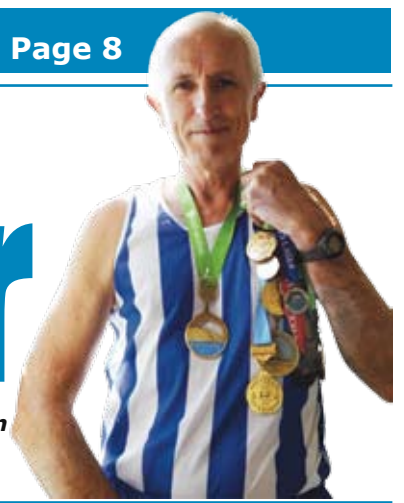


Monday Paper

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Child Gauge spotlights new Children's Act

The new *Child Gauge report* reflects on how well children have - or have not - enjoyed access to social services promised by the Constitution

The *South African Child Gauge 2007/2008*, launched this week by UCT's Children's Institute, celebrates the new Children's Act, which gives children a constitutional right to social services.

The *Gauge* contains a series of essays, including an overview of the current situation, and describes how the new act offers hope to resolve the current crisis in providing social services to children.

Historical inequalities in investments in infrastructure have contributed to poor quality services and persistent backlogs in disadvantaged areas, leaving many children and their families with no support. With the Children's Act, which will most likely come into force next year, the government has made a new commitment to fulfil children's right to social services.

"It is a pioneering step forward," says Paula Proudlock of UCT's Children's Institute. "The act provides the strong legislative foundation that will enable the country to respond adequately to the needs of vulnerable children."

Until now, children's constitutional right to social services has been a neglected and misunderstood right. The Children's Act provides for a new focus on prevention and early intervention services, which will reduce the large number of children in need of costly state protection and alternative care in the long term.

But there are challenges ahead. The Constitution places an obligation

on the state to give effect to these rights. To meet its obligation, the state must allocate adequate funds to fulfil these rights.

The *Gauge* includes an analysis, by Proudlock and Debbie Budlender of the Centre for Actuarial Research, of government budgets for social service delivery. They write: "The total amount allocated in the provincial social development budgets for children's social services needs in 2009/10 is R1.7 billion. The costing report commissioned by government in 2006 showed, however, that for the lowest cost scenario, an amount of at least R5 billion is needed in the first year of implementing the Children's Act, growing to R12.5 billion in the sixth year.

"Comparing actual budget with the costing calculations shows that major budget growth is needed to implement the Act. This budget growth is unlikely to happen unless changes are made to the way budget decisions are made and unless the human resources capacity needed to spend the budget is drastically improved."

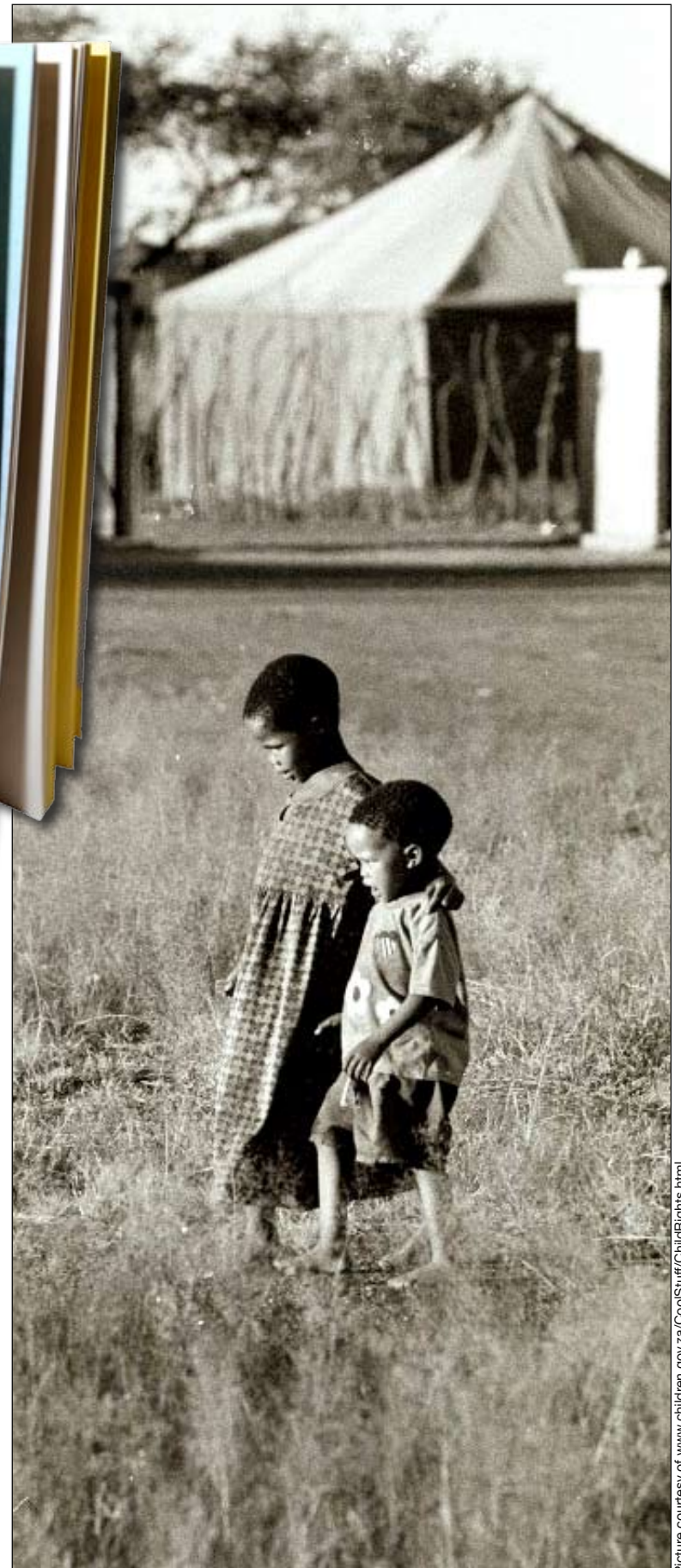
Using the best available national data, derived from the General Household Survey of Statistics South

Africa, the *Gauge* provides an annual snapshot of South Africa's progress in realising children's constitutional rights, such as their access to socio-economic entitlements, including health care, water, electricity, housing, and education. Data derived from the General Household Survey provides a sober reality check on the slow realisation of children's socio-economic rights.

The *South African Child Gauge 2007/2008* is available for download at <http://www.ci.org.za/site/includes/content/general/gauge2007.html>.



Rights in focus: *The South African Child Gauge 2007/2008* was launched by UCT's Children's Institute. The editors are (from left) Lucy Jamieson, Jo Monson, Paula Proudlock, Charmaine Smith and Miri Dutschke.



Programme in urban food security launched



HELEN THÉRON

Enhancing food security for the urban poor is the focus of a new R24 million, five-year project led by the Department of Environmental and Geographical Studies (ENGE0), in partnership with Queen's University,

Canada.

