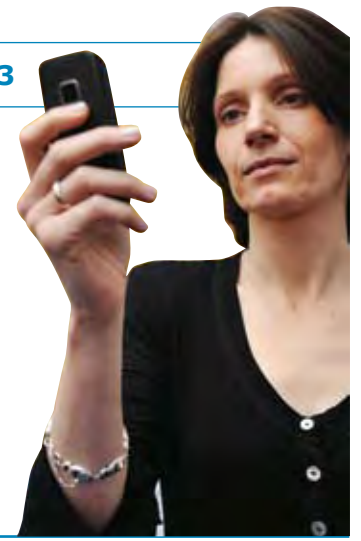


# Monday Paper

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

## Designer to leave her stamp on France

The award-winning designs of graduate Carin Smuts are built on sustainable community solutions

### HELEN THÉRON

UCT architecture graduate Carin Smuts (BArch, 1984) has brought home the coveted 2008 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture, announced in Poissy, France.

As the winner, Smuts has been commissioned to build the second project in the Seine-Aval Architecture Manifesto-Collection, a multipurpose centre that will revitalise the small French town of Follainville-Dennemont.

The project she has been commissioned to design in Follainville-Dennemont, 50km from the centre of Paris, is a small community facility.

“We will follow the design process we use with all our projects and this will lead to a unique, appropriate solution for the village and France.”

The first project, a rural lodge in Chanteloup, has been commissioned from the 2007 winner Hermann Kaufmann, and will open in 2009.

Smuts runs her own architectural practice in the Mother City.

“Our work at CS Studio Architects is grounded not only in technologically sustainable built environment and landscape solutions, but we put an emphasis on the social process,” Smuts explained. “Our philosophy is that participation leads to empowerment, which results in more sustainable solutions.”

After early ambitions to be a doctor, Smuts chose to study architecture, believing that this career would enable her to make an “even greater difference to society”.

Smuts has worked in the townships, still excluded from much of the development happening elsewhere, since 1989.

With extremely small budgets, she builds amenities, housing and services, not only for but with the communities.

“They work with her to establish the programme, and then build and manage it themselves. A Carin Smuts project generates more cultural energy than it uses materials,” said a competition statement.

Like Bengali Muhammad Yunus invented micro-loans, Smuts favours sustainable micro-development.

“Do local: materials, details, labour.”

Born in 1960 in Pretoria, Smuts comes from a family of politicians and philosophers. Her great-uncle was Jan Christiaan Smuts.

Is the architecture she practises sustainable? She says it is, emphasising how “a sense of economy, an intelligent use of materials, are the very ethics of architecture. But to build in the townships, people must first be able to express a need, formulate a programme, know how to put it into practice.

“Experience has taught me that this is impossible if people have not regained their own freedom. For me, architecture is simply the means for these people to regain charge of their own lives. Our work is about people.”

The School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics’ Iain Low described Smuts’ award as “remarkable in that it recognises human sustainability and not simply climatic/energy efficiency”.

“This is critically relevant for the discourse around sustainability in Africa where [human] development is a priority.”

Smuts has a somewhat controversial profile in Cape Town where her office-cum-home on Ocean View Drive drew criticism from the public after “blikkiesdorp on Ocean View Drive” appeared as graffiti on her wall.

“Her work has always attempted to use local materials in new and innovative ways,” Low said.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price said he was delighted by the news, saying Smuts’ award recognised not only her international and world-class work, but also her distinctly African solutions to the design and sustainability challenges of the developing world.

“As a university we need to develop a unique niche with a comparative advantage. It’s this that will help our scholars and students make their mark on world scholarship.” **MP**



UCT alumna Carin Smuts (top), winner of the 2008 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture. (Bottom) Guga S'thebe Arts and Culture Centre in Langa is one of Smuts' designs.

• news • news • news • news • news • www.news.uct.ac.za •

Scores of UCT academics have been appointed by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Bridgett Mabandla, to advisory committees of the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC). The committees were appointed to participate in the SALRC's Project 25 dealing with statutory law revision. Statutory law revision is the process of identifying and proposing the amendment or repeal of statutes that are no longer of practical use. The revision also targets statutory provisions that are obviously at odds with the equality provisions of the Constitution. The appointed committees will review legislation administered by 14 government departments. Among the 112 experts on the committees,

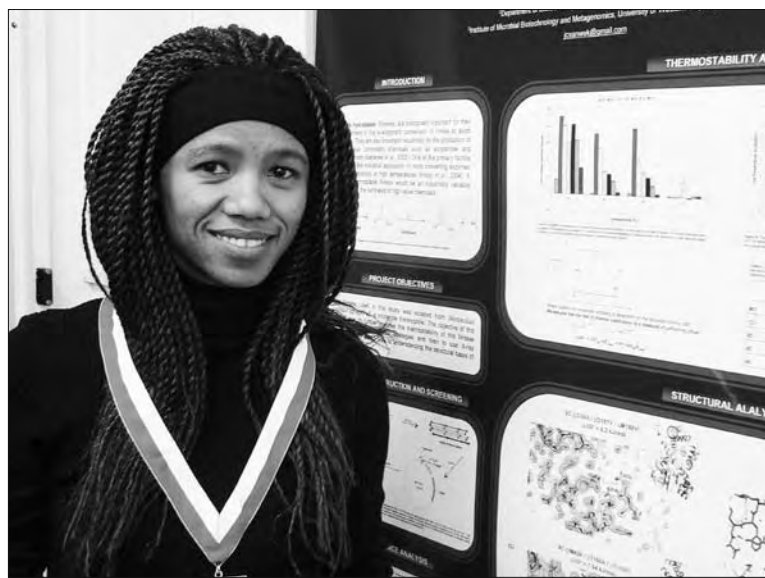


Ingrid Tufvesson.

15 hail from UCT, and all but one, Dr Ingrid Tufvesson, a transformation officer in the Faculty of Commerce, are from the Faculty of Law. Professor PJ Schwikkard, deputy dean and head of the Department of Criminal Justice, and also a Commissioner of the SALRC, was appointed as the project leader for the advisory committee on the legislation administered by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Other UCT scholars on the committees are Debbie Collier, Aifheli Tshivhase, Alexander Pater-son, Mohamed Paleker, Karin Lehmann, Graham Bradfield, Dr Caroline Ncube, Kelly Phelps, Professor Evance Kalula, Professor Rochelle le Roux, Tracy Gutuza, and Professor Tshepo Mongalo. – Myolisi Gophe

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) has revamped its curriculum in partnership with the Educational Development Unit (EDU) and the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The school launched a review of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and communication sciences and disorders curricula in 2006. The aim was to transform not only the content and structure of programmes in response to higher education and service drivers, but also the experiences of students in the service-learning clinical arena. Part of the initiative offers senior students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of multiprofessional practice at selected practice learning sites in and around Cape Town. Collaborating on case management and then presenting together at case conferences enables students to learn about each other's professions, while appreciating the practicalities of the primary healthcare approach and the need for contextually relevant practice, explains Soraya Maart of the Division of Physiotherapy.

