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# Monday Paper

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## Second round for chancellor Graça Machel

Graça Machel, listed in the annual *Time* 100 issue (*Time* May 10, 2010) as one of the world's most influential people, has been elected unopposed as chancellor of UCT for a second term. Her name was the only one put forward following the call for nominations for the office, which closed on 31 March. Her new term of office will end in 2019. She is the fifth chancellor of UCT since the South African College became the University of Cape Town in 1918.

The chancellor is the titular head and representative of the university, and confers degrees in its name. Machel is passionate about education and its role as a catalyst for growth in the developing world. Her passion for education and her position as a continental figure strengthen the university's mission to give Africa a stronger voice – through education, research and academic knowledge – in international affairs.

Machel has challenged UCT students and academics alike to use education and research to improve the world they live in. She acts as a role model, especially to women students, reminding them that the struggle for justice is not over until women and children in the developing world have the rights



Applause: Chancellor Graça Machel receives a warm welcome at Graça Machel Hall, the women's residence to which she lent her name in 2008.

and means to choose a better future for themselves and their families.

Through the Graça Machel Scholarship Programme, for instance, she empowers women in Southern Africa and equips them to take up leadership

positions in their communities and nations and on the continent on which they live. She speaks all over the world for the rights of children, families and communities in disadvantaged areas.

Machel supports UCT's fundraising

efforts, hosting meetings with corporate leaders and leading the Chancellor's Challenge.

During her first term as chancellor, Machel accepted the position of life president of the Students' Health and

Welfare Centres Organisation, which provides opportunities for students and staff to contribute to the development of disadvantaged communities in Cape Town. She also allowed her name to be used for the women's residence that was opened in 2008.

Machel has used her influence to improve literacy and schooling, and to address the plight of needy children, in Mozambique, her native country. For the first 11 years of the post-independence Mozambican government, beginning in the 1970s, she served as minister of education and culture. During her first five years in office, the country's illiteracy rate dropped by a remarkable 22%, and the school-going population increased from 400 000 to 1.6 million.

In 1994 she was appointed to head a study on the impact of armed conflict on children for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Her report led to the recommendation to approve a special representative of the UN secretary general dealing with children in armed conflict. Machel is now a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF, chairperson of the National Organisation of Children of Mozambique, and president of the country's UNESCO commission. **MP**

## New unit puts lens on accounting and accountability in Africa

Accounting and accountability are concepts that shape human interactions far beyond the boundaries of organisations. They influence the way people perform their tasks in relation to others and how they are held responsible for their actions, says Associate Professor Thomas Gstraunthaler, director of the new research unit, Accounting and Accountability in Africa, in the Faculty of Commerce.

But despite its importance for society, little is known about the driving forces behind accountability. It is observable that organisations adapt their systems of checks and balances depending on their stage of development and the growing complexity of their business activities. An even greater variety of accountability concepts is visible in different cultural environments.

Yet large swathes of academic writing completely neglect the importance

of cultural influences and different value systems on accountability, says Gstraunthaler.

"This is partly due to the prevailing research paradigm of social realism, which applies mathematically-driven methods to the search for a universal, objective social reality. Accountability structures that are not congruent with the westernised bureaucratic systems are quickly labelled un-accountable or underdeveloped."

The newly-founded research unit, Accounting and Accountability in Africa, will study the cultural and historical roots for different concepts of accountability through the lens of a cultural-relativist position. It is the African understandings of accountability that interest the members of the research group, and they find elements of accountability everywhere: from daily practices to the tales of the elders,

or the interpretation of historical events.

These projects demand a lot from the researchers.

"The researcher has to be aware of their own presumptions, and exercise extreme caution in the interpretation of field data. To keep the highest level of professionalism, it is imperative that researchers be linked to major research centres all over the world."

Gstraunthaler has put much effort into building such links between the new unit and the leading research centres in this field. In particular, PhD students will work closely with other PhD students from different cultural environments to help them keep a critical eye on "what seems so ordinary to them".

Searching for new and challenging research projects, "and better weather", Gstraunthaler joined UCT in August 2008 from the University of Innsbruck,

Austria. He completed his PhD thesis on the risk management of hospitals after the 2006 SARS outbreak in Taiwan.

"To study cultural influences on accounting or other aspects of society, one has to do so in a multicultural environment. UCT offers an excellent setting for such ambitious projects," he adds.

"Our aim is to produce outstanding research papers that allow African findings to talk back to findings out of a European, American or Asian environment. Thereby we can learn a lot: about the roots of accountability in other cultures, and in our own."

In January 2011, the research unit will host an international conference with Professor Toni Tinker of the City University, New York, and Aida Sy of the Manhattan College, New York. A key part of this conference will be an emerging-researcher workshop where PhD students will swap experi-

ences and learn about similar research projects in different countries.

The conference will also see the launch of the research unit's own journal, the *Annual Review of Accounting and Accountability in Africa*. This will promote the publication of papers that contribute to the understanding of cultural influences on accountability.

The research unit is also looking for three top students keen on doing a PhD in the field.

"The emphasis will be on students who want to pursue a career in academia and who are eager to join the next generation of professors in the field of critical accounting research," says Gstraunthaler. **MP**

To learn more about the research unit or to find out about available PhD-topics, visit: [www.commerce.uct.ac.za/aaau](http://www.commerce.uct.ac.za/aaau)



**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Applications for undergraduate study at UCT close on 30 September 2010.**



## Vernacular translations get the message across

Talk about the launch of the Clinical Skills Language CD-ROMs, and Zukile Jama glows.

Jama, based in the School of Languages, has co-ordinated the project since its inception, and has seen it overcome the odds to become a potential model for bridging the communication gap, not only at UCT but also in the public and private sectors.

