

Mizami

STUDENT

LIFE @ UCT | 2009/10 >>



freshlyground

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your university your voice

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A BIG STEP

If you are reading this magazine, it probably means that you're interested in furthering your studies at university. This is one of the most important decisions you will make, and, therefore, it should be carefully thought through and well informed.

Going to university is a big step, as you are leaving behind the routine of high school to enter into the more demanding and more independent world of higher education, with its seemingly endless choices: what degree to study, which courses to take, what profession to pursue. Most importantly, you will need to decide which university to attend.

This is where the University of Cape Town comes in, and you may wish to consider us for a number of good reasons.

Firstly, we are known far and wide as a leading research and teaching institution, and our graduates are in high demand in the job market. But there is more to us than 'just' this.

Our students benefit from a rich and diverse learning experience in a supportive environment. The memory of your student years will linger long after graduation, and so too will the life-long friendships you've established here.

We set high standards of academic achievement, but also encourage our students to lead well-rounded lives and to take advantage of the many opportunities that exist to follow diverse interests. So, like many others, you could engage in a range of social issues or perhaps give of your time to assist disadvantaged communities.

It is this range of university experiences that give our students the foundation for wonderful professional careers and leadership roles in many spheres of society. A similar opportunity could be available to you at UCT. We have a wide spectrum of clubs and societies that cater for many interests and well-established



Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor

community service projects that are student-run and led.

You will also have the opportunity to study with students from countries and cultures across Africa and the rest of the world because we take pride in the fact that this is a truly international university. UCT is home to students from over 100 countries, and our students benefit immensely from the interaction with classmates from other cultures.

We realise that a university education is costly. However, we also believe that deserving students should not be denied the opportunity to go to university because they lack the funds. UCT has committed significant funds to support financially needy and academically deserving students who meet the criteria for financial assistance. Please do not let the fees put you off UCT.

I hope that as you enjoy paging through this magazine and reading all the stories about student life, it will help you consider UCT as your potential home for the next few years.

'N GROOT TREE

Indien jy hierdie tydskrif lees, beteken dit dalk dat jy daarin belangstel om jou studies aan 'n universiteit voort te sit. Dit is een van die belangrikste besluite wat jy sal maak. Om hierdie rede behoort dit 'n ingeligte én ernstig bepeinsde besluit te wees.

Dit is 'n groot stap om by 'n universiteit te studeer; jy laat die roetine van hoërskool agter om die meer veeleisende en onafhanklike ervaring van hoër opvoeding te betree met sy skynbaar oneindige keuses – watter graad om te studeer, watter kursusse om te volg en watter beroep om na te streef. Van die grootste belang is jou besluit oor die universiteit wat jy sal bywoon.

Dit is waar die Universiteit van Kaapstad belangrik is. Jy mag ons om verskeie goeie redes in gedagte hou.

Eerstens is ons wyd bekend as 'n leier op die gebiede van

navorsing en onderrig, en ons gegradueerdes is gesog op die arbeidsmark. Tog behels ons aanbieding veel meer as "net" dit.

Ons studente vind baat by 'n ryk en diverse leerervaring binne 'n ondersteunende omgewing. Die herinneringe aan jou studentejare sal ver buite gradedag voortleef eweneens die lewenslange vriendskappe wat hier gevorm is.

Ons stel hoë eise aan akademiese prestasie, maar ons moedig ons studente terselfdertyd aan om 'n gebalanseerde lewe te lei en om gebruik te maak van 'n wye reeks geleenthede vir die nastreef van uiteenlopende belangstellings. Jy kan dus soos vele ander betrokke raak by maatskaplike sake of dalk jou tyd opoffer om benadeelde gemeenskappe te help.

Dit is hierdie reeks universiteitservarings wat die grondslag vir ons studente lê vir fantastiese beroepe en leierskaprolle binne

verskeie gebiede in die samelewing. 'n Soortgelyke geleentheid wag op jou by die UK. Ons het sowel 'n wye reeks klubs en verenigings wat vir uiteenlopende belangstellings voorsien as gevestigde gemeenskapdiens-projekte wat deur studente gelei en gedryf word.

Jy sal ook die geleentheid hê om met studente van lande en kulture oor Afrika en die res van die wêreld te studeer, aangesien ons dit hoog op prys stel dat die UK 'n egte internasionale universiteit is. Die UK huisves studente vanuit meer as 100 lande en hulle baat geweldig baie by interkulturele interaksie.

Ons besef dat universiteitsopvoeding duur is. Ons glo wel dat belowende studente nie die geleentheid van hoër opvoeding geweier moet word as gevolg van 'n gebrek aan befondsing nie. Die UK het 'n aansienlike bedrag geld beskikbaar gestel om behoeftige en akademieswaardige studente te help wat aan die kriteria vir finansiële ondersteuning voldoen. Moet asseblief nie toelaat dat studiegeld jou afskrik om aan die UK te studeer nie. Ek hoop dat jy dit sal geniet om deur hierdie tydskrif te blaai en al die verhare oor studente te lees. Dit sal jou help om die UK as jou moontlike tuiste vir die volgende paar jaar te oorweeg.

LIKLITHATHA INYATHELO ELIKKHLILI

Ukuba ufunda le magazini, kuthetha ukuba unomdla wokuqhubela phambili ngezifundo zakho eyunivesithi.

Esi sesona sigqibo sibalulekileyo onokuthi usenze, ngoko ke, kufuneka sicingisiswe kakuhle yaye ube nolwazi olwaneleyo.

Ukuya eyunivesithi linyathelo elikhulu, njengokuba ushiya ngasemva indlela yesiqhelo yasesikolweni ungena kwimo yomsebenzi onzima, uzimele kwizinga lemfundo ephakamileyo yelizwe ngokubanzi, apho unamathuba okukhetha angapheliyo-okuba ufuna esiphi isidanga, wenze eziphi izifundo?, leliphi ikhono lemfundo onokulilandela. Okubalulekileyo nangakumbi, kufuneka uthathe isigqibo ngeyunivesithi omawufunde kuyo.

Kulapho iyunivesithi yaseKapa ingena khona, yaye unezizathu eziliqela ekufuneka uzithathele ingqalelo.

Kuqala, siyaziwa lihlabathi ngokubanzi njengeyunivesithi ehamba phambili kuphando nasekufundiseni, yaye abafundi bethu abanezidanga bafunwa kakhulu yimarike yemisebenzi. Kodwa akuphela kwanto esaziwa ngayo leyo.

Abafundi bethu baxhamla kumava atyebileyo nanabileyo kwimo yemfundo ebaxhasayo. Inkumbulo yeminyaka yokuba ngumfundi iya kuhlala ihleli engqondweni yakho emva kwexesha elide ufumene isidanga, kwakunye nobuhlobo bexesha elide obakhe apha.

Siseka umgangatho oxhomileyo wemfundo yempumelelo, kodwa sikwakhuthaza abafundi bethu baphile ubomi obupheleleyo yaye basebenzise amathuba akhoyo amaninzi abawafumanayo ukulandela izinto ezahlukeneyo ezinomdla. Njengabanye abaninzi, ungazibandakanya kuludwe lwezinto

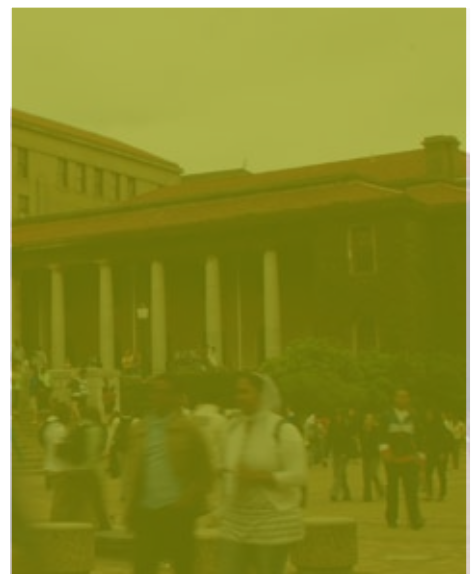
zasekuhlaleni okanye uzinike ixesha lokuncedisa kwiindawo zoluntu oluhlelekileyo.

Lolu ludwe lwamava eyunivesithi athi anike abafundi isiseko esibalaseleyo kwikhono lemfundo yabo kunye nemisebenzi yobunkoheli kwimiba ngemiba yasekuhlaleni. Ithuba elifana neli lingafumaneka eUCT. Sinoludwe lweeklabhu nemibutho enokunika amathuba anomdla neeprojekthi zoluntu ezizinzileyo eziqhutywa yaye zikhokhelwe ngabafundi.

Uza kuba nalo nethuba lokufunda nabafundi abavela kwamanye amazwe neenkubeko ezahlukeneyo zase-eAfrika nakwilizwe ngokubanzi kuba siyazingca ngento yokuba yiyunivesithi yehlabathi yokwenene. I-UCT likhaya kubafundi abavela kumazwe angaphezu kwe-100, yaye abafundi bethu baxhamla ngokukodwa kunxibelelwano lwaseziklasini lwabafundi abasuka kwezinye iinkubeko.

Siyayiqonda into yokuba imfundo yaseyunivesithi iyabiza. Nangona kunjalo, sikwakholelwa ekubeni abafundi abamngangatho wabo ubavumelayo ukuba seyunivesithi mabangavinjwa ithuba ngenxa yokungabikho kwemali. I-UCT ibonelela ngesixa semali ukuxhasa abafundi abanemfuno yemali kunye nabafundi abakwazi ukuhlangabezana nomngangatho wemfundo exhomileyo abadinga uncedo lwemali. Nceda sukuvumela imali yeendleko zesikolo ikutyhafise ungezi eUCT.

Ndithemba ukuba uza kuthanda ukuphengulula le magazini nokufunda onke amabali angobomi bomfundi, iyakunceda into yokuba uyithathele ingqalelo iUCT njengekhaya lakho lale minyaka imbalwa izayo.



WELCOME TO THE 2ND EDITION OF YIZANI



UCT students hail from over 100 countries worldwide, and pursue their studies in a wide range of disciplines in six faculties. They contribute to the rich experience of the UCT community. In this edition of Yizani we continue to share this experience of student life with you.

Yizani is designed to be an enjoyable read for anyone interested in student life at UCT. This edition profiles some of our students, who readily share their particular experiences with you, and provides insights into some of the hurdles they encountered, and opportunities they used to succeed.

Carl Herman
Director: Admissions Office
University of Cape Town

Read about our campus facilities, which students use daily, and some of the art which adorns the buildings and spaces on our campuses. What would student life be without a social calendar? – learn all about the social highlights of a typical year at UCT, and if you're a numbers person, find our interesting profile of UCT through numbers in the pages that follow. Enjoy these and many more interesting articles inside.

I am hoping that *Yizani* meets your expectations, and look forward to your responses.

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HUMBLE PRIYA HELPS AND HEALS

By Natasha Arendorf



Priyadarshini Arnab has always been passionate about the plight of the ill and vulnerable, and decided years ago that she would not be just another spectator with no way to influence change. At the age of 16, when she was still at Westville Girls High in Durban, she decided that she would make her mark by becoming a doctor and community worker and at UCT has made great strides in achieving her goals.

