

# Monday Paper

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**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIBESITHI VAN KAAPSTAD



## Old plants, new leads

Offshoots: Prof Kelly Chibale and postdoctoral fellow Dr Denise Saravanakumar examine plant material that could provide leads for new antimalarial drugs.

**HELEN THÉRON**

Researchers using plants to find novel compounds for antimalaria drugs have received a R3.6 million grant from the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), covering the first year of work on recently unearthed data from a massive World War II antimalarial plant screening programme.

The MMV, a not-for-profit foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland, has developed the largest-ever pipeline of antimalarial drugs in development, with over 50 projects being financed in laboratories on every continent.

"From a research and development perspective, the MMV has embraced the recent refocusing on tools for malaria elimination, and has new programmes in transmission blockade, intermittent preventive treatment protocols and liver stages of *Plasmodium vivax* infection," said principal researcher Professor Kelly Chibale, of UCT's Department of Chemistry and the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine.

Professor Peter Smith of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology is the other UCT principal researcher on this MMV project.

The R3.6-million research grant will underpin follow-up work on the antimalarial plant screening programme conducted by

Merck and Company from 1942 to 1947.

It also supports a research partnership on this project between UCT and Rutgers and North Carolina State Universities in the US.

"What started as a collaboration between these three institutions under the Global Institute for Bioexploration (GIBEX) to bring novel Screens-To-Nature (STN) technologies to bear on drug discovery from general biodiversity, including plants, has had many positive spin-offs so far, including this latest MMV grant," said Chibale.

Chibale holds the South African National Research Chair in Drug Discovery under the South African Research Chairs Initiative. He is also director of the South African Medical Research Council Drug Discovery and Development Research Unit.

During World War II the Japanese navy blocked Allied trade routes, disrupting the world's supply of quinine, which was widely used to treat malaria, particularly among American troops in Africa and the South Pacific.

To counteract this, the US government upped funding to government, public and private organisations to synthesise new antimalarial drugs from natural sources. Many well-known drugs resulted, including synthetic quinine derivatives, developed by the US Army

and still in use.

Among this research was a Merck Pharmaceutical Company collaboration with the New York Botanical Garden. This project screened more than 600 native, or 'traditionally used', antimalaria plants for phytochemicals with similar or greater efficacy than quinine.

The result was a 1947 publication identifying nearly 100 species with antimalarial significance. After the war, and the advent of synthetic antimalarials, this data was consigned to "scientific limbo" for over 60 years.

One of the remaining Merck antimalaria researchers, Christine Malanga Wilson, saw a Star ledger article on GIBEX's work on antimalarial plants and forwarded a copy of her 1947 article to Professor Ilya Raskin of Rutgers.

Ruskin is also president of GIBEX, and therefore contacted Chibale in his capacity as chief co-ordinator of GIBEX-Africa. A decision was made to develop a proposal, in partnership with Smith and Professor Mary Ann Lila of North Carolina State University, for submission to the MMV for funding consideration.

Working with Chibale and Smith, GIBEX researchers have been able to confirm the results of this 64-year-old Merck study.

"It's a massive and very exciting programme," Chibale said. **MP**

## "We can" campaign destigmatises TB



Unmasking stigma: Nikiwe Solomon was one of the many educators who distributed flyers on TB Day.

**HELEN THÉRON**

To mark World TB Day on 24 March, HAICU (HIV/AIDS Co-ordination-UCT) distributed flyers on campus.

The campaign highlighted TB symptoms, prevention, and the need to destigmatise the disease.

Heeding the call of the City of Cape Town and the Provincial Department of Health, members of the Students' Representative Council, TAC UCT and HAICU's AIDS Community Educators wore masks on Jameson Plaza, in solidarity with the millions of people around the world infected with TB.

The World Health Organisation's 2009 World TB Day slogan is "I am stopping TB". UCT adapted their suggested tagline to read: "We can beat TB".



# Virtual history takes users to prison



Craig Matthew, documentary filmmaker and research associate in the Centre for Curating the Archive at UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art, is one of seven directors around the world to receive an International Trailblazer Award. The Trailblazer was awarded at MIPDOC, the world's largest international documentary showcase, held in Cannes, France, from 28 to 29 March.

**How did you come to win the Trailblazer?**

I knew nothing about the

award until I was nominated. One nominee is accepted from each continent, and the organisers of Encounters, the annual South African international documentary festival, chose me.

The award is given in recognition of my work as a whole but also for the new interactive projects, like the John Vorster Square multimedia DVD and my future plans for this new direction.

**What does interactivity add to the subject?**

We present our subject as an immersive 3D experience

using Macromedia Director. In *Between Life and Death: Stories from John Vorster Square*, we enlisted 15 former detainees. We put them back in their cells and photographed them panoramically. The result is a fully immersive experience that allows viewers to go inside the prison and walk in the prisoners' shoes. Clickable hotspots are embedded into the virtual reality panoramas, which bring up historical material like notebooks, photographs, voice recordings and police documents.

**Where do you plan to take this platform?**

We've now set up an archival digitising project. Our aim is to create a digital archive of all other archives, and to build an interactive archival platform that can also be made available online in a lower resolution. We hope to have the interactive platform ready by the end of 2009, and that's when we'll start populating it with content.

**When will this project be complete?**

Never. The idea is to kick-start the archive and let others continue building on it. **MP**

# Reading festival reveals hidden talent

**MYOLISI GOPHE**

Learners recited emotive poems and made speeches highlighting the importance of reading as UCT's Schools Development Unit celebrated the Zenex English First Additional Language Programme's Reading Festival on 17 March.

Funded by the Zenex Foundation, this programme was introduced last year to support Grade 10 and 11 teachers at 15 Dinaledi schools in Cape Town and Paarl.

Through the programme, the

schools received the textbook *Keys to English*, as well as classroom library support. The programme also trains teachers during holidays and hosts cluster workshops.

Programme manager Achmat Adams said the initiative is significant because although English is a global language and enjoys high status in the world, research indicates that only 8.8% of South Africans speak or use it as their mother tongue.

Even though English is the first language of only one-fifth of the population in Western Cape schools,

it is one of the main languages of instruction at schools.