UCT and Queen's were one of only four successful applicants in the recent Canadian University Partners in Cooperation and Development (UPCD) competition, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The application was led by UCT's Professor Sue Parnell and Professor Jonathan Crush of the Southern African Research centre at Queen's University, an honorary professor at UCT.

The Canadian-funded project will establish the Programme in Urban

Food Security (PUFS) in ENGE0, with links to other units such as the African Centre for Cities.

Food security is commonly defined as the ability to secure an adequate daily supply of food that is affordable, nutritious, hygienic and culturally-appropriate, and involves the reliable and sustainable production, procurement, distribution and consumption of goods.

"Dramatic urban growth, the 'feminisation' of poverty and the region's vulnerability to natural hazards mean that urban food security is no longer assured in many African countries," said Canadian project coordinator Dr Bruce Frayne.

"While urban food security is a growing challenge in the context of rapid urbanisation and rising poverty, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has heightened food insecurity, created newly-vulnerable populations and reduced the capacity of poor households to secure sustainable livelihoods. The concentration of poverty and HIV/AIDS in the same vulnerable urban households underpins a vicious cycle of food insecurity."

The link to HIV/AIDS is significant, says Frayne. Southern Africa is home to 70% of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. Of the 10 countries with HIV prevalence rates of over 20%, six are in Southern Africa.

Poverty, HIV/AIDS and food

insecurity are all concentrated in informal and peri-urban sections of both primary and secondary cities of Southern Africa. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is consistently higher in urban than rural areas across the region.

Frayne says infection rates are now twice as high in the former, and young urban women are disproportionately affected by the disease.

"Within cities, the rates are considerably higher among poor, informal and mobile populations. The additional burden of HIV/AIDS in the cities has meant that the health and life expectancy of poor residents, especially women, is further compromised."

The project aims to enhance the ability of key institutions and agents to facilitate urban food security and its impact on HIV/AIDS-vulnerability in 11 cities across Southern Africa: Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Windhoek, Maseru, Manzini, Gaborone, Lusaka, Harare, Blantyre and Maputo.

In addition to raising awareness of the issues among the population through a range of media products over the next five years, the project aims to enhance capacity through applied research and training at four levels: university faculty, postgraduate students, urban managers and other professionals, and civil society change agents. **MP**

UCT staffer the brain of brains

MYOLISI GOPHE

Associate Professor Gillian Ainslie entered the Radio 702/Radio 567 (Cape Talk) Brain of Brains competition just for fun, and thought she would likely be knocked out in the first round.

But a combination of sound general knowledge, the ability to hold her nerve and a bit of luck saw Ainslie become the 2008 winner of the competition, pocketing the princely sum of R41 000.

The month-long knockout event took the form of call-ins, web entries and recorded shows at selected shopping centres around Cape Town and Johannesburg, while the grand finale was a live broadcast from the Radio 567 studio in Cape Town, where she came up against the Radio 702 finalist from Johannesburg.

Ainslie, from the UCT Department of Medicine's Respiratory Clinic, entered both online and by phoning in, getting contrasting results. She was knocked out in the first round when she called, but was the best online



Champion: Assoc Prof Gillian Ainslie's sound general knowledge helped her to become the "Brain of Brains"

performer.

From there, she won all her rounds to become the "Brain of Brains".

Ainslie, who reads a lot, recalls that there were tough questions throughout the competition and said the final was the toughest round, where the two finalists were still all square after three rounds. Ainslie finally won

on the sudden-death question on which city was the capital of New Zealand before Wellington. (The answer's Auckland.)

"You've got to have a good and broad general knowledge - from sport to politics, geography to pop music and current affairs - to make it, and be quick at responding," says Ainslie. **MP**

Resilience factors point the way to recovery

HELEN THÉRON

Society pays a high price for what happens to its women, Associate Professor Mary Harvey said in her opening address at the research symposium on gender-based violence.

But research information on resilience and the nature of resilience among victims of gender-based violence had become increasingly

important to effective intervention, added Harvey, of the Department of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School.

"The epidemiology of violence in the US has been thriving for the past 30 years. Women are at higher risk than men in every category of domestic violence and women in intimate relationships are at a huge risk."

The root of the problem, she

said, lies in male socialisation.

The symposium was hosted by UCT's Department of Psychology and organised by the department's Dr Floretta Boonzaaier and Anastasia Maw, and was held at the Saartjie Baartman Centre in Manenberg. It gathered internationally renowned researchers in the field and created a forum to discuss research challenges and the interface between research and service provision. **MP**

Call for nominations for fellowships

The Fellowships Committee is calling for nominations for the award of fellowships. Fellowships are awarded in recognition of original, distinguished academic work.

ELIGIBILITY

- Members of academic staff appointed to permanent posts on or before 1 January 2004 are eligible for consideration;
- Persons whose candidacy for the award was considered in 2005, 2006 and 2007 may not re-apply and may not be re-nominated.

NOMINATIONS/APPLICATIONS

- Members of Senate are invited to submit nominations; and
- Officers eligible for the award are invited to submit applications.

Such nominations and applications are to be submitted to the Registrar (for attention Mrs D Benjamin, Room 110, Bremner Building) by Friday, 11 April.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Nominations and applications must be accompanied by a citation,

a curriculum vitae, details (and copies) of publications (or cited references), and other evidence of distinction. The names, addresses, fax number and/or email addresses of three referees whom the University may consult must be provided. Referees should be persons of standing (preferably of international standing, where the field of activity of the candidate makes this a reasonable requirement) in the discipline in which the candidate is working. The suggested length of the citation is a three-quarter page of typed text in single spacing.

It is also important for a nominator (or applicant) to identify the specific areas in which the nominee (or applicant) has made original contributions to knowledge and to point out the significance of their work, particularly in the international context, by, for example, reference to published work in international journals of recognised academic standing. Publications should include a major work.

A nominator (who is not a fellow) and an applicant, must provide the name of a person, not necessarily a fellow, to perform the role of orator at the meeting(s) of the committee to present the case for the candidate.

Duo takes a LEAP into the Southern Ocean

Young learners LEAP at an opportunity to sail to Prince Edwards Islands

HELEN THÉRON

Two young women, Nomaphelo Mvinjelwa, a Grade-11 learner, and intern Lindelwa Mini, both from the LEAP School for Science and Mathematics in Pinelands, have been invited by Dr Isabelle Ansoorge of the (oceanography) to join her research team heading for the Prince Edward Islands in the Southern Ocean.

As part of the International Polar Year, Ansoorge and her team of four oceanography honours students, a postdoctoral student, an education officer from the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), as well the LEAP School duo, will spend five weeks on board the South African research and supply vessel the SA Agulhas.

Ansoorge and her team will be studying the ocean circulation between the Prince Edward Islands (Marion Island and Prince Edward Island) and 58°S.

The Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) freely carries water around the whole continent of Antarctica, but not without obstructions.