Priya, as she is affectionately known by friends and family, was born in Calcutta, India, but moved to Durban with her parents and two brothers at the age of four. At just 20 she is already in her fourth year of the gruelling six-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) degree at UCT and is doing extremely well.

She says that it was her brother's fervent praise of UCT (he graduated from UCT with a PhD in computer science) that intrigued her and led her to UCT where she is currently working at the Somerset

Hospital in Green Point to complete the practical component of her degree.

"For as long as I can remember I have wanted to be a doctor, and this year I finally get to experience what it's like to walk through hospital corridors, feel the rush of the environment, tend to the sick and put to practice all that I have learnt. It's been the most awesome experience."

While Priya is well on her way to achieving her dream career, she has also been actively focused on achieving one of her other goals as well – that of making a difference in the community.

In 2006 (her first year at UCT), Priya came across a cause which she felt was calling her, an organisation called Operation Reach Every Street.

This is a "feed the hungry" programme where excess food is collected from the residences of UCT and distributed to shelters, homes and to those living on the street in areas surrounding UCT – the organisation was started by fellow (MBChB) student by the name of Anya Reuter.

"I live in residence and I know exactly how much food gets wasted every day. When I heard what Anya was doing, I was truly inspired because it's such a simple but effective way to make a difference," explains Priya.

In addition to feeding the hungry, the organisation is also educating and bringing joy to the people it visits.

"We organise shelter evenings twice a month where we go to orphanages, old-age and HIV/AIDS homes, and depending on the age groups of the audience, either play fun games or conduct educational talks.

"I believe vulnerable people, young and old, are looking for hope and I think what we do gives them some. The people are very actively involved when we have talks on HIV/AIDS or skills development and are very grateful – it's a very fulfilling experience."

"I BELIEVE VULNERABLE PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, ARE LOOKING FOR HOPE AND I THINK WHAT WE DO GIVES THEM SOME. THE PEOPLE ARE VERY ACTIVELY INVOLVED WHEN WE HAVE TALKS ON HIV/AIDS OR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND ARE VERY GRATEFUL - IT'S A VERY FULFILLING EXPERIENCE."

Priya is undoubtedly one of those young people who has star quality, is humble and committed, composed but passionate. She knows what she wants and she makes it happen.

"I believe we all have a purpose, and helping people is mine," she says.

A HELPING HAND

By Melanie Blythe

With many South Africans struggling to survive from one month to the next, it is heartening to know there is help at hand for promising students who would like to study at UCT but cannot afford the fees.

For many matriculants, a good tertiary education holds the promise of a happy future and Selby Mzobe's story is a shining example of how a little help can go a very long way.

This determined young man from Amanzimtoti in KwaZulu-Natal did not think he would ever be lucky enough to go to university – and now that he has “been there and got the T-shirt”, he is set on sharing his knowledge with other disadvantaged learners who may not even know that financial assistance for studying exists.

Selby says his Performer's Diploma in music and soon-to-be-completed Certificate in Education from UCT will hopefully be the tools that help his message reach today's youngsters.

“As a child, I don't remember my mom going to parent meetings at my school (Ekwazini High). She was not involved in

my education and a lot of kids face the same situation. A lot of disadvantaged schools also do not even have guidance classes where kids can learn about their options after matric,” says Selby, who believes that an older mentor can be a motivating tool for young adults.

THE UNIVERSITY HAS COMMITTED SIGNIFICANT FUNDS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT FINANCIALLY NEEDY AND ACADEMICALLY DESERVING STUDENTS

“I would like to teach high school kids and share my knowledge and life experiences with them. Grade 11 and 12 learners need an adult who is on their side, who understands them and gives them encouragement. This is a critical time when many learners are not completely focused on their futures and can get tempted by alcohol and drugs. But there

is no life without education and the future can look bleak,” says Selby.

And he should know. His own youth was filled with much difficulty, and after matriculating he struggled to realise his dreams. He felt his options were limited as a young man from a disadvantaged area near Durban. Like most people from his village, financial issues were a challenge and a tertiary education seemed beyond his reach.

“After school I experienced great hardships; those were not easy times for me,” he admits.

It was his love of music, however, that helped him through those tough times, and his beautiful tenor voice that eventually gave him the break he was looking for.

Like most singers, Selby has been singing for as long as he can remember. He started taking it seriously during high school, where he belonged to the school choir, and in 1999 he joined the Durban Serenade Choir where he met people who were making a career out of music. This motivated him to do the same and he applied to the UCT College of Music.

FINANCIAL AID: THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Financial assistance at UCT is a four-way partnership between the student, the parents/ family, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and UCT.
- To apply you must: be a South African citizen or permanent resident; not have any other tertiary qualification; and be applying for an approved full-time undergraduate degree or postgraduate diploma.
- Eligible students will receive funding towards course fees, accommodation, meals, travel allowance and book allowance.
- You and your family will only need to pay a contribution to your fees, called the Expected Family Contribution, which can be as low as R1000 per year. (EFC), which can be as low as R1 000, 00 per annum.
- NSFAS can convert 40% of your loan into a bursary, depending on your academic achievement at UCT.
- To apply for financial assistance, complete section J on form 1 and form 9 in the UCT application pack.



WHAT ARE MY OTHER OPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING – BE WISE TO THE REAL COST OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL LOAN

Your study loan instalments may be manageable, but are you aware of your total cost of study, or even what interest rate you are paying?

Students looking at education loan options will usually go for the option with the lowest monthly repayment and longest repayment option, often without fully taking into account the long-term effects of this debt. Johan Wasserfall, CEO of Eduloan, cites an example: "With interest and other charges included, that student may land up taking three times the amount of time to pay the loan off and, with interest and other charges, pay a substantial amount more than the original loan amount. Or a student may obtain funding for only the first year of study and find themselves needing more funding for year two, often with the first year's repayments and interest

not yet completely paid off." Another factor that students neglect to take into account is all the "hidden" costs involved, such as textbooks and study materials, accommodation, transport, food and entertainment funds. In these ways, it is easier than people think to get tangled in a downward debt-spiral that may well cost a good student his or her education at the end of the day.

Students will also often approach a bank for a loan, and be swayed by the fact that they only need to start paying the loan back after they complete their education. Johan cautions: "With a bank loan, while a student may think it seems like a good idea to just study and not worry about the money, many students start their working life under a huge dark cloud of debt that may take up to seven years to pay back, even though they only studied for three or four years." He advises that many students are not even aware of other options – such as those offered by Eduloan – like paying your loan back in reasonable increments while you are studying so that you can start your working life with a clean slate and clear mind.

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He was accepted, but worried that he wouldn't be able to afford the university fees.

Luckily, Selby found out about Student Financial Aid. He now works there as a part-time student assistant, alongside his studying, and says it is a great resource for those without the financial means to study at a top institution.

Essentially, funding at UCT is a combination of a bursary and a loan provided by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). For example, in your first year of study, if you qualify for funding, you will receive a bursary of R15 000 towards your tuition fees. The balance of your tuition fees would be covered by a NSFAS loan. If you are staying in one of the UCT residences, your bursary will be R15 000 towards your tuition fees and an additional R10 000 towards your residence fees with the balance of what you qualify for being the NSFAS loan. You will be expected to pay the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) which might be only R1 000 per annum. This EFC is the

only contribution you will need to make. This information is important because many South African students experience financial difficulties and struggle to fund their studies – they need to know that this kind of service is available to them.

Selby adds, "What is also important is that you don't have to wait for the academic offer before you apply for financial aid. You can apply for admission to UCT and for financial aid at the same time, as both the application for admissions form (form 1) and application for financial assistance (form 9) are included in the UCT application pack.

"I WOULD LIKE TO TEACH HIGH SCHOOL KIDS AND SHARE MY KNOWLEDGE AND LIFE EXPERIENCES WITH THEM."

As a student assistant, Selby takes it upon himself to help and advise

young students, just as he was helped when he arrived in Cape Town six years ago. He knows it can be daunting being away from home for the first time without any financial security.

"The Student Financial Aid staff are kind, helpful people who really care about your wellbeing," says Selby, "They give a lot of support and understanding." Selby is one of these warm-hearted people, and he will soon complete an Education Certificate to put these people skills to good use. He still loves music but realised that teaching is his true calling as he wants to give learners the help and guidance he didn't have as a young man. He is also fast learning that success and finding your place in the world do not only mean making money. For him, helping people is the biggest motivation.

"When you work in a big company, for example, the aim is to make a profit – that is your reward for hard work. When you work with people, you don't make money but you do get a 'thank you'. These thanks are my form of profit."

MAKING IT COUNT

"I WOULD LIKE OTHER STUDENTS WHO ARE FROM DISADVANTAGED HOMES AND SCHOOLS TO KNOW THAT THERE IS THIS GREAT WORLD OUT THERE WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT. UCT, WITH THE HELP OF ADP, COULD BE THEIR PLATFORM, AS IT'S BEEN MINE, TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS."



Nandipha Kenqa would have never guessed that finding a UCT Commerce Academic Development Programme (CADP) brochure in a friend's house when she was in Grade 10 would have such an impact on her life. It was at that moment that she realised her dream to study at UCT was possible, no matter what her circumstances.

Years later, when she matriculated from Luhlaza Senior Secondary School in Khayelitsha in 2004, she applied to do a Bachelor of Commerce in accounting at UCT. Feeling like she needed some assistance and remembering the brochure,

Nandipha also applied for the CADP – which forms part of the Academic Development Programme (ADP) at UCT's Centre for Higher Education Development. Like ADP programmes in other faculties, its core function is to develop and run a range of programmes that help students from disadvantaged backgrounds succeed in their studies.

Looking at where she's come from, Nandipha says her perception was that previously disadvantaged students get to UCT, "but don't last long".

"I thought someone like me would last a semester or a year, but then become

excluded," she says. "But thanks to the CADP dealing with important issues affecting students, such as those of belonging, language, and making the adjustment from school to university, I was able to persevere."

The CADP also completely changed Nandipha's ideas about university, "You get into the programme and you discover that UCT is nothing like you first thought; lecturers know your name and I met some of my best friends here."

One of the courses specific to CADP is the language and communication course, which is aimed at students whose

mother-tongue is not English. Nandipha's enthusiasm for this course is palpable, even though she took it in her first year.

"When you arrive at UCT and have to talk in English all the time, it takes a while before you say anything; you have to plan this speech in your mind first. It holds you back a lot."

Thankfully, through the CADP courses, Nandipha realised she was not alone. "You meet people who are on the same level as you and face the same challenges, and that builds your confidence and makes you feel more comfortable."

"YOU GET INTO THE PROGRAMME AND YOU DISCOVER THAT UCT IS NOTHING LIKE YOU FIRST THOUGHT."

Four years on and Nandipha still takes her essays to the UCT Writing Centre, which helps students with their essay writing skills. She feels very comfortable with the system.