Dr Jennifer van Wyk, a postdoctoral research fellow in UCT's Electron Microscopy Unit, won a US\$500 (R4125) poster award at Extremophiles 2008, a major international conference held recently in Somerset West. The conference aims to understand organisms that live in extreme environments. Such organisms are not only a potential source of industrial enzymes, but also give clues on how to engineer enzymes for the extremes found in the industrial environment. Van Wyk earned her PhD at the University of the Western Cape for the work she did in producing mutations in the enzyme nitrile hydratase (the world's most profitable industrial enzyme), which increases in stability at high temperatures, and interpret-



Poster researcher: Dr Jennifer van Wyk has won an award for her work on the thermostability of an important industrial enzyme.

ing these mutations in the light of the structures of the mutated enzymes. She discovered how the introduction of hydrogen bonds via water molecules can contribute to enzyme thermostability, ie the ability of the protein to resist irreversible change in its structure at relatively high temperatures. Van Wyk is currently working on the structure of a potential septicemia drug target with Professor Trevor Sewell, as part of UCT's drug discovery signature theme.

Student Nina Li has won the Best Campus Entrepreneur competition, run at UCT for the first time this year. The competition is an initiative of international student organisation AIESEC, and recognises the work of students running their businesses while studying and maintaining a good academic record. Li is doing her final year in actuarial science and quantitative finance, and runs Snow Jewels, a business that makes beaded Swarovski crystal jewellery. For winning the competition, Li received R 1 000, expert advice and mentorship from sponsors FNB, and lifetime membership of Biznetworks, the bank's commercial banking business unit. Li said it was not difficult to juggle between the two as she spends between five to six hours a week on her work. "When the concentration starts to decrease from studying, I spend my break making my jewellery," she explained. – Myolisi Gophe



The winner: UCT student Nina Li has won the inaugural Best Campus Entrepreneur competition.

UNEP/CMS to protect and improve the conservation status of migratory animals made Petersen's thesis the to top ranking submission. Petersen worked closely with fishermen at sea to reduce bycatch of threatened seabirds, turtles and sharks for her thesis, *Understanding and Mitigating Vulnerable Bycatch in Southern African Trawl and Longline Fisheries*. Wanless conducted research on *Impacts of the Introduced House Mouse on the Seabirds of Gough Island*, and his thesis also made valuable contributions to the conservation of migratory species, a statement said.

Alumnus Hugh Rosen, Professor of Chemical Physiology and Immunology and chair of the Committee for Advanced Human Therapeutics at The Scripps Research Institute, has received a US\$88-million grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to screen molecules for new drug development. The six-year grant is the largest ever awarded to Scripps Research and will strengthen the

Staff and students from the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE) put their weight behind Do It Day by giving the Bridge at Elukhuselweni Children's Home in Khayelitsha a fresh coat of



House painters: Volunteers from EBE gave the Elukhuselweni Children's Home in Khayelitsha a fresh face for Do It Day.

paint. Fifteen volunteers from EBE spent Friday 19 September at the children's home, which houses 65 boys, aged between 7 and 18, who have left the streets but cannot go home due to their circumstances. By the end of the day they had painted four dormitories, four senior bedrooms, the dining room, the kitchen and two bathrooms. "Bright and clean surroundings contribute to the children's self-esteem and pride, and by improving the physical environment it lifts the spirits of all the staff and children," said manager of the home, Sonja Basson. – Chris McEvoy

collaborative efforts of the team of scientists at nine institutions in the US. They are part of the Molecular Libraries Production Centres network, which is part of the NIH's strategic funding plan, the Roadmap Initiative. High-tech screening methods will be used to identify small molecules for use as probes to investigate the diverse functions of cells. These have become invaluable tools for exploring biological processes and for developing new therapies for disease, especially rare and 'neglected' disease. Led by principal investigator Rosen (class of 1982), the initiative began three years ago. – Helen Theron



Prof Hugh Rosen.

## Normal Weight Control Group for Obesity Study

Invitation to participate in a research project  
Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch

### Please read the following information carefully

This research aims to investigate the association between the effect of the environment and genes on current weight status. To do this according to international standards, we have to ensure that we select subjects who most probably have similar genes and environmental influences. We are thus targeting subjects with a Zulu family history on both the mother and father's side as well as subjects with a European family (white) history on both sides. Investigating these distinct groups separately and comparing them will help us to develop more specific guidelines for the treatment of obesity among South Africans in general. For logistic reasons those with an African background will be recruited in and around Durban from the Zulu speaking population, and those with a European background will be recruited in and around Cape Town. This study has been ethically approved by the Human Ethics Committees of the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch and is funded by the South African Medical Research Council.

### This advert relates to the Cape Town part of the research

Participants from Cape Town and surrounding areas (white subjects with ancestors originating in Europe) will be required to:

- Be of normal weight
- Be female and between the ages of 23 and 40;
- Be available for a short recruitment interview (in person or by telephone)
- Complete questionnaires that will take about 15-30 minutes
- Take part in a short taste test

#### Participant benefits:

- Discover your taster status and learn about its association with body weight
- Have an accurate BMI assessment done
- Be involved in research which will help to determine strategies to assist in obesity management in South Africa

Phone or sms Fiona at 084 299 8898 OR  
e-mail her at [Fiona.Herrmann@uct.ac.za](mailto:Fiona.Herrmann@uct.ac.za)

# Come dirty water

MEGAN MORRIS

UCT researchers have joined a major international collaboration to speed up both the identification of unsafe water, and getting word out to authorities and at-risk communities.

One of the major challenges in developing countries is monitoring the quality of the water to prevent water-borne diseases – which cause some 1.8 million deaths annually, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) – and to alert people to trouble spots.

Now Dr Ulrike Rivett and her team in the Department of Civil Engineering are part of a research consortium, led by the University of Bristol, which is building a diagnostic tool by the name of Aquatest.

Aquatest will be the world's first low-cost, easy-to-use diagnostic tool giving a clear, reliable indication of water quality

The University of Bristol received a \$13-million grant from the

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop Aquatest. Besides UCT, the University of Bristol intends to subcontract with other institutions and organisations, including the University of California (Berkeley), PATH, WHO, the Aquaya Institute, the Health Protection Agency and the University of Southampton.

