

# Monday Paper

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## New leadership needed in higher education

A recent conference probed the underrepresentation of women in senior leadership positions in higher education. At the same time, the minister of education called for greater transformation at universities

**HELEN THÉRON AND CHRIS MCEVOY**

It's time for real change in the higher education sector and not just a change from trousers to skirts, a form of gender window-dressing, Minister of Education Naledi Pandor said.

Pandor was addressing delegates at the recent two-day Higher Education South African (HESA) conference, spearheaded by HERS-SA, a network to improve women's status in higher education.

It was attended by over 100 delegates from Africa and was one of several recent campus-based initiatives that brought the subject of women in higher education into sharp focus.

HESA's chief executive officer, Professor Duma Malaza, said: "We have succeeded in enrolling at least as many women students as men in our institutions. In 2006 women comprised 55% of the total student body. It is time for institutions to facilitate a more prominent role by women in senior management."

Though only three of South Africa's 23 universities are headed by women, Pandor was more interested in the quality of leadership

"It's about transforming the institution," she said.

"South Africa has had a democratic Constitution for 14 years. It is transformative in context and intent. Yet if we were to examine all universities against precepts of our Bill of Rights, we would have to agree that university practices fall short of its ideals."

Referring to the Reitz residence incident at the University of the Free State, Pandor said it concerned her that such an incident, which had humiliated society's most disempowered - black women - had occurred at a university.

She outlined her own definition of transformation, one that underscores key constitutional principles.

"The intention is to provide our aspirant women leaders with some indication of the agenda we expect them to pursue.

"The time has come for leaders in all sectors to earn support, rather than to expect support because of their race, gender or any other status."

Pandor said that while they wanted to promote women leadership in higher education, they would not



clone practices and approaches that had not "turned higher education on its head".

"All of you will recall how new VCs are appointed through open engagement with stakeholders, through public addresses and open question sessions.

"Once appointed, there is never a university-wide forum, never open discussion of university finances, never stakeholder engagement and rarely direct access to the once-very-accessible candidate.

"What is the point of this tedious

assault on university? The intention is to provide our aspirant women leaders some indication of the agenda we expect them to pursue."

Former UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele delivered the opening address on diversity in leadership.

Ramphele argued that the oppressed must "redefine themselves". "We need to shift to an enabling culture."

Professor Lydia Brito, assistant professor at Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique, argued for

"building the bridges of comprehension" in order to "reinvent leadership" in her address. "Women bring a lot of skills to leadership," she said, quipping that women were "better at multitasking".

Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor Kathy Driver, presented statistics showing the poor representation of females in upper leadership positions in higher education, and stressed the need to encourage women into leadership positions.

Why is there a dearth of women at this level? Dr Sarah Riordan

presented some insights at a South African Women in Science and Engineering (SAWISE) meeting a few days before the HESA conference. The work presented underpinned her PhD on the career success of women academics.

With plenty of research available on factors that hinder women, Riordan said she had focused instead on the factors that contribute to success.

"How is it that with all the apparent evidence to suggest that women struggle to advance to senior positions within universities around the world, some have managed to succeed?"

What has them to succeed? To find answers, Riordan conducted research at 11 'traditional' South African universities.

"First, we need to recognise that women are not a homogenous group."

Like Pandor, Riordan pointed to "legislated opportunities" and structures that now favour women's careers.

"Concentrate on research outputs and play a greater role in decision-making bodies that operate at the highest levels of your institutions," she advised.

"Women academics who are serious about staying in higher education and advancing their careers need to take personal responsibility for ensuring their success, and become aware of career success predictors."

Riordan suggests they start by identifying their career anchors, their work centrality, self-efficacy and motivation to become part of the university decision-making structures.

"They could look for and seize opportunities to contribute to strategic decisions in their universities.

"They could also focus their energy towards producing research outputs, and refuse work assignments that detract from research activities.

In short, they could start emulating those 'special' women who have achieved career success.

A Conference Declaration was signed afterwards, addressed to government, higher education institutions and research organisations responsible for ensuring equity in higher education. It calls for action to improve gender equality in academic and administrative leadership in all levels of higher education, and complements existing charters and regulations concerning gender equity. **MP**

# Memorandum of agreement signed with CANSA and the TAC

HELEN THÉRON

UCT's School of Public Health and Family Medicine has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) and the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC).

Speaking after the signing, the School of Public Health's Professor Leslie London, convenor of the fourth-year programme, said the agreement represented valuable teaching and service opportunities between the university and the NGO sector.

It will see fourth year medical students being placed at these NGOs during their eight-week primary health care and public health blocks.

They will work on epidemiological projects that promote health in clinics where the TAC and CANSA are active.

"We chose these NGOs because of their highly functional profiles," said the Public Health Division's Gavin Weir. "This will give our students good insight into the work

of these NGOs."

Representatives of both NGOs said their ability to promote health care had been hampered by shortages of staff and resources. The students would provide a welcome boost.

For example, CANSA is active at the Grassy Park clinic, where students are running an anti-smoking campaign, a "simple, doable intervention," said Stephanie van Deventer, CANSA's provincial manager in the Western Cape.

"There are high incidences of smoking-related illnesses in the community. The students have planned a health promotion intervention while patients wait to be seen at the clinic."

Van Deventer said CANSA had been impressed by the students' "doable" intervention and were considering funding a roll-out in a larger area of the Cape Metro region.

In turn, UCT students are benefiting from exposure to sustainable community interventions.

"And we've found the students enjoy different kinds of learning processes," London said. **MP**



Done deal: The signatories of a memorandum of agreement among UCT's School of Public Health and Family Medicine, CANSA and the TAC were (from left) Prof Leslie London (UCT), Stephanie van Deventer (CANSA), James Irlam (UCT) and Anna Grimsrud (TAC).

## 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 symposium was hosted by UCT's Department of Psychology and organised by the department's Dr Floretta Boonzaier 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**

## Conference on global administrative law opens

HELEN THÉRON

Not even a power outage and stifling heat detracted from the opening of the Global Administrative Law Conference by the Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, yesterday.

Hosted in the Oliver Tambo Moot Court, the conference is a joint venture between UCT's law faculty and the School of Law at New York University (NYU).

Global administrative law is a significant emerging field of law and practice that synthesises traditional international and administrative law disciplines.

Though in its nascent stage, global administrative law is what Manuel

described as "in desperate need of development and recognition".

NYU's Project on Global Administrative Law studies this new field through research, conferences, and publications.

