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African dinosaurs emerge from the shadows

Little is written about African dinosaurs in popular culture, which makes Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan's new book an important contribution to our heritage. It's also a first for the continent

HELEN THÉRON

Successful machine that it is, the American media may have given T Rex its celebrity status as the most fearsome meat-eating dinosaur to have stomped the planet, but did you know that the title actually belongs to North Africa's *Carcharodontosaurus* (put your teeth in for that one)?

This six-tonner makes *Tyrannosaurus*, which roamed North America, look like a wimp on the prehistoric beastie scale.

Dubbed the shark-toothed lizard of the Sahara, *Carcharodontosaurus* is the biggest known predator of all time. A product of the Late Cretaceous era (97-90 million years ago) this whopper grew up to 13m long. Its skull alone measures 1.6m, and its jaws are lined with 15cm-long teeth. Remains have been found in Egypt, Morocco,

Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Niger.

Something else you probably didn't know: Africa is also home to the first stegosaur ever discovered, *Paranthodon*, which once lived just across the border in the Eastern Cape.

And more recently, Africa got its first dinosaur name with an isiXhosa click, *Nqwebasaurus thwazi*.

Nqwebasaurus is the earliest-known coelurosaur from Gondwana, a small species unearthed in the Kirkwood Formation (Nqweba is the isiXhosa name for the Kirkwood region) in the Algoa Basin in 1995.

Information like this seldom reaches the public and

for a palaeontologist like Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, that's not good for science.

Her new children's book, *Famous Dinosaurs of Africa*, puts African dinosaurs firmly on the world map - and dispels some of those T Rex myths.

Not that she's interested in one-upmanship.

She wants to introduce African children to their own heritage. Though African dinosaurs are important to palaeontology, they're often omitted from books.

"I believe that dinosaurs can be a kind of stepping stone into the world of science."

A global expert on the microscopic structure of fossil bones, Chinsamy-Turan recently (2005) published an academic contribution to the field, *The Microstructure of Dinosaur Bone*, which has received glowing reviews in several ISI-rated journals - including *Nature*.

Her children's book is a first for Africa, completed during her six months' sabbatical in Turkey, where she also penned five scientific papers, and a chapter for a book.

South Africa's first dinosaur bones were unearthed in the mid-19th century, but because the country was a British colony they were shipped back to the UK to be studied. These bones were misidentified, and it was much later that they were recognised as belonging to *Paranthodon* - the stegosaur mentioned above.

"In 1854 another South African discovery, *Massospondylius*, became the first African dinosaur, and one of the first few in the world, to be identified and named."

Chinsamy-Turan writes in her introduction.

"Among the most remarkable 20th century palaeontological expeditions undertaken in Africa were those to the Tendaguru region of southwestern Tanzania, which took place in the early 1900s. Many significant dinosaur discoveries were made here, first by German palaeontologists, and later by the British.

"More than 250 tons of dino-



(Below, left) *Heterodontosaurus* or "Different-toothed lizard", one of the more famous South African dinosaurs. This is one of Luis V Rey's illustrations from Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan's new African dinosaur book for children. Featuring 26 of the continent's most famous dinosaurs, it is published by Struik and will be launched at the SciFest in Grahamstown on 18 April. It is available in bookshops from 1 March.

saur bones were excavated from the Tendaguru region, and they tell a tale of the incredible diversity of dinosaurs that once lived in the region about 150 million years ago."

Subsequent finds in various parts of Africa have allowed palaeontologists to piece together the history of dinosaurs on the continent - and their relationship with dinosaurs on other continents.

The book is aimed at young readers, but has broad appeal for anyone interested in Africa's dinosaur heritage. For Chinsamy-Turan, getting the book on the shelves for under R100 was important.

It's all about access to knowledge and to science. MP

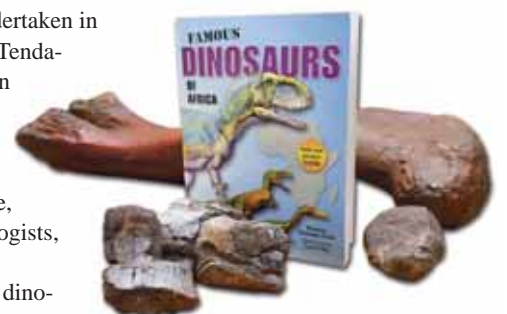


Illustration by Luis V Rey

One hundred and fifty not out

The publication of the 150th edition of the high school magazine *Mathematical Digest* was celebrated in the Department of Mathematics last week. Founded by Emeritus Professor John Webb in 1971, the magazine has appeared quarterly without a break ever since.

Way back then, Webb noticed that there was little on mathematics for children to read at school other than textbooks.

"It is strange because in other areas of schoolwork, you watch movies on history, you read poetry and novels, you learn your language at home, you experience music and drama and art outside the school curriculum – but the learning of mathematics is entirely concentrated within the school curriculum," he says.

Filling this gap, well over 3 000 articles have appeared in the 150 editions of *Mathematical Digest* since 1971. They include readable articles on mathematics just outside the school curriculum, anecdotes of famous mathematicians from Pythagoras to Stephen Hawking, news of mathematical Olympiads, puzzles and problems, with Sharp calculators offered as prizes.

Today, one copy of every edition of *Mathematical Digest* is sent free to 2 000 high schools across South Africa, with support from the Old Mutual Foundation. With further support from the Western Cape Department of Education, all Dinaledi schools in the Western Cape receive ten copies of every edition. **MP**



Not out: Emer Prof John Webb has produced the 150th edition of his *Mathematical Digest* magazine.

LETTER

In his/her letter to the *Monday Paper* (18 February) Aggrieved Goose claims that "there is no incentive (for individuals at UCT) for (writing) high-level publications". In her reply the Dean of Science argues instead that: "The value placed by the university on these outputs is evident in our ad hominem promotion process, including excellence level payments". This statement is relevant to the complaint by Aggrieved Goose and the ensuing debate, but otherwise may be quite misleading.

Ad hominem promotions and academic excellence are judged by a considerable number of criteria at UCT. These include teaching, learning, leadership, management, administration, social responsiveness and research. Research is therefore only a small component

of the total number of criteria. Even if Aggrieved Goose does outstanding research, but does not reach the same level of excellence in the category, say, of social responsiveness, the rigid numeric formula being used may well block any access to an ad hominem promotion or academic excellence notch to which he or she might aspire.

In theory then, an academic at UCT who wins the Nobel Prize for their research, but does not reach a high numeric score in the category of management and administration, would not be judged as being meritorious by UCT. Personally I fail to see how this policy fits the claim that we are a "research-driven" university.

