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UCT to launch online application system

UCT's laborious applications process will be a thing of the past for many after the online application system is officially launched on Open Day on 17 April.

An extension of PeopleSoft, a student administration system widely used by education institutions, the online application service will allow for a streamlining of the applications process. It is one of several measures being taken, another one of which is a change in application closing dates. The number of deadlines for postgraduate applications has been reduced, and a single closing date has been set for all undergraduate applications – this will be 30 September.

"PeopleSoft was implemented at UCT four years ago, but we were only able to handle some of its functionality at the time," explains deputy registrar Dr Karen van Heerden. "But of course, we couldn't afford not to implement the online applications system."

But why only now? Project leader and Admissions Office director Carl Herman explains: "While other universities have had online applications for several years already, this is not universally the case. The University of the Witwatersrand, for example, are doing it this year as well, and other universities do not offer online applications at all. We are doing it now because our applicants are part of an online age, and students expect universities like UCT to have this facility. Growing numbers of applicants make physical processing increasingly difficult, and there are benefits to communicating with applicants online."

Van Heerden hopes for a wide uptake of the system, which will make the application process faster, easier, and relatively painless.

"Young people are already used to this sort of thing".

Online applications will also smooth the process for Admissions Office staff. With immediate archiving and a faster response rate, the office will be able to provide a far more efficient service to aspirant students.

"While this will help admissions and faculty-office staff, this functionality has been developed with the applicant in mind," says registrar Hugh Amore. "This will make the application process a better experience."

The process is not entirely paper-

Transformation a collective responsibility - Soudien

The full gamut of transforming an institution like UCT is the responsibility of all, and not one championed by a single department or portfolio, says new deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, appointed for a five-year term as of 1 April.

His portfolio includes the cluster of activities that support UCT's transformation strategy.

"My responsibility is essentially for opening up the question of transformation and helping the university think through the challenges, what we are doing correctly, and where there are challenges to work through, how we can get beyond them," says Soudien.

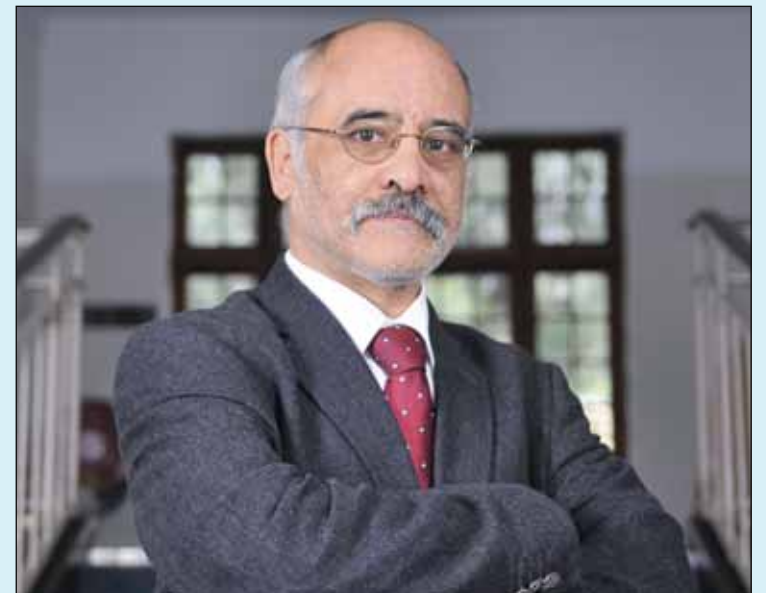
"My personal mission is to get many more people to see this as part of their responsibility. We need to see transformation as a shared responsibility, and not something that people like me should be carrying alone."

Soudien will be accountable for the social justice portfolios, such as HIV/AIDS, discrimination and harassment issues, and disability services; the Institutional Forum; employment equity; student demographic change; student financial aid policy; transformation, and stimulating research and debate around the meaning of transformation.

"I didn't set out to become a DVC but situations arise where

individuals are, in a sense, required to step forward," he says. "I have stepped forward and taken on the challenge of thinking through what change means for us. Daunting as it is – the 'poisoned chalice', as some would put it – I would like to think that it's a moment of real opportunity for us. As an organisation whose main business is working with knowledge, we are historically positioned in relation to established bodies of knowledge – anthropology, sociology, to name but a few – to be making big contributions. But we are also called upon, at a time when race is such an inflammatory subject, to demonstrate what civility – a recognition of each other simply as human beings – might mean. The opportunity is theoretical, but also profoundly practical. How we practice what we preach is an important task we have ahead of us."

As a sociologist of youth, Soudien has followed the process of development of young people in the institutions of the family, the school and the university. A recognised authority on transformation, and author of the widely-publicised Soudien Report, he has published more than 60 articles in refereed journals, and 60 book chapters. He speaks and consults widely and serves in a number of positions on important national and international bodies such as the Ministerial Review



New guard: "...situations arise where individuals are, in a sense, required to step forward..." – Prof Crain Soudien, UCT's new deputy vice-chancellor.

Committee into Transformation in Higher Education, which he recently chaired.

He has received numerous awards during his career, including a Fulbright Scholarship.

"There have been many highlights in my career, says Soudien. "The most significant must be having been elected as the President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies. Having been asked to play the role of a DVC is another."

He joined the School of Education at UCT in 1988, and served as acting deputy vice-chancellor for a full year.

"This prepared me immensely," says Soudien. "Despite having been at the university as a student and lecturer for more than three decades, I didn't fully understand what the university experience really means. Having interacted with colleagues in Financial Aid and in the residence

system in the past year, it is clear that the quality of the student's experience depends on a range of invisible services, relationships and networks, and that what we don't do enough in the university is to stitch together the different elements making up the institution."

Speaking after Soudien's appointment, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said: "As acting deputy vice-chancellor since April 2009, Professor Crain Soudien has demonstrated a high level of expertise and insight into the challenge of advancing social justice in a university environment."

"This applies to equality not only between people of different race, but also between those of different gender, language and culture, and sexual orientation. With this appointment, we can look forward to the continued advancements he will bring to this vital area."

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

less, however. Applicants will still have to use snail-mail to send their signed declarations (to comply with rules, to grant indemnities to UCT and to undertake to pay fees) and certified transcripts. Applicants will also need a valid email address and all the personal information as required for the paper application, including ID documents and fees.

The system was implemented over a short eight months by a team which included Herman, Van Heerden, and the Administrative Computing Services in Information and Communication Technology Services, principally Sean Bester and Yaffa Abraham.

The initial launch will be on a very small scale, but the big fanfare

will be on UCT's Open Day. Posters advertising the functionality have already been distributed to schools and are up on the streets.

"We initially tested the system on grade 12 learners. Some were so excited by the process that they promised to come back and fill in the online forms for real," says Van Heerden.

But exactly how big and how fast the uptake of the online application system will be, nobody can say for sure.

"We're all holding our breath," says van Heerden.

Once launched, applicants can use the online system at <http://applyonline.uct.ac.za>.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

First footprint for alumni office in East Africa



Open communication: VC Dr Max Price with Nicole Ntungine (left) and Gladys Kavuma.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, accompanied by DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo and Senior Alumni Manager Lungile Jacobs, embarked on a first-ever UCT Alumni Office visit to the East African countries of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

The main purpose of the visit was to interact with UCT alumni from the region and to bring them up to speed regarding developments at the university. The three meetings, in Dar es Salaam, Kampala and Nairobi, were well attended, and the interaction was excellent. The team came away with helpful information that will assist UCT in strengthening ties with East African alumni. At these meetings, committees were formed to ensure communication channels operate effectively between the UCT Alumni Office and East African alumni.

As the alumni meetings happened after hours, the VC and DVC attended meetings at USHEPiA Partner Universities during the day, where they met with the VCs and academic staff. **MP**

New algorithm society sets bar high

On 26 February, 75 school learners braved the heat to take part in a three-day introductory Python (a programming language) course hosted by the UCT Algorithm Circle, a new UCT Society started by postgraduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Computer Science. The pupils had no previous programming experience and ranged from grades six to matric, with the majority hailing from grades seven and nine.

The aim of the course was to generate interest in IT using a first course in computer programming. While some schools do offer IT as a subject, many do not; and students arrive at university without any knowledge of the subject, explains UCT's Dr Michelle Kuttel.

The course was offered completely free of charge, while IT company S1 picked up the Saturday lunch bill and provided a guest speaker to talk about careers in IT.

Lectures for the course were prepared and presented by over 20 student volunteers, who tutored the pupils as



Circle of algorithms: Learners hard at work during the UCT Algorithm Circle's three-day workshop.

they worked through the problems excitedly.

Despite the extremely fast pacing of the course – as was to be expected from a course crammed into three days – the majority coped well, reports Kuttel. Some even exceeded the intended curriculum, in particular two grade-seven students who, by the end

of the course, had written a network chat client.