For their part, Rivett and her team will bring a bit of indigenous knowledge gleaned from Cell-Life, a ground-breaking enterprise that used everyday cellphones programmed to record and monitor the treatment of AIDS patients.

"The question is, how do you get the information about a polluted water source to the people in the community and the appropriate decision-makers, so that something is actually done about it?" says Rivett.

The all-too-common cellphone seems a good answer.

Rivett and her research team will be responsible for building the information-management system behind the Aquatest project using cellphone

technology. As soon as the water test indicates the pollution level of the water, the result is sent to a database system, which allows the collation of information across the country.

Through this data collection it will be possible to create an overview of the status quo of water quality in rural areas, which is important for stakeholders and decision-makers at various levels.

The cellphone-based approach will allow users to collect the water sample result in digital form without having to rely on a computer or a fax machine, explains Rivett. It will also be possible to provide feedback to communities and inform them of possible hazardous situations.

But that may be a little easier said than done. If Cell-Life has taught the UCT researchers anything, it's that the local setup can easily throw the best-laid plans for a loop.

"You must make sure you use the device in the context of the country," says Rivett. "Respect the context." **MP**



Making that call: Dr Ulrike Rivett and her team at UCT will develop an IT system to underpin the in-the-making Aquatest, a hand-held tool to test water quality.

## Jammie drivers honoured

MYOLISI GOPHE

Jammie Shuttle Services have rewarded bus drivers who showed "commitment and empathy" in helping the victims of recent xenophobic violence.

Drivers Cader May Field, Steven Manlane, Hammington Lekisi, Zwelebanzi Mooi, Mpitumzi Letile and Jean Petersen were issued with certificates of excellence and monetary rewards on 25 September, "a special way of saying thank you for your efforts", said John Critien, executive director of Property Services at UCT.

For three days they worked "tirelessly" to transport victims of xenophobia to police stations, community halls and churches.

One driver worked 40 hours of overtime on one particular weekend.

The group's contribution was part of broader efforts by UCT to help the displaced foreign nationals.



Saluted: John Critien (back) with VC Dr Max Price and Yahgya Smith, Jammie Shuttle's operations manager, thanked the drivers who helped victims of xenophobia.

Critien said although the drivers were paid for overtime, one had to acknowledge their efforts in a special way.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price also thanked the drivers and said the university was "very proud to have people like you". **MP**

## Author's debut novel receives international recognition

SHUMI CHIMOMBE

UCT alumnus Ceridwen Dovey's debut novel *Blood Kin* – already winner of the 2008 Sunday Times fiction award and the University of Johannesburg Creative Writing prize for best book – is one of six to be shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize for Young Writers.

The prize, worth £60 000, was created in honour of the poet and in "recognition of the way in which his youthful talent was nurtured in his native city of Swansea (Wales)."

The winner will be announced in November.

Originally from Pietermaritzburg



and now based in New York, Dovey wrote *Blood Kin* as her dissertation for the master's in creative writing at UCT under the supervision of Professor Stephen Watson.

*Blood Kin* is the story of a president overthrown by a military coup in a nameless country, and in the midst of mass arrests, three members of the presidential household – his barber, chef and portraitist – are taken hostage in a remote mountain palace. As the story unfolds, the web of complicity and duplicity begins to unravel.

JM Coetzee has described the story as "a fable of the arrogance of power beneath whose dreamlike surface swirl currents of complex sensuality". **MP**

## Platform for international students launched

CHRIS MCEVOY

The SRC launched the new International Students Forum (ISF), which will serve as a platform for international students and promote internationalisation at the university on 25 September.

The ISF aims to be a platform of engagement for international students to participate in informed political dialogue on international political issues, as well as on issues that international students face at UCT and other South African higher education institutions.

"Over the years, the university

has been enriched by participation in global academic life," explains Thami Ledwaba, external vice-president of the ISF. "We have many prestigious international research links and exchange programmes, which bring a welcome diversity to our classrooms and academic debates. It has thus become important for us to broaden our scope of involvement and engagement."

The ISF aims to evolve into a sub-council and become constitutionalised by the Students' Representative Council, and gain more independence in representing international students on campus. **MP**

## Sixth novel for Hambidge

CHRIS MCEVOY

Award winning poet and author Joan Hambidge, of UCT's School of Languages and Literatures, has launched her sixth novel, *Kladboek*, which has already received wide critical acclaim.

Published simultaneously with Hambidge's *Palindroom/Koesnaatjies vir die proe*, *Kladboek* is "a scribbling book" for a poet and novelist travelling to Japan, blending travel writing, poetry, intellectual discourses and storytelling.

"*Kladboek* focuses on what happens to the writer when she writes poetry or conducts an affair," explains Hambidge. "It's also a story of a love triangle. One of the characters completes the novel for the author, who has died in a car crash. Different versions of writing



Acclaim: Prof Joan Hambidge's sixth novel, *Kladboek*, is now available.

are explored to 'blend' a story of the fabrication of a novel."

*Kladboek* is published by Protea and is available in all bookshops. **MP**



• notes from council • notes from council • notes from council •

The Senate met in mid-August, and Council's Executive Committee in September 2008.

Senate's August meeting was presided over by the new Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price, for the first time; taking the chair (and seated in the chair used by the Chair of Senate, a gift from the University of the Witwatersrand to UCT in 1979 on the occasion of UCT's sesquicentennial celebration), he remarked that he was another Wits gift to UCT!

Senate (subject to subsequent clarification by the Senate Executive Committee, which has since been obtained) adopted important

proposals on the structure of the examination timetable: in future, both to ensure a better spread of examinations and to provide the necessary reasonable accommodation for religious observance, undergraduate examinations will not be held on Fridays during the June and November examination periods.

Senate noted a report on some issues that arise from the decision of the Academics Association to disband in favour of the establishment of a trade union, known as the Academics Union. Several issues, including membership, agreement on bargaining unit(s), and the details of

a recognition agreement, are still to be resolved.

The Council Exco meeting was dominated by preliminary discussions on the levels of fees for tuition and student housing for 2009. Exco is conscious of the pressures facing fee payers on the one hand, and the budget demands and cost increases facing university departments on the other. The October Council meeting will be asked to consider the university budgets for 2009, including fee levels. It will also have on its agenda important proposals for the envisaged two new buildings: the middle campus academic building (for

economics) and the lower campus student administration building (for student services and ICTS).

