buildings while those for ‘non-Europeans’, including medical students, were held in four different buildings spread over a distance of more than 11 kilometres.\textsuperscript{5}

Staff changes during the first decade of the University’s existence were decidedly more dramatic in some faculties than others.

Science

In 1949 N.D. (Desmond) Clarence was appointed to the existing vacant post of lecturer in Experimental Physics and after D.B. (Dave) Hodges retired from the chair in 1958 he succeeded him the following year. Notable among the resignations in 1949 was that of Dr R.L. Rosenberg, longstanding senior lecturer in Applied Mathematics and the following year that of J.R.H. (Jack) Coutts, long-serving professor of Physics, both in Pietermaritzburg. In 1950 P.F.E. van der Borght was appointed lecturer in Applied Mathematics in Durban, but in 1951 newly created posts in the Faculty were not filled due to the University’s dire financial circumstances. That year Professor R.B. (Robert) Denison, former Natal University College (NUC) Principal, died as did Dr B.S. (Beryl) Fisher, senior lecturer in Botany and one of Pietermaritzburg’s earliest female academic appointees.

In 1952 Professor J.A.V. (John) Fairbrother assumed the chair of Physics and Professor A.M. Hamilton took over as director of the Paint Research Institute (PRI). The following year J.B. Alexander was promoted to head of

J.A.V. (John) Fairbrother held a B.Sc. Hons degree from London University and a Ph.D. from Reading. He gained experience in various research institutes before working as part of a team of physicists at the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford where research on uranium isotopes led to the production of the first atomic bomb in the USA. He was then employed at the Atomic Energy Establishment, Harwell, prior to his appointment in 1948 as senior lecturer and he subsequently assumed the chair of Physics in Pietermaritzburg. Fairbrother served as dean of Science in both centres and continued to publish reputable articles on X-rays, thermionics, semi-conductors, radiotherapy and the separation of isotopes. In 1967 he left for Canada, but returned in 1974 as a leave substitute and eventually died in 1996 at the age of 89.
the analytical laboratory at the Sugar Milling Research Institute. In 1954 P.E. (Peter) Matthews and B.M. (Brian) Nevin, were appointed to lectureships in Geology and Mathematics respectively while Dr D.W. (Jakes) Ewer and Dr R.F. (Griff) Ewer (Zoology) were lost to resignation. The following year Dr H. Rund assumed the chair of Applied Mathematics in Durban, Professor P. Stein retired and in 1957 E.T. Verdier became the University’s first professor of Inorganic Chemistry. The name of the department changed from Chemistry and Chemical Technology to Chemistry and Chemical Engineering that year and J. McKinnell (Mathematics, Pietermaritzburg) retired, to be succeeded in 1959 by F.J. Terpstra.

The following year Dr G.D.L. (Deneys) Schreiner was appointed professor of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry in Pietermaritzburg. Brian Nevin was promoted to senior lecturer in Mathematics and Mrs J.M. (Jennifer) Nevin to lecturer in the same department. P.F.E. van der Borght was promoted to professor of Mathematics and Dr J.W. Bayles was appointed to the chair of Physical Chemistry, both in Durban, while Dr R. (Roger) Raab was appointed lecturer in Physics. Another valuable long-term appointee was G.W. (George) Costello as glassblower in the Science Faculty Workshop.6

The more recently created Faculty of Agriculture also gathered strength during the 1950s.

**Agriculture**

Following the initial round of a dozen appointments with which the new Faculty was launched in 1947–1948, by 1960 it already boasted a 37-strong academic staff complement. This was based on the University’s earlier acceptance that it should comprise as many as twelve departments, as its first dean and professor of Genetics (1947–1956) Dr A.R. (Rabie) Saunders had proposed, and also on government’s approval of an initial 25 posts. By the end of the 1950s there were thirteen teaching/research fields, each supported by technical/professional officers, though adequately trained technicians were in short supply. The Faculty’s administrative staff had also increased, from one clerk (R.L. Colenbrander) to four.

In 1949 M.J. (Martinus ‘Oosie’) Oosthuizen arrived as senior lecturer in Entomology and subsequently became professor (1951–1971). S.J. (Susarah) Truter joined the Department of Plant Pathology as senior lecturer and in 1955 was promoted to the new chair of Plant Pathology and Microbiology (1955–1976). A.A. (Arthur) Rayner served as professor of Biometry (1949–1973) and then as head of the Department of Statistics and Biometry
until his retirement in 1982. Another important 1949 addition to the staff was K. (Karl) Nathanson who lectured in Agronomy, Plant Pathology and Didactics of Agriculture before eventually becoming Professor of Crop Science (1968−1982). I.J. (Sakkie) Smuts was senior lecturer in Agronomy and subsequently occupied the chair until his death (1951−1957) while Dr G.P. (Bollie) Bishop served as senior lecturer in Veterinary Science until 1964.

G.V. (George) Quicke joined the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Biochemistry as lecturer in 1950. The next year Miss K.M. Nixon was appointed as botanist in the Wattle Research Institute and P.J.C. (Pieter) Vorster as senior lecturer in Agricultural Engineering, followed in 1952 by P. (Peter) Allan as lecturer in Horticulture. In 1954 P.L. (Pieter) Kotze assumed the chair of Animal Husbandry (1954−1970) while C. (Clem) Abbott occupied that of Dairy Science (1954−1974) and future dean and Principal P. de V. (Peter) Booysen was appointed to a lectureship in Pasture Management. In 1958 S.A. (Sampie) Hulme, at 24 years of age one of the youngest of that rank in the country, was appointed professor of Agronomy (1958−1968), later named Crop Science.

The following year George Quicke was promoted to the chair of Biochemistry (1959−1984), Pieter Vorster to that of Agricultural Engineering (1959−1974) and W.H. (Willem) Weyers, senior lecturer since 1947, to that of Genetics (1959−1988). In 1960 Dr H.I. (Ian) Behrmann was promoted to the chair of Agricultural Economics (1960−1983) and B.N. (Nigel) Wolstenholme was appointed lecturer in Horticulture. Sadly, Dr L.L.J. Ossowski, entomologist

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**S.J. (Susarah) Truter** completed a B.Sc. at Grey University College (Bloemfontein) and M.Sc. in Mycology (*cum laude*) at Stellenbosch followed by a doctorate at the University of Utrecht. Her return to South Africa was delayed by the outbreak of World War II and she was then employed as a plant pathologist in the Western Province Fruit Research Laboratories before moving to Pietermaritzburg. ‘Prof. Susie’ set high academic and sartorial standards for students and was said to have trained more plant pathologists than all the other Plant Pathology departments in the country combined. She also became the first female dean of Agriculture (1960−1962) and in 1986, ten years after her official retirement, the Susarah J. Truter Laboratory for Phytopathological Research was named in honour of her contribution to the department. She died in 2007, aged 97.
in the Wattle Research Institute since 1949, died that year but by then the new Faculty and associated research institute was well launched. Several members of staff settled into homes on what were then the outer fringes of Scottsville, within easy walking distance of the new Faculty building. After serving for five years in the armed forces during World War II they very reluctantly wore the obligatory civil service style jackets and ties to work but on purpose mismatched these with shorts and long socks! It made for an eccentric morning parade down Carbis Road that doubtless entertained the students.7

There were important changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture as the old senior guard gave way to the new and some significant appointments were also made at lecturer level.

Engineering and Architecture
In 1949 P.H. (Paul) Connell assumed the already established chair as the University’s first professor of Architecture. In 1950 A.J. Gould replaced the retiring J.H. (Jimmy) Neal in the chair of Mechanical Engineering while L.F. (Leslie) Croft was appointed to a lectureship in Architecture in place of the part-time staff previously employed in the department, which was now run by its own committee of studies. In 1953 C.J. Fleming and R.A. (Ronald) Hellawell filled existing lectureships in Civil and Electrical Engineering respectively.

The following year H. (Tubby) Clark (Electrical Engineering), one of the original professors when Engineering classes were started at the Natal Technical College in 1922, retired and was succeeded by W.E. (Eric) Phillips (D.Sc. Eng., MIEE). Dr H. Biesheuvel, dean of the Faculty, was promoted from senior lecturer in charge of the new department to the chair of Quantity Surveying and a diploma course, acceptable as a qualification for admission into the profession, was introduced. Other appointments in 1954 included those of Dr B.E. (Barry) Biermann and R.B. Lewcock as lecturers in Architecture. Leslie Croft was promoted to senior lecturer and tasked with organising a diploma in Town Planning.

In 1957 F.H.H. Valentin was appointed to the chair of Chemical Engineering, still in the Faculty of Science and the first in a South African university. H.L. (Lee) Nattrass (Electrical Engineering) and D.N. Dyke-Wells (Architecture) were appointed to lectureships and Dr E.P. (Ernest) Reim (senior lecturer in Mechanical Engineering) retired. The following year the School of Architecture was informed that the Architects Registration Council in Britain had recognised its degree and diploma. In 1960 P.E. (Philipp) McManus was
appointed senior lecturer in Town Planning and both the chair and degree in Chemical Engineering were formally transferred from the Faculty of Science to that of Engineering and Architecture.8

Meanwhile the new Faculty of Medicine, like that of Agriculture, was still establishing itself.

Medical School/Faculty of Medicine

Much time was spent in the early 1950s developing the limited facilities at Wentworth and selecting an initial staff complement. There were also extended negotiations to develop a reasonably adequate medical library by pooling the resources of the Natal branch of the Medical Association and of local hospitals with those of the University. The most important task of all was to develop an appropriate curriculum for medical students. From the outset it was intended that in the interests of both the students and the reputation of the staff who taught them, the degree programme offered should meet internationally recognised standards.

Vanessa Noble has shown in her study of the Medical School that student demand always vastly outstripped the number of places available with the result that only the best black matriculants stood any chance of acceptance. Those from better educated families, in some cases with parents who were teachers, usually had an advantage. A minimum annual admissions quota of 50% Africans ensured that they were always in the majority, with Indian and to a lesser extent coloured students comprising the balance. Whites were excluded entirely in terms of the government’s segregation policy.

In compliance with the minimum requirements of the South African Medical and Dental Council trainees were obliged to study basic Science subjects in their first three years followed by three years of practical training in clinical subjects, taught by various departments in the teaching hospital, and then a year of postgraduate internship in the wards. The first-year Science courses were taught at Wentworth, preceded by an additional pre-medical bridging year primarily intended to compensate for the deficient school teaching that many students had experienced in Science, Mathematics and English. From time to time, prior to the abandonment of the preliminary year in 1975, a selection of arts and social science courses were also offered, including History, Psychology and Sociology, with the intention of broadening the students’ cultural horizons.

In 1950 Dr A. (Alan) Taylor was appointed acting part-time dean of the Faculty of Medicine, but the following year other newly created posts were
not filled for financial reasons. In September 1951, the Minister of Health Dr Karl Bremer officially opened the pre-Medical School at Wentworth and the following year a full-time dean, G.W. (George) Gale, succeeded Taylor. This enabled the latter to focus on his responsibilities as medical superintendent of McCord Hospital while maintaining close contact with the Medical School.

In 1952 professors J.A. Keen and T. Gillman assumed chairs in the newly established departments of Anatomy and Physiology. For nearly eight months prior to its removal in November of that year to its temporary quarters at Wentworth, the latter department had functioned in laboratory space provided by Professor R.A. (Raymond) Dart of the Department of Anatomy at the University of the Witwatersrand. It commenced teaching in 1953, in which year Dr I. (Isidor ‘Okkie’) Gordon assumed the chair of Pathology with Dr J. Wainwright and Dr S. Holman as senior lecturers. In 1954 Drs S.B. Griffiths and J.C. Thomas joined them in that department. Dr D. (Derek) Crichton, E.B. Adams and A.E. (Allan) Kark were appointed to the chairs of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medicine, and Surgery respectively.

Teaching of the Medical School’s first batch of eighteen fourth-year students began in 1954 and the following year Professor S.L (Sydney) Kark (head), Drs B. Gampel and C. Slome (senior family physicians/senior lecturers) and Dr J. Abramson (family physician/lecturer) began to staff the new Institute of Social, Preventative and Family Medicine. The institute was not easily achieved but added an important dimension to undergraduate training that, like the pre-medical first year at Wentworth, was not provided at other South African medical schools at the time.

It had always been the intention of George Gale, Sydney Kark and others involved in promoting the new school to emphasise the social and environmental dimensions of medical care. The purpose was to assist students develop at undergraduate level a more comprehensive understanding of their patients and the context in which they lived. In this way, it was hoped, they would become more effective in protecting community health instead of being conventional doctors who focused only on curing existing diseases. It was a dimension which, for a time, made the Medical School the most advanced in the country.

To that end, once the Board had agreed to this innovative addition to the curriculum, close ties were established with the Durban Institute of Family and Community Health (IFCH) at Clairwood. This had been opened in 1945 and was already affiliated with a number of community health centres, including that in rural Pholela established by Kark and his wife Emily. It offered
invaluable practical and theoretical training as well as a variety of research opportunities in community health care. Gale was also instrumental in raising a crucial £42 400 (R84 800) donation from the Rockefeller Foundation, which dissuaded the conservative and cost-conscious National Party government from closing the IFCH.

Instead, this sealed its collaboration with the Medical School and led to the establishment of the aforementioned Institute of Social, Preventative and Family Medicine. Even so, Kark’s enthusiasm for social medicine was not universally embraced. It was to take some time before the institute’s innovative approach won over those members of staff, and even students, who harboured serious misgivings about its real value to professional medical training.

In July 1955 Dr J.H. Viljoen, Minister of Education, Arts and Science, formally opened the new six-storey Medical School building, adjacent to King Edward VIII Hospital in Umbilo Road. The school had already moved there the previous year with Anatomy and Physiology taught in the lower floors from as early as 1953. The lecture rooms could accommodate 80 students, but the library and laboratory facilities were planned on the understanding that there would be no more than 40 trainees in each of the five degree years.

Malherbe and Gale had great difficulty in extracting sufficient state support for the project but government eventually provided roughly 75% of the approximately £400 000 (R800 000) estimated cost of the building and £80 000 (R160 000) estimated cost of equipment. The University undertook to raise £100 000 (R200 000) through public appeals in order to meet the subsequent heavy over-expenditure involved. Donations were attracted from all ethnic groups and social sectors of South African society ranging from mining magnates, sugar barons and Zulu royalty to middle-class professionals, artisans and township dwellers. In addition, government withdrew the financial assistance previously available to African students at Wits Medical School and instead offered them 105 bursary loans tenable in Durban to the value of £300 (R600) each for all seven years of training. Half of this was repayable in the form of service in black communities.

The site for the School/Faculty of Medicine was provided jointly by the NPA and the Durban City Council. Approval for its erection in what the Group Areas Act had officially designated a white residential part of town had only been achieved by a narrow majority in the latter body where peppery Mayor Percy Osborne led strong opposition and angrily ejected Malherbe from the tea adjournment after the decisive vote! This approval was vital, for it had always been recognised that the senior years of medical training could not readily be
conducted at Wentworth and would unavoidably have to involve students in a journey of nearly 10 kilometres. Their hostel accommodation remained at that site but King Edward VIII Hospital, with more than 1 000 beds (more than any such institution in London) and a wide variety of cases, was ideal for clinical training purposes. In addition, tuberculosis, leprosy and mental patients were also accessible in other local hospitals.

All staff appointments remained on the basis of a joint establishment, involving the University and the NPA, with appointees being required to care for the patients but also teach the medical trainees. By 1960 there were more than 60 such staff members, the majority of whom were part-timers involved also in private practice. Many of them were distinguished individuals in the medical profession.

In terms of the University’s conditions of service, under which permanent members of the joint medical staff were appointed, they were initially forbidden to engage in any remunerative private work that might interfere with the efficient performance of their duties. However, in response to changes in the conditions of service applicable at other medical schools in South Africa and abroad, they were subsequently permitted to perform private work in a consultative capacity to a maximum of four hours a week.

Before the end of 1955 it had been decided that the school would henceforth be officially designated the University of Natal Faculty of Medicine and not, as before, Durban Medical School. In November 1955 the Faculty held a dinner at Claridges Hotel on the Durban beachfront in honour of Malherbe’s 60th birthday, but also no doubt in gratitude for his sterling efforts on its behalf. On a more serious note, by then the Board of the Faculty of Medicine was already concerned that the available facilities for clinical teaching in Family Practice, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Medicine and Surgery might be deficient in ensuring international recognition of the medical degrees offered. The situation was brought to the attention of the NPA, which was responsible for King Edward VIII Hospital, and a committee of enquiry was duly appointed.

The crisis was eventually resolved as the various teaching facilities at the hospital were reviewed in turn and accorded official recognition in terms of the South African Medical and Dental Council’s standing orders. The Faculty of Medicine formally thanked the medical superintendent and matron there for their efforts in ensuring that the training facilities provided met the required standards. The crisis served to emphasise the vital importance of a close relationship between the Faculty and the provincial medical and health services. The point was emphasised again following the province’s takeover of
the IFCH and the subsequent need to provide adequate facilities for the clinical teaching of students in the Department of Social, Preventative and Family Medicine. Recognition was also subsequently extended to the Bacteriology and Chemical Pathology divisions of the Central Pathological Laboratories at Wentworth for specialist training as well as to some teaching facilities at Addington Hospital on Durban’s south beach and at McCord Zulu Hospital on the Berea.

In 1955 George Gale, under government pressure for his alleged over-expenditure on behalf of the Faculty, resigned as dean and Isidor Gordon replaced him. The following year, contrary to the convention not to name facilities after living persons, the Board of the Faculty of Medicine insisted that the Wentworth hostel should be named the Alan Taylor Residence in honour of Dr Alan Taylor who had been so closely associated with establishing both the Faculty and McCord Hospital. Appropriately, two years later the University awarded him an honorary doctorate, capping him at the same ceremony as its first crop of medical graduates. Meanwhile, the facilities at Wentworth were becoming increasingly unsuitable for pre-medical science courses and alternative accommodation nearer the Faculty’s premises in Umbilo Road was urgently sought.

By 1957, when fourteen of the original intake of 35 medical students began their final year, total enrolment had reached 193, including 27 women and nineteen students from the Rhodesias and Lesotho. In 1958 Professor J.A. Keen retired and the following year his son E.N. Keen was promoted to his chair of Anatomy. Professor Sydney Kark also retired and Dr B. Gampel assumed the chair of Social, Preventative and Family Medicine. A future dean and University Orator, Dr J.V.O. (John) Reid, was appointed to a lectureship and in 1960 became professor of Physiology after Professor T. Gillman resigned. Dr H. (Hugh) Grant-Whyte was promoted to the new professorship in Anaesthetics and Dr H.L. (Harry) Wallace to that in Paediatrics.9

During the 1950s the Humanities and Social Sciences continued to augment their relatively strong staff complements.

Humanities and Social Sciences
Among the several existing vacant posts filled during 1949 in Durban were those of senior lecturer in Accounting and Auditing and lecturer in History, filled by T.J.H. (Tom) Waldeck and K.H.C. (Ken) McIntyre. In that year a three-person History Department was formally established in Durban, under professorial control from Pietermaritzburg, with A.W. (Wyn) Rees and K.J. (Ken) Newman
as McIntyre’s colleagues. By 1959 there were ten departmental members in the two centres. In 1950 W.J.G. (Walter) Fairbairn assumed the vacant chair of Accounting in Durban while in the other centre those who joined the staff included M-L. (Marie-Louise) Tricaud (senior lecturer in French), Rev. Dr R. (Robert) Craig (senior lecturer in Divinity) and C.J. Nienaber (lecturer in Afrikaans-Nederlands), who was to serve the University for 44 years in various capacities, half of them as departmental head. His appointment significantly strengthened the department in Pietermaritzburg as did those of the multi-talented P. du P. Grobler and Dr H.J. Terblanche in Durban.

Resignations in 1950 included Dr M.K. (Mary) Niddrie, senior lecturer in French, and her husband D.L. (David) Niddrie, lecturer in Geography. Among the appointments made to existing vacancies in 1951 was that of O. (Owen) Williams to a Pietermaritzburg lectureship in Geography. Those whose

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**H. (Hugh) Grant-Whyte** was born in Upington and in 1927 graduated with a medical degree from UCT. After working at Somerset and Grey’s hospitals he settled in Durban as a general practitioner before undergoing further training to become a specialist anaesthetist. He served as a council member of the Natal coastal branch of the Medical Association of South Africa and was well known as an outspoken opponent of drug abuse and a vigorous advocate of voluntary euthanasia. He was a founder member and life president of the South African Voluntary Euthanasia Society and died in 1991 aged 87.

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**H.L. (Henry or Harry) Wallace** was a 1923 graduate of Edinburgh University awarded a doctorate in 1937. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during World War II and worked in various capacities at hospitals in Toronto and Edinburgh as well as senior lecturer in Child Health at his alma mater (1945–1948). A fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Wallace also served as president of the South African Paediatric Association, produced numerous articles and came to be regarded as the doyen of paediatricians in the country. In addition, he served on the adoption committee of the Durban Child Welfare Society and in 1959 helped to initiate Durban’s Malnutrition Relief Committee, which addressed the scourge of kwashiorkor.
services were lost to resignation included Professor Hansi Pollak (Sociology and Social Work, Durban), as well as professors Oliver Davies (Classics), D.J. O’Connor (Philosophy) and Mark Prestwich (senior lecturer, History and Politics), all in Pietermaritzburg. In addition, J.G.W. Ferguson, longstanding professor of Education, retired.

In 1952 O.C. (Otto) Jensen assumed the vacant chair of Philosophy and L. (Leo) Kuper that of Sociology and Social Work, both in Durban. Kuper was keen to launch a School of Oriental Studies, but lack of funds made this impractical. In Pietermaritzburg Professor W.A. (Arnold) Lloyd’s succession to the chair of Education was followed by a complete re-organisation of the University’s system of teacher training and B.Ed. numbers climbed to 42 registrations. Professor B. (Bernard) Notcutt died and Dr Ella Pratt-Yule was promoted to a chair in Psychology. Longstanding professors F.B. (Frank) Burchell (Law) and A. (Alan) Hattersley (History and Political Science) were lost to retirement, the latter after nearly 40 years of service.

In 1952 Professor O.J.P. Oxley retired from the chair of Fine Arts to which J.C.W. (Jack) Heath succeeded the following year. While Harold Strachan taught painting for a time, Geoffrey Long’s design course was abandoned and he left in 1955 for leukaemia treatment in Britain, but died in the early 1960s. In 1957 J.T. (Jane) Heath was appointed lecturer in painting after the talented artist Rosa Hope had retired as senior lecturer due to ill health. Heath assisted

**W.J.G. (Walter) Fairbairn** was born in 1908 in Cape Town, matriculated at Durban High School and in 1930 qualified as a chartered accountant. He became a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and began lecturing part-time in Accountancy soon after qualifying. In 1937 he started his own practice, which was disrupted by five years’ service as an accountant and administrative officer in the South African Air Force during World War II. He thereafter resumed his practice until he was appointed to the chair of Accountancy in Durban, which he held until 1973. Fairbairn served as dean of the Faculty of Commerce and in 1971 the University awarded him a Doctor of Economics in recognition of his numerous publications. Semi-affectionately known to his students as ‘Fairy’, he was a hard taskmaster who set high academic standards as well a dress and short-back-and-sides haircut code that he considered appropriate for those preparing to enter the profession.
her husband in inculcating what was described as ‘a strong English modernist tradition’, with a focus on drawing, painting and sculpture, based on training undergone in Birmingham and at the Royal College of Art where she had been a gold medallist. Student numbers increased significantly during the 1950s and several graduates gained national and international recognition.

There was some discussion in Senate as to whether or not a course in Latin should continue to be a requirement for the completion of a Law degree and as early as March 1950 it was argued in Council that this obligation was encouraging students to register elsewhere. At the insistence of the Faculty of Law the prerequisite was nevertheless retained, with the course Latin1B being accepted as the equivalent to matriculation Latin in qualifying for the Law Certificate.

The appropriateness of the subject matter taught in some of the other older disciplines was also a matter for debate but the teaching profession still held its own even though post-war graduates could choose a widening variety of career options. In 1960 it was decided to replace the existing two-year course in Psychology with a new three-year major and revised Honours course the following year. This was in response to numerous post-war developments in the subject and also to equip students who proceeded overseas for more advanced studies.

In 1954 E.M. (Exton) Burchell succeeded his father to the James Scott-Wylie Chair of Law and A.M. (Arthur) Keppel-Jones succeeded Hattersley. Robert Craig was promoted to a chair in Divinity and Dr E.H. (Edgar) Brookes to a senior lectureship in History while W.H. (William) Gardner, senior lecturer in English, was lost briefly to resignation. In 1955 that stalwart of the Durban Non-European Section, Dr Mabel Palmer, retired while in Pietermaritzburg R.J. (Ron) Davies began his climb to a chair of Geography when he was appointed to a lectureship.

In the same year the Faculty of Arts launched a campaign for the establishment of a Department of Music, without which it contended the Arts curriculum could not be considered ‘complete or satisfactory’. That proposal had already been made during the NUC era, and the Carnegie Corporation’s generous gift of records dating back to the 1930s was still available, but, yet again, the timing was financially inopportune. In 1960 Senex accepted in principle the desirability of creating such a department offering a three-year major towards the BA degree, but it resolved that the Board of the Faculty of Arts would first need to submit estimated costs concerning staffing and accommodation.

Meanwhile the continuation of Accountancy classes in Pietermaritzburg was at risk because of the strain Durban-based staff were taking travelling between
the two centres. Protracted negotiations ensued between the University liaison committee and the Natal Society of Accountants to obviate the situation and guarantee the University a minimum fee income from the classes it offered in Pietermaritzburg.

In 1956 W.H.O. Schmidt assumed the new chair of Educational Psychology in that centre while Arnold Lloyd resigned after a brief tenure as dean and in the chair of Education. R.G. (Ronald) MacMillan, a future campus Vice-Principal, succeeded him the following year while E.T. Verdier assumed the chair of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry in Pietermaritzburg. In 1957 Dr F.J. Holleman was appointed director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR) in Durban and future Principal O.P.F. (Owen) Horwood succeeded to the chair of Economics after H.R. Burrows had retired from it that year. Among numerous other new Howard College appointments and promotions were A.T. (Trevor) Cope and H.F. (Hamish) Dickie-Clark as lecturers in Zulu and Sociology respectively after both had previously taught in the Non-European Section.

In 1958 Elizabeth Sneddon was promoted to the new chair of Speech and Drama in Durban, the department having been launched at City Buildings in 1949 under the aegis of English before gaining its independence in 1951. It was then the only department of its kind in the country and so impressed the Botha/Duminy Commission that it declared it might ‘easily become a great asset to the University and to South Africa’. In addition to a three-year major, from 1952 it also offered an Honours degree as well as diplomas in play production and logopaedics. By 1959 the department’s student numbers had already risen to approximately 300.

In that year a significant initiative in Education and Social Science was launched in the form of an Education Diploma in Nursing for the training of tutor-sisters in collaboration with the NPA. The course was based at Addington Hospital in Durban rather than at the Faculty of Medicine but the latter’s professorial staff were nevertheless to be involved in providing instruction, with lectures given at Howard College from 1960.

In 1958 there were four promotions to vacant chairs in Pietermaritzburg: A.G. (Alfred) Rooks to that of Divinity (after it was initially offered to Rev. L.A. Hewson), M. (Maria) Schmidt-Ihms to that of German, Marie-Louise Tricaud to that of French and K.D. White to that of Classics. The following year Special Zulu was launched in Pietermaritzburg on an experimental basis and Edgar Brookes was promoted to the chair of History and Political Science vacated by Arthur Keppel-Jones, much to Malherbe’s disappointment. A.S. (Tony) Mathews (Law), Dr A.L. (Anna) Conradie (Philosophy), C.O. (Colin)
Gardner (English) and F.H. (Helen) Shiels (Educational Psychology) were appointed to lectureships. The University suffered a major loss when Professor J.D. (Jacob, Jack) Krige, head of Bantu Studies and sometime acting Principal, died. It was recorded in Senate that he would be missed for his ‘balanced judgement, wise counsel and kind consideration’.

In 1960 his wife, E.J. (Eileen) Krige, succeeded him to the chair. Among other Durban appointments and promotions that year were those of R.D. (Roger) Orton and P.J. (Peter) Scholtz as lecturers in Speech and Drama and C. de B. Webb, a future campus Principal in both centres, as lecturer in History and Political Science. Professor G.M.J. (Maurice) Sweeney retired after a long career in the Law Faculty while the Pietermaritzburg campus acquired the services of future professorial appointees in R. (Rosemary) Bamford as

M. (Maria) Schmidt-Ihms had the distinction of beginning her career at the University as head of department with only her doctoral training at Freiburg, Jena and Leipzig by way of experience. She increased her student numbers from ten in 1941 to 77 by 1947 and was responsible also for teaching German on the Durban campus, initially with only a part-time assistant there. This necessitated regular Saturday bus trips to give classes at City Buildings. She gradually expanded her courses in both centres to incorporate the study of German literature as well as language before leaving in 1977 to join her husband, W.H.O. Schmidt, former professor of Educational Psychology in Pietermaritzburg, at the University of Alberta in Canada.

M-L. (Marie-Louise) Tricaud came from Lyons, undertook all her studies at the Sorbonne in Paris and held a professorial post in Reims prior to arriving in Natal in 1950. Her alma mater eventually awarded her a doctorate in literature for her thesis on the baroque theatre of Paul Claudel. As professor of French in Pietermaritzburg she was responsible for initiating a departmental branch in Durban soon after arrival. This necessitated many years of commuting until 1975 when the department split. She transferred to Durban until her retirement in 1979 when she returned to Paris and then Lyons.
lecturer in Speech and Drama and G.J. (George) Trotter (also future Registrar) as lecturer in Economics.10

Even allowing for the increasing teaching load associated with rising student registrations, it could reasonably be expected that the strengthening staff complement in all faculties, especially at professorial level, would be reflected in a greater research and publication output.

ENDNOTES

1 UKZNA ST 2/2/1 Natal Agricultural Research Institute Staff Association: Minutes of meeting, 10 November 1949; UKZNA Senex Minutes, 28 April 1949: 9; UKZNA Senate Minutes, 26 September 1949: 5; UKZNA H 1/2/1−2 University of Natal: Hattersley, ‘University of Natal, 1909–1960’: 86.


5 UKZNA University of Natal Gazette I(1) April 1954: 1–2; UKZNA Senate Minutes, 30 November 1955: 9, 30 November 1956: 8–9; UKZNA Senex Minutes, 29 October 1957.


RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY service continued to be regarded as vitally important dimensions of the University’s life during the 1950s, augmented by the new faculties of Agriculture and Medicine as well as associated research institutions.

**Funding and research promotion**

The existence of the University Press provided some incentive for the production of books that were of academic merit but had limited public appeal and therefore might not be readily accepted by commercial publishers. The Publications Committee, a sub-committee of Senate, administered it with the support of an annual Council grant as well as additional financial assistance for the publication of inaugural lectures. From 1958 the Press was required to prepare, like the academic departments, an annual budget but with some allowance for the University’s use of its technical resources in the production of official publications like the annual University Calendar.

In 1949 the establishment of a University Research Fund was mooted as a further boost to research productivity and initially envisaged for the benefit of junior staff members struggling to raise money elsewhere. A central Research Committee was duly constituted a few months later comprising the Principal, two representatives of Council and one from each Faculty Board. They were to hold office for three years and be eligible for re-election.

A University Research Fund was not formally established until the mid-1950s, with Council allocating £2 000 (R4 000) towards it from the 1956 estimates. This was primarily to finance projects not funded by outside bodies. Recipients of funds were required to submit progress and expenditure reports while any equipment purchased was to remain University property. Regulations were also eventually formulated governing the use of University vehicles for research purposes.

In 1949 staff research projects attracted a combined twelve research bursaries worth £1 300 (R2 600) and seven ad hoc grants amounting to £1 226 (R2 452)
from the National Council for Social Research (NCSR), which did not assist
research in the Humanities. They also attracted sixteen research bursaries
valued at £3 050 (R6 100) as well as £2 833 (R5 666) to cover the cost of
equipment and current expenditure from the CSIR. Grants attracted from the
NCSR and CSIR were similarly modest in 1950–1954. In the last year the
establishment of the University’s Institute for Social Research (ISR) attracted
support to the value of £9 000 (R18 000) from the Ford Foundation and more
than £20 000 (R40 000) from the Carnegie Corporation.

By 1955 the Holloway Commission had recommended that a national
Universities Grant Commission should be launched with at least £100 000
(R200 000) to dispense in its first year. Government did not accept this
proposal, preferring to review and use existing means to promote research.
The University of Natal’s Research Committee suggested the inclusion of
£4–5 000 (R8–10 000) in the 1956 estimates to establish a research fund with
which to assist those projects that did not receive assistance from the NCSR
and CSIR and possibly even to establish research posts in the University.

By then the annual ad hoc grants it received from the NCSR still only
amounted to £1 200 (R2 400) while various awards from the CSIR totalled
£10 198 (R20 396). This income was bolstered by £13 350 (R26 700) from
the Natal Radium Trust for cancer research at the Medical School, £9 721
(R19 442) from the Ford Foundation for advanced social research training,
£4 000 (R8 000) from the NCSR for the same purpose, £6 189 (R12 378)
from the Carnegie Foundation, £4 250 (R8 500) from the Town and Regional
Planning Commission for the Natal Regional Survey publication series, £1 980
(R3 960) from the Nuffield Foundation, and various other smaller amounts.

The new Institute of Social Preventative and Family Medicine attracted an
initial £42 400 (R84 800) from the Rockefeller Foundation, spread over five
years and this was followed by generous grants from other sources including
the Wellcome Trust and Schlesinger Organisation as its research output
attracted international attention.

During the late 1950s the University continued to receive funds from these
and other sources that included the South African National Cancer Association,
the Cancer Research Committee, the Economics Research Committee and
smaller donors. In 1960 the University of Natal attracted £69 017 (R138 034)
worth of research grants, including £2 003 (R4 006) from the NCSR, £10 182
(R20 364) from the Institute of Social Research in association with the NCSR
and £27 036 (R54 072) from the CSIR.
The last figure comprised £4,696 (R9,392) worth of medical research grants, £7,956 (R15,912) in bursaries and £14,384 (R28,768) worth of general research grants. Among other amounts awarded that year were £8,888 (R17,776) from the United States National Institute of Health for research in the fields of Physiology and Pathology, £6,045 (R12,090) from the Economics Research Committee and a modest £1,050 (R2,100) from the University’s Research Committee to ten successful applicants.

The significant overall increase in funding since the University’s launch in 1949 reflected a growing momentum in its research effort and reputation. Even so, publication output during the 1950s was probably not as much as Malherbe may have hoped for considering that the permanent full-time staff, including that of the new research institutes attached to the University in the late 1940s and early 1950s, increased from approximately 135 in 1949 to 250 in 1960. Assuming that all academic departments were conscientious in regularly submitting their returns, there were approximately 100 publications in 1949, followed by a marked decline between 1950 and 1956 except for the 126 produced in 1952–1953. The increase to roughly 137 in 1957–1958, 174 in 1958–1959 and 133 in 1959–1960 was due, in part, to the research institutes and the new faculties of Agriculture and Medicine as they began to establish themselves as research as well as teaching centres.

As before, the award of national grants was not the only measure of research output because effective work in some disciplines was far less dependent upon financial support than in others. As in previous years research activity and publication output varied considerably across the disciplines in both centres. In several departments lack of essential equipment and/or heavy teaching loads continued to impede research productivity, though in some cases it could also provide a convenient excuse for the lack of it where the research ethos was weak.1 This was not the case in most of the Science departments.

Science
Among the Sciences in the early 1950s, as in the 1940s, Botany continued to be prominent in the field of publication, as were Chemistry and Zoology. So too was the PRI which in 1949 undertook to investigate the durability and drying time of various paints to assist Durban City Council with the future award of tenders. In Pietermaritzburg the Botany Department extended its established anatomical and systematic studies of local grasses and ferns, together with Dr Heard’s research into protein metabolism and Professor Adolf Bayer’s interest
in South African trees. This included spending several weeks examining material in the Kew Herbarium.

Botany was one of several departments that collaborated in the Town and Regional Planning Commission’s Land Usage Survey, with a fellowship established to study the plant ecology of inland Natal with particular reference to the Tugela Basin. Unfortunately, the department’s efforts during the 1950s to establish a research garden for itself in various parts of the campus were overtaken by building and infrastructural developments.

On the same campus, with doctors Griff and Jakes Ewer well to the fore, the Zoology Department continued its research on marine and freshwater biology as well as animal ecology and anatomy. The Ewers helped to promote interest in the broad and developing field of experimental biology that was leading to new knowledge in animal physiology, functional anatomy and behaviour. During World War II they had been engaged in a variety of projects such as a study of insect pests affecting grain storage and the development of radar. While watching bats flying in an abandoned Italian church Jakes Ewer had made one of the earliest observations that bats use sonar to detect objects while in flight. The department developed a particular interest in resolving problems for which the local fauna could provide the most appropriate material. A close relationship was developed with the Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Board and among numerous other projects the department conducted a survey of the impact of industrial effluent on fauna along the shoreline at Umkomaas.

The department’s teaching and research was further enhanced when the trustees of the Natal Museum presented it with a large and invaluable collection of zoological specimens assembled between 1910 and 1930 while classes of the NUC were still being conducted there. By then the department had already gathered what was described as ‘the most comprehensive collection of southeast African amphibians ever assembled’, providing another useful basis for both teaching and research.

The Chemistry Department, now established in both centres, continued with a variety of research interests in resins, alkaloids, sterol saponins, coal oxidation, spectroscopy and isotopic studies. As South Africa’s urgent post-war need for more highly skilled graduates became increasingly evident by the mid-1950s there were teams of up to eight workers involved in various projects that produced a stream of postgraduates who subsequently distinguished themselves in industry and the academic world.

By then the research undertaken in Organic Chemistry had been divided into three fields, i.e., Triterpene Chemistry, Alkaloid Chemistry and the
Synthesis of Natural Products. Professor Frank Warren continued his work on the extraction and isolation of toxins from local plants, with particular focus on those that caused stock losses. He continued to receive international recognition for his research on pyrrolizidine alkaloids and was spurred on by his strong rivalry with Professor Manie de Waal of Pretoria University who was also working on Senecio alkaloids.

The extent of Warren’s research in natural products beyond that specific interest was reflected in a variety of other published articles. The success of both teaching and research in Chemistry owed a great deal to his ongoing efforts to develop a departmental library, despite limited space and funds, by securing second-hand copies from publishers, offering exchanges, appealing for donations, making several contributions himself and subscribing to key journals in his own capacity. The renovation of the department’s premises in Pietermaritzburg (1957–1959) was a further boost to productivity.

The work undertaken in Physical Chemistry involved studies in the properties of boron halides, absorption spectroscopy and, in response to the demands of local industry, chemical technology. Prominent among the physical chemists was Dr H.A.E. (Errol) MacKenzie (1947–1953) who boasted an impressive publication output in the field of isotopes but was tragically killed soon after leaving the department in 1953. Dr E.C. (Cecil) Leisegang, senior lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry (1950–1961), spent several years building what proved to be the first working infrared spectrophotometer in the country and collaborated with Warren in studying the infrared spectra of alkaloids. Dr L. (Len) Dry (1953–1960) was more concerned with chemical reactions or ‘mechanism of reaction’ than in plant chemistry and made a valuable contribution to teaching and research in this field.

Dr E.T. Verdier’s unfortunately short tenure (1957–1959) as the first professor of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry introduced a new dimension to the department’s research output as he was a polarographer from Czechoslovakia. The Verdier Laboratory was subsequently named in his honour. Malherbe was particularly proud of the fact that in the fifteen years up to 1959, the Chemistry Department had produced more doctoral graduates than all of South Africa’s other Chemistry departments combined. Moreover, since its inception the department had 100 publications to its credit, most of them produced after 1940.²

In Durban Professor Hanno Rund stimulated research in Mathematics as well as advancing his own work during an all too brief term on campus (1956–1961). He completed a book on Differential Geometry and investigated
a new theoretical approach to the spin properties of elementary particles before pursuing a spectacularly successful career in North America. The University subsequently conferred an honorary doctorate upon him as ‘the most profound, and … certainly the most well-known Mathematician that South Africa has so far produced’. Meanwhile colleague C.K. (Ken) Hill studied some problems in the theory of functions of a complex variable and Dr P. van der Borght continued to work in the field of Astrophysics.

The Department of Experimental Physics conducted research on Atmospheric Physics, using a special camera developed in the University Workshop to examine lightning discharges. This led to collaboration between Desmond Clarence and Dr D.J. Malan of the Bernard Price Institute in Johannesburg. The department’s expanding interest in whistling atmospherics resulted in the establishment of a recording station on Marion Island in order to make recordings simultaneously with a similar station in Denmark. In July 1960 a Shackleton bomber parachute drop of radio equipment that arrived too late from the USA to be taken by ship ensured that the station could fulfill its contribution to International Geophysical Year.

Senior lecturer H.W. (Bill) Scott began a survey of the distribution of hygroscopic nuclei from Durban to Pretoria in collaboration with the CSIR. In 1958 the University bought 12 hectares of land at Alverstone, 40 kilometres from Pietermaritzburg, for Dr O’Brien to set up a field station, complete with recording laboratory and aerial system, for his research on radio astronomy.

Professor Lester King of the Geology Department explored the theory of continental drift while Dr Peter Matthews, recipient of the Geological Society of South Africa’s 1959 Jubilee Gold Medal, and Mr John McCarthy investigated geological formations in Namibia and Zululand.

In 1959 yet another potentially productive source of publication output was launched with the establishment of the Oceanographic Research Institute. In June 1959 the Centenary Aquarium was opened with a display of more than 90 different fish species and over 900 specimens, which by late October had already attracted 200 000 visitors.3

During the 1950s the new Faculty of Agriculture soon justified its existence in terms of research output and community service.

**Agriculture**

In 1954, after the Faculty had largely found its feet, the dean and professor of Dairy Science, Clem Abbott, predicted that henceforth it would ‘be judged largely by the quality and volume of its research activities’. This pointed to
the fact that one of the arguments presented in support of its establishment had been the need for agricultural research to assist the farming community in the eastern regions of the subcontinent. Abbott’s own department’s early contribution in that regard included, among others, projects on the nitrogen content of milk and the occurrence of flannelly curds in cheese production.

J.D. (Hamish) Scott, first professor of Pasture Management and Soil Conservation, made use of the Faculty’s nearby experimental farm Ukulinga, acquired in 1948, to initiate research on veld management, the grazing of cultivated pastures and the study of forages. This proved of great practical value to the farming community and his Burning and Mowing and Veld Fertilisation trials, both started in 1950, eventually became internationally renowned and the oldest of their kind in the world.

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Poultry Husbandry and Animal Diseases, like others, initially relied heavily on the facilities available at Cedara but subsequently conducted research at Ukulinga. Lecturer P.C. du Plessis and others published articles on the role of vitamins in poultry feeding, a research interest that was also to gain international recognition. So too did departmental lecturer Dr G.L. (George) Hunter’s feat in overcoming the prevailing prohibition on sheep importation by arranging for fertilised Welsh Mountain sheep ova to be transplanted into rabbits that were then flown from Britain to South Africa so that he and resident vet ‘Bollie’ Bishop could transfer the ova into Ukulinga Dorper ewes! The labourers at Ukulinga experimental farm attributed the unusually long ears of their progeny, named Romulus and

J.D. (Hamish) Scott was a graduate of Rhodes University and in 1951 Wits awarded him a doctorate for his dissertation on problems relating to Drakensberg conservation areas. He was South Africa’s first professor of Pasture Management and Soil Conservation and the Faculty of Agriculture’s first elected dean (1950–1951) in succession to the government-appointed A.R. (Rabie) Saunders. Before his retirement in 1973 Scott made a significant contribution to the Pietermaritzburg campus in a variety of ways outside his department. He served on numerous committees, including the Students Disciplinary Court, became the campus timetable expert, promoted student sport as president of several clubs and pushed for the establishment of the University squash courts and Olympic-size swimming pool, which was named after him. He died in 1987 at the age of 79.
Remus (who according to legend had a wolf as a surrogate mother), to the rabbits that had accommodated them.

Hunter, who was one of the Faculty’s first cohort of graduates in March 1951 and acquired his expertise in egg transplantation while completing a doctorate at Cambridge, also improved Ukulinga’s small Jersey herd by borrowing bulls from the Western Cape. Bishop distinguished himself further by cutting a peephole into a sheep so that students could observe its digestive system. They named it ‘Tom Dooley’ after the current hit song about a prisoner facing execution and when the *Witness* attracted unfavourable publicity Bishop insisted that ‘Tom’ was actually particularly well cared for.

J.C. (Sas) le Roux, professor of Horticulture, and his successors used their section of Ukulinga to improve the production of avocados, pawpaws, low chill peaches, kiwi fruit, and pecan and macadamia nuts. The first dean and professor of Genetics, Rabie Saunders, had an early interest in the production of soybeans and started a hybrid maize breeding programme, using the farm for testing all such maize bred in South Africa before releasing it to the farming community. Oosie Oosthuizen, professor of Entomology, developed a special interest in stored-product insects and later in the life cycle of the tumba fly.

Sampie Hulme, professor of Agronomy, specialised in chemical weed control, in which capacity he served as adviser to the Union government. Arthur Rayner, professor of Biometry, worked on his massive textbook in the discipline while the Department of Agricultural Engineering focused on tractor efficiency and hydrology. The Department of Agricultural Economics, with Ian Behrmann prominent, engaged in a number of projects, the first major one being a series of three surveys of sugarcane farms along the Natal coastline for the South African Cane Growers Association.

E.R. (Jimmy) Orchard, professor of Agricultural Chemistry, initiated the Tugela Basin Soil Survey, which involved the use of aerial photographic interpretation and marked the beginning of modern soil survey in the country. He also conducted field experiments on the fertilisation of maize and the effect of fertilisers on the nutrition content of crops, while colleagues including then lecturer George Quicke subsequently explored problems relating to protein digestion and the nutritive value of the vegetable proteins in legumes.

The Faculty’s research association with the Wattle Research Institute (1947) in Pietermaritzburg and Durban’s Sugar Milling Research Institute (1949) further strengthened its ties with the local farming community through improvements in the output and quality of tannin bark and wood and in the extraction and processing of sugar.4
Research conducted in Engineering and Architecture was of value to the community at large in a variety of other significant ways.

**Engineering and Architecture**

In 1949 and again in 1950 Professor J.R. Daymond and Mr Zakrzewski of the Department of Civil Engineering led a team of final year students in winning awards in the USA for the design of long-span welded steel bridges. Daymond and other staff members continued their research on pre-stressed concrete constructions, the chemical consolidation of sands and gravels, concrete dams and irrigation channels. They also investigated the problems involved with electrical power production from pumped water storage schemes, which was of particular relevance to Durban’s current needs. After surviving in various types of accommodation, by late 1959 the department had settled in the new Centenary Building that it shared with Architecture.

Meanwhile the School of Architecture also had a long-term research interest in the utilisation of building materials in South Africa as well as investigating ‘native’ housing techniques, the development of a low-cost cooking stove, the weather resistant properties of various construction forms and the sociological aspects of the city’s building development. For three months in 1958–1959 the school’s staff and student Design for Today Exhibition, in the form of a full-sized and fully furnished contemporary home, attracted 52 000 members of the public.

**E.R. (Edwin, Jimmy) Orchard** was appointed in 1948 as the University’s first professor of Agricultural Chemistry and was the Faculty’s second elected dean (1952–1953). Originally from the Boland, with a ‘Malmesbury Bray’ to prove it, he graduated at Stellenbosch (B.Sc. Agric.) and London (Ph.D.). His wartime research on chemical warfare and enemy war materials earned him the military MBE award and he was already an eminent soil scientist prior to his arrival in Pietermaritzburg. Orchard’s students there admired him for his wide scientific knowledge and ability to reduce complex issues to simple terminology. He was president of the Society of Soil Science of South Africa prior to his retirement in 1972 and in 1988, the year in which he died, the E.R. Orchard Laboratories were opened in his honour on the Pietermaritzburg campus.
The Department of Land Surveying explored the methods and costs involved in preparing land use maps for soil conservation purposes and in 1957 finalised its Land Use Survey of Greater Durban. Among other projects P.V. Angus-Leppan completed a report entitled ‘Surveys for title in the native reserves’ while D.A. (David) Scogings conducted an investigation on barometric altimetry. Other projects included research on plumb line deflections and an analysis of refraction observations.

The Department of Electrical Engineering continued the programme of telecommunication research that Professor Eric Phillips had launched in 1946–1947. In January 1950 three short-wave transmitters were installed near the foreshore at Wentworth to undertake CSIR-sponsored research. This was of great importance to Harbour and Defence Force authorities in connection with the direction finding of shipping and aircraft. In addition, a meteorological station was established at Jacobs, complete with a 91-metre mast. A high voltage laboratory and another for the standardisation of electrical equipment were also developed.

Other projects included investigations, sponsored by the Electricity Supply Commission (ESCOM), into radio interference caused by high-tension power lines, high frequency heating and the characteristics of various types of electrical contacts as well as an exploration of the lower layers of the ionosphere using a pulse technique. Ronald Hellawell’s research was of particular interest to ESCOM. By 1959 the department’s microwave propagation research had produced four doctoral and six masters graduates while Dave Hodges was closely associated with Sir Basil Schonland at Harwell in connection with further research on radar.

R.A. (Ronald) Hellawell was appointed lecturer in Electrical Engineering in 1954 and promoted to senior lecturer in 1959. He specialised in high voltage techniques and developed a laboratory that could handle impulse testing up to a million volts. He was involved in testing power line insulators and undertook research on partial discharge measurements as well as on improvements in design factors. Hellawell’s work on corona discharges and the linked effects of temperature, humidity and pressure were of great importance to power engineers. His subsequent research on the production of negative ions from corona discharges was also of social interest as investigations in the USA suggested that these had positive effects in healing severe burns and in gradually reducing patients’ depression.
For a time Ernest Reim continued to dominate research in Mechanical Engineering with publications on air lift and heat pumps and on gas turbines and the combustion of solid fuels. Professor A.J. Gould investigated the corrosion-fatigue of a light alloy while he and E.R. Leeman examined stress in motor car rims. The latter also applied photo-elastimetric methods to measure complex three-dimensional stresses and verify curved beam theory. Gould was proud of the fact that much of his equipment, including co-axial jet apparatus, small supersonic tunnels, a large compressor and measuring instruments, was home made. A small gas turbine, the first to be installed in a South African university laboratory, was intended for both undergraduate work and research. In 1958 his department acquired a new aeronautics laboratory that could be used for training in aerodynamics.

In close collaboration with the Department of Chemistry, postgraduate research in Chemical Technology, based on the plant developed during World War II and the construction of the first pilot laboratory at a South African university, led to Professor Valentin’s aforementioned appointment as professor of Chemical Engineering. Further research in this field followed, particularly with regard to air and water pollution. The need for such work, and for qualified postgraduates in these and related fields, was prompted by the local post-war growth in chemical and related industries.5

The need for medical graduates and for research in a wide range of medical fields was at least as strong.

Medical School/Faculty of Medicine
Among several research initiatives launched at the University’s new Medical School were those of professors Sydney and Emily Kark. They conducted a number of experiments in social medicine that helped to broaden the traditional focus on the health of individual patients to that of families and whole communities. Pioneering work conducted at Pholela in the Underberg district and at Clairwood, Lamontville, Merebank and other sites helped to lay the theoretical and practical foundations for the community-orientated primary health care (COPHC) approach advocated by the new Institute of Social, Preventative and Family Medicine.

Sydney Kark and his colleagues went on to promote COPHC and social medicine in other parts of the world and helped to establish new centres abroad. Generations of local medical students were subsequently trained in the theory and practice of COPHC and made major contributions to various aspects of medical science elsewhere in Africa and further afield. Kark’s early
on-site experiments also inspired the appointment of the 1954 Gluckman Commission of Inquiry, but its recommendation to establish a National Health Service involving a wide network of community health centres fell on deaf ears in government circles. Among other studies conducted among the local Indian and African communities were projects on nutrition, blood pressure, pregnancy stress, infant growth and survival, and attitudes to family planning and obesity.

Professor Keen of the Department of Anatomy embarked upon long-term research on the fossilisation of bone while colleagues investigated rare anatomical abnormalities. The Department of Pathology conducted research in several fields, some in collaboration with other institutions. There were projects on the diagnosis of leprosy, aortic atherosclerosis, radioactive fallout from bone evidence, serum protein patterns in kwashiorkor, production of antibodies against various antibiotic agents and, with the Department of Medicine, a study of nutritional heart disease in Africans.

The CSIR’s Amoebiasis Research Unit, initially accommodated within the Department of Medicine, generated a number of articles arising from a series of investigations on amoebiasis as well as the use of various therapeutic agents in its treatment. The United States Public Health Services’ grant of £50 000 (R100 000), spread over five years, to further the unit’s research was ample proof of the international recognition it had already achieved by the mid-1950s. There was also research on anaemias and on tetanus, for which a research unit was established. More than 500 cases were examined within the first four years.

Professor Allan Kark of the Department of Surgery continued his work in experimental surgery with a particular focus on gastric and duodenal secretions, patterns of blood clotting during and after operation, factors in the causation of renal calculus and the cause of peptic ulcers.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology struggled to avoid complete collapse in the face of an acute staff shortage and heavy workload, but it continued to produce a small number of specialists with the assistance of Dr Alan Taylor who placed the Obstetric Unit at McCord Hospital at its disposal. Numerous research opportunities in the field could not initially be explored due to the staff shortage but some investigations were conducted, for example into the foetal head and foetal distress, the aetiology and treatment of carcinoma of the cervix, abnormalities of the lower urinary tract in women, the effect of hypotensive drugs in pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, and an evaluation of the radiological methods of forecasting the outcome of labour.
Professor Gillman and his associates in the Department of Physiology were very active in launching several research projects, the major one being in collaboration with a plastic surgeon concerning the development of skin cancers that led to several publications. Others, the first sponsored by the Schlesinger Organisation, investigated wound and injury healing, nutritional diseases among Africans, aspects of neurophysiology and mechanisms of congenital abnormalities, the treatment of coronary thrombosis and the reasons for its much higher incidence in white males and rarity in Africans. In 1959, with CSIR funding, the department began to research the problems of ageing.

That year yet another valuable research initiative was initiated with the establishment of the Institute of Parasitology, to which the Amoebiasis Research Unit was subsequently transferred. There the unit expanded its research into the study of parasites other than the amoeba and began investigating local manifestations of bilharzia.6

The practical value of the research conducted in the Humanities was less obvious, but much of that in the Social Sciences did have immediate application.

**Humanities and Social Sciences**

The Economics and History departments continued to be active during the 1950s, as before, with regard to research and publication, as was Durban’s Department of Bantu Studies. With Professor Raymond Burrows well to the fore, Economics in Durban still led the Natal Regional Survey project with another volume in that series, *The Zulu in Natal*, published in 1950. There were eleven by the end of 1954 with several more to follow, including surveys of the Umgeni, Umlazi and Umvoti catchment areas, labour resources in Natal, African income and expenditure in Durban, the port of Durban, industry in greater Durban, and Natal’s native reserves. Among other publications the department produced a book entitled *The African Factory Worker* and subsequently undertook a *Survey of African Incomes and Expenditures at Cato Manor* at the request of the Durban Corporation.

Prior to his retirement in 1953, Professor Alan Hattersley of the History and Political Science Department maintained his prolific publication output on colonial Natal, now focusing on the histories of British settler institutions. These included the Natal Society, Grey’s Hospital, the Natal Carbineers and Merchiston Primary School. His colleague Lindsay Young followed his MA study of Sir Benjamin Pine’s native policy with a history of the Royal Agricultural Society. In 1957 Wyn Rees produced a history of the Natal
Technical College followed in 1958 by an edited collection of the letters of Frances Colenso, wife of the renowned Bishop John Colenso. In 1960 Edgar Brookes published *The City of God and the Politics of Crisis* while the department launched the John Bird Historical Society to promote the subject in schools and elsewhere.

Hattersley welcomed the appointment of more non-professorial academic and secretarial staff in the 1950s, but bewailed the growing administrative load following the institution of faculties in the 1940s and what he regarded as the consequent reduction of research time for heads of department. Professor of English William Gardner nevertheless found time for his research on the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins and to edit *Theoria*, which continued to provide staff with a valuable means of publication. From 1954–1955 it was enlarged and more widely distributed.

Members of the Faculty of Law contributed articles to the *South African Law Journal* and to the section on Criminal Law and Procedure in the *Annual Survey of South African Law*. Exton Burchell and Tony Mathews redrafted the University Private Act and assisted in the legal work and memorandum preparatory to its introduction into Parliament where it became law as Act 7 of 1960. Petrie’s successor to the chair of Classics, Oliver Davies, made a brief sortie into the archaeological treasures of local river beds before his departure in 1951. By 1960 K.D. White and M.A. Norman had completed their book *Greek for Today*, a comprehensive introductory course on the language.

The Department of Bantu Studies pursued its research on rural and urban African communities, some in association with the Natal Regional Survey series. It also continued with the production of a *Zulu Manual for Beginners* and a Zulu-English dictionary for use in secondary and tertiary education. D. McK. (Daniel, Danny) Malcolm was also involved in the completion of the first Afrikaans-Zulu dictionary and Trevor Cope published his first findings on the tonal structure of Zulu on the basis of numerous recordings. J. (John) Torres studied the functioning of ‘native’ courts in Zululand while Eileen Krige gathered material on Zulu ceremonies and published her book on *The Social System of the Zulus*.

In Philosophy D.J. O’Connor and Otto Jensen maintained the research momentum that Professor John Findlay had initiated and in 1960 Dr Anna Conradie published *The Neo-Calvinistic Concept of Philosophy*. In the Psychology Department R.C. (Ronald) Albino, Ella Pratt-Yule, Bernard Notcutt, B.M. (Brian) Pechey and V. Hunkin completed publications on intelligence tests, maladjustment and the behavioural development of
children. Professor Pratt-Yule and colleagues subsequently conducted ongoing research on various aspects of the behaviour of rats. Other projects included investigations into psychological factors in asthma, the effects of drugs on psychological functions, cognitive functions in the malnourished, and the value systems of various ethnic groups.

In Educational Psychology Dr W.H.O. Schmidt completed an investigation to determine the optimum mental age for the commencement of reading instruction in certain local schools.

Among other projects Owen Williams of the Geography Department explored the distribution and development of rural industries in Natal while T.J.D. Fair completed the University’s first doctorate in Geography on the subject of population distribution in the province. His colleague Mrs Anne Turton launched an ecological survey of Durban with Hilstan Watts as her assistant. In 1958 Leo Kuper, Watts and Ron Davies eventually published *The Ecological Study of Durban* in Britain and the USA. The Department of

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**A.S. (Tony) Mathews** was born in 1930 in Pretoria and matriculated at King Edward VII High School in Johannesburg. In 1953 he was admitted as an attorney and notary public and began practising as a professional assistant. Three years later he completed a BA with distinctions in English and Roman Law, followed in 1959 by an LLB *cum laude* in Pietermaritzburg where he was awarded the Abel Torf prize as outstanding student after passing fifteen of his sixteen subjects in the first class. His appointment that year as lecturer was followed in 1960 by promotion to senior lecturer and in 1965 to professor and head of the Department of Law in Durban. From 1968 to 1969 Mathews was a visiting scholar at the Harvard Law School where he researched federal internal security legislation and the rule of law. This enabled him to complete a thesis entitled ‘Law, order and liberty in South Africa’ for which the University of Natal awarded him a Ph.D. in 1969. He was dean of the Faculty of Law in Durban for twelve years and became internationally recognised for his publications and expertise on civil liberties and human rights. In 1981 he returned to Pietermaritzburg as James Scott Wylie Professor of Law and subsequently also became head of the University’s Centre for Criminal Justice. Among other off-campus activities, Mathews was a member of the Liberal Party and vice-president of the South African Institute of Race Relations. Before his death in 1993 Wits awarded him an honorary doctorate of Law in recognition of his contribution to legal education.
Sociology and Social Work explored the demography of Durban and conducted a survey of social services in Natal as well as an investigation into the impact of conversion from Hinduism to Catholicism among Indians. Hamish Dickie-Clark studied the coloured community at Sparks Estate while Leo Kuper conducted research on the urban African middle class and in 1957 published a book on passive resistance in South Africa.

Dr Gawie Nienaber and Dr H.J. Terblanche of the Department of Afrikaans-Nederlands each produced a book, *Oor Afrikaans* (About Afrikaans) in 1949 and *Nuwe Praktiese Woordeboek* (New Practical Dictionary) in 1950 respectively. In 1957 Terblanche completed his *Verklarende Woordeboek* (Explanatory Dictionary) comprising some 55 000 words and expressions while Dr A.P. Grové also published regularly. Professor Marie-Louise Tricaud undertook research towards her thesis and book on Paul Claudel while a new lecturer, Dr Cienski, worked on a book on the influence of French sculpture and literature in medieval Poland. In 1960 a French Society was launched to promote French studies in both centres.

During 1953 a six-person team of educationists travelled 32 000 kilometres collecting material from every magistracy in the province towards the completion of a book on *Education in Natal* as part of the Natal Regional Survey series. Following his appointment in 1953 as lecturer, Peter Hey busied himself in Comparative Education and the Sociology of Education. As a further contribution to the Regional Survey series, Edgar Brookes (History) and Nathan Hurwitz (Economics) undertook a study of Natal’s ‘native’ reserves, with particular focus on their socio-economic condition, impact on the non-reserve economy and recommendations for their rehabilitation. In addition, Hurwitz researched the development of agriculture in the province (1860–1950) and his department embarked on socio-economic surveys of the Pholela and Zwartkops districts.

There were significant developments in pottery during the 1950s, due largely to new techniques Hilda Ditchburn (née Rose) brought back from her sabbatical in Britain and Europe where she studied stoneware techniques, glaze chemistry, oil kiln design and firing. In 1950–1951 she introduced glaze chemistry to the department’s pottery courses and later stoneware. From 1954, through her efforts and the assistance of the departments of Physics and Mechanical Engineering, research in the Fine Arts Department using local materials that required high temperatures was greatly enhanced with the acquisition of an oil-burning kiln capable of reaching 1 300 degrees centigrade. Bernard Leach’s son Michael apparently later used the plans of
Ditchburn’s stoneware kiln at the internationally renowned pottery near St Ives in Cornwall. It was in their nature that some disciplines would be more prominent with regard to community service than research and publication.

Community service
In 1954 Malherbe expressed his delight that, unlike the situation in many British universities, student demand for courses in the applied and technological fields had not outstripped that for courses in the Arts. Yet he was also proud of the fact that the University of Natal had developed more research institutes in applied fields than any other university in South Africa. In addition to the aforementioned activities of its faculties of Agriculture, Engineering and Architecture, and Medicine, the University’s socio-economic contribution to the broader community took various other forms. These included the work undertaken by the Wattle Research Institute, established in 1947, the PRI (1948) and the Sugar Milling Research Institute (1949).

In 1954 the ISR was launched with generous support from the Ford and Nuffield Foundations and the Carnegie Corporation. This took the form of visits by distinguished scholars with extensive experience in the holistic interdisciplinary approach to research the institute intended to promote among selected postgraduate students. They were endowed with state scholarships

Hilda Ditchburn completed her BA (Fine Arts) degree in Durban before the Department of Fine Arts moved to Pietermaritzburg. She joined its ranks in 1941 to teach Modelling, Pottery and History of Art, the beginning of 40 years of service during which she became one of the longest serving staff members on campus. After World War II she studied at the Central School of Art in London and on her return successfully directed more attention to Ceramics, making the University arguably the most important tertiary teaching centre in the country. In 1971 Ceramics was introduced as a major subject in the Fine Arts degree while Ditchburn established a personal countrywide reputation in the field, especially for her glazes in fine porcelain that reflected a strong English influence. She was a dedicated and patient teacher who also made a considerable administrative contribution to the department. She retired in 1981 and died five years later.
and focused as a team on an initial three-year project to investigate the impact and interaction of different cultural groups in the Durban area. The city’s multi-ethnic population of more than 600 000 made it an ideal focus for a wide variety of socio-economic as well as medical investigations.

In 1955 five postgraduate bursaries worth £200 (R400) each, spread over two years, were provided to promote economic and social research and the institute was authorised to issue its own certificate. Its association with the existing Natal Regional Survey was a highly significant development that led to invitations to conduct socio-economic investigations in Swaziland, the Northern Rhodesian (Zambian) Copper Belt and the Umgeni catchment area. The NCSR contributed £9 000 (R18 000) and the Durban Municipality £10 000 (R20 000) towards launching the last project. The institute’s organiser, K. (Kenneth) Kirkwood, from 1948 the University’s first lecturer in Native Administration, was not long in office before being offered a new chair at Oxford as Rhodes Professor of Race Relations and fellow of St Anthony’s College.

The largest research organisation attached to the University was still the Natal Agricultural Research Institute established in Pietermaritzburg in conjunction with the new Faculty of Agriculture to serve the farming community of South Africa’s eastern seaboard from the Transkei to Mozambique. The Meyrick Bennett Children’s Centre (1948) continued its clinical examination of maladjusted children. It helped not only to train Psychology, Sociology and Social Work students but also advise parents on the treatment of offspring suffering from difficulties encountered in childhood and adolescence. By 1954 as many as 1 200 families had consulted the centre. Four years later, on the basis of the number of cases it dealt with and the size of its annual budget (£6 200/R12 400), it had become the biggest unit of its kind in South Africa and the only one that provided a full service for the ‘non-European’ community. In addition to the Child Guidance Clinic it now also included a Remedial Education Centre as well as Speech Therapy and Child Art groups.

A different kind of community service took the form of the various productions of the Speech and Drama Department and the efforts of Geoffrey Long and other members of the Fine Arts Department in designing decor and costumes for National Theatre and other productions. Peter Hey, among others on the Pietermaritzburg campus, was involved in educational projects in disadvantaged communities while the Student Christian Association’s Oribi Club organised Saturday evening games for the children of underprivileged
families living in subsidised accommodation in Oribi Village. In addition, there were annual distributions of library books to needy Indian high schools.

Some students became involved in the local Scout movement in which Alan Hattersley still played a prominent role. As the sons of several colleagues were members of his Scottsville group, Hattersley had no hesitation in recruiting staff members to share their expertise with the scouts; Bayer, for example, on local botany and Jehu on mapmaking. Staff involvement was such that, as one participant put it, there was probably no other scout troop in South Africa ‘with such strong university connections as the 3rd Pietermaritzburg’.

In 1949 a committee was formed on the Pietermaritzburg campus to draw up a list of lectures available not to scout groups, but to schools. A potentially much larger form of community service lay in the field of Adult Education in which Mabel Palmer had long believed the University should become more heavily involved. For the first five years of its existence, beginning in 1921, she had been organiser of the Workers Education Association that conducted classes in Durban for more than 30 years before it was merged with the Adult Education section of the Department of Arts and Science. In 1931 NUC had launched a successful programme of extension lectures that were much in demand throughout the province but, after a decade, it had proved too large to sustain on a voluntary basis.

Following South Africa’s first national conference on Adult Education, held in 1935 at Howard College, Mabel Palmer, Maurice Webb and Raymond Burrows had strongly advocated further involvement in that field. In 1947 the Union Department of Education appointed a national director of Adult Education followed by regional officers in various parts of the country. In November 1955 a circular letter from the Committee of University Principals advised all members that the National Advisory Council for Adult Education was of the opinion that universities should offer more extensive programmes of lectures and popular courses to the general public. The committee also conveyed its view to the government that this extramural work should be specially subsidised.

After an investigation into the extent of Adult Education undertaken by British universities and the success of UCT’s already established programme, Senex appointed a committee, with Burrows as convener, to make recommendations concerning the possible organisation and funding of Adult Education classes. In April 1956 Senex authorised Otto Jensen to organise a series of what were called extension lectures to be given in Durban by various staff members on
the theme ‘What is Man?’ They were intended primarily for the benefit of students, but were open to the public as well.

By June 1956 Senex was proposing to launch a ‘modest experimental scheme’ the following year under the guidance of a Senate committee with sub-committees in both centres. Malherbe declared that ‘extra-mural studies were an important and valuable aspect of university work’ and Council was approached for a grant of £500 (R1 000) to cover the costs of part-time organisational and secretarial duties. In 1960 the first three six-lecture series of evening extension lectures were presented in Pietermaritzburg. They featured visiting Professor L. (Leland) Baldwin on American history, Professor Deneys Schreiner’s departmental colleagues on concepts in Chemistry and Professor Rooks on existentialism.

Meanwhile, in 1959 two more significant research institutes were established in Durban in association with the University and in collaboration with the CSIR. The aforementioned Institute of Parasitology was appropriately linked to the Faculty of Medicine. The Oceanographic Research Institute, under the direction of Professor D.H. (David) Davies, was funded by the South African Association for Marine Biological Research and subsequently associated with the Faculty of Science. The latter institute almost immediately embarked upon a range of research projects relating to the shark population off the Natal coast and to the effects of industrial and sewage effluent on marine flora and fauna. In November 1959 the CSIR’s new regional laboratory was opened on the Durban campus, bringing further prestige as well as convenience to the University as a research institution.

While research, publication and community service continued to be vitally important dimensions of University activity, graduate and postgraduate output remained a core function. As in previous decades there were several aspects to student life.

ENDNOTES


THE 1950S WERE characterised by steadily increasing student registrations and a quality of campus life that was at its most traditional on the predominantly residential Pietermaritzburg campus. In Durban a substantial minority of students who were resident on the Howard College campus enjoyed a similar lifestyle. Day students (oppidani) and part-timers were much more in evidence there, blacks attended segregated classes downtown, and medical trainees were confined to their own residential and academic facilities.

Registrations
In 1949 there were 1 840 students registered at the University of Natal, of whom 591 (32%) attended classes on the original Pietermaritzburg campus and 1 249 (68%) in Durban. This continued a gravitational shift in favour of the harbour city that started a decade earlier. In 1949, 18% of Durban’s students were recorded as ‘non-European’ and, as in previous years, females constituted a minority of the student population: nearly 30% in Pietermaritzburg, but only 15% of ‘Europeans’ and 6% of ‘non-Europeans’ in Durban. A total of 55% of the University’s students were full-timers while as many as 45% were studying part-time. This was primarily a reflection of NUC’s earlier development of both ‘European’ and ‘non-European’ part-time classes in Durban. In 1949 a mere 8.5% of all students were studying at graduate level, of whom 34% (53 of 156) were women even though they constituted less than 19% (342 of 1 840) of the overall student population.

In 1949, as in earlier NUC years, the Arts Faculty enrolled the largest number of students, 30.4% (560) of total registrations. Engineering attracted 22% (410), Commerce 21.6% (398), Science 13% (236) and Agriculture 6% (110). The smallest faculties were Social Science, Education and Law, comprising 3% (55), 2% (36) and 2% (35) respectively. In 1948–1949 Arts produced the highest number of graduates (59), followed by Engineering (49) and Science (40). In addition, 55 postgraduate degrees were awarded (22% of all 250 graduates) as well as 25 postgraduate diplomas in Education.
1950 student numbers declined marginally to 1,733, with 21 medical students added to the total and only Agriculture (141 students) and Law (43) enjoying an increase. In 1952 numbers exceeded the 1948 figure of 1,955 by seven registrations, rising to a total of 2,252 in 1953 or nearly 40 times more than NUC’s numbers 40 years earlier.

In the early 1950s arrangements were made for Union Defence Force cadets and midshipmen to undertake B.Sc. studies under the auspices of the University but in 1955 the Naval Chief of Staff announced that henceforth they would be required to attend the University of Stellenbosch. By then total registrations stood at 2,335, of whom 776 (33%) were in Pietermaritzburg and 1,559 (67%) in Durban. As many as 351 (22.5%) of the latter were recorded as ‘non-European’, an increase since 1949 that reflected more registrations in the new Medical School as well as in the older non-medical, Non-European Section. The quota policy ensured that a minimum 50% of the Medical School’s annual intake were Africans while the balance comprised Indian and, to a lesser extent, coloured students. There was also a mixture of male and female students, although of the 690 admitted between 1951 and 1969 only 18% were women.

Meanwhile Senate approved the Faculty of Social Science’s proposal that staff members should be encouraged to visit secondary schools to recruit potential students. In a further effort to boost its own intake the Board of that Faculty resolved that its dean should approach the larger private schools with information concerning the employment opportunities to which Social Science degrees could lead and that the relevant sections of the Student Adviser’s handbook, Careers Digest, should be revised. By contrast, there was concern that further increases in Science enrolments might necessitate imposition of a limit on intake due to insufficient teaching space.¹

During the second half of the 1950s overall student numbers continued to increase, rising to 2,604 in 1956, 2,864 in 1957, 3,122 in 1958 and 3,405 in 1959. By 1960 registrations totalled 3,859 (an increase of nearly 110% since 1949), of whom 1,202 (31%) were in Pietermaritzburg and 2,657 (69%) in Durban as the trend in favour of the latter centre revived. There were 896 ‘non-European’ students there, 34% of its total or nearly double the 1949 figure. Women still comprised 30% (362) in Pietermaritzburg and 15% of ‘Europeans’ in Durban, but nearly 17% of ‘non-Europeans’ in the latter centre, nearly trebling their numbers since 1949.

As many as 65% (2,519) of students were full-timers while 35% (1,320) were studying part-time, a dramatic change since 1949. This was probably
a reflection of greater capacity for full-time studies, particularly in Durban, as well as improved family incomes. By 1960 more than 12% (473) of the student body were postgraduates, constituting an almost 50% increase on their 1949 percentage. In 1960, 25.6% of postgraduates (121 of 473) were women who still barely constituted 20% (780 of 3 859) of the total student body.

The Arts Faculty still attracted the most students, 33% (1 278), followed by Engineering 17% (639), Commerce 14.4% (557), Science 14% (537), Agriculture 8% (309), Medicine (from a zero base) 5.6% (219), Law 3% (121), Education 3% (118) and Social Science 2% (81). Compared with registrations in 1949 this reflected a 2.6% increase in Arts numbers, 1% in Science and 2% in Agriculture, slight decreases in Law, Education and Social Science and a significant decline in Engineering and Commerce numbers (5% and 7.2% respectively).

In 1960 the Arts Faculty still produced the most graduates (121), followed by Science (76) and Engineering (43). There were 138 postgraduate degrees awarded (an encouraging 29% of all 473 graduates), excluding two honorary degrees but including nine doctorates, 22 medical degrees and 26 masters, half of them in the Science Faculty and six in Agriculture.2

As before, there were those students who excelled in their studies and those who struggled.

**Scholarships, successes and failures**

Students who aspired to postgraduate degrees abroad were doubtless greatly encouraged when, in 1952, Oxford University formally recognised several of the University of Natal’s degrees as a basis for further study. These included the BA, B.Sc., B.Sc. (Chem. Eng. Tech.), B.Sc. (Eng.), LLB., B.Comm. (Hons) and B.Econ. (Hons). At the end of that year all concessions previously granted to ex-servicemen came to an end, the special February examinations held for their benefit having already ceased in 1950. In 1954 it was resolved to convert examination assessments from numerical marks to a system of symbols (A, B, C, D, E) that had already been used for some time in the Faculty of Agriculture.

That academic year was particularly memorable, with Pietermaritzburg graduates Anthony Pitman (BA) and J.K. Cooke (B.Sc. Hons and M.Sc.) winning the Natal and Orange Free State Rhodes Scholarships respectively. In the same year Natal graduates, M.A. Bayer (B.Sc. Engineering), Professor A.W. Bayer’s son, and Raymond Tunmer (BA, B.Ed.), won both of the national Elsie Ballot scholarships. Terence Beard (BA) won the Victoria League Scholarship and Miss V.J. Thompson (MA) and Brian Nevin (B.Sc.
and a future professor of Mathematics) won Union scholarships, both to study abroad.

In 1955 Michael Nuttall, a future Anglican bishop of Natal, won an Elsie Ballot and Roger Raab (B.Sc. Hons) won the Natal Rhodes Scholarship. He was followed the next year by Colin Gardner (BA Hons) while John Clatworthy won the Rhodesian Rhodes Scholarship, Eelco Boonstra was awarded an Elsie Ballot, Brenda Nicholls and Jess Brown won Emma Smiths, Bruno Schuler obtained a Shell Scholarship and Angela Bates was awarded a May Baker Fellowship at Wye College, London University. Other major scholarship award winners in the 1950s included David (‘Bonk’) Whitehead (Rhodes, 1957), R.A. Norton (Rhodes, 1959), J.T. Moelwyn-Hughes and J.G. Sheppard (Shell, 1959) and Ken Yates (Elsie Ballot, 1960).

In the early 1950s the University itself offered scholarships ranging from £25 (R50) to £100 (R200) in value and bursaries worth between £15 (R30) to £45 (R90), but their number was limited by prevailing financial constraints. Further modest increases followed, along with small bursaries for ‘non-Europeans’ and a system of government bursary-loans for African medical students. In the latter case only half the amount was an outright grant with recipients obliged to pay off the balance in approved service. The 105 provided each year comprised 15 for selected students in each of the seven years of medical study and were intended to cover both academic and residential fees.

By the end of the 1950s the University itself was spending approximately £30 000 (R60 000) a year on bursaries and scholarships from all sources,

R.E. (Roger) Raab followed his B.Sc. (Hons) at the University of Natal (1955) with a D.Phil. at Oxford (1959). After being appointed lecturer on the Pietermaritzburg campus in 1960 rapid promotion followed to senior lecturer (1961), professor (1968) and departmental head (1974). He served two terms as dean of the Faculty of Science (1975–1977 and 1990–1992) and as Vice-Principal of the Faculty of Medicine in Durban (1990–1995). Prior to his retirement in 1999, Raab published 59 papers in international journals and with O.L. de Lange produced a book entitled Operator Methods in Quantum Mechanics (1991). He served on various national scientific committees, was a member of the South African Institute of Physics and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa as well as contributing to a number of community activities.
including those provided by local municipalities that gradually increased in value. The Durban City Council’s bursaries were not gender specific and were available in either Natal centre to Durban residents of ten (previously three) years standing. The bursary available to ‘non-Europeans’ similarly increased in value, with the Durban residential requirement raised from one to three years and preference given to ‘Bantu’ applicants. In 1958 the trustees of the Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust indicated that funds were available not only for ‘brilliant’ students, but also for those ‘of sound academic ability’ unable to continue studying without ‘outside assistance’.

At the other end of the performance scale a survey of student success and failure rates found that there had been an ‘elimination’ (loss) of as many as 67% of students in Science and Engineering, 50% in Agriculture and 40% in Arts during the 1949–1953 period, much higher than the rate in most other universities in South Africa, Australia and Britain. Examination failures were the cause of 80% of the dropouts in Agriculture, 66% in Engineering and 50% in Science and Arts, though in the case of Science some losses may have been due to transfers to other faculties. First-year failure rates varied from 40% to 50% and during the 1950s continued to be particularly heavy in Science and Engineering.

Alan Hattersley was of the opinion that the matriculation certificate granting admission to university was not sufficiently demanding and that a better standard of sixth form education was required in high schools. This, in turn, necessitated the attraction of more good quality graduates into the teaching profession. A more selective intake of students was obviously out of the question in view of the prevailing state subsidy formula based on student registrations. Senex and Senate both spent some time considering the current standard of the matriculation examinations, the adequacy of prescribed university entrance requirements, the merits of conditional matriculation exemptions and the constitution of the Joint Matriculation Board on which all the universities were represented and collectively constituted a majority. In 1958 it was announced that as from 1960 a minimum total aggregate of 1 000 marks would be required, instead of the current 800, to secure a matriculation certificate.

The University concluded that there did need to be more careful, or at least more conditional, selection of weaker matriculants, more student counselling and more guidance in curriculum choices. There was also a need for fewer formal lectures and more tutorials involving junior staff trained in teaching methods, as well as the possible introduction of differentiated first-year courses
for Science students not intending to continue with certain subjects. The Engineering Board stressed the importance of having the most experienced staff members rather than juniors teach first-year students.

Adult educationist Maurice Webb argued for the inclusion of more practical fieldwork in the development of Social Science courses. He pointed out that most students registering in those subjects intended to pursue careers in practical social welfare and that the Department of Social Welfare had to recognise their qualifications for salary subsidy purposes.

In the early 1950s attention was given to the University’s examination procedures and the effectiveness of external examiners, a third of whom were currently members of the University’s own staff and were costing £2 500 (R5 000) a year. The need for class records in assessing, in particular, borderline cases was considered, as was the possibility of denying students access to senior courses if they did not perform satisfactorily in the first year.

From its inception the School (later Faculty) of Medicine continued to require its first-year intake, with some exceptions, to complete a bridging year at Wentworth. This was designed primarily to compensate for inadequate high school standards of Science, Mathematics and English and, to a lesser extent, to broaden students’ cultural horizons. Paradoxically, many medical trainees regarded this as an unhelpful punishment for their Bantu Education background. The English I requirement was unfortunately a course in literature, not language, which many struggled to appreciate and to pass. The highest failure rates in the Faculty were experienced in this and even more so in the hectic second year of study when they averaged 40% during the first two decades of its existence. The heavy workload, especially in Anatomy and Physiology, and the dissection of animals and cadavers eliminated unsuited students and served at least to reduce the likelihood of failure in the senior years.

For some time Malherbe had favoured the introduction of a similar non-medical preliminary basic training year, or comprehensive orientation course, for all first-year students. This, he envisaged, would bring them into contact with ‘the main fields of university study’, eliminate the current ‘arbitrary’ choice of courses and help to reverse the current tendency to produce ‘skilled barbarians’ instead of ‘university men’ with ‘at least the rudiments of a liberal education in the humanities, the natural and social sciences’. He solicited relevant literature from the United States and tried to arrange a Carnegie grant for Student Adviser Dr Oswald Black to investigate the field there. Malherbe even toyed with encouraging post-matriculation courses in high schools, or
with setting aside an hour a week for an obligatory course for all first-year students to attend during the first two months of their careers on campus.

A Senex committee appointed to investigate the matter advised against an additional pre-university year of school study or a new examination to replace matriculation, but advocated higher levels of achievement in the latter to gain university admission. Collectively, the cost involved, as well as the implications for government grants, established curricula and timetables and the interests of those matriculants who were already being well prepared, proved insurmountable in trying to launch what, in years to come, would be known as a Bridging the Gap programme.³

Meanwhile, increasing student numbers created an ever greater demand for residential accommodation, preferably on or near University campuses.

**Residences**

During the 1950s Pietermaritzburg remained a predominantly residential campus, though the overall percentage of students living on site was declining as the demand for on-campus accommodation outstripped supply. In 1949 no less than 61% of registered students there lived in University residences (130 females and 232 males). This had declined to 57.6% (161 females and 286 males) by 1955 and 53% (240 women and 399 men) by 1960.

During the 1950s strenuous efforts were made to provide on-campus accommodation in Durban. The completion by 1949 of Charles E. James Hall for women was followed by those named after Ansell May (1952, for men), Dr J. Townley Williams (1955–1956, for men), Sir Charles Smith (1959, for women), Florence Powell (1959–1960, for women), General Louis Botha (1960, for men) and Ernest George Jansen (1960, for men). These helped to generate a stronger corporate spirit on the Durban campus, in imitation of its older Pietermaritzburg counterpart. So, too, did ties and blazers bearing the University’s new coat of arms. Even so, the percentage of Durban students in residence still remained in a substantial minority as the overall number of registrations increased and many were still in full-time employment. Consequently, residents amounted to only 13% (26 females and 141 males) in 1949, rising to nearly 20% (67 females and 243 males) in 1955 but declining to 15% (98 women and 488 men) by 1960.

This small residential percentage in Durban was not an accurate reflection of the University’s tiny group of carefully selected medical students. As Vanessa Noble’s study has shown, they were mainly Africans drawn from all over South Africa and to a lesser extent Indians, primarily from Natal. There
were also a few coloured students and, prior to 1959, a sprinkling of Africans from neighbouring territories. They came from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, but many were educationally and financially deprived. All were obliged to live in the spartan, segregated hostel provided for them at Wentworth, next door to the oil refinery south of Durban harbour. Hot in summer and cold in winter, the residence comprised a series of ex-World War II brick-built Naval Gunnery School barracks with cement floors, asbestos roofs, sparse furniture and communal bathrooms.

For the most part, students tolerated these conditions because the end of future success and social prestige justified the modest means provided. The situation also facilitated the development of friendships across ethnic lines that would otherwise have been difficult in the broader segregated society National Party government legislation was then consolidating. Many students preferred, as far as possible, to remain within their own ethnic comfort zones and there was occasional friction arising out of issues ranging from food preferences to the admission system and bursary loan scheme that favoured Africans at the expense of highly matriculated Indians and coloureds.

By 1954 the survivors of the pioneer group who were due to graduate in 1957–1958 were reported to be making good progress with excellent pass rates in Anatomy and Physiology. The prospect of further batches following them into the senior degree years increased the pressure to provide more rooms at the Wentworth hostel. During 1954 capacity there was increased from 79 to 101, which was more than sufficient to meet immediate needs but had become insufficient by the late 1960s. Other small improvements included the establishment of a student advisory service but these did nothing to alleviate the remoteness of the site in an industrial area, or the unpleasant industrial noise and odours emanating from the neighbouring oil refinery. It gave rise to mounting concern among students about the possible adverse effects of inhaling noxious gases.

There was also no ready solution to the daily 10 kilometre transport problem with which senior students had to contend in order to attend classes at the Faculty building and work in the wards of the adjacent King Edward VIII Hospital in Umbilo Road. Prior to the free bus service the University eventually provided in the 1980s, they had to find their way, at their own expense, by bus, bicycle, motorcycle and even on foot. The only alternatives were private accommodation in the distant Indian suburbs or African townships, which presented their own challenges.
The Board of the Faculty of Medicine made repeated but unsuccessful representations for the construction of a Medical Students Residence adjacent to the Faculty building. It argued that it was particularly desirable for students in the clinical years of study to be spared the journey to and from Wentworth so that they could spend more time gaining practical experience in the nearby hospital wards. In terms of the Group Areas Act a black residence in a designated white area was out of the question. Not surprisingly under the circumstances, it was difficult for medical trainees to identify fully with the institution in which they were registered, denied as they were the facilities at Howard College and obliged to live in an area beyond the ken of most other students.4

Meanwhile, male students in Pietermaritzburg were still accommodated in the old military hospital hutments at Oribi. In truth, they were not unlike those at Butcher’s on Ridge Road and Wentworth in Durban but not as remote and unhealthy as the last. University House for male postgraduates at UCT, where the author spent a year in the 1960s, was constructed in the same military style.

In all cases the facilities were still very basic identical rows of bungalows, though Reverend Charles Parry (Pietermaritzburg, 1955–1958) recalled that ‘we had a lot of freedom, were well fed, spacious rooms, out in the country, and were not in each other’s hair’. Robin Lamplough (Pietermaritzburg, 1958–1963) came to identify this new environment as ‘an intricate blend of colonial Natal and post-war South Africa, with numerous Oxbridge elements woven into it’, beginning with the Porter’s Lodge occupied by an African known as Henry.

Unfortunately, increasing numbers of Pietermaritzburg’s senior students were obliged to seek digs in town as undergraduate numbers increased. Also, the roughly 2.5 kilometres from Oribi to classes, though not as distant as that faced at Wentworth, or as hilly as that from Butcher’s to Howard College, remained an aggravating inconvenience until such time as on-campus residences were provided. The Group Areas Act ensured that the situation could not be similarly alleviated for medical students, though transport should have been provided much earlier than the 1980s.

Indeed, at least for a few years after World War II army lorries (garries) conveyed students to the Howard College and Scottsville campuses. Their departure times were not always convenient and this impacted unfavourably on lecture attendance and after-hours club meetings. Consequently, students often walked to the campus, or used motorcycles and bicycles. Pat McKenzie
(Pietermaritzburg, 1949) recalled accepting a lift on a motorcycle from an
ex-serviceman and falling off the pillion when it crossed the railway line near
Oribi at typically high speed.

Keith Hunt (Pietermaritzburg, early 1950s) remembered that deputy warden
Dr Lindsay Young, who ‘was not known for giving lifts’, similarly always
drove poker-faced over the speed humps intended to slow down traffic. Robin
Lamplough recorded that a few years later ‘Lindsay Mort’, as he was known,
did offer transport to first-year students in order to discuss their matriculation
results and exhort them to greater efforts! Also, by the late 1950s increasing
numbers of privileged individuals were using motor scooters, a whole ‘posse’
of them colliding unceremoniously in a heap one rainy morning as they swept
‘like the household cavalry’ from Oribi into Ridge Road.

