

Monday Paper

Newspaper of the University of Cape Town



25 May - 14 June 2009

Volume 28#08

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

New programme to PERC up research

Call for grant applications in Carnegie-funded African research project

The Research Office has launched an innovative, university-wide programme to promote research capacity, as part of a Carnegie-funded project to further institutional transformation.

Under the banner Programme for Enhancement of Research Capacity (PERC), the broad aim is to stimulate research that will produce new knowledge that is pertinent to the university's position in South Africa, the continent, and the world.

The three-year pilot project will build on the work of the Emerging Researchers Programme. Importantly, it will also promote locally-grown knowledge paradigms that will ultimately shift scholarship from Eurocentric to African models, while recognising that African experiences are multiple in different parts of the continent and the Diaspora.

As such, the project is linked to three of Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price's seven strategic objectives, namely transformation, research and Afropolitanism.

"Tied as we are to the theoretical and cultural voice of the north, many of our researchers doubt the value of what they do," said deputy vice-chancellor for research, Professor Danie Visser.

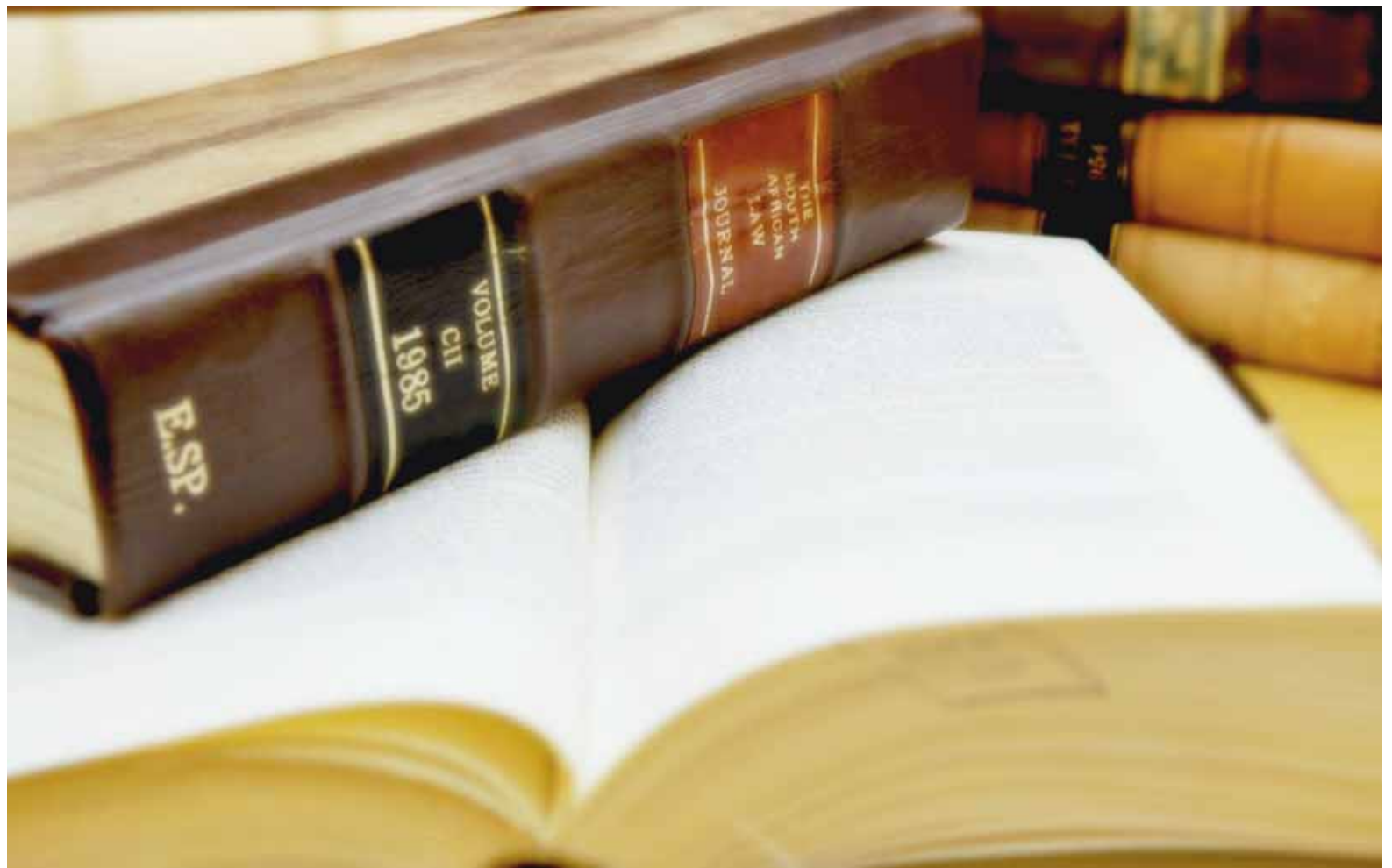
"This is a colonial and an apartheid complex. There is probably no greater block to the production of appropriate, cutting-edge research on the continent than this self-induced censorship."

First call for grants

The Research Office has launched a first call for PERC grants related to the programme's knowledge project.

Two donor-funded grants of R150 000 each will be made twice this year.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that their research contributes to the knowledge project (meta-project), within their fields, as



described above.

Collaborative projects and diversity of backgrounds within the group's participants will be advantageous, as will cross-disciplinary research that capitalises on UCT's location in Africa.

Successful applicants are expected to produce an edited book, or a special journal issue, or at least five articles in accredited journals.

They should also show how postgraduate students or postdoctoral fellows are involved in their research project.

Applicants are expected to present at least two workshops in the Research Office, open to participants across campus.

