

Monday Paper

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Stop the McDonaldisation of universities

What are universities? Who owns them? What role do they play in society? And how much autonomy should they have?

With African University Day on 12 November looming, these were some of the questions posed to UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Jo Beall and fellow-panellists, John Pampalis, Special Adviser to the Minister of Higher Education, and Kuseni Dhlamini, CEO of Old Mutual, at a session of the Our World Our Responsibility: Re-Energising Civil Society Conference on 4 November.

In her presentation, titled *Universities for public, private or common good?*, Beall warned against the ‘McDonaldisation’ of universities: massification in relation to students and teaching; marketisation that sees students as commodities or places research solely at the service of industry; and a managerialism that fails to accommodate scholarly idiosyncrasies.

“This trilogy has led universities to be more accountable to outside interests and stakeholders than internal constituencies,” said Beall.

As a result, there is a danger of less creativ-

ity and more standardisation.

“The romantic idea of the lone scholar has lost out to research teams producing for external funders. We have to protect space for discursive debate and blue-skies thinking. If genius and madness are perhaps closely linked, in the brave new world of higher education is there room for such an academic?”

Beall argued that although universities should protect their right to critical engagement, this does not mean universities are not accountable, even to external stakeholders.

Universities and governments need each other but feelings are ambivalent.

“Those tensions are there, they have always been and always will be and I think they should be there,” said Beall. “The issue is: are these tensions creative? As long as we can work creatively with the tensions between universities and those who contribute to or feel they own or control them, we are on a good road.”

Beall notes that for universities to serve the common good, social responsiveness should be among their core functions.

“The first universities were founded as centres for creativity and discourse. By the 19th century the idea of a university dedicated to innovation in science influenced the growth of research-intensive universities. Today, universities are taking their social responsibilities seriously, serving society alongside the public and private sectors.

“Historically, universities have always been concerned with social responsiveness, morality and ethics as well as philanthropy, but today there is an imperative that the relationship between universities and society is much more direct.”

For Beall, the critical issue is academic sustainability.

“If universities are not properly financed, or if massification turns academics into ‘teach-

ing drones’ who never have time for a creative thought; if researchers don’t have time for blue-sky thinking, the knowledge project will be diminished. In our accountability to stakeholders, including government, I would make a strong plea for maintaining and preserving idiosyncrasy and accommodating critical engagement.”

Beall refers to recent global events; the financial crisis, violent conflicts and various infectious health crises. “Looking at what has happened, and what policy-makers have done to solve these problems, it seems clear we need critical spaces to say that perhaps the policy-makers don’t always get it right.

“I’m not saying universities always have the answers, but having the space to look for solutions outside the box is critical.”

(Celebrate African University Day on 12 November by wearing your traditional dress.)
(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

Still dancing, after all these years

To mark their 75th anniversary, UCT’s School of Dance has launched the 75 Photos exhibition, among several other events, chronicling the school’s history since its pre-war inception in 1934 - and its foundations in classical ballet.

The exhibition is part of the broader archival project, the UCT Dance Archive Project, supported by the Gordon Institute of the Performing Arts (GIPCA) at UCT.

Established by Dulcie Howes, the school is one of the country’s most prestigious tertiary institutions dedicated to the study of dance. It has the distinction of being one of the first dance institutes in the world to be attached to a tertiary institution.

School director Gerard Samuel said that the strength of the dance archive project lies in the fact that many of the true dance historians are still alive and able to offer factual accounts of events.

“These and other fascinating personalities and forces that may have been at play must be reviewed and researched. For example, the need to record the entry and trajectory of contemporary dance and African dance through this lens offers virgin fields of study.”

The original photos will be placed in the Manuscripts and Archives Department on upper campus.

“We plan to develop a highly organised and readily accessible catalogue and system for the study of dance using the many artefacts



(including photographs, programmes and posters) that were informally collected at the School of Dance. We

hope to facilitate student access to the UCT Dance Archive Project through web links.”

(The exhibition opens at 18h30 on 10 November, in the Baxter Theatre foyer. The event will also mark the

launch of their commemorative book, on sale at a special discount price of R100 at the opening only.) **MR**

Four join science academy

No fewer than four UCT scholars were initiated into the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) recently.

The new members are Associate Professor Jennifer Case of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Professor Alan Flisher of the Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Professor John Higgins of the Department of English Language and Literature, and Emeritus Professor Christopher Saunders of the Department of Historical Studies.

If the inclusion of Higgins and Saunders appears odd at first, it's not, actually. Topping the organisation's mission statement is its goal to promote common ground in scientific thinking across all disciplines, including the human, social and economic sciences. At last count, some 110 of the academy's nearly 350 members hail from the humanities, social sciences, education and law fields.

Membership of the academy is by election only, and the "academicians thus represent an organised, independent but responsive scholarly voice to help guide the development of the country and its people".



Assoc Prof Jenni Case

Jennifer Case is director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Chemical Engineering, where her research is focused on understanding student learning in tertiary science and engineering. She is also a member of ASSAf's recently formed Science, Technology and Mathematics Education committee, which ran a successful recent forum on the issues around school maths and science education. It's a topic the academy is well placed to tackle, believes Case. "ASSAf is the body that can draw together the expertise of South Africa's science community to address impor-

tant issues of the day," she says. "It is important that ASSAf gets involved in finding ways to improve the situation in South African schools."

Alan Flisher is the Sue Streungmann Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry & Mental Health at UCT, and his work in child psychiatry straddles the clinical and the social. His recent studies have looked at everything from substance abuse and the treatment of delirium to adolescent risk behaviour and treatment practices among traditional healers. ASSAf, then, fits in well with the broad scope of Flisher's work. "ASSAf provides the opportunity to participate in co-



Prof Alan Flisher

ordinated efforts to enhance the social responsiveness dimension to our work as scientists in South Africa," he says.

John Higgins is currently an Andrew W Mellon Research Professor in the new Archives and Public Culture



Prof John Higgins

project at UCT, headed by NRF Research Chair Carolyn Hamilton. Author of the award-winning study, *Raymond Williams: Literature, Marxism and Cultural Materialism*, his work urges and embodies a critical literacy that addresses the interface between the world and its texts. He is a member of the ASSAf expert panel examining the role of the humanities in contemporary society.

Christopher Saunders' scholarly interests lie in the 20th century history of Southern Africa, a theme he's explored extensively over decades of research. His ties to ASSAf are more recent, from when he became associate editor for the humanities of the academy's official publication, the *South African Journal of Science*. In keeping with its multidisciplinary mantra, this is part of the academy's attempt to broaden the scope of the journal, says Saunders, by including material on the humanities that could be relevant to scientists.