The club plans to run a similar course on the weekend of 14 to 16 August, and will be running lectures every Thursday for programmers of every level. Applications for the course can be made at algorithm.cs.uct.ac.za/ apply. **MP**

Ethiopian visitors extend disaster risk-management outreach

Senior deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo recently welcomed four visitors from the Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia, here to establish ties with UCT.

The visitors were invited by the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP) as part of an outreach and capacity-building programme aimed at building partnerships with institutions across Africa.

Bahir Dar is the 10th member to join the partnership, which will share disaster risk-management skills and information between institutions. This will allow DiMP (based in UCT's Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences) and its partners to create awareness in their areas and educate



Managing risks: Bahir Dar University president Dr Yeshimebrat Merasha Kassa meets senior DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo.

communities to manage their own risks, rather than to rely on outside aid.

The visiting delegates included Bahir Dar University president Dr Yeshimebrat Merasha Kassa, the first female university president in the history of Ethiopia. **MP**

Integrity core to the Court, says Sachs

Joyous and exhilarating, but also exhausting, complicated and problematic was how retired Justice Albie Sachs described his 15-year tenure at the Constitutional Court.

Speaking at the Alumni Leadership Forum at UCT on 25 March, Sachs said that at times he cried because of the intensity of debates (before deciding on a case). "It was far more interesting, far more problematic than can be assessed from a reading of any specific judgement," he said.

His talk was based on his latest book, *The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law*, in which he gives an intimate account of his life and work as a judge in South Africa, mixing autobiography with reflections on his major cases and the role of law in achieving justice.

Introducing the evening, Professor PJ Schwikkard, dean of the Facul-

ty of Law, referred to Sachs as a truly remarkable South African. "A central part of his entire life has been the struggle for democracy, and he paid dearly for it – the horrors of lengthy periods of solitary confinement, the brutality of having his body damaged by a bomb, and the deep sadness of losing friends and comrades who did not survive the apartheid state.

"Albie not only survived, but also won; and consequently we have had the privilege of being served by him on the Constitutional Court from 1994," said Schwikkard.

Sachs took the audience back to his days at UCT. "I had a dilemma; in fact, a 'trilemma'. Part of me was busy being one of the crowd, another part of me was absorbing the principles of law; and, at night, I was a comrade operating underground in the black residential areas. In those days people didn't use phrases like 'rule of



Good company: (From left) Alumna Margie le Roux (master's in Clinical Psychology), panelist Meryl du Plessis, Justice Albie Sachs, panelist Prof Pierre de Vos and alumna Julie Kourie (BBusSci and LLB in 2006).

law and freedom', but were willing to give up their lives for justice," he explained.

"It was easy to 'lose' the superficial party person but it was not 'til I worked on the new constitution that the other two Albies, lawyer and

activist, came together." (Sachs was pivotal in the initial research into and drafting of the South African Constitution).

In writing the book two years ago, Sachs often asked himself to what extent the intensity of one's

life experiences shapes, influences and dictates the outcome of a court decision.

"It was not obvious that because you have suffered torture you automatically defend or oppose the rule of law. Colleagues with a totally different life experience to mine came to similar positions on the centrality of human dignity. Our conclusion was that integrity is the core of everything we do."

Responding to a panel question later, Sachs said democracy was a huge achievement for the country, and one that he believes is well entrenched.

The event was closed with a panel discussion chaired by Judge Dennis Davis, in which Professor Pierre de Vos, Meryl du Plessis and Abongile Sipondo (lecturers in the Faculty of Law) had an open dialogue with Sachs. **MP**

HIV prevalence rates low at UCT, but survey raises concerns

The national student HIV prevalence rate is 3.4%, according to the results of a survey to establish HIV prevalence rates at higher education institutions in South Africa.

However, the prevalence rates for the sample of students and staff at UCT were low, at 0.2%.

The survey was initiated by the Higher Education HIV and AIDS Programme (HEAIDS), a division of Higher Education South Africa. The results were released at the beginning of April.

“This is excellent news, though there is some bias in the study,” vice-chancellor Dr Max Price wrote in a communiqué to the UCT community. “Moreover, some worrying trends still constitute serious risk factors for contracting HIV.”

A total of 1 574 people participated in the survey at UCT, including 1 005 students, 113 academic staff and 420 PASS staff. The prevalence rate for academic staff, staff in payclasses 1 to 4, and students, ranges between 0.1% and 0.5%. The proportion of administrative staff (payclasses 4 to 13) who tested positive for HIV/AIDS is likely to be between 0.7% and 2.6%.

“There are some limitations we need to note,” added Price. “The survey revealed that 75% of sexually active students have been tested and know their status. This is extremely positive; it reflects the success of the strategy of the UCT HIV/AIDS Co-ordination Unit (HAICU) and the voluntary counselling and testing practices co-ordinated by the Student

Wellness Service on campus.

“However, the fact that a high number of people know their status exacerbates the bias of the study: people who have tested positive in the past tend not to make themselves available for retesting. So, with such a high level of testing at UCT, the chances are that many people who know they are positive would have opted not to participate in the survey. The non-participation rate in the survey was 25%, so the prevalence rate at UCT is probably a little higher than the ranges expressed above.”

Another limitation is that the study acknowledges that “the overall sampling method was designed for a national-level study, and alternative sampling approaches should be considered in a study design focusing only on a single institution”.

There were other pleasing findings, Price said, such as the fact that the majority of students reported using condoms (61%) and made positive comments on condom availability. General knowledge on HIV/AIDS was good, but knowledge on emergency measures (that can be used after rape, for example) was not as good.

“We therefore have to ensure that we publicise these facts more broadly. Participants also indicated they were pleased about campaigns being run on campus; it signalled to them that the university was taking the matter of HIV/AIDS seriously.”

Other results were of greater concern. There was evidence of a fair proportion (between 3% and 8%) of

people reporting that they had experienced sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the three months before the survey.

“We know that STIs are a high-risk factor for HIV. It indicates that the use of condoms, which prevents STIs, is still not high enough,” said Price. “Our awareness campaigns should therefore continue to focus on the prevention of STIs and HIV through condom use, among other options.”

Another concern was the students’ reported use of alcohol to the point of drunkenness. More than half of all students (54%) and around 19% of staff reported being drunk in the past month.

“There is an obvious link between being intoxicated and risky sexual behaviour, and given the high prevalence of this risk factor we need to consider ways to encourage more moderate consumption of alcohol.”

Six percent of male students and 3% of female students reported having had more than one sexual partner in the past month, so UCT’s awareness campaigns should continue to highlight the dangers of concurrent sexual relationships.

Last year HAICU hosted a panel discussion and another public event on this issue, as well as several workshops in residences.

“There is also evidence that many students were involved in sexual activities with partners who were not from the UCT community. This is another reason why we should note that the low prevalence rate on campus is



not necessarily diminishing risk,” said Price.

In the survey, students (50%), staff for academic and payclasses 1 to 4 (58%), and staff for payclasses 5 to 12 (41%) said they did not know whether their peers would support them if they became HIV-positive. This indicates that UCT should continue campaigns and events to discourage stigmatisation, though the report does say that “stigmatising attitudes towards HIV-positive people are not widely held”.

The report encourages UCT to increase its integration of HIV and AIDS education in academic programmes. Much is already being done

in this regard, and new HIV/AIDS courses are being piloted in two additional faculties this year. Compulsory examinable courses already exist in two other faculties.

“The survey is important, as it establishes a useful baseline,” said Price, “and the report guides us on where interventions should be targeted at UCT. Importantly, the study suggests that the UCT strategy for fighting HIV/AIDS is on the right track, achieving the desired results. We should therefore continue our efforts along similar lines.”

(The report on the results of the UCT survey is available at <http://www.uct.ac.za/about/intro/hiv/AIDS/>) **MP**

New dean will ramp up research

Professor Don Ross, newly-appointed dean of the Faculty of Commerce, has been with the faculty for over 12 years. It’s no surprise, then, that he plans to hit the ground running when he takes office on 1 June.

And he has plans. Like “retiring” from drawing up the faculty’s timetable, a responsibility he’s managed for much of his 12 years at UCT, and with such “masochism” that, until 2003, he did it for the Faculties of both Commerce and Humanities.

Then, on a more serious note, he’s going to set about having the faculty’s course registration automated. This is not merely an attempt to drag Commerce kicking and screaming into the 21st century, but is also a critical cog in Ross’ vision for the faculty.

Registration is a “marvellous circus to behold”, he says, but demands a platoon of staff to deal with a small mountain of paperwork. Having the system fully automated by no later than 2012 will mean staff can spend their valuable time on other tasks.



New boss: “The frontier for South African business should be Africa.” – Prof Don Ross, new dean of the Faculty of Commerce.

“If you’re going to have ambitious goals for an under-staffed place, you’d better have freed up some time for them,” says Ross, who, as he has been splitting his year between UCT and the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the US since 2004, knows a thing or two about demands on time. “It’s also a signal to staff that

you take their time seriously.”

One of the things he wants them to do with their time is dedicate more to research. And to sourcing more money for research.