The long-standing unresolved issue of a new joint agreement to regulate the partnership between UCT and the Province for the teaching hospitals and the Faculty of Health Sciences continues to enjoy Exco's attention, as does the urgent need to secure new leases on four buildings that UCT leases from the provincial government.

Finally, Exco and Senate have resolved (for the present) rules regulating amplified sound on the plaza during the meridian: this at-

tempts to balance student organisations' plans and desires for types of activity on the plaza that require or are enhanced by amplified sound, and the work of staff and students in surrounding buildings (including the libraries) that is made impossible by amplified sound; or, put differently, to find room for important aspects of the informal curriculum that is so necessary a part of a UCT student's experience, without unduly disrupting the teaching and learning activities that are the formal curriculum.

*Notes provided by Registrar Hugh Amore*

## Safety on campus is our right, says VC

Recent incidents on campus have brought crime and crime prevention into the spotlight. In the wake of these occurrences, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price, has issued the following letter to all staff



### Dear Colleagues

This week sees the beginning of a crime awareness campaign that will roll out on the upper, middle and lower campuses, continuing into mid-October 2008 to include the Hiddingh and health sciences campuses. I want to alert you to this and to inform you of related activities that have taken place.

I believe safety on campus is our right. Each individual in our community - student, staff member or visitor, male or female - should feel that they are secure.

We all share the responsibility to fight crime and to ensure a safe campus. We should not accept that 'crime happens' and no-one should leave the shared problem for others to fix.

This month I met with the station commanders from Rondebosch, Mowbray and Woodstock police stations. Our discussions centered on a mutual commitment to securing the campus, improving safety in the peripheral areas and to earnestly promoting the establishment of a Central Improvement District (CID) that will include

UCT's main campus. I will keep you informed on this matter as we continue the work.

The facts are that our society is unsafe and the South African Police Services (SAPS) are battling an unacceptable wave of criminal activity. The collaboration between UCT and the SAPS is solid and our Campus Protection Services play an integral, active role in crime management.

We have continued various activities that underpin our UCT crime management strategy (some are listed below) and spend an ever-increasing fiscal amount each year on protecting ourselves.

When we take into consideration the broader crime context, UCT is a 'safe' campus with relatively few serious crimes within our borders. Of course, any criminal incident is unacceptable. Within UCT's borders in the past nine months we have investigated one serious assault, one rape, four armed robberies and 10 vehicle thefts.

In addition, over the past nine months we have had the following reports: cell phone theft (56), common

assault (10), laptop theft (42) and theft from vehicles (24). Our records show that many of the theft cases would have been avoidable had people secured their property. These thefts often occur when property is not locked away or is left unattended in open offices.

I am appealing to you to play your part to combat this scourge. Wear the UCT identity cards, forward suggestions to CPS, email or phone if you notice suspicious behaviour, secure your property, discuss what can be done in your department to improve security. If we take our individual role in this seriously, we can make a difference.

For more information please go to [www.uct.ac.za/students/health/campusafety/crimeprevention/](http://www.uct.ac.za/students/health/campusafety/crimeprevention/)

*Yours sincerely*  
*Dr Max Price*

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

021 650 2222/3  
021 650 2121  
021 650 4080

## Update on the selection of deputy vice-chancellors

The selection committee met on Saturday 13 September to agree on a shortlist for preliminary interviews as part of its final shortlisting process. These preliminary inter-

views took place towards the end of September.

Candidates who reach the final shortlist will meet with stakeholders prior to the final interviews on

18 October. There have been two withdrawals from the selection committee, due to other commitments, and replacements are being appointed. **MP**

### • CENTRE FOR OPEN LEARNING •

## Communicating Science 101

The worlds of science and the media need to be brought closer together to raise the profile of science in our society and ensure that important knowledge and research does not remain solely within the domain of scientific communities, said renowned science communicator Dr George Claassen.

Claassen, former head of the Department of Journalism at the University of Stellenbosch, will present a course on communicating science at UCT in October and November. It will be offered by the Centre for Open Learning and is aimed at scientists, but also welcomes journalists and other writers who have an interest in reporting science.

The course will be co-presented by Christina Scott, prize-winning radio and television journalist.

Claassen said the importance of such a programme should not be underestimated.

"Science is the driver of development and technology, yet most lay people do not understand or appreciate the impact that it has on our daily lives. This is because research and scientific developments rarely make it into the public sphere - unless there is some sensational value attached to them.

"No country, however, can be considered developed until it has a thriving science and technology sector. The media is the vehicle through which science can be communicated to the wider public, and this needs to happen in the interests of our country's future development."

Both scientists and the media have a role to play in strengthening the link.

"The lack of scientific information

and research in the public sphere can be ascribed in some part to the way scientists view the media, which can sometimes be with an air of suspicion as the media has been not been great at communicating science in the past.

"In addition, there is not a single newspaper, radio or TV station in the country that has a dedicated science desk run by a trained science editor. Our media is more interested in reporting politics and sport and this needs to change if we are to have any hope of giving science more prominence in our society," Claassen said.

He added that because scientists are mostly publicly funded, they have a duty to share their research with the broader society.

Professor Alison Lewis, a specialist in industrial crystallisation in the Department of Chemical Engineering, who attended the course last year, said that there was still a lot of resistance within the scientific community. This would take some effort to break down.

"Unfortunately there is still a long way to go to bring science closer to the public. There is a perception among some scientists that wanting a public profile is somehow shallow or frivolous, and many would rather stick to the serious business of conducting research away from the public eye," she said.

The UCT course has helped her to present her research in a way that is engaging and interesting.

For more information on the course call 021 650 2888 or visit [www.ems.uct.ac.za](http://www.ems.uct.ac.za). The classes take place on Mondays and Thursdays (20 October - 20 November 2008) from 17h30 to 19h00. **MP**



# Vaccines may control AIDS

Prof Anna-Lise Williamson talks on long-term strategies to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS

## MYOLISI GOPHE

The prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS are important, but a long-term goal to deal with the pandemic should be focused on vaccination, says Professor Anna-Lise Williamson.

In her recent inaugural lecture, *Cancer, Viruses and Vaccines*, Williamson explained that vaccines may not stop people from getting infected, but will hopefully slow disease onset for individuals. In turn, society will benefit from a smaller disease burden, lower transmission rates, and slower viral evolution.

Williamson brings extensive scientific experience to her current research, including an investigation on an infectious lung cancer in sheep, her work on the human papilloma virus that causes cervical cancer, and lately, her focus on HIV.

In the latter, Williamson is the head of the HIV Vaccine Development Group, a multi-disciplinary team of senior academics, researchers and students developing candidate HIV vaccines, which has been funded by the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) since 2000.

