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Monday Paper

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Retirement fund weathers the storm



On the up: Assoc Profs Craig Comrie (left) and Steve Richardson are among the members of the UCTRF investment committee that keeps an eye on the ups and downs of the market.

Here's news that'll make sleep come a little easier at night – the UCT Retirement Fund (UCTRF), and in particular its market-related portfolio, has weathered the recent economic recession better than most.

That, explains Associate Professor Steve Richardson, chair of the UCTRF's investment committee, is partly because South African banks and markets hadn't been swept along with the housing-market bubble of the US, where mortgages and debt were wrapped up in new, ever-more-complex financial products that were spread far and wide through pension funds, hedge funds and international governments. Once that bubble burst, the ripple effect was felt globally.

Not entirely unscathed (hey, it's a globalised world), South Africa was spared the worst of the recession, however. "We were relatively protected," says Richardson.

So how did the UCTRF's portfolios fare on the market?

Portfolio A, also known as the Income Fund or, as it was once known, the Cash Fund, was the least affected, living up to its reputation as the safest place on the market because of the highly liquid nature of the financial products being traded. (Portfolio A earned 12.7% in 2008, and 9.5% in 2009.)

Portfolio B, aka the Smoothed Bonus Fund – the safe bet, as the investor's capital is protected –

likewise did okay. The fund has a 'floor' of 0%, so even if there is some volatility on the market, the worst it could do was not earn any dividends in a particular period. (Portfolio B returned 7.2% in 2008 and 0.7% in 2009.)

Not so Portfolio C, of course, where earnings could occasionally dip into the negative as the fund follows the ebb and flow of the market. So, no surprise then that in 2008, when the ebb on the world's markets was particularly low, the fund earned a dividend of -2%.

That said, it was one of only three times over the 15 years or so since the UCTRF was established that Portfolio C had ran into the negative.

Also, it bounced back with a "respectable" earnings of 17.5% in 2009, mirroring the recovery in the market.

By the way, that -2% is downright impressive in a market that bottomed out at around the -20% mark. (Also making Portfolio B's 0% earnings that much more reassuring.)

How come Portfolio C avoided the worst of the market's plunge? Well, the investment committee tries to offer some security for Portfolio C in the form of its investments, using value-focused managers at Allan Gray and Investec who take the long-term view when it comes to the market. (Just as investors in Portfolio C should, says Richardson, a geologist who understands a thing or two about long term.)

So, for example, these value-focused managers would buy some discount shares with promise and hang onto them for a while, waiting – patiently – for them to go up in value before selling them off again.

"It requires us to be courageous and patient – patient in particular – for the value to come out," says Richardson.

"In a bull market, they maybe don't do as well as others, but they do offer protection in a bear market," adds UCTRF's communication manager, Associate Professor Craig Comrie of the Department of Physics. "It's like buying a house – you don't check to see if it's changed in value every month."

It's a philosophy that's earned dividends. Over the UCTRF's lifetime, Portfolio C has been the best earner of the three portfolios, despite those three dips into the negative.

Luckily, UCT staffers appear to have taken the long-term view as well. As things stand, over R1 billion of the UCTRF's investments of R1.85 billion are in Portfolio C, compared to around R580 million in Portfolio B and some R250 million in Portfolio A. And it doesn't appear that too many jumped ship during the market's flutters.

And if you do jump, advises Comrie, make sure it's part of a long-term plan.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Portfolio D

Following ongoing requests from staff members, from 2010 UCT will offer UCT Retirement Fund (UCTRF) members a fourth investment option, one that follows the principles of Shari'ah law. Primarily adopted by Muslims – Muslim law forbids the charging of interest, known as usury – Shari'ah-compliant investments address a number of issues, notably around how interest is earned. For the time being, the funds of UCT staff members who choose this option – to be known as Portfolio D – will be pooled with funds from other Shari'ah investors that are managed by a particular investment manager. In the case of UCT, that would be 27four, founded by Fatima Vawda and named in honour of the day of South Africa's first democratic elections, 27 April 1994. The UCTRF encourages members to attend one of its roadshows to learn more about this investment option.

A nap in time...

Having a nap clears the brain's short-term memory and helps make room for new facts to be remembered, scientists have claimed.

Research carried out by the University of California shows that people who have an afternoon nap may find it easier to learn in the afternoon.

The study found that people who nodded off for an hour after lunch performed better in learning tests

than those who stayed awake all afternoon

Matthew Walker, at the University of California, Berkeley, said: "Sleep not only rights the wrong of prolonged wakefulness but, at a neurocognitive level, it moves you beyond where you were before you took a nap."

Mr Walker's study examined two groups of students who were given learning tests at midday. One of the

groups went for a nap two hours later, while the other group stayed awake.

After the nap, both groups returned and carried out tests, which showed that those who napped for an hour performed better than the group that stayed awake, and even scored better than they did in the first round of tests. (<http://www.activeyou.co.uk/news/Health-Beauty/A-nap-in-bed-%27can-help-you-learn%27-19632375.asp>) ^{MP}



Department of Medicine mirrors South Africa

Lack of funding for specialist training posts is turning the Department of Medicine at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital into a “wasted plant”, operating at only a quarter of its capacity to train much-needed medical specialists and sub-specialists, according to Professor Bongani Mayosi, head of the department.

Ahead of the 90th anniversary celebrations of his department in February, Mayosi said the department has the capacity to double the training of specialists and quadruple the training of sub-specialists, but the lack of funding for registrars and senior registrars is stymieing its efforts.

“Take the area of nephrology (kidney diseases) as a case in point,” he explained.

“We have four full-time nephrologists, but we are only funded to train one sub-specialist in that field. The four nephrologists are not even reproducing themselves. It takes two years to train a sub-specialist in nephrology, so it takes eight years before they can produce something that is of replacement value to them. That is really a waste of a plant.”

Mayosi said the country needs more doctors, more specialists, and “we can achieve the doubling of production of medical specialists and sub-specialists within two to four years”.



Three of a kind: Prof Bongani Mayosi (front) with two of his predecessors; Emer Prof Stuart Saunders (left) and Emer Prof Solly Benatar.

A call has been made by the national Department of Health to double the number of doctors produced in South Africa by 2014, but that decision must be backed up by appropriate funding, Mayosi said.

For the training of undergradu-

ate doctors, however, the department is operating at 100% capacity, and needs to increase staff and physical facilities to provide the capacity to train more undergraduates.

Having been at the helm of the department for four years, Mayosi

said there has been measurable evidence of progress, though it is still early days.

“There has been an increase in the number of full-time research specialists (which should translate to an increase of clinical PhD students),

there has been an increase in the number of research papers produced, and the National Research Foundation-rated scientists have doubled in number.”

But the real achievement has been the way the department has been working as a united force, and as a growing organisation that seeks to meet the needs of the country.

Turning to the history of the department, Mayosi said the department has moved from training white males almost exclusively when it was established, to “a home for all” that celebrates the new South African ideal.