They may also apply for a wide range of support, including travel and conference fares, research assistance, editorial input, workshop organisation, and invitations to distinguished visitors. This support does not include materials or equipment.

Applications should be accompanied by as much supporting evidence as possible.

Other PERC initiatives

PERC offers a number of initiatives encouraging researchers to contribute to Africa-based knowledge. Included are:

- support for the formation of collaborative groups of scholars from diverse backgrounds;

- support for groups working across discipline boundaries;
- workshops to help researchers find their writing voices; and
- assistance with National Research Foundation ratings, particularly the self-assessment exercise.

Drawing on the mentorship of senior academics, PERC has already run workshops and seminars on the self-assessment exercise, the cross-disciplinary research aspect, the nature of rigour in qualitative research methodology, research management and organisation, and the creative relationship between qualitative and quantitative research, and a residential writing retreat to encourage researchers to publish papers, chapters

and conference presentations not yet completed.

PERC will also run a full-day workshop on the nature of working at this 'meta level' of knowledge production. This will be held on 2 June from 09h00 to 16h00 at the Research Office.

Closing date

The closing date for grant applications is 29 June. Prior to application, queries may be directed to Professor Brenda Cooper at Brenda.Cooper@uct.ac.za.

Cooper will run a seminar for potential applicants in the Research Office on 1 June, from 12h30 to 14h30. **MP**



Plaatjies takes Xhosa music to the world

Neo-traditional African musician Dizu Plaatjies took the Best Independent Africa Album award at the 15th South African Music Awards (SAMA) at Sun City on 2 May.

Plaatjies, head of African Music at the South African College of Music, scooped the award with his group, the Ibuyambo Ensemble, for the album *African Kings*, an original blend of traditional melodies using hand-made African instruments, together with acoustic guitar. The tracks were produced in a contemporary style, featuring

voices, drums and percussion as the leading elements.

Plaatjies recorded the new album as a follow-up to his debut solo project, *Ibuyambo*. He is a founder member of the successful group Amampondo, and was their leader and front man for over 15 years.

The winning album was launched at a concert in Paris. Plaatjies' ensemble begin touring France this month, including an appearance at the *Festival Jazz Sous Les Pommiers* in Coutances, France.

"It is really great to win in my category as there is so much competition. Actually, there is no real place for Xhosa music, so we are lumped together with talented musicians who are not neo-traditional. I was especially happy when other nominees said they were proud of the award and me. It is a great album and my band worked very hard to make it that way."

For further information, go to www.new-music-publishing.eu or email info@mountain-records.com. **MP**

Recession: You feeling it too?

DANIELLA POLLOCK

Of the 2 500 people surveyed in Project Reboot, conducted by the UCT Unilever Institute of Strategic Marketing, 60% say they are worried about the future, and their fear is fuelling a considerable change in their buying behaviour. As this economic downturn gains momentum, "it can no longer be 'business as usual'," warns institute director, Professor John Simpson.

Simpson was commenting on the



study conducted by the institute and their research partners Bateleur Khanya Research Solutions on the impact of the recession on local consumer behaviour.

The survey is the largest of its kind ever carried out in South Africa in the grip of recession.

With many already on a shoestring budget, there is now the added pressure of mounting economic uncertainty, unrelentingly high food prices and the overall effects of the 'Big

Squeeze'. But how do people feel and react?

The majority, 76%, said they are now more cautious when spending, 50% are worried about losing their jobs, 65% plan shopping more carefully and 33% say the recession is putting a strain on their personal relationships.

While 78% of participants claim their personal income has not fallen in the past six months, an almost equal number of participants believe the

economic situation will worsen.

The research team believes their findings will help business and industry navigate these times effectively.

"It is time to sit up and really listen to what your client base is telling you about why and how their lifestyle priorities have shifted," Simpson said. "We believe this time to be a watershed moment for local business and marketers, as the ramifications of this recession will be felt a long, long time after they fade from memory." **MP**

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

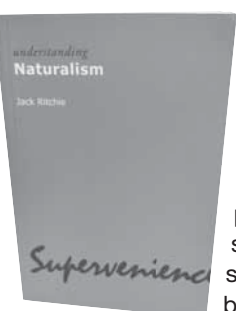
Paul Smit's love of the Scottish philosopher, economist and historian David Hume has won him the 2008 Keswick Prize for Lucidity. In his 4 000-word essay, *Of Hume and tragedy: the controversies of conversion and other tales*, Smit showed that, "contrary to the claims of some of Hume's critics, his theory of tragic pleasure is perfectly consistent with his earlier writings in *The Treatise*". The Keswick Prize is awarded to a third- or fourth-year student in any technical field for writing the most lucid essay.

UCT student band Ological Studies is one of three bands on Artscape's 2009 Young Jazz Band Mentorship Programme. With the focus firmly on development and education, master classes are conducted by well-known local jazz icons who also form the judging panel. The project was initiated by Artscape in 2003 to recognise raw talent, particularly in Cape Town, where there is a jazz tradition. The programme culminates in the Artscape Youth Jazz Festival on 6 June.

Anabelle Marie, a master's student in the French section of the School of Languages and Literatures, and Sarah Townsend, who is currently doing a gap year in Mauritius, have won much-acclaimed Erasmus Mundus Scholarships. This European Union initiative promotes partnerships between universities in the EU and Third World countries. Only 26 scholarships are awarded worldwide.

UCT law researchers Aifheli Tshivhase and Admark Moyo are the 2009 recipients of the Fox International Fellowship at Yale University in the US for the 2009/2010 academic year. Both awardees have been officially admitted to the Yale Graduate School as visiting affiliated research students in the Division of Special Registration for Non-Degree Study. The award includes all expenses such as travel, accommodation and a monthly allowance.