On that project, she works with husband, Professor Ed Rybicki, a principal investigator at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, and sister, Associate Professor Carolyn Williamson, among others.

The first two vaccines developed



Developing vaccines: Prof Anna-Lise Williamson delivered her inaugural lecture on 17 September 2007. In picture are DVC Prof Cyril O'Connor, DVC Prof Daya Reddy, VC Dr Max Price, Williamson, Dean of Health Sciences Prof Marian Jacobs, Prof Ed Rybicki, Deputy Dean Prof Kit Vaughan, and DVC Prof Danie Visser.

by her team are scheduled for clinical trials in the US later this year.

Williamson said vaccines are one of humankind's most important inventions, saving up to three million children every year, eradicating smallpox and almost eradicating polio.

HIV vaccines could work because humans can regulate their infections, as some individuals control viraemia, for extended periods. There are also examples of exposed individuals, babies and some sex

workers, who do not get infected but have a detectable immune response to HIV.

But the development of vaccines takes a long time. It took 47 years to develop one for polio and HIV was only discovered in the early 1980s, Williamson said.

While two HIV vaccines failed to show protection in efficacy trials, Williamson still believes this is the only way to curb the spread of the virus.

"We need more research to

develop innovative vaccines and a robust pipeline of candidate vaccines - not less."

"We [South Africans] should participate in the development of vaccines, not just test other people's products."

Williamson joined UCT's Department of Medical Microbiology as a medical natural scientist in 1987, after Rybicki persuaded her to come to Cape Town. The two tied the knot the following year.

Their relationship has been "pro-

ductive": they have two children and have published 28 papers together since 1989.

"This indicates that she has significantly advanced the discipline at our university, and in fact has materially assisted in my own academic and professional development," Rybicki explained as he made the vote of thanks.

Rybicki noted that Williamson had to break two glass ceilings; one restricting the advancement of scientists, as opposed to medics, and the other restricting the upward mobility of women.

Williamson was "the quintessential scholar", said Professor Kit Vaughan, deputy dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

"She is innovative, energetic, focused, and understands the imperative of subjecting her work, and that of her students, to the scrutiny of the world's most competitive journals."

She has published 100 articles in international journals, and has made a substantial contribution to capacity development at UCT, with 11 master's students, plus 11 at the doctoral level.

Williamson was promoted ad hominem to associate professor in 1999, to professor in 2004, and then last year was awarded a chair in vaccinology by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation under the South African Research Chairs Initiative. **MP**

## Rising death rate among children largely preventable

### HELEN THÉRON

Children in South Africa are getting sicker, reflected in the increasing mortality rates for children under five.

Set against the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals for 2015, it's an area of great concern, says Professor Heather Zar, the new Chair of the School of Child & Adolescent Health.

With the right strategies in place and timely treatment, the rates could be reduced dramatically.

"Most child deaths in the province are preventable," she said.

Zar heads the Department of Paediatric Pulmonology in the school's Institute of Child Health, the country's only sub-specialty facility and home to a huge diversity of expertise.

While HIV/AIDS has a substantial impact on child mortality figures in South Africa, other factors, such as the huge burden of infectious diseases like TB, have increased exponentially.

Add to this the burden of diarrhoea, low birth weight and malnutrition.

"We have an obligation to meet these challenges and reverse this trend," Zar added.

Her vision is for highly specialised services in the context of primary health care.

"As the leading specialised institution we [the ICH] have an opportunity and responsibility to integrate service, research, teaching and advocacy."

The challenge is to balance the huge clinical load with research, development, mentoring staff, and transformation goals.

She believes collaboration and innovation are the keys.

"Given the challenges facing us, we'll need innovative and creative approaches to advance child health in the South African context."

Zar has been at the forefront of developing novel approaches and solutions.

Her first breakthrough was devising a cheaper alternative to commercially-produced spacers used in asthma pumps.

The low-cost substitute was designed from an adapted 500ml plastic soft-drink bottle. These spacers are now feature in global asthma-treatment guidelines.

The asthma epidemic has been shifting steadily from developed to developing countries, Zar says, the result of a combination of lifestyle,

diet, living conditions, obesity and allergies.

She is also heavily invested in novel TB-testing approaches. Zar has done work on new ways of diagnosing TB in children, especially the use of induced sputum to confirm TB.

"Unexpectedly, this has turned out to be a very good method for confirming TB, even in very young or very sick children."

Improvements in existing culture techniques can also tell researchers whether a TB strain is drug-resistant.

"There's a 3% to 5% drug resistance in children," Zar explained. "The delay in diagnosis is particularly crucial because children do much worse if inappropriately treated."

Another area of innovation is the use of the TB drug isoniazid (INH) to prevent lung disease and progression in children with HIV. Zar's study started in 2002 with children being given the drug as a preventative measure.

The randomised placebo-controlled trial showed dramatic results.

"There's been a huge impact with a decrease in mortality of more than 60% and a decrease in the onset of TB of around 50%," Zar said.

"It's startling."

Her next step is to determine



Clinician and scientist: The new Chair of the School of Child & Adolescent Health, Professor Heather Zar.

whether the INH will make the same difference to children taking antiretrovirals.

Zar also sees unique opportunities to lead in Africa.

"Academically the school is so

well resourced, with scope for the integration of clinical and research programmes.

"With such talented and committed people, it's a privilege to work in the school." **MP**

## A DAY IN THE LIFE of the Research Office

The Research Office, which recently moved to 2 Rhodes Avenue in Mowbray, is staffed by Dr Marilet Sienaert (director), assisted by Jayne Alexander. The office is made up of three clusters. The first is research development, managed by Dr Lyn Holness and her team of Dr Charles Masango, Dr Dianne Bond and Roshan Sunday. The second subsection is funding and committees, staffed by Haajirah Esau (manager), Charmaine McBride, Colleen Windvogel and Estrelita Thomas.

Lastly, the office has a research information and planning side, staffed by Christina Pather (manager), Patricia Jacob, Timothy Layman and Jacqueline Sylvester. They work closely with Wilna Venter, who deals with strategic projects, and Morag Kenmuir (office and finance manager).