(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Emer Prof Christopher Saunders



Mbeki scholar caps studies with seminar

Just as she heard that her thesis had received the thumbs-up, master's student Tsungai Jongwe put her organisational skills to the test to host her own academic seminar, the final requirement of her two-year Thabo Mbeki Leadership in Africa Scholarship. At the event,

Jongwe's supervisor in the Division of Medical Microbiology, Dr Heidi Segal, gave a potted introduction to her group's work on how bacteria become resistant to antimicrobials. Following that, Jongwe ran through her own research on *Acinetobacter baumannii*, specifically

the molecular nitty-gritty of this disease-causing bacteria's growing resistance to antibiotics. She'd have liked a bigger turnout, but the talks and Q&A afterwards kept her on her toes, said Jongwe. "It raised ideas I may not have thought about before." **MP**

Geeks and gadgets at demo day

ICTS will host the IT Gadget Demo Day on 20 November, focusing on, yes, IT gadgets and their use in the academic environment.

This follows the recent Adobe Demo Day, co-hosted by ICTS to promote the latest Adobe products on campus. Staff attended a number of information sessions, tailored to the higher education environment.

"It's amazing to see new things in a software product which one has used for years already, without realising that they were there," said Christoph Held of the Division of Geomatics (APG), a frequent Adobe user. "It widened my horizon, gave me new ideas for our project and I'm pretty sure we can make more use of the Adobe products now."

Staff are welcome to pop in on 20 November for a cup of coffee and a few snacks. For the lucky, there are "awesome" lucky draw prizes up for grabs.

Some of the items on show are:



Here's how: Eva Csernyanszky, an Adobe trainer, demonstrating some features of various Adobe products to Dave Woolley of the Division of Chemical Pathology.

The Apple iPod range, iPhones, Time Capsules and various Apple peripherals, Canon cameras, printers and scanners, Logitech web-cams, speakers, and various peripherals, Rextron digital signage, ATen KVM

and console switches and much more.

During December there will be special pricing for UCT orders on some of the items exhibited at the Demo Day. **MP**

Black alumni campaign targets bursaries



First of a kind: (From left) Chancellor Graça Machel, bursary recipient Sinazo Yolwa and vice-chancellor Dr Max Price at the campaign launch.

The UCT Association of Black Alumni's (UCTABA) One Thousand for One Million campaign began on a promising note when more than R300 000 was raised at the campaign's launch in Johannesburg on 27 October.

The One Thousand for One Million campaign aims to get 1 000 black alumni each to pledge R100 for 12 months, which will bring in R1 million that will go towards bursaries for UCT students.

Many of the nearly 40 alumni and UCT friends who attended the fundraising dinner not only pledged their financial support, but also offered networking, advisory and mentorship services.

At the event, UCT Chancellor Graça Machel applauded the UCTABA, which aims to raise funds for students who are academically capable but financially needy, as

a movement that can contribute towards reshaping the country. The UCTABA was established in 2007 to get black graduates to play their part by actively participating in and contributing to UCT.

Since then, the group has established regional structures in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

This year, BCom student Sinazo Yolwa became the first recipient of a UCTABA full-cost bursary. Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price presented Vice-Chancellors Circle donor-recognition pins to UCTABA members who contributed to the bursary fund last year.

The Development and Alumni Department, in partnership with the UCTABA, will host similar fundraising events in other regions to inspire alumni to contribute towards the One Thousand for One Million campaign. **MP**

Student design could revolutionise public transport



Starfish: The team is (from left) Kyle Martin, David New, Ryan Gordon, Jerome Gristwood and Amber Osborn.

The 2010 Soccer World Cup has accelerated South Africa's need to improve its public transport system, which has led a team of UCT students to design a computer system to revolutionise the lives of commuters.

The Starfish system was unveiled at the annual UCT Department of Information Systems Project Expo to showcase computer applications developed by senior students.

A travel-card-based transport payment system, similar to those used in London and Hong Kong, the Starfish concept could reduce the time spent in queues, as well as making the public transport system safer and more efficient.

The team's lead programmer, Amber Osborn, says: "The South African public transport system is unreliable, inefficient and has the potential for corruption. Trains and buses often require an exact payment, which is frustrating, and carrying cash or anonymous tickets may incentivise crime."

The Starfish system uses cards loaded up front with cash, which can be scanned at a turnstile, where the exact fare would automatically be deducted. With photographic ID on the cards, crime would be reduced, as a stolen card would not be very useful to a thief. The potential for recouping the money on a stolen card has also been built into the system.

The system has been designed to assist both commuters and transport operators. Commuters will get more value for money, with more efficient service, and operators will have the opportunity to create special cost packages. Commuters can also use a single Starfish card to pay for multiple forms of transport, such as buses, trains, and taxis, and manage their cards and accounts online, which would include access to tailored reports and their personal travel records.

And for those wondering why it's called Starfish, it's because there are five members in the team. **MP**

Heads brainstorm transformation

Transformation was the refrain of the day as heads of academic departments met with vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and executives at a special meeting on 29 October.

Such is the scale of the topic that for the day, at least, aspects such as demography and the "knowledge-project" – what is taught and researched at UCT, and how – had to be put on the back burner, Price explained. Rather, the discussion was narrowed down to one specific feature – institutional culture.

Institutional culture is critical, said Price, because it's been found that black staff leave UCT at a much higher rate than white staff do. This, it would appear from exit discussions, has something to do with their experiences at the university.

"Institutional culture is some-



Big topic: HoDs at the recent workshop on transformation.

thing we can do more about," said Price. "But it's also the area that it's hardest to do something about, be-

cause it's not clear what the intervention is."

Professor Crain Soudien, acting vice-chancellor for transformation, echoed Price's sentiments as he recalled discussions he had with black staff at UCT in 2008, when he led the ministerial delegation looking into transformation issues at South African universities. The UCT that black staff described was eye-opening, said Soudien.

"It was a UCT I did not recognise," he told the heads of departments. "Black people have a very different experience of being here."

The meeting last week, then, was to see what HoDs – by and large still white males, as one delegate pointed out – can contribute to the debate. To spark discussion, Professor Francis Petersen, dean of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment; Professor Ian Glenn, director of the Centre for Film & Media Studies; and Professor Bongani Mayosi, head of the Department of Medicine, ran through some of the lessons they've picked up – sometimes "blundered" into, as Glenn put it – in their own transformation initiatives.

"We don't necessarily have all the answers," said Petersen. "I'm not saying our model is the perfect model; it's just a way of stimulating some discussion."

(m.morris@uct.ac.za)

Opportunity to join the University of Cape Town



Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor (VC) and the four Deputy Vice-Chancellors (DVCs) together constitute the senior academic leadership and management of the University.

Applicants must be academics with an established research track record and experience appropriate to playing a senior leadership role in a leading African academic institution or research organisation.

UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at <http://hr.uct.ac.za/policies/ee.php>. For this post we seek particularly to attract black South Africans (African, Coloured, Indian or Chinese).

The candidate appointed to this position will in the first instance be responsible for the cluster of activities related to supporting the Vice-Chancellor's transformation strategy.

This particular portfolio has specific key performance areas: • shaping the strategic goal of transformation, developing implementation programmes and monitoring progress • accountability for the social justice portfolios related to HIV/AIDS, discrimination and disability • overseeing the work of the Executive Director of Student Affairs and the Director of Transformation Services • overseeing the establishment of, and monitoring enrolment and equity targets for, student recruitment • promoting a rich student environment, both in the academic and social sense • monitoring and promoting improvement in the institutional climate • promoting a sense of identification with UCT within local communities that have previously felt excluded from the University • monitoring progress towards employment equity targets and improved staff retention and developing interventions where the University is falling short • stimulating research and debate around the meaning of transformation for the curricula, teaching and research as an aspect of transformation that has unique relevance for the university sector.

The applicant should ideally have: • a commitment to, and some relevant experience in, the role of looking after student affairs, or experience of student governance • understanding of institutional cultural transformation and organisational alignment with agreed values and goals.

To apply, please submit a letter of motivation which addresses the above criteria, including a statement on your potential contribution as part of the Office of the VC; a detailed curriculum vitae; a one-page summary of your CV and the names and contact details of three referees.

Applications will be treated in strict confidence and the selection procedures allow confidentiality to be maintained until the final recommendation is made by the selection committee. (See <http://hr.uct.ac.za/recruitment/specapps/dvc.php> for details of selection process).

Applications should be sent to Ms Yvonne Macdonald (Ref: 2121), e-mail: Yvonne.Macdonald@uct.ac.za, telephone: +27 21 650 2216, from whom further information and a detailed job description should be obtained. Nominations with a brief motivation may also be sent to the above. These should be sent as early as possible, so that the selection committee can follow up timeously with the proposed candidates.

Closing date for receipt of nominations: 11 December 2009

Closing date for receipt of applications: 15 January 2010

The University reserves the right to extend the closing date if deemed necessary and reserves the right to make no appointment.

www.uct.ac.za

Opportunity to join the University of Cape Town

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

SOUTHERN SUDAN AND DARFUR: BETWEEN CONFLICT AND PEACE

CHAIR

Dr Comfort Ero

Deputy Director: Africa

International Centre for Transitional Justice, Cape Town

SPEAKERS

Professor Peter Woodward

School of Politics and International Relations

University of Reading, United Kingdom

Dr John G Nyuot Yoh

Head of Mission, Government of South Sudan

Mission to Southern Africa (Pretoria Office), South Africa

Date: Wednesday 18 November 2009 • Time: 17H30 to 19H00

Venue: The Centre for the Book, 62 Queen Victoria Street, Gardens, Cape Town

RSVP: Lavenia Benjamin • Email: lavenia@ccr.uct.ac.za

Tel: (021) 689-1005 • Fax: (021) 689-1003 • Website: www.ccr.org.za

All are welcome and entry is free. Kindly RSVP for catering purposes.



Distinguished Teacher Awards

They have their own take on teaching, but the four lecturers named as the winners of the 2009 Distinguished Teacher Awards (DTA) have at least two things in common: they really like being in a classroom packed with students; and, according to the DTA committee, they've set the bar for teaching at UCT. Here we offer a glimpse into their teaching lives and philosophies

Associate Professor **Carrol Clarkson**, of the Department of English Language and Literature, teaches a range of material at all levels, from Jane Austen through to critical theory and postcolonial South African fiction. Together with Drucilla Cornell she taught an MA course in the Law Faculty: *Revolution in Law and Literature*. She also supervises several MA and PhD students. "I try to create an atmosphere of intellectual adventure," says Clarkson, and believes the classroom experience should stand apart from any other learning occasion. "I don't think that a classroom event can or should be substituted by any other form of learning – whether that's reading a book from the library, or



Googling something on the internet, or even picking up the lecture notes on Vula." Teaching offers a privileged opportunity to share with others the great ideas, books and artworks that she values in life, Clarkson says.

Carla Fourie, of the Educa-



tion Development Unit: Commerce, has been teaching financial accounting and financial reporting to first-year students on the Bachelor of Commerce academic development programme for the past nine years. In 2010, she'll teach on the BBusSc academic development stream as well. It's a demanding task, working as she does with students who come to university hamstrung, often, by poor schooling and having to learn in English, a second language for many. But Fourie takes the glass-half-full

approach. "I believe that if provided with appropriate support, each student has the potential to succeed," she says. "The greatest challenge when teaching is to be able to identify and create the appropriate environments in which a student's potential can be unlocked and stimulated." Working with and in young people's lives comes with responsibility and accountability, but also rewards. "I often walk out of a lecture knowing more than I did when I walked in, and for me this is the beginning of true learning."

Gary Marsden, of the Department of Computer Science, has received. In 2008 he was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, in recognition of how he uses technology in his classes. He's also picked up a raft of accolades for his work in mobile interaction design, which looks at how the design of mobile technology – think cell phones and iPods – keeps the user in mind. Marsden lectures on second- and third-year courses, and to sizeable honours classes. What's his golden rule of teaching? "You have to be absolutely passionate about what you're teaching." And he has to get his students equally excited about the subject at hand. Working in a field where textbooks age quicker than the technology they cover, he also has to think on his feet. So while there's due attention paid to the stock-in-trade theory, students can also expect to learn of plenty of hot-off-the-press developments.



Associate Professor **Melissa Steyn**, of the Department of Sociology, started her UCT teaching career back in 1988, running courses to senior undergrads and postgrads in what was then the Professional Communication Unit. Since then, she's co-developed and taught on a score of programmes in the Faculty of Humanities, lecturing on topics such as diversity and power dynamics. These are the same issues she also lectures on these days on the full- and part-time MBA courses at the Graduate School of Business. She grounds her teaching on the maxim that people do their best in settings in which they feel supported, respected, and where limiting assumptions are uncovered through "incisive conversation". Given the topics she covers, that ambition takes on new meanings. "In all my teaching I attempt to give students the opportunity to express their views, to be heard, to listen, and to revise their thinking in light of what they are hearing," she says. "Often, this is especially empowering for students from marginalised groups."