The latter is getting harder, Ross admits. Paradoxically, as the burden of teaching grows with an increasing number of students, the academic faculty is getting younger and more junior. (That’s a national phenomenon, he points out.)

That impacts on funding, as junior faculty can expect a hit rate of around one successful grant application out of 10, while senior faculty work on a rate of one hit for every five applications.

Even under such trying conditions the Faculty of Commerce has done well, Ross argues. But it can do better.

“Research output has only increased in the direction of the strategic target necessary for compatibility with UCT’s self-identification as a research-led institute. But we need to do more than that, because research

revenue is the only secure revenue stream that is under our control.”

A model he’ll be touting is one he’s been following in his own consulting work for many years: taking on consulting jobs that also offer opportunities for research on which master’s and PhD students can cut their teeth. He’s funded a number of graduate students through this kind of ‘research-relevant consulting’.

“Ramping up research output requires more graduate students; more graduate students require more money,” he says. “And that’s more money than you’re going to be able to get from just the standard, conventional sources.”

Ross’ five-year plan for the faculty – which has a strong African flavour to it – builds on this premise. So, for example, he hopes to build international partnerships in Africa, to seek corporate sponsorship for prizes for leading Africa-focused research, and to tap into informal ties with corporate Africa.

“The frontier for South African

business should be Africa,” he says. “It’s the one place where we have an edge.”

Transformation’s also high on his agenda, but that ties in with his Africa-focused research objectives. And with the support of its academic development unit – he was deputy dean when it was first set up – the faculty’s also changing its student body profile.

In fact, that initiative has been one of the faculty’s success stories, he points out. In 2009, pass rates for students on these academic development programmes came close to matching that of students on standard programmes.

“Compared to where we were, when 65% of students on academic development were dropping out before the end of their second year, that’s remarkable.”

It’s an achievement that demanded an investment of time and money, though. Which may be another useful lesson for many while he is in charge.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

New developments regarding deanships

A communiqué from vice-chancellor Dr Max Price to the UCT community on 29 March reported important developments regarding the deanships of four of UCT’s six faculties.

Firstly, Professor Don Ross will be taking over as dean of the Faculty of Commerce on 1 June 2010.

Secondly, the terms of office of

Professor Paula Ensor (Faculty of Humanities), Professor Marian Jacobs (Faculty of Health Sciences) and Professor Kathy Driver (Faculty of Science) are due to conclude at the end of 2010 or early in 2011.

Professors Ensor and Jacobs have indicated their interest in renewing their contracts, and these renewals have been approved by Council.

Professor Ensor’s contract will now extend her service as dean to 31 December 2013. Professor Jacobs’ contract will extend her service as dean to 31 December 2012.

The process for renewal involved extended consultation, as well as requiring support from faculty boards. Both deans have been appointed on the basis of a strong vote of confidence

from the members of their respective faculties.

Professor Driver indicated that she did not wish to renew her contract. From January 2011 she will take up a position as a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. UCT will immediately begin the process of seeking her successor.

Price said: “I am delighted that we will have a continuation of the energetic leadership of Professors Ensor and Jacobs. We will have an appropriate opportunity towards the end of the year to express our gratitude to Professor Driver for her role as dean; but I am delighted that although her deanship will come to an end, her academic talents will not be lost to UCT.” **MP**

UCT management studies students slay opposition in Istanbul

A team from the School of Management Studies in the Faculty of Commerce has won the Europe, Middle East, and Africa regional final of the CFA Institute Global Investment Research Challenge, the worldwide university competition for financial analysts of the future.

This took place in Istanbul on 25 March, attracting more than 1 500 students from more than 425 universities worldwide.

The team of five BBusSci students trumped the competition from Bahrain, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. They now proceed to the global finals in Hong Kong on 17 April.

The team of Mark Pomroy, Michael Vermeulen, Nomsa Kachingwe, Brendan Meehan, and Claire Mas, presented and defended a report on independent sugar company Tongaat Hulett to a panel of invest-



Top marks: The winning team of (from left), Nomsa Kachingwe, Mark Pomroy, lecturer Dr Francois Toerien, Michael Vermeulen, Brendan Meehan and Claire Mas.

ment industry experts.

Management Studies head Dr Shannon Kendal said: "This speaks to the quality of our students and the first-class teaching that they received during their BBusSci degree."

He also paid tribute to the staff who supported the student team, in particular to Dr Francois Toerien, Ashwin Prayag and Claudia Kalil. Nitin Mehta, the CFA Institute's managing director, said: "My congratulations go to [the] University of Cape Town for their well-deserved triumph in this tough competition. It is a great achievement to have our first African team competing in the global finale, in this the year of the football World Cup.

"UCT won by demonstrating the virtues important for success in the investment profession: ethics, analytics, rigour and tenacity... Now [the] University of Cape Town will carry the hopes of the EMEA region

as they enter the global final."

The challenge is an educational initiative in which leading industry professionals guide business and finance students on how to research and report on a publicly-traded company. This event spanned one academic year. Teams had to analyse a public company, write a research report, and present research results and recommendations to a high-profile panel of experts. They were also mentored by a professional research analyst.

Arthur Thompson, president of CFA South Africa (who sponsored the students), said: "I am very pleased to congratulate UCT on winning the regional final of the Challenge. CFA South Africa is proud to have sponsored the team on their journey through this competition, and I wish the team all the best for the next stage of the challenge, the global finale, at which they will represent our country." **MP**

Toe-to-toe on University Avenue



Patter of little feet: The start of the 2.5km fun run on University Avenue, ahead of the Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon on Saturday 3 April.

Among the preludes to the Mother City's Old Mutual

Two Oceans marathon and half-marathon, which finish on UCT's

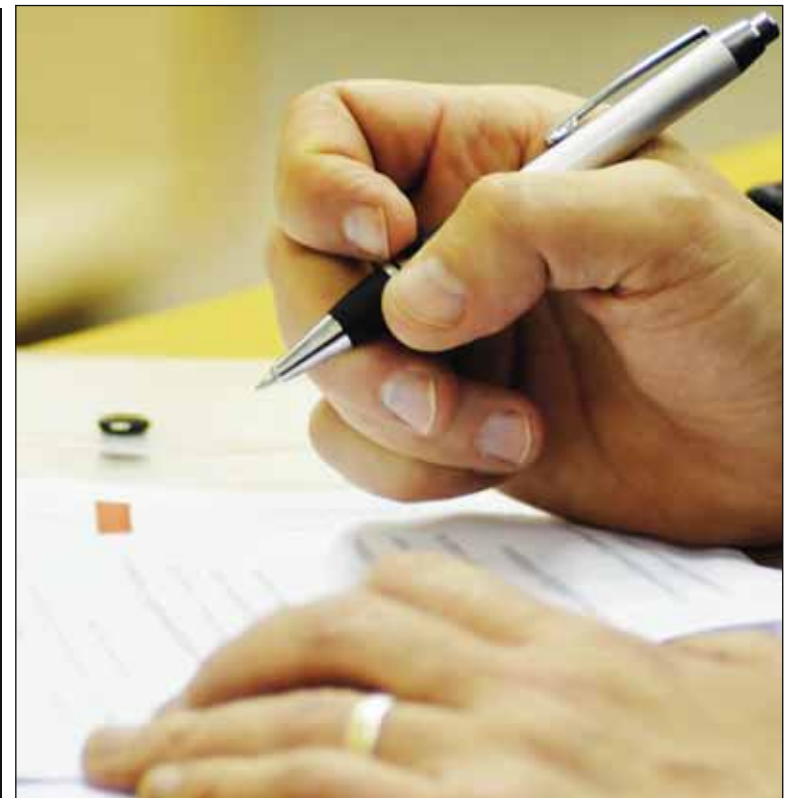
rugby fields each year, were the 56m Nappy Dash, the 300m Toddlers' Dash and the 2.5km and 5km fun runs on Easter Friday, 2 April, attracting runners and walkers of all ages.

In a festive mood and in near-perfect weather, hundreds of moms, pops and children jostled at the start of the 2.5km and 5km fun runs on University Avenue.

Among those who donned UCT colours for Saturday's half-marathon (on 3 April) this year were vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser.

Price completed the half-marathon (on 3 April) in 02:06:29 before being whisked off for an interview with the SABC. Visser completed his Two Oceans 'half' in an equally respectable time of 02:39:58.

(Go to http://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/stream_video/ for footage of the vice-chancellor's interview on SABC on completion of the half-marathon.) **MP**



Salary negotiations concluded between UCT and academics

The salary negotiations between management and the UCT Academics' Union (UCTAU) have been concluded.

There were four significant elements to the agreement.

In the first place, negotiators reached settlement on the actual salary increases for academics for 2010. This agreement will now be implemented.

Secondly, the agreement commits UCT to addressing a range of issues relating to conditions of service of soft-funded academics/research staff (SFARS). This process will take place within particular agreed frameworks, principles and timelines.

Thirdly, consensus was reached that wage negotiations for 2011 would begin in April this year, in order to have a clear indication of

what the salary bill will be before the 2011 budget process begins.

