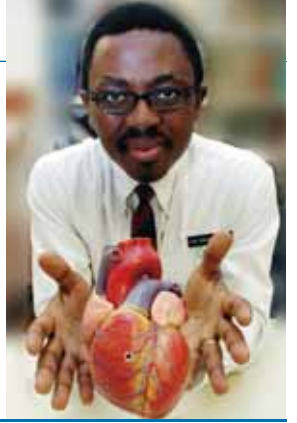




Monday Paper

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UCT mobilises Confucius institute

The university will launch its new Confucius Institute in January 2010, but the fledgling centre is already up and running, giving UCT students a leg-up in terms of Chinese culture and language

China has had its share of bad press, but if it does become the world's next economic powerhouse as many predict, a few words in Mandarin could come in handy.

And now that UCT is host to its own Confucius Institute (CI) – a process that's taken two years to complete – the university's students can get in on the act sooner rather than later.

The Confucius Institute is a non-profit public institute based in Beijing that aims to promote Chinese language and culture throughout the world, much as the British Council champions the study of English language and culture. The CI headquarters supports the teaching of Chinese via affiliated Confucius Institutes and smaller-scaled Confucius Classrooms around the world.

As China rises as a world power, so, too, has interest in the country's language

and culture. By last count, there were over 280 Confucius Institutes (plus a further 250 Confucius Classrooms) spread over more than 50 countries, from Argentina to Romania, and now, Spain and South Africa.

As is the custom with Confucius Institutes, UCT has been allocated a Chinese partner university, in this case the prestigious Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) in Guangdong Province.

The UCT CI will offer not-for-credit and, in time, credit-bearing courses, including basic and intensive language courses in Mandarin. Examples of other future possibilities include short modules for business-science students on Chinese approaches to business, and special short courses for groups or individuals intending to visit China.

Plans are also afoot for a symposium on western-eastern philosophy, and possible courses on Chinese art and culture at the 2011

UCT Summer School. (Indeed, in the 2010 Summer School, several courses on Chinese language, brush-painting and the silk route will be on offer.) In addition, UCT will host visitors from other Confucius Institutes around the world.

Thanks to the financial support from the Chinese, academic exchanges for staff and students with SYSU and China in general are also in the pipeline.

For now, the institute is based at the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED). This makes sense, as CHED works across the faculties and is also home to the Multilingual Education Project, which runs similar language-teaching initiatives across campus, explains Associate Professor Nan Yeld, who as dean of CHED will also take responsibility for the UCT CI until a director is appointed.

"Soon we'll be offering Mandarin to students in residences and to other students, as we do with isiXhosa," says Yeld. "So it fits quite well."

The Confucius Institute also allows UCT to prepare students for an ever-changing global landscape, adds deputy vice-chancellor Professor Jo Beall.

"UCT students are going to operate in a world where the emerging markets – China among them – are going to dominate, and on the African continent, where China plays a big role," says Beall. "If Africans are going to meet the challenge of engaging with the Chinese, then the more we know about them, the more we can communicate with them, the better."

The CI will be officially launched in January 2010.

(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Forum touts new memorial for burial ground

It's taken around a year and a half of debate and negotiation, but proposed memorials on the Rustenburg Burial Ground site adjacent to the new School of Economics building on middle campus would suggest that UCT's public consultation process is going well.

At the latest meeting of the Stakeholder Forum on Saturday 14 November, Van der Merwe Miszewski Architects (VDMMA) presented ideas for these memorials, as proposed by a Stakeholder Working Group.

The memorials would be made up of a garden of remembrance and an interpretation space or gallery associated with the new Economics Building.

These commemorative ideas are based on detailed proposals from the stakeholders, including UCT, the City of Cape Town, and interested individuals and representatives from community groups such as the

Cape Family Research Forum and the Khoe & San Active Awareness Group.

The site is believed to be the final resting place of slaves who worked the Rustenburg farms along the Liesbeeck River in the 17th and 18th centuries, among others. The cemetery lies right next to the new building that is currently under construction, and underneath All Africa House.

The proposed memorials would reflect the elegance and simplicity of the original burial site, said VDMMA's Anya van der Merwe, who is also an adjunct professor in UCT's School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics. A glass-covered trench would hold the garden's centrepiece, a fragment of the cemetery's wall that was recovered in the archaeological digs at the site. (See illustrations.)

"We designed the space in such a way that it's not something that's stuck away," said Van der Merwe, "that it is a space that is passed by and reflected on and looked onto by students."

The proposals will now go up for further public debate, while UCT looks into how it will fund the memorials, as they were not part of the project's initial budget. In addition, there's a string of other issues still up in the air, including the governance of the site.



Remembering: An architect's impression of the proposed garden of remembrance and (above) the interpretation centre (lit-up area) that would make up the memorials of the Rustenburg burial site on middle campus.

But Professor Crain Soudien, acting deputy vice-chancellor for transformation, reported that UCT will be

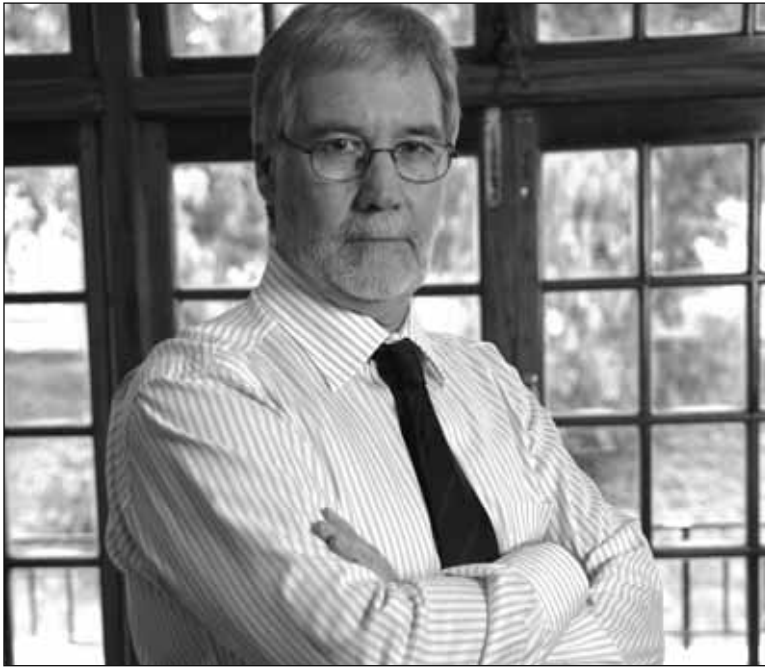
looking into ways to address these matters and make the site happen. "In the end, this is going to be too

important to remain only a concept," he said.