Some, such as the Drake Pas-



LEAP ahead: UCT's Dr Isabelle Ansoorge (middle) has invited Lindelwa Mini (left) and Nomaphelo Mvinjelwa, both of the LEAP School for Science and Mathematics in Pinelands, to join a UCT oceanography research team heading for the Prince Edward Islands in the Southern Ocean.

sage, constrict its path, while others, such as mid-ocean ridges, may induce meandering in the current cores and the genesis of mesoscale turbulence.

"Studying recent surface drift-

ers, subsurface floats, altimetry and the simulated velocities from a numerical model, we have identified a region south of the Prince Edward Islands that shows that the ACC splits in half over the Conrad

Rise, forming two intense jets at the two meridional extremities of the Rise with a relatively stagnant water body over the Rise itself," Ansoorge explained.

"This year's cruise aims to study

the area and see from our collected data exactly what is going on and to determine the important implications for the ecology of the region."

One of their purposes is to attract young scholars to ocean sciences at UCT. The cruise is a training module for all UCT oceanography honours students and Mvinjelwa and Mini will slot right into this group, learning about oceanography in the Southern Ocean, working with the oceanographic equipment on board, as well as collecting water samples and analysing oxygen, temperature and nutrients.

Ansoorge runs a "class afloat"-style module, which includes a lecture series on board. Projects will be handed out, and the LEAP duo will be expected to join the students on 12-hour watch during the survey. They will also join the www.myspace.com/classafloat daily blog, which will allow their school friends back home to follow their travels.

"With stormy conditions, icebergs, huge seas and a visit to the new Subantarctic base on Marion Island, this will be an experience the LEAP scholars will never forget," Ansoorge said. **MP**

Second A-rating for law faculty

HELEN THÉRON

Professor Danie Visser (private law) has received an A2-rating from the National Research Foundation.

This is the second such award for the faculty in recent months. Earlier this year Prof Drucilla Cornell (customary law) clinched an A1-rating.

"I believe that the A-rating recognises that my research has helped foster understanding between differently-configured legal systems and that I have contributed to the creation of a comparative law of unjustified enrichment," Visser said.

"My acting appointment as deputy vice-chancellor comes at a good time, because I have just completed a book which draws together my research

over the past decade, so it gives me some breathing space to think about my next project."

A former dean of the law faculty (1996-1998), Visser was educated in South Africa and the Netherlands, obtaining doctorates in law from Pretoria University in 1980 and the University of Leyden in 1985. He is a sometime holder of the Huber C Hurst Eminent Visiting Scholar Chair at the University of Florida.

At UCT, he teaches comparative law, comparative legal history, the law of delict, and unjust enrichment. For the past five years he has taught comparative law in the Juris Doctor programme at the University of Melbourne, Australia, as a visiting professor.

He is chair of the South African chapter of the International Academy of Comparative Law, and a former president of the Southern African Society of Legal Historians.

Visser has also served as chair of the specialist committee of the National Research Foundation's rating panel for law.

He serves in various editorial capacities on numerous publications, including the *South African Law Journal* and the *UK Restitution Law Review*.

In addition, he is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, the World Academy of Art and Science and an associate member of the International Academy of Comparative Law. **MP**

Democracy under threat

MEGAN MORRIS

Not too long ago, in 2006, South Africa was riding the crest of a post-apartheid high – the economy was thriving, the delivery of houses, infrastructure and services was at a high, President Thabo Mbeki was at his most popular and the future looked rosy to all.

But cracks – think unchecked AIDS and unemployment, growing inequality (especially among black South Africans) – were beginning to show. And now, just two years later, democracy itself is showing signs of "hollowing out," said political scientist Professor Robert Mattes in his inaugural lecture, ambivalently titled *W(h)ither Democracy in South Africa*, on 19 March.

Mattes illustrated the extent of the slump with a procession of charts and graphs, generated through his work with the Institute for Democracy

in South Africa, the Afrobarometer project and the Democracy in Africa Research Unit at UCT. In everything from declining voter turnout and low levels of popular commitment to democracy, to voters shirking their responsibilities and a rise in public protest, South Africa was trailing well behind other African countries, the studies showed.

These are "problems or symptoms of South Africa's democratic malady, that all, in some way, reflect a lack of citizen agency and leadership accountability", said Mattes.

The causes are many: South Africa's stuttering political economy, its one-party dominance, a "feckless" opposition, and a well-intentioned Constitution that, nonetheless, supports the ANC's upper hand.

The solution, Mattes concluded, would be to pay "far greater attention than we presently do to our democratic deficits". **MP**

Clanwilliam project nets second Pifer Award

HELEN THÉRON

The Living Landscapes Project in the Clanwilliam area has won its second Alan Pifer Research Award, made annually to one or more scholars whose work contributes to the welfare and advancement of disadvantaged South Africans.

The 2007 award went to Associate Professor Mark Fleishman of the Department of Drama and Professor Pippa Skotnes of the School of Fine Art for their interdisciplinary Living Landscapes project, bringing local history, drama, art and the richness of the Bleek Lloyd archive to the local Clanwilliam community.

The project's value also lies in the fact that it aims to return the heritage of Clanwilliam and surrounds, an historically and archaeologically rich area, to the community, to be cherished and sustained for future generations.

In 1999 Professor John



Community of disciplines: Winners of the 2007 Alan Pifer Research Award, Prof Pippa Skotnes and Assoc Prof Mark Fleishman, with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Njabulo S Ndebele.

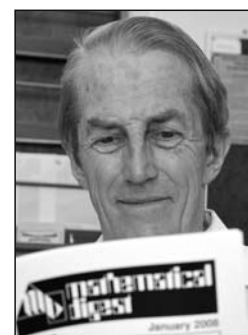
Parkington of the Department of Archaeology won the Pifer Award for his contribution to the Living Landscapes enterprise.

The Living Landscapes venture started in the mid-1990s, offering art workshops to fewer than 100 pupils annually. As the workshops

expanded, hundreds of children arrived each year. By 2001 the community's expectations had grown to such an extent that Skotnes invited Fleishman to join the project.

An average of 500 children complete the week-long workshop each year. **MP**

New emeritus professors elected



Senate has elected eight professors to the rank of emeritus professor from the date of their retirement, largely in December 2007. They are professors Solomon Benatar of the Department of Medicine, George

Branch (far left) of the Department of Zoology, Cesareo Dominguez of the Department of Physics, Jonathan Peter of the Department of Surgery, Heinz Rütther of the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, Jennifer Thomson (who retires in March 2008) of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, John Webb (left) of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, and Richard Whitaker of the Classics section in the School of Languages and Literature. **MP**

Battle of the bandwidth

Bandwidth is a bugbear for everyone in South Africa with aspirations to go online. As a university, UCT's needs and spending on bandwidth are high, but the university is hamstrung by many factors beyond its control

CHRIS MCEVOY

No discussion on the internet in South Africa would be complete without someone complaining about the bandwidth problem.