"Global administrative law is an idea whose time has come," Manuel said.

"It is a branch of law whose development will facilitate both the construction of the institutions and arrangements that are required for sufficient legitimacy of the systems of global co-operation, and the emergence of a practical sense of democratic participation, which is the minimum requirement for public consent to the unfolding globalisation." **MP**

## Africon sponsor Maths competition



Giving: Africon handed over a cheque for R40 000 in sponsorship of the UCT Mathematics Competition. (From left) Assoc Prof Charles Hellaby, Prof John Webb, Professor Kathy Driver, and Africon's Albert Geldenhuys and Kamaar Frydie.

CHRIS MCEVOY

Africon, corporate sponsors of the UCT Mathematics Competition, handed over a cheque for R40 000 to UCT at a function on 2 April.

The competition, which takes place at UCT on 29 April, is an annual event for high schools in the Western Cape. About 400 schools participate, with nearly 200 teachers assisting in some 50 venues across the campus.

The event is also sponsored by Casio and Oxford University Press, who donated calculator and book prizes respectively. **MP**

## Back to basics

Civil engineering graduates of the 1958 class gathered at UCT on 4 April to celebrate their 50th reunion. Twenty-nine of the original 58 students - from as far afield as Australia, Canada, the US, Zimbabwe and, of course, South Africa - were joined by two of their lecturers, Professor Mike de Kock and Tony Kilner, to relive their happy days at the university. The gathering was organised by classmate Ron Strybis. The reunion included talks by some of the alumni and a tour of the department's newest research laboratories. **MP**



Happy times: Prof George Ekama (left) gives graduates of the 1958 civil engineering class the lowdown on the department's new facilities.

## Forum on student financial aid

HELEN THÉRON

The Institutional Planning Department hosted a breakfast forum in the Senate Room yesterday to discuss national developments in student financial aid, and UCT's response to these.

The discussion was based on an interim report to the Higher Educa-

tion South Africa task team on student fees by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall last year.

The discussion was set against the backdrop of the national Minister of Education, Naledi Pandor, calling for fees to be capped. Last year steep fee hikes in several institutions sparked protests in Johannesburg.

Pandor had commissioned

Higher Education South Africa, the vice-chancellors' association, to investigate fees, including whether they should be capped or set within parameters.

At the forum, several members said the report had omitted an important constituency: adult, working-class students who want to upgrade their skills. **MP**

## UCT signs Cape Town Open Education Declaration

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall and other prominent members of academia gathered on 8 April to sign the Cape Town Open Education Declaration.

The declaration is a groundbreaking initiative that aims to promote open resources, technology and teaching practices in education. Drafted in January 2008, the declaration springs from a meeting convened by the Shuttleworth Foundation and the Open Society Institute in Cape Town in September 2007, attended by UCT's Eve Gray and Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams of the Centre for Educational Technology.

While informal sharing of resources takes place in South African universities, there is as yet no formal system for making local open-educational resources available.

Speaking at the signing, Hall said that the freedoms of the internet must



Openness: Prof Martin Hall was one of those who signed the Cape Town Open Declaration, which aims to use the internet to make knowledge more freely available.

be protected, or else knowledge will become a heavily-priced commodity.

"The commercialisation of intellectual property presents difficult challenges for a university," he said. "Uni-

versities thrive on making knowledge freely available and the Cape Town Open Education Declaration establishes important principles for ensuring that this happens."

## Staff and students to get more international exposure

MYOLISI GOPHE

UCT's drive to promote internationalisation took another step forward when international and local delegates gathered for a colloquium titled *Internationalisation at Home at UCT*.

Organised by the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) and the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO), the meeting on 3 and 4 April increased awareness of internationalisation on campus.

About 20% of UCT students are international students, hailing from 100 countries. It is inevitable that they have an impact on the dynamics of the academic and social experience on campus, said IAPO's Caz Thomas.

But due to many factors, UCT is unable to send as many exchange students abroad as it receives. The question then is what can be done "at home" to give students relevant international perspectives and intercultural competence.

That is where Internationalisa-

tion at Home, a process of integrating an international dimension into the research, teaching and services function in higher education, comes in.

According to deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, UCT has a "decent footprint" around the world, but still has difficulty in creating a steady outward flow of students, prompting the need for Internationalisation at Home.

"We should use the fact that we have a diverse international population on our campus to the fullest extent," he said. **MP**

## Sexual harassment policy approved by Council

HELEN THÉRON

The draft policy on sexual harassment has been approved by Council.

Speaking to *Monday Paper*, chair of the working group, Professor Jane Bennett of the African Gender Institute, said that while the policy is a milestone, it's important to note these are not new reforms. But they do bring UCT in line with national policies on sexual harassment and abuse, some of the most progressive legislation nationally.

"The policy conveys a very clear message on sexual harassment and abuse. We just won't tolerate it," Bennett said.

Implementation will mean new training programmes and resources, in particular augmenting capacity at the Discrimination and Harassment Office (DISCHO), headed by Francois Botha.

"It will enhance the centralised role of the DISCHO office in dealing with any form of harassment or

discrimination," Botha said.

The main challenge now is for the working group to determine whether the policy is "doable" legally.

"In terms of policy implementation we plan through the DVC and VC's office to make this part of even broader consultative process," Bennett said. "We must determine whether it's within the boundaries of justice, and whether it fits in with the university's policies."

She said it was vital that the policy should not be seen as just another set of regulations.

"Everybody on campus is responsible for bringing the policy to life."

Nonetheless those in managerial positions will have to ensure they understand their responsibilities to their staff with regard to the policy.

"It's part of their formal job description to care," Bennett said.

But perhaps the most important aspect of the policy is that it's now possible to lay a charge of sexual assault or rape with the university and with the criminal justice system

simultaneously.

"We want to offer victims the best possible support at the university," Bennett added. "It's not foolproof and we're expecting some complications. But it's a radical change."

The policy also provides support for those against whom allegations are made.

"Although we've pursued a victim-centred policy, we've also gone out of our way to embrace a rights culture, in line with constitutional values."

The next step is to create a simplified policy document for broad dissemination by the end of the year.

The process of policy reform involved a wide range of people, under the leadership of deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall, and included the insight of the Students Representative Council as well as academic staff and members of the Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit.

(You can find the policy on <http://web.uct.ac.za/org/disco>.) **MP**

## \$2 million from Carnegie for transformation

HELEN THÉRON

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has approved a three-year US\$2-million grant (roughly R15.5 million) towards UCT's institutional transformation and employment equity programme.