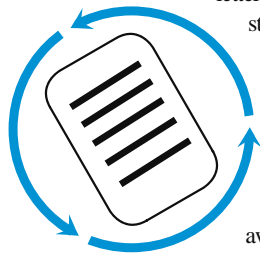


(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)

How lecturers are nominated and selected

THE LETTER

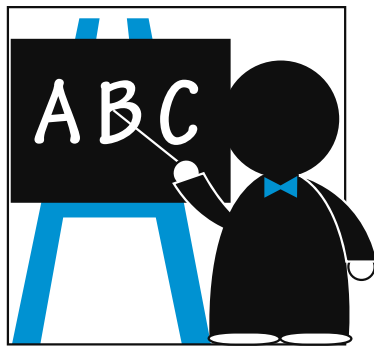
The awards committee circulates a letter, asking students and academic colleagues to nominate lecturers for the award.



plus five students – three from faculty students' councils – appointed by the Students' Representative Council.

WHAT THE COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR

Working in small sub-groups, the committee rates the candidates as As, Bs



or Cs, as is done in selection committees for staff appointments. In any given year, the awardees come from the As.

Candidates are judged against the same set of criteria, although the usually large variation in types and disciplines in teaching is taken into consideration.

Outstanding student evaluations and strong faculty or departmental endorsement go a long way.

Diversity in teaching also stands the candidate in good stead, but cognisance is taken of those cases where lecturers are appointed to teach a very particular course.

Creative and innovative teaching methods are also scored.

The impact of the teachers on students' career development is also considered.

"We are looking for that something that sets the candidate apart from the rest," says chairperson Nhlapo. "And as a committee we try to ensure that, every year, we let excellence in teaching shine through."

OTHER AWARDS

The committee is reviewing its policy on its Vice-Chancellor's Medal that, while available, has not yet been awarded. This is for those very high achievers, either selected from the year's batch of winners or previous winners.

In 2009, the committee will not award its Certificate of Teaching Merit. This is usually presented to A-rated candidates who did not win but are, in the view of the committee, deserving of recognition.



THE DECISION

As per policy, the committee will name no more than four winners each year. They may, however, choose to name fewer or, even, none. That cap of four may go up for review soon, however.

Candidates not successful on their first nomination will automatically stay on the nominees list for another two years, which allows them to build up their resúmes.



THE CANDIDATE

Once they have accepted the nomination, candidates put together a portfolio that describes their teaching and its impact.



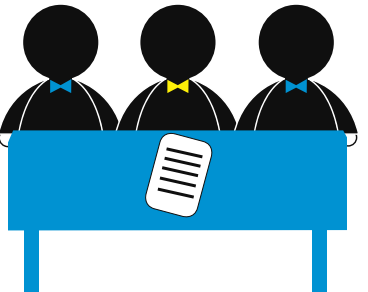
INPUT

The course co-ordinators and heads of departments will be asked to submit student surveys of all the courses the candidates teach, a must for all nominations.

The deans and HoDs must also give

THE DTA SELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee is made up of chairperson, DVC Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo; five members of academic staff appointed by Senate;



workshops and PPS implementation.

In 2007 the UCT conducted an evaluation of PPS implementation. The feedback from this survey assisted in informing the PPS Training Project.

If you are a staff member in payclass 5 to 12, go to the following link: <https://vula.uct.ac.za/direct/eval-evaluation/1298>

If you are a line manager (either an academic or a PASS line manager) responsible for staff in payclasses 5 to 12, go to the following link: <https://vula.uct.ac.za/direct/eval-evaluation/1296>

The deadline for responses is 20 November 2009.

"We ask for your contribution to this study as it will help us gain a

better understanding of how well the performance development system has been implemented across the University," said Uphill.

Staff are urged to complete the survey.

"The information will be valuable in identifying potential problems in implementation, and in measuring possible inconsistencies and vari-

ability during workshop delivery. The data will aid the HR team with information about the support that is required across the institution," Uphill said.

Results of the survey will be made available on the web once the process has been completed towards the end of November or early December.

Survey will assess performance system implementation

UCT will re-evaluate the implementation of the Personal Performance System (PPS) in a survey, following the roll-out of PPS training workshops between July and September this year.

Joanne Uphill, project manager for the PPS training project, said there had been "differing responses" across the institution to the PPS



Synergy: Dr Linda-Gail Bekker, winner of the Royal Society Pfizer Award for her work in combating TB-HIV infection.

Battle royal

In conversation, Dr Linda-Gail Bekker often falls into the habit of speaking of the cross-fertilisation between HIV and tuberculosis almost as a distinct third disease – named TB-HIV – that is in some ways divorced from its parent epidemics.

That may not be too far off the mark, agrees Bekker, recent winner of the UK's Royal Society Pfizer Award for her work with the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, part of UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine.

South Africa had already-scary

levels of TB even before HIV was thrown into the pot, she explains. The fact that the country has witnessed a six-fold increase in TB rates in only 20 years would suggest that we're losing the battle against the "unholy synergy" of the two diseases, says Bekker.

Which means it's time to think out of the box.

For one thing, scientists, clinicians and policymakers fall into the mistake of merely applying what they already know of TB to TB-HIV. That may not be the wisest course of attack, says Bekker.

"It cannot be business as usual."

To come up with novel treatments, Bekker and her 200-strong team of scientists, project leaders and nurses are applying a technique known as molecular epidemiology, to look at both the genetic and the environmental factors associated with TB-HIV infection. They hope that this attempt to "fingerprint" the dynamics of TB spread will suggest new ways to curb the epidemic.

"We have to break the cycle of infection," she says.

(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Invisible mystique and beauty of the supramolecular world

The joy of supramolecular chemistry lies in the great beauty of molecules and their structures, even though chemists can't actually see or work directly with the objects of their interest.

This was noted by Professor Susan Bourne of UCT's Department of Chemistry in her inaugural lecture, *Achieving useful properties through weak interactions*, on 27 October.

Bourne describes her work as a "personal journey", which led her to her main area of interest: the understanding of the three-dimensional structure of molecules.

"Structure is critically important in molecules," says Bourne. "A small

difference in structure can make a big difference in a molecule. For example, people often believe a molecule taken from a natural source, such as the Vitamin C in an orange, is somehow different from the same chemical made in a lab – which, as chemists, we know is absolute nonsense."

As a supramolecular chemist, Bourne's focus is on weak interactions between molecules that allow them to hold together, particularly in the crystalline solid state.

The advantage of supramolecular chemistry is its potential to make less robust, more responsive materials – useful substances that can

respond to changes in their environments.

Bourne outlined the top questions facing supramolecular chemists in this relatively young field, namely:

Can we predict how chemical components will arrange themselves in a crystal structure?

Could we make functional responsive materials – things that are capable of either responding to changes in their physical environment, or of having some use, such as storing gases or other molecules?

Is it possible to make molecular-sized machinery, as we've seen in science fiction movies?

Is it possible to use weak interactions to mimic, and therefore understand, the way nature uses those same weak interactions in living systems?