*Professor Johann Lutjeharms
Department of Oceanography*

Ndebele to be honoured by Michigan



Honoured: VC and principal, Prof Njabulo S Ndebele, will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Michigan in April.

The University of Michigan (U-M) in the US earlier this month announced that they will award an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, UCT vice-chancellor and principal.

Ndebele will receive the award at a graduation ceremony at U-M in April.

The US university stated that the award acknowledges Ndebele's achievements as a writer, his contributions as a leader in higher education in South Africa and Africa, as well as his role as UCT vice-chancellor.

The institution also noted that the award recognises Ndebele's particular contribution to creating a diverse, multiracial institution; for expanding the institution's research mission by encouraging new partnerships within the country and internationally; for

increasing the number of research doctoral students at UCT; and for positioning the challenge of HIV/AIDS centrally at UCT – in terms of both services to affected students and efforts to address the growing pandemic.

"I feel honoured," said Ndebele. "The University of Michigan has a rich history of academic excellence and leadership in tertiary education. It will be a privilege to join their list of honorary graduates."

Ndebele also holds honorary doctorates from the University of Denver (US), Wesleyan University (US), Soka University (Japan), Vrije Universiteit (the Netherlands), Chicago State University (US), University of Natal (now the University of KwaZulu-Natal), University College London (UK) and Cambridge University (UK). **MP**

South Africa as a laboratory for understanding global health challenges

CHRIS MCEVOY

In his valedictory lecture at UCT's medical school on 13 February, Professor Solomon Benatar of the Department of Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences stated that the health of whole populations – in South Africa and globally – is the major crisis and challenge for humanity in the 21st century.

In his lecture, titled *South Africa as a Laboratory for Understanding Challenges to Global Health*, Benatar

cited exponential population growth and consumption of the Earth's resources, among others factors, as affecting population health in coming decades.

"Understanding the need to shift away from the 20th century notion of continuous economic growth and consumption towards solidarity within a fairer and more sustainable conception of development is the first step towards reversing this now almost inevitable global process," he said. **MP**

Students shaved and sprayed



All gone: Kopano Residence held a Shavathon to raise money for cancer research. Scott Havemann and Murray Beaumont admire the close crop they gave Kath Fennemore.

CHRIS MCEVOY

Students at Kopano Residence lined up on Friday, 15 February to have their heads shaved and spray-painted to raise funds for cancer research.

The Shavathon, organised by the Kopano house committee, charged students R20 to have their

heads shaved and spray-painted. All funds were donated to the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSAs).

Students were unfazed at the prospect of spending the next few months with a full head of stubble.

"It's for charity and it will grow back," quipped second-year physiotherapy student

Kath Fennemore.

All eight members of the Kopano house committee had their heads shaved and painted, and scores of students supported the charity drive.

"It costs about R50 for a shave at a barber's shop," said house committee member Scott Havemann, "so this is a bargain." **MP**



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The Brain and Behaviour Initiative (BBI) is a cross-faculty, multi-disciplinary collaborative initiative aimed at promoting research in the cognitive and affective neurosciences. The BBI is one of UCT's "Signature Themes", and seeks to bring together expertise on phenotyping, genotyping, cognotyping, imaging, and molecular signatures in achieving this goal. These methods will be applied to areas of particular relevance to the developing world and South Africa, with an initial focus on trauma and resilience.

Available fellowships: Post-doctoral Fellowship in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Requirements: Applicants for the post-doctoral fellowship, which will focus on the molecular neurobiology of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, must have completed a PhD degree in research relevant to this work. This includes research in molecular genetics, microbiology, human genetics/association and gene-silencing based studies (possibly involving DNA/RNA work), as well as previous experience in designing and working with shRNA and miRNA, PCR, sequencing, Western blotting, cloning, expression studies using a luciferase assay and tissue culture work (including the use of a confocal microscopy). Applicants must provide proof that they have completed the PhD degree.

Tenure of Fellowship: 1 year, with renewal subject to available funds and satisfactory academic progress.

Value of Fellowship: R130,000 per annum. Application for tax exemption will be made by the University on behalf of the successful candidate.

Applicants should send a copy of their CV, as well as a one-page outline of potential research directions, to Erica Nielsen at erica.nielsen@uct.ac.za. Successful applicants will be required to comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices. Other positions in the BBI and CUBBI come up from time to time – please see our website for details (www.psychiatry.uct.ac.za/cubbi).

Deadline for applications: March 18, 2008.

NRF grant for modified gravity research

HELEN THÉRON

Professor Peter Dunsby and several members of UCT's Cosmology and Gravity Group (Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics) recently received two grants amounting to R1m from the National Research Foundation for the second three-year phase of a project to solve the dark energy conundrum.

The project results from a bilateral agreement between South Africa and Italy. Dunsby has been collaborating with professors Salvatore Capozziello and Claudio Rubano of Naples University, and a number of postdoctoral researchers (Sante Carloni, Kishore Ananda, Naureen Goheer, Rituparno Goswami and Julian Larena) to throw new light on dark energy by modifying Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Capozziello and Rubano were recent guests of the university.

Dark energy is one of the big questions perplexing cosmologists. The millennium reviews of the US National Research Councils and the UK's PPARC both ranked dark energy and dark matter top of their list of



Spotlight on dark energy: (Front, from left): Prof Peter Dunsby, and Profs Salvatore Capozziello and Claudio Rubano, both of Naples University. (Back, from left) Julian Larena, Jannie Leach, Naureen Goheer, Kishore Ananda, Naureen Goheer, Sante Carloni, Mohamed Elshazli Sirelakhatim Abdelwahab. (Absent: Rituparno Goswami.)

fundamental science questions for the new century.

Dark energy is not be confused with dark matter. Dark matter comprises about 25% of the matter of the universe. It doesn't emit or reflect enough electromagnetic radiation to be directly observed, though its presence is felt by its gravitational effects on

galaxies and stars.

Dark energy is a hypothetical form of energy that fills space and acts in a way that increases the rate of expansion of the universe. Cosmologists use the existence of dark energy to explain recent observations that the universe appears to be expanding at an accelerating rate. In the standard model of

cosmology, dark energy accounts for almost 70% of the total mass-energy of the universe.

Dunsby and his collaborators want to explain the elusive dark energy problem and cosmic acceleration by modifying Einstein's theory of relativity on cosmological scales rather than invoking a Cosmological

Constant or exotic scalar fields.

"It's just possible that some of our most cherished ideas simply break down on these scales," says Dunsby.

"There's a long way to go," he concedes.