"I'm excited about it, because it confirms that we can integrate languages and technology as a viable teaching medium," he explains.

A collaboration between the Faculties of Health Sciences and Humanities, the project was designed for the *Becoming a Doctor* course, which teaches UCT medical students how to improve their communication with patients, especially those who speak mostly isiXhosa and Afrikaans. The clinical skills CD-ROMs have been translated from English into those languages – the result of feedback from students, who recommended that the

translations be done to assist them with their language learning, so they could communicate effectively with patients. By clicking on terms in the text, students are able to hear a voice explaining the meaning of each term (much like the audio on dictionary.com).

The programme is offered at second- and third- year level, its ultimate aim to produce graduates who can communicate fluently with patients in all three mother tongues in the Western Cape by 2013. The project is funded by a South African-Norwegian partnership, through UCT's Multi-Lingualism Education Project (MLEP) at the Centre for Higher Education Development. The CD-ROMs were first translated into isiXhosa in 2008, and Jama says they were well received by other universities around the country, who see the possibility of using them as a model for other African-language teaching.

Developing them wasn't child's play, though.

Jama and his three-member team had to consult extensively with clinicians to understand some of the medical jargon, and had to coin appropriate words. And the technological expert who matched the text with the voice recordings was not an African-language speaker, which meant the process took longer than expected.

But it was all worthwhile, as the CD-ROMs have created excitement among staff and students, and the MLEP intends to roll the project out to other faculties and departments.

Ian van Rooyen headed the team responsible for the Afrikaans translation, completed last year. He said the programme is a symbol of integration and transformation, and has been designed to be accessible even to people with no computer knowledge.

Professor Marian Jacobs, dean of health sciences, said the CD-ROMs also meet the university's strategic goal of social responsiveness. **MP**



Mother tongues: (From left, back) Assoc Prof Derek Hellenberg, Ziyanda Cele of the South Africa Norway Tertiary Education Development Programme (SANTED), Assoc Prof Clive Chandler, Ayanda Mpemnyama (SANTED), and Prof Madiba Mbulungeni. (Front) Zukile Jama and Ian van Rooyen.

## EBE applies itself to social good

The Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE) has pioneered a programme to promote research and knowledge creation that will make a real difference to South Africa's poor and vulnerable communities.

The EBE Initiative for Public Good was launched on 21 April, and outlined bold plans for the faculty to produce new research that will contribute to the developmental needs of the country.

Speaking at the launch, dean Professor Francis Petersen said that the initiative is a response to growing calls to put innovation to work for social good, alongside economic imperatives.

"This initiative is designed to co-ordinate and promote research activities within the faculty that can alleviate South Africa's myriad social challenges," said Petersen. "Our mandate as a university is to produce new knowledge, and I believe that UCT is very good at that."

"But to what extent do we as a university and as a faculty contribute to improving the quality of life of the poor in this country?" he asked.

Audience members were treated to three presentations showcasing the good work that EBE is already doing



Goodwill: Assoc Prof Ulrike Rivett speaks of her group's part in a water-testing project.

in this arena.

Chief among these is a project led by Associate Professor Ulrike Rivett of the Department of Civil Engineering. Her team has developed an innovative water-quality-testing system that is being used in rural communities across the country. The project uses a simple water-testing kit and a cellphone software package – developed by Rivett and her team – to enable ordinary community members to relay crucial information about water safety back to their municipal managers.

Gordon Inngs described the work

of the UCT chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), an organisation of socially-conscious students who are putting their learning into practice with high-impact projects in Cape Town's impoverished communities.

In turn, Associate Professor Harro von Blotnitz of the Department of Chemical Engineering illustrated the benefits of faculty collaboration in a project that is looking at informal township catering and its associated health hazards. Von Blotnitz's project is drawing on the resources and knowledge of several faculties and research groups, to better understand these health risks and to develop viable alternatives for the township catering sector.

The launch was further bolstered by Petersen's announcement that the Initiative will be partnering with the Development Bank of Southern Africa and other institutions to facilitate the implementation of research and innovation for development.

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser lauded the faculty's efforts to produce innovation that gets to work for social good, saying the faculty was "setting an example for the entire university". **MP**



## Updates and patches: keep your computer safe

Hackers constantly look for ways to exploit the vulnerabilities in commonly used software. This article by Steffne Hughes of Information and Communication Technology Services looks at an easy way to protect your machine and your data.

All software programmes and operating systems are vulnerable to attack. Even Apple Macs – traditionally less vulnerable – are now being targeted. In a constant race to close up these security holes, developers regularly release patches and updates. A patch is an immediate fix to an identified vulnerability; whereas an update may include changes or enhancements to the operating system or application, as well as all patches that have been released since the previous update. Microsoft releases their patches on the second Tuesday of every month – commonly referred to as Patch Tuesday.

What is the easiest way to make sure that you receive the right patches and updates?

If you are on campus, you don't have to worry about manually downloading and installing the patches and updates. ICTS provides an automatic update service for Windows, Apple Mac and Linux machines. The Windows Server Update Service (WSUS) includes updates and patches for the operating system, including Internet Explorer, and for all Microsoft Office applications. Our Apple Software update service provides Mac users on campus with their patches, and Linux users can make use of our ZENworks Linux Management service.

All you need to do is connect your machine to the relevant

automatic update service. Thereafter, whenever a patch is released, your machine will alert you that there are updates ready to be installed – you just have to accept the update. Reboot your machine after installation to ensure that the patch or update is properly installed.

Right. That takes care of your operating system and some of its associated applications, but what about other software that you've purchased? Most software companies make their patches available via the internet.