(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Visser hangs up his warden's jacket



“I, too, once lived in Arcadia.” Those are Professor Danie Visser’s words; though taken from the Latin title of a Nicolas Poussin painting, they best describe his feelings as he retires as the warden of Smuts Hall residence at the end of the year. Arcadia, of course, refers to a Utopian vision of harmony with nature.

Visser hangs up his warden’s jacket after 12 years because, as deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research, he has “a little too much” on his plate.

This means that the days of walking down from Smuts to his office (he will be moving to his house in Pinelands), and of unscheduled visits by students in the evenings, are things of the past.

But it’s been a wonderful time, Visser says.

“Being a warden has been the best part of my existence at UCT.”

Visser believes that wardenship is an important part of UCT’s overall service to students, and encourages all senior staff members to consider it very seriously.

It’s a rewarding way to get know students in a different way.

“When you speak to students in a lecture room you talk about your subject, but when you interact with them in residences, you talk about larger life, and really get the thinking of young people.”

One of the key challenges facing residences is to make them inclusive, he says. This means that, through structures and practices, everyone is

made to feel happy and part of the residence.

“With South Africa having a diverse culture and a divided history, that is not always an easy task. Residences at UCT are doing a good job of integrating students, but there is still much to do.”

His stint had its ups and downs, however. A low point was when a student fell out of a window, sustaining an injury that cost him a year’s study.

What about the highlights? From watching inter-res sport and presentations by honorary academic fellows, to students’ involvement in community outreach projects and high table dinners, that list is endless.

“Being in Smuts Hall is very special, and I shall miss it.”

(Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za)

Must-have light design



John Edwards, a master’s student in architecture at UCT, has scooped top honours in the eighth annual Solve New Talent Search competition for his lighting design, the Vuvu Lamp, inspired by the near-iconic vuvuzela. Edwards beat out some 120 other entries in the competition, organised by *Elle Decoration* magazine and sponsored by up-market furniture retailers Weylandts. Despite his own misgiv-

ings – “I thought it might have been a silly idea” – Edwards had long nursed the design concept. And when *Elle* opened the competition to students this year, he thought he’d have a bash. As part of his winnings, Edwards will now work with Weylandts to turn the concept into a working, must-have item for the discerning homemaker, just in time for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. (M.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Paper is of the first water



Doctoral researcher Dyllon Randall, of the Crystallisation & Precipitation Unit in the Department of Chemical Engineering, beat presenters from around the globe to win the prize for best technical paper at the International Mine Water Conference, held in Pretoria in October. The award was made by the Water Institute of Southern Africa (Mine Water Division) and

the International Mine Water Association, and hopes to attract young engineers to mine water management. Randall’s paper was titled *Seeding for selective salt recovery during eutectic freeze crystallisation*. His supervisor, Professor Alison Lewis, recently received the best-paper prize at the Water in Mining Conference in Australia, for a paper they co-authored. **MP**



GSB the best in Africa, say peers

UCT’s Graduate School of Business (GSB) has been rated the best business school in Africa at the Eduniversal Second World Convention held in Cape Town in October.

The American University in Cairo came in second in the category, with the University of Stellenbosch Business School placed third.

The honour follows the GSB’s first Eduniversal ranking last year, in which it was voted the most influen-

tial business school on the African continent and awarded five Palmes, the organisation’s highest honour. The School received the awards at the Cape Town event.

The rankings are based on peer reviews. Each year, Eduniversal (a French organisation) invites business school deans from around the world to vote and give their recommendations on the Eduniversal Official Selection of the 1 000 best global

business schools, from which the top schools are selected.

“I believe that a peer-reviewed award such as this is one of the most valuable metrics by which to measure a business school,” said GSB director Walter Baets. “I am delighted that the international business school community... believes we are already there. It’s a tremendous boost to our endeavours, but we will not rest on our laurels.” **MP**

Afrikaans poets in print

Four poets in the Creative Writing programme, under the supervision of Afrikaans poet and critic Professor Joan Hambidge (seated), of the School of Languages and Literatures, have chalked up individual successes. Carina Stander (left) published a second volume of poetry, *Woud van nege en negentig vlerke*, after her debut, *Die vloedbos sal weer vlieg*, both published by Tafelberg. Martina Klopper’s (second right) solo volume, *Nadoodse ondersoek*, was accepted by Human & Rousseau publishers for next year. Lou-Ann Stone (left of Klopper) and Fourie Botha were shortlisted for *Nuwe stemme 4*, an anthology for promising young poets (Tafelberg publishers). Tafelberg and Human & Rousseau are prestigious publishing houses. **MP**



Lens on reconciliation and post-conflict society at UCT conference

How do children of survivors or perpetrators of gross human rights abuses deal with the legacies they have been given?

This is one of the issues which will come under the spotlight at the Beyond Reconciliation: Dealing with the aftermath of Mass Trauma and Political Violence conference which takes place at UCT from 2 to 6 December.

The conference is a further reflection on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission process, which was the subject of a similar conference in 2006.

Co-organiser and UCT psychology Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, who served on the TRC, says the conference will examine the effects within countries which have used a TRC-type process to deal with reconciliation.

Conference papers include re-

search on post-conflict communities and reconciliation in societies with a history of mass trauma and genocide, struggles with memory, refugees and their children, and justice for victims.

Gobodo-Madikizela says a large German delegation will attend, reflecting the "interesting link between our work on reconciliation and the German story". The delegation will include the sons and daughters of Nazi perpetrators and Holocaust survivors which will highlight "inter-generational issues" such as the effect on younger generations of reconciliation.

There will also be a focus on xenophobia in South Africa.

"We are conscious of the social responsiveness element and the conference will also be looking at ongoing work within communities

by scholars in their fields."

A special public dialogue event, Reconciliation in South Africa: Are things falling apart? will take place on Friday, 4 December at 17.30. Speakers include former Vice-Chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele, University of Stellenbosch political scientist Professor Amanda Gouws, University of the Orange Free State Vice-Chancellor Prof Jonathan Jansen and Professor Antjie Krog of the University of the Western Cape.

The public dialogue event will include the presentation of an International Award for Love and Forgiveness to Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

All proceedings of the conference, including the public events, will take place at Kramer Building on Middle Campus.

For further information, please



Arch peacemaker: A special International Award for Love and Forgiveness will be made to Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the Beyond Reconciliation conference on 4 December.

contact Ahmed-Riaz Mohamed at ahmedriazm@gmail.com or go to

<http://www.beyondreconciliation.co.za/>

New centre tackles another disease burden



Prof Bongani Mayosi.