There is a lot of money being poured into observational facilities such as the South African Large Telescope, and South Africa stands a chance to win the Square Kilometre Array. Both these facilities will contribute to determining the cosmological parameters to very high accuracy. The challenge is to find a theoretical explanation that fits all the data.

While many theoretical physics research groups in the UK and US have suffered funding cuts, South Africa is ploughing resources into astronomy, excellent news for local research, Dunsby believes.

The South Africa/Italy collaboration has also been instrumental in training up young theoretical physicists. Two students, Jannie Leach (PhD) and Mohamed Elshazli Sirelakhatim Abdelwahab (MSc), will be submitting their theses in this area in the next couple of weeks. MP

Farewell to Naicker



Former executive director of Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) Prags Naicker was given a fond farewell at a function on 26 February. During his 16 years at UCT, Naicker has been involved in several major projects, the first overhauling of UCT's administrative computing systems, the PRISM project team that implemented SAPR/3 and later took the reins as the IT stream leader on the university's Audit and Integration of Management Systems, aka AIMS, project. He also spearheaded the supatSela project, which aims to drive renewal of information and communication technology in the university. Naicker started as CEO of the National Student Financial Aid System on 1 March. MP

It's not a bird, it's a frog

HELEN THÉRON

The Avian Demography Unit (ADU) has morphed into the Animal Demography Unit and has moved from the Department of Statistical Sciences to the Department of Zoology.

The physical move to the John Day Building will take place later this year.

"Avian Demography Unit has long been a misnomer," said ADU director Professor Les Underhill.

The unit started out in 1992, and ever since they initiated the frog atlas project in 1997, questions have been asked about their name.

In addition, they have several postgraduate students doing animal studies: Dr Silvia Mecenero completed a PhD on seals in 2005, Steve

Kirkman, Newi Makhado and Mdu Seakamela are registered with the ADU doing PhDs exclusively on seals while Mariette Wheeler's PhD has both seal and seabird components. Darren Houniet recently completed an MSc on dwarf chameleons.

All students will now register in zoology and not statistical science, all except one "genuine statistician".

"Although the academic world thrives on these kinds of delightful anomalies, there is no need to perpetuate them forever," Underhill said.

This did not mean a reduction of bird research.

"It simply recognises the fact that, as the ADU has developed, it has grown beyond birds."

Underhill will continue to lecture in the statistical sciences department. MP

eblockwatch blocking criminals

By just pressing a button, UCT students in trouble can get quick assistance - free of charge.

This year will see Student Buddy, powered by a company called eblockwatch in conjunction with the Campus Protection Society of South Africa, being tried and tested at UCT.

Student Buddy allows students who find themselves in any trouble anywhere in the country, to simply press an emergency button on their cellphones. That triggers a ripple effect within seconds as emergency calls out

to UCT's Campus Protection Service, family, friends and, if need be, to the closest eblockwatch members.

The student button is connected to eblockwatch, which connects their cellphone to a national grid of community security networks. There are 56 000 South Africans registered to eblockwatch "and collectively we look after each other," says Andre Snyman, founder of eblockwatch. "This means that collectively we can call on fellow South Africans to assist UCT students just about anywhere in

the country at the touch of a button."

John Tunstall, risk services manager at UCT, said armed response companies have also agreed to assist and the importance of the initiative is that it provides reassurance.

"It gives parents a lot of confidence about the safety of students on campus," he said, encouraging students to register.

A number of students have already joined. Those interested can sms UCT to 33930 and follow sms prompts. Cost of SMS R3. MP



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Institutional culture bedevilled by fissures, says report

UCT remains a divided community, seen in several intersecting fault lines: by race and gender, by academic rank and pay class, and between academic and professional and administrative (PASS) staff

This is one of the findings of the 2007 Institutional Climate Survey, presented at a colloquium led by vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, on 22 February. This report is a follow-up to the 2003 Institutional Climate Survey.

In his introduction the vice-chancellor said the survey provided important indicators of additional areas in which the protection of individual rights in the workplace requires attention.

Referring to the end of his second term at the end of June, when Dr Max Price takes the reins, he said: "We have a reflective space in front of us. We need to understand where we've been, where we are and where we might be going."

Other survey findings indicate that a minority – 38% of all staff – believe that the university treats its staff fairly. Forty-four percent of staff feel that workload is unfairly distributed and, asked whether an

atmosphere of co-operation exists at UCT, 29% felt that it did while 37% felt that it did not. A majority does not believe that there is mutual respect between PASS staff and academic staff.

The overall indication is that about half of all staff are broadly happy, and the other half are not. Thus 52% agreed that, overall, they are satisfied with their jobs. Forty-seven percent agreed that they experienced a sense of value and respect as UCT employees and 56% felt that the work environment at UCT is welcoming to them as individuals. Forty-four percent agreed that they feel a strong sense of belonging at UCT.

Race and gender continue to dominate in individual experiences of university culture. Some 50% of white males and 52% of white females agreed that they have not been treated differently because of their race and gender. However, all categories of black staff had the inverse response.

Similarly for gender; 43% of all respondents saw discrimination on the basis of gender as a problem, and 29% of all respondents saw sexual harassment as a problem.

One comment read: "I think this survey is merely a public relations exercise aimed at creating the impression that we are transforming, but nothing will be done with the findings of this survey, as was the case with the previous survey. This survey will not tell us anything new."

"The charge that nothing was done to follow up on the 2003 survey can be countered by the Khuluma project, which was developed in response to indications of extensive concerns about racism," said deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall.

"It is perhaps the largest intervention of its kind at a South African university and has enrolled more than 650 participants to date, with overwhelmingly positive responses.



Nevertheless, it is clearly important that there is a directed and focused action plan to take the outcomes of the 2007 survey forward."

The survey indicated that a number of interventions are regarded as successful. For PASS staff, these included the work of transformation committees, employment equity

initiatives, and staff development programmes. For academic staff, notable initiatives included the Emerging Researchers Programme.

(Both the 2003 and 2007 reports are available in full on the UCT transformation web page and at <http://www.hall.uct.ac.za/links/>). MP

UCT talks to community about Rustenberg

MEGAN MORRIS

Over recent weeks, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall has hosted two public consultations on UCT's proposed development near the Rustenberg burial site on middle campus.

The site is the final resting place of slaves who worked the farms along the Liesbeeck River in the 17th and 18th centuries. The land UCT now occupies was once the Rustenberg farm, and stretched from the present Main Road to the Summer House beneath the freeway.

Today, the site lies immediately next to and partially underneath All Africa House, built in 1996, before the burial ground was identified as such. It's thought that the human remains have long since been removed, but there are no records that can shed any light on when or where to.

