

Monday Paper

Newspaper of the University of Cape Town



1-14 December 2008

Volume 27#21



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Accomplished academics appointed to top UCT posts



"Both professors enjoy tremendous respect from their peers and will assume their posts early in 2009," said UCT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price. "We have no doubt that these outstanding academics and leaders will serve the university with distinction, bringing their particular strengths and talents to UCT's executive team, and giving the institution the benefit of their combined experience and wisdom."

Dr Price added that he joined the UCT community in welcoming the new Deputy Vice-Chancellors and looked forward to sharing a happy and productive working relationship with them.

The Vice-Chancellor said that meetings with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Designates and with incumbent Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo would take place shortly to determine the portfolios that will best suit their particular areas of experience. These will be announced in due course.

Speaking from the United Kingdom, where she is Professor of Development Studies at the London School of Economics, Professor Beall said she was delighted to be returning to South Africa to join UCT and to contribute towards implementing its strategic vision.

Professor Beall said she was very committed to the university's open governance and ongoing transformation process. "I look forward to contributing towards making UCT an exciting and rewarding environment for all members of the university community," she said.

Dr Price said that UCT would benefit from Professor Beall's extensive experience in setting up partnerships with universities in China, India and Africa – a key element of UCT's plan.

"UCT's record is already a strong one, and I am keen to put my energy behind advancing its reputation and status as one of the foremost universities in Africa and as a leading research and teaching university internationally," Beall said. "I feel enormously privileged to have been invited to serve as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and during my term will work to make UCT an institution of choice for students and academics everywhere – particularly for scholars from the African continent."

Professor Visser, who is currently acting deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research, said he was deeply honoured by the appointment and would continue to ensure that UCT not only exposes students to the excitement of new knowledge, but fosters the realisation that they also have the power to contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

"I would like UCT to be known for giving talented but disadvantaged individuals a chance. I see the university stepping up its efforts by using its excellence to solve problems that confront our city, our country and our region.

"I would also like UCT to be a highly desirable academic destination for people from all over the world, but especially for students and academics from our own continent. These are the

things that I will work for during my term as DVC. I look forward to it with great anticipation."

The announcement of the two posts follows a comprehensive and transparent selection process. "The recruitment net was spread far and wide, and resulted in an applicant pool of remarkable talent and diversity. In the first short list of over 20 accomplished applicants who applied, well over half were international candidates," said Dr Price.

The vacant position of the third

Deputy Vice-Chancellor was offered to Professor Jonathan Jansen. Professor Jansen decided not to accept the position due to a change in personal circumstances. The selection committee will reconvene to decide the way forward in terms of this third vacancy.

As per protocol, UCT's Institutional Forum verified that due process was followed during the selection process and the UCT Senate gave its overwhelming support to the appointments. The appointments have since been ratified by the UCT Council. **MP**



The University of Cape Town is delighted to announce the appointments of two internationally renowned academics, Jo Beall and Danie Visser, to executive management positions.

Professor Beall, a world-renowned social scientist currently based at the London School of Economics, and Professor Visser, a top legal expert and an acting UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor, will take up posts as Deputy Vice-Chancellors in the new year.



WORLD AIDS DAY



Dear colleagues and students

1 December, World AIDS Day, allows us to reflect on our responsibility to appropriately and effectively respond to one of the major challenges of the 21st century. This year's international theme of leadership is promoted by the slogan, *Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.* Leadership in

this field at UCT is demonstrated by our endeavours to (a) produce cutting-edge HIV- and AIDS-themed research, (b) ensure HIV- and AIDS-related education is an integral part of the formal curriculum of all faculties, (c) adopt sound management principles as we provide an effective response to the epidemic, and (d) reach out to the local community in various ways.

It is important that each of us reflects on our personal risk for HIV

infection, and acknowledge whether we need to reduce our risk, thereby protecting ourselves and our partners from infection with the HI-virus. We can also provide appropriate leadership in terms of making a decision to get tested and encouraging others to do likewise. Additionally, we can all play our part to reduce HIV- and AIDS-related stigma and educate others, in order to dispel misinformation.

On this World AIDS Day, I

would encourage you to take a look at some photographs that were taken by documentary photographer Paul Weinberg earlier in the year. They represent the UCT community taking a stand against HIV- and AIDS-related stigma. They are presently on display at both the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment.

Dr Max Price
Vice-Chancellor

UCT refugee-rights expert address AU

The UCT Law Clinic's years-long work with refugees was fitting preparation for Fatima Khan when she attended a meeting called by the African Union's (AU) Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4-6 November.

Khan, director of the Refugee Rights Project at the clinic, was invited by the AU commission to participate at a Civil Society meeting, as well as at a gathering of experts, to discuss the theme, *African Union Addressing the Challenge of Forced Displacement in Africa*.

The meetings considered, in particular, the effective protection of victims of forced displacement; meeting the specific needs of displaced women and children; meeting the specific needs of victims of

natural disasters; rebuilding affected communities; and forging partnerships in addressing forced displacement. The aim of the meetings was to develop durable strategies to deal with the plight of victims of forced displacement in Africa, for consideration by the relevant ministers and heads of state in April 2009.

Historically there may have been external factors responsible for the large-scale displacement of people in Africa, says Khan. More recently, however, it is the violations of and the denial of basic human rights by governments that have led to forced displacement of large numbers of vulnerable people on the continent.

Governments should first and foremost aim to respect such human rights as a preventative measure, she noted.

The recent xenophobic violence in South Africa was a timely reminder of this. Even experienced staff at the Law Clinic – who consulted with over 5 500 refugees and asylum seekers in 2007 alone – were horrified by victims' reports when they turned to the clinic for assistance.

"In reality, large numbers of people are displaced, and live either as refugees in host countries or as internally displaced in their own countries," says Khan. "Either way, the displaced people are and remain human beings with rights and should be treated with the dignity any human being deserves."

Khan was named as the May candidate for The Legal Newsmaker of the Year award, established by Legalbrief and the Law Society of South Africa. **MP**



Finding a place: Fatima Khan at the AU's recent meeting on forced displacement in Africa.

Colloquium focuses on ties with China

CHRIS MCEVOY

Would it be viable for UCT to establish a Confucius Institute?

This was the underlying question at a colloquium, hosted by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, which examined the role of Confucius Institutes in bring-

ing African and Chinese universities together. Nhlapo proposed the colloquium after the establishment of such a centre at UCT was first mooted.

The colloquium was opened by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, who stressed the importance of globalisation and diversity in higher education. Keynote speaker Dr Marcellette Williams, senior vice-president at the

University of Massachusetts, spoke on the future of higher education and its role in a changing society of "globo-sapiens".

"The future academic won't be a voice of confrontation but a voice of dissent, keeping alive the multiple ways of knowing," she said. "The public has entrusted us not to do their thinking for them, but to think out

loud."

Dr Loveness Kaunda, director of internationalisation at UCT, explained that the purpose of the colloquium was to bring together academics and decision-makers to discuss the possibility of establishing a Confucius Institute at UCT.