Fleur Webb (née Gower, Pietermaritzburg, 1948−1950) remembered that in
the late 1940s and early 1950s ‘ex-servicemen were still much in evidence and
had the glamour of maturity and, in some cases, motor cars of which there were
few on campus’. The same was true at Howard College. Less flatteringly, Colin
Gardner (Pietermaritzburg, 1951−1954) recalled their ‘distinct tendency to
drink too much’. In 1950 the editor of the student newspaper NUX complained
that in the immediate post-war period ‘there was a tendency to avoid the
cultural aspect of campus life, and with the advent of the ex-serviceman, the
general inclination was towards a carefree and unsober existence, and what
little time remained was employed in academic study’.

McKenzie agreed that for some years the ex-servicemen ‘gave a particular
stamp to the atmosphere of the campus’. On another occasion, while
walking back along Oribi Road, a cricketing friend with a good eye put in
some throwing practice by knocking out all the street lights with stones. The
unnamed miscreant was subsequently expelled in his final year for smashing
up his room furniture. Destruction of furnishings and petty theft became
recurring problems as the 1950s wore on.

T.B. (‘Jack’) Frost (Pietermaritzburg, 1954−1958) was one of those who
preferred cycling as a form of transport and remembered doing so between
Oribi and the main campus at least twice a day, usually in some haste on the
way back to lunch. Dave Donkin (Pietermaritzburg, 1954−1958) recalled that
at certain hours there was a veritable stream of cyclists on Oribi Road to or
from lectures, practicals, sports practices and visits to the women’s residences.
For Charles Parry, a non-sports player, it was a way of keeping reasonably fit.
Michael Cottrell (Pietermaritzburg, 1954−1957) also completed the return trip
on a daily basis and cycled many times to his home in Westville.
Llewellyn Alexander (Pietermaritzburg, early 1950s) recalled that for some years Dr R.L. Rosenberg (Mathematics) was warden of the Men’s Residence, or ‘Lord Warden’ as he called himself with ironic reference to the Lady Warden on campus. When he donated a cup to be presented annually to the best student actor in a University Dramatic Society production it was appropriately engraved ‘The Lord Warden’s Trophy’. His successor, Dr Oswald Black, attracted the attention of students and the local press with his loud ‘zoot’ ties.

C.O. (Colin) Gardner completed a BA (Hons) degree in English at the University of Natal (1954), acquired a BA (Hons) at Oxford (1957) on a Rhodes Scholarship and taught English for two years at UNISA until mid-1959 when he was appointed lecturer on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Promotions followed to senior lecturer (1962) and professor (1972); thereafter for 25 years occupying the chair of English his father had held in the 1960s. During that period he served two long terms as departmental head and as dean of the Faculty of Arts (1976–1979) in both centres of the University. Between the early 1970s and his retirement in 1997 Gardner became the longest serving member of Senate and, by his own admission, rose to prominence as a left-winger in the course of numerous debates on the socio-political issues that increasingly impinged upon the life of the University.

His influence was also felt in a variety of Senate and other committees, including the executive of the Lecturers and Academic Staff Associations. In the early 1980s, as chairperson of what had become the Joint Academic Staff Association, he led the contentious but successful campaign to affiliate that body to the United Democratic Front. In June 1989 he was the University’s representative in the University Teachers Association of Southern Africa’s delegation that met the African National Congress (ANC) government-in-waiting in Lusaka. By then Gardner’s reputation as one of the institution’s more articulate speakers had led to his appointment as University Orator in Pietermaritzburg, a function he continued to perform for some years after his retirement. He published numerous academic and popular articles, edited works, book reviews and sometimes contentious letters to newspapers on contemporary political issues. He was an eloquent and conscientious teacher with a particular interest in traditional aspects of the syllabus like Shakespeare and seventeenth-century poetry. As professor he nevertheless participated constructively in the reconceptualisation of the department’s courses. He encouraged the introduction of alternative literary theories and new fields of study, including South African and African literature and post-colonial poetry, to meet the challenge of new social and educational realities on campus. Gardner died in October 2013.
then fashionable in the United States. As Dave Donkin remembered, ‘Doc Black’ was notable also for his black spaniel known to students as ‘Dog Black’ and for being ‘amazingly tolerant’ as warden.

All the University residences continued to provide three meals a day, including a traditional dinner at which formal clothing and academic gowns were worn. These were preceded by a glass of sherry in the senior common room for wardens and house committee members who sat at the high table. The evening meals began with a Latin grace uttered by one or other first-year undergraduate. It was a chore which, as Llewellyn Alexander put it, may ‘understandably have been interpreted as an officially sanctioned component of the initiation rites’. Thereafter, teams of African waiters danced attendance on the diners at both Howard College and in Pietermaritzburg.

Their efforts were not entirely unnoticed. At an Oribi dinner in August 1956 head waiter Mbaba Gumede was formally presented with a portable wireless set and a walking stick with an engraved silver band in recognition of 25 years’ service. He was replaced by a man remembered only as Charlie. Dinners were sometimes followed, once the high table had been vacated, by ‘postprandial conflict’ with poorly cooked pumpkin fritters and other disappointing gastronomic items substituting for the hand grenades with which some ex-servicemen had been familiar. These were also used to keep performers on their toes at the annual Freshers Concert.

Frost and Alexander recalled that at Oribi the Wednesday dinners were extra-formal, ‘the solemnity of the occasion invariably marked by pork and apple sauce with ice-cream for pudding’ and wine served at high table. On special occasions the latter treat was provided for all tables, but in the early 1950s some seniors took it upon themselves to smuggle their own supply into formal dinners by making use of the large bottle-sized pockets with which the now obsolete NUC academic gowns were endowed.

The practice was short-lived, as was the use of a student’s room for the Five O’Clock Club. This was a one-hour makeshift pub which, as Alexander reminisced, ‘perhaps helped compensate for the relative isolation and remoteness of the residence’. The only viable option, other than abstinence, was the hostelries of the city 8 kilometres away. More acceptable to the Oribi authorities was what Robin Lamplough remembered as the Green Grasshopper, a student consortium-run tuck shop where limited alternatives could be purchased after indigestible dinners.

Jenny Hobbs (née Walters, Pietermaritzburg, 1956) recalled ‘the unique smell’ of the corridors in Lodge Residence, still evident when her daughter
arrived there 25 years later. This probably had more to do with the disinfectant used to clean them than the marshmallows that were traditionally toasted on up-ended electric heaters or the pineapple beer that Molly Anderson and Zoë Bigg brewed under their beds. Toasted cheese sandwiches at the nearby Fitzroy’s Tea Lounge were a welcome diversion, when affordable, as the quality of the food varied from one dining hall to another. Wendy Vineall (née Kitchin, Pietermaritzburg, 1954–1958) remembered that it was ‘indifferent’ and that, after ‘a lifetime of being a picky eater, one term in res and I went home cured’.

On the Pietermaritzburg campus resident females ate at the newer dining hall attached to Hags while its predecessor at University Hall became the Music Room. Alexander recalled that it was equipped with good quality sound recording equipment and two large collections of 78 rpm classical records covering the history of Western music donated by the Carnegie Corporation and the British Council. The Margaret Kirwood Room as it became known, in honour of that capable and much-respected former Lady Warden, was the venue for the Sunday evening meetings of the students’ Music Society and was also used for small events like music recitals and play readings.

Initiation was officially frowned upon. In 1949, largely under the influence of SRC president Hans Meidner, instead of ‘many a questionable practice’, Freshers and Freshettes in Pietermaritzburg were required to volunteer for at least one duty that involved assisting the SRC, the Students Union or Rag Committee, or else the Nux or Nucleus production teams. In 1950 the SRCs were reminded of the Council and Senate resolutions that had disapproved of initiation a decade earlier and the following year the Pietermaritzburg student body voted to abolish it altogether. Sub-committees of Senate were subsequently appointed to liaise with the SRCs to formulate an agreed policy with regard to the induction of first-year students.

Even so, as Frost remembered, ‘Sprogs’ at Oribi were often subjected to nocturnal indignities such as being obliged to crawl along the corridors on hands and knees and, on one occasion, stand guard over a Land Rover that had been expropriated during a raid on the Durban campus. All Sprogs had to wear red bow ties (symbolic of raw meat) and attend song practices in the Student Union Building by way of preparation for Rag and the annual inter-campus sports competitions.

Similar initiation rites were performed on the Howard College campus, with residence initiates more prone than oppidani to excesses such as nightly military parades on high residence rooftops. Sylvia Vietzen (Pietermaritzburg,
1953–1956) recalled that Freshettes in Women’s Residence were expected to adopt and take out a girl from St Cross Orphanage once a month, an admirable idea but ‘rather a strain on the meagre pocket money’ on which some students existed.

In 1953 and 1954 Senex and Senate devoted considerable time to discussing the more effective integration of first-year students into University life. It was resolved that, ideally, they should henceforth be registered at least a couple of days before the senior students returned to campus so that they could be assisted without distraction regarding their choice of courses as well as given guidance on study methods and the use of the Library. ‘Non-European’ part-timers were to join their ‘European’ counterparts at City Buildings for this purpose.

Michael Cottrell kept his 1954 copies of the Freshman’s Handbook and General Information and House Rules issued to all Freshers or Sprogs at Oribi and presumably at all the other residences in both centres. These helpfully provided information on the history of the institution, the functions of the SRC and the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), on Rag and the student newspapers, the cultural, religious and sports options available on campus and the regulations that governed life in residence. That year the SRCs were officially informed that ‘the University did not favour the re-introduction of initiation in any form’, particularly those activities that purported to be compulsory, or ‘which made the University look ridiculous in the eyes of the public’. It was subsequently further emphasised that students were expected to focus on their studies ‘as soon as possible after registration’.

In August 1956 at a combined meeting of campus sub-committees and SRC and house committee representatives it was agreed that the SRC Fresher Reception programme in both centres was to be ‘constructive and integrational’. There was to be no initiation, no compulsory involvement or disciplinary action for non-conformity while the SRCs and house committees were to liaise ‘to safeguard against any divergence in policy’. At a further 46-strong meeting in October 1958, attended by members of Senate, wardens, sub-wardens, SRC representatives and the Rag and house committees, it was agreed that the SRCs would submit the annual Fresher Reception programmes to Senate for approval. Any infringements would be punished in the first instance by the student leadership. Integration and Rag were to disrupt academic activities as little as possible and intrusions on the privacy of Freshers in the residences were to constitute punishable offences.
Divergence between practice and policy was nevertheless to remain substantial for some years to come even though Freshers were advised that they could formally protest against ‘any infringement of personal liberty’. There was also ongoing concern that integration programmes should not distract students from the important first couple of weeks of their university studies.

Traditionally, university residences and residence life were supposed to be but a means to a greater end. The tutorial system, which ran for a time in some residences in both centres, was a useful aid under the guidance of wardens and heads of academic departments, providing a link between the two. It was also made available to oppidani students.5

**Academic activity**

Most students seem to have been very satisfied and some greatly impressed by the standard of teaching they encountered on campus, though few had prior experience other than high school with which to draw comparisons. As John Deane (Pietermaritzburg, 1951–1954) recalled, ‘we were impressionable youths, and I suppose easily overawed’. Nevertheless, Atholl Swainston-Harrison (Durban, early 1950s), the great-grand-nephew of T.B. Davis, considered himself ‘extremely lucky’ to have studied at Howard College. Although he could not pursue that particular discipline there, he believed that the standard of education was such that it ‘equipped me for an international career in music’. Anne I’Ons (née Faed, Pietermaritzburg, 1957–1961) had a cousin studying in Durban and formed the impression that standards were much the same between the two (white) campuses. Patricia Macleod (née Lewis-Boardman, Durban 1947–1951) confirmed that her subsequent community experience made her realise how well she had been trained as a social worker, including ‘pracs [that] opened our eyes to parts of our town and province that we may never have seen’.

Tess Marsh (née Van Diggelen, Pietermaritzburg, 1952–1956) contended that ‘academic standards were excellent’ in all the departments in which she studied. Ian Thompson (Pietermaritzburg, 1955–1960) recalled being taught by staff who were ‘both outstanding scholars and brilliant teachers’ at a time when academic posts in Europe were in short supply. Like Thompson, Brian Bush (Pietermaritzburg, 1951–1954), son of Professor S.F. (Frank) Bush, went on to follow a distinguished academic career of his own. He remembered standards in the Sciences on campus as being ‘on the whole pretty good’,
with teaching ranging from ‘good to excellent’ and staff research projects having ‘a beneficial and stimulating influence on their teaching, especially at higher levels’. Zoology Honours seminars, in which he and future professor Anne Alexander (Pietermaritzburg, 1951–1954) were the only students, ‘were fascinating albeit daunting, and extended projects were a good introduction to research’.

Sylvia Vietzen recalled that on the same campus humanities course standards varied. The English Department’s ‘airy-fairy Leavis approach’ was excessive, although Professor William Gardner ‘was our saving grace’. Ron Nicolson (Pietermaritzburg, 1956–1959) remembered Christina van Heyningen’s ‘devotion’ to F.R. Leavis and D.H. Lawrence ‘marking her out as an old-style critic!’ Much the same emphasis was then evident at Howard College and on both campuses some first-year students failed to come to terms with the unfamiliar heavy emphasis on literary criticism. There were those who found the Department of Afrikaans-Nederlands approach to literary analysis much more intelligible.

Vietzen also recalled the Pietermaritzburg History Department’s pre-occupation with English History at that time. Michael Nuttall (Pietermaritzburg, 1952–1954) agreed that the department was ‘somewhat out of touch with deep African scholarship themes’, but that generally the education offered in Pietermaritzburg was superb: ‘stretching, liberating, inspiring – excellent in every way … We had the best of a sound and challenging liberal education in the circumstances of that time. The Western, English-speaking model was uppermost then – and what a good one it was, despite its limitations’.

Keith Hunt was disappointed with Professor Arthur Keppel-Jones, author of the futuristic When Smuts Goes: A History of South Africa from 1952–2010 (1950). On the other hand, Ian Thompson was so impressed by his introductory course on European History, which he referred to as ‘From Adam to the Atom Bomb’, that he bound his manuscript lecture notes into a book. Keppel-Jones similarly inspired Charles Parry ‘because he really brought his subject alive’; but he, unfortunately, was soon to leave for Canada.

Apart from Keppel-Jones, in History as in English the lack of research degrees amongst staff limited their postgraduate supervisory capacity. In the Humanities if not in the Sciences, a good honours degree, preferably from a British university, still seemed to be sufficient to launch a successful academic career. At Howard College the young Colin Webb’s undergraduate lectures on European History had a similarly strong impact on A.E. (Anthony) Cubbin (Durban, 1959–1961) and W.R. (Bill) Guest (Durban, 1959–1962), among
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others. Fortunately, Webb was to migrate no further than Pietermaritzburg where, for a time, he made a similar impression in a more senior capacity.

Wendy Vineall remembered E.G. Malherbe’s annual opening addresses for their ‘notable intellect’ but ‘dry-as-dust delivery’, preceded, as Jack Frost recalled, by ‘the rich Scottish brogue of Divinity Professor Robert Craig’. According to Ian Thompson he was ‘a theologian and Biblical scholar of note’ whose services were to be lost all too soon to the then University of Rhodesia where he became principal. Charles Parry found Craig ‘very caring’ but felt that his successor, Alfred Rooks, ‘could have worked us harder’ instead of allowing Biblical Studies to gain the reputation of ‘an easy major’. The grounding provided was, nevertheless, ‘excellent’ for further studies. Ron Nicolson remembered that Rooks was a kindly man, fluent in German and Russian with a good command of French and that, despite his ‘almost childlike’ sense of humour, his ‘compendious knowledge’ virtually turned his lectures in Divinity into a survey of Western philosophy.

Like many other students Wendy Vineall recalled that, in Pietermaritzburg there was ‘an array of professors and lecturers who strode those academic corridors with an aura of power and omniscience’. Mark Prestwich made a deep impression on all his students, with many from other disciplines attracted to his History and Political Science lectures by virtue of his reputation. Colin Gardner remembered that he regularly wrote leaders for the Natal Witness and, after a period in Northern Ireland, served as its editor before returning to the University. John Deane recalled that when there was a long delay in fitting Prestwich with dentures following the removal of all his teeth, he apologised for his diminished articulation by explaining that he was ‘waiting to be re-identified’.

Unfortunately he was sometimes given to cancelling classes at short notice, presumably because in the Oxbridge humanities tradition that spawned him the emphasis was not on lecture attendance but on tutorials and individual library study. Indeed, in an age before laptop computers and access to the Internet, the process of reading books and journals for a degree and making hand-written notes was still encouraged. This presupposed, erroneously in the local context, access to almost unlimited library resources.

Another staff member groomed in that tradition was the eminently impressive and distinguished Geoffrey Durrant. As Wendy Vineall recalled, ‘To listen to him lecturing on Shakespeare or Yeats – wonderful voice, brilliant analysis – was to be in English student heaven. He had huge presence.’ She
also remembered his occasional professorial absent-mindedness, one example being

in an English Honours class, with a sizeable number of us seated around a long table while he held forth. Durrant habitually smoked a pipe. He absent-mindedly knocked the pipe on the table, as pipe smokers do. Then he looked up surprised, interrupted his learned discourse, and said: “Come in!” Deathly silence as we all pretended nothing funny was actually happening.

Fleur Webb recalled that Durrant was ‘intellectually intimidating with piercing blue eyes, as well as withering, unsmiling and sharp comments.’ While lecturing on *The Rape of the Lock* he noticed a student fiddling with Fleur’s hair from the seat behind her and observed, ‘another rape of the lock, I presume?’ Malherbe, whose relationship with Durrant was strained, recognised that he was ‘a brilliant lecturer’ but believed he did not inspire his students to go beyond criticism ‘to do creative work’ because of his negative approach and (surprisingly) own lack of creativity.

By contrast, English Honours graduate Tess Marsh believed that she ‘owed a great debt of gratitude in particular to Prof. Geoffrey Durrant, Christina van Heyningen, Fred Harry Langman, without whose encouragement and excellent teaching I could not possibly have enjoyed such a fulfilling teaching career’. Durrant, in particular, was remembered as ‘a model of clear and profound thinking who could make the most abstruse text crystal clear. I am still passing on to my students his method of critical reading.’ Ian Thompson was another student deeply impressed by his ability to unpeel ‘the multi-layered meanings’ in Shakespearian text ‘with a razor-sharp intelligence and refined sensibility’.

A very different but also memorable campus figure was the shy, somewhat reserved Lindsay Young who habitually began his History lectures loudly in the passage, several paces before entering the classroom. Presumably the purpose was to silence the hum of conversation and capture the immediate attention of his students. John Deane recalled that Young ‘kept direct interaction with students to a minimum’, always staring into the distance while lecturing and never looking his audience in the face. Keith Hunt agreed that he was no conversationalist, but considered his lectures on British Imperial History to be excellent. Fleur Webb remembered that he always ended his lectures dead on time and left swiftly. His colleague Alan Hattersley was ‘rather schoolmasterish and boring, numbering and dictating all his lectures’.

This was in striking contrast to Mrs Winifred (Winnie) Maxwell who addressed individuals as ‘dear’ or ‘laddie’, occasionally cadged cigarettes from
students in the front row, interspersed her lectures on the British parliamentary system with excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Iolanthe* and impersonated a drunk Glaswegian when discussing the stereotypical God-fearing, Calvinistic Scot. Once married to one of their number, her Celtic accent was cultivated, for she was a Cockney born and bred.

Sylvia Vietzen recalled that her classes were stimulating and her range of essay options stretching and interesting. Sadly, after a brief sojourn in 1952–1953, she moved to Rhodes University. There she assumed the chair of History and became a legend for her teaching and supervisory skills but with little time given to research and publication. Michael Nuttall and Keith Hunt followed her to undertake postgraduate studies and for varying lengths of time both subsequently taught in her department.

There were several other staff members of more than passing interest to students. Ian Thompson recalled being deeply impressed by the Philosophy Department’s Otto Jensen and eminent Dr Wolfgang Yourgrau, whose doctoral thesis had been supervised by no less a scholar than Albert Einstein. Yourgrau gave an Introduction to Philosophy course that was ‘an education in erudition by a polymath who could be entertaining, challenging and provocative’. He was an academic who, in Thompson’s case, ‘changed the course of my whole life – inspiring in me a life-long devotion to Philosophy and to concern with Ethics in particular’. In lighter vein Colin Gardner remembered an occasion when, on seeing a woman knitting at the back of his class, Yourgrau declared that the two activities he did not allow in his lectures were knitting and breast feeding.

Fleur Webb remembered that Professor ‘Gawie’ Nienaber had a particularly soft spot for female students who he endowed with pet names like ‘my blou oë’ (my blue eyes). He was also known to be an avid collector of Africana, including occasional items he forgot to return to the Library shelves! Mary Niddrie (née Leiper) bewailed the low sub-A level standard of French in Natal but until her departure she, Marie-Louise Tricaud (French) and Maria Schmidt-Ihms (German) ably carried the flag for foreign languages.

Called in to assist as a sabbatical leave substitute, ‘Daddy’ Alexander Petrie (as he was now affectionately known) was as scholarly and kindly as ever but very deaf. This sometimes resulted in amusing misunderstandings, but he was always quick to detect muttered mistranslations from Greek or Latin into English. Oliver Davies, his successor to the chair of Classics, was short in stature and short-tempered. He was also well known for his unusual attire
(often khaki), a red nose and yellowing hair, all of which were attributed to the archaeological fieldwork that seemed to be his primary interest. He was obviously proud of his *Greek Grammar and Exercises*, published in 1955 by the University of Natal Press, referring students to it on every possible occasion.

His departmental colleague, Bernard Farrer, was also small, but patient, kindly and absent-minded. He lectured Latin, Greek and Classical Culture upstairs in the Old Main Building, seemingly impervious to the swarm of bees buzzing loudly in the nearby rafters on hot summer afternoons. Colin Gardner and Ian Thompson recalled that his tattered academic gown had turned partly green with age. After being persuaded by a student that his advancing baldness was attributable to sunlight, he took to pulling it over his head like a cowl when out in the open on sunny days.

The ritual of parking his pre-war vehicle in front of the Old Main Building became a source of great entertainment for cheering students who were not always entirely helpful in assisting his fastidious efforts to leave his vehicle in an appropriate position. Dubious campus rumour had it that one of his sons later discovered that he had never driven the car in any gear other than low or reverse. If true it would explain the inordinately long duration of his journeys, including at least one to Durban! As a student on that campus Patricia Macleod remembered sociologist Piet de Vos as ‘brilliant, empathetic but not the best organised’ while psychologist Bernard Notcutt was a ‘most interesting lecturer and kind to his students’.

Wendy Vineall recalled ‘the perennial puzzle of why, in any Psychology department in any university, there was always one lecturer who so obviously needed psychiatric help’. By contrast, Jack Heath, the professor of Fine Arts, was a ‘burly rakish chap, nothing arty about him’ while Lorraine Raab (née van der Riet) recalled how he and his wife motivated students to work without waiting for the ‘mood’ to take them and set such a fine example themselves. She also remembered how many Fine Arts students often worked late into the evening, breaking only for tea and an indoor hockey game in their studio, using T-squares and paper balls, until there were complaints about the noise from Library users. All the studio staff were hardworking and inspirational, with Hilda Ditchburn serving tea from a stoneware Bernard Leach teapot.

Michael Cottrell remembered that Jack Heath gave his first-year Fine Arts students ‘a wonderful understanding of the impressionist movement’. Geography field trips to the Drakensberg provided Cottrell with another abiding memory. So too did the A+ grade Owen Williams gave him for his third-year
Among the scientists ‘Jakes’ Ewer cut ‘a memorable swathe through campus life’. His wife ‘Griff’ Ewer, also of the Zoology Department, was a prominent figure on campus, not least for unconventionally ‘wearing something resembling a man’s suit rather than women’s slacks, and smoking a pipe’ that was held together with rubber tubing. Her old lab coat was usually tied together with string and, as Pat McKenzie recalled, she had ‘an Eton crop and sometimes wore a tie’.

Brian Bush remembered that ‘her lectures were brilliant and she could draw on the blackboard with one hand and label with the other’. As Llewellyn Alexander recalled, the Ewers were both ‘engaging lecturers who transmitted their enthusiasm for their subject in forceful style – Jakes often with a characteristically histrionic flourish’. Sadly, the capable, colourful Ewers both moved on to Rhodes where he assumed the chair of Zoology. Brian Bush and Anne Alexander followed them to Grahamstown where both did M.Sc. degrees. Consequently, in Science on the Pietermaritzburg campus the ‘Big Four’ remained Adolf Bayer (Botany), Frank Bush (Zoology), John Fairbrother (Physics) and Frank Warren (Chemistry).

Among Warren’s students were future staff members in Siegfried Drewes, Alistair Verbeek and ‘Wog’ Hawksworth (both later associate professors), Werner Helfer and Andre Goosen (1954–1960). The last, subsequently a professor in Port Elizabeth, remembered that Organic Chemistry ‘was tops in South Africa’, completing his Ph.D. in 1960 ‘with the first double beam solution infra-red spectrum’ there. His thesis was also the first to be xeroxed instead of duplicated from wax copies. Dave Donkin remembered how Frank Warren ‘opened my eyes to the wonders of Chemistry’, while Werner Stielau (later professor of Animal and Poultry Science) ‘really taught us the thorough procedures and protocol required in animal research’, his colleague George Hunter showed students how to produce scientific reviews, and George Quicke made Biochemistry ‘so interesting and relevant’.

Chris Dodson (Pietermaritzburg, 1953–1957) recalled that most of ‘Ag Fac’s staff were of a very high calibre’ as well as a really ‘nice group of people … real human beings’. He joined their ranks as a lecturer in Horticulture (1957–1959) while Peter Allan ‘worked towards his Ph.D. in California’. Other Agric graduates who later joined the staff included John de Villiers, Neil Tainton and Mike Martin. Eckard Kassier (1952–1958), who completed an M.Sc.
S.E. (Siegfried) Drewes matriculated at Vryheid High School and completed a B.Sc. (Hons) (1957) and an M.Sc. (1959) in Pietermaritzburg. He then acquired a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Rhodes (1963) while working as senior/principal research officer at the Leather Industries Research Institute there. In 1977 the University of Natal awarded him a D.Sc. in Organic Chemistry and he was granted the title of Chartered Chemist. The South African Chemical Institute’s Raikes Medal (1965) was followed by a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry (1966) and a Visiting Humboldt Fellowship at the University of Braunschweig (1967).

Two years later Drewes was appointed senior lecturer in Organic Chemistry in Pietermaritzburg, which was followed by promotion to associate professor (1974), professor of Organic Chemistry (1978), senior professor (1989) and head of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology in Pietermaritzburg from 1992 until his retirement in 1995. That year he was awarded the Gold Medal of the South African Chemical Institute and subsequently became emeritus professor and senior research associate as well as an honorary research associate of the Department of Chemistry. In 2004 the Chemistry Inside Lecture Theatre was renamed the Drewes Lecture Theatre in recognition of his contribution to the department since 1969.

In addition to visiting professorships at universities abroad during the course of his career he was a member of several professional societies and served on numerous committees. Within the University he was dean of the Faculty of Science in Pietermaritzburg (1979–1981), a member of the Research Committee (1987–1995) and a member of the 1992 Vice-Chancellor’s committee to investigate alternative sources of income for the institution. A 1984 FRD B rating for comprehensive research funding was followed by an A rating for 1988–1993 and again for 1993–1996. From 1988 to 1991 Drewes convened the Foundation for Research Development’s (FRD) three-man Advisory Committee for Chemistry and also served as a member of other FRD committees. In 1989 he was elected a foundation research fellow of the University and the following year a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa.

These and other awards were more than justified in terms of the 18 doctoral and 36 masters students whom he supervised, the various items of expensive research equipment he helped secure for the department and the 194 papers he published in refereed journals (to 2013). They were also in recognition of the major contribution he made to establish the basic structure of phenolic tannins to initiate what became a flourishing chipboard industry using natural polypheriol from wattle extract as the major adhesive component; his work to advance the study of insulin; the attention he drew to what became known worldwide as the Baylis-Hillman Reaction; and his pioneering research on South African natural products that culminated in the isolation of ocohullenone and related structures from the country’s best-known ‘muthi’ plant, the black stinkwood or *Ocotea bullata.*
(Agric.) in Pietermaritzburg, lectured in Agricultural Economics (1962–1963) and subsequently had a distinguished academic career elsewhere, recalled that academic standards were ‘good’ in the South African context relative to more established faculties of Agriculture in Stellenbosch and Pretoria. Further, those students who continued their postgraduate studies abroad found they had been ‘generally’ well prepared.

The more-or-less coincidental arrival of Professor Arnold Lloyd and the highly innovative Peter Hey did much to revitalise Education on the Pietermaritzburg campus. John Deane recalled that postgraduate diploma students now found themselves exposed to a variety of experts who could add real value to their training. These included successful local teachers who gave subject method lectures, a Speech and Drama lecturer from Durban who conducted workshops on voice production, breath control and movement at a time when there was still some doubt in Pietermaritzburg whether the subject really belonged on university campuses, and a medical doctor who provided classes on general principles of health, child health and first aid. In addition, there were tours of provincial schools with a play production and practical teaching experience in an African night school. Teaching practice was also re-organised into two continuous periods, one of four weeks in February and the other of eight weeks in May and June.

During his all-too-brief tenure on the Pietermaritzburg campus, prior to his premature death, Peter Hey made an influential impression on many students, including future senior educationists like Vietzen and Deane. Lloyd’s services were also lost fairly suddenly; in his case as a result of resignation after what Malherbe described as a lot of ‘mudslinging’ that was ‘not altogether Lloyd’s fault’. Malherbe regarded his successor Ronald MacMillan as ‘somewhat platitudinous’ but recognised that it was he who was able to ‘pull Education out of the Slough of Despond into which it had fallen’, a far cry from the ‘doldrums’ that had earlier characterised Professor Ferguson’s tenure.

There were also members of staff at the Medical School who were to be more fondly remembered than others. As Vanessa Noble’s research has revealed, in the early years most of them were young, enthusiastic and trained in liberal universities at home or abroad, in some cases arriving on promotion from UCT and Wits. A few were considered to be too demanding of students in the pursuit of high academic standards and their own reputations.

On the other hand George Gale and Isidor ‘Okkie’ Gordon were particularly highly respected for their selfless contribution towards laying the Faculty’s solid foundations and, indeed, ensuring its survival. On his departure Gale left
the students his collection of books, journals and pamphlets, including many out of print items. Ronald Elsdon-Dew, lecturer in Parasitology and honorary director of the Amoebiasis Research Unit, was also gratefully remembered for making available his valuable collection of books and journals, which included some reference material dating back to the early 1940s.

The warden at Alan Taylor Residence, sociologist Hamish Dickie-Clark, was particularly popular for his efforts to improve living conditions there. Among many others held in high regard were Sidney and Emily Kark for their care and motivation of students, B. Adams, T. Gillman, Paul Large (for his contribution to the departments of Anatomy and Surgery prior to his departure for Australia) and E.M. Barker for his role as lecturer in the early development of the latter department. F. (Fatima) Mayet recalled that several of her lecturers demonstrated a genuine concern for their students and future professor and dean S. (Soromini) Kallichurum remembered the personal attention she

**R.E. (Ronald) MacMillan** was principal of various schools and vice-rector of the Johannesburg College of Education before serving as professor and head of the Department of Education on the Pietermaritzburg campus (1957–1970). He had a particular interest in teacher training and higher education that began with his doctoral thesis (Wits, 1954) and subsequently served as Vice-Principal of the Pietermaritzburg campus (1971–1975). His flair for administration also found expression, at various times, as chairman of the South African Association for the Advancement of Education, which awarded him its Gold Medal, chairman of the Joint Matriculation Board, vice-chairman of the joint Advisory Committee on Teacher Training in Natal; and as a member of the National Education Council, various HSRC committees, the senates of Fort Hare and Zululand universities and the governing boards of several schools. In addition, MacMillan was chairman of the Natal Museum Council, president of the local Rotary Club and district governor of Rotary. His conversation was peppered with references to athletics, having been the 1937 Springbok athlete of the year when he broke the national half-mile record that he held until 1946. In 1992 the Education/Psychology lecture theatre on the Pietermaritzburg campus, which he had helped design in collaboration with the architect and the Department of Psychology, was renamed in his honour. He died in 1998.
received from then lecturer A.J. Wilmot when she was seriously ill with viral pneumonia.

A 1958 graduate, Frank Mdlalose (later first premier of the post-apartheid province of KwaZulu-Natal), attested that King Edward VIII Hospital provided valuable and varied experience in clinical training and for the final-year mandatory internship. Yet there was some resentment among students concerning its outdated post-war equipment, congested space and excessively high staff-patient ratio. Moreover, unlike white trainees at other medical schools, they were limited to treating only black patients.

Nevertheless, in 1957 a total of fourteen of the 22 students who had enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine in 1951 sat the final examinations and twelve graduated the following year with M.B.Ch.B. degrees. They were doctors Colin Davidson, Abner Makunyane, Pascal Ngakane, Nathaniel Foster, B. Naidoo, K. Naidoo, Soromini Kallichurum, H. Mogadime, B. Zondi, V. Pillay, K. Thambiran and Fatima Mayet − four African, two coloured and six Indian.

These pioneers had successfully survived the difficulties and humiliations involved in studying at a segregated institution and training in a blacks-only hospital to emerge with professional qualifications at least as good as any offered elsewhere in the country. At a ceremony on 22 November 1957 they made a formal declaration under the Hippocratic Oath before the Principal and Registrar of the University. In 1959 a Medical Graduates Association was formed with Dr (subsequently Professor) V.K.G. Pillay as its first chairman and Dr M.C. Mehlomakulu as the first secretary.

An area in which the same rules applied to all academic classes on all the University’s campuses was with regard to dress. Initially, there was no official University tie or blazer other than that of the Athletics Union, but in 1955–1956 a black/dark navy blue venetian cloth University blazer was eventually proposed and subsequently accepted. This included a badge comprising the shield contained in the armorial bearings with a scroll ‘Stella Aurorae’ while the matching tie included a silver motif of the crest and torse (heraldic wreath) on a black/dark navy blue background. The blazer and tie were officially registered only in March 1962, but were available to students from 1960 onwards after the successful completion of the first year of study. It was also available to past students, members of Convocation and staff members.

Blazers, ties and lab coats aside, student attire was still fairly formal with corduroys popular among males and females required to wear skirts, not
trousers. Meetings between the Academic Dress and Ceremonials Committee and the joint SRC helped to reach agreement on that score. Most students considered it impractical to maintain the old tradition of wearing academic gowns to lectures, particularly for those using bicycles to get to class, but they were expected to wear them at formal academic functions. In Durban’s humid conditions Engineering students were among the first to strain against dress formality, as did Agric students in Pietermaritzburg.

In 1960 Senate attempted to impose a more formal dress code on students by proposing the options of suits with collar and tie, sports coats with collar and tie and flannels, or bush shirts with trousers or with shorts and long stockings. Pullovers, sweat shirts, beach shirts, ‘zoot’ shirts, lumber jackets, golf and rugby stockings and socks and shorts were deemed inappropriate; as were trousers (except for fieldwork), shorts and jeans in the case of women. The SRCs, with some sympathy in Senate, vigorously opposed these proposed sumptuary regulations and they were dropped.

Staff attire continued to be left to individual discretion, but many still lectured in academic gowns that, as Brian Bush recalled, enabled them to enter with a flourish! It also provided an ‘adaptive advantage’ to those who had ‘an acting bent’, like Jakes Ewer or ‘the Professor demonstrating aspects of the evolution of Vertebrates standing gesticulating on the lecture bench!’

Another NUC tradition retained in the 1950s and beyond was the weekly University Lecture during which period no other classes were held. They exposed all full-time students in Pietermaritzburg and at Howard College to talks by a wide disciplinary variety of visiting and local scholars. Malherbe believed that these were unique in South Africa and they were certainly much appreciated by most students. Ian Thompson, for one, remembered that they ‘marked some of the most memorable intellectual events of my undergraduate life’. Among them was ‘the remarkable ad hoc seminar organised at very short notice’ on the occasion of the launch of the first Sputnik on 4 October 1957. A few years earlier Edgar Brookes delivered a series of lectures that provided the basis for his subsequent book *South Africa in a Changing World*.

Other dimensions of campus life remained as important to students as ever.

**Cultural activity**

During the 1950s both the Pietermaritzburg and Howard College campuses featured a number of student societies and clubs that varied in popularity and duration. This was particularly so in the former case where, as Ron Nicolson recalled, there was ‘a vibrant student life’, but there were so many
organisations that the SRCs resolved not to revive any in which interest waned. Among those that survived and those that did not on both campuses were a Students Christian Association, a Students Christian Union, an Anglican Club, a Catholic Students Society, a Dramatic Society, a Debating Society, a Music Society, a Choral Society, a Bach Cantata Club, a Jazz Society, a Film Society, a Chess Club, a Bridge Club, a Scientific Society, an International Relations Club, a Political Thinkers Club, a Literary Circle, a Ballet Club, a Law Society and an Oppidani Society.

In Durban they also included a Students Jewish Association, a Commerce Society, an Architectural Society, a Parliamentary Society, a Rocket Society and Camera and Radio clubs. The Pietermaritzburg campus had an Agricultural Scientific Society, a Human Rights Group, a Literates Club and a Heretics Club.

The sometimes erratically produced student newspapers The Dome (after Howard College’s dome) in Durban and Nux (the Nut) in Pietermaritzburg reflected their activities and fortunes, which included phases of apathy and indifference. In 1955, for example, Pietermaritzburg SRC president Alistair Verbeek called for a revival of University spirit on campus, not least with regard to attendance at general SRC meetings. The respective SRCs were nominally responsible for allocating the funding and organising the elections, venues and dates of all the clubs. In most cases members of staff were invited to join their committees to serve as chairpersons or presidents. Women were prominent on the committees of some of these organisations but formed a minority on the SRCs, numbering six of 21 members on Pietermaritzburg’s 1955 SRC.

Following closure of the Five O’Clock Club at Oribi, the Graduates Association was formed. This, inter alia, promoted social contact with staff members by arranging informal discussions or classical Greek-style symposia (drinking parties) as well as formal dinners at local hotels with academics as guest speakers. Sylvia Vietzen recalled an enthusiasm of a very different sort when, in the mid-1950s, she was involved in Pietermaritzburg’s Students Christian Association and Anglican Club, both of which were very active and attracted many prominent students.

Despite meagre budgets the Dramatic societies (Dram Socs) were among the oldest and most active in both centres. There was an exponential increase in dramatic productions in Durban with the 1949 advent of Elizabeth Sneddon’s Department of Speech and Drama and several students launched their theatrical careers from there. Mary Peach, who subsequently achieved fame abroad on
stage and in film, played Ophelia in a Durban Tercentenary production of *Hamlet*; Leon Gluckman, who later worked at the Old Vic in London, played the leading role in the University’s Tenth Jubilee staging of *King Lear*; and David Horner, later well known for playing the Christ in Durban productions of the Oberammergau Passion Play, starred as Becket in Sneddon’s 1951, 1952 and 1955 presentations of *Murder in the Cathedral* and Theseus in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The last production also featured Francois Swart who in 1958 won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

That year the Department of Speech and Drama presented the first open-air production of a Shakespearian play in the Durban Amphitheatre while Pamela Robertson’s staging of *Oedipus Rex* was the first full-length production featuring ‘non-European’ students, namely Devi Bughwan as Jocasta, Aura Francis as Oedipus and D.S. Bugwandeen as Creon. Among Elizabeth Sneddon’s other prominent students were Nadia Nerina, subsequently a prima ballerina at Covent Garden and Jo Anna (Mary Forkin) who became choreographer to the Royal Poinciana Playhouse in Florida, USA.

In Pietermaritzburg at various times Dram Soc. enjoyed the involvement and support of students and staff from all faculties, as well as from outside the University. Llewellyn Alexander recalled that the highly successful 1948 presentation of *Macbeth* established a tradition of staging an annual major production (most often Shakespeare) in the first academic term, followed by a minor one in the second. He and John Deane remembered that there were regular theatrical productions in the Old Main Hall on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Improved theatre performances had become possible there following the enlargement of the stage with a projecting apron and the installation of better lighting, although this did diminish the original design and appearance of the hall.

The still relatively primitive light-dimming arrangements were a reflection of prevailing financial constraints. The lighting control bridge comprised a raised platform in the wings that supported a set of saline-filled earthenware sewer pipes into which electric terminals had been inserted and which could be raised or lowered to adjust the brightness. Griff Ewer provided the expert control that this tricky system required and familiarity with the script always enabled her to serve very effectively as a reserve prompt. The original tiny dressing rooms included in the original building plan had long since proved inadequate, necessitating use of the Physics laboratories behind the hall. Alan Hattersley’s office had been intended as a dressing room and also provided
access to the stage. John Deane surmised that he probably accepted its occasional use for this purpose as preferable to a move to other quarters.

These productions, like William Gardner’s *King Lear*, were usually directed by staff members. Peter Hey, Ronald Albino and Stoffel Nienaber also produced plays while Clem Abbott and his wife created make-up designs. Members of staff sometimes took acting roles, one notable example being Jakes Ewer who impressively played Lear and was ‘a memorable Falstaff’ in consecutive productions of *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*. His declared ambition to play in professional theatre was never realised, but was certainly not without substance. In the absence of understudies, the director sometimes had to fill in. So too did Colin Gardner after an important member of his father’s *King Lear* cast suffered a post-rehearsal drink and drive accident involving a tree on the way home to Hilton and landed up in hospital. Dram Soc. parties were well known for their boisterous behaviour and a source of concern to the residence wardens.

Llewellyn Alexander remembered that in Pietermaritzburg Dram Soc. had the advantage of expert technical support from the Fine Arts Department. Geoffrey Long, lecturer in Graphic Design, was able to apply his experience as official war artist during World War II as well as experience gained in stage and costume design at the Old Vic. He not only designed the new academic robes for the University of Natal, but supervised the redecoration of the somewhat shabby Old Main Hall and added to the Lord Warden’s Trophy an additional award for minor roles in Dram Soc. productions known as the Long Cup for Short Parts. Ceramics lecturer Hilda Rose (subsequently Ditchburn) collaborated with him in designing and producing costume jewellery that was of a professional stage standard.

According to Alexander, the arrival of the versatile Peter Hey on campus in the mid-1950s added a significant new impetus to Dram Soc. He staged several contemporary plays, including Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot* and John Mortimer’s *The Dock Brief*. He also introduced theatre-in-the-round with Sartre’s *Huis Clos* (*No Exit*) and during a long summer vacation took his production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* on a successful tour around Natal. The cast’s Lady Bracknell had to perform with a leg in plaster after damaging it falling through the Old Main Hall’s stage trapdoor into a dimly-lit, sub-stage storage area known as the Cosmo after a well-known Durban nightclub. Dave Donkin remembered playing Koko in a 1958 production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Mikado*, during which there was much amusement
backstage as the part required him to resort to an impassioned speech in order to woo Katisha, played by his then girlfriend Jane Morford. Such was its success the production ran for two extra performances.

These were important cultural events, not only in the life of the campus but also that of the city and were usually of a week’s duration. As Jack Frost recalled, among other regular contacts between town and gown there were City Hall performances by a lively amateur Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of John Knuyt. In addition, the bi-annual University Church Service was always held in one or other downtown places of worship, attended by a long procession of academics and several busloads of gowned students. In 1957 the campus Music Society arranged an informal concert to celebrate the acquisition of a Steinway grand piano while later in the year the Bach Cantata Club followed suit with talented student musician Robert Mills well to the fore.

Wentworth apart, those students who were fortunate enough to study full-time at the University of Natal generally considered the available facilities to be at least adequate. Brian Bush remembered that in Pietermaritzburg in the early 1950s Botany and Zoology were housed in a new building where the lecturing and laboratory facilities were excellent while Chemistry and Physics were accommodated in older premises with facilities that were not as up-to-date. Anyway, as Wendy Vineall recalled, ‘we didn’t know what we didn’t have’. Nevertheless, in her estimation, in Pietermaritzburg ‘the quality of student life was excellent’.

The same could not really be said of Wentworth or of City Buildings in Durban, where Vineall studied part-time in 1953 while working as a secretary. As Hattersley observed: ‘Few part-time students viewed their studies as having any other than occupational value’, which led some staff members to conclude that ‘conditions appear to be wholly unfavourable for building up the outlook, attitudes and values proper to a university’. Nevertheless, as Vineall put it, the part-time facilities ‘served a hugely useful purpose for many students’.

Pat McKenzie attended classes at City Buildings in the early 1950s after spending a year as an Agriculture student in Pietermaritzburg. The life of a part-timer studying for the Attorney’s Admission examination was very different – living at the YMCA on Durban’s Esplanade, completing a full day’s work as an articulated clerk and attending classes at 7.30 am and again after 5.00 pm, five days a week.

It was all made worthwhile by some encouraging lecturers, including the ever-pleasant and amusing Professor Maurice Sweeney. But, in common with
Accountancy candidates who were also serving articles, McKenzie ‘never felt part of the University and in a sense one was not as we were … students I suppose of our chosen profession’. There were other part-timers, particularly schoolteachers with training college diplomas, studying for degrees to improve their chances of promotion. They too felt removed from the cultural, social and sporting life on the Howard College campus and faced serious time constraints, especially if they did not own cars, as McKenzie discovered when he attempted to acquire a BA part-time. Despite some inspirational lecturers, like Eileen Krige in Social Anthropology, there were many students who did not last the distance.8

Medical students did their best to add cultural, social and sporting dimensions to life in their remote, segregated residence at Wentworth. Their own publication The Amoeba, launched in August 1952 in cyclostyled format and then as a printed journal from September 1956, mirrored their efforts in that regard before it ran into financial difficulties in the late 1950s. The editor initiated a Science Forum and film shows provided an early form of hostel entertainment. Social and sporting activity only really gained momentum with the subsequent election in October 1952 of their own unofficial SRC through the efforts of L.P. Naidoo, J.S. Bendele, D.K. Singh and others. Official recognition was not easily achieved, involving a long struggle because the Charter of the University and regulations pertaining to SRCs did not make provision for such a body.

The SRC was a decided advance on the Wentworth Students Association that was initially mooted and quite distinct from the Non-European Section in town with which Malherbe believed they should be closely associated. Yet a separate identity seemed an essential development in view of the segregationist and geographical structure of the University that largely isolated its pre-medical and medical students to Happy Valley, as the neighbouring Austerville/Wentworth coloured residential area was known. After the establishment of an unofficial SRC there, a Cultural Society, Debating Society, Film and Photographic Society, a still-born Bantu Studies Society, a Science Society and a Dramatic Society followed in quick succession.

Geoffrey Long travelled from Pietermaritzburg to advise the last society how best to use the Wentworth Hall for its productions and in 1953 the premier of Hilda Kuper’s A Witch in My Heart was the first play to be staged there. The next year Messrs Branford and Pople produced H.I.E. Dhlomo’s Dingana. In 1957, R.A. Forsyth of the English Department followed this with Hilda Kuper’s
The Decision, a contemporary South African Indian play that explored the impact of Western values on an orthodox Brahmin family residing in Durban.

There were also occasional evenings of recorded music and in 1953 a branch of the Students Christian Association (SCA) was formed. The following May a joint weekend conference was held at the SCA campsite at Anerley to discuss the legal, academic and social aspects of racial segregation in the University with representatives of the SCA branches on the Pietermaritzburg and Howard College campuses.

All of these activities at last helped to make the Wentworth campus what The Amoeba reported as ‘a lively place’. In imitation of practice elsewhere, staff members were invited to join the various organising committees to provide assistance and continuity. Yet indecision concerning the ‘Wentworth Question’ persisted both among medical students and those studying in the Non-European Section at Sastri College. Following the medical students’ decision to integrate, after all, under the latter section’s SRC there was dissatisfaction about poor organisation, ineffective leadership, inadequate transport and mutually acceptable meeting times.

All these distractions led to apathy among the rank and file, reflected in some of the clubs like the Drama and Film societies. There may, indeed, have been too many clubs for a relatively small number of students, particularly as some became engrossed in their senior years of medical studies. Yet, still more were formed, including a fairly exclusive Medical Womens Cultural Club.

The larger numbers of full-time students at Howard College and in Pietermaritzburg were much more fortunate, able to take advantage of all that University life had to offer including its social aspects.

Social activity
Social and sporting opportunities, particularly for those students who lived on campus in both centres, were wide and varied. This was decidedly less the case for medical students living in their segregated residence at Wentworth, though the social life there was improved with the formation in September 1952 of the Durban Medical Social Club or Federation. Its purpose was to organise dances, picnics, concerts and other social functions, not only for medical students but also for black nurses, health assistants and their trainees and for those working as aids to the medical profession throughout the greater Durban area. In addition, a Wentworth Resident Students Committee was established to arrange hostel functions, some in conjunction with the aforementioned on-site cultural societies.
A Wentworth Students Choir was formed and went on to sing in several African, Indian and ‘European’ churches. In 1953, through the initiative of Bennie Nkolombe, a Dancing Club was launched at the hostel with a loan from Mabel Palmer and a gift of £2 (R4) towards the purchase of a radiogram. Within a year, membership had climbed from 16 to 50. Leading amateur and professional dancers gave the students an exhibition and the club soon proved to be one of the most popular at Wentworth with practices held on a daily basis.  

Student life on the Howard College campus was characterised, among other things, by an already traditional broad and mostly friendly distinction between arts and engineering students. These were by no means the only degrees being pursued and collectively they happily sang ‘We are the Engineers’ at inter-varsity competitions with Pietermaritzburg. A 1958 arts description of engineers, published in *Dome*, had it that ‘those not able to boast physical magnificence tend to don large spectacles to impress the masses with their intellectual greatness’, their hair tended to be ‘short and bristly; moustaches, beards and individual haircuts being regarded as eccentric’ while intellectually they were ‘materialistic in mind and bombastic in argument’, unable to deviate from ‘the inarticulate, earthbound norm’ and needing to become aware that ‘imagination is not a sign of incipient insanity’.

An engineering student responded that ‘B.A.s worship such idols as Freud and Hobbes, Shakespeare and Sands [the English lecturer], Wordsworth and D.H. Lawrence (why the hell did he go to the desert anyway?); and yet know nothing of Terzhagi, Temoshenko, Archimedes and Ventress [of the Engineering Faculty]!’ Further, ‘the men students have long hair, and the women, though sometimes shorn, usually have a tinge of red ochre to give their hair individuality! They giggle (the men too) at nothing, and joke about sexually perverted tales (as told by Chaucer)’.

Wendy Vineall recalled a busy and more closely knit social life on the Pietermaritzburg campus, although ‘the chemically-induced holes and stains’ on the white lab coats that science students wore were regarded as ‘badges of honour’ that ‘gave them entrance to a higher sphere denied to us lowly arts students’. The Agrics were considered ‘a breed apart, even further removed and above our station’, though everybody happily embraced the campus song ‘A Fine Band of Farmers Are We!’ The SRC expressed some initial concern about how Agrics could be more closely integrated into the student body as a whole but, according to Chris Dodson, they also acquired many happy campus memories. ‘Student life was huge fun and I made lifelong friends.’
Ian Thompson recalled that the relatively small and still largely residential character of the Pietermaritzburg campus helped to generate ‘a remarkable sense of community’ that extended also to members of staff, some of whom would invite groups of students to social gatherings at their homes.

For a time the medieval-style fete and pageant dubbed the Great Gaudeamus Fair was a popular annual event in Pietermaritzburg, intended to raise funds for the swimming bath fund. This subsequently led to the establishment of a standing committee to administer the ‘development fund’ used, in part, to subsidise *Nux*. It was followed in 1956 by a Union Development Fund to raise money for an extension of the current Student Union Building through concerts, fetes and other means.

The Charity Rag and the Rag Ball were still the major annual social events in both centres, the funds raised being donated to a variety of worthy causes including welfare centres, hospitals and the Anti-TB Association. Pat McKenzie recalled riding on horses around Pietermaritzburg’s Wembley suburb in 1949 with his fellow student and gymkhana friend John Pape, collecting door to door for Rag. After raising money in Pietermaritzburg, students still took the Friday afternoon special Rag train to join in the big procession in Durban the next day, sleeping wherever they could in the Howard College residences. As in previous years, municipal permission had to be secured annually to collect donations from offices, shops, homes and by means of a street collection.

Other traditional money-raising features included a cake and produce sale, ‘Seen/Gesien’ road blocks of motor vehicles, a torch relay race between the two cities and a sawdust fight in front of the City Hall. On Rag Day that was also the venue in both centres for the mock trial of willing prominent citizens or Rag Court of Injustice at which they were duly convicted and fined for amusing alleged offences. When Edgar Brookes was sentenced he pleaded poverty and, with the collaboration of his bank, offloaded a briefcase full of pennies he claimed were his life savings! Some sources of revenue were more lucrative than others. In 1949 Rag was not particularly successful in Durban, but raised a record £2 500 (R5 000) in the Garden Hollow as Pietermaritzburg was known to students, with £500 (R1 000) collected in the surrounding country districts.

The excessive consumption of alcohol, particularly by first-year students spreading their independent wings, was a source of some concern as it had been from time to time in previous years and was to be in the future. Large quantities were also imbibed during Friday night float building and on the Rag train from Pietermaritzburg. John Deane recalled a female student carried onto
the platform on arrival in Durban. In 1954 Malherbe warned the Durban SRC that the post-Rag ‘Hag and Hobo’ social was tarnishing the University’s image and efforts were subsequently made to improve both dress and behaviour at what then became known as the Rag Dance. The distracting effect of Rag on students’ studies was also a source of concern that Senex sought to limit by means of ongoing negotiations with the Rag committees. In 1955 pre-Rag pranks or stunts were introduced for the first time to ease the general public into a Rag mood and from that year the two centres held entirely separate Rags, thereby raising more money for charity and eliminating the cost of train travel for Pietermaritzburg students.

By 1958 additional Rag attractions in Durban, intended ‘for publicity rather than profit’, included a Cavalcade of Sport, a Nite Club, a basketball tournament, jazz concert, fireworks display, and a crossword competition offering the latest model Ford Consul as the prize. A hugely successful Rag hoax involved an enthusiastic student parade of cars, motorbikes, scooters, hysterical female admirers and ducktail fans escorting their own look-alike English rock star Tommy Steele in an open-top vehicle through the centre of town to the beachfront Claridges Hotel. There, from an upper-floor balcony, he acknowledged the ‘We love Tommy’ and ‘Elvis [Presley] is a Square’ placards of his adoring entourage, which by then included many genuine fans overcome by the occasion. The subsequent arrival in town of the real Tommy Steele did not attract nearly as much attention.

By contrast, the publicity gained was decidedly less positive when a brawl staged atop a city centre building ended with a dummy thrown down onto the street, causing consternation and fainting fits amongst distressed shoppers. Not to be outdone, in 1959 a howling mob of Pietermaritzburg students dragged one of their number down Church Street for allegedly criticising Rag and ‘hanged’ him from the balcony over the City Hall entrance while singing the popular song ‘Hang Down Your Head Tom Dooley’. On another occasion three self-styled Kenyans attracted public attention by camping outside the City Hall and proceeding to cook their supper with the avowed intention of viewing the ‘famous’ forthcoming Rag procession. They later repaired to the Imperial Hotel for urgently needed light refreshments.

Durban’s Wentworth and ‘non-European’ students were always on the fringes of Rag activities and their involvement varied from year to year. At one stage they considered forming a Rag committee to organise their own functions, but this proved impractical. Wendy Vineall recalled that in Pietermaritzburg (and much the same was true in Durban) there were ‘many beautiful boys and girls’
and ‘a host of beauty or Rag queens – romance flourished, with gossip hot on its heels, and quite a few couples even from our first year later walked down the aisle together’.

For some, like Jack Frost and Joy Warmington, on-campus romance came a little later and led to a marriage of 52 years. In the same league as partners who were married for 50 years or more were Ian Thompson and his wife Alison, Colin and Mary (née Macauley) Gardner, Les and Cal (née O’Connor) Cousins and John and Anne (née Faed) I’Ons, as well as Chris Dodson and Elaine Coleman who were married for 49 years.

On-campus amusements and daring took various forms. John Deane recalled that in the early 1950s Pietermaritzburg’s Old Main Building had a gravelled area in front of it used for staff parking as well as a gravel roadway around it. Neil Hepburn passed into campus folklore by completing the circuit one night on an exceptionally noisy motorcycle while blowing a bugle, quite unmindful of the evening lectures and society meetings that might have been in progress. After the 1948 Macbeth performances in the hall the papier-mâché head of the villain the Fine Arts Department had produced for the final scene mysteriously found itself impaled on the lightning conductor spike at the top of the Clock Tower dome. It was not the first item to gain that prominence but, as testimony to the quality of its manufacture, it remained there for about three years before disintegrating.

The occasional nocturnal inter-residence and even inter-campus raids of earlier decades continued and there were several of the latter as Pietermaritzburg sought to recover its mascot Oswald, lost in 1949 to Durban intruders. In July 1959 Malherbe eventually lost patience and fined the two white SRCs £300 (R600) each for recent inter-campus raids that, in his opinion, brought discredit to the University and constituted a danger to life and limb on public roads. The SRCs were invited to recover the fines from the miscreants involved while students and parents were warned that in future such activities would be punished by withdrawing the right to operate a motor vehicle on University property.

On both campuses women’s hostels, as before, were prime targets for drainpipe climbers and other mischief makers. Jenny Hobbs and her roommate made unofficial entry into Lodge less challenging for their male friends by unscrewing the wire burglar guards in their ground floor room. Wendy Vineall recalled an Oribi raid on University Hall’s laundry room when the clothes hanging out to dry were soaked in a chemical that turned them puce and
eventually obliged the intruders to pay compensation for their replacement. More affluent inmates avoided this hazard by entrusting their washing to a little coloured woman known only as Effie who provided a delivery service with a donkey cart to and from her home laundry.

Jenny Hobbs recalled that the Students Union Building provided a venue for many activities on the Pietermaritzburg campus, including Mike Leask’s and ‘Gorilla’ Gibb’s hot jazz. After one such performance ‘Prawn’ Roberts serenaded the Lady Warden outside Hags with a saucepan on his head, presumably in imitation of Tin Pan Alley? There were regular dances in the Union to which, as Hobbs recorded, males wore tuxedos and females were clad in dresses ‘with will-power tops and many-layered net skirts’. A fair amount of alcohol was consumed, sometimes to excess, but few students had cars with which to cause collateral damage.

As Vineall remembered, Saturday night excursions to the cinema remained as popular as ever, involving a walk downtown and ride back to campus, the last bus obligingly delayed until the movies had finished. Deane remembered that there was a bus stop near the intersection of King Edward Avenue and Lindup Road at what, until the late 1930s, had been the terminus of the tram line from town. A gravel path and avenue of plane trees led up to the Old Main Building, a route since straddled by the Cecil Renaud Library building. Sunday evenings usually involved church attendance, for some at the conveniently close St Alphege’s. A less devout form of worship took the form of listening to the zany BBC Goon Show on the radio.

Another local tradition entailed spending some time under the on-campus jacaranda trees when they blossomed in early summer because, it was believed, if a flower landed on your head you were bound to pass the looming end-of-year examinations! There were always a handful of students who ‘managed to fly above the radar either through their eccentricity, beauty, charisma or brilliance’ and there were unusual individuals like ‘Winkie’ Fletcher from Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) who, it was rumoured, kept a live python in her hostel room. Even if only a rumour it was doubtless an effective deterrent against any unwelcome intruders.

But, as Wendy Vineall recorded, it was the sporting heroes, particularly the rugby stars, who ‘were campus kings, popular and admired’. Jenny Hobbs also remembered cheering on the ‘Lily-whites’, clad in white jerseys and shorts, ‘the lovely boys who played rugby before they got boeps and went bald’.11
Sporting activity

Sporting activities in both centres continued, as in NUC days, to be administered by local Athletics unions (federations of student clubs) with an umbrella Joint Athletics Union responsible for tours and other combined sports events. After winning the inter-varsity golf and women’s hockey tournaments in 1949, Natal was runner-up the following year in no less than five competitions. There was always much enthusiasm and occasionally other inter-varsity tournament triumphs, including men’s hockey in 1957 and cricket in December the following year. In 1950, a combined rugby team beat the formidable Tukkies (Pretoria) 9–6.

The annual Durban versus Pietermaritzburg inter-campus tournaments were usually the basis upon which combined sides were chosen and fortunes fluctuated from year to year and sport to sport. These events were occasionally marred by excessively rowdy crowd behaviour, usually fuelled by alcohol and sometimes necessitating the imposition of fines. As in previous decades, the highlight of each year was the clash of the first rugby XVs for the Denison Cup when supporters turned out in large numbers and first-year students discovered the purpose of the many song practices that characterised their first couple of weeks on campus. Among other favourites the Durban students always sang ‘The Engineers’ Song’ (although only a minority was studying Engineering) to the tune of ‘Anchors Aweigh’:

We are the Engineers from Varsity
When on the rugby field
We’ll show you how the game should be …

Pietermaritzburg invariably responded with ‘The Farmers’ Song’ (although most of them were not Agrics):

Oh we are the farmers, the farmers, the farmers, the boys from Natal Varsity. Doc Saunders is groot baas, is groot baas, is groot baas, ‘n Gawe ou kêrel is he ...

They also celebrated their mascot Miralto (an imitation elephant that took the place of Oswald, never recovered after a nocturnal raid by Durban students) with renditions of ‘Who’ll Come and Drink with Miralto Maree?’ to the tune of ‘Waltzing Matilda’:

Once a mighty elephant walked by the Duzi,
Down by the city of P.M.B.
And he sang as the Agrics led up to Oribi
Who’ll come and drink with Miralto Maree?
Durban’s Wimpy (a large bird-like creature in the image of a hamerkop or tegwaan) was eventually made of heavy reinforced concrete to minimise the chance of damage or involuntary migration to Pietermaritzburg. It was paraded at inter-campus matches under heavy escort with the song ‘Wimpy is our Mascot’, sung to the tune of ‘Lily Marlene’:

Underneath the rugby post,
We’ll place the ball right now,
We don’t know how we’ll do it,
But we’ll find somehow …

‘Non-European’ students were excluded from these annual tournaments and were not considered for combined team selections. In October 1950 it was erroneously confirmed that because ‘the Non-Europeans did not compete in the same sports as Europeans … they should not have representatives on the Joint Athletics Union’; and, further, that as the University colours were under the control of the latter body ‘non-European’ students ‘should have their own design but use the basic University colours’.

It was small compensation that the University subsidised the ‘non-European’ SRC and Athletics Union on the same basis as their white counterparts and that Professor Tom Kelly did suggest, unsuccessfully, that a ‘general University tie’ should be designed to be worn by all students. The issue of a common blazer or tie provoked extensive debate in both centres.

Meanwhile white students continued to qualify for the Athletics unions’ green, black and light blue striped blazer, colours chosen in 1924 in preference to the earlier bottle green, after representing a university team for a year. In some sports a scroll was added beneath the badge for first-team selection. Sports discrimination was another source of the humiliation and resentment black students were to harbour for years to come and probably ranked in that regard with the segregated seating to which they were subjected at graduation ceremonies.

As in previous years, students were usually decidedly younger than the average age of members of the other clubs with which they competed in local town leagues. Rugby and cricket continued to monopolise the limelight as the main focus of campus sporting interest in winter and summer. As in previous seasons, student cricket in both centres suffered the disadvantage of the long summer university vacation when the absence of many players made it virtually impossible to participate in local league competitions and encouraged others to join clubs elsewhere in town instead.
Even so, in 1949 a combined campus team (excluding Durban’s ‘non-European’ students) won the inter-varsity cricket competition held in Pretoria. Three of its members were selected to play for South African Universities against the touring MCC at Newlands and Pietermaritzburg’s star fast bowler Cuan McCarthy represented South Africa in all five test matches against the visitors. The University won the O’Brien Shield again in 1955 and four team members were awarded South African University colours. In the 1956–1957 season the Pietermaritzburg campus club went beyond playing friendlies and joined the local cricket league for the first time, despite the perennial challenge of fielding a full side in mid-summer.

On the same campus the first rugby XV, as in previous years, relied heavily on what was affectionately called the Oribi Beef Trust, which comprised mostly hefty Agrics. It did not have a particularly successful 1949 season when compared to several previous years, but the under-19 team emerged as the city’s best in that age group. Prominent members of the first XV in the early 1950s were future principal Peter Booysen, who was selected to play on the wing for Natal; Max Prozesky, a scrumhalf who subsequently had a successful career in education and publishing; Michael Nuttall, a hooker and future Anglican Bishop of Natal; and Laurence Gandar, who became an internationally renowned journalist as editor of the *Rand Daily Mail*.

In 1954, following the arrival of a dynamic new coach, Phillip Fletcher, the Rugby Club shared the local York and Lancaster Cup (with Police) for the third time in its history and two years later lock forward Chris de Nysschen was selected for the Springbok tour of Australasia. In the same year half the University team was selected to play for the new Natal Duikers junior provincial side after beating them in their first game at Woodburn Stadium. The 1950s ended on a high note for the club when, for the first time since 1933, it won the York and Lancaster Cup outright.

Other Pietermaritzburg campus clubs also enjoyed successes. In 1954 the Baseball Club topped its league. Student hockey maintained its traditional prominence in the senior leagues and combined campus teams won both the men’s and women’s inter-varsity tournaments with three Pietermaritzburg females selected to represent Natal at the inter-provincial tournament. The football (soccer) and athletics clubs continued to struggle with limited numbers, as did badminton and boxing. Soccer picked up when it was provided with its own field and gained the services of former England international Billy Butler as coach. Perhaps for those reasons in 1954 a combined campus side won the inter-varsity tournament.
Swimming gained popularity with the completion of the University’s own pool on campus with some of the women emerging as inter-provincial champions. Tennis was, as ever, a popular social and competitive game with Pietermaritzburg’s male team winning the Inland Natal B Shield before losing the inter-city final to Durban’s strong Queen’s Club. As a tennis player Sylvia Vietzen recalled that in the mid-1950s the campus was represented by three strong women’s teams in the Pietermaritzburg and inter-city leagues. Squash gained momentum with the construction of courts on campus in 1958 and mountain climbing was also attracting active interest when Keith Bush, a second-year science student and the son of Professor Frank Bush, was tragically killed climbing Cathedral Peak via a hazardous new route.12

In Durban the rugby first XV still basked in its 1948 promotion to the local senior league without registering much initial success even though the significant presence of ex-servicemen was evident until 1950 with the last of them, Graham Bowles, playing until 1952. The availability, at last, of on-campus sports fields from the early 1950s greatly enhanced the club’s viability. These obviated the need to practise at the distant Track Grounds in Old Fort Road or in Berea Park below Butcher’s. In 1954 permanent change rooms eventually replaced the primitive open-air split pole shower facility initially provided. In 1960 these were extended with the construction of an adjacent swimming pool.

The Rugby Club’s fortunes were also enhanced by the completion of a men’s residence on campus, Ansell May Hall, followed by Townley Williams Hall and by the Louis Botha and Ernest Jansen residences. A senior student induced a group of Freshers, equipped with pangas, to hack a path through the thick indigenous growth that still flourished on the slopes of Stella Bush Ridge between Ansell May Hall and the playing fields. Matthysen’s Alley, as it came to be known in his honour, also provided a convenient direct passage to the bus stop at the top of Penzance Road and thence to the hostelries and other delights of the harbour city.

The arrival in the early 1950s of several talented under-19 players more than compensated for the declining number of ex-servicemen. In 1953 no less than ten of them were selected for the provincial under-19 side, fourteen if one includes the Pietermaritzburg campus representatives, among them Michael Nuttall. In 1954 the new Assistant Registrar, Bunny Austin, who had rugby connections, persuaded ex-Springbok Stanley Osler to serve as coach. That year the first XV won the Wylie Cup, the Durban championship, only to slump
to the bottom of the log the following year, such was the fortune of varsity sides with perennial changes of personnel.

The student talent coming through the ranks from the early 1950s quickly fed into the Natal provincial side, which adopted the same open running style and reached its first Currie Cup final, losing 9–6 to Northern Transvaal. In 1955 some University of Natal players were selected for the new Central Universities side that toured Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and played against the visiting British Lions team while winger Michel Antelme was also picked for the Junior Springboks. In 1957 the club won the Moor Cup in its first year as a Durban-Pietermaritzburg inter-city trophy, but went through another lean patch in the late 1950s. A few of its members still managed to gain provincial colours and in 1960 scrumhalf Garth Williamson became a Junior Springbok and Antelme a Springbok.

As in Pietermaritzburg, hockey continued to be a strong student sport that achieved local success in both the women’s and men’s leagues, with several members selected for inter-town and combined university teams. Table tennis and tennis also maintained their popularity among students and, as in Pietermaritzburg, squash attracted interest with the construction of on-campus courts.

By contrast, football and athletics continued to struggle with limited support, as did baseball and rowing. The last was still fortunate to function under the wing of the Durban Rowing Club at the harbour yacht jetty. Similarly, the Golf Club had the use of the Circle Country Club’s course near Pinetown.

In 1960 sport on the Pietermaritzburg campus was given a boost when the City Council granted it £10 000 (R20 000) for sports field development. Professor Hamish Scott, president of the Athletics Union, declared that this would benefit all the sporting codes as well as contributing towards the construction of a swimming pool with the balance of funds being raised ‘through the efforts of the students’, as was the case in Durban. The ongoing improvement of sports facilities was still desperately needed, especially in Durban where they were particularly poor but, understandably, this was a low priority during years of financial stringency. \(^{13}\)

Such facilities were initially non-existent at the Wentworth ‘non-European’ hostel, though in 1952 the medical students did surprisingly well in an athletics competition against Adams College. That year the SRC assisted in organising the formation of several sports clubs including gymnastics, table tennis, tennis and weightlifting. Tennis was particularly popular and tournaments were soon
arranged against teams from King Edward VIII Hospital, McCord’s and other local clubs, as well as against the residents of Douglas Smit House at Wits.

As director of the Non-European Section in town, Ian Allan was instrumental in securing various items of equipment with which to facilitate more sports activity at Wentworth. By mid-1954 the hostel had its own sports field, as well as athletics, cricket, rugby and soccer clubs, the last as yet unbeaten in any representative match thanks partly to the use of the King Edward VIII Hospital ground for its practices. As with other team sports the problem was to arrange practice times that were mutually acceptable to both Wentworth and Sastri College ‘non-European’ members.

By the late 1950s some of these sports clubs were struggling to maintain their numerical strength. The Cricket Club undertook a tour to Cape Town in December 1957, losing only one of five matches. The Tennis Club continued to thrive, despite the poor condition of its courts, and in 1957 joined the Durban and District Bantu Lawn Tennis Association with great success.14

During the course of the 1950s the attention of at least some members of the University community, black and white, was increasingly diverted to other more urgent issues.

Political and social awareness
As victims of the apartheid system studying in a Faculty for blacks in a white institution, politics was bound to become a prominent aspect of university life for medical students. It is hardly surprising that their segregated Alan Taylor Residence at the remote Wentworth site eventually became a hub of political activity and the target of security police raids. Some students, like Albertina Luthuli, daughter of ANC president Albert Luthuli, and Dan Ncayiyana, were inextricably drawn towards politics. Yet, as Vanessa Noble has shown, there were always those who, like their white counterparts, preferred to avoid involvement in order to focus on their studies. While some were probably sympathetic towards or even members of anti-apartheid organisations, in the 1950s and early 1960s the level of political activism among medical students was relatively low compared with what was to follow.

Discouraging factors probably included the diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds of students, heavy workloads, family expectations and the risk of bursary withdrawals and loss of a hard-won opportunity to gain a prestigious qualification. Not least, as 1957 graduate B.T. Naidoo recalled, state repression was steadily gathering momentum. Fear of informers among fellow students coupled with the prospect of detention, house arrest and even long-
term imprisonment inhibited open political debate. On several occasions their newspaper, *The Amoeba*, commented on the general apathy that characterised the medical student body at that time.

Political awareness also expressed itself in social concern that initially took the form of a planned Cato Manor Project or Cato Manor Commission under the leadership of V.M. Majombozi, T.N. Langeni, V.R. Makgalemele, L.P. Naidoo and I.D. Diaho-Monaheng. It focused on the social and educational needs of an informal settlement that had mushroomed on the outskirts of Durban, within sight of the Howard College campus. The nearby Clairwood settlement was included in the project and efforts were made to solicit the advice of Social Welfare Services in Durban, but it soon proved difficult to find the time and energy for what was a well-intentioned project.

In 1954 a night school was started to assist the hostel’s own cleaning and catering staff. More students volunteered to help than was needed, prompting the decision to extend the service to the neighbouring Happy Valley community and to collect primary school level books for its use. That year there was also talk of establishing a clinic for its benefit, but this similarly admirable proposal became mired in prolonged discussion. The facility eventually opened in February 1958, exactly seven years after the Faculty of Medicine was launched and was run entirely by students under the guidance of a qualified medical practitioner in a building adjacent to the Alan Taylor Residence.

Daily patient attendance rose from an initial twelve to as many as 120, with more than 5 500 having been treated by the end of 1960. Funded by Rag and other donations, the clinic nevertheless soon found itself in financial difficulties and short of adequate accommodation, obliging patients to queue out in the open. More seriously, the attendance of student volunteers proved to be erratic, particularly among heavily worked senior students, as the initial enthusiasm wore thin.

It was not long before NUSAS made its presence felt at Wentworth, seeking to draw medical students into its ranks. It did so by highlighting its traditional non-racial philosophy, its early concern about the establishment of a segregated medical school in Durban when the proposal was first mooted and its ability to offer closer contacts with medical students at UCT and Wits. In 1953 the Wentworth residents resolved to affiliate with NUSAS as what they regarded as a newly independent SRC centre. This followed a visit by Durban’s own N.G. Moodley, NUSAS treasurer (and the organisation’s first ‘non-European’ office-bearer) and national relief director, together with David Holt, president
of the South African Union of Democratic Students, who urged them as future leaders to become politically active.

By the following year there was already some disillusionment with NUSAS and talk of disaffiliation, largely because of what was perceived as its mild political stance. A Progressive Forum was established so that medical students ‘could keep themselves informed about the current political events in the country’. Though small in membership, it soon became one of the most active societies at Wentworth.

In 1959, after the medical students had struggled for years to gain official University recognition of their own SRC, the Board of the Faculty of Medicine requested the formal establishment of a Medical Students Council. The intention was that it should become a sub-committee of the Non-European SRC that had been created in 1948 and serve the interests of the Wentworth constituency. Medical students remained dissatisfied with the SRC because it was still dominated by humanities and social science students studying at Sastri College and Marian Buildings, making it difficult for them to attend meetings and play a more active role in it.15

At Howard College and in Pietermaritzburg membership of NUSAS was automatic as affiliation fees were included on registration. Following its national congress in Pietermaritzburg in July 1948, enthusiasm for the organisation ebbed and flowed as it had done in previous years. There was no question of joining the alternative Afrikaanse Studente Bond (ASB), formed in the 1930s, but some moderates still entertained the hope of reconciliation with their Afrikaner compatriots by reaching a compromise following the admission of Fort Hare to NUSAS.

The Howard College campus, recognised as ‘politically a “Rightest” centre’, gave notice to disaffiliate from NUSAS in 1948, only to return to the fold in 1950. This was despite its unsuccessful attempt at a NUSAS conference held in Durban in February 1950 to persuade the organisation that at future gatherings entirely white and black delegations should represent the white and black campuses respectively with whites representing the two ‘open’ universities, UCT and Wits.

In August of that year the Pietermaritzburg SRC also tried unsuccessfully to achieve a compromise by calling a meeting of the SRC presidents and vice-presidents of all university campuses. Loyalty on the Pietermaritzburg campus wavered in 1952 as a Committee to Investigate the Relationship with NUSAS deliberated but it re-affiliated, ‘with reservations’, the following year. Michael Nuttall, as a member of the SRC, emulated his father Neville (an
NUC graduate) when in 1954 he attended the annual NUSAS conference and was elected onto the national executive under the presidency of John Didcott, a future Supreme Court judge. Trevor Coombe, sometime editor of Nux, was subsequently elected vice-president and, in 1957, president.

NUSAS office bearers were at pains to highlight the various ways in which the organisation could assist its members, from financial loans and vacation jobs to buying textbooks and travelling abroad. However, it was always better known for the political activism of many of its leaders and for its vigorous socio-political debates, particularly at its annual conferences. Pietermaritzburg student leader W. Ainslie summed up the prevailing attitude in both Natal centres when he conceded that, prior to becoming SRC president and attending one of its congresses in his sixth year on campus, his ‘strongest feelings for NUSAS … consisted of a mild curiosity. Most of the time I was blissfully unaware of what it meant or did.’

Active student support for NUSAS in the University continued to be confined to a fairly small group of enthusiasts. In 1959 the three Natal SRCs did meet that of the University of the Orange Free State in Pietermaritzburg and in 1960 the Pietermaritzburg president and vice-president were invited to Potchefstroom for informal talks with the president of the ASB. In April of that year, as it had done a decade earlier, the Pietermaritzburg SRC again embarked upon the organisation of a conference involving all South African SRCs in an effort to address the widening rifts among them. Held over two days in August, it was attended by representatives from Fort Hare, Pretoria, Rhodes, Stellenbosch, UCT and Wits, with every other university, including the newly formed university colleges, sending their good wishes.

The delegates passed a unanimous resolution in favour of maintaining contact by various means, including annual inter-SRC meetings, and of ending the mutual antipathy between NUSAS and the ASB. Any possibility of closer reconciliation receded as the implementation of the government’s various segregation policies hardened student attitudes.

From time to time there were vigorous debates in both centres about the segregated structure of the University itself and the prevailing exclusion of ‘non-European’ students from the Howard College and Pietermaritzburg campuses. In May 1955 students from all sections of the University met for three days to discuss the impact of segregation on themselves and on society as a whole. In April the following year a general meeting of the Pietermaritzburg student body expressed its support for non-segregation and called upon the Principal to admit ‘non-Europeans’ to desegregated postgraduate classes as
soon as possible. A further joint conference of students from all sections was held that year on the theme ‘Educating for a common society’ to contemplate the options of a common or segregated future.

However, in the 1950s the main focus of political activity for white students, and for staff, was protest against Dr D.F. Malan’s new National Party government’s apartheid legislation. There was, for example, outrage at the removal of coloured voters from the common voters’ roll. These protests were all reported in the student newspapers, *Nux* in Pietermaritzburg and *Dome* in Durban. Both of them included sometimes extensive commentaries on government legislation and on what the editor of *Dome* described in 1956 as ‘the steady tread of state control coming closer and closer’ to the universities.

As early as March 1949 Hans Meidner, president of the Pietermaritzburg SRC and described in *Nux* as ‘the most valuable student guide of our generation’, warned that ‘the sinister signs of political interference can be discerned’. Strong exception was taken to the Minister of Education’s statement on 31 August 1953 that consideration was to be given to the implementation of segregation in all the country’s universities. In a referendum a year later, a majority of Pietermaritzburg students voted in favour of at least admitting ‘non-European’ graduates to attend classes on campus, an opinion which, as previously mentioned, was re-affirmed in 1956. But when a NUSAS congress was planned for Pietermaritzburg, arrangements had to be made in compliance with the Group Areas Act to accommodate African delegates with private black families in Sobantu Village and Indians with households in town. In 1957 the Durban SRC joined its ‘non-European’ and Pietermaritzburg counterparts in opposing the academic colour bar.

Student protest sometimes took the form of on-campus meetings or of dignified street processions in full academic regalia, but there were notable exceptions. Dave Donkin recalled taking part in a broomstick ‘guard of dishonour’ a Cabinet minister was obliged to drive through when he visited town, though Donkin did not really regard himself as ‘a political animal’. Charles Parry remembered that the students were barefoot and dressed in khaki, with their own motorcycle ‘police’ diverting the traffic.

The training of students in the Active Citizen Force (ACF) had not yet become a major issue of conscience and contention for those selected by ballot to serve. They could opt to complete their training in one year before entering university, postpone it for three years, or undertake one month of basic training at the beginning of their first year of study followed by compulsory ‘parades’ and ‘shoots’ of varying duration in subsequent years. These were an
inconvenience, particularly for part-timers, that were eventually concentrated in the July vacation. This necessitated some adjustments to the academic calendar and an agreement with the Department of Defence to ensure that the students concerned were not in any way penalised.

In October 1959 Malherbe was informed that the South African Defence Force proposed to establish a bilingual Citizen Force Unit at the University of Natal in which those students whose names were drawn by ballot and whose curricula did not involve practical work during the vacations would be required to meet their obligations under the Defence Act. It was to be an artillery unit known as the Natal University Regiment, formerly the Natal Field Artillery (NFA), under the Officer Commanding, Natal Command.

More contentious was what John Deane remembered as Minister of Defence F.C. Erasmus’ ‘bloody-minded elimination of all British traditions and associations in the Defence Force’. This gave rise to student leader John Mitchell’s jokey, but serious, Erase Erasmus campaign on the Pietermaritzburg campus. It included blocking the minister’s entry into town on the Durban (Alan Paton) Road and was intended to culminate with the burning of his effigy.

Such protests were often opposed by the politically much more conservative Agric students. Fleur Webb recalled that on this occasion a night-time march around the campus, including the use of hired horses, was greeted with a shower of water bombs thrown by Agrics who gathered at the Old Main Hall. The confrontation was humorous, but it did have a sharp political edge to it and the arrival of police on campus induced Mitchell and Keith Hunt to find temporary political asylum up a convenient jacaranda tree. The proposal to establish a Society for the Prevention of Mr F.C. Erasmus encountered ‘certain legal difficulties’ and it was obliged to remain an unofficial campus organisation.

Charles Parry recalled Geoffrey Durrant subsequently visiting Oribi Residence to explain to students (not least the conservative Agrics) the threatening nature of the apartheid legislation being passed through Parliament. A later attempt to disrupt Dr Hendrik Verwoerd’s access into town was foiled when he was smuggled in via the Richmond Road in (rumour had it) a farmer’s van. Ron Nicolson recalled that the day ended with armoured cars, equipped with machine guns, parked outside the Old Main Building when students threatened to disrupt a National Party rally in the Pietermaritzburg City Hall.

The March 1960 massacre at Sharpeville, where 69 demonstrators were killed, government’s subsequent declaration of a State of Emergency and
the arrest of some staff members were further sources of uproar on all of the University’s campuses, as was the case at several other universities.

During the 1950s, as in subsequent decades, there were a number of student activists in both centres. In Pietermaritzburg these included Hans Meidner, subsequently a member of staff, Derick Marsh and John Mitchell. A few radical students joined the Congress of Democrats. As Michael Nuttall recalled, the Debating Society and recently formed Political Thinkers Club, both of which he chaired for a time, provided forums for the expression of all political views as well as avenues toward active involvement. In his own case and that of Charles Parry it led to membership of the new Liberal Party. Michael Cottrell and others also joined the party after fellow student Jonathan Paton, son of NUC alumnus Alan Paton, made them realise that, much as they admired Jan Smuts and Jan Hofmeyr, ‘opposition politicians were not addressing the key issue of inequality and injustice’ in South Africa.

There was little opportunity for students on different campuses to interact with each other, apart from a series of annual students’ conferences attended by only a few representatives. Despite the occasional inter-campus raids, few actually had private means of transport even if they had wanted to visit the other campuses. For a few years, beginning in 1958, Freshers and Freshettes from Howard College were shown over the Medical School. The author recalls this as an enlightening experience, but an intended reciprocal arrangement did not materialise. Shared political concerns brought campus SRC and NUSAS leaders together from time to time and gave them some insight into conditions on the University’s other campuses in a way that the annual Rag, its inter-city marathon relay race and annual sports tournaments could not really do for students in general.

In addition to three SRCs (Pietermaritzburg, Howard College and ‘non-European’) there was, as before, a Joint Board of SRCs with its own charter to discuss matters of common interest and, where necessary, make representations to the University authorities. The University’s rejection of the ‘non-European’ SRC’s formal representations in 1955 for a separate SRC for medical students was followed by the refusal of another suggestion from the same quarter that there should really be only one SRC to represent all students in Durban.

Staff members sometimes became involved in student politics and they generally had more opportunities to interact with their colleagues on other campuses. These contacts were also usually limited, but some led to political activity. Fleur Webb recalled that in 1954, when she took up a temporary, part-time post in Durban, Elizabeth Sneddon had already warned her residence
girls against the group of young ‘lefties’ on the staff who Webb befriended. They included Violaine Junod (French), Anthony de Crespigny (Politics), his wife Caroline, Graham Neame (History) and, later, Colin Webb (History) whom Fleur married. From time to time their home at Tiger Flats in Isipingo was a safe haven for political refugees, including Alan and Dorrie Paton with whom they became good friends.

The still relatively small campuses in both centres also provided students with opportunities to establish close friendships, whatever the activities in which they were involved. This was especially the case in Pietermaritzburg where, as Sylvia Vietzen has pointed out, ‘the contained campus meant we knew nearly everyone’. Jack Frost recalled that his years on campus dramatically revised his early fundamentalist religious belief and ‘vague, uncritical acceptance of United Party-style political views’. Despite the insularity of his ‘Maritzburg of the fifties … it was a Maritzburg which gave me my tertiary education, enlarged my vision and set me upon the road to be what I have become’.

Charles Parry discovered through the same campus ‘an exciting new world opening up far beyond the bounds known at school, with very interesting fellow students and staff … Lots of arguing about politics, religion, and ethical issues – we were all learning along the way.’ There were also lively disagreements with the strong contingent of white Rhodesians on campus. They readily recognised South Africa’s political shortcomings under mounting apartheid legislation, but most could see no fault in the governance of their own country.

After an academic career that involved teaching in seven different universities in different parts of the world, Ian Thompson concluded that the Pietermaritzburg campus ‘realised to a remarkable degree the ideals of a liberal arts college and offered a remarkably balanced and rounded introduction to global culture. It was a mind-expanding and life-changing experience to have been an undergraduate there in the 50s.’

Much the same was true at Howard College, even for full-time oppidani students, though perhaps less so for white and black part-timers oscillating between workplace and lectures and for the University’s medical trainees who were confined to the remote Wentworth hostel and to the teaching facilities in Umbilo Road.

Tess Marsh, along with fellow students and some staff members, expressed their political views by joining the Black Sash, participating in silent vigils whenever a Cabinet minister was in town and writing letters to national newspapers protesting against apartheid legislation. Despite these overarching
concerns, she participated in numerous other campus activities and remembered her student days in Pietermaritzburg as ‘liberating, happy and fulfilling’.

There were also many, particularly white, students in both centres who remained politically naive and were simply not interested in the great political issues of the day or even in on-campus student politics. Farm boy Eckard Kassier recalled keeping to his father’s successful dictum ‘work hard and play hard’ in completing his M.Sc. (Agric.). Jenny Hobbs remembered that academic failure and ‘dropping out’ were not options to a perceived future of ‘hard work, steady jobs and raising families’. While on campus ‘most of us were too busy enjoying being students to notice what was happening under the pleasant surface of our 50s white lives … we must have been the last generation for whom life seemed to stretch ahead like a golden highway.’

Michael Nuttall recalled that, indeed, most students ‘were indifferent to the critical situation that was emerging in our country, but for a significant minority this was not so’. Much the same could be said of the University’s staff at that time, preoccupied as many were primarily with teaching and research.

Chris Dodson conceded that he and his Ag Fac friends ‘did not take life too seriously in our teens and early twenties although we were exposed to seriously committed activists like Derick Marsh and Hans Meidner who were subsequently both imprisoned for their liberal views’. As Wendy Vineall recalled of her student days in Pietermaritzburg, many ‘were there to concentrate on ourselves’. Apart from the intrusion of the 1957 worldwide Asian flu epidemic

We were, in a way, cocooned from much that was happening around us in our own province, in our own country and to some extent in the outside world … There was a closeness, a sense of belonging. When the cocoon eventually released us into the outside world, it was the friendships that remained, in minds honed for future adventures by years of an extraordinary, graceful culture.16

For such students the cocoon of their relatively sheltered existence on campus was rudely invaded by ‘the outside world’ in the late 1950s when the formal apartheid legislation that had been steadily enveloping and transforming South African society for a decade directly threatened that measure of academic autonomy the University of Natal had previously enjoyed. It took the form in 1959 of the cynically named Extension of University Education Act.