Finally, the agreement commits UCT to a review of the university's remuneration policy as it applies to academics.

In a communiqué to academic staff, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said: "I am most eager to develop a platform of trust with the UCTAU, and to ensure we have – on both sides – considered and understood the changed environment; including the fact that we will, as management and union, be negotiating rather than consulting, and what the prospect of industrial action by academics would mean in our environment.

"I am committed to working through these issues with the UCTAU and the other unions representing staff on campus." **MP**

New members appointed to Council

Business, union and student leaders have been appointed to serve on the UCT Council to replace members who have died or resigned.

The new members are Sheila Barsel, who was appointed by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande; Andre Kriel, Qarnita Loxton, Gloria Mamba and Charles Okeahalam, who were all appointed by the Council's Appointment Committee; as well as Dave Watson, who was appointed by the Students' Representative Council. They will sit on the governing structure until June 2012, except Watson, whose term ends in October. The appointments follow the death of Professor Ralph Kirsch and the resignations of Philisiwe Buthelezi, Thando Mhlambiso, Ibrahim Patel and John Samuel.

Barsel, is a gender activist who serves on the Ministerial Advisory

Committee on National Health Insurance. She has an abundance of experience in the health sector, and is also a well-known politician.

Kriel is the general secretary of the South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and has devoted his life to improving working conditions in the clothing and textile industry.

Loxton is a career coach and a legal and compliance consultant within the asset management industry. She has held legal-service positions in different organisations.

Mamba is the head of private equity in the Development Bank of Southern Africa, and has extensive experience in the financial sector, having worked for various organisations.

Okeahalam is the group managing director of Group Africa Growth Holdings, and has contributed exten-

sively to a range of economic policy and development issues in Africa.

Watson is a current UCT student and a former secretary of the Students' Representative Council.

Other members of the Council are Professor David Aschman, Dr Abdul Barday, Professor Jo Beall, Graeme Bloch, Debbie Budlender, Vuyiswa Doo, Mr Justice Ian Farlam, Gary Gabriels, Jeremy Gauntlett (executive), Justice Craig Howie, Associate Professor Mohamed Jeebhay, Professor Evance Kalula, Councillor Owen Kinahan, Sizwe Mpfu-Walsh, Reverend Njongonkulu Ndungane (chair), Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, Trevor Peterson, Dr Max Price (executive), Associate Professor Ulrike Rivett, Milton Seligson, Professor Crain Soudien, Emeritus Professor John Terblanche, Penny Vinjevold and Professor Danie Visser. **MP**

Van der Schijff off to China

Michaelis lecturer Johann van der Schijff won an Artist-in-Residency award at the Spier Contemporary 2010. *Monday Paper* spoke to him about his award and his plans for the future.

What is the nature of this artist in residency award?

Although the prize I won was awarded by the Thamdigi Foundation based in Arnhem, The Netherlands, I will actually go to the Beijing Studio Centre in China, with whom they have an exchange programme.

Residency is a time-out period for artists to reflect and focus on their creative process. I am due for a year's sabbatical in 2011, and plan to do the residency in China during the beginning of that period in order to kick-start my creative output.

How did you come to win the award?

All artists selected for the Spier Contemporary 2010 Exhibition were invited to put forward a proposal for an artist-in-residency award. Out of the 14 prizewinners, seven were Michaelis graduates. Christopher Swift, Zen Marie and Hasan and Husain Essop received cash prizes, and Jacki McInnes, Mohau Modisakeng and I received residency awards.

What is the nature of your work?

Growing up in South Africa and living in a society notorious for conflicting ideologies and cultures, questions of power relations in society underlie much of my work, forcing the viewer into a position of choice in their engagement with my artworks.

Heartbreaker is my installation at the Spier exhibition. A shiny demolition hammer elevated on a flashy black trolley, complete with white pin-stripes and chrome wheel caps, lures the viewer into engaging with it. When the viewer moves towards the sculpture for closer inspection, a motion sensor, used in domestic alarm systems, triggers *Heartbreaker* into action. The noise (reminiscent of machine gun fire) of the chisel blade beating away into thin air, as the trembling demolition hammer lies strapped down onto red leather cushions, is a sight of the absurd; repulsive, yet exhilarating.

How do you feel about being away from home for so long?

I love traveling and am an adventurer at heart. I think it will be a much bigger challenge for my wife, Nicky, who has a full-time job and also has to look after our two young children while I'm away.



What do you hope to achieve while you're away?

A community art project and an accompanying exhibition called CPB's or Community Punching Bags.

I would like to engage with the local community to spar with their own cultural stereotyping, fears, hopes and concerns. Through arts

and craft sessions, I would like to develop drawings and paper cut-outs in order to come up with eight punch bag designs representative of their community.

I look forward to the opportunity of focusing on my own art production in a completely new and stimulating environment where I can be the

student for a change.

And afterwards?

A new solo exhibition. I hope that the work produced in China will form part of that exhibition. If it can also travel to China it would be a very big bonus.

(Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)

New project will remove electronic waste

Last week UCT kick-started a project to remove its redundant electronic equipment (e-waste). The project was launched on the Jameson Plaza on 9 April, and will be phased in over the coming months.

The UCT e-Waste Project, a collaboration between the Properties & Services Department and Information Communication Technology Services (ICTS), aims to reduce the risks associated with the hazardous materials that sometimes form part of electronic components, to free up much needed space, to reduce the environmental impact of electronic equipment disposal, and to reduce the use of raw materials by recycling and re-use.



Going green: UCT starts a project to reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste disposal.

The project springs from the Green Campus Action Plan, developed by the Properties & Services Department, explains Brett Roden, environmental risk officer for Safety, Health and Environment.

UCT is a member of the e-Waste

Association of South Africa (e-WASA), and for this project has joined forces with another e-WASA member, Recover e-Alliance, a Cape Town-based non-profit organisation made up of a number of industry partners that strive for job creation and environmental integrity.

Roden said the aim is to identify an e-waste champion in each building or department who, in collaboration with his or her head of department or

building supervisor, will organise the collection and short-term storage of all the e-waste in their jurisdiction. They can then liaise with Roden, who will arrange for the removal of the e-waste. See (www.uct.ac.za/about/greencampus/ewaste) for details. **MP**

UCT and Penn State want to get serious

Deputy vice-chancellors Professor Jo Beall and Professor Danie Visser hosted a visit by delegates from the US's Penn State University to talk about future – and



Deepening engagements: Prof Danie Visser, Prof Michael Adewumi, Prof Jo Beall and Prof Robert Crane chat about growing relations between UCT and Penn State University.

deeper – relationships between the two institutions.

Professor Michael Adewumi, vice-provost for global programmes, explained that Penn State is identifying key institutions across the globe with which it hopes to “deepen engagements” in teaching, research and outreach.

This approach echoes UCT's efforts to strike up strategic partnerships with a few selected international institutions, noted Beall.

“The whole goal is trying to tackle some of the global challenges of our time, which is something no institution can manage on its own,” said Adewumi.

One of these challenges is climate change, an area in which Penn State and UCT have been collaborating for some time. So Penn State's Professor Robert Crane, director of Penn State's Alliance for Education, Science, Engineering and Development in Africa, explained some elements of the Parks and People project he has been running with UCT's Professor Bruce Hewitson, allowing both UCT and Penn State students to spend valuable research time in the Dwesa-Cweba Nature Reserves of the Eastern Cape.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Free Lunch: The Artscape Youth Vocal Jazz Ensemble dished up a free lunch-hour performance at this year's South African Association for Jazz Education Jazz Conference.

Jazz conference documents history

Top local and international jazz artists and educators converged on UCT to present performances, workshops and research papers at the 10th South African Association for Jazz Education (SAJE) Jazz Conference.

The biannual event took place at the South African College of Music from 29 to 31 March, to document important events throughout SAJE's history and show how the association has changed over the past two decades.

Among the popular participants were UCT's own – saxophonist Professor Mike Rossi and vocalist Amanda Tiffin. International participants included popular big band

leader Steve Waterman of the UK, pianist Gloria Cooper of the US, and Kamil Erdem of Turkey

Themed *Jazz Education in South Africa: Past, Present and Future*, the gathering focused on formal and informal jazz education over the past 25 years.

Diane Rossi, one of the organisers, reported that this year's attendance was “really excellent”, and said she had been encouraged to see the variety of participants and attendees.

“They ranged from teachers, scholars, and amateur and professional musicians to university students from around the country, as well as those from the informal sector,” she noted. **MP**

Twenty-nine research proposals win vital funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund



In October 2009 vice-chancellor Dr Max Price called for proposals to expand the range and impact of activities that would advance UCT's vision and strategic plan. The Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund, worth R20 million annually, had been set up as a new, competitive source of funding to support such efforts. These funds are to be allocated each year by a specially-established review committee consisting of the vice-chancellor and deputy vice-chancellors.

In the first round of consultations, which ended in November 2009, the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund attracted 80 proposals, requesting more than R100 million for 2010, and over R225 million for the four-year time-frame.