As required by the South African Heritage Resources Act, UCT has over the past two weekends sought comments from interested individuals and groups on the two new buildings that it hopes to put up in the area near the burial site. This was also part of a wider consultation on the impact of the new buildings on the community.

In addition, the university is looking for proposals on how to memorialise the site, Hall emphasised.

"The line of connection between UCT's middle cam-



Connecting with the past: Prof Martin Hall and community members gather next to All Africa House on the site that was once the burial ground of slaves who worked on the Rustenberg farm.

pus in Rondebosch and Mowbray and the slave plantations of the 17th and 18th centuries remains largely unacknowledged," he said.

Among those with strong ideas at the most recent meeting was Chief Joseph Marks, who represents the Outeniqua Royal House. Marks is adamant that the site must be memorialised out of respect for both the dead and the modern descendants of those slaves.

"My father used to say that the slaves were violated twice – once when they were alive, and once when they were dead." MP

Progress on leadership

The UCT 2008/9 executive transition plan – developed over months last year – is already paying dividends and I am confident of a smooth process as we enter my last months in office and welcome Dr Price into the first six months of his tenure.

As you will know my last day in office will be on 30 June 2008. Dr Max Price will begin his time as Vice-Chancellor of UCT on 1 July 2008. We are working closely with the purpose of ensuring an efficient operational changeover. We are constantly sharing information and challenges and beginning to set a cooperative pattern. As part of this, Dr Price and I – in an introductory meeting – met the Minister of Education, Mrs Naledi Pandor, on 19 February 2008.

Part of our plan is also to deal with the impact of the other upcoming executive changes in my office – namely the retirement of Prof Martin West, Prof. Martin Hall's move to the Graduate School of Business, and the resignation of Prof Cheryl de la Rey. There is consequently an urgent need to make interim appointments as well as to fill the vacancies substantively.

Following consultation, a proposal will be made to Council on 5th March on interim appointments for the rest of this year. I feel confident that our proposal is solid and that we have tapped into the best possible expertise. We will communicate the details after Council approval.

*Professor Njabulo S Ndebele
Vice-Chancellor and Principal*

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Report from Council

The Executive Committee of the University Council met in February 2008 for the first meeting of the year, and dealt with a wide range of matters.

Transition

Executive leadership and transition was a key issue. Exco noted with regret the resignation of Professor Cheryl de la Rey. Dr De la Rey has accepted appointment as CEO of the Council on Higher Education. Exco has noted that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor Designate, Dr Max Price, will be bringing proposals to the March Council meeting for advertising DVC vacancies and for making interim appointments. Exco underlined the importance of this given Dr De la Rey's resignation, Professor

Martin Hall's resignation as DVC with effect from 31 August 2008, and Professor Martin West's retirement from his appointment as a DVC on 30 June 2008.

Load shedding

Keeping the core work of the university going in the context of load shedding was a concern at the meeting. Exco reviewed what is already in place (UPS system and generators) to support teaching and research, and gave in-principle approval to proposals for what is not yet covered.

Council's term

The Council's term of office ends in June 2008, and Council reviewed the steps under way to constitute the new Council. Nominations for the Convocation-elected six members close on 14 March 2008.

UCT/Province partnership

The challenges facing the university/province partnership in the operation of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the teaching hospitals have been a key concern of Council for the past two years. Exco has reviewed the province's adjustment to the 2007/2008 health budget, and has noted the province's commitment to confidential consultations on the 2008/09 budget.

UCT policies

UCT has sexual harassment and sexual offences policies that date from the 1980s. These have been reviewed during the past year by a reference group. The reference group's proposals, which were submitted to Council in December 2007, have been revised by an ad hoc Council committee in consultation with the reference group, and were supported by Exco.

UCT Foundation

The University of Cape Town Foundation is an independent registered trust. It holds the university's permanent endowment. The trustees' report was before the Exco for information, together with details of the income distributed for designated endowment. The value of the permanent endowment as at 30 September 2007 was R1.15 billion.

Finances

Financial questions enjoy priority attention by Exco, so Exco was pleased to note that the cash flow position at year-end was better than budgeted, and that less than 2% of tuition and residence fees for 2007 (over R600 million) remained unpaid at year-end.

Notes by Registrar Hugh Amoore

Obsessive-compulsive disorder growing among children

It's Brain Awareness Week from 10-16 March, and in this article we highlight a growing problem among South African children



Looking out: Lara Hoppe's research will shed light on the growing incidence of obsessive compulsive disorder among children.

Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is a common psychiatric problem. It afflicted Dr Samuel Johnson, David Beckham is rumoured to have OCD and there have been hints that Florence Nightingale was an obsessive compulsive. It's considered one of the most disabling of all medical disorders, says psychology master's student Lara Hoppe, whose new study on OCD among children shows that it's growing within this group in South Africa.

In a nutshell, people with OCD

experience obsessions such as repetitive thoughts or images that are intrusive and inappropriate, leading to increased levels of anxiety and/or compulsions to counter the obsessions and reduce anxiety.

Howard Hughes, for example, was obsessive about germs, producing compulsive behaviour. The symptoms of OCD are distressing, time-consuming and associated with functional impairment and reduced quality of life.

Around 2-3% of people will de-

velop OCD during their lifetime. It is equally common in men and women, and occurs at similar rates throughout the world, normally beginning in adolescence or young adulthood. It can sometimes be diagnosed during childhood, especially in boys. In children and teenagers OCD affects concentration in class, impairing schoolwork.

Advances in neuro-imaging techniques have provided more sophisticated explanations of the genetics and functional neuroanatomy underpinning OCD. Numerous studies have

implicated the specific genetics factors and orbitofrontal-limbic-basal ganglia circuits in OCD.

In South Africa, Stellenbosch University's Dr Christine Lochner and UCT's Professor Dan Stein are CUBBI (Cross-University Brain Behaviour Initiative) researchers exploring these aspects in OCD.

Their cutting-edge OCD genetics and brain-imaging study, which will yield novel insights into the brain functioning of those with OCD, has started screening its first participants. The study is another venture of CUBBI and the MRC Unit on Anxiety and Stress Disorders (Stellenbosch University). It uses novel techniques and facilities such as the new 3T MRI scanner at the Cape Universities Brain Imaging Centre (CUBIC) to extend previous research on OCD.

This study suggests that the onset of OCD is linked to certain activation patterns within specific brain structures, in addition to certain genetic components.

Hoppe's research provides a different angle, looking at the phenomenology of OCD and how the symptoms affect children and adolescents on a daily basis.