While infectious diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis may hog the daily headlines in Africa, the just-launched Sub-Saharan Africa Centre for Chronic Diseases (SSACCD), hosted by UCT, is placing in its crosshairs the growing tide of chronic and lifestyle diseases that is sneaking up on the continent.

The SSACCD is a network of investigators and policymakers commandeered from UCT, Stellenbosch University, the University of the Western Cape, the Medical Research Council, the Department of Health in the Western Cape, the Department of Health in Tanzania and Harvard University in the US.

As it has no building or labs of its own, the centre is hosted by UCT's Department of Medicine, with its secretariat – which will keep an eye on the collaborations – headquartered in the newly-renamed Bill Hoffenberg

Conference Room at Groote Schuur Hospital.

The bulk of the SSACCD's funding comes from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health in the US, which has set up 10 similar centres of excellence in other corners of the developing world. (Africa now hosts three; the other two are based in Kenya and Tunisia.)

The South African centre takes its mandate from a landmark paper, *The Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases in South Africa*, which appeared in the UK-based journal *The Lancet* (volume 373, issue 9693) in September this year (see [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)61087-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61087-4/fulltext)). Penned by a group of scholars affiliated to South African, Australian and Swedish universities, the paper paints a worrying picture.

"South Africa is in the midst of a health transition that is characterised by the simultaneous occurrence of epidemic infectious diseases and a rise in non-communicable diseases, in a population facing a heavy burden of perinatal and maternal disorders, injury and violence," it reads.

Headlining this rogues' gallery of 'lifestyle' diseases are cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes (the most common form of diabetes, it's also been called non-insulin-dependent diabetes), cancer, chronic lung disease and depression. These, say the authors, are the "major non-communicable diseases now reaching epidemic proportions in the former socialist states and low-income regions of the world".

This rise, over the past 15 years of political transition in South Africa, is partly driven by an increase in risk factors in both urban and rural areas,

and, despite the devastations of HIV/AIDS, the country's ever-ageing population.

One World Health Organisation study estimates that non-communicable diseases caused 28% of the country's total burden of disease, measured by disability-adjusted life years, in 2004.

In response, the SSACCD aims to "design novel ways to treat and prevent chronic diseases at the community level," says Professor Bongani Mayosi, head of the Department of Medicine at UCT and one of the authors of the *Lancet* paper. "At the centre, we'll test these models for effectiveness and make them available to ministries of health to implement throughout their health systems."

Looking at the sheer scale of the problem, the centre will have its work cut out for it.

(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)

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

THE TOXIC MIX

by Graeme Bloch

CHAIR AND DISCUSSANT

Professor Brian O'Connell

Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Western Cape
Cape Town

SPEAKER

Mr Graeme Bloch

Education Policy Analyst, Development Bank of South Africa
Johannesburg

Date: Tuesday 24 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. The book will be on sale at the event.
Kindly RSVP for catering purposes.



EDUCATION NEWS FROM AFRICA AND THE WORLD

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE vice-chancellor Jonathan Jansen has vowed that the Reitz Four will make a public apology. "I think it would have been ideal if there was remorse, and ideal if there was an apology," said Jansen at a recent meeting of the Cape Town Press Club. "You will see a process that I think will transform this country enormously."

At a recent protest march, the African National Congress and its alliance partners demanded the disbanding of the University of the Free State's council, saying that only seven of the 30 council members were black. The protesters also accused the UFS of ignoring affirmative action

principles.

Students at **UGANDA'S MAKERERE UNIVERSITY** have gone on strike action after the university's administration announced that they will not be sending students to an upcoming inter-university games event because of financial constraints. The students stormed the Senate Building and library, carrying placards that described the university's sport as "doomed and dead".

Students at the **UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT** in Nigeria have called on the government to relocate the ex-military camp located at Aluu near Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital. This followed another violent protest staged by the ex-militants, numbering about 4 000.

One student was killed – allegedly by police – in a three-day protest that turned violent at **ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** in Nigeria. Some 27 students have reportedly been arrested.

The recession may be over, but state-financed colleges and **UNIVERSITIES IN THE US** will feel its ill effects for the next two or three

years, according to Michael Strauss, chief economist at Commonfund, an asset-management company serving about 1 300 college and university endowments.

Thanks in large part to the detective work of an **AUSTRIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT**, a 90-year-old former SS officer now living in Duisberg, Germany, has been indicted by German prosecutors for his alleged role in the 1945 massacre of a group of Jewish slave workers in an Austrian village. The **UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA** student, Andreas Forster, had been conducting research on the massacre and tracked down the suspect simply by using current telephone records.

Berlanty Azzam, the 21-year-old Palestinian student summarily deported from **BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY** to her family home in Gaza by the Israeli army, was finally given a military hearing to plead her case to stay two more months in Bethlehem in order to finish her degree, a hearing that she should have been afforded three weeks earlier.

Sources: *IOL Online*, *AllAfrica.com*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*

Retirees witnessed passage of history at UCT



Time out: Retiree William Melenephy of the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, with VC Dr Max Price.

Both demanding and fulfilling is how retiring staff members described their time at UCT, as the university bade them farewell at the Retirees Dinner on 12 November.

One of these was William Melenephy, whose 37 years of service had its ups and downs.

Melenephy said he had met many interesting people at UCT, in particular foreign visitors, and fondly recalls the support he received from colleagues.

He also remembers the bad old days at UCT. As a cleaner in the

1970s, he and his colleagues were often instructed to perform extra duties without pay. And at the time, coloureds were barred from using the same facilities as their white counterparts.

This was the shame of that time, as psychiatrist Associate Professor Denise White put it when she presented the official retirees' response at the dinner.

As a student at UCT in the 1960s, there were no Africans in her class, and coloured and Indian colleagues were not allowed to go near white patients at Groote Schuur Hospital.

White also remembers when, after Chris Barnard's landmark heart-transplant, students achieved celebrity status because of their association with Groote Schuur, and were often seen signing autographs for tourists.

She said that, as retirees, they had been "privileged" to have been part of a momentous passage from apartheid to democracy, with the Faculty of Health Sciences now fully integrated.

"However, there is still a long way to go for the ills of the past to be fully redressed," she acknowledged.

White challenged fellow retirees



Among friends: (From left) Dr John Lazarus, Dr Dick Barnes, retiree Assoc Prof Alan Pontin of the Division of Urology, and Dr Anne Gudgeon.

"not to go home and feel sorry for yourself", but to continue making contributions, as the need for their services is still so great. This was in response to vice-chancellor Dr Max Price's earlier call that retirees

should consider offering their services to students in new capacities.