"We have to ask questions such as, what form it would take, who

would govern it, and will it be sustainable?" she said.

Over 200 Confucius Institutes have been established at education institutions around the world to teach and promote Chinese languages and culture, and to provide an opportunity for the local community to access knowledge about China to facilitate social and business interactions. **MP**

news • news • news • news • news • www.uct.ac.za/dailynews



Ralph Hamann of the Environmental Evaluation Unit at UCT has spearheaded the launch of *The Business of Sustainable Development in Africa: Human rights, partnerships, alternative business models*, a book that seeks to enhance the contribution of business to sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa. The book argues that the business community has an important role to play by better understanding the roles of sustainable development and its implications when making decisions. UCT's Prof Martin Hall, Jon Hanks and Fleur Boulogne also made contributions to the book.

Anna Goldman (in picture) and Stefan Milandri have won

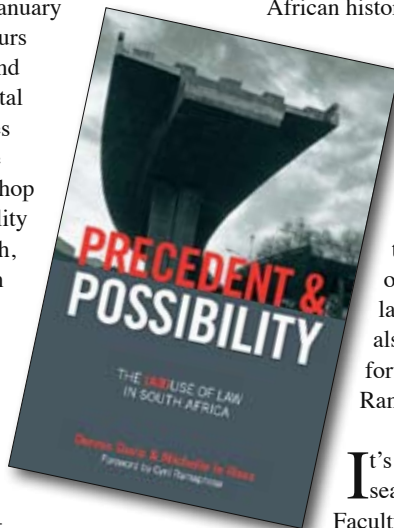


scholarships to attend and present their work at the Alliance for Global Sustainability's annual meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, in January 2009. Goldman, an honours student in architecture, and Milandri, an environmental and geographical sciences honours student, won the poster session at a workshop on integrating sustainability into African urban growth, hosted by the Alliance on 16 and 17 November at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Mcebisi Mazantsi of Thandokhulu High School and Shuna Hodges of Livingstone High School were among 80 science teachers who attended the Department of Chemical Engineering's annual Chemical Engineering Science Teachers' Afternoon on 18 Nov. The event was organised by Rene Toerien, who also co-ordinates

a project that's developing resource materials for teachers. The afternoon included practical investigations and discussion on open-ended experiments, and ended with a presentation by Prof Richard Gunstone, Emeritus Professor of Science and Technology Education at Monash University, Australia, on "Helping students learn from practical work".

Honorary Professor of Law at UCT, Judge Dennis Davis, and UCT law graduate Michelle le Roux have launched a new book on the South African justice system and how it evolved into what it is today. *Precedent & Possibility: The (Ab)use of Law in South Africa* draws on some of the crucial court cases in South



African history, both under apartheid and in the constitutional democracy, to explain and help us to make sense of present laws. The book also features a foreword by Cyril Ramaphosa.

It's reunion season at the Faculty of Health Sciences. Annually, the faculty invites alumni to their 15-, 25-, 40- and 50-year reunions, giving them the opportunity to see what's changed at the Medical School, what's remained the same, and to reconnect with old friends. This year's



programme began with the Class of 1993, who met over the weekend of 21 to 23 November. Their itinerary

included a visit to the Heart of Cape Town Museum at Groote Schuur Hospital. **MP**

Call for grad ushers

It is that time of year when the university honours those students who have achieved success in their academic career and will be awarded a degree at one of the ceremonies to be held from 8 to 12 December 2008.

To ensure the event is a memorable one for all concerned - graduands, guests, VIPs and academic staff - we urgently need ushers (staff and/or student volunteers) to assist with the December 2008 graduation ceremonies.

The ushers are required to:

- direct guests to the designated seats in the hall,
- inform relevant stakeholders of the remaining capacity in the hall, and
- generally assist inside the hall for a short while after the ceremony has commenced.

Basic training will be provided prior to the ceremonies.

Ushers are required to be at the hall one hour prior to the commencement of the ceremony, and will remain in the hall for about 15 minutes after it has commenced, whereupon they may leave.

There are three ceremonies on Monday, 8 December, and two each on the remaining days of that week. Ushers are free to volunteer for more than one ceremony.

Ushering is voluntary and there is no payment for providing this service.

If you would like to be an usher, kindly send your name and contact details to Keith Benjamin, telephone 021 650 4508 or fax 021 650 5714, or e-mail to keith.benjamin@uct.ac.za by no later than 2 December 2008.

A-ratings for sociolinguist, astronomer and neuropsychologist

HELEN THÉRON

Farm schooling and 'Indian' education under apartheid marked the early years of Professor Raj Mesthrie's academic career, but fortunately didn't limit his rise.

Mesthrie is one of three new UCT A-rated researchers, announced last week after the latest round of National Research Foundation evaluations. Mesthrie's fellows are pioneering neuropsychologist and winemaker Professor Mark Solms, and astronomer Emeritus Distin-



Prof Raj Mesthrie, head of linguistics in the Department of English Language and Literatures.

guished Professor Brian Warner.

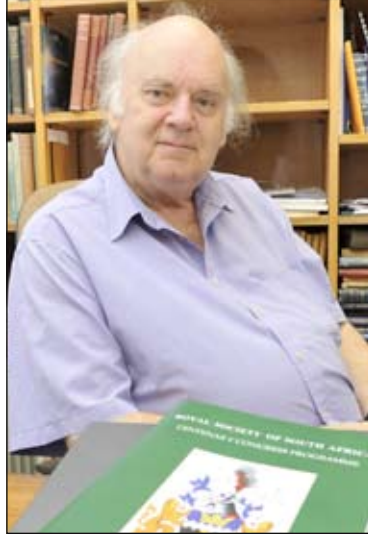
Warner's A-rating is a re-award. Mesthrie has an honours (cum laude) graduate in mathematics, though his work now deals with linguistic subsets: subfields of language contact, variation and change, focusing on South Africa and the social history of some of its communities.

"This attempts to show that non-standard and undervalued varieties of languages are as important for linguistic and sociolinguistic theory as their more empowered standard counterparts, and are no less challenging intellectually," he said.

He has worked on several varieties of English, especially the 'Indian English' and 'Black English' of South Africa, on the pidgin Fanakalo, comparing it to early second-language versions of Xhosa and Zulu, and on the variety of Tamil that had developed in the sugar cane plantations of KwaZulu-Natal among the descendants of indentured workers.

"I am naturally pleased to have my work recognised in this way, both by peers in linguistics as well as more demanding research assessors. But I am more pleased because it shows the discipline of linguistics to be in good standing in South Africa."

After obtaining his PhD at Wits, Solms emigrated to England in 1988. There he was appointed a lecturer in psychology at University College



Astronomer Emer Dist Prof Brian Warner.

London, and an honorary lecturer in neurosurgery at St Bartholomew's & Royal London School of Medicine.