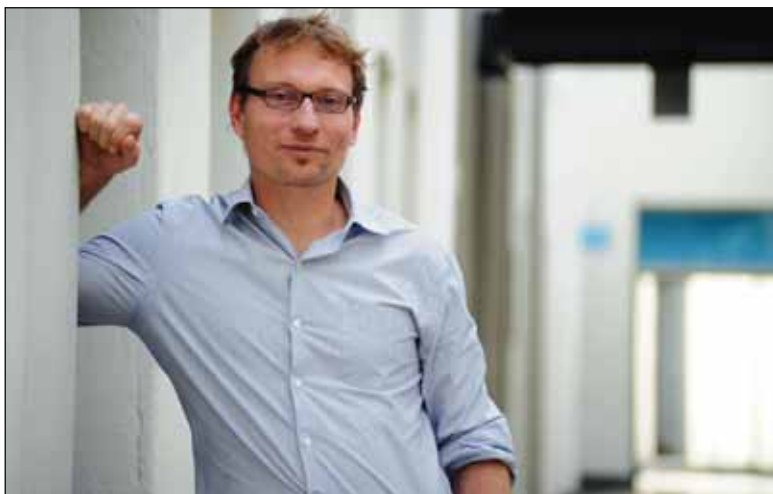
“This department mirrors the history of South Africa.”

For stalwart Emeritus Professor Solly Benatar, former head of the Department of Medicine (1980-1999), a highlight has been re-growing and sustaining the department in the early 1980s after the exodus of staff in the mid-1970s following the Soweto riots. “Several cohorts of fine physicians were trained who have gone on to be prominent clinicians and academic leaders locally and internationally.”

Benatar sees the department playing a central role in all aspects of healthcare, medical education and research in the future.

(Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za)

Hamann's corporate governance case study a winner



Associate Professor Ralph Hamann, research director at UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB), was one of the authors of the winning case study (netting the top prize of R40 000) in a competition held by the University of Stellenbosch Business School's Unit for Corporate Governance in Africa.

Titled *A Clash of Cultures (and Lawyers): A case study of Anglo Platinum and its Mogalakwena mine in Limpopo, South Africa*, the study was co-authored with Leanne Farrell and Eric Mackres, master's students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who were visiting students at

UCT's African Centre for Cities. At the time of writing the study, Hamann was a senior researcher at UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit.

The competition was sponsored by London-based Hermes Equity Ownership Services, and called for much-needed case studies from Africa on corporate governance. It attracted about 100 proposals from various African countries. Eleven proposals were shortlisted, and 10 full cases were developed. Each of these submissions received R10 000 from the competition as a contribution to their development.

“If we had not received this initial research grant, it would not have been

possible for Leanne and Eric to travel to Johannesburg and Mogalakwena in Limpopo for on-site research involving numerous interviews with company personnel, community members and others. It also meant that the case could be written without financial support from the company, which ought to increase its objectivity,” said Hamann.

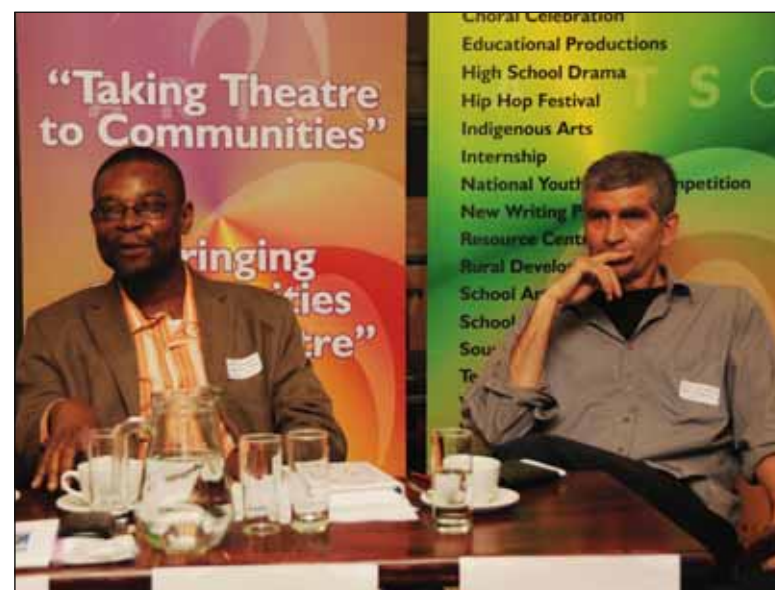
The case studies were submitted to an international panel of judges comprising Stephen Davies of Yale University and Professor Ollie Williams of Notre-Dame University in the US, and Professor Jean-Louis Schaan from the Richard Ivey School of Business in Canada.

The winning case has received significant attention. It is listed on the website of the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, a global NGO that tracks the environmental and social impact of companies worldwide.

Hamann is also the recent recipient of the Hiddingh-Currie Award for his co-edited book, *The Business of Sustainable Development in Africa: Human rights, partnerships and alternative business models*.

(The winning case study, along with other competition entries, can be downloaded free from www.governance.usb.ac.za/projects_casestudy.)

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)



Making history: Attending the Métissages/Mixing Cultures media launch were (from left) Prof Harry Garuba of the Centre for African Studies, and Prof Jean-Louis Cornille of UCT's School of Languages.

Conference explores cultural encounters

No direct English translation for the French word ‘métissages’ could fully explain the concept, but it could be described as those spaces where blending occurs.

This was the focus of the recent two-day *Métissages/Mixing Cultures* conference, hosted by UCT's Centre for African Studies and the French section of the School of Languages and Literatures, in partnership with Alliance Française, Artscape, and Paris VII University.

The conference featured presentations by researchers from Africa, Asia, Europe, Saudi Arabia and the US, examining cross-cultural encounters from different eras, and deconstructing gender and race stereotypes. South Africa's coloured identity also came under the spotlight.

The conference also served as a

platform to introduce the Mitchell's Plain Oral History Project, a partnership between Alliance Française and Artscape, supported by the French Embassy and the Department of Social Development.

Central to the project is the publication of a book, to be launched in 2011, which will unfold the histories – and herstories! – of Mitchell's Plain and its people. The book will recognise those who contributed to the development of this community and inspired many others. The project is also about those who have taken the baton today, to continue developing Mitchell's Plain into a place of hope and possibilities, and to shift people's perceptions of the area as a place of poverty, violence and despair.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

New status for Energy Research Centre

In the latest Energy Management News there is an article on UCT's Energy Research Centre (ERC) being selected as the Regional Designated Centre in energy planning.

It reads: “The ERC has been selected as the African Regional Co-Operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related

to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) Regional Designated Centre in the field of energy planning.”

This follows a process that has taken over a year, and which included a visit to the ERC last year by a two-man evaluation team.

As a Regional Designated Centre, the ERC will help the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provide training to African energy planners, and provide general energy planning support to the AFRA member states (most African countries). Among other things, this means there will be money to train African energy planners, and the IAEA will pay the costs. **MP**

Reward offered, email address established for support



A cash reward of R50 000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and successful conviction of the killers of UCT third-year student Dominic Giddy (21), who was stabbed to death on the corner of Main Road and Kotzee Road in Observatory at about 00h30 on Saturday 13 February.

Giddy and two friends, also UCT students, were attacked by three men as they were walking to their digs nearby. The three attackers drove away from the scene in a motor vehicle.