"Poor maths and science results could also be attributed to poor English language proficiency," said Adams.

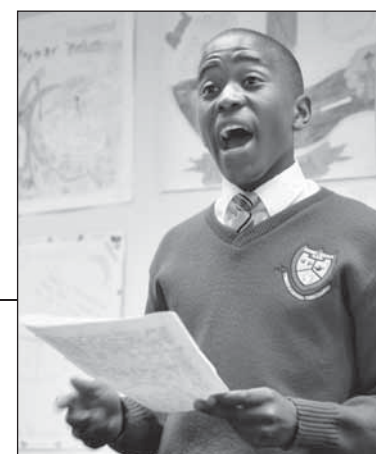
The aim of the Reading Festival is to promote reading and the use of the classroom library. The best learners in five categories from each school were awarded certificates and vouchers. These categories included poetry writing (based on a book from the classroom library collection), speech writing, poster design, book

reviews, and reading aloud.

"I'm astounded by the high standard of work produced by these learners," said SDU's Marlene Esau.

"This programme has made everyone aware of the hidden talent of learners," added her colleague, Nalini Parsotam.

Loud and clear: Siseko Mkalipi, a Grade 11 learner from Harry Gwala High School, makes a speech during the Zenex English First Additional Language Programme event.



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With the publication of her first children's book and play this year, UCT web editor Shumi Chimombe has come full circle. Chimombe

started her career in Cape Town marketing Maskew Miller Longman children's titles in West Africa, and specifically the Sara series of educational books teaching life orientation, and produced by UNICEF. "I realised I liked children's books," said the PASS staffer. Her book, *Dancing Star*, has been published under Cambridge University Press' new Rainbow Readers banner, a large library of 350 titles for young readers.

UCT's Faculty of Law ended its six months of celebrating 150 years of law education in South Africa with a series of lectures and a conference from 11 to 14 March. Event highlights included the Inaugural Mike Larkin Memorial Lecture, which was given by Professor Simon Deakin of the University of Cambridge, UK, on 11 March. In picture is the dean, Prof PJ Schwikkard, at the lecture.



Other events included a public seminar on 12 March, the annual Ben Beinhart Memorial lecture on 13 March and the Honore Conference on 14 March.

Law student Michelle Wright received the first Mike Larkin Scholarship, awarded at the inaugural Mike Larkin Memorial Lecture on 11 March. The R8 000 scholarship, which was renamed from the Law Students' Council (LSC) Scholarship, is awarded to a final-year law student who has made some contribution to wider society. Wright had launched a matric enrichment programme for learners on Saturday mornings, taught by law students. As she is now in Johannesburg doing her articles, her mother Sue Wright, a staff member in the Faculty of Law, received the award on her behalf from LSC president Lusanda Gwayi and the dean, Prof PJ Schwikkard.

The UCT Surgical Society drew a healthy crowd when it launched its 2009 lecture series on 11 March with a talk by Assoc Prof Jakes Krige on *Scalpels and Sutures: The evolution of surgery - from medieval to modern*. The group is a student-managed academic society affiliated to and patronised by UCT's Department of Surgery. With over 600 registered members, the society holds claim to being one of the largest on campus. Its monthly lectures tackle cutting-edge (!) topics.

A delegation from the US military visited UCT's Blast

Impact Research Unit (BISRU) on 13 March as part of a visit to meet with various South African defence industries and educational institutions. The 10-strong delegation from the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) are specifically interested in BISRU's research on car, train, aircraft and shipping accidents, as well as explosions in industrial plants and landmine injuries. The RDECOM visitors were given a tour of the unit, and a presentation on its published research and international links with industry and academia.

February saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Electrical Engineering and the Center for TeleInfrastruktur (CTIF) at Denmark's Aalborg University. This will create a framework for collaborative research and staff and student exchanges. CTIF director Professor Ramjee Prasad attended the signing and was hosted by Professor Mqhele Dlodlo of the Communications Research Group. Prasad is a prolific author and editor-in-chief of international journals on wireless communication systems.

Grade 10 learners visited the Cape Universities Brain Imaging Centre (CUBIC) at Stellenbosch University's Tygerberg Medical Campus on 17 March. Researchers from UCT and the University of Stellenbosch are collaborating on numerous brain and behaviour studies at CUBIC as part of the Cross University

Brain and Behaviour Initiative (CUBBI), with some of the most cutting-edge imaging and brain-mapping equipment available. Learners were given a guided tour and presentations as part of Brain Awareness Week, which runs from 16 to 22 March. Seen here are learners from Ravensmead Secondary School, in the Anatomy



and Histology Museum.

Deputy Minister of Health Molefe Sefularo was the guest speaker at the inaugural Ivan Toms Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences on 11 March. In particular, Sefularo supported a proposed documentary on the life of Toms, an activist, UCT graduate and, at the time of his death in March 2008, director of health at the City of Cape Town. Dean Prof Marian Jacobs spoke highly of Toms' commitment to policy-makers, health managers and service providers, academics, members and volunteers of NGO/CBOs, and civil society activists. **MP**

The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, South Africa, invites you and members of your organisation to the seminar launch of the book

## ZUMA: A BIOGRAPHY

by Jeremy Gordin

CHAIR  
Professor Anthony Butler  
Associate Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Cape Town

SPEAKER  
Mr Jeremy Gordin  
Author and award-winning former *Sunday Independent* journalist, Johannesburg

Ms Karima Brown  
Political Editor, *Business Day*, Johannesburg

Date: Thursday 2 April 2009 • Time: 17H30 to 19H00  
Venue: The Centre for the Book, 62 Queen Victoria Street, Gardens, Cape Town  
RSVP: Lavenia Benjamin • Email: [lavenia@ccr.uct.ac.za](mailto:lavenia@ccr.uct.ac.za) • Tel: (021) 689-1005  
Fax: (021) 689-1003 • Website: [www.ccr.org.za](http://www.ccr.org.za)

All are welcome and entry is free.



# Seventy-five not out



**MYOLISI GOPHE**

As a group of young ballet dancers pirouetted during celebrations to mark the 75th birthday of the UCT School of Dance, Jasmine Honoré watched with interest.