"This is by far the largest grant in Carnegie's current international programme, testimony to their faith in our transformation processes," said vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Njabulo Ndebele.

Carnegie has been a staunch ally in this endeavour over the years (UCT's initiatives began seriously in 1997), but this grant will underpin specifically the staff profile aspect of transformation.

"Of all the components of UCT's transformation programme, bringing the academic staff profile into alignment with that of the population as a whole has proven to be the most difficult," said principal investigator, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo.

There are formidable challenges: long-term contractual obligations, a dearth of black and women academics, and competition for the meagre pool of funds from government, commerce and parental contributions to tuition fees.

During the past 18 months UCT has developed a model for changing the academic staff profile. This plans to nurture a critical mass of black people and women in the ranks of each faculty, by concentrating in particular on retention and development opportunities for black and women staff at UCT.

"A key to UCT's employment equity model is a commitment to long-term employment. We intend to do this by identifying 'glass ceilings' that restrict staff advancements through inimical aspects of institutional culture," Nhlapo said.

Succession plans have been buttressed by programmes supporting new staff in developing their professional skills and by the human resource department's "competitive" staff retention programme to make UCT a preferred employer.

As regards the former, Nhlapo said: "In practical terms what you want to do is to give relief to these new, and invariably younger, members of staff from heavy teaching loads, for instance, so that they can complete PhDs, conduct more research, or travel to conferences to deliver papers: in short, to assist them to make an impact in their departments and faculties". **MP**



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# Two stalwarts celebrated for dedicated service



**MEGAN MORRIS**

On 2 April, Vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, presented the university's Vice-Chancellor's Medals (silver) to Ken Geeling and Irene Menell for their longstanding support of UCT through the UCT Foundation.

Established in 1961, the foundation holds and invests the university's permanent endowments, and advises on fundraising issues at UCT.

Geeling is a long-standing donor to UCT, and has been a trustee of the foundation for 25 years. He has also

served the university's Joint Investment Committee since 1978.

Menell's association with UCT goes back to her law studies here in the 1950s. She has served on the UCT Foundation for some 21 years.

Geeling and Menell "retired" from the foundation this year.

Presenting them with their medals, Ndebele thanked them for their service to UCT.

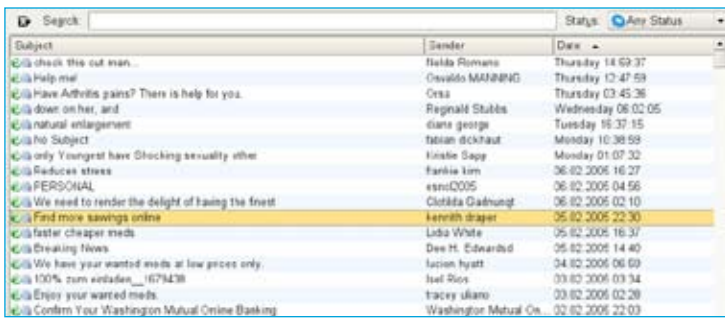
"We salute you for your great support," he said. "You will remain part of this institution, even after you have retired from duties with the foundation." **MP**

Stalwarts: Vice-chancellor and principal, Prof Njabulo S Ndebele, with Ken Geeling and Irene Menell, who were awarded Vice-Chancellor's Medals for their service to the UCT Foundation.

## Progress on leadership transition process

- Currently, balloting is underway to choose selection committees to appoint the new deputy vice-chancellors.
- Vice-chancellor designate, Dr Max Price, is visiting with various groups around campus as he familiarises himself with the university. Price will continue with these visits over the next months.
- Vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, and Price are in North America at the moment, meeting with UCT foundations based there.

# Spam FAQ



**CHRIS MCEVOY**

**What is spam?**

Spam – named after a processed ham product – is unsolicited commercial email sent to millions of users. It is named after a Monty Python sketch, in which the word is repeated incessantly.

**Is it a big problem?**

Pretty much. With over 90 billion spam emails sent every day globally, it's a serious bandwidth hog, costing internet users time, money and temperance.

**How badly is UCT affected?**

In March, the mail system received more than 3.8 million email messages, with nearly 2.9 million of these rejected by the spam filters. This was "a quiet month" according to the Pierre Neethling, Core Business

Services team leader at Information and Communication Technology Services.

**How bad does it get?**

During the worst months, spam ratios can go higher than 1:6 – meaning that for every message delivered, another six are rejected as spam.

**So why do I still receive spam?**

Not all spam can be blocked because spammers are constantly changing their strategies and coming up with new tricks to fool the filters. These methods are blocked as soon as they're identified.

**What should I do when I receive spam?**

Don't respond - any information you send can be used against you. Just delete it.

# Funding gap bridged

Research Contracts and Intellectual Property Services at UCT has launched a Pre-Seed Fund to provide "hard-to-get" financial support for early stage development of research projects.

The fund will bridge the funding gap that exists in the innovation chain, before other funding streams can be accessed to continue development, or to enable a rounded technology package to be created that can be licensed.

It is available in two levels: R20

000 for short term projects of about four months, Explorer, and of up to R100 000 for 12-month projects, Concept.

Dr Andrew Bailey, intellectual property manager at UCT, said the Explorer activities include preliminary market research, accessing market reports, gathering information that will assist the development and writing of business plans, and production of prototypes or market samples.

For Concept funding, the activities involve, among others, refining

and implementing designs, verifying applications, conducting field studies or trials, demonstrating proof-of-concept and certification.

There are no specific deadlines for Explorer applications, but for Concept applications the closing dates for 2008 are 15 April, 15 June, 15 August and 15 November.

Bailey said they expect this funding to have "a really positive impact on UCT's innovation activities". More details are available at [www.rcips.uct.ac.za](http://www.rcips.uct.ac.za) **MP**

# Listing of conferences

Planning a conference at UCT? Then don't forget that all academic conferences, seminars, symposiums or workshops held at the university must be sponsored by a UCT department, faculty or unit, and must be formally approved by Senate. The Application to Host an Academic Conference form may be

completed electronically, and then printed and signed by the relevant head of department. The application is considered and approved by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser on behalf of Senate. The application form can be found on the UCT website under Calendar & Events/Events/Conferences. **MP**

## Research Office

On the move: The Research Office has moved from the lower campus to No 2 Rhodes Avenues, on the corner of Main Road and Rhodes Avenue, across from Shoprite in Mowbray.