After careful consideration of the submissions, all interesting and of high quality, and using the assessment criteria set out in the original call for proposals, the review committee prioritised 29 proposals that it felt best represented the valuable contributions made by the university in various spheres, and which it felt would come closest to achieving the goals set out in UCT's strategic plan.

Not only did applicants have to demonstrate that their projects were

aligned with the university's strategic objectives, they were asked to set out the detailed outcomes of their projects. In addition, they were asked to provide business plans illustrating sustainability, and evidence of innovation and collaboration.

Project managers for a further seven proposals from the Faculties of Commerce and Science, which focused on climate change, were invited to discuss possible collaborations, and were awarded a total of R2 million for their projects.

All successful applicants were required to submit detailed budgets to ensure that the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund falls in line with the institution's fiscal policy. As part of this process, applicants will be required to submit financial reports in September 2010 and March 2011.

Furthermore, the project managers were asked to provide summaries of their projects, part of the vice-chancellor's report to the UCT community on the progress achieved vis-a-vis the strategic objectives. It is likely that successful applicants will be profiled on Vula. Social networking mechanisms will also be investigated as vehicles for the exchange of ideas.

The list of successful bidders:

List of successful VC Strategic Fund applicants 2010 (excluding climate change proposals) and approved amounts

Faculty/ Unit	Proposal Title	Cont
AAH	All Africa House Academic Fellowships	Chum
DSA	Student Development Programme	Ian M
EBE	Technology Deployment for Sustainable Urban Development	Fran
Health Sciences	Clinical Scholars Programme (*subject to final confirmation)	Bong
Health Sciences	Child and Adolescent Health African Fellowship Programme	Heath
Health Sciences	Physiotherapy collaboration in Rwanda	Jenni
Health Sciences	Global Health Institute	Maria
Health Sciences	Developing leadership for Disability Inclusion in Social Policy Processes	Ther
Humanities	Violent crime - a UCT response	Cathe
Humanities	Research and Development work in Language and Literacy Studies	Masti
Humanities	Diversity Literacy capping course	Melis
Humanities	Archive and Curatorship project	Pippa
Humanities	Training in quantitative research methods	Robe
Humanities	African Legislatures project	Robe
Humanities	Field trip for Xhosa Intensive B students	Tessa
Humanities	On-line version of Hons/Master's in Teaching French as a Foreign Language	Vanes
IAPO	UCT / AAU academic staff exchange opportunities	Love
ICTS	UCT Web Renewal project	Sakki
Law	Chair and Institute for Comparative African Law	Hanri
OVC	Global Citizenship, Leadership and Social Justice project	Jo Be
OVC	Science Shop pilot project	Jo Be
PGCFO	Postgraduate student support	Linda
Research Office	URC Incentive Funding	Maril
Science	Merging science, humanities and indigenous knowledge systems in Africa with innovative and sustainable biodiversity exploration for human health	David
Science	Mobile Voices: democratising wireless communications in Africa	Gary
Science	Marine multiscale data and models	John
Science	Centre for African Origins	Judith
Science	Centre for Astrophysics, Cosmology and Gravitation	Peter
SRC	SRC African Student Leaders Summit	Sizwe

* Please note that approved amounts are still to be confirmed.



Contact Name	Approved Amount*
na Himonga	280 000
ackintosh	500 000
is Petersen, Harro von Blottnitz	920 000
ani Mayosi	760 000
ner Zar	265 000
fer Jelsma	75 000
an Jacobs	500 000
esa Lorenzo	80 000
erine Ward	150 000
n Prinsloo	60 000
ssa Steyn	34 775
Skotnes	1 000 000
rt Mattes	728 000
rt Mattes	600 000
Dowling	50 000
ssa Everson	162 000
ness Kaunda	132 000
e Janse Van Rensburg	3 500 000
Mostert	1 750 000
call	250 000
call and Danie Visser	435 000
a Vranas	500 000
et Sienaert	1 500 000
d Gammon	350 000
Marsden	40 000
Field	1 800 000
n Sealy	399 911
Dunsby	250 000
e Mpofo-Walsh	300 000

African Social Scientific Data: Improving the quality of teaching and research in quantitative social science

This funding allocation will help UCT train social sciences postgraduate students in quantitative methods and evidence-based research, and will assist in the production of internationally competitive analyses of African social scientific data, by creating two positions in the Faculty of Humanities for staff who can teach statistics and quantitative social science research methods at postgraduate level.

Investing in Afropolitan Research on Governance and Democracy: The African Legislatures Project

The African Legislatures Project (ALP), co-ordinated by the CSSR's Democracy in Africa Unit, is a pioneering attempt to subject Africa's national political institutions to systematic comparative study. By providing explicit support for ALP, in the form of two additional country studies (13 have been completed or are under way), this additional funding will strengthen UCT's international research profile and underpin the university's efforts to become an intellectual hub for the study of African governance and democracy.

Centre for African Origins

This initiative will bring together expertise, equipment and excellent young scholars from across the continent to research the evolutionary processes underlying human diversification, early tool use and resource exploitation, diet and settlement patterns, African community structure and metallurgical practices.

Global Health Initiative

The grant will support the establishment of a UCT Global Health Institute focused on health inequity in South Africa and the rest of Africa. By harnessing the capacities of a range of individuals and disciplines with interest and experience in aspects of global health, the institute will develop an academic agenda of research, education and networking to address global health inequities.

Marine Multi-scale Data and Models: the key to predicting climate variability in Africa and its biological and social consequences

The Southern Hemisphere is dominated by oceans, yet there are huge gaps in understanding the ways in which the ocean controls climate and weather patterns. This project will develop a system of marine data collection and integration into models, working towards being able to project ocean conditions (both physical and biological) at the seasonal time scale that in turn will allow coupled ocean-atmosphere models to generate better seasonal weather and rainfall projections.

Mobile Voices

The goal of this initiative is to investigate the role of ICT in developing Africa and create new forms of ICT that will support development goals. The plan is to create new mobile services and technologies that will directly benefit previously under-served African communities. To achieve this goal, the group will build a network of researchers from disciplines such as Film and Media, Computer Science, Linguistics, Civil Engineering, Social Anthropology, Information Systems, etc.

On-line Teaching French as a Foreign Language MA

In 2011 the French Section plans to offer an on-line version of the in vivo coursework master's with minor dissertation in parallel. Five modules will be taught on-line, using the asynchronous distance technology offered by VULA. This is expected to open the course to a wider pool of students, allowing practising teachers of French to retain their positions and further their studies at the same time.

Web Renewal project

The Web Renewal and Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Programme will address UCT's content management needs. This programme will define strategies and use appropriate methodology and tools to capture, manage, store, preserve and deliver content and documents to the various UCT constituents.

UCT/AAU Academic Staff Exchange opportunities

More promising African academics can visit UCT through the AAU Academic Staff Exchange Programme, which offers partial financial support for this purpose. The programme offers about six opportunities a year for individual African academics to spend time at UCT. The project will run for one calendar year. The grant will stretch individual stints from between one and three weeks to four weeks.

Research and Development Work in Language and Literature Study

The Reading and Writing (R&W) journal, edited by Associate Professor Mastin Prinsloo of the School of Education, will be developed to counter the critical shortage of quality research in the field of literacy studies in South Africa, and a dearth of publishing outlets for literacy-focused research in Southern Africa. The journal will nurture a multi-disciplinary tradition of quality research in a neglected field and provide a developmental role for emerging

researchers and educator-researchers in this field.

Postgraduate Student Support

The funds will be added to the UCT Master's Merit Scholarship Fund to address the increase in applications for support from local master's students.

Centre for Astrophysics, Cosmology and Gravitation

With opportunities offered by SALT, MeerKAT and the Square Kilometre Array, which South Africa aims to host, the country is at the beginning of a golden age in astronomy and cosmology. To reap the benefits, the new Astrophysics, Cosmology and Gravitation Centre has been established, consisting of the Department of Astronomy and the Cosmology and Gravity Group in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics as its core members.

Developing Leadership for Disability Inclusion in Social Policy Processes: Enhancing teaching and research to promote graduate qualities of social justice and global citizenship

The UCT Disability Studies programme focuses on teaching, research and policy development on disability in Africa. Initially, the Disability Inclusion project will work with the Faculties of Health Sciences, Humanities and Engineering & Built Environment to review how disability is situated within broader social theory in teaching and learning - and its relevance to curricula in higher education.

Teaching for Social Justice: Diversity literacy capping course

A new course, Diversity Literacy, will be offered as an elective to senior students across UCT faculties to help them function effectively in social and work contexts that are characterised by diversity. The course curriculum will provide students with conceptual tools to reflect on complex social issues such as inequality, identity, power, and difference.

Science Shop pilot project

This pilot project will lay the foundations for a sustainable facility, 'a shop front' that will act as bridge between society and the university. The 'shop front' will mediate between the two constituencies by reformulating questions from civil society organisations or communities into manageable research projects.