As one "retiree to other retirees", chair of Council Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane assured the special guests that there is life after

hanging up their jackets, "and the greatest joy in retirement is that you do what you want to do, not what you must do" (To see the photo album go to www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/photo_albums/. **MP**)

Nominations open for fourth DVC

UCT has kick-started the process of appointing a fourth deputy vice-chancellor, following on the appointment of Professors Jo Beall and Danie Visser at the end of 2008.

At the time, UCT had offered the vacant fourth DVC position to Professor Jonathan Jansen, who declined the

offer. Jansen has been much in the news since he stepped in as vice-chancellor and principal of the University of the Free State.

UCT noted at that stage that the selection committee would reconvene to decide on the way forward with the vacancy.

In a break with last year's process, in which portfolios were not specified, the advertised position comes with very specific duties, namely to oversee UCT's transformation strategy, as well as student affairs at the university. Professor Crain Soudien currently holds these portfolios as acting deputy

vice-chancellor.

Soudien's contract has been extended until the end of June 2010, by which time, it is planned, the permanent appointment will have been made.

The selection process also allows for nominations from within the UCT community.

The closing date for nominations is 11 December 2009. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2010.

For more information and details on the selection and appointment process, see the online ad under 'notices' at www.uct.ac.za. **MP**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your reporters correctly quoted my speech (Vol 28#16) at the cocktail function for the participants in the New Academic Practitioners Programme (NAPP), when I stated that the NAPP started off as a programme for historically disadvantaged staff. Subsequently, however, I was informed that this was not the case. In fact, NAPP is not now and never was intended to target historically disadvantaged staff. It was started in 2004 in response to long-overdue recognition that the nature of the academic job had grown more complex and increasingly professionalised, and that all staff entering academic life for the first time need guidance to understand and learn to navigate these complexities in their roles as teachers, researchers and members of institutions under transformation. It is important that all new academic staff appreciate the value of participating in the NAPP.

Dr Max Price
Vice-Chancellor

I would like to respond to the letter from 'UCT driver' in the *Monday Paper* (Vol28#15) about Jammie Shuttle drivers.

I found the letter deeply disrespectful and disgusting, as if this 'UCT driver' owns the roads at this public sector institution and all people should make way for his or her car. What disgusting entitlement. Jammie Shuttles should have right of way almost always – they transport those without cars; those who need the transport.

It's true that the Jammie drivers are sometimes reckless and sometimes don't keep to schedule. It's also true that other workers at UCT don't clean properly or leave rubbish lying around or even simply work negligently. However, many academic staff also work with the same negligence – and many students, too. In fact, many staff members and students act with such entitlement (in teaching and being taught) that it makes sense for some workers some-

times also to act with entitlement.

These workers are the ones who, every day, clean the campus, transport students and staff, safeguard UCT, maintain UCT, make and serve food, and surely and actively allow the everyday running of UCT as an institution. Should they not also be entitled or do they rank lower than staff members and students? Has this 'UCT driver' never seen a staff member or student driving recklessly at UCT?

Having said this, I wonder if the anonymous 'UCT driver' ever stopped to think about what it is like to drive a Jammie Shuttle all day. I wonder if this person can look deeper and imagine what it is like to be a worker at UCT, let alone drive a bus. I also wonder if this person knows that these Shuttle drivers have (again) been threatened with losing their jobs at UCT.

Sure, safety is a concern, but for whom, and whose safety? Do you wonder about the safety of yourself

or are you able to look deeper at the reasons behind Shuttle drivers' recklessness? Can such a 'UCT driver' see or even imagine this reality faced every day by the Shuttle drivers and other workers at UCT?

Matthew Grant
Student
(This letter has been shortened.)

I am writing this letter in response to my being awarded a UCT student leader award for my work within the UCT Surgical Student Society. (*Monday Paper* Vol 28#15)

I believe that the success of the UCT Surgical Society cannot be attributed only to myself, and am thus writing this letter both to honour and to pay tribute to the wonderful team that I have been privileged to work alongside and learn from this year. They are the real reasons for the success and growth of the society this year. Each individual in the team of 2009 has infused

passion, hard work, dedication and camaraderie into the daily running of the Society, and this, coupled with strong teamwork and good friendships, has helped make the Society the success it has become. It has been a great privilege to work and learn alongside this remarkable group of highly motivated and capable young people – an experience that I am very grateful for.

I thus would like to pay special tribute to this very special "Super-team" who I truly believe are the real deserving recipients of my award.

In addition to the above, I would sincerely also like to thank Professor Del Kahn, head of the UCT Department of Surgery and Patron of the Society, to whom the society is greatly indebted, for all his guidance, support and inspiration.

David-Mordechai Favara
Outgoing Chairperson: UCT Surgical Society

New African dinosaur was very down to earth



Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan.

Just a year or so after releasing it, Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan may have to make a few revisions to her children's book, *Famous Dinosaurs of Africa*, now that a new and very special African dinosaur, named *Aardonyx celestae* has been identified.

She had a hand in the process, though. Chinsamy-Turan is part of the international team that revealed *Aardonyx* not just as the newest face on the African dinosaur scene, but also as a pivotal piece in the puzzle of dinosaur evolution. (The dinosaur derives its genus name *Aardonyx*, meaning 'Earth Claw', from the fact that its large, earth-encrusted foot

claws were among the first bones to be discovered, while the species name, *celestae*, is a nod to Celeste Yates, wife of co-discoverer Dr Adam Yates, for her work on the fossil.)

Unearthed in the Free State, the vegetarian *Aardonyx* is said to date from the Early Jurassic period, about 195 million years ago. Not a full-grown adult when it died, *Aardonyx* was about seven metres long and about 1.5 m high at the hips when on all fours.

And while it was bipedal, meaning it could also walk on its hind legs only, *Aardonyx* is of particular interest to palaeontologists exactly because it could also move about on all fours. That and other family traits suggest that *Aardonyx* was close to the common ancestor of the much larger and more imposing quadrupedal (walking on all four legs) and long-necked dinosaurs, the sauropods, say the discoverers in the latest Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Sauropods were the largest animals to walk on land. (Family members, the tree-browsing *Brachiosaurus*, were the first dinosaurs spotted in Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*.) With their long necks, tree-trunk legs and whip-like tails, some exceeded 30 metres in length and weighed about

100 tons.

Aardonyx is thought to be an important step in the evolution towards the sauropod condition.

"*Aardonyx* lies at the very heart of the transition from earlier two-legged 'prosauropod' dinosaurs to the true four-legged sauropods," says Adam Yates, based at the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research at Wits University, and a member of the team that first dug up the fossil.