He simultaneously trained as a psychoanalyst at The Institute of Psychoanalysis, London. In 1999, Solms founded the International Neuropsychology Society. He was named International Psychiatrist for 2001 by the American Psychiatric Association. He returned to South Africa the following year, and was appointed UCT Professor in Neuropsychology.

When he joined UCT as the first Chair of Neuropsychology, Solms kick-started a new area of expertise in the Department of Psychology.

He'd earned an enviable reputation in Europe and the United States, specifically at University College London (UCL). His main area of expertise is linked to his PhD thesis, *The Neuropsychology of Dreams*. His text on neuropsychology – the study of how the brain influences behaviour – is considered one of the most influential in the field.

This kind of research requires a wide range of clinical cases, and South Africa has a broad patient population, offering great research opportunities, he said.

Solms has published 350 journal articles and book chapters and six books, the last of which, *The Brain and the Inner World*, has been translated into 12 languages. He is currently editing and translating the Revised Standard Edition of Sigmund Freud's complete psychological works (24 volumes) and his complete neuroscientific works (four volumes).

"The NRF rating process can sometimes be a bit of a lottery, so I am relieved by the outcome," Solms said.

Warner, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Natural Philosophy, has been re-awarded an A1 rating for work that gained him international repute over decades, research interests that include cataclysmic stars, pulsating degenerate stars and the

history of astronomy.

Trained in the United Kingdom, Warner has a Doctor of Science from Oxford University (1986) and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of London (1972). He headed the Department of Astronomy at UCT



Neuropsychologist Prof Mark Solms.

from 1972 to 1999.

He has published prolifically, with over 10 books and 350 research papers to his name. He received the UCT Book Award in 1997.

Warner is vice-president of the International Astronomical Union. This year he was named an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. In 2004 he won the Gold Medal from the Academy of Sciences of South Africa. **MP**

Hugh Corder looks back

As my deanship draws to a close, I cast my mind back to 1999. The first 18 months of my term were dominated by planning for the Faculty of Law's move to the Wilfred & Jules Kramer Building on Middle Campus. Under Professor John Hare, the faculty's Fundraising Committee raised almost a million rand to build and equip the state-of-the-art Oliver Tambo Moot Court as a physical sign of our commitment to transformation of the law.

In 1999, I had also initiated a Professional Education Project as the revenue generator. This entirely self-funded project has grown steadily from a net profit of about R120 000 to R150 000 per annum. This year, this arm of the faculty expects to net almost R700 000.

Mid-2002 saw the appointment of a development and marketing manager, and the start of a process of re-establishing links with alumni and friends. Over the next five years, the endowment fund grew by R17 million, of which R8 million was used for specific purposes, such as the inaugural diversity scholarships, staff development and funds for the library.

The celebration of 150 years of the teaching of law at UCT has afforded the faculty a platform for a fundraising drive. Dubbed *Towards Sustainable Justice*, the target for the drive is R25 million. Starting from a base reserve of R9 million in October 2007, a further R7 million was pledged in the silent phase. In the six weeks since I went public with the

campaign at the reunion weekend in October 2008, a further R2 million has been raised or promised. The 'ask' letters to the remaining 3 600 alumni were posted on 14 November, so the final chapter has still to be written.

There is no formal ranking of law faculties around the world, but the following five criteria provide measures of the quality of the faculty.

- The frequency of requests for partnerships and exchanges from the leading law faculties in the developed world and Africa, such as Duke, Cornell, New York, Aberdeen, Humboldt, Leiden, Melbourne, the National University of Singapore, Osgood Hall (Toronto), Dar es Salaam and Namibia.
- The extent to which graduates are sought after as employees. We estimate that upwards of 90% of our graduates are employed in the position of their choice within six months of graduation. Informal and spontaneous feedback from the recruiting partners of top law firms in this country and abroad confirms the quality of our graduates. For example, Davis Polk Wardwell in New York has employed nine of our graduates in the past three years. (All those who have written have passed their New York Bar exams, studying at a distance!)
- 10 out of 27 researchers at the Constitutional Court in 2008 hail from UCT. Every single academic from the faculty who has applied for a research rating from the National Research Foundation has been



rated. The faculty boasts three A-rated, three B- and three C-rated researchers.

- Any number of our graduates, whether through an exchange agreement or on their own, succeed in being awarded scholarships to study further at leading law faculties in the world, eg Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Yale.
- The faculty has been increasingly sought after by outstanding academics from this country and abroad, as a place to work.

The staff development programme from 1998-2004 can also be counted as one of the successes of the faculty, enormous as the management content of that initiative was. On the research side, there were the initiatives of appointing a Director of Research, and of enhancing that with the appointment of an administrator. Recognition in the form of two research chairs (African Security & Justice and Customary Law, Indigenous values & Dignity Jurisprudence) and two

funded chairs (Intellectual Property Law and Constitutional Governance) has been most gratifying.

Despite some differences, there has been no major blow-up with the students over the past 10 years. This very sound staff-student relationship is extremely gratifying, and is due to both good student leadership and hard work.

I do believe that we have achieved a sense of community, of common values, and this was never more palpable than the extraordinary outpouring of grief over the death of colleagues in service over the past few years. I think of Mike Blackman, Venetia Lorenzo, Mike Larkin and Leslie Alexander.

The Student Seminar for Law & Social Justice (SSLSJ) held its second three-day event in September, this time with seven universities participating. This initiative enjoys our financial and moral support, which has been more than vindicated. Similarly encouraging has been the alacrity with which students took to the 60 hours of unpaid community service, introduced in 2005, as a curricular requirement for the award of the LLB.

Low points have been the repeated and increasing demands to account for what we do, and to report to Government. Quality assurance procedures in their current format, while necessary, are an absolute drain – and strain – on academics' time. Telling people that they haven't got the job or haven't got the promotion has also been a hard part of the job for

me, even though I accept that it goes with the territory.

The good part of the job is, of course, being able to award accolades, and I have had the privilege of presenting many. Some of them have already been mentioned, but I do want to add two more. One is the expanded work of the UCT Law Clinic, including its work with refugees, and the other is the establishment and now firm foundation of the Academic Development Programme.

In the wider sphere, following on from a need to talk about the four-year LLB, I wrote to my counterparts, and since an initial meeting in the Oliver Tambo Moot Court in 2001, the SA Law Deans' Association has met twice-yearly, and is now a recognised body with its own constitution.

As to the future, I will spend a year trying to recoup lost time in the academic sense, mostly by reading but also by some dedicated research. I will return to the Chair of Public Law in January 2010, and will hopefully continue to be involved on an ad hoc basis in wider issues within the university, and within the whole area of constitutional democracy.

PJ Schwikkard takes over with my good wishes and full support. She inherits a strong faculty and an involved alumni base, and I would like to thank everyone for the support and contributions that have been so much a part of these 10 very good years.

Professor Hugh Corder
Dean of the Faculty of Law,
1999-2008 MP

Two weeks ago, Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price hosted the university's annual Retirees Dinner, where those leaving UCT over the year were saluted and greeted by executives, colleagues, friends and family. (Many may still be around in years to come, though, in other capacities.) Here's a mosaic of those who were at the dinner, here seen receiving a farewell gift from the VC.