This is entirely justified. Bandwidth shortage and high costs have been a thorn in the side of South African users since the very beginning, making the internet unbearably slow for many, and completely unaffordable for most.

In South Africa, bandwidth costs are astronomically high: UCT spends about R7.8 million a year to stay online. Despite the fact that the university currently buys more internet bandwidth than any other South African tertiary institution, it is still not enough to cope with demand.

At present, the university's bandwidth is 32 megabits, or four megabytes per second. This is a tiny fraction of the bandwidth available to educational institutions in the US and the UK, for example, where some universities have access up to 2.5 gigabits per second.

UCT's internet connection is simply too small to accommodate such luxuries as large downloads or streaming media, like the videos on YouTube, for example, which users in many other countries take for granted. Downloading this content can slow down internet connectivity across the university to unmanageable speeds.

To combat this, Information and

Communication Technology Services (ICTS) has implemented Packeteer Packetshaper, a network appliance that controls the distribution of bandwidth between different protocols, such as the web, email and chat.

Between 10 and 15% is allocated to email, and the remainder is shared between lesser-used protocols. Peer-to-peer file sharing applications such as eDonkey and applications such as Skype are completely blocked."

requires user authentication before the internet can be accessed.

"The ISA system curbs abuse," says Alexander, "because abusers change their downloading habits, knowing that download volumes are being monitored. As a result, internet accessibility for users has improved. We're doing all we can to keep it usable."

Alexander explains that ICTS must be ever vigilant against internet abuse.

"Applications, especially file sharing networks, are constantly changing," he says. "We have to be on the lookout for security holes and new applications as they appear."

The system allows for ICTS to compile a list of the top 100 bandwidth users, but at present, there is no official procedure in place to take action against offenders.

"We need to sort out that process," says Alexander, "but for now, we just give them a friendly warning, because not all heavy users are abusers."

A recent positive development was UCT's move to the new GEN3 network this year, which gave the university a bandwidth boost at the same cost as last year. There has been an 18% increase in backbone bandwidth, and a 28% increase in international bandwidth. Unfortunately, improvements are rarely noticed. The extra bandwidth is quickly absorbed, leaving users ever hungry for more. **MP**



"Most of UCT's bandwidth is allocated for web browsing", explains Leon Alexander, projects co-ordinator at ICTS, "but with further limitations within the web browsing class, like restrictions on streaming.

An additional measure to keep bandwidth accessible to all is the SupaTsela Project's implementation of the new Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA), a firewalling and security server that



LETTER

I would like to support the suggestion of "Aggrieved Goose" (*Monday Paper* Feb 18-2 March 2008) that individual researchers at UCT should receive a substantial cut of the government subsidy for journal articles. The claim by the administration that this will lead academics to publish in journals of "dubious quality" is disingenuous, since journal publication is already a criterion for promotion and RFJ. Prof Vaughan claims that (some of) the universities that "earn greater subsidy than UCT ... based on the number of their publication outputs" have a great number of "publications of dubious quality". However, without further information, nothing can be deduced from this. It is absurd and insulting to suggest that academics will publish anywhere just to get money - no one goes into academia for the paycheck, and any subsidy money would go directly into one's research account.

Here's one reason I can think of for rewarding academics a substantial cut of the subsidy: conferences. UCT's conference awards committees meets only twice a year, in February and September. Often, calls for papers come out between these dates, making it impossible to apply for funding from UCT. And sometimes funding received during the September round arrives too late. One colleague had to cancel his conference attendance because, by the time he was given the award, airline tickets had increased drastically. Moreover, one receives no funding to attend conferences without giving a paper. If academics had more research money available, this would give us greater freedom to attend the conferences we deem important.

I also note with interest that UCT is not averse to granting researchers money in other ways. In that same edition, *Monday Paper* proudly reported that: "Fifteen UCT researchers... have benefited from a collective R232 000, awarded by the Innovation Fund for South African patents granted in 2006. The money is an incentive to encourage researchers to file patents". I rest my case.

Featherless Biped
Humanities Faculty

Interactive website for Social Responsiveness

MYOLISI GOPHE

UCT has launched a new "interactive" website on social responsiveness to showcase the multiple ways in which the university is engaging with the development challenges facing society.

The launch on 26 March coincided with the release of the 2007 *Social Responsiveness Report* and was attended by, among others, representatives the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape government, institutions that work with the higher education sector to address regional challenges.

A lot of work generated through UCT and other universities has been used to develop the Ikapa Elihlumayo (Developing Cape) white paper, which was released in January.

Professor Martin Hall, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, said one of the biggest obligations of public institutions is to help address development challenges facing South Africa, like



poverty alleviation. The website, which is an online version of the report, contains information that cut across all

respects of teaching and research. (www.uctsocialresponsiveness.org.za/home/default.asp)

The 2007 report showcases

projects on burning issues such as refugee rights, African culture and heritage, and mathematics and science education. **MP**

ERRATUM

In our article *New paper on bizarre-looking reptile* in Monday Paper vol 27 no 03, the picture featuring Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan may have been slightly misleading. Chinsamy-Turan's paper was on the creature *Pterodaustro guinazui*, distinguished by, among other features, its "mouth that looked like a hairbrush because of the thousand narrow teeth". In the image, Chinsamy-Turan appeared with the skull of a predatory dinosaur from Niger, *Carcharodontosaurus*, whose teeth were anything but "narrow" or hairbrush-like.

The Brain Behaviour Initiative: an introduction



The initial focus is on trauma and resilience, but several other areas of collaborative research are now underway, integrating methods such as brain imaging, neurogenetics, and neuropsychology. In addition, a Cross-University Brain-Behaviour Initiative (CUBBI), involving several BBI researchers, has been funded as a National Research Foundation (NRF) research niche area. Between them, UCT and Stellenbosch University now have three NRF chairs established to work in this area. See <http://www.psychiatry.uct.ac.za/cubbi> for more details of CUBBI principal investigators and their projects. **MP**

The Brain Behaviour Initiative, aka BBI, is a UCT signature theme that integrates different approaches to studying brain-behaviour issues relevant to the local context.

Picture courtesy of Getty Images

Putting numbers to mental disease



Right at this moment, Johan van Heerden, an MSc student in the Department of Molecular Cell Biology, is holed up in Spain, looking at the relationship between genes in the immune system and a suite of neural genes associated with anxiety-related psychiatric disorders.

In keeping with the initial focus of the Brain Behaviour Initiative (BBI), a UCT signature research theme, Van Heerden's project centres around psychological vulnerability and resilience after trauma. His work aims to provide insight into the potential of non-neural tissues (peripheral tissues) as diagnostic targets for psychiatric disorders.

The BBI's experimental model, maternal separation, entails the daily separation of mice pups from their mother during the first two weeks of development, a critical period.

Previous studies have shown that maternal separation during early development in mice leads to increased fear- and anxiety responses during adulthood, explains Van Heerden. Typically, these animals display behaviours that are characterised by an increased aversion towards environments that might pose a vulnerability threat, compared to animals not exposed to maternal separation.