Aardonyx also moves the timeline back for when sauropods and near-sauropods first walked on all four legs, "a trend that started very early in these dinosaurs, much earlier than previously hypothesised", says

Dr Matthew Bonnan, a vertebrate palaeobiologist at Western Illinois University in the US.

"The bones of the forearm are shaped like those of sauropods," explains Bonnan. "This means that the forearm and hand could bear weight and that *Aardonyx* could drop onto all fours as well as walk bipedally."

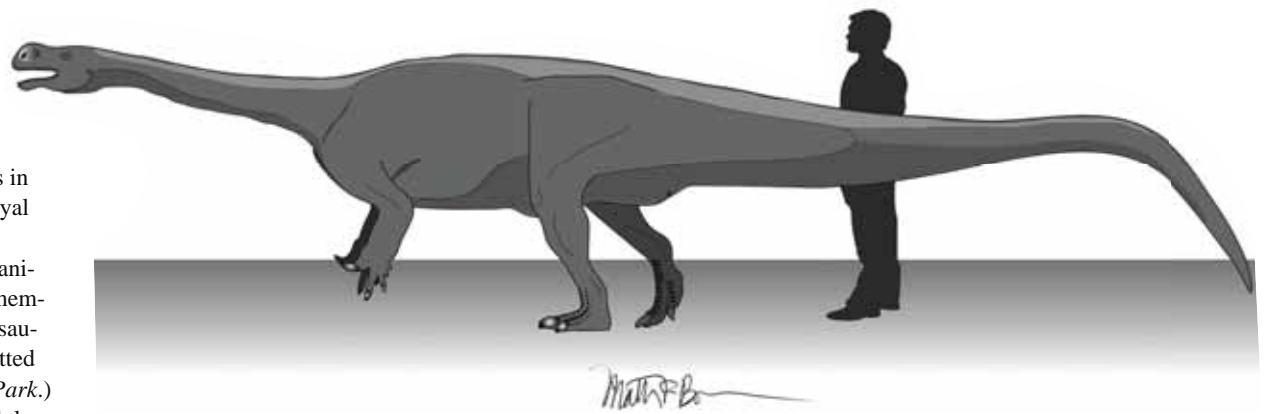
There are other features that make *Aardonyx* stand out. Such as the lack of cheek – a sheet of tissue spread between the upper and lower jaws – that helped in the gathering of bigger mouthfuls of browse in some earlier plant-eating dinosaurs.

"This came as a surprise, as some early true sauropods still apparently kept their cheeks,"

says Wits' Yates. "In short, the evolution of sauropod feeding was a more complicated affair than we previously thought."

It was UCT's Palaeobiologist Chinsamy-Turan of the Department of Zoology who pinned down *Aardonyx*'s age – it was no more than 10 years old – with her analysis of the bone microstructure of the dinosaur's ribs and shoulder blades. "It is quite amazing that, after 195 million years of burial and fossilisation, the microstructure of the *Aardonyx* bones still retains clues about various aspects of its biology," says Chinsamy-Turan.

Enough for a new chapter in her book, perhaps.



Strolling: A newly-identified African dinosaur, *Aardonyx*, is thought to be among the first in the sauropod line to walk on all fours, as shown in this illustration by co-discover Dr Matthew Bonnan.

Seminar tackles health from new perspective

On the surface, a recent seminar titled *Body, Health and Illness* looked a lot like a medical gathering, what with its recurring themes of HIV, public health and traditional medicine.

Instead, the Sawyer Seminar approached these topics from another angle. Over a keynote address, a round table discussion and a four-day colloquium convened by Dr. Susan Levine of the Department of Social Anthropology at UCT, a group of international and local delegates focused on the production of knowledge (in this case, medical knowledge) and on different perspectives, or "ways of knowing" the body in health and illness.

Says Levine: "Medical anthropology offers a unique perspective



Anthropology and health: Guests at the recent Sawyer colloquium.

for bringing into focus seemingly incommensurate ideas about disease causation, diagnosis and treatment. The papers in the Sawyer series highlight the politics of such differences from a global perspective, and offer models that lean towards integration and collaboration rather than conflict and competition."

"The UCT Sawyer Seminar project asks crucially important questions about contestations over knowledges and ways of knowing within the postcolonial university, across regions in the Global South," explains Dr Lesley Green, who leads the team in the Department of Social Anthropology that won (in 2008) the Andrew Mellon Foundation grant to host the seminar series.

In the colloquium, UCT and regional scholars had an opportunity to sit down with some of the leading thinkers in medical anthropology, renowned for their work on the Global South. These included Professor Veena Das, who holds the chair of anthropology at Johns Hopkins University in the US and has written extensively on the subject in India; Professor Judith Farquhar, who holds the chair of anthropology at the University of Chicago and has performed acclaimed work on traditional Chinese medicine; and Professor Renee Devisch, a medical anthropologist who has focused on African healing and the place of indigenous knowledge at African universities.

In posing questions about knowl-

edge, the UCT Sawyer Seminar is aligned closely with the Programme to Enhance Research Capacity of the Carnegie Foundation in looking at ways in which UCT can engage with questions on the transformation of knowledge, notes Green.

"The colloquium engaged with everyday philosophies and practices across regions; it compared the ways in which debates about indigenous or traditional knowledge play out differently in different contexts; it explored comparative epistemologies – different ways of producing knowledge – and the value of practical or tacit knowledges, whether held by a medical practitioner or a traditional healer."

(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Hope and dignity are the cornerstones of new book

Raw Life, New Hope: Decency, housing and everyday life in a post-apartheid community, by Associate Professor Fiona Ross of the Department of Social Anthropology, doesn't skimp on the scholarly rigour.

But it's also the kind of book that Ross wants the lay reader and occasional book club to pick up between the Austens and travelogues. So, in telling the fly-on-the-wall story, chronicled over 13 years, of the residents of local shantytown The Park, Ross has tried to capture the little details of life in the community that illustrate how people create meaning in their lives.

Tucked between the erudite explorations of stock anthropological themes – households, relationships, violence (a leitmotif in Ross' work), language, storytelling, disease, the body – are a series of

chapter breaks that capture the everyday: recipes, maps, and photos of ceremonies, celebrations, and – the source of hope – the move into new houses.

Before then, The Park (formed back in the mid-1980s, and also known descriptively as The Bush) was a makeshift settlement on the outskirts of Cape Town, where homeless people lived in the bush or in shacks. Then came the promise of a better life when, from 2001 onwards, residents were moved to a formal housing project known as The Village, a public/private partnership.