Philosophers who call themselves naturalists want to make philosophy more scientific. But the big problem with a lot of 'naturalised' philosophy is that philosophers have simplistic views about the methods of science and the significance of scientific results, UCT scholar and philoso-



pher Dr Jack Ritchie argues in his new book, *Understanding Naturalism*. "The general idea of naturalism, that philosophers should learn from science, is good, but it has not been carried out properly," Ritchie says.

The Students' Representative Council hosted its annual Academic Awareness Fortnight to raise awareness about academic matters and to spotlight resources available to students at UCT. Using the slogan, *How much do you know about UCT? Come and find out*, the two-week event, which started on 28 April, introduced students to representatives of resource centres such as the libraries, the Disability Service and the sports centre.



UCT's student newspaper, Varsity, launched its website (www.varsitynewspaper.co.za) on 5 May to make the newspaper easily accessible to a wider range of readers. Varsity's deputy editor, Zerene Haddad, said the fortnightly publication prints only 6 000 copies of each edition. "But our readership is much higher than that." A census a few years ago showed that the paper had about 15 000 readers. The site resembles a blogsite more than a website, with readers able to comment on articles and communicate directly with each other and with staff writers. It is updated every fortnight, when the relevant edition of Varsity is uploaded.

Moto Mabuselele, a PhD student in the Department of Botany, has won the best poster presentation award at the seventh annual Savanna Science Network Meeting, held at the Kruger National Park in April. This is arguably the top savannah ecology meeting

in Africa, with all the participants doing research in the Kruger and other South African national parks. Mabuselele's poster was titled *Vegetation Changes (1961-2009) Along an Aridity Gradient in the Eastern Karoo and Southern Free State Grasslands*.

The Graduate School of Business has been named the ninth best business school in the world in the field of economics, according to the *Financial Times*. It is the fifth consecutive year that the GSB has featured in the *Times* rankings and it holds the same spot in the ranking overall as it did last year (71st). The GSB's full-time MBA programme was ranked as the best value for money MBA in the world, and remains the only business school in Africa in the top 100.

The Centre for Higher Education Transformation (CHET) is running a survey on students' attitudes towards democracy and governance. During the month of May, 400 students (mainly third-years, but across all disciplines) and student leaders from three African universities – UCT, University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and Nairobi University, Kenya – will participate. The study will gauge the general contribution of university education, as well as the contribution of active political involvement, to students' awareness of politics and government and the demand for democracy, among other things.

Improving conditions at rural hospitals and supporting high school learners in rural areas were the focus of the Faculty of Health Sciences' Rural Support Network (RSN) raffle. The raffle raised R5 232 towards stationery for 30 learners: scientific calculators, dictionaries, maths sets and pens. Funds will also go towards the purchase of toys for the paediatric ward at Isilimela Hospital, and extra hospital beds for Holy Cross Hospital, both in the Eastern Cape, and Emmaus Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal.

Supreme Court of Appeals (SCA) Judge Ian Farlam and former education minister Kadar Asmal are among four new honorary professors in the Faculty of Law. They join Professor Muna Ndulo of Cornell University, New York, and Dr Manfred Weiss of Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

Students at the Faculty of Commerce have launched a new magazine, *Student.com*, in partnership with Nedbank Private Bank. The magazine, edited by final-year student Katekani Baloyi, is intended as a tool for the university to showcase the faculty and attract talented matriculants to the various commerce programmes.

Baxter Theatre-goers got a chance to tune into a jolly vibe on 13 May when UCT Radio hosted its biggest variety show of the year – aptly named The Vibe Show. The show got its name from the UCT Radio comedy show, Vibe Show, jockeyed by DJs Al Postman and Pags, who were also the night's MCs. This annual affair showcases local performers across comedic, dance, vocal and poetic genres. "It was great fun", said Pags.

Thirteen international experts presented their research findings to 41 invited participants at a tuberculosis meningitis (TBM) workshop hosted by UCT's Clinical Infectious Diseases Research Initiative from 8-10 May. The workshop aimed to tackle questions of the pathology, clinical features and management of TBM, a devastating form of TB that can result in death and disability in many patients. Prominent speakers included Professors Johan Schoeman and Peter Donald of the Department of Paediatrics, Stellenbosch University.



The South African Women in Engineering subdivision, GirlEng, hosted a workshop at UCT on 16 May for girls from seven high schools around Cape Town. Fifty-six budding engineers braved the wet weather for an opportunity to meet with representatives from giants such as BHP Billiton, Unilever and Sasol. The girls also got a chance to meet the 12-strong GirlEng Western Cape team, all engineering students, who offered guidance on vocation choice, applications, bursaries and financial aid. "For some of the learners who live in Khayelitsha or Langa, this may well be the first connection and first step towards UCT," said GirlEng's Wiebke Toussaint. **MP**

NOTICE

Professor Lucy Gilson of the School of Public Health and Family Medicine delivers her inaugural lecture *Providers, Patients and Power: Why trusting relationships matter to health systems*, on 27 May at 17h30. Gilson's primary research interests include concerns for equity in health and health care, health care financing, organisation, management and policy change. She has played a leading role in developing the field of health policy analysis, and currently manages a continental initiative to strengthen training in this field. In addition, as co-ordinator of the UCT Oliver Tambo Fellowship programme, she is supporting the development of South African public health leaders. The lecture takes place in the Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Modern-day Hamlet at Little Theatre

UCT's Drama Department, in association with Yawazzi Theatre Productions, is staging an adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at the Little Theatre from 16 to 30 May. For *Hamlet*, the department, together with the third-year drama students, has teamed up with Sanjin Mufti (director) and Jon Keevy (designer) from Yawazzi. Mufti and Keevy, both UCT master's graduates, set up Yawazzi and have already made their names as leading artists in multimedia theatre in Cape Town. *Hamlet* promises audiences a spectacular visual and oral journey in search of 'the Hamlet within'. The adaptation, working on the idea of multiple Hamlets, tells of inner conflict, power struggles, critical choices, and ultimately, consequence. It's still Shakespeare, but Shakespeare redefined for our time. Contact the Little Theatre at 021 480 7128 or 084 395 8381 for bookings and more information.