ENDNOTES

1 UKZNA Council Minutes: Annual report of the Council and Senate, 1949: 3–4; UKZNA University of Natal Calendars 1951–1957: Annual report of the Council and Senate, 1949:


14 August 2013; Charles Parry, response to questionnaire, 31 May 2013; Colin Gardner, response to questionnaire, 27 April 2013; Keith Hunt, correspondence, 7 February 2014; Michael Cottrell, e-mail, 20 January 2015; Robin Lamplough, 17 February 2015, attaching his ‘A sprog at Oribi’.

6 KCML Malherbe Papers: File 452/6 KCM 56977 (135) Malherbe to Brookes, 1 December 1958; UKZNA BIO-S 868/1/1 S.E. Drewes; Wendy Vineall, response to questionnaire, 18 April 2013; John Deane, response to questionnaire, 2 May 2013 and e-mail, 11 February 2015; Jack Frost, response to questionnaire, 5 May 2013 and e-mail, 6 March 2014; Athol Swainston-Harrison, response to questionnaire, 1 May 2013; Fleur Webb, interviews, 13 and 20 November 2013; Bill Guest, reminiscences, 20 January 2014; Pat McKenzie, response to questionnaire, 22 April 2013; Sylvia Vietzen, response to questionnaire, 7 May 2013 and telephone call, 25 January 2015; Brian Bush, response to questionnaire, 18 September 2013; Michael Nuttall, response to questionnaire, 12 June 2013; Llewellyn Alexander, response to questionnaire, 21 August 2013; Chris Dodson, response to questionnaire, 29 March 2013; Bill Guest, reminiscences, 20 January 2014; Tess Marsh, response to questionnaire, 28 April 2013; Eckard Kassier, response to questionnaire, 13 May 2013; Dave Donkin, response to questionnaire, 14 August 2013; Anne l’Ons, response to questionnaire, 1 June 2013; Charles Parry, response to questionnaire, 31 May 2013; Ron Nicolson, response to questionnaire, 23 April 2013; Colin Gardner, response to questionnaire, 27 April 2013; Ian Thompson, response to questionnaire, 1 May 2013; Tony Cubbin, response to questionnaire, 9 May 2013; Patricia Macleod, response to questionnaire, 19 April 2015; Keith Hunt, correspondence, 7 February 2014; Michael Cottrell, e-mails, 19, 20 January and 9 February 2015, attaching Lorraine Raab, ‘1950s student and staff exhibition’; Andre Goosen, e-mail, 4 April 2015.


Vineall, response to questionnaire, 18 April 2013; John Deane, response to questionnaire, 2 May 2013 and e-mail, 11 February 2015; Jack Frost, response to questionnaire, 5 May 2013; Pat McKenzie, response to questionnaire, 22 April 2013; Fleur Webb, interviews, 13 and 20 November 2013; Sylvia Vietzen, response to questionnaire, 7 May 2014; Brian Bush, response to questionnaire, 18 September 2013; Llewellyn Alexander, response to questionnaire, 21 August 2013; Dave Donkin, response to questionnaire, 14 August 2013; Ron Nicolson, response to questionnaire, 23 April 2013; Ian Thompson, response to questionnaire, 1 May 2013.


Student pool party at the then pristine pool attached to the Men’s Residence in Oribi on a pleasant, sunny afternoon in February 1955. In those days students contemplating taking the University Education Diploma after completing their degrees were required to do an introductory three-week course before the opening of the academic year. This was known as ‘Little Dip’ and was usually done at the beginning of one’s second year. It was not at all arduous, which explains why it was possible to organise a swimming party. The Oribi pool was a legacy of the Occupational Therapy Department of the wartime military hospital.

Left to right: Jill Sherratt, Elaine Coleman (Dodson) (deceased, 2008), Wendy Kitchin (Vineall), Galen Downes, Ethelwynne Ahrens (Van Eck), June Smith (Smith), Jack Frost, Ted Brien, Mike Clarke (with sunglasses), Pat Levey (with hat), and Arthur Galanos (leaning against pole).

The picture was taken by the late Dr Vic von Brunn, head of the Geology Department on the Pietermaritzburg campus for many years, who was then a second-year student.
IN JANUARY 1957, two months before its first intake of black medical students graduated, the Executive of the University of Natal received devastating news. It came, not from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Science but from confidential notices sent to Natal representatives on the Council and Senate of UNISA. An extraordinary meeting of the latter’s Council was to be held the following month to consider the government’s request for that institution to serve as the examining body of the Faculty of Medicine in Durban and also for a proposed new ‘non-European’ college.

On 24 January Malherbe’s vigorous protests elicited a brusque confirmation of these proposals from the Secretary of Education coupled with a similarly blunt request for co-operation in effecting the planned transfer. It marked the beginning of a desperate campaign to protect the University of Natal’s autonomous control both of its hard-won blacks-only Faculty of Medicine and of its twenty-year-old segregated non-medical Non-European Section.1 It experienced mixed fortunes in that regard, sweetened to some extent in 1960 by its highly successful Jubilee celebrations.

The Extension of University Education Act, 1959

Some, though not all, members of the University community had been aware of the steady advance of state interference as the National Party government, which came to power in May 1948, implemented a series of interlocking laws designed to effect the ideal of complete racial segregation in all aspects of South African life. As Bruce Murray has pointed out in his history of Wits, the 1953 Bantu Education Act initiated that process in primary and secondary school education by closing mission schools and placing African education at those levels under the control of the increasingly influential Dr H.F. (Hendrik) Verwoerd’s central Department of Native Affairs.

For some years government clearly wrestled with the issue of black tertiary education, hinting that the ‘open’ universities, UCT and Wits, might only be obliged to establish separate sections for ‘non-Europeans’, following the
example of Natal, rather than excluding them altogether. The momentum towards new apartheid legislation covering that aspect of South African life was slow, but inexorable. In 1948 Prime Minister D.F. (Daniel) Malan aroused serious misgivings when he declared that the absence of segregation at the ‘open’ universities was unacceptable. No immediate action followed, but in 1949 the University of Natal’s Senate expressed its concern about proposals contained in the report of a Commission on Technical and Vocational Education that referred to a ‘new national scheme of education’.

That year, in response to the government Commission on Native Education’s request for a memorandum, Tom Kelly, Mabel Palmer and Otto Jensen were delegated to compile an account of the contribution the University of Natal had hitherto made in that regard. Later in 1949 Professor Rabie Saunders, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, was nominated to represent the University on the Education Department’s committee appointed to investigate the promising, but ultimately unsuccessful, possibility of training black veterinary and/or general agricultural assistants.

In 1950 government announced that henceforth no ‘non-Europeans’ from outside the country were to be admitted to any South African universities, or at any other educational level, because ‘the educational facilities for the native population in the Union are inadequate’. Some, like NUSAS president Phillip Tobias, accurately interpreted this as a prelude to prohibiting the access of all blacks to the country’s existing universities. The University of Natal’s Senex was shocked at government’s decision but, in the interim, foreign students were advised that they would be accepted at the University provided they gained admission into South Africa.

In 1951 the University was still hopeful that government might at least allow the admission of local white postgraduate students to its new School of Medicine, or what from 1955 was known as the Faculty of Medicine. That expectation was soon dashed as the National Party’s segregationist ideology gathered momentum. For the foreseeable future white Natalians who aspired to medical careers would continue to train at both undergraduate and postgraduate level elsewhere.

Two years later, following representations, government did agree to the admission of ‘non-European’ students from ‘the Rhodesias and the British Protectorates’ to Fort Hare University College and the University of Natal’s Faculty of Medicine for the period 1954–1958. This was conditional upon the full payment of their fees, an additional £30 (R60) per student payable to the institution concerned, the repatriation of any students who engaged in
‘agitation’, and a ban on exclusion of any local black student to make room for foreigners.

In December 1953, following the National Party’s increased majority in the general election of that year, Prime Minister Malan again declared that racial intermingling at UCT and Wits was contrary to government’s apartheid policy and that a commission had been appointed to investigate this issue. In April 1954 the government Commission of Enquiry into Separate University Facilities for Non-Europeans (the second Holloway Commission, 1954–1955) visited Durban as part of its tour of all the Union’s universities. Its chairman, Dr J.E. Holloway (the other members being E.G. Malherbe and Dr R.W. Wilcocks, former principal of Stellenbosch) stressed that their brief was not to consider the desirability of separate facilities but their financial implications. Malherbe for one was convinced that the politically moderate Minister of Education, Arts and Science, J.H. Viljoen, was still reluctant to deprive the ‘open’ universities of their black students, even though they practised, as Murray has highlighted, a somewhat contradictory policy of ‘academic non-segregation’ and ‘social segregation’.

The University of Natal’s memorandum to the commission confined itself to the prevailing practicalities of conducting separate classes for blacks and whites in the same institution and the difficulties arising from the Group Areas Act in attempting to do so. It pressed for the construction of a new building for its own ‘non-European’ part-time classes because the existing facilities for that purpose were grossly inadequate. It urged that this be provided close to the City Buildings currently used for whites as that area was convenient for trains and buses and would reduce commuter time between classes for lecturers, thereby obviating the need to appoint an entirely separate staff complement.

The University argued further that such an arrangement should be regarded as an interim measure towards the eventual provision of entirely ‘equal and parallel facilities’ for ‘non-Europeans’, including hostels and playing fields. This would make it possible to vacate the inadequate accommodation currently used at Wentworth for medical trainees and at Sastri College for non-medical students. The facilities provided should conform in every respect to ‘a standard compatible with the ideals of a true university’, a condition which, it was conceded, was still ‘very far from being satisfied in Durban’. The classrooms at Sastri were too small and only available in the late afternoon, adults had to squeeze into desks designed for schoolchildren, there were no laboratories in which to offer science courses, the library had reached its capacity in terms of storage and reading room space, and there was no student refectory.
Special financial allowances would have to be made for the completion of such a campus in the city and wherever else others might be established. In addition, bursaries would have to be provided for needy students as well as a ‘special annual subsidy’ to enable the University to run its separate Non-European Section efficiently. What had earlier been dubbed the Natal Experiment was clearly the option punted in the University’s memorandum, in preference to the establishment of more expensive and entirely separate university colleges for ‘non-Europeans’.

Possibly due to Malherbe’s presence on it, this also seemed to be the commission’s preference when, at last, on 17 September 1954 its Report on Separate University Facilities for Non-Europeans was published. Indeed, as Patricia Anne Esselaar’s dissertation on his principalship has suggested, Malherbe had served on the commission in the hope of influencing it to that end. The report concluded that financially the most practical way to achieve separation would be, with some exceptions (notably postgraduates), to concentrate ‘non-European’ students from UCT and Wits at Natal and Fort Hare with compensation provided for the additional costs they would be obliged to incur.

By contrast, Verwoerd’s Department of Native Affairs had argued that ‘Bantu’ universities should be established in the native reserves. Further, that they should not strive for equality with existing universities but confine themselves to training in those spheres in which Africans could expect to gain employment and that they should ultimately be staffed entirely by Africans. The University of Pretoria proposed the establishment of a new university for ‘Northern Bantu’ under its guardianship and another for coloureds under that of Stellenbosch; while Fort Hare should be developed for the ‘Southern Bantu’ under the control of Rhodes and Natal should provide for the Indian community.

Following the release of this report the government’s response was ‘anxiously awaited’. Misgivings were temporarily allayed after the commission, like the preceding 1951–1953 first Holloway Commission of Enquiry into University Finances, had stressed the need to avoid interfering with the principle of university autonomy. It soon became clear that this was not the prevailing opinion at Cabinet level when J.G. Strijdom’s hardline government, in which Verwoerd played an increasingly influential role, rejected the report and in 1955 appointed an inter-departmental committee to devise plans for the implementation of academic apartheid.
That committee neither consulted the universities nor submitted its findings to them for comment. In March 1956 the minister evaded an enquiry as to the intended future of Natal’s Faculty of Medicine on the grounds that the matter was *sub judice* and only in November of that year did Malherbe receive an unofficial indication that control was to be transferred to a government department. The NPA, which had been heavily involved in establishing the Faculty, reacted so unfavourably that the president of the Medical Council met the provincial executive committee in December 1956, and agreed to make mediating representations to Cabinet.

Meanwhile, at its July 1956 conference in Pietermaritzburg, NUSAS undertook to co-ordinate student protest against the impending imposition of university apartheid and the UCT and Wits SRCs were to establish standing committees to defend university autonomy. In January 1957 senior academics and Council members of those two ‘open’ universities held a joint conference to discuss the broader threat to academic freedom in South Africa. They subsequently published a booklet, based on the papers presented there (*The Open Universities in South Africa*) in a vain attempt to justify the value of those institutions to the country and plead for the continued autonomy of all its universities.

The Secretary of Education’s aforementioned letter of 24 January 1957 to Malherbe simply confirmed the government’s intention to place Durban’s Faculty of Medicine in the academic care of UNISA. It was a wholly unsuitable alternative as UNISA was then only an examining body that would not have been able to provide the professional support the Faculty enjoyed from the University of Natal and, in particular, its Faculty of Science.

On 1 February heads of department from all over the University of Natal published their resolve to ‘stand together with our medical colleagues in opposition to the invasion of University independence, the degradation of academic status and the breach of faith to both staff and students’. On 12 February an emergency meeting of the University of Natal’s Council declared its opposition to the proposed removal of its Medical Faculty and of all other ‘non-European’ classes from its control. It also protested against the disregard for the University’s autonomy implied in these measures and empowered the chairman of Council, the Principal and the dean of the Faculty of Medicine to request an interview with the Prime Minister as soon as possible.

The chairman of Council, George Campbell, had already described the proposed legislation as ‘disheartening’ but affirmed the University community’s vigorous opposition to it:
The staff and students of this University, and more particularly those who have been placed in the position of trustees of this institution, have obligations which they can neither ignore nor shirk; obligations which any university cannot, consistently with its honourable name and its rightful place in the community of scholarship, sacrifice to passing prejudices. We in the university must be ever on the alert to challenge anything which constitutes a threat to our independence.²

Two days after Council’s emergency meeting the dean, Professor Isidor Gordon, and six senior members of the Faculty of Medicine issued a more detailed objection to the proposed transfer. They pointed out that the inter-departmental committee on whose advice the decision had avowedly been taken had never interviewed anybody at the University of Natal, that the minister had refused

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**Isidor (Okkie) Gordon** matriculated at the South African College School in Cape Town and in 1935 qualified in Medicine at UCT after completing his internship at the New Somerset Hospital. He commenced his career two years later as assistant pathologist and lecturer in his alma mater’s Department of Pathology, with a particular interest in Forensic Medicine. After a brief period in general practice in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) he returned to the Cape to lecture in Forensic Medicine and serve in the state Health Department. In 1946 he was appointed senior government pathologist and officer-in-charge of the state Pathology Department in Durban and in 1953 first professor of Pathology at the Medical School. In 1955 he began an eventful sixteen-year stint as dean during which he stoutly defended the new Faculty against government interference. From that date he was also a member of the South African Medical and Dental Council and for 23 years served on the joint standing advisory committee that co-ordinated the interests of the province and University in managing the Faculty of Medicine.

In addition, Gordon found time to publish important, internationally recognised research on aspects of the theory and conduct of Forensic Medicine, some in collaboration with H.A. (Hillel) Shapiro, and on Medical Education. Following his retirement in 1978 he became emeritus professor of Forensic Medicine after being awarded several other accolades during the course of his career. These included, from 1955, a visiting professorship in Forensic Medicine at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, honorary degrees from the University of Natal and UNISA, fellowships and council membership of both the South African College of Medicine and the Royal Society of South Africa and the silver medal and life membership of the Medical Association of South Africa. In his retirement he satisfied a lifelong personal interest by being awarded an MA for a thesis on the early history of the Israelites.
to publish its report and that in 1955 the government had given its assurance it would not interfere with the University’s development of the School. Two days later the Natal Coastal branch of the Medical Association of South Africa described the proposal as an ‘act of piracy’ and crucially hinted that local doctors, whose co-operation was vital to the continued success of the Faculty, might withdraw their involvement in it. Next day the minister refuted what he regarded as unfounded misgivings about future academic standards and gave the assurance that ‘everything would go on as before’.

There were further protests from UCT’s Faculty of Medicine and from various English-language newspapers. The University of Natal’s deputation met the Minister of Education on 20 February to plead its cause and the following day the Natal Provincial Executive, which government had also not bothered to consult, advised the minister of its decision to freeze all joint appointments in the Faculty of Medicine. In effect, this threatened a cessation of teaching at the adjacent hospital. Malherbe pointed out in a newspaper article that the University of Natal already offered segregated classes for blacks and whites and that its Medical Faculty constituted ‘the most successful experiment in University apartheid’. Indeed, in view of its own segregationist history, his argument was not against segregation but a defence of the University’s autonomy.

Nevertheless, on 26 February 1957 the Minister of Arts, Education and Science, J.H. Viljoen, informed him that no exception would be made to the policy of separate universities for ‘non-Europeans’ in the case of Natal’s Faculty of Medicine. On 11 March Malherbe responded by arguing that this ‘disastrous’ and ‘arbitrary’ step was being taken without offering any explanation as to how ‘non-European’ medical training would benefit and that he would continue to solicit public support against the minister’s proposal ‘in the hope that ultimately the common sense of reasonable people will prevail’.

On the same day the minister officially unveiled his Separate University Education Bill. It confirmed his intention to remove the Faculty of Medicine from the University of Natal’s control to that of the Department of Bantu Education, with UNISA serving as its examining body, and to shut down the Non-European Section. Further, he planned to disaffiliate the University College of Fort Hare from Rhodes University, entrusting it to the tender care of Verwoerd’s Department of Native Affairs and to deprive the ‘open’ universities of their right to admit black students without ministerial permission.

A series of new state-controlled colleges for the various ethnic sectors of South Africa’s ‘non-White’ population was to be established, including Indian
and coloured students. The ‘Bantu’ colleges were all to be under the control of the Minister of Native Affairs and those for ‘non-Whites’ under that of Education, with UNISA serving as examining body. Members of staff in these new institutions were to be subject to the civil service code. In losing its Faculty of Medicine and its Non-European Section, Natal was scheduled to forfeit 20% of its registered students.

The South African Medical Council appealed to the ministers of Education and Health to consider the implications of this legislation and conveyed to them the resolutions the Durban Faculty of Medicine’s staff had taken on 18 and 19 March. Its full-time employees had courageously resolved by 29 votes to two in a secret ballot to resign if the clauses in the Bill pertaining to the Faculty were implemented. The 26 part-timers who recorded their votes unanimously decided in that event not to continue assisting with teaching. Supported by the black student body, all were opposed not only to the proposed removal of control from the University of Natal but also to the prospect of being treated in future as civil servants rather than professionals.

These resolutions were again presented to the minister when, on 22 March 1957, the University’s Council and Senate issued a joint protest against what they regarded as ‘a flagrant breach of the principle of University autonomy and as a grave assault upon academic freedom’. They also objected to the fact that these proposals had not been discussed with the University prior to submission to Parliament and that they amounted to ‘a high-handed abrogation of the conditions of service of the staff of the Medical School’. A special meeting of Senate identified with these sentiments. It resolved to establish a Committee on University Autonomy and Academic Freedom to enlighten the public about the University’s views on the Bill and to associate itself with the actions UCT and Wits had proposed in this regard.

Unlike them, in view of its already established segregationist structure, Natal’s objection to the new legislation necessarily continued to be focused on the principle of university autonomy rather than on a rejection of segregation. The Federal Council of the Medical Association of South Africa appealed to government to reconsider its decision while the University’s SRCs and student newspapers, along with NUSAS and various civic organisations, including the South African Institute of Race Relations and the Black Sash, joined the chorus of dissent.

The offending Bill was then withdrawn, due partly to the storm it raised in its original form and representations made to the minister from various quarters. The threat of en masse resignation of staff at the Faculty of Medicine had
not been anticipated and it was not government’s intention to close it down, especially with the 1958 general election imminent. The Bill’s withdrawal may also have been prompted by P.A. Moore’s intention to invoke a parliamentary rule in terms of which the progress of a hybrid Bill such as this, affecting not only public but also private interests (in this case those of the Faculty of Medicine and of Fort Hare), could be delayed until it had been published in the *Government Gazette* and referred to a select committee after its second reading.

On 8 April 1957 the Bill was re-introduced to Parliament in a revised version with its hybrid nature removed to make it a conventional public bill by excluding any reference to the Faculty of Medicine or to the University College of Fort Hare. The minister explained that these were now to be dealt with by means of subsequent legislation.

Malherbe continued to lobby members of Parliament, supply them with information, liaise with UCT and Wits and speak at public forums. Geoffrey Durrant translated Malherbe’s cautionary 1957 publication, *Die Outonomie van Ons Universiteite en Apartheid* (*The Autonomy of Our Universities and Apartheid*) into English and it was widely distributed among members of Parliament and university staff members. Amidst the criticism it did elicit a number of supportive responses. They included that of Owen Horwood, Malherbe’s eventual successor as Principal who was later to demonstrate increasing sympathy with government policy before joining the National Party Cabinet. In May 1957 he described Malherbe’s defence of university autonomy as ‘a compelling and convincing statement and deserves the close attention of everyone concerned, the Government most of all. I must say I find it very heartening to see how you continue to stand up against the powers of evil in our fair land’. With regard to the threatened removal of the Faculty of Medicine from the University of Natal’s control, Horwood added: ‘One can only hope that wiser counsels will prevail in good time.’

Parliament’s delay in deciding the fate of Fort Hare and the Faculty of Medicine may not have helped the cause of the former, but it did assist the latter in gathering more support. British medical school professors and the internationally renowned journal *The Lancet* also condemned the government’s avowed intentions. On 1 May the Faculty of Medicine unanimously and publicly re-affirmed its unwillingness to co-operate with any attempt to remove it from the University of Natal. A meeting of 76 full- and part-time staff members of the Faculty confirmed their threat to resign after hearing the Minister of Education’s argument in favour of transfer. In addition, staff members
addressed public meetings in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, the Students Defence Committee in the latter centre raised a petition, representatives attended an inter-SRC conference in Johannesburg, and Council authorised University representation at the 21 May mass protest march the University of the Witwatersrand organised in Johannesburg.

The Minister of Education was convinced that communist-inspired agitators were manipulating the opposition to his proposals and that Malherbe was leading the resistance in Natal. On 27 May, at the second reading of the revised Bill, he faced vigorous criticism from the opposition benches when he announced that the Faculty of Medicine would remain under the control of the University of Natal, but that only Indian and coloured students would henceforth be admitted to it. This was far from a complete victory for the University, but a significant step in the right direction.

The Parliamentary Select Committee appointed on 28 May to consider the Bill further after the second reading in effect became a new Separate Universities Commission. When it visited the Faculty of Medicine that month a joint Council/Senate action committee presented the University’s ‘Summary of evidence’. In several respects this document, from which some conservative members of Council had disassociated themselves, echoed Malherbe’s earlier booklet on *The Autonomy of Our Universities and Apartheid* and focused on the importance of academic standards.

It assumed that the principle of segregation was no longer open to debate after being accepted by Parliament, but that it was government’s intention to ensure that ‘the proposed “non-white” university colleges will conform to those accepted academic traditions that ensure their proper functioning as true universities in no way inferior to existing South African universities’. It expressed the conviction that the proposed segregationist framework ‘seriously jeopardises the attainment of this objective’ but limited itself to criticising detailed provisions in the Bill that did ‘not accord with the fundamental requirements of a true university’.

With regard to the management and control of the proposed new institutions, the University’s presentation questioned the government’s sole right to nominate Council members and select their chairmen, and to limit their meaningful authority so much as to make them inferior to existing university councils. It also, *inter alia*, questioned the extent of the minister’s authority over principals and academic staff, and to refuse students admission to any particular course. Not least, it opposed the proposal to place ‘non-white’ higher education under the control of the Minister of Native Affairs.
As far as the financial aspects of the Bill were concerned, the University of Natal regarded the establishment of separate colleges both unaffordable and unwarranted when there were already adequate facilities to provide the necessary training at less than half the cost. It criticised the potentially ‘disastrous’ establishment of ‘Bantu’ colleges in remote rural areas where access would prove unaffordable for blacks living in urban and peri-urban areas. It considered it unlikely that given their conditions of service and disciplinary provisions, these institutions would attract ‘the best staff’ in competition with other universities. Further, it argued that it would prove impossible to maintain adequate academic standards in view of the quality of staff that the colleges would attract and it insisted that control of curricula and instruction should be vested in the new senates and councils rather than in the minister.

The University demanded that its Faculty of Medicine should be excluded from all the provisions of the Bill. Further, that if it was to lose its Non-European Section it should be compensated for the consequent loss of state subsidy as it had engaged extra lecturers to provide separate instruction there at an annual cost (in 1957) of £33 000 (R66 000) and would be obliged to retain them until resignation or retirement.

In November 1957 Malherbe argued at a meeting in London that if the purpose of the new legislation was solely to segregate the races at university level, Fort Hare and the Non-European Section of the University of Natal could still be constituted as separate institutions by Act of Parliament. He suspected that the real intention was also to establish direct government control and determination of all tertiary education. This, he insisted, posed a threat not only to those universities open to all races (UCT and Wits), but ultimately also to the Afrikaans-medium institutions that supported government policy and already practised racial exclusion.

While Convocation members on the staff of UCT and Wits had represented the University of Natal in protest marches held in Cape Town and Johannesburg against the proposed legislation, the strong conservative lobby in the University’s own Council, with J.L. Boshoff, R. Butcher, H.H. Cornell and J.G.M. Richter to the fore, effectively delayed similar action in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. In November 1957 the frustrated University Lecturers Association vainly expressed its disapproval of Council’s restraint and declared academic staff preference for ‘active participation in the struggle’.

In January 1958 the more independent Convocation sent a formal resolution to the Minister of Education condemning the proposals contained in the Separate Universities Bill and reaffirming its conviction that ‘the only system
compatible with the accepted ideals of university education is that no form of
discrimination should be practised on the basis of race, creed or colour”. The
following month, lest he had any doubts about its position, the Administrator
of Natal advised the Minister of Education of his Executive Committee’s
unwillingness to continue joint maintenance of the Faculty of Medicine with
any educational institution other than the University of Natal.3

On 7 May 1958 Malherbe, Faculty dean Isidor Gordon and the head of
the Department of Bantu Studies, Jacob Krige, presented further evidence
to the Commission on the Separate Universities Education Bill in Pretoria.
The latter body’s terms of reference necessarily confined its observations to
the detailed provisions of the Bill instead of questioning the over-arching
principle of separate university institutions. Malherbe nevertheless took the
opportunity to describe what he regarded as the successful system of equal
standard segregated classes that had operated in Durban since the mid-1930s.
He declared that the University had ‘advanced empirically … to do the best it
could in all the circumstances without shackling itself with a priori principles
of separation or non-separation’.

Krige confirmed that, language difficulties aside, there were few differences
in undergraduate classes and none at all at postgraduate level. Gordon pointed
out that students at Natal’s Faculty of Medicine enjoyed a far wider-ranging
curriculum than those offered elsewhere and had to meet high academic
standards that should not be disturbed by the proposed new pattern of tertiary
education. Within six years a standard of teaching and research had been
achieved that was the equal of all the other medical schools. This would
collapse if, as suggested, the Faculty of Medicine was to be put ‘in isolation
outside a true university institution’ and it would then be impossible to retain
credible staff.

It was argued that this would also be the case if the proposed new ‘non-
European’ colleges were not attached to established institutions, instead of
being state controlled, so that the teaching staff could become ‘members of
a true university’. Like UNISA’s former constituent colleges, they needed to
be ‘an indigenous growth evolving from existing institutions which had their
roots in the community’ instead of being imposed from above. Malherbe and
his colleagues deplored the lack of consultation preceding the initial introduction
of the Bill and argued that this ‘unseemly haste’ had catapulted the matter
into ‘the political arena’, aroused black suspicions and discredited the country
abroad.
On 12 August 1958 the report of the Separate Universities Commission was tabled in Parliament. The commission divided along National and United Party lines, submitting majority and minority reports with the former largely ignoring the pleas of Natal, UCT and Wits. The latter report accepted the government’s proposal to establish separate ‘non-White’ colleges, but insisted on management and control along the same lines applied to South Africa’s other universities with authority vested in their respective councils.

There were further modifications to what was now paradoxically named the Extension of University Education Bill in its final form. Following the increased National Party majority in the 1958 general election and Verwoerd’s accession as Prime Minister, these were all intended to ensure tighter state control and the effective implementation of apartheid ideology. From the University of Natal’s perspective there was at least now firm agreement on the fate of its Faculty of Medicine.

Nevertheless, the SRC and student body on the Howard College campus pressed for some form of active protest against the threat the Bill still represented to the autonomy of all universities in South Africa. It suggested suspending classes for a day in order to hold a ‘dignified assembly’ along the lines of a graduation ceremony. A special September 1958 edition of their newspaper *The Dome* carried the large headline ‘Hands off our Universities’ and featured several pertinent articles by members of staff while NUC alumnus Alan Paton, among others, addressed a public meeting in the Howard College Main Hall.

On 23 January 1959 the University’s Lecturers Association expressed its unambiguous opposition to the proposed legislation in a letter to the *Daily News*, signed by its chairman, Commerce lecturer Ian Allan. In April that year, after further pressure from the Lecturers Association and consultations involving students, Council, Senate and Convocation, protest marches and City Hall meetings were held in Pietermaritzburg and Durban. These involved more than 1 000 members of the University community, led and addressed by prominent members of staff and the public. Rhodes University also organised a march while similar protests at UCT and Wits highlighted an ‘affirmation and dedication’ document the Open Universities Liaison Committee had prepared to confirm their commitment to a non-racial admissions policy and to the restoration of their autonomy.

The Durban SRC expressed its disappointment with the muted protests of the University of Natal’s own Joint Academic Freedom Committee (AFC). In September Senate considered a further student proposal to install a plaque or
similar prominent memorial to the loss of academic freedom South Africa’s universities were about to suffer. Instead, it opted for an annual rededication ceremony in consultation with the staff, students and members of Convocation and it was only in March 1963 that the suggested plaque was eventually unveiled.

The fate of the University College of Fort Hare was not entirely forgotten. Senate protested its transfer to the new Department of Bantu Education, along with the other ‘Bantu’ colleges, as well as the arbitrary dismissal of eight dissenting staff members there. It subsequently established a special Fellowship Fund to finance the services of these scholars at the University of Natal until such time as they were able to find permanent posts elsewhere. While this initiative evoked warm congratulations from the Wits SRC and NUSAS two fellowships to the value of £1 000 (R2 000) each were funded primarily by means of staff contributions, with the expectation that similar arrangements would be made at other sympathetic institutions. Nearly R6 000 was raised, including a small contribution from the American Association of University Professors, before the fund was closed in mid-1961 and the credit balance eventually donated to the NUDF.

Closer to home, as the country’s political climate intensified amid rumours of police spies on campus and warnings that any further student demonstrations would lead to arrests, a Staff Relief Fund was also initiated to assist those of the University’s own employees and students already arrested under the new Emergency Regulations. Council undertook to continue paying the salaries of detained staff members, among the first of whom were Dr Hans Meidner, senior lecturer in Botany, Derick Marsh, senior lecturer in English and K.S. Hathorn, a member of a medical research unit linked to the Faculty of Medicine.

The Extension of University Education Act (45 of 1959) was enacted in June under a new National Party Prime Minister, Hendrik Verwoerd and a new Minister of Education, Arts and Science, J.J. (Jan) Serfontein, after a three-day debate was eventually curtailed in the House of Assembly and Senate. Its implementation on 1 January 1960 meant that henceforth all ‘non-Europeans’ who wished to study at UCT or Wits would have to gain permission from the Minister of Bantu Education. He now also assumed direct control of the University College of Fort Hare, admission to which was restricted to Xhosa-speaking blacks.

On 1 March 1960 two new university colleges, also under his control, were opened to confer degrees in Arts, Science and Education through UNISA. Turfloop in the Transvaal was intended to serve Sotho, Tsonga and Venda-
speaking blacks and Ngoye in Zululand the Zulu community. The minister was empowered to appoint, promote and dismiss staff under public service conditions of employment and he could refuse admission to any student. Examinations, degrees and diplomas were to be those of UNISA and no convocations were to be convened at the new university colleges through which grievances might be expressed. Separate university colleges for Indians and coloureds were to follow under the similar authority of the Minister of Coloured Affairs.

The Act constituted both a victory and a defeat for the University of Natal, whose immediate concern had always been to retain autonomous control of its black Faculty of Medicine and Non-European Section rather than for the broader protection of academic freedom. Self-interest was by no means unique among the English-language universities in this crisis. The University did, indeed, retain control of its blacks-only Faculty of Medicine, which in terms of section 32(1) was excluded from the prohibition on ‘non-white persons’ registering at ‘white’ universities.

The groundswell of resistance to this aspect of the original Bill, not least the brave threat of the Faculty’s staff to resign en masse and the objections of the NPA, seem to have had the desired effect. Moreover, the Faculty was again open to African as well as Indian and coloured students. In his old age Malherbe rallied once more to its defence when in 1976 the Faculty again came under threat from the government with a proposal to phase it out in favour of a new Medical UNISA (MEDUNSA) to be established in the Transvaal.

Unfortunately, the 1959 Extension of University Education Act also effectively shut down the University’s much older Non-European Section by allowing those black students already registered to complete their degrees, but prohibiting it from admitting any more without ministerial approval, other than to its Faculty of Medicine. The Act therefore constituted a major infringement of the University’s autonomy as it did that of all of South Africa’s universities, not least the hitherto ‘open’ universities, UCT and Wits.4

The Non-European Section
The origins and development of the University of Natal’s segregated classes for what were still termed ‘non-Europeans’ has already been examined elsewhere.5 After 1949 it continued, as it had done since the mid-1930s, to admit ‘non-European’ in addition to ‘European’ students to segregated non-medical courses. The University’s Charter and statutes entitled it to do so at its discretion, subject only to the conscience clause, which prohibited exclusions
Segregated facilities continued to be provided in terms of article 29(r) of the Charter, entitling the University to determine at which place under its control students might attend to receive instruction. Graduation ceremonies, like classes, also continued to be segregated despite the opposition of the Pietermaritzburg and joint SRCs.

The M.C. Botha/P.A. Duminy Commission Malherbe had appointed to consider future options for the University reported in 1951 that the Non-European Section was of ‘questionable academic value’ and caused an undesirable ‘dispersion of effort and activity’. Senate and Council agreed with its proposal that ideally a separate institution should be established for black tertiary students after their own Durban Difficulties Committee had confirmed the commission’s findings, but it favoured maintaining control of such a college. In the meantime, during the 1950s every effort was made to maintain the course offerings already available to ‘non-Europeans’ and, where possible, to add others despite ministerial disapproval and the financial constraints under which the University was then labouring.

Mabel Palmer complained privately to Malherbe that while the majority of ‘non-European’ students were BA majors most of the Arts Faculty departmental heads were not readily accessible, being based in Pietermaritzburg. Moreover, only Durrant (English) and Burrows (Economics) really showed any interest in them. Further, there was an urgent need for science and law courses while Professor John Ferguson’s lack of co-operation meant that education qualifications could not be offered and the bursaries available for prospective teachers were therefore not forthcoming. It was agreed that a minimum of ten students was required to justify any first-year course and in 1954 Speech and Drama more than justified this requirement with several former students boosting registrations by returning to take this course. In addition, Trevor Cope joined the staff to offer Special Zulu.

In 1952 Senate supported Mabel Palmer’s submission to the first Holloway Commission (1951–1953) on university finances that the Non-European Section needed to be accommodated in buildings near the city centre adequately equipped with classrooms, laboratories, an assembly hall, library, sports fields, and male and female hostels. It was an optimistic wish list. When it failed to elicit a favourable response, Senate proposed that Council should appeal to government to make special financial provision to enable the University to maintain ‘a proper standard of university education for Non-European students’. It was partly in response to Council’s subsequent request that the Minister of Education, Arts and Science appointed the second Holloway
Commission on Separate University Facilities for Non-Europeans (1954) to investigate the feasibility of doing so.

Registrations in the mid-1950s were still significant: 224 in 1953 compared with 384 at Fort Hare, 240 at UCT and 220 at Wits. In 1954 ‘non-Europeans’ constituted about 16% of student registrations at the University compared with approximately 5–6% at the ‘open’ universities. Pass rates in the University’s Non-European Section had improved from 49% in 1952 to 67% in 1954, excluding the pre-medical courses at Wentworth. That year the first examinations for the B.Ed. degree were at last held in Durban, with nine students passing, one with distinction. By then ‘non-European’ postgraduate students were already attending non-segregated classes in several subjects.

Unfortunately, in the same year the Non-European Section’s non-compulsory vacation school, held annually at Adams College, was finally cancelled after a 1948 peak of no less than 234 participants. The 1949 Durban riots initiated the decline, but thereafter students were less attracted by the school’s cultural and social aspects that had initially been considered so important. They saw it rather as an opportunity for intensive coaching by their regular lecturers in the subjects they were studying. Interest declined further when some key departments had difficulty supplying staff willing to sacrifice their July vacation while others could only offer student assistants. As Florence MacDonald put it, ‘so ended the most valuable teaching experiment in the history of these courses’.

In 1954 Alan Paton, by then internationally renowned for his book Cry, the Beloved Country, became chairman of Council’s Advisory Committee on Non-European Affairs. That year the committee lost a valued member with the death of Robbins Guma. He was a neighbour of Chief Albert Luthuli in the Groutville Mission Reserve and one of the Non-European Section’s first graduates before becoming the first African principal of a training college, Adams Mission, and then heading Lamontville Secondary School.

In August 1955 Ian Allan, lecturer in Business Administration, assumed the post of organiser, Non-European Section on a part-time basis in place of R.J. Randall who had briefly succeeded Mabel Palmer. Following her retirement due to failing eyesight, she continued to act in an advisory capacity to students and was appointed a life member of Senate’s Non-European Studies Committee. Her trusted secretarial assistant, Dorothy Kershaw, remained in office for another decade.

In the Palmer tradition, Allan furthered the interests of his charges as best he could. By 1955 there were more than 50 members of staff offering
courses in 24 subjects, but the only black personnel involved were Mr Njisane (Sociology) and the librarians, Mr Mbete and Miss Thabethe. Proposals to establish a School of Oriental Studies under Professor Leo Kuper were of particular interest to Indian students, but stymied by lack of sufficient funds and expertise. However, from that year a postgraduate University Education Diploma (UED) was at last available. In addition, the Faculty of Commerce provided first-year B.Comm. courses, subject to the requisite minimum of ten (later reduced to six) registrations.

Allan continued the campaign for improved facilities and argued for professional training in Law and the Sciences to be added to the available options. The Faculty of Law had already favoured this proposal, but Council had to await ministerial approval for the appointment of a senior lecturer and lecturer to run the courses. In 1958 the first ‘non-European’ students were eventually admitted to the postgraduate LLB classes, but those who completed the first year were left in the lurch when the minister refused to allow the programme to be developed further due to uncertainty surrounding the government’s plans for ‘non-European’ higher education.

The Faculty of Science, which had discussed the matter since 1949, argued that if the growing demand among ‘non-Europeans’, not least prospective teachers, for science courses was to be met effectively, ‘the only proper solution’ was to remove the colour bar, largely because staff and laboratories could not readily be duplicated. Engineering was not viable for the same

Ian Allan was born and schooled in Cape Town, beginning his career at the University of Natal in 1948 after war service at the behest of E.G. Malherbe who was his commanding officer, Army Education Services. He lectured in Business Administration and prior to his retirement in 1983 was appointed dean of Commerce and associate professor. In addition to his involvement in the Non-European Section, Allan also participated in the early development of the Medical School and served as secretary to two enquiries into it and King Edward VIII Hospital. From 1954 he was a member of Senate in various capacities, chaired the Lecturers Association and with SRC president Gordon Alexander initiated the Students Visiting Lecturers Trust Fund. An active sportsman, he served as chairman of the Durban campus Athletics Union, coached the Rugby Club’s 1st XV, refereed until he was 60 years old, was president of the Natal Rugby Referees Association and was a provincial hockey umpire.
reasons. Subsequently, when Council decided in 1956 to exclude ‘non-Europeans’ from a planned winter school for science teachers, this renewed the debate in Senate about academic non-segregation.

At a meeting in September 1956 Senate unanimously re-affirmed ‘the right of all universities to admit whomsoever they will’. Unconvincingly, by 25 votes to 19 with three abstentions, it also declared that the University of Natal should teach ‘in common classes to all academically qualified persons without distinction’. It thanked the Lecturers Association for a report that outlined the difficulties created by academic segregation for both staff and students, noting its unanimous resolution that this was ‘morally wrong’ and ‘grossly inefficient’. It could not argue with the reality that staff were exhausted by triplicated lectures, time spent travelling and extra administrative chores with little time left for reading and research. Moreover, ‘non-European’ students continued to struggle with inadequate facilities, limited course options and little experience of university life in the broadest sense.

Council postponed any action while it awaited notification of government’s intentions. Meanwhile Allan criticised the Science Faculty for not being decisive in going ahead with the much-needed courses at the risk of subsequent ministerial disapproval. When classes in Botany and Zoology were eventually launched in Durban those departments belatedly realised that they were unable to duplicate their third-year courses because they and the relevant field trips were based on the flora and fauna of the Pietermaritzburg area. As an alternative, the departments suggested developing a composite Biology III course that the Non-European Studies Committee found bitterly disappointing, demanding that Senate re-open the whole issue.

Due to the persistence of the Department of History and Political Science, the traditional weekend classes were phased out in favour of holding them all during weekday evenings. By then more and more ‘non-European’ students were living in Durban instead of commuting from further afield and this alternative arrangement also made better provision for the growing number of full-timers among them. By 1956 there were 87, their increase prompted in part by unemployment and growing numbers of Indian matriculants. More and more of their classes were held during the mornings at City Buildings as there were no daytime facilities available for them at Sastri College. 6

‘Non-European’ part-time classes continued to be held as before at that institution although space was a perennial problem. This created severe timetable congestion and restricted the course options available. No immediate move to other premises was anticipated and the Treasury approved £675 (R1
to enlarge the library there, with the University Council matching that amount. A change became unavoidable when, in 1956, the University was given notice that it would have to vacate the hutments it occupied at the college by 31 December 1958. Following intensive discussion in Senate’s Non-European Studies Committee and its own Advisory Committee on Non-European Affairs, Council at last appointed a sub-committee to reconsider the options.

It concluded that ‘non-European’ classes, particularly for the growing number of full-timers, could not continue without adequate, centrally situated facilities. To that end it recommended that the £20 000 (R40 000) which the M.L. Sultan Educational Trust had already donated should be deployed to provide a suitable medium-term place of tuition for full and part-time ‘non-Europeans’ studying arts, social science, education, commerce and law courses as well as for pre-medical students and, hopefully in the near future, for science students. It also recommended that the University should accept some financial responsibility for the fact that ‘non-European’ full-time students would incur heavy travel costs because, in terms of the Group Areas Act, any residential and sports facilities provided for them would have to remain on the city’s periphery.

Council’s sub-committee discussed several alternative sites for the eventual development of a complete 24 hectare ‘non-European’ campus that had long been Malherbe’s ambition. Mansfield Road School, Randles Estate in Sydenham and the Salvation Army property in Bellair Road had already been considered before it identified Springfield Flats, near the existing Springfield Training College, as the most promising site. This offered easily developed level ground with ready access to the city centre along a planned arterial route. It had already been zoned for non-industrial purposes and was in close proximity to large Indian residential suburbs as well as to Duff’s Road, the site of a planned African township.

By the end of 1956 Council had accepted this proposal, the first firm decision concerning the medium- and long-term future of its Non-European Section. It appointed a deputation comprising its chairman, Dr George Campbell, the Principal, E.G. Malherbe, the chairman of the Non-European Studies Committee, Professor Tom Kelly, and the organiser of the Non-European Section, Ian Allan, to negotiate with the City Council about a possible short-term central and a long-term Springfield Flats site for its ‘non-European’ classes. Unfortunately, the meeting was postponed indefinitely by municipal elections, the City Council delayed in providing the necessary land and it was
soon evident that there was no state funding forthcoming to finance such a scheme.

By 1957 gloom had already descended over the Non-European Section in the shadow of impending government legislation concerning its future. As Allan observed that year in his annual report:

Teaching of students will undoubtedly continue for some years, but the flow of new entrants will it seems, cease abruptly, classes will come to be dominated more and more by ‘repeats’ and thought about expenditure to build for the future will become inappropriate … it is the unhappy lot of those of us who are closely concerned with the Non-European Section to see it destroyed without there being anything tangible or proven to replace it.

The registration of black students continued to increase, rising to 352 in 1957 excluding the 190 medical students. This included 165 full-timers whose 236% increase since 1953 made it necessary for some departments to provide separate lectures for them in first-year courses. As their numbers rose, still more use had to be made of City Buildings with staff and students shuttling back and forth between it and Sastri College, losing valuable teaching time in the process. In addition, several part-time classes now exceeded 60 in number necessitating improvisations in Sastri College classrooms that were far too small and inadequately equipped with desks.

The Group Areas Act and other apartheid legislation made it difficult to find a suitable and legally acceptable alternative venue. Eventually, in July 1958, the Non-European Section began its move to new premises after 22 years of cuckoo-like existence in borrowed space at Sastri College, often at great inconvenience to its long-suffering host. They comprised the converted second floor and part of the first floor of a wholesale warehouse situated in Lancers Road, opposite City Buildings and known as Marian Buildings.

It was poorly ventilated, with noisy fans installed to circulate the air and hessian stretched on the walls in a desperate effort to improve the acoustics by dulling the warehouse, construction and traffic distractions. The University Council signed a nine-year lease at a rental of £2 400 (R4 800) a year, but this arrangement had serious shortcomings virtually from the beginning. There were ten lecture rooms, one that could accommodate 110 students and three over 60, but there were no staff common room or offices, obliging staff to interview students and return essays in the corridor or on the stairway.

The uncertainty generated by impending government legislation discouraged the University from looking for yet another alternative or effecting any significant improvements to the building, though slower moving fans and a few interview cubicles were eventually installed. In Florence MacDonald’s
opinion, it was an improvement on Sastri College in that it brought all the full- and part-time ‘non-European’ students together under one roof, it could be used in all daylight hours instead of only after school as at Sastri, and it did have a more spacious library open until 10.30 pm. Sensibly, more teaching space was eventually created and a better service provided by the library by amalgamating it with the facility at nearby City Buildings.

Ian Allan was hopeful that the new venue would promote a stronger sense of corporate identity among students than had been possible since the closure of the vacation school. It failed to do so, other than engender a common sense of deprivation and isolation from the rest of the University. As Bhana and Vahed have pointed out in their study of the University’s segregated classes, by the mid-1950s students in the Non-European Section were generally younger as more of them studied full-time. They were also much more politicised, were joining a variety of anti-apartheid organisations and were decidedly more critical of the status quo in and outside the University than their predecessors had been. Marian Buildings did, at least, have the virtue of proximity to major traffic routes and, for staff, was just across the road from white part-time classes, office space and a common room at City Buildings.

The whole venture suffered a setback when, in 1958, the Minister of Education, Arts and Science formally refused the University permission to offer a full suite of science courses to ‘non-Europeans’ other than medical students. No reasons were given for this decision, which effectively concluded discussions within the University and representations made to government dating back to 1949.

Two years later the Chief Inspector of Indian Education, Mr Wilter, reported that the Natal Education Department would no longer be able to employ graduates with majors in English and History due to their oversupply, but that more teachers qualified in Mathematics, Biology, Geography, Physical Science and Afrikaans were still urgently required. Senate supported the recommendation of the Non-European Studies Committee that in view of the current absence of a university where they could register for science degrees, Council should be urged to permit suitably matriculated Indian students to enroll in 1961 for B.Sc. degrees at the University of Natal.

The appeal was unsuccessful and the longstanding need for suitably qualified science teachers in the province’s black educational sector therefore remained unresolved. There remained the possibility that Durban’s M.L. Sultan Technical College might step into the breach the University had failed to fill. Meanwhile, there was also an unsuccessful request from the South African
Nursing Association for the Diploma in Nursing (sister tutor’s course) to be offered in response to enquiries from several black nurses.

As before almost all the Non-European Section’s students were male and most of them were Indian teachers or prospective teachers who sought to advance their careers by improving their qualifications. Registrations, particularly full-timers, continued to increase before the new legislation was implemented: 187 of 400 in 1958, 251 of 558 in 1959 and almost 50% of the 519 students registered in 1960. As a result academic departments increasingly combined full- and part-time classes into overcrowded part-time hours. Although no science courses were available, by the end of 1959 no less than 26 subjects were being offered at all three undergraduate levels. Degrees could be taken in Arts, Social Science, Commerce, Education and Law as well as diplomas in Speech Therapy, Remedial Education and Play Production.

By then it had become impossible to accommodate more courses or larger classes in part-time hours. To ease the congestion Senate recommended the separation of full- and part-timers as well as the integration of more black and white classes at the Principal’s discretion. Malherbe pointed out that this proposed separation of classes would result in the quadruplication of lectures in some courses, which was not possible with the existing staff complement due to timetable difficulties. The appointment of more lecturers would be an unwise solution due to current uncertainty about the future of the Non-European Section.

In June 1959 Convocation appealed for the integration of all classes, beginning with those at postgraduate level, as the Pietermaritzburg SRC had done a year earlier. It requested that Council should ‘declare its official support for integration at all academic levels’ as an expression of the University’s ‘continued opposition to the Extension of University Education Bill’. Council was understandably cautious in the prevailing political climate, but it did authorise the Principal to use his discretion in integrating classes ‘in exceptional cases of real hardship’. Senate supported Convocation by 25 votes to three in advocating the complete integration of postgraduate courses and a much wider application of that principle than Council favoured at undergraduate level. It resolved that ‘the policy of the University should support actively integration as the rule of the University rather than the exception’.

A Senate Committee appointed to consider the implications of desegregation pointed to four previous Senate resolutions in favour of that principle dating back to 14 September 1956. It also highlighted the advantages in terms of reduced travel and financial costs as well as improved teaching and library
facilities. While Senate wavered, Malherbe readily authorised desegregation in the case of small classes but warned that complete integration would result in the loss of the basic subsidy currently paid in respect of separate classes for ‘non-Europeans’.

The process of integration nevertheless gathered momentum, with shared common rooms; and both Marian and City Buildings were used for black, white and integrated classes. Integration raised staff morale by avoiding the soul-destroying repetition of lectures and significantly reduced teaching hours. By 1965 Malherbe considered the downtown classes to be ‘virtually integrated’ while the dean of City Buildings, Tom Kelly, regarded Marian Buildings as an annex. However, both Council and Malherbe continued to drag their heels on the issue of full-time ‘non-European’ student attendance at full-time classes at Howard College.

Meanwhile, the now traditional separation of ‘non-European’ graduates, their parents and friends from the main assembly at graduation ceremonies had continued to be another major source of resentment. From 1951 it provoked a series of boycotts, with some students preferring to pay £3 (R6) to graduate in absentia. The University’s offer in 1957 to integrate the graduands but separate the parents was considered even more objectionable; as was the 1959 introduction of three seating zones — one white, one black and one mixed — in an effort to provide a choice.

The ‘non-European’ SRC led yet another boycott of those proceedings while the Non-European Studies Committee, the University’s Lecturers Association, the Joint Board of the SRCs and the Natal Indian Congress all appealed for future such occasions to be entirely desegregated. The Studies Committee pointed out that this segregation policy was inconsistent with the University’s attitude towards College and inaugural lectures as well as the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations, which were intended to be entirely non-segregated.

In September 1960 Senate eventually joined Convocation in voting unanimously to recommend to Council that the same should apply to future graduation ceremonies. It consented, resolving also that henceforth there would be no advance reservation of seating for parents and friends. In 1962, somewhat belatedly, segregated seating at graduation ceremonies came to an end but, in the interim, many ‘non-European’ students and their families had been alienated.

By then the terminal condition of the Non-European Section was having an unsettling effect on the work of both staff and students, further aggravated by a dispute within its SRC involving the resignation of both its president and vice-
president. Even so, there was a pleasing improvement in overall pass rates and in 1959 no less than 21 candidates were registered for Honours degrees and twelve for Masters.

That year Ian Allan raised £1 000 (R2 000) for bursaries after Senex had declined his request to provide a couple of £50 (R100) scholarships for the exclusive use of non-medical, ‘non-European’ students. There were then only thirteen available, valued at a maximum of £40 (R80) a year each, excluding the best five that were reserved for medical students. In 1959 three students, Mr Allagan (Arts), Mr A.D. Francis (Arts Hons) and Mr D.M. Charles (Medicine), received substantial awards from the Ernest Oppenheimer Trust.

When the Mabel Palmer Memorial Trust was subsequently established it was wisely placed under the control of independent trustees in view of the shadow that shrouded the future of the Non-European Section. The intention was to raise at least £6 000 (R12 000) in capital from graduates and friends at £10 (R20) a head, payable at £1 (R2) a month, in order to establish a viable scholarship fund for promising ‘non-European’ students.

On 16 October 1959 proclamations in the Government Gazette formally prohibited any more ‘non-white’ persons from enrolling without ministerial permission at any university other than UNISA or Natal’s Faculty of Medicine if they were not already registered there on or before 1 January 1960. It was also announced that in 1960 a university college for coloureds would be opened near Bellville in the Cape and in 1961 another for Indians on Salisbury Island in Durban Bay, which was ideal for effective control.

In 1960 ministerial permission was indeed granted to all Indians who applied to register at the University of Natal and to some but not all coloured applicants, but at least 100 African hopefuls were refused. By mid-1960 there were 686 students registered in the Non-European Section, the highest ever recorded, of whom 304 were full-time and 113 were postgraduates. Thereafter numbers began to dwindle as students were required to enroll at the new university colleges provided for them.

At the time the offending legislation was passed, Natal’s Non-European Section claimed to be the largest university facility for blacks south of the Equator and had graduated more than 650 students from arts and social science courses. When the last of its students had completed their courses and the section closed in May 1965 it could boast 666 graduates, had awarded 42 Honours degrees, seventeen Masters, four doctorates and 163 university diplomas, and had produced eleven qualified attorneys. Although staff numbers did increase over the years, the Non-European Section had always
relied heavily on a small core of dedicated individuals. Its survival and success owed a great deal not only to Mabel Palmer but also to Elizabeth Sneddon, Ian Allan and, not least, as Julie Parle’s research has shown, to the ever-willing and hardworking Florence MacDonald.

Apart from its infringement of the University’s autonomy and unquantifiable impact on prospective students, the new legislation raised the prospect of redundancy for several staff members. It also had significant financial implications for the University, resulting in a substantial loss of income in terms of both fees and state subsidy. At the same time there was no reduction in the expense involved in the ongoing provision of facilities for those non-medical, ‘non-European’ students who were already registered but had not yet completed their degrees and were still legally entitled to do so. According to Malherbe, by 1959 the University was spending more than £80 000 (R160 000) a year on the section, including £53 000 (R106 000) on the salaries of extra staff, and quite apart from the £111 000 (R222 000) a year it cost to run the Faculty of Medicine.

Government did agree to an additional £12 000 (R24 000) grant towards the cost of duplication, but after the Non-European Section was closed its diminishing number of students were quietly absorbed into the University’s white full- and part-time classes. Admittedly, by then ‘non-European’ students were an easily assimilable minority but, as Hattersley subsequently reflected, ‘Perhaps we were not sufficiently adventurous in pursuing the opportunities that once lay ahead of us. Few would deny that the doors were opened a little hesitantly and never perhaps wide enough to give the Indian and African student a reasonable measure of academic privilege’.

The Non-European Section was officially closed on 1 July 1965, its Studies Advisory Committee disbanded and the post of organiser made redundant. So ended the so-called Natal Experiment; a well-meaning but flawed attempt to offer separate but equal facilities within the confines of a single institution. It had undoubtedly provided educational opportunities to many ‘non-Europeans’ who might otherwise have been denied them and been unable to pursue successful professional careers. Yet it came nowhere near establishing entirely equal facilities for them in terms of the accommodation and range of course options provided. At best paternalistic, its fundamentally segregationist nature generated a rising level of resentment its authors seemed never fully to comprehend. At a time when there was no legislation to prevent it, no attempt was made to challenge, and hopefully change, prevailing white public opinion by evolving the experiment into a process of gradual integration.
Seemingly, this was due either to personal preference, or the reluctance of the University’s Council, Senate and Executive to alienate prospective white students and donors. By the mid-1950s the opportunity had been lost and integration had become increasingly impractical as apartheid legislation gathered momentum and, in 1959, enveloped the universities.

That year the Extension of University Education Act cast South Africa and its universities in an even more unfavourable light. This was compounded by the national tragedy that occurred on 21 March 1960 when police killed 69 and wounded 186 pass law protesters at Sharpeville, followed by government’s declaration of a State of Emergency. These events led to the emigration of several staff members and inhibited their replacement through recruitment overseas. Even so, the decade did end on a happier note for the University of Natal.

**Jubilee celebrations**

In 1960 the University celebrated its Golden Jubilee, remembering the 1910 admission of NUC’s first small batch of students into a tiny wood-and-iron building in the grounds of Maritzburg College. In a message written at the request of the Natal Witness Alexander Petrie, professor emeritus of Classics and one of the first two professorial appointees to assume their posts in April 1910, reminisced about some of the memorable milestones in the University’s history and congratulated it on the extent of its growth during the first half century of its existence.

Planning began two years earlier in April 1957 when, after Malherbe submitted a memorandum to Council, it accepted the proposal to hold a celebration, coupled with a fundraising campaign. It also provided £5 000 (R10 000) to cover the initial expenses of what was called the Golden Jubilee Celebrations Committee. This eventually comprised a number of prominent public and University leaders and, in collaboration with the NUDF, began to draw up a full programme of functions and events. It was assisted by advisory committees in Durban and Pietermaritzburg where sometime mayors Leo Boyd and Ashton Tarr both played prominent roles. Members of staff were invited to suggest the form the celebrations might take, but the avowed intention was ‘to focus attention upon the significance of the University in the life of the community in every field of human activity and at the same time to mount an effective demonstration of the achievements of Western civilisation on the continent of Africa and the promise of the Twentieth Century’.
Initial plans to hold the festivities in 1959 to observe the fact that NUC had received its Charter late in 1909 were dropped because several prominent invitees would have been unable to attend that year; and also in the expectation that most of the building operations currently being undertaken on campus would only be complete by 1960. Charles Playfair, the University’s Public Relations Officer in Durban, assumed a key role in organising a series of functions for that year in both centres, some in collaboration with other bodies such as Pietermaritzburg’s Royal Agricultural Society, which was celebrating its centenary. Malherbe also appealed to staff and students to assist the Jubilee programme, particularly in organising related student activities as well as fundraising projects such as the Leyden Cartoon Title Contest.

The student body in Pietermaritzburg enthusiastically, though unsuccessfully, proposed a voluntary donation of £1 (R2) per head a year towards the Golden Jubilee Fund Appeal and there were several other setbacks. In September 1959 Convocation urged Council not to arrange any segregated functions, but on 12 March 1960 the AGM of the ‘non-European’ student body resolved to boycott the Jubilee celebrations anyway. The reasons given were that when ‘non-Europeans’ had eventually been admitted to the University they had never been accepted as ‘an integral part’ of the institution and continued to suffer from its apartheid practices. The resolution called upon all those who believed in ‘the ideals of democracy’ to support the boycott.

In addition, the Durban City Council declined the use of its ‘ideally situated’ beachfront pavilion site for the large exhibition that was planned due to anticipated traffic congestion around it. The alternative Stamford Hill aerodrome site was rejected because of the heavy estimated costs involved in its preparation. As a result the committee eventually settled for the huge Woolbrokers Federation Hall in Umbilo, not far from the Faculty of Medicine.

The untimely death in mid-1960 of Charles Playfair, who had thus far been heavily involved in the organisation of the festival, was a further serious setback. It prompted Malherbe to call upon staff and students yet again to join members of the public in volunteering their assistance to complete tasks that were essential for the timeous opening of both the planned exhibition and Education Conference. In his view the response from those quarters had thus far been ‘most disappointing’ with only 30 of the promised 300 student volunteers coming forward and thereby creating ‘a poor impression’ among the general public. Professor P.H. Connell and Messrs W.F. Smythe and G. Loudon stepped into the breach to help with the organisation of the exhibition,
with much of the design work being undertaken in Connell’s Department of Architecture.

Malherbe himself spearheaded the determined drive for funds with which to finance the festival and future university development. In October 1959 he led an invited University deputation to request the Pietermaritzburg City Council to ‘give the lead’ to other prospective donors in the city and to the province’s smaller municipalities by donating £30 000 (R60 000) in four or five installments. In a preceding letter he gratefully acknowledged that the Corporation had made a regular annual grant to the University of £1 225 (R2 450) prior to 1950, rising to £4 000 (R8 000) since 1954, but argued that £6 000 (R12 000) would still only constitute 2% of its annual operational costs in Pietermaritzburg and compared this with the £40 000 (R80 000) a year the Johannesburg City Council gave Wits.

Malherbe also calculated that in 1958 the University’s staff and students had spent an estimated £500 000 (R1 million) in Pietermaritzburg, that the staff had paid £5 000 (R10 000) in municipal rates and that during the previous decade the University had spent more than £500 000 (R1 million) on buildings in the city. Malherbe subsequently extracted £20 000 (R40 000) from that source, to be paid over five years. The Durban City Council, financially better endowed and no doubt more mindful of the commercial and cultural value of having a university within its precincts, later committed itself to no less than £100 000 (R200 000).

The Golden Jubilee celebrations were not quite as extensive as originally planned, but they were suitably impressive. The official inauguration took place on the evening of 24 March 1960 when Sir John Maud, British High Commissioner to South Africa, gave a speech in the Durban City Hall. He was largely responsible for sponsoring the Royal Opera Ballet Company’s performance of The Sleeping Beauty that same evening in Durban’s Alhambra Theatre. On arrival, and much to the embarrassment of Elizabeth Sneddon and others, the boycotting ‘non-European’ students confronted patrons with a placard demonstration that drew their attention to ‘The Jubilee of an Apartheid University’.

On 2 April 1960 the executive of the Association of the Universities of the British Commonwealth attended the graduation ceremony held on Jubilee Founders Day in Pietermaritzburg, normally held every five years but postponed from 1959 to coincide with the 1960 celebrations. On that occasion its president, Sir Eric Ashby, Master of Clare College, Cambridge, delivered
an address. A lunch, Jubilee graduation ball and church service followed, after which the visitors were entertained in Durban.

Rag was moved a week forward to accommodate a festival of cultural and scientific events held in both centres as part of the celebrations. Among other highlights Sneddon’s Department of Speech and Drama followed the Royal Opera Ballet Company with a production of Shakespeare’s *Tempest* at the Alhambra Theatre and South Africa’s National Theatre presented William Saroyan’s *The Cave Dwellers* in the new theatre at Howard College. On 4 May a bookmaker in academic garb greeted Greyville punters at the University’s Golden Jubilee horse race meeting. Appropriately, Cap and Gown won a race and the Durban Turf Club presented the proceeds of the afternoon to the University.

More than 110 000 visitors viewed the ‘From Our World’ exhibition, which opened on 27 June at the Woolbrokers Federation Hall. Organised by a large committee under Leo Boyd’s chairmanship, it was nevertheless Malherbe’s brainchild and intended as the University’s contribution to the community as well as to demonstrate the institution’s own role in it. The Administrator of Natal, A.E. (Alf) Trollip, opened the exhibition with the ‘Hall of Learning’ providing an impressive entrance in which messages and armorial bearings from more than 200 universities were displayed.

Other attractions included a 75-piece selection from celebrated portrait photographer Yousuf Karsh of Ottawa; the Photographic Society of Southern Africa’s display ‘The Life of Our Nation’; an international cartoon exhibition; some University of Natal Press publications; and a collection of rare books from the British Council as well as theatre exhibits from it and from the French government, the latter being part of its display at the Brussels Exposition.

The ‘World of Science’ section included fourteen exhibits from the British government’s presentation at the same exposition while the Federal Republic of Germany, BBC, SABC and South African Railways and Harbours were also represented, the last as part of its own centenary celebrations. Several of the University’s faculties and departments from both the arts and sciences participated, as did two student clubs: the Amateur Radio Society, which operated a radio station at the exhibition, and the Rocket Society, which presented a display of missiles, telescopes and astronomical photographs. The Fine Arts Department exhibited a selection of its own paintings, pottery and sculpture, including Jack Heath’s collection of engravings of the 1851 Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace.
The celebrations culminated in July with a ten-day National Conference on Education held primarily in Durban and organised with some assistance from Malherbe himself, Professor of Education Ronald MacMillan and Professor of Commerce Walter Fairbairn. The theme, ‘Education and Our Expanding Horizons’, was wide enough to arrange the contributors into ten simultaneous morning sessions that focused on various aspects of education, but with no more than three foreign delegates speaking in simultaneous sessions later in the day. They also delivered evening lectures, usually in the Durban City Hall but with four sessions held in Pietermaritzburg. The SABC gave many of these addresses nationwide coverage.

With 1 600 registered delegates and more than 2 000 people in attendance every day, it was the biggest educational gathering in South Africa since the conference Malherbe had organised in July 1934 in Cape Town and Johannesburg under the auspices of the New Education Fellowship. Despite the Emergency regulations then prevailing in the country, he was determined to make the 1960 conference both a national and international event. To that end he had enlisted the help of British High Commissioner Sir John Maud, who also gave the opening address at the first working session of the conference in the Durban Students Union on 11 July entitled ‘Expanding horizons in a contrasting world: the challenge of education’. A journalist described the bevy of distinguished delegates on stage at the earlier official inauguration of the celebrations in the Durban City Hall as ‘the biggest concentration of brain power ever to assemble in southern Africa’.

Apart from Maud, 25 distinguished foreign scholars delivered papers, including the famous biologist and former director-general of UNESCO, Sir Julian Huxley; Everest and Antarctic explorer, Sir Vivian Fuchs; conqueror of Mount Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary; distinguished historian, president of Rochester University and president of the Universities Association of the USA, Dr C.W. de Kiewiet; and Dutch statistician and educationist, Professor P.J. Idenburg.

A small selection of the lectures was subsequently published in booklet form. In addition, there were nearly 100 South African speakers from universities, colleges and other educational institutions. All of the country’s ethnic groups were represented among the speakers and attendees, but the only major regret was that there not more ‘non-European’ participants.

On 12 July 1960 the conference included a special graduation ceremony at which honorary degrees were conferred upon Huxley, de Kiewiet, Idenburg
and Harry Oppenheimer, the well-known South African mining magnate and benefactor. Appropriately, when Dr Waldo E. Stephens, an expert on International Law, made a concluding presentation to Malherbe on behalf of the delegates, he declared ‘By organising this conference, Dr Malherbe has done this university and your nation a great service’. Ronald MacMillan, Peter Hey and J.W. Macquarrie subsequently edited the proceedings published in a book entitled *Education and our Expanding Horizons* (Pietermaritzburg, Natal University Press, 1962).

Among numerous other Jubilee expenditures, the University spent £2 590 (£5 180) on the erection of the Jubilee gateposts at the entrances of both the Pietermaritzburg (then Durban Road, now Alan Paton Avenue) and Howard College (King George V Avenue) campuses. These were as much a material statement against government’s segregationist interference as a lasting reminder of the University’s fiftieth birthday. The Jubilee celebrations still turned a financial profit of approximately £20 000 (R40 000). At its final meeting, the ‘From Our World’ exhibition committee proposed that £500 (R1 000) be allocated for the purchase of lighting equipment so that the Howard College and MTB could henceforth be illuminated to keep the University ‘literally in the public eye’ and as a further ‘symbolic remembrance of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations’.

The balance was used to initiate the Golden Jubilee Fund Appeal in earnest. It was launched on 1 August 1960 to take full advantage of the favourable publicity the University had recently received and raise a projected £500 000 (R1 000 000) over a period of five years for future development. J.H. (Jannie) Greyling was engaged to direct the fundraising drive with a three-phase programme targeted at potential major, minor and smaller donors. The NUDF offices were moved from City Buildings to the Administration Building on the Howard College campus and while the Durban and Pietermaritzburg urban areas were expected to yield most of the funds raised it was intended to be a province-wide campaign to capitalise on the ‘goodwill potential’ of the rural areas.

The government’s decision to hold a referendum on a republic and the subsequent announcement that South Africa was to leave the Commonwealth proved to be major public distractions, arousing uncertainty about the future that was not conducive to fundraising. Some former donors argued that the University’s staff and students should first be tapped for funds in order to set a challenge for outsiders and an appeal, with bank stop orders attached, was accordingly made to all employees.
By late May 1961 more than £200 000 (R400 000) had been raised, mainly from the province’s commercial and industrial sectors. Approximately 30% of the University’s own staff were enthusiastic enough to contribute £6 000 (R12 000) by December 1960, alumni were conspicuously absent, farmers’ associations were divided in their support and municipalities and women’s institutes were sympathetic but limited in financial capacity.

A notable exception was Ladysmith, which Greyling persuaded to hold a University Week. The mayor, Mrs Gailey, sponsored it, producing a £800 (R1 600) contribution that rose to £1 100 (R2 200) with the inclusion of donations from the local Women’s Institute and the Elandslaagte Farmers Association. By June 1963 the Jubilee Fund Appeal had garnered R838 328 in received and promised donations.8

In 1961 the University of Natal embarked upon what would hopefully be another 50 years of development. Despite the inhibiting shadow of the Extension of University Education Act, it was buoyed by the encouraging celebrations and optimistic expressions of hope for the future that had characterised the 1960 Golden Jubilee. The University had now been excluded from catering to the future educational needs of the growing black population but, in comparison with the other provinces, Natal was still sending the smallest proportion of its white population to university and there was the enormous post-World War II baby boom to accommodate.

According to chairman of Council George Campbell, despite its expensive, complicated structure by the late 1950s the University’s ‘dual establishment’ had been ‘safeguarded beyond revision’ and it was one of the few in South Africa that was largely debt free. In his opinion, the challenge now was to be willing ‘to incur debts for future generations to repay in order to acquire the necessary facilities for the great expansion that will come in Natal if we have the courage and the boldness of vision to prepare for it.’9 The first half of the 1960s also constituted the twilight years of Malherbe’s long principalship.

ENDNOTES

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PAR 1344 File 13 Hattersley Correspondence: E.G. Malherbe to A.F. Hattersley, 29 December 1959, Florence MacDonald ‘Non-European Section’ (memorandum, 25 November 1959); KCML Mabel Palmer Papers: File 35 KCM 18242 Office hours notice, 21 March 1955, KCM 18265 M. Palmer, Strictly confidential memorandum to the Principal, 8 May 1950, KCM 18268 List of University lecturers for Non-European Section, 21 March 1955, KCM 18275 Minutes of Non-European Studies Committee, 13 September 1955, KCM 18282 Minutes of Non-European Studies Committee, 28 August 1956, KCM 18286
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9 UKZNA University of Natal Gazette V(2) November 1958: 1–3; Hattersley, ‘The University
of Natal’ appendix: 18.
PART TWO: 1961–1976
THE EARLY TO mid-1960s witnessed a phase of steady if unspectacular growth at the University of Natal. This was in contrast to the dramatic sequence of events that had preceded the implementation of the Extension of University Education Act and the frenetic activity surrounding the 1960 Jubilee celebrations. It took place against the background of more determined political opposition as the National Party government vigorously implemented apartheid legislation. On 31 May 1961 it achieved one of its major objectives when South Africa became a republic on the strength of a 52.3% majority in a whites-only referendum. In the same year Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd withdrew the country’s application to remain in the British Commonwealth.¹

Campus development
The construction of new buildings was slower than had been the case in the late 1950s, but the era of expansion was by no means over. In view of the post-World War II birth rate bulge, which demographers had predicted would become evident between 1963 and 1967, there was an obvious need for the provision of more teaching and residential space on campus. In common with other universities in South Africa and abroad it was recognised that as many students as possible should be accommodated in halls of residence. These provided the obvious convenience of ready access to classes and other facilities. They also offered an invaluable opportunity to benefit from the informal cross-fertilisation of ideas and values among students from diverse backgrounds and engaged in very different fields of study.

The two difficulties hampering their provision, particularly in Durban where on-campus accommodation had never been as readily available as in Pietermaritzburg, were the high capital cost and the need to give academic facilities precedence. By the mid-1960s the Robbins Committee had drawn the attention of the Minister of Education to the serious shortage of residential accommodation all universities were increasingly facing, particularly in the larger urban areas.
There was also a growing need for more land to provide for future campus expansion. Since 1910 the city of Pietermaritzburg had granted the University an estimated 39.2 hectares to the value of R44 957. Most of this comprised the original 17.8 hectares allocated in 1912 for its Scottsville campus and the 18.2 hectares subsequently provided at Epworth for the establishment of a Faculty of Agriculture. In 1959 it also leased 5.7 hectares at Dalry Park for sporting purposes at a nominal R2 a year.

In addition, the University had acquired another 2 hectares by buying properties adjacent to the Scottsville campus between King Edward Avenue and Milner Road at what Malherbe considered to be the unduly high cost of about R40 000 per hectare. In 1962 he calculated that these acquisitions were being run at a loss to the University and recommended that instead of buying more houses on the expensive built-up side of the campus it should seek to expand in the opposite direction, across Golf Road onto the land currently occupied by the Isolation Hospital and the Maritzburg Golf Club.

This proposal was originally put to him by golfing partner E.D. (Eddie or ‘Egg’) Gower who was then manager of the Old Mutual Building Society in Pietermaritzburg and a city councillor. He recommended that negotiations with the City Council should be initiated in order to stake the University’s claim when the Golf Club’s fifteen-year lease expired. At some cost to his personal popularity and for no personal advantage Gower helped to conclude the deal, though the only formal recognition of his assistance was inclusion among those who later planted a tree in 75th Anniversary Avenue on the Golf Road campus.

When in 1964 the University’s projected building programme established that it did not have sufficient land for future expansion, Council opened negotiations with both the Pietermaritzburg and Durban city councils for the special zoning of land adjacent to its existing properties.

In April 1965 Malherbe led a delegation to present the University’s land requirements and building plans to Pietermaritzburg’s Finance and General Purposes Committee. He expected an outright grant, as before, but it was only in November 1965 that the City Council eventually resolved to sell the land on Golf Road currently leased to the Maritzburg Golf Club. It also obligingly relocated the Jesmond Road extension so as not to bisect the new campus property. Approximately 53.8 hectares in extent, the agreed price was R240 000 at 6.5% annual interest, payable in half-yearly installments over 40 years, inclusive of buildings and improvements.
Indeed, the spacious golf club house eventually became the University Staff Club while the construction of urgently needed new premises for Psychology and the Faculty of Education was initiated almost immediately. So too was the provision of a new women’s residence, Malherbe Hall, on land across the Durban Road (now Alan Paton Avenue) from the main campus entrance, although the formal land transfer to University ownership was only completed several years later.

Council also tried, unsuccessfully, to persuade the NPA to rezone the Longmarket Street Girls School playground so that the University could develop its own city-centre venue for part-time classes in place of the rented accommodation further up the road in the City Permanent Building. Instead, in 1985 the property eventually fell within the ambit of the expanding Msunduzi/Voortrekker Museum. The University also contemplated acquiring a site in Archbell Street but its part-time classes were ultimately transferred to the main campus, as was the case in Durban.

There, similar negotiations with the City Council led to the acquisition of another 112 hectares in the rezoned area of Westlands, which lay to the west of the Stella Ridge on which Howard College and the MTB were situated. What became known as the Western Campus was valued in 1964 at R815 000. It was acquired following the removal of its previous ‘non-European’ occupants in terms of the Group Areas Act and the agreement of the Group Areas Development Board to sell the property to the University. In addition, further adjacent properties valued in April 1965 at R92 134 were bought from owners who were obliged to sell in terms of the Act.

All this land cost the University virtually nothing for, as was the case in Pietermaritzburg, government and the City Council shared the expense of the interest and redemption charges on the loan that was raised. This was to provide ample scope for, among other needs, a huge complex of sports facilities, a large hall and, much later, residential accommodation and a new site for a teaching hospital.

Perhaps as a consequence of past mistakes, particularly on the Howard College campus, in 1964 a Development and Planning Officer was somewhat belatedly appointed at professorial level to take charge of campus layout. It was also intended that he should serve as a link between the teaching staff and the architects in designing buildings that were both academically functional and harmonious in external appearance.

Unfortunately, the revised subsidy formula introduced at the beginning of 1964 for the next quinquennium proved disappointing in more than one
respect, not least in the component intended to cover capital and maintenance expenditure. It had been derived from building and related costs in 1961, but these subsequently rose so steeply that the formula was already out of date within its first year. Universities had to secure their own loans on which government undertook to meet 40% of the interest and redemption charges over 40 years on academic buildings and 50% in the case of residences. In common with other institutions, the University was faced with the formidable task of somehow still financing urgently needed teaching and residential facilities for what, as predicted, had become a rapidly increasing student population.2

Despite the daunting financial difficulties involved during the early 1960s there was significant campus development in both centres. In Durban the western extension to the Administration Building near the entrance to the campus was completed, giving it what became its familiar L-shape, as was the new Chemical Engineering Building on the south side of Howard College and the new Chemistry Building.

By 1961 there was also a proposal to improve the acoustics at City Buildings in an effort to deal with increasing street noise on all sides, but the estimated expense of double glazing and air conditioning was considered prohibitive in view of the uncertain long-term future of the premises. By the following year the Faculty of Commerce was agitating for an alternative venue in the Kingsmead area, on the fringes of the city centre, in which to conduct part-time classes. It argued that City Buildings had become ‘totally unsuitable’ and that transport difficulties made it impractical to transfer lectures to the Howard College campus. Social Science and Arts favoured the latter option, or even the phasing out of part-time classes altogether.

Senex referred the review of policy concerning part-time courses to sub-committees in each centre. Amplifying equipment with both stationary and roving microphones was installed in some of the rooms at City Buildings to overcome the external traffic noise. That problem promised to escalate when it was rumoured that a major arterial road was to be constructed close by between Albert Park and Alice Street.

By 1965 the Durban sub-committee had recommended the disposal of City Buildings and the transfer of departmental offices there to Howard College as soon as suitable accommodation became available. In addition, it proposed that an alternative venue should be found in or near the city centre for part-time classes, including the possibility that this could be linked to the proposed new civic conference centre. That option raised the probability that further
improvements would still have to be effected at City Buildings while new premises were under construction.

On the Pietermaritzburg campus, in addition to the new Eleanor Russell Hall for women, in 1962 the Chemistry Building and new Students Union Building were also completed. The William O’Brien Residence was extended and, among other projects still in progress by the mid-1960s, the Old Main Building was renovated. Funds were also found for the development of sports facilities in the form of improved change rooms in both centres, a boat house on Durban’s yacht mole and a new cricket pavilion below Howard College.3

By the 1960s there was an obvious need for bigger and more effective library facilities.

Library
The University Library began a new chapter in its history when S.I. Malan and R.A. (Ron) Brown assumed office early in 1962 as Director of Libraries in the Durban and Pietermaritzburg libraries respectively. Unfortunately from the beginning, as Nora Buchanan’s doctoral study has shown, there were misunderstandings between them concerning the extent of their respective responsibilities that gave rise to serious difficulties in the administration of the University’s library services.

They came from very different backgrounds. Malan was an Afrikaner who had previously worked as university librarian at the University of the Orange Free State and as head of Library Science at the University of Potchefstroom for Christian Higher Education. A political conservative, he was rumoured to be a member of the secret Afrikaner Broederbond and in 1966 became president of SALA, which from November 1962 had become an exclusively white organisation with several senior members said to be Broeders. Brown, on the other hand, came from a decidedly liberal, English-speaking background.

On assuming office Malan began consolidating the Library’s administration into a unitary system in which a number of administrative functions were to be centralised under his direct control. His vision was outlined in a memorandum presented in March 1962 to the Joint Library Committee, but the centralisation of book and periodical orders soon became a particular bone of contention. Malan considered it essential in the interests of economy and co-ordination and in keeping with what was currently regarded as best library practice. Brown, supported by the Pietermaritzburg Library Committee, bewailed the lack of consultation and contended that the level of independent authority implied in the terms of his appointment was being infringed.
In an attempt to resolve the disagreement both the Pietermaritzburg Librarian (Brown) and the Durban Deputy Librarian (Milburn) became ex officio members of the Joint Library Committee, which now assumed a co-ordinating instead of a subordinate function to the two centre-based library committees. It was also eventually agreed that Pietermaritzburg would handle its own book orders, but the tension between the two senior Library officers remained. It was said that a gloom descended upon the Pietermaritzburg library staff every Thursday when Malan visited them and that Brown offered them all a celebratory glass of sherry when he subsequently left the university.

In the meantime Malan continued to champion the cause of unitary co-ordination under his authority while Brown insisted that co-ordination had given way to control. From Durban’s more complex vantage point Pietermaritzburg was failing to take the larger view; from the latter’s historical perspective the ever larger tail was now trying to wag the dog.

In January 1965 the Pietermaritzburg campus did have the satisfaction of opening a new library building to its users. Brown, who had previously been involved in planning the Rhodes University Library, worked closely with the architect J.C. Simpson to ensure that it was constructed according to a new, highly flexible modular design so that it could be readily adapted and expanded to meet future needs. These included growing collections, new services, and growing staff and student numbers. A central, accessible site was chosen on the original Scottsville campus at the cost of destroying the top end of the

R.A. (Ron) Brown was born in 1914 and grew up in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire. He worked as a teacher and served for nine years as deputy librarian at Rhodes University before occupying the post of University Librarian in Pietermaritzburg (1962–1973). Apart from helping to design its new building, under his ‘affirming’ direction the Library on that campus developed what his successors were to remember as a ‘distinctive character and service orientation’ that demanded ‘the highest standards of efficiency and dedication’. Brown was particularly interested in building up the Nataliana collection as well as initiating, and for eleven years compiling, the Library Bulletin. Versatile and far-seeing, prior to his retirement he anticipated the imminent need for improved inter-library co-operation and user education, audio-visual services and computerisation. In retirement he kept in close touch with the Library and died in 2002.
original plane tree avenue that had provided access to it from King Edward Avenue. Built at a cost of R230 000 as at 1965, the new Library provided seating for 500 users and storage for 270 000 volumes, more than twice the 100 000 held at that time. Apart from enclosing the basement, there were to be no extensions until 1990.

The Durban library facilities continued, in the medium term, to be grossly congested. The future of City Buildings and therefore of its library remained uncertain but by May 1967 the shelving and seating capacity of the Medical Library in Umbilo Road had been doubled. Following its extension in 1959 the MTB was again short of space by 1963 and the possibility of a new library building at Howard College was being discussed. The MTB Library had proved to be a classic example of the traditional monumental fixed function facility with little prospect of future expansion other than colonising space currently occupied by neighbouring academic departments at the lower levels.

In contrast to the space shortage, by 1965 the Library’s staff numbers had more than doubled, with a complement of 29 in the three Durban branches, twelve in Pietermaritzburg and eleven in the central section that included the Photoduplication Unit and Bindery. In addition, Milburn’s post as Deputy Librarian was upgraded to Librarian (Durban) which was commensurate with his responsibilities in overseeing all the Durban library facilities. Not least, from January 1965 a new uniform salary scale for male and female librarians was implemented after Malan had noticed that gender differentiation still survived with respect only to the University’s Library staff.4

A more contentious issue was that of banned books. As Christopher Merrett has shown, systematic censorship in South Africa had its origins in 1950 with the promulgation of the Suppression of Communism Act, followed in 1956 by an official list of more than 4 000 banned publications. The issue was barely discussed at the University of Natal and officially banned items remained on the open shelves until May 1962 when Malan produced an index of such items he wished to restrict. All universities, acting through the CUP, were subsequently indemnified and scholars were permitted access to banned material through a bureaucratic system of control.

Malan nevertheless ignored the legal assurances of the University’s own experts, Tony Mathews and Exton Burchell, in trying to remove cards relating to all officially banned items from the catalogue. The Joint Library Committee over-ruled him and access still remained possible, with difficulty, but the issue of banned material was to remain a source of tension between the University Library and the academic staff until 1990 when the restrictions were removed.
Nora Buchanan’s research demonstrated that, despite space constraints, banned publications and, in some respects, staffing limitations, Library holdings continued to grow, if unspectacularly. R.F. Kennedy’s 1961 investigation of the national book stock nevertheless found some serious shortcomings in the University’s collections. The conclusion drawn was that these were due largely to seriously inadequate funding and the consequent policy of trying to avoid duplication that resulted in many important books being available in only one or the other branch. There were shortcomings even where duplication was not necessary, such as in the Medical Library that currently subscribed to 300 journals when the minimum for a Medical Faculty should have been 600. Topics that were not part of any regular syllabus were often ignored altogether.

During the 1960s the Library’s book stock was significantly enhanced by generous donations. In 1963 two collections already in its possession were donated outright: the Hillier Collection of out-of-print items on History and English Literature from the Natal Technical College; and Florence Powell’s Cancer Research Library. She continued to donate funds to its maintenance and extension, as well as to that of the previously donated Powell Collection of Early Science and Technology. In 1965 the Pietermaritzburg Library acquired on permanent loan the 3000 book St Lawrence Collection, which had been accumulated for more than 100 years at St Saviour’s Cathedral and included a number of rare theological items. Many were riddled with bookworm, from which some could not be saved.

At the end of that year, following the death of Dr M.R. (Margaret Roach ‘Killie’) Campbell, the University also acquired her magnificent Africana collection, at that time widely regarded as one of the largest and most valuable in private hands. Comprising approximately 35,000 items, it included rare manuscripts, books, drawings, paintings, prints, photographs and negatives she had accumulated during her lifetime in the family home Muckleneuk on Durban’s Berea.

In the process it had become an invaluable resource for researchers from all over the world who were always warmly received and routinely invited to join the staff for morning and afternoon tea. On several such occasions Killie, as she was affectionately known, recalled with some amusement that in her younger days she had frequently incurred her father’s displeasure by spending her dress allowance on historical items during regular family visits to Britain.

As early as 1946 it was her intention that this collection would be bequeathed to the University of Natal, with which the Campbell family had always been so closely associated. She consistently declined enormous financial offers
for it from foreign institutions. These even included proposals to reconstruct Muckleneuk brick by brick abroad in order to meet her wish that the collection remain in her family home, or else to maintain it in Durban so that it was accommodated entirely to her satisfaction as a South African treasure. Killie Campbell remained steadfast in her resolve to donate her lifetime’s work to the local University, which found itself having to pay no more than a nominal annual R1 lease in terms of a 50-year agreement with the Durban Corporation. This was because, in 1954, her brother W. (William ‘Wac’) Campbell had donated the property to the city.

Muckleneuk also contained the William Campbell Collection of Cape Dutch furniture, Persian carpets and other family treasures, as well as Wac Campbell’s Mashu Museum. This comprised numerous African artifacts and ethnological items including Barbara Tyrell’s valuable artistic representations of traditional indigenous dress and ornaments. In 1965 the Library and Museum was insured for R708 000, such was the value of the bequest.

In 1962, as the University Library’s overall book stock gradually expanded, Brown introduced a new service to its users in the form of a library bulletin to advise them of the latest acquisitions and other relevant matters. During the eleven years he compiled it prior to his retirement in 1973, his informative bulletin expanded from its initial two pages to include an editorial, book reviews and information on both collections and the activities of staff.

In Durban the new IIC launched in 1957 went from strength to strength and in 1962 became a permanent feature of library services. By then use of the centre was developing rapidly along with the local industrial sector and continued to do so for several years. In 1992 it was to be renamed the Business Information Centre to reflect a change in its focus. From 1999 it surrendered its independence to become an in-house service of the Durban Library before re-opening in January 2000 as the Gateway Information Service.

The Library’s growth in terms of space, staffing, the size of its collections and the services provided to users was all achieved despite severe financial constraints. The temporary termination of book orders in 1961 to compensate for increased expenditure on periodicals helped to restore the situation. However, like his predecessors, Malan soon found that the duplication of book orders as well as other forms of replication was to some extent unavoidable in view of the complex structure of the University and its library facilities. Moreover, he echoed Kennedy’s 1961 survey in concluding that the quinquennially revised state subsidy formula was impractical from the Library’s point of view because its calculations were based on student numbers and made no allowance for
increases in book prices and journal subscriptions. Kennedy recommended that the Library’s annual book vote should be increased to at least R45 000 compared with its current (1961) vote of R30 106, but it was to take several years before that level of funding was attained. A recommended additional R250 000 injection spread over ten years to compensate for deficiencies did not materialise.