1. Barbara Abrahams
2. Martin Adams
3. Glen Anderson
4. Lily Becker
5. William Bieгнаar
6. Joseph Booyesen
7. Prof Phillipus Bornman
8. Rod Clayton
9. Terence Dowdall
10. Assoc Prof Andy Duncan
11. Dr Rosemary Exner
12. The late Prof Tony Fairall
13. Colleen Gibbon
14. Assoc Prof Sandile Gxilishe
15. William Hendricks
16. Thenjiwe Kona
17. Edward Lawrence
18. Anne Lomax
19. Britt MacLaughlin
20. Prof Johann Maree
21. Prof Kay McCormick
22. Prof Charles Merry
23. Prof John Moss
24. Robbie Oliver
25. Kenny Purcell
26. Valerie Riddles
27. Gavin Sadie
28. Prof Chris Saunders
29. Prof John Simpson
30. Lorraine Sivewright
31. Prof Theo Stewart
32. Lilith Sullivan
33. Christian Temmers
34. Caz Thomas
35. Eric Tucker
36. Lydia Veldsman
37. Prof Raoul Viollier
38. Eike Von Guerard
39. Phyllis Webb
40. Prof Martin West
41. Martin William
42. Doreen Young
43. Barbara Young



The Sonic Hedgehog gene and the evolution of bat wings

HELEN THÉRON

Of the nearly 4 000 mammal species, bats are the only ones capable of powered flight. Their ability goes way beyond the gliding and parachuting skills of lemurs, possums or flying squirrels.

Hunting prey, the bat moves its wings like we move our fingers, changing the wing shape to dart, flip, and turn quickly; the aerial acrobatics of a consummate hunter.

They are also masters at hovering. Like hummingbirds, they can remain stationary in flight, echolocating prey.

Their ability comes from the development of bony fingers, some long (very long) linked by soft tissue. They're called wings, but they're actually webbed hands.

MSc student Dorit Hockman and her colleagues, fellow MSc student Mandy Mason, and supervisors Professors David Jacobs and Nicola Illing in the Departments of Zoology and Molecular Biology, linked the evolution of bats' flying limbs to changes in gene expression in the gaudily-named Sonic Hedgehog gene (Shh), named after a character in the Sega Genesis video game.

In a recently published paper in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Hockman and her co-authors, who included American colleagues Chris Cretokos and Richard Behringer, have described the genetic expression patterns for Shh in the limb development of two bat species, one from Trinidad, and one from the De Hoop Nature Reserve in South Africa.

Shh affects the patterning of cells during development in the embryo in several organs in vertebrates, including the limbs, where it has been shown to specify the fate of the different fingers on our hands.

Bat wings are characterised by a short thumb and very long fingers, while their hindlimbs are remarkably symmetrical, with digits of the same



Taking wing: *Miniopterus*, long-fingered bats, in flight.

length. Hockman and her colleagues took an educated guess that changes in the expression of Shh might explain the evolution of bat limbs.

Hockman's studies show that while in other vertebrates Shh is only expressed once in the developing limb, a second wave of Shh gene expression may be responsible for the elongation of the digits in the bat's fingers and the retention of webbing between the fingers of the bat wing.

The Sonic Hedgehog gene plays important and wide-ranging biological roles during development. For example, in addition to patterning limbs, it is manufactured in the notochord of developing embryos, that long dorsal rod of cartilaginous material that

grows between the tail and the head. Mutations in this gene can lead to anything from death to improper limb development to cyclopia (a fusion of the eyes into one).

The genetic sequences reported in Hockman and her co-authors' paper have been deposited in the GenBank database. GenBank is the National Institutes of Health genetic sequence database. This is an annotated array of all publicly-available DNA sequences, a veritable library of genetic material.

The paper is a coup for the master's graduate, now settled at Cambridge's Trinity College for a four-year PhD, funded by a prestigious Wellcome Trust Scholarship.

(Hockman was one of five students selected internationally for this scholarship.)

This work was funded initially by a Stimulation Grant from the University Research Committee, and more recently by a National Research Foundation grant to David Jacobs.

"We've been privileged to have students of Dorit and Mandy's calibre working on the project," Illing said. "This work came out of interdepartmental, cross-disciplinary collaboration between David and myself, where David contributed his knowledge on the ecology of bats, and I contributed my knowledge and interest in the field of evo-devo and limb development." **MP**



Dorit Hockman

Chirikure works on ancient shipwreck materials

MYOLISI GOPHE

UCT lecturer Shadreck Chirikure has led a team of international experts in "a hectic" audit and inventory of archaeological materials recovered from a 16th-century shipwreck off the Namibian coast.

Chirikure, of the Materials Laboratory in the Department of Archaeology, and three researchers from Kenya and Zimbabwe, counted and categorised 21kg of gold coins, 3kg of silver, 18 tons of copper and two tons of ivory, as well as some ancient navigation instruments.

"We physically touched every copper ingot, weighed them and measured their diameters and heights," Chirikure explained.

The shipwreck, believed to be

that of a Portuguese cargo ship en route to India, was found along the Skeleton Coast (where there are often rough seas) near Alexandra Bay in April, during an offshore diamond-mining operation by Namdeb, a subsidiary of De Beers.

The company had built sandwalls to keep the sea at bay and used big vacuum cleaners to suck sand and other bedrocks seven feet beneath sea level. One of their machines jammed, and a geologist noticed that it had sucked up copper ingots.

"That was when they realised the importance of the discovery, and the need to preserve the perishable archaeological materials, most of which lay undisturbed on the ground."

Chirikure and his team were brought on board to develop a da-

tabase by categorising and creating an inventory of the cultural objects. They studied the materials and are writing a report on the findings, having also given advice to the Namibian government on how to maintain them.

"We found that conservation was an issue. The storage, in the shade, was not adequate, and exposed the materials to the hostile environment. We suggested that the materials be kept under controlled temperature and humidity conditions."

Chirikure cited an internet-based publication that ranked the shipwreck as one of the top eight archaeological discoveries in the world in 2008. Therefore, it has huge international significance.

"The discovery has huge potential

to raise revenue through tourism."

Chirikure said there was only one Namibian, a non-archaeologist, involved in the whole operation, highlighting a need for African states to train their own archaeologists.

And he has learnt a lot. "It happens once in 100 times that you work on a shipwreck, and I have drawn a lot of skills from the exercise."