## LETTERS

I feel that all UCT academic staff should be made aware of the proposed Core ICT Services Service Level Agreement. Under this agreement, unplanned downtime for ICT services is restricted to 2%. No doubt those who plan to rubber stamp this document believe that this number is insignificant.

The reality is that academic staff (and postgraduate students) rely on ICT services to do their jobs. With more and more resources becoming available online exclusively, it is nearly impossible to do research without internet access.

Two percent downtime means that researchers will be unable to do their jobs for 48 minutes per forty hour work week. Considering that staff are still being paid during this time, it is only fair to consider this time as paid leave. All in, this ICT downtime accounts for about 6 days of paid leave per year.

I would encourage UCT management to calculate the amount of

money this downtime costs the University. Once this value has been calculated, perhaps it will provide justification for the University to insist that

ICTS provide a truly world class level of ICT services. Slow internet is forgivable given the realities of the South African telecoms industry, poor service is not.

*Marc Brooker*

**RESPONSE**

Thank you for engaging with the Core Services SLA and for offering your comment. At this stage the proposal is just that – a proposal – and ICTS welcomes all input.

ICTS does not believe that the 2% unplanned downtime is insignificant. We realise the implications of any downtime to the business of the university.

However, the writer's assumptions that the percentage relates to

a working week is incorrect. The services are measured 24x7. In other words, although UCT officially works a 37.5 hour working week, we are measuring the services for the full 160 hours a week. For every work hour, there are 4 non-work hours that we are still measuring against.

The proposed 98% target is a "best guess" target, based on our experiences with the Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment SLA. Our new infrastructure is still being bedded down and we don't know how well it will perform. However, our expectations are that it will in most cases exceed the 98% uptime.

Availability is measured per service. If we take the service "Browsing the Internet" as an example, one would need the following to be in place and working correctly:

- The ISA server
- The PacketShaper
- The perimeter firewall

- The central UCT network
- DHCP and DNS services
- Authentication
- The Internet link

If any one of these supporting components experiences a problem, then the whole service is deemed to be unavailable. The individual components must thus perform at a much higher availability percentage in order for us to be able to measure the full service at 98% availability.

Our experience is that much of the downtime will occur outside of work hours. ICTS operates during standard UCT core hours, i.e. the 37.5-hour working week. If a service fails outside of these hours, then the likelihood is that it will cause extended downtime as we won't be here to fix it.

ICTS drafted a proposal to extend our support hours and took this to the University ICT Committee. The committee decided on a "wait-and-see" approach before allocating considerable recurrent budget to extend ICTS support hours.

We will monitor performance against the SLA, and where higher service levels are required, we will analyse all data and decide what the best approach would be. In some cases, extending the support hours may not be the remedy – it may be that new architecture or hardware will resolve the problem instead. The old adage holds true: "If you spend more, you get more".

The Core ICT Services SLA is a living document. It will be informed by measuring and analysing data and reporting against the targets. UCT may also decide that it should favour certain services over others, resulting in lower availability targets on some services and higher availability targets on others.

For more information about the Core ICT Services SLA, visit [www.icts.uct.ac.za](http://www.icts.uct.ac.za) | Core SLA.

*Kira Chernotsky*  
Information & Communication Technology Services

# Business model used to focus on baboon problem

## CHRIS MCEVOY

Baboons in the Cape Peninsula, although protected, can also be pests, and in some cases even dangerous. As they become accustomed to people they become increasingly bold, and instances of baboons raiding and ransacking people's homes for food are a problem in a number of areas. There have been several cases where baboons have literally mugged people for food.

And as well as the practical issues in dealing with the problem, there is also its controversial aspect, with some residents wanting to protect themselves and conservationists stressing the importance of protecting the baboon population, which is regarded as an important part of the fynbos ecosystem.

Presently the Cape Peninsula baboon population consists of 11 troops, which populate the area from the Tokai Forest down to the Cape of Good Hope Section of the Table Mountain National Park. The troops vary in size. Some are as small as seven, but larger troops can number up to 100.

Conservation biology master's student Gareth Mann, based in the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, tackles these complexities with SMART, or the Simple Multi-Attribute Rating Technique, to evaluate

and rank various approaches to baboon management in the Cape Peninsula.

"SMART is often used in business decision-making," explains Mann. It is a framework that allows for the comparison of available options, which are then ranked according to their viability.

The way it works is that everybody first suggests goals for management, and then each management option is ranked, first by individuals, then by the group as a whole.

Included in the group were residents, conservationists and scientists from UCT's Baboon Research Unit, who also contributed to Mann's research.

Among the strategies evaluated for baboon management were translocation of the baboons, improving local security, improving the existing monitoring system and even the controversial practice of culling.

"The outcome was that education is the most viable strategy," says Mann.

Baboon-proof rubbish bins have already been introduced, and monitors, employed by the Baboon Management Team (BMT) and SANParks prevent baboons from entering residential areas, and move baboons out of human-frequented areas before conflict occurs. But residents also need to be educated as to how to make their liv-



ing areas less attractive to baboons.

Some residents in Scarborough, for example, have been known to leave out food for porcupines, which attracts baboons to the area. Residents also plant fruit trees and erect unprotected compost dumps.

"Residents need to be told why they can't do this," explains Mann.

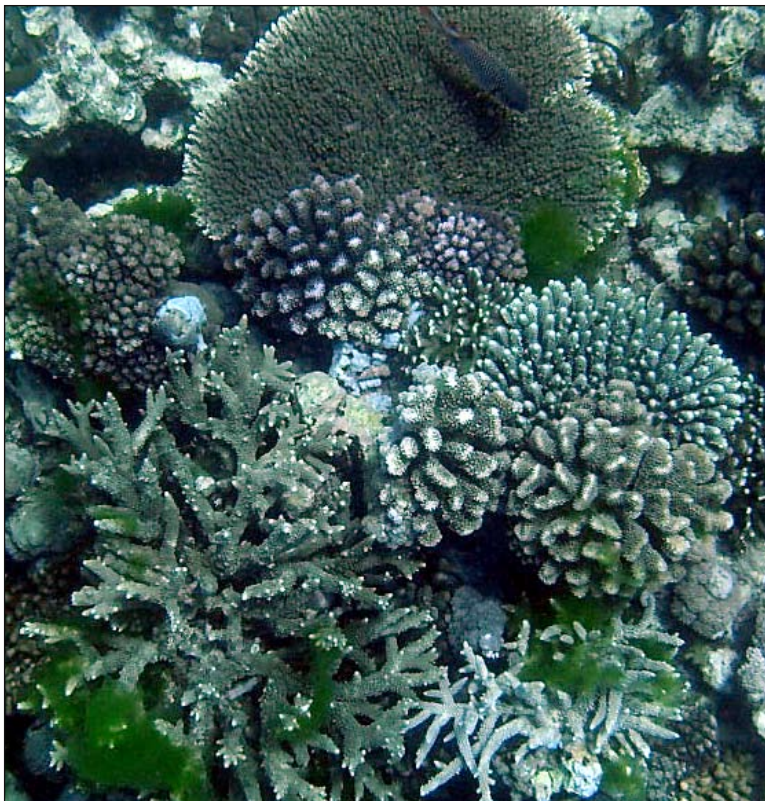
The BMT is working on a booklet aimed at educating residents about reducing the baboon problem in their area. Mann has submitted his findings to the BMT, and hopes that his study will contribute to future baboon management planning.