Mozilla's Firefox browser, for example, regularly prompts you to install the latest updates. Adobe Acrobat, Flash and many others do the same thing. You will be prompted to install any newly-released patch as soon as you open their software. You'll need an active internet connection and will need to accept the prompt to run the installation. Don't ignore these update requests: it is always better to accept an update than to leave your machine unprotected and therefore vulnerable to attack.

Most updates run quietly in the background and require hardly any user intervention, making it an effortless way to stay current and protected.

For more information on how to secure your operating system, read the articles under the Antivirus & Security menu on the ICTS website ([www.icts.uct.ac.za](http://www.icts.uct.ac.za)). **MP**

## Crime news is different news

With UCT's growing research interest in the problems of crime, the ongoing Urban Security Seminar Series by the Centre for Criminology looks like sparking scholarly conversation and debate once again.

And that's just what happened at the series' first seminar for the year, *Fatalism and Politics: A look at the Daily Sun's coverage of crime and the versions of living with crime that it depicts and enacts*. For the occasion, Professor Deborah Posel (director of the Institute for Humanities in Africa) opened the meeting with a paper on the topic, while Professor Ian Glenn (director of the Centre of Film and Media Studies) and Professor Jeremy Seekings (director of the

Social Surveys Unit in the Centre for Social Science Research) gave brief responses.

Posel argued that the *Daily Sun* – a tabloid, based in Gauteng, that with a circulation of just under 500 000 and a self-declared readership of over 3.8 million, is South Africa's biggest daily newspaper – covers crime stories differently to how it covers all its other content. In contrast to the straightforward (and even uplifting) reporting on politics, health and sport, the tabloid's crime stories are presented with exaggeration and menace, in everything from writing to layout to the use of fonts.

"What you get in the crime stories are accounts of experiences that mark the limits of the orderly and the

comprehensible, the limits of human agency; and the seduction of excess," said Posel. "This is a newspaper that narrates a sense of reality that is hyperbolic – kind of over the top."

In turn, Glenn – in his self-described "odd role, as defender of the tabloids" – argued that the broadsheets are often little different from the *Daily Sun* in the way they cover crime, but that they, too, can be accused of filtering crime (perhaps with advertisers and tourists in mind); while Seekings suggested that if the *Daily Sun* does indeed offer "a window into reality", it is a window and a reality that must be understood, and should perhaps be taken more seriously. **MP**  
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# UCT and Iziko go big for Africa Week

Institutions will observe Africa Day with a programme of lectures, debates and exhibitions that will celebrate Africa's intellectual heritage and UCT's growing Africa-focused drive

The University of Cape Town (UCT) and Iziko Museums of Cape Town will band together for *Celebrating Africa* – a seven-day gala of lectures, exhibitions, panel discussions and competitions that will run over 18 to 29 May which will mark the institutions' observation of Africa Day 2010, which falls on 25 May.

The festival will be UCT's and Iziko's most ambitious Africa Day programme yet. The institutions chose to collaborate this year because of existing overlaps of intellectual interests, themes and personnel.

The celebrations also dovetail with UCT's recently approved strategic vision, in which the university has set itself the goal of becoming an international university with an Afropolitan niche.

UCT will host a special Africa Day programme, kicking off with a panel discussion on democracy in Africa. Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo – who is also overseeing *Celebrating Africa* – will chair the meeting, while Professor Robert Mattes of UCT's Democracy in Africa Research Unit, Professor Joel Barkan of the

University of Iowa, Professor Kwesi Prah of the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society and Somadoda Fikeni of the Eastern Cape Development Corporation will act as panellists.

Later that evening Cambridge University's Dr Marta Lahr will deliver a Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture, in which she will speak on *African Origins and the Evolution of Human Diversity*.

Another prominent part of *Celebrating Africa* will be an exhibition in the Leslie Social Sciences Building on UCT's growing internationali-

sation drive into Africa, organised by the International Academic Programmes Office.

In addition, the programme will feature a lecture by UCT linguist Professor Raj Ramesar on the use of DNA to explore ancient history; panellists will debate the current and future states of African languages and literatures; Iziko's Dr Deano Stynder and Dr Roger Smith will talk on how the fossils unearthed in mining town Langebaanweg offers a window into life on Earth five million years ago; and UCT palaeobiologist Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, former

director of the Natural History collection of Iziko, will present the keynote talk at the opening of Iziko South African Museum's new dinosaur exhibition.

"Africa Day has been observed in many different ways over the past few years," says Nhlapo, "but last year we made a concerted effort to mark it in more visible ways, and to link it more directly to the Afropolitan vision as found in the strategy documents recently approved by Council."

This year, then, UCT will aim to build on to those efforts. **MP**

## African lens for millennium goals

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price expressed hopes that the recent conference of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) will provide an African lens for the focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Price was addressing the conference, which was hosted jointly in Cape Town by UCT, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape, with support from the Cape Higher Education Consortium.

The theme of this year's conference, which ran from April 25 to 27, was *Universities and the Millennium Development Goals*.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at UCT – which was attended by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande and Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor – Price said that the conference provided an opportunity for South African academics to participate in the "critical discussions around the achievement of a more



Making contact: Dr Max Price (second from left) takes visiting heads of universities on a walkabout around the UCT campus.

just, equitable and secure society". He hoped that by locating this year's conference in Africa, delegates would be able to view the challenges of the MDG through "an African lens".

In turn, Motlanthe called on developing countries to continue to work towards increasing their spending in the higher education sector.