Technology Deployment for Sustainable Urban Development

This grant to the EBE faculty will underpin work that will describe and demonstrate development paths for a key sector of the informal economy in African urban settings: street catering. The central problem is the use of open fires in informal economy street catering, often using timber which has been treated with toxic chromated copper arsenic.

World Universities Network (WUN)

The WUN fosters collaboration in research and research-led teaching and learning between member universities. Although some funds for the collaboration can be accessed through using the WUN resources, UCT needed some initial funding to be able to 'scope out' possibilities with network partners as an initial step towards fully utilising its membership benefits. The funds will enable research visits to WUN partner campuses and WUN annual meetings.

Merging science, humanities and African intellectual heritage with innovative and sustainable biodiversity exploration for human health

The project seeks real outcomes: new insights into human-plant interactions, potential new medicines or formulations, and a new approach to generating critical dialogue across different ways of understanding health, disease, embodiment, and cures.


URC incentives to increase the impact of UCT's research

Funds have been awarded to strengthen research at UCT for distribution and management through the URC. Grants have been made to enable internationalisation and postdoctoral fellowships, which will recognise the excellence of URC-accredited groupings.

UCT Global Citizen pilot project 2010

This project will address the goals of being an Afropolitan university and enhancing the quality and profile of UCT's graduates. It will increase the breadth of the curriculum and broaden the learning experience so that students can acquire a broad foundational knowledge that goes beyond the immediate requirements of their professional degree or major discipline.

Xhosa Intensive Student Fieldtrips

The two-week trip immerses students in the language and culture of the villagers of Cata, near Keiskammahoek. The students of the African Languages Section of the School of Languages also gain valuable insights into the ways in which people entertain, learn, love and die in communities so different from their own. 

Funded projects include:

All Africa House Academic Fellowships

These will build teaching capacity in African universities. The fellowships will attract senior and young or mid-career academics of high standing from the rest of Africa to spend time at All Africa House, developing their teaching materials or writing up completed research for publication.

A UCT Response to Crime and Violence

Violent crime stands at the nexus of two related domains, violence and criminality. Unless these causes are dealt with, South Africa will always experience high rates of violence. This project draws together a core of researchers from different faculties to develop a UCT response, in the form of a peer-reviewed paper, policy briefs and a larger proposal for a research study.

Child Health in Africa: The African Paediatric Fellowship Programme

The African Paediatric Fellowship Programme's goal is to promote child and maternal health in Africa. It will do this by developing African health professionals through training and integrated educational networks. The aim is also to enhance expertise among African health professionals and build African capacity in child health.

Building Capacity in the Conduct and Analysis of



Derman nets prestigious award



Professor Wayne Derman's pioneering work and remarkable contribution to sport and sports medicine was recognised when he scooped a top accolade in the David Awards 2010.

Derman, a professor of sports science and sports medicine at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, won the Blue Label Telecoms Award for his Considerable Contribution to Sport, along with Dr Shane Dorfman, a karate world champion.

The awards acknowledge the contributions of former learners of Hillel and King David schools. (UCT vice-chancellor Dr Max Price was nominated for the Investec Award for a Considerable Contribution in a Career/Profession, a category won by Adrian Gore, chief executive of Discovery Health.)

Derman's career has focused on the research, teaching and clinical service of sport medicine, making a considerable local and international impact. He has served as

chief medical officer for the South African team to the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the Athens 2004 Olympics and, in 2008, as medical officer for the South African Paralympic team to Beijing.

"When I started on this career, it was a lesser-known discipline and speciality within the field of medicine," he explains. "I have enjoyed being one of the pioneers, and am passionate about my chosen career."

Derman dedicated his honour to

his parents and former school and teachers "who tried their best to prepare me for the future".

Personally, Derman intends to develop as a leader, teacher and clinician, and to plough his expertise into producing some of the finest sports physicians, biokineticists and exercise scientists. He predicts that sport and exercise medicine, and particularly the use of exercise in the management of patients with chronic disease, will become the "medicine of the future". **MP**

Graphic units hold key to new wave of supercomputers

If you've heard the internet gossip that the US military was snapping up PlayStation 3s and Xboxes while also keeping an eye on exports of these gaming units to countries with nuclear capabilities, perhaps it's a little more than mere paranoia.

The sales-boosting graphics on these and other gaming consoles are driven by powerful graphics processing units, or GPUs, which are found on the machines' graphics cards. In fact, these GPUs are so packed with processing juice that they are increasingly being used as the engines of a new generation of wallet-friendly supercomputers, in a process known as general-purpose computing on graphics processing units (GPGPU).

At UCT, Dr Michelle Kuttel, Dr James Gain and Dr Patrick Marais are among those in the Department of Computer Science learning to mine GPUs for their own academic ends.

Kuttel's interest in GPGPU was piqued by her work in computational chemistry, which often involves the simulation of molecules and viruses and their workings. Gain and Marais, in turn, lead a computer-graphics group that, among other things, creates visuals to simulate flames, water or – even trickier, apparently – running sand.

These are tasks that are best performed on supercomputers, using hundreds or thousands of computer processors. But inevitably, that makes a supercomputer a costly item.

In contrast, a graphics card can be picked up for under R10 000, and

its GPU can then be converted to do the job of 10, 100 or, in some cases, 1 000 processors.

But – as is the case when you want to stick a Lamborghini engine into your 15-year-old jalopy – that takes some doing and reprogramming. Reprogramming that can take months, and demands some high-level programming skills.

So over the past two years Kuttel and Gain have been working to train programmers in the art and science of converting GPUs into GPGPUs. Master's student Duncan Clough and PhD student Ian Tunbridge were the first Kuttel posted to the University of Illinois in the US for some instruction.

And now the group is looking to do some local training as well. "You don't want to keep shipping students over to the US; we want to train our own programmers," says Kuttel.

So last year students Jason Brownbridge, Juan-Pierre Longmore and Tunbridge ran a workshop on GPGPU at the annual conference of the nearby-based Centre for High-Performance Computing, which is used by many UCT scientists. In addition, Gain is running a GPGPU course – on which Kuttel, Brownbridge, Longmore and Tunbridge lecture – that will include students from Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape.

"People outside of computer science need this resource, so we've got chemists and physicists and astronomers all saying they want to do their hard computing problems on these



No game: James Gain, Dr Michelle Kuttel and Patrick Marais are part of a group looking to tap the potential of graphic cards for more academic work.

cards," says Gain. "But they don't have the skills, so we need to train people up."

Recruits are many, lured by the new challenge and the stature it'll lend to their CVs.

In addition, the UCT GPGPU group has been setting up collaborations with others eager to avail themselves of this new brand of

supercomputer.

Kuttel, for example, is working with a colleague in Cambridge, while UCT's Department of Astronomy and the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics have also approached the group for computing assistance.

"There are some problems that don't become solvable until you put

them on these chips, because they could take years otherwise," says Kuttel.

Now those computations can take a fraction of the time. And as GPGPU supercomputers are still in their infancy, it's likely they'll just get faster and better.

And then comes PlayStation 4! **(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)**

Conference gets *Lancet's* nod of approval

Emeritus Professor Lionel Opie describes the At the Limits (ATL) annual conferences as once having been "petite and elite", but perhaps that description no longer applies to the meetings, especially now that famed medical journal *The Lancet* has come on board as official collaborator.

Opie (founding director of UCT's Hatter Institute for Cardiology Research) co-established the ATL medical-education series with Professor Derek Yellon (director of the Hatter Cardiovascular Institute at University College London, England) back in 1997, as a specialised conference on diseases of the heart. The meeting was a companion piece to the launch of both the Hatter Institute and a five-year chair in cardiology research at UCT, funded through money that Opie and Yellon had scared up from Sir Maurice Hatter, English business



Partners: Celebrating a new collaboration between the ATL education series and journal *The Lancet* at a recent conference were VC Dr Max Price; Dr Richard Horton, editor of *The Lancet*; Prof Derek Yellon, ATL co-founder; Sir John Tooke, head of the University College London Medical School; and UCT's Emer Prof Lionel Opie.

mogul and philanthropist, and from Old Mutual and other donors.

One of the founding principles

of the series was to attract delegates from Africa and Asia as well as from the developed world. This is why the

conferences are all hosted at UCT – fully accessible to many from Africa, and still a sensible overnight travel option for delegates from Europe.

The series started off with an annual conference on cardiology only, but now also includes regular (if not annual) meetings on diabetes, nephrology, Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis, oncology, gastroenterology and respiratory conditions. And since its launch, ATL has grown into one of the world's leading and most sought-after (attendance is by invitation only) medical-education events.

"When people are invited to speak, very seldom do they say no," reports Opie.

The event's stature received another boost this year with the leading British and international medical journal *The Lancet* agreeing to endorse the programme and content of

the meetings. In addition, the journal will also post videos of the ATL talks on its website (www.thelancet.com), which boasts some 1.9 million registered users.

The most recent ATL meeting, attended by around 250 delegates from 26 to 29 March, should have pulled in a good many of those by virtue of its conjoined theme – Cardiology & Diabetes.