Education doesn't only apply to residents, however. Once residual areas are no longer attractive to baboons, they should revert to natural foraging. But as baboons will not 'unlearn' behaviour that allows them to access high-quality food, this is a process that could take decades to be realised. Education is a long-term strategy to be used in conjunction with the existing baboon monitoring programme. **MP**



Going ape: Gareth Mann (left) is working on a way to evaluate and rank various approaches to baboon management in the Cape Peninsula, where residents and conservationists occasionally have different objectives in dealing with the sometimes troublesome baboon population.

## Marine ecosystem under threat



It'll blow your coral reef: A study by Tessa Hempson shows that dynamite fishing in Tanzania is laying waste to that country's coral reefs.

## CHRIS MCEVOY

Dynamite fishing is having a severe impact on the coral reefs along the Tanzanian coast. Combined with the effects of overfishing, this is placing the entire marine ecosystem, which supports a population of threatened coelacanths, under extreme pressure.

Conservation biology master's student Tessa Hempson from UCT's

Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology joined a team of researchers from the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme to study the extent of the damage to the reefs in the Tanga region along the northern Tanzanian coast.

Based on the long hours Hempson spent underwater carrying out fish counts and reef surveys, she describes the level of destruction as "dire".

"Dynamite fishing not only indis-



criminally kills all fish and invertebrates within range of the blast, but also destroys the reef structure itself, often reducing it to rubble," she says.

As the reef, which feeds the fishing population, can take up to fifty years to recover, or not recover at all, this destructive and dangerous practice affects not only the ecosystem, but also the subsistence fishing community in the area.

"It is neither legal nor condoned by the fishing community," explains Hempson. "Patrols scout the area, but funds for boat costs are limited and there are reports of intimidation and bribery."

Hempson's research provides some of the first empirical evidence of the impact of dynamite fishing on coral reefs, and the data she collected has already helped to support lobbies calling for government action against the practice in Tanzania. **MP**

## DNA sheds light on family dynamics



It's all relative: Martha Nelson-Flower is investigating how Pied Babblers are able to tell the difference between relatives and strangers.

## CHRIS MCEVOY

In co-operative breeding groups, such as those of pied babbler birds in the Kalahari, the ability to recognise relatives to prevent incestuous breeding is extremely important.

Zoology PhD student Martha Nelson-Flower set out to discover how the birds identify relatives and

strangers, and how their inter-relatedness and family dynamics and structure affected the behaviour of the birds within a group.

"Pied babblers live in co-operative groups of up to 16 members, with only the dominant male and female breeding," explains Nelson-Flower. "I am examining their relatedness, and the way it affects their decisions, such as mate choice, helping, and control of the breeding system."

"Do they care about who they are feeding? For example, would a step-mother feed her stepkids?"

Nelson-Flower collected blood samples from about 300 birds, and is currently halfway through the process of genotyping them to establish their relation to each other. She plans to submit her findings by June 2009. **MP**



# A DAY IN THE LIFE *d* UCT Librarians

## MYOLISI GOPHE



Balo Booi, specialist librarian at the Brand van Zyl Law Library

### What do you do on a daily basis?

I provide a comprehensive information service and appropriate research skills to library users and colleagues.

### Why did you become a librarian?

I enjoy helping people and learning from them. I meet different people with different information needs. The job provides a sense of continuous discovery, and has a clear and concrete impact on people's lives.

And there are many exciting career opportunities within librarianship.

### What are the highs and lows of your work?

The understanding and co-operation of staff and students make my workplace an exciting and enjoyable space to work. But I hate it that there are still some individuals who do not understand that I am a professional and who don't treat me with respect.

### The strangest request or thing

few weeks later and I was good at it. I married the guy who told me about librarianship.

### What are the highs and lows of your work?

The variety that librarianship offers, and travelling. Recently, I've had great travelling opportunities. In 2005, I went to the US to attend a conference and there are always meetings and symposia happening in South Africa that I can attend. Also, being able to work with original letters from people such as Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko. When it comes to lows, too much bureaucracy gets me down. If I have an idea about a new technology that can benefit the users of the library, I hate to wait for it to be implemented.

### you've encountered?

A guy called and asked me to find his girlfriend in the library and tell her that he couldn't make it for supper. What?

### What is the future of libraries?

There will be more emphasis on digitalisation of the collection. Research librarians with expert and subject knowledge will staff future libraries. They will attract librarians with honours, master's and PhD qualifications.



Janine Dunlop, specialist librarian in Manuscripts and Archives

### What do you do on a daily basis?

I sort manuscripts, which are documents that people and organisations generate in their day-to-day lives. I'm in charge of digital exhibits, which means I spend time scanning images (or delegating scanning jobs to students), filing them electronically, describing them and making them available on the web. I also update our website, and compile and edit the department's weekly newsletter.

### Why did you become a librarian?

I was going out with a guy who told me about a friend of his who'd studied librarianship and it sounded good. I found myself registering for the postgraduate diploma at UCT a

### The strangest request or thing you've encountered?

I was very busy, attending to a long queue of people and I was looking up the details of someone who had swiped his card into our database. The message that came onto the screen was, "borrower does not exist". So I looked up at the man and said, "I'm sorry, but you don't exist". I had the whole queue in stitches.

### What is the future of libraries?

I hope to see academic libraries evolving into more interactive places than they are now. I don't want to see all books going digital, but I can definitely see the value of 'bringing the library to the people' – making information available online so that the library really is just a click away.