Having been at the school since its inception, first as a student and later as a teacher, Honoré was remembering how music and dance had helped to bridge the divides in society – and how they still do.

“I wish for white people to learn the dance of African people, and African people to learn the dance of Indian people, and so on,” she said at

the launch of the school’s anniversary celebrations on 20 March.

“Dance is a wonderful way to learn about other people’s culture. Nobody minded when I went to see other cultures dance because they knew that I was honouring their tradition.”

Honoré, who introduced African dance to the school, recalled how she and her classmates from a Rondebosch dance studio had followed Dr Dulcie Howes.

Howes founded the UCT Ballet School after being invited to do so by the South African College of Music in 1934.

“I was 12 years old at the time and doing piano and ballet,” said Honoré.

Howes was such a good dance teacher that all her students at the studio followed her.

Honoré continued to study and obtained a diploma in ballet. She then went overseas and returned to teach dance at the school, where she noticed enormous growth in terms of student, staff and ability.

Her sentiments were echoed by Mary Suckling, one of the first teachers at the school, who said she was “thrilled” to see big developments in teachers and students, not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of quality of education.

Gerald Samuel, director of the school, told the guests that, by any account, Howes must have been, a formidable woman to have won so many battles in her quest to advance the art of dance in Cape Town and South Africa.

“Seventy-five years of our founding as an institution is an achievement of which all who have invested in this vision can be extremely proud,” he said.

“I, for one, want us to parade our success not only down Adderley Street or the steps of Jameson Hall, but onto the main stages and the alternative performance spaces as we disinfect the city of segregation and discrimination through our dance”.

Samuel said several events are in the pipeline to celebrate the milestone, including performances, public seminars, master classes, and workshops “that will draw dance lovers of all ages to their *alma mater*”.

Among these are a programme of signature repertoire works in African dance, contemporary dance and classical ballet on 23 April, a photo exhibition curated by Dr Eduard Greyling, a winter school, and a reunion celebration at the end of the year. **MP**

# Letters for April



Professor Kurt April of UCT’s Graduate School of Business has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in the UK. The RSA is a 250-year-old group, supported by a 27 000-strong Fellowship, which

encourages public discourse and critical debate to promote civic innovation and social progress. Officially, April can now use the letters FRSA behind his name. April was also recently included in the Marquis Global Who’s Who and the Continental Who’s Who Registry of Business Leaders. **MP**

The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, South Africa, invites you and members of your organisation to the seminar

## US POLICY TOWARD AFRICA IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

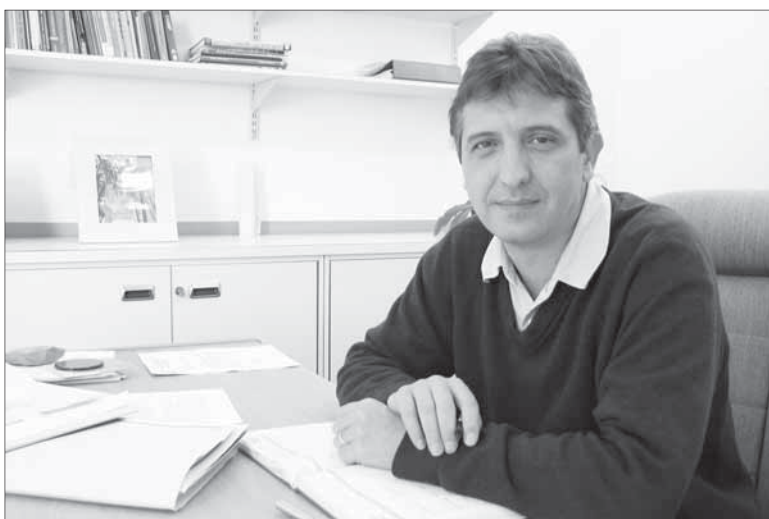
CHAIR  
**Dr Adekeye Adebajo**  
Executive Director, Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town

SPEAKERS  
**Mr J Anthony Holmes**  
Cyrus Vance Fellow in Diplomatic Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, United States  
**Mr Francis Kornegay**  
Visiting Fellow, Institute for Global Dialogue, Johannesburg

Date: Monday 6 April 2009 • Time: 17H30 to 19H00  
Venue: Mandela Rhodes Place, Cnr Wale and Burg Streets, Cape Town  
RSVP: Lavenia Benjamin • Email: lavenia@ccr.uct.ac.za • Tel: (021) 689-1005  
Fax: (021) 689-1003 • Website: www.ccr.org.za

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# Maartens president of new clinical pharmacology college



Heads up: Prof Gary Maartens of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology in the Department of Medicine is president of the new College of Clinical Pharmacologists.

**HELEN THERON**

Professor Gary Maartens of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology has been elected president of the newly formed College of Clinical Pharmacologists.

Also on the council is his colleague, Associate Professor Marc Blockman.

Maartens said UCT had been instrumental in getting clinical pharmacology accepted as a speciality by both the Colleges of Medicine

of South Africa (CMSA) and the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

The process took three years, as they sought consensus from the pharmacology departments at South Africa’s medical schools.

“Our goal is to promote the discipline nationally,” said Maartens, “but the immediate goal is to set up the exams in order to register specialists in the field.”

He believes the development is a crucial step in the development of the discipline.

“Clinical pharmacology is recognised as a discipline requiring expansion in the national modernisation of tertiary services processes.

“At UCT we’ve been training clinical pharmacologists for over 10 years. Getting the discipline accepted as a speciality makes it easier for academic hospitals and provinces to create specialist posts.”

The CMSA is the national body that sets up and runs exams for trainees specialising in medicine. **MP**

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# Devil's Peak blaze skirts upper campus

HELEN THÉRON

Though it skirted upper campus - thanks to the efforts of city fire fighters and helicopters - the recent Devil's Peak blaze has prompted the Properties & Services to look at further measures to reduce the fire load in the area.

City fire experts are conducting a forensic investigation into possible causes of the Devil's Peak blaze, the third such fire in the area in two months.

"We are assisting where we can," added executive director of Properties & Service, John Critien.

Critien said UCT has emergency

and evacuation plans in place for such occasions.

