

Monday Paper

Newspaper of the University of Cape Town



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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

University community called to nominate candidates for chancellor

The Office of the Chancellor is vacant following the end of incumbent Graça Machel's first term.

However, she is eligible for re-election and has indicated her willingness to accept nomination as a candidate for a term from 2010 to 2019.

All members of Convocation, all staff and all students are invited to nominate candidates for election to this office.

Nominations in writing must be signed by at least 20 but not more than 30 people, and must be accompanied by a written acceptance of nomination by a candidate and the candidate's statement, not exceeding 200 words, summarising their curriculum vitae and candidature.

The chancellor is the titular head of the university and presides at all congregations (graduation ceremonies), and confers all degrees and awards all diplomas and certificates in the name of the university.

UCT's first chancellor, Edward, Prince of Wales, later to be Edward VIII and the Duke of Windsor, took office from 1918 until his accession. He was succeeded by General Jan Smuts, who was chancellor until his death in 1950. The next chancellor, who held office until 1967, was Chief Justice of South Africa, Albert van der Sandt Centlivres. He was succeeded by Harry Oppenheimer.

Until Oppenheimer decided to retire, after 29 years in office, the chancellor held office for life. At that stage a change was made to the statute; a chancellor could be elected for



Graça Machel (middle), UCT's fifth chancellor, is eligible for re-election and has indicated her willingness to accept nomination.

a 10-year, renewable term of office, and by an electoral college rather than by a vote in Convocation. Machel was the first to be elected under the new dispensation.

The closing date for nominations is noon on Wednesday 31 March 2010. Please note that the election process is set out in detail on UCT's website. If more than one nomination

is received, an electoral college will be constituted to choose a chancellor.

Nominations are to be sent to: The Registrar, University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch,

7701. Scanned copies of nominations may be sent to Registrar@uct.ac.za on condition that the originals are also received by the due date of 31 March 2010. **MP**

Connectivity is the answer, says Gandhi

If hate, fear and greed are the "real enemies" of humankind, then connectivity between leaders and citizens – and between people – would be one way to overcome our troubles. So said Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, biographer, research professor at the University of Illinois and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, when he delivered the year's third Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture at UCT on 23 March.

More often than not, the blame for the world's troubles is pinned on one group or another, as is happening with Muslims around the

world, said Gandhi. But, as he'd learned from his grandfather – at 74, he's accepted that he'll forever be introduced as "Gandhi's grandchild" – and through his decades-long work with Initiatives of Change International (IoCI), which strives to build "relationships across the world's divides", this is both misleading and dangerous.

"It's very tempting to think of a whole group of people as a flawed people," said Gandhi. "[But] there is no such thing as a flawed group of people."

Instead, it is hate, fear and greed

that divide people, he argued. Only a "coalition of consciousnesses" and a "deeper connectivity" among people would help overcome these divides.

"I think the path to [this connectivity] is listening – listening to the other person," said Gandhi.

This lesson is applicable to South Africa, too.

"Your problems are immense, but they are not really unique," he observed.

(A podcast of the lecture can be found at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/>.)

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Hand in hand: Prof Rajmohan Gandhi spoke of bringing people closer together in a "coalition of consciousnesses".

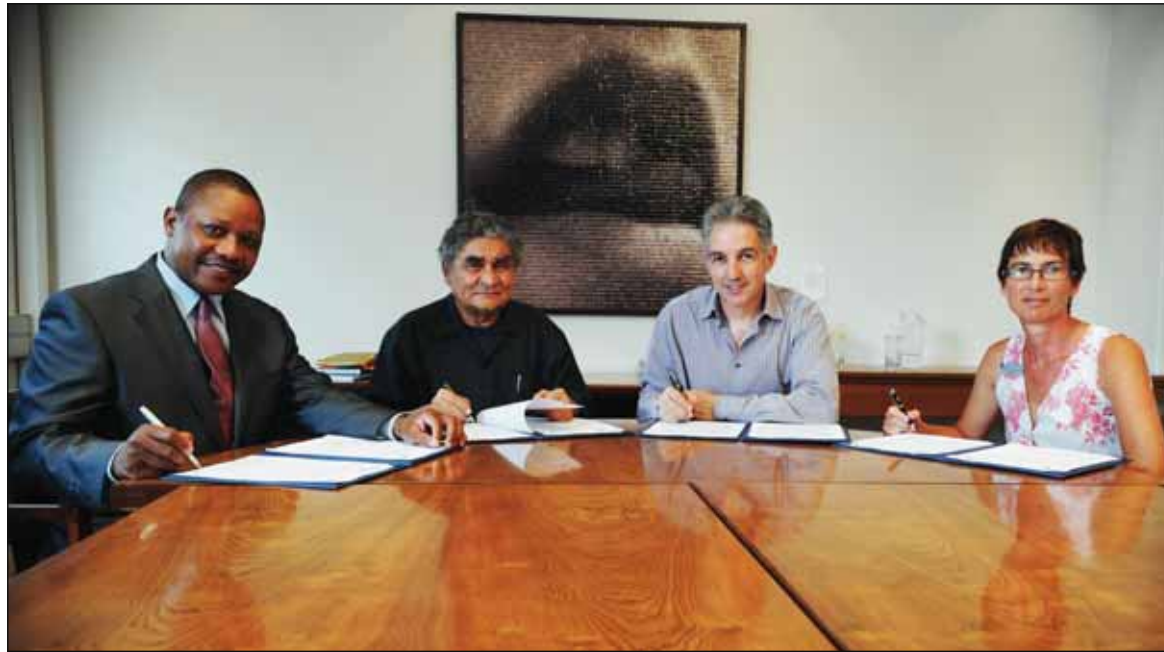
Law hooks up with collaborators from Mozambique

The Faculty of Law is trailblazing the Afropolitan path, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Mozambique's oldest and largest university, at UCT yesterday.

Actually, UCT signed two such MoUs with UEM on the day. The first – initialled by UCT vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, and UEM rector, Professor Filipe Couto – is an overarching one, pledging the two universities to broad collaboration and staff and student exchanges.

The second one is more specific, built on a standing partnership between the universities' faculties of law. Since first making contact at the First International Conference on Regional Integration Issues and SADC Law, held at UEM in April 2008, the faculties have been collaborating around that common theme.

As UEM has a centre dedicated exclusively to the topic, research and teaching exchanges have proved invaluable to UCT, says Professor Evance Kalula, deputy dean for internationalisation and development in



New friends: Signing on the dotted lines on two memoranda of understanding between UCT and Eduardo Mondlane University were Prof Armando Dimande, dean of the faculty of law at UEM; UEM rector, Prof Filipe Couto, UCT vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price; and Prof PJ Schwikkard, dean of the Faculty of Law at UCT.

UCT's Faculty of Law, and responsible for striking up such partnerships with African institutions. Such has been the strength of the UEM collaboration that UCT launched a

master's course in regional integration and SADC law in 2008, based in large part on UEM's work.

