

# Monday Paper

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RESEARCH FELLOWS  
SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

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## Streamlined redraft for UCT mission statement

Two drafts for a new mission statement have been put forward for comment and input from the UCT community following a Council decision to review the current mission statement

UCT's 13-year-old mission statement is under review following a Council decision to align it with the international, national and higher education contexts, which have undergone significant change since the mission was first developed.

The Mission Review Task Team is chaired by Professor Francis Petersen, dean of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment. The framework to develop the new mission was presented to all faculty boards, the PASS Forum, the Institutional Forum, the Students' Representative Council and various unions.

Two revised statements (in column on far right) have now been drafted and are up for discussion. These are based on broad details captured under four discussion points that were developed after multiple discussions were held across the campus; namely UCT's research-led identity, its graduates, its role in society, and its values.

It is hoped the new mission statement will tap input from the broader UCT community. Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price has invited staff and students to comment on the two draft statements, and even to compose and



present their own versions. Comments and alternative statements must be sent to [draftmission@uct.ac.za](mailto:draftmission@uct.ac.za).

The Mission Review Task Team will consider all comments and will then redraft the mission statement for further consultation. The executive aims to have the final version tabled at Council's September meeting.

The current mission statement was drawn up by a working group of the University Transformation Forum in the mid-1990s, and was affirmed and adopted at a special University

Assembly on 24 April 1996. The statement speaks of UCT's ambitions to be an outstanding teaching and research university, to educate for life and to address the challenges facing South African society.

In a recent statement, Price noted that UCT needs a "crisper, more forward-looking mission to distinguish us from our competitors".

"We are now at a stage where the broader discussions and reflections are being distilled, and we wish to end with a mission statement that

is, ideally, no longer than a paragraph or two," said Price. "This is not an easy process."

The rationale for reviewing the mission, the approach to developing a new mission, the names of members of the task team, and a process and timeline are on the Vula site at <https://vula.uct.ac.za/portal>. (Once on Vula, log in using student or staff log-in details – identical to logging on to your PC – select 'Membership', then 'Joinable Sites', then search for "mission".) **MP**

### Mission statement draft example 1

Our mission is to be a world-class university, driven and informed by a search for new knowledge, with a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, research and social responsiveness and underpinned with a value system characterised by a social conscience and contributing to the challenges facing society through an African context. In pursuit of its mission, the University of Cape Town will provide an environment to students and staff for intellectual debate, international exposure and a solid educational experience, thus developing graduates with critical comparative thinking and global skills.

### Mission statement draft example 2

To be a leading university internationally and in Africa, which offers excellent teaching and learning through pursuing critical and relevant research and by making meaningful contributions to society. We seek to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which staff and students are free to think critically, develop their full potential and create and lead better societies.

## Off the blocks: PPS training workshops underway

Personal Performance System workshops for PASS staff (grades 5 to 12) and their line managers were launched on 14 July and will run until 11 September, with four half-day workshops running on most days during the eight weeks.

To date 22% of staff and line managers have registered for the workshops.

Members of the PPS Training Projects prepared background information in anticipation of the roll out. This information includes a directory outlining generic Key Performance Areas (KPA's) and generic competencies. Staff focus groups were run across campus to assist in compiling the generic document.

The directory will go a long way towards helping staff and line managers compile objectives and personal development plans. However, it's important to note that the directory is not an exhaustive list. Staff can add to this list in their own PPS contracts.

Information from the KPA's and competencies directory has been



Photographed at a Personal Performance System workshop at Cambria House were (from left) Vera Frith, Shane Ferguson, Shaheed Clark, Karen Bergsma, Karen Hendricks, Phumpla Msutu, Ferry Pearce, Pazuna Stofile (facilitator) and Joy Erasmus.

translated into more user-friendly job descriptions so staff and line managers can better understand the applicability of the directory within the UCT context.

As more and more of the UCT community begins using the directory, it is anticipated that it will become more comprehensive over time.

Training consultants from Peter J Morris Human Resources Consulting are also writing up 52 generic job descriptions. These job descriptions will form the framework for jobs across the university.

Marketing manager (Communication and Marketing Department) Murray Steyn said the PPS workshop had been very helpful.

"Not only did I get an opportunity to clarify some concerns of my own, but I was also able to learn from the other participants."

Staff and line managers can register online for the workshops. Please use the online registration form at <http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/training/PPS/apply/> **MP**



## New programme pinpoints career options

MYOLISI GOPHE

UCT's goal to recruit more students from disadvantaged communities received a helping hand when the US-based Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) programme launched its global programme in South Africa.

Learners aged 15 and 16 from diverse areas around Cape Town have been selected to take part in the intensive 10-day programme at the university to attract them to studies and careers in commerce, engineering and science.

Academics and representatives from different companies will advise them on working in different environments.

LEAD is based on a triad model of collaboration between youth, business and universities, and two higher education institutions, UCT and the University of the Witwatersrand, are involved.

At Wits the initiative was launched last month, and at UCT it began on 4 July.

Dr Loveness Kaunda, director of UCT's International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) explains: "The aim is to help learners chose the



The right choice: Grade 10 learners Emma Mlanga of Cosmocity High School, Olwethu Rwairwai of Masiyile High School, Nosiphiwo Kabane of Harry Gwala High School, Kesle French of West Haven High School, and Aletta Matakanye of Cosmocity High School took part in the LEAD programme at UCT.

programmes they want to study at an early age so that they have a better idea of their career paths."

The programme reinforces UCT's attempts to increase student intake from poor areas, she said. The Admissions Office and the Career Development department assisted with the selection of participants.

"The proof is in the pudding,"

Kaunda cautioned. "We will have to wait and see how successful this programme is."

The programme is fully funded

by LEAD and its sponsors.

About 50 learners, half of them local and the rest from the US, will be on campus for the next two weeks.

LEAD Global's aim is to expose students of colour to global career opportunities such that participants make better informed decisions when choosing a university or a profession.

"South Africa was chosen to host the inaugural class as the country has been a leader in social innovation," said LEAD Consultant Timothy Maurice Webster. **MP**

## UCT SA's coolest university

CHRIS MCEVOY

UCT came out tops in the 2009 Sunday Times Generation Next youth brand-preference survey, being voted the coolest brand in the universities and colleges category.

Now in its fifth year, and the largest preferred-brand survey conducted in the country, the survey polled over 5 000 young urban South Africans between the ages of 8 and 23. The results reflect how this demographic perceives and responds to consumer and corporate brands.

The win entitles UCT to use the Sunday Times Overall Coolest Brand mark on all marketing material.

Marketing manager Murray Steyn of the Communications and Marketing Department responds: "Hey, shoo, wow, that's cool! Seriously though, UCT has been fortunate enough to have been recognised in a number of ways recently, but we should not be over-confident regarding our brand value. Criteria for getting awards could change in the future, but for now I suppose some pride with a little humility is acceptable." **MP**



## Think big, Mapoko urges alumni



Think big: Alumnus and entrepreneur Siya Mapoko, founder and CEO of iCaptive Corporate Network, addresses young alumni at UCT.

ALEX PLAATJIES

Young entrepreneur Siya Mapoko, founder and CEO of iCaptive Corporate Network, laid bare the secrets of self-made millionaires when he spoke to young alumni on 29 June.

The event was hosted under the umbrella of the Young Alumni Networking Session, and held at the Kramer Law Building.

Mapoko is a scientist turned entrepreneur and trader at Investec. He was nominated for the KPMG/Cape Times 2008 Business Personality of the Year (Editor's Award), awarded to individuals who demonstrate entrepreneurial excellence in emerging businesses.

The title of his talk, *Secrets of a*

*Self-Made JSE Millionaire Entrepreneur*, echoes the theme of his book, *Conversations with JSE AltX Entrepreneurs*, which sold out after its release a year ago.

Mapoko's business knowledge and skills provided the platform for alumni to interact – and draw some inspiration and ideas.

He graduated from UCT with a BSc (Hons) in chemistry in 2002. In 2003 he conducted research for his MSc thesis at GlaxoSmithKline in England, focusing on contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging.

"Discover your own values, align your goals with your values, align your goals with your own journey and focus on your future. Above all, take action," he said. **MP**

## Construction begins on middle campus

MYOLISI GOPHE

UCT is constructing two multi-million-rand buildings on middle campus to increase its student enrolment number of graduates in the next few years.

Construction has already started on the new School of Economics and the Student Administration buildings, and both are set to be completed in time for the 2011 academic year.

Geoffrey de Wet, head of the Physical Planning Unit in the Properties and Services Department, said the government had approved UCT's enrolment plan and performance targets to increase student intake from 21 800 in 2005 to 24 000 by 2010.

The buildings will cost R158 million, of which R102 million will come from the Department of Education.

The Student Administration build-



ing will accommodate the Admissions Office, the Student Housing Accommodation Office, the Student Records Office, the Office of the Deputy Registrar, the Exams Office and Doctoral Degrees

Board, the Access Management Office, and Student Support Services.

The International Academic Programmes Office and the Council for International Education Exchange will also be located there.

This building will fulfil the university's strategy of moving non-academic units out of academic buildings on the upper and middle campuses, making the vacated space available to academic departments.

De Wet said the diagonal pedestrian route across the middle campus, north of the Kramer Building, will be diverted northwards down the colonnade on the southern edge of the Woolsack housing cluster, and directly in front of the Kramer Building.

Construction vehicles will use the road north of the Woolsack housing cluster to gain access to the building site, he added. **MP**

## April capped as a top educator

Professor Kurt April of UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB) has added another award to his growing list of accolades – having been recognised as one of the world's Top 100 Educators for 2009 by the International Biographical Centre in Cambridge, UK.

The awards recognise eminent professionals within the field of education who "have made a significant enough contribution in their field to engender influence on a local, national or international basis".

In addition to his role as Professor of Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion at the GSB, April is also a research fellow at Ashridge in the UK, an associate fellow at the University of Oxford's Said Business School, and a member of the Learning Resource Network at Duke University in the US. **MP**

## VC meets alumni in windy city

ALEX PLAATJIES

UCT's strategic role as a global player, the state of higher education amid the recent financial meltdown and the international university ranking system were among the topics that Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price tabled in his visit to Port Elizabeth, where he addressed UCT alumni on 14 July.

This talk was part of the Alumni Relations office's effort to introduce UCT alumni to Price's strategic goals – and his vision of UCT as an Afropolitan university and a global player in higher education.

"UCT as a global player positions us as an entity that knows more of our continent than any university – and we become the hub on the South that speaks to Africa and



In conversation: Dr Loyiso Mzisi Mbabane (left) of the Walter Sisulu University in Butterworth, with the VC, Dr Max Price.

the rest of the world," he said.

He said UCT had to face its challenges head on, make the university a destination of choice for students, postdoctoral research fellows, staff, and researchers. The institution also had to retain experienced academics and meet the country's social and developmental needs. **MP**

### What's the Big Idea?

Visit [www.rcips.uct.ac.za](http://www.rcips.uct.ac.za) to find out more about the Innovation Fund's **NIC Student Business Plan Competition** – especially the workshops on writing Business Plans **starting at UCT in August**. Open to undergrads & postgrads.

**R50,000 first prize for the UCT competition and R300,000 to start the technology-rich business of your dreams if you win the national competition!**

Also register for the competition & to receive info, at [www.innovationfund.ac.za](http://www.innovationfund.ac.za). This competition is funded by the Innovation Fund and run at UCT by Research Contracts & IP Services (RCIPS).

Business Plans to be submitted to RCIPS by 2pm, **31 August 2009**. See RCIPS website for details.



# SA-developed HIV vaccines begin testing

Two HIV vaccines developed by UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) have begun clinical testing at Crossroads in Cape Town, and in Soweto, Johannesburg.

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

The vaccines are the culmination

of eight years of research and development involving scientists across South Africa and globally.

Through joint funding from the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the trial is being conducted jointly with the HIV Vaccine Trials Network and NIAID, part of the US National Institutes of Health.

The vaccine designs are based on HIV subtype C, the dominant strain circulating in Southern Africa.

The US arm of the trial has 12 participants, while the South African arm plans to recruit 36 participants at its two sites.

"Reaching this important milestone of translating our discoveries in the laboratory to testing in humans would not have been possible without the support of a large team of people from UCT, together with national and international collaborations," says Professor Anna-Lise Williamson, leader of the vaccine development team and joint staff member of the IIDMM

and the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS).

"An effective vaccine against HIV/AIDS remains a top global health priority, and it is our hope that the evaluation of these vaccines in clinical trial will provide some important answers that will bring us closer to this goal."

Launched in 2005, the IIDMM is focused on infectious diseases, particularly those that threaten sub-Saharan Africa, such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. **MP**



Global priority: Medical Research Council president Prof Anthony Mbe-wu hailed the development of the vaccines as a "giant leap" for science and technology in South Africa.

# Nzimande on Soudien Report

CHRIS MCEVOY

The Soudien Report on discrimination "lifted the lid on a shameful feature of higher education institutions in South Africa," said Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande at the Third Annual Anti-Racism Colloquium on 16 July.

The Soudien Report was compiled by UCT's Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Crain Soudien.

Hosted by UCT's Institute for Intercultural and Diversity Studies of Southern Africa, the colloquium was organised by representatives from UCT, the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of the Western Cape, and Stellenbosch University. All four universities sponsored the event.

Nzimande noted that key findings of the report included continuing inequalities in participation rates, throughput and success rates, as well as in access to postgraduate programmes.

The committee also found that progress in student equity – "limited as it may be" – has not been matched by progress in staff equity, said Nzimande.

"In my view, our democracy is threatened by the very things we seek to overcome – racism, sexism and class inequalities. These three issues, while deeply integrated, are not the same things. They are each distinctive forms of discrimination and cannot be reduced into one another. And each cannot be fully understood outside of the others."

Nzimande argued that the notion



Pressing forward: Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande, photographed with VC Dr Max Price, discussed the Soudien Report at the Third Annual Anti-Racism Colloquium.

that racism is "merely a hangover from the past" is false.