"Some years ago we created the necessary fire breaks, removed much of the fire load from the area, and we continue to maintain the breaks," said Critien. "In addition, over the December 2008 vacation we felled over 60 trees that were in decline."

Following the recent blaze, Critien said two additional areas of work were being scoped and costed.

One area is the forest in the north-west corner above Ring Road, and the other is directly below that, above the dam.

"The forest [above upper campus] is too close to buildings and the gas

tank in these two areas, so we need to cut these trees back," Critien said.

Advice was being taken from Dr Richard Hill of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science.

There had been no reports of animals seeking sanctuary on the upper campus.

But Critien said he'd walked the mountain following the fire and had seen an unusual number of crows, an indication that smaller reptiles and creatures had perished.

He also noted that UCT pays special attention to communicating with staff and students in the event of threatening or actual emergencies. **MP**



## More health care resources and clinical care platforms needed



Africa is the only world region unlikely to meet the United Nations 2015 Millennium Development Goals as a result of healthcare deficiencies, Professor Vanessa Burch said in her inaugural lecture, Health Care in South Africa Today, on March 25.

Africa is constrained by several challenges, including a heavy burden of disease, lack of money, and the size and shape of the clinical platform.

In the red: In her inaugural lecture, Prof Vanessa Burch.

The burden of disease in South Africa is growing, fuelled by HIV/AIDS, said Burch, based in UCT's Department of Medicine.

"HIV prevalence levels are not flattening out. TB cases have more than doubled and there hasn't been an increase in staff or resources."

The problems are exacerbated by the growing divide between public and private healthcare.

Whites still have the greatest access to healthcare insurance - but 42.7 million South Africans don't have healthcare insurance.

She also pointed out that the

number of beds in the public sector hadn't risen, despite a growing burden of disease.

It is also difficult to recruit doctors to work in rural areas, where there is one doctor for every 30 000 people, said Burch. Only 31% of the country's 34 687 doctors work in the public service; 35% of posts are vacant, and 15% of these are specialists.

"The rural situation is desperate."

The country - and continent - would have to increase the number of medical graduates, and recruit more than one million additional

healthcare workers to cope with the burden of disease.

However, the situation was aggravated by migration.

"Twenty-two percent of our medical graduates are no longer practising in South Africa."

Wits, UCT and the University of Pretoria are among the top 'emigrating' medical schools in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"There are no simple solutions. We need multiple strategies and feasible options in healthcare, for the greater good of all.

"But it's going to cost money." **MP**

## We remember

Long-time UCT donor Peter Fairhead died in a motor cycle accident on 24 March. In his many years of support of UCT, Fairhead has given more than a R1 million to the university, both in direct donation and in PR contributions. Through the Fairheads Benefit Foundation, he funded the UCT Clanwilliam Art Development Project, an annual outreach project that supports and develops art in rural Clanwilliam. He attended the first lantern parade that ends the 10-day project each year, reported head of the UCT Drama Department, Associate Professor Mark Fleishman, who collaborates on the project with Professor Pippa Skotnes, director of the Michaelis School of Fine Art. "He was so inspired by

the project and the children's response to it that he made a personal commitment to support the project for as long as he could." Fleishman and Skotnes won an Alan Pifer Award in 2007 for the project. His support was invaluable, says Fleishman. "What was so unique about his commitment was that it was a long-term one, so the project could depend on his support each year. It would be difficult to replicate is such a continued investment." Skotnes also sang Fairhead's praise. "His faith in the potential of this project, his willingness to back it and to bring Fairheads Trust along with him, the pleasure he took in its realisation, has created something truly magical, something that has engaged the imaginations of hundreds of children and fashioned, from one of the poorest communities of the Western Cape, dancers and makers, storytellers and perform-

ers," she said at a memorial service. Other sponsorships include the Fairheads International Trust/Michaelis School of Fine Art competition for school goers, the funding of Michaelis-run workshops and art events in the Kaplan Centre.



Hendrik van Huyssteen, UCT Registrar from 1984 to 1986 and Academic Secretary and Deputy Registrar from 1979 to 1983, died on 20 March. Prior to coming

to UCT, Van Huyssteen, a UCT graduate, had been Registrar at both the University of Port Elizabeth (now the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) and at Fort Hare, and had worked in the administration at Wits. He was 86.

## Web-based utility to verify campus identity

To assist you in confirming a person's status and relationship to UCT before granting them access to resources, ICTS has written a tool that will check the staff, student or third party number and verify that person's campus identity.

ICTS developed the utility for two reasons. Firstly in certain rare cases, people, who are no longer associated with UCT, may attempt to gain access to buildings or resources using an unreturned access card. Secondly, as stickers showing the year are no longer issued, it is not possible to verify - by looking at the card - whether or not a person using an older card is still registered as a staff member, student or third party at UCT.

The tool can be accessed from anywhere where Internet access is available, even from your cellphone's web browser, by using this URL <http://www.icts.uct.ac.za/validate>.

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# Radar comes of age at UCT

LYNNE SMIT

UCT's Radar Remote Sensing Research Group has come of age.

When people think about radar, most imagine the round green screen of wartime submarines.

A few hours spent with Professor Mike Inggs in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment changes that.

Inggs has headed the radar research group since its birth 21 years ago, in 1988.

"Radar is the champagne of electronics," explains Inggs. "It has every aspect of engineering: mechanics, physics, and the environment. You have to be a generalist if you are interested in radar technology."

Radar, an acronym for 'radio detection and ranging', can detect the presence of stationary or moving objects at a distance, and can determine their speed. But it's the third use – radar used as a mapping tool – that preoccupies Inggs and his team.

One of the research group's first big projects was funded by Armscor.

"It was an exciting time," says Inggs. "It was 1989, and the development of computer technology was making the analysis of the radar data much more comprehensive."

The group built some of the first processing hardware, and until the project was moved to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, it analysed synthetic aperture radar (SAR), recorded by a specially-equipped aircraft as it flew over the area to be mapped.



"Our original funders were looking at military applications," he says. "Metallic objects reflect differently and are easy to see; for example, if military units are moving around."

But it was the peacetime applications that really interested the team.