That programme has taken off with a bang, with 24 students already

signing up – a sizeable number for any LLM course, observes Kalula. In addition, an undergraduate course has also attracted a dozen or so students.

But it's not a one-sided relation-

ship, notes Kalula. UCT has plenty to offer UEM – as Couto noted as well – and will be offering assistance in developing young, emerging researchers there, posting its academics to teach and work in Mozambique, and helping with curriculum development.

It's that kind of two-way traffic that bodes well for the MoUs.

"Agreements like this do not add up to anything if we haven't started to do something concrete," said Couto at the signing. "This is something which is just confirming what we are doing already."

The occasion was a memorable one for Price as well, as it's the first MoU he's signed with an African university since taking the helm as UCT vice-chancellor in 2008.

"It's an important development for us because we're trying to strengthen our links with African universities, more than we've done in the past," he said.

The agreement with UEM would perhaps also spark contacts with other Lusophone countries in the Southern Hemisphere, added Price.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Armstrong encourages cancer patients to "live strong"

Many of his fans may have been disappointed that Lance Armstrong didn't win the Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour on 14 March, but none of the cancer patients the cycling celebrity met at Groote Schuur Hospital two days before the race were anything but rapturous.

Armstrong had visited the hospital – media circus obligingly in tow – as part of the launch of the Livestrong Global Cancer Campaign, an initiative of his Livestrong Foundation (aka the Lance Armstrong Foundation). The campaign's work in South Africa will focus on partnering with local patient and cancer advocacy groups to end the stigma of cancer, and to "turn cancer victims into cancer survivors".

Living as a 25-year old with testicular cancer in "macho" Texas, he had some experience of the stigma associated with the disease, Armstrong told an attentive audience at the hospital.

"I too had to deal with stigma – how do I talk about this with my friends, with my family, with my loved ones?"

Armstrong's visit to the hospital had been agented by UCT's Professor Lynette Denny, who has been running a cervical-cancer screening



The cycle of life: Lance Armstrong chats with cancer patients at Groote Schuur Hospital. On his right is UCT's Prof Lynette Denny, who organised the occasion.

project in Khayelitsha for many years.

"He's a cancer survivor and I've been working on cancer, so it was a good fit," said Denny, explaining her motivation for inviting Armstrong to Groote Schuur.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Swedish minister urges SA to go green

Perhaps Swedish deputy prime minister Maud Oloffson didn't stick strictly to the title of her talk – *Green Jobs and the Next Economy: Pipe Dream or a Reality?* – but speaking at UCT on 15 March, she did share a few lessons on what Sweden had done right on the greening front, and gave a few words of advice to South Africa.

Oloffson, also the minister for Enterprise and Energy in Sweden, was delivering a public talk on building an eco-efficient economy, the occasion hosted by the Department of Public Law on behalf of UCT's Climate Change Governance Collaboration.

She listed some of Sweden's successes as it aims to overhaul its economy into one that's less dependent on fossil fuels or, as it is currently, on nuclear power (and hydroelectricity). So, for example, Sweden is converting vast amounts of waste into

biofuels – an area in which it's setting the global pace – while also weaning itself off nuclear energy and investing generously in renewable-energy sources.

All this is driven by political will (it helps that the European Union is on the same green page, Oloffson said) and the free market.

But can South Africa match this greening revolution, audience members asked? And can the country generate clean fuel and jobs at the same time?

In South Africa, there are opportunities in turning waste into biofuels, as well as in solar-, wind- and even wave-power generation, just beckoning to be tapped, replied Oloffson. And a decent public transport system would also help.

"You have lots of low-hanging fruits."

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Going green: Maud Oloffson shared some thoughts on how Sweden is turning itself into a waste-free society, and how South Africa could follow suit.

New course will create savvy, super, cyber-surfers



Cyber surfers: Head of IS, Prof Jean-Paul van Belle, and alumnus Sam Paddock, creator of the UCT Internet Super-User course, which will enable people who have limited experience of the internet to catapult themselves across the digital divide.

When Sam Paddock was a UCT information systems (IS) honours student he envisioned a "virtual campus" where prospective students could complete short courses without needing to set foot in a classroom.

This dream will become a reality for the IS graduate when he launches the first online course for the Faculty of Commerce next month.

The UCT Internet Super-User course will enable people who have limited experience with the internet to catapult themselves across the digital divide.

"If you use email and surf the web, but want to use tools like Google, Skype, Wikipedia, Google Earth, Facebook, Twitter, PayPal, uStream, or to blog like the professionals, then this course is for you," says Paddock.

Students on the course will become familiar with the wealth of

benefits the internet offers.

For Paddock, managing director of GetSmarter, a specialist online training company, the logical partner for this course was the UCT IS department with its "reputation for innovation and excellence".

Head of Information Systems Professor Jean-Paul van Belle said: "It's important for us to consider our options in making expertise and intellectual resources available to a wider community. E-learning has the potential to deliver optimised learning resources more efficiently than face-to-face teaching, thus enhancing quality while lowering cost."

This short course is not a replacement for existing courses, but complements by broadening the student base to students who can't – or don't want to – become full-time residential students.

(For information, email deborah@getsmarter.co.za)



St Luke's Hospice Online Auction

One of our very special and most successful, fundraising projects is our online auction. We have 3000 bidders logging on to our website, at any time, placing bids on **brand new** items donated to us. We source **new** items and fantastic vouchers, which are available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any location in the world. Once you are registered on our site, www.stlukes.co.za (click on the "Auction" button) you can bid on as many items as you like, as often as you like. **Registration is FREE!**

All proceeds raised help us take care of our terminally ill patients and their families in Cape Town, **free of charge.**

For more information regarding the online auction, please contact **Joy Meyer** or **Colleen Wasserfall** on: 021-797-5335 or **Colleen Zaayman** on 021-761-1700 or log on to our website www.stlukes.co.za

Vice-chancellors lead debate on leadership

What does it mean to lead on divided campuses?

This was the theme of the evening as vice-chancellor Dr Max Price shared the stage with the outspoken vice-chancellor of the University of the Free State, Professor Jonathan Jansen, on 9 March.

First at the podium was Jansen: "It's absolutely crucial for a leader in higher education to recognise the problem of distance between black and white. Unless you recognise that, you will not understand the enormous tension, pain, aggravation and bitterness that continues to exist on campuses across this country."

Jansen outlined the differences between co-habitation and integration, arguing that leaders can't force students to be together in a social sense: "While our campuses are desegregated, I don't know of a campus in South Africa that is integrated," he noted.

He added that students are

alienated by a leadership that self-righteously lectures them on race relations, especially if they're not setting a credible example as leaders themselves.

In building a sense of non-racial community, Jansen argued, leaders have to take both black and white communities into account, and learn to understand their anxieties and fears.

"Unless you, as a leader, can feel and deal with that emotional distress on each side of the equation, you will not be able to lead a student body that overcomes the sins of their fathers together."