"It is known that this outcome is the result of environmentally induced modifications of important stress-associated genes," says Van Heerden.

Physiological data indicate that separated animals have much higher levels of circulating stress hormones than non-separated ones.

"Our study has shown an increase in risk-assessment behaviours, which include a significant increase in the time taken (ie increased fearfulness) for separated animals to enter unprotected spaces compared to non-separated animals."

But the BBI researchers want to dig deeper; right into the innermost workings of the brain, to be exact.

"We are looking at the extent that this kind of early developmen-

tal deprivation affects key areas of the brain and whether these neural changes have long-term effects on other aspects of an organism's biology, such as immune function," says Van Heerden.

Initial findings are promising. One analysis of gene expression from the brain's prefrontal cortex – an area involved in everything from impulse control and judgement to sexual behaviour and socialisation – has revealed a selection of genes previously implicated in psychiatric disorders.

Which brings us to Van Heerden's sojourn at the Spanish Institute of Bioinformatics, aka the CIPF, in Valencia, Spain, an exchange funded by a collaborative project in neuroscience and functional genomics. The collaboration is led by Van Heerden's UCT supervisor Professor Nicola Illing and Dr Joaquin Dopazo, a world-renowned bioinformatician at the Valencia centre.

Over the next three months, Van Heerden will process gene-expression data for hippocampal and hypothalamic tissues, as well that from a set of immune cells known as peripheral blood mononuclear cells, or PBMCs. Using PBMCs, scientists have been able to "intercept" the biological dialogue between the brain and the immune system, and infer from this the nature of "malfunctions" in the brain, explains Van Heerden.

"We wish to further the current understanding of these functional exchanges, and the extent to which they might be exploited, to infer various neural dysregulations associated with psychiatric disorders."

The BBI hopes to tie in specific neural gene-expression profiles with gene-expression activity in PBMCs.

It's hoped that these findings will contribute towards the potential development of non-invasive diagnostic techniques for psychiatric disorders. These new techniques will use modern molecular methods in tandem with classic classification systems such as the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV).

If things pan out, this molecular approach will allow for the early identification of psychiatric disorders, and also provide new avenues for drug development. **MP**

Thomas leads brain study



MYOLISI GOPHE

Dr Kevin Thomas, along with collaborators in the Cross-University Brain Behaviour Initiative, is conducting a study on the effects of buprenorphine, a medication with morphine-like action on the body, on social-emotional sensitivity in people with a history of psychological trauma.

The research, to be completed at the end of the year, investigates the effects that buprenorphine has on emotional experience, social behaviour

and - looking at the brain - on neural circuits in participants who have suffered childhood trauma, such as sexual abuse, neglect or maltreatment.

Buprenorphine, an opioid agent, is traditionally used as a painkiller, but is also used, increasingly, to treat heroin addiction.

Thomas' project is one of the first to run on the state-of-the-art 3T fMRI brain scanner at the Cape Universities Brain Imaging Centre.

The first findings are encouraging, says Thomas, based in the Department of Psychology and a member of UCT's

Brain and Behaviour Initiative.

The small initial sample shows consistent differences in emotional processing between those on and off the buprenorphine medication, with those taking the medication being less reactive to emotional stimuli, such as angry faces.

Thomas is conducting the study with a multidisciplinary team, including researchers from UCT and Stellenbosch University, Utrecht University in the Netherlands and from Washington State University in the United States. **MP**

Effects of stress in pregnancy examined



MYOLISI GOPHE

Dr Bavanisha Vythilingum is conducting a study on women's mental health during pregnancy and the role of stress on infant outcomes.

Together with researchers from Stellenbosch University, Vythilingum, who won the best poster award at the recent International Anxiety Disorders Symposium, looks at uterine artery blood flow to determine the association between blood flow and

antenatal maternal psychological stress.

"We hope to understand how stress impacts on placental development," she explains.

Antenatal maternal stress has been linked to poor obstetric outcomes, such as pre-term labour, interuterine growth restriction and small-for-gestational-age-babies. It is believed that altered fetoplacental blood flow may be responsible for this. However, other studies of

uterine blood flow show contradictory results.

"We wanted to look at the effects of stress in pregnancy," says Vythilingum, who is based at the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at Groote Schuur Hospital.

About 100 women from clinics in Bishop Lavis and Elsies River were assessed, using colour Doppler ultrasound and the K10, a tool to measure stress in women, at 13 weeks, 21 weeks and 32 weeks of pregnancy. **MP**

A DAY IN THE LIFE of Student Financial Aid

MYOLISI GOPHE

Who are the team members?

Director: Sindy Ntshongwana
 Manager: Tasneem Salasa
 Senior co-ordinator student funding operations: Sibusiso Ncengwa
 Student assessments co-ordinator: Margie Jacobs
 Student bursaries and loans co-ordinator: Khaya Jack
 Bursaries and loans assistants: Rehana Effendi, Cindy de Oliveira
 Student funding assistants: Adelaide Rooks, Ethne Diedricks and Zahir Baker
 Financial aid enquiries assistant: Patricia Jakavula
 Senior secretary: Lorraine Valentine.

What are the team's responsibilities?

To provide financial assistance to eligible undergraduate students.

What kind of work would you deal with on a day-to-day basis?

The office does financial assess-



Fun(ding) folks: From left, back, Margie Jacobs, Ethne Diedricks, Lorraine Valentine, Rehana Effendi, Khaya Jack, Zahir Baker and Tasneem Salasa. In front are (seated) Adelaide Rooks and Patricia Jakavula.

ments of applications, selects and nominates students for donors, awards bursaries and scholarships, processes student loans, makes payments to students for living allowances, advises students on their financial aid,

refers students for counselling where needed, and provides information on financial aid to students, parents, donors and faculties. They also do parent information sessions at high schools, and participate in parent orientation

and UCT Open Days.

How often do you deal directly with students?

We see students on a daily basis and often parents, too. For conven-

ience, the office is also open during the meridian.

What is the most difficult part of the section's work?

Not being able to cover all the financial needs of the students. Another difficulty is that sometimes staff members are exposed to very traumatic information that they have to deal with on a personal level.

What are the lows of the section's jobs?

Informing a student and/or a parent that they don't meet the eligibility criteria and then having to deal with the fall-out that inevitably results from that. We are dealing on a daily basis with decisions that affect students' lives materially, and this is not easy when that decision is not positive.

What are the highs?

Seeing the students graduate, and the number of graduates who still remain in contact with the office and share that, through financial aid assistance, they were able to achieve their academic and career goals.

Grand finale for UCT dancer and lecturer



with renowned choreographers daily and learning new dance forms weekly has been an opportunity for all the competitors. Above that, being able to perform to the nation on live TV is unbelievable! One of my fears was not being able to handle the stress of the competition but I feel that I took every day in my stride and ended up coping really well in the end.

What happens during off-camera time, if there is any?