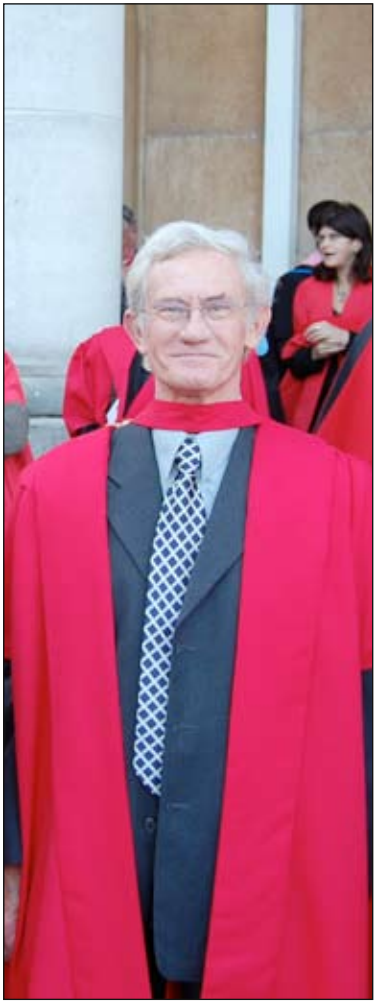
And the fact that his team gave advice to the Namibian authorities underscored UCT's keenness to provide expertise across borders.

Since then, Chirikure has been getting invitations from local and international publications to publish the findings and even to write a book.

"It makes me happy to get acknowledgement from my fellow professionals." **MP**



Valuables: Shadreck Chirikure headed a team that audited archaeological materials recovered from a 16th-century shipwreck off the Namibian coast.



Fairall, the 'face and voice' of astronomy in South Africa

The astronomical community world-wide has lost a great friend and colleague following the untimely death of Professor Tony Fairall on Sunday 23 November. Most people knew Tony either from their undergraduate student days at UCT, as a colleague on campus, from his hugely popular Star Finder course at the Cape Town Planetarium, countless interviews on radio and other media, or his various popular astronomy books.

I first met Tony on an observing trip to Sutherland in 1993. As a young graduate student from Groningen in the Netherlands, I came to South Africa to map the galaxy distribution in the Great Attractor together with Tony, a long-time collaborator of my supervisor in Groningen, Renée Kraan-Korteweg. To be able to recognise Tony at the airport, he carried *The Universe* under his arm, a heavy book containing a catalogue of

galaxies.

During that observing trip, Tony had invited his first-year UCT students to come to Sutherland for a weekend visit to the observatory. These star-gazing weekend visits were an integral part of his legendary undergraduate course, Introduction to Astronomy, which he taught for 36 years.

Our long observing evenings were filled with practical jokes (of which he was occasionally the subject himself), star gazing, discussing science, and of course the sound of Pavarotti echoing into the depths of space from the observing room of the 1.9-m telescope.

This observing trip was the start of a long academic and personal friendship. We met again in 1994 in Paris at a conference on the Great Attractor where we shared a room for the duration of the conference; so

characteristic of the unassuming and gentle nature of Tony – the professor sharing accommodation with a graduate student.

In 1995, following Tony's invitation, I came to Cape Town to begin my PhD under his supervision. Tony was a father to all his postgraduate students, a sentiment I see reflected in all the messages of support for his family from his former students. He guided us along the path of scientific discovery, logic and interpretation with his inexhaustible enthusiasm and infectious love for astronomy, overseeing the transformation from student to colleague.

After hearing the news of Tony's tragic accident, the Astronomy Department held a small gathering for staff and students where we all reflected on how Tony had touched us. It was wonderful to witness how this small department reflects the spirit of

a close family. This can be attributed largely to Tony's kind and gentle-natured spirit, and is in recognition of the role he played in shaping the present department, greatly attracting his long-time colleague Prof Kraan-Korteweg to take up the headship in 2005.

Our thoughts in these testing times are with Tony's wife Alex and his children, who can take comfort in the thought that Tony touched the lives of so many astronomers and students from all corners of the world.

When next I am on top of Camel Rock in Sutherland, the memories of fun-filled observing evenings and the sounds of Pavarotti will echo through my mind.

By Associate Professor Patrick Woudt, Department of Astronomy

UCT scoop MACE Awards

UCT took top honours for its website and schools recruitment programme at the Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards, which were presented at a Gala dinner on 16 October in Stellenbosch.

UCT also took the runner-up spot for advertising campaigns at the event.

The university's recruitment drive included the publication of *Yizani*, a student lifestyle magazine aimed at high school learners, and a DVD about student life at the university, as well as several radio commercials and a Facebook campaign on the social networking website. Adverts on Facebook earned over 3.6 million page impressions. The university also established a presence on the magazine *Seventeen's* website.

The UCT website is one of the university's chief marketing tools, and the main port of call for anyone looking for the institution online. It

also collects and presents news concerning the university, and advertises events. The site is database-driven to store a vast amount of information and has the ability to host multiple websites, each with their own domain name and search facility. The site also allows for access-controlled content, such as confidential documents that are only available to staff.

These awards are given annually to higher education practitioners in recognition of excellence in the communication and development fields.

MACE was formed out of Unitech, which rebranded itself and expanded to include colleges of Further Education and Training (FET). MACE now serves as an umbrella organisation for marketing, communication, fundraising, student recruitment and alumni practitioners in higher and further education in Southern Africa. The new corporate identity, featuring a red, green and black logo, was launched on the first day of the 2008 Congress. **MP**



In his valedictory lecture on November 24, Emeritus Prof Theo Stewart reflected on his decades-long work on decision-making, both in its teaching and study in UCT's Dept of Statistical Sciences, and its application in the world beyond. Stewart's research lies at the crossroads between mathematical and human sciences, exploring the nature of decision-making and its use in an array of industries and contexts. His students, he reported, have also applied decision-making in everything from energy and health planning in Uganda to spaza shops. Despite retirement, his work will continue, he noted. **MP**

Graduates relieve poor school



MYOLISI GOPHE

UCT graduates have spearheaded an arts project that helps young children to develop their creativity in a safe environment, and gives teachers of a local school relief from overcrowded classes.

Since October, 20 volunteers of the Circle of Love School Arts Programme, including 10 UCT graduates, have shared their performing and visual-arts expertise to inspire 300 learners of the under-resourced Good Hope Seminary Junior School in Cape Town.

The former UCT students are Leila Anderson, Fiona du Plooy, Mdu Kweyama, Shirley Lowe, Ntombi Makhutshi, Thami Mbongo, Bridget McCarthy, Cindy Mkaza, Chuma Sopotela and Peggy Tunyiswa. The project is a social development initiative of the Union International of Marionette (UNIMA).

Through puppetry, dance, music, drama, art and design, they help the children to explore inspiration from nature and deepen their understanding of the environment through creative expression.

Mkhaza said the idea is to

expose the children to more than a classroom environment. They aimed to boost their self-esteem so they can make better decisions in life.

"We are trying to nurture the next generation of leaders."

It all started when Lowe visited the school only to find that teachers were battling to manage classes of up to 60 children. Cleaners had to help, and Lowe organised her friends and colleagues to halve the classes and allow teachers to deal with a manageable number.