He said universities were key partners in monitoring progress towards achieving the MDGs, and in seeking innovative responses to the challenges identified in the process. Universities must be active participants in developing the knowledge and values required for sustainable development. **MP**

## Endoscopic ultrasound system will cut biopsy risks



Good cause: (From left) Prof Marian Jacobs (dean of health sciences), Dr Reno Morar (deputy dean, health sciences), Prof Jake Krige (Department of Surgery), and Prof Bongani Mayosi (head of the Department of Medicine), with Prof Adrian Hatfield.

An Olympus endoscopic ultrasound system, which helps to diagnose complex gastrointestinal diseases, has been donated to the Gastrointestinal Clinic at UCT/Groote Schuur Hospital.

The R3-million funding for the equipment was spearheaded by Adrian Hatfield, visiting professor of gastroenterology from University College Hospital in London, who persuaded winemaking entrepreneurs Rhona and Graham Beck to assist.

Hatfield, at Groote Schuur on a three-month sabbatical, had noticed with concern the absence of any endoscopic ultrasound equipment at the hospital.

An ultrasound scanner has been built into the end of an endoscope to

give not just an endoscopic view inside the gastrointestinal tract, but also an image of the wall of the gut and the structures immediately below.

Hatfield explains that the definition obtained in this way is vastly superior to that of even the most modern computerised tomography or magnetic resonance imaging scanners.

"The technique allows for the accurate and direct needle-biopsying of a suspicious area to detect cancer without having to put the patient at risk of any external biopsy technique," he says.

Hatfield has been coming to UCT (first as a consultant and later as a visiting professor) since 1979, assisting in the upgrading of treatment techniques. **MP**

## Tailor education curricula to fit developing nations

Lack of access to universities, undeveloped distance education programs and the shortage of resources and qualified staff are just some of the issues facing higher education in Africa.

This is the opinion of Professor Venansius Baryamureeba, the vice-chancellor of Makerere University in Uganda, who spoke at a public seminar on 21 April, titled *Transformation of Universities in Post-Colonial Contexts*, co-hosted by UCT and the Mail & Guardian. The seminar was part of Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande's stakeholder summit on higher education transformation.

Baryamureeba said that Uganda, as a former British colony, had inherited its education structures and manage-

ment models from its colonialists, and had remained unchanged even after Britain's structures had progressed.

He said that while Uganda's higher education institutions had increased dramatically in quantity, the country was now focusing on quality.

"We need to bring in qualified researchers to improve what we offer," said Baryamureeba.

But he also warned that curricula can't simply be copied from educational institutions in developed nations. "We have to customise our curricula, and ensure that what we are teaching is relevant to Uganda," he said.

Professor Catherine Odora-Hoppers of the National Research Foundation at UNISA argued that producing students who could attain wealth and

status shouldn't be African universities' only concern; teaching ethical conscience and moral salience were key to creating a society in touch with its own humanity.

"Many African countries didn't opt for transformation after colonialism, but just doodled with reform. As a result, colours changed, but little else," she said.

Odora-Hoppers noted that addressing intergenerational pain and humiliation would allow for the ability to grasp the various moral contours of a problem.

"South Africa dealt with one of the most pungent forms of humiliation, but it doesn't offer a single course in humiliation studies," she said. **MP**  
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Talking change: Prof Venansius Baryamureeba, vice-chancellor of Makerere University in Uganda.



# Is there a place for 'race' in a university selection policy?

This is an edited version of vice-chancellor Dr Max Price's op-ed in the *Pretoria News*, the *Star*, and the *Cape Times* on 21 April, ahead of Minister of Education Dr Blade Nzimande's Summit on Higher Education. For the full version please go to <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/medialoped/>

One of the major topics of discussion [at the summit] will be the goal of increasing access to higher education through universities' admissions policies. A key question will be whether race can be used as a criterion in admissions policy.

The best arguments against the use of racial categorisation are based on a commitment to non-racialism. The second key argument against 'race' as a criterion is that it disadvantages white students. A selection policy should recognise ability and hard work, and should not exclude a bright white student in favour of a black student who has achieved far lower marks, solely because the latter is black.

These are the reasons we ought to move away from a 'race' based policy in the long term. We should accept it in the interim only if there is no better solution, and only if the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. In my view, this is the case.

Implicit in the objection to using 'race' is the belief that performance in the school-leaving exam is the only fair basis for rationing admission opportunities. But anyone familiar with the school system will know that the difference between students' performance in a national exam has much more to do with the school they went to, and their socioeconomic status, and the conditions under which they live and learn.

The reason for this is not hard to fathom. For a township student to overcome the odds and get 60% in the Grade 12 exam requires a degree of motivation, commitment and raw talent that far exceeds that of the average Model C or independent school student who has the cards stacked in her or his favour.

Fairness demands that we do not consider marks on their own but that



Prospective students at a UCT open day.

we moderate marks by recognising the obstacles a student has overcome in achieving those results.

There are various ways of doing this. One could design weights to be applied to the marks for different school systems. However, this does not take into account that even within a given school system there will be children with widely varying degrees of disadvantage that affect their school performance.

Another approach would be to have a test that measures academic potential uncontaminated by life opportunities, and select those with equal potential to succeed. Such a test has been the holy grail of those who research selection policy – not only because it may be more fair, but because it would grow the pool of university candidates with a high success rate. Even if such tests existed they could not stand alone, since success at

university will always be dependent on mastery of certain subjects to the necessary level. Moreover, fairness would require that motivation and hard work count as well.

Another method, which recognises potential and personal effort, is to put students with comparable degrees of disadvantage into separate baskets, and select the top performers within each basket.