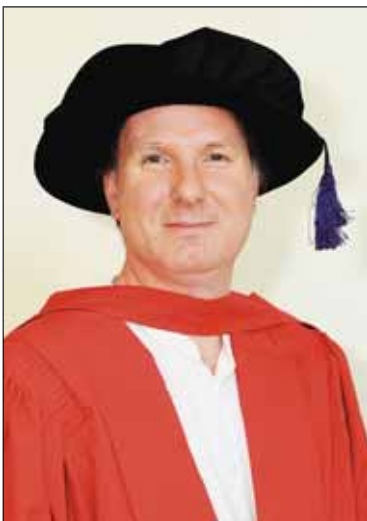
Research in supramolecular chemistry has recently blossomed throughout the world, says Bourne, quipping that she found her audience "intimidating", as it included just about every top supramolecular chemist in the country.

Bourne noted that the field has already made some progress in the study of predictable crystal pattern motifs, and has had promising results in making functional materials.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)



Cosmic conundrum: Dark energy or flying pianos?



"For all we know, dark energy might as well be flying pianos," quipped cosmologist Professor Peter Dunsby, of UCT's Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, in his inaugural lecture on 21 October.

Titled *Blunder or Brilliance? Was Einstein right about being wrong?*, Dunsby's lecture tackled the mysterious field of dark energy, a cosmological constant first proposed by Albert Einstein as a way of explaining his idea of a static universe.

"His field equations led him to a model of an expanding universe, but he didn't want this. So he added

a term – a cosmological constant – which led to a static universe."

Dunsby explained that by effectively using dark energy to balance gravity, Einstein created a model that was so highly unstable that any matter added to the universe would cause it either to collapse to a singularity or lead to accelerated expansion.

"This led Einstein to his famous quote, in which he said that this attempt was the biggest blunder of his career," said Dunsby. "But now, the idea of dark energy has made a huge comeback."

Dark energy is now used to explain recent observations that the

universe appears to be expanding at an accelerating rate. Without this mysterious dark energy, it is a struggle to fit our current model of the universe to a range of cosmological observations. However, having a non-zero cosmological constant does not come without some problems.

"If one calculates the energy density due to the vacuum of space-time – which we believe to be the cosmological constant – the answer is about 120 orders of magnitude bigger than what we observe. This is a huge blunder – probably the biggest discrepancy between theory and experiment in the whole of science."

In the standard model of cosmology, dark energy currently accounts for over 70% of the total mass-energy of the universe – but at present, cosmologists don't know what this matter actually is.

Dunsby notes that cosmology has made huge knowledge leaps in the last decade.

"But knowing something doesn't mean understanding it, and the gap between knowing and understanding has actually widened over the last few years," he said.

"This is why it's so exciting being a cosmologist right now."

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)



EDUCATION NEWS FROM AFRICA AND THE WORLD

Students burned and trashed parts of the **UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND** last week, resulting in tens of millions of rands in damage. This after the IFP-aligned SA Democratic Students Movement was penalised for not meeting the deadline to submit a list of candidates in the recent student elections, won by a landslide by the

ANC-aligned SA Students Congress.

The much-criticised Sector Education and Training Authorities (**SETAs**) are here to stay, although their number may diminish, says Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande. SETA licences will be extended for one year, said Nzimande, but he promised a

"serious reconfiguration of the SETA landscape".

The ANC in the Free State has come out in support of the **UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE'S (UFS)** transformation programme. Free State ANC chairman Ace Magashule, who is also provincial premier, said the party fully backed the process decided on during a meeting between UFS rector Jonathan Jansen and the ANC Youth League.

STUDENTS IN NAMIBIA may take the government to court to explain why children of high-ranking Government officials had received scholarships to study in China while scores of "deserving poor students"

had their applications rejected.

A REPORT IN THE US suggests that receiving financial aid appears to have a significant positive impact on the educational performance of university students from low-income families. But, adds the study, many higher-education institutions are caving to pressure to give aid to other students who do not necessarily need it.

FIFTY-EIGHT PRIVATE COLLEGES in the US now charge at least \$50 000 a year for tuition, fees and accommodation. That's up from just five in 2008.

FOREIGN STUDENTS contributed 6.5 billion Canadian dollars to

that nation's economy in 2008, more than either lumber or coal exports did. That figure, says a news report, illustrates why the government has placed a high priority on promoting Canada as a destination for international students.

A 21-year-old student in the final year of her studies at **BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY** was deported to her home in Gaza by Israeli authorities, despite appeals by the university and human-rights groups. Berlanty Azzam was arrested at a military checkpoint near Bethlehem, in the West Bank.

Sources: *IOL online, AllAfrica, Chronicle of Higher Education*

Computers galore for conservation biologists

The Nature Conservation Corporation, based in the Westlake Business Park, has sponsored 15 computers for Conservation Biology Master's students at UCT's FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology.

This master's programme has undergone a significant revamp to its curriculum to keep pace with the rapidly changing science of conservation biology. Supported by the Faculty of Science, the team has been relocated to an improved facility. The new sponsored computers will underpin the course as a leading capacity-development opportunity for future conservation biologists.

"Conservation Biology has been termed the 'crisis discipline' and is among the most relevant of modern sciences, striving to balance the needs of people with those of nature," said the institute's director, Professor Phil Hockey.

"Our sponsorship of computers to the FitzPatrick Institute demonstrates how we value innovation and advancement within our sector, for the benefit of our natural environment," said the corporation's managing director, Dean Ferreira.

"We strive to be holistic and thorough in our approach to conservation, as we want what is best for the environment."

The FitzPatrick Institute, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010, views conservation biology as the scientific study of how best to sustain and manage linked systems of people and nature.

"South African society has experienced a set of massive changes in the past 20 years, and much of the resulting dynamism and openness to new ideas is mirrored in South African conservation," Hockey said.

"Similarly, the discipline of conservation biology is undergoing a paradigm shift, in which outdated notions of preservation and paternalism are being replaced by an ethic that recognises the complexity of linked social and ecological systems and the critical need for solid, interdisciplinary research.

"The FitzPatrick Institute is contributing to this transformation through research and teaching, while also encouraging and supporting sound, action-oriented science," he concluded. **MP**



Hardware booty: Photographed at the sponsorship function were (from left) Dean Ferreira and Kareemah Jacobs, both of the Nature Conservation Corporation, and Prof Phil Hockey of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology.



Going green: Lauren de Vos (front), outgoing chair of the Green Campus Initiative, with the new committee members (from left) Fiona Preston-Whyte, Machon du Toit, Emma Loftus, Johanna Källén (chair) and Dane Rossenrode.