Price noted that transformation on different campuses, specifically at English- and Afrikaans-speaking universities, faced different challenges. Where Afrikaans universities have to overcome a huge ideological shift, their English counterparts faced a sense of smugness in the belief that this transformation had already

successfully occurred in the '70s and '80s.

"Our challenge is to persuade staff and students that there's a problem that still has to be fixed," he said.

He argued that universities could play a key role "in creating transforming agents who graduate from us".

"We can expose students to inequalities in the society around us; we can expose them to debates addressing that, and we can try to influence their values and commitment."

Another key role for Price is 'the knowledge project': what is taught, what is excluded and what opinions are promoted in the students' academic life.

"Transformation also includes creating a curriculum and a research focus that helps students to identify with their own heritage and culture, so that they don't always feel alien in that environment."

Price noted the importance of institutional climate in transformation.



Face off: Dr Max Price (left) and Prof Jonathan Jansen.

"This, I think, is the toughest challenge because it's the most difficult to put your finger on. It's in the air we breathe and the buildings we work in."

He described subtle "micro-environment behaviours", such as ignoring certain people in meetings, that make people feel excluded.

"It's the role of leadership to be tuned in to these behaviours, and to highlight them in a gentle way," said Price.

The forum was hosted by former Minister of Education, Professor Kader Asmal. Download a podcast of the event at www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

Clashing views on role of scientists in global warming



Debating the future: Attending the global warming seminar were (from left) Dr Saliem Fakir, DVC Prof Jo Beal, Prof George Philander and Prof Mary Scoles.

Different perspectives on climate change were aired in a seminar on 18 March hosted by UCT's African Climate and Development Initiative.

Professor George Philander of UCT's Department of Oceanography took on Professor Mary Scoles from the University of the Witwatersrand and Dr Saliem Fakir of the World Wildlife Fund, who responded to his lecture, titled *Why Global Warming is Polarising and Paralysing*.

Philander noted that according to recent polls, increasing numbers of people were sceptical about global warming. Furthermore, the discussions are becoming more and more polarised. He attributes this to a failure to distinguish between the scientific and ethical aspects of the

problem. Uncertainties in the scientific results are either exaggerated or suppressed, to favour inaction or action.

A solution to this problem, Philander proposes, is to get people involved through education about environmental concerns. Our current response to global warming is flawed in being too top-down. Laymen are expected to take the alarms scientists are sounding on faith.

Philander argued that "the future of the planet is far too serious to be left to the scientists – you must come on board".

"The gap between science and laymen can be bridged by making laymen own the problem," said Philander. "We need to turn global warming from a threat into an opportunity to promote education, to

help people cope with current climate fluctuations such as droughts and floods."

Scoles countered that ethical debates are very much a part of the science agenda, and that meetings between scientists often included ethical debate.

Noting that by and large the South African public is largely not engaged in the debate, Scoles argued for intervention at school level, such as teaching children how to calculate their carbon footprint.

Fakir also disagreed with Philander's take on scientists.

"Scientists are people too," he argued. "They bring their humanity to science, and can politicise their work... Politics is embedded in science."

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

Sharpeville remembered

In commemoration of the 50-year anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre of 1960, celebrated as Human Rights day on 21 March, UCT and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) partnered in a round table discussion to reflect on the legacy of this tragic event.

Held at UWC on 23 March and organised by UCT's Democratic Governance and Rights Unit (DGRU) and the Political Studies Department of UWC, the discussion focused on the Sharpeville massacre's impact on current human rights.

The panel of speakers included Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, president of the Inkatha Freedom Party; former Black Sash president Mary Burton; and Professor Elrena van der Spuy of UCT's Centre of Criminology.

"South Africa is approaching a fork in the road," said Professor Richard Calland, director of the DGRU, in introducing the event. "We need caution, not complacency."

Calland also noted that key moments in history, such as the Sharpeville massacre, should be used to see



Remembering tragedy: Prof Richard Calland, director of the DGRU opens the Sharpeville discussions.

a way forward. "We need to use the past to understand the future."

Buthelezi called the massacre a symbol of oppression. "After Sharpeville, nothing was ever the same... the whole world was outraged by such brutality."

Referring to the recent actions of Julius Malema, Buthelezi slammed the ANC Youth League leader for

"singing about death", and engaging in hate speech. "This is one of the worst violations of human rights," he said.

Burton said that at the time, working for the Black Sash was "lonely and discouraging".

"It is remarkable how structural violence was so quickly adopted to support apartheid laws," she said.

Burton also noted that, today, human rights issues are less clear cut, even though the country is yet to achieve the society it wanted. "Most people are still poor and face an ongoing struggle to achieve socioeconomic rights. So for the Black Sash, the struggle continues."

Van der Spuy argued that although the police force had undergone a restructuring in order to enshrine human rights and engage with the communities they serve, there are still serious crises, such as the lack of legitimacy of leadership, corruption and an absence of accountability.

"We must continue to confront our ailments and keep human rights alive," she said.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

WHAT CHANGES THE CITY? HOW DO WE IMAGINE THIS CHANGE COMING ABOUT?

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES

COUNTER-CURRENTS:
EXPERIMENTS IN SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CAPE REGION

06-04-2010 BOOK LAUNCH & EXHIBITION OPENING
19-04-2010 DEBATE: LEADERSHIP AND THE CITY
06-05-2010 DEBATE: DESIGNING ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

VENUE: CAPE INSTITUTE FOR ARCHITECTURE, 71 HOUT STREET, CAPE TOWN

Stein wins prestigious Pifer Award

In recognition of his contribution to welfare-related research, Professor Dan Stein, head of UCT's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, was awarded the prestigious Alan Pifer Research Award at a function on 24 March.

The annual award honours UCT researchers whose welfare-related work has contributed to the advancement and welfare of South Africa's disadvantaged people.

Stein's research focuses on the psychobiology and management of anxiety disorders, including posttraumatic stress disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder. His work ranges from basic neuroscience all the way through to epidemiological and cross-cultural research.

Stein and his colleagues recently undertook the first nationally representative epidemiological study of mental illness in Africa. This research led to the key finding that although there is significantly more impair-

ment associated with mental illness than with physical disorders, mental disorders are less likely to receive treatment.

With his team, Stein has also conducted some of the first research on mental disorders in patients with HIV/AIDS, and how, with short questionnaires, these disorders can be rigorously screened.

Stein is also the director of both the Medical Research Council's Unit on Anxiety & Stress Disorders and UCT's Brain-Behaviour Initiative.

In receiving the award, worth R10 000, Stein expressed his passion for his field: "The brain is the sexiest and most challenging of organs, and psychiatry is so rewarding because it is the medical speciality that's most interested in people."

Stein also thanked his family, who attended the function. "They forgive me for being a workaholic, and they also keep me sane," he said.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)



Family and peers: Attending the Pifer Award function were (from left) Prof Dan Stein's spouse Prof Heather Zar, daughter Gabriella Stein, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, recipient Prof Dan Stein, deputy vice-chancellor Prof Danie Visser and (front) daughter Sara Stein.