Accepting that disadvantage should have a place in the selection process, why should this translate into 'race'? Statistically, 'race' is a good proxy for disadvantage, reflected by the close correlation between 'race' and class. Given South Africa's history most black people are still relatively poor, and vice versa. Most black students attend inferior schools. However, we are not talking only about poverty and the quality of the school attended, but particularly

about 'intermediate determinants' of educational disadvantage. These are factors such as home language, parents' education and their ability to support their children's learning, how early in life one started with educational toys and a stimulating environment, the aspiration inculcated from an early age that one would go on to university and the ambition and scholastic success that this engenders, and a myriad of other subtle influences.

These intermediate determinants also affect our current cohort of black students (born c 1990) from wealthy families at independent schools; as a result, they generally do not perform as well as their white classmates. Clearly this reflects differential background opportunities and support, which signals ongoing educational disadvantage. 'Race' as a criterion therefore captures the history of disadvantage, which has a

current impact not measured through household income and school.

Thus the legacy of disadvantage will probably be present for at least two generations after 1994. The use of 'race' to privilege black middle-class students from private schools in most cases compensates for ongoing educational disadvantage (the intermediate determinants), in the absence of which many of these students would have performed better. It effectively recognises potential and obstacles overcome, and therefore is not unfair to their white classmates. The proportion of black applicants that are not affected by that historical, trans-generational disadvantage is so small that very few black applicants are gaining an undeserved advantage.

Ideally, we should have a measure of disadvantage that measures not only current household income and school attended, but also the many intermediate determinants of school performance. This is complex. At UCT we are researching such measures, and hope in time that they will replace 'race'. The effort is necessary because of our commitment to non-racialism. Such a measure will also favour those white applicants whose backgrounds have adversely affected their school performance.

Finally, we believe it is important to seek out black students from relatively privileged backgrounds, because of the impact their probable success would have on our stereotypical perceptions. Destroying racist stereotypes can only be achieved if there are significant numbers of black students at UCT who do well.

I do not dispute that policies using race or disadvantage will reduce the number of white students gaining entry. But we must not forget the context in which white students still currently have access to higher education. Any reduction in opportunities for white students as a result of affirmative action is not nearly as great as it would be if the school system were fixed and there were half a million more qualified black applicants competing for the same number of university places. We need to recognise where the primary unfairness lies. **MP**



EDUCATION NEWS  
FROM AFRICA AND  
THE WORLD

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

- A Nobel prize-winning physicist was uninvited from a forthcoming conference at the Towler Institute in Italy because of his interest in the paranormal. David Peat didn't see it coming when his invite was withdrawn because his books on Jungian synchronicity and "connections between Native American thought and modern physics" were considered "tainted".
- Speaking at a business education conference at a Higher Education Academy in the UK, David Muskett, head of undergraduate programmes

- at Manchester Metropolitan University Business School, said that the 'amoral' teaching methods of UK business schools were partly responsible for the global financial crisis.
- Middlesex University is closing its philosophy programmes due to funding issues – despite the subject earning the institution its highest research ranking. The decision has been condemned by academic philosophers as well as by Middlesex students.
- The University of California in the US is investigating whether Peter Duesberg, pro-

- fessor of molecular and cell biology, violated university policies when he submitted an article denying the link between HIV and AIDS to the journal *Medical Hypotheses*.
- Seton Hall University, a Roman Catholic institution in New Jersey in the US, is debating whether to cancel a course on gay marriage after the archbishop of Newark, John Myers, said it would conflict with church teachings.
- The Great Lakes University of Kisumu in Kenya conferred US President Barack Obama's 87-year-old grandmother an honorary

- Doctorate of Letters for her charity work in feeding and educating the less fortunate.
- The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, now the world's youngest science academy and Ethiopia's first, was launched at Addis Ababa University in April.
- South African Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande said that corruption and mismanagement in the sectoral education and training authorities (SETA) would not be tolerated, and his department would shortly announce measures to be taken against corrupt SETA

- managers and those guilty of mismanagement.
- A convoy of buses transporting university students, most of them Christians, back to the University of Mosul in Iraq last week was devastated by a double bomb blast that wounded dozens of people and killed at least one bystander.
- The National Institutes of Health Organisation in the US has added 13 lines of human embryonic stem cells to the list of those eligible for federal financing, including two of the lines most widely used by researchers.



# Uber-advanced microscope debuts at UCT

“We are looking dangerously First World.”

Professor Trevor Sewell, head of UCT’s Electron Microscope Unit (EMU), was only half joking.

The handover of the new field emission (FEG) scanning electron microscope (SEM) on 22 April places the unit on the razor’s edge of scanning electron microscopy technology. It’s the only SEM of its kind in the Western Cape - although there is a similar instrument in Pretoria.

The FEG SEM – named the Nova NanoSEM by its manufacturers, the FEI Company, based in Oregon in the US – can actually see

single atoms, and the way in which they are connected to each other. It can also look at cross-sections without any damage to the object being examined.

Because of these capabilities, the microscope can be used for highly advanced research and development over a wide range of applications. The FEG SEM is capable of delivering high-resolution surface detail in areas such as semi-conductors, ceramics, plastics, nano-particles and immune-gold labelling.

The microscope is also less sensitive to charging on non-conductive materials, which means it is versatile

in biological and chemical applications.

The technology has also proven useful in addressing global concerns, such as energy, water, food, the environment, education and crime.

The acquisition of the FEG SEM is part of a R24-million revamp of the EMU – a project made possible by contributions from the Wolfson Foundation, Sasol and Anglo-American. **MP**

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Close-up: Operator Miranda Waldron with the EMU’s new Nova NanoSEM.



# Mummies, cats, bulls and dissection

Professor Graham Louw is no ordinary teacher, so it would stand to reason that his inaugural lecture would be something to talk about. Breaking the traditional inaugural lecture mould, Louw gave a fascinating insight into mummification as it relates to dissection for medical science.