Entrench 'green' in the UCT system

Securing formal funding and firming up their status at UCT were some of the key challenges discussed when the Green Campus Initiative (GCI) elected a new committee on 21 October.

Outgoing chair Lauren de Vos said the project had recorded "tremendous achievements" since it was established almost two years ago. And it is still growing.

"But we are not as established as other groups on campus," she added. "We don't have the support structures of RAG and SHAWCO. We need to work with the vice-chancellor and deputy vice-chancellors to become really entrenched in the UCT system."

There have been successful collaborations. For example, UCT funded the Green Week campaign, and the

Properties & Services Department supports the ongoing recycling project.

"But we have no formal funding for other campaigns. This year we had no office, no telephone lines," said De Vos.

Despite challenges, the GCI team has achieved a lot in making UCT sustainable, with more staff and students coming on board, and their projects grabbing attention.

Now it will be up to the new committee to take that impetus further.

De Vos will be replaced by Johanna Källén as chair. Her vice-chairs are Dane Rossenrode and Katinka Wagsaether. Emma Loftus is secretary and the treasurers are Machon du Toit and Fiona Preston-Whyte. Project leaders will be nominated for specific projects. **MP**

Students donate skills to elder-abuse awareness

Awareness of the abuse suffered by the elderly has received a leg-up after a group of UCT students developed a website for a Cape Town-based non-governmental organisation that deals with the problem.

Although statistics are sketchy, it has been reported that a significant number of crimes against the elderly, mainly by family members, are not reported to police.

But Action on Elder Abuse South Africa (AEASA) will soon be able to draw greater attention to the phenomena via the new website. It will also stand the organisation in good stead in its fundraising efforts.

This thanks to the work of Louis Kinunda, Beverly Maphutha, Kenneth Mashingaidze and Gwamaka Mwalemba, honours students in information systems.

The team undertook the project as part of the community service component of their studies.

They were put in touch with AEASA by Colin Smith, a senior lecturer in accounting, and met with the organisation early this year.

Smith, a social-worker-turned-accountant, does financial management for AEASA as part of his outreach work, and says the NGO wanted the website to raise its profile and assist in attracting funding.

The students' project has provided a convenient way to meet this objective, Smith notes.

"Their business analysis has truly captured the very essence of the organisation and the webpage design encapsulated this perfectly."

For months the students juggled



Making a difference: (From left) Students Gwamaka Mwalemba, Kenneth Mashingaidze, Beverly Maphutha and Louis Kinunda developed a website for Action of Elder Abuse South Africa, part of their community service.

their demanding academic work and the hours it took putting the website together. This was quite challenging and time management was vital, they say.

In consultation with the staff of AEASA, the team did all the work on the project themselves, from designing web pages and categorising information, to researching the technical aspects of web development and how to publish the website.

The site, which will contain essential information about AEASA and raise awareness on elder abuse, is now complete and will be handed over to the organisation soon.

The team said they have learnt a lot over the months. The project provided them with first-hand experience in web development, exposed them

to elder abuse, and highlighted the importance of contributing to community development.

"We have always been taught how to apply information systems in business, but this has taught us that we can also use it to help uplift communities," says Mwalemba.

Kinunda added that this has motivated the team to prioritise social development in their career paths, "and we will certainly think of doing the same back in our communities. You don't have to do a lot".

Mashingaidze suggested that community service should be a university-wide feature.

The group were presented with certificates in appreciation of their work.

(Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za)

Erratum

Please note that the person photographed with Prof Alison Lewis in the last *Monday Paper* (Vol 28 #16) is master's student Rinesh Jivanjii and not Leslie Petrik of UWC.

Sup with retiring colleagues

The Chair of Council, Njongonkulu Ndungane, will host a dinner for retiring staff on Thursday, 12 November 2009, in the Smuts Dining Hall at 19h00 for 19h30. All staff are invited to attend this dinner to support the retirees.

The cost of the three-course dinner, which includes a welcome cocktail and red or white wine, will be R145 per person.

To book a place at the dinner, please contact Rosina van de Rheede at 021 650 4468 or email rosina.vanderheede@uct.ac.za by 9 November 2009.

We need your staff news

Appointed new staff in your department? Then we'd like to introduce them to the UCT community on this page of the *Monday Paper*. We'd also like any other staff news you may have. If you have something to share, please email helen.theron@uct.ac.za or call ext 3735 to pass on the details.

EVENTS

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 Janet Sirmongpong. Tel: 021 406 6733. Fax: 021 448 6263 Email: janet.sirmongpong@uct.ac.za

African Centre for Cities Brown Bag Date- 11 November Time- 1pm Venue: Davies Room 2.27-Engeo Building Speaker: Nancy Odendaal Topic: Association of African Planning Schools update NO RSVP

Citylab Flooding Date- 11 November Time- 3pm Venue: Davies Room 2.27-Engeo Building Speaker: Prof Jenny Day (Director, Freshwater Research Unit, UCT) Topic: "Rivers and Wetlands of Cape Town" NO RSVP • PhD Seminar Date: 13 November Time: 2:30pm Venue: Rm 2.27 Davies Room-Engeo Building NO RSVP • CityLab Phillipi Date: 18 November Time : 13h30pm Field trip to Edith Stephens Wetlands Park Please RSVP: contact maryam.waglay@uct.ac.za • Citylab Central City Date: 25 November Time:3pm Venue: Studio 3-Engeo Building(Details of topic/speaker to be confirmed) NO RSVP

ICTS Courses Courses Offered During November:02-04 – (AM) Web Publishing Starter • 02-04 – (PM) Access 2007 Level 3 • 09-11 – (AM) Groupwise 8 Level 1 • 09-13 – (PM) Computing 101 12 – (AM) Groupwise 8 Intermediate • 18-20 – (AM) Web Design • 23-27 – (AM) Adobe Photoshop CS3 Level 2 • 23-27 – (PM) MS Project 2007 Level 1 30-03 – (AM) Excel Level 1 • 30-03 – (PM) Word Level 1 AM (9:00-12:00) /PM (13:30-16:30) To book, go to [www.icts.uct.ac.za/Training/ICTS Training/ Course Booking Form](http://www.icts.uct.ac.za/Training/ICTS%20Training/Course%20Booking%20Form).