Medical biography picks up UCT book award



Page turner: Emer Prof Kit Vaughan at the launch of his award-winning book, *Imagining the Elephant: A Biography of Allan MacLeod Cormack*.

Kit Vaughan, emeritus professor of biomedical engineering and director of UCT spin-off company CapeRay, has won the UCT Book Award for 2010 for *Imagining the Elephant: a Biography of Allan MacLeod Cormack*, his ode to the South African-born Nobel laureate.

Cormack, a 'lowly' UCT-trained

physicist, was co-winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his computer-assisted tomography (CAT) scanner. His work also inspired a new generation of medical scientists, including Vaughan, who established a medical imaging research group at UCT in 2000, just two years after Cormack's

death, in the latter's honour.

(And hardly a Monday Paper conversation with Vaughan went by without Cormack's name coming up.)

In the book, Vaughan writes about both Cormack the family man and how his discoveries changed the world. It was clearly a labour of love for Vaughan, who travelled to Boston, Scotland and England to flesh out his research.

"I am delighted to receive this recognition", said Vaughan, "particularly since it's for a genre (history of science) that's not exactly my research focus. I was also pleasantly surprised to discover that there were people who enjoyed reading the book!"

The UCT Book Award carries with it a purse of R30 000, which Vaughan will be donating to the Allan Cormack Book Fund, established by Cormack's family to enable science students from disadvantaged backgrounds to purchase text books.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Applications for fellowships

The Fellowships Committee calls for nominations for the award of Fellowships, which are awarded in recognition of original, distinguished academic work.

1. Eligibility

- Members of academic staff appointed to permanent posts on or before 1 January 2006 are eligible for consideration;
- Persons whose candidacy for the award was considered in 2007, 2008 and 2009 may not re-apply and may not be re-nominated.

2. Nominations/Applications

- Members of Senate are invited to submit nominations; and
- Officers eligible for the award are invited to submit applications.

Such nominations and applications are to be submitted to The Registrar (for the attention of Mrs Denise Benjamin, Room 141, Bremner Building) by no later than Friday 9 April 2010.

3. Supporting documentation

Nominations and applications must be accompanied by a citation, a curriculum vitae, details (and copies) of publications (or cited references), and other evidence of distinction. The names, ad-

resses, fax number and/or email addresses of three referees whom the University may consult must be provided. Referees should be persons of standing (preferably of international standing, where the field of activity of the candidate makes this a reasonable requirement) in the discipline in which the candidate is working. The suggested length of the citation is a three-quarter page of typed text in single spacing.

It is also important for a nominator (or applicant) to identify the specific areas in which the nominee (or applicant) has made original contributions to knowledge and to point out the significance of his or her work, particularly in the international context, by, for example, reference to published work in international journals of recognised academic standing. Among such publications should preferably be a major work.

A nominator (who is not a Fellow) and an applicant must provide the name of a person, not necessarily a Fellow, to perform the role of orator at the meeting(s) of the committee to present the case for the candidate. ^{MP}



EDUCATION NEWS
FROM AFRICA AND
THE WORLD

(Sources: Independent Online, All Africa.com, Chronicle for Higher Education.)

Ahmed Essop has been named the new CEO of the Council on Higher Education, succeeding Prof Cheryl de la Rey, who has taken office as principal and vice-chancellor

at the **UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**. Essop is well known in higher education circles, having served for many years as chief director in the higher-education branch of the former Department of Education, and more recently as an independent consultant in higher education.

HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTER BLADE NZIMANDE will commission an independent investigation into problems at the **DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (DUT)**, following violent protests by students that forced the institution to close its doors until next term. The DUT also secured a High Court order against 15 SRC members, preventing them from inciting violence or disruptions and vandalism on campus.

A parliamentary report on **HIGHER LEARNING IN RWANDA** has revealed that all 26 of the country's higher-education

institutions operate under "pathetic" conditions. The report exposes shortfalls within the education sectors ranging from the quality of its graduates and the education offered to the poor salaries of tutors and the lack of teaching equipment.

Only 1.8% of the 234 682 learners that sat for Nigeria's 2009 secondary school exams have passed with five credits and above, including credits in English and math, the minimum requirement for admission into university. One news source labelled this "one of the most dismal performances in the history of public examination at secondary level in Nigeria".

Guild elections – similar to SRC elections – at **UGANDA'S MAKERERE UNIVERSITY** were delayed after week-long violence at the campus, triggered by the killing of two students on March 15 during the last leg of the campaigns. One

candidate was disqualified after he was found guilty of absconding with polling materials, assaulting polling officials and inciting violence.

Following three suspected suicides in under a month, students at **CORNELL UNIVERSITY** in the US gathered for a "Lift Your Spirits" meeting, an event intended to brighten the mood on campus. In addition, the university has been running a massive campaign to offer and voice its support to students. While it may have a reputation as a "suicide school", the university has indicated that historically, Cornell suicides have not been higher than national statistics predict for a university population of 20 000 students: about two per year.

A classroom disruption that ended in the arrest of a student at the **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN** in the US received widespread attention after a video of the altercation

made its way onto *YouTube*. The student who was arrested had argued with her professor about an examination question and had thrown a water bottle at another student who intervened, according to reports.

UNIVERSITIES IN ENGLAND, fearing further budgets cuts, received good news instead, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer announcing \$403 million in new government support to help them pay for 20 000 additional student places. In addition, the chancellor also announced a new \$52 million university enterprise capital fund to support innovation and spinoff companies.

A bill that would permit foreign universities to set up campuses in India overcame a major hurdle recently when it was passed by the prime minister's cabinet. The measure has been four years in the making.

Three teaching collaborations get the nod from CHED



Dr Rachel Weiss (left) and Dr Arlene Archer.

Teaming up to train the next generation of entrepreneurs, to polish medical students' bedside manners and to pass on must-have academic skills to first years has earned three groups the Centre for Higher Education Development's (CHED) 2009 clutch of Collaborative Education-Practice Awards. We take a peek at how these allies pooled their networks, resources and wits to make teaching and learning at UCT that much better.

David Priilaid and Stuart Hendry, School of Management Studies: Students on the Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship not only have the customary academic regimen of classes and tutorials, but are also expected, in what's known as the diploma's Genesis Project, to start up and run a small business using their wits, creativity and whatever seed capital they can attract. The aim is to create an authentic but forgiving environment in which to learn the hard lessons of

entrepreneurship, explains Priilaid. The collaboration comes in when students have to work together, and in the lifeline Priilaid and Hendry sets up for them in the shape of graduates from the programme (some who now run



(From left) Tracey Toefy, Gideon Nomdo, Cathy Hutchings, Assoc Prof Moragh Paxton and Nisreen Narker.

their own businesses) who now act as directors of the student groups. Small business it may be, but the payoff can be generous. In 2009, one group made over R50 000 in profits, a windfall the students pocketed. "It's amazing how students transform," says Priilaid, "from quite young, naive, self-centred individuals into leaders, both of themselves and businesses."