Malan’s own investigations established that in 1962 Natal’s R27.64 expenditure per head on library materials for students was lower only than that of the Orange Free State and Rhodes, but that the benefit derived from this expenditure was significantly less due to the necessity for duplication. Buchanan has shown that the University of Natal devoted between 4.8% and 8% of its total expenditure to Library costs in the period 1962–1967, but that only 31% to 35% of annual Library expenditure, amounting to a mere 1.5% to 2% of the University’s total expenses, was allocated to books and periodicals due largely to high duplicated staff and operating costs.

In a ‘Memorandum on the creation of a library fund’ prepared in 1965 for the Academic Staff Association, J. (Jacques) Berthoud argued that whereas the British Library Association had calculated that a university roughly the size of Natal should have a book stock of 250 000 volumes, it had accumulated only 147 081, rising to no more than 193 908 if journals were included. He estimated that duplication reduced this to a total of only 100 000 different books, or 40% what it should have in stock. By way of comparison, UCT currently possessed 350 00 volumes, Wits 307 000 and Rhodes 125 000.

Like Kennedy before him, Berthoud estimated that a lump sum of at least R200 000 was required to enable the University Library to have any chance of making good the backlog of books and journals so evident to staff, senior students and visiting lecturers. He suggested making representations to government for a free capital grant, appealing for donations through the NUDF and persuading it to match them on the old pound for pound basis, or raising a state loan with the usual rebate or better.

The University’s commitment to dualism and a complex tri-focal structure continued to raise financial challenges, not only for its Library services but in all aspects of its operations.5

**Finance**

Malherbe persisted in his contention that, like their British counterparts, local municipalities should be as generous as possible towards the universities in their regions. Following payment of the Pietermaritzburg City Council’s last
installment of its agreed £20 000 (R40 000) contribution to the University of Natal’s Jubilee Fund in July 1964, it was requested to continue the financial support it had provided since 1955. It was pointed out that the provision of buildings ‘for what is the fastest growing University in South Africa has become an acute problem’ was beyond its means and obliged it to rely increasingly on the support of commerce, industry and local authorities. Since 1945 the University had erected R9 million worth of buildings in the two centres, R4 million worth paid for in cash prior to 1960 and the balance financed on a loan basis.

Pietermaritzburg’s City Treasurer was not unsympathetic to the University’s needs and successfully proposed a R300 000 loan for residential development and thereafter an annual R10 568 grant, not unlike the previous Jubilee Fund contribution, for the next 40 years. This was intended to cover half the annual redemption and interest charges on the loan, assuming 6.5% annual interest, with the other half met by the government’s new subsidy formula. The City Treasurer demonstrated more appreciation of the need for such assistance than had previously been evident in the municipality when he observed that ‘It is considered that as an educational centre, and in particular as a university centre, and because there are financial advantages flowing into the city therefrom, it is in the interests of the City to support the continued growth of the University in the City.’

The University’s Pietermaritzburg campus continued to be financially dependent upon the other centre. In a 1963 circular to all heads of department Malherbe reiterated his commitment to maintain a ‘proper balance’ between the two despite Natal’s disadvantage in comparison with ‘single-centred’ universities and the fact that Durban generated more income and attracted more donors. He warned that the latter centre would ‘to an increasing extent continue to lose revenue in respect of the non-European section owing to Government’s restriction on non-European enrolment from 1961 onwards’. Further, he added that the surpluses generated in Durban would ‘therefore no longer be able to make good the growing deficit at the Pietermaritzburg end to the same extent as was possible in the past’.

Meanwhile the University had proceeded with its attempts to curtail expenditure in anticipation of a temporary drop in student registrations and therefore of the state subsidies following implementation of a new system of compulsory military training for all able-bodied 18-year-old white males. Malherbe estimated a £60 000 (R120 000) decline in the state subsidy for 1962 quite apart from the drop in fee income in 1961 as a result of this temporary
setback. Council budgeted for a R77 000 deficit for 1962 and the University Advisory Committee’s proposed quinquennial review of the Holloway subsidy formula was therefore eagerly anticipated. Coupled with this was an expected increase in student enrolments when the post-war birth rate bulge made itself felt in the middle of the decade, thereby again significantly improving the University’s state subsidy income.

The revised formula eventually introduced at the beginning of 1964 did include some small improvements, but the standard salaries set by government, on the basis of which approximately two thirds of the subsidy was calculated, proved insufficient. The University found itself unable to retain and attract good quality staff in competition with the industrial-commercial sector and foreign institutions. There was also a quantitative as well as a qualitative need because the prevailing staff:student ratio compared very unfavourably with those current in Britain, Canada and Australia.

Fortunately, generous private donations, and fee increases amounting to as much as R288 000 more than the standard fees stipulated by the subsidy formula, soon made it possible to offer salaries that competed with other South African universities. However, the 20% fee increase in 1964 made Natal the most expensive university in South Africa with the possible exception of UCT.7

Financial difficulties aside, it was necessary not only to increase the University’s academic and library staff, but also its administrative complement.

Central administration
In 1961, as the University expanded and the two centres grew further apart, the decision was taken to appoint vice-principals in Pietermaritzburg and Durban who were both to be responsible to the Principal, but the effective heads of campus. The following year prominent professors Frank Bush and Eric Phillips were appointed part-time vice-principals of the two centres for two years. These appointments were subsequently extended for further two-year periods. Another reflection of the growing separation of the two campuses and the increasing workload was the suggestion that every Faculty dean might be assisted by a dean’s representative or deputy dean, selected from the academic staff, in each centre.

Other senior additions to the administrative staff were all in Durban, where the University’s central administration was now firmly based. In 1961 these included E.L. Beyers as Finance Officer, L.P.E. (Percy) Patrick (M.Sc. Eng.), former publicity manager for the SABC, as Public Relations Officer in succession to the late C.S. (Charles) Playfair and H. Shuttleworth, Sub-
Accountant. They were followed in 1962 by Dr C.McN. Cochran as Assistant Registrar in Durban’s Faculty of Medicine and the following year by D.A.M. Hind as Assistant Accountant. He was joined in 1964 by W.J. Travis as Senior Accounts Clerk in the same centre and by J.L. (Jack) Dowley as Student Adviser in succession to the long-serving Dr Oswald Black. The Student Advisory Service remained a one-man department operating in both centres with Dowley strategically resident in Kloof.

In 1964 Professor Paul Connell was transferred from the School of Architecture to the new post of Planning and Development Officer on a five-year contract at professorial level. There was some disagreement between Senex and Council about the affordability of the post at a time of financial stringency and because the appointment had been made by the latter body without advertisement or any reference to the University Staffing Committee.

In 1965 D. (Donald) Burton and Mrs S.J.P. Heath began similarly long careers, initially as Committee Clerk and Registry Clerk respectively. On Malherbe’s recommendation and in recognition of his long service stretching back to February 1938, Council granted the Registrar, Peter Leeb-du Toit, 243 days of accumulated leave that effectively postponed his retirement to 31 August 1969. Malherbe himself retired at the end of 1965. So too did his secretary, Mrs S.M. Botha.

**J.L. (Jack) Dowley** was a BA (Hons) graduate of King’s College, London. After World War II service in the Normandy landings he worked in the Department of Education in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) before becoming under-secretary for education in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. He joined the University Administration in 1963, spending three days a week in Durban and two in Pietermaritzburg as he developed the Student Advisory Service to the point where a full-time appointment could be made in the latter centre.

Within five years student interviews increased from 600 to nearly 3 000 a year and interest profiles were obtained after every new registration. Dowley served on all the Faculty boards and, with his keen interest in failure rates, assisted them in investigating new examination techniques. He was held in sufficiently high regard to be elected to the Academic Planning and Policy Committee and in 1968 was promoted from the status of associate to that of full professor. He represented the University on the Joint Matriculation Board before retiring in 1976.
The Malherbe era: an assessment

Malherbe left office amidst a chorus of public and private praise, both locally and internationally. His achievements were extolled in several newspaper articles and in June the following year the University awarded him an honorary doctorate of laws to add to the seven degrees already conferred on him in Australia, Britain, Canada and South Africa. Malherbe had, over the years, succeeded in attracting a number of distinguished scholars from abroad either to deliver graduation addresses or talks in the University Lecture series he had initiated. In this respect he had also been particularly successful with regard to the University’s 1949 Inauguration and 1960 Jubilee celebrations.

Several of these prominent associates congratulated him on the occasion of his retirement. Sir John Maud, who had greatly assisted him in organising the University’s 1960 Golden Jubilee and had become Master of University College, Oxford, told him that ‘I regard your job as one of the key jobs in the world. You have done it marvellously and I only wish that you could go on doing it for many years more.’ S.P. Jackson, professor of Geography at Wits, wrote: ‘I am sure that when in years to come the development of university education is evaluated critically nothing will gain more praise than the growth of the University of Natal during your reign as Principal. Your name deserves to be honoured there as long as the University exists.’

Walter Adams of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland concurred: ‘You must look back with triumphant pride to all that you have done for the University of Natal; it literally is your creation and I hope that you realise how much you have won the admiration and affection of all your colleagues in the Commonwealth.’

Indeed, a great deal had been achieved since Malherbe’s arrival in 1945 as an Afrikaner with a thick upcountry accent in a province that had still to be fully convinced of the need for an autonomous university of its own and of his ability to achieve that objective. Fully bilingual and with a genuine interest in people, he had moved easily in both academic and business circles, forming valuable links between town and gown and between the ivory tower and the white farming communities of the province in his quest to raise funds and convince the public of the University’s value to the region.

Student registrations had increased five-fold from 911 to 4 570 and degrees conferred from 130, including 12 postgraduate, to 739, including 203 higher degrees. The staff complement had been strengthened three and a half-fold from 85 to 301, including an increase in professorial posts from 23 to 66 but excluding the Faculty of Medicine’s honorary appointments. Malherbe had
been ahead of his time in unsuccessfully seeking to transform the first year of
study into a foundation year designed to reduce undergraduate failure rates,
but there had been significant improvement in the variety of course options
and campus facilities available to students.

This was particularly so at Howard College on Durban’s Stella Ridge and
in the once thick subtropical bush below it. Moreover, the value of University
buildings had increased nearly eighteen-fold from R432 000 to R7 665 000,
approximately 60% of it spent in Durban where in 1945 the only material
assets were the original Howard College and City Buildings.

In addition, several new academic departments and divisions had been
created, including African Studies, Architecture, Divinity, Philosophy, and
Speech and Drama. The University’s faculties had increased from seven to
nine with the addition of Agriculture and Medicine and the number of research
institutes associated with the University had risen from nil to eight with all
but one, Wattle Research, based in Durban. These were the Paint Industries
Research Institute, the Sugar Milling Research Institute, the Meyrick Bennett
Childrens Centre, the Institute for Social Research, the Institute for Parasitology,
the CSIR Natural Products Research Unit and the Oceanographic Research
Institute. Their output, coupled with that of a much larger staff complement,
greatly enhanced the University of Natal’s reputation in a variety of research
fields and in its services to the community.

All these advances were, at least in part, a reflection of Malherbe’s qualities
of energy, leadership and administrative management, which were often
stretched by the University’s geographical and disparate nature. Continued
growth meant that even the once intimate Pietermaritzburg campus became
more impersonal for both students and staff while members of Senate and
departmental colleagues in different centres were increasingly less likely to
know each other personally.

The University of Natal became decidedly more difficult to control but
Malherbe consistently adhered to the principle of dualism once the decision
had been taken, for better or for worse, not to concentrate all of the University’s
faculties, other than Agriculture, in Durban. He had thereafter done his best to
reassure staff and students on the Pietermaritzburg campus that this principle
was sacrosanct, though he continued to have misgivings about its future
financial viability without being subsidised by Durban. Privately, for reasons
of practical administrative convenience as much as finance, he may well have
lived to regret the crucial decision to continue offering such a wide range of
courses in both centres.

At the personal level, he had also coped admirably with the delicate crisis that arose in the central administration as a consequence of the Registrar’s psychological indisposition. This had not only implicated subordinate administrators who were unjustly accused of disloyalty and dishonesty, but also the chairman of Council in his personal capacity as a medical practitioner.

Malherbe’s leadership qualities had already become evident during the very early years of his principalship when he led a vigorous campaign to achieve independent university status for NUC. These were demonstrated again in the vigorous struggles to establish and retain the new University’s control over its Faculty of Medicine in the face of the government’s resolve to place it under an alternative authority that was more in keeping with its own segregationist ideology.

Malherbe’s failure similarly to protect the University’s much more established Non-European Section against closure was perhaps understandable in view of the Nationalists’ determination to eliminate what they came to regard as an unacceptable anomaly in terms of their new system of separate ‘non-European’ colleges. He had hoped to establish such a college himself but as an equal, separate affiliate of the Pietermaritzburg and Howard College campuses and had served on the 1954 second Holloway Commission in an effort to influence the government to that end.

His failure on that score too was not surprising in view of public apathy and lack of financial support from the State, though he demonstrated much more enthusiasm for that objective than he ever did for complete integration. Indeed, during his long tenure little effort was made to integrate the University’s non-medical ‘non-European’ students into the much larger white student body by gradually substituting segregated with integrated part- and full-time classes at a time when there was still no legal restriction preventing it from doing so.

In her dissertation on his principalship, Patricia Esselaar has argued that Malherbe believed segregated classes were a pragmatic compromise in the Natal context between the fully integrated classes offered at the ‘open’
universities and the complete exclusion of ‘non-Europeans’ practised at the Afrikaans-medium institutions. He also believed that educationally such an arrangement was actually to the advantage of ‘non-European’ students in providing the means whereby they could be specially coached to compensate for their disadvantaged schooling. When, eventually, there was some movement towards integration, it was essentially for practical administrative reasons and was ‘too little too late’ as by then the fate of the Non-European Section had already been sealed and its student numbers were in steady decline.

Malherbe readily identified with the strenuous efforts always made to ensure that Natal’s ‘non-European’ students enjoyed academic standards identical to those experienced by their white counterparts in terms of the quality of courses offered and examinations set. Yet the facilities provided at Sastri College and subsequently at Marian Buildings never approached the separate but equal level avowedly intended. The serious shortcomings of these premises were openly acknowledged and consistently seem to have been regarded as only temporary. In practice this proved to be on an indefinite basis with a lack of sufficient funds usually cited for the absence of significant improvements.

Understandably, these delays raised serious doubts about the sincerity of Malherbe’s and the University’s real intentions. So too did his sometimes paternalistic attitude in advising ‘non-European’ students to make the most of what was available to them, ignore apparent racial slights and focus on the job in hand of completing their degrees.

Whatever his personal views may really have been with regard to integration, it was indeed unfortunate that, within a few years of Malherbe’s appointment as Principal, the tide began to turn decisively in the direction of segregation after 1948 and the advent of National Party government. As Esselaar has pointed out, within the University itself he always had to contend with politically conservative views in Council and, on occasion, in Senate as well. There was also always genuine concern about white public opinion and the risk of alienating prospective students and donors.

Esselaar has suggested that in this difficult environment, like Mabel Palmer Malherbe favoured a realistic, gradualist approach to effect a transition towards integrated classes. Yet in the very different post-World War II years from 1945 to 1965 he seemingly made no more effort to modify white opinion within and without the University than his cautious predecessors J.W. Bews (1928–1938) and R.B. Denison (1938–1944) had done when the registration of ‘non-European’ students at the University was still a novelty. He showed no inclination to force the pace of change. Yet, on the other hand, as Esselaar
has indicated, Malherbe surreptitiously condoned the continued enrolment of students from other institutions into what was left of the University’s declining Non-European Section long after the practice had been officially prohibited.

For some the surviving impression was that in theory he may well have favoured separate but equal facilities while being, as student leaders claimed at the time, firmly opposed in principle to ethnic mixing. For that reason, they argued, he and his senior colleagues acquiesced in segregation ideology instead of attempting to mount any serious challenge to it. Many of the University’s ‘non-European’ graduates were indeed grateful for the degrees they might otherwise not have been able to attain, but left disillusioned and alienated.

Esselaar has drawn attention to the fact that avowed liberals within the University like Denys Schreiner and Hans Meidner were similarly disappointed and doubted that he really belonged in their ranks, even though he was implacably opposed to the prevailing narrow Afrikaner nationalism. Yet prior to his departure for Canada another liberal, Geoffrey Durrant, with whom he had often crossed swords, praised him for his ‘courage and vision’ and ‘the magnanimity with which you have guided and administered the university’. Following Malherbe’s retirement he added that ‘even in disagreement you taught me a great deal – above all that it is possible to fight for what one believes in without rancour or personal enmity’. As Principal, Malherbe always felt obliged to maintain an orderly exchange of often disparate political opinions on campus and he was often caught in the crossfire between a conservative Council and liberal academics who expected him to provide more assertive leadership.

Esselaar has suggested that his support for his wife’s attempt in the 1960s to enter Parliament under the banner of the Progressive Party, which favoured a qualified vote rather than the Liberal Party’s universal franchise, probably reflected his own more gradualist approach towards the eventual achievement of a common society in South Africa. The ever supportive and vivacious Janie Malherbe later wrote:

The tragedy of my Ern, when he became principal of the Un. of Natal, was that, in his far-visioned ideals, he had to be frustrated by committees, etc of small creatures who had themselves never brought anything great to pass, and would never do so; Creatures whose motives for wrecking his grand schemes were purely personal and parochial. And the greatest tragedy of all was that some people, who should have realised this, and who should have supported him against these LITTLE people, were members of his council – yes, even the chairman, (ineffectual old George Campbell, later responsible for apptment of horrible Horwood as Principal) a genial fellow whose greatest desire was to see EVERYONE HAPPY!10
THE END OF AN ERA

While few would have agreed entirely with these loyal sentiments, it was appropriate that Convocation should honour them both with the creation of two new awards to the value of R500 a year each: the Convocation-E.G. Malherbe Bursary/Scholarship and the Convocation-Mrs Janie Malherbe Bursary/Scholarship. On 17 November 1965 Council gave them a farewell dinner at the Durban Country Club and what Malherbe described as a ‘very generous cheque’ with which they bought a kiaat coffee table and two standing lamps to serve as ‘a nostalgic reminder of a happy association of nearly twenty years’. He was also allowed to retain the vehicle he had used while in office.

Six days later, at Malherbe’s last Senate meeting, Professor Owen Horwood won unanimous support for his proposal that it record its ‘profound appreciation of the outstanding services rendered over a period of 20 years’ and that he accept the title of professor emeritus. Senate also resolved to recommend to Council that an E.G. Malherbe Lecture be instituted as part of the University’s future tradition.11

To the end he had his critics but, in retrospect, the Malherbe era was to be regarded with much more appreciation in the light of what followed in the years immediately after his retirement during the principalship of Owen Horwood.

ENDNOTES


6 UKZNA Council Minutes: 21 May 1965: 18, 19 November 1965: 7–8; PAR 3/PMB 4/5/293 Ref. TC 130/205 University of Natal Application for a Grant: J.H. Greyling, Campaign Director NUDF to Town Clerk, 24 November 1964, City Treasurer to Town Clerk, 14 December 1964 and 1 March 1965, Town Clerk to J.H. Greyling, Campaign Director NUDF, 1 and 13 April 1965, Town Clerk, 3 May 1965, Extract of Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes, 22 April 1965 as approved by City Council, 29 April 1965.


In 1965 the University acquired the invaluable Killie Campbell Africana Library and the William Campbell Mashu Museum of African artifacts and ethnological items that were housed in the Campbell family home Muckleneuk (above) on the Durban Berea (from Natal University News Spring 1974, 17: cover).

The new carefully planned Library Building (above) on the Pietermaritzburg campus was completed in 1965 and officially opened the following year (from Natal University News June 1967: 3).
BY THE EARLY 1960s the University was experiencing serious difficulties with regard to the recruitment of suitably qualified staff, particularly in the pure and applied sciences. There was also general concern about the spate of staff emigration following the dramatic events of 1960 in South Africa and the problem of attracting new blood from abroad. Amidst mounting political tension on and off campus, staff and student numbers nevertheless continued to increase, eventually leading in the 1970s to a process of administrative devolution among academic departments in the two centres.

Academic staffing and devolution
Among those who proposed that the University take positive steps to overcome its staffing crisis was Ian Allan, then organiser of the Non-European Section in Durban. In addition to financial incentives, he suggested that a small delegation be sent overseas in an effort to recruit suitable personnel and impress upon university communities abroad that ‘an important struggle for University freedom’ was being fought in South Africa that needed the support of those willing to accept the challenge.

Even though nothing came of Allan’s initiative, between 1961 and 1965 the University made 79 new appointments, 40 of them in the Sciences. They included seven professors, fifteen senior lecturers, eleven lecturers and seven junior lecturers as well as four, thirteen, seventeen and five appointments respectively at those levels in the Humanities and Social Sciences. By the end of 1965 the University boasted a permanent staff complement of 342, a significant increase compared with 1960. While it is not clear how many of the new recruits were from abroad, the complement comprised 64 professors, seven associate professors, 124 senior lecturers, 127 lecturers and twenty assistant lecturers. In addition there were 175 temporary full- and part-time lecturers, amounting to a total of 517 staff members in all categories.

In 1965 a series of eleven inaugural lectures was delivered on the Pietermaritzburg campus, some of them long overdue but reviving a tradition
that had been allowed to lapse for some years. Also, from the mid-1960s professors who were not heads of department were accepted as members of Senate, but were not required to give inaugural lectures.¹

The difficulties involved in adequate staff recruitment persisted into the 1970s, with promising candidates in the technical and professional fields within the country being attracted by the more substantial rewards offered in the market place. Potential foreign recruits were discouraged not only by unattractive salaries, but also by adverse publicity about South Africa as well as difficulties in securing visas and permanent residence status. The situation was compounded when the membership and even observer status of South African universities in the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) was lost following the country’s withdrawal from the Commonwealth.

When the service the ACU provided in advertising and interviewing for vacant posts was also withdrawn it was replaced by the establishment of a London office in conjunction with the CSIR. In November 1971 the Principal undertook to write to the editors of any overseas journals that declined to advertise staff vacancies at the University of Natal to explain to them its preferred policy of selecting the best available applicants without any form of discrimination. Senex even appointed a sub-committee on University isolation to investigate effective ways of publicising this policy more broadly and implementing it by opening the institution to all ethnic groups.

Encouragingly, it was noted that, under special circumstances, black students were now being admitted to postgraduate courses in previously ‘whites only’ universities. In November 1976 Senate resolved that the University should ‘seek blanket permission to enroll postgraduate students of all races’ in the spirit of its own and Council’s response of 22 March 1957 to the Separate University Education Bill and as a ‘first step’ towards registering increasing numbers of black students.

Despite the challenges encountered between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s numerous new appointments were made and several new departments created, primarily in Medicine and in the Humanities and Social Sciences, as student numbers continued to increase. Although the staff complement was by no means all male, in some quarters there was still a sub-conscious sexism prevalent in making appointments. When a sub-committee of the Faculty of Science reported on the criteria that should be observed in filling the vacant chair of Zoology it pointed to the need for ‘a man who has a strong personality’ among other virtues.
By 1962 Psychology had moved from Arts and Social Science to the Faculty of Science and the following year the Faculty of Social Science was recognised as distinct from that of Arts, although Sociology and Social Work was then the only department in it. By 1972 the new Faculty had been further augmented by the inclusion of Nursing and the Computer Centre and the following year by African Studies, all of them in Durban. In 1976 Economics switched from Commerce and Public Administration to Arts.

By 1970 the University had a staff complement of 641 to teach its 6,258 students. They included 82 professors, five associate professors, 186 senior lecturers, 157 lecturers, nineteen assistant lecturers and 192 temporary full- and part-time staff. By 1976 the University’s staff numbered 787 and there were 7,962 students.

The overall staff:student ratio was therefore approximately 1:10, though this varied enormously from faculty to faculty. Arts (1,953) and Commerce (1,515) had the most students, but with dramatically different staff:student ratios of 1:12 and 1:54. Science had 151 staff members to teach 940 students (1:6.2), Law had eighteen to teach 377 students (1:21), Architecture 22 staff to teach 406 students (1:18.5), Engineering 53 to teach 872 (1:16.5) and Social Science 27 to teach 412 students (1:15.2). Medicine had 225 staff members (95 of whom were part-timers) teaching 605 students (1:2.7) and Education 57 staff members (32 of whom were part-timers) teaching 543 students (1:9.5). Compared with most faculties Agriculture was well placed with 43 staff members to teach 339 students (1:7.9).

In 1973 the University’s Academic Planning and Policy Committee recommended in its report for the triennium 1973–1975 that local autonomy for the two centres should be seriously considered in the near future with a view to moving towards a federal structure or even complete separation into two institutions. Further, that those departments that were already able and willing to split into independent departments should be permitted to do so.

Towards the end of the year the international oil shock and steep increase in fuel costs made a drastic reduction in travel costs between the two centres essential. Simultaneously, a supplementary grant towards the University’s current expenditure facilitated the appointment of additional staff to improve the staff:student ratio and dispense with the necessity for much of the travel previously undertaken for teaching purposes.

In 1969 Council and Senate had already embraced the proposal to appoint full-time vice-principals in both centres. In the same year Senate had also agreed, somewhat reluctantly, to a separation of graduation ceremonies in the
two centres. Henceforth, from 1970 there were to be two in Pietermaritzburg and two in Durban, thereby acknowledging the increase in graduate numbers and the fact that the staff and students ‘just don’t know each other in any one centre, let alone both’.

By the end of 1973 most departments were already autonomous, thereby effecting an enormous saving of both money and time but at the cost of further distance between the two centres. After some delays in the appointment of new heads most departments slipped easily into the new arrangement. Each academic discipline now had an independent head in each centre but it did become necessary to appoint some additional staff to ensure that each centre could henceforth indeed have its own faculties of Arts, Commerce, Law, Science and (later) Social Science. Architecture, Engineering and Medicine remained unique to Durban and Agriculture to Pietermaritzburg.

There was also no replication of certain disciplines with Animal Biology, Plant Biology, Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Land Surveying, Mathematical Statistics, Music, Nursing and Social Work remaining unique to Durban; while Botany, Divinity, Fine Arts, Librarianship and Zoology continued to be offered only in Pietermaritzburg. Those disciplines that existed in both centres began to move apart in terms of many of the courses offered and examinations set.

Some Faculty boards, notably Arts and Science, chose to conduct their business separately in the two centres while others continued to meet jointly. It was envisaged that greater autonomy with regard to general and financial administration might follow if funds became available, with each centre eventually becoming an autonomous college within a single university along federal lines.

By the mid-1970s, as a consequence of the University’s reluctant takeover of the Faculty of Agriculture with its small student numbers and low subsidy, a freeze was imposed on all vacant posts that were now to be subject to review in order to justify the need to fill them. As soon as the financial balance was restored as a result of an improved subsidy payment the freeze was relaxed, although the review procedure was to prove an enlightening experience.²

Meanwhile appointments, academic reorganisation and staff:student ratios were by no means the only issues attracting concerned attention on campus.

**Staff associations and political dissent**

By the mid-1960s the National Party government was tightening its grip on the country to ensure complete conformity with its apartheid policy. Despite the effective implementation of the Extension of University Education Act (45
of 1959), the English-medium universities were still perceived to be surviving hotbeds of potentially dangerous opposition. This opinion was doubtless confirmed when, in 1963, the University of Natal’s staff and student bodies achieved a long-held objective with the unveiling of a permanent reminder of that event in the Durban Students Union, complete with space left for the finalisation of the inscription at some future date

THE RIGHT OF THIS UNIVERSITY TO DETERMINE WHO SHALL BE ADMITTED AS STUDENTS WAS TAKEN AWAY IN MAY 1959 AND RESTORED ...
THIS PLAQUE WAS ERECTED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL DURBAN AND UNVEILED BY DR THE HONOURABLE D.G. SHEPSTONE IN THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, SENATE, CONVOCATION AND OF LECTURERS AND STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL ON 7TH MARCH 1963

By then the Day of Affirmation in Academic Freedom had become an annual event observed by all the English-language universities in South Africa. In mid-1963 there was considerable local and foreign press interest in a petition, signed by 117 members of staff in both centres of the University, expressing concern that the provisions contained in the General Law Amendment Acts of 1962–1963 could be used to silence lecturers who were innocent of political crimes, but who might express opinions unacceptable to government. The petitioners pledged themselves to demand the immediate release or trial of any staff member who was detained and some in Pietermaritzburg even threatened to resign if any of their number was detained for longer than a month.

The Minister of Justice dismissed the petition ‘with contempt’. In September that year the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, A. (Albert) Hertzog, expressed the view of many of his Nationalist colleagues when he questioned the advisability of parents registering their offspring at those institutions where the staff was composed ‘mostly of liberals and half-communists who on every possible occasion try to impress on young people that they are no better than the primitive black man’.

The pressure on political opponents on and off campuses continued to mount. After the Rivonia trial concluded in June 1964, condemning Nelson Mandela and others to life imprisonment, several other dissidents appeared in court while large numbers went into voluntary exile. In June 1964 Convocation expressed its concern that some members of the student body were being held in detention without trial in terms of the 1963 General Law Amendment
Act and demanded immediate court hearings on their behalf. Council took a softer line, requesting that students held in detention be tried or released as soon as possible in order to minimise the impact on their academic progress. The Durban SRC expressed its concern at the Minister of Justice’s expressed intention to prevent ‘named’ (i.e., politically suspect) persons from lecturing at universities.

In September 1964 Senate endorsed the Lecturers Association’s protest against government’s ongoing threats to academic freedom and its spurious argument that it had the right to control the universities because it subsidised them. Among numerous other new items of legislation to which staff and students at the University of Natal took particular exception was the Publications Act of 1974, in terms of which thousands of publications, many of educational significance, were banned. Another was the earlier Proclamation R26 of 12 February 1965, which made it a criminal offence for members of different race (ethnic) groups to use the same places of public entertainment or partake of refreshments in the same licensed premises or tea room. In 1967, at the behest of Senex, Law professors Burchell and Mathews drew up a schedule of University activities that could be affected by the Group Areas Amendment Act (36 of 1966) and copies were distributed to all departmental heads to bring to the attention of staff members.

Meanwhile Professor of Sociology and Social Work H.P. (Hansi) Pollak took the lead in forming an Academic Staff Association. She explained that because of ‘current developments’ many members of staff favoured the establishment of such an organisation to express staff opinion on matters of importance and maintain effective contact with similar associations in other universities. She requested copies of their constitutions from UCT, Wits and Rhodes to provide guidelines and solicited the support of the Principal before setting up consultative groups in both centres to consider the desirability of forming such an association.

A draft constitution was drawn up and subsequently approved with minor amendments at a general meeting of all academic staff held on 23 October 1964. Professor E.B. Adams formally proposed the formation of the association which Professor Owen Horwood seconded before it was unanimously approved. Professor Frank Warren was elected first chairman and Professor Ken McIntyre, chairman of the Lecturers Association, vice-chairman with a careful balance of committee members, including Hansi Pollak, drawn from both centres.
It was emphasised that the new association was not intended to ignore the ‘valuable work’ already achieved by the existing Lecturers Association or to subsume it in any way. The intention was to establish an organisation to which all members of the academic staff, including professors, could belong so that it could deal with matters of common concern. It was also pointed out that the prevailing threat to university autonomy and to the free choice and retention of staff made it essential to have a completely representative body through which the opinions of the entire academic staff could be expressed. In addition, when appropriate it would then be possible for joint action to be taken with the representative academic associations of other universities. The Lecturers Association accepted these arguments, but opted to remain in existence as ‘it too performed an essential function’.

Within a year all but 31 members of staff opted to join the new association, which promptly became a corporate member of the new University Teachers Association of South Africa (UTASA). Colin Gardner was appointed as its first representative on UTASA while he and J.W. (Jeffrey) Horton of the Lecturers Association represented the University on a sub-committee briefed to correlate information about conditions of service at all the universities.

As its first chairman, Frank Warren envisaged that the Academic Staff Association (ASA) would become involved in a variety of issues, ranging from staff:student ratios, academic standards, matriculation criteria and entrance qualifications to staff workloads and housing, liaising with foreign academic associations, arranging staff exchanges, creating conditions favourable to successful staff recruitment and introducing new staff members to local campus life. As Ian Allan’s letter in 1961 suggested, in the prevailing political climate there was understandable concern that the University should be able to continue attracting appropriate new recruits and to counteract politically motivated staff resignations. This was directly associated with the government’s treatment of those members of staff and students whose activities it perceived to be a potential threat to the State.

In that connection one of the ASA’s first actions was to issue a statement in support of its counterparts at UCT and Wits condemning the government’s banning and detention without trial of their staff members professors Jack Simons and Eddie Roux. With the Principal’s consent, it also sent a letter to the Minister of Justice protesting against the detention under the new 90-day clause of Natal’s own English Department lecturer R.M. (Mike) Kirkwood, who was subsequently released in January 1965 three weeks after his arrest. The following month the ASA publicly condemned the banning of S. (Saul)
Bastomsky, a Classics lecturer in Pietermaritzburg, but it did not pursue the case after he resigned and emigrated to take up a temporary fellowship at Clare College, Cambridge.

Another case in point was that of Ken Hill, senior lecturer in Mathematics, who had taught on the Durban campus for 17 years and been a member of the national committee of the Liberal Party since its inception. According to the Commissioner of Police he was under suspicion because he had represented the party at meetings that included the African National Congress, the South African Congress of Democrats and the South African Congress of Trade Unions. In 1965 his wife, Jean Hill, who served as secretary to the Defence and Aid Fund, which financed the defence of persons accused of undesirable political activities, was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act. Ken Hill was banned and placed under partial house arrest a year later.

Joint protest meetings of the ASA and Lecturers Association were held in both centres and an appeal was made for Senate and Council to express their public support of the staff. At Council’s behest a deputation from the University secured an interview with the Minister of Justice in Cape Town and Ken Hill’s banning was subsequently lifted late in 1966 in exchange for an undertaking that he would not engage in sabotage or subversion. In May that year the two staff associations again joined forces in support of the Durban SRC’s mass meeting to protest the banning of Ian Robertson, its own former president and current president of NUSAS, but the minister was not willing to relent in his case.

Later that year efforts were made to assist two of the University’s technical assistants who had been arrested under the 180-day detention clause and to ensure that their salaries were paid until such time as they were formally convicted of a criminal offence. In addition, books were supplied to students who had been incarcerated and who wished to continue studying. In 1969 representations were made to secure a reversal of the government’s decision to withdraw the passport of Peter Behr, the former Durban SRC president. That year the two staff associations jointly prepared a ‘Memorandum of evidence on the educational and academic aspects of the university’ for submission to the impending commission of inquiry into universities.

Both associations were involved in the ceremony held in 1970 to observe ‘the 11th anniversary of the end of the academic freedom of South African Universities’. The dedication read:
STAFFING AND TEACHING

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.

Hundreds of people were listed as communists and/or banned under the Suppression of Communism Act before being subjected to a variety of restrictions that included house arrest, exclusion from employment and banishment to remote rural areas. Not surprisingly, there were others in the University community who incurred the displeasure of the State during the 1960s and 1970s and many were connected either with NUSAS or the South African Students Organisation (SASO).

Several of the University’s former students and alumni were banned, along with Durban Political Science lecturer Dr R. (Richard, ’Rick’) Turner. The University’s two staff associations were prominent in the protest meetings against banning without trial held in both centres. In March 1973 a delegation comprising the principals of the four English-speaking universities visited the Prime Minister to insist that restricted persons be brought before a court of law.

Efforts were made to ensure that Divinity student John Aitchison had access to the University Library despite his 1971 (second) banning. The Lecturers Association organised a well-attended meeting at which the Minister of Justice was called upon to lift Rick Turner’s ban and the University was urged to retain him in his post. The ASA, Senate and SRCs all passed similar motions. After taking legal advice Council resolved that it would indeed continue to pay his salary, despite being unable to carry out his teaching duties in terms of his banning order, until such time as he might be convicted. This remained the case until his subsequent assassination by a government agent on 8 January 1978.

In 1974 the staff associations also fired up Council to plead the case for a renewal of the residence permit of Pietermaritzburg English lecturer D.A. (Don) Beale. The following year Durban law lecturer R.S. (Raymond) Suttner was arrested and then jailed for eight years for allegedly distributing what he called ‘agitational’ literature as his contribution to the struggle against apartheid. According to Trevor Cope, the involvement of Zulu lecturer J. (Jennifer) Roxburgh was detected by the faulty letter ‘g’ on the departmental
typewriter she used to produce the pamphlets. This led to her imprisonment for six months.

In addition to Rick Turner’s banning there were detentions of staff members, including that of Fatima Meer in 1976. On the recommendation of Senate and Senex the University Council resolved to continue paying her salary as well, even though she was unable to teach, until such time as she might be convicted in a court of law. In November 1976 the University also gave its sympathetic support to temporary Economics lecturer C.E.W. (Charles) Simkins, a future Wits professor, when he was banned without trial.

In 1974–1975 the various sections of the University community – Council, Convocation, staff and students – joined forces to form an AFC. This was partly in response to comments in the long-awaited October 1974 report of the wide-ranging Justice J. van Wyk de Vries Commission of 1968 that gave rise to concern about the possibility of further government encroachments on tertiary institutions. It was intended that the AFC should meet at least once a year to co-ordinate opinion and discuss ways of promoting university independence and protecting academic freedom.

With regard to the Van Wyk de Vries Commission report the AFC affirmed the previously expressed views of Council and Senate objecting to the notion that ‘there can only be one correct view of the nature and function of the University’. It argued that the demand for the non-racial selection of staff and students was based on educational and not, as the report suggested, on ideological principles. Further, that continued communication with the international world of scholarship was not a rejection of the local state and society but was essential to avoid the danger of insularity with regard to current thinking, research and practice.

As far as political activity and protest was concerned, the AFC also supported Council and Senate’s opinion that students should be entitled, individually and collectively as in NUSAS, to express their views and to criticise government policy without harassment. It insisted that Council was similarly entitled to protect the University’s autonomy in performing its teaching and research functions as best it could. It was also adamant that Council should not, as the report recommended, be held responsible for the off-campus actions of its staff and students, nor should the University be financially penalised for any such actions.

The two academic associations both wholeheartedly supported these views in their joint statement. Unfortunately, after the first flush of enthusiasm, by 1970 the ASA’s membership was 168, which constituted a substantial minority
of the staff. It was not clear whether this was due to indifference or political antipathy, but attempts in the early 1970s to strengthen the two associations by merging them were unsuccessful.

Initially, the Lecturers Association favoured such a move to avoid the overlapping workloads of the two Executives and duplication of personnel. After a stormy debate it decided against this because professors had the additional platform of Senate through which to express their usually more circumspect views and because it was feared that their interests might clash with those of lecturers even though there had been no such instances in recent years.

The staff associations were also concerned to improve the working and living conditions of the University’s ‘non-white’ employees. In 1966, partly through their efforts, a voluntary subsidised feeding scheme was introduced for cleaners and semi-skilled labourers involving the provision of two meals a day for R2 a month. In 1970 Council also approved revised salary scales for ‘non-Europeans’ as well as their admission to the Associated Institutions Pension Fund. Special salary increments were granted to those on the lowest scales to ensure that their take home pay did not decline as a consequence of the attendant deductions. In 1972 the non-academic staff and the black staff began to fend for themselves more effectively when they formed their own associations, which Council formally recognised.4

For the most part, all the University’s staff associations were concerned with fairly mundane but ultimately important issues relating to their conditions of service.

**Conditions of service**

In 1961 the Lecturers Association successfully pushed for an improvement and clarification of the working conditions of junior lecturers who, in some departments, carried heavy teaching and even administrative loads, although they were originally intended to be primarily engaged in research towards higher degrees. As a result it was agreed that they should not be expected to spend more than two and a half days a week on departmental work. In the same year, clear procedures for staff attendance at conferences were introduced with the University undertaking to cover the expenses of paper givers at gatherings elsewhere (usually only one staff member per department) and of those selected to represent the University at such events.

It was also decided to simplify and reduce the informative *University of Natal Gazette* to a bi-annual publication under the editorship of the Publications
Officer, Dr W.G. McConkey, while Florence MacDonald was thanked for her energetic and friendly efforts in that capacity since the *Gazette*’s inception.

In 1962 the Lecturers Association sought clarification with regard to conditions pertaining to termination of service. Other matters of concern that were clarified included probationary periods, furlough and leave allowances, and fee remissions for dependents. In 1964 a new medical aid scheme was implemented for University staff and members of associated research institutes. In the same year members of staff were given the choice between continuing to contribute to the existing University Institutions Provident Fund or switching to a new pension fund. Individual choices depended in part upon existing length of service, but while the Lecturers Association was opposed to the change new staff members were henceforth obliged to join the new scheme.

In January 1965 the University introduced a housing loan guarantee scheme for all married full-time staff members and those who had dependents residing permanently with them, subject to certain conditions. This scheme terminated the ongoing debate whether the University should build or acquire houses on or near the campuses to let to staff members. Senate did not support the 1965 proposal of the Lecturers Association that the retirement age be extended from 65 to 68 but, through the CUP, the University did support the campaign for improved salaries.

This was an ongoing issue of concern that included the wages and conditions of service of administrative and library staff, departmental technical and artisan staff and ‘non-European’ employees. In 1964 two dozen Pietermaritzburg members of staff were given permission to form their own Non-European Laboratory Staff Association to deal directly with the University administration. It was a step towards the broader representation of black staff that was to follow.

In the mid-1960s there was also concern that universities should retain the right to determine their own salary scales without government interference and that Natal should offer the highest it could possibly afford in order to retain and attract well-qualified recruits. The differentiation in salary scales between white and black members of the Faculty of Medicine’s Joint Medical Establishment and qualified technical staff, as prescribed by government, was a longstanding source of discontent. The Natal Provincial Executive was unable to assist and representations to the Minister of Health via the Medical Association of South Africa and the Medical and Dental Council also proved unsuccessful.
Moreover, neither the NUDF nor Convocation were able to help Council by collecting funds with which to make up the difference and the staff so affected were disinclined to accept salary supplementation from private donations. Council was reluctant to provide the needed salary supplements for fear of ‘imperilling’ the rest of the University’s finances by displeasing the minister. There was more dissatisfaction when in 1965 government introduced a further salary differentiation between Indian/coloured and African staff members and Council unsuccessfully submitted memoranda objecting to this distinction to the ministers of Education and Health.

When in 1972 the British Medical Association refused to advertise the Faculty of Medicine’s chair of Orthopaedic Surgery in its journal because of the racial discrimination that characterised salaries in South African medical posts, the University made further representations to both the central and provincial governments to abolish the practice.

Further salary increases followed in 1974, but there were numerous other issues of staff concern. These included appointments, promotions, staff representation on committees, leave allowances, sick and compassionate leave, holiday bonuses, complaints against staff and terms of dismissal, workloads and office accommodation, contract appointments, staff bursaries and fee remissions, travel and subsistence costs, the financing of conference attendance, medical aid, accident cover and personal insurance, the right to undertake private remunerative work, common rooms, teaching facilities and audio-visual aids. In 1971 Council agreed to the establishment of a nursery school on the Durban campus to cater for 80 children of staff, students and Convocation members. Three years later both academic staff associations had input into a major revision of their conditions of service and into the improvement of staff common room facilities in both centres.

By 1976 Council had resolved, at the behest of Senate, that henceforth all advertisements attracting applicants for vacant posts would include the statement: ‘The policy of the University is not to discriminate in the appointment of staff on the grounds of sex, religion, race, colour or national origin’. This was decided upon even though the universities had been requested not to appoint ‘non-whites’ where this was avoidable and, if such appointments were made, to remunerate them on the differential salary scales applied in the ‘non-white’ universities.

Government subsequently authorised the payment of equal salaries provided the universities met the difference between those and the approved salary scales from their fee income. The University undertook to do so and called
upon the NPA to eliminate the differential salary scales applicable to different racial groups employed as joint employees in the Faculty of Medicine.

In Pietermaritzburg new staff members and their families, along with short-term visitors from abroad, were welcomed by the Campus Women’s Group comprising female staff members and the wives of staff who assisted them in settling in and organised a variety of social functions. Mrs D. (Dulcie) McMillan, who initiated a bursary fund for needy students, served as patron as did F. (Fleur) Webb and others. Among those who chaired the group as various times were M. (Melloney) Martin, C. (Cherie) MacLean, T. (Theo) Parish and M. (Merle) Rijkenberg.5

Meanwhile, with varying degrees of success, all the faculties attracted new appointees during the 1960s and 70s.

Science
In the Faculty of Science Pietermaritzburg’s Department of Botany gained new senior lecturers in Dr T.A. Villiers (1964, promoted to professor the following year) and Dr H.B. Gilliland (1965). Following Adolf Bayer’s retirement in 1966, C.H. (Chris) Bornman was appointed to the chair while the department made what proved to be a significant acquisition with the appointment in 1967 of J. (Johannes/Hannes) van Staden to the lecturing staff. The transfer of Dr Hilliard from Wentworth to Pietermaritzburg gave it a full-time curator for the Herbarium as well as a research associate who was able to undertake much of the routine identification of plants for others both within and outside the University. In 1972 Dr C.M. (Charles) Breen joined the department as senior lecturer.

After Bornman had presented a report to Senex on the various projects in environmental studies currently being undertaken in the University, a steering committee was established to co-ordinate and promote such research and to consider the launch of postgraduate courses in that field. It was clearly recognised as a future growth point and possible avenue of employment for students.

Between 1966 and 1975 the department produced ten Ph.D. and 22 M.Sc. graduates in Botany. In so doing it provided personnel for several other universities, as well as the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria, the CSIR, the Natal Parks Board, the Sugar and Wattle Research institutes and private organisations involved in botanical research. In addition, Dr D.J.B. Killick served for four years as South African liaison botanist at Kew Gardens and was
followed by another Natal graduate in T.H. Arnold, while J.H. Ross became senior botanist to the Government Herbarium in Melbourne.

Biochemistry in Pietermaritzburg gained new senior lecturers in Dr J.L. de Wit (1961) and Dr H.J.H. (Hector) de Muelenaere (1963). Since 1949 the Department of Biometry had formed part of the Faculty of Agriculture and was financed exclusively through the Department of Agricultural Technical Services. It provided service courses for the B.Sc. (Agric.) degree as well as a major in Biometry. From 1966 a B.Sc. major in Mathematical Statistics became available leading to the anomaly of Statistics being taught in two separate departments.

After protracted negotiations beginning in 1969 between the departments of Biometry and Mathematics and Applied Mathematics the Department of Statistics and Biometry was eventually established in 1973 in Pietermaritzburg. Under the headship, as before, of Professor Arthur Rayner but now within the Faculty of Science, it continued to suffer a serious staff shortage in view of the limited number of well-qualified statisticians available in South Africa.

Also in Pietermaritzburg Dr A. Goosen and A.A. (Alistair) Verbeek (1963) were both appointed senior lecturers in Chemistry as was S. Parris at Wentworth. Dr K.H. Pegel (1962) was appointed lecturer in the Department of Chemistry in Durban, which was boosted in the 1960s by the provision of a new building and by the launch of Honours classes and postgraduate research. While Chemical Technology split away to join the Faculty of Engineering as Chemical Engineering, the department in Pietermaritzburg retained the name Chemistry and Chemical Technology.

The arrival of Deneys Schreiner in 1960 as professor of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry in Pietermaritzburg heralded a new era of energetic activity in the department, though he, together with staff and student friends, did find time to relax occasionally on fishing trips to Mkambati on the Transkei Wild Coast. In 1961 the Chemistry Department in Pietermaritzburg also welcomed the addition of a large new building, which included an undergraduate laboratory for Physical Chemistry, additional offices and, as it was constructed on concrete pillars, ample staff parking below.

By the 1960s the department had produced numerous graduates who became prominent in either the academic or industrial world. Siegfried Drewes has suggested that pre-eminent among these was the 1962 graduate R.G. (Graham) Cooks. An expert in mass spectrometry, he went on to become distinguished professor of Chemistry at Purdue University and authored 200 research papers, eleven books and 27 international patents, including an airport drug detector
that effectively sniffs the outside of containers. The University of Natal awarded him an honorary doctorate to add to his many other achievements.

In 1966 the department lost the services of Frank Warren when he became the first permanent dean of Science at UCT. By then he had supervised no less than 62 of the 102 M.Sc. and Ph.D. graduates the department had produced since 1940. As Drewes has shown in his history of the department, he had also chalked up numerous other achievements and accolades in addition to his many internationally recognised publications. More honours followed between his departure from Natal and death in 1980.

D.A. (Donald) Sutton (1966–1978) succeeded Warren to the chair of Organic Chemistry. After graduating with a Ph.D. from Imperial College, London (and later also a D.Sc.), Sutton gained extensive experience in industry before working in the CSIR’s National Chemical Research Laboratory in Pretoria. As Drewes has shown, his connections with industry enabled him to finance the acquisition of valuable instrumentation, including an African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AE&CI)-sponsored Varian CH-7 mass spectrometer. However, the 1972 acquisition of a 60 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer was only achieved by committing the entire equipment fund for the year to it, at the inconvenience of the other disciplines in Chemistry.

Sutton also raised funds from industry for the improvement of the departmental library Warren had initiated 25 years previously and which by 1976 had increased in value from an initial £3 000 (R6 000) to nearly R500 000. Ably managed by Yvonne (née Merchant) Biebuyck, Warren’s micro-analyst, and then by Verbeek and W. (Werner) Helfer, the library had to contend with ever-rising journal subscriptions to the extent that eventually an appeal had to be made to the German Federal government for assistance.

By the mid-1970s Sutton boasted a stable and strong teaching staff, supported by Dr G. (Gordon ‘Opes’) Gray, Dr J. (Jennifer) McKenzie and Dr Siegfried Drewes who was promoted to senior lecturer in 1969 and associate professor in 1974. Prior to his departure, Schreiner also had a strong team teaching Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry, including Verbeek and Helfer, while Dr E. (Edwy) Kyle, 1957 alumnus W. A. (Winton, ‘Wog’) Hawksworth and N. (Neville) Reid taught Physical Chemistry. In 1973 another alumnus, R.J. (Raymond) Haines, was appointed professor of Inorganic Chemistry in succession to Schreiner and two years later Dr J.S. (John) Field was appointed research fellow in Chemistry.

Chief technicians K. (Ken) Guy and D. (Dave) Crawley and his assistant T. (Trevor) Moodley provided able support. A technician known as Bheekram
assisted Warren during his lecture demonstrations in the 1960s while G. (Grey) Sikhonje and N. (Nelson) Zondi began 30 years of loyal service maintaining the laboratories in good condition. The Mechanical Instrument Workshop was moved out of the Chemistry Building into a new home nearby where, under the direction of C. (Chris) Morewood, who had joined the staff in 1958 and was subsequently promoted in 1968 to senior technician, it continued to provide invaluable support in meeting the needs of Chemistry and numerous other departments.

Meanwhile in Durban J.W. Bayles, appointed professor of Physical Chemistry in 1961 and supported by the appointment of senior lecturer F.G. Willeboordse, became head of an independent Chemistry Department twelve years later. A second chair was created and J. Miller was appointed professor of Organic Chemistry, with D.A.H. (David) Taylor soon succeeding him. As the two Chemistry departments thereafter developed separately the one in Durban became the Department of Chemistry and Applied Chemistry with D.E.A. (David) Williams-Wynn, former director of the PRI, as professor in the latter discipline. In 1976, at the behest of the Food Corporation (Pty) Ltd, a Food Research Unit was attached to Applied Chemistry, taking up residence in its building in exchange for lectures on food technology.

There was a further important development in Durban in 1974 when, with some transfer of staff, the new Department of Computer Science under Professor G.R. Joubert took on much of the teaching load that the Computer Centre headed by director G. Webb had previously carried out. This enabled the latter to concentrate on servicing the computing needs of Administration and academic departments.

In 1962 the Geography Department, part of the Faculty of Science since the mid-1950s, lost Professor R.M. Jehu to retirement. The following year it acquired the services of O. (Owen) Williams who was the next in a succession of Welshmen to assume the chair in Pietermaritzburg. Dr R.J.G. (Ron) Davies (1962) and B.S. Young (1963) were appointed senior lecturers, both in Durban, where senior lecturer Dr P.M. (Peggy) Hobson resigned. Dr J.B. McI. Daniel was promoted to associate professor there and in 1976 future Dean of Students T.M. (Trevor) Wills was appointed lecturer in Pietermaritzburg.

Another valuable addition to the staff was B. (Bruno) Martin who arrived in 1973 as cartographer and, with senior laboratory assistant Raymond Poonsamy, developed a modern Cartographic Unit complete with darkroom, large reprographic camera and other appropriate equipment to replace the previous pen and ink drafting of maps and diagrams. Martin later recalled the
fourteen years he worked there, prior to emigration to Australia, as ‘the best years of my working life’ during which he served the growing needs not only of Geography but of several other departments as well as the University Press.

There were also significant developments in other science disciplines. In 1962 Associate Professor Dr J.J. Frankel resigned from Durban’s Geology Department and Dr E.P. Saggerson was appointed senior lecturer the following year. In 1965 Lester King received the Royal Geographical Society’s premier Founder’s Medal and in 1972 his 38-year career in the University (27 as departmental head) came to an end with his retirement. R. Tavener-Smith succeeded him the following year when senior lecturers Matthews and Saggerson were both promoted to associate professor. In 1975 D.R. (Don) Hunter assumed the chair of Geology in Pietermaritzburg.

In 1961 professors H. Rund and P.F.E. van der Borght resigned from the Department of Mathematics in Durban, as did senior lecturer S.E. Cruise. The following year F.J. Schuddeboom was promoted to the chair there, while E. Liberman (1961), Dr I.P. Hughes (1962), T.N.E. Skinner (1962) and J.J. (Johann) van den Berg (1964) were all appointed senior lecturers in his department. G.R. Watson (1962) was appointed at the same level in Pietermaritzburg. New lecturers in Mathematics in Durban were J.H. Swart and L. Troskie (both 1965) and A.I. Dale (1974). Troskie assumed the chair of Mathematical Statistics in 1976.


**O. (Owen) Williams** served as a navigator and pilot during World War II before graduating with a Masters degree from the University of Wales. He was subsequently awarded a Ph.D. for his thesis on the secondary industries of Natal and the South African Geographical Society’s Gold Medal for his contribution to geographical studies in South Africa. A friendly, approachable man, he was well-liked by his students and sorely missed by colleagues following his retirement in 1982.
Resignations from the department included those of senior lecturers Dr J.W. King (Pietermaritzburg, 1961) and Dr P.A. O’Brien (Durban, 1962).

Other professorial appointments in the Faculty included H. Linhart (Statistics, Durban, 1964) and A.J. Burton (Zoology, Durban, 1965). In 1967 Professor J.A.V. Fairbrother retired from the chair of Physics in Pietermaritzburg and Roger Raab succeeded him the following year. In 1972 A.D.M. (David) Walker was appointed to the chair of Theoretical Physics in Durban and Drs P.J. Barrett and M.W.J. (Malcolm) Scourfield were appointed senior lecturers there. The latter succeeded to the chair of Experimental Physics in 1976.

Ella Pratt-Yule retired from the chair of Psychology in 1962, in which year the department moved to the Faculty of Science, and Ronald Albino assumed a professorship the following year in Durban. That year J.J. Cowley resigned as senior lecturer in Pietermaritzburg and in 1964 Dr B.D. (Bruce) Faulds was appointed to that post, followed by C.O. Murray who was installed at the same level in Durban. In the same year Dr P. (Pamela) Sharratt was appointed lecturer in the latter centre and was promoted to senior lecturer in 1973. In 1966 P.A. Theron assumed the chair in Pietermaritzburg and ten years later G.C. (Graham) Lindegger joined the department as lecturer.6

In 1966 Dr K. Douwes-Dekker retired as head of the Sugar Milling Research Institute and Frank Bush retired from the chair of Zoology in Pietermaritzburg, to which A.D. Harrison succeeded but promptly resigned the following year. From January 1967 Botany and Zoology in Pietermaritzburg and Durban were both recognised as separate departments, each with its own head, in view of the differences in context and approach that had become evident in the two

__M.W.J. (Malcolm) Scourfield__ completed an Honours degree at the University of Keele and taught in a school in Jamaica for several years before joining a research programme at the University of Calgary in Canada where he completed an M.Sc. and Ph.D. studying the aurora on fast time scales using low light level TV, a ground-breaking technology at the time. In Durban he participated in ongoing research on very low frequency radio noise, which helped to augment the auroral research. Scourfield initiated what was a new field locally when he established the National Ozone Programme, attracted other scientists to workshops, published extensively in reputable journals and supervised many successful masters and doctoral candidates. He died in 2013 at the age of 81.
centres. Under professors T.A. Villiers and A.J. Burton they were known in Durban as Plant Biology and Animal Biology respectively with their integrated first-year course presented as Biological Science.

In 1968 O.L. Thomas succeeded to the chair of Zoology in Pietermaritzburg and G.L. (Gordon) MacLean was appointed lecturer in the department. J.A.J. (‘Waldo’) Meester succeeded to the chair in 1972 and the following year Dr P. (Patricia) Berjak was appointed senior lecturer in Biological Science in Durban while Dr Anne Alexander was promoted to associate professor there. After A.J. Burton retired from the chair of Animal Biology in 1973 the department was combined the following year with that of Plant Biology under T.A. Villiers. Alexander became professor of Biological Sciences in Durban and in 1976 the department occupied its new accommodation in the four-storey Science Complex.

By the 1970s the Department of Zoology in Pietermaritzburg, in common with several others, was experiencing a marked increase in students. This was particularly the case at first-year level where it not only provided a foundation for its own major courses, but was meeting the requirements of the Faculty of Agriculture as well as medical schools throughout the country and the School of Veterinary Science in Pretoria.

Student numbers at the senior level were much smaller and research students were mostly part-timers, but by the 1970s the department was in need of larger undergraduate laboratory facilities. Its small but impressive teaching museum included one of the most complete mammalian osteological collections available for teaching purposes in South Africa.7

There were fewer new members of staff in the Faculty of Agriculture during the 1960s and 1970s following the flurry of appointments surrounding its establishment in 1949, but there were important administrative changes.

Agriculture
In 1961, K. (Karl) Nathanson was appointed senior lecturer before succeeding ‘Sampie’ Hulme to the chair of Crop Science (1968–1982). Dr W.E. (Eckard) Kassier and J.H. (Jan) Groenewald, both in Agricultural Economics (1963 and 1964 respectively) and M.M. Martin in Plant Pathology (1963) were also appointed at senior lecturer level. That year Dr E.R. (Roy) Muller, lecturer in Biometry, died tragically and J.M. Kotzé was appointed at lecturer level in Plant Pathology after Dr P.S. Knox-Davies had resigned the previous year. In 1967 alumnus, future professor and head of department (1988) and dean (1994–1998) F.H.J. (Frits) Rijkenberg was recruited as a plant pathologist/
mycologist and in 1975 F.M. (Mike) Wallis was appointed lecturer in Plant Pathology and Microbiology. Nathanson succeeded to the chair of Crop Science in 1968 and J.D. (John) Lea was appointed senior lecturer two years later.

Dr W.S. Martin, principal research officer at the Wattle Research Institute, retired in 1963 and G.A. Hepburn was appointed to that position in 1965. Two years later Dr H. Shaw retired from the Institute and S.P. Sherry succeeded him as director in 1968, followed in 1974 by Professor J.A. Stubbings. In 1975 R.E. (Roland) Schulze was appointed senior research fellow in Agricultural Engineering.8

In 1966 Piet Kotze assumed the chair of Animal and Poultry Science, which he held until his resignation in 1970, along with that of Associate Professor J.P.H. (‘Kowie’) Wessels. R.M. (Rob) Gous became senior lecturer in the department in 1974. In 1971 Professor E. (Eva) Ricketts assumed the headship of the new Department of Home Economics and Dietetics, which had been established two years earlier. In 1976 a future successor, Miss E. (Elma) Nel, was appointed senior lecturer.

In 1969 J.C. ‘Sas’ le Roux retired from the chair of Horticultural Science and Dr Nigel Wolstenholme was promoted to senior lecturer the following year, in which Martinus Oosthuizen retired from the chair of Entomology. In 1974 Dr D.J. (Denis) Brothers was appointed lecturer in that department and was promoted to senior lecturer in 1976. In 1973 Peter Booysen assumed the chair of what was still called Pasture Science and the following year alumnus M.E. (Malcolm) Sumner was appointed to the new chair of Soil Science and Agrometeorology.

Among other innovations, in the early 1970s the Faculty of Agriculture was the first in the University to semesterise its courses. In 1976, following discussions going back as far as 1958, the University assumed full administrative and financial responsibility for the Faculty, preceded by the April 1973 transfer of the buildings and equipment and further ongoing negotiations concerning its future funding. The Faculty’s staff members now became fully fledged employees of the University with no further association at all with the civil service in terms of their salaries and the performance of their duties. Dairy Science ceased to be offered as an option following Professor ‘Clem’ Abbott’s retirement and no less than six academic, eleven technical and 22 labourer posts were disestablished.

Even so, the rest of the Faculty did become a heavy additional financial burden on the University, which was aggravated by unfortunately low
enrolment figures at that time following a peak in 1966 of 287. This gave it an unusually favourable staff:student ratio of 1:7.9 declining to as little as 1:4 compared with the 1:16 ratio proposed for science-based faculties in the new subsidy formula. It meant that incorporation faced the University with a major additional financial burden though initially the Faculty functioned with a separately approved budget.

In an attempt to attract more students as well as offer a much-needed and more manageable alternative for many of them, the Faculty introduced a three-year Agricultural Management degree alongside its existing four-year B.Sc. (Agric.) degree. This attracted an initial 35 students in addition to the 84 who registered in 1976 for the four-year degree. Encouragingly, enrolments were picking up again but financial considerations and reduced staffing induced substantial changes at Ukulinga where the research dimension was still important, but all activities were now directed towards efficient production.

In addition, Biochemistry and Entomology now moved to the Faculty of Science while Genetics and Microbiology and Plant Pathology remained in Agriculture. As all four of them continued to serve both faculties, a joint Agriculture/Science Committee was formed to liaise between the two boards on matters of common concern like curricula and degree structures.9

There were also significant staff and administrative changes in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

**Engineering and Architecture**

In 1961 the Department of Chemical Engineering, recently transferred from the Science Faculty, was firmly established in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. In 1963 it acquired the services of E.T. (Edward) Woodburn as professor of Chemical Engineering after F.H.H. Valentin had resigned from the chair. R.J.J. Egenes was appointed senior lecturer in 1962 as was M.R. Judd in 1970. In the Chemical Engineering wing of the new Chemistry Building on the Durban campus provision was made for ample laboratory space, a drawing office, optical and photographic rooms, staff offices, a library, workshop and stores.

The avowed purposes of the department were intertwined; that is, to produce well-trained graduates for employment in industry and undertake research of scientific and practical value. Course content therefore focused not on conducting set experiments, but as much as possible on investigation and problem solving. This was intended to inter-relate as closely as possible with the department’s research programme and helped attract financial support
from industry for apparatus, photographic equipment, special supplies and library books.

In 1963 a future professor, Dr H.L. (Lee) Nattrass, was appointed senior lecturer in Electrical Engineering and in 1970 became professor of Light Current Engineering. In the same year R.A. Hellawell was appointed professor of Electrical Engineering and a year later Dr A.D. Broadhurst joined him as senior lecturer while R.G. Harley became professor of Electro-Dynamic Machinery and Control. In 1963 it was announced that the University would be acquiring an electronic computer to be housed in the new Electrical Engineering Building. The Computation Officer in charge of it was to give lectures on the principles of programming and assist staff members with programming and data processing problems.

While the computer was intended primarily for the use of staff and the training of students, it was also to be made available to members of the public who had urgent need of its services. After all, it had the capacity to undertake 1,784 calculations involving five-figure numbers per second. The first course for programmers was planned for 1964. Instruction was to be given in a programming system designed to resolve complicated scientific problems and another intended to deal with analytical and tabulation challenges such as staff

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**E.T. (Edward) Woodburn** was a B.Sc. graduate in Applied and Industrial Chemistry of UCT (1948). After some years engaged in industrial research he became a lecturer and then senior lecturer in Chemical Engineering at Wits (1957–1962) where he was awarded a Ph.D. In Durban he developed a very active research school in a variety of fields, involving three groups and five full-time research fellows. His own contribution was primarily with regard to mineral flotation and milling and dispersive mixing, especially in packed towers. Woodburn’s publications on the kinetics of flotation were valued throughout the world as were the numerous graduates and postgraduates he produced. His expertise was much in demand, advising several industrial organisations including the Anglo American Corporation and serving (from 1966) on the governing council of the CSIR, the National Isotopes and Radiation Committee of the AEB (1969–1971) and the Prime Minister’s Scientific Advisory Committee (1967–1971). He was South African editor of the *Chemical Engineering Journal* published in Amsterdam and was a corporate member of both the South African and British Institutions of Chemical Engineers, among other professional bodies.
salaries, PAYE deductions and stock control. The computer age had arrived on campus! By 1968 there were also demands for the acquisition of a computer for the Pietermaritzburg centre in the interests of both teaching and research.

In 1961, following the formal opening of the new Centenary Building, which Civil Engineering shared with Architecture, a gathering of 60 local engineers was introduced to the design and function of the various laboratories that greatly increased the department’s research capacity. In 1966 Professor J.R. Daymond retired from the chair of Civil Engineering and was replaced the following year by K. (Kenneth) Knight. Two years later G.G.S. (Geoffrey) Pegram joined him as lecturer. In 1970 C.J. Fleming was appointed professor of Structural Engineering and the next year L.A.V. Hiemstra was appointed professor of Fluid Mechanics and Hydrology, followed a year later by P.R.F. Dillon.

In 1962 G.H. Langer resigned while Dr M. (Maitland) Reed (1961) and R.D. Kelly (1965) were appointed senior lecturers in Mechanical Engineering. In the last year L.W. (Lance) Roberts was appointed lecturer in that discipline, senior lecturer J.J. Ward resigned and Professor A.J. Gould retired from the chair. C.J. Rallis succeeded him the following year and when he resigned in 1968, Maitland Reed replaced him.

In 1973 there was an extended investigation into the Department of Mechanical Engineering arising from allegations of ‘great disharmony’ within it and directed primarily at the leadership and supervisory qualities of its head. It was alleged that Maitland Reed had demonstrated an ‘undue bias’ towards his own particular interest in aeronautical engineering to the detriment of time and funding spent on other relevant fields of teaching and research. As a result his appointment to the James Fulton Chair of Mechanical Engineering was terminated and he was required to take twelve months leave from the

K. (Kenneth) Knight took a B.Sc. degree at Wits in 1949 after wartime service in the Royal Navy. From 1955 he lectured in Civil Engineering there and in 1960 was awarded a doctorate for his work on soil mechanics before moving to Durban in 1963 as senior lecturer. While occupying the chair (1967−1983) he served two terms as dean of the Faculty and as president of the South African Institute of Civil Engineers, continuing to be much in demand as a consultant on soil mechanics and foundation engineering after his retirement.
department. He was subsequently dismissed, but reinstated to his chair after successfully appealing to the Minister of National Education. He did not return to the departmental headship, which continued to be entrusted temporarily to professors N.D. Clarence and R.G. Harley as joint acting heads.

In 1974 Dr Z. Katz and Dr Lance Roberts were appointed senior lecturers in Mechanical Engineering and the following year were appointed to chairs, specialising in Machines and Fluid Mechanics respectively.

In the 1970s the Faculty followed the example of Agriculture by introducing semesterisation in anticipation of more effective teaching and better examination results, with the Faculty of Science not far behind. During 1976 Engineering was obliged to enforce another new policy, which now allowed for government subsidy of students for only two further years beyond the four stipulated for completion of an Engineering degree.

As a result, efforts were made to exclude students in their first or second year of study if they were considered unlikely to complete the degree in six years. Electrical Engineering introduced a system of tutoring that required all second-year students to meet the tutors assigned to them from among the staff three times in each semester to discuss their academic and personal problems. The scheme was so successful that it was planned to extend it in future years.

By the mid-1970s the Faculty Board was concerned about the lack of opportunities for aspiring African engineers. It argued that they should be excluded only on academic grounds and appealed for improved residential facilities for black students at Wentworth in order to eliminate at least one of the major problems they faced.

In 1965 Leslie Croft assumed the chair of Architecture and Quantity Surveying. In 1970 it was unsuccessfully suggested that Fine Arts might open a section in Durban specifically to serve the needs of Architecture, Quantity Surveying and, at some time in the future, Industrial Design and other related courses. That year B.T. (Brian) Kearney was appointed lecturer and promoted to senior lecturer in 1972.\(^\text{10}\) In 1971 Dr Barry Bierman was promoted to associate professor and R.R. (Rodney) Harber was appointed lecturer in Architecture, as was T. Jarman. In 1976 W.H. Peters accepted a lectureship.

In 1975 the School of Architecture and Allied Disciplines was formally established with Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Town and Regional Planning moving out of the Faculty of Engineering. That year there was an investigation into the Department of Architecture, following which a staff-student committee was formed to improve communication. In addition, student representatives were added to the Board, student workloads were reassessed,
studios were to be kept open continuously, and the academic responsibilities of staff were redefined. Full-time members of the Department of Architecture were allowed to retain the privilege of private practice provided they devoted the equivalent of at least four days a week during normal working hours to teaching and research.

Building and Quantity Surveying were both separated from Architecture under the headships of E.J. (Edward) O’Brien and D.I. Neil, appointed to their chairs in 1973, respectively. In 1962 Dr P.V. Angus-Leppan resigned as senior lecturer in the Department of Land Surveying and B.M. Jones was appointed to his position. In 1973 H.Biesheuvel retired from the chair of Land Surveying and Jones succeeded him the following year when D.A. Scogings was also appointed Professor of Land Surveying. In 1971 P.E. McManus became head of Town and Regional Planning, but retired the following year. D.L.J. Robins succeeded him in 1975 and M. Kahn joined him a year later as senior lecturer.

The four-year Building degree was introduced in 1974, but the B.Sc. Quantity Surveying degree could not be offered due to insufficient staff. In 1976 the two-year, full-time course in Town and Regional Planning was offered and, in response to outside demand, Land Surveying introduced a course in Hydrographic Survey in addition to one in Cartography. It also included more advanced engineering surveys in the final year of study. After using scale models of historic buildings in teaching the history and theory of architecture, the school was reckoned to have one of the finest collections in the

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**E.J. (Edward) O’Brien** served articles with a firm of quantity surveyors in Dublin and in 1952 became an associate (and later a fellow) of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors before practising in Manchester and then in Ndola, Welkom and on the Witwatersrand. There he gained valuable experience in township development and was seconded for three years to the Anglo American Corporation. In 1962 he moved to the Singapore Polytechnic as senior lecturer in Building and completed a B.Sc. in Estate Management at the London School of Economics. O’Brien then served as senior lecturer at the University of Melbourne for seven years prior to his arrival in Durban. He supervised the new four-year, full-time course leading to a B.Sc. (Building), which was intended primarily to produce the future managers of building firms and was supported by the Building Industry Federation of South Africa which offered prospective students six bursaries a year.
world that was more useful than most textbooks. Discussions about shortening the Architecture degree course to four years were initiated, involving the separation of academic and practical training, but this matter was carried over to 1977.\textsuperscript{11}

As in the 1950s, the Faculty of Medicine experienced fairly frequent staff changes while it continued to expand. New departments were established and curriculum changes reluctantly introduced in the face of mounting concern about the inadequate output of African graduates and uncertainty concerning government plans for the Faculty’s future.

\section*{Medicine}

In 1964 two new departments were established: Anaesthetics; and Paediatrics and Child Health. In that year Hugh Grant-Whyte was appointed to the chair in the former department and H.L. Wallace to that of the latter. Accreditation was sought from the South African Medical and Dental Council for the Department of Anaesthesia at Addington Hospital as a teaching equivalent department. New appointments at senior lecturer level in Anaesthetics during 1964 included Drs B.S. Ackerman, A.R. Cohen, S.L. Knowles, J.L. Leader, S.N. Price and C.M. Sliom. In 1969 Grant-Whyte retired and A.J. Coleman replaced him in the chair the following year. In 1974 J.W. Downing succeeded him in turn. In 1964 Dr N.M. Mann resigned as senior lecturer in Paediatrics and Child Health and the following year Dr J.M. Scragg was appointed at that level. Wallace retired from the chair in 1967 and P.M. Smythe succeeded him the following year.

In 1964 Dr C.W. Maclay joined the Department of Anatomy as senior lecturer and ten years later J.L. Braithwaite succeeded to the chair. In the 1960s other new professors in the Faculty included S.M. Joubert (Chemical Pathology, 1965) and P.J. Gildenhuys (Associate Professor in Genetics, also in 1965, who sadly died later that year). In 1961 Dr T.P. Boulle was appointed senior lecturer in Gynaecology and Obstetrics while Drs D. Murless (1963), M. Notelowitz (1964, who had joined the year before) and N.G. Steere (1965) resigned from the department. In 1965 Drs R.H. (Hugh) Philpott and P.V. Weston replaced them at senior lecturer level. In 1974 Philpott succeeded to the chair following the resignation of Professor Derek Crichton at the end of the previous year.

In the Department of Medicine Dr N.M. Lamont (Physician to Out-Patients) resigned and Dr S.J. Powell was appointed senior lecturer in 1961. Dr A.J. Wilmot was appointed associate professor in 1962 and Dr G.D. Lapinsky
senior lecturer in 1965. Unfortunately, Wilmot died in 1970. Three years later E. Chesler was appointed professor of Medicine.

In 1965 doctors S.T.P. Erasmus and M.J. Joubert were appointed at senior lecturer level in Neuro-Surgery. In 1961 Dr S. (Soromini) Kallichurum, a former student and future professor, had been appointed lecturer in the Department of Pathology and two years later Dr F.A. O’Hagan-Ward was appointed senior lecturer. In 1965 K.C. Watson became associate professor in the Sub-Department of Microbiology and in 1968 was promoted to professor before resigning the following year. In 1971 Dr D.J. (Dennis) Pudifin joined the department as senior lecturer.

In 1964 Dr R. Gowans (senior otorhinolaryngologist) resigned while Dr N. Sacks assumed the chair of Radiology to which Dr H.E. Engelbrecht succeeded in 1970. Three years earlier senior lecturer D.S. (David) Chapman was appointed professor of Surgery in place of Professor A.E. Kark who resigned that year to take up a post at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York. Dr B.T. (Bernard) le Roux was appointed professor in Thoracic Surgery in 1967 and Professor L.W. Baker joined the department as head in 1968. Dr A.G. Sweetapple (1962) and F.R. Leonard (1964) resigned as senior surgeons. In 1965 Dr A. Beiles, who had been recruited in 1963, followed them and Dr B.T. le Roux joined the department. The previous year Dr H. Fine joined the Department of Urology as senior lecturer and in 1973 Professor T.L. (Theodore) Sarkin assumed the chair of Orthopaedic Surgery.12

D. (Dennis) Pudifin gained a reputation as an exceptional physician with a passion for Clinical Medicine that inspired him to work beyond his official retirement in 1994. He was an active member of the British Society for Immunology, the South African Immunology Society (serving as its president, 1987–1988), the South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Association, the Society for Haematology and the South African Medical Association. In 1961 he became a member of the South African College of Physicians, in 1970 a member of the British Royal College of Physicians and in 1979 a fellow of London’s Royal College of Physicians. Among numerous other committees Pudifin chaired King Edward VIII Hospital’s Infection Control Committee and the National Regional AIDS Committee. He gave invited lectures on immunology and HIV/AIDS to various groups of medical practitioners, commercial companies, schools, and on SABC radio and television. He died in 2013.
The 1960s witnessed many changes in the Faculty of Medicine, not least the unfortunate termination of its social and community health teaching programme. In 1960 the Rockefeller Foundation’s five-year funding scheme for the IFCH concluded and was not renewed in view of the Sharpeville tragedy of that year and the authoritarian direction the government seemed to be taking. The Department of Health declined to meet the financial shortfall and had already been reducing its support for community health care nationwide. Several eminent leaders in the field, including Sidney and Emily Kark, emigrated so that they could continue to make the significant contributions towards training and research in the field of social and community medicine they had been doing since the 1940s in Durban.

In 1961 the IFCH was closed and, as Vanessa Noble has shown, in subsequent years most community health centres followed suit or were converted into traditional curative clinics with their staff deployed elsewhere. The Faculty of Medicine’s curriculum was thereafter steadily revised to accord with the curative rather than preventative approach traditionally taught in South Africa’s other medical schools. No new appointments were made in the Department of Community Health until 1975 when I.W.F. (Ian) Spencer was awarded a chair. His brief was to redevelop what had by then become firmly recognised internationally as the Community-Oriented Primary Health Care approach for which the Karks had earlier provided the Faculty such a promising start.

B.T. (Bernard) le Roux matriculated at Diocesan College, Cape Town and in 1947 graduated in Medicine at UCT after disrupting his studies for wartime service in the South African Medical Corps. Following preliminary postgraduate training at Groote Schuur he went to Edinburgh in 1950, was admitted as a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and trained as a thoracic surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. During the fifteen years he spent there le Roux participated in cardio-respiratory bypass operations and completed his Masters thesis on the role of surgery in the management of bronchiectasis (dilation of the bronchial tubes), which was often an after-effect of whooping cough and tuberculosis. It was a condition he also encountered among impoverished people in South Africa. Two years before appointment as professor in Medicine, le Roux initiated the Cardio-Thoracic Unit at Wentworth Hospital in Durban where nearly 100 bypass operations were conducted within eighteen months as well as 400 other procedures involving lungs and gullet and closed-heart surgery.
By the early 1960s the Faculty also had to contend with the potential threat posed to its academic standards by the declining numbers and language deficiencies of African matriculants produced by the government’s segregated Bantu Education system. This was a source of growing concern shared by Convocation, but Isidor Gordon did his best to assure Council that the Faculty’s selection process and carefully designed two-year pre-medical courses provided ample protection against any such threat.

By the mid-1960s Council had all but abandoned any expectation that the government might eventually permit the admission of white students to the Faculty. For a time it nevertheless persisted in eliciting the NPA’s support in trying to persuade government to allow the Faculty’s staff to train whites at some other centre like Addington Hospital, without reducing the state subvention of their salaries. Economic growth and white population increase were higher in the Durban-Pinetown area than in most other parts of the country, but Natal was continuing to lose white medical recruits to the Cape and Transvaal. By early 1972 Council had been informed that the government had decided that its representations for a white medical school could not be entertained ‘at this stage’.

During the next couple of years the NPA still showed some interest in acquiring part of the University’s new western campus in Durban for the construction of a hospital for white patients, with the possibility of a white medical school eventually attached to it. An intake of as many as 60 white undergraduates a year was envisaged, but government eventually responded that this was not viable and that it was much more financially feasible for it to increase the output of white medical graduates by augmenting facilities at existing medical schools.

In September 1974 Councillor Ashton Tarr proposed in the Pietermaritzburg City Council that the University be approached with a view to establishing a Faculty of Medicine in that city. It was suggested that with the completion of a new Grey’s Hospital on Town Hill, the current hospital premises in Prince Alfred Street would provide ‘the ideal home’ for it. Moreover, it was argued, the existence of several other hospitals in the vicinity as well as the local University campus would provide all the necessary additional facilities.

The University Council forwarded the proposal to its steering committee while the Inland Branch of the Medical Association of South Africa enthusiastically undertook to provide ‘any assistance possible to see this plan come to fruition’. The idea soon fizzled when the Provincial Secretary pointed out that it would require government approval and that even if this was
forthcoming the NPA was not planning for the expense of attaching a medical school to Grey’s Hospital.

Of much more immediate concern was the recurring rumour started in 1965–1966 that government had set up an inter-departmental committee to deliberate again upon the future of King Edward VIII Hospital and the existing Faculty of Medicine adjacent to it without any reference to or representation from the University. This was later to be substantiated, but meanwhile Council went ahead with its decision to open sub-departments of Microbiology and Chemical Pathology, each with their own chairs. They were followed by a separate Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health under Professor B.W. Crowhurst-Archer, who had joined the staff in 1962 as senior psychiatrist in place of Dr A.S. van Coller who resigned the year before. Fort Napier and Town Hill hospitals in Pietermaritzburg were recognised as appropriate teaching centres for this purpose and in 1971 Professor R.W.S. Cheetham succeeded to the chair.

That year M.P. Chetty joined the Department of Microbiology (part-time) and the following year Professor W.P.P. Leary assumed the headship of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology. In 1975 the aforementioned Ian Spencer and I.M. (Isabel) Windsor followed suit in the departments of Community Health and Virology respectively and in 1976 N.H. Welsh became Professor of Ophthalmology.

By the early 1970s the Faculty was maintaining an annual output of about 50 graduates, but there was concern that although the intake of African and Indian students was roughly equal, by the end of the final year Indian graduates outnumbered Africans by 3 to 2. In 1974 the Faculty produced a pleasing 63 graduates from 70 final year candidates, plus another four who passed the subsequent supplementary examination, but there were twice as many Indian graduates as African. This was particularly disturbing as the need for African doctors was far greater and pointed to deficiencies in the African school system. It also highlighted the wastage in the earlier years of the medical degree considering that 120 candidates a year were being admitted into second year.

The authorisation of substantial building extensions to the Faculty in the early 1970s suggested that as far as government was concerned its permanent future was assured, as was that of the adjacent King Edward VIII Hospital with its daily bed occupancy of more than 2 000 and a growing stream of outpatients. Enquiries as to the possible attachment of a School of Dentistry to the Faculty of Medicine elicited official responses to the effect that the
University of the Western Cape was currently training coloured and Indian dentists and that the Department of Bantu Education had the future training of black doctors, dentists and veterinary surgeons under ‘intensive investigation’.

In 1975 there were 56 graduates (nine African, five coloured and 42 Indian) and by 1976 the Faculty had produced 600 graduates since its inception, excluding postgraduates. It hoped to increase its enrolment to 700 by 1985 but there remained a serious need for more residential accommodation, preferably close to its teaching operations. The distant Alan Taylor Residence at Wentworth remained as inconvenient as ever and was now not only still adjacent to an oil refinery, but also a large police unit with which it shared road access.

While Indian students could, with some difficulty, find private digs reasonably accessible to the Faculty of Medicine this was virtually impossible for Africans. They faced the alternatives of either becoming illegal boarders in terms of the Group Areas Act or else being obliged to reside in a distant township where they were relative strangers. It was officially proposed that they should be accommodated in barracks in either Umlazi or KwaMashu township, where large general hospitals might eventually be built, but the University rejected this suggestion.

In August 1975, after visits by several officials from Pretoria, the University was authorised to build more temporary accommodation at Wentworth exclusively for African students. However, when the University applied for R50 000 with which to provide the proposed additional housing it was informed that, as from 1976, no new African students were to be admitted to first-year studies and that, as from January 1977, no new African students were to be admitted at all. The Faculty of Medicine, it seemed, was now to become a facility exclusively for Indians.

This was greeted with vigorous protests and, not for the first time, a threat of mass resignation of staff. Two days before the opening of term in January 1976 the decision concerning first years was reversed, requiring two weeks of intensive selection from all the African applicants who had already been informed that they could not be admitted. As a result the first-year class was 15 African students short. A University delegation met the ministers of Bantu Administration and National Education, but the Faculty and potential applicants for teaching posts in it were still left in uncertainty about its future.

A colour brochure had already been prepared to celebrate the Faculty’s 25th anniversary. For two days in August 1976 thousands of members of the public were guided around its premises and open day exhibits as well as being
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offered a series of evening lectures. I.C.I. (SA) (Pharmaceuticals) Ltd was inspired to donate valuable audio-visual aids for the study of heart disease and the South African Physiological and South African Pharmacological societies held a joint conference in Durban. In addition, the South African Medical and Dental Association published a special edition of its journal largely comprising articles by Faculty staff members, an enlarged edition of *NU News* appeared, and the Medical Graduates Association subsequently issued a commemorative booklet listing all the graduates and their activities.

The ongoing uncertainty about the Faculty’s future still cast gloom over the proceedings. Some students either boycotted or picketed the celebrations and many were distracted by the June 1976 Soweto uprising and its sequel. Several were arrested after an illegal protest march and paid admission of guilt fines. There were also some minor incidents of attempted arson and damage to property. Representatives of the University and of the CUP were informed at a meeting with the ministers of National Education and Bantu Administration that Africans would indeed be phased out of the Faculty in terms of a Cabinet decision taken as far back as 1966.

Government subsequently declared that it had temporarily deferred its decision, but did not raise the matter again. Meanwhile, efforts were made to accord recognition to the Addington and R.K. Khan hospitals as appropriate institutions for teaching purposes, alongside King Edward VIII Hospital, although this created complications for African trainees in view of the racial exclusivity of those facilities.

The Faculty continued its change to a new curriculum, as required by the South African Medical and Dental Council, with the introduction of topic teaching in the second year and the completion of Microbiology in the third. Further changes were to follow in future years, but the prospect of catering for 700 students with varying pass rates was daunting as theoretical teaching now had to be condensed into five years with the sixth left for clinical work in the wards. The training of non-medically qualified anaesthetists, which was not unusual in other parts of the world, was also started, as was the production of audio-visual self-teaching machines equipped with staff-produced tape and slide programmes.13

There were also numerous appointments as well as the introduction of new courses and revised curricula in the Humanities and Social Sciences as they continued to increase in student popularity during the 1960s. This growth was accompanied by increasing dissatisfaction that although Arts was by far the largest Faculty in the University in both centres, it still had to settle for
inadequate accommodation that was no longer required by other faculties. By mid-1965 the Faculty was agitating for the construction of a New Arts Block in Pietermaritzburg.

**Humanities and Social Sciences**

In the Department of Afrikaans-Nederlands T.J.R. Botha was appointed senior lecturer in Durban in 1964, in which year Dr P.D. van der Walt resigned from that post, which he had held since 1961 having gained his D.Litt. In 1965 P. du P. Grobler was promoted to professor in Durban and C.J.M. Nienaber to associate professor in Pietermaritzburg. Tragically, in 1968 Grobler died suddenly of heart failure. A seminar room was subsequently named in his honour and he was also to be remembered for his collection of essays *Verkenning*, published in 1962, among other works.

In 1969 his colleague T.J.R. Botha succeeded him as head of department in Durban. In 1968 the University awarded an honorary D.Litt. to one of the department’s many successful students, D. (Dirk) Opperman, and the following year Nienaber was promoted to the chair in Pietermaritzburg. In 1970 his wife, Mrs W. Nienaber-Luitingh, was promoted from lecturer (1961) to senior lecturer in Pietermaritzburg and two years later to associate professor.¹⁴

In 1962 the Department of African Studies course in Native Administration on the Durban campus was renamed Comparative African Government and Administration. That year Trevor Cope was promoted to senior lecturer in Zulu and ‘Danny’ Malcolm died. D (Douglas) Mzolo was appointed lecturer, the first black staff member other than an earlier assistant in the discipline. H. (Hilda) Kuper was appointed senior lecturer in Social Anthropology but resigned a year later. In 1966 C.N. (Colin) Shum was awarded an MBE for prior administrative services in Lesotho; and future professor and member of the University Executive E.M. (Eleanor) Preston-Whyte became a lecturer in African Studies before being promoted to senior lecturer three years later.

In 1969–1970 a new Department of Bantu Languages was established with Cope in the chair after ministerial approval was granted for the introduction of Zulu II and Zulu III in Pietermaritzburg, where D. (Daniel) Bang taught Special Zulu. Eileen Krige retired from the chair of African Studies that year and in 1970 W.J. (John) Argyle, who had been a lecturer since 1963, succeeded her. A year later the department became part of the new Faculty of Social Science and in 1974 Social Anthropology became a three- instead of a two-year major.
In 1962 K.D. White resigned from the chair of Classics in Pietermaritzburg and was replaced the following year by E.L. de Kock who resigned in 1968. The long-serving Bernard Farrer was promoted to associate professor in Classics and retired in 1966. The following year future professor and dean M.M. (Magnus) Henderson was appointed lecturer. In 1973 D.S. (David) Raven assumed the chair of Classics in Pietermaritzburg and two years later future Registrar B.X. (Ben) de Wet took the equivalent chair in Durban where G.A.H. (Geoffrey) Chapman was promoted to senior lecturer in 1976. That year also witnessed the retirement of Mrs B. (Barbara) Bristowe who had served the Durban department since 1960 and demonstrated a special gift for teaching the Latin IB course to law students.