If you have information that you

Speaking out: Dr Max Price addresses students and staff at the Dominic Giddy memorial service and march on 22 February.

think may assist the police in apprehending the killers, please contact Detective Constable Petersen of the Woodstock Police Station on 021 486 2840 or 084 019 7467.

On 22 February UCT held a memorial assembly and march to protest the levels of violent crime in the surrounding areas. Two students have been murdered in the Observatory area in the past five months.

In addition, an email address, wesayenough@uct.ac.za, has been established for members of the UCT community to send pledges of support.

At the memorial assembly, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price also urged the UCT community to add the Crime-line number, 32211, to their cell phone



contacts list, making it part of the university's campaign against crime.

(A transcription of the vice-chancellor's address may be downloaded from www.uct.ac.za/news/

media/releases/2010, and footage of the march can be viewed on www.youtube.com/user/UCTSouthAfrica and a podcast from www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/)

Progress amid troubles in schools - Bloch

Graeme Bloch admits that he's somewhat "bipolar" when it comes to the South African school system – there are some days when he's convinced that things are moving in the right direction, but there are others when he's depressed by the sheer scale of the problems.

"There are so many things to do, we could start anywhere," said Bloch, author of 2009's *The Toxic Mix: What's wrong with South Africa's schools and how to fix it*, speaking at a meeting hosted by UCT's Schools Development Unit on 24 February.

As he does in his book, Bloch, an education specialist with the Devel-

opment Bank of South Africa (and a member of UCT Council), took his audience through some of the troubles that currently beset the education system. These include ongoing problems with outcomes-based education, the nature – and lack – of teacher support, the public's frustration with teachers' unions, the strained relationship between teachers and the education department (not helped by the repeated postponements of the occupation-specific dispensation for teachers), the need for an inspectorate to check on performance, and the ongoing debate around money and resources.

In addition, there are concerns regarding outcome (learners' perform-

ance) and inequalities (black learners still do worse at schools than their white peers).

That said, there are some grounds for optimism, said Bloch. Yes, there are issues with the matric qualification, but today more black children complete matric than ever before. And teachers from all walks of life are working together to improve the system.

In addition, there are models that can be mimicked: the work of the Bitou 10 Foundation in supporting learning at 10 Plettenberg Bay schools, or the organisation in Hermanus that draws on professionals in the area to run workshops and the like for schools.

"I think we need to bear that sense of progress in mind, but we must also face the challenges," said Bloch.

It's going to take a concerted effort from many – teachers, government, and society – to tackle the problems, he cautioned.

"Given the complexity of education... really, we are all going to be called upon to get active."

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Toxic mix: Such is the scale of the problem that everyone's going to have to chip in to sort out the shortcomings of the South African school system, said Graeme Bloch.



Tiffin takes jazz by storm



New kid on the block: Amanda Tiffin has been appointed as the head of the jazz programme at the South African College of Music.

As a young child, Amanda Tiffin used to play the part of 'teacher' when playing with her siblings, so her appointment as the new head of jazz vocals at UCT's South African College of Music (SACM) has brought her full circle.

Jazz sensation Tiffin started teaching part time in August 2009 at the SACM, and was appointed full time in January, taking the baton from Abigail Petersen, who has resigned to concentrate on her performing career.

"Teaching has always been something I love to do, and I'm excited to be at UCT to interact with students at tertiary level," Tiffin says.

That excitement is clear, as the versatile vocalist and pianist is already implementing changes in the way the jazz singing course is run. Before she took over the reins, jazz singers would have one 60-minute, one-on-one session with a teacher per week, while

doing other subjects like jazz theory and history. All their singing was concentrated into that one lesson.

"And you can't really teach in much detail in one hour," Tiffin argues. "There is so much to teach in jazz singing, because you don't only need to help students with technique, but also concentrate on the style and improvisation and everything that comes with being a jazz vocalist."

So Tiffin has separated the practical course so students can still have the one-hour sessions, but each year-group now also has a jazz vocal technique class. In that class they will cover everything required to mould professional jazz singers, such as writing, arranging, performing and improvising.

"This means students are getting a lot more focused attention on jazz vocal, and I think that is going to have a big effect on the standard of singers that are leaving the college. That is the

main aim."

Tiffin hopes this will hone another generation of students to follow in the footsteps of the likes of icons Jimmy Dlodlu and Judith Sephuma. (Tiffin shared a stage with Sephuma when they were students at the college.)

Tiffin believes that since she graduated with a master's degree in vocal performance and jazz composition from the SACM in 1999, the jazz programme has improved "enormously". The programme also boasts a lot more students than 10 years ago.

Teaching also meant that Tiffin's days of performing at weddings and corporate functions are a thing of the past, and she will focus only on jazz gigs, something she is passionate about.

"I will perform less, but the performances I will do will be of high quality and more enjoyable to me."

(Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za)

Check-up for Constitution

UCT's Democratic Governance and Rights Unit (DGRU) hosted Constitution Week in February – a retrospective series of talks and discussions on the life and times of the Constitutional Court, which marked its 15th anniversary on 14 February.

That anniversary, plus the retirement in 2009 of four of the original eleven judges (Chief Justice Pius Langa, Justice Yvonne Mokgoro, Justice Kate O'Regan and Justice Albie Sachs), made this an ideal time for such a reflection. Over the four days of Constitution Week, delegates examined the

court's record up to now, and commented on the legacy of the retiring justices.

The judges have stood up well to the enormous task before them, and have established the court as an internationally admired authority, says the DGRU's Vanja Karth. (A pity, though, that only one of the four new appointees is a woman, she adds.)

"The judges have shown themselves capable of maintaining the court's independence; and have had the courage to make controversial and unpopular rulings that have often upheld claims against

other branches of government, ensuring that the separation of powers remains solid."

How they managed to do that was discussed over the week, with contributors including retired judges, scholars and activists.

Panellists debated whether the court is able to hold high-profile public officials to account; experts commented on the performance of the public service in the constitutional era; and other speakers looked at the role civil society has played in bringing landmark human-rights cases before the court.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



The right constitution: Judge Arthur Chaskalson (left) and retired Judge Albie Sachs lead discussions on the first day of Constitution Week.

How you can access services on the SAGrid

Monday Paper recently reported on the success of the SAGrid core services team at UCT, who enabled the research activities of two very large and renowned projects. The article may have prompted readers to ask: How can my research project/experiment/collaboration obtain access to the grid?

In this article, we discuss how to access the computing facilities and services offered by SAGrid. These are encapsulated in some concepts that apply to the management of research computing infrastructure. These are: global resource-sharing through a federation; efficient use of resources through this sharing; security and trust among resource providers; the death of distance; and the use of open standards.

Resource-sharing provides researchers with a single point of access to a wide range of services. The need for security in such shared environments brings us to the concept of Virtual Organisations, or VOs. VOs are dynamic groups of people who are working on a common or mutually-dependent

problem, in a self-formed collaboration. Some examples of VOs are the Large Hadron Collider experiments (ALICE, ATLAS, etc); the communities of biomedical researchers who are searching for new drug designs (BIOMED); global climate change research (Climate-G); or even multi-disciplinary groups, such as grid training (GILDA).