Dr Arlene Archer, Writing Centre, Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED), and Dr Rachel Weiss, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences: A medical doctor by training, Weiss became interested in the field of multi-modality – that nuanced interplay between 'texts', be it words, body language, images, even dress – during her master's degree in education with CHED. So when she had to teach fourth-year medical students how to improve on their one-piece-of-advice-fits-all style of communications with their patients, she called on both that knowledge and on former



Tasty teaching: Winners of CHED's 2009 Collaborative Education-Practice Awards were, David Priilaid (left) and Stuart Hendry.

supervisor Archer. Together they came up with the fittingly-named PIL (or patient information leaflet) project, in which students were asked to create pamphlets that would inform, but also overcome language, cultural, educational and other boundaries. "The project is not about producing these awesome pamphlets, it's about getting students to think about people," says Weiss. In response, the students' handiwork was both informative and creative, tackling everything from asthma to safe sex. Archer and Weiss will use part of their award winnings to produce some of these creations for distribution to clinics and the like.

Cathy Hutchings, Gideon Nomdo and Tracey Toefy, Language Development Group, CHED; and Nisreen Narker, School of Economics: The four are the latest protagonists in a 13-year-long collaboration – launched by CHED's Assoc Prof Moragh Paxton – to teach essential

academic-literacy skills to students on the School of Economics' first-year extended-curriculum microeconomics course (ECO1110A). The group's modus operandi is to embed academic literacy into the actual programme. "We work from the standpoint that one can only really teach academic literacy adequately if it's contextualised," says Nomdo. The four design the curriculum and assignments together, and in two designated sessions per week, the CHED staff teach language and communications skills and help around 105 first years unpack the course material and assignments. They also work with tutors on how to assess students' writing. The results are palpable, reports Narker. Both the students' grasp of concepts and their writing improve, and by the end of the first semester it's easy to tell who's been on the programme, and who hasn't.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Network tackles African transport and environment issues

Researchers at the University of Cape Town are part of an international effort to tackle problems such as traffic congestion, air pollution and road safety in Africa.

Leading South Africa's contribution in the Transport and Environment-Science Technology (TEST) Network, Associate Professor Marianne Vanderschuren of UCT's Centre of Transport Studies is co-ordinating a national drive to strengthen scientific and technological support for the implementation of sustainable transport policies in the country.

"Road safety, traffic congestion, urban air pollution, road maintenance, accessibility and mobility problems are key challenges in South Africa," says Vanderschuren. "Transport policies that deliver sustainable cities, healthy citizens, development and poverty eradication are urgently needed."

The TEST Network is led by the Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York in the UK, and the European branch of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, based in Germany. The network involves universities from six African countries,



The wheels are turning: Assoc Prof Marianne Vanderschuren is leading the South African component of an international network that will be looking into Africa's ongoing transport concerns.

UN-Habitat, and the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD). It is funded by the EC African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Science and Technology Programme.

Other African partners include Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique, Ardhi University of Tanzania, Makerere University in Uganda, the University of Zimbabwe and the University of Zambia.

The three-year capacity-building project will strengthen networking, share knowledge, and enhance research capac-

ity on transport and environment science and technological issues.

"We aim to mount a determined effort to improve air quality, reduce death and injury on the roads, reduce greenhouse gases and widen opportunity and accessibility for all, but especially those on very low incomes," adds Vanderschuren.

At its inaugural meeting at UCT earlier this year, participants agreed on a programme of activities for the network, including an assessment of research capacity, benchmarking good transport practice and communicating the science to key stakeholders.

The programme of activities will culminate in a United Nations Regional Policy Dialogue on Transport and Environment Science and Technology at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi in 2012.

For further information about the TEST Network and the South African activities within it, contact Vanderschuren at telephone 021 650 2593 or email Marianne.vanderschuren@uct.ac.za.

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Foot makes Baxter history



Multi-award-winning writer, director, and producer Lara Foot became the first female artistic director of the Baxter Theatre when she succeeded Mannie Manim in 2010.

Foot is the fourth director in the Baxter's 32-year history, following in the footsteps of founding director John Slemon (1977-1995), Rodney Phillips (1996-1999) and Manim, who took the reins in 2000.

In 2005 Foot relocated to Cape Town from Johannesburg, with her family, to take up the position of resident director and dramaturge at the Baxter Theatre, a post she held until 2007, the year she finished her master's degree at UCT.

During her career, Foot has

directed over 40 productions, 29 of which have been new South African plays. The founder of the Barney Simon Young Directors and Writers Festivals, Foot has played a role in the development of more than 35 new plays.

"I am delighted and honoured to be appointed to this position," says Foot. "I look forward to fostering creative relationships with the artists of Cape Town, the university and adjacent districts."

"Following in the footsteps of Mannie Manim is a great challenge. I hope to build on what he has achieved and strengthen the success of the Baxter in the years to come."

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

Passing of an era - tribute to Cas Troskie

The passing of Cas Troskie is also the passing of an era of almost 50 years of association with and service to the University of Cape Town. He was a kindly witness to and enthusiastic participant at the enormous changes in the institution he deeply loved.

Born on 2 October 1936 in Nigel in the old Transvaal his first degrees were a BSc in 1957 and an MSc in 1960 from the University of Pretoria (UP). In 1963 he completed his PhD though UNISA.

At UP he met Irene Dracht, whom he married in 1960. During 1962, using special leave from the CSIR, the couple stayed at Columbia University, New York. It was there that he began to build up a substantial set of international contacts. Some led to visits by high-profile statisticians to the South African universities in later years.

Cas was appointed as UCT's first full-time lecturer in statistics in 1964, in the Department of Mathematics, to the consternation of his father, fearful of so dissolute and implacable an

environment.

He became professor and founding head of the Department of Mathematical Statistics in 1966. In the early years as HoD, Cas pioneered the use of an IBM electric typewriter with a special golf-ball attachment for mathematical notation in multivariate analysis. Thereafter he mastered each new computer resource or facility that a wider set of innovators was bringing to UCT.

At some point Cas was commissioned by UCT to research and advise on the choice of the first UCT computer, the UNIVAC. This shared facility was controlled and fed by punch cards, each carrying a single line of instruction code, or a string of data.

It greatly amused Cas that nowadays he would be able to perform the major elements of many months of data analysis work from his PhD in the twinkling of an eye, with so commonplace a tool as Excel.

He chose to direct his PhD's theory of multivariate analysis and associ-

ated work on outliers and anomalous observations into applications on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. This orientation led him into the theory of time series and econometrics, but also to special expertise regarding the stock exchange. He supervised 24 MSc and 14 PhD students, mainly in these domains, and furthered his expertise during sabbaticals at the University of Gottingen (1980) and Stanford University (1986).