Hoppe says there is a paucity of literature in this area. Nevertheless, evidence suggests that impairment caused by OCD is significant in a number of domains, and that OCD-related functional impairment in childhood or adolescence may differ across cultures.

It is hoped that her study will inform the future diagnosis and treatment of South African children and

adolescents with OCD.

Thus far her findings indicate that parents believe their children's OCD-related problems affect them mainly at school. But the children say their OCD "outfall" extends into both the school and social domains.

The study also shows that parents and children differ when it comes to rating the most significant individual functional problems.

The findings differ from those of North American and European studies, providing the rationale for further research into the effect of culture on childhood OCD-related functional impairment.

This work will have important implications for the diagnosis and treatment of children with OCD in South Africa.

(If you would like to participate in the study or to find out more about it, please contact these researchers in the Department of Psychology: Dr Kevin Thomas on tel 021-650-4608, or Lara Hoppe on 0845010385, or email larahoppe@gmail.com.) MP



Anti-HIV microbicide is safe but not effective

CHRIS MCEVOY

Dr Smruti Patel and Alana de Kock of UCT's Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, situated in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, were part of a team of international researchers in a groundbreaking clinical trial to test the safety and efficacy of a microbicide gel, developed to prevent the spread of HIV.

The university's Empilisweni Centre for Wellness Studies in Gugulethu was used as one of three sites in the country conducting a randomised, double-blind trial on the US-based Population Council's candidate microbicide, Carraguard. Made from the seaweed derivative, carrageenan, Carraguard was developed as a vaginal gel to be applied by women before sex to prevent HIV infection from their partner.

The other two sites were the Setshaba Research Centre, through the University of Limpopo/Me-

dunsa campus and the Isipingo Clinic, through the Medical Research Council of South Africa. These sites are located in areas where the HIV epidemic is acute.

Over 6 000 volunteers took part in the trial. The women were divided into two groups: one group was given Carraguard, the other a placebo. They also received condoms, HIV education, gynaecological exams, risk-reduction and safer-sex counselling, and testing and treatment for curable sexually transmitted infections.

Although the gel was found to be safe, the trial showed it to be ineffective in preventing HIV infection. A total of 285 women became infected with HIV during the trial: 134 in the Carraguard group and 151 in the placebo group. Researchers concluded that the difference was statistically insignificant.

But De Kock doesn't see this as a failure.

"This is just the first step, and we now have a safe platform to work

from. Carraguard proved to be safe and extremely stable, and it lends itself well to combinations with other products."

De Kock, who describes HIV as "the cleverest virus we've ever come across", already has her sights on the next challenge. She explains that the Population Council is looking into combining Carraguard with an antiretroviral drug, and hopes the centre will be part of the second trial.

"The trial had a positive effect on the community," she says. "Thousands of women came to know their HIV status and many used the information they received to become educators themselves."

De Kock also notes that during the course of the trial, condom use among the participants doubled, from 33% to 66%.

The trial was funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. MP



First Step: Alana de Kock of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit is part of a trial to test a microbicide gel.

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

UCT Administrative Archives

MYOLISI GOPHE

What are the Administrative Archives and where are they?

Administrative Archives are the source of UCT's background information. Situated in a hidden office in the Jules Kramer Law School Building in the middle campus, the section serves staff and others interested in university affairs with historical information, dating back many decades. Running the section are university archivist Lionel Smidt and assistant archivist Stephen Herandien.

When were they started and what do they do?

The section, which falls under the Office of the Registrar, was started in 1977 when the need arose to record UCT information safely. As a primary function, Archives keep any information such as staff details, correspondence and minutes of meetings. The earliest records in the Archives can be traced to 1928, and include Council and Senate Minutes. There is also secondary information such as handbooks, the history of the South African College from 1829 to 1918 written by Professor W Ritchie, and the formative years of 1918 to 1948 by Howard Phillips. The Talbot Map Collection is also housed in the Archives.



Keeping tabs on UCT: Lionel Smidt and Stephen Herandien keep UCT's administrative records on many, many files.

How do the Archives work?

According to Smidt, the information goes through three phases. First, he and his colleague check if the records of the file belong to the same department, and arrange them according to these groups. Then an

internal sorting will follow, in which the contents of the file are examined if they do match the file name. And, lastly, the officials write their own list of files to make it easy to control the information.

What is the process?

Normally records are transferred from an office to the archives after five years, but those that are consulted regularly may be kept in the original office even after that period. Smidt said they prefer transfers to be done annually or

every two years. Inventory of the records must be kept in the original office and copies should be sent indicating the number of boxes, the covering dates of files and contact details of the sender. Once the incoming consignment has reached the Archives offices it is recorded in the incoming register and is immediately available for use.

How long are the records kept?

Some information is kept for a specific period of time and destroyed afterwards, while other items may be stored permanently. For instance, cheques are kept for five years and credit notes for six years. Records are being kept for the minimum required period, in accordance with the retention schedule. Once that period is over, expired records are identified, removed from the shelves and placed in recycling bags ready for collection. The amount of paper corrected is measured and recorded.

What is special in their collection?

The graduation programmes from 1918 to 1979 have been scanned and made available in electronic format, and the three original volumes have been sent to the restoration department. When restored, they will be returned to the Archives for permanent preservation. **MP**

Ikhwezi Theatre Festival turns 10

The highly popular and award-winning Ikhwezi Theatre Festival celebrates 10 years of development theatre in the Western Cape this year, with a record number of 20 exciting new plays from 1 to 20 March in the Baxter Sanlam Studio.

This year the festival will see plays from 12 young directors from the Western Cape, four from Gauteng and one each from the Eastern Cape, North West and Free State.

The overall aims of the festival include developing critical thinking among audiences and theatre practitioners of the arts; popularising

social programmes such as health, environment, education and human rights; using the arts to stimulate community initiatives; developing new playwrights in the Western Cape; and exposing new and upcoming actors, writers and directors to mainstream theatre.

Over the years the festival has showcased over 150 new works, and it has seen scores of young performers move from amateur to professional actor status. This includes 2007 Fleur du Cap nominees Chuma Sopotela and Thami Mbongo, as well as Andrea Don-

dolo, Andile Nebulane and Connie George.

The festival, a Baxter Theatre Centre initiative, has been successfully staged since 1998 and was awarded the highest honour at the 2004 Arts and Culture Trust national awards when it came out tops in its category.

More than 625 actors, writers and directors have attended workshops and participated in the festival, conducted under the guidance of highly acclaimed local playwrights, directors and other theatre specialists.