### What does the office do on daily basis?

The office is responsible for grants funding, research quality assurance and the management of an information system that serves multiple research-specific purposes. The office supports research planning and policy implementation, and manages the government's requirements for research subsidies. A core component



New heights: Members of the team include Candice van Reenen, Julie Nadler-Visser, Roger Wallace, Patricia Jacob, Ethel Tesnar, Haajirah Esau, Roshan Sunday, Charmaine McBride, Estrelita Thomas, Jacqueline Sylvester, Dr Marilet Sienaert, Desmarie Dreyer, Dr Charles Masango, Judith Rix and Christina Pather.

of their business is to contribute to academic staff development through interventions that enhance research capacity. These initiatives are largely donor-driven and draw on the expertise of retired or senior staff from the faculties. The office is responsible for a range of annual reports, international research exchanges and a series of research benchmarking activities. It further drives and supports the

research activities that ensue from strategic partnerships and formal agreements with research councils, research institutions and government departments.

### What qualifications one needs to do the job?

Most of the staff members have post-graduate degrees, and although this is not a requirement for all positions, it

certainly helps in understanding the research environment and to interact meaningfully with academic staff. High-level computer literacy is a prerequisite for the job, as well as excellent writing and interpersonal skills.

### What are the challenges facing the office?

The office has recently relocated to a new building. Faced with parking

constraints and not being on a Jamie Shuttle route, fewer academics pop in to consult or to have their research queries resolved. The office considers the interface with faculties important to its business, and is working with Properties and Services to improve this situation.

Their job is also to implement the vision of the Executive and the University Research Committee.

"We therefore anticipate a possible change of direction or emphasis (read systems and processes!) when the new DVC for research comes on board!" said Sienaert. Improvement of their staff equity profile is also an ongoing challenge.

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

The highs come from positive feedback from committees or individual academics, who write to comment on their services and reports. The worst low is having a despondent or angry academic on the line about something that is beyond their control, such as the Department of Education-accredited journals or funding outcomes.

For more information, visit their new website at [www.researchoffice.uct.ac.za](http://www.researchoffice.uct.ac.za). **MP**

## Hello and Goodbye

Athol Fugard's classic drama, *Hello and Goodbye*, starring husband and wife team Dorothy Ann Gould and Michael Maxwell, comes to the Baxter Sanlam Studio from October 7 to November 1, 43 years after it was first performed.

Directed by Mark Graham, this new production, when it premiered in Johannesburg earlier this year, was said to "have done Fugard proud".

"When asked to name my favourites among the 50 years of playwriting that lie behind me now at the age of 76, *Hello and Goodbye* is without fail one of the three that comes to mind," said Fugard, who has been described by *Time* magazine as the greatest active playwright in the English-speaking world.

The powerful and gripping two-hander, as pertinent today as it was when it was written in 1965, brings Gould and Maxwell, both 2008 Na-



Husband and wife team Michael Maxwell and Dorothy Ann Gould bring Athol Fugard's classic drama *Hello and Goodbye* to life at the Baxter Sanlam Studio.

edi Award winners, together on stage for the first time.

Set in the kitchen of a railway house in Port Elizabeth in 1963, the

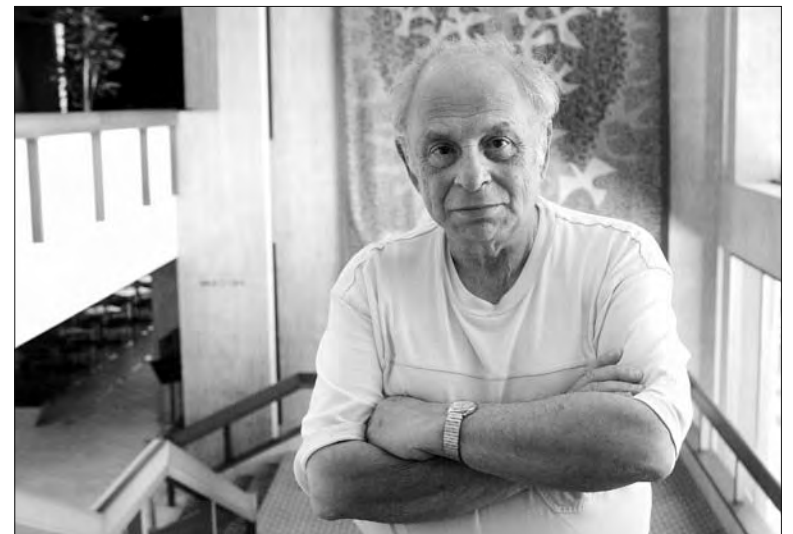
play softly cauterises the wounded lives of its characters. A brother and sister who have not seen each other for years, unpack boxes and suitcases in search of an elusive inheritance, and in so doing unpack the memories and truths of their empty and damaged lives.

The play is classic Fugard, unashamedly South African, placed in the environment in which he grew up among the ironies and dichotomies of life in South Africa at the time.

*Hello and Goodbye* previews at the Baxter Sanlam Studio on October 7 and 8, opens October 9 and runs until November 1, at 20h15 nightly.

Booking is through Computicket on 083 915 8100, on line at [www.computicket.co.za](http://www.computicket.co.za) or any Shoprite/Checkers outlet. For discounted block, corporate or school bookings, charities or fundraisers, call Sharon on 021 680 3962. **MP**

## Concert honours SACM stalwart



Celebrated: Dr Thomas Rajna will be honoured by the SACM with *In Celebration of Tommy Rajna*, at the Baxter Concert Hall on Tuesday, 14 October 2008.

Internationally acclaimed composer-pianist, Dr Thomas Rajna, long-serving staff member of the South African College of Music (SACM), from which he retired in 1993 as associate professor of piano after 23 years, is turning 80 later this year.

The SACM is marking the occasion by presenting an evening of music, titled *In Celebration of Tommy Rajna*, at the Baxter Concert Hall on Tuesday, 14 October. Rajna himself will officiate at his trusty piano. Special guests include singers Golda Schultz and Brad Liebl, violinist Patrick Goodwin and the SACM Choir. The programme consists of works by Rajna, Ravel and Granados. (Tickets from Computicket and at the door half-an-hour before the start.)

On 25 November, the Cape Philharmonic present their own Thomas

Rajna 80th Birthday Concert at the Artscape Theatre, as part of their International Summer Music Festival. The programme includes extracts from Rajna's 2004 opera, *Valley Song*, and his 2nd Piano Concerto with the composer as soloist. Brahms's *Fourth Symphony* concludes the evening.

Tributes are also taking place in Johannesburg. The Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra will play Rajna's *Divertimento Piccolo* on 12 and 13 November, under the baton of visiting British conductor Nicholas Cleobury.

Richard Cock and his choir perform Rajna's *Three Hebrew Choruses* at St Thomas' Church on 27 November. Cock has been associated with these pieces for a number of years, having featured them on tours with his choir in USA (1990) and Israel (1993). **MP**

## Comeback for choir

### CHRIS MCEVOY

The UCT Choir for Africa aims to put cultural concerts back on the map with a revival show, which also includes marimba music and poetry, on 18 October. Various national societies and other performing artists have also been invited to perform alongside the choir at the concert.