The project culminated with an eco-themed show at the school last week. **MP**

EVENTS

Summer School: The Centre for Extra-Mural Studies at the University of Cape Town invites you to attend the 59th Summer School which runs from 19 to 30 January 2009. This public education programme offers a range of short courses, open to all regardless of educational Qualifications. For more information about what is on offer please visit our website at: <http://www.ems.uct.ac.za> or email: ems@uct.ac.za Phone: 021 650 2888 Fax: 021 650

You are hereby invited to participate in research that deals with Muslim women's experiences in relation to marriage, sexuality and reproductive choices. This study assures anonymity and it is approved by the UCT ethics commission. On Wednesday 3rd/ Thursday 4th December from 12-1pm, Medical Campus, Conference Room 1. Lunch will be served. Please contact: Nina Hoel - 021 650 3460, ninahoel@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

Royal Society of Chemistry presents its annual Jack Elsworth Lecture (Formally the Christmas Lecture) Sir Dance-alot and the Dragon Slayer Time: 19h00, Date: 3 December 2008, Venue: LT1, P. D. Hahn, UCT, Price: R5, including ice cream and soda, RSVP: Deirdre.Brooks@uct.ac.za by 24 November. Inquiries: Deirdre 021 650 2324

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer:

Primary Education, School of Education, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 01 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 3003

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer,

Department of Political Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 15 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 2220

Part-time Lecturers, Department of Political Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 15 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 3381

Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer:

Bioinformatics, Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 Jan 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220

Deputy Director (at Professor/

Associate Professor level), Clinical Infectious Disease Initiative Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 Jan 2009, Tel: 021 650 3003

Professor & Lecturer in Physics,

Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 30 Jan 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Part-Time lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 01 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 3678

Project Manager: Khayelitsha Cohort, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 03 December 2008, Tel: 021 406 6808 or email: Zarina.Lee@uct.ac.za

Data Manager/Analyst, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 03 December 2008, Tel: 021 406 6808 or email: Zarina.Lee@uct.ac.za

Information Services Librarian,

Health Sciences Library, UCT Libraries, Closing date: 03 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 3006

Senior Data Manager, Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Health, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 03 December 2008, Email: jobs@hiv-research.org.za, Tel: 021 650 6966

Senior Secretary, Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Sciences Health Sciences, Closing date: 05

December 2008, E-mail: Catherine.hole@uct.ac.za

UCT Radio Station Manager, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 03 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 5389

Project Manager, South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), Faculty of Sciences Health Sciences, Closing date: 05 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 2192

Senior Researcher/Researcher, Development Policy Research Unit, Faculty of Sciences Commerce, Closing date: 05 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 2220

Finance Manager, Department of Finance, Closing date: 05 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 5405

Medical Laboratory Technologist, IIDMM, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 05 December 2008, Tel: 021 406 6389, email: Kathryn.Wood@uct.ac.za

Research Nurse, Lung Infection & Immunity Unit, Division of Pulmonology & The UCT Lung Institute, Faculty of Sciences Health Sciences, Closing date: 08 December 2008, Fax: 021 448 6815, Email: nyameka.mhloniyelwamona@uct.ac.za

Senior Clinical Research Officer, South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), Faculty of Sciences Health Sciences, Closing date: 08 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 3003/ 021 406 6697

Clinical Research Officers (3 Medical Officers), South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), Faculty of Sciences Health Sciences, Closing date: 08 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 3003/ 021 404 7622

Project Manager/Community Liaison, Centre for Popular Memory, Department of Historical Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 08 December 2008, Fax: 021 650 3611, email: Renate.Meyer@uct.ac.za

Research Officer/Assistant Research Officer, Climate Change Mitigation, Energy Research Centre, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 08 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 2192

Rollout Project Manager, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 December 2008, Tel: 021 406 6717

Database & Web Professional, IT Department GSB, Closing date: 19 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 2192

Part-time Data Administrator for Clinical Teaching, Radiation Oncology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 December 2008, Tel: 404 4264/3, Email: fmohamed@pgwc.gov.za

Laboratory Animal Technologist, The Animal Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 05 January 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220

Chief Research Officer: Health Systems & HIV AIDS, TB and STD's, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 January 2009, Tel: 021 650 3003

Chief Research Officer: Social Sciences & HIV AIDS, TB and STD's, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 January 2009, Tel: 021 650 3003

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer (2 posts), Child Nursing and Child Care Critical Care Nursing, Division of Nursing & Midwifery, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 January 2009, Tel: 021 650 3003

Part-time Lecturer-Practitioner (2 posts), Child Nursing and Child Care Critical Care Nursing, Division of Nursing & Midwifery, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 January 2009, Tel: 021 650 3003

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Administrative Assistant, Commerce Faculty Office, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 01 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 2503

Senior Secretary, Commerce Faculty Office, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 01 December 2008, Tel: 021 650 2503

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

CBergvliet: Garden cottage to let. Sunny bed sitter, fully furnished, separate entrance, fitted kitchen, private patio & off street secure parking. Quiet neighbourhood. R2 700.00 pm, inclusive of electricity & water. Available: 1st December 2008. Tel 0217123818.

Pinelands: 100sqm living space, 65sqm entertaining space cottage. Fully furnished, 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, open plan kitchen, secure parking for 2 cars. Available 1th Feb 2009. R6500 including elect+water.Contact: 0728798631 or 0215312556.

Pinelands: L shape living/ dining room, 3 bedroom house, study, 2 full bathrooms, new kitchen, swimming pool, undercover parking for 2 cars, alarm system, good security. Available from 1th Jan 2009. R7500. Contact: 0728798631 or 0215312556.

Rondebosch East: All furnished flatlets comes complete with TV, Study desk etc. close to public transport. Parking available. 1 sleeper R2800 2 sleeper R4000 includes utility. Contact Razia: 0843543070 or rblanch@telkomsa.net

Rondebosch: Old Cape Farmhouse with delightful self-contained, furnished apartments (DSTV & broadband, beauty salon, swim pool, UCT Shuttle on doorstep. Weekly & Monthly lets Tel 0216851747 Email ivydene@mweb.co.za / www.ivydene.homestead.com"

Rondebosch: 01 Feb - 30 Nov 2009, 2 bed, furn, fitted, kitchen in secure block near UCT. Rent R5500 per month, incl. elec. Email owner with full contact details: malcgust@iafrica.com

Rosebank: Female housemate wanted, non-smoker, to share 2-bedroomed flat in security complex. Available room is unfurnished and the rest is furnished. Avail 1 Jan 2009. R2500. Phone Gill 0823038616 or gmloteno@gmail.com

Rondebosch: Furnished Bachelor Garden flat for quiet single non-smoking post grad. R2300 pm + Deposit, avail immed. Contact: 0216852462.

Rondebosch: Garden Cottage near UCT, furnished. Suit quiet, non-smoking post grad. Garage/ parking available. R3100 pm. Short lease negotiable. Avail 01 Jan 2009. Contact: 0216852462

Sun City Vacation club: 2 bedroom / 6 sleeper self-catering unit available 09 Jan 2009 - 16 Jan 2009, 7 nights. R 10 000.00. Contact: 0722531170.