"You make an appointment to hand in your essay about three days before it's due. Then you collect it later and someone goes through the essay and makes comments. It really makes a difference," she says.

Apart from its academic help, the CADP can also assist students from difficult socio-economic backgrounds, as Nandipha has learnt. The Thuthuka Fund for undergraduates and the Fasset Scholarship Fund for postgraduate students are both geared specifically to CADP students, and even have a career-boosting aspect to them.

Nandipha explains: "There's no stress about paying it back or anything. The only conditions are that you have to pass your degree and join one of the big accounting firms that support Thuthuka, such as Deloitte, PWC, KPMG or Ernst & Young."

For now though, Nandipha is still a student and is currently living in Forest

Hill, a UCT residence near the campus. When her head isn't buried in books, she's using her feet on the pitch as a soccer player for her residence team in the internal UCT league.

She has also exercised her guidance skills this year as an orientation leader for the commerce faculty. This role saw her helping new and nervous first-year students to find their feet at UCT, and Nandipha described it as a way of bringing together all "the leadership skills I'd learnt over the years through the CADP".

The CADP has also provided her with opportunities for personal growth. Nandipha was a mentor within the programme and an induction leader.

She received multiple awards in 2008 for achieving the highest marks in subjects like financial management, financial reporting and business law, as well as an award from PricewaterhouseCoopers for being the most versatile academic development student.

And (as if that's not enough to keep her busy from dawn 'til dusk) Nandipha is also a member of the Black Management Forum (BMF) UCT society. When asked what the attraction is to BMF, Nandipha fires off a list: "Oh, social events, women's functions, issues of empowerment". The society benefits her by building up her confidence and networks. She explains that to her, the business world is an intimidating place where gender plays an important role. However, studying at UCT has gone a long way to allaying her fears. "There is equality here, we have a good mix of lecturers, both men and women."

Nandipha is sure to follow in the footsteps of some of South Africa's most successful businesswomen, and sees herself owning her own property business one day.

"I would like other students who are from disadvantaged homes and schools to know that there is this great world out there where you can be anything you want. UCT, with the help of ADP, could be their platform, as it's been mine, to achieve their dreams."



Contact details for all departmental ADP co-ordinators

Prof Ian Scott - Director of Academic Development Programme:
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Mr Robert Prince - Deputy Director of Academic Development Programme:
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Units

Dr June Pym - ADP (EDU Commerce):
021 650 3866 and

Mr Daniel Munene: 021 650 5378

Dr Moragh Paxton - ADP (Language Development Group): 021 650 2253

Dr Howard Pearce - ADP (ASPECT):
021 650 3241 or

Mr Pierre le Roux: 021 650 4241

Mr Julian Jonker - ADP (Law):
021 650 3067

Prof Saalih Allie - ADP (Science)
GEPs: 021 650 3337 or

Prof Bette Davidowitz:
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Dr Alan Cliff - ADP-AARP (Alternative Admissions Research Project):
021 650 5027

Ms Vera Frith - ADP (Numeracy Centre): 021 650 5722

Ms Nadia Hartman - ADP (Health Sciences): 021 406 6630



THE LIT LINK TO SA'S FRESHEST SOULND

By Melanie Blythe

Did you know that South Africa's hottest music act has a strong UCT connection? Yep – if it wasn't for UCT, Freshlyground might not even exist today; its members could be wasting their talents, wandering the world looking for willing and able collaborators.

Luckily, that's not the case and instead South Africans – and the world – have been treated to some of the most eclectic and appealing Afro-pop to come from the continent. It's a connection that UCT is certainly proud to boast about.

***Yizani* caught up with the band to hear what they have to say about fame, fortune, and their UCT-influenced beginnings.**

Y: Freshlyground's music seems to have such wide appeal – across age, race, gender, language and even national 'barriers'. What is it about your sound that wins you so many fans?

Zolani: I think it is the simplicity, the pop appeal in our sound that makes it totally crossover. The albums have songs that are equally enjoyed by young and older audiences, black and white, etc.

Y: Do you think South African music can be successful on the international stage? Do you think having a distinctly South African sound is an advantage or disadvantage when trying to win over international audiences?

Zolani: It is difficult for our sound to compete on the international pop scene where there is so much highly commercial material circulating. Nevertheless, we tour there three-four times a year, most of our shows are sold out and we play at major festivals. So I guess there is definitely space for our sound internationally.

Y: Where did you guys go to university and what did you study?

Zolani did three years of drama school at UCT. Kyla and Julio went to the UCT College of Music. Kyla was there briefly but Julio graduated with distinction! Simon graduated with a BA Honours in English.

Y: To those of you who went to UCT, how was your experience and what did you enjoy most about it?

Zolani: For me the experience of leaving PE and moving to Cape Town was obviously mind blowing...

Y: Did your time at UCT have any influence on what you are doing now?

Simon: Well, if it wasn't for UCT we would have never met and Freshlyground wouldn't have happened. So yes, campus put us all together.

Y: What advice can you give to young entertainers who might be considering giving tertiary education a skip in pursuit of their dreams of fame?

Zolani: I am reluctant to answer this as I myself gave up finishing my degree to pursue a great acting opportunity that came my way, that was really the beginning of my career. Having said that, I know I would like to go back to UCT at some stage and finish those few courses that are left. I think my message for young entertainers out there is to follow your instinct but set goals and structures. That will prevent you from doing things on an ad-hoc basis in the name of success. And there is plenty of time in this life to do everything!

Y: There is a lot of great music, art and theatre coming out of Cape Town at the moment, why do you think this is?

Simon: Cape Town is a place where any kind of extravagance is kind of acceptable. From that emerges creativity.

Y: What do you guys like most about your work – performing to live audiences and touring, or writing music and jamming together away from the crowds?

Zolani: All of it is gratifying in different ways and for different reasons. The touring is fun, we get to see the world doing what we love, but it can also be exhausting living in a plane and a hotel room. The jamming is where the magic happens between us. The performing is where we gather energy from and get inspired, in the interaction with the audiences.

Y: Who are your biggest musical inspirations?

Zolani: Stevie Wonder.

Y: What music are you listening to at the moment?

Zolani: Well, we are in the process of composing for a new album so we are listening to absolutely everything!

Y: You've won an MTV award and brought pride to all South Africans, what is going to beat that achievement?

Simon: A Grammy! No just joking...

Achievement comes from leading by example. I think one of the things we have a sense of achievement about is our work with the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. We recently participated in and organised a panel discussion at the World AIDS Conference in Durban. The topic was the role of celebrities in HIV/AIDS awareness. It was really great to contribute to South Africa's needs through this different angle.

Y: So, when can we expect a new album?

Simon: If things go according to plan then early next year... We are working hard towards the new album and hopefully it will pay off.



FRESHLYGROUND NO

A male singer with spiky hair is performing on stage. He is wearing a black blazer over a red and black striped shirt and a black tie, paired with light blue jeans. He is holding a microphone to his mouth and singing. In the background, a piano accompanist is seated at a piano. The stage is lit with warm, golden light, and the background features a large, circular, abstract pattern of light rays. The word "Idols" is written in a white, cursive font inside a blue oval in the top right corner.

Idols

"I'VE GROWN SO MUCH IN THIS COMPETITION [IDOLS],
I REALLY FEEL THAT AFTER THIS I CAN DO ANYTHING."

TAKING CENTRE STAGE

By Nicole Jonklass

As UCT is known for its illustrious academic record, one would not be mistaken in thinking that most of its graduates like to give their brains a regular workout, engage in the odd bit of academic debate, and in some cases, even hit the books just for the fun of it. Yet, every once in a while, a UCT alumnus comes along and manages to show South Africa that while the university has its boffins, some of them can also achieve in areas other than formal academics – entertainment, for example. Names that come to mind include comedian Riaad Moosa, singer Judith Sephuma, and radio motor-mouth Mark Gillman, all of whom have been successful in their respective fields of interest.

And now Graeme Watkins can also add his name to this list. Graeme recently achieved national stardom by reaching the top three of M-Net's 5th Idols competition. While the 26-year old has been winning over hearts (and votes) with his singing on the Idols stage, many would be surprised to know that Graeme honed a significant part of his entertaining talent at UCT.

Graeme studied at the university from 2005 to 2007, during which time he obtained his Performer's Diploma in Theatre. As it is a practical-intensive degree, Graeme spent much of his time at UCT's Hiddingh Campus, a cultural hub of the university that is home to its drama department, Michaelis School of Fine Art, as well as many budding artists, actors and directors.

Graeme has fond memories of his time at UCT. "It was the best time of my life," he says enthusiastically. Referring to the learning environment on campus, Graeme describes it as having a "warm system".

"The lecturers are so helpful," he says.

According to Graeme, his UCT degree has definitely benefited him in his post-university career. "The fact that I have

a degree in theatre and performance, I think, has given me a definite edge, particularly in Idols. I, for example, know how to use a stage."

Having a formal academic background is something he believes is important, even for those who only want to be in the entertainment industry, as it provides a good way to acquire the skills needed to be successful. "You could teach yourself," says Graeme, "but not as adequately as you could be taught at a formal institution like UCT."

While studying at the university, Graeme remained diligent in his work, which saw him making the Dean's Merit List in his graduation year.

"THE FACT THAT I HAVE A DEGREE IN THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE, I THINK, HAS GIVEN ME A DEFINITE EDGE, PARTICULARLY IN IDOLS. I, FOR EXAMPLE, KNOW HOW TO USE A STAGE."

"I was quite lucky to get into UCT and just wanted to make the most of it," he says. His commitment to his academics meant that Graeme did not even allow his dyslexia or attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) – conditions that are not uncommon, even at tertiary education institutions – to stop him from obtaining his degree. In fact, meeting academic requirements "was actually a lot easier at university than at high school", says Graeme, because in high school he was still adapting to his conditions.

According to Graeme, the shorthand method of writing that his high school art teacher taught him also proved to be useful for writing down notes during lectures when "you have all these people around you and you're just trying to get everything down". He also used a dictaphone to record lectures.

Despite all the effort he put into his academics, there was still time to nurture good friendships with lecturers and his fellow students. According to Graeme, this is something he'll treasure forever. Graeme says the experience of being part of the UCT campus life and culture means that "you learn a lot of people skills at a more advanced level. Whereas in high school you are still trying to figure out who you are". The fact that his Idols-road has come to an end does not mean that Graeme will be dropping off the entertainment radar any time soon.

"I'll still be involved in the performing arts," he says. Besides singing and acting, he also enjoys directing and would perhaps like to be involved in a combination of these disciplines. Recording some of his music also remains a goal that he would like to accomplish by the end of 2009.

"I've grown so much in this competition (Idols)," he says. "I really feel that after this I can do anything."

Asked which he thought was worse – having his academic work judged in a UCT essay or exam, or being judged by the four Idols judges – Graeme responds without hesitation: "The Idols judges. Because with them you find out straight away. I'd rather get my results on a piece of paper saying 'well done' or 'bad job' – at least at university you don't have to look your lecturer in the eye when you get your results."