So far, in South Africa, we have formed the “SAGrid” VO, a catch-all grouping that all bona-fide researchers at academic institutions may join, and to which they may contribute resources.

The first step in using the grid is to obtain a personal certificate, con-



sidered to be your “passport” to the grid, from the accredited Certificate Authority (CA). Andrew Lewis and Timothy Carr at ICTS can validate your identity in order for you to request your passport. Your passport allows you to join the VO of your choice and gain specific access to the software and hardware resources of that particular VO. A number

of international collaborations already exist to which UCT researchers can gain access via portals in South Africa, e.g. the UCT physicists who work on the ALICE experiment at CERN.

Once you have access it is important to know how to begin using the resources. To this end, dedicated training sessions are regularly organised by the SAGrid operations team and the Grid INFN Laboratory for Dissemination Activities (GILDA). UCT is also part of an FP-7-funded exchange programme for knowledge transfer called EPIKH – Exchange Programme for advanced e-Infrastructures Know-How. Together with ‘face-to-face’ learning

in a classroom environment, GILDA and SAGrid also provide self-paced online material, via the SAGrid and GILDA wikis and support portals.

Finally, on UCT’s campus (as at most sites on SAGrid) there are trained site administrators on hand to answer questions about any operational issues. In the near future, a direct user and application support team will be developed at each site to act as first-line contact for grid users, and will be supported by a national team of experts in a Regional Operations Centre (ROC).

To use the grid at UCT, please contact Andrew Lewis (Andrew.lewis@uct.ac.za) or Timothy Carr (Timothy.carr@uct.ac.za) – your local support team at ICTS. They are on hand to collate the technical requests of user communities on campus and, in collaboration with GILDA, to develop a timeline for training events on campus. For more information about SAGrid at UCT, please go to the ICTS website, www.icts.uct.ac.za, and read the articles under the Scientific Computing menu.

Reprieve for contractor on campus



High and dry: Green Perspective workers in an earlier protest at UCT.

UCT rescued scores of people from losing their jobs when it intervened in the crisis that was facing the embattled Green Perspective, a contractor for the university.

Green Perspective was responsible for the consolidation of refuse outside UCT buildings, and also provided horticultural services, but the company was liquidated at the beginning of February, leaving 45 employees jobless.

However, on 19 February the Vice-Chancellor Management Advisory Group agreed to let Turfmech,

who maintain UCT’s fields, take over the functions of the liquidated company on a one-year contract, and asked them to consider offering the retrenched employees temporary jobs.

This came after an earlier decision to ask Turfmech, as well as Supercare, who provide UCT with cleaning services, to take over Green Perspective’s critical functions.

Turfmech and Supercare had then offered jobs to half of the Green Perspective workers, on a casual basis.

At one stage the workers,

supported by the Students’ Representative Council and the Workers Support Committee, staged a protest demanding that the university make sure that all employees get their jobs back.

John Critien, executive director of Properties & Services, said the agreement was a holding operation, and the way forward after it expires in a year’s time will depend on the outcome of the outsourcing policy, which is being reviewed. The review is set to be tabled for the UCT Council on 27 March.

“We do not know what the outcome of the review will be, and will in a position to make long term plans after Council has deliberated,” said Critien.

UCT had run due diligence tests with Green Perspective when it first contracted the company, to ensure that it was financially able to fulfil its contract. But it was impractical to check continuously that the company was still viable, explains Critien.

Employees still face another battle – to get monies due to them when the company is wound up.

(Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za)



Safety notice

UCT has undertaken several construction projects on the upper, middle and lower campuses and, as is the case for all construction work areas, all reasonable precautions have been put in place by the construction companies, in accordance with the law for health and safety at construction sites and the immediate surrounding environs. The UCT community is requested to observe all safety signs and to co-operate fully by respecting the clearly demarcated alternate pedestrian and

car routes on these sites.

A few incidents have been reported of students trespassing on the construction sites, as well as incidents of students removing or defacing signage on these sites. Given the serious associated health and safety risks, UCT has been made aware that trespassers on these sites will be prosecuted by the construction companies. Where a student is alleged to have breached such regulations, they may be referred to the student tribunal.



EDUCATION NEWS FROM AFRICA AND THE WORLD

(Sources: iol.co.za, allafrica.com, Chronicle of Higher Education.)

In his Budget Speech on 17 February, finance minister **PRAVIN GORDHAN** announced an allocation of R165 billion to the Basic Education and Higher Education departments for the next financial year. This is up by more than R17

billion on the previous year. A further R2.7 billion will be made available to the Department of Basic Education for the rollout of workbooks in all 11 official languages to help raise numeracy levels in Grades 3, 6 and 9.

Last week, police used a water tanker to spray students at the **UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG** who were blocking one entrance to the campus, part of their protest action for free education for the poor. The South African Students’ Congress vowed to close down nine universities countrywide in their campaign. In turn, two of the nine identified universities – **UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND AND THE DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY** – indicated that they would not close their campuses.

The (UCT) branch of the **ANC YOUTH LEAGUE** has called on the vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, to apolo-

gise for a statement he made in a speech at the memorial assembly and protest march for slain student Dominic Giddy. Branch chairperson, Sipe Mqgibi, said Price’s statements were disrespectful, and he accused him of “hijacking” the event for political reasons.

Georgette d’Offay, born in the Seychelles, graduated with a pharmacy degree from the **UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE** recently, but the national Department of Health will not let her do community service because she is not a South African. Without completing that community service, the South African Pharmacy Council will not be able to register her as a qualified pharmacist.

In Nigeria, violent protest – leading to the death of two students – broke out at the state-owned **AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY**, after the university increased its fees from 18 000 Naira (about

R900) to 50 000 Naira (about R2 500).

In January, **INDIA’S EDUCATION MINISTER**, Kapil Sibal, asked the country’s Supreme Court to strip 44 universities of their official status as universities. They are part of a cluster of about 120 higher-education institutions known in India as “deemed” universities. The term was devised in 1956, when Parliament gave the federal government authority, with the backing of federal regulators, to grant university status to private higher-education institutions.

No fewer than 14 graduate programmes – half in the humanities – could either be restructured or cut as the **UNIVERSITY OF IOWA** in the US looks to tighten its belt. The 14 programmes were said to require additional evaluation and have “significant problems”, with no “viable plans for improvement”. The list includes programmes in compara-

tive literature studies, educational policy and leadership studies, film studies and linguistics.

On 12 February, Harvard-trained researcher Amy Bishop apparently opened fire during a faculty meeting at the **UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA-HUNTSVILLE** in the US, killing three colleagues and wounding two more, one critically. The attack was witnessed by several staff members, say news reports.

A project at **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** in the US has found that ‘Generation X’ professors did not want to be holed up in their campus offices until late at night, and talked of the “diminishing returns” of working too many hours. The professors perceive their attitudes to be different from those of older faculty members, who they see as being completely devoted to their jobs and unable to say no to more work.

New research institute backs up UCT mission

A new interdisciplinary institute straddling the Faculties of Humanities and Law has its eye on some pretty big topics, which will provide the trigger for lively conversation across disciplinary and departmental divides.