It's increasingly being accepted that obesity, diabetes and related conditions lead to cardiac complications, explains Opie. "So diabetologists are interested in the cardiological complications, and cardiologists are interested in how to treat people with diabetes."

The March meeting was the series' second of the year, following on a four-day nephrology conference in February.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Lost home: Academics could upset land-claim applecart

With their recent appearances before the Land Claims Court, two UCT scholars could turn the very tenets of land-claims compensation on their heads, and earn claimants a substantial chunk of extra change.

Professor Nicoli Natrass and Associate Professor Martin Wittenberg, both of the School of Economics, recently acted as expert witnesses on behalf of land-claims plaintiff Isabel Florence, who is in dispute with the Land Claims Commission. Florence is challenging the commission's offer of R40 000 – a sort of 'opening gambit' from the state – for a family home named Sunnycroft, between Klipfontein Road and the Black River, that was lost in 1970 because of the Group Areas Act. At the time, the Florences received just over R1 000 in compensation for a house valued at about R31 000.

Natrass and Wittenberg were called upon by Florence's lawyers to propose a fairer compensation amount. But their input went way beyond just the numbers.

According to Wittenberg, who did the initial calculations, there are a number of ways to come up with a rand total. The first is to use the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or headline inflationary rate. Using that measure, the R30 000 owed to the Florences would translate to over R1.2 million today.

But, argues Wittenberg, the CPI is only a means of estimating lost purchasing power. (So, if the Florences had opted to throw a R30 000 party back in 1970, the CPI would calculate what it would cost to stage a soiree of similar size and shape in 2010.)

However, the Florences had not foregone just R30 000 in spending power; instead, they had lost a house – and, as such, an asset.

"They were deliberately not blowing their money, but were saving it; and they were saving it because they were expecting a return on it," says Wittenberg. "And that principle is the core issue." Wittenberg therefore argued that the R30 000 owed to the Florences in 1970 should be inflated by an investment rate of return, not the CPI.

The state countered that if it accepts that the Florences had lost an investment, what rate of return should be used to calculate a fair return, as different investments can have many different returns? Wittenberg and Natrass retorted that the same objection applies to the CPI, which simply averages out a whole range of inflation rates – food inflation, furniture inflation, etc.

The state also tried to argue that using the CPI was a standard, objective measure. Wittenberg and Natrass responded by pointing out that because the rich account for most of the expenditure in South Africa, the CPI is actually not objective; but is biased towards the rich, and underestimates the higher inflation on items (like food) purchased by the poor. A fairer way to calculate compensation, then, is to find an investment that is (as the expression goes) as safe as a house. Wittenberg proposed a 32-day-notice deposit rate at a bank, which is a short-term savings account that offers reasonable interest but allows the client access to funds at short notice.

Had the Florences put their R30 000 into such an account, it would now be worth over R1.7 million, the value of the Florences' first claim in front of the court.

"Keeping money in the bank is the safest thing you can do, because you're not going to lose the money and you're going to earn some interest, if not a lot."

While Wittenberg considered that an iron-clad position, Natrass chose to go one step – and about R1.5 million – further, by arguing that the Florences' R30 000 should be inflated by the government bond rate; that is, the rate of return investors in government bonds received over the period.

"I think there's some kind of justice in the notion that the money that government pays its citizens when it borrows money from them should be the amount that it pays the Florences, because it was government policy that forced them out of their house," says Natrass.

Using the yield on such bonds, Natrass came up with a value of over R3.3 million, the amount of the Florences' newly-amended claim. For now, the case has been postponed for a few months while the two parties try to reach a settlement. (And, as a similarly-sized house in the area is currently valued at around R2.8 million or thereabouts, there's plenty of middle ground for both.)

If they don't come to an agreement, and the court is obliged to rule and does so in the Florences' favour, Natrass and Wittenberg's philosophical position – asset versus cash – could well set a precedent for future claims.

"For me, the theory of price indices is a part of economics that is deadly dull," deadpans Wittenberg. "It's only when it comes to a case like this that you see that actually, this stuff matters."

And while it may amount to little more than a side show, the two scholars' reflections on the CPI could also put a dent in that index's much-burnished reputation as an economically sound and unbiased measure of inflation.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



Experts: Prof Nicoli Natrass and Assoc Prof Martin Wittenberg are shaking the foundations of land-compensation claims.

GSB appoints new research director

Associate Professor Ralph Hamann won't have many idle moments at the Graduate School of Business (GSB) anytime soon. In addition to his permanent position, which involves running an elective on sustainable enterprise for the school's MBA programme, he's also just been named as the GSB's director of research.

Research is a tricky area in a business school environment, where the 'practical' elements of business are paramount – you can't run an MBA programme without those hands-on credentials – and where, at times, the relevance of research has not always been emphasised.

"There is a perception that research has not been such a priority at the school," Hamann admits.

But things are changing, he adds. "The new director, Walter Baets, is putting a lot more emphasis on research, recognising that this is an area with much growth potential at



New blood: As the new director of research at the GSB, Assoc Prof Ralph Hamann has set himself some ambitious goals.

the school. Also, there's increasing pressure on faculty to publish, and other staff and students are also beginning to recognise the value of research."

ket Business. These are: governance in emergent economies; diversity, dynamics and culture; entrepreneurial development and sustainable business; development, innovation and technology; and infrastructure, reform and regulation.

So it'll be up to Hamann – named to the position only weeks after joining the GSB from the university's Environmental Evaluation Unit – to find the common ground between the school's three concerns of teaching, research and social relevance. To this end, he's set himself a specific target: to improve the quantity, quality and visibility of published research.

He describes his main task as fostering a culture of research at the business school, and supporting researchers in their work. Over and above sitting on various committees, this will involve revitalising the GSB's series of lunch-time seminars, establishing an award scheme for publications, and developing a web-

site dedicated to research at the GSB, among other things.

While there are a few prolific publishers in the GSB fold, Hamann hopes especially to nurture research by younger faculty, and the school's growing number of doctoral students.

"I think there's a lot of potential among our emerging researchers, and we haven't really harnessed that sufficiently yet. There's also much scope for MBA students to contribute through their mini-dissertations, and demonstrating the practical relevance of good research might just become a further distinguishing feature of our MBA."

An award-winning publisher himself – he won the Hiddingh-Curie award for his co-edited book, *The Business of Sustainable Development in Africa: Human rights, partnership and alternative business models* – Hamann knows a few things about putting research to paper.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Club takes the stars to the townships

The freshly-launched UCT Astronomy Club has set its sights on an ambitious outreach programme that will take the wonders of astronomy to local disadvantaged schools.

The Stellar Club, a branch of the Astronomy Club, plans to produce free self-teach tutorials in maths and physical science for Grade 11 and 12 learners, and to organise activities and astronomy-related experiments.

Founder and chair of the club, Tafadzwa Mukwashi, explains how the project came about: "I was ill for the past two years and have been getting through my engineering courses by working through notes from home. I have maintained a first-class aggregate and I am now a firm believer in self-study. I believe this is a sustainable and effective way of helping to relieve the education crisis in South Africa."

Mukwashi plans to distribute the first tutorials in October 2010, and to begin visits to the schools in 2011.

"We will have role models going out to the schools to encourage and motivate learners," she says. "Many researchers and students in the space sciences are from disadvantaged backgrounds themselves. We also want to raise awareness about how learners can apply to tertiary education institutions and put them in touch with funding organisations and financial aid



Stargazers: Astronomy Club committee members are (from left back) Tafadzwa Mukwashi, Sally Macfarlane, Priscilla Chauke, Riona Ramraj and (front) Teboho Makhabane and Bradley Frank. (Absent: Moses Mogotsi.)

offices. We will also help learners with their applications."

The club is also producing an annual publication, *The Astronomy Gazette*, which will be available in

September 2010. The *Gazette* will inform readers about new developments in the field, and about career opportunities in science and engineering.

"Rocket science is not as unattainable as some people may think!"

Club membership is free and open to anyone interested in

astronomy. For more information, email uctastroclub@gmail.com, or go to the Astronomy Department's website at <http://www.ast.uct.ac.za/> (Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za)



Networking: VC Dr Max Price introduced himself to (from left) Andiswa Miza, Sylvia Paulson and Zandile Khuzwayo at a Staff Welcoming Function.

Price welcomes new staff

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price hosted a staff welcome function on 7 April to receive new staff members, encouraging them to feel at home and to make UCT a better place of work.

Price said that the quarterly event, the first of its kind, had been designed to make new employees feel comfortable with approaching him with issues, and to help them network and make new friendships.

"A survey found that Cape Town

companies can't recruit people from outside the city, particularly black Africans, because it is hard for them to integrate socially," he explained. "This is an issue UCT also has to deal with."

Price said the university valued the fresh perspectives that people bring from other institutions.

"I urge you to push those ideas, get people to listen to them, and help us to change the way we do things."

Price had further advice for the newcomers: break out of silos and join

structures outside your departments, such as transformation and research committees, and so gain the full experience of life at UCT.