"When the possibility arose of getting homes, that whole discourse of becoming *ordentlike mense* [decent people] surfaced in an almost visceral and very powerful way," says Ross. "People had this concept that because they lived

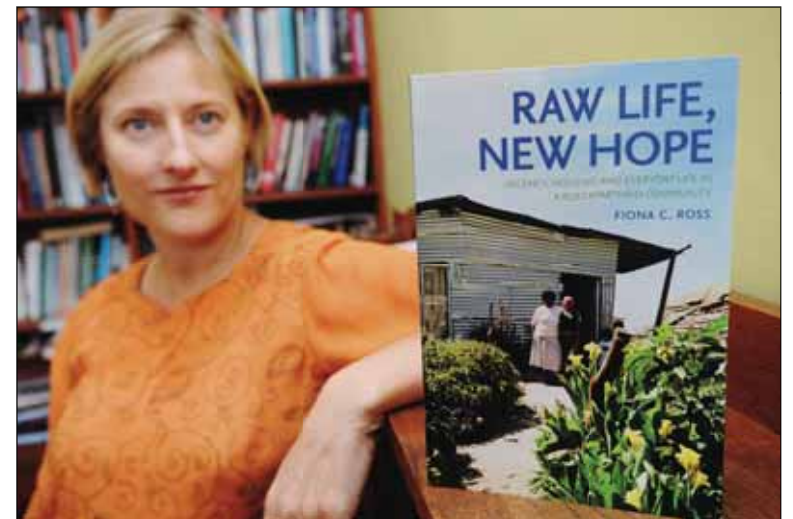
in shacks they weren't *ordentlik*, and the houses were somehow going to enable them to live up to their ideals."

In *Raw Life, New Hope*, published by UCT Press, Ross takes a hard look – "in a very gentle way" – at this conviction that an "aesthetic intervention" such as (in this case) a house would turn their lives around. What followed instead was disillusionment, as the community was beset by the usual gallery of social ills of such impoverished areas, notably violence (domestic and otherwise) and substance abuse.

But in this wasteland of hardship, many still labour for a sense of decency.

"So the book grapples with what *ordentlikheid* [decency] means in a context where it's under-scored by material poverty."

And the recipes and photos and



Ordentlikheid: In her new book, Assoc Prof Fiona Ross explores a community's quest for decency amid poverty.

the nuggets of community colour? "It's to try and give a real sense of what everyday life is like," says

Ross, "and that it's not all doom and gloom."

(M.Morris@uct.ac.za)

A day in a life of Online Communications

The Online Communications unit is part of the Communication and Marketing Department (CMD), and is based at Welgelegen on middle campus. It is staffed by OC head Rethea Deetlefs (left in picture), PHP developer Nico Badenhuizen (middle), and HTML coder Malibongwe Dywibiba.

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

The unit's main responsibility is to develop and run the corporate website, but they also provide websites on the CMD content management system, as their limited capacity allows. The team looks after the websites of five faculties – commerce runs their own – except for the editing and updating of content. They have always tried to assist the university community at large with their own websites, but that service is ending in 2010 because of workload. "Our core work – the UCT site and the CMD CMS – has to come first," Deetlefs explains.

What are the challenges?

The section does not have

enough resources to assist everyone at UCT with their website development, even though they would love to do so, meaning they often turn people away. But they do suggest alternative service providers. However, departments often have no budget for websites, which means their sites lie fallow, to the detriment of UCT's good reputation. Online Communications will play its part in the proposed university's Web Renewal Project, which is set to address all web issues, including policies, hardware and software. "There are exciting times ahead," says Deetlefs. The perception that websites are irrelevant or, at best, a nice-to-have, still exists at UCT, even at the highest levels. "That you still need to explain to people the importance of a professional online presence (that's up to date) is mind-boggling, especially at a university," Deetlefs notes.

What are the highs and lows of the job?

Having a website go live is a definite high, with the new website for the Faculty of Health Sciences (<http://www.health.uct.ac.za>) a case



in point. In the past the team has provided websites that have not been updated since inception, which qualifies as a low.

What is the weirdest thing you have encountered?

The unit's staff often seem to

be the 'go-to' people for things completely outside their purview. "People confuse us with ICTS", Deetlefs says. It is not unknown for the team to receive phone calls or emails from irate clients wanting to know where their new websites are, when the team is still waiting for the

content with which to build them. But what tops them all was the phone call from a man wanting to know where his brother's body was. "It had been donated to the Faculty of Health Sciences, and he wanted the remains."

(Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za)

Crime busters get their just desserts



The winning team: CPS officers Grant de Monk, CCTV manager Warren Williams, Xolisa Kula, Bernard Soules, Gary Dyssel, Eric Magangxa, Luzuko Tsoli and Soyiso Nyembezi were rewarded for their excellent performance.

Gary Dyssel was so concerned about the high crime rate in his Elsie's River community that he wanted to be part of a process that would change that.

Six years ago he joined the Campus Protection Services at UCT as a crime prevention officer for the G4S Security Company, and has since done more than his share of crime-fighting duty.

His acts of courage were recognised on 11 November when UCT presented him and several of his colleagues with cash awards, as tokens of appreciation for their commitment in fighting crime on campus.

The other recipients were Bernard Soules, Morney Speelman, Shane van Rheede, Eric Magangxa, Grant de Monk, Xolisa Kula, Luzuko Tsoli, Soyiso Nyembezi and Mandla Zuma.

It was the second time that Dyssel, now CPS's crime prevention manager on campus, has been recognised. This time he was honoured for his involvement in the arrests of car thieves in two separate incidents, and for the arrest of a cable theft suspect.

Preventing crime at UCT needs diplomacy, Dyssel said. The university is an open campus and it is difficult to distinguish between students

and outsiders.

"For instance, in the cable theft incident the suspect was carrying a school bag, and looked like any student."

But after a closer look, Dyssel realised that the suspect was carrying heavy objects that did not look like books. He then chased and arrested him. Copper cables weighing 5.4kg, as well as a knife, a screwdriver, pliers and a cutter were seized.

Crime prevention presents different challenges every day, and Dyssel and his colleagues must always be prepared.

Fighting crime also has weird moments.

In one instance, a laptop thief unintentionally revealed his whereabouts when he plugged in and used the machine in a friend's room, registering it with the ICTS system in the process.

"Based on that information, we managed to track him down."

John Critien, executive director for the Properties & Services Department, said the awards were proof that UCT has been successful in curbing crime.