Scientist among the best in Africa

Dr Andrea Rother of the School of Public Health has won second prize in the prestigious Young Professionals and Women in Science Competitions, aimed at African researchers.

The competition is organised by a consortium of science and development agencies, including the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The competition recognises young professionals and women scientists who are conducting innovative and pioneering research, and who communicate the outputs



Reaching out: Dr Andrea Rother, second from left, with fellow winners at the finals of the Women in Science Competition held in Addis Ababa.

of their work to improve agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of rural communities.

Rother took second place in the Women in Science category for her paper, *Pesticide Risk Reduction Strategies for Vulnerable African Populations through Regulatory Capacity Building and Gender Appropriate Risk Communication Strategies*. Pretty much in keeping with her research in the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit in the School of Public Health, where she looks at issues such as risk communication, risk perception, risk management and health literacy issues related to public health, safety,

and chemical management (with a particular focus on pesticides), especially in Africa.

Her paper was initially short-listed from a pool of 258 abstracts. The 10 finalists in the section then presented their papers at an event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April.

"This is a great honour and a fantastic achievement," said Professor Leslie London, director of the School of Public Health, of Rother's award. "It reflects lots of hard work on Andrea's part building links in Africa, and should encourage us all to keep pursuing social responsiveness, particularly in engaging with African issues, in our work." **MP**

Van Heerden keeps on winning



Master craftsman: Prof Etienne van Heerden's novel, *30 Nagte in Amsterdam*, has won the University of Johannesburg Creative Writing in Afrikaans award.

Professor Etienne van Heerden (School of Languages and Literatures) is the winner of the 2008 University of Johannesburg Creative Writing in Afrikaans prize for his novel, *30 Nagte in Amsterdam*.

Previous winners include UCT honorary professor and research associate André P Brink (2005), and other literary luminaries such as Breyten Breytenbach (2007) and Antjie Krog (2000).

This is the ninth year that the prize has been awarded.

The book has also been short-listed for the 2009 M-Net Literary Award, an accolade Van Heerden won last year for his work *Asbesmiddag*.

30 Nagte in Amsterdam, a pacy novel about inheritance and discovery, was chosen from five short-listed works, which included a biography, two novels and an anthology of poetry. The judges praised Van Heerden's impeccable craftsmanship.

The prize carries a purse of R60 000. **MP**



Map pinpoints access routes for wheelchairs

HELEN THÉRON

A new map launched by the Disability Service on 13 May will make access to the upper campus and its facilities easier for people in wheelchairs.

The map shows wheelchair routes to buildings and plots easy-access paths to amenities and roads. It also identifies the 52 parking bays for disabled drivers.

Of particular value are the notes on access limitations and the cautionary tips for wheelchair users, for example, alerting them to 'hotspots' on campus where there are no pavements and where there is heavy vehicular traffic.

The map is the result of careful planning and numerous recesses of the upper campus by Edwina Konghot (barrier-free access co-ordinator) and her colleagues.

They built the new map on the existing one of upper campus, noting new buildings, doors, ramps and lifts.

"We discovered lifts and disabled toilets in the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library that we didn't know existed," said Konghot.

There were other surprises, like



the door marked Disabled Toilet that turned out to be a front for a broom cupboard!

Given 18 months to complete the map, Konghot and her colleagues wrapped up the project in just eight months.

Next up is a map of the health sciences campus.

The time allocation is two years,

taking into account the convoluted nature of this campus and its interconnected buildings and facilities.

But Konghot, eyeing her walking shoes, hopes to complete the task in half the time.

(Copies of the upper campus map are available free from the Disability Service. To order, please phone 021 650 2427.) **MP**

New milestone for SA libraries

A recent school infrastructure audit conducted in Khayelitsha found that only three out of 54 schools in Khayelitsha have functioning school libraries.

This was one of the disturbing findings of Equal Education, a project recently undertaken by Associate Professors Mary Nassimbeni and Karin de Jager of UCT's Centre for Information Literacy.

Thankfully, the Library and Information Services Transformation Charter, commissioned by the Minister of Arts and Culture, and featuring contributions by De Jager

and Nassimbeni, is set to mark a new era of expansion, development and transformation of library services (LIS) in South Africa.

The team set out to define the challenges facing the LIS sector and to provide solutions for change, ultimately building an informed and reading nation. The charter's fifth draft, which includes an eight-point transformation programme, was recently approved by the Minister of Arts and Culture. It will now be presented to the members of the executive committee responsible for LIS, as well as to portfolio committees in Parliament.

The team responsible for drafting the charter also included Associate Professor Genevieve Hart of the University of the Western Cape and Professor Archie Dick of the University of Pretoria, both of whom gained their PhDs in LIS at UCT. The team was chaired by Professor Muxe Nkondo, chair of the Board of the National Library of South Africa.

"This report is an important milestone for South African libraries," says Nassimbeni. "The Centre for Information Literacy has already started to incorporate the ideas and findings into its teachings and research." **MP**



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

THE ZUMA JUDGEMENT: JUSTICE OR TRAVESTY?