Graeme remains grateful for the education and experience he obtained at UCT. "The university helped me incredibly," he says, adding that "if I had the opportunity to travel back in time, I'd definitely go back to UCT."

Yet, travelling back in time to relive his UCT achievements does not seem necessary in Graeme's case. Having already achieved so much success in the classroom as well as on stage, it seems inevitable that any travelling he will do will be en route to even more success.

By Melanie Blythe

SOCCER FOR SISTERS

Anything boys can do, girls can do better. This saying may not apply to soccer (even some women will admit that), but if UCT's women soccer players have anything to do with it – some day soon it will!

UCT women's soccer is growing year-on-year, and at present has about 40 dedicated ladies on its first and second teams. Surprisingly, women's soccer at the university is a truly international affair with almost ten different nationalities represented in the first team alone.

Cassie Clark from Canada, who plays in the first team and coaches the second, says the team is moving into an era of achievement and getting better every year. So far this season, the first team has won all its USSA (University Sport South Africa) games without conceding a single goal.

"The first team has qualified for the national inter-university tournament for the last four years in a row now, but hasn't won yet," she says.

"Last year and in 2007 we also came first

in the Western Cape University League."

The first team is kept busy with university league games, but also plays in the Cape Town SAFA league's second division, which this year has secured sponsorship from ABSA.

Cassie, who has just finished her Masters degree in practical anthropology at UCT, says she was surprised that there were so few South African women in the first team when she signed up for soccer last year.

"In Canada everyone plays soccer – both boys and girls. It is the sport most people play when they are young, but it is not as popular a spectator sport there as it is in South Africa. Here, women seem to watch it more and play it less!" she remarks.

The soon-to-graduate Masters student is so interested in women's soccer that she plans to do her PhD research on the subject, looking at the gender stereotypes that keep SA women off the soccer field, and why this is now beginning to change.

One of the local women challenging gender stereotypes is Linda Kotta, aka Dash, who is a PhD student and an

Academic Development lecturer in UCT's Chemical Engineering department.

She plays left wing for the first team and is super quick – hence the nickname. A natural athlete, Linda leaves the opposition staring hopelessly at her back as she dashes up-field with the ball, giving her team the offensive edge.

According to Linda, who grew up in Umlazi Township in KZN and attended the Sacred Heart Convent for girls in grade 8, she had never kicked a soccer ball before signing up for UCT soccer in 2007.

"I was looking for a team sport after the hockey season ended and decided to try soccer. Everyone was immediately so warm. I now think soccer is a fantastic game," she says.

The UCT soccer teams – both men and women – have recently been lucky enough to have a state-of-the-art synthetic grass field laid down for their use.

This field will also be used as a practice field during the 2010 Soccer World Cup, so UCT students may not have to travel far to get a glimpse of soccer royalty!

"I WAS LOOKING FOR A TEAM SPORT AFTER THE HOCKEY SEASON ENDED AND DECIDED TO TRY SOCCER. EVERYONE WAS IMMEDIATELY SO WARM. I NOW THINK SOCCER IS A FANTASTIC GAME."

Linda Kotta and Cassie Clark



By Nicole Jonklass

LOOKING BACK AND KEEPING CURRENT

"THEN I REALISED THAT THE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE IS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN JUST STUDYING. IT'S ABOUT INTERACTING WITH OTHER STUDENTS AND THE WORLD AROUND YOU."

To merely say that UCT student Tara Weinberg is interested in history and current affairs is to make a very big understatement. For Tara, engaging in these two subjects is a passion – one that she has been able to pursue in her studies and as a member and former chairperson of the History and Current Affairs Society (HCA).

Tara obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2008, having majored in English and history. She continues to study history, currently completing her Honours degree in the subject, and speaks enthusiastically about the university's Department of Historical Studies: "I haven't yet taken a course in that department that I've regretted," she says.

Her involvement in the HCA provides Tara with a valuable way of engaging with her field of study, as well as current affairs, in a relaxed and social environment.

Yet, her involvement in the HCA is not one that happened immediately upon her arrival at UCT in 2006. She spent the first few months at UCT focusing mainly on her

studies and getting accustomed to the university environment. "Then I realised that the university experience is about much more than just studying," says Tara.

"It's about interacting with other students and the world around you."

Following this realisation, Tara joined the HCA, was elected to the society's steering committee, and served as its chairperson in her third year of study. As one of the most active societies on campus, the HCA has two main objectives, explains Tara. "On the one hand it's looking to the past to stimulate intellectual debate, and recognising what has happened in the past in its own right. But it's also about looking at the struggles that we're facing now and seeing what channels there are for action."

Tara adds, "the staple of the HCA is to organise current affairs-related talks around major issues at the time." Past discussions have covered topics such as the controversial Civil Rights Bill, the 2007/8 political unrest in Kenya, and the rights of sex workers in Cape Town. The

society also hosts free documentary screenings on campus and organises history-orientated outings that explore Cape Town and the Western Cape.

"Working on the HCA committee was a valuable experience. It gave me the opportunity to meet a diverse range of people." Tara says that she has made many friends through the committee. She also thanks her former committee members for the influence they had in her receiving UCT's 2008 award for Most Outstanding Student Leader in a Society or Organisation. "I think I won the award partly because of the energy that I'd put into the HCA, but, obviously, it wasn't me alone. The work of the chairperson is easy when everyone is contributing."

Tara recommends that all new UCT students get involved in societies such as the HCA. "You don't have to be a history student to be part of the History and Current Affairs Society," she says, adding that non-members are also welcome. "It enriches your experience of studying at UCT," she says.



A CHANGE BEGINS WITH YOU

by Melanie Blythe

Going to university is about getting an education and having a great time – but it’s also about making an impact, and this is something that UCT students are great at.

The Students’ Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) is a student-run, non-governmental organisation (NGO) at UCT and is the main way you can get involved in helping communities in need around Cape Town.

It focuses its work around health,

education and social welfare, and has a massive network of UCT students who volunteer their time and energy to help out where they can.

SHAWCO has several projects on the go, and you are sure to find one where you can put your skills and passions to good use. And if you don’t, who knows, you could even start up your own unique SHAWCO project.

That’s what an enterprising group of UCT law students did when they had an idea to

teach the ins-and-outs of South African law to Grades 10-12 pupils at disadvantaged schools in Cape Town. It was a big dream but one that SHAWCO, the UCT Law Faculty and LexisNexis pledged their support to.

Enter LAWCO – the Legal Welfare Community Organisation.

The project was the brainchild of UCT law students Rebecca Metz and Meghan Finn, who decided to put their new learning about the law to good use in an ingenious way.

"It was during our first year studying law that Rebecca and I came up with the original idea," says Meghan. "The xenophobic crisis was happening at the time and we realised that although we were studying the law as a tool for change here at UCT, there were very few programmes that used law students to actively do this in the community. Rebecca thought of starting a project to address this need under the SHAWCO banner."

The rest of 2008 was spent putting the project's wheels in motion, with the first LAWCO workshop kicking off early in 2007. The topic of the workshop was 'An Introduction to South African Human Rights', and it received a very warm response from the three schools involved – Aloe Secondary School, Princeton Secondary School in Mitchell's Plain, and Lavender Hill High in Lavender Hill.

The LAWCO workshops are also presented at the SHAWCO Saturday School – where promising learners from Cape Town's underprivileged communities are brought to UCT on Saturdays to supplement their school curriculum learning and give them a better chance of getting into university when they matriculate.

Tim Hodgson, LAWCO committee member, says that teaching human rights to high school kids makes an important contribution to democracy in South Africa and to the teens' social empowerment.

"As law students our view is that people need to know about the law, even if

they don't think they need to. The law is supposed to uplift people but if they don't know how it affects them, then it loses its power. We want to give young people the opportunity to learn about the country's laws and how they are designed to empower them," says Tim.

But how do high school kids react to all that complicated law jargon that is sometimes difficult for even an experienced lawyer to understand?

"WE WANT TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S LAWS AND HOW THEY ARE DESIGNED TO EMPOWER THEM."

Aalia Manie, another committee member, says they try to make the learning experience interactive and fun and interpret the law so it's easier to understand. The workshops are not boring by any means.

"We use much simpler language than the law would use to make it more accessible to the learners," she says.

Rebecca adds that their use of interactive learning tools like powerpoint presentations, videos, and simulations helps to bring the law to life. "No chalk-and-talk teaching methods," says Rebecca, who adds that having fun and taking

the subject seriously are not mutually exclusive.

According to Wendy Tembedza, LAWCO committee member, although the workshop material is designed for high school learners and presented in an entertaining way, it is also academically sound.

"We have had input and advice from academic staff, lawyers and other NGOs regarding our workshop content," she says.

In its first year, LAWCO already has over 50 volunteers from the Law Faculty and a committee of nine law students. Things look great for the growing project and the rest of 2009 will see it present three more workshops covering civil and political law; labour law; and family law and children's rights.

But besides giving youngsters a better understanding of South African law, LAWCO volunteers admit that they, too, are learning a lot from the project.

"Of course our main aim is to educate learners but we are getting an education too," says Tim. "In the Law Faculty there are not many students that come from the communities we work in. This is a way for our volunteers to get exposure to life in underprivileged schools and communities that they wouldn't normally get, so it's helping us all to understand our country better and the challenges that South African people face."

Here's to a new generation of smart and compassionate lawyers!

SHAWCO FACTS:

- **SHAWCO, the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation, is a student-run NGO.**
- **It was founded in 1943 by Andrew Kinnear, a medical student who was moved to action by the need which he saw in the impoverished communities of Cape Town.**
- **It is one of the country's largest student volunteer organisations, with over 1 200 volunteers running over 15 health and education projects in the Cape metropolitan area.**

A YEAR @ UCT

Compiled by Natasha Arendorf

The University of Cape Town is a buzz of activity throughout the year as there are many different events taking place, from the all-important examinations and graduations to fun, social events like the Reach And Give (RAG) festival and *SAX Appeal* day that keep the students at UCT entertained. From January to December, it's important to know what you can look forward to at UCT.

January

Summer Vacation

UCT, as with most other universities in the Western Cape, is closed to students in January. Students enjoy a long break and return to classes or start as freshers only in February, thus there are no big events during this month.

February

SAX Appeal Day

SAX Appeal, UCT RAG's annual humour magazine, is the sexiest student-published mag around. The magazine is produced by the students and foisted upon an unsuspecting public once a year on *SAX Appeal* day. Students dress up, using a theme that originates from that edition of the magazine and they take to the streets of Cape Town to sell the mag and raise money.

the year. The Rag Fest is a fun sports day where students take part in rugby and soccer tournaments. RAG invites live bands to entertain spectators while they watch their teams fight it out for first place. March is also the month for the RAG Float Festival. UCT residences each attempt to make floats, and spectators are subjected to many crazy and innovative creations.

April

UCT RAG Fashion Week

After an exciting two weeks of choosing models, competitions for the best designs and best photography, Fashion Week culminates in an evening extravaganza of spunk and sassiness. The fashion show is held in a funky venue around Cape Town and funds raised go to SHAWCO.