"The expansion and growth of the festival every year is certainly very

exciting and most encouraging," says festival director Itumeleng Wa-Lehulere. "To have 20 plays platformed in the festival with eight young directors from the rest of the country is testament to the festival's popularity."

The festival runs daily, Mondays to Saturdays, at 10h00, 12h00, 13h30, 15h00 and 19h00. All Tuesday night performances start at 18h30.

Ticket prices are R30 throughout, with discounts for block or school bookings of 10 or more available through Sandiswa on 021 680 3991. Book through Computicket at 083 915 8000. **MP**

SACM concert line up

The South African College of Music (SACM) is hosting a series of concerts in the next few weeks. On 4 March, International pianist Kotaro Fukuma performs the work of Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu. Jazz und Elektronik premieres new work for acoustic and electronic instruments on 11 March, and Kathleen Tagg and Friends on 12 March feature the works of Haydn, Klatzow and Chopin. All concerts start at 20h15 at the Baxter Concert Hall. **MP**

Othello for the Baxter Theatre

HELEN THÉRON

The successful production of *Othello*, which was performed at the Little Theatre in 2007, will be staged at the Baxter Theatre Centre this month.

It forms part of the UCT drama department's commitment to staging accessible and vital works for Grade 12 pupils in the Western Cape.

Othello is one of William Shakespeare's most intimate and tightly-

constructed works. There are no kings in this play, which makes it unique among his tragedies.

The title role of the Moor, Iago, is played by Vaneshran Arumugam, supported by a cast of senior UCT drama students that includes Charlie Keegan, the 2007 winner of the prestigious Fleur du Cap Theatre Award for Best Student.

Award winners include the director, Geoffrey Hyland, and Illka Louw, who designed the costumes. Daniel Galloway designed the lighting. **MP**

Students make high school learning easy

MYOLISI GOPHE

High school learners in Cape Town are having their studies eased as UCT students perform *Kanna, hy kô hystoe*, a prescribed work for both Grade 11 and Grade 12 pupils.

Performed by second- and third-year drama students, the show forms part of the School of Drama's ongoing quest to bring set

literary works to learners across the Cape Peninsula.

Kanna, hy kô hystoe is a Brechtian Afrikaans play which brings together the past and present in a heart-wrenching manner. It takes one back to a time of true characters, dilemmas, hope and the survival of a community waiting for deliverance and salvation from their very own Kanna.

Written by the famed Adam

Small, the show opened on March 1 in the Little Theatre and will run from Mondays to Fridays until 14 March.

Sandra Temmingh directs, with lighting design done by Daniel Galloway, while costumes have been designed by Illka Louw and Leila Anderson.

For inquiries and bookings contact Susan Cole on 021 480 7129 or bookings@hiddingh.uct.ac.za. **MP**

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Tuesday 18 March @ 20h00, Philosophy Society Meeting. Prof Cheryl Misak (Philosophy, University of Toronto, Canada) Title: Experience, Narrative, and Ethical Objectivity. Venue: Room 6C, 6th Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building. Enq: 021 650 3316

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Lecturer / Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Film and Media Studies, Closing date: 7 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

Lecturer in Earth System Science, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 14 March 2008, Tel : 021 650 5405

Executive Director: Information and Communication Technology, Closing date: 28 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 2216

PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Senior Secretary, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 3 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 5642

Administrative Assistant for Courses and Unit, Schools Development Unit (SDU), Closing date: 3 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 3276

Trainer/Facilitator (1 post), The UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 5 March 2008, Email: driskell@uctgsh1.uct.ac.za

Senior Scientific Officer, Institute of Ageing in Africa, Department of Medicine, Closing date: 7 March 2008, Fax: 021 406 6846

Senior Scientific Officer, Institute of Ageing in Africa, Department of Medicine, Closing date: 07 March 2008, Tel: 021-406 6517

Software Developer, Web Applications Developer Positions in National Bioinformatics Networks, Closing date: 10 March 2008, Tel: 021 406 6837.

Software Developer, Web Applications Developer Positions in National Bioinformatics Networks, Closing date: 10 March 2008, Tel: 021 406 6837

Information Technology Officer, Children's Institute, Closing date: 10 March 2008, Tel: 021 689 5404

Finance Manager: Faculty Of Commerce, Closing date: 12 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

RESEARCH

Senior Researcher, MRC/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, Department of Human Biology, Closing date: 10 March 2008, Tel: 021 406 6461

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Laboratory Manager, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Closing date: 3 March 2008, Tel: 021 406 6808

Secretary, Department of Human Biology, Closing date: 3 March 2008, Tel: 021 406 6670

Administrative Assistant, International Academic Programmes Office, Closing date: 17 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 2822

The vacancies can be viewed at: <http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/hr/external/> or Posts for UCT staff only: <http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/hr/vacancies/>

PROPERTY

Rondebosch: Spacious 3-bed t/house in secure complex off Campground Road. 1,5 bathrooms. Incls off-street parking bay & single garage. R6950pm. Avail immed. Call 083 453 9291.

Newlands/Hiddingh Est: Compact 3 bed house to let 1 March for min 3 months or to end of year. 2 baths, guest WC, Staff quarters, dbl garage, private garden with remote gate. Unfurnished. R10000pm. Call 083 453 9291.

Sea Point: 1 bedroom flat (furnished) available from 15 April - 15 July 2008, sea views, secure parking bay, R4000/month. contact thalia.kruger@uct.ac.za, 079 399 0878.

Pinelands: 2 bedroom flat to share R1800 per month call 079 692 8081.

Tygerhof: Fabulous brand new studio apartments to let in Tygerhof. 15km from UCT. Fitted with quality finishes. Parking bay included Available 1 March 2008. R3000 pm phone 0848002904

Rondebosch: 1st July - 31st December 2008. 3 beds, open-plan kitchen and living areas, study/workspace, garage and small garden. R5 950.00 p/m. Ph. Elaine 0828222660 or swains@absamail.co.za

Rondeborsch: 01 May - 30 Nov 2008, 2 bedroom, furn, fitted kitchen in secure block, near UCT. Rent R 5 400 p/m, incl. elec. Email Owner on malcgust@iafrica.com

Rondebosch: Garden Cottage central furnished, for quiet, non smoking prostgrad students, garage R3000.00 pm. Contact: 0216852462/angelpws@telkomsa.net

Observatory: Furnished room to let R1600. Quiet, reliable postgraduated student suitable. Would suit medical student, own shower. Gardem entrance. Contact: 0827189502.