"Radar penetrates through clouds, through vegetation and even the upper level of the soil," explains Inggs. "That makes it an ideal tool for disaster management. It's also ideal for early prediction of crop yields. It really should be used more, because we could save millions by recognising when yields are going to be poor, and buying ahead early."



Still going strong: Prof Mike Inggs has seen many innovations over his 21 years with the group; (below) the team circa 2006.

"Radar is also one of the most important weather prediction tools. Using scatterometers, we can measure the strength and direction of surface winds and the height of ocean waves."

Sadly, lack of funding has put paid to much of the unit's SAR work.

"I was excited by the possibilities of low-frequency, long-wavelength radar," says Inggs, "but in the late 90s the defence budget was reduced, so we only managed to have the equipment fitted onto one Dakota. The data it produced was really useful, but by 2005, following brief use of the technology for a De Beers geological survey, the SAR work was effectively over."

Inggs has hopes of a revival now that South Africa is establishing its own space agency, but in the interim the team has explored many other applications.

"In the mid-90s we began to use sub-surface radar. The penetra-

tion depth varies according to the soil composition, from a few metres in some types of rock to kilometres in ice. It's very useful for landmine detection, but the First World seems to have lost interest in that, so it's not used as much as it could be."



UCT received funding from US company Bell Aerospace to build very sophisticated ground-penetrating radars that are particularly useful in civil engineering. The radar units are fitted to borehole drills, giving prospectors an idea of what is happening outside the core.

Instruments are being developed by a private company in the US.

"Most of our funding comes from overseas. We can offer a lot more research and analysis for the dollar," says Inggs.

What of the future? A new radar laboratory was opened at UCT on March 24, providing welcome relief for a department that has doubled in size in the past 13 years.

Inggs is also excited about many new applications. Since 2005, he has worked on Passive Coherent Location (PCL) technology.

"The Earth is full of signals, from things like TV and radio. We're building systems that will allow us to parasitise off this energy to implement radar detection of aircraft. It's perfect for the Third World. We'll be able to use it, for example, to build air-traffic control systems at a fraction of their present cost."

Inggs believes that 'cognition',

the ability to adapt to the surrounding environment, should be built into this type of radar. One of the pioneers of cognitive radar, Professor Simon Haykin of McMaster University in Canada, is extremely interested in the group's work, and will visit UCT early



next year.

Inggs and his team are also working with University College, London, on network radar, in which clusters of radar units collaborate. The UCT team is responsible for the software and very precise clocks that are used to synchronise the units. **MP**



## Radar group homes in on new lab



Prof Mike Inggs and his Radar Remote Sensing Research Group celebrated their 21st birthday by moving up in the world. Or, to be more exact, up in the Menzies Building on upper campus, trekking from their cramped quarters on the sixth floor to the roomier seventh floor, just recently added. The group now enjoys easy access to the roof, which is handy for more than just tea and smoke breaks. On the roof,

researchers can mount antennas for various radar experiments, and they have a good view of both the sea (for clutter measurements), and of aircraft landing at the airport. From the group's new quarters, they'll get stuck into a host of research projects. Including work on a new type of radar for air traffic control that uses the signals from television and FM radio stations, cutting out the need for pricey transmitter equipment.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE of the UCT television studio

Probably one of UCT's best-kept secrets, the television studio below the Baxter Theatre Centre is built to exacting British Broadcasting Corporation specifications, and is part of the Centre for Film and Media Studies. The studio was established in the late 1970s, probably the first television studio in Cape Town, and until 1980 the SABC often used it to conduct interviews. Thereafter it was used by the Teaching Methods Unit for 10 years before being hired out to a private company. The staff, trimmed down to two members, Alan Johannes and Sidney Francis, established a new studio in the Education building on Middle Campus as part of the former Buildings and Services Department. Ten years later, the unit was adopted by the Humanities Faculty and then taken over by the Centre for Film and Media Studies, in the process returning to the Baxter TV studio. The present staff are chief

technical officer Alan Johannes and administrator Molly Maunganidze.

### What does the studio do?

The 'friendly', high-end studio works as both a commercial and a teaching facility, a convenient venue for quality sound/video recording for all types of productions. These include commercial adverts, TV production workshops, and corporate video shoots. Johannes does anything from film to video transfers, video standard conversions, duplications, digital video post-production, as well as single- and multi-camera recordings. Shoots are not only done in the studio; Johannes often goes out to different departments to work. In August, the studio carries a massive production for drama and film students, who write scripts, direct and produce 'soaps' as part of their examination.



Alan Johannes at work in the UCT television studio.

### What are the challenges facing the studio?

The main challenge is a shortage of staff. Johannes battles to cope with the many requests for his services. At times he calls on help

from his former colleague, Sidney Francis, now based at the Centre for Film and Media Studies' Mendi Lab, especially when multi-camera ex-studio shoots are called for.

### What are the highs and lows of the job?

The control room of the studio is decorated with a number of awards honouring the studio during the hey-days between 1983 and 1995, when it had four staff. Back then they filmed dramatic material and weren't confined to the instructional productions they often do now. Johannes says those accolades make him feel good, and enjoys people's appreciation of his work. The "devastating low point", as he puts it, is that the studio is built below the Main Road level and was often flooded, before extensive repairs corrected the problem.

### What is the strangest thing the studio's been asked to do?

In earlier days Johannes and his colleagues were asked to shoot a heart-and lung-transfer from one baboon to another. "We filmed the entire operation, and it was quite an experience," he says.

# Fugard's Coming Home



Master playwright Athol Fugard's latest play, *Coming Home*, comes home to the Baxter Studio from April 2 to 25.

The production marks the Cape Town directorial stage debut for the award-winning Ross Devenish. The stellar cast features Bronwyn van Graan, David Isaacs, Terry Hector, as well as newcomers Devan Walbrugh and Cinga Vanda, both 11 years old, who alternate in the role of the young boy, Manneljie.

*Coming Home* is Fugard's first sequel, and follows on from his acclaimed 1995 *Valley Song*, which was also his first post-apartheid play.

It continues the journey of Veronica Jonkers, played by Van Graan, who has left the farm where her beloved grandfather (Hector) lived, to pursue a singing career in Cape Town.