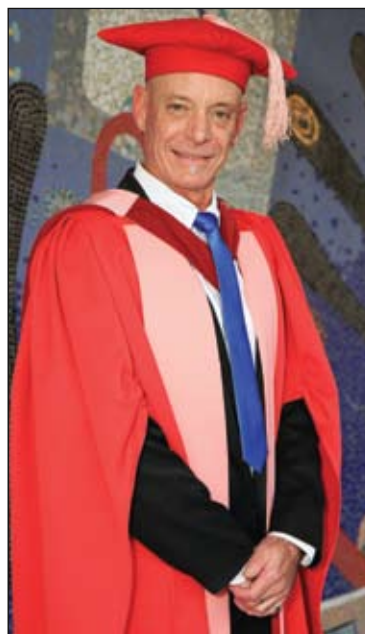
In a lecture titled *Mummy, the cat has gone missing; does she have a microchip? Mummification – a glimpse into the socio-cultural practice of preserving the bodies of animals*, Louw began by explaining how students are introduced to the science of dissection, and its importance in teaching medicine.

Dissection is described as a “rite of passage” for medical students, said Louw. So much so that many anatomy professors refer to cadavers as students’ “first patients”.

Louw explained that, culturally, it is sometimes difficult for students to reconcile their studies with their

beliefs, especially those centred around death and burial. For that reason, his introductory course is titled *Reflections on death, dying and dissection*. Areas covered include where cadavers come from and how human tissue is preserved, and no discussion on preservation would be complete without a lecture on the ancient Egyptian practice of ritual mummification of the dead.

But for Louw personally, no lecture is complete without a mention of animals. Inspired by his volunteer work at a local veterinary practice while still in high school, he originally completed a degree in veterinary science. He went on to do national service, working as a state veterinarian in centres around the country, as well as in then-South West Africa. He eventually returned to Onderstepoort to do his doctoral degree, which was in developmental neuroanatomy, and went on to teach at Onderstepoort before making the move back to Cape Town and UCT in 1987.



Digging up the past: In his inaugural lecture, Prof Graham Louw spoke of the links between mummification and modern-day dissection.

So it was no surprise to discover that animals featured prominently in Louw’s lecture, as he explained their importance in ancient Egyptian culture, from representing gods to their mummified remains being “given or dedicated in fulfilment of a wish, vow or pledge”. These votive mummies of ibises, dogs, cats, falcons, rams and even bulls have been found in tombs and temples across Egypt, and many appear to have been treated with as much care and reverence as the bodies of their owners.

“Hundreds of thousands of mummified cats were found at a particular site in Egypt in the 1880s and 1890s, and 180 000 were shipped to Liverpool to be used as fertiliser. Now I want you to remember when you buy cereal that was produced in the UK – the carbon in it comes from mummified cats,” said Louw.

He went on to explain that there was much that could be learned from

studying these animal mummies – from the degree of domestication of the animals to veterinary practices and the international trade in animals at the time, because several of the mummified animals were either not indigenous to the country, or have since become extinct in Egypt.

Louw closed the loop in his lecture by examining modern rituals relating to animals and death, from animal sacrifice through to taxidermy and having Fido bronzed after he passes on, and keeping the remains in the living room.

At the core of Louw’s inaugural lecture was the understanding of the need for respect for the dead, both human and animal, and how this forms the cornerstone of the teaching of anatomy.

He ended his talk with the words: “A mind stretched by new ideas never regains its original dimensions.” **MP**  
Melanie.Jackson@uct.ac.za

# National honours no tall order for UCT trio

Among the South Africans honoured with National Orders by President Jacob Zuma on 27 April were three recipients with UCT ties.

Following in the wake of a growing procession of UCT scholars to receive the Order of Mapungubwe, made to South Africans who have “accomplished excellence and exceptional achievement to the benefit of South Africa and beyond”, Professors Doug Butterworth and Johann Lutjeharms were presented with the award in Silver. Butterworth, of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, received his award for his “excellent contribution to the betterment of the environment and sustainability of fisheries; and Lutjeharms, of the Department of Oceanography, for his “excellent contribution to and achievements in oceanographic science”.

The third UCT-affiliated recipient was social activist Dorothy ‘Dot’ Cleminshaw, who holds an honorary doctorate – presented to her in 2002 – from UCT. Cleminshaw received the Order of Luthuli from the President,



Highest order: Honorary graduate Dorothy Cleminshaw (represented by her son, Martin Cleminshaw), Prof Doug Butterworth and Prof Johann Lutjeharms (pictured above) were honoured with National Orders by President Jacob Zuma.

in honour of her “excellent contribution to the struggle for an equal, just and democratic society”. The Order of Luthuli recognises those who have contributed to the struggle for democracy, nation-building, human rights, justice,

peace and the resolution of conflict.

Cleminshaw could not make it to Pretoria for the ceremony, so her son Martin received the award on her behalf. **MP**

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



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## New bursary for 25 UCT students

Twenty-five new UCT students will be fully supported by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation through their Dell Young Leaders programme, which they are introducing to South Africa.

But the support isn't purely financial. The programme takes a 'wrap-around' approach, equipping students to graduate, gain employment and achieve professionally in the long term. This means students receive backing not only in terms of tuition fees, but also with technology, resources and mentoring to ensure they have the support they need to graduate and enter the workforce successfully.

Initially aimed at commerce and law students, the scholarships (worth R150 000 each) will be awarded to students who have shown extraordinary potential, but who don't have the financial means to study at tertiary level.