In 1962 I.R. (Ivan) Woods was appointed senior lecturer in Commerce in Durban and in 1976 was promoted to the chair of Business Administration in Pietermaritzburg. In 1965 A.F.S. Simons resigned as senior lecturer in Accountancy, also in Durban, and the following year the department began to divide into two sections with the head running the Durban section and a senior lecturer in charge in Pietermaritzburg. In 1968 D.A. (David) Clulow was appointed senior lecturer in Accountancy in Durban and two years later Tom Waldeck assumed the chair there, while in 1971 J. Armstrong was appointed to the equivalent post in Pietermaritzburg.

The following year P.J.C. (Peter) Seneque and B.S. (Bruce) Stobie were appointed to senior lectureships in each of those centres and in 1973 Walter Fairbairn’s long career in the department ended in retirement. The following year Seneque was appointed professor in Durban, with future Principal Mrs B.M. (Brenda) Gourley as senior lecturer while D. Garbutt assumed the chair in Pietermaritzburg.

During that year a new structure for the B.Comm. degree was approved for implementation in 1977. This involved an increase in the number of mandatory courses from thirteen to fourteen to ensure that every candidate took Company Law and, after a compulsory course in Accounting, a further course in that subject in second year or one in Business Data Processing. The new rules also made it easier for students to choose optional courses relevant to their particular stream of study. In Durban, but not in Pietermaritzburg, it was decided to start phasing out the B. Accountancy degree in favour of a B.Comm. followed by a one-year Diploma in Accountancy.

In 1961 Divinity gained a new senior lecturer in Rev. V.J. (Vic) Bredenkamp who was promoted to the chair in 1976. By then the department was teaching two-year majors in Biblical Studies and Theology as well as one-year courses
in Classical Hebrew and Ecclesiastical History. The early 1970s witnessed the beginning of Lutheran academic training on the Pietermaritzburg campus with the Lutheran Church accepting financial responsibility for new academic appointments to provide the necessary instruction. In 1973 Dr W. Kistner and Rev. G.H. (Gunther) Wittenberg, a Pietermaritzburg graduate, were appointed as senior lecturers in that department. It was the beginning of Wittenberg’s gradual development of what was to emerge as the first ecumenical theological education programme in prophetic contextual theology at any university.

The Economics Department in Durban welcomed a number of new appointees to cater for increased student demand. In 1961 J. (Joan) Knox was appointed senior lecturer, as was George Trotter in 1963. He was subsequently promoted to professor in 1966, and was a future dean and Registrar. Other appointees at senior lecturer level were J.J. Cloete (1964) as well as L.P. (Lawrence) McCrystal and R.T. McKinnell, both in 1965 although the latter resigned later that year. In 1964 Dr Nathan Hurwitz also resigned as senior lecturer, but in 1961 E.E. (Etienne) Blondeel was appointed as lecturer followed by Mrs J. (Jill) Nattrass in 1965.

In 1969 G. (Gavin) Maasdorp was appointed senior research fellow in Economics and the following year M.D. (Mike) McGrath was appointed lecturer, promoted to senior lecturer in 1974. The previous year R.T. (Trevor) Bell became professor in the Durban department and three years later future trade unionist and Cabinet minister A. (Alec) Erwin was appointed lecturer there while C.E.W. (Charles) Simkins was appointed research fellow in Pietermaritzburg.

In Educational Psychology Dr D.Z. de Villiers was appointed senior lecturer in Durban (1961) and Helen Shiels in Pietermaritzburg (1964) where in 1967 she assumed the chair after W.H.O. Schmidt had resigned the previous year. In 1967 I. Coetzee and G.W. (Gustav) Fouché were appointed lecturers in Durban and Pietermaritzburg respectively, with the former being promoted to professor in 1976.

In 1962 Dr H.B. Beresford and Peter Hey resigned as senior lecturers in Education in Durban and Pietermaritzburg respectively and F.J.D. (Fred) Hayward and A.M. (Tony) Barrett replaced them. In 1965 J.M. Niven was also appointed at that level in Pietermaritzburg and the following year J.W. MacQuarrie was promoted to associate professor before retiring in 1969. In 1970 Hayward and Niven became professors of Education in Durban and Pietermaritzburg respectively, with Barrett succeeding to the latter chair in 1972.
That year for the first time the University assumed responsibility for white teacher training in the province in terms of the National Education Policy Act (39 of 1967), as amended by Act 73 of 1969. This followed a review of government policy that sought to make universities responsible for training and certifying all secondary school teachers. After prolonged discussions with the Natal Education Department the so-called Natal Plan emerged and was later used as a model for other provinces, including the University of the Orange Free State, which assumed responsibility for the Afrikaans-medium Durban Teachers Training College.

Four-year diploma courses for secondary teachers were initiated at Edgewood College of Education in Pinetown with the University’s Faculty of Education being responsible for staff and student selection, curricula, the appointment of examiners and the award of diplomas. The college retained its identity and continued to be financed by the province. The choice of subject specialisation was limited, with one of the two majors required to be a so-called scarce subject, but it did offer some students the opportunity to switch from the traditional courses offered at university level. The link between University and Edgewood College was consolidated with the former being represented on the latter’s Council and Senate.

The Faculty itself still taught its postgraduate diploma, now known as the Higher Diploma in Education, as well as its Diploma in Remedial Education and the B.Ed. degree. In addition, the variety of teacher training courses for which the University was responsible at the Natal College of Advanced Technical Education was extended to provide for the part-time training of specialist technical teachers and those involved in post-school training.

In 1961 R.T. Jones (Pietermaritzburg) and Mrs S.K. (Sarah) King (Durban) were both promoted to senior lecturerships in English, the former resigning later that year. In 1962 William Gardner assumed the chair in Pietermaritzburg after Geoffrey Durrant had left for Canada the year before and occupied it until his retirement in 1967 when D.G. Gillham succeeded him. C. (Christina) van Heyningen was promoted to associate professor in 1962 and retired from the English Department in Pietermaritzburg three years later. Colin Gardner, a lecturer since 1959, was promoted to senior lecturer.

In Durban the long-serving and ever-popular Florence MacDonald, who had contributed so much to the Non-European Section as well as the English Department, and as warden in Florence Powell Hall, finally retired in 1961. The University of Natal Gazette, which she had edited so industriously and cheerfully, continued to appear but only in the aforementioned simplified half-
yearly form. In 1963 another stalwart of the Non-European Section, at least in its later years, English senior lecturer W.R.G. (William) Branford resigned for pastures new. R. (Raymond) Sands became associate professor and in 1964 full professor in recognition of the greater responsibility that he was carrying in the Durban branch.

In 1969 the department lost Emeritus Professor William Gardner as well as Pietermaritzburg lecturer H.W.D. ‘Cake’ Manson. The latter was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident just a couple of years after his thought-provoking comedy *Pot Luck* had entertained campus audiences. Future professor and Campus Principal D.A. (David) Maughan Brown joined as lecturer in 1970 and two years later Colin Gardner assumed the chair of English in Pietermaritzburg he was to occupy until his retirement in 1997. In 1974 Mrs M.M. (Margaret) Lenta was appointed lecturer in Durban as was future University Executive member J.U. (Johan) Jacobs in 1976.

In Fine Arts J.O. Hooper resigned as senior lecturer in 1962 and three years later G.H. Atkins, the second former student after Hilda Ditchburn to return as a staff member, was eventually promoted to that post, which he held until his retirement in 1971. In that year Ditchburn introduced Ceramics (formerly Pottery) as a Fine Arts major in the department, while painting also flourished under the guidance of M. (Mike) Taylor as senior lecturer (1972–1981). In 1969 another former student, D.M. (Dick) Leigh, joined the staff in place of Mrs J.T. Heath. Two more local graduates, J. (Jinny) Heath and H. (Henry) Davies, began long service in 1972 to teach drawing/painting and sculpture respectively, while J.C. (Juliette) Leeb-du Toit joined the department in 1975 to lecture in History of Art.

In 1964 the department opened its new building. It was constructed at a cost of R74 000 to Professor Jack Heath’s specifications on the site of the old Students Union and at that time was considered to be one of the most modern studio buildings in South Africa. Five years later Heath died suddenly, having served the department for sixteen years and H.A. Duckworth (1970–1971) briefly replaced him in the chair. Duckworth’s 1970 Pietermaritzburg exhibition of his own provocative work was presumably too avant garde for local consumption. One observer recorded that ‘most’ of those who saw it ‘thought that we had sunk back into the depths! Someone wrote in the visitors’ book that the exhibits could only be described in 4 letter words.’

Following an exhibition in Durban the Publications Board banned eight of Duckworth’s paintings. He proposed moving Fine Arts back to Durban where it had originated in an effort to boost student numbers. This was rejected, but
from 1971 a first-year course in History of Art was offered in that centre. J.N.C. Martin (1973–1974) and R. (Raymond) van Niekerk (1975–1976) followed Duckworth in the chair in quick succession, the latter having previously been senior lecturer in Art History since 1971. Hilda Ditchburn served as acting head in 1972, 1973 and 1976, as she had done on previous occasions.

In the French Department Dr T. Cienski was promoted to senior lecturer in Durban in 1964 and in 1975 I.C. Wakerley assumed the chair in Pietermaritzburg. Dr G.W. (Griseldis) Crowhurst joined the German Department in 1968 as a lecturer in Durban and in 1975 O. Brückl assumed the chair there. In 1963 a course in Modern Hebrew was offered on the Durban campus for the first time and in 1970 Rabbi A. (Abner) Weiss was appointed honorary professor of Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

In History and Political Science Dr Lindsay Young was promoted to senior lecturer in 1961. Colin Webb, a future Campus Principal, moved from Durban to the same level post the following year, was subsequently promoted to associate professor and in 1976 left to assume the King George V Chair of History at UCT. Before doing so he initiated the teaching and research of African History on the Pietermaritzburg campus in imitation of the trends that had been gathering momentum on some British and North American campuses since the 1940s.

Webb helped to change the department’s traditional teaching focus on British, European and American history when he pressed for its Honours students to be allowed to substitute Zulu for French or German as a compulsory language course, for their research projects to be focused on African topics, for a new undergraduate course on the history of African societies to be introduced, and for a junior research assistantship in African History to be established.

In 1970 John Wright, who had completed an MA under Webb on the Drakensberg Bushmen, was appointed as lecturer. Together they embarked upon the long-term task of translating and editing the extensive James Stuart Papers, a mine of information in the form of numerous testimonies about indigenous societies in the Natal-Zululand region conveniently housed in the Killie Campbell Africana Library. The first of several internationally renowned volumes was published in 1976 by the University of Natal Press.

In 1971 Webb also persuaded the Natal Society to launch Natalia, a journal through which local research findings on the region could reach a wider audience. In the same year he initiated an Honours level course on African societies in southern Africa. Webb soon shared this with Wright who in 1973,
at his instigation, started an undergraduate course on the pre-history of the subcontinent.

Meanwhile in 1963 Dr D. (Donovan) Williams arrived as senior lecturer in the department and Mark Prestwich succeeded to the chair following the retirement of Edgar Brookes. In 1965 the Pietermaritzburg SRC successfully proposed that henceforth an annual Edgar Brookes Lecture, similar to the T.B. Davie Memorial Lecture at UCT, should become part of the University’s tradition. Prestwich had been a very popular lecturer in Pietermaritzburg (1938–1951) prior to assuming a position at Queens University, Belfast and returning to become editor of the *Natal Witness* (1953–1956) before rejoining the department until his retirement from the chair in 1976.

Ken McIntyre’s promotion to associate professor (a future professor and dean) the same year acknowledged that the department’s Durban branch was also gaining numerical strength. In 1961 another future professor and dean, A.H. (Andrew) Duminy, was appointed lecturer in History there. In 1964 K.A. (Ken) Heard, senior lecturer in Political Science in Durban, resigned to take up a post in Canada and Dr P.B. (Peter) Harris replaced him.

In 1967 J.M. (John) Sellers was appointed in Pietermaritzburg as lecturer in Economic History while in Durban D. McK. (Douglas) Irvine was appointed lecturer in Politics and W.R. (Bill) Guest lecturer in History. In 1970 Rick Turner began his memorable but brief career on the Durban campus as lecturer in Politics. In 1973 lecturer S. (Stafford) Glass, who had completed a doctorate and book on the Matabele War, initiated a course on Pre-History in Southern Africa on the Durban campus. The course examined the archaeological and rock art evidence for the Stone and Iron ages and when he left the University later that year P.R. (Paul) Maylam took over the course. In 1969 Dr P.S. (Paul) Thompson joined the department in Pietermaritzburg as lecturer, followed in 1974 by J.P.C. (John) Laband. A year later its name was changed to Historical and Political Studies.

In the Law Department in Durban J.H. Pain was appointed senior lecturer in 1961 and resigned four years later. In 1964 senior lecturer G.B. Farrer died while P.M.A. Hunt was promoted to that level in Pietermaritzburg and in 1966 to professor. The year before A.S. (Tony) Mathews was promoted to professor of Law in Durban and J.R.L. (John) Milton was appointed at lecturer level in Pietermaritzburg, followed in 1970 by J.R. (James) Lund who was appointed senior lecturer. In 1971 Milton was promoted to professor as was B. (Barend) van Niekerk in Durban together with D.J. (David) McQuoid-Mason as lecturer. Two years later the last was promoted to senior lecturer as was
Raymond Suttner. In 1972 M.S. (Michael) Blackman was appointed senior lecturer followed in 1975 by M.L. (Michael) Lupton, both in Pietermaritzburg.

In 1976 Law enjoyed a record enrolment of more than 400 students, excluding those not majoring in the subject. This constituted more than two and a half times the number in 1971 when the B.Proc. degree was introduced to replace the Natal Law Certificate and treble the number of a decade earlier. The increase was attributed partly to its growing reputation but also to the swing from part- to full-time studies as attorneys and government departments became increasingly reluctant to employ articled clerks who regularly absented themselves to attend lectures. Meanwhile, the Moot Programme and Legal Aid clinics went from strength to strength as valuable training activities.

In Philosophy Dr Anna Conradie was promoted in 1961 to senior lecturer in Pietermaritzburg and two years later Professor Otto Jensen retired in Durban where he died in 1968. The following year Miss M. (Margaret) Neser was appointed senior lecturer in the department there and in 1975 S.I.M. du Plessis succeeded to the chair in Pietermaritzburg.

In 1961 Dr K. (Kathleen) Hill (Social Work) and Dr C.J. Jooste (Sociology) resigned as senior lecturers, but the Department of Sociology and Social Work in Durban gained a new professor in Hansi Pollak (1962) and senior lecturers in Miss F.C. (Frances) Shaw (Social Work, 1961) and Hamish Dickie-Clark (Sociology, 1962). Mrs Fatima Meer was appointed in 1965 as lecturer in Sociology and the following year after Pollak resigned Dickie-Clark succeeded to the chair. In the 1960s degree courses in Nursing and Social Work were introduced and in 1968 N.K. (Nelida) Lamond was appointed senior lecturer in Nursing. In 1971 she became the first professor of Nursing with B.N. Hunt succeeding her as senior lecturer.

The following year Hilstan Watts succeeded Dickie-Clark to the chair of Sociology and L. (Laurie) Schlemmer became director of the Institute for Social Research. In 1975 P. (Peter) Stopforth joined him as a research fellow. The following year the institute, founded in 1954, was incorporated into the Faculty of Social Science and became the Centre for Applied Social Sciences with Mrs V. (Valerie) Moller appointed research fellow. It was intended as a unit for teaching and research, continuing with social and contract projects while planning to introduce a one-year, full-time postgraduate diploma in applied social sciences in 1977. Meanwhile, in 1976 Social Work introduced a new clinical Honours course that was more focused on the practical dimensions of Social Work than the established general academic Honours degree.
Speech and Drama in Durban suffered a loss with the death in 1962 of Mrs P.E.C. (Pamela) Robertson and Mrs J.E.H. (Joan) Wilson replaced her as senior lecturer the following year. The department continued to stage numerous dance and drama productions, many of which were as much a form of community service and entertainment as training for its students.

In 1967 the Minister of Education, Arts and Science approved the establishment of a Department of Speech and Drama in Pietermaritzburg. It was another achievement for Professor Elizabeth Sneddon, who retired in 1972 having established and led what was then South Africa’s first Speech and Drama department. The following year Peter Scholtz succeeded to her chair in Durban and in 1974 Roger Orton, another of Sneddon’s protégés, assumed the equivalent position in Pietermaritzburg after being lecturer in charge there since 1967.15

In 1968 the Faculty acquired a valuable asset in Pietermaritzburg in the form of a Language Laboratory with R. (Roy) Dace as organiser. Two years later Mobil Oil Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd offered to donate R5 000 to equip a Reading Laboratory on the Howard College campus and to pay for the technician appointed to run it to spend a few days familiarising her/himself with the laboratory already operating at Stellenbosch University. After the Durban University Librarian had also visited that facility it was decided to accept the generous offer and place the new laboratory under the control of the Durban Library Committee.

**N.K. (Nelida) Lamond** was born in Pietermaritzburg, the daughter of NUC ‘aboriginal’ student S.E. (Errol) Lamond. She was educated at Girls Collegiate before completing her basic training as a nurse at Grey’s Hospital (1946–1950). She then worked at a mission hospital prior to gaining further experience in the unit for premature babies at St Helier Hospital in Surrey. She was a member of the first cohort of nurses the NPA seconded in 1956 to take the new diploma in Nursing at the Faculty of Medicine in Durban. Lamond returned to Grey’s to tutor in midwifery and then in general nursing and also acquired the Diploma in Public Health and School Nursing as well as the Diploma in Hospital Administration. She was awarded a B.Sc. (Hons) with distinction majoring in Sociology and Psychology, then granted a 1968 Emma Smith scholarship to study the social aspects of learning at Keele University, and went on to complete an M.Litt. at Aberdeen in 1970.
In 1970–1971 new departments were also established in Durban. In addition to Bantu Languages (separated from African Studies) under Trevor Cope, T. (Tom) van Waasdjik succeeded Professor Tom Kelly in Business Administration (formerly Commerce and Administration) and departments of Social Work and Nursing, both separated from Sociology, were established under the previously mentioned Frances Shaw and Nelida Lamond respectively. In Pietermaritzburg senior lecturer C. (Cor) Mornet took charge of the School of Librarianship in 1972 and it received its first students the following year.

In 1970 M. (Michael) Brimer was appointed professor and head of the new Department of Music in Durban, following Council’s decision the previous year to establish such a chair. In 1971 and 1972 C.J. (Christopher) Ballantine, who succeeded Brimer in 1974, and another future professor G. (Gerrit) Bon, were appointed as senior lecturers. It was the culmination of a long campaign, revived in the early 1960s, to achieve such a facility. The Pietermaritzburg City Council, which had declined such an opportunity in the past, was belatedly concerned when it was rumoured that the University intended integrating Music into the Department of Speech and Drama in Durban rather than on the local campus and feared that this might eventually lead to the transfer of Fine Arts to the other centre as well.

Malherbe gave the assurance that although the demand for Fine Arts courses in Pietermaritzburg had been poor (for example, only two of the thirteen students registered for them in 1962 originated from the capital) since their transfer there from Durban, it was highly unlikely that they would ever be moved back to the harbour city. The University had only recently decided to erect a special Fine Arts building at a cost of R52 000 and it was improbable that the government would approve the establishment of Fine Arts in Durban as well in view of the high capital costs involved.

As far as the Music Department was concerned, Malherbe pointed out that the Board of the Faculty of Arts, the majority of whose members were from Pietermaritzburg, had unanimously recommended that it should be established in Durban after government had insisted that it could not be launched in both centres and expert outside opinion had overwhelmingly favoured the bigger city. When it became clear that the new department was indeed to be established on the Howard College campus the Pietermaritzburg City Council sent a deputation to the next University Council meeting and followed this up with a detailed memorandum arguing the capital’s case for its acquisition.

Pietermaritzburg, it declared, was much more conducive to serious study and should remain the province’s cultural and educational centre with its dense
concentration of schools that would benefit enormously from the establishment of such a department. The city already had a semi-professional Philharmonic Orchestra, which the municipality subsidised, that could offer its expertise to music students. Moreover, it boasted a Choral Union that included university students and performed the work of both traditional and contemporary composers.

There was also a local theatre group that mounted two productions a year and envisaged soon moving on to opera performances. More recently, a Natal Institute of Music had been created in the capital to offer practical courses at pre-university level and a Natal Conservatorium, under the direction of the well-known Edward Dunn, was envisaged to form the centre of a network of cultural fellowship groups.

Durban, by contrast, was portrayed in the memorandum as a cultural desert, with declining public interest having led to the city’s orchestra abandoning its annual winter symphony concert season that had been in place since 1954. Annual productions of grand opera and classical ballet had similarly ceased, along with the youth festival of arts that had previously attracted 500 delegates as well as the weekly talks on uplifting subjects the Durban Athenaeum had organised.

It was all far too late and Durban won the prize. By 1974 there were ambitious plans to develop a School of Music complex complete with teaching facilities and a recital room on King George V Avenue between the Jubilee Gardens opposite the Howard College Building and the Principal’s residence Campbell House. In practice the school was to remain in more modest accommodation near the campus entrance.

Prolonged efforts were also made to secure a Department of Race Relations for Durban. The trustees of the Maurice Webb Bequest undertook to pay R8 000 a year for five years, with provision for further five-yearly extensions, in order to establish a chair of Race Relations in terms of the directions contained in Webb’s will. Council approved the establishment of a research department of that name within the Faculty of Arts and agreed that approval be sought from the Minister of Education, Arts and Science.

When the minister refused, the opinion of senior counsel was sought. It was pointed out that the minister might be re-approached if, with the assistance of the trustees of Webb’s estate, the proposed department was to be fully endowed. Even then the minister could block the proposal by attaching restrictive conditions to the subsidy granted to the University. Predictably, given the prevailing political climate, such a department was not established.
Of much broader significance, in 1975 the Board of the Faculty of Arts appointed a sub-committee to reconsider the whole structure of the BA degree. It met five times but its proposed changes were only to be considered in 1977.\textsuperscript{16}

In addition to teaching, research and community service also continued to constitute vital dimensions of University activity.

ENDNOTES


STAFFING AND TEACHING


Graduates Association, 1976); UKZNA SP 11/8/1 Prof. Stock’s Addresses 1976–1977: F.E. Stock, ‘Opening remarks at SA Pharmacological Society Congress’, 18 October 1976; PAR 3/PMB 4/5/249 Ref. TC 101/204 Establishment of a Faculty of Medicine: Pmb City Council recommendations, 10 and 30 September 1974, Town Clerk to Provincial Secretary, 11 October 1974 (cc to University Registrar and Principal and SA Medical Association), Registrar to Town Clerk, 23 October 1974, Medical Association Inland Branch to Town Clerk, 29 October 1974, Provincial Secretary to Town Clerk, 20 December 1974, 30 April, 12 August and 11 November 1975, Registrar to Town Clerk, 24 February 1975; UKZNA Dubbeld, ‘Chronology of the University of Natal’: 18, 20, 21, 22; UKZNA University of Natal Gazette XI(2) November 1965: 10; Noble, School of Struggle: 88–91.


THE LOSS OF experienced staff, particularly in the Sciences, and the struggle to find adequate replacements impacted not only on the University’s teaching and supervisory capacity but also on its research output. So did the availability of sufficient funds with which to replace essential equipment that in some fields quickly became obsolete as technological advances gathered momentum.

Funding and research promotion
The donation for research of approximately R106 000 in 1962 from the industrial sector in terms of the 1960 Technological Training Advancement Act was particularly welcome as it comprised the bulk of the R159 760 received in research funding that year.

The following year the University embarked upon a concerted fundraising drive to provide a reliable annual income with which to improve both its staffing situation and research output. In 1964 most of the R264 662 spent on research was provided by non-governmental sources, with the CSIR contributing R95 003, the NCSR R2 720 (primarily for Brookes and Webb’s *History of Natal*, 1965), the Institute for Social Research (ISR) R24 155 and the University Research Fund (URF) R5 164, divided into 17 grants.

It was agreed that the proposed establishment of junior research fellowships be substituted by the award of university research grants and that the URF be increased for this purpose. Much of the private funding was donated in recognition of the University’s research contribution to the local community. This included its investigations into the Umgeni and Tugela River catchment areas and the economic development of Durban and Pietermaritzburg as part of the large-scale Natal Regional Survey project, which raised R14 511 in 1964.

In 1965 the University attracted R249 173 in research funding, of which R78 521 came from the CSIR in the form of bursaries, equipment grants and contributions to the Natural Products Research Unit, the Marine Research Unit and the Technical Library Fund. The NCSR contributed R1 400 (to
History and Education), the ISR R27 667 and the URF R6 942 in the form of ten grants. The balance of R134 643 came from a variety of other sources, including R64 066 in Technical Training Grants, R27 667 for the University’s Institute for Social Research, R20 286 for the Economics Research Fund and R13 850 from the Town and Regional Planning Commission. The University was casting an ever-wider net to fund its research output. By 1966 income for research had increased modestly to R367 808 and thereafter it varied from year to year, declining to R288 773 in 1970.

The following year it was decided that the University Research Committee (URC) and the Estimates Committee should co-ordinate their efforts to allocate the research funding coming in from various sources. Three years later the constitution and terms of reference of the URC were expanded to include the distribution of major equipment loan funds, the identification of special areas of research and the co-option of suitably qualified individuals to assist in discussions on them. At that stage the URC comprised only the Principal, Vice-Principals and one representative each from the CSIR and Atomic Energy Board (AEB) Screening Committee, the Faculty of Medicine, the Agricultural Technical Services and Economic Research committees, the University’s Institute for Social Research and a donor member of Council.

In 1975 the URC was reconstituted with the screening committee members being replaced by seven members of Senate – two representing the Humanities, two the Natural Sciences and three the Applied Sciences – together with a lay member of Council. All existing screening committees, except for Medicine, were dissolved and the screening of all other applications entrusted to the URC.

Research funding increased significantly during the 1970s. In 1971 the University received approximately R600 000 from outside organisations for various research projects. This included R154 000 from the CSIR, plus another R42 800 for bursaries, R14 600 from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), R77 800 from the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and R35 000 from the AEB. There were also contributions from the National Institute of Metallurgy and from AE&CI, in the latter case to maintain the Department of Chemical Engineering’s Pollution Research Unit.

From time to time, several members of staff received special grants. In 1972 and 1973, for example, professors C.H. Bornman and J.McG. Niven won Oppenheimer awards, Dr Taunton received a BP scholarship and Professor R.G. Harley an ESCOM prize for his work on the synchronous machine with a divided winding rotor.
In 1975, the University’s research projects attracted nearly R1 500 000 in contributions from government, semi-government organisations, industrial firms and private individuals. The University itself spent R932 345 on equipment, materials and salaries directly associated with research. The Faculty of Science was allocated R467 890 of this and attracted R312 144 in outside funding, Engineering was allocated R121 795 and attracted R480 040, Agriculture R117 838 (R227 333) while Medicine was allocated R90 493 (R91 462). The other faculties conducted their research with substantially smaller amounts, Education being allocated R3 200 (R36 000) and Commerce receiving R2 000 without any outside funding.

In 1976 the University’s larger research donors included the Water Research Commission (WRC), which contributed R147 584 for three projects (one in Agriculture and two in Engineering), the SAMRC (R101 072), the CSIR (R94 714), the AEB (R66 521), the HSRC (R31 510) and Agricultural Technical Services (R19 300). Research funds for that year amounted to more than R1 250 000 including the contributions of other outside donors as well as expenditure by the University from its own budget.

The acquisition of an IBM 1620 computer in imitation of virtually every university worldwide, including Pretoria, Rhodes, Stellenbosch and Wits, provided a useful research tool for several science disciplines. It was relatively inexpensive, powerful and versatile, easy to programme and operate, and came with an attractive service agreement. It was housed in the Department of Electrical Engineering under the control of its head.

In the early 1970s the department’s storage capacity was upgraded with a new IBM 1300, as was the new Computer Centre in Pietermaritzburg under David Wallis as officer-in-charge. The acquisition in the 1970s of an electron microscope provided another useful tool for several agriculture and science disciplines in that centre and formed the basis of what became a very effective Electron Microscope Centre.

The University Press continued to provide a means for staff to publish substantial research in book form. This included a variety of publications ranging from works on Education, English and Afrikaans Literature to Philosophy, Politics and regional History (which was to become a particular field of specialisation). In the early 1960s it was suggested in Senate that exemption should be sought for the University Press from the government’s new publication restrictions. In this way it would be able to continue publishing books without any prior censorship as that would constitute a breach of the
principle of academic freedom. It was a concern shared with other university presses.

By the early 1970s the staff of the University Press still comprised only a secretary with the University Librarian providing direction and assistance. The Press Committee made several appeals for the appointment of a senior staff member before P. (Percy) Patrick was sent to Pietermaritzburg in 1974 to head both the Press and the Publicity Office. When he was taken ill the following year M. (Margery, Mobbs) Moberly, an alumnus, was released from her library duties to spend a few hours a week and subsequently two afternoons a week to assist in the administration of the Press. This soon proved quite unrealistic as she was then also involved in trying to launch the University Archives. By the end of 1976 it was obvious that some other arrangement would have to be made as both endeavours needed much more attention.¹

Meanwhile, to varying degrees, during the 1960s and 1970s research output had gathered momentum in some, if not all, departments.

**Science**

In Animal Biology the new senior lecturer Anne Alexander, appointed in 1967 after previously serving as principal research officer at the Oceanographic Research Institute, conducted various research projects. These included ongoing work on scorpions and the factors affecting the food preferences of various animals. Meanwhile A.J. Burton, S.R. Rogers and M.P. Berry published on the effect of effluent on the littoral fauna at Umkomaas.

The Department of Biological Sciences in Durban, established in 1974, conducted extensive research on effective seed storage to improve what were regarded as the often ineffective methods previously used. This work led to a hypothesis that ‘seed deterioration is due to the inability of the tissues to replace damaged molecules by repair and cellular maintenance, and loss of viability is therefore a consequence of the normal practice of dry storage.’ The still ongoing research sought to confirm that ‘seeds of lowered vitality’ might ‘be improved by appropriate treatments prior to germination’.

Several staff members were involved in this research. T.A. Villiers published prolifically on the causes of seed deterioration in dry storage, on seed dormancy and seed ageing as well as on hormonal control of organ formation in the bud and on crystal structure in the microbodies of plant cells. In addition, Villiers and Pat Berjak published together on ageing in plant embryos while the latter also published, among many other topics, on cell death during root development in barley seedlings.
In Pietermaritzburg, Botany Professor Hilliard’s research interests included abscission hormones, tissue culture and desert plants, particularly *Welwitschia*, which resulted in increasing research activity in the physiological field. He also published on a new species of streptocarpus and worked on a revision of the genus *Bowkeria*. In 1971 the University Press published his book with B.L. Burtt entitled *Streptocarpus: An African Plant Study*. O.V.S. Heath and Hans Meidner investigated the role of carbon dioxide translocated in the transpiration stream of maize plants.

Ecological studies focused primarily on freshwater research instead of exclusively on the terrestrial ecology that was so prominent during Bayer’s tenure. Meidner also researched the ecology of freshwater algae and D. Edwards undertook an ecological survey of the Tugela Basin while D.J.B. Killick studied the plant ecology of the Table Mountain area near Pietermaritzburg and that of the Cathedral Peak region in the Drakensberg.

Other areas of interest included St Lucia and the vlei areas of northern Natal and of the Noordveld. K.D. Gordon-Gray produced revisions on southern African species of *Scirpus* (Cyperaceae) and of the species of *Fimbristylis* (Cyperaceae) of tropical Africa, developed an interest in *Acacia* with particular...
P. (Patricia, Pat) Berjak acquired a B.Sc. (Hons) degree at Wits and worked in the Department of Plant Biology at Howard College from 1966 as a junior lecturer and research assistant while completing her M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Cell Biology. More specifically, her research was on maize seed deterioration in air-dry storage and the resultant publications established her international reputation in the field. She then spent a post-doctoral period at Leeds (1969–1972) before returning as senior lecturer and rising to the rank of full professor in the Department of Biology. The research conducted by the Durban group led to several major discoveries with regard to resolution of the problems of seed storage, focusing specifically on the cell biology of dessication-sensitive seeds and seed fungal relationships in the storage of staple crops. This work was of particular importance to food security in the developing world and was extended to problems relating to the propagation of plants used in traditional medicines. By 2002 Berjak had published more than 120 academic articles, fourteen book contributions and numerous technical reports as well as presenting many conference papers and supervising more than two dozen M.Sc. and doctoral students. She acknowledged the contributions of several other scientists to her successes, including that of her husband Professor Norman Pammenter, but received a number of personal awards in recognition of her work. These included an FRD ‘A’ rating, membership of the Academy of Science, the Silver Medal of the South African Association of Botanists and the Order of Mapungubwe (Silver), the highest presidential award. She served the University for over 48 years, including years as professor emeritus and senior research associate in her retirement and died in 2015.

A.R.A. (Bob) Noel worked on improvements in botanical micro-technique and the understanding of DNA. In collaboration with Peter Booyseen of the Faculty of Agriculture, Noel also published on seed germination and seedling growth of two *Acacia* species under field conditions in grassveld while C.H. Bornman published extensively on *Welwitschia*.

Hannes van Staden, building what was to prove a prolific and internationally renowned publication career, produced articles on deficiencies of major nutrient elements in *Protea cynaroides* Linn, grown in sand culture and on growth in *Spirodela*. He was also involved, with N.A.C. Brown, in studying germination inhibitors in aqueous seed extracts of South African *Proteaceae*. There were other departmental publications on orchids and their propagation,
on the production of citrus trees through tissue culture and tissue culture studies on roses.

Several foreign botanists who visited the department with the assistance of the Visiting Lecturers Trust Fund commented favourably on the research undertaken and contributed towards it. Researchers from within and outside the University who were conducting investigations involving plant material continued to make good use of the Herbarium. In 1971 the CSIR recognised the establishment of the Plant Tissue Culture Research Unit under the direction of Professor of Botany C.H. Bornman. Its focus was on plant growth and development with particular emphasis on organ formation in plants of economic significance such as citrus.²

As the new professor of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry in Pietermaritzburg from 1960, Deneys Schreiner led a team including Alistair Verbeek, John Kobus, Hans Welke, Henry Basson and others in initiating research on a study of isotope abundances in granite shales. As the study of the Chemistry Department by Drewes has shown, in order to do so they built their own mass spectrometer. Schreiner went on to focus on the use of isotopes in South African mining and geology and with others investigated the

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C.H. (Chris) Bornman was born in Kenya and graduated with a B.Sc. (Agric.) at Stellenbosch followed by an M.Sc. (cum laude). He lectured there and worked for the Wheat Control Board before joining a team investigating plant hormones at University of California (Davis) where in 1965 he was awarded a Ph.D. in Botany. He subsequently taught plant anatomy and morphology at Wisconsin (Madison) and in 1966 became the second professor of Botany in Pietermaritzburg. Bornman subsequently served as dean of the Faculty of Science and as a member of the Prime Minister’s Council for Biological Sciences. In 1970 his research team on plant cell and tissue culture succeeded in growing a fully developed plant from a single cell, one-twentieth of a millimetre in diameter, in a test tube. This had great potential for applied botany and experiments in crop improvement. Bornman and his colleagues produced numerous publications and he went on to further his work in basic hormone research, on the productivity of the Pongola River flood plain and on desert physiology, with particular reference to Welwitschia, an evolutionary offshoot of the plant kingdom found in the Namib Desert.
electrolysis of fused salt mixtures in order to extract chromium as well as ion molecule reactions in hydrogen and deuterium.

Among his many successful postgraduate students were Raymond Haines (1961) and Verbeek. The latter published his research on potassium isotope variations in geological formations. In 1972 AE&CI agreed to a grant of R10 000 a year for five years to facilitate the purchase of a new mass spectrometer. Haines went on to publish, with others and among numerous other topics, on metal complexes as donor ligands and on the interaction of carbon monoxide and metals.

The organic chemists were also highly active, with Drewes and Sutton undertaking a study on crystalline derivatives of insulin. Drewes and Gordon-Gray’s new research programme on the synthesis of Senecio alkaloids produced many publications as well as a number of successful postgraduates. In 1973 Drewes’ book *Chroman and Related Compounds* was published as part of a series entitled Progress in Mass Spectrometry. Sutton continued to lead a strong research group in the field of insulin chemistry and became internationally renowned, in particular for his work on proteins.

G.D.L. (Deneys) Schreiner was born in 1923 in Johannesburg, matriculated at St John’s College and acquired a B.Sc. at Wits (1942). After wartime service in Italy he completed a Ph.D. at Trinity College, Cambridge (1951). He was a visiting associate professor at Pennsylvania State College (1951–1953) and senior research officer, Nuffield Geochronological Unit at the Bernard Price Institute, Wits (1953–1959) before assuming the chair of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry in Pietermaritzburg. He occupied it from 1959 until 1975, completing a couple of terms as dean of the Faculty prior to becoming Vice-Principal on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Schreiner served on numerous University committees, chairing several of them including the Research Committee, and was a member of the University delegation that gave verbal evidence to the Van Wyk de Vries Commission. He also participated in many off-campus committees, including that of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Race Relations and as chairman of the 1980 KwaZulu Commission that investigated possible future political options for the province. He delivered many conference papers and published prolifically prior to becoming Vice-Principal, retired in 1987 and died twenty years later. The Main Science Lecture Theatre on the Pietermaritzburg campus was named in his honour.
A major coup was the attachment in 1961 of the Natural Products Research Unit of the CSIR to the Organic Chemistry section of the department. Meanwhile Sutton also maintained his contacts with industry and applied his practical expertise to help manage the Paint Industries Research and Sugar Milling Research institutes on the Durban campus. In 1970 one of his M.Sc. students, Lesley Crawford (née Merrick), made the noteworthy discovery that tetralactone esters based on ortho phthalic acid were very easy to synthesise.

Ken Guy edited a series of books on laboratory techniques, the first of which focused on teaching and display and on anatomical methods. Others followed, including one on metallurgical laboratory techniques and another on laboratory glassblowing. George Costello gave talks and demonstrations of his expertise in glassblowing to various voluntary organisations.

The Chemistry Department in Durban was also active. Among several other research activities, J.W. Bayles and B. Evans published on the acid-base function in non-aqueous solutions. T.M. Letcher worked on the thermodynamics of liquid mixtures by vapour pressure measurements, G. Brink on intensities of infrared absorption spectra, J.H. Meyer on the analysis of basaltic rocks and D.M. Parbhoo on equilibria involving proton transfer, while Dr K.H. Pegel and others conducted a variety of research projects on natural products.

Research was also conducted on wool extractives, fluorescence spectrometry and derivatives of metallic carbonyls. M.J. (Mike) Laing investigated crystal structures including that of copper (4-vinyl pyridine) dichloride with E. Horsfield and that of trinitrotetramine cobalt III with S. Baines. He and A. (Arthur) Sale also published on crystallographic programs for the new IBM computer. In 1967–1968, in collaboration with the Department of Physics, an air-conditioned X-ray diffraction laboratory with darkroom facilities was established for both teaching and research purposes.

In 1976, after the Paint Industries Research Institute had closed down and been merged into the Durban Chemistry Department as a Sub-Department of Applied Chemistry, the South African Food Corporation (Pty) Ltd’s new Food Research Unit attached to it concentrated primarily on research into nutritional evaluation but, as agreed, it did also assist with third-year and later postgraduate teaching.

In Computer Science publications were produced on programming and on computer courses as well as on other more specialised topics. In Geography, B.S. Young concentrated on the industrial geography of Durban while J.B. McI. Daniel focused on the economic geography of Swaziland and subsequently on African resettlement schemes. With N.C. Pollock (from Oxford University’s
School of Geography), he studied Richards Bay as a future industrial centre. Owen Williams researched land use mapping in South Africa and rainfall in the Pietermaritzburg area. He and Nathan Hurwitz published a book entitled *The Economic Framework of South Africa* while O.S. (Owen) McGee published on wind and humidity conditions over Durban and on the content of water vapour in the atmosphere over South Africa. There were various other investigations focusing on Pietermaritzburg, the Natal Midlands, border industrial development in the province, and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Rob Preston-Whyte began researching air drainage, pollution and wind circulation over Durban. He subsequently also studied thunderstorms in Natal, diurnal wind variations over the Drakensberg and the consequences of coastal lows. P.D. Tyson published on climatic factors affecting atmospheric pollution in South Africa and on local air circulation. In 1964 the Students Geographical Society was formed and by the mid-1960s research in the Durban department was expanding rapidly with increasing numbers of postgraduate students focusing primarily on urban and economic geography, population studies and land use analysis. In 1967 the two Geography departments produced a series of field excursion guides for the South African Geographical Conference in Durban on the city itself, on Pietermaritzburg, on the Natal north coast and on central Natal and Zululand.

Ron Davies and Peggy Hobson pursued their interest in South Africa’s urban geography. The former subsequently published on South African town growth correlates and, with Hilstan Watts and G. Waters, on the present and future distribution of Durban’s residential population. He also researched Indian agriculture on Natal’s north coast with J.J.C. Greyling who worked on rural Indian land ownership. Several other projects focused either on Durban or on aspects of the Natal-Zululand region. Hobson and B.S. Young published a map of the main agricultural regions of South Africa.

Lester King, Peter Matthews, J.J. Frankel and John McCarthy of the Geology Department continued to explore different parts of the geology of the Natal-Zululand region. E.P. Saggerson worked on the geology of east Africa, East Griqualand and Transkei, and on the delineation of metamorphic belts in Africa. King published a geological comparison between South Africa and Antarctica and in 1966 he and T.W. Downard published on the importance of Antarctica in the hypothesis of continental drift. In 1972 King produced his 100th publication, a monograph entitled *The Natal Monocline*, which marked a fitting end to his long career. For a time V. (Victor) von Brunn worked on igneous rocks north-east of Lüderitz and D.R. (Don) Hunter on the bushveld
complex. Matthews published on the analysis and structural implications of a
kinematic model of similar folding with R.A.B. (Dick) Bond and Johann van
den Berg of the Department of Mathematics.

In Mathematics, Professor H. Linhart worked on the statistical analysis of
stationary point processes and on the theory and methods pertaining thereto,
J.H. (John) Swart on multiple integral problems in the calculus of variations
and Dick Bond on applications of analogue computers; while research was also
conducted on linear differential equations. Bond and van den Berg, with Peter
Matthews of the Geology Department, investigated the application of linear
algebra to deformation processes in Geology. Bond also worked on non-linear
dynamics in undercarriage problems, N.J. Warmelo on external problems in
partial sums for unimodular bounded functions and L. Troskie on the design
and analysis of factorial experiments.

P.W. Uys focused on homology in association with Mrs J.M. (Jennifer)
Nevin, Brian Nevin on sequential discriminant analysis and Dr N.C.K. (Nic)
Phillips on mathematical logic and axiomatic set theory. Dr D.H. Martin
researched control theory and Alan Dale subjective probability, while D. (Dan)
Krige explored Banach algebras and V. Steinijans linear hypotheses.

In 1961 Dr J.W. King of the Physics Department in Pietermaritzburg
produced several papers on his analysis of ionospheric data acquired during
International Geophysical Year. He then resigned to become senior scientific
officer at the Radio Research Station in Slough, England. Roger Raab and
A.A.V. Gibson constructed a large electromagnet to use in nuclear magnetic
resonance spectroscopy. Raab and Clive Graham investigated the Faraday
Effect in gases and worked on a molecular theory of natural and magneto-
optical rotation in gases. Graham and A.D. Buckingham published on
polarisation and alignment in polar fluids while J.R. Hoch and B.de K. Budke
studied molecular structure and motion and solid-state phase transitions using
nuclear magnetic resonance and high pressure methods.

In the Durban Physics Department Des Clarence continued to lead research
on whistling atmospherics. He then launched a project to measure geomagnetic
micro-pulsations as a means to further investigations of the magnetosphere.
The necessary variometers were constructed in the departmental workshops
in order to make recordings with similar stations in Germany and Italy.
Meanwhile W.H. Wright published on the detection efficiency of electron
multipliers while Manfred Hellberg published on a theoretical investigation of
the resonance probe and on the use of computer simulation in plasma physics.
He also published on stability in plasma and stability theory, on particle motion and on diffusion and neoclassical effects.

M.W.J. Scourfield and others published on spatial coherency in pulsating aurora and David Walker on the propagation of very low frequency waves in ducts in the magnetosphere, on analogies between radio propagation and quantum mechanics and on the theory of whistler propagation. P.J. Barrett worked on waves in plasma and D.T. (Dudley) Goodhead and others on refractive indices of gases at microwave frequencies. In 1976 the department’s Space Research Group installed a big antenna at the South African National Antarctic Expedition’s base as part of an international research programme tracking two Canadian satellites.

Research in the Psychology Department, which by 1962 had joined the Faculty of Science, included work on the behaviour of African children after recovering from malnutrition, the attitudes of ‘non-European’ nurses and, in collaboration with the CSIR, work on fluctuations in skin resistance and skin temperature. P.A. Theron published on social pressures on the behaviour of adolescents, on management efficiency and on alcoholism.

A.D.M. (David) Walker matriculated at Umtata High School and graduated in 1959 with a B.Sc. (Hons) at Rhodes University where he was appointed lecturer in Physics. An M.Sc. (with distinction) followed in 1962 after which he went to St John’s College, Cambridge on a Shell International postgraduate scholarship and worked for three years in the Cavendish Laboratory. There he extended his earlier research on the propagation of radio waves in the ionosphere and worked on the transmission of whistler atmospherics. He was awarded a doctorate at Cambridge in 1966 and was promoted to senior lecturer (1969) at Rhodes before returning to Cambridge to continue his research as senior visitor. After being appointed as professor of Theoretical Physics in Durban (1972–1975) Walker became professor and head of the Department of Physics from 1975 and dean of the Faculty (1991–1995) as well as serving on three occasions as Acting Vice-Principal. By mid-2000 he had produced 63 accredited publications and supervised thirteen masters and doctoral students as well as serving on numerous campus, national and international committees, and had received several awards. These included the South African Institute of Physics 1998 De Beers Gold Medal in recognition of his life’s work in space physics, not least the launching of the Antarctic-based Southern Hemisphere Auroral Radar Experiment as part of an international programme involving seven countries.
Ronald Albino investigated studies of hippocampal functions, J. Lucas worked on studies of septal functions, Philippa Clark researched the factors determining the conditioning of the eye blink, Mrs P. Schumann explored the intelligence of Indian children, L. Melamed researched race awareness in South African children, P. Blunt worked on aspects of behaviour therapy, P.D. Krige on the development of affection in children, J.W. Mann on group relations in hierarchies and L. Bloom on recent trends in social psychology.

In Zoology there was some diversity in the staff’s research interests, which included anuran amphibia, the ecology of water birds, the ecology and physiology of freshwater pulmonate snails and the ecology, physiology and behaviour of amphibious freshwater crabs. There was also some interest in aspects of insect flight and in marine intertidal and mangrove faunas and freshwater planktology as part of the International Biological Programme on the Productivity of Fresh Water. J. Heeg pursued a research interest in the physiology of aestivation in freshwater snails, S.J. (Stephanie) Alexander in the physiology of the river crab, G. MacFarlane in the osmoregulation of marine and estuarine crabs, M.P. Beynon in barnacles and limpets and J.C. Poynton in the determinants of distribution patterns and in the distribution of southern African amphibia.

Gordon Maclean published on the biology of the sociable weaver and of the birds of arid environments in southern Africa. These included larks in the Kalahari and desert adaptations of sandgrouse as well as the breeding seasons of birds in the south-western Kalahari. In 1972 Waldo Meester published an identification manual entitled *The Mammals of Africa* and articles, more specifically, on golden moles and hamsters. P.A. Laycock published on the distribution and abundance of bats in the Natal Midlands, C.N.V. Lloyd on the feeding and egg laying behaviour of the green mamba and D.E. van Dijk, with E. Channing, on the frogs of South West Africa (Namibia). In 1976 van Dijk, with A.L. Smit, published a substantially revised version of *Introduction to Modern Biology*.

By the 1970s the department had adequate laboratories and equipment for its staff and postgraduate students as well as a library that subscribed to 60 major zoological journals. From time to time joint research projects were undertaken in Pietermaritzburg with the Natal Museum, the Natal Parks, Fish and Game Preservation Board and, in Durban, with the Oceanographic Research Institute, the Institute of Parasitology and the National Institute for Water Research.

The Faculty of Agriculture too maintained its research momentum and also its mutually beneficial contacts with the rural community it had always been intended to serve.
Agriculture
During the early 1960s Ian Behrmann, Eckard Kassier and John Graham of the Department of Agricultural Economics embarked on a study of farm planning and management in northern Natal and East Griqualand. Behrmann was awarded his Ph.D. and the Founders Gold Medal and Prize for his study of the economics of sugarcane production in Natal. An economic survey of sugarcane farms followed in collaboration with the South African Cane Growers Association as well as a study of the economics of beef farming in Natal and farm land prices in South Africa. Graham studied the economics of labour and equipment in dairying and, with Jan Groenewald, efficiency comparisons between milking parlours and sheds. The latter also examined haymaking methods and, with W.M. Seldon, published on management accounting in agriculture.

Kassier and Graham published a survey of the cost of cotton production in the Pongola extension area for the Department of Agricultural Technical Services

J.A.J. (Waldo) Meester matriculated in 1946 at Erasmus School in Bronkhorstspruit before graduating in 1949 with a B.Sc. in Zoology (distinction) at Pretoria University. He worked as a technical assistant in the Department of Zoology and curator of mammals at the Transvaal Museum while completing an M.Sc. (1953) and D.Sc. (1961) on the taxonomy of shrews. Two years later he was appointed director of the Kaffrarian Museum in King William’s Town, returning as senior lecturer in 1965 to Pretoria University. In 1969 he was promoted to associate professor and inaugurated and directed the Mammal Research Unit in the Department of Zoology. By the time he arrived in Pietermaritzburg in 1972 as professor of Zoology, Meester had already produced numerous scientific papers and was completing his identification manual on *The Mammals of Africa* in collaboration with Dr H.W. Setzer of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington where he was one of only three foreign honorary research associates. He moved to the Durban campus in 1980 and remained there until his retirement in 1991. By the end of his career he had supervised 47 masters and doctoral students, several of whom later held key museum and university positions. Meester also published more than 100 papers, including the aforementioned identification manual (1972) and *Classification of Southern African Mammals* (1986). His greatest impact was in museum science and in 1995 he won the Gold Medal of the Zoological Society of Southern Africa. He died a few months later.
while Behrmann published on changes in the structure, composition and destinations of South Africa’s agricultural exports. W.L. Nieuwoudt published on various topics including the optimum allocation of resources, subsidies for variable resources, supply elasticity in agriculture, price stabilisation and support policies and demand functions for fertiliser.

In Agricultural Engineering, Pottie Meiring worked on the development of research silos and on the handling and storage of silage as well as on tractor power and performance testing. Pieter Vorster and J.R. (Jack) Burney focused on soil infiltration capacities and hydrology. Vorster published on the hydrology of small catchments and served on a commission investigating drainage problems at the Vaalhartz irrigation scheme. He also visited the Makatini irrigation project in Zululand and various experimental stations in Natal. Burney, with others, published on the hydraulics of shallow flows and of ungauged watersheds as well as on small catchment flood modelling. By the late 1960s the department was collaborating in a consultative capacity with the Agro-Hydrological Research Unit of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services at De Hoek, Estcourt, on small catchment projects.

In 1974 the Agricultural Catchments Research Unit was launched in the department. Two years later the WRC contributed R79 637 towards its work in analysing hydrological information from several small agricultural catchment areas in Natal, with particular interest in droughts and floods. Although it was intended as a long-term project, interim results were immediately made available for the use of consulting engineers and environmental scientists. The unit also collaborated with the Department of Agricultural Technical Services in researching soil erosion and surveying the water resources of the Drakensberg under the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission’s sponsorship. In 1976, under its aegis, R.E. (Roland) Schulze, with P.D. Tyson and Rob Preston-Whyte, published *The Climate of the Drakensberg*.

Following its establishment as a department in 1974, Agrometeorology became heavily involved in research and an observatory was subsequently established adjacent to the Faculty building. The department also gained prominence through Jimmy de Jager’s crop growth modelling, particularly his PUTU (Zulu for maize porridge) model.

In Animal Husbandry George Hunter and Bollie Bishop published on their earlier successful long-distance aerial transportation of fertilised sheep ova. Arthur Lishman with Jannes van Ryssen rejuvenated this interest in sheep reproduction, extending research into the physiology of ruminant nutrition. Schalk de Kock investigated the effect of various nutritional regimes upon
animal carcass composition and J.P. (James) Kitching pursued earlier studies on verminosis in sheep. Interest in the effects of early nutrition on Jersey cow milk production was maintained as was, until 1970, Hunter’s research on Jersey breeding. Another major project at Ukulinga experimental farm began to gather impetus as Rob Gous developed what was to become an internationally recognised poultry research unit. Among other aspects, he published on the effect of dietary protein and energy concentrations on broiler breeder pullets.

As the department became one of the Faculty’s largest in terms of graduate and research output it produced publications on a wide variety of topics. These included work on merino sheep, calf rearing, the use of milking machines on Natal farms and variations in the milking machine rate of Jersey cows. There were also numerous articles on egg production and seasonal fluctuation in hatchability, the use of sunflower meal as a source of protein for chicken rations, the relationship between genetic factors and economically important characteristics of fowls, commercial egg production in Natal and the production of table ducks. W.J. (Werner) Stielau published, among other topics, on fertilisers and the dry matter, protein and mineral needs of farm animals. Kowie Wessels published, with Rita Saunders, a comparative study of the response of different carcass and blood meals to amino acid supplementation while N.C. (Neville) Owen with others published on bluetongue in cattle.

In Biochemistry Hector de Meulenaere pursued his interest in the availability of amino acids in proteins and in the nutritive value and digestibility of soya beans. In 1964 the department acquired a Beckmann automatic amino acid analyser for use in the analysis of protein hydrolysates in most amino acids.

R.M. (Rob) Gous matriculated at Benoni High School and completed a B.Sc. (Agric.) in 1967, an M.Sc. (Agric.) in 1972 and a Ph.D. in 1976 in the Faculty of Agriculture where he joined the Department of Animal Science and Poultry Science in 1970. He became a full professor in 1989 and succeeded Werner Stielau as head of department. His prolonged interest in Poultry Science led him to specialise in quantitative nutrition and simulation modelling of feed intake and growth of broiler chickens. This resulted in the development of a world-renowned poultry research unit at Ukulinga as a result of which Gous became one of the few academics at the University of Natal and its first agriculturist to be awarded a rare NRF ‘A’ rating. This was extended beyond his retirement in 2007 and he continued to work at Ukulinga.
A Beckman-Spinco ultracentrifuge was also acquired to isolate purified proteins and cellular fractions. Both facilities were made available to other departments. Among numerous other publications George Quicke produced articles on grass hay, on protein quality and higher lysine levels in maize and on white and yellow maize with J.M. Brand and J.L. de Wit. This research was of great assistance to the Department of Agricultural Technical Services in improving the nutritive value of local crops.

The department’s research interests included studies on the nutritional value of indigenous legumes in order to supplement the diet of lower income groups with protein from legumes. There were also studies on photosynthesis in order to determine the effect of herbicides on the Hill reaction, studies on the chemical composition of grasses, the storage and translocation of grasses and the process of lignifications, and studies on the relationship between poor fertility in Natal’s dairy herds and trace element deficiencies.

The installation of a Beckman GC-4 gas liquid chromatograph fitted with electron capture detector as well as a dual flame ionisation detector facilitated preparative and analytical work and was immediately used in a joint project with Entomology on the isolation of insect pheromones.

In the Biometry Department Arthur Rayner produced various articles and in 1969 the University Press published his First Course in Biometry for Agriculture Students. ‘Rayner’s Book of Revelations’ was to become the bane, but also the bible of many students obliged to take his compulsory module in the B.Sc. (Agric.) degree. Among other projects, he and R.M. (Rob) Pringle published on generalised inverse matrices with applications to statistics and expressions for generalised inverses of a bordered matrix with application to the theory of constrained linear models. I. (Isabell) Gravett studied the theory of the sampling of experimental plots. She, Pringle and P.S. (Pierre) du Toit also assisted Rayner in dealing with numerous enquiries concerning experimental design, statistical inferences and the accurate interpretation of research results.

In Crop Science Karl Nathanson, J.H. (Jan) Kritzinger and others published on seed legumes, the effect of fertiliser application and crop rotation on maize crop yields, the effect of various chemicals on plant growth and on phosphate availability and soil pH. Meanwhile F.P.C. Blamey published on the boron nutrition of sunflowers.

In the Department of Dairy Science Helen Hinch worked on modifications in cheese making and ripening processes to improve body and texture with shorter ripening periods. Clem Abbott and E.C.W. Meyer studied the effects of stabilisers and emulsifiers on the body, texture and meltdown of ice cream,
on uses and problems relating to water in the dairy industry and on lactose and lactose intolerance. Abbott also developed a particular interest in problems relating to the domestication of eland, conducting an extended study while on sabbatical leave in conjunction with the Natal Parks Board at Lotheni. He subsequently compared the Drakensberg eland with the desert strain found in the Cape Point Nature Reserve. Dr M.E. (Mike) Stiles concentrated on the physiology of the micro-organism *Staphylococcus aureus* and on its control in dairying.

In 1961 Martinus (Oosie) Oosthuizen of the Department of Entomology completed his survey of the indigenous insect species attacking *Lantana camara*, establishing that there were no indigenous biological agents that could exert significant control over this weed. The importation of lantana-feeding insects from Hawaii for controlled field liberations proved disappointing. His successor to the chair Dr T. (Ted) Bosman investigated the taxonomic value of the blood proteins in certain insect groups while completion of a constant temperature room facilitated the expansion of five-year laboratory investigations into the citrus snout beetle.

An investigation into the sex attractants of several species of insects was also launched in the mid-1960s in collaboration with the Chemistry Department. Bosman published on insect control and, in addition, W.H. (Willem) Weyers and K.J. Nuss worked on paramutation while P.J. Gildenhuys and K. Brix focused on cytogenetics of *Pennisetum* hybrids. D.J.C. (Dave) Fletcher and others published on the swarming and pollination of honey bees and on their nest entrance pheromones as well as on pheromones in ants.

The newly established Department of Home Economics and Dietetics was initially preoccupied with curriculum development but J.M. (Maryann) Green did publish on programmed learning in a university-level textiles course. In the Department of Horticulture Sas le Roux’s early research on subtropical fruits was extended with Peter Allan and Nigel Wolstenholme to the fore in the vegetative propagation and eco-physical investigation of pawpaw, pineapples, pecans, macadamia nuts, kiwifruit and low chill deciduous fruits. There was also interest in orchard management and in selection of new avocado and citrus varieties. Numerous publications emanated from these experiments, which proved very valuable to the farming community as they reached the stage of commercial production.

The Department of Pasture Management continued with its increasingly well-known research on veld management, veld burning and veld fertilisation at Ukulinga in addition to several other ongoing projects. These included...
surveys of the vegetation of Thaba 'Nchu mountain and four catchments of the Highland Sourveld as well as the analysis of various veld grasses. Hamish Scott was elected first president and Peter Booysen first editor at the inaugural meeting of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa held in February 1966 in Pietermaritzburg. Scott read a paper on pasture research in Natal and Booysen one on a physiological approach to research in pasture utilisation and on grazing management.

Scott also published on bush encroachment in South Africa and Booysen, with E.P. Theron, on palatability in grasses. In addition, Scott published on farm planning and pasture management and on the nutritive value of irrigated pastures influenced by nitrogen fertilising. Booysen, with N.A.C. Brown, published on the seed germination and seedling growth of two *Acacia* species under field conditions in grassland, with Theron on the factors influencing the breaking tension of the leaves of various grasses, and with P.M. Miller on the delineation of plant communities in relatively homogeneous grassland.

N.M. (Neil) Tainton and J.P. Cooper published on the light and temperature requirements for the growth of tropical and temperate grasses, on the objectives of resting grassveld and on a comparison of different pasture rotations. Jimmy de Jager and others published on the assessment of environmental potential and on maize production. De Jager also published on irrigation planning for maximum water use effectivity and on the effect of plant spacing on the development of maize crops. In 1976 Tainton published a book with D.I. (David) Bransby and Booysen entitled *Common Veld and Pasture Grasses of Natal*.

In the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology Johan Joubert pursued his interest in phytopathogenic bacteria and parasitic green algae. He and his first M.Sc. student F.M. (Mike) Wallis published several papers in this connection. Joubert undertook comparative physiological and biochemical studies of the genus *Xanthomonas*, Mike Martin worked on the identification and serology of plant viruses occurring in Natal and the purification and electron microscopy of the tomato spotted-wilt virus, while H.L. Lloyd researched the cytology and genetics of *Gibberella roseum f. cerealis*. F.H.J. (Frits) Rijkenberg published an electron microscopic study of poplar rust, on maize rust and, with Joubert, published further on parasitic green algae. J.V. (John) da Graca and Martin published, among other studies, on tobacco mosaic virus.

In Soil Science Jimmy Orchard published on soil testing and changing concepts of soil fertility, as well as on soil fertility and classification and the
need to link new knowledge to farming practice. Malcolm Sumner undertook a special study of ionic equilibria in relation to the clay minerals found in tropical and subtropical soils. In 1962 a R10 000 Philips X-ray diffractometer was installed primarily to identify the various clay minerals in soils. Among other projects there was also departmental interest in acid soils and in the moisture content of sandy soils. Sumner published with J. le Roux on the soil solution of various Natal soils, with J.M. Marques on the applicability of Schofield’s ratio law to ferralitic clay and with E.C. Gilfillan on the use of asphalt barriers to improve the productivity of sandy soils.5

In common with the Faculty of Agriculture, Engineering and Architecture continued to undertake research that was of practical applicability in the broader community.

**Engineering and Architecture**

In the mid-1960s the Department of Architecture conducted research into the design of window, ventilation and sun-control mechanisms for use in local hot, humid conditions; load-bearing brick construction for high buildings; and an investigation into aided self-help techniques for housing construction in rural areas. In addition, J.A. Templer published on housing designs for aged persons and hospital services while Barry Biermann wrote about restoration in South Africa and indigenous African architecture, including the domed Zulu dwelling place. Professor Leslie Croft published on architectural education in Natal and, with Dr R.B. Lewcock and Professor E.W.N. Mallows, on the history of physical planning. Lewcock also published on Cape architecture and colonial architecture in Africa.

Brian Kearney published on Natal’s colonial heritage, the historical development of certain building materials and typographies in architecture. In 1973 his book *Architecture in Natal, 1824–1893* was published. J.D. Theron wrote about modern American architecture and the Chicago School and on the role of the architect in creating urban environments; E.Tollman about the education and training of designers and high-rise, high-density housing development; P. Mikula on Hindu temples in South Africa; and Rodney Harber on mosques.

The Department of Chemical Engineering continued to conduct research primarily on air and water pollution, dealing with issues of practical concern to industry such as fume scrubbing and filtration, the treatment of effluent, fermentation processes, the construction and operation of cooling towers, entrainment separation in evaporators, drying processes and gas-liquid-
solid reactions. For a time Edward Woodburn was particularly interested in studies relating to gas flow patterns in large irrigated packed beds and on design equations for predicting the performance of a calcium hydroxide carbonation reactor. With others he also published on the testing of mineral processing equipment using radioisotopes and the optimum estimation of process parameters using pseudo-random binary signals. There were further publications on the thermal decomposition and hydrogenation of coal dust and on the extraction of sugar from cane in the diffusion process.

Numerous other projects were pursued in the department, which also made its library and advisory services available to local industrialists. For example, R.P. King published on the use of digital computers in Chemical Engineering, on operations research in the chemical industry, on optimal catalyst composition profiles in fixed-bed reactors, and on flotation research and the design and control of flotation plants. B.K. Loveday published an analysis of froth flotation kinetics, D.I. Exell worked on a study of dispersive mixing in high velocity gas flows and G.C. Snyman on the mixing characteristics of powders flowing from cylindrical storage bins. There were also publications emanating from projects on the design and development of chemical reactors, the preparation of solids for pipeline transport and the dispersion of material in slowly moving fluids.

During times of financial hardship as in the mid-1970s departments like Chemical and Civil Engineering were grateful to be able to attract large amounts of funding for specific projects that were of direct value to industry but invariably had advantageous spin-offs for themselves. Special regulations had to be implemented pertaining to any research of a classified nature that might lead to the award of degrees. After a lengthy debate, Senate resolved by a narrow margin not to confer degrees for research that was classified, but without excluding the possibility that such work would be undertaken on campus. This followed an enquiry from the president of the AEB about whether the University would accept as students employees of the board who were working on classified projects that were ‘of great importance to the national interest’.

In 1976 the Department of Chemical Engineering was requested to produce a computer simulation model for the SASOL II reactors and prepare a computer model for operating the Mobil Oil Refinery in Durban. This was in addition to the environmental studies in which it was engaged in the Cape and at Richards Bay. In the same year the department attracted R39 476 from the WRC for its project on water management and effluent treatment in the
textile industry. It was headed by Dr G.R. Groves under Woodburn’s direction and was subsequently staffed by three researchers, two assistants and two technicians. The project was administered by steering committees comprising representatives of the University, the WRC, the Department of Water Affairs, the CSIR and the textile industry.

The main effluent problems to which the industry gave rise were sourced to dyeing, wool scouring, printing, desizing, mercerizing and kiering. The research then focused on the development of closed loop recycle systems that separated chemical contaminants from the effluent to produce water of sufficient quality for re-use as well as recovering the chemical pollutants. This was intended to benefit both the economy in terms of reduced water consumption and effluent discharges as well as individual factories in terms of lower water and effluent treatment costs and the re-use of expensive processing chemicals. The textile industry itself was actively involved in the research with pilot plants established at several factories. It was recognised that this project had great relevance to several other industries and by 1976 it had been decided that it would continue with an operating budget of R150 000 a year.

Civil Engineering’s new laboratories in the Centenary Building enhanced its research capacity to investigate hydraulic problems, reinforced concrete structures and the load capacity of reinforced concrete pipes. A special test floor made it possible to examine the breaking strength of enormous concrete beams. There was also a research interest in various aspects of soil mechanics. This included stress equations for saturated and partially saturated soils and the use of analog and numerical methods in soil mechanics as well as the collapsing properties of Berea red soil and a survey of foundation conditions in Durban. Some staff members contributed to storm studies in South Africa in relation to both large and small areas while Professor Daymond maintained his interest in hydraulics.

D.G. Norman undertook a general study of the economics of concrete construction and concrete mix technology while C.J. Fleming researched the effects of infilling panels on the strength of multi-storey buildings and the design of framed structures. Daymond worked on the estimation of river flow using a hydraulic model as well as the hydraulic aspects of effluent discharge into tidal waters. K. Knight published on problems in soil mechanics and, with F.V.M. Wagener, on static and repetitive consolidation tests and their significance to road design.

on watershed flood estimates, rectangular resonators for harbour entrances, unsteady flow in open channels and, with C.W.D. Horne, on numerical computations for tidal propagation in the St Lucia estuary. G.G.S. (Geoffrey) Pegram published on reservoirs and J.S. Windsor on multi-reservoir flood control systems.

By 1976 the department was engaged in several other projects of national significance including the skidding resistance of road surfaces, an analysis of the drought characteristics of rivers and the prediction of floods. In that year the WRC contributed R28 471 to the department’s project on the last challenge led by Professor L.A.V. Hiemstra and assisted by D. Francis. All the recorded information on selected rivers was processed in the expectation of being able to predict the probability and magnitude of future floods and extrapolate these conclusions to other sites. It was hoped that eventually it would be possible to produce a new manual on flood estimations, their peak rates and flow volumes and their return periods. It was anticipated that the information accumulated would also eventually assist in estimating the frequency and severity of droughts.

Improved accommodation, including a rooftop radiation laboratory, as well as the acquisition of its first computer greatly increased the Department of Electrical Engineering’s research capacity. In 1974 the HP 2116 with 16 KB of RAM was replaced in the new digital processes laboratory with an HP 2100 with 32 KB of RAM and four terminals for the benefit of research in several disciplines. Among the department’s own interests were computer circuitry, ionospheric investigations, including the propagation of radio waves in the ionosphere, the behaviour of dielectrics under high electric intensities, and, with the Oceanographic Research Institute, the behaviour of sharks under the stimulus of electric pulses.

Eric Phillips published on economic aspects of nuclear power station operation. Lee Nattrass worked on electron beams in electromagnetic fields and broadly in the field of vacuum electron physics. In collaboration with A.N. Chalmers, he constructed and applied a long-compute-time analogue computer to engineering problems and with B.L. Schaffler developed a device to count, weigh and sort diamond particles by shape. He was also involved in research projects on microwave and probe plasma diagnostics, on electronics in surveying and on an improved electron beam furnace using a tungsten tape cathode.

Arthur Sale worked with Mike Laing of the Chemistry Department on an aforementioned set of computer programs for crystallographic calculations.
Ronald Hellawell worked on high voltage tracking on insulation and on the design of an electrostatic liquid generator. Ron Harley published on a synchronous machine with a divided winding rotor and on the use of electromagnetic machines in education and research. In 1975 he and B. Adkins published their book on *The General Theory of Alternating Current Machines*. By 1976 the photometry laboratory was being extended and the department was also involved in further developing micro-processor systems and the use of computers for data acquisition and the control of experiments. Meanwhile, A.D. Broadhurst and others published on aspects of television.

In Mechanical Engineering A.J. Gould researched lubricant additives in engine wear and corrosion fatigue in light alloys. Among other research projects in the department C.J. Rallis published on educating the engineer and, with A.M. Garforth and J.A.S. Steinz, on the laminar burning velocity of acetylene-air mixtures by the constant volume method. Rallis also worked on flame propagation in a spherical constant volume vessel and on analogues to finite difference equations. Jeff Bindon and A.D. Carmichael published on streamline curvature flow analysis. Other research projects included work on boiling heat transfer, plasma acceleration and the analysis of heat transfer in underground tunnels using analogue and digital computer techniques. There were also studies on thermodynamic considerations of myocardial action, on the problems of sealing in rotary internal combustion engines, on four-centred ellipses and on variables in the flocculation of some Natal river waters.

Before his departure, Dr P.V. Angus-Leppan published on refraction in the lower atmosphere. In 1962 his Survey Department embarked upon a photogrammetric survey of property boundaries funded by the Department of Bantu Administration and subsequently on a study of plumb line deviations along the 30th parallel. Dr B.M. Jones produced articles on land tenure in African areas and in 1965 the University Press published his book *Land Tenure in South Africa: Past, Present and Future*. He also published on electromagnetic distance measurement and on aspects of the changeover to the metric system while K.W. Simpson focused on ground survey calculations by electronic computer. The department issued a series of technical pamphlets reporting on the progress and results of its various research projects for closed circulation within the profession.

David Scogings conducted surveys of historical monuments and buildings, on the precision of photogrammatical survey and on colour photography for large-scale mapping. In 1970 Council agreed to the purchase of a Cessna 180 aircraft at a cost of R3 000 primarily for the department’s use. Thereafter it
soon took the lead in South Africa in the development of training facilities in photogrammetry, in supervising postgraduate work and in advising outside organisations, to the extent that it was proposed to attach a CSIR photogrammetric research unit to it. In 1973 Simpson and G.M.J. Sweeney published their book *The Land Surveyor and the Law* through the University Press.6

During the 1960s and 1970s the Faculty of Medicine explored numerous research topics, some of particular applicability in its immediate social environment and others of broader interest to the profession.

**Medicine**

The newly independent Department of Anaesthetics studied various general anaesthetic techniques and their effect on post-operative respiratory function. A.J. Coleman, among other things and with colleagues, published on general anaesthesia for caesarean section, the respiratory effects of hyper-ventilation during general anaesthesia and on the cardiovascular effects of different chemicals. He also collaborated in publishing on an intravenous method of anaesthesia for caesarian section, anaesthesia for emergency caesarian section and aspects of ethrane anaesthesia. C.M. Sliom too published on anesthesia for caesarian sections, on post-operative respiratory inadequacy and on analgesia in labour; as well as generally on current research on anaesthesia and analgesia. In addition, there were a number of ongoing investigations into different anaesthetic techniques applicable to specific situations.

J.G. Brock-Utne, with others and among numerous other topics, published on psychiatric problems in intensive care. Hugh Grant-Whyte produced articles on drugs and drug nomenclature. He was awarded a World Health Organisation fellowship to study the classification, registration and safety of drugs in Europe and North America and in 1966 was appointed to South Africa’s Drugs Control Council established under the Drugs Control Act (101 of 1965).

Among other projects the Department of Anatomy conducted research on the arterial pattern of the kidney and on the smooth muscle in the urinary tract. The Department of Medicine investigated megaloblastic anaemia, iron deficiency anaemia, and the treatment of tetanus, amoebic dysentery, amoebic liver abscess, hiatus hernias, urinary tract bilharzias, diabetes and cysticercosis. Numerous articles in specialist journals emanated from this work and there were also publications on a multipurpose, modular respiratory monitor for intensive care units, the measurement of blood loss, and biochemical changes recorded in marathon runners.
The Sub-Department of Cardiology (within the Department of Medicine) under the direction of Professor M.S. Gotsman published its research on problems in long-term artificial pacing, changes in chest radiography after aortic valve replacement, acute myocardial infarction with normal coronary arteries, the relief of constrictive pericarditis, pulmonary function with constrictive pericarditis and pericardial effusion. There were further studies on left ventricular performance with congestive cardiomyopathy, absence of the inferior vena cava, radioisotope scanning of the heart, cardiomyopathy in early childhood, mitral valvulotomy in childhood, patient care after cardiac catheterisation, banding of the pulmonary artery, the technical aspects of coronary anglography and congestive cardiomyopathy.

Numerous publications emanated from the Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, including some on toxicity tests and clinical trials, the treatment of angina pectoris, co-existent angina pectoris and hypertension and cephradine.

Derek Crichton and colleagues in the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics published their research on a variety of topics including wound healing and wound disruption, pregnant diabetics, stress incontinence, avoidable obstetric deaths, spontaneous rupture of the liver in pregnancy, diarrhoea in the newborn, the technique of symphysiotomy, treatment of septicaemic shock, and complications in the birth of twins.

In the Department of Ophthalmology, N.H. Walsh produced articles on bilharzial conjunctivitis, glaucoma in Africans and ocular signs in leprosy; while in Orthopaedics J. Nixon published on traumatic dislocation of the hip.

There was a stream of publications from the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health on conditions in children pertaining to the main pulmonary arteries, amoebic liver abscesses, the aetiology and treatment of anaemia in kwashiorkor, urinary tract bilharzias, arterial and arterialised capillary blood in infants, and blood gases as an aid to the management of infective croup. Others focused on upper airway obstruction, meningitis, asthma in different racial groups, typhoid fever, acute nephritis and normal growth patterns in African and Indian children, rheumatic fever in Indian children, and congenital heart disease in African children.

In addition, there were publications on cerebrospinal fluid findings in the newborn, normal electrocardiographic patterns in infants and children, cardiac complications in acute glomerulonephritis, brain size and intellectual development in children malnourished during infancy, red cell survival and blood volume studies in kwashiorkor, and amoebic dysentery in children.
There were still more on oxygen consumption in marasmus, radioisotope scanning to differentiate the causes of abnormally large hearts, protein calorie malnutrition, the management of infective croup, infant formulas, measles and its complications and hepatic amoebiasis in childhood. H. (Hoosen, ‘Jerry’) Coovadia and others published, among other things, on the nephritic syndrome in children and on research relating to protein and amino restricted diets.

Pathology and Forensic Medicine was also actively involved in extensive ongoing research. Dr S.M. Joubert was engrossed in the fractionation of serum gamma-globulin and, with Dr R. Kallie, in the relationship between gout, diabetes and dehydroepiandrosterone excretion in hyperuricemic patients. Dr K.C. Watson worked on immunity and antibody formation in chronic liver disease and on neonatal meningitis, Dr P.B. Neame on acute transitory erythroblastopenia and Dr Soromini Kallichurum on the implications of amoebic liver abscess. She also researched enzyme function in kwashiorkor following the establishment of a kwashiorkor research unit at Clairwood Hospital.

In addition, Dr S.B. Bhagwandeen researched the clinical and pathological aspects of biharzias in Africans and Indians. In 1968 the University Press published his book on *Schistosomiasis in Durban*, which examined the clinico-pathological manifestations of schistosomiasis in African and Indian children. There were also departmental studies on tracheal trauma, on hereditary renal disease, on congenital heart disease, on the antigenic properties of antibiotics and on virus isolation in cases of trachoma. Y.K. Seedat published on aspects of renal tubular acidosis and renal cortical necrosis and on the medical treatment of hypertension; and E.B. Adams on the treatment of tetanus, on nutritional anaemias and, with F.G.H. Mayet, on hypochromic anaemia in chronic infections.

By the mid-1960s Dr Mary Schonland had initiated a survey of cancer in Africans and Indians. Professor J. Wainwright studied the incidence of atheroma in different ethnic groups in Durban while F.A. Ward published on the rhesus factor and in 1967 produced *A Primer of Pathology*, followed in 1971 by *A Primer of Haematology*. Much of the department’s research was directed through the CSIR Intermediary Metabolism Unit under S.M. Joubert’s direction and was focused on the biochemical abnormalities associated with alcoholic hypoglycaemia, gout and porphyria.

M.S. Gotsman and others published on myocardial disease, on computer systems in medicine and nursing, on atrial pacing in coronary artery disease, on homograft aortic valve replacement and on mitral valvulotomy in children.

In Pathology and Forensic Medicine’s Sub-Department of Microbiology research was undertaken under K.C. Watson’s direction on immunoglobulins, immunoconglutinins and protein levels in different racial groups. There were also articles on plague in southern Africa while K.D. Bhoola and A. A. Bhamjee published a comparative study of ovarian tumours in black and Indian patients.

M.G. Moshal and others produced numerous articles on possible tropical sprue in Africa, gastric acid outputs in Zulus, duodenal ulcer depth and gastric acid output, malabsorption and its causes, colonoscopy, the treatment of duodenal ulcers, severe hemolytic anaemia and pancreatic enzyme replacement. R.L. van der Horst published with colleagues on, among other things, the racial incidence of coarctation of the aorta, transposition of the great vessels, common problems in breast and bottle feeding and the chest X-ray after valve replacement in childhood.

The Sub-Department of Chemical Pathology researched primary hyperuricemia, diabetes in the elderly, sympathetic nervous system blocking in hyperthyroidism, the significance of glycosuria on insulin and insulin levels, smoking, drinking and oesophageal cancer in African males, and porphyria in Africans. The Sub-Department of Dermatology produced publications on the treatment of chromomycosis, depigmentation and skin lighteners.

In the Department of Physiology Professor John Reid published articles on cardiomyopathy, chronic salmonellosis, nutrition of the heart, the cardiac pacemaker, factors regulating coronary blood flow in the normal and the diseased heart, the cardiovascular risks of obesity and, with A.J. Wilmot, on medical education in South Africa. In 1966 the University Press published their edited book on the subject. P.A.S. Canham worked on fat absorption studies using iodised fat and thin layer chromatograph studies of oestrogens in amniotic fluid as well as studies of seventeen keto steroids in urine. Dr Patel published on the effect of iron overload on calcium metabolism and conducted
a clinical trial on chloramphenicol and large doses of ampicillin on typhoid fever.

Dr B. Crowhurst Archer of the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health was elected vice-president of the College of Physicians, Surgeons and Gynaecologists and produced articles on the training of psychiatrists, the role of Psychiatry in the medical curriculum and the need for a mental health service in South Africa. R.W.S. Cheetham published on some psychiatric aspects of tissue transplantation, on the commission of inquiry into the Mental Disorders Act, on mental health in modern industry and on the implications of pregnancy termination.

The Department of Surgery conducted clinical research on bilharzias, spina bifida and cranium bifidum, prostatic enlargement, snake bites, thyroid disease and blood volume studies in Africans and Indians, tumours of the jaw and fistula-in-ano. Dr D.S. Chapman published on open spinal meningocele and conducted extensive research on schistosomiasis in collaboration with Dr S. Bhagwandeen of the Department of Pathology and Mr S. Movsas. He also published on venomous animals and the surgery of amoebiasis. In addition, Movsas produced articles on gas in the hepato-renal space and on prostatic obstruction and hereditary spherocytosis in Africans. L.W. Baker published on post-operative intestinal motility, on managing some aspects of lower venous disorders and, with others, on deep vein thrombosis and cephalalexin therapy of soft tissue infection.

B.T. le Roux produced articles on bronchial carcinoma, pleuro-pulmonary amoebisis, left ventricular aneurism, massive pulmonary embolism, intensive care in cardio-surgery, unusual presentations of tuberculosis, the management of chronic destructive pneumonia, thoracic trauma, the dependence of thoracic surgery on radiology, mitral valve replacement in childhood and cardiac valve replacement. There were numerous other publications on a variety of topics such as the causation and prevention of burns, liver injuries and the treatment of open angle glaucoma. The Sub-Department of Thoracic Surgery produced publications on the causes of stridor and on malignant tumours of the oesophagus.

Professor N. Sacks of the Department of Radiology researched cartography in renal hypertension and malignant and other lesions while J.R. Quantrill published on barium enema examinations performed on Indian and African patients. He and S. Bloch published on nasopharyngography while Bloch and Y.K. Seedat completed a case report on sarcoidosis of the spine and Bloch published on the radiology of tumours. Dr H.E. Engelbrecht researched in
vitro radiography with Dr G. Boyes and published on hypertension in Africans, urethral strictures in males, renal artery aneurisms and on the radiology of amoebiasis. P.D. le Roux published on lobar emphysema in infants and W. Grant on lymphography.7

In the 1960s and 1970s, as before, research in the Humanities and Social Sciences produced a mixture of publications of specialised esoteric interest and social applicability.

**Humanities and Social Sciences**

In the Department of Afrikaans-Nederlands, A.J. Coetzee, P. du P. Grobler, C.J.M. Nienaber, W. Nienaber-Luitingh, P.D. van der Walt and S.W. van Zuydam produced a variety of articles. In 1962 Grobler’s collection of papers on literary criticism appeared and in 1967 Gawie Nienaber’s *Etymological Dictionary of Afrikaans*, compiled with Professor S.P.E. Boshoff, was published. In addition, his revised *Opkoms van Afrikaans as Kultuurtaal* with P.J. Nienaber also appeared that year. Senior lecturer and *Sestiger* A.H. (Abraham) de Vries published numerous short stories and in 1974 was awarded Perskor’s first annual R2 000 prize for his tenth collection entitled *Briekwa*.

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**Y.K. (Yacoob) Seedat** matriculated at Sastri College (with distinction), qualified in Medicine at the National University of Ireland, Dublin, and from 1958 spent a decade at King Edward VIII Hospital. He acquired a doctorate before working in 1967 as a registrar at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and on his return to Durban moved through the ranks from specialist lecturer, associate professor and from 1979 full professor in charge of the Department of Medicine. This was followed by an honorary doctorate, a silver medal of the Medical Association of South Africa, an honorary fellowship of the national College of Medicine (the first black recipient) and the State President’s Order for Meritorious Service (Silver), among other awards. These were in recognition of his conscientious teaching, more than 300 publications in medical journals and textbooks, more than 200 national and 100 international paper presentations, editorial membership of sixteen journals and membership of numerous professional committees. During the course of his career Seedat became a recognised authority on several aspects of health care, including diabetes, renal and cardiovascular disease and the epidemiology of hypertension among different ethnic groups.
S. (Stanley) Trapido of the Department of African Studies published articles on Natal’s non-racial franchise (1856–1865) and on political institutions in South Africa. Danny Malcolm conducted interviews throughout the region as he continued his translation of James Stuart’s collection of traditional Zulu praise poems housed in the Killie Campbell Library and with the encouragement of Dr Campbell herself. During the course of his travels he identified a variety of physical features mentioned in the poems and was able to explain a number of previously obscure references.

Trevor Cope continued to make recordings in the field as he investigated and published on the tonal system of Zulu. Following Malcolm’s death in 1962, Cope took over his work and in 1968 published *Isibongo, Zulu Praise Poems* based on Malcolm’s rough translations, which he edited and introduced for the Oxford Library of African Literature. In addition, he was invited to contribute a book on Zulu to the English Universities Press Teach Yourself series.

Eileen Krige followed up her earlier research by spending six months in the northern Transvaal studying changes in the Lobedu social structure. Colin Shum investigated ‘black spot’ removals and homeland resettlement schemes on behalf of the Institute of Race Relations. He published on conditions in Cato Manor in 1955 while J.L. (John) Torres researched resettlement schemes and local government in Mozambique. Eleanor Preston-Whyte worked on the rural-urban migration of African women in southern Natal and on kinship and marriage among Bantu-speaking peoples.

Also in the field of African Studies in 1962 the University Press published alumnus Colin Tatz’s *Shadow and Substance in South Africa: A Study in Land and Franchise Policies Affecting Africans*. Three years later it also published Professor A. Vilakazi’s *Zulu Transformations: A Study of the Dynamics of Social Change*. It was the first project in Social Anthropology by an African scholar to be published in South Africa.

Among other research projects, in the Department of Classics Bernard Farrer published on the Roman poet Horace and on the Latin poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins while W.J. Henderson also published on Horace and on Tiberius Gracchus. Geoffrey Chapman worked on Homer and the historical background to the Trojan War as well as on Herodotus and the Ionian revolt while W.J. Watts published on the birthplaces of Roman writers and on Seneca and slavery. In 1972 David Raven’s book *Stories from Homer* appeared and he subsequently also published on Vergil while Magnus Henderson published on Plautus. Paul Murgatroyd produced articles on the Roman elegists and
on Horace and Ben de Wet published on learning Greek through the New Testament.

In 1962 Professor of Commerce Walter Fairbairn produced the second edition of his *Consolidation of Accounts Explained Step by Step* and another work *Accounts of Trustees and Liquidators*. He subsequently also published in article form on a variety of topics including modern trends in the presentation of annual reports, the responsibilities of auditors to third parties and the duties of executors. J.C. Waugh published an income tax manual and H.C. Eggers did likewise on share transfers, budgeting principles related to agricultural cooperatives, and the control of motor vehicle costs in commercial and industrial businesses. Ivan Woods worked on the price behaviour of shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and on the concept of share yields while R.V. Dee published on the influence of railway rating on the location of industry in Natal.

J. Armstrong focused on management accounting in forestry and on hire purchase accounting, N.L.C. Skinner on the taxation structure of the timber industry and on royalties, and Jill Nattrass on the financing of industry in the Umgeni catchment area and the effect of size on the financing of business. J.C. Waugh published on the 1969 Bantu Taxation Act and on accounting for foreign currency transactions while Jacqueline Matthews wrote about common market trade with Africa and the prospect of an association agreement between South Africa and the European Economic Community.

Tom van Waasdijk researched the effect of indirect taxation in South Africa and on public finance, John Banach worked on the demography and regional income of the Cape midlands, J.v.d.S. Heyns on government borrowing and the public debt in South Africa and William Roome on mergers, takeovers and amalgamations. Peter Seneque published on the funds statement in group accounts and Bruce Stobie on the social responsibility of the accountancy profession, the future of auditing and the use of statistical sampling in auditing.

In 1972 R.H. (Roger) Ellis of the Department of Divinity published a theologian’s opinion on the ethics of tissue transplantation and subsequently on the topic of baptism. Gunther Wittenberg began his long research career by publishing on demythologisation and democratisation in the Old Testament.

In 1961 Nathan Hurwitz of the Economics Department, in collaboration with Brian Nevin of the Mathematics Department, published his book *Introduction to Economic Analysis*. In 1964 he followed this with another on *The Economics of Bantu Education in South Africa*. The following year the department produced the eleventh work in the Natal Regional Survey series.
entitled *Studies of Indian Employment in Natal* while May Katzen published on industry in the greater Durban area as part of the Town and Regional Planning Commission’s series.

There were also major projects on an economic and statistical analysis of the port of Durban, an economic and demographic survey of the Umgeni-Umlaas-Umbilo catchment areas, and a study of urban African consumption and expenditure patterns. In addition, research was published on family income and expenditure in the Indian community, on industrial development in Pietermaritzburg, and on the implications of railway rating proposals on Natal’s industrial development. There were surveys of the aged and of Indian housing in Durban as well as of the Port Shepstone district, social, health and hospital services in Natal, and the economic implications of the staggering of pay days.

Other departmental projects that were completed included a survey (for the Durban Corporation) of city centre service industries and (for the Durban Chamber of Commerce) investigations into the province’s water resources, Putco’s proposed takeover of the city’s public transport system, the activities of the Industrial Development Corporation, local authority finance, the possible economic effects of mandatory sanctions against Rhodesia, and (for the Zululand Public Bodies Association) an economic survey of Zululand.