Now, 10 years later, she returns with Manneljie, her young son by a Mozambican migrant worker who was killed in a xenophobic attack. After his death, carrying a pain-

ful secret and a heart filled with disappointment, and with her own failing health (she is HIV-positive), it is time for her to return to her home village as she strives to plant the seeds of a new life for the boy.

"Athol often writes about the forgotten characters and people who live out of society," says Van Graan.

*Coming Home* has low-price previews from April 2 to 6, opens on April 7th and runs until April 25, Monday to Saturday at 20h15. Ticket prices range from R85 to R120, and the Baxter Monday special of R55 (light meal and show) applies.

Booking is at Computicket on 083 915 8000, online at [www.computicket.co.za](http://www.computicket.co.za) or at any Shoprite Checkers outlet. For discounted block, corporate or school bookings, charities or fundraisers, contact Sharon on 021 680 3962, Tarryn on 021 680 3993 or Sakhiwo on 021 680 3991 during office hours. **MP**

Athol Fugard's *Coming Home* comes to the Baxter.

# UCT man to showcase Africa



Johann van der Schijff's *Peerbal II*, one of the works he'll put on show in Germany this week.

Johann van der Schijff of UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art will take part in a prestigious Dak'Art showcase of African art, to take place in Germany this week. Van der Schijff will be among the 20 African artists who will exhibit works from the Dak'Art 8th Biennial of Contemporary African Art that took place in Dakar, Senegal, in 2008. The works tackled contemporary issues such as migration, racism and war. The German event, which kicks off on 3 April and runs until 21 June, will be hosted in Stuttgart and Berlin by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa). In collaboration with the artists and curator Akinbode Akinbiyi, the ifa chose pieces from the Biennial's main exhibition that illustrate the high standard of contemporary African art.

# Cape Town changes on show

UCT graduate and staffer Michael Wyeth is hosting an exhibition of works – *Surfaces, Spaces and Shrines* at the Irma Stern Museum from the end of March.

The photographic work was started in 2006, and observes the ongoing transformation of the city of Cape Town, showing the many physical changes taking place to structures in the inner city's residential, business and recreational areas.

"As a photographer, my visual concern is with the visible surface of the city; with the physical, textural exterior and the way that it weathers

with time and change, and how it endures the actions of man and the elements," Wyeth explained.

"I engage with the physicality that makes up the material of the cityscape: walls, structures, shapes, concrete, paint, brick, rust, peeling, and scratches."

Wyeth, who studied at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, has had exhibitions (mostly in Cape Town) before, notably *SA Photo Statements* and *City Skin* during the Month of Photography, October 2008.

The exhibition runs until 18 April. **MP**





## EVENTS

**Department of Medicine**

Thursday 4PM Meetings 2 April 2009 Chempath – Dr Ryan Benjamin – Adult Presentations of Inherited Metabolic Diseases 9 April 2009 EASTER WEEKEND 16 April 2009 MEDMICRO- (Melissa Jansen van Rensburg) – Getting to know you: MRSA from Hospitals in Cape Town 23 April 2009 Dr S Cochrane – Bioclones – Raising the Count in the South African Biotechnology Industry

**28th annual General Meeting**

of the Royal Society of Chemistry Public Lecture by Prof Michael Hardie University of Leeds, UK on Self-assembly of metallo-supramolecular cages, star-burst prisms, threaded assemblies and coordination polymers with host-type ligands." At Lecture Theatre 1, Molecular and Cellular Biology Building, University of Cape Town on Tuesday, 31 March 2009 at 4.00pm. Refreshments will be served after the lecture

**ICTS Training schedule**

for April 01-03 (09:00-12:00) Word 2003 Level 3 • 01-03 (13:30-16:30) PowerPoint 2007 Level 1 • 06-09 (09:00-12:00) Excel 2003 Level 3 • 06-09 (13:30-16:30) Excel 2007 Level 3 • 14-16 (09:00-12:00) Access 2003 Level 3 • 14-15 (13:30-16:30) Access 2007 New Features • 20-24 (09:00-12:00) Project 2003 Level 1 • 20-21 (13:30-16:30) GroupWise Basic • 24-24 (13:30-16:30) GroupWise Intermediate

**The Centre for Popular**

**Memory** will be having a seminar called: RE-IMAGINING HISTORY, the digital moment and South Africa's photographic heritage. on: Thursday 2 April 2009 at 1 - 2pm Presenter: Paul Weinberg - Centre for Curating the Archive, UCT Discussant: Andrew Ingram - Deputy Illustrations Editor Independent Newspapers, Cape Venue: Beattie Building (first floor) B226

## VACANT POSTS

**EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:**

**Biostatistician**, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 April 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, E-mail: Rodney.martin@uct.ac.za

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer**, Sedimentology and Structural Geology (2 posts), Faculty of Science, Closing date: 17 April 2009, Tel: 021 650 2192

**Glaxo Wellcome Chair** of Primary Health Care, Primary Health Care Directorate, UCT & the Department of Health, of the Provincial Government of the

Western Cape, Closing date: 30 April 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220, e-mail: Roslyn.Daniels@uct.ac.za

**RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)**

**Senior Secretary:** Academic Administration, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 31 March 2009, Tel: 021 650 5886, email: zuraida.salie@uct.ac.za

**International Undergraduate Student Officer**, International Academic Programmes Office, Closing date: 3 April 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220, email: Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za

**Marketing Officer**, Communication & Marketing, Closing date: 3 April 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220, Closing date: 3 April 2009, email: Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za

**Research Nursing**, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Closing date: 3 April 2009, Professor ZM van der Spuy (Ref: I-1793), Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, PO Box 34584, Groote Schuur, 7937

**Clinical Training Fellow:** Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Red Cross Children's Hospital, Closing date: 7 April 2009, Tel: 021 658 5242, email: adele.pearce@uct.ac.za

**Administrative Assistant**, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 15 April 2009, email: ktu-application@uct.ac.za

**Director:** Baxter Theatre Centre, Closing date: 11 May 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: Rodney.martin@uct.ac.za

**POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:**

**Part-time Project Administrator:** PPS project, HR Department. 4 month project. Closing date: 3 April 2009. Immediate start. Applications will be considered on secondment basis from current UCT staff. Email: Joanne.Uphill@new.co.za. Tel. 082 870 2927

*The vacancies can be viewed at: <http://www.uct.ac.za>, Click on "Vacancies".*

## PROPERTY

**Muizenberg:** Free-standing three-bedroom townhouse, secure complex. Mezzanine loft, 2 bathrooms, beautiful open-plan kitchen. Garden and double lock-up carport. R4800 pm. Available 1 Apr. Phone Dave 0729824181.