May

UCT Open Day

The annual Open Day presents an ideal opportunity for school-going learners and their parents or guardians to explore the vast range of study options that UCT showcases on this day. Open Day gives learners the chance to find out for themselves exactly what various fields of study entail. The opportunity to speak to someone face-to-face about the different academic programmes and what they involve is absolutely vital to making the appropriate study choices.



February
SAX Appeal Day



March
UCT RAG Festival

March

UCT RAG Festival

This is one of the most anticipated events on the UCT social calendar. The members of UCT's RAG organisation dedicate their time to organising various events throughout

June

Mid-year examinations

Mid-year exams start in earnest. A lot of preparations go into this exam and for that reason there are few social events around this time.

July

Winter Vacation

UCT students welcome a nice long break after the demanding mid-year examinations. It's a time to relax and just have fun.

attend question-and-answer sessions that take place on the various UCT campuses and at the residences. This marks the official start of campaigning.

September

Steve Biko Memorial Lecture

The Steve Biko Memorial Lecture takes place in September when the nation commemorates the death of Steve Biko. The lecture has become a national ritual in what the UCT Vice-Chancellor describes as "a resuscitative moment" in the life of our nation. Broadcast in 49 countries via television and on 360 community radio stations, it is arguably the most closely followed public lecture on the continent.

November

Final examinations

Students write two major examinations during the year. The last one takes place in November. This examination is usually the one that students fear the most, but if you work hard and study throughout the year, then this exam will be a breeze.



August
SRC Elections



December
Graduation Week

August

Student elections

The Student Representative Council (SRC) Election is held annually in this month under the theme 'Building Democracy'. In the week prior to this, candidates are presented to the university student community and they

October

SACM Annual Jazz Festival

This annual festival features the UCT Big Band and other groups from the Jazz Programme. Judith Sepuma started her famous singing career performing in the UCT Big Band.

December

Graduation week

Graduation is indeed one of the highlights on the university calendar. It is the day when undergraduate and postgraduate students receive their degrees. It takes place twice a year at UCT – in a two-day event in June, and then the main graduation week in mid-December.

WHO IS WHO IN THE

Many a small-town guy and girl have been known to arrive at UCT only to be shocked by the weird and wonderful people that make up its diverse community. In the interests of preparing you for what awaits, we've compiled a profile of the more (un)usual suspects. Below are some insights into a few of the most noteworthy subcultures and cliques on campus. Keep this guide handy in case you bump into any of them and need to make conversation.

[Disclaimer: The majority of UCT students, you may be happy to know, are ordinary folk like you and me.]

HIPPIES HIPPIES HIPPIES



Please note that this refers to modern hippie-types, not the original 1960s global movement. Hippies today are not the phenomenon they once were and are now restricted to small groups easily spotted by their lack of shoes, dreadlocks, funny smells and a 'hey-shoo-wow' manner of speaking. They still love the Earth and partying all weekend long. Generally, they are a nice enough bunch – as long as you treat them kindly. Most belonging to this bunch hail from the Capetonian breed of students.

How to spot one: Bare feet or sandals, long hair (often in dreadlocks), 'bohemian' dress sense. If you hear the words 'trance party' it is likely you are in the company of a hippie. If they then mention the mountain or ocean, you definitely are.

What to do if approached by one: It's ok, that smell is only a bit of stale body odour and cigarette smoke mixed with incense. Other than that, there is nothing to worry about. If you are lost for words, bring up the beauty of the natural landscape and how wonderful it feels to crunch sand between your toes. Then ask what their star sign is.

EMO EMO EMO



This movement was spawned by the Punk and Goth movements but all it has amounted to is a group of sad-looking teens in tight jeans. It's hard to say what they stand for. Or against. What is clear, however, is that they like to moan about the world and hate just about everything. As a teenager you probably know more about these guys than we can tell you, so let's leave it at that.

How to spot one: As we said, tight black jeans, black hair in weird styles (usually an exaggerated side parting with an oily fringe plastered onto the forehead), often found in striped attire (red and black being the preferred colours) with piercings and signs of light dabbling in self-harm.

What to do if approached by one: Rest assured, this will rarely happen as Emo kids are generally shy and stick to their own kind.

HIP HOP HIP HOP HIP HOP



Compiled by Melanie Blythe



Try telling these trendy ladies that UCT upper campus is NOT Paris Fashion Week – good luck! While the rest of the student mob struggles to find something clean to wear each day, these dames come dressed to kill in a new outfit every day of the year. Not strictly-speaking a subculture (more like cliques), they spend more time in the bathrooms adjusting their hair and make-up than in lecture theatres. Oh-so fabulous darling!

How to spot one: Was that the latest Cosmo fashion spread that just walked past???

What to do if approached by one: If you are a guy, count yourself lucky. If you are a girl, make an exit asap – they will only make you look and feel like a student pauper.

FASHIONISTAS

JOCKS

HEAD UP HEAD P HOP HEAD

Most of the 'heads' you'll find on campus are sadly too poor to be fully kitted out in the trademark hip hop bling, given the sad student budget scenario. They can usually be found at the back of the lecture theatre with earphones hidden under hoods, heads bobbing.

How to spot one: Baggy jeans, oversized hoodies, baseball caps and sneakers – all of the brand name persuasion. Oh, and fake diamond earrings and American accents.

What to do if approached by one: This is tricky – some of their lingo is sure to confuse a brother or a sista. For example: Benjamins = money; flow = to rap; shizzle = sure; ill = cool. So in a sentence, 'Sup dawg, we gots to spit an ill flow, then wes can bring home da benjamins.'



Wherever you're from, chances are you know this group well. These sport-loving Neanderthals of the male persuasion made it into university based on their ball skills rather than book skills.

How to spot one: Just as dogs are known for their 'pack mentality', so too are Jocks known for hanging out in groups of five or more. Highly competitive, these guys spend their days trying to prove their manliness through tests of endurance and skill – like downing beer. Their physique and attitude gives them away more than their clothing.

What to do if approached by one: Talk sport, preferably rugby.

ART @ UCT

By Emma Bryce
Photography by Pedri Koen

Art at the University of Cape Town is inescapable. Across campuses, it leaps from the walls of lecture halls and cafés and decorates the climb up and down the library stairs. But few students are aware of the stories behind the art. Emma Bryce and photographer Pedri Koen earned their lunch by traipsing across all manner of campus tar and cement to bring you the low-down on some of UCT's finest works.



from welded zinc and steel by Gavin Younge, the sculpture stands outside the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library, near the Jammie steps, and one often finds students resting or reading on its wide platform.

3 This piece, titled *Mechanical Man* by Lippy Lipschitz of UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art, merges a human figure with mechanical elements, which incites questions about human nature in a world increasingly dominated by machines. Lippy Lipschitz was one of South Africa's foremost twentieth century sculptors, and his work was said to be not sculptures of Africa by a European, but with the heart of Africa in them.

women who form part of an empowerment initiative called the Mapula Embroidery Project. The artists call themselves "Mapula" – mothers of rain – symbolic of the enriching income generated by their art. UCT acquired a string of artworks for the Kramer Law Building, where they now live up the passageways.

5 This symbolic lithograph was created by artist Stephen Inggs in 1986, and is titled *L.A. Calling*. It is one of a series of artworks symbolising the roles women play in society. Art critic Neville Dubow notes on a nearby plaque that the artworks are offered as a "commemoration of the 100th year of women on UCT campus".

Upper Campus

1 This larger-than-life artwork was bought by the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library from artist Diane Victor. It is titled *Pasiphae* – a bull figure from Greek mythology, and was drawn purely in charcoal between 2001 and 2002. Clearly, it bears a strong sense of South African culture. *Pasiphae* stands outside the library, near the pay phones, where students gaze up at it in awe.

2 Various known as 'The Eagle' or 'The UFO' by students, this sculpture is in fact titled *Hoerikwaggo* – a Khoisan name meaning Table Mountain. Made

Middle Campus: Kramer Law Building



4 This brightly-coloured tapestry is titled *Winterveldt in South Africa*, by an artist named Maria Rengane. She is one of many

Hiddingh Campus

6 According to Thomas Cartwright of Hiddingh, this tiny, detailed sculpture formed part of the UCT Curiosity Exhibition held on the arts campus to celebrate UCT's 175th anniversary. Created by Cape Town sculptor David Brown, and titled *Sensual, but not too sensual*, the golden figure on the boat was one of a number of 'curios' collected from across UCT campuses to showcase the university's history.



Information courtesy of Mary Van Blommestein.

Permission granted by the UCT Works of Arts Committee / Director: Christopher Peter / Curator: Mary Van Blommestein.

LEARN, BUILD, GROW

By Remy Ngamije



Enrolling at UCT, Africa's most prestigious university, is not just about joining a world of bookworms and reclusive academics. Rather, it is a place of vibrant, dynamic and diverse students who not only pursue academic excellence, but also seek to be involved in the cultural, social and political arenas of student life.

UCT is a campus of students, leaders, dancers, writers and athletes; people who will change the world. One such student is Sizwe Mpofo-Walsh, a young rapper and second-year student pursuing a degree in politics, philosophy and economics. When not involved with his academics or his music career, he is busy with his youth leadership company called Grow2Lead that has trained over 5 000 students in South Africa.

Meeting Sizwe is a lot like going on a blind date, you just do not know what to expect. As a member of the well-known South African rap group Entity, I expected a hip-hop artist dressed in baggy jeans, an oversized shirt and glittering necklaces.

However, when you meet the soft-spoken young man, you are pleasantly surprised. He epitomises the famous saying that 'perception is deception', what you see is not what you get. Just like the way people think that at UCT, it is all work and no play.

As a third-year student at UCT myself who knows about the workload, I was amazed at the number of commitments outside the academic sphere that Sizwe is currently involved in.

"I AM NOT JUST A MUSICIAN OR JUST A STUDENT, BUT I AM BOTH."

He is tournament director of the African Schools Debating Championships. This, in conjunction with the fact that he still manages to pursue his academic responsibilities, is just the tip of the iceberg for Sizwe.

Asked about his personal motto, he states that he seeks to "Learn, build and grow".

"It is the motto of my rap group, but is also my stance towards life. With regards to learning, I've learned a lot from my courses. Mainly to become more conscious of the philosophical decisions that I make and not leaving them to subconscious social habits. When it comes to 'building', I can say that I have built up some of my moral beliefs. I have built my understanding of myself and my intellectual capacity. As for growing, I have grown taller and I have also grown my understanding of human nature."

Despite being a successful musician, Sizwe is a hardworking student. He manages to balance all the interests that he pursues with his academic responsibilities, which is what UCT seeks to do for all students. UCT offers every student the chance to fill a certain niche, a special corner of university life that caters to their specific talents and tastes. Sizwe emphatically states that his niche "lies in the fact that I am not just a musician or just a student, but I am both".

UCT GIVES RISE TO A TRIUMPHANT ARTIST

By Emma Bryce

Johann van der Schijff's artwork is different. It demands attention. It looks so malleable, so tangible, so... punchable. Which is, in fact, exactly what the artist wants.