I loosened up in front of the camera very early in the competition so I feel that I never hid anything from the camera. I wanted to remain true to myself and therefore my personality came across on screen naturally. Sometimes, however, the camera did miss out on some unique moments in the contestants' house. There was never a lack of drama in the house!

You danced with a partner and yet competed for an individual prize? Isn't that a little tricky in that your partner - who you must rely on - is also your rival?

It was definitely an aspect that played on our minds but when you are trying to perfect a partnership, you tend to put the competition aside to enable a successful duet. The judges did comment on individuals in duets, which was beneficial.

What's been your favourite performance over the show, even if it's not one that the judges would agree with you on?

I have highlighted performances throughout the series. I have thoroughly enjoyed all the Latin American dances but the moment that stands out for me was when I performed a Freestyle duet and my partner and I received a standing ovation from the judges.

How confident are you going into the finals now that you're being judged by the fickle public rather than an objective panel?

It is definitely nerve-wracking to hand over your power to the public. I have to trust that the public has acknowledged my dance ability as well as my sincerity during the competition and that they will support me in the final. It is, however, pointed out quite regularly that it may be the most popular person that wins the competition as opposed to the most talented!

What's your strategy going into the final week? I am working very hard again this week to enable a great dance performance in the final. Alongside that, I am campaigning and appealing for votes targeted greatly at the Western Cape Province. **MP**

Yaritha Singh, UCT BMus graduate and contemporary dance teacher at the School of Dance, and partner Andile Ndlovu danced their way to the grand finale of kykNET's dance competition Dans! Dans! Dans! on Saturday 29 March. Singh talked to *Monday Paper* just days before the big event.

What made you enter Dans! Dans! Dans!?

I entered the competition out of curiosity, and once I learnt more about it, I was really excited by the opportunity for dancers to be exposed to the country and the chance for the art form to be acknowledged by the general public.

How much has it lived up to your expectations?

My journey during the competition has been an amazing one. It has exceeded my expectations and has been a huge learning experience. Being able to work

Crime Watch



Campus Protection Services (CPS) has urged students to be on the lookout for cellphone thieves operating around campus. Three cases of cellphone theft were reported to CPS and the South African Police Service (SAPS) during March. The incidents took place in Main Road, Mowbray, and one in the Smuts Hall Residence parking area on upper campus.

The modus operandi of the suspect is that he approaches a student and tells him that his cellphone battery is flat, and that he urgently needs

to contact a friend to come and help him. He would then ask the unsuspecting student to send a "Please Call Me" to a cellphone number that the suspect would provide to the student.

When the person calls back, the student then hands his cellphone to the suspect to speak to his friend, at which time the suspect hands a packet over to the student to hold as surety.

The suspect then walks off with the student's cellphone.

Inside the packet is a small plastic bag containing a white powder that looks like flour.

On March 20, however, one student alerted a CPS officer and the suspect was arrested in Residence Road on upper campus as he was fleeing with the student's cellphone.

The student's Nokia cellphone, valued at R2 000, was recovered and returned to the student. A criminal case of attempted theft was opened and the suspect was arrested by the Rondebosch SAPS.

Another student whose cellphone was stolen in the Main Road, Mowbray, on 3 March has since been asked to identify the suspect. This student positively identified the suspect as the person that stole his cellphone. A criminal case of theft was opened at the Mowbray SAPS.

Students are, however, urged to remain cautious as others may try the same scam.

Contact CPS at ext 2222 or 2223 to report any such incidents. **MP**

Cape Town is soon to have the rare opportunity of hearing all 12 pieces of Albeniz's great cycle *Iberia* presented by the English pianist Martin Offord. Regarded by many as Spain's greatest piano work, Offord will perform at the Baxter Concert Hall on Saturday 12 April at 20h15.

Composed in 1908, one year before Albeniz's death, *Iberia* presents musical pictures or impressions of different places in Andalucia and stems directly from the Gypsy/Moorish tradition that gave rise to the Flamenco songs and dances that are famous the world over. Book at Computicket or at the Baxter.

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Inaugural lecture by Professor Stephanie Burton, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment on "Using enzymes for catalysis - Nature does it better" on Wednesday 9 April 2008 at 18h00 in Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Building, Stanley Road, Middle Campus, UCT. Guests to be seated by 17h45. Please RSVP for catering purposes to the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies on 021- 650 2888 or fax: 021- 650 2893 or email: ems@ched.uct.ac.za

Interactive seminar between two critics (Bill Dixon and Eric Pelsler) and an author (Antony Albekker) on the 2nd April titled: WHOSE SIDE ARE WE ON? ANTONY ALBEBKER AND 'A COUNTRY AT WAR WITH ITSELF'. Bill comments: "Over forty years ago Howard Becker famously argued that sociologists of deviance needed to ask themselves whose side they were on. Last year, Antony Albekker published a book arguing that South Africa was 'a country at war with itself'. In this presentation I want to return to Becker's question and ask whose side critical criminologists should be on in this 'war', and what the implications are of adopting Albekker's solutions to South Africa's 'crisis of crime', not just for the criminals he wants to see imprisoned in ever greater numbers, but for South African society and indeed for the discipline of criminology itself".

Bill Dixon, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Keele University will be leading the discussion on the topic. Wednesday April 2nd 2008. Venue: Oliver Tambo Moot Court, 5th Floor, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, UCT. Time: 17h15 - 18h15. Refreshments will be served from 16h45 - 17h15. RSVP to Elaine Atkins 021 6502983 or Elaine. Atkins@uct.ac.za

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

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

Professor/Associate Professor/ Senior Lecturer in Organisational Psychology/Programme Evaluation, School of Management Studies, Closing date: 31 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 2192

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Jewish Religion and Thought, Department of Religious Studies, Closing date: 11 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

Senior Lecturers X 2, The Cardiovascular Research Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 11 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 3003

Len Abrahamse Professor of Finance & Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Finance, Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 14 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2220

The Wernher and Beit Chair and Head of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2220

Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer / Lecturer in Structural Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, Closing date: 30 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Clinical Data Manager: Informatics - Healthcare, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 28 March 2008, E-mail: ktu-application@uct.ac.za

Data Manager, The South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 28 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 3003

Medical Officer, The Khayelitsha Cervical Cancer Screening Project, Closing date: 30 March 2008, Tel: 021 404 4488

Senior Finance Officer (1 Post), The Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 28 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

Administrative Assistant, HIV/AIDS Co-ordination UCT (HAICU), Closing date: 28 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 1005

Registered Nurse, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre; Closing date: 28 March 2008, E-mail: jobs@hiv-research.org.za

Part-time Helpdesk Consultants, Information & Communication Technology Services (ICTS); Closing date: 28 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 3012

Medical Officer, The Khayelitsha Cervical Cancer Screening Project; Closing date: 30 March 2008, Tel: 021 404 4488

Senior Secretary, Department of Geological Sciences; Closing date: 31 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 2931