Cyrill Smith, specialist librarian at the W H Bell Music Library

### What do you do on a daily basis?

I assist with reference queries, consulting students, cataloguing and profiling new music material, and I develop web-based resources in support of these functions. I also participate in the teaching of the Advance Academic Literacy Course for postgraduate music students and take part in collection development in assigned areas of the library.

### Why did you become a librarian?

It was a natural progression after com-

pleting my master's in music. After spending so much time in the music library with my master's research, I wanted to be there even more.

### What are the highs and lows of your work?

Highs are seeing the appreciation when you help students.

### The strangest request or thing you've encountered?

People often don't realise that we cater for the needs of the students at the College of Music and School of Dance. Now and then, requests for the

music of Julio Iglesias or Eminem do come trickling in.

### What is the future of libraries?

The library world is in the midst of a revolution and librarians need to be adaptable in their focus on trends and the future of libraries. Libraries that embrace these ideas and attitudes will overcome the challenges of budget, and limitations of space and mindset. Libraries' greatest challenge is their openness to rapid change in order to serve the fast-changing needs and demands of students, researchers and academic staff.

## Massenet's *Werther* returns

### MYOLISI GOPHE

UCT graduate and renowned tenor Sidwill Hartman will sing the lead male role in *Werther* by Jules Massenet, as the production returns to entertain Cape Town opera lovers with a series of performances in June.

The award-winning, Cape Town-born Hartman, who graduated from the Opera School in the early 1980s, joins internationally acclaimed Michelle Breedt, who will play

Charlotte.

Hartman is the first South African to receive a full scholarship to the Juilliard School of Music in New York, and has numerous awards to his name, including the Nederburg Opera Prize.

*Werther* will be directed by Staffan Aspenren with the Cape Philharmonic orchestra conducted by Kamal Khan. It will be staged by Cape Town Opera at the Artscape Opera House on 7, 10, 12 and 14 June at 19h30. **MP**

## College hosts hot concerts

### MYOLISI GOPHE

The South African College of Music will host three concerts in the next two weeks at the Baxter Concert Hall, all starting at 20h15.

The first takes place on 15 April when James Grace (guitar), Tzu-Fan Tang (violin), Riza Khota (guitar), Christopher Duigan (piano) and a surprise guest take to the stage. Their programme will include the *Grand So-*

*nata for guitar and violin* by Paganini.

Four nights later, on April 19, Mike Campbell and the UCT Big Band will present a varied programme of big band jazz and contemporary music, featuring vocalists in the jazz programme.

The concerts will conclude with the UCT Wind Symphony Concert on 22 April, when Graham Beyer will conduct a programme that includes works by Gustav Holst, Leonard Bernstein and John Williams. **MP**

## Project Manager

Project manager for research into and an audit of the current educator supply and demand profile within the Western Cape

We seek expressions of interest from qualified people who would be available to manage a research project into educator supply and demand for grades R-12 in public schools in the Western Cape.

The research is to be conducted for the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) under the auspices of the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC). An oversight committee, consisting of the four Deans/Heads of Schools of Education and a representative from WCED will provide intellectual leadership and guidance for the research project. The convenor of the oversight committee will be Professor Maureen Robinson, Dean of Education, Cape Peninsula University of Technology. The project manager should ideally

- have an overall knowledge of the field of education
- have at least the ability to interpret data, and/or interpretation
- have experience of managing a large and reasonably complex project, with several researchers
- be available for six months full-time, starting 1 May.

A more detailed brief will be available in due course. You may also speak to the Dean/Head of School of Education at your institution for more information.

At this stage, please indicate your interest and availability by contacting Erica Gillard at [egillard@iafrica.com](mailto:egillard@iafrica.com), preferably with a short CV. We will contact you to discuss further details.

## LECTURES &amp; MEETINGS

**The UCT Graduate School** of Business and our partners Deloitte and Old Mutual PFA are proud to present: "The Modern Corporation: A Force for Good or A Doom Machine" Presented by Mike Freedman, founder of Freed thinkers  
Speaker: Mike Freedman Venue: Exhibition Hall, The UCT Graduate School of Business, Breakwater Campus, Portsworld Road, Green Point Date: 16 April 2008  
Registration: 17:15 Start Time: 17:30  
RSVP: Email: events@gsb.uct.ac.za

**The 334 Rulers of Egypt** Since the Romans - is the title of an illustrated lecture by Robin Hammond followed by "New Finds and Secrets of Ancient Egypt Unearthed" by John Lombard at The Egyptian Society of South Africa on Tuesday 22 April at 19h30 at St. George's Grammar School, Mowbray. Members free, non members R20. Booking not necessary. Secure parking in school grounds. Inquiries (021) 557 5082.

**A Seminar with Stanley Hermans.** Tuesday 15 April, 1 -2pm. The artist, Stanley Hermans, will be exhibiting at the UCT Irma Stern Museum from 9-26 April. He will discuss the mural which he was commissioned to do at CAS and then talk about his current show, titled "A selection of paintings and drawings from 2000-2008".

**A Seminar with Stephen Banfa** on "The State, Civil Society and Corruption in Sub-Saharan Africa". Wednesday 16 April, 1 -2pm. Discussant: Walton Johnson

**A seminar with Jo Wreford:** "Masking stark realities: traditional African healers, HIV/AIDS narratives and patterns of HIV/AIDS avoidance in South Africa". Wednesday 23 April, 1 -2pm. Discussant: Lesley Green

## VACANT POSTS

## EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

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

**Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer**, Division of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 14 April 2008, Tel: 021 406 6205

**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)

**Museum Custodians** (2 posts),

UCT Irma Stern Museum, Closing date: 16 April 2008, Tel: 021 686 7550

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

**Departmental Assistant**, Department of Chemistry, Closing date: 21 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2324

**Chief Operating Officer**, The Africa Earth Observatory Network (AEON), Faculty of Science, Closing date: 30 May 2008. Tel: 021 650 3003

## 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

**Research Medical Officer**, Paediatric Clinical Study of HIV-infected Children, Red Cross Children's Hospital, Closing date: 25 April 2008, E-mail: heather.zar@uct.ac.za

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

**Energy Efficiency Engineer**, The Energy Research Centre (ERC), Closing date: 30 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2192

**Assistant Research Officer:** Climate Change Mitigation, The Energy Research Centre (ERC), Closing date: 30 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 4646

## POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

**Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant**, Department of Finance, Closing date: 14 April 2008, E-mail: Pat.Goodwin@uct.ac.za

**Administrative Assistant:** General Ledger, Department of Finance, Closing date: 14 April 2008, Tel: 021 650 2221

## OTHER:

**Project manager**, Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC), contact Erica Gillard at egillard@iafrica.com for more information.