"I DRAW MY INSPIRATION FROM LIFE. I DRAW INSPIRATION FROM THIS COUNTRY, WHICH IS SUCH A STRANGE PLACE TO LIVE. IT'S A DICHOTOMY. ON THE ONE HAND, WE HAVE THIS INCREDIBLE BEAUTY IN PLACE AND PEOPLE; ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS A PLACE OF VIOLENCE. THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT INTERESTING."

"It invites the viewer to make use of the work – this comes very much from my new-media teaching," Johann explains. "I'm interested in pulling the audience into the work." Incidentally, the artist tells, a number of his recent pieces of installation art are actually designed as punch bags: there is *Peerbal II/Pear Ball II*, an upside down sack fashioned like a human head; and *Slaansak/Punching Bag*, a rotund snowman figure that hangs from a metal frame on wheels. There are even photographs of people taking a violent swing at the art. "There's a sense of humour in the work, I hope," Johann considers.

In 2008, a number of these large works were flown to an exotic destination – Dakar in Senegal. Here, the 8th Annual Biennale was held, titled *Dak'Art*. More recently, Johann and his artworks were transported to an exhibition in Berlin.

And with the possibility of an upcoming trip to Algeria in June, this UCT graduate is becoming a certified globetrotter.

Johann started life as an ordinary schoolboy, attending the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool in Pretoria. Raised in an encouraging environment, and fuelled by "a long tradition of art" at his school, he matriculated in 1986 with his mind set on artistic exploration.

From there – following his own principle of changing one's context – the artist took off to Cape Town. Here, he spent four years within the elegant old stone walls and winding passageways of the Michaelis School of Fine Art at UCT – years that he argues, "gave me the edge". He learned from the likes of artist Gavin Younge and renowned sculptor David Brown. Today, Johann shares a studio with Brown, and considers him a major influence.

After graduation Johann developed an interest in computer animation, he worked for a while in Johannesburg, and then crossed the seas to live in the icy Netherlands for two years. There he received a further Masters, and returned to South Africa to work in post-production and animation for two years, but began to feel the umbilical tug of his own art. "I had a big urge to create my own artworks. What I had been doing was just commercially-driven – I missed the rigour that surrounded academia, and the intellectual debates."

By 2001, his yearning was satisfied when he returned to Michaelis – this time

bearing the title of Lecturer in New Media. But with only one half of his craving sated, Johann turned to more personal matters: his own art. By 2006, he had completed his first solo exhibition, titled *Power Play*, and continued on his path of artistic experimentation.

When asked "what lies beneath" his art, Johann answers, "I draw inspiration from life, from this country, which is such a strange place to live." He pauses. "It's a dichotomy. On the one hand, we have this incredible beauty in place and people; on the other hand, it is a place of violence. That's what makes it interesting."



PHYSICS AND PHYSICAL THRILLS

By Nicole Jonklass

If you were to imagine a stereotypical physics enthusiast, you would probably think of someone who wears a white coat, conducts experiments in his lab, and can talk for hours about vectors and scalars.

You probably would not imagine someone who spends many of their weekends in the great outdoors doing thrilling adventure sports like rock climbing, hiking and skiing. This, however, is exactly what Angus Morrison, a Masters student in physics and chair of UCT's Mountain & Ski Club (MSC), does.

Hailing from Zimbabwe, Angus was first drawn to UCT by the merits of its physics department and the beauty of the UCT campus. However, upon arriving on campus in 2005, he was quick to take an active involvement in the sporting opportunities and groups that form part of the UCT experience. "When I was in first year, I joined a number of clubs," explains Angus. "Two of them were the Mountain & Ski Club (MSC) and the Yacht Club."

He became more involved in these two clubs by serving on their respective steering committees for three years each. Angus also served as the treasurer of UCT's Students Sports Union, and is now its chairperson. And, of course, there is also his current position as the chair of the MSC, one of the most eminent and active sports clubs on campus.

Describing the various outdoor activities that the MSC hosts, Angus' passion for and knowledge of the sport is clear.

"A big part of the culture of the MSC is spontaneity," he explains, "but we do organise meets every weekend. There are generally at least three activities organised

every weekend, and these events cover a range of disciplines including hiking, kloofing, caving, rock climbing, bouldering (or wall climbing done in the dedicated climbing room of the UCT gym), adventure racing and conservation activities."

"OBVIOUSLY WHEN YOU COME TO UNIVERSITY YOU COME TO GET A DEGREE AND TO LEARN, BUT I THINK ONE OF THE WAYS YOU CAN OR SHOULD GROW IS THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SPORT."

As its name suggests, the MSC also offers skiing activities. This is done during winter at the Zuurberg Estate, a portion of land in the Hex River Mountains that is owned by UCT and which, Angus says, includes "one of only two ski slopes in the Western Cape and one of four in South Africa".

Those who have never done rock climbing or skiing need not worry. "New members don't need experience," explains Angus, "as a lot of what we do is introductory or training meets."

According to Angus, the MSC also hosts more 'gentle' activities, such as social gatherings. The club also has an award-winning outreach programme.

Angus is now a major part of the culture of the MSC and the opportunities it offers, and has earned commendations for his contribution. In 2008, he was awarded the Turpin Cup for Service to UCT Sport, and he says that he values the opportunity the MSC has given him to "work my way

up the ranks of student leadership".

"It's just been fantastic interacting with so many people and seeing how I have developed," he says. Like most students who join societies or clubs, he has also gained many friends. "Most of my mates are from the MSC," says Angus.

Having dabbled in recreational soccer and rugby during his time at UCT, Angus believes that sport is an important part of growing and becoming more independent during your time at university.

"Obviously when you come to university you come to get a degree and to learn, but I think one of the ways you can or should grow is through participation in sport."



FIGHT LIKE A TIGER

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE

By Duncan Scott

In slops, blue-striped shorts, and a dark blue T-shirt, JJ Gagiano's relaxed style contrasts with the suits of the businessmen and women who fill the Cavendish Square shopping centre. The cast on his right hand, there to help heal ligament damage sustained while playing for the US Eagles against Japan in November 2008, is prominent, but Gagiano dismisses it flippantly. "It looks worse than it actually is," he casually explains.

Gagiano, who has a few days' worth of stubble and sports a well-worn Ikey Tigers cap, was awarded the UCT rugby team captaincy at the beginning of the 2008 season. He led UCT to a Varsity Cup final against Stellenbosch and to a semi-final against Pukke (North-West University) in the 2009 tournament, although the Ikeys lost both matches. Thinking back to the semi-final defeat, the 23-year-old eighth man, capped three times by the Eagles, says passionately, "It took me a week and a half to realise what happened, and it still burns, every now and then."

Despite his disappointment surrounding his team's defeat, Gagiano remains upbeat, and describes how, prior to the inception of the Varsity Cup in 2008 (now one of the sporting year's biggest student events), UCT was never recognised as "a force". Gagiano, who matriculated from Bishops in 2003 and studied a BCom in accounts at UCT, believes that because of the team's performance in the tournament over the last two years, "guys who, before, wouldn't go to varsity, who would rather go to another club, will now come to varsity and get an education, play Varsity Cup, be seen on TV, and have the chance of getting signed by different provinces".

When Gagiano speaks of the UCT rugby

team, he speaks with warmth, so that his affection for his team-mates becomes tangible. The care Gagiano shows towards the coaching staff, which includes such high-flyers as Robbie Fleck, Selborne Boome and Tim Noakes, is reminiscent of his description of his attitude, as captain, toward his players. "I'm a people's person," he explains. "I phone my players up and ask, 'how's the girlfriend?', 'how's varsity?', 'how's home-life?' I enjoy it, because it keeps me in the loop."

"I'M A PEOPLES PERSON, I PHONE MY PLAYERS UP AND ASK, HOW'S THE GIRLFRIEND? HOW'S VARSITY? HOW'S HOME-LIFE?"

Despite the effort he spends keeping in touch with his team-mates, he still believes that a good captain leads by example on the pitch, rather than by words. And while he says that having the captaincy means that he has something to think about, off the field and on, he says that doesn't affect the way he plays his rugby. "Obviously, it's because of how you played earlier that the coach picked you as captain, so you must be doing something right." He says that he finds that if he plays the best he can play, things generally go well, and that "if the first team does well, then the club does well".

As captain of the university's first team, Gagiano may carry more responsibility than an ordinary UCT student, but like the rest, he does, indeed, like to party. Some of his best memories of his years playing for UCT involve "having a laugh" after a hard game. He sums it up, saying, "We work

hard, and play hard." He also points out an important feature of the UCT rugby club that helps sustain his own, and the team's morale, which is that all UCT's coaches are ex-UCT players. "They know how we feel," Gagiano says, "because they were there."

Despite his commitment to both the club and his studies, Gagiano is adamant that neither of his passions suffered, and that his rugby helped him to focus on his academics. "You're either at varsity the whole day, or you're studying in the library. On the field, you can run around and enjoy what you're doing, and have a laugh. It's quite a good relief." Nevertheless, he adds, "The time that you do have, is 'me time'. I know a couple of guys with girlfriends, who are struggling – so I'm lucky I don't have a girlfriend," he laughs.

Gagiano now also has a new passion. In his words, he wants to be a commercial pilot "when I grow up". His ultimate aim is to make the US Eagles 2011 World Cup side, and after that to fly for a commercial airline such as Emirates. Getting in his flying time is proving difficult with his commitment to rugby, but he'll be an aeroplane captain soon enough. What's more, if his captaincy on the field is anything to go by, his flight crew will be well looked after, and he'll have a laugh while he's about it, too.

JJ – a nickname given to him by his dad when he was young, his real name is Jonathan Richard – knows most things about the UCT Rugby Club, but he struggles to explain why the UCT First XV is called the Ikeys. "It's a long history," he answers tentatively. "I know it, sort of – it's to do with stuff back in the day." Some things will remain a mystery, but one thing, at least, is certain: UCT rugby is on the way up, and so is JJ Gagiano, in more ways than one.



"GUYS WHO, BEFORE, WOULD'N'T GO TO VARSITY, WHO WOULD RATHER GO TO ANOTHER CLUB, WILL NOW COME TO VARSITY AND GET AN EDUCATION, PLAY VARSITY CLUB, BE SEEN ON TV, AND HAVE THE CHANCE OF GETTING SIGNED BY DIFFERENT PROVINCES."

RESIDENCE

By Melanie Blythe

Coming to UCT means getting a world-class education, but it also represents freedom! The thought of leaving mommy and daddy at home while you delve into university life is for most more exciting than finishing school – but be warned, communal living can be tough on the uninitiated. Yizani brings you some golden tips that will prepare you for the best – and the worst – of res living.