"Racism is continuously reproduced by the continued existence and perpetuation of class and gender inequalities, as well as by patriarchy," he said.

He also noted that covert discrimination presented the greatest challenge, arguing that acts of explicit bigotry such as the videotaped incident at the University of the Free State, which gave rise to the Soudien Report, are met with public outrage. Meanwhile, covert forms of racism remain prevalent.

"The one distinct example of this is around language, and arguments for the continuation of single-medium schools and Afrikaans-only universities," said Nzimande. "The proponents of these campaigns use constitutional rights guaranteeing the existence of all official languages to perpetuate the exclusion of, and racism against, black students. Discrimination comes

in many guises and pretexts, which therefore requires us to unmask and expose it continuously."

Nzimande also put the media under the spotlight.

"It is no secret that the media in South Africa do not reflect the voices nor serve the interests of the majority of the citizens. In fact, they do not even aspire to do so, and pander unashamedly to class and financial interests."

In response to the report's findings, Nzimande proposed the establishment of institution-based as well as national ministerial monitoring.

A higher education stakeholder summit to discuss the recommendations of various institutions on the Soudien Report is planned for 2010.

"It is my intention that the summit will result in the establishment of a national stakeholder forum for higher education, in which all these issues can be discussed and debated on a continuous basis." **MP**

# UCT swine flu victims in good health

MYOLISI GOPHE

Five UCT students who were quarantined after contracting the H1N1 (swine flu) virus have fully recovered, and are no longer in isolation.

Dr Ian Mackintosh, director of the Student Wellness & Disability Services, said they had been in regular contact with the students and their parents since they were diagnosed a few weeks ago.

He said their symptoms were not serious, and that they had recuperated and were keen to return to normal activities as soon as possible.

Four of the students were exposed to the virus during an intervarsity squash tournament at the University of Johannesburg, at which the UCT team had eight players and one staff member.

The fifth student is a partner of one of the players.

Media reports suggest that more than 100 cases country-wide had been confirmed.

UCT continues to monitor and assess the risks associated with H1N1 influenza since it emerged a few months ago, and the Student Wellness Centre is geared up to handle any eventuality associated with the virus, particularly as students are returning from vacation, said Mackintosh.

According to Org Health, UCT's organisational health consultancy, the virus is spread from person to person like seasonal influenza, which is mainly via respiratory droplet transmission. Individuals are infected when they breathe in droplets that are generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes. In addition, you can become infected via contaminated objects or surfaces. There is no specific vaccine against the virus, and the most effective means of prevention is to implement good respiratory hygiene measures to reduce the risk of infection and transmission.

For more information visit: <http://www.uct.ac.za/students/health/swineflu/> **MP**

# External reviewer to tackle outsourcing decision

UCT hopes to secure the appointment of a candidate shortly to review its decision, almost a decade ago, to outsource non-core business services such as cleaning and catering to contract companies.

"The decision was taken at a time when outsourcing appeared to be an answer to the management of large institutions with many different but necessary services required to make the total enterprise work," said deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo.

Nhlapo is the convener of a sub-committee, mandated by Council, which will appoint an external candidate to review the matter. This committee, which includes Council members, has met several times already to develop the terms of reference for such a reviewer. When the terms of reference are finalised, a process will be developed for inviting as much input as possible in the identification of a reviewer to carry out the function.

UCT's decision to outsource non-core business services, which re-

sulted in an exodus of UCT employees involved in services like cleaning and catering to contract companies, has elicited concern in many sectors of the community in recent years. These concerns were related to wages, conditions of employment, and so on.

"The triangular relationship between UCT, outsourced service providers and employees needs careful balance," he said.

"UCT has been ahead of the pack in devising a code of conduct to which all our outsourced companies are bound. It ensures that the treatment of these employees by their employers is up to the standards of human rights with which UCT is comfortable."

He said it was in this context that UCT had engaged with various bodies on campus, including the unions and the newly formed Students Workers Alliance, who seek to protect workers' rights.

Nhlapo said the sub-committee would be working "flat out" to complete the review. **MP**

# SALDRU scoops NIDS tender

CHRIS MCEVOY

UCT's Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) has secured the tender for the second wave of the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS), the first national household panel study in South Africa.

This follows SALDRU's completion of the first wave of NIDS, a three-year project of the South African Presidency, which ended in March.

NIDS is an intensive, multi-million Rand project to track more than 28 000 people over several years. This will provide a unique insight into who is getting ahead and who is fall-

ing behind, and the reasons for these dynamic changes. Such understanding is central to the project of social upliftment in South Africa.

"The deadline for mid-February was tight, and over the next three weeks we prepared a solid proposal and harassed everyone for letters of support, assistance on budgeting and cost recovery, and help in completing the mystifying tender documents," said SALDRU director Professor Murray Leibbrandt. "To our collective credit, the application went in on time."

The NIDS project director in the Presidency, Mastoera Sadan, recently visited SALDRU to finalise the Wave 2 contract.

She noted, "South Africa is

undergoing rapid transition, and while the country had made considerable progress in understanding social change, the NIDS Wave 2 will further contribute to the government's understanding of the rapidly changing dynamics in society. The Presidency's support of NIDS reflects the commitment in government for evidence-based policy making."

"We are really delighted," said Leibbrandt. "We want to thank everyone at UCT for their support in preparing the bid and in setting up such a solid operation over the three years of the first wave. Hopefully, we can use this next wave to further strengthen our capacity for survey work at UCT." **MP**



# Lecture series will probe ubuntu and indigenous knowledge

The prestigious Sawyer Seminar Series hosted at UCT over the next 18 months will initiate academic debate about the nature, and usefulness, of indigenous knowledge and will feature leading international thinkers.

It will also provide a forum for debate on how ubuntu might best be applied within South Africa's judicial system - and how traditional medicine and other indigenous knowledge systems, might be incorporated into the mainstream society.

The US-based Mellon Foundation funds a Sawyer Series at several universities internationally every year but only one in three that apply are successful. This is the first time the series is to be held at UCT.

Dr Lesley Green, of the university's Department of Social Anthropology, leads the group that was awarded the grant for UCT to host the Sawyer Series.

"This project is about trying to open up different ways of thinking about knowledges and different ways of knowing the world," she says.

"There are currently two opposing schools of thought; one is the romantic idea that indigenous knowledge is real and true and whole – but what we call 'indigenous' often depends on who is in power. And then there's the argument that formal science is the only way of knowing the world."

The series will investigate four



Ashis Nandy will deliver the keynote address at the first set of Sawyer Seminars at UCT in August. Nandy is Senior Honorary Fellow and past Director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi.

themes: Personhood (August 2009), the Body and Health and Healing (October 2009), History and Archiving (August 2010) and Notions of Nature (November 2010).

Leading thinkers who will be visiting include Ashis Nandy, Fernando Santos-Granero, Veena Das, Judith Farquhar, Michael Lambek, Achille Mbembe and Bruno Latour.

In the first set of seminars in August 2009, two events will be open to the public. The first is a keynote address by Indian intellectual Ashis

Nandy, titled *Imagining a South Asian University*. The second is a round-table event on ubuntu and the law.

Nandy's address, to be held in the Centre for African Studies Gallery from 13h00 to 14h00 on 6 August, will be especially topical in the light of frequent assertions that university curricula should be transformed and President Jacob Zuma's statement that South African universities should produce graduates that are 'African in culture and outlook'.

"Careful scrutiny is required," says Green, "of what this means."

There will also be a series of colloquia for university students and academics. "The seminars aim to recognise other systems of thought, and the fact that so many systems work with one another, or contribute equally to the modern world," said Jess Auerbach, Green's research assistant, who will soon take up a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford. "We can grow as a society, from diversity."

The round table discussion on ubuntu and the law will be held from 13h00 to 14h45 on August 5, in the Robert Leslie Building. The speakers are UCT's Professors Thandabantu Nhlapo and Drucilla Cornell, as well as Achille Mbembe, John Comaroff, and Mogobe Ramose. It will be chaired by Hylton White.

(For more information see [www.sawyerseminar.uct.ac.za](http://www.sawyerseminar.uct.ac.za).) **MP**

# De Vos new chair in Constitutional Governance

UCT has appointed well-known legal academic Prof Pierre de Vos to the newly-established Claude Leon Foundation Chair in Constitutional Governance. The appointment takes effect on 1 July, 2009.

De Vos is currently professor of constitutional law at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), where he has lectured since 1993. He was appointed associate professor in 2000 and full professor three years later.

He holds BCom, LLB and LLM degrees from the University of Stellenbosch, an LLM from Columbia University in the US and a Doctor of Laws degree from UWC.

He has published or contributed towards 55 academic publications, has delivered 55 conference papers and is highly regarded as a commentator on constitutional law issues. He also writes a popular blog, *Constitutionally Speaking*.

The Claude Leon Foundation is a South African-registered charity involved primarily in the field of education; its principal programme is postdoctoral fellowships in science. Over the last ten years, UCT has been a beneficiary of this programme.

As part of the UCT law faculty's 150th anniversary celebrations, chair



of the Claude Leon Foundation Bill Frankel proposed the establishment of the chair in constitutional governance.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said: "We are delighted with the appointment of Prof De Vos to this position. He has established himself as a specialist in constitutional governance, and his appointment will further enhance our extensive offerings in the UCT law faculty, which is increasingly recognised as a leader in legal education nationally and in Africa."

"He will clearly make a contribution in focusing on the challenges and opportunities we face in realising the ideals and values of the South African Constitution." **MP**

# JESA selected for Science Citation Index

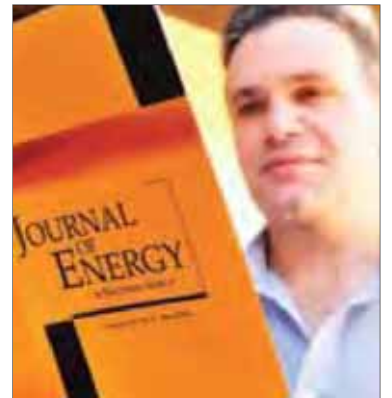
**CHRIS MCEVOY**

The *Journal of Energy in Southern Africa* (JESA), published by UCT's Energy Research Centre (ERC) in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, has been selected for inclusion in the internationally recognised *Science Citation Index Expanded*.

Published by Thomson Reuters and edited by Richard Drummond, senior researcher at the centre, the weekly publication indexes articles and citations from over 5 300 international scientific journals.

This recognition is expected to attract more authors to the JESA, leading to the publication of even stronger material.

The JESA is a unique quarterly publication on activities in energy on the African continent. It covers matters of local and regional interest, as opposed to the international high technology content of other journals serving energy interests. It is used by government departments, academics,



Listed: Richard Drummond, editor of the *Journal of Energy in Southern Africa*.

researchers, consulting engineers, energy producers, energy consumers and decision makers. The potential distribution impact is the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

Now 18 years old, JESA is accredited by the Department of Education, and indexed in *Environment Abstract*, *Index to South African Periodicals*, and the Nexus Database System. **MP**

# UCT accounting students top



Good news: Jayson Coomer (left) and Ross Robertson (middle) check their results in the company of Department of Accounting head, Prof Mike Wormald. Coomer and Robertson are two of the four UCT candidates who passed Part One of the CA Qualifying Examination with honours.

South Africa's all-too-small pool of qualified chartered accountants is poised for a boost after the release of exam results in Johannesburg on 26 June. Of UCT's 225 candidates, 214 (95%) were successful, the highest pass rate achieved by any university in the 2009 exams. Significantly, UCT provided 38 successful black African candidates and 35 successful coloured candidates.

UCT also achieved the highest absolute number and pass rate of black African and coloured candidates of all the residential universities.

Alexa Joubert, who completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Account-

ing, was placed 10th in the examination, which she passed with honours. Jayson Coomer, Rendani Muthelo and Ross Robertson also passed with honours.

Results from Part One of the Qualifying Examination (QE1 – a critical milestone on the path to becoming a chartered accountant) released by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) reflect a 58% pass rate, up from last year's 54%.

Department of Accounting head Professor Mike Wormald said: "A significant highlight of this year's results is the increase in the successes

of black African first-time candidates. From 204 passes in 2008, 258 African candidates passed in 2009, a dramatic 26% increase."

He added that the number of coloured candidates had increased from 64 to 76 in 2009. The national pass rates for black African, coloured and Indian candidates were 45%, 53% and 51% respectively.

Since 2007, UCT's Department of Accounting has concentrated on increasing the number of successful black candidates for the Part 1 Qualifying Examination. Their ambitious target is to double the 2007 numbers by 2012. **MP**

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# Remote sensing a key to survival

MYOLISI GOPHE

In view of devastating natural disasters in the world, remote sensing is no longer just useful but crucial in ensuring survival, Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor said at the 2009 International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 09) at UCT.

Pandor said satellite remote sensing, in particular, is at the core of worldwide communications, global positioning systems and data gathering on climate change and global warming.

“We need early warning systems that will allow us to plan and co-ordinate efforts to counter the effects of climate change,” she explained.

Pandor told delegates about projects in South Africa and on the African continent to advance science and remote sensing, including the African Resource Management Constellation, the Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

She added that proper monitoring of our planet requires the joint use of in-situ and remote-sensing techniques – and developing and developed countries have to contribute.

Her statement was backed by presentations by rocket scientists from around the globe, who showed initiatives that address disaster



Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.

preparedness and response, global change and adaptation, good governance, the role of remote sensing in health and disease monitoring, water and food security, forest and fire monitoring, and urban planning.

The week-long symposium was organised by UCT, the University of Johannesburg and other institutions.

Prof Harold Annegarn, IGARSS 09 general chair, said the conference also had a science-enriching programme to stimulate an interest in science among local high school learners.

“They must know that rocket science is not only happening in the United States, but in South Africa, at the local universities.” **MP**

## Student financial aid on the ball



Award winners: Star Student Financial Aid staffers include (from left, front) Zahir Baker, Sindi Ntshongwana and Sibusiso Ncengwa, (from left, middle) Adelaide Rooks, Patricia Jakavula, Nozibele Ntsimango, and Ethne Diedricks, and (from left, back) Margie Jacobs, Rehana Effendi and Cebisa Bingwa.