"The choir has been dormant for a while due to various issues, and this concert is our way of saying the UCT Choir for Africa is back," says choir chair Nozipho Sibanda. "We hope to make both students and staff aware that the choir is still in existence, and



The UCT Choir are catching their second breath as they go on tour again.

perhaps encourage them to join us."

Since its formation in 1987 by George Mugovhani with the aim of preserving African musical heritage, the choir has an admirable track record. It

has a history of winning national choir competitions, and has toured Canada and Norway. The choir has also recorded two CDs: *Live at Baxter* in 1997 and *Our Heritage* in 2005.

Future plans for the UCT Choir for Africa include a 21st anniversary celebration, participation in upcoming choral competitions, both nationally and abroad, and the recording of a third CD is also on the cards.

A Cultural Evening with the UCT Choir for Africa starts at 18h30 at the Kramer Lecture Theatre. Tickets are R15 and R20 per person. For more information, contact Nozipho on 076 117 0656 or email [nozlie@gmail.com](mailto:nozlie@gmail.com). **MP**

**EVENTS, SEMINARS AND LECTURES AND MEETING**

**Inaugural Lecture of Prof Alan G Morris.** Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences on 'The Politics of Old Bones' Tuesday 14 October 2008 at 17h30. Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT. RSVP to: Centre for Extra-Mural Studies Tel:0216502888 Fax: 0216502893 or [ems@uct.ac.za](mailto:ems@uct.ac.za)

**Inaugural Lecture of Prof Ian Glenn.** Centre for Film and Media Studies, Faculty of Humanities on "Crime, Race and the Media: Moral Panics and Cultural Trauma in Liquid Modernity. Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 18h00. Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Building, Stanley Road, Middle Campus, UCT. Please RSVP to: Centre for Extra-Mural Studies Tel:0216502888 Fax: 0216502893 or [ems@uct.ac.za](mailto:ems@uct.ac.za)

**ICTS Training for October 2008**

13-16 (09:00-12:00) Excel Level 3  
13-15 (13:30-16:30) Access Level 3  
20-22 (09:00-12:00) Web Publisher  
20-22 (13:30-16:30) Word Level 1  
28-30 (09:00-12:00) PowerPoint Level 2  
28-30 (13:30-16:30) Word Level 2

**Tuesday, 7 October** at 20h00, Philosophy Society Meeting, Dr Kenneth Hughes, Mathematics, UCT on "Socialism and Philosophy". Room 6C, 6th Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building. Enquiries: 0216503316.

**Department of Medicine Thursday 4PM Meetings':**

9 October 2008 - Dr M Urban - "Will Genome-Wide Associations Studies (GWAs) Change the Paradigm of Medicine?"

16 October 2008 - Prof N Harris - "Monitoring of Anticoagulants - Heparin, Anti-Xa Assays and New Anticoagulants"

**Centre for African Studies** presents a Book reading with Zubeida Jaffer on 'Love in the time of Treason' by Zubeida Jaffer, Friday 10 October 2008, 1-2pm, Centre for African Studies Gallery. All Welcome.

**VACANT POSTS AT UCT AS AT 29 SEPTEMBER 2008**

*Executive and Academic posts:*

**Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer** in Piano, South African College of Music, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 10 October 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

**Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer** (3 posts), Department of Social Development, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 10 October 2008, Tel: 021 650 2220

**Lecturer:** Nutrition & Dietetics, Division of Nutrition, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 14 October 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

*Research and Professional, Administrative and Support posts (PASS)*

**Senior Secretary,** Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 06 October 2008, Tel: 021 650 3188

**Director:** Student Housing & Residence Life, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 06 October 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

**Personal Assistant** to the Executive Director, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 10 October 2008, Tel: 021 650 3822

**Departmental Assistant,** Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 10 October 2008, Tel: 021 406 6117

**Professional Nurse,** Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 October 2008, Tel: 021 404 4488

**Professional Development Programme Officer,** South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 October 2008, Tel: 021 406 6014

**Linux Systems Administrator,** National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme (NASSP), Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 17 October 2008, Cell: 072 237 6330 or email Sebastian Spitzner on [seb@nassp.uct.ac.za](mailto:seb@nassp.uct.ac.za)

**Linux Systems Administrator,** Department of Astronomy, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 17 October 2008, Cell: 072 237 6330 or email Sebastian Spitzner on [seb@nassp.uct.ac.za](mailto:seb@nassp.uct.ac.za)

**Principal Scientific Officer,** Lung Infection and Immunity Unit - Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 17 October 2008, Tel: 021 404 7650

*Internal (Posts for UCT staff only):*

**Librarian (Cataloguer),** Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 06 October 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

*The vacancies can be viewed at: [www.staff.uct.ac.za](http://www.staff.uct.ac.za) or Posts for UCT staff only: [www.staff.uct.ac.za/hr/vacancies/internal](http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/hr/vacancies/internal)*

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**Cape Town:** One-bedroom sunny apartment in Vredehoek with off-street parking in secure block available from 1 November 2008 R3500pm. Contact Marco: 0833208088 or 0214625017.

**Mowbray:** Lovely Victorian cottage, upper Mowbray, mt views, fully furn 4bedrms, sleeps 5, sec parking R650.00/night, min 7nights, available Dec/Jan only. Rates excl elec Tel 0217123818.

**Rondebosch:** Garden flatlet in Rondebosch - furnished with off-street parking. To let from November-December 2008. R2900-00 per month. Contact Lynn 0723913777/ Email: [lynn.woolfrey@uct.ac.za](mailto:lynn.woolfrey@uct.ac.za)

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# New coach has high hopes for varsity cricket

MEGAN MORRIS

The first word out Cricket Club administrator Kobus Olivier uses when you mention the first team's new coach is "brilliant".

"He's absolutely brilliant," Olivier stresses.

He's talking about Hylton Ackerman senior, South African cricket legend and father to HD Ackerman, who takes over the coaching reins for the upcoming season. Poor health means Ackerman can only spend about two days a week with the side, but he's more than happy to be working with a squad of up-and-coming talent again.

"It's my passion," he says.

"There's nothing I like more than coaching young cricketers."

Ackerman also has a game plan

in mind. For one thing, he's already looking ahead over the first team's upcoming season, always tricky as players come and go – either caught up in exams, leaving for home after classes come to an end, or getting provincial call-ups. (Two of the side's best players have already been drafted into the first-class Western Province amateur side, for which Olivier is one of the selectors.)