George Trotter published on devaluation and inflation in the South African economy and J.J. Cloete on the banking industry. Gavin Maasdorp produced articles on responses to the abolition of school feeding in Indian schools, on Indian attitudes to heavy manual work, on the employment of Indian women on the Natal north coast, on economic development in the homelands, and on modernisation in Swaziland. John Laight published on banking and pricing transport services and Jill Nattrass, now a member of the Economics Department, on the effect of credit control on financing businesses.

P.A. Ellison and P.N. Pillay published on a poverty datum line (PDL) among Durban Africans and on the PDL debate in South Africa. Mike McGrath worked on the development of separate consumer price indexes and in 1973 Trevor Bell’s book, *Industrial Decentralisation in South Africa*, appeared. Extended negotiations during 1971 and 1972 between the University, the Durban Chamber of Commerce and the Natal Chamber of Industries resulted in the revival of the Durban Economic Research Committee that had been dormant for some years and was intended, once again, to accumulate funds with which to promote further socio-economic research projects.
W.H.O. Schmidt, head of Educational Psychology, published on anxiety and learning and on curricula and teaching methods in high schools as well as on the development of intellectual abilities in children and on school and intelligence. His colleague Helen Shiels published on the use of standardisation tests and on guidance in secondary schools.

In 1960 Ronald MacMillan, Peter Hey and J.W. Macquarrie edited the proceedings of the national conference held at the University that year and published under the title *Education and Our Expanding Horizons*. Research completed in Education during 1961 was on secondary education for Indians and on the growth of the Indian elite in Natal, as well as on aspects of teacher training in the Commonwealth. By the mid-1960s Tony Barrett had embarked on his history of Michaelhouse while research was being undertaken on teaching methods, the evaluation of programmed learning projects and the role of parents in education.

MacMillan undertook a study of entrants to teacher training courses in Natal and published on teaching methods at university level as well as on vocational education, Christian National Education and, with Jack Niven, on the co-ordination of teacher training in South Africa. Niven also published on the practical teaching component of teacher training, the training of teachers in commercial subjects, educational legislation and, more specifically, white teacher education. Fred Hayward worked on developments in primary and secondary education and on educational administration, while J.W. Macquarrie published on the National Education Policy Act.

In 1968 the Second Language Research Project was launched under the auspices of the department. Its purpose was to raise the standard of English teaching in African primary schools in which English was a second language not only to the pupils but also to the teachers, most of whom had few qualifications or none. The challenge was to identify a method of teaching best suited both to the teachers and the pupils to replace the unsuccessful techniques previously employed. In 1975 Dr J.M.Z. Michau submitted an evaluation of the new methods and reported that these had achieved a considerable improvement in the schools identified for the experiment. There were 18 of these in and around Pietermaritzburg, but some as far afield as Umtata and Nelspruit in order to embrace a variety of school conditions. The research was clearly of countrywide significance and was then extended to certain higher primary level classes with the intention to complete the experiment in 1977.

L.M. Arnold and Mrs A.E. Varty administered the project under the direction of a steering committee that included representatives of the Faculty
of Education, the regional Department of Bantu Education, the KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture, the HSRC and the Rand Afrikaans University’s South African Language Teaching Study Group. It attracted a variety of sponsors including the HSRC, the Anglo American Corporation, De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines and the sugar industry. In 1973 Arnold and Varty published a teacher’s manual, *English Through Activity*, and based on their preliminary English course, *Communication in Industry*. These were followed by further teaching manuals.

In 1962 the English Department celebrated the appearance of the revised seventh edition of William Gardner’s *Poems and Prose of Gerard Manley Hopkins* (Penguin). An entry on Roy Campbell in the *Dictionary of National Biography* reflected a developing interest in that poet and was followed by articles on him. Jacques Berthoud worked on his study of Andrew Marvell while D.G. Gillham published on the poet Blake and in 1969 followed this with a book on *The Poems of John Keats*.

In 1963 Cake Manson published his play *The Noose Knot Ballad*, for which the South African Academy for Arts and Science awarded the 1962−1963 Olive Schreiner Prize for Literature in English. *The Magnolia Tree: A Play* followed soon afterwards and was adjudged the best 1963 South African play in English. In 1968 Manson wrote two more plays, *Magnus* and *The Festival*, while his book *The Green Knight* also appeared.

In 1970 the Wits University Press published Raymond Sands’ book *The South African Novel: Some Observations* in the English Studies in Africa series. The Natal University Press produced Christina van Heyningen’s D.Litt. thesis *Clarissa, Poetry and Morality*. Her study with Jacques Berthoud on *Uys Krige* was published in New York as was Audrey Cahill’s *T.S. Eliot and the Human Predicament*. The journal *Theoria*, which van Heyningen co-edited with Colin Webb for some time before Elizabeth Paterson replaced her in 1966, continued to provide an outlet for shorter items of literary criticism and creativity. Among others, Colin Gardner and Peter Strauss published articles in it as well as various other items of literary criticism. In the early 1970s serious efforts were made to promote sales and increase *Theoria*’s distribution in order to meet increasing production costs. In 1972, following Cake Manson’s death, Colin Gardner and Christina van Heyningen published a book on him entitled *H.W.D. Manson*.8

In the French Department Marie-Louise Tricaud worked on lyrical poetry in medieval times, on Baroque theatre and on Paul Claudel while Elizabeth Royle researched Mauriac. Peter Royle and Jacques de Robillard focused on
the works of Jean-Paul Sartre while Dr T. Cienksi worked on Rabelais and published on French rationalism.

D. van Maelsaeke of the German Department published comparative studies of *Don Quixote* and Dürer, as well as of Dürer and da Vinci and Goethe and da Vinci, in addition to researching Goethe’s travels in Italy. Griseldis Crowhurst worked on a comparative study of Otway and Hugo von Hofmannsthal while in 1968 the Natal University Press published Maria Schmidt-Ihms’ *Companion to the Study of the German Language*. She subsequently also produced articles on the writings of the Brothers Grimm while H.G. Heimann published on Heinrich Böll. Postgraduate research in German included a study of E. Langässer’s poetic language and Hildegard Stielau’s investigation into changes in the German language in South Africa under the influence of Afrikaans and English.

In the Hebrew Department Abner Weiss published a Jewish view of the medical prolongation of life, on the ethics of tissue transplantation and on abortion. D. Rosner wrote articles on the use of simile in the Old Testament, on the exodus from Egypt based on biblical and post-biblical sources, and on the Moabites.

Although its new professor, Mark Prestwich, showed little interest in that aspect of the University’s life, the Department of History and Political Science continued to be active in the field of research and publication. Its main achievements in the 1960s were Edgar Brookes and Colin Webb’s *History of Natal* (1965) and Brookes’ *History of the University of Natal* (1966), both published by the University Press. Council paid R2 000 and another R500 in author’s expenses for the 3 000 copies of the latter, with further sponsorship from Convocation.

Following his accession to the chair, Brookes had developed a stronger interest in Natal history and on Colin Webb’s arrival in 1962 in Pietermaritzburg he invited him to collaborate on the former project. The initially envisaged six volume work on Natal’s history, involving the whole department, was constrained by financial considerations. As an initial step by 1965 Webb had led a team of student assistants in completing a *Guide to the Official Records of the Colony of Natal*, also published by the University Press. It was subsequently republished in 1984 after Jennifer Verbeek, Mary Nathanson and Elaine Peel revised it as *Webb’s Guide to the Official Records of the Colony of Natal* and became an invaluable archival tool.

Brookes and Webb’s history of the province was the first broad study of the region since Robert Russell’s *Natal: The Land and its Story* (1891) and
was largely a synthesis of what had already been published in the field prior to the 1960s. As such, it was criticised for being largely an account of white settlement in the 19th century with little attention given to the pre-colonial era, to African responses to colonialism and to socio-economic issues. This helped to set the compass for future research on the Natal-Zululand region.

Three MAs and two doctorates were completed in the department during the early 1960s with Basil le Cordeur, a lecturer in Durban, producing its first Ph.D. on ‘The relations between the Cape and Natal, 1846–1879’, subsequently published in the Archives Year Book for South African History. Donavan Williams published on the missionary William Ritchie Thomson and in 1971 the University Press published John Wright’s Bushman Raiders of the Drakensberg. In 1968 students of the department formed a thriving University of Natal History Society that also attracted students from other disciplines to its regular meetings.

In Political Science Coen Juta published a variety of articles on African and South African political topics while Durban colleagues Drs Peter Harris and Denis Worrall were both active in publishing articles and delivering papers on various aspects of South African and international politics. Rick Turner published on the relevance of contemporary radical thought producing The Eye of the Needle: Towards Participatory Democracy in South Africa. Frederick Clifford-Vaughan published articles on the decline of the clans in the Scottish Highlands, the alternative educational and vocational objectives of Political Studies, and the rights of French veterans. In 1976 Anthony Lumby published on tariffs and gold in South Africa (1886–1939) while a departmental monograph series was initiated with the publication of Andrew Duminy’s study of Sir Alfred Milner and the Outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War and Bill Guest’s work on Langalibalele: The Crisis in Natal.

Law professors Exton Burchell and Tony Mathews continued to be actively engaged in research, with the former concentrating on Criminal Law and contributing a chapter on it to a volume on South Africa in the series The British Commonwealth: The Development of its Laws and Constitutions. Mathews undertook a comparative study of anti-communist and anti-subversive laws together with an evaluation alongside the rule of law. He also researched the 90- and 180-day detention laws, the law of property, and that of landlord and tenant. In 1971 his book Law, Order and Liberty in South Africa was published. John Milton published on the natural right of property, the interpretation of statutes, the State’s liability for the delicts of the police, the administration of
justice and the law of neighbours. W.G.M. Seymour published on patents and copyright.

P.M.A. Hunt published on the principles of contract, malicious damage to property, extortion, robbery and kidnapping and R.W. Darroll engaged in a critical examination of the law of divorce in South Africa. Barend van Niekerk worked on forgery, uttering and fraud, on the police in apartheid society, on the use of torture and on contempt of court. Raymond Suttner published on the conflict between Bantu and common law and on problems relating to African Civil Law while Michael Lupton researched the legal disabilities of Zulu women. David McQuoid-Mason published on public interest and privacy and on common law protection of the consumer while Michael Blackman published on a new Companies Act.

Christopher Ballantine of the Music Department published on the symphony in the twentieth century, on Beethoven, Hegel and Marx and on the musicality of human beings. Prior to his retirement in December 1963, Philosophy Professor Otto Jensen studied the nature of moral judgement and worked on his book on aesthetics while Margaret Neser researched the notion of existence in modern British philosophy. Anna Conradie undertook a phenomenological investigation of creativity with special reference to linguistic structures and published a reassessment of analogical discourse and a critical review of Grisebach’s *Theory of Actuality*. In 1966 her book *Dans Makaber* appeared while the University Press published R.H. Wyllie’s study on *The Virtue of Prudence in the Philosophy of St Thomas Aquinas*. He also published on suicide and freedom in Stoic Philosophy while Fidela Fouché wrote on Merleau-Ponty’s theory of art.

In the Department of Sociology and Social Work Frances Shaw researched social welfare services in Natal, the image of social workers, and the sociological aspects of abortion. In 1972, with others, she published a *Durban Social Welfare Handbook*. Fatima Meer undertook a sociological analysis of suicides in Durban during the period 1940–1960 and also published on education in a multiracial society and the social consequences of resettlement. Mrs M. Waldeck analysed maintenance grants and Hamish Dickie-Clark marginality theory. G.C. Kinloch and others published a case study of flat life in South Africa and on the Afrikaners as an emergent minority. Hilstan Watts researched the sociological aspects of medium-density housing, the attitudes of industrial employers to Indian and African workers, and English-speaking white South Africans. L.E.C. Martine published on the mental and emotional stimulus of the aged.
Research projects in Speech and Drama included studies on the role of the static arts in the theatre, the use of symbolism in modern theatre, speech problems in local Indian schoolchildren and the role of communication in education. Like some of the Social Sciences, the department’s far greater contribution to the life of the University was in the realm of community service.

Community service
Several departments provided community service in one form or another, the most obvious being in the practical application of the expertise available in the faculties of Agriculture, Engineering and Medicine. The associated research institutes were also prominent in this regard and in the early 1960s efforts were made to achieve the closer co-operation between them and the University’s academic staff that had been intended when they were established. It was mutually agreed that in future greater use should be made of institute and University facilities in terms of research equipment, expertise and libraries.

In the 1960s the Sugar Milling Research Institute embarked upon its Mutual Milling Control Project in co-operation with the sugar factories to

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**F. (Fatima) Meer** matriculated at Durban Indian Girls High before completing a B.Soc.Sc. (1952), B.Soc.Sc. Honours (1960) and M.Soc.Sc. (*cum laude* 1965) at the University of Natal (Durban). She was a social worker at the Meyrick Bennett Children’s Centre and research assistant to Hilda Kuper before being appointed lecturer in Sociology (1959). Promotions followed to senior lecturer (1971) and associate professor (1982) while serving on various campus and broader community committees. Her political activism began in the 1940s when she was a member of the Natal Indian Congress and thereafter she actively campaigned against segregation legislation. In the 1950s she founded the Durban and District Women’s League, in 1954 was a founder member of the Federation of South African Women and in 1976 first president of the Black Women’s Federation. She was involved in various relief schemes and educational initiatives, including the Institute for Black Research (1972) and the Black Research-Natal Education Organisation (1986–1988). Meer’s political activism resulted in bans in 1954 (for two years), 1975 (five years) and 1981 (a further five years) as well as detention for six months (1976) after which an attempt was made on her life. She published numerous books, booklets, reports and academic articles, among the best known the first authorised biography of Nelson Mandela, *Higher Than Hope* (1988).
collect, collate and analyse data relating to the operation of milling tandems in South Africa. Other investigations included determining the exhaustibility and viscosity of final molasses, the quality of raw local sugars, the removal of starch from cane juice, the process of cane deterioration, the sampling and analysis of individual cane consignments, sugar by-products and the effects of re-melting sugar, the analysis of cane and raw sugar quality, juice clarification, water and dust pollution, sucrochemistry, the determination of sucrose in final molasses, the industrial use of sucrose and of sugar by food industries, milling performance, boiling techniques, the production and consumption of steam, metrication and the sugar industry, sugar mill effluents and their treatment, pollution abatement in the Natal sugar industry, and improvements in the quality of export sugar. In 1973 C.G.M. Park privately published his *Manufacture of Sugar from Sugar Cane*.

In April 1961 the Meyrick Bennett Childrens Centre suffered extensive vandalism and theft by persons unknown but received considerable public support to make good its losses as well as a 50% grant from the University Council to meet its recovery costs. This enabled it to continue its counselling services to the public and provide training facilities for students. By 1965 Mrs J. Harrison was researching the efficacy of imiframine on enuresis in institutionalised children and in 1967 B.W. McKendrick published on the occupational wastage and occupational mobility of Durban social workers.

Unfortunately, the centre found it increasingly difficult to conduct any meaningful research or teaching. In 1973 it became entirely independent, after 27 years operating partly as a research unit and partly as a welfare organisation attached to and in part subsidised by the University. It was thereafter financed as a member of the Community Chest and by means of private donations and the fees it charged. It continued to lease its existing premises from the University, several representatives of which remained on its board of control.

The ISR followed up its 1960 study of demographics and land use in Swaziland by embarking upon a major family nutrition survey of that country in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine. It enjoyed active government support, being intended to pave the way for the establishment of a health service there. Various other projects focused on the Umgeni, Umbilo and Umlazi catchment areas, the future population of the Witwatersrand and its probable meat requirements, the employment of domestic servants and Indian industrial workers, a sociological study of the Roman Catholic Indian minority, and another on Sparks Estate.
There were also studies of suicide among various ethnic groups in Durban, on
the sociology of shebeens, on the public image of the tobacco, sugar and dairy
industries, on the values of ‘Bantu’ schoolgirls, on the attitude of urban blacks
to blood donation, on student enrolments at the University, on the resettlement
of Indian communities in Durban, on the social circumstances of Africans, on
the growth and location of retail outlets and personal service establishments in
the city, on the future distribution of its residential population, on the role of
migration in the development of towns and cities, on the distribution of future
employment and residential settlement in Pietermaritzburg, on urban African
housing, on beachfront recreation among Africans in Durban, on strategies for
change and racial attitudes in southern Africa, on employment opportunities
and race, and on minimum living levels among black workers. In 1973 the
ISR published *Management Responsibility and African Employment in South
Africa*.

In July 1968 it held an inter-disciplinary conference entitled ‘Focus on Cities’
that attracted 300 local and foreign delegates and at which various studies
of contemporary urban life were presented. The ISR continued to be heavily
financed by the University and drew ever closer to the Social Sciences with
regard to the training of both undergraduates and graduates. In 1976, when it
officially became the Centre for Applied Social Sciences and was incorporated
into the Faculty of Social Science, it continued to undertake both social science
and applied contract research but with the intention that it would also develop
its teaching function. To that end a one-year postgraduate Diploma in Applied
Social Science was introduced to prepare graduates for practical work in the
community, in industry and in other avenues of employment.

In Pietermaritzburg the Wattle Research Institute continued to publish on
the production, harvesting and marketing of wattle bark, plant breeding and
cross-pollination, the control of weeds, wattle insects and insect viruses, frost
resistance and the effects of frost, the impact of fertilisers, soil moisture and
soil variations, the management and valuation of plantations, brushwood
burning and disposal, the conversion of wattle plantations to other forms of
land use, bark and tannin yields in black wattle, the influence of bark yields
and transport costs on the profitability of wattle plantations, the mechanisation
of wattle plantations, the effect of stand density and site on the yield and
profitability of wattle plantations, the raising of black wattle transplants in
plastic sleeves, the effect of defoliation by the wattle bagworm on growth
and bark yield, the financial profitability of wattle plantations, the effects of
various factors on run-off and erosion in Natal’s wattle plantations and their
impact on water resources. In 1971 the University Press published director S.P. Sherry’s book *The Black Wattle*.

The PRI produced a number of technical papers and bulletins for release to industry. Professor of Chemistry Donald Sutton temporarily served as director before Dr D.A. (David) Williams-Wynn, formerly of the Leather Industries Research Institute in Grahamstown, assumed that post in 1973.

The following year the PRI faced the prospect of closure as a result of mergers of paint manufacturing companies and their consequent ability to meet their own research needs. After negotiations between the industry and the University it was agreed that the PRI would effectively cease to function at the end of 1974 but Council resolved to establish a Sub-Department of Applied Chemistry in Durban. This was to be attached to the Department of Chemistry and financed for an initial five years with further donations from the industry for two of those years and with the PRI’s director appointed as professor of Applied Chemistry on a five-year contract. One of its new functions became the work undertaken from 1976 by the aforementioned Food Research Unit.

The early 1960s witnessed the further development of the Oceanographic Research Institute in Durban, together with the adjacent aquarium, tanks for shark research and a new associated Marine Research Unit. Projects included a taxonomic survey of sharks on the Natal coastline, their reaction to sound, electrical stimuli and chemical repellants, the bacteriology of sharks’ teeth and mouths, shark attacks on human beings, their prevention and treatment, and tag evaluation and shark tagging. Prior to his death in 1965 in a motor accident, director David Davies and colleague J.D. d’Aubrey published several articles emanating from this research. In collaboration with L.S. Joubert, Davies also published articles on the penaeid prawns of the St Lucia Lake system.

Another study, conducted in conjunction with the International Indian Ocean Project of the Special Committee on Oceanographic Research, involved estimating the primary productivity of the oceans using the Steemann-Nielsen 14C Method. Other projects focused on the biology of food fishes and of prawns and on the taxonomy and biology of various marine species including skates, rays, sawfishes, dogfishes, sandsharks, east coast rock lobsters, marine and sea turtles as well as the estuarine fishes of the east coast. A.E.F. (Alan) Heydorn published on Tongaland’s endangered coral reefs and on the threat to South Africa’s estuaries. The Oceanographic Research Institute, like those of Immunology, Sugar Milling and Wattle, remained in close association with the University but like them was not financially dependent upon it.
The Institute of Parasitology researched aspects of infection, on the diagnosis and epidemiology of amoebiasis, antibody response to invasive amoebiasis, on amphilhar in amoebic dysentery, amoebic liver abscess and chemotherapy of amoebiasis as well as on serological tests in porcine cysticercosis, on bilharzias and on the impact of animal parasites on human beings. R. Elsdon-Dew, S.J. Powell, S.E. Maddison, A.J. Wilmot, S.E. Wilmot, I.N. MacLeod, E.M. Proctor and others published extensively in these and related fields, sometimes in collaboration with colleagues in the Faculty of Medicine.

Powell also published on metronidazole and its uses as an anti-infectant agent and on cardiomyopathy in Durban. Elsdon-Dew completed an overview survey of amoebiasis of North and South America for the World Health Organisation and United States Public Health Services. Thereafter the Institute of Parasitology suffered a major loss at the end of 1974 with the retirement of Elsdon-Dew, upon whose research interests and work on amoebiasis in particular it had been built. With that research virtually completed the institute’s major donor, the US Public Health Services, ceased to subsidise it.

Fortunately, the SAMRC undertook to finance it, at least in the short-term while its future was considered. Dr P. (Phillip) de Moor, a senior member of the MRC’s staff, was appointed acting director. The University awarded Elsdon-Dew a D.Sc. for his thesis which summarised the institute’s research on amoebiasis under his direction. Meanwhile, at the instigation of its board, the institute was expanded into the newly named Research Institute for Diseases in a Tropical Environment under the control of the SAMRC.

Following its incorporation in 1970 under Dr B.G. Grobbelaar as director numerous publications also emanated from the Natal Institute of Immunology. These included articles on serum immunoglobulin levels in Indian, white and black donors and heterophile antibody levels in the same population groups. There were other publications on specificity and immunoglobulin characteristics of autoantibodies in acquired hemolytic anaemia, the role of genetics in the study of intellectual impairment, antigens and antibodies in South African Indians and Africans, dermatoglyphic features of Indians and coloured people and immunological responses in pregnancy and the effects of stress on glucose tolerance tests.

As well as the work of research institutes and the faculties of Agriculture, Engineering and Medicine, other forms of community service emanated from University campuses, often on a daily basis and too numerous to mention. These took the form of extension lectures, stage productions and clinics.
During the 1960s the University continued its non-profit making Extension Lecture series in Durban, initially with nine lectures on modern art entitled ‘Our Modern World’, followed by courses on music, the modern novel, modern drama, contemporary political trends, economics, the impact of Science on everyday life, scientific theory and the contribution of the Social Sciences to understanding humanity. Extension Lectures were subsequently offered in Pietermaritzburg as well, with attendance varying in both centres and rising to as many as 150 registrations. In 1971, in response to a special request, a series of five lectures for engineers was given one Sunday in Empangeni.

That year, when the Department of National Education appeared to be showing an interest in establishing control over the field of Adult Education, the University expressed the opinion that this should be an essentially local activity. Further, that the only area in which central government could beneficially assist was with regard to financing the visits of foreign speakers and other forms of cultural exchange. To that end the University had already convened a meeting with the Natal College for Advanced Education, the 1820 Memorial Settlers Association, the Union of Jewish Women and the Durbanse Skakelkomitee, all of which were involved in some aspect of Adult Education.

The Durban SRC and Convocation were also pressing for the formalisation of Adult Education, with the former pointing to the enforced closure of the earlier night schools and suggesting City Buildings as a suitable venue. In 1971 the organisation of the University’s extension series came under the control of D.R. Masson when he was appointed academic planning officer. The following year, when the programme was extended on a trial basis, evening lectures proved much more popular in Durban (91 lectures) than in Pietermaritzburg (45 lectures) with average attendance of 96 and 49 respectively. The lectures were financially self-supporting and Masson soon acquired a part-time assistant with the possibility raised of the appointment of a full-time organiser or director of Extramural Studies if there were further expansion to justify it.

This proved to be the case in 1973 when twelve Extension Lecture series were conducted in Durban and eight in Pietermaritzburg. In addition, two highly successful residential winter schools were held on environmental responsibility, attended by 65 delegates and on water resources, attended by 30 engineers. Still in the pre-television era, the highlight of the year was the screening of Kenneth Clark’s BBC series of thirteen films entitled ‘Civilisation’. These were seen by 70 000 people attending daytime showings for staff and students, evening performances for the public and viewings at other institutions in both centres.
At the beginning of 1974 a full-time organiser was appointed at lecturer level and seventeen evening courses followed in Durban as well as showings of John Berger’s BBC film series ‘Ways of Seeing’ and Alastair Cooke’s ‘America: 200 years in Retrospect’. The July winter school, offering eight courses over a ten-day period, was also a great success, with renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead attracting an 800-strong audience. The year’s programme attracted 10 000 attendees in Durban, but was less successful in Pietermaritzburg where the two film series and only four courses were offered.

In 1975 the organiser’s status was upgraded to senior lecturer and A.R. (Tony) Morphet subsequently assumed the post. In addition, a management committee reporting to Senex took over control of the Extension Programme from the Academic Planning Committee. The Extension and Extramural Studies Unit continued to be entirely self-supporting and in 1975 turned a modest profit thanks to twenty well-supported courses in Durban and eight in Pietermaritzburg as well as another Kenneth Clark BBC series on British artists. Among the specialised courses offered was one on practical Afrikaans for professionals, another on inflation accounting for industrial accountants and a third for social work supervisors.

That year the CUP began to press the Department of National Education for state subsidy of such activities, recognising as it did the important role universities had to play in advancing Adult Education. Meanwhile, in 1976 another twenty and nine courses were given in the two Natal centres respectively as well as screenings of Bronowski’s TV series ‘Ascent of Man’, two marketing workshops and an updating course for architects, civil engineers and town planners. Fortunately, the introduction of SATV, the national television broadcasting system, had only a temporary impact on evening lecture attendance.

A significant innovation in 1976 was a July vacation tour of classical Greece, with Geoffrey Chapman of the Classics Department conducting a pre-tour lecture course before showing a 30-strong party around the major historical sites. More were planned for the future.

The Department of Speech and Drama’s various stage productions in both centres were as much a form of community service, in the form of entertainment and education, as they were a necessary part of the practical training of students. During the 1960s and 1970s Elizabeth Sneddon, Peter Scholtz, Roger Orton, Ann Wakefield, Dennis Schauffer, Rosemary Bamford and Joan Little among others produced numerous Shakespearian plays as well
as the work of Thornton Wilder, Christopher Fry, J.M. Synge, Bertolt Brecht, George Bernard Shaw, Arthur Miller and other playwrights.

In 1964 Jacques Berthoud produced Cake Manson’s *The Counsellors* with Manson and Colin Gardner in leading roles and both past and current students in the cast. In addition, the department gave occasional performances of experimental work in movement and choric verse as well as supporting the University Theatre Workshop Ballet Company’s presentations and, for a time, the regular Speech and Drama Festival. It also ran a speech rehabilitation clinic for patients at King Edward VIII Hospital.

In 1964 a Festival Committee under the direction of William Gardner and Elizabeth Sneddon organised a celebration of the Shakespeare Quatercentenary on campus. A variety of play productions, lectures, musical performances, films and exhibitions were presented with the highlights including lectures in both centres by Norman Marshall, producer and co-director with Sir Laurence Olivier of the National Theatre in Britain. In addition, the Natal Performing Arts Council staged a production of *Hamlet* while the Department of Speech and Drama mounted *Elizabethan Panorama* and *As You Like It* in Durban and Elizabeth Royle directed *Twelfth Night* for the University Dramatic Society in Pietermaritzburg.

In 1971 Pieter Scholtz produced the Department of Speech and Drama’s first Zulu play *Umabatha*. Welcome Msomi’s plot closely resembled that of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* but was performed in traditional Zulu dress with the exciting inclusion of Zulu song and dance routines. The performances were hugely popular and attracted more favourable publicity for the University when Peter Daubeny selected it to open the April 1972 Ninth World Theatre Season at the Aldwych Theatre in London. It elicited the heaviest booking experienced in all nine years, raised clouds of dust from the stage floor and was received with enormous enthusiasm from packed houses every night.

It also marked a fitting end to Elizabeth Sneddon’s career, eliciting the congratulations of Council. Back home, in the same year, Scholtz wrote and produced *Thurkaari: Demon of the Curry Powders!* for children, followed in 1976 by *Miranda and the Magic Sponge*.

Following the 1972 launch of the Department of Music, a series of free Monday lunchtime concerts was initiated in the Students Union Hall on the Durban campus. These ranged from orchestral, chamber and choral performances to Indian, jazz and electronic music, which attracted audiences of between 300 and more than 1 000 from the University community and the general public.
In 1973, following a highly successful conference on legal aid in Durban, the Durban Law Students Council launched a Legal Aid Clinic that offered advice to all students and staff by making use of law students under the supervision of staff or a roster of practising attorneys and with the support of the Law Society and local Legal Aid Officer.

In the same year the University of Natal Community Project, which had started in 1971, was formalised. Its purpose was to provide more flexible training for social work students than could be arranged through welfare agencies and also to offer a service to the community. The project was registered as a welfare organisation with its own constitution and focused on the Merebank, Wentworth and Austerville areas of greater Durban. Service, training and research was undertaken there relating to such issues as rent arrears and the need for child care facilities. This involved a rapidly increasing case load of interviews and group sessions as well as the construction of an adventure playground by architecture students and the extension of assistance by medical students through their existing Happy Valley Clinic.¹¹

Community service was but one small, perhaps too small, dimension of student life in the 1960s and 1970s.

ENDNOTES


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G.D.L. Schreiner and BIO-S 69/1/1 D.A. Sutton; UKZNA University of Natal Gazette
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DURING THE 1960s and early 1970s student numbers continued to increase as did the demand for on-campus residential accommodation. This was particularly the case in Durban as more young white South Africans switched from part-time to full-time tertiary studies, though Pietermaritzburg was no longer a predominantly residential campus. The proportion of female students rose steadily in both centres, especially in the harbour city, but non-medical black students declined in number as the Non-European Section wound down. Those registered for medical degrees were still restricted to their own facilities. The academic, cultural, social and sporting dimensions of campus life continued as before, but were increasingly overshadowed by political preoccupations as the government tightened its authoritarian grip on South African society.

Registrations
In the early 1960s all South African universities were anticipating a temporary decline in student enrolments following government’s announcement of a new scheme of compulsory military training by ballot for able-bodied eighteen-year-old white males. Senior students who had reached that age were to be exempt until the completion of their studies, but no intending university students were to be granted deferment or exemption from the ballot. Most of the University of Natal’s prospective students were required to serve in what had become the University’s regiment, the Natal Field Artillery, which celebrated its centenary in 1962.

Despite the University’s necessary curtailment of expenditure in expectation of the attendant drop in state subsidies it was calculated that this setback would soon be eliminated when the post-war birthrate bulge began to make an impact on student intake. There was indeed a brief decline of fifteen registrations to 3 844 in 1961 but this was caused not so much by compulsory military service for whites as by the post-1960 decline in ‘non-European’ student numbers.
These dropped from 896 to 780 in 1961 and subsequently to 581 by 1965 as the 1959 Extension of University Education Act gradually took effect.

Military training for white males and its deferment nevertheless remained an issue of concern that eventually resulted in appointment by the CUP of a sub-committee to negotiate with the military authorities on behalf of all universities. This included the possible secondment of qualified graduates to the army for the duration of their military service.

In the early 1960s students who had studied at the teacher training colleges in Pietermaritzburg and Durban were granted credits for certain approved first-year courses passed there. This did not lead to any significant increase in registrations and there were always some students who moved in the other direction, as what some training college staff unkindly referred to as ‘non-returnable empties’. In terms of student numbers the University of Natal grew from 911 in 1945 to 3,859 in 1960 and 4,570 in 1965, including the ‘non-Europeans’. More than two thirds of the University’s students were now studying in Durban, which Malherbe attributed to the recent provision of more course options there.

By 1965, 32.5% of students (1,483 of 4,570) were studying part-time, only 350 of them in Pietermaritzburg. This constituted a significant decline from the 45% registered in 1949 and, conversely, a marked increase in those opting for full-time studies that reflected, perhaps, higher levels of income in the white population. By the mid-1960s, 1,435 students were living in on-campus residences, including 745 or nearly 24% (188 females and 557 males) of those registered in Durban and 690 or 47.7% (300 females and 390 males) of those studying in Pietermaritzburg. As before, resident males were clearly still in the majority in both centres.

The construction of residential accommodation during the 1950s had led to a marked increase in on-campus residents in Durban compared with the 13% registered in 1949 and 15% in 1960. By contrast, Pietermaritzburg was no longer a predominantly residential campus by 1965, its resident population having declined from 61% in 1949 and 53% in 1960 to 49.7% in 1962.

In his analysis of student enrolments, Hilstan Watts of Durban’s Institute for Social Research calculated that between 1955 and 1965 the number of white students at the University had grown at the rate of 7.3% a year (7.6% in Durban), similar to the rate of growth of the net national income. Natal ranked fifth in growth rate during that period, ahead of Orange Free State, Wits and UCT but all the South African universities had grown much faster than the country’s
white population, indicating a democratisation of university education among whites as more social classes sent children to tertiary institutions.

The steady decrease in the sex ratio at the University of Natal from 4.33 to 2.70 between 1955 and 1965 reflected a more rapid growth in the number of female over male students. This was attributed to their increasing socio-economic emancipation and greater opportunities to pursue professional careers. In the case of Durban, the more dramatically declining sex ratio from 7.69 to 3.37 (compared with Pietermaritzburg’s 2.33 to 1.91) was probably also due to the increasing number of humanities and social science options, which tended to attract more women, now offered there.

Education and Social Science in Durban enjoyed the largest growth among faculties in that decade, twelve-fold and eight-fold respectively. Humanities (Durban) experienced the largest growth, 3.5-fold, among the more established faculties. Watts also found that the University drew as many as 70% of its students from Natal at that time with 10% originating from the Transvaal and only the Cape and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) also contributing more than 5% each.

By 1965, 15.5% (709) of registered students were postgraduates, constituting little more than a 3% increase in the number registered in 1960 but a marked improvement on the 8.5% recorded in 1949. The 201 female postgraduates registered in 1965 amounted to 28.3% of the total, while women accounted for only 25.5% of total student registrations that year. This was a significant increase on the 121 (25.6%) postgraduate females registered in 1960 and the 53 in 1949, although the latter constituted as many as 34% of all postgraduates registered in that year.

In 1965, as in previous years, the Arts Faculty produced the most graduates (212), followed by Science (111), Engineering (64), Agriculture (36), Commerce (31), Education (16) and Social Science (11). There were 198 postgraduate degrees awarded that year, constituting 28% of all the degrees conferred, compared with 22% in 1949 and 29% in 1960. Excluding three honorary degrees, in 1965 seven doctorates, 29 medical degrees, 42 masters (fourteen in Science and thirteen in Agriculture) as well as twelve LLBs were awarded.1

Student numbers continued to increase, slightly more rapidly in Durban than in Pietermaritzburg. By the early 1970s registrations had exceeded 7 000, numbering 7 178 in 1972, 5 038 of them in Durban and 2 140 in Pietermaritzburg with an average increase of 5.8% and 5.2% respectively over the previous five years. By 1973 the total was 7 509 with the Durban:Pietermaritzburg ratio
remaining at roughly 2:1 and annual registrations at the Faculty of Medicine stabilising at slightly more than 500. By then there were barely more than 100 black students still registered in other faculties.

By 1974 registrations had increased to 7 900, reflecting a near doubling of enrolments in each of the last two decades. An anticipated slowing down of the growth rate over the next decade, due to the increasing cost of university education and drop in the birth rate eighteen years earlier, seemed to be substantiated in 1975. For the first time since 1961, numbers dropped marginally to 7 871 with a significant decline in ‘non-European’ registrations.

However, in 1976 enrolments rose slightly to 7 962, an increase of 27% since 1970 and 432% since 1949. The percentage of students studying in Durban had risen slightly from 68% in 1949 to 71%. In 1976 there were 594 medical students and only 153 other black students elsewhere in the University. By then slightly less than 20% of all students (1 570 of 7 962) were part-timers, of whom only 396 were in Pietermaritzburg, compared with the 45% of 1949 and 32.5% in 1965.

By 1976 there were 2 336 students in residence on campus, including 1 296 or 23% of those studying in Durban and 1 040 or 45% of those in Pietermaritzburg. While the Durban percentage was much the same as in 1965 more than a third of it (340) comprised black students living at Wentworth though they constituted only 45.6% of all the 747 black students registered in that centre. Pietermaritzburg continued to lose its traditionally residential flavour compared with the 61% of students residing on campus in 1949.

The University was already enrolling some black students with ministerial permission when in December 1976 Council accepted Senate’s recommendation that it should act in the spirit of resolutions they had both taken in March 1957 in response to the proposed legislation eventually enforced as the 1959 Extension of University Education Act. It was agreed that the University should now take active steps to register even more suitably qualified black students as far as was legally possible and, as a first step towards the repeal of all laws restricting racial access, it should seek blanket permission to register postgraduate students of all races.

The 1955 to 1965 decrease in the sex ratio among students continued from 2.70 in 1965 to 2.18 in 1976. In Durban the gap narrowed more dramatically from 3.37 to 2.43 than in Pietermaritzburg where it decreased from 1.91 to 1.67 in that period. In 1976 the Arts Faculty still had the most students (1 953) and staff (163) with Commerce close behind (with 1 515 students but only 28 staff members), followed by Science (940 and 151), Engineering (872 and
only 53), Medicine (605 and 225, 95 staff part-time) and Education (543 and 57, 32 staff part-time). The smaller faculties were Social Science (412 students and 27), Architecture (406 and 22), Law (377 and 18) and Agriculture (339 and 43).

There were 398 postgraduate degrees awarded in 1976 (including the MBChBs) constituting 16.3% of the total. They included two senior doctorates, 18 Ph.Ds, 57 medical degrees, 78 masters, 66 LLBs, 144 honours degrees and 33 B.Eds. That year, as before, the Arts Faculty produced the most graduates (457), followed by Science (239), Commerce (196), Engineering (149), Social Science (82), Law (79), Medicine (58), Agriculture (53), Architecture (40) and Education (37); a total of 1 390 degrees awarded in all, not including 270 diplomas and 148 certificates.²

The availability of scholarships and bursaries was becoming increasingly important as the University began to compete with other institutions to attract the best matriculants, particularly from schools in Natal.

Scholarships, bursaries and failures
The Durban and Pietermaritzburg city councils continued to offer scholarships and bursaries to white matriculants, paid half-yearly on the basis of a means test and long residence in one or other centre and subject to satisfactory progress reports. By 1963 Pietermaritzburg, for example, was offering two such bursaries to the value of R100 a year for three years with no restriction on the qualifications sought or any obligation to the City Council on qualifying. In at least one case, that of G.A. Versfeld, the bursary was extended for a further three years to assist the candidate to study Medicine.

Two further bursaries of R100 a year were subsequently introduced and two more, to the value of R400 a year, were earmarked to study Civil Engineering, subject to working in the City Engineer’s Department on qualifying. The City Council offered bursaries of only R30 to Standard VII (Grade 9) Indian and coloured pupils, renewable for another year to complete the junior certificate.³

Among the University’s top students in the 1960s was Rory Donnellan, awarded the 1962 Natal Rhodes Scholarship after majoring in Latin and Roman Law and passing all ten of his undergraduate courses first class. B.R. Tulloch (M.Sc. Agric.) was awarded the Rhodesian Rhodes Scholarship, the third Agriculture graduate to win this award in four years. Lynton Dicks received a grant from the British Research Council to study for a Ph.D. at Imperial College, London after completing his M.Sc. locally and Adrian du
Plessis was awarded a foreign student scholarship to do postgraduate work in Psychology at Stanford University in California.

In 1965 Springbok rugby player Tom Bedford was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and Colin Bundy, ex-*Nux* editor and SRC member and future Wits principal (1997–2001), an Abe Bailey Bursary. So too was Glen Mezher the year before and Glenn Cowley in 1966. By the 1960s the University was awarding annual scholarships to a few outstanding matriculants as well as to some undergraduates who had performed well in their first year of study.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s there were several other students who achieved top awards, including Miss G.M. Westwood and Miss Elizabeth Wainwright who won Emma Smith Scholarships and Messrs D. Attridge and S.P. McAlister who won national scholarships. Oliver Schreiner, son of Professor and Mrs Deneys Schreiner, secured an Elsie Ballot Scholarship to read for the Law Tripos at Cambridge where he was tragically killed in a road accident.

At the other end of the academic scale, by 1961 the Faculty of Medicine was concerned about the limited numbers of Africans qualifying for training, at the generally poor attainments of those who were registered and at the percentage of withdrawals and exclusions prior to graduation. It was feared that this would soon impact upon the supply of urgently needed African medical practitioners. In the same year the first five African nursing sisters began a pioneering eighteen-month course to qualify as sister-tutors.

In 1962 the attention of Council and Senate was drawn to the unacceptably high rate of first-year failures experienced at all South African universities. Special committees were established through the CUP to investigate issues of common concern such as the effectiveness of current matriculation levels, teaching methods, the supervision of students’ work and the structure of first degree courses.

The University’s new Student Adviser, Jack Dowley, found that there were no significant differences in failure rates between resident and non-resident students. He cautioned that in making any comparisons between students in Durban and Pietermaritzburg it should be remembered that they were examined separately, that their marks did not necessarily carry the same value and that different failure rates might only reflect different marking policies. He suggested that all departments should accept a 30% failure rate in first year as ‘corresponding very closely with the “A” level pattern in the United Kingdom’. He warned that this would increase the overall failure rate in the Humanities ‘but might restore value to a debased currency’.
Senex believed that there was a need for improvements in the current matriculation system while the Science Faculty pleaded for the recruitment of more staff to improve first-year teaching. There were extensive discussions about the possibility of lengthening first degree programmes by a year, or the first year of study by four or five weeks, and about introducing a tutorial system. Meanwhile all first-year students were issued with copies of a pamphlet entitled ‘How to study at university’ that originated from the University of Queensland.

Following long staff meetings in both centres, the latter university’s example was again followed when the Faculty of Education was requested to organise voluntary short courses for staff members on ‘how to teach’. By the mid-1970s student evaluations of lecturers and courses, introduced earlier in the Faculty of Agriculture, were being recognised as other valuable mechanisms to improve staff and student performance.

Despite these concerns the University continued to produce graduates in a variety of fields. In 1964 Malherbe calculated that in the nearly twenty years since World War II they included 818 engineers, 60% of whom were employed on the Witwatersrand, as well as more than 100 Chemistry graduates.

During the late 1960s and 1970s the Durban and Pietermaritzburg city councils continued to offer scholarships and bursaries to the University’s more promising applicants. In 1968 Pietermaritzburg’s City Treasurer pointed out to the Town Clerk that the city’s R100 a year bursaries had remained unchanged for 30 years and that they should be at least R600 a year judging by the loans the NPA made to teachers and the R200 the General Botha Bursary offered. He suggested an increment in future years with the result that they were increased to R250 in 1969 and subsequently to R300. Some assistance was now also offered for part-time study as well as a R150 bursary rising to R400 for coloured students whose parents had lived in Pietermaritzburg for at least five years.

In 1969 the city council granted a bursary to a student in Land Surveying because of the dearth of such candidates and on the same basis as its bursaries for Civil Engineering students. The first recipient, H.E.G. Landgrebe, was subsequently appointed Land Surveyor in the City Engineer’s Department. In 1972 the city council awarded a bursary to M. Messingham of that department to undertake a postgraduate degree in Traffic Engineering on the understanding that he would thereafter work for it for four years and repay the loan on a pro rata basis. He was subsequently awarded his M.Sc. at the University of Birmingham.
In 1973 the University was advised that there were to be no further increases in bursary awards for the time being despite increases in tuition fees, but the following year a John Carter Memorial Bursary was instituted for studies in Music and the limit on the city council’s top bursaries was raised to R600 a year.

There were no such municipal bursaries available for ‘non-Europeans’ but Pietermaritzburg continued to offer R30 annual bursaries to Standard VII (Grade 9) Indian and coloured pupils. These were renewable for the junior certificate (Grade 10) year and in 1974 were raised to R50. From 1966 the Orient Islamic Education Trust provided a number of bursaries for students in the Faculty of Medicine with an initial six beneficiaries. By 1973 the University itself was providing students in all faculties with loans to a maximum of R450 a year, amounting to R236 000 in total, as well as administering other loans to the value of R56 000. Two years later the University Council resolved to increase these loans to R550 a year in view of the budgeted fee increases in 1976 and to limit the interest due on them to 8%.

In 1975 the surviving daughters of T.B. Davis donated R20 000 for the establishment of a bursary and scholarship fund for Engineering students in memory of their father. That year Council resolved to persuade all bursary and scholarship donors to allow such awards to be made ‘irrespective of race, sex or creed’. It also resolved that the conditions pertaining to the Emma Smith Bursary Fund should be reviewed so that greater use could be made of the funds available. Meanwhile scholarships from that source were awarded to Miss B.A. Elgie, Mrs M. Thorpe and Miss Z.E. Smith for 1975 while H.M. Dijs and B.G. Meyer won national scholarships.

By the mid-1970s there was ongoing concern about how candidates for major awards could be fairly assessed in view of the disparate marking systems used in different faculties and universities, with only the faculties of medicine applying uniform methods of evaluation. There were no such complications with regard to advisory and medical services.

**Student advisory and medical services**

Students in both centres made increasing use of the advisory service available to them. In 1968, on the advice of the Lecturers Association, Senex recommended the appointment of a clinical psychologist to assist the estimated 2% of students incapacitated or otherwise distracted by mental illness. In 1971 as many as 4 500 students used the Advisory Service’s various facilities, rising the following year to nearly 7 000. This did not include those assisted
in finding part-time and vacation employment, of whom there were 400 in Durban alone that year.

In addition, annual arrangements were made for numerous recruiting teams to visit the campuses for the mutual benefit of students and prospective employers. Other events included the July 1971 four-day conference at which 30 staff members, among them four deans and fifteen departmental heads, addressed guidance teachers from 90 high schools. In 1973 the Advisory Service assumed responsibility for the Reading Laboratory that Mobil Oil Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd had generously equipped. Two more advisers were timeously added to the team which made it possible for one, W.A. (Wilfred) Owen, to be stationed permanently in Pietermaritzburg. In 1976 student adviser Jack Dowley retired from his office in Durban having seen his department increase from one to four staff members and subsequently split between the two centres.

In 1972 a Medical Clinic was opened in Durban’s Student Union building to treat students and staff with minor complaints and the initial stages of acute conditions at no cost to them. The following year a sick bay and nursing sister were also provided. A similar facility was to follow in Pietermaritzburg. From 1976, when Owen became head of the Student Advisory Service there, all students were provided with a linen-backed privilege card on registration that gave them easy access to a variety of campus facilities.

Alcohol abuse had traditionally been a problem on both campuses, particularly at Rag and inter-college sports encounters. By the mid-1970s a new challenge was fast emerging with claims that by then 25% of students on campus, in and out of residence, had experimented with other forms of potentially addictive drugs of one sort or another.5

W.A. (Wilfred) Owen joined the Student Advisory Service in 1970 and was stationed in Pietermaritzburg. He was born and educated in Wales and acquired an Honours degree in Mathematics and Teacher’s Certificate from the University of Wales, Bangor, before serving during World War II in the meteorological section and then Bomber Command in the Royal Air Force. A keen sportsman, Owen brought a wealth of experience in interacting with and advising young people about their careers, having taught in schools in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and serving as headmaster of high schools in Blantyre, Malawi and Mbabane, Swaziland.
Residences
In October 1961 the William O’Brien Hall of Residence in Pietermaritzburg was officially opened. Soon to be affectionately known as ‘Willie O’B’, it was named after Dr W.J. (William) O’Brien, a member of the University Council for 41 years and its chairman for twelve of them. At the time it was the biggest single university residence in the country, accommodating 408 male students and costing R660 000 to complete, R40 000 of which the City Council contributed over five years. An extension and a reception room were completed in 1965 and 1967 respectively. In the latter year the warden, Owen Williams, retired and Peter Booysen succeeded him. For a time the strong Rhodesian contingent on campus was particularly evident there and formed what John Laband (BA 1967−1969, MA 1981, Ph.D. 1991) recalled as ‘a kind of sub-culture’.

A much smaller and more intimate residence for male students was provided when in 1965 the University acquired what had been the Orr family home at 173 King Edward Avenue, adjacent to the campus. Pat Irwin, subsequently a dean of Education, moved from a house in Lincoln Meade called Red Square and named the new residence the Kremlin. He passed himself off as a communist while serving as SRC president and named his cat Brezhnev. These highly suspicious circumstances were compounded by some of the visitors attracted to the place, including the NUSAS leadership and singers Dawn and Des Lindberg of ‘The Seagull’s Name was Nelson’ fame. This ensured that the premises soon came under police observation. On at least one occasion a security branch officer was spotted on surveillance duty up a nearby tree, but Nux refuted rumours that the inmates were campaigning to have Scottsville’s name changed to Dnepropetrovsk.

Pat Stilwell, subsequently a prominent Pietermaritzburg attorney, was a Kremlinite who recalled the gracious upstairs veranda, the wonderful parties and the visit of Justice Harcourt and his wife to dinner, which must have caused some confusion in the security branch. It was conversely no doubt a source of relief when from 1975 to 1987 the building served more innocuously as offices for the Geology Department before again becoming a residence.

Female students were not forgotten and in June 1962 Eleanor Russell Hall (ERH) was opened nearby on the same campus. It accommodated 170 women and was named after Mrs E.E.M. Russell, a former mayor, Girls Collegiate headmistress and member of the University Council. She officially opened the ERH on her 80th birthday and staff member Rosa Hope’s portrait of her was
displayed in the vestibule. An annex was added in 1965–1966 to accommodate another fifteen students.

Popular Lady Warden Mrs M.E. (Margaret) Kirwood retired in 1967 and Mrs K.I. (Kim) MacKenzie replaced her the following year in University Hall. Beverley Ellis (B.Sc. and UED, 1964–1968, BA 1972 and MA 1978) was a resident of Lodge in the 1960s, house president in 1967–1968 and a sub-warden in University Hall from 1969 to 1975. She remembers that life in residence was ‘well-structured and disciplined’ with formal dinners from Mondays to Fridays, that Kim MacKenzie was ‘a most gracious and caring person to work with’ and that Mrs Delaney ran a very competent kitchen. Two years later ERH along with Lodge (1929), University Hall (Old Block or Hags, 1921) and New Block (1946) became part of what was known as Petrie Residence. It was named after one of the University’s legendary founding professors of 1910, Alexander Petrie (1881–1979). His family motto ‘Touch not the cat without a glove’ was perhaps conveniently appropriate for a women’s residential complex.

In 1966 it was agreed that there was no need to segregate male and female accommodation entirely into separate buildings. Three years later Mrs L.H. (Linda) Bornman, wife of Botany Professor Chris Bornman, was appointed warden of the newly completed Malherbe Hall, which accommodated 101 female and 113 male students across the Durban Road (now Alan Paton Avenue) from the old campus. John Laband, who was among the first dozen students accommodated there, recalled a strong sense of community and regular social interaction with the inhabitants of the female wing. In 1970 the women’s section was named Janie Hall and the male section E.G. Hall. Two years later Malherbe presented the residence with his family coat of arms, which was hung in the dining hall.

That year the first stage of the new mixed-gender Denison Residence towards the bottom end of the Golf Road campus was completed. In June 1973 Linda Bornman was tragically killed trying to assist a motor accident victim in Durban Road just hours after tendering her resignation. A bursary was subsequently instituted in her name. Joy Eagle, an honours graduate in Psychology and well-known social worker who was the wife of B.A. Eagle, senior lecturer in Physics, succeeded her in Malherbe.

In Durban the G.C. Scully Residence for 300 women was completed in 1967. The new John Bews Residence, also for women (named after the first Principal 1930–1938), was partially occupied before its completion in
1968 with Mrs S.E. Cruise already appointed as warden in 1966. Florence MacDonald became warden at the downtown Plaza Hotel where a floor was rented for 36 students who could not immediately be accommodated in John Bews. ‘La Cruise’ gained a reputation as a strict disciplinarian, to the extent that some residents instigated a house president’s enquiry into wardens’ powers and residence rules when they complained that she had exceeded her authority. In 1972 the Mabel Palmer Residence for women, named after the pioneer of ‘non-European’ classes in Durban (1936–1955), was also completed.

By then the University was providing approximately 1 000 beds in each centre, excluding the medical residence at Wentworth. Even so, at the beginning of each academic year demand always exceeded supply, though there were often vacancies by mid-year as some students dropped out after failing the mid-year examinations. These could not always be filled as many students had by then made other arrangements off-campus. Despite fee increases this compounded the financial losses already involved in running the residences.

Life for the cleaning and waitering staff employed there was far from easy, especially in the 1950s and 1960s as Mr ‘Brush’ Ngcobo recalled on his retirement in 1987. He gave 38 years of service in Lodge and Hags beginning in 1949 and remembered a time when goods were still being delivered to the Pietermaritzburg campus by horse-drawn wagon and the post was collected from town by bicycle. White ‘kitchen boy’ shirts and shorts with red trim were the order of the day with no jerseys or shoes allowed even in mid-winter.

Dismissal for suspected malingering and arrest for alleged theft was instant, assault on the part of the supervisor was not unknown and working hours were long, stretching from 6.00 am until after nightfall. Wages were as low as £4 (R8) a month with an annual increase of 50 shillings (25 cents) and free time was very limited except for the July and December vacations when it was possible to return home. Ngcobo did remember a distinct improvement in working conditions by the late 1960s, even before the arrival in 1968 of kindly Kim MacKenzie as warden.

By then the students were also expecting changes for the better, though from that year the restriction on first-year students in residence operating motor vehicles in Durban was extended to second years as traffic congestion on campus began to increase. By the mid-1960s visitors of the opposite sex were allowed into some male common rooms. By the 1970s there was increasing pressure from students in both centres not only for the creation of more mixed-gender residences but also for a greater relaxation of the rules pertaining to freedom of access for both sexes in what were still single-sex residences. It
was argued that the presence of female visitors in men’s rooms would raise the tone and promote a more mature attitude towards the fairer sex, as well as encourage senior students to remain in residence instead of opting for the greater freedom of digs.

There were also mounting objections to the strict application of the rules in the women’s residences, with the gating of inmates who arrived home only minutes after the nocturnal curfew times being a particular source of dissatisfaction. In 1970 Council resolved that women over 21 years of age or at least in their third year of studies could visit the men’s residences between 7.30 pm and 10.30 pm on week nights and between 7.30 pm and midnight on Saturdays. This and other concessions were subsequently extended to second-year students. The University authorities were obliged to consider disapproving parental opinion, but the gradual surrender of their traditional in loco parentis responsibilities was inexorable and in some respects a relief to them. Communication was further improved when, from 1971, inter-residence telephone systems were installed.

There were also periodic disputes about the quality of the food served in the residence dining halls on both campuses and, on occasion, this involved female as well as male complainants. Malherbe forbade students from making any further public statements on residence matters other than sport when in 1965 the inmates of Ansell May Hall informed the press of their dietary dissatisfaction.

In 1969 the University resolved to sub-contract all catering in its residences and refectories to Cape Hotels Ltd, which by mid-1971 had in turn delegated the management thereof to Fedics Food Services Ltd. That year, although the quality of food was good, there was a protracted dispute with Cape Hotels concerning the wages of their lower-paid staff. The University supplemented these for the year, but was unable to continue doing so and the caterers insisted that maintaining wages at those higher levels would result in financial loss or necessitate a significant increase in their fees.

The contract was terminated the following year and awarded directly to Fedics on both campuses. Catering to the satisfaction of all parties remained a problem as the service was only required for eight or nine months a year on campus. This resulted in losses and necessitated University subsidy, though it had been expected that Fedics would employ their catering staff in hotels during the summer months. In 1976 the University gave notice to terminate the contract and again open it to tenders at the end of 1977.
Meanwhile, during 1971 formal meals in the Durban residences were reduced to one dinner a month. An investigation was undertaken into student demand for places in residence without food services, but this proved negligible with only five students showing any interest. The following year, in an effort to cut costs residence staff was reduced and self-service arrangements were introduced in the Scully and Shepstone (renamed Charles Smith) dining halls.

The latter was subsequently converted to service all nine residences, comprising 950 students, on the Howard College campus so that the Jubilee and Scully dining halls could be closed and the latter shut down entirely as a residence facility. By these means residence fees in Durban were pegged at R440 for 1973 while rising to R480 in Pietermaritzburg as similar cost-cutting methods were still being planned.

In 1973 greater administrative centralisation was also achieved by placing all nine halls of residence at Howard College under a full-time senior warden, Dr C. McN. (Cyril) Cochran, with Professor Wainwright as deputy warden for male students and Mrs P. (Pat) Duminy as deputy warden for females. Cochran had already gained extensive experience counselling and supervising large numbers of students as assistant registrar at the Faculty of Medicine since 1962 and part-time warden of Florence Powell, Louis Botha and Ernest Jansen halls since 1969. He intended to work closely with the house presidents and their committees and sought their input in converting Jubilee Hall into a recreational centre for resident students.

At his behest in 1974 the upper floor of Scully Hall was restored to the students as a general common room to compensate for the lack of adequate facilities in the John Bews and Mabel Palmer residences. It was intended that the dining facility would be restored after the completion of yet another residence on campus. This, it was envisaged, would be constructed on the Scandinavian plan, which involved a limited number of study bedrooms on each floor grouped around a small social space and with common ablutions, kitchens, laundries and visitors’ lounges.

A variation of this plan was later to be deployed in extensions to the Denison Residence in Pietermaritzburg. There formal meals were also gradually reduced and then abandoned in the residences. In 1971 Council decided to convert the University Hall dining room into a much-needed staff common room and in 1973 a financial surplus was achieved there by converting all the residences to self-service instead of centralised catering. There was still an obvious need to add an extra block to the new Denison complex, particularly to cater for
women students. Consideration was given to the possibility of constructing future residences in Pietermaritzburg that provided accommodation only and left students to make their own catering arrangements.

There were also periodic complaints on both campuses about the quality and price of food in the refectories. Many students living off-campus depended on them for at least one meal a day and increasing numbers were, of necessity, living in off-campus digs. There was some ill-feeling generated by the exclusion from residence of senior students to make room for first-years. This was especially the case when that policy was erratically applied and appeared to be a means of removing student leaders considered troublesome.

Those for whom there was no accommodation understandably preferred to live as close to campus as possible but householders were proving increasingly reluctant to let rooms to them and what was available was not always in a desirable condition. In an extreme case in 1964, for example, the Pietermaritzburg municipal authorities demolished the wattle and daub structures in which five students were residing in nearby Blackburrow Road. These were deemed ‘unfit for human habitation’ in terms of the public health by-laws, having ‘insufficient light and ventilation’ and an ‘earth floor’.

In 1969 Council established the part-time post of Accommodation Officer in Pietermaritzburg to list and inspect local lodgings and investigate student complaints. By the early 1970s the University’s efforts to curtail residence costs and fees in the face of inflation were such that students were no longer necessarily finding it cheaper to live off-campus, especially as lodgings close to the University were hard to find.

The Alan Taylor Residence at Wentworth continued to be a source of particular concern to the University. In 1971 Council decided to install a radio communication system there with walkie-talkie radios for the security guards patrolling the premises and portable radio equipment for the warden. It is uncertain whether this was considered necessary to keep intruders out or the residents under control. Renovations and extensions were periodically undertaken, as in 1967 and 1969, but government was not willing to provide significant additional accommodation and advised that the University should rather restrict student admissions.

As before, the residence was also a source of dissatisfaction to the medical students who lived there. It was not just that this converted naval barracks was several kilometres from the Faculty building and featured an unobstructed view of the oil refinery. It was now increasingly plagued by mosquitoes and by
the growing traffic using the overhead flight path to Durban’s nearby Louis Botha airport. Also, there was uncertainty as to its future as it was known that the neighbouring refinery wished to acquire the site.

Yet, inadvertently, as Vanessa Noble’s research has shown, Alan Taylor Residence continued as in the 1950s to offer some benefits: it enabled African, coloured and Indian students to study and work together in a manner that would not have been as readily possible in a society becoming increasingly segregated along racial lines. While this led in some cases to close and enduring friendships across ethnic, gender and class divisions it also gave rise to disagreements arising from cultural and other differences.

From the University Administration’s point of view, the residence was run at a substantial loss despite a small subsidy government eventually undertook to pay to supplement the modest fees students could afford. By the early 1970s the deficit the University incurred there was greater than that of all the other residences combined. Although fees were raised in 1972, along with government bursaries and loans to students, this still did not balance the books.

Government did at last agree that from 1973 Alan Taylor Residence and the Faculty of Medicine should be regarded as a single entity for budgetary purposes. In 1975 an attempt to introduce a dining hall card system met with strong student resistance that forced a temporary closure of the residence. The following year it was agreed that Wentworth residents would be charged a room rent only and could pay for those meals they chose to take by cash or coupon.

This led to some cooking in bedrooms with attendant fire risk and additional electricity costs to the University. Attempts to reduce the use of electrical appliances raised strong objections, but the formation in 1976 of a Medical Students Liaison Committee did help improve relations between the students and the warden as well as with the teaching staff.

Hilstan Watts’ research showed that in 1969 about 40% of medical students were living off campus. Most of these were Indians who resided with family in the greater Durban area and a third of them Africans living in peri-urban townships. Their living conditions were also far from ideal and involved daily journeys even longer than that between Wentworth and classes.

Importantly, a small new residence called Mpala House, adjacent to the Faculty building, was at last opened for students on emergency duty while undertaking clinical studies. In addition, Council resolved to request the NUDF to donate R300 worth of furniture to the Toc H Hostel that accommodated
black students registered in the Department of Home Economics and Dietetics in Pietermaritzburg.6

The University’s disciplinary rules applied to students living both on and off campus.

**Student discipline and representation**

By the early 1960s the problem of excessive and irresponsible initiation rites inflicted upon first-year students seemed to have been resolved. In 1961 Senate decided that it would no longer be necessary for the annual Freshers induction programmes to be submitted to it for approval, but rather to liaison committees set up in both centres. Even so, in 1964 the Lecturers Association complained of ‘puerile’ integration activities that did not assist new students prepare for ‘an adult society’. Efforts were made to improve the quality of what was now known more positively as Freshers Reception, involving a variety of lectures intended to give new students better understanding of the complexity and variety of university life.

The following year the Durban SRC requested the establishment of an informal staff-student liaison committee by means of which students could discuss issues of difficulty with the University authorities. This would make it possible to ‘forestall friction’ through misunderstandings that might otherwise develop and, on some occasions, had already done so. The committee was intended to deal with a wide range of issues, not only Freshers Reception. Meanwhile some senior students, like rugby Springbok Tom Bedford in Durban, believed that the revised reception system was not successful in generating sufficient *esprit de corps* among Freshers. This was reflected in declining support for inter-college competitions and Rag. In 1968 there was no Freshers Reception programme at all.

In Pietermaritzburg too it was reported that Freshers Reception had become too tame and that students arriving direct from army training simply laughed at seniors who shouted at them. By the late 1960s participation had become entirely voluntary, but some seniors still complained that the regimentation imposed at song practices constituted an infringement on individual freedom and that the inferior status imposed on Freshers was unnecessarily humiliating. In 1970 it was suggested that, in view of concern about first-year failure rates, the emphasis should be more on the academic aspects of university life than on the social dimensions and the pursuit of pleasure.
Initiation, whether voluntary or involuntary, continued into the 1970s. Richard Hamilton (Durban 1972–1979) remembered that it was ‘not that bad especially if you had been at boarding school or in the army’. He recalled being regularly required, along with other Freshers, to form a circle in the Louis Botha common room in order to be reminded that they were all ‘lower than shark sh-t’. On one occasion they were induced to leave their clothes in neat piles on Durban beach in front of the popular Cuban Hat tea room and march, clad only in underpants, into the sea. On wading back ashore they found, predictably, that their clothes had been removed. There was no option but to sing to the imbibers on the verandahs of the Edward and Four Seasons hotels in order to raise the fare for a return trip to campus. Fortunately, as it transpired, the police arrived to incarcerate them briefly in the Frere Road police station, which was within reasonable walking distance of the Howard College residences. Freshers Week ended with a ‘monumental’ party at a popular hostelry in Umbilo Road.

Understandably, the Lecturers Association continued to find fault with many aspects of the initiation process and argued that Natal was falling behind other English-medium universities in abolishing such practices. In 1975 Dome urged Freshers to take advantage of the Reception programme to acclimatise themselves and make friends on campus, but stressed that they were under no obligation to participate in any activity they considered distasteful. The crucial divide between integration and initiation continued to be hotly debated and much of the latter persisted, especially in the residences.7

There were periodic phases of concern about student behaviour in general, such as in the mid-1960s when several Pietermaritzburg students appeared in court on charges of public disorder and when damage was done on campus to the Students Union Building and the old Library building was flooded. These incidents involved only a small minority of miscreants, but students on both campuses were almost unanimous in opposing the efforts of the Administration to enforce a stricter dress code. This was at a time when informal attire had become the norm even for staff members, few of whom still lectured in academic gowns. An exception was the Agricultural Students Council, which in 1971 pressed for the enforcement of dress regulations, though it by no means represented the opinion of all Agrics. One of their number declared, ‘I’m a farmer and not a bloody dressed-up pansy’.

The satirical verses that often featured in the pre-1950s student publications of Natal University College had virtually disappeared by then, but the issue
of an enforced dress code did inspire the anonymous AEC to publish the following in *Nux*:

Stop there Professor – man of renown
How can you lecture without your gown?
Do you not know that learning depends
More on the means than it does on the ends?
Can you not see that without formal dress
Your lecture is certain to end in a mess?
Though we aspire to loftier thought
We can’t do it unless we all dress as we ought.
So cancel your lectures, resign from your post
To all of posterity here is our boast:
That in this great age of enlightenment we
Spent our time and our talents at Varsity
Debating on what it is proper to wear
And turning out students who never would dare
To be seen badly dressed and yet knowing no more
Than they did when they got there, three years before.

An item of sartorial elegance that was readily adopted by graduates, diplomates and certificate holders who were members of Convocation was the official tie, approved by Senate in November 1965. In September 1968 permission to wear this item was also extended to all academic and administrative staff members who were members of Convocation but not alumni of the University.

In 1970 a joint committee of Council members, staff and students was established following the recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry into Student Affairs under the chairmanship of Justice A.B. Harcourt that the rules for student discipline should be revised. After several meetings Exton Burchell compiled a new set of rules for students and student discipline that Council, Senex and the SRCs all accepted. Other issues raised by the commission were also subsequently addressed. One innovation successfully imposed upon students was the introduction from 1972 of student identity cards. These had the beneficial effect of controlling voting in student elections, the use of sports facilities, the granting of discounts at downtown shops, access to the libraries and entry into examination venues.

Faculty councils and class representatives already provided students with channels of communication to express opinions and dissatisfaction about academic and other issues. Beginning in 1973 attention was given to the possibility of increasing student representation on University bodies, including Senate and Council, beyond existing representation on those committees.
relevant to their own facilities. These included residences, libraries, physical planning and sports unions. Information was sought from universities in Australasia and Britain where extensive student representation had already been in place for some years.

In 1975, after considerable discussion in Senate, Senex and Council, it was decided to include two students from each campus on every Faculty board (or only two on those boards that operated only on one campus), twelve students on Senate (but not Senex) and, for a two-year trial period, three student observers on the Estimates Committee and on Council. In all these bodies a distinction was to be made between general business, which student representatives could attend, and restricted business, comprising confidential staff and student matters, from which they were excluded. It was anticipated that the transient nature of student representatives would make it difficult for them to grasp and contribute towards many of the issues discussed in these forums. Their attendance proved to be erratic, but increased student representation did lead to closer liaison with academic staff and administrators.⁹

Hopefully it also promoted more effective academic performance.

**Academic activity**

At a meeting in May 1961 Senate granted official recognition to the University’s academic (as distinct from Athletics Union) colours: a dark navy blue venetian cloth blazer with a pocket badge comprising ‘the shield, crest on torse and the scroll bearing the motto *Stella Aurorae*’, with a matching navy blue tie whose motif was the shield of the University’s arms. These items could be worn by students on entering their second year of study, by alumni and staff members.
and by postgraduate students from other universities after completion of one semester’s study at the University of Natal. In 1965 a specially designed tie for alumni was approved, with a diagonal sky blue stripe across it.10

In an inset to the University of Natal Gazette of November 1962, K.A. (Ken) Heard, an NUC graduate and senior lecturer in Political Science, articulated the view of many staff members in pleading for an improvement to the learning conditions of Durban’s part-time Arts students by removing all of their classes from City Buildings to the Howard College campus. He pointed to the inadequacy of their library, common room and refectory services as well as to timetable clashes and the din of passing traffic emanating from three sides of the building with which their lecturers had to compete. Indeed, the situation was very similar to the early days of NUC when classes were given upstairs in the Pietermaritzburg City Hall.

By contrast, Howard College would provide a centralised library and other amenities to integrate part-timers more fully into the student body as well as congenial surroundings that would more than compensate for the extra time spent in travelling from town up ‘The Hill.’ Heard might have added that this arrangement would also spare staff members like him the chore of journeying down the slope to repeat their lectures.

Another issue that had important academic implications was the Minister of Defence’s 1964 reversal of his earlier assurance that students already registered at universities would be allowed to complete their studies there, including postgraduate degrees, without interruption before being liable for military service. The University responded via the Student Adviser, Jack Dowley, who assisted all affected students in submitting their applications to the Deferments Board.11

In addition to the ever-approachable Dowley there were, as before, other staff members in both centres who made a lasting impression, favourable or otherwise, on students. On the Pietermaritzburg campus, as P. (Peter) Tennant (BA Hons 1964–1967, MA 1978, Ph.D. 2000) recalled, Bernard Farrer of the Classics Department continued prior to his retirement to be known as ‘a kindly eccentric, not averse to bursting into song in front of a class on a hot afternoon’. Professor E.L. (Elbert) de Kock, who occupied the chair for a few years in the 1960s, was ‘a genial and extremely enthusiastic lecturer’ given inadvertently to spraying front row students with drops of saliva during his ‘almost frenzied exposition of Greek grammar and syntax’. Trips with De Kock in his ‘ancient and underpowered VW Beetle’ to attend Honours classes in Durban were painfully long.
His successor to the chair of Classics, Magnus Henderson, was very demanding during his Oxford-style tutorial discussions and exuded a similar enthusiasm. This sometimes manifested itself by inadvertently leaning back in his chair, its front legs high off the ground, while twisting his forelock into knots. On at least one recorded occasion it resulted in an undignified collapse, fortunately without serious consequence other than bruised dignity. Tennant recalled that the department’s expectations of students were high but that, apart from Roman History, language courses taught in the 1960s offered little by way of background knowledge of the classical world.

Similarly, John Laband and his wife-to-be Fenella (née Robbins BA Hons, UED 1967–1971) found that in the late 1960s teaching standards were ‘almost unfailingly high’, but that the English Department still ‘rigidly adhered to the textual analysis of the Leavis school’. As a student of History, Laband considered ‘the total disregard of context … as absurd’. The best lecturers he ever encountered were historians Mark Prestwich and Colin Webb. In his opinion the former was ‘the epitome of the civilised man’ who, as he characteristically threw his chalk in the air and caught it again while pacing up and down, ‘delivered a detailed and unerring narrative full of pithy and amusing anecdote. No matter that he never covered more than a quarter of the syllabus’. Webb was admired for his ‘finely argued lectures in thrilling, resonant tones that engaged our intellects and emotions’. Beverley Ellis has fond memories of his encouraging interest as supervisor of her honours research project, though he only told her years later that he subsequently used it to show his students at UCT ‘what could be done’.

Graham Dominy (BA Hons, UED 1972–1976), who subsequently acquired an MA and Ph.D. abroad and rose through the archival ranks to become national archivist in Pretoria, believed that academic standards in Pietermaritzburg varied departmentally ‘from challenging, stimulating and demanding, to those that offered “easy credits”’.

Dominy recalled that, among several ‘distinguished and inspirational lecturers’, Professor of German Maria Schmidt-Ihms was endowed with ‘the greatest “cool” or aplomb’. Indeed, he remembered that during Chancellor Bernard Armitage’s inauguration on a hot February day all the academics on stage were ‘visibly wilting’ in their heavy regalia, except for the redoubtable Schmidt-Ihms who was ‘enveloped in a vast German academic robe of tent-like proportions’. Her composure on this occasion was not attributed to stoic resolve, for student rumour had it that she had been seen in her car stripping down to her underwear before donning the obligatory garb of office; an
unlikely tale as she ran a highly disciplined department as former colleagues and students attest. Beverley Ellis recalls that her poetry tutorials as part of the Introductory German course were ‘so inspiring one would walk out on air afterwards!’

Others remembered English Department lecturer Jacques Berthoud not only for his academic expertise, but also for his Lord Byron-like good looks. His play-writing colleague Cake Manson was for a time, prior to his untimely death, another campus heart-throb who projected an attractive combination of sensitive poet and bar room brawler. Nigel Fort, who later joined the Natal Education Department and became registrar at the Edgewood College of Education, remembered ‘the grand old days’ when professors Rooks (Divinity), Prestwich, Webb and Donovan Williams (History), Niven (Education), as well as Gillham and Christina van Heyningen (English) ‘profoundly changed my life’.

Among the scientists Ted Bosman, professor of Entomology, was well known for his dry sense of humour that manifested itself in his department and during his term as dean. When ‘an eccentric history professor’ (possibly Mark Prestwich) requested a dead rabbit from him for his offspring’s Fine Art class he retorted that ‘in the interests of artistic integrity’ his son should ‘provide his own bloody rabbit’!

A.G. (Alfred) Rooks was born in Russia and fled from there to Germany and then to England. In 1939 he emigrated as a clergyman to South Africa where he worked at Rhodes University and Fort Hare before arriving in Pietermaritzburg, being appointed professor in 1958. The popularity of his interesting and wide-ranging first-year classes was such that student numbers increased from 30 to several hundred at their peak, attracting many from other faculties and necessitating the delivery of his lectures in two sessions. Rooks also boosted postgraduate registration in his department and was involved in establishing and developing the Department of Hebrew in Durban until it warranted the appointment of its own professor. A compassionate, selfless man with great generosity of spirit, colleagues as well as students were in awe of the breadth and depth of his knowledge in a variety of fields as well as his command of no less than thirteen languages. In addition to his teaching duties Rooks also served as dean of the Faculty of Arts, regularly preached in churches of various denominations and lectured to numerous religious bodies. He died in 1999.
Sue Ogilvie (née Streatfield B.Sc. Dietetics 1973–1975), who subsequently went into private practice and returned in 2001 as a part-time lecturer, was another who recalled that academic standards were high, although Professor Eva Ricketts often forgot to arrive for classes but steadfastly locked out any students who were late when she did deliver a lecture. Mathematician George Parish instilled vivid memories with his explanation of parabolas, which he compared to the shape of female mammarys before digressing into a discourse on breast feeding!

Beverley Ellis enjoyed fossil-collecting field trips with zoologist Dr Eddie van Dijk and his small sons. He had instilled a high level of expertise in them because their eyes were closer to the ground and therefore more likely to identify interesting specimens!

At Howard College in the 1960s elderly Professor Whitely of the Classics Department was remembered as a ‘dear old eccentric in the mould of Professor Farrer’. Hard of hearing, he was unfailingly polite in the Petrie tradition, painstakingly advancing into the body of his undergraduate classes before asking students to repeat questions he could not hear from the front. Colin Webb, prior to his departure on promotion to Pietermaritzburg, and Florence MacDonald, prior to her retirement, continued to be popular lecturers. Her course on Milton’s *Paradise Lost* was memorable, not only for its meticulous preparation but also for the two large Great Danes that slept on either side of the lectern and silently rose in seemingly incredulous astonishment from the floor whenever a student dared to interrupt her flow with a question.

Her English Department colleague Raymond Sands was particularly notable, without any canine support, for his masterful analyses of Shakespearian plays. So too was Dr P. Grobler, prior to his untimely death, for his erudite expositions on Afrikaans literature and, still in harness, Maurice Sweeney for his command of Roman-Dutch law, spiced with his legendary humour. Prior to his retirement, Walter Fairbairn continued to badger and, if possible, intimidate budding accountants about the length of their hair while giving them a sound training.

William Maguire had a firm grounding in Commerce and Economics (B.Comm. 1969) before completing a Certificate in the Theory of Accounting (1969–1971) and passing the Public Accountants and Auditors Board Examinations the following year, at a time when only 42% of candidates countrywide passed. After being admitted as a chartered accountant he returned to the campus as a senior lecturer (1975–1978) and became Professor of Accounting (1984–1988) prior to emigrating.
Murray Leyden (B.Comm. 1974, B.Law 1976), who subsequently practised as an attorney and then as head of legal services at the Natal Building Society in Durban, had very mixed recollections. He conceded that he was ‘never much of an accountancy student’ but that, in common with many contemporaries, the ‘dreary monotone lecturing style’ of an Accounting 1 staff member who shall be remembered only by his nickname ‘Argy Bargy’ did nothing to enthuse those who were ‘accountancy challenged’.

By contrast, time spent in the Faculty of Law was ‘far more enjoyable’ as he was taking courses that really interested him and admired the lecturers who conducted them. Leyden was deeply impressed by Maurice Sweeney, ‘a true gentleman’ and by ‘Ellie’ Newman QC who was ‘a big man in every sense of the word’. The former was impeccably polite and ‘much loved’ by students and the legal profession. The latter’s appearance – tall with thick black hair, a bushy walrus moustache and three piece pinstripe suit, coupled with his diction and vocabulary – made him ‘just how we students thought that a Silk should look’. Newman’s failure to gain elevation to the bench was attributed to his earlier membership of the anti-racist Torch Commando that was so unpopular with the National Party government. His undoubted ability was evident in the quality of his civil procedure lectures and in his *ex tempore* judgments at the conclusion of arguments delivered in the annual final-year moot court competition that subsequently bore his name.

Leyden, whose father, the world-renowned cartoonist Jock Leyden drew caricatures of several of the staff, recalled that David McQuoid-Mason was another colourful member of the Law Faculty. He was remembered not only for his ‘psychedelic clothing’, but also for his ‘excellent, dedicated’ lecturing over many years and for initiating the internationally recognised street law programme.

Similarly, history graduate D. (Duncan) du Bois (BA Hons 1971–1975, MA 1989, Ph.D. 2013), who later pursued a career in teaching and then as a Durban city councillor, recalled the ‘thoroughly professional’ standard of lecturing. He was particularly ‘in awe’ of Ken McIntyre’s ability to deliver ‘excellent lectures’ on American History using Braille notes. Du Bois also remembered McIntyre’s bachelor colleague Jeffrey Horton’s ‘utter lack of dress sense’, on occasion wearing a tie with his short-trousered safari suit, and lecturer Bill Guest’s apparent fondness for black turtleneck sweaters reminiscent of the cover of the Beatles 1964 Christmas record album.

Not least, he and many others delighted in the History Department’s 1973 relocation from its cramped quarters upstairs in the Students Union Building.
to a relatively palatial billet in the new Shepstone Building. Even so, research facilities for that department, among others, were nothing like what they were to become with the arrival of computers on every desk and the ready availability of ancillary equipment for both staff and students.

Richard Hamilton recalled that his lecturers in Architecture were very informal. He organised the first of a series of ‘Archiballs’ that opened with a short play in which they were parodied, much to their delight. The staff was nevertheless academically very demanding with only ten of the 50 students in his first year completing the degree. Lectures and studio work extended from early morning until late into the night when the Hotel Osborne bar or Russian sausages at Theo’s on Umbilo Road provided some means of recuperation. Vacations and a full year were spent gaining practical experience in architectural firms to complete a degree, which in the 1970s was recognised as cutting edge in terms of academic standards.

From time to time there were expressions of dissatisfaction about the content of courses in some departments, the manner in which students in them or in whole faculties were treated, or about the demeanour of certain staff members. At different times, for example, either wholly or partly due to
student complaints, Political Science, Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty of Architecture in Durban, English, Zoology and the Faculty of Commerce in Pietermaritzburg came under the spotlight of critical student and official scrutiny.¹²

In the Faculty of Medicine there was student criticism, as before, of what was perceived to be the inordinately high academic standards that staff members set in their efforts to produce graduates who were at least the equal of those qualifying anywhere else. The bridging first year designed to compensate for students’ inadequate schooling continued to be regarded as an unnecessary obstacle rather than an aid to their success, with the result that it was eventually phased out. There was also some discomfort about the fact that initially the Faculty of Medicine’s staff was all white and that some of them were allegedly paternalistic, or even racist, in their attitude.

Vanessa Noble has shown that this was particularly so in the preliminary years of instruction and, as Mamphela Ramphele recalled from her student days, was sometimes directed towards patients as well in the later clinical phase of instruction. There were also cultural and linguistic misunderstandings. For

K.H.C. (Kenneth) McIntyre acquired a BA Hons in History and postgraduate Teacher’s Diploma at Rhodes University before losing his sight while serving with the Natal Carbineers during World War II. After eleven months in the military hospital in Naples, where his future wife Billie nursed him, he attended St Dunstan’s School for the Blind in Britain and then took the History Tripos at King’s College, Cambridge. Appointed lecturer in History on the Durban campus (1949), he was promoted to senior lecturer (1956), associate professor (1963) and became the first professor and head of the Department of History and Political Science there in 1970. He held that post until his death in April 1977. As a highly competent administrator McIntyre served as dean of the Faculty of Arts in Durban and on various committees, chairing several of them including the Lecturers Association (1964–1966). In 1965 he also became first chairman of the newly formed University Teachers Association of South Africa. Off-campus, and with the assistance of his ever-supportive wife, he was co-founder of the local Tape Aids for the Blind organisation. The K.H.C. McIntyre History Prize was instituted to perpetuate his memory and what had been his office in the Shepstone Building became a reading room named in his honour. In addition, the Ken McIntyre Memorial Museum was established at Selborne College, East London, where he had matriculated.
example, staff members sometimes used turns of phrase that were not readily understood, or delivered scientific explanations at a rate that was simply too fast for students for whom English was a second or even third language.

Most of these difficulties receded with the gradual recruitment of Africans and Indians onto the staff. Hilstan Watts’ 1970 survey established that most staff members, the majority of whom were still white, had been attracted to the Faculty because they actually wanted to teach in a multicultural institution, or specifically wanted to work with black students and/or relished the variety of clinical experience and research material available in Durban.

While the city’s population continued to increase, training conditions at King Edward VIII Hospital remained as underfunded and congested as before. This was the case even after the opening during the 1970s of the R.K. Khan Hospital at Chatsworth and the Prince Mshiyeni Hospital at Umlazi for Indians and Africans respectively. Patient privacy was a luxury and 100-hour working weeks were commonplace. Noble has pointed out that conditions were so unsuitable for training that the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology made alternative arrangements, including access to the maternity wards at McCord Hospital on Durban’s Berea.

This smaller, less crowded facility provided much better conditions in which to gain the necessary practical experience and to complete internships. M.J. (Joe) Ndlovu, who went on to practise as a psychiatrist, chose to do his internship there. McCord was also devoid of the various forms of racial and gender discrimination practised at King Edward VIII Hospital, sometimes by white nurses as well as doctors.

This, coupled with differential salary scales for African, Indian, coloured and white doctors in public service, eventually led to go-slow strikes, in which some interns and postgraduate students actively participated, during 1968 and 1969. The transfer of white nurses to whites-only hospitals in terms of apartheid legislation eased the situation, but salary structures were only gradually reformed despite the efforts of Isidor Gordon and others, with parity eventually achieved in the early 1980s.

As Noble has shown, medical trainees had to deal with patients from very diverse social backgrounds, many of whom were more familiar with traditional healers and indigenous forms of self-medication. Students were by no means all unsympathetic towards these practices, in some cases having had personal experience of them prior to attending university. At the same time these had to be reconciled with the Western scientific approach to medicine their lecturers
and instructors were attempting to instill in them to the highest internationally accepted standards.

While many staff members confined themselves to the formal academic instruction of trainees some followed the example of Isidor Gordon, A.J. Wilmot, Sydney Kark and Theodore Sarkin in developing much closer supportive relationships with their students and spending a great deal of time motivating and coaching them. As Soromini Kallichurum and Fatima Mayet recalled, this was more particularly the case in the earlier years of small classes, rather like the infant days of NUC in Pietermaritzburg.

There were other staff members, like Hugh Philpott, who took the trouble to discuss contemporary issues with their students and formed friendships with

S. (Soromini) Kallichurum was one of the first batch of students to acquire a degree from the Faculty of Medicine in Durban (1957) and then served a year-long internship at King Edward VIII Hospital in the departments of Surgery and Medicine. She spent further time as a house physician and as registrar in the Department of Pathology, training as a diagnostic morbid anatomist and histopathologist (1959–1960) before being appointed lecturer (1961) in that department. In 1967 she was awarded a doctorate in Medicine and in 1967–1968 reverted to registrar to undergo specialist training as a clinical pathologist. Kallichurum was then appointed senior pathologist/senior lecturer in Pathology (1968–1969) and senior lecturer and head of the Sub-Department of Histology in the Department of Physiology (1970–1974) before going into private practice. She continued to work as part-time senior lecturer in Pathology and part-time consultant histopathologist to the State Health Laboratories in Durban.

In November 1978 she was appointed professor and head of the Department of Anatomical Pathology, the first woman to achieve that rank in the Faculty. She was also its first female and first black dean, serving two terms, and the first of her gender to become a member of the SAMRC. In addition, she served on the national Medical and Dental Council, was a member of several professional bodies including the South African Medical Society, the first president of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and an associate founder of the College of Medicine of South Africa. Kallichurum married in her third year of studies, had three daughters and published a number of articles in internationally recognised journals. She died in 2002 and was remembered by many former students as the ‘granite woman’, a strict disciplinarian who always protected them as best she could from police security branch incursions during the 1980s.
them by participating in their Student Christian Fellowship (SCF) as well as other cultural activities.\textsuperscript{13}

**Cultural activity**

Jazz enjoyed a strong following in both centres, among other interests represented in the music societies on campus. In 1960 as many as 600 students attended the first of a Sunday evening series entitled Jazz Comes to Howard College and 20\% of the takings were donated to the Meyrick Bennett Child Guidance Clinic. Unfortunately, the following year Sunday evenings were deemed inappropriate for a jazz festival, even though it was the only time of the week when all the city’s jazz musicians were free from their professional commitments.

These performances were replaced with Friday lunchtime sessions of recorded music and there was still a vibrant downtown jazz scene for students to enjoy. In 1961 on-campus music lovers suffered a further setback when there were insufficient funds to transport the Durban Civic Orchestra for their regular lunch-hour concerts. The Operatic Society also ran into financial difficulties, but the Choral Society was able to mount performances and there were still occasional orchestral and jazz concert treats on campus.

The opening of Professor Elizabeth Sneddon’s longed-for and acoustically pleasing open-air theatre in February 1970 marked an important milestone in the cultural life of the Durban campus. It was a valuable facility, well-suited to the balmy climate, especially for evening performances and was celebrated with a production of *Twelfth Night*.

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**R.H. (Hugh) Philpott** was a UCT medical graduate who in 1975 was awarded a doctorate in Medicine by that University and held a Diploma in Midwifery from the College of Medicine of South Africa. In 1965 he became a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and in 1970 a fellow of the college. After working in the Faculty of Medicine in Durban as lecturer and senior lecturer, he left in 1966 to assume a chair at the University of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and returned in 1974 to become professor and head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Always keenly concerned about student welfare, in 1986 Philpott became director of Student Support Services (dean from 1990) and remained in that post until his retirement in July 1992.
The small Students Jewish Association organised night club style dinner-dances in a transformed judo room while a jukebox was installed in the refectory. On another positive note, the University was able to assist in funding ‘And All of That Jazz’, a musical with a local student cast. ‘Mog’ Morris, who presented it, had originally composed the score as a Rhodes University Rag ‘Scope-Nite’ production.

The campus Rocket Research Society, formed in 1959, experienced a damp squib when it was refused permission to launch its five-metre, two-stage rocket because of its 35 kilometre range and the possibility that it could go off course and do serious damage, perhaps even sinking a ship at sea! The society did, however, have the distinction of producing a better photograph of the August 1961 eclipse of the sun than the local newspapers while using much smaller equipment. By the mid-1960s it was already recognised as one of the world’s leading amateur ‘rocketeering’ groups under chairman ‘Rocket’ Roberts. It successfully fired another of its devices to an altitude of 1 524 metres and tracked space vehicles as an official member of the Moonwatch Satellite Tracking Network.