The Institute for the Humanities in Africa (HUMA), led by Professor Deborah Posel, has just received the green light from both faculties. It will have three main objectives, Posel explains: to do and champion interdisciplinary research; to help produce South Africa's next generation of scholars – an area that's generally considered to be in some crisis – by creating a convivial intellectual community that welcomes postgraduate membership; and to run initiatives that will bridge the divide between the UCT academy and wider publics in Cape Town.

"We want to do all these things mindful of our positioning in Africa, and of the relationships of connection and disconnection that being African entails – which fits in with UCT's Afropolitan perspective," Posel says.

Posel – based in the Department of Sociology – has raised the funding for establishing the Institute from a

number of organisations, notably the Mellon Foundation. (These grants will cover not just her own salary, but also those of four full-time researchers, a writing fellow, and a visiting professorship, among other things.) She also hopes to procure funding for doctoral fellowships.

HUMA's intellectual agenda will be guided by two specific, though broad themes. The first, *On Being Human*, encompasses enduring questions about our humanity that are central to many scholarly fields and so will encourage that sought-after interdisciplinary input, explains Posel. (Although, she adds with a laugh, "UCT is not going to provide definitive answers to these questions, and certainly not any time soon".)

The second theme will be Circuits of Consumption, tackling the question of consumerism in contemporary society, and our relationship to 'stuff' more generally, here in South Africa and elsewhere.

And while interdisciplinarity is already something of a buzzword at UCT – a sensibility Posel wants to tap into – bringing the Faculty of Law into the equation will be a change of pace in some ways.

"I'm often surprised that law is not considered part of the humanities," Posel says. "Not case law; but the more philosophical and conceptual aspects of the study of law cover some of the same intellectual terrain as the humanities."

Posel's initiative in establishing HUMA will draw on her experience as the founding director of the Wits Institute for Social Economic Research (WISER) at Wits University, which she founded in 2000 and headed until the end of 2008. The UCT institute, however, is the collaborative brainchild of Posel and the Faculty of Humanities, which, explains dean Professor Paula Ensor, had been considering the establishment of such a unit since 2005. Realising that Posel was on the lookout for opportunities in Cape Town following her husband's (vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price) appointment, UCT pounced.

Posel elected not to apply for a university-funded post, preferring to join UCT in an honorary capacity. Her professorship in sociology was therefore approved by a selection committee without advertisement.

"Professor Posel is a leading South African scholar with a formi-

dable international reputation," says Ensor. "Her interests fit brilliantly with our needs, so she is significantly enhancing what we do."

HUMA's work will also dovetail with themes Price has been plugging since he joined UCT, and which are echoed in the university's recently reviewed mission statement – including creating that next generation of intellectuals and scholars, and the reach into other parts of Africa.

"It fits in with the objectives of both the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Humanities, which had wanted to do these things for a long time now," says deputy vice-chancellor for Research, Professor Danie Visser. "Which is why they were very keen to create the opportunity and the position."

But while HUMA is already a bona fide UCT institute, it may take a while for plaques to be put up and for the institute to open its doors officially. (Offices must be revamped and positions have to be filled, which will take at least a few months.)

That will allow Posel the time to settle in and pen a few papers or – if time allows – a book.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Bringing HUMA to the humanities: Prof Deborah Posel will head up the new Institute for the Humanities in Africa, which will boost research in a few critical areas.

New book looks at SA's climate-change mitigation options

In 2007, Associate Professor Harald Winkler of UCT's Energy Research Centre, plus colleagues and partners, wrapped up a detailed technical report for the Department of Environmental Affairs – a report that painted a series of long-term carbon-emission mitigation scenarios for the country.

Winkler and UCT Press have launched a more reader-friendly version of that report in the shape of a peer-reviewed new book, *Taking Action on Climate Change – Long-term mitigation scenarios for South Africa*. (The book comes with a CD that holds the full technical report.)

The scenarios, based on inputs from government, business and civil society, calculate what would happen if South Africa introduced steps to curb greenhouse-gas emissions – or chose to do nothing (the worst-case,



Carbon cuts: Assoc Prof Harald Winkler lays out South Africa's carbon-cutting mitigation options.

business-as-usual scenario, called 'Growth without Constraints').

Thrown in are variables such as

energy production, transport-energy demand, vehicle efficiency, demand for energy, industrial emissions, and

the use of renewable energy sources, among other factors.

The book analyses model results for four strategic options for the country, namely 'Start Now' (invest big money in mitigation now, with savings over time outweighing the initial costs), 'Scale Up' (in which mitigation actions are driven by policies, and systems of penalties and incentives), and 'Use the Market' (getting the market to promote accelerated technologies and social behaviour through a carbon tax and incentives). A fourth strategy, 'Reach for the Goal' (founded on new technologies, lower-carbon resources, and a transition to a low-carbon economy and society) considers interventions that cannot be modelled yet – but which may be critical by 2050. Each strategic option is composed of more detailed mitigation actions.

The country's emission-reduction pledge at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2009 offered hope, says Winkler. There, South Africa committed to cutting its emissions by 34% – relative to business as usual – by 2020, and by 42% by 2025. Those numbers are based on long-term mitigation strategies by and large, with some adjustment for near-term electricity plans – particularly the building of coal-fired power stations Medupi and Kusile – within mitigation commitments.

The pledge is ambitious, but achievable, says Winkler.

"That doesn't mean that the options are easy. A lot of them are challenging, I think; but they can be done."

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

PERC grants boost UCT's Afropolitan drive

Applications are open for the second tranche of funding for the Knowledge Project of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Capacity (PERC) in the Research Office.

Four grants of R150 000 each, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, are available for collaborative, cross-disciplinary research that moves away from Eurocentric to more Africa-centred perspectives. This will support UCT's Afropolitan commitment, as set out in the university's mission statement.

The criteria for selection require successful grant-holders to produce new knowledge which is transformative, in that it is "appropriate to our position in South Africa, on the conti-

nent and in the world".

In the first round of funding in 2009 four grants were awarded, to:

Dr Lillian Artz of UCT's Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit, in the Faculty of Health Sciences, for *Women's Pathways to Crime: Developing a Critical South African Criminology*;

Professor Astrid Jarre of UCT's Marine Research Institute for *Fishers' Knowledge for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management*;

Professor Leslie London of UCT's School of Public Health and Family Medicine for *A Learning Network for the Right to Health: An opportunity for civil society and academic collaboration to contextu-*

alise human rights within an African perspective; and

Dr Lucia Thesen of UCT's The Postgraduate Literacies Project of the Centre for Higher Education Development for *The postgraduate condition: writing, risk and the making of new knowledge*.

Overall funding for the Knowledge Project is R1.8 million spread over three years, 2009 to 2011.

The closing date for the 2010 round of applications is 15 March 2010. Interested applicants should contact the PERC co-ordinator, Professor Robert Morrell, at email robert.morell@uct.ac.za or telephone 021 650 2433.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

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UCT duo in award-winning local play

UCT alumnae Ntombi Makhutshi and Robyn Scott

are starring in the award-winning two-hander, *London Road*, which

premieres at the Kalk Bay Theatre on 11 March.



Odd couple: Ntombi Makhutshi and Robyn Scott star in the award-winning *London Road*.