He thanked the "servants of the students", as he described security officers, for going the extra mile to ensure that the university community remains safe. ^{MP}

Wanted: Grad stories for special edition

As the university slips into high gear in the weeks preceding the December graduation ceremony, so too does the *Monday Paper* team. We're planning a special graduation edition for 14 December. To capture the colour and spectacle of grad week (14 to 18 December), we need your grad story leads: siblings being capped

together, parents capping their kids, kids capping their parents, octogenarians getting their first degrees, groundbreaking research, and heart-warming stories of students who overcame the odds to be able to graduate. Please pass on your leads to Helen Theron – email Helen.Theron@uct.ac.za – by 30 November.

DAD's Big Walkers hit the pavements



Development and Alumni Department (DAD) staffers Jasmine Erasmus, Rochelle Muir, Ondria Curtin, Anita Wildeman, Candice Egan, and Amanda Williams and their partners braved the cold and rainy weather on Sunday 8 November to participate in the Discovery-Cape Times Big Walk. The team joined thousands of walkers who took to the

Mother City's streets on a route that included a turn through Gugulethu. Sporting their UCT AIR T-shirts, the team walked a 5km stretch between Newlands and Mowbray. They've set their sights on 10km next year. "The atmosphere was great and I felt it was well organised," said Muir. "It was motivation enough for me to know that at the end of the walk we would each receive a medal." In the picture are, from left, Jasmine Erasmus, Amanda Williams and partner Graham Williams, Rochelle Muir and partner Nico Orlandi, Candice Egan and partner Stephen Allcock, and Ondria Curtin. (Absent: Anita Wildeman.) ^{MP}

New appointments

Maryam Khan Waglay joined the African Centre for Cities as an administrator in July, bringing an abundance of administrative experience to the centre. Waglay obtained her degree in social science from UCT in 1997, and has since held various administration positions outside the university. She returned to UCT in 2004 to work for the Department of

Civil Engineering. Waglay is looking forward to the challenges of her new position, and the opportunities to learn something new each day, she says.

(Do you have new staff in your department? If so, we'd like to introduce them to the UCT community. Please send details to Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za.)



Erratum

In Vol 28#16 of *Monday Paper*, in the report on Emeritus Professor Peter Kallaway's public lecture, *Education... What is to be done?*, we reported that "Kallaway also called for a return to corporal punishment". This was not the case. Here is the correct quote: "If the teacher is deprived of the means of enforcing physical discipline in big, overcrowded classes, and does not have or is not given the means to promote positive learning, there is every chance of an explosive mix." We apologise for the misunderstanding, and for any embarrassment caused.

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, Woosack Drive, Rondebosch Janet Sirmongpong. Tel: 021 406 6733. Fax: 021 448 6263 Email: janet.sirmongpong@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/>

Environmental Evaluation

Unit: The Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, Department of Social Anthropology, invite you to a seminar: Commodification of Environmental Knowledge: An Alternate Development Strategy for the Australian Indigenous Estate by Professor Jon Altman, The Australian National University. Date: Tuesday 24 November 2009. Time: 12h30 – 14h00. Venue: Davies Reading Room, Room 2.27, Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town. Seminar queries: Rachel

Wynberg Rachel.Wynberg@uct.ac.za or Fahdelah Hartley Fahdelah.Hartley@uct.ac.za

PERC Workshop: Topic:

NRF Rating: Self-assessment and Crafting the Research Narrative. Presented by: Professor Brenda Cooper. Date: 25-27 January 2010. Please note that early booking is essential. For more details and to book your attendance, contact: Roshan Sunday in the Research Office on 0216504153. Email: roshan.sunday@uct.ac.za.

VACANT POSTS

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

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

PROPERTY

Mowbray: Within easy walking distance of UCT, a secure, furnished, 3 bed 2 bath house for short and medium lets. R11 000 per month. Contact Pauline Alexander 078 419 9482

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

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

Claremont: Large, fully-furnished 3-bedroomed house to rent from December or January 2010. Two bathrooms, large kitchen, swimming pool, garden and car port. Close to transport and main road. Contact: email gauri_grs@yahoo.com or 0216714427.

Goodwood: House to rent: 2 beds, 1 bath, open plan kitchen/lounge, situated in a close in Thornton. R3500.00 per month. Contact: Rudi Bazier 084 637 0647.

Newlands/Rondebosch: Flat for rent. Mid December 2009. Partially furnished 2 bed, sec park, close to UCT. R6000pm or daily rates, short term. Contact: 0828432765 or aopb2003@yahoo.com

Rondebosch: Graduation/Holiday accommodation available close to UCT, secure parking. Fully furnished, able to accommodate individual or groups. Daily/weekly/monthly rates. Contact Kirsten on 0827407418.

Rondebosch: 1 Bedroom

garden flat with garage to rent. Open plan setting with fitted kitchen, garden, burglar bars, electronic garage, intercom and alarm. Access to UCT, Red Cross Children's Hospital and freeway. Available immediately. R4000.00pm. Contact Melanie: 0828015232.

Salt River: Large, clean 6 bedroom house to share. Fully equipped kitchen, dining room area and 2 bathrooms. Close to all transport, shops and station. Contact Nazmie Cassiem: 0214475005 / 0214047659 or 0837310118.

Rondebosch: Spacious, sunny, quiet, 1 bedroom flat incl. garage and balc, in sec complex. Close to UCT and shops. Ideal for couple or visiting academic. Avail immediately, fully / partially furn, from R5000pm. Short/ mid term also avail. Contact: naureen.goheer@gmail.com or 0843188676

Rondebosch: Bachelor flat in Roslyn Gardens, for sale. Panoramic view from the main room. R600 000 negotiable. Contact: Lida 0713135234

FOR SALE

For Sale: Piano - Otto: BACH plus stool - R3 500.00. Contact: Mary-anne 0726032769

For Sale: Single foam mattress, hardly used, like new. R250. Contact: 0832737517

For Sale: Household goods. KIC fridge & freezer combination (R700), Glass & chrome computer workstation (R1000), 2-seater Wetherleys couch (R1000), oregan pine chest (R500). Contact: Marius Lund@uct.ac.za

For Sale: LCD Phillips Flat 17 inch computer screen, loudspeakers included in bottom frame, year 2004, software CD, one owner, very good condition, R700 cash. Contact Antonieta 082 534 2467

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 lorrhein@gmail.com

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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/>

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Accommodation: University Professor seeks home to rent near UCT or in town for June and July 2010. Possible swap for NYC apartment. Contact: jflavin@fordham.edu or jeanneflavin@uct.ac.za

RSC/UCT Chemistry Department's: Jack Elsworth Chemistry Show (Christmas Lecture) entitled "Dracula", 30th November, 19h00 P. D. Hahn LT1, Cost R10, suitable for children 5 y.o.a. upwards.