He built a strong department, bringing in, as staff or students, many who would make their mark in the statistical and academic world of South Africa and internationally, including June Juritz, Arthur Money, Michael Greenacre, Les Underhill, John Affleck-Graves, Trevor Hastie, Walter Zucchini and Theo Stewart.

Before retirement he was the senior professor at UCT, the longest-serving current member of the professoriate. He warned of the calamity that might befall UCT if he were ever called upon to exercise that status



Memories: (From left) John Juritz, Les Underhill, June Juritz, Cas Troskie, Jack de Wet, and Arthur Money. (Troskie's students, Les, June and Arthur, were getting their PhDs in 1973.)

under the terms of the University Act.

He was a proud father of four sons (Casparus, Roelof, Johan and Andre), and a delighted grandfather of three boys and four girls. To Irene and

all his family, the UCT community extends its condolences.

(Edited from the tribute delivered by Prof Tim Dunne at the UCT memorial on 24 March.)

Real test of survival - for good cause



Three UCT alumni are heading for unfamiliar territory that will disconnect them from the world and push them to their limits.

For 30 days, from 1 April, they will have to make their own shelters and survive wild animals and insects, with no readily available food, cell-phones or television.

In addition, Dr Jonathan Starke (MBChB 2001), Saul Kornik (BBusSc 1999) and Nick Bennett (BA 2005) will have to work with seven other participants to succeed in the Life2The-Limit "selfless endurance" experience.

"But perhaps above all the challenges will be the psychological impact of an extreme situation, and making sure we stay mentally strong,"

noted Starke.

The survival challenge takes place on a forest-dense South Pacific tropical island, which is 10km by 4km in size, and whose highest peak stands at 200 metres.

The group will be dropped off on a 500-metre-long stretch of beach, each member carrying only what they can fit in a five-litre bag. There is one fresh-water river leading to the beach, but participants will need to go upstream to avoid the estuary at the mouth of the river. There are no coconut trees and no visible edible plants, but the sea has coral aplenty and bountiful marine life.

All of this is to raise funds for local charity organisations that address many of the problems facing local communities.

Starke has completed expeditions before, mostly for the South African National Antarctic Programme, supporting research teams in remote areas. But this one will not only test him in a difficult situation, but will also catch the country's eye, inspire people and encourage them to donate.

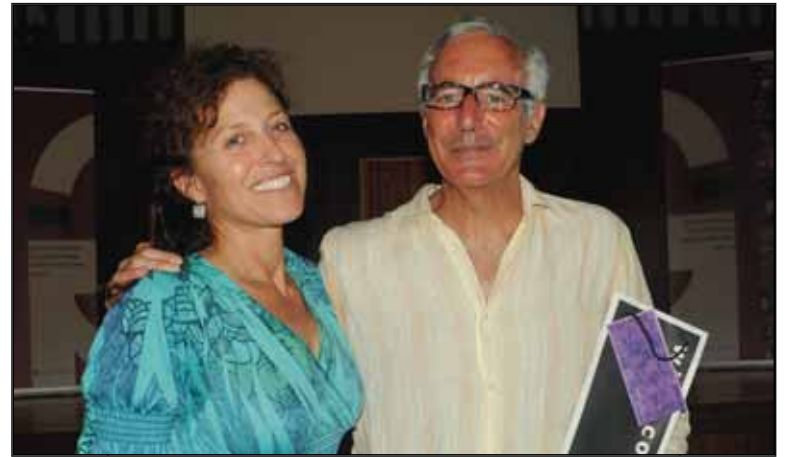
For more information visit www.life2thelimit.co.za. MP

GIPCA lecture series kicks off

"Table Mountain is Diazapan. First marketed as Valium, it's used for treating anxiety, seizures, insomnia, and Restless Leg syndrome. Table Mountain possesses anti-convulsant, hypnotic and sedative properties. The side effects of this particular medication called the mountain may include mild euphoria, bored or confused thinking, global disinterestedness – which you find everywhere in Cape Town – light headedness, fainting and erectile dysfunction. Do not use mountain more than once every four hours – sustained use might lead to addiction."

So began the first lecture for the year in the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts' Great Texts/Big Questions lecture series on 4 March, delivered by philosopher and political commentator Professor Daniel Herwitz.

Currently a Mellon visiting research fellow at UCT, Herwitz is the director of the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Michigan, US, and the author of *Stars as Icons*, about the creation of celebrities by the joint forces of film, television, tabloids and consumer society. He has also written a book of essays about the South African transition,



Launching ideas: Prof Daniel Herwitz (right), with GIPCA director, Assoc Prof Rob Baum.

titled *Race and Reconciliation*.

"The media are now a central if not intrusive part of the American political landscape, and have been since the fatherly fireside chats of President Roosevelt," Herwitz said. "The media formulate canons for debate, in many ways control the flow of information, and turn presidents into celebrities."

Herwitz drew on a wide range of mass media icons to illustrate his observations, comparing Barack Obama with Abraham Lincoln and Grace Kelly with Lady Diana.

"Most American youth get their news from late night comedy programmes, meaning they find news palatable only if presented in the form of personal ad lib and entertainment," he noted. "This elevation of the candidate to celebrity, stardom and talk show intimacy all at once causes the political process to become unpredictable, since no one can control how the public will levitate its candidates, nor whether its feet will remain firmly planted on the ground."

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

EVENTS

Department of Information

Systems: UCT Super-User Course. Learn to harness the power of the Internet. 10 Week part-time course presented online. 40% Discount for UCT staff and students. This short course in association with the Department of Information Systems starts 12 April 2010. Please see www.getsmarter.co.za for more details or contact Deborah 021 6854775

Department Of Medicine 4pm

Forum Roster: Venue: Lecture Theatre 2 (Upper), New Groote Schuur Hospital: 08 April 2010 - Prof Patrick Commerford - Atrial Fibrillation: "Common sense about a common problem". 15 April 2010 - Renal Visitor – Title to be advised. 22 April 2010 - Dr Richard van Zyl Smith – Title to be advised. 29 April 2010 - Dr Fierdoz Omar (Chempath) – Improving the interpretation results: "new information for the clinician"

Philosophy Society Meeting:

Title: Evolution and Emergence: A Paradigm-Shift for Theology
Dr. Augustine Shutte (Formerly: Philosophy, UCT) Date: Tuesday, 23 April 2010 • Time: 20H00 • Venue: Room LS6C, 6th Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building. For more details: Contact 021 6503316

Prof Phil Hockey, Director of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town, invites you to attend a:

FitzPatrick Institute 50th Anniversary Seminar: "Arms races through colour space: coevolution and the Cuckoo Finch". Presented by: Dr Claire Spottiswoode – Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Research Fellow, Univesity of Cambridge, UK & Research Associate of the FitzPatrick Institute, UCT. Date: Wednesday, 7 April 2010 • Time: 13H00 (Guests to be seated by 12H45) • Venue: Niven Library, FitzPatrick Institute, Zoology Department, Upper Campus, UCT. For more details: Contact 021 650 2896