CHAIR

Professor Dennis Davis

Judge President of the Competition Appeal Court of South Africa
and Justice of the High Court of South Africa

SPEAKER

Professor David Unterhalter

Wits Law School, Johannesburg

Dr Paul Ngobeni

Deputy Registrar,
University of Cape Town

Date: Monday 1 June 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

Tel: (021) 689-1005 • Fax: (021) 689-1003

Website: www.ccr.org.za

All are welcome and entry is free.



Celebrating UCT's African connections

UCT will use Africa Day on 25 May as an occasion to showcase its significant research and academic collaborations with partners throughout Africa. *Monday Paper* spoke to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo about the university's renewed African thrust.

What is the rationale behind the Vice-Chancellor's vision to grow UCT's engagement with the rest of the African continent?

UCT, by virtue of its location and its relatively long history, is admirably placed to build on its sterling reputation as an African institution to

African and international university committed to excellence, and builds on them. It signals UCT's connectedness to the continent and globally, and emphasises its unique expertise on issues facing the continent, combined, with an open, assertive engagement with the world from the standpoint of Africa.

How successful has the university been in building African partnerships?

UCT has established a wide network in Africa over the years. The academic exhibition and panel discussion that will take place today will

exhibition will be an eye-opener for many people on this). Examples that come to mind include: the Percy Fitzpatrick African Institute of Ornithology; the Marine Research Institute; the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme; as well as the African Gender Institute, and the Centre for Contemporary Islam in South Africa. The Universities Science, Law, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA), which features seven partners, continues to be a core initiative of capacity-building in Africa. These are only some – the tip of the iceberg as it were – of the myriad African partnerships enjoyed by UCT's academics.

How does this African thrust tie-in with the Internationalisation initiative?

Internationalisation has been on the go at UCT for over a decade, and the two concepts complement each other in many ways. Mainly, they both seek to insert UCT into networks outside South Africa's borders. By forging strategic alliances and partnerships, both in Africa and globally, both initiatives raise UCT's profile and connectedness, which are essential prerequisites for a future role as a centre of international and African scholarship. There are knock-on effects to this, including the fact that, in line with global trends in donor funding, UCT's positioning as a portal between the global north and global south will attract funding for research, student and staff exchanges, as well as regional and continental capacity-building initiatives.

How does this African vision align with the other UCT strategic themes such as transformation, research, and teaching and learning?

One of the clear benefits of this vision is its applicability to all the other aspects of UCT's forward strategy. It articulates well with transformation, not only in their shared interest in enhancing diver-



sity and improving the institutional climate, but also in the transformative value of the vision itself. The vision will help to offer direction to the research energies of UCT academics at staff and graduate level, and this will inevitably lead to an Africa-rich curriculum across the board. As this vision unfolds, its impact will be felt in the classroom in many other ways, including the visibility of African visiting scholars and postdoctoral researchers, and eminent Africanists from all over the world.

How would you respond to the concern that these efforts by UCT may be seen as just another example of South African "expansionism"?

One has heard these concerns expressed and, to my mind, they are understandable. We must guard against any kind of behaviour that assumes a role for UCT as anything but an equal partner and collaborator, pursuing mutual interests. But I am pretty certain that we are up to the task. Experiences in partnerships such as USHEPiA have convinced many of us of the mutual benefits of such ventures: they are invariably two-way streets, where everybody learns as much as they share. One just needs to be cautious and respectful. For a start, one needs to think carefully before using words like "footprint" in describing UCT's presence abroad. **MP**

YIZANI SIZOKONWABELA OLUSUKU SONKE • KOM HERDENK DIE DAG SAAM

AFRICA DAY @ UCT

Monday 25 May 2009

Celebrating the founding of the OAU in 1963 and UCT's significant collaborations with existing, and new African partners

Friday 22 May
18:00-20:00 Students' Celebration Dinner
 Muthy Blackburn Hall
 RSVP Announcements at 021 650 3539

17:00 EBE Postgraduate Cultural Evening
 Junction Hall
 Food to be available
 Contact: hlophweni@hlophweni@uct.ac.za

Monday 25 May
11:00-14:30 Poetry reading, Musical Performances, Art Workshop & Exhibition
 Centre for African Studies
 Contact: Dale on 083 265 2199

16:00 Informal Panel Discussion
 with Dr Wilson, Prof Mackay, Dr Mhlongo, Prof Sibber and Prof Fischer
 Chaired by Prof Nhlapo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

17:00 Official Opening: Africa Day Exhibition and Cocktail Function
 Leslie Social Sciences Building
 RSVP's only. Contact: eduhlon.kansameyer@uct.ac.za

17:30 Africa Day Address
 Leslie Social Sciences Building
 Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor

Monday 25 May - Fri 29 May
All Day Poster Exhibition of a collection of UCT's African Academic Links in Leslie Social Sciences

African Dress for Africa Day for all

become a sought-after destination and partner for Africa-generated knowledge and expertise. UCT academics already enjoy significant collaborations in sister universities across the continent, and the beauty of the Vice-Chancellor's vision is that it builds nicely on these foundations. It aims to establish UCT as an exciting place to live and work, attracting high-profile scholars from all corners of the globe.

How is this vision different from UCT's existing mission to be a world-class African university?

The Afropolitan vision is not really different; it simply recognises past efforts that have led to the enviable reputation that UCT enjoys as an

show that there is already significant activity between UCT and many African partners. We are also hoping to encourage the university community to consider ways of deepening these relationships and to seek others, all with the aim of moving closer to our aspiration to become a recognised centre of knowledge on Africa.

Can you give some examples of linkages that already exist between UCT and its African partners?