The team's waning fortunes in the club competitions are unpardonable, believes Ackerman.

"Varsity should win the club competition," he says. "Not only do they get good school players, but they also field so well and they're so vibrant. They have this fantastic talent."

Ackerman's waiting for the first game of the season, against newly-promoted Northern Goodwood, to



New blood: Hylton Ackerman (right), here with and Martin Walters, recently selected for the WP amateur side, and club chairperson Travis Townsend, wants to make UCT a force again in local club cricket.

get a feel for the team. His players have done most of their nets indoors, training schedules stymied by the long rains.

First-team captain Dean Forword agrees with Ackerman that the side

should be doing better than it's done over the past two seasons, when they failed to win any silverware.

"We've always underperformed given the teams we have and with the talent that comes into varsity cricket."

But a "super keen" Ackerman may be just what the team needs to get them back on track.

"He's not a disciplinarian or anything like that, but he challenges us," says Forword. **MP**

## Doctors on the run

30 November sees the 30th running of the Medical 10, a race started by a group of medical doctors – many from UCT – back in 1978. Here UCT graduate and staffer Dr Sydney Cullis gives a potted history of the event.

The first staging of the Medical 10 was in 1978, and was as a result of a letter to the *South African Medical Journal* in June that year by Hendrik Muller, a senior physician in Cape Town. He pointed out that a group of doctors in Finland had organised a race for medical practitioners over 10km, who felt that it would add some credence to recommending a healthy lifestyle to their patients if it could be shown that they practised what they preached. The race was organised by JP van Niekerk, then deputy dean of the Faculty of Medicine – later dean – and now managing editor of the *South African Medical Journal*, and Tim Noakes (then a PhD research fellow in Professor Lionel Opie's department). Metropolitan Life Insurance Company sponsored the event.

It was run on 9 December at UCT, and was won by Bob Jamieson, then a radiologist in private practice and now still doing sessions at Victoria Hospital, in 44 minutes and 56 seconds. (As a handicap of one minute for each year of age over 40 was allowed, it gave him a handicap time of 32 minutes and 56 seconds.)

According to the results list, the fastest female runner was Clare Stannard, then and still an oncologist at Groote Schuur Hospital, in a time of 37 minutes and 5 seconds for 5 kilometres – but she thinks she was beaten by a runner whose name was not included in the result list.

The two organisers, Tim Noakes and J P van Niekerk, both managed



Making history: Dr Clare Stannard (right) was named the official winner of the women's race in the first Medical 10 back in 1978, but she says she was pipped by another runner (left in picture) whose name is not recorded in its annals because she hadn't registered.

to finish under the 40-minute barrier. At the other end of the field Trevor Borchers, a urologist in Cape Town, and Martin Gregory, now a nephrologist in Salt Lake City, were the last two of the 82 entrants to complete the course.

In 1982 the venue was moved to the University Sports Complex in Pinelands and the Pfizer Pharmaceutical company took over the sponsorship. In 1988 Pfizer withdrew their sponsorship but, thanks to the intervention of Adrian Morison, a paediatrician at Victoria Hospital, Warner Lambert Pharmaceuticals took over and the race moved to their facility in Main Road, Retreat. But the 1988 event only took place in February 1989.

By now it had become established as part of the calendar of medical events in the Western Cape, not least because of the amusing commentary provided by ear, nose and throat surgeon John Steer. It had now grown to over 200 runners plus a group of walkers from the Cardiac Rehabilita-

tion Unit. While it continued to be funded by Warner Lambert, (which after 1994 reverted to Pfizer), an entry fee was charged. This was donated to the Victoria Hospital to cover projects that were not normally covered by the hospital budget.

At the end of 2004 Pfizer gave up the sponsorship. It was taken over by Afrox Healthcare, but there was no time to organise the event in December 2004 so it took place in February 2005. The venue moved to the Western Province Cricket Club sports complex in Newlands and the club's running section took over the organisation.

When Afrox sold its healthcare interests to Life Healthcare, they took over the sponsorship and Victoria Hospital continued to receive the proceeds of the event – last year over R19 000 was donated, which enabled them to acquire a washing machine for their endoscopy unit. At this stage entry was opened to the nursing staff and paramedical disciplines.

The race retains its uniqueness of being run on a handicap basis, but in order to give the scratch runners more chance, the handicap has been cut from one minute to ½ minute for the over 40's. Despite this they have not been able to beat their aged colleagues – last year it was won by 65-year-old dentist Francois Hofmeyr.

This year's event is at 06h30 on Sunday, 30 November. It is hoped that as many as possible of those who ran the first race in 1978 will be able to be present – at least for the breakfast if they are not able to run or walk the route.

Entry forms for the 2008 event can be obtained from any Life Healthcare hospital in the Western Cape or Mathilda.mallinson@lifehealthcare.co.za or www.lifehealthcare.co.za **MP**

## Long season comes to a climax



Isolated: Kevin Foote is surrounded by Maties in UCT's final game for the season, a narrow 31-38 defeat to Maties.

MEGAN MORRIS

Going into their last game of the season, UCT had an ideal opportunity to upset the University of Stellenbosch's rugby cart. Win the game, and, for the first time in, like donkey's years, Maties would not be crowned Western Province club champions.

Alas, typical of the season, a late try – following a memorable second-half rally by UCT – saw the side lose the match to their arch-nemesis by 31-38. Even with that defeat, UCT finished in a respectable fourth place on the Super League, albeit some way off the leaders.

Thinking back, coach John Dobson thinks the trend of conceding late points may have started with those heartbreaking closing moments in the final of the Varsity Cup.

"It took a bit of our mojo," says Dobson.

Captain JJ Gagiano agrees.

"Mentally, it took a lot out of us," he says. "A lot of guys are happy the season's over."

Following the Varsity Cup and its television broadcasts, huge crowds and handsome purse, the Super League was a bit of an anticlimax, thinks Dobson. Keeping everyone motivated took some work.

But there's plenty to be pleased about. A group of youngsters playing amateur rugby finished second in a major new competition, and then more than stood their ground against more seasoned rivals from more professional set-ups.

Also, the team was reasonably stable throughout the year, major injuries were few, and coaches Dobson and Robbie Fleck were able to build a solid squad with some depth.

That's going to count in their favour come 2009, reasons Dobson. The team has high expectations for the Varsity Cup, but will also want to keep going once the Super League starts. And maybe attract some more talent.

"Our vision still is to make UCT the club of choice for any young players who want to play thinking rugby," says Dobson. **MP**