Free: Fibreglass canopy

or hood for an extractor. 1430mm wide, 1000mm deep, 700mm high, 400mm diameter hole and is wall mounted. Contact: Neil 0216502579

Accommodation: Professor Gary Baines at Rhodes, and family, seeks home in the southern suburbs to rent or housesit from 11 Dec - 6 Jan. Contact: Angela 0466222662 or 0833215966

Lift club: Looking to join an existing or establish a lift club from the Table View/Milnerton area to UCT. Contact: Marius Lund@uct.ac.za

Courier Service: Efficient, reliable Courier Service available: 105 Church Street, Parow West. Contact: Jack Masters 0723740693 or 0219391922.

Chiron Coaching & Facilitaion: Life & Career Coach, Mentor & Facilitator. Also offering: Editing, Proofreading, Translation & Copy Writing Services. Contact Dr Gudrun Oberprieler: 0217127966 or 0822599530, email: Gudrun.Oberprieler@gmail.com.

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'Green' Grantham takes on the world's eco beauties



Going green: Miss Earth South Africa 2009, Chanel Grantham, has a special interest in green buildings.

UCT student and Miss Earth South Africa 2009, Chanel Grantham, showed off her beauty and her environmental awareness work when she participated in the Global Miss Earth pageant.

A BSc student in property studies at UCT, Grantham is currently in the Philippines, where the month-long finale culminated with the coronation on 22 November. (The winner had not yet been chosen at the time of going to press.)

The 100 contestants from around the globe were judged on the environmental work they have done in their respective countries, among other criteria, and the "Queen of Green", as Grantham is affectionately known, was well-prepared.

Recently, she cheered on surfers at the Earthwave surfing and sustainable lifestyle festival in Muizenberg, where an attempt was made to break the Guinness World Record for the most surfers riding the same wave. (And they did, managing over 100 surfers on a wave.)

Grantham has also played a leading role in the Miss Earth South Africa Organisation, which, in association with Consol, is involved in a number of greening initiatives throughout the country, particularly at schools, municipalities and corporates.

As a property studies student, she has a special interest in green buildings. She believes buildings, big and small, have an impact on the environment, and that all stakeholders need to understand the consequences when they fail to embrace the principles of green building.

"As Miss Earth, my vision is to educate and create awareness of the development of green buildings that reduce our ecological footprint," she says. **MP**

ACHIEVE draws enthusiastic participation

With support from UCT's Faculty of Science, the Committee for University Education in Science has spearheaded ACHIEVE, an intervention programme offering extra skills development in problem solving to first-year students. Physics and mathematics workshops ran on eight Saturdays in the second semester. Mathematics co-ordinator Kenny Rafel's model for these workshops was strongly influenced by Vincent Tinto and Uri Treisman's

research on effective interventions that increase student success. Physics co-ordinator Dr Spencer Wheaton aimed at developing skills necessary for all science courses, with an emphasis on group work. ACHIEVE was attended by about 140 students. **MP**

Kenny Rafel (left), the mathematics co-ordinator for ACHIEVE, and Dr Spencer Wheaton, the physics co-ordinator for the programme.



Makeover for girls' home, thanks to students



Hand up: Groote Schuur residence students find that a coat of paint goes a long way to forging new friendships at St George's Home for Girls.

A mysterious donor provided the means for the generous students of Groote Schuur residence to give back to the community, and they turned up in numbers to treat the St George's Home for Girls to a new coat of paint.

Buoyed by enthusiasm, they also painted the jungle gym and hosted a braai for the children.

The Wynberg-based children's home accommodates and provides for about 40 abused, abandoned, neglected or orphaned children. Zanele Mada-dasana, Groote Schuur head student,

said the project has been one of the residence's most memorable achievements.

"We went bigger this year, considering the budget constraints and the amount of work that needed to be done," she said.

The "Elephants", as the students in Groote Schuur are affectionately known, spent the whole day working at St George's, thanks to their mysterious benefactor. Fedics Food Services provided the food, drinks and braai charcoal. **MP**

Students in the Microsoft running



Unearthing new talent: (From left) Kopo Masome, Prof Jean-Paul van Belle, Amaanullah Parker, Jeandre de Klerk, Craig Byren, Nicole Butcher, Kim Westcott and Prof Derek Smith at the Department of Information Systems showcase.

The unEarthed team has won the ViaData Shield, a floating trophy for the best systems-development project, awarded by the Department of Information Systems in its annual showcase of third-year projects.

The team – made up of Nicole Butcher, Jeandre de Klerk, Kopo Masome, Amaanullah Parker and Kim Westcott – took the honours for the advanced business management system they developed for local design firm Mielie Handcrafted Products, which turns reclaimed materials into functional works of art.

With the trophy also comes the opportunity to represent UCT in the national qualifying round of the international Microsoft Imagine Cup.

"The award (and getting your name on the shield) is held in high regard, and is something all of the information systems students strive

to achieve," says the department's Professor Derek Smith.

Not only does the project contribute towards a large chunk of the students' year marks, but it also calls on a gamut of skills – problem-solving, teamwork, presentation – in the design and implementation of very complex software, notes Craig Byren, MD of sponsors ViaData, a software development company.

"This is what they'll face when they enter the working environment, above and beyond needing their academic skills," says Byren.

Smith echoes that alert.

"It's a tough business, but there is a desperate need for good people with very solid training," he says. "Without these graduates, our ability to develop innovations that impact on modern business systems, like ViaData's business systems engine, will not flourish." **MP**

Hands-on students build homes – and goodwill



Feather in your cap: UCT students who joined the hard-hat competition during the community build included (from left) Michael Currie, Kholofelo Hendrietta Mokgolo, winner Imraan Mollagee, Sharifa Abrahams and Mariam Nanhuck.

For the past five years, first-year construction studies students have participated in a 'community build' as part of their service-learning programme. Karen Le Jeune, a lecturer in construction studies, organises the community build with the Niall Mellon Township Trust challenge programme.

The Niall Mellon Township Trust was started by Mellon, an Irish entrepreneur and philanthropist, in 2002. His aim is to build quality social housing for impoverished families living in shacks in South African townships.

The build gives the students an opportunity to learn and ap-

ply typical trade skills used in the construction industry, and to engage with informal settlement communities. In September the students joined the builds in Mbekweni and Wallacedene, helping to complete 14 houses.

As part of the challenge, the students are also asked to raise funds. This year they collected R7 640 for the Niall Mellon Township Trust.

The trust also brings volunteers to South Africa to participate in week-long Building Blitzes.

Le Jeune attended a lunch on 11 November with the MEC for Housing, Bonginkosi Madikizela, to celebrate the 8th Building Blitz. **MP**