The Anglican Society organised occasional debates and symposia while in 1962 the Durban SRC recognised the Christian Science Organisation on campus, but not as a student society as membership was limited to Anglicans. In 1975 plans were finalised for the establishment of a YMCA facility on the Durban campus similar to that already operating at UCT and complete with a resident warden and recognition from the SRC as a student club. Inadequate funding delayed the construction of permanent premises, but in 1976 the warden Mick Milligan and his wife were already making their positive presence felt on campus.

The Bridge and Film societies continued to flourish as did the Economics Society by combining its talks with interesting excursions to such places as the harbour and local factories. The Arts Society was rejuvenated in 1962, but more specifically as a Literary Society dedicated to stimulating interest in English literature. The following year it launched its magazine SCAN but struggled to keep it going. In 1965 a Visual Arts Society was formed to promote interest in all forms of visual art while the already established Bridge Club continued to attract members and participated regularly in the annual inter-college sports competition.

Howard College’s Science Society was available to all students registered in the Science Faculty. It gave them direct access to the country’s leading scientists when it affiliated to the South African Association for the Advancement of
Science enabling them to attend its annual conferences. In 1976 the History Society of yesteryear was resuscitated, while the Wildlife and Political Studies societies tried to promote discussion on more topical issues of concern. So too did NUSAS when in 1963 it introduced the Local NUSAS Wall Newspaper to which all students were invited to contribute articles on any topic of interest, whether originally authored or gleaned from other publications. It found a home on the noticeboard near the students’ common room and was controlled by a three-person board that entertained all shades of opinion.

The following year the University authorities saw fit to apply the right of inspection and censorship to an edition of Dome, in the interests of its public image, though in so doing it attracted unfavourable press coverage. The student newspaper had appeared erratically during the early 1960s, but in 1964 there were high hopes of a new management team, more efficient printing machine and use of an advertising agency to generate income. In 1976 the 29 September edition of Dome hit another low when the Publications Board banned it for including certain illustrations deemed to be obscene and the printers apologised for their involvement.

Meanwhile, in 1968 another medium for distributing information on campus was initiated when Dome Radio began to play music and provide news briefs in the Refectory. In mid-1971 it went on air on medium wave, eventually broadcasting for eighteen hours a day from 8.00 am to 2.00 am, until late 1972 when its transmitter was sealed under the direction of the SABC. Thereafter it reverted to operating internally in the Refectory and several other parts of the Students Union Building.\(^{14}\)

There is a paucity of surviving information about the segregated non-academic activities of the University’s ‘non-European’ students. This is partly because there are no surviving archival copies of their newspaper, The Amoeba, which may have ceased to exist after experiencing financial difficulties in the late 1950s. It may also be attributable to an increasing pre-occupation on the part of medical students with their heavy load of academic work in the clinical years and/or much greater political activity on their part from the 1960s onwards. It is known that in 1964 they formed their first Chess Club, but it is uncertain to what extent the other cultural societies established in the 1950s survived into the 1960s and beyond.\(^{15}\)

In Pietermaritzburg the campus Film and Chess societies continued to flourish and in 1961 the once-popular Debating Society was revived with a series of regular debates and discussion groups. By 1964 it was again on the
brink of collapse due to lack of interest and by 1971 the Film Society was also in need of a revival.

In 1961 the Students of Pietermaritzburg African Social and Educational Club (SPASEC) was formed to channel the social welfare activities in which students had been informally involved since 1947. With the assistance of student tutors and loaned textbooks, disadvantaged aspirant matriculants increased to nearly 100 by 1965 and six enrolled for tertiary courses. In 1967 some students, along with African boy scouts, assisted householders in Edendale township after the Msunduzi River burst its banks and destroyed numerous homes. Meanwhile, each intake of Freshettes quietly continued the old tradition of ‘adopting’ a child from the St Cross Home, visiting them periodically and treating them to an annual party. SPASEC was active for a time recruiting teachers from the student body to coach more than 100 adult pupils from Edendale in a variety of school subjects up to matriculation level with the Lay Ecumenical Centre providing the point of contact. By 1973 SPASEC had 35 tutors coaching 70 pupils, some of whom were at levels below matric as well as some taking UNISA courses. SRC vehicles were used to ferry student tutors to and from Edendale, which whites could legally enter as a ‘released’ (ex-mission reserve) area at any time and with little concern about nocturnal security.

The Afrikaanse Studentekring, Bridge Club, French Society, German Society, Geographical Society, Dramatic Society, Music Society and Anglican Society also continued to exist with mixed fortunes. The Music Society still met, as before, on Sunday evenings in the Margaret Kirwood Room, originally the students’ dining hall, where two comprehensive record collections donated earlier by the Carnegie Foundation and the British Council covered much of the history of Western music. By 1964 there was also a Photographic Society, followed the next year by a Folk Music and a revived Oppidani Society, but by then the French and Music societies were virtually defunct and the Dramatic and Film societies seemed in danger of heading in the same direction.

So too did the Literary Society whose magazine struggled to attract contributors. In 1965 Nux decried the ‘grey gloom of conformity and inertia’ that seemed to be overcoming the campus, though the following year a Commerce and Economics Society was formed to liaise between students taking those subjects and between them and commercial organisations. It soon became part of a national body that was able to offer symposia, international exchanges and overseas trainee schemes.
In May 1962 a twelve-day University Festival was held in Pietermaritzburg in support of the NUSAS Relief Fund. It included lectures, symposia, readings by Alan Paton, a NUSAS debate, piano and violin recitals, live theatre, films, an evening of ballet, as well as classical, jazz and youth concerts. This student-organised event was repeated a year later with the Festival 63 Exhibition held in the Students Union building in Pietermaritzburg and several departments mounting displays for the information of the general public on Open Day. The following year the anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth was observed on both campuses with appropriate stage productions and lectures on aspects of his works.

By the late 1960s Cake Manson nevertheless expressed concern at the hostility of many male students towards drama and felt that, culturally speaking, the Pietermaritzburg campus was in decline. His own untimely death in a 1969 motorcycle accident did not improve the situation. His large, energetic presence on campus was sorely missed, particularly in the English Department and in the Dramatic Society, for which he had directed several plays including his own.

The year before his death Manson became the first recipient of the Nux Cultural Award, which co-editors Pat Stilwell and Mike Murray devised, for his presentation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. He won it again the following year for his own play *Magnus*. The trophy was a stinkwood statuette of an African musician, which a black craftsman had carved, intended to become an incentive to cultural achievement on campus. Manson doubtless also approved when Cooper Dawson initiated an Academic and Cultural Entertainment Committee with the intention of stimulating cultural activity on campus, starting with the revival of the Choral Society and the promotion of theatrical productions.

In a unique College Lecture held in June 1970 Manson’s departmental colleagues in English, Messrs Gillham, Crewe and Gardner, paid tribute to his work as a scholar, poet and dramatist before it was announced that a memorial fund had been launched in his name to promote his own work and to establish a bursary or prize. In 1971 the memorial fund committee published Manson’s incomplete novel on a German general entitled *Karl Gunter Hoffmann*. The weekly College Lecture tradition continued to survive in both centres as an innovation much admired elsewhere.

Religious activity on campus enjoyed a boost when, in 1967 following the breakup two years earlier of the SCA over religious and racial disagreements,
the nationwide University Christian Movement (UCM) was established with the support of the Anglican, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches. The SCA bounced back when, in 1975, it established the Campus newspaper in Durban with the avowed aim of reporting ‘accurately and responsibly on all significant campus news’ as well as promoting the relevance of the Christian message to ‘today’s world’. Like Dome, Campus urged Freshers to make the most of their opportunities at University and to enjoy Freshers Reception without allowing themselves to be subjected to any humiliating treatment by seniors.

In 1970 the dormant History Society was revived on the Pietermaritzburg campus when its sole surviving member Andy Manson chaired an informal debate involving John Laband and Don Beale who spoke on the aims and ideals of the British Conservative and Labour parties respectively. In June 1973 the new Jazz Club held its first meeting where free-form jazz was traced and discussed. By 1976 there was a thriving Wildlife Society with more than 200 members that organised a variety of subsidised excursions to game reserves and other bush experiences.

By contrast, the Drama Society (DRAMSOC), which claimed to be the oldest on campus dating back to 1919, remained in crisis partly for financial reasons. As John Laband recalled, it was also because DRAMSOC had become the preserve of the English Department. Led by Cake Manson, who in Laband’s view Christina van Heyningen regarded as ‘the new D.H. Lawrence, the idol of the Leavis school’, it was reluctant to accept that its productions could not compete with those of the Department of Speech and Drama which it ‘despised and derided … for its lack of intellectual heft’.

The society was unique, the only one on campus constituted as a University rather than a student society and therefore ineligible for SRC funding, relying instead on the sale of tickets and qualifying for a representative on the SRC. Over the years it had enjoyed the benefit of several enthusiastic staff members, including professors Petrie, Prestwich and Gardner (senior and junior), the Ewers, Jacques Berthoud, Elizabeth Royle and, in more recent times, Cake Manson. This had helped to promote closer staff-student relationships and cross-faculty friendships, but gone were the halcyon days of the 1930s and 1940s when there were often as many as four productions a year.

A revival of student enthusiasm was now urgently needed in the form of more actors, more backstage hands and more posteriors on seats but, according to Laband, it suffered a further setback when the Principal walked out of David
Maughan Brown’s production of Anthony and Cleopatra. This did nothing to improve Stock’s unfavourable image in Pietermaritzburg. DRAMSOC, among others, was also an important part of social life on campus.

Social activity
In both centres of the University the current fashions and fads of the Western world had an increasing influence during the 1960s and early 1970s as, in some respects, South Africa’s youth tried to play catch up. Individualism, liberal and radical philosophies, demands for nuclear-free world peace, free love, threadbare clothing, sandals, long hair, experimentation with drugs, jazz, Beatle mania, the Beat poets and the arts were all in vogue to varying degrees and for different lengths of time.

As before on campus there were larger than life characters who personified at least some of these characteristics of the age, like Bert van Jaarsveld and the appropriately named Jimmy Freeborn in Pietermaritzburg. Another was Mike Marwick, an Eastwolds-born, 1956 graduate of the General Botha Naval Academy who spent some time at sea before arriving on campus. Further stints on the briny followed to finance his B.Sc. but he found time to be Durban cheerleader and a robust Sir Toby Belch in the 1966 campus production of Twelfth Night, as well as enjoy the odd party! Marwick subsequently managed a bookshop in the other centre before returning to sea and qualifying as a master mariner. In his mid-70s he was still working as the master of a vessel in the Persian Gulf.

Another well-known character and distant family member, Colin ‘Bull’ Marwick, also acquired celebrity status. Durban had its pie cart outside the central railway station in Pine Street but, with far fewer alternative nocturnal attractions, Moolman’s pie cart on Pietermaritzburg’s Market Square had been a popular social and midnight snack spot for students and the general public ever since its establishment in 1932. Fortunately, it had survived Bull’s attempt to tow it away with his jeep and from 1967 it became even better-known among student revellers as Twiggy’s when a Mr Branch and his Indian assistant Sam took it over.

Successive owners, Mr Scott (1968) and Mr Court (1969), continued to be known as Twiggy in affectionate remembrance of Branch following his death. Sam’s secret formula ‘hotties’ (possibly samoosas) continued to be much in demand as they were popularly believed to nullify the danger of impotence arising from old age and liquor. There were other slurried orders that Twiggy’s could not satisfy, including curried milkshakes, soup sandwiches and toasted...
Easter eggs. Unsurprisingly, on Friday and Saturday nights the ambience surrounding Twiggy’s resembled that of a brewery rather than a pie cart but student hopes that it might acquire a liquor licence remained unfulfilled.

In both Durban and Pietermaritzburg the Club 100 sought to promote more sedate social conviviality among a select number of staff (limited to 35) and students on campus with admission dependent upon ten nominations by standing members. At meetings male members were required to wear a black tie with a white ‘C’ logo surrounding the number ‘100’ and females a brooch with a similar motif. The Elite Club, which the Administration initiated, was open to all students and members of staff. It also tried to promote staff-student relations but with limited success, possibly because it was not a student initiative.

By early 1970 efforts were being made to establish a student-staff club in Pietermaritzburg to provide an appropriate venue for both formal and informal social occasions. A formal, but initially unsuccessful, application was made for a liquor licence and in February 1974 the CUP met the liquor licensing authorities to discuss the broader issue of licences for universities. After seventeen of the nineteen police regions opposed the idea and the matter had been considered by the National Liquor Board and the Minister of Justice it was decided that such a concession would be granted for a University Club that served staff and senior students only. This was not what the University authorities had in mind but, in the meanwhile, constitutions for clubs in both centres were finalised.

Graham Dominy remembered that in the early 1970s Pietermaritzburg still had the advantage of being a relatively small campus, which helped to promote a convivial social life despite the tension between ‘lefties’ and politically more conservative ‘rugger-buggers’. Unfortunately, the prevailing political situation was such that even on-campus social organisations did not always escape surveillance. Neither the Club 100 nor the Elite Club was suspected of being subversive. Nor, as far as was known, was the S.A. Student Contact International, formed in 1968 to welcome foreign students and provide them with informative literature about the country.

The so-called League of Empire Loyalists on the Durban campus, which satirised South African institutions and the remnants of British colonialism, was not so fortunate. It was investigated for its alleged efforts to undermine relations between Afrikaans- and English-speaking South Africans. A member who ‘borrowed’ two thunder flashes, which simulated explosions, from his
vacation army camp was interrogated about whether he intended embarking upon subversive activities on behalf of empire loyalism. The security branch was also interested in possible foreign sources of league funds. There was even some concern in the Durban City Council when in September 1971 the Empire Loyalists ‘annexed’ the local campus as a British crown colony on behalf of the as yet unborn King George VII!

Three years later the league’s leader, ‘Colonial Governor of the Colony: Sir Henry Buller-Battenberg’, called for English to be declared the worldwide language ‘in the interests of international peace’. By then the league had spread to the Pietermaritzburg campus and attracted many non-students through its various entertaining activities. These included entry of unofficial floats in Durban’s Carnival Parade and the capital’s Azalea Festival, as well as champagne picnics in both centres to celebrate Princess Anne’s wedding.

The league also attracted attention when it castigated the NPA for the indecent manner in which Queen Victoria’s statue in the capital had been cleaned as well as announcing its intention to storm the now undefended Majuba Hill to avenge the 1881 British defeat there. Prominent Pietermaritzburg member Graham Dominy recalled that it was, essentially, a drinking club that took delight in irritating the security police and Rhodesian students, many of whom arrived on campus after active military service as the bush war gathered momentum and whose attitude towards empire loyalism had changed following their government’s November 1965 unilateral declaration of independence. In 1976 the league even contemplated contesting a parliamentary by-election in Durban North as a first step towards reinstating monarchical rule in Natal.17

As before, Rag and the Rag Ball continued to be major events on everybody’s social calendar in both centres. It was bolstered for a time in Pietermaritzburg by Rag Variety produced entirely by students. Graham Dominy remembered a particularly good performance, for which Michael Lambert wrote a script in the style of Gilbert and Sullivan, that parodied three prominent campus personalities (Colin Webb, Colin Gardner and Denys Schreiner) as a ‘giggling tall historian; an English Pwof who lisps and a bearded scientist – they never will be missed, they never will be missed, I’ve got’em on the list’.

The quality of the floats and amounts of money netted for charity varied from year to year. Some sources of income like the ‘seen-gesien’ roadblocks declined and others, like the sale of 100 000 copies of Nucleus and the fines levied on prominent citizens through the ‘court of injustice’, increased.

The Rag Mag continued to sell, and mostly amuse, but there were numerous complaints about the 1974 edition in connection with a vulgar portrayal of
Queen Victoria. Two years later the Publications Control Board banned *Rag Mag* following a complaint by the Womens Christian Temperance Union. By then 97 000 copies had already been sold, although plans to send the remaining 3 000 to the troops on border duty had to be scrapped. In the same year Durban’s Rag Drum Majorettes generated additional income by defeating ten other troupes at the Rand Show and winning the national competition at Pietermaritzburg’s Royal Show for the third time.

*Rag Variety* and the Rag Relay between the two centres continued to be an annual event. The tradition of drumming up extra funds by means of Rag stunts was revived in 1967 when Pat Stilwell, John Duff and Dave Drewett ‘kidnapped’ the world-famous endurance drummer Rory Blackwell during his press conference at Pietermaritzburg’s Ansonia Hotel. Following negotiations with his manager, he was released in sound condition after three hours and a supper in residence in exchange for a contribution to Rag of 2.5% of the takings from his Tuesday night performance.

The following year, after leaking their intentions to the press, Durban students duped hotel staff and police into believing that one of their number, first-year drama student Michelle Pfeiffer, was the expected renowned French singer François Hardy. The deception was only revealed after 250 rowdy ‘supporters’ had installed her, complete with French-speaking ‘manager’, in the penthouse of the Beverly Hills Hotel at Umhlanga Rocks. Hotel staff and police, whose numbers had been hastily augmented from two to 30, then sportingly assisted in the erection of Rag posters outside the hotel and even, with managerial approval, in the foyer and on the penthouse door!

Not to be outdone, in 1969 a group of students ‘kidnapped’ the newly crowned Rhodes Rag Queen Robyn Chiazzari and whisked her off via light aircraft and car to appear at Pietermaritzburg’s Rag Ball before being returned for a R100 ransom.

*Rag’s* nett income increased dramatically from R16 000 in 1950 to R58 000 in 1969, to the extent that the Joint Rag chairman, Mike McNab, recommended an increase in the Rag Executive and full-time status for its chairman for at least two months in the year in order to complete their tasks satisfactorily. In 1976 Rag raised nearly R109 000 in Durban and R164 109 including Pietermaritzburg’s contribution. After deducting running costs, the proceeds were distributed through an allocations board among the 132 carefully chosen charities and welfare organisations Rag was supporting.

On the downside, drunkenness, particularly during Friday night float building, was still a recurring problem. This and other concerns gave rise to
some debate about whether the whole format of Rag should be reconsidered, but in 1975 students were generally well-behaved with no serious complaints by the public. What was considered a significant breakthrough was achieved that year in establishing closer contact with Pietermaritzburg’s Indian community when the Rag film premier was held at the Indian Cineman.

The annual inter-college competitions between the two centres continued as before to be as much social as athletic events and involved virtually every sports code present on campus. There had always been occasional instances of misbehaviour but in the early 1960s the competition was placed in jeopardy by drunkenness, brawling and exchanges of missiles like beer cans, oranges and water bombs that sometimes resulted in collateral damage when they hit members of the public.

In 1965, in an effort to improve student behaviour, particularly at the final first XV’s rugby match, an inter-college committee of senior students was established and liquor and missiles were prohibited. So, too, were the campus mascots Wimpy and Miralto as the vigorous defence and attempted capture of them invariably led to conflict. In 1961, for example, Durban’s Wimpy was captured and destroyed before a papier mâché effigy of him was marched to the centre of the stadium and disintegrated with light explosives.

The danger of serious injury was clearly increasing exponentially but in the mid-1960s there was an improvement in crowd behaviour and even amicable exchanges of cheerleaders. Unfortunately, by late 1969 the competition was again in jeopardy after the capture of Pietermaritzburg’s mascot Miralto and several unfortunate incidents including a student breaking his leg in a fall from the top of Pietermaritzburg’s Woodburn Grandstand. In 1970 the Durban Athletics Union resolved to cancel the traditional intensive inter-college competition in the interests of the University’s deteriorating public image in that regard. It was replaced with a series of league-type encounters in the various sporting codes spread less conspicuously over several weekends.

The Joint Athletics Union subsequently resolved that the old format would be restored the following year when inter-college was held in Pietermaritzburg, but recognised that the tradition was now ‘in extreme jeopardy’ and required more responsible behaviour on the part of students. Permission was granted for SRC and Sports Union executive members to impose spot fines to a maximum of R5 on any miscreants but, apart from a few smuggled cans of beer, the occasion was much more amiable than in previous years. There was little in the way of missile exchanges other than showers of paper aeroplanes and
Council actually congratulated the organisers for their ‘smooth maintenance of discipline’.

Much the same was true when the old format was reinstated in 1972 in Durban but two years later there were further complaints about drunkenness, lewd songs and acts of irresponsibility, not only at inter-college but on other occasions such as Freshers Gala. As a result, a decentralised series of events in the various sporting codes was again proposed in Durban and opposed in Pietermaritzburg. By 1976 it was still necessary to exercise tight control over student behaviour at inter-college, including the establishment of a special disciplinary court, out of concern that the general public and the sponsors should not be alienated. ‘Agrics’ and ‘Engineers’ continued the tradition of professing a low opinion of each other and there was a growing sense that the original campus was being dwarfed by its upstart coastal rival, which now also seemed to be attracting more foreign academic visitors, few of whom made the journey inland.

The admission in 1970 of outsiders to on-campus socials in Pietermaritzburg’s Students Union Hall, largely for financial reasons, led to more unfavourable publicity when they degenerated into town versus gown brawls and arrests. It remained to be seen whether the 1976 granting of a malt and wine licence to the Durban Refectory, with the new campus Vice-Principal Des Clarence as the designated licensee, would attract more trouble than it was worth. It was not scheduled to operate until Easter 1977 and it also remained to be seen to what extent it would change student drinking habits on and off-campus.

In terms of the prevailing legislation, liquor could not be served at what were deemed multiracial venues or events. As it was, with rare exceptions like Rag and the Rag Ball, most social activities in both centres already excluded the University’s black students in the Faculty of Medicine and Durban’s Non-European Section. As before, they were left to organise their own social activities.

Vanessa Noble’s research revealed that, particularly from the late 1960s onwards, their weekend parties at Wentworth, or gumbas as they came to be known, were sometimes akin to orgies. They involved the latest recorded music featuring popular black stars and the abuse of alcohol that, in a few cases, led to declining academic performance and failure. Needless to say, nurses and trainees from King Edward VIII Hospital were invited and female medical students were also involved. Their nocturnal movements were more closely controlled, but just as readily circumvented as elsewhere in the University.
Casual flings, serious romances and even marriages resulted from these functions, though there were female alumni who remembered the use and abuse of women that often took place. As Noble has shown, it was part of the prevailing philosophy of gender discrimination reinforced by the fact that male medical trainees were always in a substantial majority. The dominant masculine culture was already evident at the beginning of each year at Wentworth’s Miss Freshette Ball when first-year females were required to parade back and forth for the edification of senior males.

By no means all students became involved in sexism or the partying subculture. Apart from those who lived off-campus, some were teetotal and/or very religious, including members of the Student Christian Fellowship. Moreover, drunkenness and gender discrimination was not uncharacteristic of the University’s other campuses where it also made an early annual appearance in the Freshers Reception programmes that were only gradually being improved.\(^{18}\)

A great deal of social activity on campus was closely associated with sport.

**Sporting activity**

On both the Durban and Pietermaritzburg campuses rugby continued as before to hold sway as the most popular and keenly followed spectator sport among students. The clash of the first XVIs traditionally constituted the climax of each annual inter-college tournament, which involved virtually all the sporting codes that students enjoyed. These rugby finales were always keenly, sometimes over-robustly, contested with Durban winning a succession in the mid-1960s and Pietermaritzburg dominating in the late 1960s and early 1970s before Durban secured their first win in seven years in 1975.

As closed clubs available only to registered students, all the sporting codes in both centres had to cope with a high annual turnover of active senior members as they graduated and, if they remained involved in local sport, joined other clubs. During the 1970s there was also the perennial challenge of particularly talented sportsmen and women being lured away to other clubs while they were still studying on campus.

The rugby clubs found it particularly difficult to develop and maintain a squad of experienced and physically mature senior players as few spent more than two years in the first XVIs before graduating in their early to mid-twenties. As a result, many under-19 players were promoted to the senior sides after barely a year playing on campus while still being eligible to be selected for the provincial under-19 team.
Some other universities overcame this problem by becoming open clubs, which allowed students to remain as members for several years after graduation, or attracted talent with sports scholarships that were beyond the means of the University of Natal. Consequently, levels of performance and success varied from season to season and by the late 1960s a proposal to allow former students to play for varsity clubs for a limited number of years after graduating was being seriously considered.

In 1961, 1962, 1972 and 1974 the Pietermaritzburg first XV lost the provincial Murray Cup final, only just failing to emulate the winning achievement of their 1930 predecessors. In the 1961 semi-finals they defeated a Durban Collegians side well-endowed with provincial and national players and in 1962 they won the recently instituted Moor Cup. In 1961 a combined Natal team won its first inter-varsity match since 1958 when it defeated Rhodes University. Jimmy de Jager and Rob Mundell were selected for the South African Universities team that toured Rhodesia and in 1963 the former led a combined campus selection on a tour of the Western Cape during which they defeated UCT twice.

Five years later there was a similarly famous victory over the University of the Orange Free State, a feat repeated in 1974. The nine-game 1973 combined team tour of Europe, with De Jager as manager, was particularly memorable, not least for the anti-apartheid demonstrations with which it had to contend. The club had won the York and Lancaster Cup (a Maritzburg and Midlands competition) four times prior to 1960 and won it four more times by the mid-1970s.

At under-19 level, where the age restriction ensured that all local clubs experienced a regular turnover of players, the Pietermaritzburg Rugby Club was even more successful with unbeaten sides in 1961, 1967 and 1968 and several players winning provincial colours. Among many noteworthy members Bruce Dalling captained the Natal under-19 team before going on to claim greater fame as a yachtsman. The club was also fortunate to have several capable coaches, with ‘Doc’ Fletcher being succeeded by the likes of Peter Booysen, Pierre du Toit, Jimmy de Jager (also captain and club president at other times) and later ‘Win’ Whitear.

The smaller sports clubs on the Pietermaritzburg campus met with mixed fortunes. In 1961 the Weightlifting Club was obliged temporarily to cease operations as no space had been provided for it in the new William O’Brien Residence. There was clearly a need not only for a new Students Union but also for a gymnasium to meet the needs of weightlifting, fencing, gymnastics, judo and wrestling. By 1960 the Tennis Club boasted the second largest
membership numbers of any Athletics Union affiliate on campus, but there was a looming need for more courts as the construction of the new men’s residence was expected to increase numbers. By the late 1960s it was fielding four men’s and three women’s league teams and in 1968 won the Maritzburg men’s league.

By 1964 the Mountain Club, founded in 1961, was not far behind with 100 members, including 30 hard-core climbers and ample scope in the Drakensberg for ramblers and walkers as well. In addition, there were regular climbing trips to other regions, including the Magaliesberg and Western Cape.

The Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Judo, Rifle, Rowing, Sailing, Squash, Table Tennis and Weightlifting clubs more than held their own in competition with the Durban campus though some, like rowing, struggled with limited equipment. In the early 1960s the Football (Soccer) Club gathered strength, fielding three teams in the local leagues and contributing to a combined team with Durban that competed in the Natal A league, the highest amateur competition in the province. In 1963 it won the Natal amateur cup final. The following year and again in 1975 the Pietermaritzburg club won both the local senior ‘A’ and ‘B’ league championships.

In 1964 the Pietermaritzburg campus launched a Sailing Club on Midmar Dam with an initial five boats, 64 members and soon after its own clubhouse. The new Rifle Club had to travel much further, to the Nottingham Road Rifle Range, in order to compete with shottists from all over the province. By the late 1960s the Karate Club had a black belt instructor in R. Campbell and six green belt members. By then gymnastics had gained new impetus with the availability of a nearby and newly equipped YMCA gymnasium. So too did athletics with the arrival on campus of promising Freshers like R. Clarke and J. (Johnny) Halberstadt.

All the sporting codes on both campuses had their individual stars. Ingrid Frohling and Maryna Godwin emerged in the early 1960s as provincial tennis players, in 1963 helping Natal win the women’s inter-varsity tournament for the first time. Hockey stalwart Shelagh Bowness was selected for Natal and Protea tours of Kenya and of Britain and Europe, Glen Mezher captained the SA Varsities baseball team while Alan Pearce of the combined team played for the SA Varsities soccer side for three successive years as did Joan Versfeld in hockey. She and Maureen Baker represented Natal at that sport, as did Pat Schultz and Richard Dumbrill at cricket and Berry Versveld at both baseball and cricket.
Squash star Derek Broome helped his team win the local ‘A’ league three years in a row, while other prominent campus sports personalities included fencers Hugh Diskin and Roy Marshall, cross-country runner Sid Kelly, Springbok trampolinist Ian McNaughton, Springbok swimmers Robbie de Villiers and Mike Bolstridge, Springbok hockey player Tim Larkin and top international surfer Shaun Thomson.

The year 1967 was much celebrated as the University’s most successful effort yet in the Comrades Marathon when all twelve of its entrants finished. A year previously well-known Pietermaritzburg campus all-rounder Bev Ellis had the groundbreaking distinction of being the first known female student to complete (unofficially) that famous challenge, in a time of 11 hours 30 minutes. It was achieved with minimal training and despite the discouraging laughter en route of a male who was preparing for the same event. Comrades proved to be ‘a long, lonely day’, apart from a fellow runner who accompanied Ellis up Field’s Hill, her supportive seconder Errol and her brother-in-law Ian Wiseman who persuaded her to keep going when she was ready to quit at the bottom of Polly Shortts.

The following day Ellis competed in the inter-college squash tournament as Maritzburg’s top player and then in the first-team inter-college hockey match. She also won the best all-round sportswoman trophy and was women’s squash champion for two consecutive years as well as Natal and South African Varsities squash champion, representing the province for several years. In 1972 Ellis was sportswoman of the year on the Pietermaritzburg campus, an award introduced only in 1969 to complement the longstanding sportsman of the year title.

Members of the University Canoe Club were regular participants in the annual Pietermaritzburg to Durban Dusi (Msunduzi) Canoe Marathon. In 1975 Tim Biggs was the first single canoeist to complete the journey and Peter Peacock was first overall, partnering multiple winner Graham Pope-Ellis in a double canoe.

Weightlifter Ivor Dreosti won a national title and in 1963 Natal rugby star Tommy Tomlinson won the first Nux Sportsman of the Year award, followed in 1964 by Derek Broome. Stewart Ashby represented South African universities in water polo while former student Cliff Drysdale represented South Africa in the Davis Cup tennis competition. In 1967 Glyn Horton became a Springbok canoeist while Tony Frost and Alan Kluge represented South Africa in cross-country athletics.
That year Agriculture lecturer and current BA student Bruce Dalling was chosen to represent the country in a 4 800 kilometre international single-handed yacht race across the Atlantic. He became a national celebrity when in 1968 he subsequently won the event on handicap and was second overall. Former Cricket Club members Clive Halse and Dennis Lindsay had already been selected as Springboks, followed in 1970 by John Traicos and a year later by Vincent van der Bijl.

Not all was smooth sailing in the world of campus sport for in the 1960s there was some discontent at what was considered to be the dictatorial attitude of longstanding Pietermaritzburg Athletics Union president Hamish Scott. In 1969 he was still in office to welcome the appearance on campus of an irregular typescript news sheet that Tony Frost initially edited under the name *The Sports Union Gazette*.

As the official mouthpiece of the Union its purpose was to report on the activities of some of the affiliated clubs which, it was felt, did not receive sufficient publicity. In keeping with this brief, athletics, badminton, cricket, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, hockey, judo, karate, mountaineering, sailing, soccer and tennis all received coverage in strict alphabetical order. By the mid-1970s there were two dozen sports clubs on the Pietermaritzburg campus with a Women’s Soccer Club the latest addition.

At Howard College the Rugby Club, as before, enjoyed the largest following but experienced mixed fortunes, winning the Dewar Shield (a Durban competition) in 1962 and the Wylie Cup the following year before reaching, but losing, the 1975 Murray Cup final under British Lions stalwart Fran Cotton as coach. The under-19 side was particularly successful, winning the Frank Norris trophy seven times between 1964 and 1974. The club produced several provincial players at under-19 and senior level, including unorthodox winger Ronnie Pitcher and flyhalf/fullback Ian Dixon. Indeed, during the early and mid-1970s almost every Durban and Pietermaritzburg University backline player won a provincial cap in an era when Natal was renowned for its running, if not always winning, rugby.

After Durban’s Michel Antelme gained Springbok selection in 1960–1961, Tom Bedford was capped in 1963–1965 before captaining Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar in 1966 and the Springboks in 1969. The club was also well served by dedicated coaches like Walter Ridl and capable administrators in Brian McLaren, Ian Allan, Willem de Beer and Barry Crossley. In 1971 the last was involved in organising the first South African Universities Rugby Week on the Durban campus.
The Cricket Club also had its memorable moments. In 1959 the University acquired the services of renowned English cricketer W. (Wally) Hammond as its first sports administrator and as part-time cricket coach. Owen Horwood, then professor of Economics and president of the Durban Athletics Union, recruited him. He had been a schoolboy fan and subsequently met Hammond through his father Stanley Horwood, then Western Province captain. Hammond spent the last six years of his life identifying and coaching cricket talent as well as developing sports facilities in both centres.

Nevertheless, there were some rumblings on the Pietermaritzburg campus about why it could not have its own sports director when it had as many active sportspersons as Durban even though it had only half the number of students. Wisely, the two University cricket clubs were amalgamated to maintain their playing strength, especially during the summer vacations, and ensure their survival.

Cricket in particular enjoyed a further boost when in 1968 former Springbok cricket captain and all-rounder Trevor Goddard became the new sports supervisor in Durban. After previously working for the national Sports Foundation he considered the facilities on the Durban campus to be inadequate, especially for rugby and soccer, comparing the one rugby field with more than ten at Pretoria University. He looked forward to the availability of the projected new western campus to ameliorate the situation.

In the interim, the cricket field down the south-eastern slope from the residences became known as Hammond Field and also made provision for athletics and hockey. Adjacent fields accommodated rugby and soccer, though not expansively, prior to the development of the western campus. Durban gained another useful facility when in 1971 a Sports Union club house, available to all sporting codes, was opened.

On-campus sports facilities in Pietermaritzburg had fallen even further behind compared with what was offered elsewhere, including Durban. In the absence of a swimming bath on campus, student Harry Few threatened to stage a ‘dig-in’ that would involve excavating a large hole in front of the Library and filling it with water. He considered the proposed siting of the University swimming pool on Golf Road to be ‘wholly insane’ as students residing on the old campus would prefer to use the more convenient municipal pool in Alexandra Park. Few’s protest did not advance beyond the planning stage and the long-awaited pool was eventually opened early in 1973.

The University was grateful to be able to lease Dalry Park under two agreements (1959 and 1972) from the Pietermaritzburg City Council by way
of compensation for the lack of on-campus facilities. The distance of several kilometres to the park created serious problems in terms of convenience and management and it was not until October 2000 that on-campus facilities had improved sufficiently for the University to be able to return control of the sports grounds to the municipality.

Back in Durban the strength of the Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boat, Boxing, Canoeing, Golf, Hockey, Judo, Motor Rallying, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis and Water Polo clubs unavoidably varied during the 1960s and early 1970s with the endless arrival and graduating departure of students. So, too, did that of the newly formed Fencing, Karate (1965), Motor, Synchronised Swimming, Underwater and Underwater Hockey clubs.

Trevor Sweeney (Electrical Engineering) and Mike Fitzsimons (Accountancy) provided an example of the enduring and profitable friendships that can emerge from sporting contacts when they met on the Durban campus hockey fields in the early 1960s, served as best men at each other’s weddings and developed a highly successful business together.

In 1962 a Mountain Club was launched as a sub-section of the Natal Mountain Club through which its members were introduced to expert advice and the best available equipment during long July camps in various parts of the Drakensberg. The following year the Soccer Club acquired the services of ex-Springbok Len Boonzaaier as coach and entered the National Football League (South) where it competed against the professional reserve teams of Durban City and Durban United.

The same year the Boat Club, which since its inception in the 1930s had used the facilities of the Durban Rowing Club, acquired its own boathouse and became an independent club, boosted its membership to more than 50 within three years but still struggled with limited equipment. In May 1970, Durban beat Pietermaritzburg in the first-ever Oxford and Cambridge-style inter-college boat race over 4.8 kilometres on the Bay. The inter-college cross-country competition continued, with ‘non-European’ students participating, but during the early 1960s the inter-city Rag Relay was scrapped because of difficulties in securing authorisation for a racially mixed event. Such was the extent to which politics impinged on sport in those days, though it was later revived as a whites-only event.

Surprisingly for ‘Surf City’, a Surfing Club was formed on the Durban campus only in 1968 and soon attracted more than 100 members to make it one of the largest at Howard College. It promptly beat UCT in the country’s first-ever surfing inter-varsity encounter and thereafter was to win it several times
more. Pedal car racing also started on the Durban campus in 1968 and in 1976 the ‘Formula P’ national championships were held there. Pretoria University won for the second year in succession and Team Lobo from Louis Botha Hall finished sixth. Another Durban entrant, which unfortunately crashed out, was judged the best-built car comprising plywood bodywork, disc brakes on all four wheels, a differential back axle, a 25-speed gearbox and built-in suspension.

In 1969 the Tennis Club scored a notable achievement when it won Durban’s highly competitive men’s first league competition for the first time. Two years later, an Aero Club was launched with an initial 30 members and three sections – flying, parachuting and gliding. It encountered the usual challenges of access to adequate equipment and fluctuating membership, while the University authorities accepted parachuting, in particular, as a student sport with some nervous reluctance. By 1973 the flying section, or Mad Baron Squadron, was competing against the Pietermaritzburg campus Bulldog Squadron in mock bombing and spot landing competitions. Affiliation to the Durban Wings Club assisted the flying section whose membership rose to 50 by 1976. That year, for those who still preferred to have their feet closer to the ground, a Cycle Club was formed on the Durban campus. It was somewhat belated as cycling had been a student past-time and means of transport for as long as the University, and the pre-1949 NUC before it, had existed.

The Pietermaritzburg campus continued to have a larger percentage of students actively involved in sport and was stronger in certain codes, but sheer weight of numbers and superior facilities worked increasingly to Durban’s advantage. Consequently, while the former had its individual triumphs, from the mid-1960s the overall inter-college result sheets tended to be in the latter’s favour. The combined teams chosen to represent the University at inter-varsity competitions, often based on inter-college results, had mixed fortunes and did not always function effectively as integrated teams. In 1961 it was even suggested that the two centres might perform better as separate teams after competing in local leagues and against each other in inter-college competitions.

The combined rugby team never won an inter-varsity tournament, but there were other periodic triumphs such as that of the baseball team in 1962 when it contributed several players to the SA University and Natal provincial teams. The combined women’s and men’s hockey teams (the latter with seven Natal caps) won the inter-varsity competition twice during the mid-1960s and the soccer and squash teams were victorious in 1965 and 1966, the latter for the first time since the game was played on campus in 1946.
For a time the combined athletics team, with several Natal caps, further demonstrated the advantages of collaborative effort by emerging as the strongest in the province. Natal won the cross-country championship in 1968 and 1969, with Johnny Halberstadt well to the fore, as well as the national club championship in 1969 and 1970. It also triumphed at the University rowing regatta in 1969 and 1971.

The University’s surfers won their inter-varsity three years in a row from 1968 to 1970, the combined men’s table tennis team won in 1972, the underwater team in 1973 and the water polo team for the second time in its history in 1974, in which year the men’s tennis team shared the honours with Wits. In 1976 the cricketers won their inter-varsity tournament and six of them were included in the South African Universities teams. The Yacht Club (Durban) was also victorious that year with Pietermaritzburg second. So, too, were the combined men’s basketball team and the fencing and women’s table tennis teams, with Cheryl Frankish winning her fourth successive singles title.

All of this hectic and varied sporting activity was to the exclusion of the University’s black medical students and surviving members of its diminishing Non-European Section. Probably for the same reasons that explain the absence of records about their cultural and social activities at that time, there is little information concerning the extent to which the sports clubs they initiated in the 1950s continued into the 1960s and beyond. There was still a soccer field and swimming pool at Wentworth that at the very least were used for informal if not competitive purposes and there is some evidence that there were occasional inter-varsity competitions elsewhere, presumably involving black students at other tertiary institutions.

Following official governmental relaxation with regard to what was termed multinational sport hopes were raised that it might become possible to arrange inter-varsity tournaments involving all population groups. In August 1970, when black and white students in Durban played a rugby match against each other on campus, there was a police investigation but no action was taken. Proposed mixed teams of students had been rejected on several previous occasions as being in conflict with government policy. Nevertheless, in 1975 Council resolved that at inter-varsity sports competitions all registered students should be eligible to represent the University regardless of race and that, as government had agreed to multinational games in the Republic, permission should now be sought to hold such competitions.

Disappointingly the CUP, to whom the minister referred Natal’s request in 1976 for approval of such teams, failed to act decisively. Six of its members
favoured retaining the status quo and four (Natal, Rhodes, UCT and Wits) argued that all bona fide students should be eligible to participate in inter-varsity tournaments. The CUP suggested that universities should test the water by arranging their own such games individually and seek the necessary permits to do so. By December 1976 Athletics Union membership was explicitly available to both black and white students and staff members, but multi-ethnic campus sport still lay in the future and would continue to be a bone of political contention.21

**Political and social awareness**

The tragic sequence of events in 1960 at Sharpeville, Langa and elsewhere, followed by the detention of students and staff members among others across the country, had the effect of politicising large numbers on campus who had earlier come to terms with the 1959 Extension of University Education Act. In 1961, after a lengthy debate, the Howard College SRC aligned itself with NUSAS and other SRCs when it adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the basis for future policy decisions and action. In doing so it was argued that while the SRC was opposed to apartheid, it had no intention of affiliating to any political party or movement and would focus its attention ‘as far as possible’ on ‘academic, educational and student fields of activity’.

In the same year, as peaceful student demonstrations and protest meetings gathered momentum in both centres, the Faculty of Arts appealed to the University authorities to insist that these proceed unhindered by police interference that constituted a breach of academic freedom. A case in point took place on the Pietermaritzburg campus in 1961 when police armed with revolvers and batons surrounded and threatened to arrest protesting students.

Malherbe denied any collaboration with the police but in 1962–1963 this became necessary when appealing to the security branch not to raid student residences without prior consultation with the Principal or Vice-Principal. The police authorities indicated a willingness to co-operate and seemed to welcome the opportunity to liaise, but in 1964 UCT delegate David (Spike) de Keller was removed from his room on the Pietermaritzburg campus and detained at 4.00 am during a NUSAS conference. First-year student Jeremy Woolf was arrested in the Fine Arts Department and subsequently released in Durban.

A 600-strong staff-student meeting was held on the Pietermaritzburg campus to protest against the numerous detentions of lecturers and students, including that of current NUSAS president Jonty Driver. This was soon followed by further meetings when the SRCs, Joint SRC and Lecturers Association joined
forces to protest against the Minister of Justice’s avowed intention to prevent staff members who were gazetted as ‘communists’ from teaching.

In 1965 John Aitchison became the University’s first student and second campus figure (after Saul Bastomsky) to be banned under the Suppression of Communism Act (44 of 1950). Aitchison was a Divinity honours student who was preparing for the Anglican ministry and had been harassed before by the security police. He was now restricted to the Pietermaritzburg magisterial district and allowed to continue attending classes, but could not be quoted or belong to any student, community or political organisation. In addition his car, which had been used for Liberal Party work, was extensively damaged by a petrol bomb and soon afterwards Bastomsky’s tyres were slashed.

Aitchison was subsequently convicted of contravening his banning order and sentenced to one year’s imprisonment, all but four days of which was suspended. This was served, in part, over Easter and the gift of an Easter egg had to await his release. Those four days cost him his vote as anybody sentenced to prison without the option of a fine suffered automatic disenfranchisement in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act. His five-year banning order was lifted in May 1970, only to be re-imposed eleven months later.

**J.J.W. (John) Aitchison** matriculated at Durban High School before completing a BA Hons (first class) in Pietermaritzburg (1966) and subsequently a Diploma in Tertiary Education through UNISA and an MA (*cum laude*) back at his alma mater (1993). His professional experience in the educational field was rich and varied, working for a number of theological organisations during the 1970s including the (Anglican) Church of the Province of Southern Africa. In 1981 he was appointed to the new post of deputy director of the Extramural Studies and Extension Unit (later renamed the Centre for Adult Education, CAE) on the Pietermaritzburg campus. Aitchison played a pivotal role in transforming it from a provider of liberal arts extension lectures into what he described as ‘a multi-faceted adult education and resource centre active in providing a variety of courses for community based organisations as well as professional training for adult educators’. In 1992 he became director of the CAE in Pietermaritzburg, in 1995 a full professor and in 1999 head of the School of Education, Training and Development into which the CAE had been incorporated. Aitchison was heavily involved in a variety of community projects and published extensively on educational and socio-political issues, including the violence that wracked the Natal Midlands between 1987 and 1994.
There were numerous SRC and student body protests during the 1960s and early 1970s, including those against the detention of students George Mbele, S. Dunn and W.T. Mhlambiso, the last a former ‘non-European’ SRC president and Joint SRC chairman. In March 1966 these were followed by further protests when Durban students David Barkham and Stephen Friedlander were detained and again in May when NUSAS president Ian Robertson was banned. The following month a 300-strong torchlight staff-student protest march in Pietermaritzburg was attacked en route to town near Poncho’s much-frequented roadhouse by some 150 hooligans, but completed the journey amidst showers of sand and water.

In the same year there was great concern on all campuses at the introduction of the Universities Amendment Act and the Extension of University Education Amendment Act. These aimed, under threat of withholding state grants, to eliminate all multiracial organisations and social functions from campuses, to expel any ‘non-white’ student from a ‘white’ university if deemed in the ‘public interest’, and to deny universities the right to exclude any individual or organisation that advocated racial discrimination. The latter provision was clearly a response to the refusal of the UCT and Natal SRCs to recognise racially exclusive conservative student associations. It was interpreted both as another attack on NUSAS and as a further tightening of government control over the universities.

In 1968 there was a Durban teach-in and torchlight protest in support of students suspended at Fort Hare University College. Such expressions of dissent did not always enjoy unanimous campus support, the latter occasion being disrupted by jeering, egg-throwing opponents. The following year there were further protests when, among others, former Durban SRC president Peter Behr had his passport withdrawn on the eve of departure for Oxford. In May 1970, 500 Durban students joined the picket at the city’s Cenotaph as part of a nationwide protest against the imprisonment without trial of 22 detainees under the 1967 Terrorism Act. Meetings were held in both centres, but Pietermaritzburg’s mayor denied students a public march to the City Hall.

There was more consternation on campus when security police tried to implicate students in a series of downtown pamphlet bomb explosions. In 1970 there were further on-campus resolutions and demonstrations against the ongoing detention and re-detention of persons under the Suppression of Communism Act, coupled with the government’s manifest disrespect for the rule of law and the right to civil liberties.
In the early 1970s it was revealed that there were police spies posing as students on campus and that some genuine students had been approached to work as informants in exchange for financial rewards. A few police spies rose to positions of prominence in student politics. Graham Dominy remembers trying to persuade the very capable Wits student Craig Williamson to stand for election as NUSAS president, prior to his unmasking as a government agent. There were also frequent police raids on the Alan Taylor Residence in Wentworth, one of the worst being a pre-dawn visitation on 19 August 1976 when every student and some staff members were turned out of bed.

As in the 1950s, issues of broader national interest also attracted student responses. For example, in March 1964 there were campus protest meetings followed by downtown placard demonstrations against the Bantu Law Amendment Bill. The following month there were protests against the government’s forced removal of ‘black spots’, black settlements inconveniently situated in terms of apartheid policy. Yet another cause for concern was the growing list of banned books, numbering more than 10 000 by 1965.

During the 1960s and 1970s South Africa’s universities lost numerous staff members and recently graduated alumni to other countries because they saw no secure future for themselves or their children by remaining. Malherbe made several appeals to the youth, in particular, to stay and defend the democratic principles in which they believed and to embrace ‘the greatest adventure in citizenship of any country in the world’. He called upon them to assist South Africa to resolve ‘the greatest problem that faces the world today, namely, how different races can live together and get on well with each other in the same country’.

In May 1961 a student body meeting in Pietermaritzburg anticipated calls that were to be made 30 years later when it proposed a National Convention ‘truly representative of all South Africans, at which the bases for the establishment of democratic government may be laid’. Yet in June 1961 a student relations conference held in the same centre in an effort to establish closer contact amongst the University’s various campuses was poorly attended by local students and not at all by those studying at Howard College. The vast majority of attendees were ‘non-Europeans’ from Durban who slept overnight on mattresses on the YMCA floor in Edendale.

The campus newspapers Dome and its senior counterpart Nux continued to provide useful training for aspirant journalists. Both consistently reflected the anti-apartheid sentiment on both campuses in connection with a variety of issues. In March 1961, for example, Nux decried the inadequate conditions
at the new college for Indians on the site of the former naval barracks at Salisbury Island. Both campus newspapers were assisted with news stories, feature articles and photographs following the formation in December 1964 of the South African National Student Press Association (SANSPA), in which former Nux editor Gavin Stewart was involved.

*Dome* was voted best student newspaper of 1968 when SANSPA held its first-ever competition. Unfortunately, by 1972 the publication of *Dome* had become somewhat erratic due to a lack of active support that, in part, reflected the recurring problem of student apathy. The production of *Nux* was more stable and in 1965 it embarked on a disconcerting survey of African incomes, as well as living costs and conditions in Pietermaritzburg and among the University’s own employees.

From the 1960s the Day of Affirmation of Academic Freedom was observed annually at both centres, highlighted by a series of distinguished speakers including Eton and Charterhouse headmaster Dr Robert Birley. Yet for all the anti-apartheid sentiment and vigorous defence of academic freedom, enthusiasm for NUSAS ebbed and flowed in both centres as it had done in previous decades. In July 1961 Howard College hosted the organisation’s annual conference, though the Durban delegation did stage a brief walk out in response to R. Ragaven’s allegations of colour discrimination in the University on behalf of the ‘non-European’ SRC. Pietermaritzburg played host three years later.

During the 1960s, NUSAS remained one of the few organisations that still openly voiced its opposition to the National Party government, prompting Prime Minister B.J. Vorster to describe it as ‘a cancer in the life of South Africa that must be cut out’. The English-language press unanimously supported NUSAS against his attack and less than 30 Natal students immediately heeded his call to resign from it, though more were to follow.

In 1965 the African nationalist element making its presence felt at Wentworth persuaded the Non-European Section by a majority of four votes to disaffiliate from NUSAS. It alleged that the organisation was attempting to ‘dilute the militancy of the Non-White students’ in the hope of thereby preventing ‘a national and united struggle of all the oppressed people’. Two months later, after a rowdy five-hour debate, the ‘non-Europeans’ opted by 64 votes to 32 to re-affiliate. It was a decision that NUSAS president-elect Ian Robertson described as ‘a victory over racialism’, but it was also an indication of hardening attitudes along racial lines.
In the same year, following numerous resignations from NUSAS, the Howard College campus fell into line with other centres when it opted to remain affiliated to the organisation but without the automatic enrolment of its students individually as members. In this way it circumvented what had been an issue of student controversy and governmental criticism. In 1963, after several resignations from NUSAS, the Pietermaritzburg student body had already rejected such a proposal by a substantial majority.

In 1964 their former SRC president Maeder Osler served as NUSAS vice-president and later president while the following year Durban’s SRC president, twenty-year-old Ian Robertson, became the first Durban-based student in the 41-year history of the organisation to be elected as its president (for 1966). Three other Durban students gained seats on the executive, including Robertson’s close friend Glenn Cowley, who in the 1990s was to become the University Publisher, as well as three from Pietermaritzburg, including SRC president John Daniel as NUSAS vice-president.

The Durban student leadership, with new SRC president Cowley to the fore, scored a major coup when, in June 1966, Senator Robert Kennedy, former attorney-general in the administration of his brother President John F. Kennedy, was persuaded to visit the campus. This followed a NUSAS invitation to address the national Day of Affirmation of Academic Freedom ceremony at UCT. The banning of Kennedy’s primary host Ian Robertson shortly before his arrival added a sharper edge to the occasion.

Following Cowley’s vigorous introduction, Kennedy addressed an enthusiastic 2 000-strong audience in the Students Union Hall with loudspeakers relaying his speech to another 18 000 members of the student body and public standing outside. In keeping with the speeches elsewhere on his four-day trip to South Africa he stressed the principle of egalitarianism, the importance of avoiding national isolation from the world at large and the need for youth to take the lead in effecting just change. Robertson was subsequently offered a scholarship to Kennedy’s alma mater, Harvard University, where Cowley also later completed an M.Ed.

The following month the 1966 NUSAS conference was held in Durban in the wake of the banning of its president and with government hostility towards it stronger than ever after the embarrassing Kennedy visit. What was dubbed the ‘crisis conference’, attended by more than 150 delegates, held firm to its anti-apartheid stance, electing Robertson an honorary life member and honorary vice-president and re-electing Nobel Peace Prize winner ex-chief Albert Luthuli as honorary president. Enthusiasm for NUSAS nevertheless
continued to waver and two years later disaffiliation was again debated and averted in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Perhaps for that reason the 1969 conference was scheduled to be held at Howard College but had to be switched to UCT, avowedly because of the difficulty of finding accommodation facilities on the Durban campus to enable a legal racially integrated gathering. It was really because a committee of wardens opposed it due to misbehaviour in the residences during the 1966 conference.

In 1970 the event came back to Natal when it was held at Camp Jonathan, at Eston in the Midlands, where Bantu Stephen (Steve) Biko addressed the delegates. He was a former NUSAS branch chairman at the Faculty of Medicine and immediate past president of the blacks-only SASO. This had been officially formed in 1969 at Turfloop in response to the mounting dissatisfaction of black students at what were perceived to be the ineffective efforts of NUSAS to oppose apartheid ideology.

Thereafter it was reluctantly accepted that, with the decline of black membership in NUSAS gathering momentum, SASO had become the only body that could adequately represent black students in South Africa. NUSAS blamed the policy of apartheid for the emergence of SASO, but resolved to seek maximum co-operation with it in the belief that, although it was a racially exclusive organisation, like NUSAS non-racialism was its ultimate goal.

In addition, NUSAS adopted a new constitution. This involved a structural change in which the former contested system of centre affiliation by the SRCs was retained but three new organisations were formed which students could join on an individual basis. These were NUSED, a students’ education department, NUSWEL, a students’ welfare department and Aquarius, a cultural and intellectual forum. It was an obvious attempt to reconcile earlier disagreements between those members who advocated the traditional centre-based affiliation and those who pleaded for membership based on individual choice. By these means it was hoped to revive active involvement in the organisation considering that, for example, as few as 13% of students on the Pietermaritzburg campus were so engaged at that time.

Following a national seminar at Howick on Students and Action in Society during April, the 47th NUSAS conference was held in Durban in July 1971 and local SRC president Paul Pretorius was elected president. On this occasion the problem of finding non-racial accommodation was overcome by housing delegates at the Mahatma Gandhi settlement at Phoenix, 22 kilometres from the Howard College campus. The rapid growth of SASO again held centre
stage. After lengthy debate, it was resolved that NUSAS would not compete for membership on black campuses except where requested by SASO or by the students concerned. Membership of NUSAS would continue to be open on a non-racial basis and its various projects would still be advertised on black campuses.

Several NUSAS leaders and supporters were banned or detained even prior to the appointment of the 1968 Schlebusch and Van Wyk de Vries commissions. While the former was intended to investigate certain organisations including NUSAS, the latter looked more widely at all aspects of the universities, including their relationship with the State but more particularly with reference to finance. Their reports eventually recommended much tighter controls over student demonstrations and proposed that NUSAS should be deprived of its foreign funding and its political activity severely curtailed.

Thereafter eight of its leaders were banned, but the four subsequently tried under the prevailing security legislation were all acquitted. Other students, including several at the University of Natal, were interrogated on campus and threatened with possible charges under the Suppression of Communism Act. Graham Dominy recalled that when Schlebusch Commission member Bill Sutton (MP for Mooi River) spoke on campus he brought his wife with him, seemingly in the vain hope that this would moderate the heated reception students gave him. Nevertheless, *Nix* mourned the ‘lost art of protesting’ and reminisced about the ‘heady days’ when students held banner demonstrations and shouted ‘derisive comments’ at security branch personnel observing them from across Durban Road.

Not all students agreed. In 1975, after an abortive attempt in the mid-1960s, the first nationwide conservative anti-NUSAS student organisation and newspaper *Campus Independent* was launched. It had Wits at its centre, but also made its presence felt on the Natal campuses. In Durban, for a time, it caused some dissension on the SRC by leading a campaign to disaffiliate from NUSAS. The South African Federation of English Speaking Students (SAFESS) ultimately failed despite substantial government funding, but this was not the last that was to be heard of the conservative groupings on English-speaking campuses.

Meanwhile in 1972 the Pietermaritzburg campus came close to disaffiliating from NUSAS as there was ongoing uncertainty as to the organisation’s structure and what principles it now represented. In 1974 *Dome* took exception to a NUSAS appeal to students to refuse to do military service on the grounds of
conscientious objection and questioned what that organisation really gave the Durban campus in exchange for its annual R3 400 in subscriptions.

The following year a new University Students Organisation (USO) made a brief appearance, aiming to replace rather than reform NUSAS. It claimed to have the support of several potential off-campus donors because it was apolitical and concerned essentially with students’ benefits rather than their ideological indoctrination. The Durban SRC denied it affiliation on the grounds that it offered nothing that was not already available through existing campus societies and that it could not set itself up as a benefits committee.

The tide of political opinion was nevertheless turning in both centres. In 1976 Pietermaritzburg followed the example of its 1975 Durban counterpart when it voted in a 67.1% poll to disaffiliate. This was followed by the jibe: ‘Knock Knock!/ Who’s there?/ NUSAS!/ NUSAS who?/Don’t tell me you have forgotten already.’ Durban went even further when it downgraded its NUSAS representatives from the status of an SRC standing committee to that of ‘any other Club or Society’ on campus.

These developments were attributed to a conservative trend that currently prevailed on English-speaking campuses and to a NUSAS leadership unrepresentative of members’ views. Alan Paton, who had already considered resigning as honorary vice-president, objected to what he regarded as the ‘radical activism’ and ‘radical stupidity’ in which some of its leaders had become involved, coupled with their ‘virtual disownment of liberals and liberalism’.

This left only two SRCs, UCT and Wits, still affiliated to the organisation until its executive resigned and a ‘new NUSAS’ emerged with a revised constitution. It involved a redistribution of power that in effect made it a federation of SRCs. In 1976 Durban’s first-ever multiracial SRC voted to follow Pietermaritzburg’s example and, once again, re-affiliate. Graham Dominy contended that while the ongoing struggle in defence of NUSAS distracted students from worthwhile social causes such as the efforts of SPASEC, it ‘did have the effect of enhancing political education and awareness on campus’, converting some of them into activists who joined underground organisations.

Events took a different course for the University’s black students as far as NUSAS was concerned. Vanessa Noble’s research has shown that, as a consequence of the subsequent closure of the University’s Non-European Section in terms of the 1959 Extension of University Education Act, the medical students gained effective control of the ‘non-European’ SRC. Ever since its
establishment in 1948 that body had been dominated by humanities and social science students based at Sastri College and then at Marian Buildings.

Under the medical students’ control the SRC initially continued to focus on domestic University issues such as the quality and quantity of food provided at the Alan Taylor Residence and in the Faculty canteen. They also maintained the already established tradition of boycotting and picketing graduation ceremonies as a protest against educational segregation in general and separate seating arrangements at the earlier graduation ceremonies in particular. In 1963 the Joint Board of SRCs contentiously resolved that graduation balls would cease since these could not be held legally as racially integrated events.

Although medical students were prominent members of NUSAS during the 1960s, their warmly contested decisions in 1965 to disaffiliate and re-affiliate reflected an increasingly ambivalent attitude towards what had come to be seen as a white liberal, English-speaking organisation that did not really meet their needs. Noble has pointed out that, as in the 1950s, by no means all medical students were politically active. Others, like the highly articulate and charismatic Steve Biko, as well as J. Goolam, Aubrey and Keith Mokoape and Vuyelwa Mashalaba, were prominent in the 1968–1969 establishment of the more radical SASO. It represented a generation that was much angrier and more frustrated than that of its parents and grandparents.

Noble has highlighted how during the 1970s the Alan Taylor Residence became the epicentre of this outspoken organisation and of the Black Consciousness Movement with which it was so closely associated. Biko, initially registered in 1966, was eventually expelled from the Faculty in June 1972 because of his poor academic performance in the pre-clinical second year Physiology course. This was probably due to political distractions and time spent producing SASO’s Newsletter. He was also involved in other, broader initiatives, such as the formation of the Black Peoples Convention, the South African Students Movement and the Black Workers Project. As 1977 graduate Breminand Maharaj remembered, the medical residence was an ideal incubator for such activity with its concentration of intelligent and articulate activists drawn from a variety of ethnic groups and different parts of the country.

Malegapuru Makgoba, future University Principal, recalled the enthusiasm with which he and other medical students of the 1970s joined SASO. Many Indian and coloured students, like Kogila Moodley and Veronica Wilson, were ambivalent about whether they could really identify with it. So too were some Africans, like Ben Ngubane who reluctantly resigned from NUSAS
and, as Mamphela Ramphele recalled, vigorously defended it against Biko’s successful campaign to disaffiliate.

For all its limitations and mixed reactions towards student activism, the University of Natal did provide a relatively liberal environment that actively facilitated and protected open debate about current socio-political issues. Indeed, Biko was even allocated an extra room in the residence to serve as SASO’s head office after initially operating out of his own bedroom. By then UCT and Wits had only small numbers of black students while the closely monitored black campuses did not enjoy anything like the same degree of free discussion and political association, as evidenced by the absence of SRCs on several of them and their prohibition of NUSAS membership.

Prior to Biko’s death and the banning of SASO in 1977, the organisation dominated student politics at Wentworth and staged a series of commemorative functions, lecture boycotts, rallies and marches that maintained the political consciousness of its members. One such occasion was the mass service held in 1970 to observe the tenth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre; another was the 1972 three-day lecture boycott to protest against the expulsion of demonstrating students from the University of the North. There was also a campaign successfully demanding the resignation of the Alan Taylor Residence warden and a boycott of meals.

It may not have been SASO-inspired but there was even attempted arson at the laboratories of the Department of Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine that was thwarted by a vigilant night watchman and a technician. Following police action against students in Cape Town, protest meetings were held in Durban and Pietermaritzburg with fifteen students and a lecturer arrested in the latter centre under the Riotous Assemblies Act. The next year there was further vigorous protest following the arrest and banning of Biko and other student leaders and in 1974 there was a rally at Currie’s Fountain in support of an independent Mozambique.

February 1976 witnessed an angry demonstration against the government’s stated, but ultimately aborted, intention to phase African students out of the Faculty in anticipation of provision of a medical school of their own. This was followed in June of that year by a 200-strong march from the Faculty building towards the city centre in support of the Soweto uprising, leading to the arrest of 87 medical students. There was another in August against the subsequent intimidating police raid, by no means the first, on the Alan Taylor Residence.

Late in 1976, Council sought to replace the Medical Residences Committee with a Medical Students and Residence Liaison Committee in an effort to
establish a closer relationship between students and staff. Despite this well-meaning step, in 1977 there was a wave of further protests involving not only medical students but many others countrywide following Biko’s violent death in police detention.

Not to be forgotten amidst these highly publicised events was SASO’s low-key involvement of students in its community service health, education and building schemes, in some respects similar to the aforementioned efforts of the SPASEC in Pietermaritzburg. Mamphela Ramphele and Diliza Mji, among other prominent SASO members, were also active in this area but, unfortunately, these initiatives were stunted by financial and other challenges and were also kept under police surveillance.

As on the University’s other campuses there was another hazard: police spies in the form of students induced to co-operate either by intimidation or financial rewards. Some political activists simply dropped out of the University or opted for exile. A few, like Dan Ncayiyana and future cabinet minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, were fortunate enough to complete their medical degrees abroad.

As Noble has emphasised, while there were those who remained focused on their studies, many were faced with a difficult choice between completing their training to embark upon a professional career for the benefit of their communities, families and themselves or abandoning these goals to pursue the seemingly larger objectives involved in the struggle against apartheid. The latter option usually necessitated heavy personal sacrifice and, in Biko’s case, life itself.

By contrast Howard College had long been regarded as a politically more conservative, if not apathetic, campus than either the Faculty of Medicine or Pietermaritzburg. Yet in 1966 its SRC and that of the University College of Zululand met for informal discussions that doubtless raised eyebrows in government circles. Two years later the Durban SRC president, Anthony Williams-Jones, was called upon to mediate between the ‘non-European’ and Pietermaritzburg student bodies after a breakdown in relations between the two following the latter’s decision by 98 votes to 46 to go ahead with a segregated graduation ball in order to legalise the supply of liquor at the function.

The decision was roundly condemned on other English-speaking campuses and promptly reversed. The 1969 Pietermaritzburg SRC led the student body in passing a motion that ‘this disgraceful action should not occur on the campus again’ and affirming its support for academic and social integration. Nevertheless, relations between students in those two sections of the University
remained strained for at least a year, no doubt aggravated by geographical
distance. Later in 1969 Nux published a long article on the history of the
University’s Non-European Section and Faculty of Medicine, culled from
Brookes’ recently published History of the University of Natal (1966), for the
enlightenment of its readers.

In 1968 a Student Assembly was formed on the Durban campus to serve as
a link between the student body and SRC. It was recognised that ineffective
communication had recently compounded disagreements between students and
the University Administration. The new Assembly was intended to provide a
means of communication between students and their SRC concerning matters
of general student interest and serve as a means of forwarding recommendations
on issues of concern. This was to little avail, for in 1969 a Durban SRC by-
election recorded a miserable 18% poll as a further indication of declining
interest in campus politics. In September 1971, shortly after SRC leader Paul
Pretorius became president of the organisation, an anti-NUSAS gathering
attracted barely 200 students. Student apathy persisted into the 1970s with so-
called moderates gaining control of the SRC.

The Pietermaritzburg campus experienced much the same trend with many
students not even participating in Rag. Predictably, in May 1966 a staff-student
symposium on student apathy attracted a disappointingly small audience. The
SRC suffered from increasingly diminishing stature and students showed little
interest in its by-elections. In the 1967 SRC election only fifteen students
stood for the twelve full-time seats and attracted a low 54% poll. Subsequent
1969 by-elections revealed a similar lack of enthusiasm.

The SRCs were not concerned exclusively with their own survival in office
and continued to deal with day-to-day student issues. An important student
innovation in the early 1970s was the NUSAS-initiated Wages Commission
established on both campuses to investigate and, if possible, improve the level
of black salaries. As a result, the wages of the University’s own black employees
were significantly improved to the extent that the number living below the
poverty datum line decreased from 75% to 31%. It was an important step in
the right direction but Mark du Bois, Pietermaritzburg’s Wages Commission
chairman, pointed to the need for black worker representation on the Council
sub-committee that determined their wages.

The commissions’ concern extended far beyond the University’s campuses
and also exposed the inadequacy of wage levels in a variety of local industries.
Some Wage Commission members, like Halton Cheadle, David Hemson,
Charles Nupen and David Davis, became actively involved in black trade
unionism through Harriet Bolton of the registered African Textile Workers Union. A few were banned for their trouble along with their mentor, Politics lecturer Rick Turner.

The extent of student (and staff) involvement is uncertain, but in Durban the stevedores’ work stoppage of 1972 and that of the Coronation Brick and Tile workers in January 1973 set off a three-month series of illegal, small-scale strikes that involved 61 000 workers in greater Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Their actions brought them little material benefit, but did publicise the plight of many poorly paid workers. In retrospect, these strikes came to be recognised as a turning point in the history of black trade unionism in South Africa. In Pietermaritzburg, where John Aitchison and John Morrison were members of the Wages Commission and co-edited its newspaper Isisebenzi (The Worker), worker benefit societies were formed as a step towards the formation of the new wave of black trade unions. In addition, small salary increases were achieved in some local factories as well as for municipal workers.

Despite such initiatives, student apathy persisted on both campuses. In 1976, perhaps in an effort to enliven campus debate, the Durban SRC attempted to permit the formation of political associations on campus provided they were not funded by outside sources and the SRC exercised financial control over them. SRC member Harry Cheadle organised Protest Week that was intended to re-examine and redefine student protest and featured addresses by Alan Paton, Dr Manas Buthelezi and three party political representatives. It was followed by a Day of Concern, but only a handful of students attended to express their anxiety about the existing political situation in South Africa.

It was an eventful year, with former Durban SRC president Keith Mathee, who had led Durban’s disaffiliation from NUSAS in 1975, being pardoned at a student body meeting after he confessed that he had been a Bureau for State Security (BOSS) informer on campus. In addition, the SRCs in Pietermaritzburg and Durban both resigned, primarily due to lack of student confidence in them.

Before the end of 1976 new elections were held in both centres, characterised by the recurring lack of interest reflected in low percentage polls; 33% in Pietermaritzburg with some candidates securing little more than 100 votes and 24.5% in Durban. An attempt was made in the latter centre to declare elections invalid if the poll was less than 50%, but because the necessary constitutional amendment had not been made and the new multiracial SRC was not in favour of the proposal it was dropped.

The new SRC, which was considered to represent a revival of left-wing control of student affairs, unanimously expressed its sympathetic support for
the University’s chaplain, Father Michael Lapsley, who had been ordered to leave South Africa. It also indicated its disapproval of the Principal’s refusal to plead for the renewal of Lapsley’s temporary residence permit.23

Indeed, the fluctuating fortunes of the SRCs in both centres did not prevent them taking issue with the Principal and University Administration from time to time. The late 1960s and early 1970s were characterised by several disputes between student and University leadership that further increased the political tension on campus.

ENDNOTES


3 PAR 3/PMB 4/5/120 Ref. TC 54/205 University of Natal Bursaries and Scholarships: City Treasurer to Town Clerk, 1 November 1963, A.K.B. Skinner to Town Clerk, 9 February 1962, A.J. Lyle to City Treasurer, 3 April 1962, Town Clerk to Mrs E.A. Steer, 11 September 1962, Pietermaritzburg Town Clerk to Town Clerk, Kimberley, 15 May 1963 and Town Clerk to Registrar, UCT, 22 May 1968.


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THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL clearly did not escape the widespread student unrest that characterised South Africa between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s. This was largely in response to the National Party government’s draconian implementation of the apartheid policies against which all the English-language universities became particularly vocal centres of opposition. Political anger on campus demanded appropriate responses on the part of the administrative authorities lest it turn on those institutions themselves. In these circumstances the University of Natal’s choice of a successor as Principal to E.G. Malherbe from 1966 was vitally important.

The principalship: O.P.F. Horwood
That year was indeed a milestone for the University. Its first Chancellor, the Hon. Denis Shepstone, died and Dr George Campbell, chairman of the University Council, succeeded him. In 1968 a new Registrar, A.K.B. (Athlone) Skinner, assumed office in succession to Peter Leeb-du Toit, who retired after 30 years of service. But it was the choice of a new Principal that understandably attracted the most attention.

Council and Senate formulated a careful procedure for the appointment of Malherbe’s successor. The vacancy was not to be advertised in the press unless this was later found to be necessary. Council and Senate members as well as full professors were asked to submit names of suitable candidates, as could lecturers through their representatives in Senate or through the Registrar. The Principal was to write confidentially to his South African peers, to the president of the CSIR, the secretary of the ACU and prominent persons abroad to elicit the names of suitable candidates. The chairman of Council was similarly to approach those council chairmen of other universities who were known to him.

A screening committee comprising representatives of Senate and Council was to compile a shortlist of candidates before enquiring if they were interested in the position and, if so, requesting them to submit curriculum vitae. Senate
was then to discuss them before submitting its recommendations to Council in order of preference.¹

Prior to his retirement Malherbe had already cast a wide net for possible nominees and personally asked Sir John Maud, then Master of University College, Oxford, if he would accept nomination: ‘Though the job is no sinecure, there is no person to whom I would hand over this job more happily than to you.’ Malherbe added, ‘If they were to appoint a member of staff from either centre I would pity the poor devil because such an appointment would be bound to revive the old animosities and jealousies between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. This would be a pity because luckily there has been very little of this sort of trouble during the last seven or eight years.’

When Maud politely declined to relinquish the relative tranquility of Oxford, Malherbe expressed his disappointment declaring that he would have been ‘the ideal person to hold the job at the present time’. In addition, ‘it would have simplified matters for us considerably because already the headhunters … are on the war-path and the merits and demerits (mostly demerits) of local people are being discussed.’

A.K.B. (Athlone) Skinner matriculated at Queen’s College, Queenstown and worked in the magistrate’s courts there, in Durban and King William’s Town before serving as clerk of the court and prosecutor in the Attorney-General’s Office in Pretoria. He took the civil service law certificate at UNISA and was then employed at the Goodwood and Umtentweni municipalities and as head of the secretarial division of the National Development and Management Foundation in Johannesburg prior to joining the University’s administrative staff in Pietermaritzburg in 1953. He soon moved to Durban as part of the central administration’s migration there and from 1961 was assistant registrar for Student Affairs. Skinner took a keen interest in the various student clubs and societies, serving as president of the Mens Hockey Club, president of the South African Universities Mens Hockey Union and in 1966 president of the Durban Athletics Union. Affectionately known by the students as ‘AK’, he was respected for his competence and efforts to maintain close relationships between the University’s two centres. In 1992, the conference room on the Howard College campus was officially named the Athlone Skinner Conference Room in recognition of his fifteen years of efficient service as Registrar.
Malherbe also unsuccessfully approached the eminent psychologist S. (Simon) Biesheuvel. Others among the 39 names submitted who declined nomination were Sir Eric Ashby, professors E.B. Adams, J.F. Brock, E.M. Burchell, J.C. de Wet, D. Hobart Houghton and J.M. Hyslop as well as Dr C.W. de Kiewiet and Mr W.D. Wilson.

The internal candidates for the post included professors Owen Horwood (Economics), Ronald MacMillan (Education), Eric Phillips (Electrical Engineering) and Frank Warren (Chemistry). There were also three very eligible external candidates on the shortlist in Dr A.R. (Aston) Williams, principal of the Natal Technical College in Durban and professors G.R. (Guerino) Bozzoli and S.P. (Stanley) Jackson of the University of the Witwatersrand. I.D. MacCrone, the current Wits principal, strongly recommended the latter two as ‘good men’ and ‘pleasant fellows’ who had both completed successful four-year terms as deans of Engineering and Science respectively. Both were described as capable administrators and good speakers with a ‘presence’, Bozzoli being the more ‘incisive’ and effective at public relations while Jackson was considered to be more at home in the academic world.

MacMillan, Warren and Williams were subsequently eliminated from further consideration, with the remaining four going forward for interview. After a long process comprising four lengthy meetings the screening committee eventually recommended, in order of priority, the names of Horwood and Jackson for Senate and Council’s consideration with the former emerging as the successful candidate.

In his inaugural address as president of the Economic Society of South Africa (1963–1965) Horwood had attracted considerable interest by focusing on university finances in South Africa. This had already become a particular area of expertise in which capacity he had advised Malherbe on several occasions. Clearly, Horwood’s great strength was his interest in university administration and finances in particular, as well as his business and banking connections. It was almost certainly this apparent financial acumen that secured him the principalship.

Moreover, there was nothing in his record to suggest that he was in any way sympathetic towards the National Party government. By the mid-1960s he had projected the image of an anti-republican who disapproved of South Africa’s 1961 breakaway from the Commonwealth and feared its economic consequences. He was recognised as a critic of job reservation, a supporter of African trade unionism, a sympathiser of underpaid blacks and a vigorous
opponent of the bantustan policy because it ‘offends against every canon of sound economics’.

Malherbe congratulated both Bozzoli and Jackson on their subsequent appointments as deputy vice-chancellor at Wits, but expressed regret that they were overlooked for Natal’s principalship. He based his opinion ‘not only on account of your intrinsic academic merits, but mainly because I think that, in a peculiar institution like this, a man coming in from the outside would have had an advantage over a local man who may have been involved in controversial issues in the past and therefore may be regarded as less objective in his attitude’. In August 1969, after he had given a ‘superb’ academic freedom lecture at the University of Natal, George Campbell wryly observed ‘Do you know that we could have had Bozzoli!’

O.P.F. (Owen Pieter Faure) Horwood was 48 at the time of his appointment as Principal. Born in 1916 at Somerset West, he was the grandson of Pieter Faure, a member of Cecil Rhodes’ Cape Cabinets. He was educated at Boys High in Paarl where he became fully bilingual, was dux and senior prefect and secured four ‘A’ matriculation symbols. In 1938, after being awarded a South African College and UCT Union Scholarship, he completed a B.Comm. with ten firsts followed by a postgraduate diploma in Actuarial Science. He subsequently also passed parts I and II of what was described in his CV as the ‘Faculty of Actuaries’ in Scotland and worked for five years at the Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Company Ltd in Cape Town as a statistician accountant and personal assistant to the chairman, J.G. van der Horst. Horwood then served as senior lecturer and associate professor in Commerce at UCT (1948–1955). In 1956–1957 he was professor of Economics and dean of Arts at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland before being appointed William Hudson Professor of Economics in Durban. In that capacity he assumed the directorship of the Natal Regional Survey, which had already published more than two dozen volumes of information pertaining to the economic and social development of the province. In Rhodesia, Horwood served on federal commissions of inquiry into aspects of the agricultural industry and in South Africa gave evidence to government commissions on a variety of topics including distribution costs, industrial legislation and statistical services. He also acted as an economic consultant on several public bodies, served on the executive of the Natal Chamber of Industries and Durban Chamber of Commerce and was a director of the Netherlands Bank of South Africa, chairing its Natal board.
As an insider Horwood did indeed already have a reputation and his tenure as the institution’s fourth Principal was controversial from the start. On the occasion of his selection at a special meeting of Senate on 30 August 1965 only 49 of the 69 members (excluding the chairman) attended, of whom only 25 voted firmly in his favour and 14 (28.6%) overtly objected to his appointment. Malherbe warned that 50% of Senate’s support was ‘a precarious position for a new Principal’ but in the final vote between him and Jackson only seven senators indicated a positive preference for the latter and sixteen (32.6%) clearly objected to him. With tension mounting in both bodies, Council accepted Senate’s somewhat half-hearted recommendation of Horwood for the principalship.

At the time of his selection he was already surrounded by a cloud of unease if not suspicion that might explain Senate’s lack of enthusiasm for his appointment. There were vague rumblings of dissatisfaction among his departmental colleagues and expressions of relief at his departure as their immediate head. Even then, he retained nominal control of the Natal Regional Survey series with his name appearing as sole general editor on the title page of subsequent volumes though he made no practical contribution to them.

Horwood declared that, prior to assuming the principalship, he could have had the chair of Commerce at either UCT or Wits had he shown any interest. J.P. Duminy advised Malherbe that he had indeed invited Horwood to apply at UCT, but that he had subsequently withdrawn. It was privately confirmed that his application at Wits had been unsuccessful.

Horwood also claimed that he had been offered an unspecified ‘extremely attractive post (Chair & research directorship) at a leading American Univ’, as well as ‘an exceptional offer from Rhodesia … a Government plus private consulting post’. He insisted that this was the seventh occasion on which he had ‘turned down outstanding offers from elsewhere — including our own Government!’ He had done so out of a ‘sense of loyalty to Natal’.

On arrival from Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1957 to assume the chair of Economics in Durban, Horwood’s salary was augmented by £300 (R600) a year from the William Hudson Trust to compensate for an apparent £500 (R1 000) a year loss on changing jobs, but the Registrar opposed his request for a further increase on the grounds that he was also director of the Natal Regional Survey. Walter Adams of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland confided in Malherbe that he had ‘formed a low opinion’ of Horwood while he was there and that
he certainly was unpopular with many of his colleagues, senior and junior. It is hard to identify the reasons. He was selfishly, crudely ambitious and on occasion, frankly, dishonest. Many individuals in their relations with him met situations in which they felt he had ‘let them down’ and this built up into a general sense of distrust … I am sorry to say this, for he clearly has ability, drive and energy. Perhaps with ambition satisfied, the weaker side of his character will be conquered by his better qualities.

On his appointment as Principal, Horwood thanked Janie Malherbe for the good wishes extended to him and his wife: ‘We have always so much admired the charm and the dignity with which you have graced the position you have held with such distinction.’ On the back of his note Janie subsequently wrote ‘And this “charming” letter was followed up by hurling us out of Campbell House with less than a month’s notice.’ It was a reference to the apparent misunderstanding concerning the planned departure of the Malherbes from and the arrival of the Horwoods at the Principal’s official home on the Howard College campus. The relationship was to sour even further as Horwood’s contentious principalship unfolded. Above an uncomplimentary press photograph of the new Principal lodged in her husband’s papers Janie Malherbe later recorded: ‘The Camera Does Not Lie! /Hor(ror)wood/A man as evil as he looks.’

Horwood assumed office as Principal, initially for a two-year period, from 1 January 1966. Council announced his appointment with due fanfare and an understandable emphasis on ‘the intimate connection between his academic life and the everyday problems of both business and government, that fits him so well for the task as the University’s chief administrator’. At his inauguration on 11 March 1966 he declared:

There seems no good cause for saying that because a government in a Western democracy finances a university, (whether to a greater or a lesser extent), it necessarily has the right to intervene in its traditionally domestic affairs. And that remains my considered conclusion, even if, as I am sure must happen, the demands on the Treasury become ever more heavy and pressing in the future.

Significantly for what was to follow, he added a caution:

Freedom to run its affairs according to its own lights and discretion does not exempt a university from the general obligations of responsible behaviour and the need to abide by the established law of the land. The right to protest is a cherished right in civilised nations, but academic qualification is not a passport to licence.

At the time of his appointment Horwood was quite popular among students on the Howard College campus, having served as president of the Athletics Union since 1958. He had a strong personal enthusiasm for cricket and hockey, which
he had played as a student, and was the son of Springbok cricketer Stanley Ebden Horwood. His relationship by marriage to Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith no doubt also appealed to those students who hailed from that country.

_Dome_ welcomed his appointment: ‘Sincere, unpretentious and outspoken, the new Principal is undisputably the man to guide the University in the years of growth and expansion which lie ahead.’ No surviving record of student opinion at the Medical School could be found but in Pietermaritzburg, where he was not well-known, _Nux_ simply accepted that he was ‘well equipped for the arduous administrative task which lies ahead of him’ and looked forward to his ‘able and experienced leadership’.

An early discordant note, at least to student ears, was struck at the Durban opening ceremony in February 1966 when the new Principal announced his intention to improve the prevailing standard of student attire. While making allowance for the heat and humidity, he criticised their ‘shortest of shorts, bare legs and sandals, and shirts so casually worn that they are open to the third or fourth button’. Sartorial issues were soon swept aside by more serious matters as Horwood’s conservative political opinions led to clashes with more liberal-minded student leaders.

In March 1966 he did not support the uproar on campus when two students, David Barkham and Stephen Friedlander, were detained by the security police. Again, in May, Horwood was strangely silent when the principals and student bodies of all the other English-medium universities vociferously objected to the banning of NUSAS president Ian Robertson, the former Durban SRC president. He was also absent from the subsequent 1 500-strong mass torchlight meeting outside Howard College at which several student leaders and public figures, including Malherbe and Alan Paton, spoke.

Later in 1966 a men’s residence house committee in Pietermaritzburg was obliged to resign after a confrontation with the warden and deputy warden. Early the following year two Durban house presidents were suspended for three months following a misunderstanding over Freshers Reception. These incidents clearly pointed to poor communication between the Administration and student leadership. Several other issues of dispute followed, which led to complaints that student leaders were being treated like school prefects and student opinion largely ignored.

To his credit, Horwood did lead a three-member delegation of university principals who visited the Minister of Education, Senator Jan de Klerk, to discuss the new Universities Amendment Act and the Extension of University
Education Amendment Act that threatened to enforce even stricter apartheid on all campuses. Yet he remained silent on the outcome of those talks. By mid-1967 Horwood was accusing part of the Durban SRC, under the leadership of future Democratic Party MP R. (Roger) Hulley, and Dome editor D. (David) Hemson of consistently challenging ‘routine decisions’ taken by him and of questioning the ‘good faith and competence’ of the University Administration and of the staff-student liaison committee. He denied that it was his intention to censor Dome and insisted on his right to prior notice before students invited outside speakers onto the campus.

After a lengthy meeting between the Durban SRC and a group of administrators led by the Principal it was agreed that details of their deliberations would be kept secret until a joint communiqué could be issued. Five SRC members then resigned in the belief that the meeting had been ‘fruitless’, but Hulley persuaded them to change their minds. Council, under Horwood’s prompting, gave the Principal its unanimous support and deliberated on whether or not the SRC and student newspapers were ‘fulfilling a beneficial function’.

In a statement to the Natal Mercury on 19 June 1967 Horwood alleged that ‘politically-inspired troublemakers’ had invaded the Durban campus ‘with the set purpose of inciting students to defy authority’. He contended that it was the intention of these outsiders ‘to use the safety and respectability of an academic institution as a cover and refuge for politics’. He declared further that ‘If any section of the student body is not satisfied, they had better find another university’.

At least two SRC members sympathised with the Principal and argued that he was being victimised for failing to support a ‘particular party political attitude’. They also objected to the unilateral release of an SRC press statement after it had been agreed that a joint document would be issued. The SRC nevertheless called upon the Principal to justify his allegation that agitators were active on campus and, in view of his claims, agreed by a two thirds majority to offer its resignation en bloc to the student body.

Horwood short-circuited this procedure by withdrawing recognition of the Durban SRC as well as banning the proposed student body meeting. He also suspended Dome, having earlier banned the short-lived satirical review Spoke. The Assistant Registrar in charge of student affairs, Athlone Skinner, was instructed to assume the management of the SRC offices, where new locks were fitted, while a Council-appointed committee of enquiry completed its investigations. It was charged to investigate ‘the present Constitution and functioning’ of the University’s SRCs and ‘the organisation, production and
functioning’ of the student newspapers. It was then to make recommendations towards ‘the more effective attainment of a desirable relationship between the students and the other constituent bodies of the University’.

In the interim, Horwood banned six SRC members (Roger Hulley, Mike McNab, Owen Franklin, Gilbert Bell, Crispin Hemson and Dan Remenyi) from participating in any non-academic campus activities. In addition, former SRC president Peter Mansfield, later a Durban city councillor and chairman of its management committee, was suspended from classes. This followed his address to a prohibited student body meeting and a 600-strong march on the Administration Building to request the Principal to prove his allegations. After a 30-minute wait the students had dispersed without eliciting a response. The bannings imposed on student leaders were all subsequently lifted. With the benefit of hindsight, it was all probably an ill-considered reaction on Horwood’s part to the expression on campus of political opinions with which he did not agree, but should have tolerated. After all, the 1960s were an era of student unrest not only in South Africa but in several other parts of the world.

The Academic Staff Association and Convocation both formally expressed their concern at the deteriorating situation on campus while student anger soon spread to the other centre. When Horwood arrived at a function to observe the National Day of Affirmation of Academic and Human Freedom in Pietermaritzburg, 40 local and Durban students confronted him with placards that read ‘Give Us The Facts’, ‘Prove or Retract’, ‘Substantiate Political Allegations’ and ‘Principle or Principal’.

As news of the crisis broke on other campuses L.S. (Lawrence) Robinson, chairman of Council, found it necessary to refute the ‘grave fears’ expressed by the SRC presidents of Rhodes, UCT and Wits, who met Horwood in Durban. They strongly suspected that he was secretly exploiting the current crisis to re-shape student government structures at the University of Natal. Council subsequently approved the Principal’s handling of the crisis by seventeen votes to three, but the report of its own committee of inquiry, which was eventually submitted on 15 June 1968, proved to be only partly supportive and in several respects very critical of his actions.

Justice A.B. Harcourt who chaired the committee was an NUC (BA 1937, LLB 1939) and Oxford (BCL 1947) graduate as well as a distinguished member of the Bench. The other two members were Professor D.V. (Denis) Cowen, a well-known lawyer and former dean of Law at UCT, and L.J.T. (Lucien) Biebuyck, Director of Education in Natal and a government representative on Council. The committee took oral and written evidence from a wide range of
student and staff constituencies within the University and from both NUSAS and the ASB. In all, it received oral evidence from 65 witnesses as well as 78 memoranda including some from heads of foreign universities. In addition, the committee undertook extensive research into several aspects of the issues under review.

It found that there was ‘insufficient meaningful communication’ between the students and staff and between them and the University Administration. It rejected direct student representation on Council, Senate and Faculty boards as the solution, but it did favour the institution of ‘a properly constituted and empowered Co-ordination and Liaison Committee’ that would be much more effective than the existing staff-student liaison committees.