Laboratory Assistant, South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative, Institute for Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine; Closing date: 31 March 2008, Tel: 021 406 6839

Senior Secretary, Department of Civil Engineering; Closing date: 31 March 2008, Tel: 021 650 2603

Human Resource Assistants: Human Resource Department; Closing date: 04 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2992

Thin Section Technician, Department of Geological Sciences, Closing date: 04 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2931

Front Office Receptionist (2 posts), International Academic Programmes Office; Closing date: 11 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2822

Candidate Attorney: Civil Litigation, UCT Law Clinic, Closing date: 17 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 3775

Chief/Senior Scientific Officer, Department of Geological Sciences, Closing date: 30 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2192

RESEARCH:

Research Officers: Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 18 April 2008, Fax: 021 689 5403 or email: deborah.moodie@uct.ac.za

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Driver – Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, Closing date: 28 March 2008, Tel: 021 406 6808

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

Rondeborsch: 01 May - 30 Nov 08, 2 bedroom, furn, fitted kitchen in secure block, near UCT. Rent R5400 p/m, incl. elec. Email: malcgust@iafrica.com

Rondebosch: house-sitter wanted for nice two-bed house very close to UCT mid June to late July. Contact: Chris 0216857086.

Vredehoek: Young professional researcher looking for post-grad student/young researcher to share his flat in Vredehoek. Fully furnished, with great views of the city and Lion's Head. R2400pm excl electricity. Available 15 April. Call Adam 0842612750/ ACooper@hsrc.ac.za

Fish Hoek. 2 bedrooms, open plan lounge-kitchen-dining room, garage. Lovely views. R3500/month. Available now to mid-December. Furnished & equipped /semi-furnished as preferred. Contact: Alison 0721968361/ alison.joubert@uct.ac.za

Lakeside Central: Large room (3.6 x 5.7 m) for rent. Kitchen+bathroom+secure parking available. R2000 p/m. Contact Gill 0724412082.

Observatory: 2 rooms becoming available from 1st April 2008. The house is fully furnished, including Wi-Fi Broadband access, washing machine, very secure, etc. The small room is R2000 p/m and the very large one is R2500. Contact: Colleen at kelly@absamail.co.za

Furnished, one-bedroom flat, DSTV connected at Sea Point from 1st April 2008, R5000,00 p/m, includes electricity, close to all amenities. Short stays negotiable. Contact Debbie on 082 465 6102.

Unfurnished two-bedroom flat at Gardens from 1st April 2008, R5500,00 p/m, includes electricity. Negotiable. Contact Debbie on 082 465 6102.

Rondebosch: 3 bedroom single sex shared accomodation, fully furnished, flats serviced once a week rental R2250.00 p/m. Electricity shared and payed through a metre system. Contact 0828998144.

Athlone: 1 bedroom with on suite & separate entrance available 1 April 2008. Seek professional person with quiet sober habits. Contact 0837192986.

Rondebosch: Garden Cottage R2400 p/m. Single Postrads only. Furnished bed/lounge/kitchen/bathe with secure parking/sep. entrance. Contact: Helen 0216853716/ 0764277970.

Kenilworth: Large 3 bedroom flat in secure block in Kenilworth. Very close to public transport. Newly renovated kitchen and bathroom. Available 1 May, R4600

p/m. Contact Ruwani 0216713779 or 0848437357.

Kenilworth: Spacious 4 bed 2 bathroom house with large, maintenance free garden and pool in secure area. Available 1 July 08 - 30 June 09. Contact Christina. Murray@uct.ac.za or 0217973310.

Rondebsoch: 1.06.08 - 31.05.2009 - Fully equipped spacious 2 bed flat with parking in a quiet, secure complex close to UCT, mountain, shops, Newlands Rugby and Cricket grounds etc. Suitable for visiting academic, professional or postgrad student - R4500pm. Contact: 0828432765 or aopb2003@yahoo.co.uk

FOR SALE

For Sale: Mat: bottle green, with cream border and centre and flowers, 2300 X 1600 Imbua lounge suite - 7 seater (3,2,1 + rocking chair) with loose cushions. Contact: 0722531170/0217159945.

For Sale: Mercedes-Benz A160, 2002, white, full service history, towbar, roof rack, very good condition, 116000km, R77 000 (neg). A real bargain! Contact Andreas 0836518107.

For Sale: Honda Prelude 2.2 1993 automatic 125,000 Km FSH. Sunroof, elec windows, p/steering, alarm, white.R56 000.00 with RWC & Registration. Neg Contact: Mel 0722971222.

For Sale: Tamboerskloof. Small (34m2) but charming and tranquil 1 bed flat for sale in secure block in T'kloof overlooking lush garden. Comes with parking and storeroom. Immaculate condition perfect for student, young person starting out in property, or lock up and go. Pictures on request. Private sale R710000.00 neg. 079-5871879/ 0214246909.

For Sale: Defy Stove R650.00 4 plates and oven ..it uses the 4 point pronk Good Condition Observatory area. Denzil 0785414042/0836226757.

For Sale: 2003 Toyota Tazz. White. 103 300kms. Good condition. R45 000.00 Negotiable. Contact Darryl on 0845001397 or darryl.brandreth@uct.ac.za

For Sale: Tefal Compact Cooker. Flat top hotplate and oven. In excellent condition. R200 cash. Contact: Yvonne, Tel.: 021 650 4579 or email: Yvonne. Blomkamp@uct.ac.za

GENERAL

Exercise Classes: Rosebank Methodist Church (Chapel Road), Mon & Thurs 5:15-6:15pm. All fitness levels. Free Trial class. Contact: Caroline 0827131029.

Full body therapeutic massage and Indian head massage at Cara Pharmacy, Rylands, Contact Nisha Govender 0722835390.

Reliable tape Transcripts done at very reasonable rate. Contact: Rifda 0833486789.

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

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services in editing, copywriting and proofreading of theses, journals, research papers, publications. Full confidentiality, reliability and highest standards assured. Contact Dr L. Raffaelli on 0723511323/0216503166 (UCT) on Thursday mornings or a/h 0215566544/ lara.gochinraffaelli@uct.ac.za

Painter: excellent, reliable and trustworthy painter, Douglas Tshweza available. Tel 0766167670. For a reference please contact heather.zar@uct.ac.za

Gardener: Julius Bukuva is looking for additional days work as a gardener. He is a superb gardener and very trustworthy. Tel 078-388-3610. For a reference please contact heather.zar@uct.ac.za

City based research consultancy seeking a social science researcher with good writing and quantitative methodological skills. Experience of the clothing sector an advantage. Please send your CV to heidi@mthente.co.za. Start date: immediate.

CHAR seeks work any area. Completely reliable, honest, pleasant, good worker. Has 2 days free. Call Idah 0733230799. For reference call ext 2668.

Piano Teacher: Music Student for 6 year old girl needed. Teaching needs to take place at private house in Milnerton. Once a week in afternoon. Contact: Sabina 0825776641.