Rosebank: Furnished 1 bedroom flat to let in quiet security complex with unsurpassed mountain view. Available Feb. R4,500 pm. Parking bay. Suitable for non-smoking single academic or postgrad. Phone 0216867691.

Rosebank near Rondebosch Common: House and granny flat for sale. R2,400,000. Modern kitchen/ dining, lounge, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms plus 2 roomed flat with shower/toilet. Tel Mary 0216863629 or 0783115837.

Rondebosch: Bachelor flat to let. Security block with own parking bay in Woodbines Rd, Sunny & north facing with stunning mountain views; R3200 pm. Available 1 December 2008 - contact Duke Metcalf 0828028656 or via email gilbert.metcalf@uct.ac.za

Hout Bay: House to rent. Feb - May 2009. Suitable for visiting scholar. 2 bedrooms + study. Furnished. Wireless internet. Char/child-minder negotiable. Contact Helen: 0829228524 / helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za

Thornton: Granny flat next to Old Mutual Head Office, separate entrance, 1 bedroom, Bathroom, living room, open plan kitchen. Secure undercover parking or patio. Furnished or unfurnished. R2700+ electricity +water. Contact: 0728798631.

Sea Point: To let. Large 54m² modernised, unfurnished bachelor flat. One block from the Sea Point beachfront, long lease. Available immediately. Contact: 0214395169 or 0832291172 johnford@iafrica.com

City Bowl: Flat for sale. 2 beds; sep bath and toilet; enclosed balcony, garage. Price R1m for direct sale, no agent. Contact: Liz van Rijssen 083 620 3738 or email elizabeth.vanrijssen@uct.ac.za

Rondebosch: House to let. Dec 2008 - Jan 2009. Two-bedrooms. Pretty garden. Fully furnished. Off-street parking. R9,000 pm. Contact Lynn: 0723913777 Email: lynn.woolfrey@uct.ac.za

City Bowl: Large north facing 4 roomed flat for sale, double garage, parking bay and maids & store room. R1.895 000 neg. Contact Helen: 0828209419.

City Bowl: 3 Roomed flat for sale, secure parking bay. R795 000 ono. Contact Bennie: 0823023412.

House to rent: four rooms, two bathrooms, off street parking, secure, near Medical School, secure; rent R7 500 per month; available from 1 February. Email glaz@iafrica.com or Colleen at 076 802 3000; 021 706 2231 or dowell@telkomsa.net.

Rosebank: Furnished bachelor flat. Secure block with parking bay. Available Jan. Postgrad or professional. Shortest lease 6/12. R3300 per month. 2/12 deposit reqd. 0834845252

FOR SALE

For Sale: 1994 VW Jetta 3 CSX for sale Green, original mags, 260 000 km, sound system, alarm, tow bar and aircon. Owner is a student leaving the country. R24 950. Contact: 0837680410.

For Sale: Mazda Etude 1.6, Gold, 2000 model, power steering, air-conditioning, alarm, Mags, Excellent condition, Panasonic sound system, tracker. R50 000 neg. Contact: 0768243259 / 0733813879.

For Sale: Hyundai Elantra 1,6, navy blue, mags 17 inch, power steering. R30 000. Contact: 0832403146.

For Sale: White wedding gown size 8/10, strapless with beaded neckline, shirred to one side and beading down the front panel, incl veil. Call: 0763001467.

For Sale: BMW 528 I, 1996. R50 000 excellent condition, full house, 1 lady driver, car phone, sun roof and electric leather roof. Contact Leo: 0832640134.

For Sale: Oak cabinet ex Wetherleys. Perfect for small room. R750. Elliptical trainer as new with manuel. Real bargain. R750. Computer desk. Oak finish, perfect condition. R200 onco. Contact: 0722504126.

For Sale: Bedroom dressing table units, modular black and white. 2 units with easily removable dressing table mirror, and 2 units with additional corner unit. All separate units easily interchangeable. R650. Contact 0824148539.

For Sale: Wooden futon sofa with arm rests R1150. Solid wooden table. R1250. Dimensions: 170x60x75. We're leaving the country. Also available fridge/freezer R1400, washing machine R1300, dishwasher R1750 and lots more. Contact Marleen 0741937433.

For Sale: 1 Pair of Puma rugby boots signed by Schalk Burger, white/gold/green Size: 8 uk. R800 brand new still in box unwanted gift. Contact: 0216504739 or 0716775061.

GENERAL

Xhosa interviews, transcription and typing: I have 6 yrs experience working for UCT's Centre for Popular Memory and other research groups. Ref: Mrs Allie 6504759. Sibongile Mtini is here to help you. 0216504759 Wed to Fri / 0782777988.

Earn R2500-7 500pm Part-time or R10 000-R30 000+pm Full-time. Visit: www.GiveMeLifestyle.net

CABS Car Hire: We are determined to offer you the best South African car rental deals and customer service in the business. Wide variety of vehicles. Please call Cynthia Rawcliffe - ph: 0213865500 or cell: 0824533914.

Exercise Classes: Rosebank Methodist Church Chapel Rd, next to Tugwell Hall, Monday & Thursday 5.15-6.15 pm R90 a month -1 class a week. Free Trial class! Contact: Caroline 0827131029.

Safe Rapid Weigh Loss: Lose 7kgs or more in 30 days. No drugs involved only an easy to follow eating plan. Safe rapid weight loss with many other benefits. Guaranteed weight loss. Phone 0738403992 / bestweightlosscapetown@gmail.com or Visit our website. bestweightloss.co.za

In need of a rapid translation service? English - Xhosa-English. Contact Yandisiwe: 0837077722. Prompt service at affordable rate.

Transcribing by Carin: Accurate and efficient transcribing tailored to your needs: qualitative research, focus groups, etcetera. Work not outsourced, confidentially guaranteed. References available on request. Phone Carin 0214659904 / 0836822245 or carinfav@gmail.com

Editor/proofreader available for postgraduate theses, journal articles etc. Experience in academic publishing. CV/references on request. Contact Dave 0828990452 or david.buchanan@telkomsa.net

Reliable Housesitter: Mature housesitter available immediately for long or short periods. Any area. No fee required. Contact Pat: 0216716117, 0825754994 or pat@nconcentric.co.za

Editing of MA and PhD manuscripts, as well as any academic or other writing, by senior lecturer in English. Reasonable rates. Phone Ed Katz on 0216711215 or 0794381879.

Available for general research or as factotum. UCT graduate with experience helping academics in various fields. June Humphry: e-mail: boxojune@iafrica.com or 0217998944.

EAGLE
TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION SERVICES

- Dictaphone cassettes, CD's wav, .dss, wma files
- Transcription from DVD's and VIDEOS
- Interviews, meetings, talks & hearings
- Digital Transcriptions - English & Afrikaans
- Treated in the strictest confidence

Tel: 021 761 1886 • Cell: 084 812 9386
eagle@iburst.co.za

FOOD FANATICS
CATERING & EVENTS

- LUNCHES
- COCKTAILS
- CONFERENCES

Contemporary creative menus

STAFF / HIRING / BAR
TEL 021 797 9819
CELL 083 650 8563
www.foodfanatics.co.za

HIV/AIDS threatens construction industry

CHRIS MCEVOY

A compulsory, industry-wide initiative needs to be adopted by the South African construction industry to fight against rising HIV/AIDS prevalence among its workers.