Faculty of Health Sciences:

The Vice Chancellor Dr. Max Price has pleasure in inviting you to the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Sebastian van As. 25 November 2009. Venue: Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town. Admission: Free. Guests to be seated by 17h15. Please RSVP: Centre of Extra-Mural Studies Tel: 0216502888. Fax: 0216502893. E-mail: ems@uct.ac.za Web: For more information: [http://www.uct.ac.za/calendar/ events/inaugurals/](http://www.uct.ac.za/calendar/events/inaugurals/)

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Clinical Educators: Audiology x

1 & Speech Language Pathology x 1; closing date: 13 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 2220; Roslyn.Daniels@uct.ac.za

Half-time Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer: Adult Education, HAESDU, (CHED); closing date: 13 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 3478; Fatima.Samsodien@uct.ac.za

Principal Specialist & Head: Urology; closing date: 30 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 2192; Charlotte.Snyders@uct.ac.za

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Finance Manager: IAPO ; closing date: 10 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 2220; Roslyn.Daniels@uct.ac.za

Site Facilitator: Mitchell's Plain, Faculty of Health Sciences; closing date: 10 November 2009; Tel: 021 406 6761; Cha. Johnston@uct.ac.za

Alumni Relations Officer, DAD; closing date: 11 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 2220; Roslyn.Daniels@uct.ac.za

Foundation Relations Co-ordinator, DAD; closing date: 11 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 5405; Edith.Graham@uct.ac.za

Senior Traffic Warden; closing date: 13 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 2249; Terisa.Brandt@uct.ac.za

Study Co-ordinator: Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation; closing date: 13 November 2009; Tel: 021 633 6599; HR Manager: jobs@hiv-research.org.za

Part-time Studio Teaching Assistants & Part-time Technology Tutors: 2010

Academic year; closing date: 13 November 2009; Tel: 021 650 2366; Julie.Thompsett@uct.ac.za

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

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

PROPERTY

Rondebosch: Park Estate. Room to let in modern, large, upmarket house. Quiet and safe area near to Rondebosch Common. Secure parking. Fully serviced. Contact: 0216855674.

Fish Hoek: Fully furnished 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom close to beach and railway/bus station. Suitable for visiting academic or vacation stay. Rent R1400/week. Contact Greg: 0832474850 or greg@barefoot.co.za

Rondebosch: Furnished 2 bedroomed flat with secure parking bay, close to UCT and all amenities. Available to rent at R5600.00 per month.

Contact owner: 0829296561 or 0835568232.

Claremont: 6 bedrooms, very large kitchen and lounge, secure off-street parking for 6 cars, electric gate, alarm, pool, partly furnished. R2200ppm. Contact: 0826625561

Mouille Point: Beachfront apartment to rent from 1 November 2009. Studio/bachelor flat, partial sea, mountain views. Pref non smoker, no pets. R3900 pm. Minimum 6 month rental. Contact Helen on 082 9602418 or helen.dallas@uct.ac.za

Rondebosch: One bedroomed loft apartment. Stunning views. Security complex. Underground parking. Close to all amenities. R6000 per month. Available immediately. Contact Sia: 0829765891

Kenilworth: To let. Spacious furnished Bachelor flat in secure complex with parking area. Available immediately. Contact: Fred on 0834418799.

Barrydale: Two-and-a-half-bedroom house on large property (2974 square metres) for sale in charming small town. R880 000. Contact: Tania 0836347887 or tania.katzschner@uct.ac.za

Upper Kenilworth: Secure, spacious 2 bedroom flat, 2 under-cover parking places, electric gate, partly furnished. R6000 per month or R1000 per day over Xmas Season. Contact: Julia 0849511826 or peter.kallaway@uct.ac.za

Claremont: Wonderful holiday accommodation available mid Nov 08-Feb 09 (or part thereof). Fully equipped two-bedroomed home in pretty, secure garden. Serviced 1x weekly. Rental R8000 per month. Contact: 0216718693

Mowbray: Easy walking distance of UCT, secure, furnished, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house for short and medium lets. R11000 per month. Contact Pauline Alexander 0789988210

Rondebosch Silvermile: 1/2 Bedroom house for sale. Big grounds, close to UCT shuttle route. Contact: Amanda 0736261666

Gardens: 2 Bedroomed, 1 bathroom Flat. Modern unfurnished, panoramic views of City Bowl. Roof pool. Laundry, 24hour security. 2 Parking bays. Long lease R6500 per month. Available immediately. Contact: 0832325497

FOR SALE

For Sale: Pine desk with four drawers, five beautiful kitchen counter chairs, LG Microwave, Desk chair, Futon (single) wooden frame. Prices negotiable Contact:

Dirk Blom at dirk.blom@uct.ac.za

For Sale: Protective CD DVD Skins. Protects against scratches, even while they play. Voted as one of the Coolest Time Magazine Inventions. Contact: Francisco.Lakay@uct.ac.za

For Sale: Kiln 6,4cubic feet with IPCO300 controller, front loader 5yrs old, very good condition, inside dimensions h690xw510xd520mm with kiln furniture, R12000ono. Contact: Marinella 0216835199 or 0834460496.

For Sale: Fantastic health & homecare products. 100% natural & environment friendly. Fabulous business opportunity. Contact: Michelle 0829298586

For Sale: Blue Tata Indica, LSI, for sale, cd player, immobiliser, and alarm system recently installed, excellent condition, low mileage, body in excellent condition, Contact 071 685 0889.

For Sale: Delicious homemade Biscuits/Cake to order. Contact: 0216502873/0710690530blom@uct.ac.za(a/h).

GENERAL

Eagle Transcription & Translation Services:

Transcription of mp3, .wav, AVI voice files, cassettes – research, focus groups, theses, etc. Work guaranteed. Contact: 0217611866 or 0848129386. Email: eagle@iburst.co.za or lorryhein@gmail.com

Clinical Psychologist: Close to UCT (Main Rd entrance opposite Baxter Theatre). Adults, adolescents, children, couples, families. Contact: Clint Steenveld 0833333327 or 0216852612 or clintsteenveld@absamail.co.za or website:<http://clintsteenveldpsychologist.yolasite.com/>

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

Dorylee le Roux Biokineticist offers 15% discount to UCT students and staff for all musculo-skeletal rehabilitation and sports massage sessions. Claim 100% back from your Medical Aid. 42 Harfield Road, Claremont. Book now on 0861-BOOKME (0861 2665 63).

Tutor: Wanted for month of November 09 to assist Grade 10 learner with studying for, and scribing in, end-of-year school exams. Phone Monique Nauta at 021 696 8136.

Facilitator: Wanted in 2010 to assist Grade 11 learner at school everyday. Duties include classroom, tests, exams and homework support in afternoons. Contact: Monique Nauta 0216968136.

Stressed: Learn an easy technique to help you relax? Exams coming up and you are worried, this may be able to help you. Contact: Nicky at towardshealth@gmail.com or 0828432765 a/h

Free: Fibreglass canopy or hood for an extractor. 1430mm wide, 1000mm deep, 700mm high, 400mm diameter hole and is wall mounted. Contact: Neil 0216508579

Reveal Beauty Bar: Rondebosch. Virtually pain-free waxing. Couples massage, eyelash extensions, hot stone massage therapy *10% Student discount. Visit www.revealbeautybar.co.za or Contact: 0216856077.