"The Dell Young Leaders programme is an opportunity for us to help build future leaders of South Africa by ensuring talented students are not locked out because of financial hurdles," says Michael Dell, co-founder of the Dell Family Foundation. "We are very excited to be working with UCT, given its reputation for supporting first-

generation university students who develop into competent and capable graduates."

The foundation's focus is to improve the lives of children living in urban poverty around the world. With offices in Austin in the US, Cape Town, and New Delhi in India, it funds programmes that foster high-quality public education and childhood health, and which improve the economic stability of families living in poverty. The foundation has committed more than \$650 million to global children's issues and community initiatives to date. **MP**  
Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za



Enabling learning: Attending the launch of the Dell Young Leaders programme on 22 April were (from left) Tamara Esau, Janet Mountain, Caitlin Baron of the Dell Foundation, and Dr Jim McNamara (Development and Alumni Department).

## Chemistry bonds with three chairs

With two recent appointments the Department of Chemistry has filled all three of its named chairs, for the first time in several years. To mark this stroke of timing and design, the department hosted an Extraordinary Seminar on 20 April, titled *Chemistry: State of the union*, in which the three incumbents – Professors Mino Caira, Timothy Egan and Roger Hunter – reported on the current state of affairs in their respective fields.

So Caira, Professor of Physical Chemistry, spoke both of the "thread of theory" that runs through physical chemistry, and of the challenges facing the teaching of this sub-discipline; using publication and citation statistics as markers, Egan (the Jamison Professor of Inorganic Chemistry) talked of the promising recovery of research in inorganic chemistry in South Africa over the past 10 years; while Hunter, the Mally Professor of Organic Chemistry, compared UCT programmes with those of institutions in the UK, a comparison that some-



The right chemistry: Profs Allen Rodgers, Timothy Egan, Mino Caira and Roger Hunter at the Department of Chemistry's Extraordinary Seminar.

times favoured UCT, and sometimes did not.

The filling of all three posts heralds a new era for research and teaching of chemistry at UCT, said departmental head Professor Allen Rodgers.

"In appointing these three professors, the department is looking to them for leadership, for direction, and for expression of their own visions for the healthy progression of their respective sub-disciplines." **MP**  
Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

## Workshop lays out the law

Professor Abdulkader Tayob headed to Kenya in March for a special workshop, in which he and a group of Kenyan-based scholars met to discuss the role and status of Kadhis' Courts – presided over by judicial officers who adjudicate family matters according to Shariah Law – in that country.

Kenya have been re-writing their constitution since the early 1990s, Tayob explains, in a bid to decentralise power in a system inherited from colonial times.

One unexpected and contentious aspect of this review has been the provision for Kadhis' Courts (the Swahili word for judge) in the country's legislative framework.

"Some Christians, not all, have argued that these special Islamic courts privilege one religion – Islam – over others," says Tayob, director of UCT's Centre for Contemporary Islam (CCI). "On the other hand, Muslims generally believe that some legal adjudication is absolutely in the practice of their religion."

At the meeting, scholars presented papers on the history of the Kadhis' Courts, their evolution, present roles and the public debate around these courts.



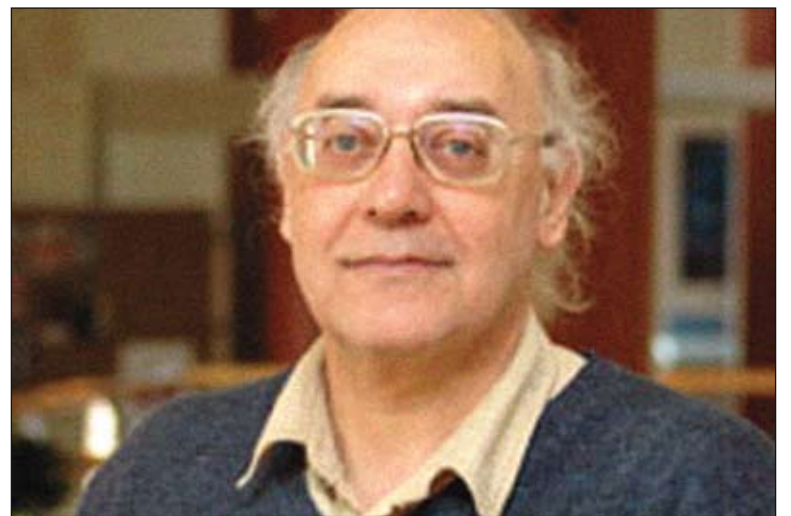
Courting agreement: Delegates at the Kenya workshop share their thoughts on the highly-debated subject of Kadhis' Courts. (Photo by Prof Abdulkader Tayob.)

The workshop highlighted the increased activism of Christian and Muslim groups in Kenya, and their impact on political and legal matters that affect nation and state, reports Tayob.

The workshop was organised

by the CCI, in collaboration with St Paul's University in Kenya and under the auspices of the centre's National Research Foundation-funded project on Islam, African Publics and Religious Values. **MP**

## Shain on Protocols – an anti-Semitic hoax



Dissecting propaganda: Prof Milton Shain, director of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, delivered GIPCA's Great Text/Big Questions lecture on 22 April.

*Warrant for Genocide: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* was Professor Milton Shain's topic for UCT's Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA) *Great Text/Big Questions* lecture on 22 April.

Shain examined the history of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and the "warm reception it has received worldwide".

First published in Russian in 1903, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* has been described as the world's biggest literary forgery. But some still believe it is evidence of a Jewish plot for world domination, despite intensive research proving otherwise.

Used as an anti-Semitic, anti-communist and political propaganda tool in Russia, the USA and Nazi Germany, the text is still widely available in the Arab world, according to Shain.