Statistics Lecturer required urgently for MBA Student. Please call Debra 083 441 6239.


Wanted: Domestic, reliable and experienced for two days a week. Contact 0827862379.

Rondebosch: Old Cape Farmhouse with 4 delightful self-contained, furnished apartments available (DSTV & broadband, fireplace, beauty salon, UCT Shuttle on doorstep. Wkly & monthly rates negotiable. Tel 021 685 174/ www.ivydene.homestead.com

Lift Offered: From Ferness Estate/Fairways to Upper Campus. Mornings Only. Leave at 06H40

R10 a lift. Contact: Khalid khalid.chogle@uct.ac.za, 0216504448/0824524152."

Bergvliet High School want to employ a temp, PT Science Technician & Lab Assistant to facilitate with practicals. Science/Biology qualification at tertiary level & experience in academic institution is required. Contact Mrs Crause on wrause@bhs.org.za



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True blue Bateman measures his steps



Medal Madness: Prof Eric Bateman, who runs for Varsity Old Boys, shows off his full collection of Two Oceans Ultra Marathon medals. Bateman picked up the last one - the blue - with an "easy" run of just over six hours, pipping one Bruce Fordyce, who still shorts the blue medal.

HELEN THÉRON

It was one marathon during which Varsity Old Boys' Professor Eric Bateman could stop to smell the roses along the way. It's true to say most marathon runners are obsessed with time: how fast over the distance, how close to a medal finish.

Not so for Bateman, director of the UCT Lung Institute, who planned no less than four tea stops along the 56km-Two Oceans marathon route this year.

It wasn't so much his penchant for rooibos or the company of his wife, Mary, at the pit stops, but to ensure he

crossed the line in six hours and one minute, earning a coveted blue medal.

A former national marathon champion, and nominee for Roadrunner of the Year award, Bateman is a veteran Two Oceans competitor. He's completed 28 Two Oceans marathons since 1971, building up an impressive array of medals: two Golds, 15 Silvers, Sainsbury and Bronze medals. But the one missing from the cabinet was the Blue, awarded to those who clock between six and seven hours.

It meant slowing his pace and making sure he didn't cross the finish line a second before six hours.

Now he has the blue, he has the

full suite of medals, or the "royal flush" as he calls it, reportedly going one up on Comrades icon, Bruce Fordyce.

(Gold medals, sponsored by Harmony Gold, go to the 10 first male and female finishers. The first three males and females in each age category are awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Silver medals go to all finishers from 11th position to the 04:00 cut-off. The Sainsbury Medal is awarded to finishers between 04:00 and the 05h00 cut-off. Thereafter bronze medals go to all other finishers in under 06:00. A blue medal goes to all those who finish between 06:00 and 07:00.) **MP**

Robinson may have hit the double



Double the trouble: William Robinson, here just before entering UCT at the end of the Two Oceans Ultra Marathon, is in line to win the Two Oceans Floating Trophy for the best combined times of this year's ultra and the Argus cycle tour.

Final times are still being tallied, but UCT's William Robinson may well have won himself the Two Ocean Floating Trophy for the best combined times over this year's Cape Argus/Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour and the Old Mutual Two Oceans Ultra Marathon. Robinson, a doctoral student in mathematics and a member of both the university's athletics and cycling clubs, clocked a sprightly 2:40:03 in the Argus, and followed that up with an equally wing-footed 3:52:57 in the Two Oceans race a few weeks later. That combined time - if the officials sign off on it - of a flat 6:33:00 is more than five minutes faster than the 6:38:43 record set in 1999 by Julius Oosthuizen, when the Argus was a full four kilometres shorter than its now 109km. (The 2007 winner may have bettered Oosthuizen's - and Robinson's - time already, however, and Monday Paper is awaiting confirmation from the cycle tour officials for final and record times.) Which means Robinson will be kept in suspense for a while still. The floating trophy is only awarded at the Argus prize-giving ceremony, and the date for that is yet to be pinned down. Watch this space for updates.

Ikeys one step closer to in FNB Varsity Cup final

They might still be regarded by some as the 'poor' cousins of the FNB Varsity Cup, but the table-topping Ikey Tigers are determined to bury that tag when they host North-West University's Pukke in the Varsity Cup semi-finals at 14h30 on Monday.

The Ikeys clinched top spot in the Varsity Cup standings on Saturday already, but they ended their round-robin campaign with a trilogy of wins over the Easter Weekend of rugby in George. First they trumped archrivals Maties by 38-32 (bragging right for years), then trounced Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University by 38-7, and settled things with a 28-14 win over Shimlas (University of the Free State) on Easter Monday as head coach John Dobson gave a few fringe players a run.

Regular skipper JJ Gagiano led the team into battle, scoring one of UCT's four tries on the day.

"We have real depth at the club, but, most importantly, the guys were very determined to go out there and end the weekend on a high," said head coach John Dobson.

"This team is very hungry and they're a pleasure to coach, but we can't rest on our laurels and we have plenty to work on this week ahead of the semi-finals."

Of course, Pukke - under the

coaching of former Scotland international Matthew Proudfoot - are the only side to have beaten UCT this season and the men in Blue and White are fully aware of that.

Dobson added: "We are aware of Pukke's strengths, but we are a different side to the one that went down to them in that opening match.

"The guys have a new belief in themselves and you only have to look back at our games against UJ and Maties, when we were down at half-time, to realise how strong these guys are mentally."

Dobson and backline coach Robbie Fleck have combined superbly this season, with their team ending the league stages of the Varsity Cup as the top try-scorers (37) and leading points-scorers (260). They also ended with the best overall points' difference (111), thanks to their miserly defence that leaked just 17 tries in seven matches.

Marcello Sampson and Mathew Turner (six tries) ended the league phase as the top try-scorers in the Varsity Cup, with fellow speedsters Marvin Christians (four tries) and Rob Hopwood not far behind in joint third place. Flyhalf and regular goal-kicker Matt Rosslee is second on the overall points-scoring charts with 70 points, trailing UJ's Ryno Luus by 24 points. **MP**

Women on the ball

MEGAN MORRIS

The UCT women's soccer team kicked off their 2008 season on a winning note on Saturday, 15 March, outscoring Cape University of Technology (CPUT) by 2-0. UCT did well to keep a clean sheet in the first half, playing head-on into a full-blooded South Easter. Playing with the Cape

Doctor at their backs proved equally tricky, with long passes carried away by the wind. They did manage a goal in both halves, however - the first by Tory Tripp, the second by Caroline Bergeron. It's just the start the doctor ordered, as UCT aim to go one better than they did in the national university competition in 2007. After topping the Western Cape log - featuring CPUT as well as the Universities of

Stellenbosch and the Western Cape - the team headed for the 2007 South African Students Sports Association competition with high hopes. Sadly, they didn't win, but their hearty team spirit earned them the event's Team of the Tournament award, while Michelle Thompson walked off with the Manager of the Tournament prize. This year, they're aiming higher. **MP**