Dedication and hard work at UCT’s Department of Student Affairs’ Student Financial Aid division has won the team two awards at the Annual National Student Financial Aid Schemes (NSFAS) award ceremony in Stellenbosch.

The division scooped two silver awards for the 2008 academic year, the first for Best Higher Education Institution, and the second for the Most Improved Higher Education Institution.

The function was hosted jointly

by Financial Aid Practitioners of South Africa (FAPSA) and NSFAS.

The NSFAS Selection Panel included PricewaterhouseCoopers, who audit the funds allocation, awards and compliance by all the Higher Education Institutions in South Africa, including Further Education and Training Colleges.

Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Crain Soudien and Moonira Khan, the department’s executive director, commended the team at a celebration. **MP**

## Clinical skills laboratory is milestone for faculty

There is a growing need for clinical skills training for students in the Faculty of Health Sciences, said vice-chancellor Dr Max Price at the recent launch of the Clinical Skills Laboratory at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Price said this was particularly the case in the pre-clinical years, where access to patients is limited.

“We need skills laboratories, and should have been doing this a long time ago,” said Price, also a medical graduate.

UCT alumnus and Groote Schuur Hospital’s chief executive officer, Dr Saadiq Kariem, said when UCT

approached him to convert the space that now hosts the facility into a clinical skills laboratory, he found it difficult to imagine. It had not been used for a long time.

Nonetheless, he was delighted that “such an appropriate and important use” had found a home in the institution’s Old Main Building.

For the faculty, the event marked an important milestone in the ongoing development of the undergraduate curriculum, and lays the foundation for the implementation of similar facilities. **MP**

## Speak up for Khuluma

Thinking of signing up for the Khuluma programme? Law faculty staffer Pauline Alexander did. This is her appraisal.

I believed in the whole concept of Khuluma [UCT’s climate intervention strategy and transformation leadership development programme] and I am proud of UCT for putting their money where their mouth is.

Every person I know who has been on the course has been moved by it. I had twice wanted to go but had to cancel, and now, here I was at this old farmhouse in Bergvliet on a wintry day in June.

People milled around warming their hands on their coffee cups. There was some conversation among those who worked together, but for the most part we were just a group of individuals.

By the next afternoon, that same group held their collective breath – and their tears – as a post-1994 colleague said: “I now know why the apartheid legacy is seen as such a huge giant. But I also now know that each of us has the determination, just as David had, to use the stones of our shared experience to bring down this Goliath.”

Just what was that shared experience you might ask? Well, we found that we all love our jobs at UCT, even if the bureaucracy sometimes



drives us demented. And each one of us knew what it felt like to be discriminated against. But what also came as something of a surprise was that each one of us realised that we had been guilty of prejudice, of having treated another human being in a way that made us feel ashamed.

But I think it was the sense of the insidious nature of power over another group that made the greatest impact. We watched a documentary made 40 years ago on how a teacher

got her primary school learners to confront the evil of racism (their ‘February hero’, Martin Luther King, had just been slain).

She divided them into the blue-eyed group, and the brown-eyed group and each took turns to wear the dreaded collar of stigma and to experience the reality of less food and restricted play. Each group also had a taste of power, a taste that some quite liked.

What really affected us, however, was the extent to which the academic performance of each group was adversely affected when they wore the collar. I think it was from that realisation that a resolve to build an integrated society, and not just an inverted pyramid of privilege, was born. We were convinced about integral connections and the model of inclusive change.

It was not all serious. As another post-1994 colleague quipped: “I came expecting to have fun, and I have had fun.”

The food wasn’t half bad either! So I would urge my colleagues to answer the call to speak out. Go on the next Khuluma workshop – and take your department with you. **MP**

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# Medical students trained in the heart of communities, thanks to mobile clinics



(From left) Interpreter Ezzy Zozi, health sciences student Raphaella Stander, senior lecturer Dr Biddy Buchanan-Lee, and interpreter Khanyisa Ntwana at work in the SHAWCO mobile clinic being used for clinical skills training in Khayelitsha Site B.

A symbiotic relationship between SHAWCO (the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation) and the health sciences faculty is providing clinical-skills training for scores of medical students. Through a combination of strengths and resources, this partnership ensures invaluable training for future doctors, and essential services to those in the heart of poor communities.

Nestled within the bustling CBD off Bonga Drive, Khayelitsha, the Site B Community Health Centre provides essential health care to thousands of residents on the Cape Flats. It is within the walls of this hospital that UCT's medical students get their first real exposure to community clinics.

Under the hands-on guidance of Dr Biddy Buchanan-Lee and her two assistants, Ezzy Zozi and Khanyisa Ntwana, fourth-year students manage patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, make casts in the plaster of Paris room, learn the process behind X-rays, assist in HIV clinics and provide support in the Trauma Centre.

'Serve and Learn' is Buchanan-Lee's motto, invented "oh, some years ago". With a BSc from UCT (she did her medical training at Cambridge and Newcastle University), she's worked in Khayelitsha for 12 years – and she's a "big fan" of community service. Although Khayelitsha falls under Tygerberg's jurisdiction technically, Buchanan-Lee has remained committed to hosting a UCT learning platform in Site B as she believes that this is the

coalface: where real service and real learning can take place.

"It's essential to train them [the students] in the sort of environment they have to work in," she says.

Students are taught to look for what they can change to help patients, to ensure that each patient they see leaves the clinic with their condition fully investigated, with knowledge about their medical condition and a future plan of management.

Students also learn to manage with limited resources.

"You have to think laterally out here, every day," says Buchanan-Lee.

Such is her belief in this experience that, when her teaching space came under threat in 2008, instead of just packing it all up, she dug in her heels, took her own advice, and got creative...

## Health care on the move

On Wednesday nights, just a few roads down in Town 2 Khayelitsha, a massive truck with a red cross makes its way to the Zibonele Clinic. This is one of SHAWCO's mobile clinics, which has been serving the people of Khayelitsha since it had an active watch-tower and a small population of 10 000. For 66 years now, SHAWCO Health students from UCT have provided essential clinical services to various disadvantaged communities across the Cape Metropole. Zibonele is just one of the six weekly evening clinics currently run by SHAWCO Health students, with an additional monthly paediatric clinic on Saturday mornings. In 2008, around 500 stu-

dents treated over 4 200 patients in the Cape communities. The clinics are run after hours: the students work in the hospitals during the daytime.

"We have been very fortunate to have received generous sponsorship from GrandWest CSI," says Thandi de Wit, SHAWCO Health's President for 2009. "They funded the building of a new state-of-the-art clinic, as well as the refurbishment of our two longest-surviving trucks. While we certainly make good use of them after hours, it seemed a waste for them to be standing empty and unused for long periods during the day. So, when UCT approached us with a request to help solve a space problem, we were only too happy to help in any way we could."

And so began a new partnership between SHAWCO and UCT.

## Big Mama is a boon

The solution to Buchanan-Lee's space problem was "Big Mama" – SHAWCO's newest (and biggest) clinic. The hospital management has been most accommodating and supportive – allowing her to occupy a large area within the hospital parking area. With four separate consultation rooms, Big Mama has been a boon to the CHC. It's a win-win-win situation in which SHAWCO's big mobile clinics, used by their volunteers to provide medical services by night, double up as sites for the assessment and management of patients with chronic diseases by day.

Now, not only is there no space crisis, but Buchanan-Lee has been



Members of the SHAWCO and health sciences teams include (front, from left) students Nielethen Govender, Leah Naidoo and Raphaella Stander. (Back, from left) Manager of HIV unit, Dr Shaheed Mathee, Mrs Notshe, Dr Biddy Buchanan-Lee, Frank Moltano, interpreters Ezzy Zozi and Khanyisa Ntwana, and SHAWCO Health Mentor Wendy Lewin.

able to make rooms available to Dr Shaheed Mathee, who uses the space to run an HIV clinic and, in the process, provide further training for the students.

Big Mama's older, yet smaller 'brother' has since been deployed to provide much-needed teaching space for the sixth-year Family Medicine programme at Hanover Park CHC, while the third mobile, having been used by Dr Shahieda Adams for research into TB in Delft, will soon find a new parking place outside Mitchell's Plain CHC – also for the sixth-year Family Medicine Programme.

"We are thrilled with this ar-

angement," says De Wit. "SHAWCO Health has always been about improving the health of our communities in any way we can. We are excited about what meaningful partnerships such as this one can do for our communities."

Buchanan-Lee adds: "We in Khayelitsha share a vision with SHAWCO. We both care deeply about the community... If it were not for the generosity of SHAWCO we would have difficulty in remaining in Khayelitsha and providing this service, and our students would not have the experience of working in circumstances close to what awaits them when they do their community service." **MP**





# Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Supplement to the Monday Paper 27 July – 9 August 2009 Volume 28#10



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

• Foreword by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser, chair of the University Research Committee

## Postdocs vital to ‘brain circulation’ in Africa

It was only after the release of his memoirs that we at UCT learnt that Ralph Bunche, American political scientist and Nobel Peace Prize winner (1950), had spent time at this university as a postdoctoral research fellow under Professor Isaac Schapera in the 1930s.

Bunche’s stint here followed his doctoral research in anthropology at the London School of Economics (1936-1938).

Until recent years, little record was kept of our postdoctoral research fellows – and yet they have made, and continue to make, a substantial contribution to UCT’s research output.

Indeed, it is fair to say that ‘postdocs’ are an indispensable part of the research endeavour of UCT – as they are at any modern university.

We have come to realise that, at a central level, the university has to

step up its support for these highly productive and valuable members of our community. The Postgraduate Funding Office has taken the lead in this, and the Board for Graduate Studies has made the facilitation of increased support to postdoctoral research fellows a focal point of its work for this year.

Today UCT has 168 postdoctoral research fellows distributed throughout the six faculties, but primarily located in the science and health sciences faculties. The University is keen to increase the number of postdocs in the other faculties – and of course, in the university as a whole – and to this end the University Research Committee is constantly looking for ways to increase the number of fellowships for postdoctoral research.

These fellowships are usually awarded to individuals within five

years of them having achieved their doctoral degrees. Fellowships are negotiable up to three years (and sometimes even longer – under exceptional circumstances, an extension may be considered for up to a maximum of five years).

The purpose of the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship is to provide an opportunity for experiential learning in research. In many instances, this serves as a path for further academic and professional development. (Technically, the postdoctoral research fellows are neither students nor employees of the university, but occupy a unique niche: they do not earn salaries, and their work is funded through Postdoctoral Research Fellowships).

We salute our postdoctoral research fellows for having chosen to make South Africa – and UCT – their research home. It is important

that we should have a ‘brain circulation’ rather than the ‘brain drain’ that is such a worry to the whole of our continent. Africa’s tertiary sector is under enormous pressure. A recent statement by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) states that one-third of all African scientists live and work in developed countries, “the outflow representing a significant loss of economic potential”. Postdoctoral fellowships can help to keep young scientists in Africa, and to bring them home after doctoral studies abroad – and, of course, to introduce our research opportunities to budding researchers from all over the world.

Through this special supplement we wish to highlight and acknowledge the vital contribution made to our research enterprise by our postdoctoral research fellows. **MP**



## Funding postdoctoral research fellows

Postdoctoral research fellows are funded from a number of sources, based on merit – and of course, aspects such as how many peer-reviewed publications an applicant has produced.

Most financial support comes from a category called Departmental Funds, sourced by individual academic departments, and usually from industry, trusts and so on, to fund their research. Such grants come with money for postdocs, who are given awards to carry out specific research projects.

The second biggest supporter of postdocs is the National Research Foundation. (They also support South African PhD graduates who wish to

do postdoctoral research overseas.)

The MRC (Medical Research Council) provides some support to a handful of postdocs in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

An important category of support comes from Donated Funds, particularly from three foundations: the Claude Leon Foundation, which provides the lion’s share of this support (R2.5 million in support of 22 postdoctoral researcher fellows in 2008), followed by the AW Mellon Foundation, and the Harry Crossley Foundation.

The General Operating Budget (GOB) category funds between seven and 10 fellowships via the

### 2008 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS BY FACULTY

FACULTY	NUMBER OF REGISTERED POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS	NUMBER OF AWARDS MADE	VALUE OF AWARDS MADE
COM	1	3	228 000
EBE	20	24	2 576 033
FHS	51	76	6 294 667
HUM	10	14	1 075 022
LAW	2	3	270 000
SCI	95	127	10 171 091
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>20 614 813</b>

University Research Committee. This support is sourced directly from the university’s GOB funds.

Finally, a small amount for fel-

lowship awards is derived from the income from an invested fund and is used mainly to support conference travel. **MP**

## Did you know?

- In 2009 there are 168 postdocs at UCT (2008: 179), with the largest groups in the Faculties of Science, 86 (2008: 95); Health Sciences, 56 (2008: 51); and Engineering & the Built Environment, 14 (2008: 20). The Faculty of Commerce has five postdocs and the Faculty of Humanities has seven. (Postdoctoral registrations are ongoing through the year and it is expected that more postdoctoral research fellows will register in the second semester.)
- Some departments support large numbers of postdoctoral research fellows. For example, the DSR/NRF Centre of Excellence in Catalysis c\*change, hosted by the Centre for Catalysis Research at the Department of Chemical Engineering, has seven postdoctoral fellows. The DST/NRF Centre of Excellence at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, ‘Birds as Keys to Biodiversity Conservation’, has nine postdoctoral fellows.

• In 2008 the value of postdoctoral research awards made was R20.6 million.

• In the same year, awards were made to 67 black postdoctoral research fellows to a total of R8.15 million, and to 111 white postdoctoral research fellows to a value of R12.45 million.

• This year 79 postdoctoral research fellows are women (2008: 82) and 89 are men (2008: 96).