**"Rondebosch:** Fully furnished 2-roomed garden cottage available June-August 2009. R6500pm including electricity, Satellite TV. Secure parking. Contact: marilyn@jacksoncape.co.za;

0835651880."

**Newlands:** Townhouse in Papenboom Grove comprising lounge/dining area, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloak room, domestic quarters, automated double garage. R12 500 pm. Available 1 June 09. Contact: 0216744740 or 0721293850.

**Rondebosch:** 2 bedroom flat with secure parking walking distance from UCT, Cavendish, Dean Street and Rondebosch shops. R6000. Available from April 2009. Contact: Nicky 0828432765.

**"University Estate:** House for sale 3 beds, kitchen, laundry, lounge & dining rm plus 1/1/2 bathrms. Needs a bit of t.l.c. Contact Mitch: 0216503596 or a/h 0216385018 or 0734605426."

**"Accommodation Needed:** 2nd Year student looking for Digs or Flat near uct. Will be able to move in within a month. Contact Kate 0742565372 or ellkat001@uct.ac.za "

**Mouille Point:** Spacious 1 bed room flat. Unfurnished. Sea and Mountain views. R4500pm. Contact: 0723400613.

**"Rondebosch:** Old Cape Farmhouse with 4 delightful self-contained, furnished apartments available (DSTV & broadband, fireplace, beauty salon. Wkly & monthly rates negotiable. Tel 021 685 1747 or www.ivydene.homestead.com"

**Marina Da Gama** Short-term lease April to June/July 2009 Waterfront apartment patio double storey openplan lounge 2 beds. contact Anne Collins 0827851675

## FOR SALE

**For Sale:** Ladies size 6 HiTech Yosemite hiking boots worn once only. Bargain at R200 Contact Jane at 0845470280.

**"For Sale:** Audi A4 1.8, lots of vooma! 1998 model. Manual, 188,600km. R49000. ABS brakes, airbags, alarm, central locking, aircon, p/steering, electric windows. Contact 0217633781 or thecroft2@iafrica.com"

**"For Sale:** Mazda Etude 1.6, Gold, 2000 model, power steering, air -conditioning, alarm, Mags, Excellent condition, Pioneer sound system, tracker. 182 000 km. R46 500 neg. Contact: 0216505816 or 0733813879 or sms."

**For Sale:** 1.3l Mazda 323 sedan 2001, 60k km, Call Sue 0842900928.

**"For Sale:** 2007 Ford Fiesta 1.4l, Black, 2000km,

aircon, power steering, smash & grab window tints, alarm, airbag, CD player, new tyres, lady owner. Excellent condition R87000 neg. Contact Lisa: 0823345520."

**"For Sale:** Vuka XL 110 2008 model Black . almost new , low mileage. Owner now working in UK Cost R5000. Contact: 0828207840."

**For Sale:** Curtains, Dusky pink, lined, almost new, 16 drops for only R1500; oak dressing table; yellow wood school desk for two; several light fittings. Contact: alexanderp@intekom.co.za or Ext 5602

**"For Sale:** Financial Calculator for Sale. Brand New. Sealed in box. Citizen, FEC-1000. R250. Normally retails for R350. Contact Khalid: 0216503469 or 0824524152."

**"For Sale:** Armchairs, solid woven cane. Two, very huge. With cushions. Sturdy but need some

varnish. R175.00 each onco. Phone 0216505601 or e-mail: Pamela.Snyman@uct.ac.za"

**"For Sale:** 2 x White arm chairs, 1 x 1200 x 750 dining room table white, 1 x Single door fridge and freezer, 1 x Book shelf unit, 1 x Media unit white, 2 x Grecian pictures in white frames, 1x Beautiful french wrought iron table with mirror, 1 x Portable DVD player. The whole lot is yours for R 8500. Contact: 0825227799 or 0214248322."

**"For Sale:** Montrail Ladies trail boot, size 5. colour grey. Worn once only, too small for me. New R575 but asking R430 ono. Contact Sheena: 0214066108."

**For Sale:** Ford Tracer 1,3 hatchback, 2001 colour champagne good tires sport steering wheel 145,000 km Price R24,000 contact Anne Collins 021 788 6309 / Cell 082 785 1675

## GENERAL

**Part-Time Freelancer:** Available for professional minuting of meetings, conferences, etc & transcribing, project and report taking. Contact: Sharon 0842574689 or email sharon084@gmail.com

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**Babysitter:** Responsible mother is willing to look after your kids animals and house good refs pleas eph Nelly 0732814908 S/ Suburbs.

**Honest & reliable domestic** worker available 3 days a week from end April, previous employer moving. Days negotiable. Contact Dr Moragh Paxton 0216502253.

**Employment wanted:** Xoliswa Peters, a capable engaging housekeeper looking for a housekeeping/domestic/ similar position full time. Previous employer left SA, excellent references available. Contact Laura.Czerniewicz@uct.ac.za

**Editing of papers for journal** submission and proofreading/ editing of dissertations by lecturer in social sciences. Barbara.schmid@uct.ac.za.

**"Editor/proofreader** with 25 years' experience will help perfect your thesis and journal writing. Contact louise.mitchell@uct.ac.za or 0216856790."

**"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"

**"Proof reading,** editing of theses and research material offered. 38 years UCT experience. Contact Lesley Jennings at 0215316238 or 0724443910."

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# Seven-day Sahara cooker for ultra-distance cardiologist

HELEN THÉRON

The best training ultra-distance runner Professor Andrzej 'AO' Okreglicki gets is not on the tarmac, but under the glare of lights in the operating theatre.

As a cardiologist (he's a heart rhythm specialist), Okreglicki sometimes operates for eight hours straight, his powers of concentration stretched.

"It's like running the Comrades, except you stand in one spot," he jokes.