SETTLING IN

Arriving with your bags on ‘check-in’ day you need to be prepared for what awaits you. UCT residences are great as far as university accommodation goes – but you won’t find a first-class suite à la The Hilton awaiting you. What you will find is a room, a bed, a cupboard, a desk and chair, bookcase, curtains, notice board and wait for it – a wastepaper bin! Yep, that’s all. It’s not exactly what you’d describe as “homey”, but on the positive side, it’s just waiting for you to put your (non-permanent) mark on it. Things you should bring with you include bedding, a rug for the floor, some artwork, photos, cushions, and maybe a pot plant or two. Other than that, if you can bring along a radio, PC and portable TV, you’re sorted.

Top tip: Remember, your room will speak volumes about who you are to all your new res buddies – so perhaps leave the teeny bopper posters and Spiderman duvet set at home.

NEW FACES

Most people in res are not Cape Town locals, for “financial reasons” they usually stay with their folks while studying, so everyone is new, everyone is lost and

everyone is looking for a chum. Be friendly – but don’t look desperate – and you’ll soon strike up a friendship or two. It may happen while you’re brushing your teeth, it may be while you stand in line for food – every occasion is full of promise when you live with a few hundred other people from all over the country and all walks of life.

Top tip: It’s not that difficult to meet new people, even if you’re the shy type. Our only advice is that you take care of your personal hygiene. With mom not there to wash your clothes and remind you to clean behind your ears, many res first-timers forget about basic hygiene. If people aren’t coming too close it might mean you need to address a BO issue.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

This is a sticky point for many but comments on res food range from compliments to complaints – depending on your individual taste. Mass catering has never had the best reputation on the culinary scene, so don’t



There are 15 first-tier residences at UCT - they provide accommodation for undergraduate students, who are usually under the age of 21. For more information, contact Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services on 021 650 2102.

- Baxter Hall (females)
- Clarinus Village Clarendon and Carinus Clarendon (male)
- Carinus (female)
- College House (male)
- Fuller Hall (female)
- Graça Machel Hall (female)
- Glendower (GlenRes) (both)

- Kilindini (male)
- Kopano (male)
- Leo Marquard Hall (male)
- Rochester House (both)
- Smuts Hall (male)
- Tugwell Hall (female)
- University House (male)
- Varietas (both)



TIPS 101



while you brush your teeth each morning. Luckily, one becomes desensitised to such things after a couple of weeks and soon enough you'll take no notice (what this says about the impact of res on hygiene standards, we're just not sure).

Top tip: You really want to wear a pair of slip slippers while showering, given the amount of feet that trudge through the same showers each day. Be assured that all bathrooms are cleaned daily – but still, best not to take chances...Another thing, save zit squeezing for the privacy of your own room, it won't create a good impression.

HOMESICKNESS

You might laugh in scorn at the thought of homesickness now, but a certain heart pang for home has been known to surface after the excitement of the first two weeks in res has abated. Fear not, you're not alone. Many of your new pals might be putting on a brave face but deep inside they are crying for mom too.

Top tip: Every bird must fly the nest – that is the nature of life. Count yourself lucky that you are not alone but shackled up with hundreds of other lost chicks (the baby bird-kind). Make sure you always have enough airtime to call



home or that you at least know how to send a 'please call me'. Chances are your parents will be missing you just as much – but full of pride – and will have plenty of words of encouragement when you need a pick-me-up. You'll be happy to know that mostly, all symptoms of homesickness dissipate within two months.

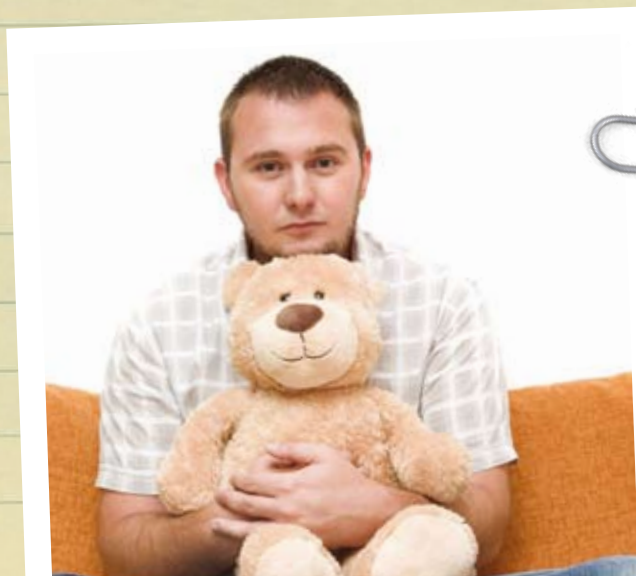
Above all, though, remember that you will most likely have the best time of your life in res and with these words of wisdom in mind and a PMA (positive mental attitude) you'll be able to handle anything that comes your way!

expect restaurant-quality meals under candlelight. On the other hand, don't expect the worst either; it's actually pretty decent most of the time. And if you don't like it at first, don't worry – you'll get used to it!

Top tip: Whatever your opinion on the dinner delights in res, don't resort to the take-out place around the corner to meet your daily dietary requirements. You'll only end up watching your waistline expand as your wallet shrinks. Rather think fruit and water – that will be kinder to both.

SHARING A BATHROOM

When reading section 1 (above) you may have been struck with horror to find your res bedroom does not come with an en-suite. Sorry, but you'll be sharing a bathroom with lots of other girls or guys and you'll need to get used to seeing stray hairs in the sink



THE RUNNING GHOST

By Seamus Duggan

"LEGEND HAS IT THERE IS A GHOST THAT CIRCLES THE RESIDENCES AT NIGHT, CREATING A BARRIER THAT PREVENTS STUDENTS FROM SNEAKING FRIENDS INTO THEIR ROOMS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PREVENTING UNWELCOME VISITORS FROM CREEPING IN THROUGH THE WINDOWS."

Institutions such as the University of Cape Town, which has been around for over 175 years, are overflowing with myths and mysteries. Some of these are believable and tragic while others are just comically superstitious. During his research into the myths that flood the halls of UCT, Seamus Duggan found one particular mystery that straddled the line between fact and fiction. Yizani deployed him into the dark of the campus to find out on which side of the line this particular story fell.

It is three o'clock on Friday morning. Despite the icy wind and rapidly approaching storm clouds, I find myself sitting on the famous Jammie steps, the centerpiece of the upper campus of the University of Cape Town. Funnily enough, I am not the only one occupying a place on the steps at this obscure time of the night. Residence students, returning from a night of gallivanting, are winding down the evening all around me.

Surprisingly, the reason I am not at home in my toasty bed is not because I had the overwhelming urge to bond with my campus-dwelling peers, but it is because of something I had heard mentioned by more than one of these res students. The story I have been told is a common one among the learners that live in the two residences

on upper campus. It is often used to ignite the imaginations of the first-years that make Smuts Hall or Fuller Hall their home.

Legend has it there is a ghost that circles the residences at night, creating a barrier that prevents students from sneaking friends into their rooms while at the same time preventing unwelcome visitors from creeping in through the windows. She haunts the periphery of the buildings and descends on any who try to get past her. Like any rational human being, I find this a little hard to believe. Nevertheless, I thought it was a story worth exploring, so after spending the evening with a few friends, I decided to kill a bit of time on the steps to see if the legend had any solid grounding.

Hours pass and I see nothing but tired students stumbling home. It gets colder and the imminent threat of rain constantly attempts to persuade me to give up and return to my own quarters. Then it happens. Half asleep and buried in my jersey, I hear the muffled sound of someone wheezing for breath in the distance and the soft, yet unmistakable and rhythmical reverberation of an object gliding over the road with delicate precision. I glance up from my rigid stone pillow to the vivid image of a luminous pink figure with translucent white hair and deadly

pale skin coming straight towards me.

Having dampened the initial explosion of adrenaline and resisted the urge to run screaming, I come to the realisation that my senses have been playing tricks on me. The figure heading in my direction, the one on which so many stories have been based, is not a ghost. In fact, it is not anything vaguely supernatural; it is an elderly woman in a neon pink tracksuit going for a jog in the quiet and relative safety provided by upper campus.

As she runs past me, I attempt to make contact, but my efforts are ignored. Ten minutes later, the process repeats itself and the woman runs past again. This goes on and on for the better part of the next hour, until eventually, the sun begins to rise and the woman vanishes.

With daybreak, she ceases to circle the residences and students are once more free to come and go as they please. Is it because they know they don't have to fear the running ghost during the day? Maybe. Personally, I think it is more feasible that the students inadvertently avoid the energetic geriatric because when she starts running, they are only climbing into bed. Somewhat like a ghost, she occupies a world that is far beyond the reach or imagination of any student. Supernatural indeed.

GETTING ABOUT FOR FREE

WITH UCT JAMMIE SHUTTLE

By Seamus Duggan

Imagine, waking up with only a few minutes to get ready and haul yourself from your bed to campus for your early morning lecture (at UCT lectures start at 8am). Exams are close, assignments are due and you cannot afford to be late for class. You do not have a car, no money for a taxi and the ground between your residence and campus is too vast to cover by foot. If you were at any other university in Africa, you might find this something of a difficult situation. At the University of Cape Town, however, there is a simple solution – the Jammie Shuttle.

Jammie Shuttle is a relatively new phenomenon at UCT. Established in 2005, the free bus transportation service has quickly become ingrained in student culture at the university. Like any other student, a shortage of time and money are your greatest problems but the Jammie Shuttle is a tool provided by the university to help combat these ever-present foes.

In a situation, for example, where you have no time, little spare cash and a great distance to cover, all you need to do is head to your closest shuttle-stop and wait a few minutes for the next Jammie to carry you safely – for free – to your destination. If you do decide to make use of the busses, you will be one of roughly 35 000 students that do so on any given weekday and it provides you with ample opportunity to mix with the weird and wonderful beings that make up the student population.

The shuttle service has a squadron of 26 to service the transportation needs of both students and staff; this includes a bus

to cater for the needs of the disabled. The fleet pours out from its resting place below the tennis club before six in the morning and works tirelessly until midnight. All in all, if you need to get somewhere on one of the services' 13 routes, operating from the City Bowl all the way to Claremont and beyond, it is possible to do so for 18 hours of the day. If you find yourself stuck in the middle of nowhere between midnight and sunrise, unfortunately you will have to part with some of your parents hard-earned money and get a taxi. It's tough being a student.

If you live in the Claremont-Mowbray area, then you are part of something quite unique. The operating on this route are a result of a deal between the university and the local taxi associations, which

sees the taxi operators carrying students on behalf of Jammie, free of charge. The Amalgamated Transport Services (ATS), as it is known, makes use of 15-seater taxis and keeps drivers employed who were at risk of losing their jobs with the introduction of the Jammie Shuttle. The deal meant that drivers could continue to operate in the area, avoiding the possibility of turf wars if they were to move on to other routes.

So there you go, next time you need to get from A to B bear in mind that when using a Jammie, you are participating in something with more substance than the average transport system. It is a weapon for your academic arsenal, a way to engage with other students and a way to save money. Not bad for a service that has been around for less than half a decade.

"IN A SITUATION, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE YOU HAVE NO TIME, LITTLE SPARE CASH AND A GREAT DISTANCE TO COVER, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS HEAD TO YOUR CLOSEST SHUTTLE-STOP AND WAIT A FEW MINUTES FOR THE NEXT JAMMIE TO CARRY YOU SAFELY - FOR FREE - TO YOUR DESTINATION."