• For more information go to [www.uct.ac.za/research/pgfo](http://www.uct.ac.za/research/pgfo) **MP**

## Test the team

Located in the Otto Beit Building on upper campus, the Postgraduate Funding Office is an important port of call for postdoctoral research fellows. This centre is a university heritage site that has been extensively renovated, providing an exclusive study and networking space for postdoctoral research fellows as well as doctoral and master’s students. The staff are responsible for the administration and funding of these fellows. They also conduct periodic surveys in the postdoctoral community to gauge how best to meet postdoc needs. (The first survey was conducted in 2003, and another survey was completed in May this year.) **MP**

(Right) Meet the team: Stacey Moses, Stacey-Lee Harrison, Linda Vranas (director), Bongive Ndamane, Olivia Barron, Paula Foley, Chantel Reed, Hayley Battle, Sandy Dewberry, and Donrick April. (Absent: Erica Van Wyk.)







# Full circle for Blackie

Dr Margaret Blackie of the Faculty of Science says postdocs who have been given real responsibility – and recognition for it – tend to have better experiences.

“At the end of my short postdoc in Lille, France, I worked in a spiritual retreat in the UK, but four years out is a very long time. Returning to UCT was really the only way to get back into the field, returning to a place I was known. I came back to do a two-year postdoc in chemistry in 2007 and moved to engineering and education research at the start of 2009.

“Education links my passion for chemistry, for teaching and for human development. I feel I have finally found a research interest that will carry me into an academic career.

“Education is absolutely vital for any society. The particular history of South Africa has led to a deep impoverishment of the majority of the society. In addition, with the internet and the instant access we have to information now, the purpose of education may be shifting. It’s crucial that we address questions about what we should be teaching and how we train teachers and academics in today’s world.

“With increasing pressures on academics in terms of time, postdocs serve as a very useful resource. We are experienced, knowledgeable and motivated; and as such, postdocs are an invaluable asset to any research group.



“... it may be helpful to train academics to use postdocs effectively”  
- Dr Margaret Blackie.

“I do think that postdocs could be used more broadly. We are frequently seen as useful students who don’t have the pressure of producing a thesis. Postdocs should be given access to the kind of development programmes aimed at junior academic

staff. Because of equity issues, it is not uncommon to have postdocs who are much more experienced than some junior staff.

“There’s very little interaction between postdocs in different research groups, never mind different departments! If postdocs had a more defined role, association might happen more naturally.

“I’ve been very fortunate that I have taught a couple of first-year courses. This has been time-consuming, but very useful to me. I now have experience that few of my peers have. In one sense, the postdoc experience is closely tied to one’s supervisor.

“The postdocs who have better experiences tend to be those who have been given real responsibility and are recognised for it. This could sound rather strange, but it may be helpful to train academics to use postdocs effectively. My own experience has improved, as I have been able to take more responsibility for my own research trajectory.

“I also think that doing a postdoc with a doctoral supervisor should be strongly discouraged unless there has been some break (at least a year). It is hard for both supervisor and postdoc to shift into a new role. This probably accounts for a lot of the frustration of postdocs!

“Regarding the future, I’d like to embark on an academic career and I’ve already applied for some jobs.” **MP**

## Postdoc is catalyst to academic growth

University of Zambia graduate and demographer Dr Kambidima Wotela’s academic career has been an uphill battle, he says. From his cohort, the school sent only one pupil to university in three years. This shouldn’t be mistaken for intelligence on his part, he quips, but hard work coupled with sacrifice.

“Coming to UCT was by default. I’d wanted to study for my PhD at the University of Pretoria, so that I could easily commute between Lusaka and Pretoria. While pursuing my application, I met Professor Rob Dorrington, director of the Centre for Actuarial Research at UCT, at a seminar in Pretoria. He suggested that I should consider doing my PhD here.

“On my graduation, the Centre for Actuarial Research in the Faculty of Commerce accepted my application for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

“I’ve enjoyed the quality of education at UCT, specifically at my centre. It is superior, judging from my interactions with scholars pursuing the same programme elsewhere.

“I am modelling the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS in Zambia using a tool, the ASSA2003 urban-rural AIDS and demographic model, which has been developed largely by colleagues in the centre. I am hopeful that the results will assist in the understanding of the extent of the pandemic in Zambia.

“The process involved in being a



“The process involved in being a postdoc has been revealing, and I continue to grow academically.” - Dr Kambidima Wotela.

postdoc has been revealing, and I continue to grow academically. Although my research and publication assignments are individual, I have received a lot of support from staff.

“Part of my terms of reference required me to prepare and teach introductory demography and population studies to final-year geographical and environmental science students, as well as medical students (fourth-year Master of Public Health).

“I think we receive the best treatment from the library. The Postgraduate Funding Office, under which we fall, is trying its best to accommodate the postdoctoral research fellows. Related to this is the confusion of the UCT system – in some departments we are labelled as students, and in some others as staff!” **MP**

# Intellectual property law through African lens

Dr Johanna von Braun is about as well-travelled as a postdoctoral research fellow can be, having journeyed between South Africa, the UK and the US in pursuit of her research interest.

Von Braun comes to UCT armed with a BA (Hons) in international relations with development studies from the University of Sussex in the UK, a master’s in international affairs from Columbia University in New York, and PhD in Law from Queen Mary College, University of London, in the UK.

“I wanted to do further research, with a strong policy orientation, in the field of intellectual property law and its implications in sub-Saharan Africa,” she adds. “When the opportunity arose at UCT to come here, I took it.”

Von Braun’s research examines two specific topics which fall under the broader field of intellectual property rights (IPRs) and development. The first relates to public health, and how IPRs affect access to affordable medicines in developing countries.

The second focuses on questions concerning ownership of biological resources and traditional knowledge.

“Both topics are of major relevance to South Africa,” she says.

Von Braun has accumulated extensive work experience in civil society organisations in the area of

IPRs, trade, and sustainable development.

More recently, she was part of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development’s Programme on IPRs and Sustainable Development.

After arriving in South Africa in January 2009, Von Braun began her collaboration with Natural Justice, a South African legal non-profit organisation that works on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Southern Africa. She

also continues to work as a consultant for different UN and civil society organisations on access to medicines, and teaches a course on intellectual property and development.

“So far I’ve had a very good experience at UCT,” she says.

As for the future, Von Braun is content to wait and see what happens.

“I believe my stay here will allow me to either remain in academia or work in my field for NGOs or international organisations. But for the time being, I am keeping my doors open.” **MP**



“When the opportunity arose at UCT to come here I took it.” - Dr Johanna von Braun.

## Faculty of Commerce

- Agnes Chigona: Information Systems
- Stephanie Giamporcaro: Economics
- Leigh Johnson: Centre for Actuarial Science
- Vimal Ranchod: Economics
- Kambidima Wotela: CARE

## Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment

- Margaret Blackie: Chemical Engineering
- Jennifer Broadhurst: Chemical Engineering
- Roald Brosius: Chemical Engineering
- Chris Bryan: Chemical Engineering
- Clive Garcin: Chemical Engineering
- Adeniyi Isafiade: Chemical Engineering
- Marlize le Roes: Chemical Engineering
- Oyekanni Oyekola: Chemical Engineering
- Oumacaran Sithamparapillai: Chemical Engineering
- John Stenson: Chemical Engineering
- Matthew Theobald: Mechanical Engineering
- Olga Tupikina: Chemical Engineering
- Victor Udoewa: Mechanical Engineering

- Caryn Vengadajellum: Chemical Engineering
- Elvera Viljoen: Chemical Engineering

## Faculty of Health Sciences

- Brian Abel: Dept of Child & Adolescent Health
- Yumna Albertus: Human Biology
- Mark Barkhuizen: Immunology
- Dirk Blom: Division of Lipidology
- Mark Bowmaker: Medical Biochemistry
- Nyasha Chin’ombe: Clinical Laboratory
- Idan Chianzu: IIDMM
- Christopher Colvin: School Of Public Health & Family Medicine
- Virginai Davids: Human Biology
- Francois De Guio: Human Biology
- Paolo Denti: Clinical Pharmacology
- Catherine Draper: Human Biology
- Asongna Folefoc: Surgery
- Louise J Friedling: Human Biology
- Reto Guler: Immunology
- Fleur Howells: Psychiatry
- Nai-Jen Hsu: IIDMM

- Hyacinth Ichoku: Public Health & Family Medicine
- Victoria Ives-Deliperi: Human Biology
- Joseph P Innocent, Pushpa Jesu: Human Biology
- Catherine Kaschula: Medical Biochemistry
- Roisin Kelly: Medicine
- Frank Kirstein: Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Wendy Kroger: Medical Biochemistry
- Amod Kulkarni: Human Biology
- Carmen Lategan: Medicine
- Pierre Lefevre: Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- DongPing Li: Biochemistry
- Mohlopheni Marakalala: IIDMM
- Alice Maredza: Medicine
- Zac McDonald: Medical Biochemistry
- Sandra Meredith: Clinical Pharmacology
- Shaheen Mowla: Human Biology
- Victoria Nembaware: Human Genetics
- Natalie Nieuwenhuizen: IIDMM
- Otolorin A Osibote: Human Biology
- Charikleia-Maria Protogerou: Psychiatry &

- Mental Health
- Teri Roberts: Medical Biochemistry
- Suzana Savvi: Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Elske Schabort: Human Biology
- Thomas Scriba: IIDMM
- Jean Semegni: IIDMM
- Gasnat Shaboodien: Medicine
- James Anthony Smith: Human Biology
- Katherine Sorsdahl: Psychiatry & Mental Health
- Adele Thomas: Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Sacha Jane West: Human Biology
- Zenda Woodman: Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Eshetu Worku: Public Health & Family Medicine
- Alexander Zawaira: IIDMM
- Widaad Zemanay: Medical Biochemistry

## Faculty of Humanities

- Liazzat Bonate: Religious Studies
- Tadios Chisango: Psychology
- Gregory Fried: Philosophy
- Chitonga Horman: Sociology

- Gairoonisa Palek
- Signe Rousseau
- Kylie Thomas: An
- Faculty of Law
- Ada Okoye-Ordo
- Tobias Schonwet
- Johanna von Bra
- Faculty of Sci
- Yassir Adam: Ch
- Kishore Ananda:
- Mathematics
- Kristen Barnes: C
- Nikolett Bathori
- Stephen James B
- Krzysztof Bolejko
- Mathematics
- Antoine Bouchan
- Yanis Bouchenak
- Jonathan Colville
- Timothee Cook:
- Fenton Cotterill:
- Natalie Coutts: M
- Olivier Crespo: E



# Many benefit from postdoc research

Ethiopian Dr Eshetu Worku has been a postdoctoral research fellow in the Health Economics Unit (HEU) since September 2008. He spoke about his decision to come to UCT, and his experiences here as a postdoc.

“Although I’d always wanted to specialise in health economics, such opportunities were not available in Ethiopia. Indeed, health economics is a rare specialisation area, not offered in most low and middle-income countries.

“I decided to take a postdoctoral research position at UCT’s Health Economics Unit, under the supervision of Professor Di McIntyre, to further my senior level research on the social determinants of health..

“I believe that UCT is one of the best academic institutes in the world. It has a good reputation, and rare research unit entities like the Health Economics Unit. Other features include its research output, excellent

teaching and learning facilities, many high-quality academics, supervisors, research-supporting facilities such as internet access, library facilities, and the proportion of international students that pursue their studies at the university.

“In recent years, many African economies (including South Africa’s) have achieved substantial improvement in their economic growth. Despite this, the level of poverty has not been significantly reduced. By contrast, the absurd inequality between the poor and rich has been increasing.

“Similarly, health inequalities between and within countries are also increasing. To a large extent this gap is caused by social determinants

of health, on which relatively little research has been done, particularly in developing countries. My research contributes to closing the gap.

“UCT derives many benefits from postdoc research output, through the publication of high-profile, peer-reviewed journal articles. And in addition to their research, many postdocs participate in teaching and seminars, and in developing teaching materials and other activities in their respective departments.

“Having a network of postdocs at UCT is good, and helps postdocs to support each other if necessary, to exchange information and to develop better bargaining power to protect their benefits.

“However, the network depends on the individual’s interest, available spare time for networking activities, additional responsibilities, and long-term objectives. In my view, creating a postdoc association and having (at most) one or two meetings per year would improve the interaction.

“Currently I have a three-year visitor-researcher permit from South African Home Affairs, which will expire in August 2011. I haven’t finalised my future plans, but will be looking for related employment after completing my fellowship. My plans also depend on the current research project goals, as well as what the unit plans to achieve through the postdoc fellowship programme.” **MP**



“UCT derives many benefits from postdoc research output ... ” - Dr Eshetu Worku.

## Research on celebrity chefs for book

Dr Signe Rousseau’s postdoctoral research is the result of a combination of skills and experiences. After graduating with a master’s in English at UCT, she indulged her life-long love of cooking and took to the kitchen, aiming to give up academia and become a chef.

“After a brief stint at a cooking school in Denmark, I figured out I’d rather write about the celebrity chef phenomenon,” she says.

Rousseau returned to UCT’s Film & Media Department in 2005, graduated with a PhD in 2008, and proceeded to dive straight into her postdoctoral work.

“I had always hoped my work would get further than a library shelf, preferably in the form of a book,” she explains. “As I’ve discovered, this is a far cry from a thesis, so I’ve more or less had to rewrite the entire thing.”



“I had always hoped my work would get further than a library shelf ... ” - Dr Signe Rousseau.

Provisionally titled *Food Media and the Problem of Hunger (Or, How Chefs Became Superstars)*, Rousseau’s book-in-the-making examines the global phenomenon of celebrity chefs.

“The book is not a condemnation of food media or its consumers,” explains Rousseau in her introduction. “It narrates the rise of the celebrity chef, and gives a critical account of some of the ways that the media determine how we think and behave when it comes to nourishing ourselves.

“The transformation of chefs into superstars is compelling because it is about much more than food. It is about how we negotiate a whole range of personal, cultural, and political choices based not on experience, or desire, or our natural appetites, but on fashion, or on fear of the ‘risks’ of modern life.