The up-and-coming Makhutshi stars as Stella, a young Nigerian woman, opposite the award-winning Scott as Rosa, an elderly Jewish woman.

Winner of the 2007 Audience Choice award at the Performing Arts Network of South Africa's new South African playwriting competition, *London Road* tells the story of an odd couple pulled together by a single act of violence.

Stella lives in a damp, converted storage room. Her distant family, gangsters and her instinct for survival make her mistrust strangers. Rosa lives in a fifth floor flat. Her children and grandchildren live overseas, so she occupies herself with the business of her neighbourhood.

But despite their differences, the women are united by common themes: absent men, scattered families, broken relationships, and a dark sense of humour and survival.

"The play is a simple and intimate reflection on growing old, loneliness, fragmented families and the healing power of a friend-

ship," says director Lara Bye. "It is a glimpse into the private lives of two very different women living in a block of flats in London Road in Sea Point."

London Road is written by rising Cape Town writer Nicholas Spagnoletti, in collaboration with the director and cast.

"Sea Point has long been a new home for many immigrants, minority groups and marginalised people," says Spagnoletti. "The play echoes the realities of those Sea Point families in a state of migration and emigration against the backdrop of urban decay and rejuvenation that is contemporary Sea Point."

Ntombi graduated in 2006 and was nominated for a Fleur du Cap award that year. She has worked in television, theatre and film.

Scott, a 1995 graduate, is the winner of two FNB Vita Awards, and earned a Fleur du Cap nomination in 2009. She has worked extensively, and is well-known for her role as Jacomina in the M-Net comedy series *Van der Walt's Fault*. (Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

Good prospects for the economy – Kantor

Bar a few swipes at the Reserve Bank and ESKOM – no-one's favourite utility right now – Emeritus Professor Brian Kantor's review of the 2010/2011 national budget was very upbeat.

Speaking at a post-budget breakfast talk hosted by the Graduate School of Business on 22 February, Kantor (emeritus professor at UCT, as well as an investment strategist and economist with Investec Private Securities) had plenty of praise for finance minister Pravin Gordhan and his budget speech. Coming in the wake of a severe recession, much was expected of the budget; and the minister's response was a "sensible" one, said Kantor.

"The budget had to answer a number of questions. Not all these answers are popular with all quarters, but certainly the answers are clear enough and, I would say, very encouraging in general."

For one, the government is running a growing deficit of 7.3% of gross domestic product (GDP), as revenues are falling – tax revenue alone will be R69 billion short of last year's budget estimate – and spending is still on the rise. No wonder, then, that there were concerns that the state



Budget brief: According to Emer Prof Brian Kantor (right), the recent budget speech bodes well for the country.

would raise taxes.

But it didn't. Instead, it has accepted that it will have to borrow more to continue its social spending, and government debt is expected to top R1 trillion over the next few years. That debt will amount to around 40% of GDP, which, while "uncomfortably high", is manageable, said Kantor. (And much better than the Americans and Greeks, whose government debts are around 100% of GDP.)

The state will have to take more

control over some of its expenditure, however, particularly its spending on government employees and their benefits, added Kantor.

One authority Kantor did target – other than ESKOM, making ever greater demands on consumers' wallets – was the Reserve Bank, particularly under former governor Tito Mboweni. In particular, Kantor took issue with the Reserve Bank for its intransigent inflation-targeted policies, which pushed interest rates higher than they ought to have been, and kept them at those high levels far too long.

The problem, said Kantor, was that the Bank was no longer fighting inflation, but rather inflation expectations.

"And therefore, even if the economy is on its knees, when inflation expectations are alive, you fight them with high interest rates. Regardless of the impact on the economy."

South Africa, like most other countries, needs consumption-led growth. For this to happen, interest rates will have to be kept down, which is what is expected will happen in 2010 in South Africa, the US and Europe, said Kantor.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Nominate your candidate for a Distinguished Teacher Award

Students and staff are invited to nominate suitable candidates for the 2010 Distinguished Teacher Awards.

The Distinguished Teacher Award acknowledges the primary place of teaching and learning in the work of the university, and is announced formally at an appropriate graduation ceremony in December. A purse of R20 000 is attached to the award.

The Distinguished Teacher

Award Selection Committee may recommend up to a maximum of four recipients per year.

All members of staff who teach students are eligible for the award. Outstanding 'junior' lecturers should be considered for nominations, but only if they have been teaching for a minimum of three years, as the award is made in recognition of a continuous record of excellence in teaching.

Nominations must consist of a

detailed statement making the case for the award.

Nominations (marked "Confidential", for the attention of Mrs D Wedel) are to reach the Office of the Registrar: Secretariat, Room 140, Bremner Building, by Wednesday 31 March 2010.

Please note that it is not necessary to provide all the supporting documents for nominations by the deadline. **MP**

New appointments



Chyanne (aka Anne) Isaac has been appointed as legal counsel in the Office of the Registrar, serving in the Legal Services and Secretariat section. Isaac, a graduate of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, moved to Cape Town from Durban, where she had been working as a prosecutor for some 11 years. Outside of the office, she spends plenty of time contributing to the functions of Soroptimist International South Africa, an organisation that works to advance human rights and the status of women through a score of service projects. She also collects the works

of children's author Enid Blyton, but – she points out – only those works actually penned by Blyton.



Roland September took office as risk services manager in January, succeeding John Tunstall, who retired at the end of 2009. Prior to his appointment, September had been traffic manager at UCT since 1999. Among other gigs, he also did some security work in laidback New Zealand for Group Four Security, where he was security advisor at some big-name events, his first being a concert that double-headlined Billy Joel and Elton John.

Retirement roadshows

If you haven't already attended one, please note that the remaining UCT Retirement Fund Investment roadshows will take place on:

- Monday 8 March at the Graduate School of Business, Lecture Theatre 1, from 13h00 to 14h00;
- Tuesday 9 March on middle campus in the Mafeje Room, Bremner, from 10h00 to 11h00 (this session will be

aimed at UCTRF living annuitants); • Wednesday 10 March on upper campus in the Leslie Social Science Building, Lecture Theatre 1B, from 13h00 to 14h00.