ICTS Courses Offered during

April: 6 – 8 April 2010 (AM) - PowerPoint 2007 Level 1 • 6 – 9 April 2010 (PM) - Adobe Photoshop CS3 Level 1 • 13 – 16 April 2010(AM) - Excel Level 2 • 13 – 16 April 2010(PM) - Word Level 2 • 19 – 20 April 2010(AM) - Groupwise 8 Basic • 21 April 2010 (AM) - Groupwise 8 Intermediate • 21 – 23 April 2010(AM) - Web Publishing Starter

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer part-time, Clinical Pharmacology: FHS; closing date: 6 April 2010

Senior Family Physician: Public

Health & Family Medicine, FHS; closing date: 16 February 2010

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Laboratory Animal Technologist: Animal Unit, FHS; closing date: 29 March 2010

Learning Technologies

Operations Manager: CET, CHED; closing date: 29 March 2010

Learning Technology

Consultant, CET, CHED; closing date: 29 March 2010

Laboratory Technologist: Lung Infection and Immunity Unit, FHS; closing date: 29 March 2010

Data Manager: Lung Infection & Immunity Unit, FHS, closing date: 30 March 2010

Research Officer (6 month contract): Perinatal Mental Health Project, FHS, closing date: 31 March 2010

Administrative Assistant (2 year contract): IIDMM, FHS, closing date: 31 March 2010

Administrative Assistant: Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, closing date: 1 April 2010

Administrative Officer: Faculty Office, closing date: 6 April 2010

Departmental Assistant: Archaeology, Faculty of Science, closing date: 7 April 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

PROPERTY

Mowbray: House to share near Medical School. Secure, garden, off-street parking. Suit visiting academic or postgraduate student. Contact: Jan.Glazewski@uct.ac.za.

Hout Bay: Pretty furnished cottage looking into woods in Kroonendal Village, secure complex. 2 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, study, garage. Sui professors over 50, min rental 3 months, no dogs. R9000pm. See www.bijoubythebay.co.za. Contact: gscams@tiscali.co.uk

Knysna Forest: Wooden timber chalet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, for short term getaway lets, in idyllic country surrounds (Bibby's Hoek, Rheenendal; hiking and cycling trails, 25 min from Knysna). Self-catering, or B&B and/or other meals. Contact: Jan.Glazewski@uct.ac.za or Barry 0827486505 or 0443884716

Tamboerskloof: Superior fully furnished garden flat to rent. Available 7 April 2010 - 15 Feb 2011. 2/3 Bedrooms, excellent security, very attractive in every eay. Low rent to suitable reliable person.

Contact: 0822539700.

Rosebank: Secure, fully equipped, 3 bed 2 bath hom with garage; lovely garden with deck and patio area too. Ideal for visiting academics and staff at UCT. Available 1 April for short and medium lets. R3000 per week. Contact: Pauline 0784199482.

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

St James: House for long let. R9000pm. Furnished. 3 bed, 2 bath, lounge, study,, dinning room, kitchen, rear courtyard, front stoep, tiny garden. On cul-de-sac, no garage, sea views. Contact: Roselyn at ros.playonart.co.za or 0117267010 or 0828553144.

Three Anchor Bay: 2 Bedrooms, sea view, 5 min walk to Green Point Stadium, Small quiet block. Fully furnished, avail for World Cup months, June and Jyle. Contact: 0835061094

Apartment Wanted: Preferably in Rondebosh or close to UCT. New UCT staff member, lookin for 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment in a secure complex, with parking. Flexible term lease preferred. Contact: 0216503502/1 (office hours)

FOR SALE

Car: Mazda 323, 1.3 (1998). Lady owner, 95000km, full service history, road worthy certificate, bicycle rack, gear lock. R21000 onco. Contact: 0713135234 or 0216505229 (w).

Solid: Bookshelves and desks, made to order Contact: 0217157846 or 0725889294.

Car: VW Citi Golf, 1.4, 2004, Blue. 99500km. Full Service History. No accidents. Air conditioning, CD player, Tow bar. New battery. Just serviced. Great condition. R45000. Contact: 079465088 or email: puravidalaurat@gmail.com.

Furniture: Wooden desk with four drawers, desk chair (large), wooden Futon frame (single). All prices are highly negotiable. Email: dirk.blom@uct.ac.za.

Car: Uno (metallic blue), 4 doors. R15000 neg. Contact: 0836848289.

Property: Diep River - 2 Bedroomed Maisonette, above Main Road, close to M3 M5, schools and shops. R725000. Contact Owner: 0726464920 or 0217150070(a/h), to view.

Motorbike: 96 Model Honda VFR 400R, NC30). Red and White rims. Good all round condition. Licenced with papers. Contact:

0833456700 (ah) or email: robertessex77@gmail.com.

GENERAL

Food Fanatics: Catering and Events - Lunches, Cocktails, Conferences. Contemporary creative menus. Staff/Hiring/Bar. Contact: 0217979819 or 0836508563

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

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

Wanted: (Partly) furnished, 2-3 Bedroomed house/ cottage/ apartment om 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

Eagle Transcription &**Translation Services:**

Transcription of audio recordings (Tapes, mp3 files) interviews, focus groups, typing. Contact: 0217611866 or 0848129386 email eagle@iburst.co.za.

Apartment Wanted: New UCT staff member, lookin for 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment in a secure complex, with parking. Preferably in Rondebosh or close to UCT. Flexible term lease preferred. Contact: 0216503502/1 (office hours)

Editor/Proofreader: with 26 years experience, will help perfect your writing. Contact: louise.mitchell@uct.ac.za or 0216862780.

Yoga: Reduce stress, shape up & chill out. Fridays: 12h45 - 13h45, EGS Dept. Contact: Sharon 0216502873, for more details.

Lift Required: from Strandfontein / Grassy Park to Upper Campus from 08h00 - 16h00. Contqact: Jackie, 0216503452.

Editing and Proofreading needs:

Highly experienced editor will take care of all your proofreading requirements. Theses, dissertations, etc, prepared to the highest professional standards. Reasonable rates and quick turnaround times. Contact David Capel on davidcapel@24.com or 0726606277.

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Proofreader/Editor: MSc Graduate with 10 years proofreading and editing experience. I can help you with your theses, essays and journal submissions. Contact: 0829402011.

Student Transport: To and from anywhere in Cape Town. Student rates, day / night. Contact: Clinton 0728756106.

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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Editing: Improving language, expression and style. Postgraduate Dissertations, Essays, Articles, etc. Very experienced and reliable. Contact: Regine 0215313330 or email: regine@cybersmart.co.za.

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

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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

Déjà vu for Ikeys and Maties in Varsity Cup final

It wasn't the most exciting or prettiest of matches, but UCT Ikey Tigers' workaday 27-21 home win over University of the Free State's Shimlas in the first of the two FNB Varsity Cup semi-finals on 22 March has set up a tantalising final against the University of Stellenbosch today, Monday 29 March.