“One of the strangest consequences of the enormous success of the food media industry is that the more access we have to information about food and nourishment, the less we seem to know what to do with it. The most striking result of the explosion in images and representations of food over the last decades has been an explosion in the consumption of images and representations of food, and those who prepare it.”

Rousseau’s plans for the future are as simple as they are challenging: “I’d like to finish the book and see it published, pursue a number of other smaller publications and then hopefully get a teaching job, perhaps at UCT, and later in the bigger, wider world.” **MP**

## Engage postgraduate community

Dr Gairoonisa Paleker is a UCT product, through and through. She graduated with a BA in 1991 and an HDE in 1992. Then, after several years working in the “real world”, she came back in 1999 to take on her honours degree – and has been here ever since.

“I really enjoy UCT – the physical location itself, as well as the academic environment,” she says. “I love researching history, and while I was away, I realised that I actually wanted to be an academic.”

Paleker’s postdoctoral research is an extension of her PhD. Her project is to rewrite her thesis for publication.



“I’d like to see postgraduate students across academic disciplines getting together on a regular basis to exchange and share ideas and experiences” – Dr Gairoonisa Paleker.

“My PhD thesis examined the creation of what was known as the “black film industry” in South Africa during the apartheid years,” she says. “This film industry was a result of the introduction of a state subsidy for film productions in African languages and intended for African audiences.”

Introduced in the early 1970s, the subsidy was known as the ‘B-scheme’. This distinguished it from the ‘A-scheme’ or the general subsidy, which was introduced in 1956 for films in English and Afrikaans intended for a white audience.

“The thesis examines the historical context of production and exhibition of these films, as well as engaging in close textual analyses of selected films.”

Despite enjoying her life “tremendously” at UCT, Paleker is not uncritical of the university’s postgraduate structures.

“The PhD experience itself is vastly different for different people,” she notes. “For me, it was a challenging but solitary experience.

“I think what would really offset the solitude of individual research and writing would be a more engaged postgraduate community. I’d like to see postgraduate students across academic disciplines getting together on a regular basis to exchange and share ideas and experiences.”

But Paleker has no intention of leaving once her postdoctoral work is complete.

“I would definitely want to stay in an academic environment, ideally at UCT,” she says. “But I am open to wherever opportunity could take me.” **MP**

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| er: Historical Studies<br>k-Media Studies<br>thropology<br>/r : Commercial Law<br>ter: Private Law<br>un: Private Law<br>ence<br>chemistry<br>Mathematics & Applied<br>Geological Sciences<br>Chemistry<br>Boatwright: Botany<br>Mathematics & Applied | •Wayne Delpont: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Frederic Douelle: Chemistry<br>•Hayden Eastwood: Chemistry<br>•Tracy Ewen: Environmental & Geographical Science<br>•Nicholas Fauchereau: Oceanography<br>•Tzu-Shean Feng: Chemistry<br>•Jemma Finch: EGS<br>•Jerome Fuchs: Zoology<br>•Berit Gehrke: Botany<br>•Richard Gessner: Chemistry<br>•Naureen Goheer: Mathematics & Applied Mathematics<br>•Rituparno Goswami: Mathematics & Applied Mathematics<br>•Kershini Govender: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Romala Govender: Zoology<br>•Alex Hamilton: Mathematics & Applied Mathematics<br>•Yvonne Hansen: Chemical Engineering<br>•Benne Holwerda: Astronomy<br>•Sandra Jasinoski: Earth Sciences<br>•Julien Larena: Mathematics & Applied | Mathematics<br>•Christopher Lennard: EGS<br>•Pieter Levecque: Chemistry<br>•Douglas Loewenthal: Zoology<br>•Stefan Louw: Chemistry<br>•Katrin Ludynia: Zoology<br>•Aman Mahajan: Chemistry<br>•Rowan Martin: Zoology<br>•Ebrahim Mohamed: Chemistry<br>•Duduzile Molefe: Chemistry<br>•Monique Morse: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Elizabeth Mortimer: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Gift Muchatibaya: Mathematics & Applied Mathematics<br>•Felix Nchu: Zoology<br>•Kanyile Ncokazi: Chemistry<br>•Johanna Susanna Nell: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Tracey Nowell: Botany<br>•Shadrack Nsengiyumva: Physics<br>•Ayodele Odo: Physics<br>•Carl Palmer: Oceanography<br>•Barbara Paterson: Zoology | •Lynthia Paul: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Lindsay Petersen: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Lorien Pichegr: Zoology<br>•Martim Pinheiro De Melom: Zoology<br>•Nicolas Rascl: Oceanography<br>•Sophie Rees-Jones: Chemistry<br>•Marco Regis: Mathematics & Applied Mathematics<br>•Magdalena Remisiewicz: Zoology<br>•Amanda Ridley: Zoology<br>•Elwyn Ritchie: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Marc Rius: Zoology<br>•Tamara Robinson: Zoology<br>•Raymond Roman: Oceanography<br>•Xanic Rondon: Zoology<br>•Aboubakar Sako: Geological Sciences<br>•Sheriff Salisu: Chemistry<br>•Petja Salmi: Mathematics & Applied Mathematics<br>•Denise Saravanakumar: Chemistry<br>•Rajni Sharma: Chemistry<br>•Clelia Sirami: Botany<br>•Mathew Smith: Mathematics & Applied | Mathematics<br>•Nashia Stellenboom: Chemistry<br>•Njome Stephen: Geological Sciences<br>•Daithi Stone: EGS<br>•Nina Techow: Zoology<br>•Kim Ten Doeschate: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Sandy Thomalla: Oceanography<br>•Michele Tomasicchio: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Jennifer van Wyk: Molecular & Cell Biology<br>•Jean Watermeyer: Electron Microscope Unit<br>•Leigh-Ann Woolley: Botany<br>•Vincent Zishiri: Chemistry |
|--|--|--|---|--|





# Post-motherhood postdoc is a stepping stone

Chemical engineering's Dr Jennifer Broadhurst, a research metallurgist with an interest in environmental changes peculiar to the mining and minerals processing industry, entered the academic field late in life, thanks to motherhood.

"In January this year I commenced my postdoctoral fellowship in minerals beneficiation, the objectives of which are directly aligned to my career ambitions: to promote and enhance expertise and capabilities in terms of the environmental sustainability of the primary

metal production sector.

"Although only six months down the road, it's been a most rewarding and exciting experience to date, with plenty of opportunities to establish myself as a credible academic researcher through the development of active collaborations with other researchers (on local, national and even international levels), and through the initiation of new projects and research areas in my field.

"I've also had the opportunity to compose or contribute to a number of journal publications and confer-

ence presentations; design and present undergraduate and postgraduate lecture modules; co-author a multi-stakeholder proposal for a South African Minerals to Metals Research Initiative; and put together a workshop for the international Worldgold 2009 Conference (to be held in October this year).

"I've received wonderful support from my mentors and principal investigator, Professors J-P Franzidis and Harro von Blottnitz, as well as other colleagues in the department, and I don't feel in any

way "unheard or unseen".

"With so much going on and so much still to do, I envisage that I'll continue with my postdoc until at least the end of 2010, maybe 2011, at which stage I hope I will be able to obtain NRF rating and be in a strong position to obtain further funding to expand research activities. I think that the postdoc programme at UCT provides graduates with a wonderful opportunity to translate a high-level degree into a rewarding career – regardless of age and ambitions!" **MP**



"... I don't feel in any way 'unheard or unseen'" – Dr Jennifer Broadhurst.

# Legal lens on non-profit models

With a PhD from UCT on the role of law in the development of non-profit institutions in South Africa and Nigeria under her belt, Dr Ada Okoye Ordor is continuing her research in this under-developed but pertinent area of study.

"My postdoctoral research seeks to apply the non-profit organisation model to the study of law in development, by identifying ways in which non-profit associations of civil society are useful in development processes and studying how the law can enhance their contribution," explains Ordor. "This research gives me the opportunity to specialise in an area of law that is still at an emerging stage in Africa."

A milestone in her research so far is a paper on the role of civil society associations in labour protection and administration in South Africa. This was presented at the 5th Africa Congress of the International Industrial Relations Association, which was held at UCT's Graduate School of Business in March 2008.

"Currently I am focusing more



"This research gives me the opportunity to specialise in an area of law that is still at an emerging stage in Africa" – Dr Ada Okoye Ordor

specifically on the role of non-profit agencies in promoting and protecting women's labour rights in South Africa," says Ordor. "This aspect of my research draws on case stud-

ies which show how collectives of vulnerable women workers make use of the power of association to appropriate and assert constitutional and statutory labour rights."

A part of this research is already scheduled to be presented at a workshop on Women, Equality and Constitutionalism, organised by the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers, to be held at the Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town in August 2009.

Ordor hopes that by generating knowledge and information on this subject, non-profit sector resources can be better harnessed (through partnerships with government and formal trade unions) to enhance labour administration and protect a growing proportion of vulnerable workers.

Before returning to academia to begin her PhD, Ordor gained experience in practising and teaching law, serving as a solicitor and advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. After her postdoctoral work, Ordor plans a career in teaching and research in law and development. **MP**

# Highly collegial

Taking the step up from postdoctoral research to full-time academia comes naturally to some. Dr Greg Fried of the Department of Philosophy shared his experience.

"I taught various philosophy courses as a temporary lecturer at UCT, and then received a postdoctoral fellowship. I took up a permanent lectureship at the beginning of July this year.

"I definitely didn't feel unseen or unheard as a postdoc. The philosophy department is a highly collegial place, with various seminars and informal discussions. Also, I was lecturing, so there was plenty of contact with students.

"My postdoctoral research was on the relations between aesthetics and mathematics. My long-term project is to explore the aesthetic dimensions of mathematics; for example, what roles do concepts such as elegance and beauty play in the development and presentation of mathematics? How are aesthetic considerations in mathematics related to those in other fields, like painting and sculpture?"

"My teaching interests and experience are much broader than the



"... new appreciation for the degree of autonomy and respect for ideas that the university can offer" – Dr Gregory Fried.

area in which I'm researching. My areas of teaching include the history of philosophy, logic and epistemology and political philosophy.

"I'm very happy about my decision to become an academic. After some years outside it, I re-entered academia with a new appreciation for the degree of autonomy and respect for ideas that the university can offer." **MP**

# Academia: Both exciting and daunting

Sydney Brenner Fellow Dr Zenda Woodman conducted postdoctoral studies in the US before returning to UCT. Life as a postdoc in America is a very different experience, as is life as an academic.

"I completed my PhD at UCT in the laboratory of Dr Edward Sturrock. However, because I was keen to stay in academia, I applied for a postdoctoral position at the University of Pennsylvania, US.

"At the time I had wanted to expand into viral oncogenesis, to give me a taste of two of my chief interests: cancer and viruses. Laboratories in the US are run very differently, with the ratio of postdocs to students approximately five to one.

"I was one of 12 international postdocs, and I gained invaluable experience and training. Importantly, the experience taught me that South Af-

rica's level of scientific development is comparable with the best, and we are more than capable of developing and sustaining research programmes.

"I always wanted to come back home, because I want to participate in the scientific development of the country. For four-and-a-half years I worked in HIV research. Early this year I applied for a lecture post at the Molecular and Cell Biology Department, and I'm now a permanent member of the academic staff.

"In South Africa the ratio of students to postdocs favours the student. Many postdocs are inundated with student supervision duties. This means they don't publish enough, and thus are unable to secure fellowships and research grants.

"After receiving a postdoctoral position, there is no guarantee that you will become employed or get a

grant to cover salary and research. If you take into consideration that postdocs have only five years at UCT to develop a career, it's pivotal that there's a planned programme of development, signed and recognised by the principal investigator of the study, that holds both parties accountable, and that is recognised and endorsed by the university.

"Postdocs need to be organised. There's a misconception out there that once the PhD is over, life becomes easier. This is not true. The onus to make a success of your scientific career falls entirely on your shoulders. This concept must be addressed if the path to an academic position is to be nurturing and organised.

"The university also has a responsibility as a research-led institution, because it's mostly the postdocs that inject new ideas and energy into projects.

"There must be strict guidelines and clear steps identified that will assist the transition between postdoctoral study and permanent employment. Which brings us to the main problem: the few permanent positions available.

"Academia is both exciting and daunting, but I'm looking forward to the challenge. My advice to postdocs is: have solid contracts with your mentors, and have a career path mapped out. How many students will you supervise? How many papers will you publish? When will you be last author on what publication?"

"I think I have finally grasped that academia is a difficult profession, and you have to love science, research and teaching to pursue it. For me, what makes it worthwhile is interacting with young enthusiastic minds filled with promise." **MP**



"... academia is a difficult profession, and you have to love science, research and teaching to pursue it" – Dr Zenda Woodman of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology.





# Wynberg tackles biopiracy

CHRIS MCEVOY

Dr Rachel Wynberg of UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit chaired part of the First International Meeting Against Biopiracy, held recently at the French National Assembly in Paris.

The meeting was organised by a group of French non-governmental organisations, under the leadership of the former French first lady, Danielle Mitterand.

Attended by indigenous representatives, lawyers, scientists and entrepreneurs from 15 countries, the

meeting was aimed at understanding the complexities of biopiracy and its threat to cultural and biological diversity.

"Biopiracy is the misappropriation of traditional knowledge and biodiversity through the patent system," explains Wynberg. "It's been prevalent for centuries in Southern Africa, but is only now starting to be addressed."

An African example of biopiracy is the case of the Hoodia succulent plant, which grows in the Kalahari Desert. For generations the San people have used it as an appetite and

thirst suppressant. But in 1996 the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) isolated the hunger-suppressing chemical component in Hoodia and patented it.

The CSIR licensed the UK-based Phytopharm to continue with further development. None of the projected royalties were earmarked for the San. In fact, a Phytopharm spokesperson said that the CSIR had led him to believe that the San people were "extinct".