All UCTRF members should take advantage of these presentations, which will help them plan for their retirement and understand their investment choices. **MP**

Erratum

In our last edition (vol 29.02, 22 February 2010), in the story *UCT to crack down on copyright infringements*, we noted that "ICTS will take steps against anyone found to be involved...". Information and Communication Technology Services would like to indicate that infringements and disciplinary measures are not handled by them, and that existing processes would be followed in such cases. **MP**

EVENTS

Philippi CityLab Seminar

"Beyond City Improvement Districts to Community Improvement Districts". The next Philippi CityLab will look at the issue of private investment in Philippi and how this can be utilised to address community development challenges. Oscar Saunderson and Bert Bezuidenhout from Nirenc Properties will do a presentation on plans to establish a City Improvement District (CID) in Philippi. In addition, Dr John Cartwright, consultant with the Centre for Criminology at UCT, will offer his insights into how the CID model can be adapted to respond to safety and security concerns at a broader neighbourhood level. Date: Wednesday, 10 March 2010. Time: 15h00 – 16h30. Venue: Davies Reading Room (2.27), Environmental and Geographical Science Bldg, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town

Department Of Medicine 4pm

Forum Roster: Venue: Lecture Theatre 2 (Upper), New Groote Schuur Hospital. • 11 March 2010 - Prof Janet Seggie - ("Education of Doctors for Africa a captivating 'alchemy'") • 18 March 2010 - Dr Joel Dave - ("Metabolism consequences of ARVs") • 25 March 2010 - Prof Derek Yellon (Visitor) - ("New strategies to protect the heart against ischemia-reperfusion injury")

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:**Senior Lecturer (2 posts):**

Statistical Sciences, Faculty of Science; closing date: 12 March 2010

Lecturer: Afrikaans section, Faculty of Humanities; closing date: 12 March 2010

Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer:

Italian Language & Literature, Faculty of Humanities; closing date: 15 March 2010

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer:

Sedimentology, Faculty of Science; closing date: 15 March 2010

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:

Oceanography, Faculty of Science; closing date: 16 March 2010

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Data Capturer: Pulmonology (Lung Infection & Immunity Unit);

closing date: 8 March 2010

Administrative Assistant:

Pulmonology (Lung Infection & Immunity Unit); closing date: 8 March 2010

Senior Scientific Officer (3

year contract): IIDMM, Faculty of Health Sciences; closing date: 9 March 2010

Administrative Officer (1 year

contract): UCT Lung Institute; closing date: 10 March 2010

Director: Internal Audit: Office of

the Vice-Chancellor; closing date: 15 March 2010

Administrative Assistant (5

year contract): Undergraduate Student Administration, Faculty of Health Sciences; closing date: 15 March 2010

Research Officer/Assistant

Research Officer: Energy, Poverty & Development, Energy Research Centre; closing date: 23 March 2010

Energy Efficiency Engineer/

Senior Research Officer: Energy Research Centre; closing date: 23 March 2010

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

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

Posts for UCT Staff only: No internal vacancies at time of going to press

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Rondebosch: Old Cape Farmhouse with self-contained, furnished apartments available. DSTV & broadband, fireplace, beauty salon, UCT Shuttle on doorstep. Weekly & short stay rates. Contact: 0216851747 www.ivydeneguesthouse.com

Rondebosch: 2 Bedrms, 2 bathrms, tastefully furnished home of academics. Peaceful garden, secure, no street frontage. Avail April to Dec. R7000pm or higher for shorter term. Contact: 0216856976 (evenings) or kmoodley@interchange.ubc.ca

Upper Mowbray: Near UCT, short term. Private furnished flat in Victorian House. Own entrance, kitchenette, spacious bed/sitting room, full bathroom. Beautiful features incl fireplace and private porch. Serviced weekly, Avail 1 March R3500pm. Weekly or daily rates by arrangement. Contact: 0216854704, email gespi80@gmail.com.

Zandvlei: Near cul-de-sac, vlei and Lakeside station.

Self-contained; sep entrance; furnished; secure. Quiet garden and pool area. Off-street parking. Suit post-grad student or staff. R3000 /m incl. Contact (021) 788 7643 or email larry@webafrica.org.za

Claremont - Lynfrae: Beautiful neat, modern 3 bedroomed home, 2 bathrooms, lovely tidy garden, secure parking for two cars. Home security etc. Walking distance to Newlands cricket ground, Cavendish, Newlands station, etc. Avail 1 April, furnished R14000pm or unfurnished, R11500. Contact: 0216503184(mornings) or 0829666758.

Mowbray: House to share with mature person, near Medical School. Garden, secure, off-street parking. Rent R3000pm. Contact: Jan.Glazewski@uct.ac.za or 0827446039.

Upper Wynberg: For Sale: Large 2 bedroomed flat (76 sq metres), parking bay. Fully fitted kitchen, cupboards, new carpets, balcony. Secure complex, controlled access. Close to all amenities. R795000 neg. Contact: 0216839311

Hout Bay: 3 Bedroomed house, avail end March. Two bathrooms, 1 en suite, garage plus off street parking. Low maintenance garden. R8000pm, unfurnished or semi-furnished. Contact: 0217904297 or 0842573533.

FOR SALE

Vuka Skuta: 2008 Model in good condition. XR125cc. 2151kms, incl 2 Vuka helmets valued at R350 each. Licence exp end Nov 2010. R6800. Contact: 0832756939.

Stove: Large 4 Spiral plated with large oven and warmer drawer R1200. Contact: Kathy 0216504322 or 0219301487 or 0825449927.

Kitchen Cupboard: 1 x 2 Door and 3 Drawer metal cupboard R300. Contact: Kathy 0216504322 or 0219301487 or 0825449927.

Kitchen Cupboard: Tall boy upright metal cupboard with 3 doors R300. Contact: Kathy 0216504322 or 0219301487 or 0825449927.

Fish Tanks: 2 Small fish tanks. Both for R200. Contact: Kathy 0216504322 or 0219301487 or 0825449927.

Varsity Text Books: Biochemistry (Stryer) R400; Principles of Molecular Virology (Cann) R250; Microbiology

(Prescott) R1500; Microbial Genetics (Maloy) R400; Developmental Biology (Gilbert) R400. Contact: Sue 08227216690.

GENERAL

Transcribing: Accurate and efficient transcribing tailored to your needs: qualitative research, focus groups, conferences, etc. Work not outsourced, confidentiality guaranteed. References on request. Carin 021 4659904/083 6822245 carintranscribing@webafrica.org.za

Adoption support Group:

The group is aimed at adoptive parents; those who are considering adoption or those who are in the process of adopting a child, and explores issues raised by adoption. Contact: ct.adoption.support@gmail.com

The Lady Bus: Corporate and Leisure Transport. Contact: Vanessa 0829255828 or Felicity 0845115992 or email: feva@telkomsa.net.

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Childminder / Domestic

Worker: We are downscaling. Our lovely childminder / domestic worker has been with us for 10 years, is available on Mon, Wed, Fri. She is efficient, patient, kind and gentle with children. Loves baking and makes a great lasagne. Recent references avail. Contact: Ida 0735372818

Found: If you have lost an envelope with valuable contents during the pre-registration period, please come to the IAPO front office to identify. Contact: Babsie 0216502822

House sitter: Responsible lady willing to look after your home while you are away. Love animals and plants. Honest and reliable person. Single mom with one daughter. Highly recommended, anytime. Contact: Nelly 0732814908 or 0793834043. S/Suburbs.

Housekeeper: Experienced lady is looking for a sleep-in position. General cooking,

cleaning. Fond of children. Good references. Contact: Mavis 0825463174.

Babysitter: Mature, experienced lady, to look after children. Very kind person who loves children and can read, write and speak english. Good references. Contact: Nelly 0732814908. S/Suburbs

Wanted: (Partly) furnished, 2-3 Bedroomed house/ cottage/ apartment in Pinelands/Mowbray areas from 01 Jan - 30 June 2011. Garden or proximity to park preferred. Contact: Sabine meye0336@umn.edu or Natasha. Distiller@uct.co.za

Typing Services: For all you typing needs and requirements. Call me! Contact: Anthea 0829289461 or email: anthea@gallivantwithgradwell.co.za, Fax 0880217017222

Home Based Care:

Accommodation Offered: €600 (Euros), per student sharing; Incl Breakfast and Dinner. Clothing: Washing and ironing. Near all amenities. Avail 1 March 2010. Contact: 0214479384 or 0840480717.