There is a very wide spread of types of partnerships and collaborations, varying in size, scope, geographical location and disciplinary focus. (The IAPO display at the

Swine flu: Facts and advice

While the media hullabaloo around swine flu has all but disappeared in the wake of various political fracas, Dr Corinne Landon, Principal Medical Officer (Student Wellness), issued these pithy facts about H1N1.

What is swine influenza?

It is a highly contagious, acute respiratory disease of pigs, most commonly the H1N1 subtype, although there are other subtypes. Although swine influenza viruses are normally species-specific, they can sometimes cross the species barrier and cause disease in humans.

Countries affected:

- Mexico
- US
- Canada
- Spain
- Scotland (suspected)
- New Zealand

How do people become infected?

People usually get swine influenza from infected pigs but human-to-human transmission has occurred in some instances but is limited to close contacts and closed groups of people.

Is it safe to eat pork and pork products?

Yes. The virus is killed by cooking temperatures above 70 deg C.

Is there a vaccine?

There is no vaccine and it is not known if the current human seasonal influenza vaccine can provide protection.

What drugs are available?

Most of the patients recover fully without requiring any medical attention or anti-viral medication. Some of the viruses are resistant to anti-viral medication but the recent

human cases of swine influenza in the US are sensitive to Oseltamivir (Tamiflu).

How can I protect myself?

Most current human infections have been mild and medical intervention has not been required.

To protect yourself, you should follow the general preventative measures for any influenza:

- Avoid close contact with people who appear unwell and have a fever and cough
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Practise good health habits, including adequate sleep, nutritious food and keeping physically active.

If there is an ill person at home try to isolate them.

- If this is not practical, keep the patient at least one metre from others
- Cover noses and mouths. Wear a

mask, if you have one

- Wash your hands with soap and water
- Improve air flow by opening windows and doors
- Keep the environment clean with household cleaning agents.

If you have a high fever, cough and/or sore throat

- stay at home. Keep away from work, schools or crowded areas
- rest and drink plenty of fluids
- cover your mouth and nose with tissues when coughing and sneezing and dispose of used tissues properly
- wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- contact your health professional if symptoms increase or your condition deteriorates.

(Adapted from the World Health Organisation Swine Influenza FAQ www.who.org). **MP**

Grad story plea

Argh! That's the sound of a *Monday Paper* writer at a June graduation ceremony on learning that a great story has slipped the net. Someone will have produced a really topical PhD thesis, but no-one will notify us and the special grad edition of *Monday Paper* will miss it! Don't let this happen. Please let us have leads for all those great grad stories in your department: siblings being capped together, parents capping their kids, kids capping their parents, octogenarians getting their first degrees, groundbreaking research, and heart-warming stories of students who overcame the odds to be able to graduate. Please pass on your leads to Helen Theron, email Helen.Theron@uct.ac.za, by 2 June.

First human trial of UCT's HIV vaccine

Researchers from UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) have announced that their two new preventative HIV vaccines have reached the first stage of human clinical trials, a first for Africa.

This trial, called SAAVI 102/HVTN 073, is also a milestone for South Africa. The country is one of the few developing nations to have developed an HIV vaccine and put it forward for human clinical trials.

Professor Anna-Lise Williamson is leader of the team at the IIDMM.

The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, based at the IIDMM, is one of three sites in the world that will conduct the trials. The others sites are in Johannesburg and Boston in the US.

These vaccines are the culmination of eight years of research by scientists at the IIDMM, UCT, and collaborators from the US National Institutes of Health and the Vaccine Research Centre.

Their development and testing has been underpinned by funding from the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) and the US



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

"There is still a long way to go

before we will know if these products will be successful in preventing HIV infection," said SAAVI's

interim director, Elise Levendal.

The initial human trial is being conducted jointly with the HIV

Vaccine Trials Network and the NIAID, part of the US National Institutes of Health.

The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre has conducted HIV vaccine research for over seven years and launched a dedicated Vaccine Clinical Trials Unit, called the Emavundleni Centre, in Crossroads in 2005.

The study, which commenced in Boston in February 2009, will enrol a small number of HIV-negative participants, considered to be at low risk for HIV-acquisition, to test the tolerability, safety, and side effects of the vaccine.

The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre's site will recruit 18 volunteers for the trial, which will commence in the next few months.

Principle investigator for the site, Dr Linda-Gail Bekker, said: "We are honoured to be one of the clinical sites testing this African HIV vaccine and proud to be part of the bigger research team who are, through this work, moving closer to a safe, effective, preventive HIV vaccine." ^{MP}

Crucial balance between progress and responsibility



HELEN THÉRON

In the 21st century, the place and value of modern biotechnology runs alongside a crucial debate on the risks attached to and ownership of advances in the field, Professor Julian Kinderlerer said in his inaugural lecture, *Globalisation, Intellectual Property and Biotechnology*.

Kinderlerer, a UCT alumnus, heads the Intellectual Property Law Research Unit in the Department of Private Law.

"We are able to manipulate genes to create new organisms within organisms without a full understanding of the impact of our manipulations on the organisms or on the environment in which we place them," he said.

But within these developments lay unknowns that could cause untold harm to established systems, people, and the environment.

"Issues of what risks are acceptable, and in what circumstances and by whom they should be taken, run throughout the debate about the place and value of modern biotechnology."

In the 21st century, patenting activity had also shifted from industrial knowledge to 'basic knowledge' so that many new fields had become patentable.

And although there had been an "incredible" rise in patenting and intellectual property (IP) rights worldwide in the past 50 years, South Africa and the developing nations have lagged alarmingly. South Africa's patent record had remained relatively static since 1985.