Much like surgery, running is a mind game, says the UCT alumnus and acting head of the Division of Cardiology.

In a 161km ultra-marathon, it's the agonising final kilometre that can undo you. The mind is where the race



is finished.

Having signed up for the seven-day, 243km Marathon des Sables in the Moroccan Sahara from 29 March to 4 April, he's aware he'll need mental toughness.

Competitors will run the equivalent of almost six marathons in a week - and they're expected to complete 82km on the fourth day.

"This will be like running a full Comrades in the middle of nowhere," he quips. "You need to be reasonably fit."

Okreglicki ran his first marathon in January 2002, following that with the Comrades in UCT Athletics Club colours. He now has seven Comrades under his belt. In 2006 he clocked up 2 000km in marathons, earning the club's Tarmac Award.

He has competed in the Kalahari, the Rocky Mountains, and the Swiss Alps.

Preparing to operate at Grootte Schuur Hospital, he confesses he's more worried about the rest day when he'll lie in the communal tent, thinking of food.

In the Sahara, participants will run with everything but their daily water allowance on their backs: a mandatory space blanket, flare, mirror, compass, and a suction cup for snake bites, as well as food and clothing.

With a maximum allowance of 15kg, he's anxious about food.

After a thorough study of food



Long haul: This week, cardiologist Prof 'AO' Okreglicki tackles the gruelling seven-day, 243km Marathon des Sables in the Moroccan Sahara. Competitors carry everything except tents and water - on their backs.

labels, his staples include peanut butter, two-minute noodles (boiled up in a Coke tin using fuel pellets), nuts and raisins, full-cream powdered milk, cereal, soya mince, and instant puddings.

"I love dessert."

He's also more concerned about the cold nights - there's little room in the backpack for comfort clothing -

than the 49°C-in-the-shade days.

The heat forces him to slow down, to nurse his resources.

"Otherwise you boil over."

Winning is not what motivates him. Okreglicki is after the money, sponsorship that will increase awareness of life-threatening arrhythmic cardiac events.

He's participating in the Mara-

thon des Sables as co-founder and president of PACE Africa (Prevent Arrhythmic Cardiac Events), aiming to boost their patient support fund and make people aware of the 'silent condition'.

There's also the lure of the Sahara.

"No computers. No calls. No-one can sleep me." **MP**

## Ill wind ends Varsity Cup dream



Upwards: Less-than-solid scrimmaging cost Ikey Tigers plenty of possession and points.

Failure to take full advantage of a bullying southeaster at their backs in the first half of their Varsity Cup semi-final against North West University on 23 March cost UCT Ikey Tigers a place in the final.

UCT hardly let Pukke out of their half of the field, but scored just 12 points - two tries - in the opening 40 minutes. Too many handling errors - sometimes within a whiff of the goal line - and two missed penalties and a conversion didn't help UCT's cause, and the side went into the break with a slender - given the conditions they had to play with - 12-0 lead.

As expected, UCT was pinned down in their

own half soon after the restart. Pukke chipped away at UCT's lead with two penalties, reducing the deficit to six points at 12-6.

That being said, of the two teams the Tigers played the better rugby in the second half, and jacked-up ball management saw them touch down after 18 minutes to stretch their lead to a more comfortable 17-6.

Pukke surged back, though, with a penalty and a goal - did the referee miss a knock-on and a forward pass? - to take the score to 17-16. Another penalty with just three minutes left on the clock gave Pukke the lead for the first time at 17-19.

North West then withstood a late battery of UCT attacks to see them to the final, where they will meet Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch on Monday, 30 March.

"We can't moan about the second-half performance, but our errors cost us," said assistant coach Robbie Fleck after the match. "I feel bad for the guys that they couldn't pull off a second final in a row." **MP**

## SPORT

### ATHLETICS

UCT Athletics Club's Amy Aronson, Megan Dempster, Ineke Nel and Tanya Scott ran the women's team to its fifth successive win at the Men's Health Lighthouse 10 in Green Point, which took place on 4 March. Scott was the third junior runner home on the evening.

### JUDO

All five UCT students who took part in the Western Province Judo Open Championships in early March picked up medals. Nico Louw won the senior men's under-73kg division, in which Rashaad Jakoet and Erick Mulumba finished second and third, respectively. Mikhaila Job brought home silver in the senior ladies event, while Ernest Louw notched up a bronze in the senior men under-81kg division.

### KARATE

The UCT Karate Club walked away with two gold and four bronze medals from the Western Province Championships recently. Both Katharine Louw and Ithumileng Mahqwedi won gold in the senior female kumite. Oarabile Sekgwele and Frederick Steenkamp then brought home bronze in the senior male kumite (75kg), while Thuthuka Tumelo did likewise in the 60kg category. Shandunani Vavani also won bronze for kumite (65kg). All six medal-winning students - UCT sent a team of eight - have been selected for the senior Western Province team to compete at the nationals in August.

### ROWING

Brendon Gliddon, chairperson of the UCT Rowing Club and coach of the men's first squad, has coached the SACS crew to top spot in the eights division at the SA Schools Championships, hosted in Roodepoort, Pretoria, in early-March. This marks the first win for a Western Cape School at the event. Gliddon has suddenly become hot property, and there's talk that Rowing South Africa may want him to take charge of the national junior squad that is to go overseas in June.

### SWIMMING

Hugh Jacobs, chair of the UCT Swimming Club, will manage the WP senior water polo B squad at the national interprovincial championships, taking place in Durban in early-April. No fewer than 14 UCT players will represent WP in its four squads (men and women's A and B sides) taking part. Jacobs also managed the women's A team at the competition last year.

### WATER POLO

The UCT water polo teams have crowned another good summer season - an unbeaten men's squad, the women with only one defeat on their scorecard - with a bunch of provincial caps. Milton Caldis, Adam Kajee, Andrew Ridley and Edward Schmidt were named for the Western Province A team to compete at the annual inter-provincial tournament held in Durban from 2-5 April. Among the women, Laura Barrett, Ondine Julian, Jade Liddel, Fiona Mallet and Lisa Stirrat will also don WP caps at the same event. In addition, a handful of UCT teammates will take to the water for the WP B sides. **MP**