Actually, the scoreline flattered the Shimlas, who never really looked like they were going to get back into the match after UCT took a healthy 19-0 lead at half time (making good if not full use of a tailwind on yet another windy Cape Town day), a margin they stretched to 24-0 early in the second half. Three late tries by Shimlas – the last in the dying

moments of the game – lent some respectability to the final score.

"We knew the game was ours once we scored that try early in the second half," said coach John Dobson afterwards.

Man of the Match Marcel Brache, Marcello Sampson, JJ Gagiano and Therlow Pietersen (all standout performers on the day) touched down for UCT, while Matthew Rosslee kicked a penalty and a conversion and Douglas Mallett a conversion.

While the Tigers camp was rightly jubilant after the victory, the side squandered too many opportunities once again, and they should easily have doubled their score. And as has become custom, the kickers' success

rates were well below par.

"We left some points on the table," remarked Dobson.

It's those kinds of niggles the side will have to sort out before the final in Stellenbosch next week, especially considering the home team's form this campaign. Maties were rampant again, crushing North-West University's Pukke by 47-11 in the other semi-final.

On the other hand, Maties will probably be apprehensive, since UCT outplayed them in their clash a few weeks ago. And Brache, Pietersen and a couple of other UCT players seem to be hitting their stride at just the right time.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Dot it: Marcel Brache in action.



Switched on: Katherine Thomson of the Faculty of Science, Chris Barnett (SCRU), Adiel Hattes of the Leadership College, Dr Karl Wilkinson (SCRU) and Ian Rogers (SCRU) at the handover of computers.

Computer bonsela for school

When UCT's Scientific Computing Research Unit (SCRU) – which applies its vast computing platform to research in computational biology, physics, chemistry and biophysics – moved into state-of-the-art modern facilities recently, it chose not to decommission its old and unused computer equipment.

With the ingenuity of postdoctoral fellow Dr Karl Wilkinson and postgraduates Chris Barnett, Ian Rogers and Michael Nengwekhulu, the computer parts were reconfigured and used to fashion seven complete desktop computers.

Working with Shanaaz Smith, the Faculty of Science's schools

liaison and recruitment officer, the unit then donated these machines to the newly – opened Leadership College in nearby Manenberg. The unit's director, Professor Kevin Naidoo, presented the computers to the school principal, Adiel Hattes, who also had a chance to meet the 'computer construction' team.

"We are impressed with the impact this small donation can make in the functioning of schools at a disadvantage," remarked Naidoo, "and we hope to continue these donations using machines that are not that useful to us, but can be to others upstream of the education and training pipeline." **MP**

Sports in shorts

Basketball: Contrary to popular opinion, Stellenbosch doesn't always get the better of UCT in the sporting arena. At a recent intervarsity, UCT's women's basketball team, ably led by Monene Mogashoa, thrashed their Maties counterparts by 77-33. Playing on the same evening, the Tigers' men didn't have it as easy as the women, but avenged a 2009 defeat with a convincing 84-60 win over Maties.

Fencing: UCT fencers picked up three gold and two bronze medals in four events at the Cape Open – the only national ranking competition held in Cape Town – in February. The three-senior-gold-medal bounty was the largest for any club at the event. Yasmin Hankel took top honours in the senior women's foil, Michael Malahe did likewise in the senior men's épée, while the third gold went

to Jacques Viljoen in the senior men's foil category. In turn, Giselle Vicatos landed bronze medals in both senior women's foil and senior women's épée. In picture are Vicatos, Malahe, Viljoen and Hankel.

Hockey: The hockey club got 2010 off to a sparkling start with both the men's and women's teams making it into the finals of the Western Province Hockey Union's season-opening indoor tournament. The finals took place on Sunday 28 March, at the Wynberg Military Base.

Water polo: UCT's men's and women's teams both earned spots in the finals of the Western Province Summer League in mid-March, but had to share the silverware with SACS. The women beat their SACS counterparts by 8-4 in their finale, but UCT was outscored 8-12 by SACS in the men's clash. **MP**

New programme helps first-years adjust



Orientated: Attending the Odyssey lectures are first-year student Siphumelele Khomo (left) and wellness facilitator Carmelita Lee Shang.

Helping first-year UCT students adapt to academic life is the goal of The Student Development Programme, a new R500 000 initiative by Student Wellness, a unit in the Department: Student Affairs.

Taking part in the pilot programme are 65 fine arts and 40 geomatics first years, who will attend weekly lectures, facilitated by psychologist Kim Foster and social worker Carmelita Lee Shang, which will address common problems

faced by students adjusting from a high school to a university environment. The lectures, titled *Odyssey* include issues such as time and stress management, and exam preparation and anxiety.

"All these factors can potentially affect academic performance," says programme co-ordinator, Kehiloe Ntsekhe of Student Wellness. "Our goal is to support first-years in a non-academic way as they go through this transition."

Alongside this will be mentor training and support for the mentors of the first year students involved. The Student Development Programme is also involved in giving ad hoc workshops in different faculties, and plans to give training and support to faculty staff involved in student support.

Funded through the vice-chancellor's strategic fund on transformation, and basing itself on research undertaken by the Centre for Higher Education Development, the pilot programme will run throughout 2010. The programme will work closely with the working group set up by the Senate Academic Planning Committee to look into the First Year Experience for all undergraduate students at UCT.

Once complete, the programme's effectiveness will be evaluated using various tools to examine the effectiveness of the intervention.

This evaluation, and a clear indication of the future sustainability of the interventions, will be the determining factors in the programme's future.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

Healthcare watchdog set loose

Medical students witnessing unprofessional behaviour and even abuses of patient rights in health care facilities during their training have led to the formation of the Professional Standards Committee (PSC), launched on 18 March.

The PSC will play a proactive as well as a reactive role. It aims to promote awareness of professional standards among staff and students, receive complaints about alleged violations of professional behaviour, and support and advise those who speak out.

"Witnessing abuses may erode a student's own respect for professionalism and patient rights," said PSC chair James Irlam. "Recent research into these experiences highlighted the need for processes for reporting violations of professional standards."

The PSC will review all incident reports at monthly meetings, then give the alleged perpetrator an



Asserting rights: Attending the launch of the PSC were (from left) Prof Marian Jacobs, Mulumba Moses, Rashieda Khan and Francios Botha.

opportunity to respond. The next step will be to write a report for the dean of Health Sciences, including recommendations for an appropriate response by the dean. This report will also be made available to the complainant and the alleged perpetrator.

Also speaking at the launch was Mulumba Moses, a lawyer from Uganda with a special interest in

health rights.

Moses welcomed the formation of the PSC, and stressed the importance of creating awareness among patients as well as medical professionals, on patient rights.

"In order for this committee to work, people must be aware of it," he said.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)