For example, while patent grants

recorded by the US Patent Office had shot from 400 000 in 1985 to around 750 000 in 2005, in South Africa 'first inventor' patents hovered around a paltry 85 in 2005.

And while globalisation had fuelled technological change, it was without a commensurate understanding of this change.

"While we use knowledge of biology to produce new products inconceivable only decades ago, we do not have a full understanding of the science that lies behind our new products.

Kinderlerer said the challenge is to make sense of the change and to understand and make the right decisions for the future.

"We need to ask whether the system, as it has evolved, is providing society with the incentive to innovate rather than simply providing investors and their companies with financial gain and a 'currency' with which to trade across national borders."

Kinderlerer is not convinced that intellectual property in a "pro-patent era" would benefit rich and poor.

"It remains to be seen whether a single IP regime can solve the problems of competing demands from the developing and developed worlds, the rights of companies against the rights of society, the march of technology versus concern for the rights of humanity."

Though he agreed that biotechnology could address some of the world's problems, a social contract should be drawn up between "scientists who are able to innovate, the companies who control the intellectual property, and the people who

may benefit".

"Benefits must be clear, risks must be enunciated and people given the opportunity to balance the risks to the benefits."

(Kinderlerer and Eve Gray, an Honorary Research Associate in the Centre for Educational Technology,

have penned an article, *Research for Development in South Africa – Collaborative Research or Research for Sale?*, about the regulations for the IPR Act of 2008. For the full article, look for the link on the electronic *Monday Paper* site at www.uct.ac.za/mondaypaper/. ^{MP}



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Technology and rights: Prof Julian Kinderlerer delivered his inaugural lecture, *Globalisation, Intellectual Property and Biotechnology*, on 13 May.

A DAY IN THE LIFE *of Traffic Administration and Traffic Court*

What's the unit look like?

The unit falls under the Department of Properties and Services, and is made up of four sections – traffic administration, transport, law enforcement and the Visitors' Reception Information Centre. The unit is led by traffic and transport manager Roland September, assisted by Bruce Jansen. Team members in the traffic administration section include traffic administrators June Reeler, Irene Biccard and Rugshana Jansen, as well as presiding officer Edgar Kanne-meyer. The transport section is led by supervisor Shanaaz Wilson, and team members are transport monitor Derrick Muller and transport clerk Alecia Arendse. The law enforcement section is made up of supervisor Harry Fisher and wardens Sheldon Bennett, Toyhira Davids, Ronnie Mouton, Leon Peregrino, Astor Petersen, Desmond Simpson, John Stoffels, Andile Walaza, Dennis Wellman and Barry Williams. The Visitors' Reception Information Centre is staffed by Delta Jara and Joanne Francis.

What does the unit do on a day-to-day basis?

The Visitors' Reception Information Centre is the visitor's entry point to UCT's upper campus, as well as for staff and students looking for directions. The law enforcement members don't only issue tickets

to offenders, but also help combat crime on campus, in conjunction with Campus Protection Services. They also assist stranded motorists. Traffic administrators do the data-capturing of tickets, and issue notices to alleged offenders. The presiding officer deals with disputes over fines and offences, and the transport section ensures that transportation, such as the running of the Jammie Shuttle buses, operates smoothly.

What are the challenges facing the unit?

The main issue on campus is, no surprise, the lack of parking. Parking is so limited that staff and students, as well as visitors, vent their frustrations on officers.

What are the best and worst moments of the job?

Officers in this unit often take flak from upset staff, students and visitors who can't find parking. Otherwise the job is rewarding. "Often people appreciate what we do and phone or send us emails, thanking us," Jansen says. And luckily, accidents are few and far between on campus.

What is the weirdest thing you have encountered?

A wandering baboon troop caught everyone by surprise last year.



(From right) Traffic administration's June Reeler, Bruce Jansen, Roland September, Rugshana Jansen and Irene Biccard.



Traffic officers Toyhira Davids and Andile Walaza check for parking violators.

Appointments

Rene Francke took office as senior secretary in the Department of Public Law on 1 May. Francke had been a temp office assistant in the Office of the Deputy Registrar: Legal Services & Secretariat before then. Outside of work, she keeps herself entertained with books, cinema, and family and friends.



Janine Isaacs joined the



Faculty of Law's faculty office as administrative assistant on 1 May. Prior to this, she'd been with the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment. She loves to socialise with friends and family.

Vathiswa Mzamo also joined the Faculty of Law as administrative

officer on 1 May, moving from the Faculty of Humanities' undergraduate office. What keeps her busy/entertained outside of work? Family, she says succinctly.



Patricia Phillips has been appointed as senior faculty officer in the Faculty of Law's faculty office, and started on 1 May.

Prior to this, Phillips had been postgraduate officer in the Faculty of Science. She loves reading and has been plugging away at



her own best-seller for the past 20 years. She is annoyed by barriers to transformation created by those responsible for implementing it. **MP**

Memorial flame burns brightly

HELEN THÉRON

UCT marked the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial at a concert on 14 May, earlier than the official commemoration on 17 May. Rising star Nomfusi took centre stage with her own HIV/AIDS message, opening with a song written for her mother, whom she lost to AIDS when she was 12. Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo called on the UCT community to think more deeply about their roles in creating an environment where HIV-positive students and staff "will feel equal in a safe space". Students' Representative Council president, Chris Ryall, said student activism around HIV/AIDS should be the issue on campus. "HIV and AIDS are as much about social justice and transformation as anything else."



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Congratulations



And here's a picture of the nuptials of Dr Anita Schwegmann of the Division of Immunology and her beau, Nic Mavradinova. The couple tied the knot in March. The division wishes them "all the wedded bliss that they can muster".