Rondebosch: Postgraduate couple seeking fully furnished accommodation from Jan. 2010 to Feb. 2010. Proximity to UCT a plus but all locations will be considered. Contact: Laura 0794615088 or puravidalaurat@gmail.com

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Ph: 650 3161 Email: uctclub@uct.ac.za
Web: uctclub.uct.ac.za

Female French speaking student with transport and drivers license required two afternoons a week (excl Fri) between 1400 and 1700 in Northern Suburbs.

The Job : Ferrying Merry children (12 / 10 / 8) around between home and extramural activities.

Contact Fay at 071-6733978



Fine mettle: Jacques Viljoen won the UCT Sportsman of the Year title at the university's annual Sports Awards Dinner.

Top UCT sports title for fencer

Jacques Viljoen's fine performance in fencing earned him the UCT Sportsman of the Year title at the university's annual Sports Awards Dinner on 23 October.

Ranked number one fencer in South Africa and 73rd in the world, Viljoen lifted the Jamison Cup, as the award is called, which was also contested by karate chart-topper Thabiso Nkile, boulderer Marijus Smigelskis, water polo stars Andre James Ridley and Laura Barrett, and rugby player Martin Dirk Muller and canoeist Michael Watson.

Viljoen recently returned from Turkey, where he represented South Africa at the World Fencing Championships, and was part of the University Sports South Africa (USSA) team that competed at the World Student Games in Serbia in August. That was after he won a trophy and five gold medals at the USSA Fencing Championships in June.

Other winners at the UCT Sports Council event were:

- The Karate Club, named Club of the Year;
- Jessica Ellis of the Tennis Club, who won the transformation category;
- Judo star Nico Louw, who was named Best First Year;
- Julia Chen of the Mountain and Ski Club, who won the Landstem Trophy for Performance of the Year, and
- The Rugby Under 20 A team, who won the Butterworth Trophy for Team of the Year.

John Donald, manager of Student Sport & Recreation, said: "I think nobody can be disappointed about the winners. They all deserved it."

Former international footballer Lucas Radebe delivered "a modest, down-to-earth and inspirational talk" on how he rose above all challenges to captain Bafana Bafana and Leeds United. **MP**

Tennis day for city children

Over 150 children from three schools in the City Bowl spent the morning of 29 October on UCT's tennis courts, thanks to an initiative by the Tennis Club and the Growing Sport Foundation Trust.

This was the first of what is hoped will be many big tennis days for the children, and included training by UCT coaches, prizes and the opportunity to watch experienced Western Province players compete.

The collaborative effort to teach the joys of tennis to children who come from schools with few or non-existent sporting facilities came about when fourth-year fine art student, and development and transformation head for the UCT Tennis Club, Jessica Ellis, contacted the foundation in 2008.



Learning the ropes: Lindokuhle Gwele of St. Mary's Primary with coach Jessica Ellis at the tennis day.

This resulted in a team-up with Michelle Whitehead, head of the foundation's Growing Tennis Programme and a well-known figure in South African tennis.

Acting as assistant coaches, UCT students picked up the basics of

Whitehead's Play & Stay programme (accredited by the International Tennis Federation) to the extent that they could run the classes themselves.

Now, at more than 15 sessions over a seven-day week, Ellis and a band of club mates host training sessions with what adds up to hundreds of school learners at seven primary and high schools in the Cape Town City Bowl.

Attending the first gala day were children from St Mary's Primary School in Tuinplein Gardens, the Walmer Estate Primary School, and Rahmaniye Primary School in Zon-neloom.

Those interested in getting involved in the 2010 program can email ucttennisdevelopment@gmail.com. **(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za) MP**

Outreach begins at home, says new head student



New chapter: New head student of Leo Marquard residence, Siyabonga Nyezi.

When he first came to UCT, Siyabonga Nyezi noted that his fellow students – all gathered for Orientation Week – were raring to go.

But as they settled in, the initial excitement faded away. Many lost interest in events on campus, "those

things beyond their studies", something that disturbed him.

"I felt I had to use whatever position I could get at university to help deal with these levels of apathy," he said.

As the new head student of Leo Marquard residence's house committee for 2010, he has that platform.

Nyezi, a BBusSc student who holds the public relations portfolio in the 2009 house committee, will spearhead activities that will get the Leo Marquardians involved in the community and build spirit at the residence. He also plans to up their involvement in other extra-curricular activities.

"I feel I can lead the future generation of Leo Marquardians to become worthy citizens. If you commit yourself to serving the residence and you have been presented with an opportunity, there is so much you

can contribute in terms of leadership skills."

Nyezi, who hails from Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, believes that students aren't solely to blame for the general apathy. He and his team are brainstorming community outreach initiatives that they hope will keep students involved and in the loop.

"My residence does not do much charity work," Nyezi noted. "We need to introduce students to that concept, and make sure that they understand the importance of charity work."

Among the challenges faced by his group is maintaining a balance between studies and student leadership, and making sure that leaders don't misuse their positions.

"We must make sure that the team is there for the right reasons – for the betterment of the house, not for personal interest." **MP**

Campus in step with Soccer World Cup

The spirit of the 2010 Soccer World Cup arrived at UCT with a thump on Thursday 22 October, when a team from the marketing campaign, *Beyond the 90 Minutes Road Trip*, filmed students learning the steps to the Soccer World Cup dance.

Led by Commerce Students Council president Dinika Govender, the students put all their energies into Diski, as the dance has been dubbed.

The campaign links the soccer experience to the broader tourism

experience in the Cape. It aims to facilitate stays in the region and help visitors enjoy the full range of experiences the city has to offer.

Acting dean of commerce Professor John Simpson said UCT was gearing up to do its bit towards the 2010 Soccer World Cup in Cape Town by offering comfortable, affordable residence accommodation, and transport to and from the airport, games, city hotspots and the wine-lands in rebranded Jammie Shuttles. (Watch the video on YouTube.)



Footloose: Phumeza Mdekazi shows UCT students the steps of Diski, the Soccer World Cup Dance.



New alumni campaign AIRborne

The Development and Alumni Department (DAD) has launched UCT AIR, aka UCT Alumni in Residence, a campaign – which was two years in the making – that hopes to foster a greater sense of UCT pride among students. "The campaign aims to involve students and educate them while on campus about how great it is to be a UCT alum, and also

to participate in our alumni programmes once they have left campus," said DAD's Lungile Jacobs. Standout features at the launch were the very visible UCT AIR posters and banners, and the 'Airmbassadors', clad in green T-shirts, who pitched the campaign to students. UCT AIR boasts a Facebook site, and can also be found online. **MP**