In a victory against biopiracy, the CSIR eventually signed an agreement to recognise and reward the San as

holders of traditional knowledge.

But Wynberg explains that not all biopiracy issues are resolved.

"The patent system facilitates the privatisation of our biodiversity, which should be kept in the public domain. In South Africa, patent applications must disclose their sources of knowledge. This should be a global requirement."

Wynberg has co-edited a book about these issues, titled *Indigenous Peoples, Consent and Benefit Sharing: Lessons from the San-Hoodia case*, which will be published by Springer in October. **MP**



## Quality of life: The value of numbers

MORGAN MORRIS

At first glance it may seem little more than a statistician's vanity to put an actual number value to the quality of life, but as Professor Jennifer Jelsma illustrated in her inaugural lecture, *The quality of life may be more important than life itself: but how do we quantify it?*, on 15 July, there are many good reasons for doing so.

Jelsma, head of UCT's Division of Physiotherapy, showed that the merits of quantifying the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) make good sense. Quality of life, as a concept, is too broad for some purposes; for one thing, HRQoL proves more than handy in planning health interventions and policy.

"If we can't measure outcomes," said Jelsma, "then we're not going to expend resources on improving those outcomes."

Jelsma then looked at the pros and cons of two systems used to measure HRQoL – the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) measure, and the EQ-5D instrument.

She reported that a study she and



Quality of life: Prof Jennifer Jelsma.

colleagues had conducted in Zimbabwe had quickly exposed some telling shortcomings of the GBD. For starters, it didn't always reflect the concerns of specific groups.

Jelsma found, for example, that the GBD (and local Zim health professionals) rated conditions such as migraines, dementia and quadriplegia as the most burdensome. Yet township residents viewed dementia, as a case in point, as a natural part of

life, and were far more worried about conditions related to infertility, which scored low on the GBD.

"Local people felt that having a child was far more important than many disabilities," said Jelsma.

The more numerically-nuanced EQ-5D – a measure Jelsma and colleagues contributed to – not only takes such cultural variation into account, but is also more flexible. While the GBD would, for example, assign the same value to amputation before and after treatment (so why treat?), EQ-5D and its scoresheet, known as EQ-5D-Y, compute even relatively small changes in health status.

It was a study in the UK using EQ-5D – which showed that Brits rated a number of conditions as being a fate worse than death – that inspired the title of Jelsma's lecture.

Jelsma and colleagues have since used the EQ-5D, which they've translated into both Shona and isiXhosa, for an early study on the use of anti-retrovirals to treat HIV, and on a wellness programme for factory workers. In both cases the EQ-5D, when used to measure outcome, led to higher quality self-reported HRQoL. **MP**

## UCT leads high performance computing discussion



Looking forward: At the workshop on high performance computing were (back from left) Dr Bruce Becker (CHPC), Sakkie Janse van Rensburg (UCT), Albert van Eck (UFS), and (front) Dorah Thobye (CHPC) and Dr Jeff Chen (CHPC).

CHRIS MCEVOY

Universities and research organisations need to collaborate and share knowledge and expertise if they are to attract top class students and deliver quality research.

This is the view of Sakkie Janse van Rensburg, Executive Director of the University of Cape Town's Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) department.

His vision is shared by other South African IT Directors, who formed the High Performance Computing Special Interest Group (HPC SIG), under the auspices of the Association of South African Universities Directors in Information Technology (ASAUDIT), to drive collaboration through a number of special interest groups. Van Rensburg is co-ordinator of the HPC SIG.

"We are rolling out grid computing services by linking high-performance computing (HPC) clusters across the country. The South African Grid (SAGrid) will provide secure distributed computing services to research groups, and enable South African universities to compete on an equal footing internationally," said Van Rensburg, speaking at a recent two-day workshop co-hosted by the

Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC) and the Meraka Institute.

The workshop, held at the CHPC, was attended by 22 representatives from 10 educational institutions, the Tertiary Education Network (TENET), the CHPC and the Meraka Institute.

The SAGrid will run on the South African National Research Network (SANRen), which is heavily funded by the government's Department of Science and Technology. Although seen primarily as a tool to enable research, the SAGrid will also develop scarce skills and knowledge in the computational sciences, possibly resulting in the creation of new academic programmes.

The first sites are operational, and undergoing commissioning and testing. Two senior engineers from UCT's ICTS department, who attended an intensive HPC administrator course in Catania, Italy, will administer the SAGrid's core services from the UCT data centre.

"We are helping to build a platform that will break down institutional barriers, enable world-class research and position us as credible partners in the global knowledge market", says Van Rensburg. **MP**

## Allergy burden nothing to be sneezed at

MORGAN MORRIS

Allergies are a serious business. So much so that the Health Professions Council of South Africa recently greenlit a formal sub-speciality in allergology at UCT, reported Professor Paul Potter in his inaugural lecture, *Allergies in South Africa*, delivered on 25 June.

A good thing, too. Millions of South Africans – some 30% of the population – suffer from some form of allergy, be it an early-morning bout of hay fever, or life-threatening anaphylactic shock from a bee sting.

"Allergies are very important in terms of morbidity and quality of life," said Potter, based in UCT's Lung Institute.

And as contributors to everything from poor sleep to absenteeism, they're also a drain on the economy.

But South and Southern Africa are ideal vantage points from which to observe and study the causes of allergies, said Potter. The regions are home to an array of people, living conditions – from under-developed rural areas to sophisticated first-



Standardise training: Prof Paul Potter outlined the vast array of work done on allergies in South Africa.

world-like suburbs – and biomes, so there's plenty of research material.

"Allergology in Africa is not only an important health priority, but Africa is a natural laboratory for studying the factors leading to the global epidemic of allergy," said Potter.

And that's illustrated in the sweep of research done by scientists at the Lung Institute and elsewhere in South Africa, some of which Potter listed. That work has identified an array of

unknown allergens, from grasses, fungi and seafood to ever-present house dust mites, locusts and latex gloves.

It's also come up with findings that fly in the face of conventional dogma. For example, as in a study in the nearby Ravensmead community, with one of the highest rates of tuberculosis in the world, showed that breast feeding protects newborns only if the mother has no history of allergies.

So Potter and others are leading the local offensive against allergies. In addition to the new sub-speciality and the Diploma in Allergy offered by the College of Medicine of South Africa, the likes of Potter and UCT colleague Associate Professor Cas Motala are making their marks in the field internationally.

Potter recently put the finishing touches to a document for the World Allergy Organisation to standardise medical-student training in allergies across the globe. And he is keen to get the word out into the secondary and tertiary health-care sectors.

"There is a need for allergy people out there." **MP**



# Drug use alters brain activity

CHRIS MCEVOY

Drugs affect cerebral function in the brain in such a way that it makes users less sensitive to everyday pleasure.

So says Professor Nora Volkow, director of the of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the US, who kicked off the Brain and Behaviour Initiative's 2009 Symposium with a keynote address on 20 July at Valkenberg Hospital.

In her address, titled *Neuroscience and Substance Abuse*, Volkow outlined the effects of substance abuse on cerebral function, and the nature of addiction.

Volkow has published multiple papers on her research, many of which have been replicated by others, with the same findings.

She explains that normal brain activity is disrupted by repeated drug use, specifically of alcohol and cocaine.

"These drugs are very potent, atom bombs of pleasure," Volkow says. "Repeated use adapts the brain, so that the user can only experience pleasure through the drug."

This is one of the aspects of addiction - a condition which, Volkow notes, is increasingly understood using new technologies.

"Addicts lose their inhibitions and



Atom bombs: Prof Nora Volkow, director of the of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the US, gave the keynote address at the Brain and Behaviour Initiative's 2009 Symposium

the ability to control their desires. In a sense, they lose their free will."

Professor Colleen Adnams, Head of the Division of Intellectual Disability in UCT's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, spoke on *The Neuropsychology and Neuroimaging of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*.

Adnams is part of a five year study, involving 80 children over a period of time, to assess brain structure and function changes in subjects who were prenatally exposed to alcohol (i.e. during their mothers' pregnancy). Each child is scanned, then scanned again 18 months to two years later. The subjects will undergo a battery of cognitive and behavioural tests related to the two scans to pinpoint areas of deficit.

The study is part of the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse-funded international Collaborative Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, joining San Diego and Los Angeles in the US as one of the three scanning sites, collectively (and colourfully) named *Mapping the Brain, the Face and Neurocognitive Function in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder*.

"It will be interesting to see the difference in South African children compared to the US sites," says Adnams. "South African children with different backgrounds from US children, and who show more severe effects of prenatal alcohol exposure, may produce different brain imaging results."

(Additional information on BBI projects is available on [www.psychiatry.uct.ac.za/cubbi](http://www.psychiatry.uct.ac.za/cubbi)) **MP**

# Fellowship for Warner

CHRIS MCEVOY

Emeritus Professor Brian Warner of UCT's Department of Astronomy was one of 15 new fellows inaugurated by his alma mater, University College London (UCL) in the UK, on 17 June.

Although retired, Warner remains an active astronomer and shares his time between UCT, from November to March, and the University of Southampton, from April to October. As he was at the Sutherland observatory on an observation project, the fellowship was awarded in absentia.



Warner's research interests include cataclysmic variable stars, pulsating degenerate stars and the history of astronomy.

UCL fellowships are awarded to those who have achieved distinction in their fields, and have rendered exceptional service.

Warner also holds fellowships from several other institutions, including UCT, and is listed in the *International Who's Who*, and the *International Who's Who of Contemporary Achievement*, among others. **MP**

# Book written in tandem



CHRIS MCEVOY

Associate Professor SP Chowdhury and his wife, Dr Sunetra Chowdhury, both of UCT's Department of Electrical Engineering, are the co-authors of *Microgrids and Active Distribution Networks*, the result of a three year collaboration with Professor Peter Crossley of the University of Manchester. Published by the Institute

of Engineering and Technology (IET) in the UK under their *Renewable Energy Series*, the book focuses on detailed but comprehensive descriptions of the technologies that will enable future electricity systems. As companion to *Embedded Generation*, published by the IET in 2000, *Microgrids* is a timely publication for practicing engineers, researchers and students in an evolving industry. **MP**

# Michael Jackson's skin: As clear as black and white ?

Through all the hype of Michael Jackson's passing, one of the facts highlighted was that he suffered from a skin disorder called vitiligo, writes Dr Lester Davids, researcher in UCT's Department of Human Biology.

The skin comprises upper (epidermis) and lower (dermis) layers that are tightly joined to one another, and functions to protect the body against injurious harm. Being the body's largest organ, the skin also has an important role to play in keeping the body hydrated and germ-free. Cells in the upper layer, called melanocytes, produce a pigment (melanin) that is transferred to the neighbouring cells, called the keratinocytes.

Together, these cells spread out the melanin pigment throughout the skin – an action that allows the melanin to absorb the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun, and thus protect the skin against photoaging and potential skin cancers.

Vitiligo is a disorder that occurs in approximately one to two percent of people worldwide, and results in a death or disappearance of the pigment-producing melanocytes. In the absence of these cells, "white" patches on the skin can be seen and these can, without treatment, become progressively bigger. These patches usually start on sun-exposed areas, such as the hands, feet and face.

Vitiligo is not contagious and does not start from any viral or bacterial infection.

Interestingly, it can occur symmetrically on both sides of the body, or only on one side. One characteristic of Michael Jackson was indeed the appearance of his white glove on



one hand – possibly as a cover-up of the start of his vitiligo patches. The other peculiarity about Jackson was his constant covering up of his body in the later years of life.

In the absence of therapy, vitiligo may spread and eventually depigment approximately 70% to 80% of the body. At this stage, to avoid psychological and emotional stress, patients are offered the option of depigmenting the rest of their bodies – one that Jackson obviously accepted.

Pitifully, Jackson was not only

affected by the skin disorder, but due to numerous other pressures, eventually succumbed to cosmetic surgery and a high-pressured, stressful existence. Ironically, dealing with a skin disorder such as vitiligo has led people to become stronger and rise to their challenges in the everyday world.

Sadly, when he could well have been an international icon for vitiligo sufferers the world over, Jackson chose to hide for years and indeed, now, forever. **MP**

# Landmark for Seggie

CHRIS MCEVOY

Professor Janet Seggie of UCT's Department of Medicine is the first woman to be elected as the Arthur Landau Lecturer by the Fellows and Councillors of the College of Physicians of South Africa.

This is the highest honour that specialist physicians can bestow on a colleague in South Africa.

Prof Seggie will be required to deliver a lecture at all the medical schools in the country over the next six months. Her lecture, titled *Educating Doctors for Africa: a captivating "alchemy"*, will focus on South Africa's recent MBChB curriculum renewal processes.

"It's a special honour to receive this prestigious award from my peers," said Prof Seggie. "Arthur Landau was a very special physician and teacher who took an interest in all of us as we undertook our specialist training as registrars at Groote Schuur Hospital."

The annual travelling lectureship is awarded in honour of Dr Landau, a former president of the College. **MP**



Honoured: Professor Janet Seggie is the first woman to receive the Arthur Landau Lectureship.



# Research projects yield art for new headquarters

HELEN THÉRON

Next time you visit UCT's Research and Innovation Department, now headquartered on Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray, be sure to have a look at the art collection housed there.

It's an interesting transaction, this one; the art was procured for the collection from staff at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, as well as from research projects yielded by fine arts graduates.

The material selected reflects an "interdisciplinary web of research".

The collection (formally named The University of Cape Town Research and Innovation Collection) was curated in 2008 by senior lecturer Fritha Langerman, and Professor Pippa Skotnes, director of the Centre for Curating the Archive at Michaelis.

"This collection was assembled with the intention of profiling some of the work and projects of research artists at the school as well as the work of some of the schools' graduates," said Skotnes.

You'll recognise names like Professors Malcolm Payne, Gavin Younge and Bruce Arnott, Associate Professor Stephen Inggs (director of the school), and graduates such as David Brown and Theminkosi Goniwe.