Viljoen eyes national fencing title



Poised: UCT fencer Jacques Viljoen took the men's foil title at the Western Province championships and is aiming at the national senior title.

HELEN THÉRON

Top-ranked South African fencer Jacques Viljoen sees himself as an athlete and strategist. Both are important components in this modern sport rooted in 12th-century Europe.

But tradition, athleticism and tactics aside, there's a hugely enjoyable aspect to fencing in the 21st century.

"I have to admit, what could be cooler than sword fighting?" Viljoen asks.

Vice-president of the UCT Fencing Club and chairperson of University Sport South Africa (USSA) fencing, Viljoen underscored his standing again on 10 May, winning the men's foil title at the Western Province championships at the UCT Sports Centre.

Viljoen is the country's top-ranked male foil fencer and has been for some years – except in 2007, when he took a gap year and fenced professionally in Europe, competing on the world junior circuit.

Nationally, the second-year fine-arts student has won many age group championships and most of

the senior opens on the national circuit. But he has his sights set on bigger things. Last year he was placed second at the Senior National Championships in Pretoria.

"I hope to go one better this year and take the title at the SA nationals. I consider my best results to be those from international or foreign domestic competitions. I medalled and won a number of British tournaments, which include a second place at Cambridge earlier this year."

Last year Viljoen bagged the UCT sports award for best first year, "quite an honour".

Joint third at the provincial championships was UCT's Yasmin Henkel, who also won the Women's Foil on 9 May. (A WP fencing rule allows the top-ranked woman fencer to compete in the men's event.)

"Yasmin beat many experienced men fencers to make the semi-final, possibly her best result yet," said Viljoen.

Club president Michael Malahe was placed third in the men's épée.

UCT will host the 2009 Senior National Championships on 13 and 14 June, followed by the USSA Fencing Championships from 19 to 23 June. **MP**

100-mile warriors



DANIELLA POLLOCK

On 2 May, 21 extreme marathoners set out on a mission to conquer 100 miles of rugged terrain. Of the twelve finishers, two of the top three were from UCT.

William Robinson, a postgraduate student in the mathematics department, finished second (19:51) and cardiologist Professor Andrzej 'AO' Okreglicki finished third (23:06). They were running the 5th Addo 100 Miler, South Africa's only 100-mile trail run, in the Addo Elephant National Park.

"Yes, one hundred miles is a long way," said first-timer Robinson. This was double the length of his previous longest trail run. Okreglicki, on the other hand, has run every one, and won it too, in 2007.

The 100-mile race, equal to almost four marathons, with 19 check points, 8 to 11km apart, is not for the faint-hearted. At 06h00 on Saturday runners started their trek through some winding passes, sidestepping rocks in their way, to complete the course by Sunday – in less than 24 hours.

"The sun rose, the sun set; the moon rose, the moon set," Robinson said.

But completing such an iconic race is worth the effort. After all, this is about going for a run "miles away from the urban hum of traffic and people and enjoying the bushveld serenity of one of South Africa's biggest national parks".

Slow and steady wins the race

It's been two months since classes started, but many staff and students remain unaware that the martial art of Tai Chi is alive and well, and in mid-kick on campus.

Classes are now held by Richard Jordi, who has practised Tai Chi for 13 years, at the Mac Club in the Bernard Fuller building on medical campus on Tuesdays from 12h45 to 13h45. Like most martial arts, Tai Chi reduces stress, strengthens the body and improves well-being, only in slow motion. And in a crime-ridden society such as ours, who knows when you might be attacked by a narcoleptic zombie overdosed on benzodiazepines?

Anyone interested in the Tuesday lunchtime Tai Chi classes should contact Richard at Richard.Jordi@uct.ac.za.

Intervarsity ends in thrilling draw



Mates: UCT and Stellenbosch in a rare collegial moment at the annual intervarsity.

In what was the most evenly-balanced intervarsity in recent memory, the FNB UCT First XV and the University of Stellenbosch's Maties played to a 16-all draw at Newlands Stadium on Saturday, May 9.

For once, Maties did not hog the ball, or camp out on the UCT goal line for extended periods. Well, not after the first 20 minutes anyway, when a Maties try – taking their early advantage to 8-0 – spurred UCT into action.

By half-time, a penalty and a smartly-executed solo try and conversion by Matthew Rosslee took UCT to a surprise 10-8 lead.

Two more penalties by Rosslee saw UCT, halfway into the second half, to a 16-8 lead. Not a comfortable margin by any means, but certainly – what with some errors slipping into the Stellenbosch game – not what the bookies would've read in the tea leaves that morning.

But, true to form and their formidable street rep, Ma-

ties staged a late comeback, knocking over a penalty and touching down once to level the scores at 16-16.

Not so true to form was their failure to press home the advantage, missing both the conversion and a kickable late penalty.

Once again coach John Dobson had to watch the intervarsity crown slip through his side's fingers.

"I think we played poorly – we made far too many handling errors and then slipped too many tackles in those last 15 minutes," Dobson told varsitycup.co.za on Monday. "If you make those sorts of mistakes against a team like Stellenbosch, you are not going to win."

"For me, it's just frustrating that in our last two big games, against Pukke and now Maties, we have squandered what looked like winning positions."

(UCT's game on 15 May was washed out, and postponed to late June.) **MP**



Double victory for UCT hockey

Both UCT men's and women's hockey first teams have climbed to the top halves of their logs in the Western Province Hockey Union's Grand Challenge League. The women's first team convincingly beat Bellville 5-0 on 16 May, and the men

drubbed Mutual Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) 9-1. Stellenbosch remains way ahead in the women's log, while Pinelands lead the men's division. Left: UCT's Nicola Walters, chased by Paulene de Bruin of Bellville. **MP**