CHOOSING A COURSE OF STUDY IS NOT THE SAME AS CHOOSING A CAREER

by Ingrid van der Merwe

Whether you are a school-leaver considering your options or a graduate seeking employment, the 21st Century world of work you will be entering is very different from when your parents started work. Rapid changes in technology have influenced products, markets, the way people work and the way organisations are run. Employers require a variety of skills needed to negotiate this constant onslaught of change, most of which are not academic in nature. Anyone who just studies a course will be ill-equipped to enter this new world of work. Yes, qualifications are important, but only to provide a framework for work to which you need to add experience and growth through a range of activities, like work experience and anything that interests you both inside and outside the formal learning environment.

This ongoing process, which we will call career development, is active, engaging and unique to each individual. See this process as a set of steps, and move away from the idea that career choice is a once-off decision, taken in one's last year at school.

After school you will be exposed to new situations that will challenge and change you, and introduce you to abilities you may not be aware of and options you hadn't considered. So, you may ask how you can be expected to choose a course of study while at school. Once you recognise that choosing a course of study is not the same as choosing a career, it frees up your choices.

What confuses the issue is that some qualifications are connected to certain fields of work (e.g. Social Work), while

others seem to have no connection at all. Some degrees are not directly linked to a profession. However, while all qualifications have a body of knowledge that is part of that discipline, this does not mean that the career options open to those studying in these fields are necessarily limited to this subject area. If you study sociology you become a sociologist, or if you study physics you become a physicist.

"IF RESEARCHING YOUR STUDY CHOICES SEEMS TOO OVERWHELMING IN MATRIC, DON'T PANIC. THIS IS NORMAL, EVEN HEALTHY. IT IS NOT THE TIME TO NARROW YOUR HORIZONS. IF IN DOUBT, SPECIALISE LATER RATHER THAN SOONER. REMEMBER, CAREER DEVELOPMENT IS A LIFE LONG PROCESS. GIVE YOURS THE TIME AND ATTENTION YOU DESERVE."

The fact is ALL work requires skills and in most cases skills are not unique to particular types of work. In our work as career professionals we have seen history graduates becoming media professionals, genetics graduates who enter advertising, education graduates that enter retail and music graduates that enter IT! What has made possible the move away from the more predictable career routes was

the wider skill development of these individuals, in addition to their vocational qualifications.

Grade 11s and 12s often express fears about "choosing the wrong career". This is greatly lessened if one understands that one is not choosing a career for life in grade 12. If you do have a specific career in mind, research it well, as many people have inaccurate and romanticised ideas about what certain jobs entail. But if you haven't a clue what you're going to be, don't stress.

When choosing a course, choose something that you are interested in and good at. Whether you are sure about what you want to do career-wise or not, it is essential to research the content of a course you are considering. Many tertiary education students are ill-informed through lack of research and make assumptions about the nature of their courses, and where these studies will lead them in life, only to hit boredom, difficulty or unexpected obstacles which result in dropping out, failure, depression or feeling they have to slog on with a second best choice.

If researching your study choices seems too overwhelming in matric, don't panic. This is normal, even healthy. It is not the time to narrow your horizons. If in doubt, specialise later rather than sooner. Remember, career development is a life long process – give yours the time and attention you deserve.

For more information on making informed study choices contact the Career Development Programme on (021) 650 4398 or email: cdp-preadmin@uct.ac.za.



WHAT IS YOUR DREAM CAREER? ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO STUDY? TAKE THIS FUN PERSONALITY TEST TO SEE WHICH TYPE OF CAREER WOULD SUIT YOU BEST.

Compiled by Melanie Blythe

1. If you had an evening off, what would you rather do?

- a Go to a party
- b Stay home and surf the Internet
- c Work on a hobby such as scrap booking or model building
- d Go to a movie

2. Which section of the newspaper do you turn to first?

- a Advice column or letters to the editor
- b News
- c Sports
- d Entertainment

3. What would you prefer to do at a party?

- a Greet people at the door
- b Join in a discussion of current events
- c Make hors d'oeuvres
- d Entertain

4. Which book would you rather receive as a gift?

- a Chicken Soup for the Soul
- b A Brief History of Time
- c How Things Work
- d An art book for your coffee table

5. What would you rather do in your spare time?

- a Catch up with friends over coffee
- b Organise your closets
- c Garden or do home renovations
- d Write poetry

6. It's your turn to choose the movie. What's your first choice?

- a A romantic comedy such as *Sleepless in Seattle*
- b A thought-provoking drama such as *A Beautiful Mind*
- c An action-adventure movie such as *Star Wars*
- d An independent film such as *What the Bleep Do We Know?*

7. You're at a social event. Who would you rather join?

- a A large group that is laughing a lot
- b A small group having a lively discussion
- c Several people playing a game such as pool or darts
- d An individual who looks like an interesting person

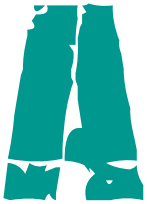
8. You have the chance to be on a reality show. You choose:

- a A show where your interpersonal skills can help you win, such as *Survivor*, *The Apprentice*, or *The Bachelor*
- b None. You think reality shows are a mindless waste of time
- c A show that gives you the chance to work hands-on to improve something, such as *Trading Spaces*
- d A show where you can win on the basis of your talent, such as *American Idol*, *Last Comic Standing*, or *The Cut*

9. Which of the following would your friends say best describes you?

- a A people person
- b Intelligent
- c Handy
- d Creative

This free quiz, What's your dream career?, compliments of the fine folks at www.fabjob.com



If you answered mostly As,

Your ideal career probably involves working with people in roles that include mentoring, negotiating, instructing, consulting, supervising, persuading, speaking, serving, or assisting. Possible career choices include teacher, human resources, flight attendant, life coach, day-care worker, personal assistant.



If you answered mostly Bs,

Your ideal career probably involves working with information including tasks such as synthesising, coordinating, analysing, compiling, computing, copying, or comparing. Possible career choices include: library assistant, editor, web developer, professional organiser, accountant, private investigator.



If you answered mostly Cs,

Your ideal career probably involves working with things. Tasks you might do in these careers include setting up, precision working, controlling, driving, operating, tending, feeding, or handling. Possible career choices include: chef, repair person, carpenter, collectibles dealer, veterinary assistant, mechanic.



If you answered mostly Ds,

Your ideal career is probably creative. Possible career choices include: writer, photographer, singer, interior decorator, graphic artist, fashion designer.

There are many more careers to choose from, but knowing your preferred type can help you narrow down the choices. Remember, no test can tell you more about yourself than you already know – so if your gut tells you something different from these results, go with it!

WHO TO TALK TO

**When making your application to UCT, talk to the UCT Admissions Office on:
Tel: 021 650 4556/2128
Fax: 021 650 5189
Email: admissions@uct.ac.za**

Learners and their parents are invited to make use of the services at the Admissions Office, including a resources centre and campus tours, free of charge.

Services available from 08h30 to 16h30 daily, except on Thursdays, when the Admissions Office opens at 09h30.





AGONY AUNTIE

AUNTY GIVES ADVICE >>

By Natasha Arendorf

Dear Aunty

I am a first-year student at UCT and have been told some shocking news. After going for a random AIDS test offered through my church about two months ago, I was grief-stricken to find out that I am HIV-positive. My family has been informed and we have all been through quite a rough time, but they are trying to help me come to terms with the situation and learn how to cope. I am 23 years old and know that I still have a long life to live. I have been doing research and reading a lot about HIV/AIDS, but I need proper advice and counselling. Does the university offer any of these things? I would like to be able to make use of any facilities they offer, but I would also like my status to remain confidential until I myself get used to the situation. Can you help? - Anonymous

Dear Anonymous

You are in a difficult place, but I am happy to hear that you have loved ones around you that you can depend on. I am also happy that you were brave enough to get tested; it is the most difficult part of this process. The important thing you need to do now is educate yourself and the university will be happy to help. The organisation - HAICU, which stands for HIV/AIDS Co-ordination University of Cape Town - is committed to developing programmes that provide treatment, prevention and care to UCT students. Through Student Wellness Services you can also get free counselling and do regular testing of your CD4 cell count. Clinic hours are from 08h30 to 16h30 Monday to Friday, except on Thursdays, when it's closed for staff training. As a student at UCT you will be eligible for financial assistance, so please arrange to discuss this with someone at Student Wellness if you need it. You need not worry about keeping your status confidential, your situation will be treated with the utmost discretion. Lastly, you have been very courageous. Remember, once you know what to do and how to live a healthy life, things will be a lot easier.

Dear Aunty

My name is Sarah - I am a first-year commerce student and I stay in residence. I have one roommate, and we are both girls. I don't think she is worried, but I do get scared from time to time about our safety - especially at our residence. I know UCT has excellent campus protection services, but how can I ensure that my roommate and I are safer?

Sarah

Dear Sarah

You are right, the university does have great campus protection and it is there to help keep you and your roommate safe. With high-tech security, including surveillance cameras and a central monitoring system, well trained and uniformed staff, UCT and Crime Protections Services (CPS) have been able to keep criminal activity on the campus down. On campus, residences are also protected just as the rest of UCT is. But it is important to take responsibility for your own safety and to teach safety awareness to the people around you, like your roommate for instance. These safety tips are quite obvious, I trust that you are already following these, but it doesn't hurt to be reminded that it's the little things that decrease your chances of becoming a victim of crime. First and foremost, there is a number you can call if you see any suspicious looking people or activities on campus - (021) 650 2222/3. Keep this emergency number saved somewhere safe. Do not leave messages on your door to indicate that you will be away. Don't keep money inside your room and take your valuables home when you go on holiday. Do not leave house keys hidden in a traditional location, such as under the doormat, and last, but certainly not least, be vigilant and aware of your surroundings wherever you are.

UCT BY NUMBERS

Compiled by Natasha Arendorf

At UCT, you will also have the privilege of studying in a dynamic, multicultural environment with staff and students from over **100** countries. International students make up about **20%** of the student



body, which allows you to interact with young people from different cultures. UCT has **4** campuses and **6** faculties - Commerce, Engineering & the Built Environment, Law, Health Sciences, Humanities

and Science. A fleet of **26** buses, known as the Jammie shuttles, transports staff and students around and between campuses for free. UCT also has more than **60** specialist research units that provide supervision for postgraduate work and is home to more than **1/4** of South Africa's A-rated researchers. UCT has more than **80** societies reflecting a wide range of interests. The university boasts over **40** sports clubs with a total membership of over **4000** students and

staff. The UCT Libraries' print collections contain more than **1.1 million** volumes, and includes over **27000** journal titles (of which **6094** are current), while over **30000** electronic journals and **175** electronic research databases. The SRC is elected annually by the students

and consists of **15** members who either represent other student organisations or are independents. Campus Protection Services (CPS) operates **24** hours a day, **7** days a week. There are **250** high-tech cameras in operation all around UCT.





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