This was recommended by UCT researchers in a peer-reviewed paper, which used data collected in tests on over 10 000 construction workers from 55 companies nationwide.

The paper, titled *HIV/AIDS in the South African Construction Industry: an empirical study*, is the result of a collaboration with UCT alum Harry Lake of CareWorks, a managed-healthcare company, who provided the data for analysis.

"Because of the male-dominated, contract-driven and mobile nature of the industry, companies can easily take the view that this is not their concern,



Contributor: Harry Lake of CareWorks provided data for the UCT paper on HIV/AIDS in the construction industry.

but this is a major issue in the SA construction industry," says Lake. "In some areas, over half the workers are HIV positive."

UCT collaborators were Professor Paul Bowen of the Department of Construction Economics and Management in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, Professor Rob Dorrington and Sarika Besesar of the Centre for Actuarial Research, and Greg Distiller of the Department of Statistical Sciences in the Faculty of Commerce.

Bowen explains that the paper is an extension of an earlier research paper he had co-authored with colleague Dr David Root and research assistant Ingrid Meintjes, titled *HIV/AIDS in the South African Construction Industry: Understanding the HIV/AIDS discourse for a sector-specific response*. The paper noted the industry's "fragmentation" and "lack of economic leadership", which "resulted in a failure by the construction industry to address the disease with the sense of urgency it requires".

Master's student Sarika Besesar read the report and approached Bowen for help with her thesis.

Bowen is now undertaking a new research project based on a suggestion by Harry Lake, who has encouraged him to look at construction companies that are actually doing something about the problem, and to examine the effect of HIV/AIDS intervention.



"The first paper was an overview of the situation and existing policy," says Bowen, "and the second is a detailed analysis of the available data, on which we based our recommendation for an industry-wide response to address the problem."

"The study shows that if a construction company assumes a role in managing the problem it can be beneficial to the 'triple bottom line' (economic, social and environmen-

tal) of the company." The intention is to study different organisations where treatment has or has not been implemented, to see the effect on each company's triple bottom line.

The hypothesis is that HIV/AIDS treatment within organisations makes good business sense.

The authors argue that the construction industry should initiate programmes, funded by levies, to educate, test and treat its workers.

They note that the industry is facing several opportunities, including the housing crisis and the 2010 World Cup.

"However," they warn, "the risk is considerable that the high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate will hinder the growth and sustainability of the construction industry, resulting in consequences that will be felt not only by the construction industry, but by the wider South African economy as well." **MP**

Statistics paper wins UCT's first Sichel Medal

Associate Professor Iain MacDonald of the School of Actuarial Science has become the first UCT academic to win the coveted Sichel Medal.

This is awarded annually by the South African Statistical Association for the best paper published the

previous year in a peer-reviewed journal.

The medal was named after the late Professor Herbert Sichel, "one of the grand old men" of the association, in 1997.

MacDonald's research interests span applied probability; new time

series models, especially for discrete-valued observations; hidden Markov models and their extensions, as well as stochastic volatility models in finance.

The SA Statistical Association awarded two medals this year: one to MacDonald, and the other to co-

author Professor Walter Zucchini, a former UCT academic now at the University of Göttingen.

Their winning partnership began many years ago and has produced, inter alia, their 1997 book on hidden Markov models. More recently they collaborated on the book *Hidden*

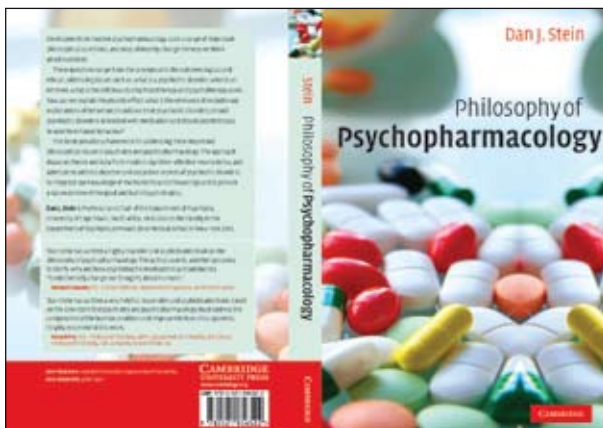
Markov Models for Time Series: An Introduction Using R, due for publication next year.

"We take great pride at Professor MacDonald's achievement in bringing home the Sichel Medal," Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Professor Melvin Ayogu, said.

Stein examines psychiatric medications through a philosophical lens

With rapid developments in the field of cosmetic psychopharmacology, Professor Dan Stein's new book, *Philosophy of Pharmacology: Smart Pills, Happy Pills and Pep Pills*, published by Cambridge University Press, poses interesting philosophical questions about the implications of developments in neuroscience for our understanding of human beings.

Mental disorders are a leading cause of disability worldwide, and are relatively underdiagnosed and undertreated. At the same time, there have been significant advances in psychopharmacology, and critical questions have been raised about the medicalisation



Interface: Prof Dan Stein's book, *Philosophy of Pharmacology: Smart Pills, Happy Pills and Pep Pills*, is published by Cambridge University Press.

of normal distress. Stein's new work sets out a conceptual framework, pulling in theory and data from modern neuroscience, for examining these issues.

The book emerged from his

D Phil thesis in philosophy at the University of Stellenbosch (supervised by Profs Anton van Niekerk and Derek Bolton). In it, he examines questions about the nature of mental disorders, and about their optimal treatment (eg via pharmacotherapy or psychotherapy).

Stein has written the book with clinicians in mind, particularly those with an interest in the conceptual basis of psychiatry. It's also accessible to a lay audience interested in debates about the use of medical enhancements (eg cosmetic surgery), and about questions of cosmetic psychopharmacology (eg the use of stimulants by students for the purposes of studying). **MP**

VC meets SRC



Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price and other senior executives had their first formal meeting with the 2008/2009 Students' Representative Council. In picture are (front row) SRC members Dylan van Vuuren, Ahmad Bana, Mzwandile Kweyama, Shannon Bernhardt, Anton Taylor and Babongile Mandela. In the middle row are Moonira Khan, executive director of the Department of Student Affairs; John Critien, executive director of Properties & Services; SRC members Michelle Davy and Trevor McArthur, Price, SRC president Chris Ryall, SRC members Amanda Ngwenya, Nevena Kostic and Portia Gama, and deputy vice-chancellor Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo. And at the back are DVC Prof Cyril O'Connor; Prof Enrico Uliana, executive director of finance; SRC members Sabelo Mcinziba and Sara Reith, Registrar Hugh Amoore and DVC Prof Danie Visser. **MP**