New staffer Zandile Khuzwayo said she believes that there are opportunities for growth at UCT; while Andre Smith said he "couldn't ask for anything better".

"My colleagues are supportive and are very nice and professional," he said.

(Myolisi.Gophe@uct.ac.za)

Call for nominations for 2011 TB Davie Memorial Lecture

Since 1959, UCT has held an annual TB Davie Memorial Lecture to mark the University's commitment to academic freedom and to clarify its principles. Accordingly, UCT staff and students are invited to submit nominations for the 2011 TB Davie Memorial Lecture to the Academic Freedom Committee. Nominations should not exceed three pages and

should include:

- a brief curriculum vitae of the nominated speaker; and
- a motivation for the nomination.

Nominations should be submitted to Vicki Heard via email at vicki.heard@uct.ac.za, or posted to Room 139.1, Bremner Building, Lower Campus, UCT, on or before Friday 30 April 2010. **MP**

Sports council asks for comments on new vision

The UCT Sports Council has released a new Draft Vision and Mission Statement. The council invites the UCT community to comment on the document via a specially established Vula site. To access this site, users are requested to log in to Vula, go to My Workspace/Membership/joinable sites, and from there,

search for 'Sports Council Draft Vision and Mission Statement' and click 'Join'. They will be able to comment directly via the chat room facility, or they can simply email comments to council chairperson Professor Michael Meadows, on michael.meadows@uct.ac.za. The closing date for comments is 30 April. **MP**

Appointment of an orator

Francis Wilson, emeritus professor in the School of Economics, who has been the university orator for four years, has informed the vice-chancellor that he wishes to retire. The office of orator is in the vice-chancellor's gift. The orator is expected to prepare and deliver the citations for honorary

graduands (except where a special reason exists for some other person to do this). The position is not paid. The vice-chancellor invites anyone who may be interested in being considered for this role to write to him, giving evidence of their special skills, before 30 April. **MP**

EVENTS

Department Of Medicine

4pm Forum Roster: Venue: Lecture Theatre 2 (Upper), New Groote Schuur Hospital: 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

ICTS Courses Offered during

April: 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

Ice Diaries: Being a writer in the polar regions. The SA Association of Canadian Studies and the Centre for Creative Writing, invites you to a public reading and talk on Antarctica by Canadian born writer Jean Mcnell. Date: Tuesday, 13 April 2010, Time: 18H00, Venue: 202 in the Arts Block, University Avenue, Upper Campus

Canadian Multiculturalism and South African Rainbow

Nation: reflections on the tension of Identity and Belonging. The SA Association of Canadian Studies and the Centre for Creative Writing, invites you to a talk by Daniel Yon, Associate Professor, York University. Date: Wednesday, 14 April 2010, Time: 13H00 – 14H00, Venue: 202 Centre for African Studies Gallery, Upper Campus

Inaugural Lecture Series:

You are invited to the inaugural lecture of Professor Graham Louw, Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Science Topic: “Mummy – the cat has gone missing! Does she have a microchip?” Date: Wednesday, 21 April 2010, Time: 17H30 (Guests to be seated by 17H15), Venue: Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT. Please RSVP for catering purposes to: Centre for Extra-mural

Studies, Tel: 0216502888, Fax: 0216502893, email: ems@uct.ac.za

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Senior Family Physician: Public Health & Family Medicine, FHS; closing date: 16 April 2010

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

African Academic Links Co-ordinator, IAPO, closing date: 12 April 2010

Director: Transformation Services Office of the Vice-Chancellor, closing date: 16 April 2010

Secretary/Organiser, UCT Academics Union, closing date: 26 April 2010

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Front Office Receptionist, IAPO, closing date: 15 April 2010

To view the full advertisements and application requirements for each post, please visit www.uct.ac.za and click on “Vacancies”

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Car: Jetta4, 1600, 1989, white, good condition. R20000 neg. Contact: Sweetness 0216503396 or 0737629158.

Coffee Table: 800 x 500 x 300 Melamine Oak Finish. Ideal for large tea room or family entertainment area. R600. Contact: Ilana van Schalkwyk at Ilana.VanSchalkwyk@uct.ac.za or 0216502955.

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Students test their entrepreneurial mettle

Amin Diemer obviously took the lessons he picked up on the bidobuy Crazy Wednesday Auctions Challenge to heart, turning a handsome 60% profit – or R179.30 – in the event, co-hosted by UCT's Investment Society (InvestSoc).

The competition, part of the student society's MyBusiness Entrepreneurship Development Programme, aimed to provide members with a crash course in entrepreneurship, plus the opportunity to earn some spare cash and a princely prize (more on that later) through a collaboration with on-line 'marketplace' bidobuy.co.za, and wireless hotspot innovators Skyrove.

"We felt that there is a gap in the kinds of programmes we were offering, and that we could really help students who are interested in entrepreneurship but didn't know where to start," explains Chris Speller, who runs the MyBusiness programme. The goal

was not to offer students just an academic command of entrepreneurship – through a procession of speakers and mentors – but also some coalface experience.

An opportunity to do the latter fell in their laps when bidobuy.co.za approached InvestSoc with an offer to run an event on their popular online shopping and auction site, so sparing students the high overheads of setting up their own digital shops.

First off, though, InvestSoc hosted a seminar where the likes of 'start-up evangelist' Sheraan Amod and speakers from HBD Venture Capital introduced students to the essentials of venture capital and starting up a business.

Bidobuy.co.za then gave each student a R300 loan with which to buy goods of their choice, after which they would auction them on the site's weekly Crazy Wednesday Auctions.

(A tricky proposition, as all items start at R1, and there's no reserve price). Speller took the participants to Tokai's China Town for their R300 shopping spree, students picking up everything from artworks and braai kits to coffee sets and an assortment of knick knacks.

After some training and set-up help from bidobuy.co.za, the students went live on 9 and 10 March.

The secret to online success, they quickly found, was in the marketing of their products, reports Speller. "A lot of guys learned that a big part of the trick is in your description – you've got to think about what you've bought and why you think it's a good product."

Diemer was the quickest study, earning himself that R179.30 in profits and – even better – the first prize of a Samsung N130 Netbook and a KickbackDSL subscription for one



Going shopping: InvestSoc students hit China Town.

year's free internet with Skyrove (and the chance to make money off anyone using his hotspot).

Inspired by the success of the

venture, InvestSoc is now looking into further initiatives for 2010. Just like good entrepreneurs do.

(Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)

Top student gets a gift with a difference



Gifted: Eduloan's Johan Wasserfall (left) presents a laptop to VC Dr Max Price and student Lutando Ngqakaza.

Days of relying on on-campus computer laboratories to do assignments are a thing of the past for UCT student Lutando Ngqakaza after he was handed a brand-new laptop, courtesy of Eduloan.

The gift came in particularly handy for the third-year BSc student in information technology, as he intends to do postgraduate studies straight after graduating.

"This means I can now take my work home and not always come to the labs for my projects," a jubilant

Ngqakaza said.

Eduloan chief executive officer Johan Wasserfall said that their tradition has always been to provide gifts to clients at every year-end. However, last year they consolidated the funds that would have been spent on the gifts to provide a laptop for the most deserving student at each participating institution.

"In celebrating our valued partnerships with institutions, last year we decided to offer gifts that will make a difference, and asked universities to select deserving students," he explained.

Ngqakaza was chosen because he has been on the Chancellor's List – a list of students doing well academically – for two years running, and is currently in the top spot.

Wasserfall said they have been getting positive responses from all institutions, and hope to continue the tradition in future. The machine was presented to vice-chancellor Dr Max Price on 31 March. **MP**

News from the athletics camp



In leaps and bounds: Alix Morreilon is the university's WP junior 400m hurdle champion (picture by James Evans).

The UCT Athletics Club enjoyed a couple of notable successes in recent weeks.

Firstly, the club has a new Western Province champion in Alix Morreilon, who won the province's junior 400m hurdles championships. In the process, Morreilon set a new UCT junior and senior record time of 64:95, breaking her own two-week-old record. Morreilon and Herschel Girls' School learner Micky Parker, who trains with the club, have also been selected to represent WP at the SA Junior Cham-

pionships that took place on 10 and 11 April.

The women's team finished second and the men third in the Two Oceans half-marathon on 3 April. Although the women's team has won the half-marathon and finished second before, this is the club's best overall team result in the event. In the ultra-marathon, William Robinson was first home for UCT, earning the club's only silver medal in the race with a time of 3:56:48.

On 28 March, the club hosted the Capetown UCT Memorial 10km race,

held in honour of members of the club who have passed away. The four who were honoured were Lindsay Weight, Merrilyn Smith, Isavel Roche-Kelly and Kevin Rochford. The turnout for the race was good, with just over 1 000 finishers. Gadija Rochford, the wife of Kevin Rochford, started the race; Weight's son, Christopher, and daughter, Genevieve, handed out the medals and prizes at the prize-giving; and Trish Moores, Smith's digs-mate, handed over the Merrilyn Smith Floating Trophy to the winning woman. **MP**

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