Mowbray: Brand new modern, unfurnished apartments at Waverley West, Mowbray. Parking, secure, Medical School, Groote Schuur and Main Road. R3 850 – R6250 per month. Contact: 0727691592.

Rondebosch: Gorgeous, modern, up-market f/furnished one bed garden cottage. DSTV & the whole catastrophe. Secure parking for two or more cars. Very secure & private. 021 685-5674.

Kenilworth: Comfortable bedsitter and a separate kitchen. Fully equipped and furnished. Separate entrance. Secure off street parking. Suitable for visiting lecturers, scientists/postdocs. 1 April 2008. Non smoker.

24hrs security in road. R3500 pm Contact: Helen 021650-5312/0721489760.

Kenilworth: Very pleasant n/facing 1bed flat, living room and kitchen. Fully equipped and furnished. Separate entrance. Secure off street parking; own car recommended. Suitable for visiting lecturers, scientists/postdocs. Available immediately. R4500 pm. Helen 0216505312/0721489760.

FOR SALE

For Sale: situated in a gated cul-de-sac providing excellent security and quietude. 2 bedrooms, study and beautiful Mediterranean courtyard for outdoor entertaining. Ph. Serena 0832901711

For Sale: 2001 Silver Grey Clio 1.4 Renault, Mag Wheels, 50li petrol fuel tank, aircon, mileage 138908km, one owner only, good condition, full service history, R50 000. Please contact 082 4986106 for viewing.

For Sale: 2 Bedroom apartment, Royal Ascot, Milnerton at R690,000. Contact Kevin at Kevin.Ernstzen@uct.ac.za / 0832876785.

For Sale: Toyota Tazz, 1999 model, Calypso Metallic Blue, 1 Owner, full service history, 146 800km, Good condition, R40 000 Neg. Contact: Jessica 0823774449.

For Sale: OWL collection, Approx 28 owls ranging in size from small to large ornaments. R250.00 Contact Steff 650-3886/steff.hughes@uct.ac.za

For Sale: Barbie stuff, Collection includes house, furniture, Barbie dolls and clothes. Interested? Contact Steff 650-3886 or steff.hughes@uct.ac.za

For Sale: Lego blocks & sets, Large collection of lego. Interested? Contact Steff 650 3886/steff.hughes@uct.ac.za

For Sale: 1995 M/Benz C220. White, Auto. A/c, R/T/CD shuttle, C/L, P/S. FSH. 178000kms. RWC. R49000 onco. Ph 0844671394 or 650 2883(o/h).

For Sale: 2006 Corsa 1.7 Diesel. A/c, R/T/MP3, C/L, P/S. Canopy + many extras. 52000kms. Bargain at R89000 onco. Contact: Shanaaz 0763093096.

For Sale: 2004 Kia truck. 84000kms. Excellent condition. R79000 onco. Contact: Shanaaz 0763093096.

For Sale: Dell laptop Latitude D800 with MS XP, 1600 MHz processor, 1 GB Ram, in excellent condition. R4000 ono. Contact: Chris 021-685-7086 a/h.

For Sale: Tygerhof, (15 mins from UCT) brand new 49 sq metre studio apartment with secure parking bay R599000.00 incl VAT/transfer fees etc. Contact: 0848002904.

For Sale: Brand new adidas soccer ball used at 2008 AFCON tournament Collectors item Selling for R650, CD:James Stewart Live new R60, Cd: Old Skool HEART 104.9FM Compilation R75 new, CD: Garth Taylor (Revolution) R75 new. Tel: ext. 4739 or 0727802784 a/h. "

For Sale: 1969 VW Beetle for

sale. In daily use.Lic till end of May 2008. R10,000 neg. Contact: Bruna 0829706170.

For Sale: Acer TravelMate Laptop Core Duo T2300E 1.66 GHz, 1 Gig Ram, 80 Gig HD, XP Pro, MSOffice. Excellent with battery and manual. 084 915 4746. R3 900.

For Sale: KIC 2 door Fridge, 56cm (dpth) 50cm (wth), 142cm (ht) - 3 years old as new R800. Ph: Ethne 650 3270 (o/h).

For Sale: VW Jetta 3 1995 CLX 1800. Full Service History. Full-House: Air-con,Power-steering, Factory alarm-Immobiliser, Panasonic Sound System. R35,000. Billy 0834030872.

For Sale: Baby kit: U&me camping cot R 450, Baby car chair (newborn to 10kgs) R250, Baby sound monitor and LCD screen R800, Baby backpack R450. Contact Tania: 0836347887 tania.katzschner@uct.ac.za

GENERAL

Proofreading and editing of theses/dissertations/essays. Please contact 0723511323 or a/h 021 5566544/ email laranas@telkomsa.net

Office Space To Rent: Lakeside Central. Large room (3.6 x 5.7 m) ideal for small business venture. Kitchen+bathroom+secure parking available. R2000 p/m. Contact Gill 0724412082.

Interested in Tupperware? Great Specials. Please contact Marinette Reinke a/h 0219888558/082 8357734 to view catalogues and specials.

Transcriptions done from audio, cds, digital etc. Contact: Rifda 0833486789.

Very reliable, honest and hard-working char looking for two days a week work (preferably Tuesdays and/or Thursdays). References gladly provided. Contact Dave or Ceri, 021-6713253.

"House-sitter: Wanted in Rondeborsch for nice two-bed house very close to UCT mid June to late July. Contact: Chris 021-695-7086 a/h."

Domestic: Tessa, a Zimbabwean lady, is looking for work as a domestic/nanny with excellent reference,hardworking and has experience with children and is a charming, lovely happy lady. Call Tessa 0727682090.

Debt problems: Are you weighed down with debt or constantly getting hassled by your creditors? We can help you. Contact Michele 0824571064/mbrind@icmail.co.za

Wanted: Do you have a valid driver's license and own transport? Prof Tayob needs someone to transport his daughter from school in the afternoons. If you are interested. Contact Shamiemah at 0216503889/ Abdulkader.Tayob@uct.ac.za

Administrative Assistant part time. Need to be computer literate and efficient in Word, Xcel, Email and Internet. Need to have valid Driver's License, and must be reliable and trustworthy. Must be willing to work Saturday mornings. Ph. Shamiemah at 0216503889/ shamiemah@gmail.com

Wanted: A reliable student

to pick up 2 children in the afternoons only. Lift required from Rondebosch to Wetton. Contact: Andruween x6098/082 443 5095.

Are you worried about your child's speech & language development? Bring him/her into the UCT Pediatric Clinic for a free assessment. Email Michelle on michelle.pascoe@uct.ac.za for more info!