*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. "

**Kenilworth:** flat to rent fully furnished 2 bedrooms, bathroom plus separate guest toilet, kitchen,

open plan livingroom with enclosed balcony, security and lock up garage with once a week char. Available immediately R6500 pm or on a 3 months R3500 per week. Contact: Marianthi 0826585542/0214249733.

**Rondebosch:** Garden Cottage R2500pm. Postraduates only. Single non-smoker. Furnished lounge/diner, bed, bath, kitchen and secure parking. Will need own transport. Contact: Helen 0216853716/0764277970.

**Rondebosch:** 1 furnished room. share kitchen, bath and no secure parking. 2 mins walk from the station available from 1 May or sooner. Contact: Jean 0216892117.

**Observatory:** charming 2 bedroom Victorian Cottage, overlooking green fields + river. Short commute to UCT, GSH, CBD. See [www.privateproperty.co.za](http://www.privateproperty.co.za) (ref. E19395) for photos, details. R1.2m Contact: Linda 0214476944.

**Marina da Gama/Muizenberg:** Peaceful 1 bed N/facing fully furnished cottage overlooking waterways. Serviced. Secure parking. Security system. Nature lover's paradise. Avail. 1st May. R4500 pm. email: kingfisher@metroweb.co.za

**Sea Piont:** 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. Debbie 0824656102.

**Vredehoek:** Unfurnished two-bedroom flat at Gardens from 1st April 2008, R5500,00 p/m, includes electricity. Negotiable. Contact: Debbie 0824656102.

**Hermanus:** Cottage to let in Hermanus with sea view. Sleeps 4. Self catering. Available immediately. R400 per night. Contact: Kent 0835373996.

**Rondebosch:** 1/06/08-31/05/09 - 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

**Newlands:** Self-contained studio in quiet area, equipped and furnished. Suit non-smoking post-graduate/visitor. R3000/m. Contact Ruth 0216714457.

**Rondebosch:** close to UCT. Furnished for quiet, single non-smoking postgrad. Off street parking also available. Rent R2250p/m. Two months deposit Lease. Contact: 0216852462.

**Rosebank:** Furnished bachelor flat in secure block in Rosebank. Parking bay. Postgrad or staff only. R3200 per month. Contact Emile or Suzanne 0216741980.

**Tamboerskloof:** Spacious 1 bedroom flat with 320 degree views from wrap-around balcony, parquet floors, secure off-street parking, walking distance from

shops and restaurants, ten minutes against traffic to UCT. Professional/academic/post-grad. Available immediately or 1st May. Contact: 0829201751.

**Rondebosch:** Acre Cottages, 2 fully furnished, self-catering garden cottages available for daily or short-term let. Best suited for a couple but a third person can be accommodated. Satellite TV, free internet connection, secure off-street parking and pool. R275 single and R375 double with discounts for longer stay. Call Marilyn 0835651880/marilyn@jacksoncape.co.za

## FOR SALE

**For Sale:** Townhouse R695 000 - Diep River (above the line) 2 beds with bic, bathroom, guest toilet downstairs, kitchen, lounge opening onto small paved garden area indoor and outdoor storage facilities, reserved undercover parking bay in access controlled complex on bus route and easy access to M3 and M5. Contact: Janet 6502917 or Gordon 0827878000.

**For Sale:** 1998 Silver BMW 3.16i - very good condition, leather interior, power steering, aircon, tow bar - R46,000 ono. Contact: Nicky 0828432765.

**For Sale:** Dark green mat with cream border and centre. 2300 X 1600 R150. Imbua lounge suite-7 seater (3,2,1 + rocking chair) with loose cushions. R2500. Contact: Debbie 0722531170, 0217159945.

**For Sale:** Stellenbosch on R310: 1 bed, 2 bath apartment in security complex with pool. R786,000. Contact Wayne 0828549226/0216834755.

**For Sale:** Woodstock flat R795000 neg. G/floor, 2 beds, full bathroom, enclosed parking bay, yard. Close to Main Road and M3. Marion 0843717386 (021)7622795.

**For Sale:** Velociti 1.4i 2006 for R77,000.00. Black Magic. 28000 KM. In excellent condition. Contact Sam at 0736193272 or Samuel. Ncoyini@uct.ac.za

**For Sale:** Small portable oven with 2 hot plates and grill. R500 Contact Koushik 0848300113.

**For Sale:** Opel Astra 140iS : 1998, 172500km. Good Condition; 6months Roadworthy Certificate. R32500 onco for Quick Sale. Tel. Howard Smith 0828805623

**For Sale:** 1992 Nissan Sentra 140, Manual 5 Speed, 170 000 km, Red, Good Condition, R27000. Contact: Paul 0823773698.

## GENERAL

**People wanted** to ask questions of public in Gardens/Vredehoek area. Rate R30-R50+ an hour, depending on commission earned. Call (021) 715 7942/083 305 0070 or email CV to hilaryb@netactive.co.za

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

**Tenant/house sitter** needed for Newlands home, cat, tortoises. Separate cottage, parking; Rent R3000 offset against house sitting rates. R100 p.day Contact: 0835552965. References required.

**Typing services offered:** For those who needs to enjoy student life and don't want to be hassled with typing assignment etc., I'm the person who can help you. Cost: R7 p.p. Thea Louw E-mail: louw\_rethea@yahoo.com/0219300121/0832441001."

**Transcriber:** Accurate and efficient transcribing tailored to your needs: qualitative research, focus groups and seminars. Work not outsourced, confidentiality guaranteed, references on request. Carin 0836822245/0214659904, carinfav@gmail.com

**Various contents** of house for sale. Contact: Kathy 0848002094.

**Cynthia is a domestic worker/** cook looking for a job. She works well and is honest. Her number is 0781053010 You can call me for a reference 0731441122.