The newly renovated building, with its pristine white interior, provided the perfect backdrop for the collection.

"Work was chosen with specific spaces in mind, and serialised imagery or patterned hanging of work was preferred in order to reveal not only individual interest and iconographic concerns, but also the possibilities of various media," said Skotnes.

The research aspect is pivotal. Skotnes writes in the collection booklet: "For example, Fritha Langerman's work challenges scientific systems of representation and organisation, Malcolm Payne's interrogates archaeological practices of assigning meaning, and the images from the Bleek, Lloyd and Stow collections suggest the power of images in the service of interpretation and translation." **MP**



Dr Marilet Sienaert and Dr Piet Barnard against the backdrop of *Curiosity*, a mixed-media piece by Fritha Langerman and Prof Pippa Skotnes.

## Yende conquers the world



UCT graduate and rising opera star Pretty Yende wowed the audience and the jury to make history when she won all the first prizes in the Hans Gabor Belvedere International Singing Competition, competing against 158 candidates from around the world.

It is the first time in the history of the competition that one singer has won all the first prizes.

And it seems the sky is the limit for her, as she has been invited to perform in a number of international operas.

Yende, a soprano who obtained her postgraduate diploma in music from UCT's South African College of Music (SACM) last year, won first prize in the category Opera and Operetta, the Media Jury Prize, and the Audience Prize and Chambre Professionnelle des Directeurs d'Opera Prize.

She also landed engagements with Opera Graz, Deutschen Oper Am Rhein,

Stadttheater Klagenfurt, Wiener Kammeroper and an invitation to perform in a concert at La Scala.

"I was very shocked that I won so many prizes," she recalled.

"When my name was called the first time I was very excited that I had at least won one prize. And then it just went on and on and on."

Yende travelled to the competition in Vienna, Austria, with three other young singers, all the most successful in Music Is A Great Investment, which facilitates the South African round of the international competition. They include Given Nkosi, a postgraduate student in music at the SACM, and alumnus Runette Botha.

The "tsunami prize winner", as Yende has been hailed, said: "This is the beginning of a very long journey. I'm really looking forward to this journey – very excited, but with a very open mind." **MP**

## Honours for Schultz and Minnaar



UCT graduate Golda Schultz (left) has won the inaugural WBHO Jan Kaminski Bursary, a whopping R45 000 to support her graduate diploma studies at the world-renowned Juilliard School in New York. Schulz obtained a postgraduate diploma in music from the South African College of Music in 2007, and begins her programme

in US in September. Another UCT alumnus, soprano Magdalene Minnaar-Venter (right), has been offered a supporting grant of R10 000 by WBHO to study at the New York City Opera this year. The bursary is funded by WBHO Construction and Cape Town Opera (CTO). Both graduates are former members of the CTO. **MP**

## Jacobs takes Voices of Cape Town to fest

ALEX PLAATJIES

Staffer, composer and choral group conductor Lungile Jacobs Ka Nyamezele took his group, Voices of Cape Town, to perform at the Grahamstown Arts Festival

Having started the Voices of Cape Town and Ingoma Music Ministries projects in 2001 and 2005, their performance during the festival was a milestone.

Jacobs (Development and Alumni Department) was invited by the Festival Committee to prepare a piece that would pay tribute to African composer Michael Moerane, the first black music graduate of a South African university.

The group explored Moerane's harmonic dynamics in musical pieces such as Alina and Morena Tlake. The performance was accompanied by a three-piece jazz band, a contrast to Moerane's classical background.

"Though it was not my first time



performing at the festival, this year was very different. It was exciting – very tough because of scheduling performances – but a life changing experience," said Jacobs.

Jacobs started his musical career as a singer before branching into choir training and composing. He was part of the UCT Choir for Africa in 1991. **MP**

## Musical legacy lives on

The late Olive Theron's spirit was kept alive when Des Fernandes, through the Ultimate Wellness Trust, presented third-year performance piano student Reese Barkhuizen with an award in her honour. The R20 000 Olive Liebers Theron Prize is awarded to a "meritorious pianist", as Fernandes put it, to ensure that financial barriers don't interfere with their progress to the stage. Fernandes, a former

UCT staffer who worked as a plastic surgeon at Groote Schuur Hospital, planned to set up a bursary with Theron, but this never materialised until she passed away last year. He took up the initiative in her honour, and the accolade will be awarded annually. Theron was a talented pianist who won a bursary to study in London but was unable to pursue her dream because World War 2 broke out. **MP**

## Amsterdam novel collects awards

Multi-award-winning author Professor Etienne van Heerden of UCT's Afrikaans and Netherlandic Studies section has won the 2009 M-Net Literary Award for his latest novel, *30 Nagte in Amsterdam* (30 Nights in Amsterdam). This is the novel's second award, the first being the 2008 University

of Johannesburg Creative Writing in Afrikaans prize. Van Heerden's 11th novel tells the story of a lowly museum assistant who learns that his late aunt Zan has left him a house in Amsterdam. He visits the house, and "as he confronts Zan's past, he also looks differently at his own," says Van Heerden. **MP**



## LETTERS

## Social injustices not reflected

Receive warm greetings from me personally and on behalf of students organized under the banner of SASCO at UCT and Western Cape.

Firstly, let me relay my disappointment at how the newsroom and publications of the University of Cape Town has been conducted in the last few years. Here, without fail the newsroom (responsible for daily news and *Monday Paper*) has been deliberately choosing “convenient” stories to publish and neglect others, even though they carry serious implications. These convenient stories have one thing in common, ie they reflect a picture perfect UCT, which should be seen as just a great university with no internal injustices and problems. Your department has been perpetuating a false foundation that UCT is a perfect world-class university, through confining our view to worthless stories.

The university mission statement reads “Our mission is to be an outstanding teaching and research university, educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our

society.” To the contrary, the narrow selection of news or stories by your department defeats the very purpose and rationale of our mission statement. It takes no genius to observe that your news is out of touch with the social challenges of UCT and the society it exists within.

One is not sure whether the neglect of some crucial and important events, particularly in relation to lack of transformation which is prevalent at UCT and pass without them being reported, is deliberate or not. As the university community we are lucky to know of UCT issues from external media, particularly those of high interest such as the recent Ngobeni case, where he clearly states that he has been purged by his colleagues and those in higher offices. One can cite a lot of other examples, where your news reporting fundamentally neglects UCT injustices.

It is clear that at UCT, there exists a fallacy whereby if a person or organization publicly criticizes UCT; then such a person is unfortunately

interpreted as relaying a “bad image” about the institution to the outside world. Therefore, to conform to the stereotype we must fantasise to be living in perfect and great UCT. These tendencies are held by a group of UCT scholars, whose underlying principles and acts are divergent to genuine transformation.

I am writing this letter, with the purpose to urge you and your sector to stop hiding social injustices (particularly towards black and poor students and workers) which are taking place at UCT, among other evils.

We view your type of news as systematically demobilising affected stakeholders, where their focus is deviated from the prominent issues, which are affecting them, as this has in turn compromised the very objectives of transformation at UCT.

I hope that this letter will be received with the spirit with which it was written.

**Aphiwe Bewana**  
Provincial Chairperson of South African Student Congress (SASCO)

## Nithaya Chetty to deliver TB Davie Lecture

Associate Professor Anthony Nash, Chair of the UCT’s Academic Freedom Committee, invites students and staff to attend the TB Davie Lecture, which will be delivered by Professor Nithaya Chetty on 12 August 2009, from 13h00 to 14h00 in Leslie Social Sciences LT 2A.

The lecture title is *Universities in a Time of Change*.

Chetty is professor of physics at

the University of Pretoria and president of the South African Institute of Physics. Until recently, he was a prominent contributor to debates about academic freedom at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he was a member of senate and council. He resigned from UKZN in December 2008 while facing disciplinary charges related to his advocacy of academic freedom. **MP**

## Aumann is guest speaker at VC’s Open Lecture

Nobel Laureate in Economics Professor Robert J Aumann, Emeritus Professor in the Institute of Mathematics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, will be the guest speaker at the Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture on 31 July at Kramer Lecture Theatre 1 at 13h00. Aumann’s lecture, titled *Practical Applications of Game Engineering*, ex-

amines practical applications of game theory where the “rules of the game” are sharply defined, such as auctions, traffic management, elections, and job matching. Game theory is a branch of applied mathematics that attempts to capture behavior in strategic situations, in which an individual’s success in making choices depends on the choices of others. **MP**

## ‘Suburban Shaman’ Helman remembered

**DR BEVERLEY SCHWEITZER**

Cecil Helman died of motor neurone disease on 15 June 2009. Cecil was a UCT medical graduate (1967) who spent most of his working life in the UK as a family doctor, writer, anthropologist, poet, lecturer, academic and father.

He wrote a number of books, including an internationally known textbook, *Culture, Health and Illness*, which has been used in over 40 countries since it was first published in 1984. We currently use the 2007 edition for our postgraduate family medicine courses and for all undergraduate teaching across the faculty. His most recent book, *Suburban Shaman*, is his memoirs of his time in both SA and



the UK, and includes his experiences as an undergraduate medical student at UCT.

I first met Cecil when he visited our Family Medicine unit to form a link with University College, London. He was keen to contribute to the new SA. When it was our turn to

visit his Department at UCL, he was a wonderful host. He took great care of the South African link visitors. He organised accommodation, took us out for meals and ensured that we gave departmental presentations on the work we were doing in SA, adamant that the link was bi-directionally useful.

Cecil visited our Department frequently, and in 2007 he spent a short sabbatical here. He taught the undergraduates on our new curriculum, master’s students in family medicine, and gave a number of open talks. He even spoke at our Family Medicine ‘breakfast meetings’, despite his shock at the starting time of 07h30!

We extend our condolences to his daughter, Zoë, and to Vetta, Zoë’s mother. **MP**

## Disability activist leaves proud legacy

Dr Kate Jagoe-Davies, founder of the Disability Unit at UCT and wife of Emeritus Professor Bryan Davies, died on 8 July after a long illness.

A vociferous activist for the rights of the disabled, Jagoe-Davies drew from volunteers to establish a tape-reading service at the height of the liberation struggle in the early 80s, to give her blind friends access to banned literature that would otherwise not have been available to them.

Jagoe-Davies received two honorary doctorates, from Rhodes in 1993 and from UCT in 2003, for her work in improving the lives and prospects of people with disabilities.

In 1988, Jagoe-Davies was invited to establish a disability unit at UCT. Nineteen years later, disability support providers from 23 higher education institutions gathered to form the Higher Education Disability Service Association (HEDSA).

“It would not be over-fanciful to



claim that the existence of HEDSA has come to be because, on a fateful day, an exuberant young Kate dived off a rock into water that proved not to be deep enough, and broke her neck,” says Reinette Popplestone,

manager of Disability Services.

“Kate participated with equal zeal in two different struggles: the liberation of her country, and a better dispensation for the disabled people who live in it.” **MP**

## Chemical engineering pioneer

Emeritus Professor Donald Carr (86), the founding head of UCT’s Department of Chemical Engineering, died on 24 June.

Graduating with a BSc in chemical engineering in 1949 and a PhD in engineering in 1953, Carr not only established the department in its current academic form but also led its formation and growth until 1990, when he took on the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Carr also served as a trustee of the Montebello Design Centre in Newlands.

“He retained a close association with the department after his retirement, and even in very recent years made his presence felt on more than one occasion,” said Professor Jack Fletcher, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

“On behalf of the department and its alumni, I wish to express to family and, in particular, to Andrew and



Carol Carr, our heart-felt sympathies at this difficult time. The department mourns this huge loss, as you do.”

“Donald Carr was a remarkable man,” said Registrar Hugh Amoore. “He was a leading light in the Congress of Democrats in the early 1950s, having seen active service in World War II. Many of us owe much to Donald. I certainly do.” **MP**

## Stegen: Mentor and role model

Professor Reino Stegen, a former member of staff in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, died on 5 July 2009. This brief excerpt is from Prof Jasson Gryzagoridis’ tribute at the funeral.

Reino was not just my colleague and casual friend over the years; mostly he was my mentor, and a role model.

I met Reino way back in June 1965, when I first arrived in South Africa and joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering as a junior lecturer, where Reino Stegen was already an established stalwart as a senior lecturer. He was forced to accept the title of Associate Professor in 1978.

He possessed an unparalleled work ethic, love, devotion and loyalty to the department and UCT

Local industry had an immense respect for Reino and frequently sought him out for consultancy work.

I never saw Reino angry, nor heard him shout at any one (student or col-



league) in the more than 20 years of our association at UCT, from where he retired as an Emeritus Associate Professor in December 1985.

He has left a legacy in the Department of Mechanical Engineering as a brilliant academic, which is attested to by his excellence in teaching fundamentally sound engineering. I do believe he will never be equalled. **MP**



EVENTS

**South African Transplant Congress:** Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th September 2009, Spier Estate, R310, Lynedoch Road, Stellenbosch. Contact Janet Sirmongpong. Tel: 021 406 6733. Fax: 021 448 6263. Email: janet.sirmongpong@uct.ac.za

**Beyond Reconciliation Conference:** Dealing with the Aftermath of Mass Trauma & Political Violence. Wednesday 02 – Sunday 06 December 2009 Baxter Theatre & Kramer Building, UCT Middle Campus, Woolsack Drive, Rondebosch. Contact Janet Sirmongpong. Tel: 021 406 6733. Fax: 021 448 6263. Email: janet.sirmongpong@uct.ac.za

**Philosophy Society Meeting:** Tuesday 4 August @ 20h00, Prof Ward Jones (Philosophy, Rhodes University) Title: Rape, its Harm, and Philosophy Venue: Room LS3A, 3rd Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building. Enq: 021650 3316.