The Harcourt Committee also recommended the establishment of a University Club to promote closer staff-student interaction, greater use of students with regard to public relations and student membership of specified lesser committees involved with student rules and with administration of residences, sports facilities and other amenities like the Student Unions. It also advocated the implementation of a more extensive tutorial system, student input to the courses they were taught and the teaching methods used, as well as the appointment of student Faculty boards.

The Committee concluded that while staff should set students a good example in terms of behaviour, the in loco parentis principle was inadequate compared with a code of enforceable discipline and norms. The existing rules needed to be brought ‘prominently’ to the attention of students and the Principal’s burden with regard to their enforcement lightened by the appointment of new disciplinary officers in the form of senior and junior proctors. In addition, the authority of the campus Vice-Principals and the SRCs should be increased, but that of the wardens and presidents of Athletics Unions should remain unchanged and that of deans of buildings abolished. It was recommended that residence house committees and athletics union councils should also have disciplinary powers while the Principal should be empowered to recommend expulsion to Council subject to an appeal and review system.

The Harcourt Report recognised that it was the function of student newspapers to aim for ‘unbiased and reasonably comprehensive coverage’ of all issues of interest, to ‘comment fairly on news’ and to ‘provide an open forum for student opinion’; while also creating a training ground for prospective journalists. It argued that SRCs should continue to take ‘an active interest’ in the newspapers they published and could not ‘wash their hands of responsibility’ when it suited them. It saw no need for pre-publication
censorship, except with regard to noticeboard posters and the Rag magazine, and no need for staff advisers on editorial boards, although it approved the Principal’s idea of ‘student co-editors’.

The report contended that the suspension of student newspapers, action taken by Horwood against Dome, should not be resorted to and that both it and Nux had performed their function conscientiously. Nevertheless, a University Press Reference Board should be established to provide appropriate guidelines for student editors.

The Harcourt Commission disagreed with the view that students should not take an active interest in politics and express their ‘corporate opinion through representative student organisations’. On the contrary, the University ‘should allow students the greatest liberty of lawful conduct and the expression of opinion’ while for their part students ‘should behave thoughtfully and with due tolerance for the views of political opponents’. It was argued that students should also accept that it was not ‘the University’s function to be propagandist or consciously to take corporate political action unless University autonomy or academic freedom is under attack’. In such an event students were entitled to urge the University to take action, but they had to accept that the final decision in that regard rested with the University Council.

The report did not recommend any change with regard to party politics on campus, confirming that there should be no such activity with regard to recruitment, dissemination of party political propaganda or registration of voters. Student party-political organisations should not be recognised as on-campus societies, but SRCs were entitled to arrange political discussion forums provided they were representative of ‘all parties’.

Crucially, the Harcourt Inquiry found that Horwood’s abolition of the Durban SRC in 1967 was ‘not legally competent’ because he had not ensured that there was machinery in place for the election of a new SRC. Further, that the students who he had suspended at that time were not in any way influenced by ‘external political agitators’ and that the older generation, especially those in positions of University authority, should not be ‘impervious’ to the voices of young people who were disenchanted with society, but were by no means all malicious in their intentions.

There was some division in Council concerning the report’s findings. Malherbe, now in the more comfortable role of elder statesman, publicly endorsed the Harcourt Committee’s conclusions, pointing out that he knew the students personally and that a university could not be administered exclusively on the basis of ‘rules and regulations’ without ‘personal contact’. Privately he
expressed the opinion that the inquiry had emanated from what was ‘a most trivial affair’ and that ‘the whole elaborate prolonged investigation … is like using a steam hammer to crack a peanut’. It had amounted to little more than ‘a good smoke screen for saving faces’ as most of the students directly concerned would have left the University by the time the matter was settled.4

The Harcourt Committee also found that the Principal’s burden of work needed to be lightened because the assistance available to him compared unfavourably with the situation prevailing at most other South African universities. To that end it recommended that full-time Vice-Principals, one in each centre, should be appointed in place of the current part-timers, as well as a Dean of Students, preferably full-time and directly responsible to the Principal, and a Principal’s personal assistant or adviser.

Unwittingly, it led to another campus crisis. This time it involved outraged members of staff, including 50 of the 80 members of Senate who called a special meeting of that body. Their purpose was seemingly to censure the Council and Principal for resorting to a July emergency meeting of the vacation sub-committees of Council and Senex to appoint Dr L. (Lawrence) McCrystal as personal assistant to the Principal and former committee of enquiry member Professor Denis Cowen as Dean of Students and Student Adviser. The latter subsequently declined that position amidst a great deal of speculation.

McCrystal was a former senior research fellow in Horwood’s Department of Economics who had recently been appointed chief economist at the Industrial Development Corporation. Staff members were angry about the as yet ill-defined nature of his duties as personal assistant and at his appointment at a salary of R7 200, which was then the top of the professorial scale. They were also displeased at the transfer at short notice of Student Adviser Jack Dowley to Pietermaritzburg, seemingly to clear the way for the new post of Dean and Student Adviser in Durban. The Council and Principal survived the storm, though Senate did seek the assurance that henceforth ‘save in exceptional circumstances, no new major post which affects the interests of the Senate would be created without prior consultation with the Senate’, as required by the University of Natal (Private) Act of 1960.5

This did not bring an end to clashes between the Principal and the University’s staff and students. There were several other issues of dispute going back, for example, to August 1967 when a student body meeting in Pietermaritzburg expressed its concern that Horwood had not joined the principals of Rhodes, UCT and Wits in deploping the banning of Cape Town’s Dr Raymond Hoffenberg. At the opening ceremony in February 1968 he reiterated his firm
opinion that students had either to accept the prevailing rules of the University or move elsewhere. In April that year at a graduation ceremony in Pretoria he contentiously declared that in preventing the creation of a ‘one-man, one vote tyranny’ South Africa was ensuring that Africans would also eventually have a ‘full share in the heritage and prosperity of the Western way of life’.

At its final meeting in September 1968 the outgoing SRC (successor to the one Horwood had abolished) criticised the Principal for his ‘prolonged absences from the campus’ and for his ‘persistent omission’ to consult with student representatives that threatened further to alienate the student body from the University authorities. One such absence that year involved an extended trip on a Carnegie grant that enabled him to visit no less than nineteen universities in the USA, Canada and Britain and lead at least three seminars focusing on educational issues in South Africa.

By October 1968 Nux was criticising Horwood because of his conspicuous silence with regard to reports of police spies active on campus and of some students being offered financial reward for information about their peers. In March 1969 there was another stir over Horwood’s alleged attempt at short notice to postpone a Durban enrolment ceremony for 1 000 new students due to a private trip to Cape Town. In the event, the Chancellor George Campbell stepped in and presided over the occasion, but Dome feared it was ‘Back to square one’ as far as inadequate communication was concerned.

In the same month it was claimed that Horwood, threatening withdrawal of his permission to publish, had enforced the exclusion of NUSAS articles on academic freedom from the Pietermaritzburg SRC’s annual diary for students. The following month Dome criticised him for refusing to sign a 700-strong student academic freedom petition and for not attending a protest meeting that recollected the 1959 Extension of University Education Act. In that connection the newspaper reminded him of the sentiments he had expressed in favour of university autonomy at his 1966 installation.

Horwood did find time to host a lavish dinner at Jubilee Hall in honour of his in-laws Mr and Mrs Ian Smith of Rhodesia. In response to Dome he explained that he disapproved of students who ‘demonstrated in defiance of properly constituted Government authority’ and that, in his view, South Africa enjoyed more academic freedom than many other Western countries. Nevertheless, he alone among the principals of the English-language universities had opted not to associate himself with nationwide protests and when in Cape Town he declined NUSAS president Duncan Innes’ invitation to attend a lunchtime academic freedom mass meeting.
At the 1969 congress subsequently held in Cape Town after being refused accommodation in Durban, the Natal SRCs supported a motion criticising Horwood’s lack of support for academic freedom and his repeated refusal to become an honorary vice-president of NUSAS. There was another furore when the management committee of the Killie Campbell Africana Library, comprising George Campbell, Lawrence Robinson and Horwood, declined to accept the historically valuable E.G. Malherbe Papers and suggested, inappropriately, that they be lodged in the Howard College Library. The collection did eventually find its way into Muckleneuk, but many interpreted the initial rejection as an act of sheer spitefulness.

Rightly or wrongly, Horwood’s hand was seen in most of the decisions taken on campus as the majority of staff and students seem to have become increasingly alienated from him, though he did attract strong support from Elizabeth Sneddon. She argued that, like the ‘captain of a ship’, he deserved the ‘loyalty and support of all who sail with him’. Some speculated that she aspired to the role of first mate.

There was certainly some division of opinion on campus, with strong support for Horwood coming also from the Conservative Students Association. Its leader, R. (Renier) Schoeman, was later to be appointed executive director of the National Party and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. There was also growing public concern, especially among alumni like Alan Paton, about how and where the institution was being led.

By July 1969 Horwood had decided to move on. In a letter to Lawrence Robinson, the chairman of Council, he outlined what he regarded as the positive changes that had taken place during his four-year term as Principal and tendered his resignation in order to devote his attention to ‘other tasks’. Several months earlier there had been rumours that government had earmarked him for a political position and he had already attended a public meeting of the National Party in the Orange Free State. This might explain his increasingly intractable stance on campus, which culminated with his statement that the time had arrived for him to give his ‘full support to the Prime Minister as the country’s elected leader’.

Horwood argued that in B.J. Vorster South Africa had a Premier with ‘all the qualities of leadership so essential to our well-being as a nation, and one who, by his personal example, is bringing our people together as never before on a sound, workable and mutually acceptable basis of true national unity’. He also declared his support for the government’s policies, including development of the so-called homelands and not least its efforts to counteract ‘the subtle
demoralising influences of the “permissive society”, which pose so real a danger especially to our young people’.

There was mounting concern that Horwood might become the next Administrator of Natal, but in immediately welcoming his decision to resign Vorster announced that he would take a seat as a National Party Senator at the next session of Parliament. The party received him into its ranks, although it was rumoured that he had actually been a member for more than a year and was already in line for a Cabinet post. With reference to Senator A.E. (Alf) Trollip, Johannesburg’s Sunday Times famously commented that ‘As far as English Nationalists are concerned, if we were asked to say who would follow a Trollip into the Cabinet, we would say a Horwood.’

Most students and staff at the University were similarly delighted at this turn of events, but for rather different reasons to the Nationalists. Student leaders past and present felt that their worst suspicions about the Principal had been vindicated. When he appeared on the Pietermaritzburg campus a few days later, 200 students greeted him with boos, hisses, slow handclapping and posters welcoming his resignation.

Horwood effectively left office on full pay at the end of September 1969 instead of at the year’s end by virtue of accumulated leave. It was also appropriate in view of his decision to become a professional politician. Durban Vice-Principal Eric Phillips served as Acting Principal during the ensuing hiatus. A week before his departure Horwood was in the front row when Vorster opened the 2 500-strong National Party congress in the Durban City Hall. On that occasion the Prime Minister rejected Natal United Party leader Douglas Mitchell’s challenge for Horwood to contest a local seat in the forthcoming election, confirming that he would join the Senate instead. His departure from the University was followed in November 1969 by that of Lawrence McCrystal who had held the controversial post of personal assistant since October the previous year.

Even out of office Horwood attracted further campus controversy when, unlike E.G. Malherbe earlier and currently retiring Stellenbosch principal H.B. Thom, he was not awarded an honorary degree in recognition of his services to the University. When it was suggested that he might be allowed to retain the title ‘professor’, Horwood reportedly retorted that he had earned it ‘honourably in four universities’ and would ‘continue to use it for as long as I please’. His retention of the Mercedes he had driven as Principal was another source of contention long after his departure.
In January 1970 Prime Minister Vorster duly rewarded Horwood for flying the Nationalist colours so defiantly on campus by appointing him a Natal National Party Senator in succession to Alf Trollip. Within a month he claimed in Senate that he had been the victim of a liberal vendetta at the University of Natal, despite the Harcourt Committee’s findings to the contrary. Durban SRC president Paul Pretorius and chairman of Convocation Gordon Bond, among others, vigorously denied this accusation. The latter retorted that it was Horwood’s increasingly authoritarian demeanour that had provoked criticism from both staff and students.

On Malherbe’s behalf Bond also disputed Horwood’s claim that student numbers at Natal University had grown ‘40 or 50 per cent more rapidly than any other university’. He argued that while it had indeed enjoyed the highest rate of increase in the twenty years of Malherbe’s principalship there had been ‘a very considerable decrease’ in the growth rate during Horwood’s tenure.

In April 1970 when Horwood spoke at election campaign meetings at Montclair and Hillcrest, students gave him a rowdy reception and he conceded that he had been a National Party member for more than a year before his resignation from the University. His preoccupation with the English-language universities persisted for some time. For example, in 1972 United Party Senator Charles Henderson accused him of being a bully and demanded his resignation from the J.P. van der Spuy Commission of Inquiry into Universities. This was because he had compromised its impartiality when he claimed, with particular reference to Wits, that there was a minority group conspiracy on some campuses dedicated to subverting law and order and, if possible, the government as well.

In what was construed as an insulting reference to the then Wits Principal Dr Guerino Bozzoli, Horwood also suggested that the minister should in future consider vetting the appointment of all university rectors. This provoked yet another attack on him by Dome, to which, like old times, he vigorously responded. The University of Natal’s Senate, supported by Council, passed a resolution defending Bozzoli’s right and that of any other university member ‘to express opinions freely within the law’ and called for the matter to be brought to the attention of the CUP.

That year, mercifully for the universities, Horwood was appointed Minister of Tourism and Indian Affairs and leader of the National Party in Natal, but the following year he was installed as chancellor of the newly constituted University of Durban-Westville for Indians. In 1974 he became Minister of Trade and Industries and a year later Minister of Finance. Horwood retired
from politics in 1983, but continued to play a prominent role in banking for another decade. In 1998 he died suddenly at 81 years of age at his home in Stellenbosch.7

Amidst the turbulence among staff and students that characterised Horwood’s term as Principal the physical development of the University’s campuses continued unabated.

**Campus development**

In 1966 the first two lecture theatres in the new T.B. Davis Lecture Complex were completed on the Durban campus behind and between Howard College building and the MTB. The following year an extra floor was added to the Administration Building, erected in 1952, in acknowledgement that the institution had quadrupled in size.

In addition, extensions were made to the nearby Durban Centenary Building, the Students Union building across the road from the original Howard College, the Faculty of Medicine and its laboratories on Umbilo Road, and to the Alan Taylor Residence at Wentworth. The last named cost R100 000 and raised total expenditure on that facility since 1953 to R308 000. Another R5 500 was spent on finally providing it with a swimming bath while by 1970 the Faculty Building extensions had cost R856 000.

In 1968 the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering buildings were extended while work towards the completion of the G.C. Scully Residence Complex cost R889 000. It comprised the new John Bews and Mabel Palmer residences, as well as the Scully Dining Hall to service them, and was subsequently praised for its ‘innovative design and building methods’.

By the end of 1970 the Students Union building had been further extended by enlarging the refectory and adding a Principal’s Dining Room. In addition, accommodation in the MTB had been increased by nearly half with extensions to the north and north-west, raising expenditure on that structure since 1949 to R1 148 000. The Physics and Mathematics Building (later named after Desmond Clarence) had also been completed to the south of the municipal reservoir on Stella Ridge and in 1971 a new building was provided for the Department of Speech and Drama. Two years previously it had acquired its Open Air Theatre shaped, at Elizabeth Sneddon’s instigation, with earth from excavations elsewhere on the campus.

During 1971 most of the classes still given at City Buildings, except for Accountancy, were moved to Howard College while negotiations continued for the sale of what was now called the Oldham Building to the Natal College.
for Advanced Technical Education (formerly the Natal Technical College). The deal was eventually concluded in 1972 at a price of R178 000 and government allocated the University an extra R550 000 to replace the accommodation the departments of Accountancy, Business Administration, Education and Law had lost there.8

It is evident that by the late 1960s and early 1970s most of the University’s infrastructural development was taking place in Durban in response to growth in student numbers. Even so, the Pietermaritzburg campus also experienced improvements when from 1967 separate accommodation was provided for Education, Educational Psychology and Psychology on the new Golf Road campus at a cost of R415 000 by 1970. In addition, by then R1 680 000 had been spent on extensions to the accommodation of the Biological Sciences and the Physics Department as well as to the William O’Brien Residence and Eleanor Russell Hall. Between 1967 and 1969 Malherbe Hall was almost completed on the other side of the Durban Road (now Alan Paton Avenue) to provide more on-site accommodation for both men and women. By 1970 a further R100 000 had been spent towards completing the new Denison residence on the Golf Road campus as well as on the beginnings of an Olympic-size swimming pool.

By then the amount spent on new buildings, renovations and the acquisition of land in Pietermaritzburg since 1945 was not much less than that spent in Durban, amounting to R4 533 000 compared to R4 592 000. Since its foundation the University had spent R13 521 000 on buildings and land in both centres. Planning and development officer Paul Connell estimated that at least another R12 million would have to be spent by 1980 to facilitate its ongoing development on the basis of the previous approximate doubling of student numbers every ten years.

The establishment of his office in 1964 had been an acknowledgement of the need for forward planning. He was quick to point out that although both city councils had been generous in their allocation of land to the University, Durban’s 163.5 hectare (404 acre) campus barely comprised the 162 hectares (400 acres) considered the minimum viable for adequate urban university development in Europe and America. Moreover, approximately 40% of its terrain was too steep for economical construction or for playing field development. By contrast, the much smaller 97 hectare (240 acres) Pietermaritzburg campus, including the new golf course site, readily lent itself to expansion.9

When, in 1968, the government launched a commission of inquiry into South Africa’s white universities, chaired by Justice J. van Wyk de Vries,
the University went to great lengths to contribute towards its far-reaching investigations. These included, among other issues, the possible future development, subsidy and finance of such institutions, their nature and relationship with the State, staff-student ratios, the content of courses, the availability of bursaries and loans, examinations and failure rates, and the activities and control of their students. Contributions towards the University’s written and oral submissions to the commission were invited under various headings from senior office bearers, staff members through their deans and from the staff associations. A Senex sub-committee on academic planning and policy was established to gather relevant information and prioritise perceived problems.

Unsurprisingly, special attention was given to funding and staff salaries and to the financial backlog that needed to be overcome because the University’s two centres had previously been treated as one institution. The Academic Staff and Lecturers associations submitted a joint statement on the educational and academic aspects of the University and there were other submissions on future development, the nature and function of the University, part-time students and student activities. Following its interim report in 1969 there were some expectations of a new deal arising out of the commission’s prolonged, but seemingly thorough, deliberations. This included the prospect of significantly improved salary scales with which to attract new staff.

Unfortunately, its eagerly awaited final report was long delayed, Justice van Wyk de Vries having returned to his full-time duties on the Transvaal Bench. Following its eventual publication in its entirety in 1974 there was further extensive input by way of comment and criticism from various sources within the University. These included the response of the AFC, supported by the two staff associations. They were all subsequently collated and sent by Council as its informed opinion to the CUP and to the Secretary for National Education for information.10

In the interim, in 1972 a development plan for the period to 1985 was at last produced for Council’s consideration in a somewhat belated effort to zone the University’s Durban campus more appropriately than had hitherto been the case. Realistically, it was acknowledged that not much could be done to change the appearance of the very ‘dissimilar and aesthetically conflicting buildings’ that already characterised Stella Ridge.

As Connell had earlier indicated, these reflected prevailing financial circumstances as well as the ‘quiescent periods’ between phases of building activity during which architectural trends had changed. He gave the assurance
that this was characteristic of many universities that lacked a ‘consistent architectural image’. While these could tell an ‘interesting story’ some homogeneity could still be achieved, as in Pietermaritzburg where red face brick had set the tone, by means of successful face-lifts and re-landscaping.

It was hoped that with careful planning, in Durban ‘at least the western aspect of the academic complex will provide a united front rather than a patchwork quilt’. It was resolved that academic buildings would continue to be sited along the Ridge to ensure teaching functions remained relatively compact within a five-minute walking radius and the grouping of facilities was largely retained. The eastern slope of the campus was to remain primarily devoted to residential development but with the retention of some recreational space while sports facilities would be concentrated on the western campus. However, the latter proposal was subsequently modified when in 1973 the NPA first raised the possibility of constructing a new hospital for white patients that might eventually provide a home for a white medical school.

It was estimated that by 1985 the student population of the Durban campus would have grown to between 8 000 and 10 000, but it was recommended that this should be restricted to the latter figure. King George V Avenue remained an issue of contention running as it did through the academic centre of the Howard College campus. There were ongoing discussions involving the University’s consulting engineers, the City Engineer and the municipal Traffic Department as to whether or not it could be closed to through traffic. If so, it could then become a cul-de-sac available to University vehicles only with the new Library constructed over a portion of it and adjacent to the Students Union building. A Great Hall was also envisaged, possibly situated north of the Jubilee Gardens. This would be in close proximity to an Intimate Theatre and the envisaged School of Music complex, complete with a 500-seater recital room and a stage big enough for an 80-piece orchestra.

In 1970 Council contemplated moving the University Administration to the centrally placed Howard College building, along with Convocation offices and staff refreshment facilities, while adapting the hall there into a Council and Senate Chamber. The Faculty of Law in Durban would then be able to take up residence in the existing Administration Building. Instead, in 1972 that Faculty was moved from town into the MTB, complete with its own M.J. Sweeney Library. In addition, the extensions for Chemical and Electrical Engineering were finished.

By then nearly half of the massive D.G. (Denis) Shepstone Building had also been completed on what Malherbe had earlier facetiously described as
the back-side’ of the Howard College campus. There, he had envisaged, all the ‘talkie-talkie’ subjects would appropriately be accommodated, though ultimately not all of the Humanities and Social Science disciplines were consigned to it. It was situated on the western slope behind Howard College and new Chemistry and Engineering Buildings and necessitated the demolition of several smaller structures accommodating the aeronautical laboratory, maintenance workshops, boiler room and storerooms.

Despite financial delays, Shepstone Building, designed by Professor of Architecture Leslie Croft, was completed in record time by using prefabricated building materials. Full use was made of the natural slope to install several levels of air-conditioned lecture theatres, studios, offices, storerooms and parking garages as well as an upper and lower concourse where students could socialise and various service kiosks were later installed. At the formal opening ceremony in September 1973, a bust of the late former Chancellor Denis Shepstone, sculpted by alumnus Mary Stainbank, was unveiled in the main entrance at the upper floor level by his widow Mrs R. Evans.

The complex was completed with a large student car park outside the lowest level from which there was access by escalator, lift and stairs. The departments that moved in between 1973 and 1975 included Accounting, Architecture and Allied Disciplines (Quantity Surveying, Building Science and Town Planning), the Audio-Visual Unit, Business Administration, Economics, Education, Educational Psychology, History and Political Science.

The design and materials used in the building attracted mixed reviews. While its functionality and the attempt to balance that with aestheticism was generally acknowledged, some likened the interior concourses with their overhead walkways and steel girders to an oil refinery, others to a modern penitentiary. Its appearance from the exterior car park below was likened to a giant meccano structure while on the approach from the Howard College ridge soft green lawn gave way to low maintenance concrete paving.

The existing Shepstone Residence on the Durban campus was appropriately renamed after one of the University’s major benefactors, Sir Charles Smith. The University’s first chairman of Council and second Chancellor was also not forgotten with the naming of the George G. Campbell Biological Sciences Building. This was in recognition of his services to the University and abiding interest in biological science and wild life conservation. Finished in 1976, the building was intended to complete the southern precinct of the Howard College campus along with the new 1972 Mathematics/Physics Building and the new Science Lecture Theatre Complex. The latter was finished in 1975
with eight lecture theatres of varying size up to 300 seats and equipped with modern teaching aids. In July of that year the complex demonstrated its value by hosting the South African Physics Conference.

The three floors added to the existing three-storey Electrical Engineering Building built in 1965 not only provided that department with ample accommodation, but also a complete floor for the Computer Centre. There were also major additions to the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Building, the former Paint Research Building was occupied by Applied Chemistry, a new floor was added to the Administration Building and a house at the northern entrance to the campus was acquired to accommodate the Department of Music.

In addition, a new Stores and Maintenance Section was completed on the western campus where it was intended that there would be extensive development including a cricket oval, rugby field and athletics track with change rooms and a 900-seater grandstand. An indoor sports centre was also planned and the tender awarded in 1975, but all of these additions to the campus were unavoidably delayed to varying degrees by the shortage of funds. All but the indoor sports centre was in place by the end of 1976 and that was scheduled for completion the following year.

In 1973 the extension to Muckleneuk was successfully completed. While the garden was restored to its former glory, Library staff began moving the invaluable Campbell collection of documents, books and ethnological material into the new air-conditioned and fire-proofed wing with its special fire detection system.

It was not included in the development plan, but there was a considerable expansion of the facilities in the Faculty of Medicine after government had accepted their urgent need. These included two new lecture theatres, a five-storey teaching unit, additional laboratory space and the expansion of the library, administration, cafeteria and several departments. However, government would not entertain the provision of student accommodation closer to the Faculty building or the NPA’s scheme for the construction of a white hospital and medical school on part of the University’s new western campus.

In Pietermaritzburg the new Law and Commerce buildings were completed in 1972, after some delays, along with the first stage of what Council formally resolved to call the Denison Residence. Three further residential blocks were envisaged at Denison, each accommodating 48 students with 16 single rooms per floor, together with common rooms, a library, a sub-warden’s flat, a caterer’s
flat and a coin-operated laundromat. A nearby sports centre, complete with
gymnasium and change rooms, was envisaged, but the J.D. Scott Olympic-
size swimming bath was finally completed only in 1973, with change rooms
and a landscaped surround, after awaiting further funding.

In 1972 the University acquired the old isolation hospital, adjacent to the
new Education and Psychology buildings, for R21 100. This made more space
available for academic departments by moving the Maintenance Department
to those premises, which were paid for by relinquishing land required for a new
telephone exchange. The NUDF provided emergency funds for the purchase
of 141 King Edward Avenue, which completed the University’s acquisition
of the entire block adjacent to the original campus bounded by King Edward
Avenue and Milner and Coronation Roads. In 1975 it applied for all these
properties to be officially rezoned from ‘general residential’ to ‘education’ as
part of its phased expansion scheme.

A development plan for the Pietermaritzburg campus had emerged the
previous year envisaging a student population of 4 000 by 1985. The new
Faculty of Arts building, initiated in 1974, was ready for occupation by most of
the Faculty by the beginning of 1976. It was quite unlike the original Scottsville
campus on which a collegiate style of architecture had been maintained with
buildings, including the new Library, and re-landscaping seeking to define a
central open space. Instead, economical and rapid construction methods were
applied involving the use of pre-cast, pre-stressed concrete with all the beams
and panels cast on-site. Staff offices were fairly large but inadequately sound-
proofed and, on the north-western side, very hot in summer. In addition to
offices, lecture theatres and tutorial rooms, the plans included a new home for
Speech and Drama complete with an experimental theatre whose design was
one of the most advanced in the country.

A new lecture theatre block was also completed between the Education
and Psychology buildings on Golf Road and the Maintenance Department
was moved to new quarters at the eastern end of the campus. The envisaged
development of an artificial lake on the Golf Road campus never materialised;
and while in 1975 initial planning for a new Biological Sciences building
adjacent to the Faculty of Agriculture got underway, it was delayed by the
government’s freeze on capital development.11

There were also significant developments in the University’s library services
during the 1960s and 1970s.
Library
Following the departure of Dr S.I. Malan, the post of Director of Library Services was not filled and the unitary library system he had introduced was disbanded, much to the relief of many staff members. This was particularly the case in Pietermaritzburg, where his management style was considered autocratic although much had been achieved during his tenure.

As Nora Buchanan’s doctoral study has shown, the two Librarians previously subordinate to Malan, Milburn in Durban and Brown in Pietermaritzburg, proceeded to administer what became by mutual agreement a dual-centred organisation. Both of them became full members of Senate while the Joint Library Committee allotted funds to each of them and dealt with matters of common concern. There was a good working relationship between the two centres where previously there had been some antagonism, with the inter-library loan sections of necessity functioning particularly closely together. Milburn retired at the end of 1968 after fourteen years in his post and F. (Felix) Scholtz, formerly Pretoria City Librarian, replaced him as Durban Librarian. He was more than willing to continue the process of a centre-based devolution of authority.

Indeed, there was concern that the workload in the Durban centre was too heavy for one individual, involving as it did control over 52 staff members working in four libraries (Howard College, City Buildings, the Medical Library and Killie Campbell Africana Library), as well as in the Bindery and Photoduplication facilities. Consequently, an assistant librarian post, that of the departing Barbara Fraser, was upgraded to Deputy Librarian and in January 1969 E.W.O. (Ernest) Pugsley, who had already given ten years’ service, assumed the post. When he resigned in 1972 to pursue a career in the Anglican Church, E.M. (Molly) van der Linde, formerly in charge of the Killie Campbell Africana Library, succeeded him.

In 1970 C. (Colleen) Vietzen (BA Hons 1966, MA cum laude 1969) assumed an equivalent position in the Pietermaritzburg Library, having worked there since 1963 as an assistant librarian and librarian. She managed that facility in an acting capacity between Brown’s departure in July 1973 and the arrival in January 1974 of his youthful successor, Don Schauder. She was to do so again in 1976–1977 on his departure before becoming University Librarian in her own right from 1977 to 1996.

Schauder was to be remembered as ‘an ideas person’ who relied upon subordinates, notably Vietzen, to implement the stimulating changes he initiated. Change did not make him popular with all staff members but under him
and his successors as University Librarian – Vietzen, C. (Christopher) Merrett and C. (Carol) Brammage – what had been an adequate but not very dynamic facility rapidly acquired a reputation for effective management, professional information and education services, trainee and other innovative programmes, carefully selected book stock and, later, the efficient computerisation of all its systems. It was also to disband its banned book collection long before enabling legislation was passed.

As Colleen Vietzen recalled, the implementation of a new horizontal management structure encouraged initiative in decision making as well as a reduction in expenditure on expensive senior posts in the interests of maintaining a careful balance between the cost of personnel and that of essential resources. In the face of increasingly inadequate funding a formula was developed with the assistance of statistician T. (Tim) Dunne to achieve an equitable distribution of both book and journal funds to all academic departments.

The innovations that Schauder, during his brief three-year tenure, and his successors initiated were facilitated by the increasingly independent paths the libraries in the two centres had pursued since 1970. Each had its own Library Committee, with the Joint Library Committee now meeting only occasionally to deal with major financial and policy issues. From 1972, the two Librarians were responsible to their respective campus Vice-Principals and the chairmen of the two Library Committees reported directly to Senate. The complete separation of the University’s academic activities in the two centres the following year further promoted the already established tendency for the two libraries to develop independently of each other.12

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**D.E. (Donald) Schauder** matriculated at Grey High School in Port Elizabeth and acquired a BA (with distinction in English) and Higher Diploma in Librarianship at Rhodes University. He was director of the South African Library for the Blind in Grahamstown for four years during which time he completed an MA in Librarianship (with distinction) at the University of Sheffield with a thesis on the provision of libraries for the blind. Schauder developed a particular interest in the use of audio-visual library materials for university teaching. Prior to his arrival in Pietermaritzburg he was employed as scientific officer, Research Services at the CSIR, already had 22 publications to his credit and had been the recipient of twelve scholarships and prizes. In the late 1970s he emigrated to Melbourne, Australia.
Buchanan has demonstrated the extent to which funding continued to be a contentious issue. In 1966 the Library began to buy large numbers of back copies of journals and out-of-print books in what was then in South Africa the relatively new medium of microform. Ideal for items that were not in heavy demand, this constituted a huge saving in cost and storage space and microfiche/microfilm readers were readily installed in both centres. In 1967 the University was spending 2% (R42 883) of its overall expenditure on books and journals and 8% (R153 500) on total Library costs but this was not, of course, on a single facility.

The perennial challenge of financing the University Library’s dual-centred, multi-branch structure was compounded when in 1971 and again in 1975 the government substantially devalued the national currency in an effort to stimulate an economy that was suffering from rising inflation and declining real domestic growth (stagflation). This action had the desired effect of improving the national balance of payments, but it also had a seriously disadvantageous impact on the Library’s purchasing power because most of its books and periodicals were published abroad.

At a time when the University’s dual-centred library services were going their separate ways, the financial situation necessitated greater co-operation to avoid expensive duplication. The national Inter-University Library Committee (IULC) was formed to that end, but it met only once a year and its regional sub-committees had little practical effect. The Committee on Library Co-operation in Natal (COLCIN), established late in 1975 and comprising the University Librarians in Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Durban-Westville and Zululand, achieved only limited collaboration. It was to take another two decades before effective rationalisation of periodical subscriptions was achieved between the University of Natal’s own two library centres.

Meanwhile, the Durban Library Committee was aggrieved that its campus was subsidising the Petermaritzburg Library when its own book and journal resources were clearly inadequate. At the same time the latter’s committee was concerned that the proliferation of branch libraries in Durban would have an adverse impact on library funding in general. It was calculated that more was indeed spent per student in the smaller centre than in Durban, but in June 1975 Council resolved that henceforth there should be an annual allocation per head to determine the distribution of Library funds. It settled on a uniform R68 per student for that year, but while this was a substantial increase from the previous R26 per head, unfortunately it was largely negated by increases in purchasing costs well in excess of 50%.
By then four new branch libraries had been established in Durban. In 1969 the Architecture Library was opened after originating as a technical reference library comprising only building samples and other materials relevant to the Architecture courses being studied. It was eventually to become one of the best Architecture libraries in Africa. In 1972, in association with the establishment of a new Department of Music, a Music Library was launched. This was at the request of the first head of department, Michael Brimer, and was named in honour of Eleanor Bonnar, the donor whose bequest helped to launch a new collection of specialist books, periodicals, music scores and records.

In the same year a new Law Library was opened on the ground floor of the MTB. It was necessitated by closure of the City Buildings Library, which for some years had served the needs of part-time students drawn from all ethnic groups. Henceforth all library facilities in the Durban centre, other than for Medicine, were now concentrated on the Howard College campus and at Muckleneuk.

In 1973 a fourth branch library was opened in temporary quarters in the new Physics and Mathematics Building at the southern extremity of the Stella Ridge. It was largely a consequence of the extended geographical nature of the campus and all science and engineering literature was gradually moved to what became known as the Science and Engineering Library. Unfortunately in 1975, before that process was complete, 360 valuable rare items were stolen from the Powell Collection of Early Science and Technology and from a neighbouring collection of early publications through a window that had been deliberately left open for this purpose. Some of the stolen books were recovered in Europe and arrests were made. Sadly, at least two of the University’s own students were involved, one of whom committed suicide in his cell before trial.

The Science and Engineering Library remained in its new quarters until it was eventually re-integrated into the general collections prior to the opening in January 1988 of the new E.G. Malherbe Library at the heart of the Howard College campus. Planning for the new central library building in Durban had been underway since the 1960s to replace the accommodation in the MTB. This was already seriously overcrowded and did not lend itself to alteration to meet the needs of a modern campus library. Unfortunately, deteriorating economic conditions and weakening University finances postponed that development indefinitely. In the interim, the Library had to settle for some additional space in the MTB following the removal of the departments of Physics and Mathematics to their new building along the Ridge.
The accommodation of the Killie Campbell Library, acquired in December 1965 and housed in the Campbell family home, was also far from ideal for the purpose and involved additional expenditure to maintain. The first librarian in charge was Miss S. (Sheila) Speedy, formerly in charge of the Cory Library for Historical Research at Rhodes University. She faced a daunting task rearranging the collection according to a standard classification system in place of Killie Campbell’s own untrained, idiosyncratic method, which in practice had relied heavily upon her own memory. Killie’s traditional teatime hospitality towards researchers was continued but, despite her promising surname, the recataloguing process was to take Miss Speedy and her successors several years to complete.

The Pietermaritzburg campus also acquired branch libraries during the course of the 1970s, though except for the Chemistry journals most departmental libraries were transferred to the Main Library. A new Law Library was opened in 1972 when the Faculty of Law moved to its purpose-built home on the Golf Road campus in Scottsville. Comprising 48 reading carrels and 8,000 volumes, it was a far cry from the congested departmental collection previously available to part-time Law students at the City Permanent Building in downtown Longmarket (now Langalibalele) Street.

The following year the library of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services was transferred to the University as part of the Faculty of Agriculture’s complete administrative incorporation from the civil service into the University of Natal. Integration into the University’s library system, including the elimination of unnecessary duplicated material, took three years to complete and came with further heavy financial implications.

Indeed, as Buchanan has argued, the branch libraries in both centres were to prove an additional expense the University could ill afford. Fortunately, the modular design of the Main Library in Pietermaritzburg, completed in 1964, ensured that extensions could be undertaken without major building expense. By 1976 work was at last underway to convert the basement into a much-needed reserve book room, a late night reading area and an audiovisual facility. It had previously served as a parking garage and as a home for the University Press, the Language Laboratory set up in 1968 and some academic departments.14

By then Pietermaritzburg’s new School of Librarianship, launched in 1973 with senior lecturer C. (Cornelius) Mornet in charge, was already well established. The need for this specialised facility was highlighted by the University’s own shortage of qualified library staff and was first discussed in
the early 1960s. At that time the new Director of Library Services, S.I. Malan, seemed ideally equipped to take the initiative in view of his previous headship of Potchefstroom’s Department of Library Science.

Instead, much to Durban’s disappointment, it was the Pietermaritzburg campus that eventually secured the new school. This was due partly to the well-prepared argument presented to that end but also because Senate was anxious to achieve some parity as far as new developments in the two centres were concerned. Colleen Vietzen recalled that there was also some debate as to whether or not the new school should fall under the aegis of the Pietermaritzburg Library. For some years, under her initiative and that of C. (Christine) Stilwell, the two subsequently collaborated to run a very successful student fieldwork programme.

Both centres of the University were to benefit from the subsequent supply of locally trained staff. An incentive to acquire such qualifications had already been provided when, in 1970, the University followed the example of other institutions in drawing a distinction between library staff who were professionally qualified and those who were not. The Pietermaritzburg Librarian, Don Schauder, further promoted greater professionalism by encouraging library staff to engage in research for publication and began to formulate a new structure of specialised subject librarians as well as re-organising staff responsibilities to provide a better service to users. Colleen Vietzen recalled that yet another significant innovation during his tenure was the appointment of M. (Mary) Theyise, the University’s first qualified black librarian.

In Durban the establishment of branch libraries, coupled with increasing student numbers, resulted in a library staff:student ratio that became increasingly unfavourable in comparison with other universities. Fortunately, from 1975 the two centre-based Library committees, which had previously only distributed book funds and merely acted in an advisory capacity, were authorised to allocate funds for both books and staff depending upon perceived needs. Durban immediately applied for more staff and acquired seven of the nine posts requested for 1976, thereby significantly improving its service to users.

During the 1970s the need for improved reader guidance and reference services was a growing concern in both libraries. In 1969 Scholtz and Pugsley pointed to a possible connection between student failure rates and inadequate knowledge of library facilities while in 1973 Pietermaritzburg’s Acting University Librarian Colleen Vietzen expressed concern that library instruction
was not increasing, due partly to staffing constraints. Newly arrived University Librarian Don Schauder’s rearrangements subsequently ensured that the one and only reader’s adviser really could concentrate on reference services and provide guidance to users.

In 1976 his reorganisation of the staffing structure enabled him to establish a subject librarian unit, initially comprising only four subject librarians but later to be enlarged. Each was assigned several subjects, in which specialised areas they were required to catalogue and classify all new books as well as provide user guidance and instruction while semi-professional staff performed the more routine functions. The experiment worked well and soon gathered momentum. Durban was only to follow suit in 1987, after which the post of library instruction officer created in 1976 became redundant.

In the interests of improving not only user services but all its processes the University had already begun to move towards computerisation. UNISA and Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) had taken the lead in the late 1960s, with the former computerising its circulation system and the latter both its cataloguing and circulation functions. Malan had contemplated doing so as early as 1966 and in 1970 C. (Colin) Calvert, head of cataloguing in Durban, produced a detailed report on the implications of library computerisation but, as with subject librarians, it was the other centre that eventually took the lead.

In December 1975 Professor M.C. Boshoff, head of the Library Science Department at Pretoria University, was invited to investigate the feasibility of computerising Pietermaritzburg’s library processes after already playing a leading role in that regard at RAU. His recommendations led to immediate improvements in the cataloguing and classification procedures and were indeed to provide a basis for future computerisation.

The Academic Planning and Policy Committee was anxious that the two library centres should embark upon automation jointly and, at a meeting of representatives from both centres chaired by the Principal in December 1975, Boshoff recommended that a philosophy for future automation should first be adopted. Initially, however, perhaps as an expression of their growing academic independence, the two centres chose to move in different directions. In Pietermaritzburg a start was made in 1976 when, with the assistance of D. (Dave) Wallis of the University’s Computer Centre, an in-house computerised ordering and bookkeeping system was developed and implemented using the University’s mainframe computer.

On 18 June 1976, two days after the Soweto Uprising, an attempt was made to burn down the Wentworth branch of the Medical Library. It was reminiscent
of the destruction in October 1968 of the Indian University College’s library on Durban’s Salisbury Island. Although not nearly as devastating, it highlighted the extent to which the University was not immune from the more violent aspects of student political activism gathering momentum in South Africa. It might also have had severe financial implications that the institution could ill afford.

**Finance**

Government approved R678 000 worth of loans for the University of Natal for 1966–1967, R564 000 of it for new building projects and improvements in Durban. It refused a further R125 000 for that financial year but approved another R617 500 for 1967–1968, R449 500 for Durban.

In spite of the prevailing credit squeeze and the efforts of local companies to cut expenditure, the NUDF continued to be fairly successful in raising additional discretionary income during the late 1960s. In 1966 it collected a highest ever annual figure of R230 625 and another R210 000 the following year, which largely comprised contributions under the Technological Training Act. During that year 51 donors ceased to subscribe to the NUDF, but it was to the credit of its staff that it was able to secure 93 new contributors. By then the NUDF controlled investments totalling R770 840, R924 247 including loans and sundry accrued income. Greater success in raising donations was anticipated following the Minister of Finance’s decision to promote contributions to education by increasing the amount that companies could deduct from pre-tax profits from 1% to 2%.

This was just as well, for in the early 1970s the University’s expansion was again hampered by cuts to the agreed Holloway formula despite the 1968 Cilliers Report, which had been expected to improve the financial situation of tertiary institutions. This amounted to a 12% reduction in 1970 and 6% the following year. In spite of increased tuition and residence fees, rising costs resulted in a deficit in the 1971 residence accounts that necessitated drawing on reserves.

That year the University was authorised to borrow R2.5 million, its highest ever, but money proved difficult to raise and increasing interest rates even on guaranteed loans made the erection of new buildings expensive. This pointed to the need for greater economy in future design and construction. Even so, it did not deter Council from taking the decision that, with certain exceptions, either full or partial air conditioning should be included in the planning of all new buildings in the interests of maintaining the ‘working efficiency’ of staff.
during the summer months. It was to prove a mounting item of expenditure in terms of maintenance and rising electricity costs.

In June 1971 the University successfully requested the Pietermaritzburg City Council for the loan of R300 000 it had approved in 1965, but this was now to be repaid at 9.5% a year instead of the original 6.75% over 40 years. The City Council also approved an annual R5 000 grant to assist the University in paying the annual interest and redemption charges but this was only half the amount requested. Fortunately, the Durban City Council agreed to increase its cash grant from R8 000 to R30 000 for 1972–1973. This was as a result of a reduction in the interest and redemption charges on loans for the Centenary Building and for the purchase of land in Cato Manor, both of which were being met by the city’s annual grant to the University.

Fortunately, too, following the 1970 launch of its Diamond Jubilee fundraising campaign, the NUDF raised more money in 1971 than in any previous year. This income was allocated largely to paying the University’s share of interest and redemption charges on its approved loans, amounting to 50% on residential accommodation and 15% on administrative and academic buildings. The government subsidy still amounted to 76% of the University’s R6 412 872 income with student fees contributing 22%. Teaching salaries accounted for 49% of expenditure and buildings, grounds and equipment for 11%.

The University was authorised to raise only R2 804 000 in capital loans for 1972–1973 compared with the R4 200 000 it had originally requested. With an expected increase of only 4% in the state subsidy for that year, Council seriously considered a 20% increase in academic fees and the imposition of a restriction on student numbers. Donations raised by the NUDF continued to provide a valuable source of additional income, much of it earmarked for bursaries that directly benefited students rather than the University. Among the exceptions in 1973 was the initial R17 562.50 the Attorneys, Notaries and Conveyancers Guarantee Trust Fund donated. This was used to supplement the salaries of the four professors of Law and assist the discipline in other ways.

Campaign director J.H. Greyling retired at the end of that year due to illness and died soon afterwards. During a decade in office he had increased NUDF’s annual income from R40 000 to R440 000 and the number of its donors from 87 to 320. In 1974, A. (Arderne) Hulley, the retired regional general manager of Standard Bank, became part-time campaign manager with Mrs J. Tosio as full-time secretary. By the mid-1970s most donors were contributing on an annual basis, some particularly generously and with increases to allow for
rising costs. It was decided that Durban’s western campus sports centre, which would be developed over the next decade, was to be at least partly named after one of the major donors, the South African Mutual Life Assurance Society.

In 1975 more than half the cash donations received were uncommitted, making it possible to assist several departments in the acquisition of special equipment and books. In addition, that year three departments benefited from the R110 686 that the late Mrs Florence Powell bequeathed. Miss E.H. Rees, retired member of staff in the Durban University Library, left a third of her estate, amounting to R11 000, to supplement the library of the Department of Biological Sciences. The Natal Branch of the Mountain Club of South Africa donated R7 312 to support research on the conservation of the Drakensberg.

Not all donations took the form of cash. In 1975, for example, R90 110 was received in the form of engineering, scientific and photographic equipment. The following year Mrs A.M. (Minnie) Cook presented the University with former Fine Arts lecturer Rosa Hope’s collection of 230 paintings and sketches and Alan Hattersley bequeathed a painting of the ship Haidee that brought some of the 1850 settlers to Natal.

In 1971 the University began to computerise all its accounting processes and to convert all departments to a system of commitment accounting to maintain a tighter budget. The result was less inadvertent expenditure and a small surplus of R47 000 in 1972 amounting to less than 1% of the total budget. The hostels, particularly the Alan Taylor Residence, still ran at a loss due partly to the pegging of food charges for three years.

At the end of that year the University’s accounting procedures were transferred from the IBM computer bureau to its own Burroughs Main Frame B5700 computer, which Burroughs Business Machines generously donated. The gift was conditional upon hiring peripheral equipment at R5 459 a month on a five-year lease and, after its expiry, entering into a five-year maintenance contract at R1 550 a month, but it saved the University as much as R500 000 to purchase. It thereafter formed the basis of a substantially enlarged Computer Centre on the Durban campus, though initial breakdowns hampered accounting procedures.

Departments were now called upon to draw up plans for their own anticipated development over the next three years, including expected student, staff and expenditure increases, on the basis of which triennial Faculty plans could then be developed. Forward planning still continued to be difficult due to changes in the methods of subsidy calculation and the sudden imposition of a freeze on the construction of non-academic buildings, including residences. This was
imposed even though authority to raise loans was increased to R3 354 000 in 1972. The situation was compounded by the uncertainty surrounding the University’s possible takeover of the Faculty of Agriculture, the future of teacher training and the need for a medical school for whites in the province.

In 1972 lack of funds delayed progress on Durban’s Science Lecture Theatre and Biological Sciences blocks as well as on the new sports complex on the western campus. In Pietermaritzburg the finishing touches to the J.D. Scott swimming bath, including change rooms and later a rowing tank, were delayed and the working drawings for the new Arts Faculty Building on Golf Road slowed down for the same reason.

There was concern that delays in the provision of essential facilities might necessitate restrictions on future student intake, but in 1973 most of the University’s building plans and proposals for capital loans were approved after Professor S. Pauw, the new chairman of the Universities Advisory Committee, had visited the campus. Despite dire forecasts, there was a decided improvement in the University’s financial situation that year. This was due partly to savings on unfilled posts, but largely to an unexpected increase in government subsidy and its decision to pay for the vacation savings bonuses that had been distributed to ‘non-white’ staff members.

Sadly, the new financial formula contained in the eagerly awaited but long-delayed Van Wyk de Vries Report (1974) did not produce a sufficient financial increase to meet the University’s needs. It was based on student enrolments and the number of staff needed to teach them, with some built-in variables such as the degrees being taken and the seniority of students. Also, it did not fully recognise the contentious dual campus nature of the University.

Unfortunately, it did not take cognisance of the additional travel and administrative expenses involved, nor did it meet the full cost of the additional staff required and actually allocated the University less than it was currently receiving. Unlike the previous formula it overlooked the need for each campus to have its own library and senior librarian. While it accepted the need for a Principal, Vice-Principal, Registrar, Finance Officer and Dean of Students, it did not see the need for another Vice-Principal, senior administrative staff and a separate Student Adviser for Pietermaritzburg.

The state subsidy eventually covered 82% of costs, but the balance had to be found primarily from fees, which Council reluctantly increased by 10% for 1975. This amounted to R380 a year for Arts courses and R457 for Science options. In addition, the University now faced the prospect of having either to exclude or charge extra fees in the case of students who did not complete their
degrees within a specified time in order to compensate for the loss of subsidy under the new dispensation.

It was also difficult to break even as far as the residences and refectories were concerned with the former incurring a R16 600 loss in 1974. While government still paid 50% of the interest and redemption charges on all capital loans for the construction of residential accommodation, it made no contribution towards their running expenses. Residence fees were increased for 1975 by 15% to R610 in Durban and R635 in Pietermaritzburg where there were still no centralised feeding arrangements as all four residences continued to provide their own catering services. In 1975 the former centre showed a profit of R15 000, but the latter turned a deficit of R21 000.

Some additional income was generated by hosting conferences, particularly during the July vacation, when residences and refectories could be put to additional use. In 1974, for example, the Howard College campus hosted eighteen such functions with over 1 300 delegates spending at least one night in residence. Pietermaritzburg, disadvantaged by not being on a main air route, hosted five events involving 165 visitors.

In 1974 the cost of running the Faculty of Agriculture, including Ukulinga experimental farm, was R1 041 000 but it initially functioned under a separate approved budget. Fortunately, that year the University was able to buy urgently needed laboratory and other equipment with the R255 000 contributed from donations received under the Technological Training Act. Fortunately, too, loans to the value of R3 565 000 were successfully raised without too much difficulty for the further construction of academic, residential and recreational facilities. A further R5 335 000 was raised in 1975, as much as R2 027 000 of it for the new Arts Faculty Building in Pietermaritzburg.

It was feared that this might prove to be ‘the end of the honeymoon’ as far as large capital building projects were concerned. In 1976 the University was authorised to raise another R3 226 000 in loans, of which R1 468 000 was for the Biological Sciences Laboratory in Durban, but this was a substantial reduction from the R5 885 000 the Department of National Education had initially recommended. Treasury also reduced the University’s request to raise R6 691 000 for 1977 to R3 590 000 by the end of 1976. This caused uncertainty as to whether further cuts might follow, thereby delaying projected building plans such as the new Biological Sciences Building in Pietermaritzburg and another for Mechanical Engineering in Durban.

As far as annual running expenses were concerned, 1975 was the last year in which the Faculty of Agriculture was administered as part of the Department of
Agricultural Technical Services. The University Council insisted that it would not assume full control of the Faculty without adequate financial assurances, but its request for additional funds to assist a two-year transitional phase was refused. Government accepted the Principal’s revised proposal, but the funds to support that arrived too late to avoid the necessity to transfer the R150 000 that had been allocated in the budget for new staff to the Faculty of Agriculture. In addition, all other departments had already been called upon to cut their running expenses by between 6% and 12% in order to balance the books. Coupled with the 10% increase in academic fees, it was not the ideal way in which to welcome the Faculty into the bosom of the University community.

In 1976 the University’s provisional subsidy was R10 302 700 and it had to draw upon its Technological Training Act fund again, to the tune of R145 000, in order to balance its budget. Savings had to be effected, once more, by not automatically filling vacant posts. This was due to uncertainty about the additional subsidy involved in assuming control of the Faculty of Agriculture, coupled with increased salaries and the introduction of an improved pension scheme for which the government did not meet its full 75% share. To compound the situation there was a change in its policy with regard to the payment of staff benefits to non-subsidised employees, while the residences in both centres ran at a substantial loss in the face of rising costs. As a result R25 000 had to be drawn from their revenue account, completely exhausting the reserves in Pietermaritzburg, while funds also had to be found from other sources to meet the losses sustained that year by all the refectories.

By November 1976 the University’s financial situation had been further aggravated by Council’s earlier decision to buy past service pension benefits for its ‘non-white’ staff, by a projected 5% salary increase and by a reduction in government’s percentage contribution to the pension scheme, which increased the University’s share from 25% to 36%. As a result, a R375 025 deficit was reflected in the estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1977, a 17.5% increase in academic fees was mooted and the NUDF was requested to release more funds from the Technological Training Act fund to assist in balancing the budget. All vacant posts were to be frozen and cuts in expenditure effected wherever possible.

Appeals with regard to capital loans and adjustments to the subsidy formula could be made to the University Advisory Council, which in 1976 replaced the previous Advisory Committee. However, there was no direct university representation on it, the Minister of National Education selecting two representatives of the CUP who were in a minority. In the Principal’s opinion
the University’s financial prospects were ‘very bleak’ and consequently the extra income raised by the NUDF was as important as ever.\textsuperscript{16}

As always, good public relations were a significant means of attracting private donations to the University.

\textbf{Public Relations Office}

The Public Relations Officer continued to prepare numerous press releases and to attract favourable publicity through exhibitions and by other means. In 1971 Mrs A. (Annette) Gillies (later Clifford-Vaughan) was appointed primarily to edit official University publications and to some extent assist the University Press. In that year her office began to produce a new series of Principal’s Annual Reports that replaced those that Council had previously published in the annual University of Natal Calendars.

They proved much more informative than their predecessors and in 1972 the bi-annual \textit{Natal University News} was also introduced. It carried feature articles and colour photographs focusing on projects and achievements that soon attracted a circulation of 11 000, which included staff, students and Convocation members. By the end of 1976 circulation had increased to 22 000 reaching donors, parents, government officials and other universities. In 1975, 33 NU subject leaflets on non-school subjects offered at the University were introduced for the benefit of prospective students. These continued to be produced in subsequent years.

In 1972 a Public Relations Office was opened in Pietermaritzburg with Mrs L.M. Howarth as its part-time secretary. P.E. (Percy) Patrick was appointed Public Relations Officer and secretary to the University Press there, but unfortunately in 1975 he was unable to continue due to serious illness and died the following year. His wife Mrs Doreen Patrick (subsequently Hindle) succeeded him, thereby making Public Relations an all-female department.

She was responsible for all of its functions in Pietermaritzburg while in Durban the Publicity Officer, Mrs Shelagh Cameron-Dow, handled media publicity and organised official events including inaugural and memorial lectures. She also took charge of a new monthly campus publication, \textit{NU Chronicle}, intended for internal circulation to improve campus liaison by disseminating topical news items among staff and students.

The Publicity Office organised three important events during 1976 that included the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Faculty of Medicine, for which an 85-page brochure was produced and several thousand members of the public were shown around the training facilities. In addition, social
functions and a production of *Much Ado About Nothing* were arranged for a bi-annual meeting of the CUP. Third, a colour feature article on the University was prepared for the June 1976 edition of the national magazine *Panorama*.

**Central Administration**
There were several new appointments in the Central Administration during this period. Mrs S.E. (Stoffie) Mey, who later became a cornerstone of the Research Department, was appointed as a typist and subsequently became secretary to the Registrar. In 1968 Mrs E. (Eileen) Laws was appointed to the important liaison position of organising secretary of Convocation and the aforementioned Lawrence McCrystal assumed the post of personal assistant to the Principal, both with offices in Durban. In 1969 the Administration lost the services of Deputy Registrar Bunny Austin and the following year L.J. (Laurie) Hearn and M.A. Higgs began long careers in Durban as administrative officer (Finance) and assistant accountant respectively. In Pietermaritzburg Mrs L. (Louise) Heath soon became well known as an administrative assistant. In the opinion of the students she, along with the Vice-Principal’s secretary Mrs Cross, the Registrar’s representative Dulce Somers Vine and the Student Adviser’s secretary ‘Maggie’ Munro ran the institution.

Two permanent full-time posts of Vice-Principal, one in Durban and the other in Pietermaritzburg, were created in 1970 with their duties and responsibilities spelt out in precise detail. At the end of 1974 Eric Phillips, whose appointment as Vice-Principal in Durban had been extended a further three years, retired after a 45-year career on the Durban campus as student, lecturer, professor, dean, executive member and sometime Acting Principal. Professor Des Clarence succeeded him and in 1975 Professor Deneys Schreiner became Vice-Principal in Pietermaritzburg in succession to Ronald MacMillan, who had been well-liked by students but who, to the end, had continued to regale those who visited his office with the athletic achievements of his youth. During his lengthy career Phillips had seen the University experience decidedly mixed fortunes, including the turbulent times of the late 1960s.

Fortunately, the institution entered more placid, but sometimes still choppy, waters with the resignation and replacement of Owen Horwood as Principal.

**The principalship: F.E. Stock**
After Horwood left at the end of September 1969, Eric Phillips became Acting Principal until the new incumbent was chosen. As had been the case following Malherbe’s departure, Council and Senate agreed upon a careful selection
procedure that involved the consideration of nominations from various invited quarters without publicly advertising the position. Before leaving, Horwood was requested to ask for nominations from other university principals and from the presidents of the CSIR and HSRC while chairman of Council, Lawrence Robinson, approached other university councils.

Within the University itself Council and Senate members as well as members of staff were free to submit nominations and, for the first time, students were also invited to do so through their three SRCs. A screening committee was then to invite curriculum vitae from a selected list of possible applicants and decide on which interested parties should be interviewed.

Percy Patrick, who kept his ear close to the ground and regularly visited staff common rooms, privately reported to Malherbe that following Horwood’s resignation there was some debate on the campuses as to what sort of Principal was now required: ‘A principal in the old terms of a unitary institution? Or perhaps the wise and somewhat remote administrator of a federal system of two autonomous institutions?’ In this situation the notion of federalism, if not a complete separation of the University’s two centres, had re-emerged, with some staff arguing that ‘the federal system is not only coming – it is actually with us in many ways that cannot be reversed’. Patrick continued, ‘No one who has reacted is in favour of retaining the old unitary idea with a single overlord and a single administration predominantly in Durban. Most of them are now in favour of the federal system with two autonomous campuses and with a federal office dealing with broad patterns.’

Indeed, some ‘influential seniors’ favoured ‘complete separation right away’ while in Pietermaritzburg there was ‘open talk in the common room that we should not appoint one principal but two separate principals’. Patrick speculated that the new Principal would immediately find himself obliged to delegate powers to the Vice-Principals and could become the ‘figure-head’ of a federal structure or eventually be obliged to choose one or other campus in the event of a complete split. He speculated that both Vice-Principals probably hoped to remain in office for some years and would therefore support the appointment of a new Principal ‘in terms of the old patterns’.

It was indeed on those terms that the new Principal was appointed. Surprisingly few of the names of nominees for this difficult task survive in the official records. The then Wits principal Professor Guerino Bozzoli nominated eminent psychologist Dr S. (Simon) Biesheuvel, as Malherbe had done before, and Professor F. (François) Daubenton of the Wits Medical School. RAU rector Professor Gerrit Viljoen nominated Dr D. (Dawie) Gouws
According to the local press there were as many as 58 nominations, which the select committee eventually narrowed down to three for Senate’s consideration. One insider was the Acting Principal Eric Phillips, nearly 64 years old. The other was 52-year-old Justice A.B. Harcourt who had chaired the committee of enquiry into the University’s SRCs and student newspapers and who Convocation had subsequently elected to Council.

There was also a complete outsider, exactly the sort of candidate Malherbe had hoped would succeed to the post following his own retirement. After a two-and-a-half-hour meeting Council accepted Senate’s recommendation and settled for Professor Francis Stock who secured more votes than the other two final candidates put together. He was appointed for an initial two years, which was subsequently extended to October 1976, although he was to stay on for nearly another year.

The choice of an outsider was almost certainly influenced by the Horwood experience and by the hope that Stock’s professional experience might assist in resolving the challenges currently faced in the Faculty of Medicine. His appointment was well received by staff and students in Natal who generally agreed that his lack of any previous association with the University was a distinct advantage. Some staff members believed Phillips was unfortunate, though his age probably counted against him. Some students had rooted for Justice Harcourt whose age and alumnus status as well as the findings of his committee of enquiry obviously counted in his favour. Nevertheless, Dome sent Stock a congratulatory telegram and requested an exclusive statement from him for a special edition announcing his appointment.

The possibility of government disapproval of the appointment of a foreigner and his lack of Afrikaans, which was frequently used in the CUP, were swept aside. During the course of his screening committee interview Stock mentioned that he had learnt some Hausa in Nigeria and Cantonese in Hong Kong and would try to acquire basic Afrikaans if selected for the post. True to his word he did subsequently learn the language through a Linguaphone Institute course and, on arrival in Natal, by means of six-day-a-week visits to the University’s Language Laboratory.

Even before he assumed office on 5 October 1970, Stock made it clear that he was aware of the danger of poor communication and intended to establish good relations between students and the Administration. A reading of the Harcourt Report convinced him that the recent crisis in the University had
been partly due to poor communication between staff and students and to the Principal’s time-consuming off-campus commercial activities.

It soon emerged that Stock himself had been unpopular among Liverpool students as a member of a disciplinary board that had taken tough action against those who had participated in a twelve-day sit-in at Senate House earlier that year. The students there became even more alienated when news broke of his impending departure to assume a senior post in ‘racist’ South Africa.

However, during a week-long visit to Natal prior to taking up his post Stock was genial and affable. He made it clear that he favoured student consultation, opposed the censorship of their publications, even when they were critical of the Principal, and recognised their right to freedom of speech and to protest provided they did not disrupt ‘the mechanics of university administration’ or incite violence. His brief visit, during which he and his wife were extensively entertained, formed the basis of several lasting friendships in Natal, among

F.E. (Francis Edgar) Stock was 55 years old at the time of his appointment as Principal and was dean of the Medical Faculty and head of the Department of Surgery at Liverpool University. Born in Norfolk, he had been educated at Colfe’s Grammar School in London and in 1938 acquired M.B. and B.S. degrees at King’s College and King’s College Hospital before becoming a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons the following year. After taking a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the University of Edinburgh in 1940 he worked in the colonial medical service in Nigeria. In 1946 Stock became lecturer in Surgery at the University of Liverpool and professor in that field two years later at the University of Hong Kong. He served as consultant surgeon to the government there and to British military hospitals and the Royal Navy as well as dean of the Faculty of Medicine and pro vice-chancellor for five years.

In 1964 he gave up the possibility of eventually becoming Hong Kong vice-chancellor and returned to Liverpool as professor of Surgery. The nomination to the principalship in Natal came as a complete if pleasant surprise and Stock knew where Durban was having visited it briefly in 1943. Moreover, as he later conceded in his 1994 autobiography, at the time he was not particularly happy in his current post. He had already published 60 papers on various aspects of his field and in 1968 had co-authored a textbook on Surgical Principles for undergraduate clinical students. In addition, he had been awarded several visiting professorships and other accolades, not least an OBE in 1961 for distinguished services to medicine and medical education. This was to be followed in 1977 by a CBE.
others with the Registrar, Athlone Skinner, Des Clarence, Adolf Bayer, the ailing George Campbell and their respective wives. On discovering Stock’s enthusiasm for swimming the Chancellor immediately arranged for the installation of a pool in the spacious grounds of Campbell House.20

Stock was formally installed as the University’s fifth Principal in March 1971 and included a long paragraph in Afrikaans in his inaugural address. Indeed, his command of the language was good enough subsequently to become chairman of the CUP and to be appointed to the HSRC whose meetings were conducted almost exclusively in Afrikaans.

Introducing his first annual report at the end of 1971, and perhaps mindful of his predecessor’s experience, Stock observed that ‘It is sometimes said that in his first year a new Principal can do no wrong and in his second, can do no right.’ Thereafter he produced annual reports that were no longer mere supplements to the University of Natal Calendars like their predecessors, but separate publications financed by the NUDF and distributed to staff and donors. Another change he implemented in the interests of improved communication was to introduce weekly meetings of all the principal administrative staff, though disappointingly there were ‘a few regular absentees’.

For the same reason he also made every effort to make himself available to any staff member or student who wished to discuss personal issues of concern. However, in June 1972 he angered many of the former when he criticised those who had cancelled their scheduled classes so as not to clash with the teach-in student leaders organised in the Students Union Hall as part of nationwide university protests against government policies.21

In his autobiography Stock recalled that his years as Principal were ‘surprisingly free from all the student problems which remained a great trouble in universities elsewhere and particularly in the United Kingdom’. These had been prompted by a variety of issues ranging from overcrowded facilities to the Vietnam War and the threat of nuclear conflict, resulting in some cases in rioting, injuries and deaths. He did recall occasionally having to make unpopular responses to statements that SRC presidents made at opening ceremonies. Perhaps unavoidably, there were other occasions when he and the student leadership did not see eye to eye.

Stock was probably still feeling his way into the complexities of South African politics when, in March 1971, Nux criticised him for declining to request the Minister of the Interior to grant a passport to Paula Ensor, external vice-president of the Durban SRC and NUSAS executive member. His opening ceremony addresses became a particular source of student criticism,
perhaps because they were directed at impressionable first-year intakes. Dome described his first such speech in March 1971 as ‘the most controversial ever made by a new Principal’. It suggested that the University might have ‘another Horwood on its hands’ because of his apparent failure to comprehend the extent of the threat to academic freedom in South Africa and his emphasis on the need for students to decide upon a career as soon as possible.

A year later, in an editorial comment headed ‘Another Horwood?’ Dome objected to his insistence that the Durban Student Union Hall be made available every Monday of the year for ‘general university purposes’. More specifically, it was required for the lunch hour concerts initiated by Michael Brimer. While the students welcomed that innovation, the SRC insisted that the hall fell within its jurisdiction and that such a blanket booking would exclude its use at short notice for other purposes such as student body meetings.

This ‘second Horwood’ image persisted for some time, for his opening ceremony address was attacked again a year later and yet again in March 1973. On the latter occasion Nux described it as his ‘Stock-in-Trade Speech’ because he repeated the now familiar message that the function of universities was ‘the search for knowledge’, that South African universities were ‘as free as those in most countries and a good deal freer than some’ and that students should pursue their studies within the parameters of the law.

In February 1974 Dome objected to what it construed as Stock’s insinuation during the opening ceremony that students were ‘provoking worker and police confrontation’. On this occasion the editor suggested that ‘Our Principal must certainly be considered as a fine prospective candidate for the Chairmanship of any Campus Conservative Association’. Two months later it carried an article that questioned Stock’s understanding of academic freedom in its broader social context and his apparent reluctance to accept student representation in university committees because of their lack of continuity and non-involvement in many of the issues discussed by those bodies.

In mid-1974 Dome was obliged to publish an apology as well as a letter from the Principal vehemently denying the newspaper’s earlier allegation that he had established an ‘intelligence department’ on campus to gather information pertaining to the personal details and political affiliations of all staff members. In September of that year, Desmond Craib, chairman of the recently appointed Student Newspapers Board of Reference, met the SRC presidents to amend the relevant code of conduct. The need to observe ‘the highest standard of journalism and good taste’ in student newspapers was now included, though there was some disagreement as to how ‘good taste’ might meaningfully be
defined. In March 1976, *Dome* again criticised the Principal for his lack of appreciation of the struggle for equality in South Africa.

Stock’s autobiography also recalled the medical students’ disruptions and boycotts of graduation ceremonies and remembered their Wentworth residence as a further source of concern. Yet, in 1976 he stoutly defended the Faculty of Medicine’s current student composition against rumoured government proposals to exclude Africans from training there. He was also quick to object to the disruptive effects of police raids on university residences, to demand a fair trial for those detained and to make special provision for students whose arrest prevented them from writing examinations.

*Dome* did commend him for what it described as his ‘defence of the English-Speaking Universities’ when, in 1973, he led a delegation of university principals to see Prime Minister Vorster in connection with banning restrictions. The editor added, ‘Up to this point it had been suspected that he was a fence sitter and a stooge but we are pleasantly surprised to discover that this might not be so.’

However, in April 1974 *Nux* published a letter from the chairman of the Academic Staff Association, Colin Webb, expressing concern at the clear distinction Stock drew in a speech at the annual congress of the Sugar Technologists Association between the restriction without trial of staff members and the issue of academic freedom. Perhaps for the same reason Stock rejected as impractical the proposal of the final October 1974 Van Wyk de Vries Commission report that universities should be made responsible for the actions of their staff and students when off campus. However, student leadership criticised what they considered to be his non-confrontational response to the report, particularly with regard to the vital issues of university autonomy and academic freedom.

Stock believed that, in the mid-1970s, the time was not yet opportune to admit undergraduates of all races to the currently whites-only universities. He did so because of varying matriculation standards, different subsidy and fee structures for black and white institutions, and an insufficient number of places in the latter. *Nux* argued that these problems were not insurmountable and should be tackled if the cause of fully ‘open’ universities was seriously to be pursued. However, Stock did favour immediate black admissions at postgraduate level, arguing that the prior acquisition of a degree should provide sufficient justification for ‘the free interchange of students between all universities’.
Needless to say, this proposal was rejected. So too was his offer to accept, subject to ministerial approval, all those students who had failed to gain admission to the University of Zululand for the 1977 academic year because of reduced accommodation following recent riot damage there.

Like Malherbe before him, Stock was concerned about high first-year failure rates he attributed, in part, to a low matriculation standard. He recognised the need for substantial change, but rejected the Van Wyk de Vries Commission’s proposals for the recomposition of the Joint Matriculation Board. He argued that it would not adequately represent the interests of those most concerned with its decisions if it were indeed to be reduced to nine members; only three from the universities, three from the provincial education departments and as many as three from the Ministry of National Education.

Contentiously, Stock also believed that it was the University’s national duty to produce ‘the right kind of graduates in the right proportion’ and that ‘especial care should be taken not to develop excessively the non-vocational at the expense of the vocational courses’. His own rigorous medical background was evident when he regularly reminded new students at the annual opening ceremonies that their primary purpose was to study. He sometimes also suggested that the country needed graduates in the ‘more important and perhaps even more challenging’ biological and natural sciences rather than in non-vocational courses and ‘especially’ the trendy ‘so called social sciences’. Some students took exception to this, with Nux warning against reducing the institution to a ‘career college’ while ‘the real university is falling victim to the twentieth century rat race’.

In common with his predecessors, Stock found University finances to be a perennial source of anxiety. In general he approved of the 1968 Van Wyk de Vries Commission’s final 1974 recommendations with regard to state subsidisation of universities, with some variables, on the basis of student numbers. He considered this to be ‘entirely practical’ and an accurate basis on which to budget for at least one year ahead. He probably did not fully comprehend the extent to which the new formula failed to address his University’s peculiar needs, but he was not entirely satisfied with the prevailing arrangements with regard to the financing of capital developments, including buildings and land purchases. In recent years government had authorised universities to raise loans up to certain limits that it then guaranteed, including interest and redemption payments, meeting 85% of the cost on academic and administrative buildings as well as 50% on student residences.
Stock was concerned about the all-time record R5 335 000 in loans that the University was authorised to raise in 1975 because interest rates were high and loans were not easy to generate. He acknowledged that he was prejudiced after spending his student years in a non-residential federal institution, but questioned the on-going necessity for expensive on-campus residences considering that students increasingly resented the discipline and fixed meal time patterns they imposed.

Although the NUDF was very active, in retrospect he considered his own annual tour of industrial and other companies in search of funds to have been only ‘moderately successful’. He took particular delight in naming the T.B. Davis Lecture Theatre complex on the Howard College campus after Thomas Benjamin Davis, the University’s ‘first major private benefactor’ who, among several other acts of generosity in Natal and Britain, had paid for the neighbouring domed Howard College Building.

It was already known that Davis had been born on Stock’s home island of Jersey, but he was able to provide more information about his remarkably successful career. He took delight in relating how, as a teenager, Davis had survived being shipwrecked and had returned home in time to interrupt his own memorial service, much to the displeasure of the vicar, Canon Braithwaite, who had probably spent some time preparing what suddenly became an irrelevant eulogy.

In 1973 there was a change of Chancellor when Dr George Campbell retired due to illness and yet another medical man, Dr Bernard Armitage, became the third to occupy that post. The students were decidedly unimpressed by his rambling, boring inaugural speech in the Pietermaritzburg Students Union Hall, with only ‘the excellence of the flower arrangements to break the monotony of mediocrity’. He was similarly mocked in the student press when, at a subsequent graduation ceremony, he absent-mindedly conferred a degree ‘upon all those present who have not qualified’ instead of on ‘all those not present who have qualified’.

In the same year, in accordance with the University Planning and Policy Committee’s aforementioned proposals, academic activities in the two centres became autonomous with a view to a possible move towards ‘a federal structure or full separation into two universities’. In May 1975, Senate agreed that the Administration in Pietermaritzburg should gradually be expanded to become similarly autonomous and it unanimously accepted ‘the concept of the decentralization of the University into two separate Colleges by a process of evolution’.
Federalism remained on the agenda, with campus planning undertaken separately. Stock envisaged separate Faculty boards, administrations and Senate executives within the next decade, with the two college units functioning under a common set of rules and a single Senate and Council. He confided privately to Malherbe that ‘there is some merit in separate universities, but no merit whatsoever in separate methods of administration and control’. When he went on leave in December 1975 and January 1976 Stock held discussions with the vice-chancellors of Durham and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in connection with their federal systems, though he clearly saw this as but a step towards complete separation for Natal as had been the case with St Andrews-Dundee and Newcastle-Durham.\(^22\)

In introducing his last annual report (for 1976) after announcing his intention to retire towards the end of the following year, Stock observed that while ‘senior appointments’ like his own were previously ‘often held for quite long periods’ (like that of Malherbe), ‘the increasing pressure of modern university life has become so great that in many parts of the world the realization has come that an appointment for a more limited term is preferable’.

**Dr B.A. (Bernard Albert) Armitage** was born in Pietermaritzburg, matriculated at Maritzburg College and graduated at NUC before qualifying at the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow in Dentistry and Medicine. In 1935 he became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and returned to practise in his home town where he specialised in surgery. He was head of department at Grey’s Hospital until his retirement in 1967 when he became honorary consultant surgeon. During the course of his medical career he served as secretary of the Natal Inland branch of the Medical Association of South Africa and was elected to its federal council in 1945 and its executive committee in 1957. In 1968 he became national president and received its gold medal for meritorious service.

Armitage also served the Red Cross Society in various capacities, becoming its national president in 1969 and being awarded honorary life membership. In addition, he rose to high office in the National Tuberculosis Association, in Rotary International and as a Freemason. He had a longstanding association with the University’s Faculty of Medicine, became a donor representative on Council from 1966 and its vice-chairman between 1970 and 1973. He was closely involved in the establishment of the Pietermaritzburg and District Community Chest and served as its first chairman from 1961. In 1972 Pietermaritzburg awarded him civic honours.
The decision to retire to his home in Jersey at the end of September 1977 may well have been influenced by the June 1976 Soweto Uprising followed by unrest elsewhere in the country. There were also the seemingly endless difficulties involved in walking the tightrope between staff-student dissatisfaction and defending the University’s interests against government interference as well as the institution’s own immediately bleak financial future. None of these factors were mentioned in his letter of 1 October 1976 formally announcing his retirement a year hence. Instead, he expressed the hope that this would give the University ample time to appoint his successor and pointed out that by that stage he would be 63 years old and would have completed seven years of service.

In his notice of retirement to Council Stock reiterated that long-term tenures for principals had become ‘a thing of the past’ abroad and that six or seven years now seemed to be the norm. In his autobiography he later conceded that his wife had never been particularly happy in South Africa and that while she enjoyed their Christmas holidays at Cathedral Peak she did not share his enthusiasm for the game reserves. She was frightened of the frenetic traffic, in particular on journeys between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and considered Campbell House much too big, reminding her of a hospital! Prior to his departure Stock advised Senex that, in his opinion, the dwelling was far too large for family purposes and that the grounds might more appropriately be used for campus development.

‘Auntie Gwen’, as she was affectionately known, was to be remembered as friendly and unpretentious. The monthly staff wives meetings she held in both centres were much appreciated, readily opening her home for this and other occasions. She was not above standing on a table when a speech was required of her in order to overcome her short stature and ensure that everybody present could see and hear her. Stock himself demonstrated sound organisational and leadership qualities and was so admired by his administrative staff that they sprung a 40-strong dinner party on him on the occasion of his 60th birthday. He was also presented with a carved teak wood box made in the Maintenance Department, complete with University crest and commemorative plaque, as well as a Jock Leyden cartoon of himself in the style that Malherbe so enjoyed.

Unlike Horwood, Stock had proved to be no admirer of the ruling National Party government or its policies, though he paid the price for them when in 1973 he and other South African principals were denied admission as observers to the Quinquennial Congress of the ACU in Britain. He was prominent in the CUP’s subsequent efforts to secure some relaxation of the government’s
restrictions on scholarship and research as contained in the Publications and Entertainments Amendment Bill in its application to university libraries. He was also involved in attempting to persuade the Afrikaans-medium universities to support the campaign. Stock was shocked at the schoolmasterish manner in which the 1973 delegation of English-language university principals, which he led, was required to wait in the corridor and was subsequently condescendingly treated when it visited Prime Minister Vorster’s office.

In looking back on his own term of office Stock was proud of the fact that ‘party politics and acute anti-Nationalism’ on campus had rarely caused a breakdown in communication and that ‘personal relationships between students, academic staff and administration, have been steadily improving over the years’. Even so, while there were some advantages in being appointed to the principalship as an outsider, he always did struggle with the peculiarities of the South African situation.

His impending departure and that of his supportive wife was greeted with regret in both Council and Senate. Unlike his immediate predecessor he was held in sufficiently high esteem by both bodies to be awarded the title of professor emeritus and in 1988 the central Administration Building in Durban was named in his honour.

It was virtually inevitable that, to the end, Stock would have his critics as well as his admirers such was the nature of the Principal’s office, the disparate structure of the University and the size of its staff and student body. He did make the effort to be affable and was always courteous, but his English reserve made him appear cool and distant to some who did not know him well. Unkindly, it was even suggested that he was more comfortable in his capacity as a surgeon dealing with people who, if not cold and stiff themselves, were at least comatose and horizontal rather than vertical and talkative.

Graffiti in all its forms has long been regarded as interesting social commentary and Stock did not escape anonymous criticism in that format. For many years the wall above a gents’ urinal in Durban’s MTB bore the injunction, presumably scrawled by a student but possibly a staff member, ‘Lock Stock in the Barrel’. It nestled incongruously between a thought-provoking but unoriginal news flash ‘Have you heard about God – She is Black’ and a less challenging, artistically framed ‘Merry Christmas to all our Readers!’

By Yuletide the year after the announcement of Stock’s resignation the University of Natal had embarked upon a new era, installing his successor as Vice-Chancellor as well as a new Chancellor. By then it could look back on a
great deal of achievement since its inauguration in 1949, although its record was far from unblemished and there was still much to be achieved.

The University of Natal in 1976
In 1949 the University inherited ‘a dual centred, racially segregated four-campus structure’ from its predecessor, the NUC. It comprised the original Scottsville campus in Pietermaritzburg (with its part-time classes downtown and new Agricultural courses at Oribi), the Howard College campus on the Stella Ridge, its white part-time classes at City Buildings and its Non-European Section at Sastri College. It was reckoned that in 1976 the University was the fifth largest in the country. Campus expansion and development in both centres had advanced almost beyond recognition compared with the situation in 1949.

Although there was still much open ground in Durban, the campus now extended across 163.5 hectares. The downtown Oldham (City) Buildings had been sold, but the space for academic activity elsewhere had almost doubled in the last seven years. In the quarter of a century since its establishment in 1951, the Faculty of Medicine had increased significantly in terms of student numbers and teaching facilities and it had begun to implement a new curriculum as required by the South African Medical and Dental Council. Unfortunately, its trainees still had to make do with the inadequate Alan Taylor Residence in Wentworth and the Faculty’s future was still uncertain; ‘trapped’, as the Principal’s 1976 report put it, ‘between the two jaws of Governmental intentions and student reactions’.

In Pietermaritzburg the University now owned 97 hectares of land, excluding the 325 hectare Ukulinga experimental farm. The old campus had expanded across the Durban (Alan Paton) Road with the establishment of Malherbe Residence and also towards King Edward Avenue with the acquisition of all the residential properties between it, Milner and Coronation Road. The Faculty of Agriculture had been transferred from Oribi to its new home at Epworth, approximately 2 kilometres from the Scottsville campus. There it had been fully absorbed as an integral academic and administrative part of the University, but with worrying financial implications.

On the new Golf Road campus that had looked so bare as recently as 1970, the Education and Psychology buildings had been connected with a new lecture theatre block and separate accommodation had been constructed for the faculties of Arts, Commerce and Law. Further east, the first stage of Denison Residence had been completed and new sports facilities had been developed including a swimming pool and rowing tank.
There were still several urgent physical requirements in both centres. These included new premises for Mechanical Engineering and the Computer Centre in Durban, along with a new Library building, more suitable accommodation for the School of Music and a Theatre Workshop. The Pietermaritzburg campus urgently required a designated building for the Biological and Life Sciences as well as extensions to the Library. Few of the items on this wish list seemed likely to be realised in the immediate future in view of substantial cuts to the University’s requests for capital loan authorisations and a freeze on capital development in 1976-1977.

Indeed, in 1976 the financial outlook was bleak. Along with full responsibility for the Faculty of Agriculture, the University faced an anticipated budgeted deficit on running expenses for 1977 of R375 000, which had ballooned to more than R1 000 000 before the year even started. The University of Natal and its predecessor the NUC had weathered seemingly inescapable financial storms before and somehow would have to do so again. There was some comfort in the R547 086 the NUDF raised in 1976, R54 217 more than the previous year. As much as 50% of it was uncommitted and therefore available, with Council and Senate approval, for use wherever it was most needed.

By 1976, with 71% of its students emanating from Natal itself, enrolments stood at 7 962, 5 642 in Durban, 2 320 in Pietermaritzburg and 16.5% of them women. This constituted a more than 400% increase on the 1 840 students registered in 1949 and a 27% increase since 1970, but growth had slowed down significantly since 1974 and was not expected to accelerate again until the early 1980s. It was due partly to the rising cost of university education and current financial hardship, but was largely attributed to a decline in the white birth rate some eighteen years previously. This at least provided an opportunity to catch up on the backlog of academic and residential accommodation in both centres, assuming that the necessary capital loan authorisations were forthcoming in the not-too-distant future.

By 1976, the 29.3% minority of students who lived on campus in the two centres were accommodated in fourteen residences. In keeping with the eclectic mix of architectural styles that now characterised both campuses, these ranged from traditional ivy-covered halls to modern concrete modular structures and Wentworth’s surviving ex-World War II naval barracks.

In 1949 the University had only 223 black students, constituting 12% of the student body. By 1976 there were 746, amounting to less than 9.5% of total registrations. All of them were in Durban and all but 141 were medical trainees. The University had, with difficulty, successfully maintained control
of its Faculty of Medicine in the face of government plans to wrest it away in pursuit of the ideology of complete racial segregation. The Non-European Section had been lost to that objective, but by 1976 momentum was gathering in Council and Senate towards the admission, with ministerial permission, of increasing numbers of black postgraduates.

In 1950, prior to the establishment of the Medical School, there was only one black member of the academic staff. The number in 1976 was not officially recorded, but there were certainly still relatively few. On the dubious basis of surnames listed in the University Calendar there were apparently only four Africans: Mr D.M. Mzolo in the Department of Bantu Languages and three in the Faculty of Medicine. There were approximately 33 Indian staff members: Mr P.N. Pillay was a research fellow in Economics, Mrs Fatima Meer was a senior lecturer in Sociology and the rest (25 full-time and six part-time) were in the Faculty of Medicine.

Collectively they constituted less than 5% of the University’s 787-strong academic staff (excluding the research institutes) in 1976 and all were employed at senior lecturer, lecturer or junior lecturer level. There is no means of establishing how many staff members were designated as coloured in terms of the legislation prevailing at that time.

At the end of the 1940s women constituted 13% of the 219 academic members of staff. In 1976 they still only amounted to approximately 12.6% (99 of them), although not all of the staff listed in the University Calendar provide a convenient clue as to their gender by including a first name instead of initials. When the University was launched, no women had attained professorial status and only four were senior lecturers. By 1976 eight had reached full professorial level – four in Arts, two in Social Science, one in Architecture and one in Science. They constituted 7% of the 112 members of staff employed as professors.

Women were more strongly represented in the central University Administration, numbering 80% (29 of 36) at the end of the 1940s but only 15% (6 of 39, including the Executive) by 1976. Traditionally they also performed the secretarial roles in academic departments. It was only in the University libraries that females were in a substantial majority, amounting to 63.6% (7 of 11) in 1948–1949 rising to 80.5% of the staff (29 of 36) in 1976. Technical personnel and gardening staff were not listed in the University Calendar but almost all such posts were filled by males.

In several faculties the technical staff played a significant supportive role in the research projects upon which so much of the University’s publication
output was based and this was bolstered further by the associated research institutes. The existence of the University Press continued to provide an incentive for those staff members who aspired to publication in book form. Research output in general was promoted by a variety of other factors, including the establishment in 1949 of a Research Committee followed in the mid-1950s by a University Research Fund, the Library’s improving book and journal stocks, the introduction of computer facilities on campus, the acquisition of increasingly more sophisticated scientific equipment (not least an electron microscope), the opening of faculties of Agriculture and Medicine, and the availability of more state and private funding.

Not all disciplines were heavily dependent upon money with which to conduct research. Even so, combined contributions to the University from the NCSR/HSRC and CSIR increased from the equivalent of R16 818 in 1949 to R126 224 in 1976 and as much as R460 701 if one includes the contributions of other government-funded bodies. The NUDF cast an ever-wider net as the University became better known, with the result that in 1976 total funds for that purpose exceeded R1 250 000. In 1949, the 135 permanent full-time staff members (including the research institutes) produced 100 publications, or nearly three quarters of a publication per head. In 1976, the 830-strong staff (including approximately 43 researchers in the institutes) generated only 413 of one sort or another, or slightly less than half a publication each.

This was disappointing considering improved facilities and incentives for staff to engage in research, but greater emphasis on publication for personal promotion still lay in the future. As before, research output varied considerably within and among the nine faculties, with Science (143 publications) and Medicine (78) leading the way and the former also producing 24 postgraduates (eighteen masters, four Ph.Ds and two doctorates) in 1976; with 25 in Arts (21 masters and four Ph.Ds).

Many departments still regarded themselves essentially as teaching disciplines, in some cases with large student numbers to prove it. Others were making a much more significant if unquantifiable contribution to community service. The faculties of Agriculture, Architecture, Engineering, Medicine and Social Science were all prominent in this regard, as were the associated research institutes and some individual departments like Music, Speech and Drama and, not least, the Extension and Extra-Mural Studies Unit.

In 1976 the University of Natal remained firmly committed to its dual-centred, racially segregated and, following the loss of Durban’s Non-European Section, its now tri-focal structure. In 1950 a crucial decision had been taken
not to centralise the whole institution, other than Agriculture, in Durban where there were substantially more students and donors. The opportunity to eliminate duplication and the serious financial implications that had always accompanied it had been declined. The 1953 removal of the Central Administration to the harbour city had aggravated the traditional enmity between the two centres despite repeated re-affirmation of the principle of dualism under a single administration. Periodic informal discussions about federalism, possibly leading to the complete separation of the two centres, had subsequently promoted an ongoing tendency towards greater administrative autonomy, the development of separate courses and, in the early 1970s, the devolution of academic departments.

By late 1976 all sectors of the University awaited the choice of a new head with keen interest. By November no less than 33 nominations had been received for the post of sixth Principal in succession to Bews, Denison, Malherbe, Horwood and Stock. Members of Senate were invited to vote for a maximum of ten candidates to be placed on the shortlist without indicating any order of preference.24

Nobody knew it, but in December of that year there were another five principals to come and the University of Natal was already halfway through its nearly 54-year life as an institution by that name.

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