**Experienced tutor** sought to give English lessons to Portuguese speaking adult. Must have training in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). Lessons will take place at our home in Kalk Bay, ideally two afternoons per week; fees negotiable. Contact Anthony. Butler@uct.ac.za

## EAGLE TRANSCRIPTION &amp; TRANSLATION SERVICES:

Transcriptions - tapes & sound files - SPECIAL OFFER: R12.00 per page. Anything that needs to be transcribed - research, focus groups, tapes, wave files, etc. Treated as strictly confidential. Please call Lorraine at (021) 761 1866, Cell: 084 812 9386. Emails: eagle@isurf.tv OR lorrhein@gmail.com

**Housesitter:** Responsible mature man, very caring for plants and animals, available short or long term, excellent references. Phone Steve 0843363797.

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Contact: Johan  
Tel: 021-982 6517  
Mobile: 082-426 6866

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email: [theteam@dirtopia.co.za](mailto:theteam@dirtopia.co.za)

**Volunteer Crew needed**  
**Great experience for sports management students!**

# Pipped-at-the-post Ikeys are team of the tournament

HELEN THÉRON

The courageous Ikey Tigers might have gone down 10-16 to the Maties in the last minute of a see-saw final in the inaugural FNB Varsity Cup in Stellenbosch last Monday night, but they were voted the team that played the best rugby of the tournament.

Skipped by man-of-the-match and inspirational no 8 JJ Gagiano, the Ikeys ran in two sublime tries against the Maties, courtesy of wingers Matt Turner and Marcello Sampson.

But it was a case of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Ultimately, too little possession and poor kicking on the night cost them dearly.

Though leading 10-9 in to the final moments of the game, when they should have kicked the ball out after winning it from a scrum on their goal line, the Ikeys fluffed it. The University of Stellenbosch team swung it wide to Therlow Pietersen and the Ikeys' defence was too stretched to counter effectively.

But there's much to write home about this spirited young team, the majority of whom are under-21s, who produced what the sponsors called for: Rugby that Rocks.

Seeded eighth on the Varsity Cup log, their coveted team of the tournament award brought their winnings on a par with the Maties' R250 000 first prize. The Ikeys bagged R150 000 as runners-up and R100 000 for their team prize.

It was well deserved. With nine



Storming ahead: With the likes of Stormers' Joe Pietersen – here beating UCT's Pieter Engelbrecht to the ball – buying their side, Maties beat UCT by 16-10 in the final of the Varsity Cup.

tries, Ikeys' Matt Turner was the top scorer in the league, followed by team-mate Marcello Sampson with eight.

Gagiano showed exemplary captaincy throughout. He used Ikeys' two white cards at pivotal moments, one to have a try disallowed and the

other to have the TMO rule interference on the kicker.

White cards are a new addition to the league games. Each team is allowed two, one in each half. Captains can ask referees to refer decisions to the TMO, who may, if necessary, overrule the referee's decision.

This brought an interesting new dimension to the game. But there were other aspects of this final that had Ikeys supporters scratching their heads.

How did we manage to lose home advantage by playing in Stellenbosch? Yes, we know about the

lights and SuperSport TV times, but when do marketing considerations override the top team's right to a home final?

And why were two Stormers' players, including Joe Pietersen, allowed to don maroon jerseys? The spirit of the Varsity Cup is to play amateurs and to develop young players for higher things – and not to flesh out a side that hasn't set the pitch alight.

At the tournament launch Francois Pienaar, chair of the FNB Varsity Cup board, said: "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."

Aren't the Stormers the "big scene"? Their supporters and sponsors would like to think so.

Team manager Stephen Butt concurred, saying there had been a "gentleman's agreement" to use the tournament for development and transformation.

"People I spoke to afterwards said Joe Pietersen had been the difference between the teams on the night."

From here UCT's players go straight into the Super League A-side, with a tough schedule against "some professional outfits with big budgets".

"It doesn't get any easier for us," Butt said. "But we're building for the future and we hope to bring back some silverware this season." **MP**

## Knight protecting the King and Queen in their conquest of Russia

UCT sports administrator Frans Mamabolo (Knight) recently joined the South African student team as manager for the World University Chess Championship in Novokuznetsk (Siberia), Russia. Here he gives us a little insight into his time there.

At the beginning eight students were selected, which included our own chess star Jenine Ellappen. However, Jenine and other five students were unable to travel for financial and academic reasons. So the team at the end consisted of myself and two students, one from Wits and the other from the University of Limpopo.

Even before I left, my colleagues gave me a name that would be easier for the custom officials in Russia. That name was Frans Mamabolv.

Arrival in Moscow was the start

of the cultural shock. English was spoken minimally, and we ended up using sign language a lot.

Everybody was looking at us, and later it dawned on us that we were the only blacks in and around the airport. After been stared at for eight hours in Moscow, we boarded a flight to our final destination, Novokuznetsk.

When we arrived, the temperature was a nippy -23 degrees Celsius. We could not even speak for shaming, and we had to be whisked onto the bus. In Novokuznetsk it was snowy, from day one until we left the area.

People kept staring at us, and everywhere we went people took out their cameras to take pictures of us. And, of course, there were those who resorted to James Bond tactics and used hidden cellphones to snap us.

At some supermarkets there would be people queuing to have their shots taken with us. At first it did not bother us, but it became so hectic that we were unable to walk 100 metres before someone stopped us for pictures.

We were on different TV channels for every night that we were in Russia.

As for the chess, it did not go well for our SA guys. It was like fighting a snake in its hole.

The Russians were ruthless in their game, they did not spare anyone. However, China did give them a run for their money. In the end, Russia won all sections, followed by China and Mongolia.

There were 12 countries participating and we were the only country

from Africa. We finished 11th.

Even though we did not win, we gained a wealth of experience. And some bruised egos as we thought we knew how to play chess.

And certainly the Russians won't forget the SA group that hit the dance floor and had everyone looking. Again.

Russia is a beautiful and large country, with many interesting places to visit. One place we visited was a steel factory that was set up during World War 1. It was massive and covered about 5km.

Russian people are nice and I think many of us don't know that, because when we think of Russia we think of the Cold War era and of people who are suspicious and take no nonsense. **MP**



## It runs in the family



MEGAN MORRIS

Sue Wright, an administrator with the Centre for Legal & Applied Research, has an enviable Two Oceans race pedigree – five ultra marathons and, after the race a few weeks ago, five half marathons. This year was particularly memorable for other than just finishing her 10th Two Oceans race, though. For the first time, Wright tackled a half marathon with daughter, final-year law student Michelle. Even better, both ran in UCT colours, a first for a mother-daughter pair, according to coach James Evans. Michelle finished her first Two Oceans run in 02:14, mom got home in around 02:31. "It was very special to finish at UCT with my daughter in her final year of law," said Wright.