**Department Of Medicine 4pm Forum Roster:** Lecture Theatre 2 (Upper), New Groote Schuur Hospital *16 July* Dr Tawanda Gumbo (Visitor-Dept of Medicine)–“Sitting on the shoulders of giants: arriving at a dramatically shorter duration of anti-TB therapy” *23 July*-Dr L. Vivian –“Psychiatric disorder in Xhosa-speaking men following circumcision” *30 July* Dr L. Vivian & Prof V. Burch – “Integrating Culture into the UCT MBChB Clinical Teaching” *6 Aug* Dr V. Lambert

**5th JD BAQWA MEMORIAL LECTURE** presented by Forest Hill Residence & the Department of Student Affairs. Date: 05 August 2009 (Wednesday). Time: 18:30 for 19:00 Venue: Student Learning Centre, Anatomy Building Faculty of Health Sciences. Topic: National Identity and Cultural Diversity. Speaker: Kader Asmal. Professor Extraordinary: University of the Western Cape. NB Seating is unreserved and conducted on a first come –first served basis.

**Academic Seminar:** Topic: So you have to let go of fear, and not have a painful heart”: South African and US health services for people living with HIV (PLWHIV). Presented by: Prof Sally Guttmacher - New York University, Prof Di Cooper – UCT and Prof Yumary Ruiz - New York University. Date: Wednesday, 29 July 2009. Venue: All Africa House, Middle Campus. Time: 17:45 for 18:00.

**ICTS Courses for August**  
03-07 (09:00-12:00) Access 2007 Level 1  
13-14 (09:00-12:00) Word 2007 New Features  
11-14 (13:30-16:30) Excel 2007 Level 1  
17-18 (09:00-12:00) GroupWise 8 Level 1  
17-21 (13:30-16:30) Project 2007 Level 1  
24-26 (09:00-12:00) PowerPoint 2007 Level1  
24 (13:30-16:30) GroupWise 8 Intermediate  
26-28 (13:30-16:30) Excel 2007 New Features

VACANT POSTS

**EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:**

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** Historical Studies, closing date:

29 July 2009, Tel: 021 650 2192, tracy.moore@uct.ac.za

**Academic posts** in the Michaelis School of Art, closing date: 31 July 2009, Tel: 021 650 2192, tracy.moore@uct.ac.za

**Lecturers:** English Language & Literature, closing date: 10 August 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220, roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za

**Psychometrician & Co-ordinator** (Senior Lecturer/ Associate Professor/Professor), CHED, closing date: 11 August 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Senior Lecturer:** Computer Science, Faculty of Science, closing date: 24 August 2009, Tel: 021 650 2220, themba.mabambi@uct.ac.za

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

**Marketing & Alumni Officer** (part-time): Faculty of Humanities, closing date: 27 July 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Energy Research Centre:** Research Officers (2 posts): Faculty of EBE, closing date: 27 July 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Human Resource Advisor,** closing date: 31 July 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Data Administrator:** Clinical Laboratory Sciences, closing date: 31 July 2009, Tel: 021 406 6012, email: claire.khai@uct.ac.za

**Part-time Junior Research Fellow:** Primary Health Care Directorate & UCT, closing date: 31 July 2009, Tel: 021 406 6761, email: cha.johnston@uct.ac.za

**Research Nursing Sister:** Reproductive Medicine Unit, closing date: 31 July 2009, Tel: 021 448 6921, email: jennifer.heunis@uct.ac.za

**Chief Scientific Officer:** Mechanical Engineering, closing date: 31 July 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Assistant Management Accountant:** Faculty of Health Sciences, closing date: 3 August 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Manager:** Undergraduate Student Administration, Faculty of Health Sciences, closing date: 6 August 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Information Services Librarian:** Health Sciences Library, closing date: 7 August 2009, Tel: 021 650 5405, email: edith.graham@uct.ac.za

**Chief Scientific Officer:** (Geochronologist):AEON, closing

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

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**Claremont:** Fully furnished, kitchen + Bed linen and towels, 2 bedrooms, close to station. Fully secure with burglar alarm. Wonderful cleaning lady 1 x weekly included in rental R8500 pm. Available: 1st August – end October 2009. Contact: 0216718693 or 0828436660."

**Mowbray:** Rooms available in newly renovated house. Secure, fully furnished, internet access, off street parking, Jammie Shuttle on doorstep. Available 1 July. R1800-R2300. Claudia 0834140519 or treagus@telkomsa.net

**Diep River:** House for rent, situated in a friendly neighbourhood cul-de-sac. 2 beds with BICs, lounge/dr, full bathroom, garage, extra secure parking. Newly renovated throughout. Available 1 Aug 2009. Rental R4700 pm, excluding elec & water. Contact Rosemary 0721171519.

**Rondebosch:** Old Cape Farmhouse with 4 self-contained, furnished apartments (DSTV & broadband, beauty salon www.revealbeautybar.co.za, fireplace, Jamie Shuttle on doorstep). Tel 021 685 1747 Email ivydene@mweb.co.za / www.ivydene.homestead.com"

**Newlands:** Bachelor flatlet, separate entrance, off street parking, 10mins walk to Newlands station (below the Main Road) semi-furnished R2,500 pm all inclusive. Contact Lynette: 0836284276.

**Panorama:** R9500 pm. Large family house in quiet area (3 bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, lounge, braairoom, laundry room, swimming pool, double garage, extra outside storage area) to rent from 1 Sep 09. Contact Sanet: 0835933110 or email Sanet. Minnaar@uct.ac.za

**Rondebosch:** Two-bedroomed garden cottage. Fully equipped and furnished. Huge double room R2800/month, single R2500, both including water and lights. Shared bathroom and kitchen. Contact Fiona, 0216860171 or 0834195105. Post-grads or academics preferred

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**Wynberg:** Newly renovated 2 bedroom flat in small complex. Good security and 2 undercover parking bays. Available 1 August or later. Rental R4500 pm. Contact Heather: 0825668803 or Wouter 0844910760 or wouter.devos@uct.ac.za

**Kimberley:** Sunny, affordable bedsit to rent or buy in popular, secure retirement home. Levy covers 3 x meals per day, laundry and servicing. Contact: 0836295640 or 0538337053, email: nooitgedachtfarm@gmail.com

**Fish Hoek:** Apartment for short term rental. Fully furnished 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom close to beach. Suitable for visiting academic. Rent R1400/week. Contact: Greg 0832474580 greg@barefoot.co.za

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**Considering adoption?** Join the adoption support group run by clinical psychologist and adoptive mother starting in July. Contact Jean: Jean.luyt@uct.ac.za or 0846854839.

**UCT Chemistry Department** invites applications from black candidates, who are South African citizens, for Post-graduate Scholarships for 2010. See <http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/cem> for details.

**Responsible lady** willing to look after your house, animals and plants for a short /Long term Good refs. Contact Nelly: 0732814908 S/Suburbs

**Lift required** from Southfield Area to UCT Will share cost. Please contact Samantha x2242 or Samantha.Schippers@uct.ac.za"

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**Easternwear for hire:** Saries and gharara's for engagements and weddings morning sittings for bride and bridesmaids at affordable prices. Contact: 0785255046."

**Research Assistant/Technician:** The HIV/Neuropsychiatry Unit . Are you dynamic, fluent in English and Xhosa and have a background in patient care or social sciences? We are looking for a part-time research assistant for our HIV-neurocognition program. Closing date for applications is 7 August 2009. Contact Dr Hetta Gouse: 0214045224 or submit your CV to hetta.gouse@uct.ac.za

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# Eye-catching science in posters

The Faculty of Science's marketing committee has produced a set of four engaging posters for distribution to junior schools throughout South Africa.

Each poster deals with a different scientific topic: plants and how they change with the seasons; the geology that lies beneath our feet; numbers in history and indigenous ways of counting; and climate change, particularly the effects of global warming on oceans.

This latest set complements the seven posters produced in the past two years, these titled *Astronomy: Place in the Universe*; *Geology: Rocks of Table Mountain*; *Zoology: History of Life on Earth*; *Chemistry of Colour*; *Statistics of Growth and Life Expectancy*; *IT: When I speak on my cellphone, where does my voice go to?*; and *World of Nanotechnology*.

As a result of the popularity of and high demand for the posters last year, an additional 12 000 posters have been printed this year.

The posters are funded by the Department of Science and Technology and have been launched ahead of National Science Week, from 3 to 7 August. During that week they will be distributed to schools nationally as part of the DST drive to popularise



Science in a nutshell: The creators of the science posters for junior schools are (from left) Pavs Pillay, Dr Laura Roden, Assoc Prof Steven Richardson, Assoc Prof David Reid, Prof Kathy Driver (Dean of Science) and Prof John Webb. (Absent: Dr Mike Lucas.)

science among young learners.

The MTN Science Centre will bring the UCT scientists responsible for conceptualising the posters together with the teachers who will use them as teaching resources.

The UCT scientists who produced this year's posters are Dr Laura Roden (Department of Molecular and Cell Biology), Dr Mike Lucas, (Department of Zoology), Pavs Pillay (Department of Oceanography), Prof John Webb (Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics),

and Associate Professors Dave Reid and Steven Richardson (Department of Geology).

The Dean of Science, Professor Kathy Driver, said she hoped the posters would have a "measurable impact" on curious young learners.

"Our scientists reach out and share their knowledge and love of their subject with learners who may not readily have access to the fascination and the wonders of science. Their imagination and creativity makes us proud. Well done!" **MP**

# Holiday school launches



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo welcomed about 150 learners to the Mathematics and Science Education Project (MSEP) Grade 12 Holiday School, at UCT in July.

"The fact that you are here means that the project is working," Nhlapo told the learners. "We hope that what you take out of this holiday school helps you to secure your place at UCT."

The MSEP is an inter-faculty outreach initiative, underpinned by an R18.5 million grant from the Royal Netherlands Embassy. The project aims to develop sustainable models of high-quality science and maths teaching and

learning in five disadvantaged secondary schools in greater Cape Town.

The schools are Harry Gwala in Khayelitsha, Spine Road in Mitchell's Plain, Sophumelele in Philippi, Rhodes High in Lower Mowbray, and Thandokhulu in Mowbray.

Addressing the learners, Ferial Parker, life skills education specialist in UCT's School of Education, noted that the transformation from high school to a tertiary institution can be stressful.

"For some it can be quite a culture shock, especially when they hail from township areas, such as those in which the five MSEP schools are located." **MP**



# Having a ball

School learners used their winter holidays to showcase their talents as the UCT Sports Administration's holiday sport outreach programme entered its second year. Scores of boys and girls aged 11 to 16, from Langa, Manenberg, Gugulethu and New Crossroads, were introduced to sporting codes such as basketball, soccer, rugby and hockey. The week-long event is a collaboration between UCT and the Amy Biehl Foundation. The foundation transported the learners to UCT, while Sports Administration worked with students to provide them with refreshments, coaches and facilities. Sports administrator Peter Buckton said the intention was to keep the children busy during the holidays, expose them to the sporting codes and facilities, and allow them an opportunity to mingle. **MP**

## • sport wrap • sport wrap • sport wrap • sport wrap • sport wrap • sport wrap •

### Climbing

UCT picked up plenty of silverware at the University Sport South Africa (USSA) sports climbing games, hosted by the University of Pretoria. The men won both the sports climbing and bouldering team events, while the women finished second in both competitions. Marijus Smigelskis (second) and Duncan Fraser (third) scored well in the sports climbing, while Smigelskis, Andrew Wood and Fraser made for a UCT clean sweep in the bouldering event. The top woman climber for UCT was Julia Chen, who won both the women's sports climbing and bouldering categories.

### Cycling

UCT finished fourth out of the 11 teams that vied for honours in the University Sport South Africa (USSA) cycling games, hosted at the end of June by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth. Top individual performers for UCT were

Edward Greene and William Robinson, who finished eighth and tenth respectively over the five-stage event. Robinson recorded a fourth spot in the short but tricky fifth stage. In addition, Bruce Hughes finished fifth in the 20km mountain bike event.

### Surfing

UCT was crowned overall winners at the 2009 Billabong USSA Championships, which took place at Cape St Francis Bay on 22 to 24 June. The women won their section, while the



men were runners up in their category. Best individual performers for UCT were Kerri-Leigh Anderson and Sarah Anne Nicholson, who finished second and third respectively in the women's finals, and Chris Bond (third) (in picture) and Jochaid Salie (fourth) in the men's event. All four were selected for the national USSA team.

### Squash

The squash team also chalked up a fourth place in their USSA tournament, held at the University of Johannesburg. The side started off well enough, with convincing victories over their hosts, the University of Limpopo and the Tshwane University of Technology. They also got the better of the University of Witwatersrand and Rhodes University, but tumbled against the University of Pretoria and NMMU. This secured UCT a place in the semi-finals, but the side was forced to forfeit that game after four team members

picked up Influenza A (H1N1) infections. That setback notwithstanding, Richard Colburn impressed enough to earn a berth in the South African students' team.

### Water polo

UCT's Laura Barrett and Jade Liddell (left and right in picture) were in the South African squad that competed in a preliminary tournament of the 2009 FINA Women's Water Polo World League that took place in Lille, France, from 8 to 10 May. SA didn't win any of their three matches but did well to restrict their opponents, and managed 19 goals of their own. They lost 7-14 to France, 7-17 to eventual winners Spain and 5-18 to Italy. "But it was such good experience for our team, as it is the first time in four years that we have competed at international level," says Barrett. She and Liddell are currently with the squad in Rome, Italy, for a tournament against Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

### Lunchtime tai chi on medical campus

A few months ago a group of UCT staff in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine set up lunchtime tai chi classes at the Mac Club. The idea was to create an opportunity for academics and other UCT staff to get away from their computers and take part in gentle physical exercise. Tai chi, a martial art developed in ancient China, is best understood as a moving meditation that reduces stress, strengthens muscles and joints, and improves balance and coordination.

Classes are held once a week on Tuesdays from 12h45 to 13h45 at the Mac Club in the Barnard Fuller Building on Medical Campus. Classes are run by Richard Jordi who works in the Industrial Health Resource Group at UCT. Richard has practiced tai chi for 13 years. Anyone who is interested in taking part in the class should contact Richard at Richard.Jordi@uct.ac.za. **MP**