Manage: A stall at a Flea Market for R500 per day. Sale of Artwork. Contact: editor@dhakshina.org

Char: Reliable and experienced. Available Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact: Princess 0833542297. For reference, contact Cathy, 0214066535 or 083310211.

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

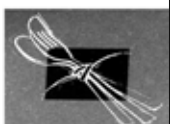
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Student body embarks on racial integration project

Although racial integration at UCT is more advanced than at some universities, it has not happened to a fully acceptable extent, according to the Students' Representative Council (SRC).

In residences, at Jammie steps and in food courts there are still 'black tables' and 'white tables', and students are still hanging out in racial cliques.

"Whether they are comfortable living like that is a different

question, but certainly that does not promote reconciliation and integration," argues Saif Islam, SRC member responsible for transformation.

The current situation has prompted the student body to make racial integration an urgent goal, and recently they hosted a two-week campaign on the issue.

Among the events was a talk by Professor Crain Soudine, deputy vice-chancellor, and a screening of the *New Generation* documentary,



which is about three musicians - a black man, a black woman and a white woman - who explore the past and the present of South Africa.

Islam said the aim of the campaign was to spark debate on identity and race around campus, to make students confident enough to talk about such issues.

"Obviously, 15 years into our democracy we cannot allow this [current situation]. At the same

time we need to take a creative approach. No one should feel they are a racist [by being in a racial circle] or feel forced to make interracial friends. But we want to make them aware of race and racial issues. That is critical for our future campaigns."

Islam said integration is a difficult and sensitive issue, and called on students to take the initiative and not leave the matter to government and university management. **MP**

SRC members test for HIV



Leading from the front: (From left) SRC members Saif Islam, Richard McLaverty, Michell Mpike, Londeka Mkhize, Wandile Mamba, Lwando Maki, Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh and Shannon Bernhardt acted as role models when they tested publicly for HIV.

Some UCT students are still indifferent to and surprisingly ignorant of the dreadful HIV/AIDS pandemic, despite the fact that millions of South Africans are infected and affected by it, according to the Students Representative Council.

To compound the situation, the estimated 10% of students living with the virus are subjected to

stigma by certain fellow students.

For these reasons, the Students' Representative Council (SRC) has put HIV/AIDS on their priority list for the year, and on 24 February its members "led by example" and went for voluntary counselling and testing during a Student Wellness Services' drive at Jameson Hall.

The three-day campaign was one

of the two that the Wellness Services hosts each year - in addition to the daily services available at the Sports Centre and the Student Wellness Services - to promote testing, and to make it available and easily accessible to staff and students.

Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh, SRC president, said that the SRC would be running a campaign on HIV/AIDS later on in the year, and the first thing to do was for members to be tested publicly and act as role models to students who are afraid.

Michell Mpike, the SRC member responsible for health, safety and security, said that testing is important for promoting responsible living.

"There are a lot of people who are ignorant about HIV," she explained. "There is also the mentality that 'it won't happen to me'."

While the turn-out was "overwhelming", the process itself can be nerve-wrecking, as one student attested.

"I was scared when I came to test for the first time because you never know what will happen," she said. "But testing is a responsible thing to do in order to make informed decisions about your future." **MP**

Global Game Jam lockdown

MAGGIE PALTHE

UCT recently hosted the second Global Game Jam (GGJ), which saw our computer science team finish third for the game that they developed.

The event featured teams from 38 countries - straddling 23 time zones - going into a lock-down, competitors having 48 hours to develop and implement a fully functional computer game.

"It is exciting to see the growth of this event, from nine participants last year to 35 this year," said Dr Patrick Marais, a senior lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and the organiser of the South African leg of the competition. "It is a very positive indicator of games development in South Africa."

The teams survived the two days inside the Computer Science Senior lab by consuming vast amounts of coffee, Coke and pizza. They even brought their sleeping bags along, and grabbed a few hours of shut-eye wherever they could.



Spacing out: UCT team members work on their game plan at the recent Global Game Jam.

Prizes were offered as an incentive at the local event, even though the GGJ is not a competition. The completed games are assessed by the wider internet community, who use an approval rating system to come to a final decision.

The UCT Department of Computer Science hopes to continue to host the event in the future; those interested in seeing the developed games can visit <http://www.globalgamejam.org/sites/uct-game-jam/games>. **MP**



In memory: Dad Chris Grainger, sister and women's winner Natalie Grainger, men's winner Rodney Durbach, and mom Jean Grainger at UCT's Keith Grainger Squash Open.

Squash tournament lures the country's - and world's - best

Some of the country's best players turned up for the Keith Grainger Memorial UCT Squash Open, held from 26 to 28 February in memory of the UCT student and keen squash player who succumbed to cancer in 2001.

Among those taking part was Grainger's sister, Natalie, the world number five and the top-ranked player in the US, who had flown in especially for the tournament. Natalie had some stiff competition in the event, including South African number two, Milnay Louw, but she dropped just one game over the weekend - to SA number six, UCT alumna Siyoli Waters (née Lusaseni), in the final - in her title-winning campaign.

Equally efficient was UCT coach, SA number two and winner of the men's section, Rodney Durbach, who

likewise dropped only one game over his five matches on the weekend. Durbach beat Greg La Mude, SA number 28, by 11-6, 11-4 and 11-5 in the final.

No fewer than 24 women and 32 men entered the competition. UCT's top ranked men and women's players, Richard Colburn and Jeanae Dumas, did well, finishing 6th and 13th respectively. They also doubled up as the tournament directors for the weekend, with assistance from club chairperson James 'Jimmy' Owen.

The club was able to put on a very professional tournament, with assistance from sponsors Dish Food & Social (a store), New Balance, Bowline Logistics, Harrow, and a financial contribution from the Montgomery and Grainger families.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Unbeaten Tigers to go head-to-head with Maties

A late Marcello Sampson try helped the FNB Ikey Tigers maintain their unbeaten record in the 2010 Varsity Cup, edging out FNB University of Johannesburg (UJ) by 30 to 23 in a classic encounter in Johannesburg on 1 March.

The win is a confidence-booster for the Tigers ahead of their next game against the mighty Maties in Stellenbosch today. It will also stand the UCT side in good stead in their bid for a third successive semi-final spot. The Ikeys looked the better team in the first half against UJ, punishing poor tackling from the home side to take a 17-13 lead at half time. UJ dominated much of the second half, with only penalties

keeping the Cape Town side ahead. UJ equalised in the 65th minute, but Sampson's breakaway try and Doug Mallett's conversion gave UCT the advantage again with only seven minutes left on the clock.

That move from Sampson - the leading try-scorer in the Varsity Cup's three-year history - handed UCT a fourth win of the season, and four points on the evening.

In the Steinhoff Koshuis Championship, UCT Tornadoes were on the wrong end of a 5-39 scoreline, losing to the Free State University's Vishuis. Tornadoes beat Madibaz of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University by 38-21 in their first game. **MP**