Would you like to join a support group for young gay males (18-25)? Email smlkri001@uct.ac.za or Ph. Krishen on 0824371637 for more info!

Research Assistant part-time required at Red cross Children's Hospital, Requirements: registration with the HPCSA, Salary: R60 000 pa (20 hours per week), Period: immediately until July 2008. Contact: Marco Zampoli 0833208088/0216585111.

Hot Stone Therapy: Mowbray Release of neck and back pain, deep relation are some of the benefits. Contact: Andre 0720296559/ www.freewebs.com/thehouseofhealing

Classic Piano Classes: beginners and advance, adults and children. Contact: Denise 0216837906/0724270568.

Eagle Transcription & Translation Services: Dictaphone tapes & digital - anything that needs to be transcribed - focus groups, research, cassettes, wave files, treated as strictly confidential. Contact: Lorraine 0217611866/0848129386 or eagle@isurf.tv

Medical officer/ doctor post at Red Cross Childrens Hospital in clinical study of HIV-infected children available from March 08. Flexible working hours from Mon to Fri, working as part of an excellent and dynamic team. Prof Heather Zar at heather.zar@uct.ac.za with your CV or phone 021-6585350.

Weigh-Less now operates at Bremner Building, Middle Campus (Behind the Baxter Theatre).Only on Fridays, 12h30 to 13h00 and no longer on the Upper Campus, Arts Block.Room 12. Contact: Charlotte 0219761114.

Concert by UCT Trio on Sun. 2 March at 18:30 at the Old Town House, Greenmarket Square. Programme includes Haydn (Gypsy Rondo) and Tchaikovsky. R70 at the door. David 0215310131.

Discussion Forum on proposed Sea Point Pavilion development: Centre for African Studies Gallery, March 5th, 6pm – 7.30pm. All welcome. Drinks and snacks will be served.

Nanny: responsible, reliable, caring woman seeks work with young babies or young children. Call Lydia (Buzeka) Mweza 0767468690. Call Tania Katzschner X2381 or 083 6347887 for reference.

Domestic work: Our nanny/cleaner is looking for domestic work on tues only. She is young and energetic and good with children and babies. Contact Marleen 0741937433.

Cynthia is a domestic worker looking for a job. She works well and is honest. She is a good lady. Her number is 0765053765. You can call me for a reference 0832952630.

Eight-try blitz for Ikeys in second Varsity Cup match

HELEN THÉRON

The Ikey Tigers blew away their opposition at UCT last Monday night, running in eight tries against a hapless-looking Tukkie (University of Pretoria) in their second FNB Varsity Cup league match.

The final score, 55-24, reflected a significant improvement on the first week's nervous start, when varsity went down 17-23 to Pukke (North-West University).

The FNB Varsity Cup is the brainchild of Rugby World Cup '95 icon Francois Pienaar. Targeting university players under 25, it bridges the gap between the amateur and professional arenas. Games are played on Monday nights, with some televised live by SuperSport.

Endorsed by SARU and SASSU, eight university clubs are participating. The concept was modelled on the successful college Monday Night Football league in the US.

"This competition should keep the next echelon of rugby players who are not entirely ready for the big scene yet, in the country, and help

them develop their skills locally," said Pienaar, chair of the Varsity Cup board.

Last Monday night imposing winger "Marvellous Marvin" Christians scored four times as varsity were full of running, mixing it up and varying their play to keep Tukkie on the back foot.

Without the notorious Southeaster to contend with, the Ikeys added a strategic edge to their game with some deft kicking. Alas, they're still missing too many penalties and conversions.

But that didn't bother upbeat supporters. A good crowd turned up on a balmy late afternoon. Was it the rugby or the wafting aromas from the boerewors braai? A trio of cheerleaders introduced a new brand of rugby haute couture at the match.

With the game wrapped and sealed early in the second half, the Ikeys got a little sloppy towards the end, letting Tukkie in for a few easy last-gasp tries.

Perhaps they just couldn't keep their eyes off that scoreboard. **MP**



Ball brawl: UCT Ikeys captain JJ Gagiano, with Dylan Rogers in support, tries to go around Eben Joubert of Tukkie.

Junior fencer a cut above the rest



Touché: Astrophysics student Giselle Vicatos is off to Italy for the junior world fencing championships in April.

CHRIS MCEVOY

Giselle Vicatos' fascination with swords goes back to when she was a mere four years old. She recalls visiting her grandfather, an admiral, who owned a sword, which she thought was beautiful and precious. Years later, while watching a swordfight on television, her interest in fencing was piqued.

She began fencing when she was 12 years old, and now, at the ripe old age of 18, Vicatos has established a reputation for her-

self that anyone would be proud of. She earned her South African colours in 2005, and is currently ranked number one fencer in the women's under-20 category.

Vicatos has already attended two junior world championships: in South Korea in 2006 and in Turkey in 2007.

"The standard of fencing internationally is very high, so I didn't do very well," she says modestly.

But Vicatos' pile of medals speaks for itself – a neck-breaking 70 or so (she can't remember

the exact number) is no mean achievement.

Now, enrolled as a first-year astrophysics student at UCT, she plans to take her fencing a few steps further.

"I couldn't do much fencing last year because of matric," she explains. "But this year I plan to enter more tournaments – and then there's the world championships in Italy in April."

Her ambition is to get into the top 64.

"I can do it," she says, "but I'll have to train a lot." **MP**

Chess a family affair for the Ellappens



Going places: Rowan Ellappen wants to get more people playing chess.

MYOLISI GOPHE

When Rowan Ellappen learnt how to play chess from his sister Jenine, it was just for fun "because when you are young you want to play any sport".

But the UCT first-year business science marketing student soon found himself so consumed by the game that he has been a regular player from a young age, winning critical tournaments at primary and high schools – and he is still going strong.

Two years ago he was part of a South African invitational side that played in Greece.

"That was my first overseas trip and I really had a lot of fun," he said.

Doing well in chess seems to be a family affair for the Ellappens. His father was a good chess player and taught Jenine, who went on to become a Woman International Chess Master and UCT's Sportsperson of

the year in 2005.

In 2000, Rowan was selected for the Western Province team and was part of the side that won the national championships two years later.

UCT recognised his potential and offered him a sports bursary.

With this year being his last as a junior player, he intends to challenge for the tough senior championships.

More importantly, he wants to keep the ball rolling and has begun coaching youngsters at his former school, Rondebosch Boys' High School.

"I got so much from chess that I would love to see the game improving and more people getting involved," says Rowan.

His next target is to help UCT win the South African Student Sports Union games.

"The incentive is that if you do well you will represent your country abroad." **MP**