Claimed originally to have been stolen from a secret Jewish organisation in the late 19th century, the so-called 'original' text has never been uncovered. Research indicates that *The Protocols* are a forgery, mostly plagiarised from a work of fiction by French political satirist

Maurice Joly, titled *Dialogue aux Enfers entre Montesquieu et Machiavel* (A Dialogue in Hell Between Montesquieu and Machiavelli). This work was first published in 1864, and translated into Russian in 1872.

In the first English version, which first appeared in the US in 1919, the word 'Jew' was replaced throughout with 'Bolshevik'.

GIPCA director Dr Rob Baum said, "*The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is a highly contentious and horrific hoax that emerges every few years. Its recurrence is itself cause for question. What makes inflammatory language – hate speech, directed at any people – so compelling?"

Shain teaches Modern Jewish History and is Director of UCT's Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research. He has written and edited several books on South African Jewish history, South African politics, and the history of anti-Semitism.

For more information on dates and speakers in GIPCA's *Great Texts/Big Questions* series of lectures, visit [www.gipca.uct.ac.za](http://www.gipca.uct.ac.za) or email Ashley Miles on [ash.miles@uct.ac.za](mailto:ash.miles@uct.ac.za). **MP**  
Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

## New staff

Has anyone new joined your team recently? If so, we'd like to introduce them to the UCT community on this page. To pass on details, please give Morgan Morris a call on ext 4145 or email [Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za](mailto:Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za)



## EVENTS

**Department Of Medicine 4pm**

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

13 May 2010: Prof Michael Kew – “The First Anti-Cancer Vaccine”  
20 May 2010: Prof Bernard Gersh – (Dept of Medicine Visitor): An update on Stem Cells  
27 May 2010: Prof Marc Blockman – Talk on “CPC’S”

**Philosophy Society Meeting:**

Title: Being responsible for our mental life  
Dr. Jeremy Wanderer (Philosophy, UCT)

Date: Tuesday 11 May 2010  
Time: 20H00

Venue: Room LS6C, 6th Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building.

For more details: Contact 021 6503316

**Teaching and Learning Symposium**

Celebrating and learning from achievements made through innovative teaching practices at UCT.

Date: 1 June 2010  
Time: 09:00

Venue: Centre for African Studies Gallery

Kindly RSVP to Zone.Mdledle@uct.ac.za no later than Monday 24 May.

## VACANT POSTS

**EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:**

**Veterinarian** (Lecturer/Senior Lecturer level), Animal Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 14 May 2010.

**Deputy Director** (At Associate Professor Level), Clinical Infectious Diseases Research Initiative, Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 17 May 2010.

**Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer**, Department of Political Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 19 May 2010.

**Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer** in Finance (2 Posts), School of Management Studies, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 21 May 2010.

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** Landscape Architecture, School

of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Closing date: 28 May 2010.

**Senior Lecturer:** City & Regional Planning (2 Posts), School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Closing date: 28 May 2010.

**Chair:** Comparative African Law, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 15 June 2010.

**RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)**

**IT Officer**, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 10 May 2010.

**Project Leader**, Institute of Infectious Diseases & Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 May 2010.

**Radiology Research Assistant** (Part-time), Department of Radiation Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 14 May 2010.

**Chief Geochronologist & Laboratory Manager**, Africa Earth Observatory Network (AEON), Faculty of Science, Closing date: 18 May 2010.

**Administration Manager**, Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED), closing date: 24 May 2010.

**University Ombud**, Office of the Ombud, Closing date: 25 May 2010.

**INTERNAL PASS POSTS**

**Administrative Officer**, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 14 May 2010.

*To view the full advertisements and application requirements for each post, please visit [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za) and click on “Vacancies”*

## PROPERTY

**Rosebank:** Secure, fully equipped, 3 bed 2 bath home with garage. Lovely garden with deck and patio area. Ideal for visiting academics and staff at UCT. Avail 1 June for short and medium lets. R3000 per week. Contact: Pauline 0784199482.

**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

**Accommodation wanted:** Visiting Academic with a family of 6 (2 Adults 4 Children). Temporary accommodation near Uct from May to September 2010. Rent indication R5000 to R7000. Contact: Damaris 0714250859 or 0216502562 or email: Damaris.Mbui@uct.ac.za

**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](http://www.ivydeneguesthouse.com)

**Pinelands:** Very pleasant garden flat, fully furnished. R3200pm. Would suit visiting academic or postgraduate student. Available immediately. Contact Marina 0833009530

**Zeekoeivlei:** For Sale, 3 Bedroomed, 2 Bathrooms, double carport, large plot (630sqm). R800 000. Contact: 0824134441.

**Gardens:** Great loft in Hope Street. Compact, secure and full of wonderful light. Balcony with view over city, Signal Hill. On street parking. Quick access to De Waal Dr. Unfurnished. R4000, 2 month deposit. Contact: Adam 0729988210.

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## FOR SALE

**Lounge Suite:** Mink upper leather sofas. 1 x 3 seater, 1 x 2 seater, 1 x 1 seater. Can seat 8 people comfortably. Good

condition (2-seaters have small tears). R3500. Contact: Lucinda Reddy, 0216501006.

**Car:** 1995 Toyota Carolla 130. Excellent condition. FSH, towbar, SS exhaust, newish tyres. R32000. CASH, NOT NEGOTIABLE. Contact: Chris at [wrensargent@rondebosch.com](mailto:wrensargent@rondebosch.com)

**Zeekoeivlei:** For Sale, 3 Bedroomed, 2 Bathrooms, double carport, large plot (630sqm). R800 000. Contact: 0824134441.

**Car:** 1995 Uno 1100, 113 000km, Navy Blue, in daily use. R16000 neg. Contact: 0216861608 or 0825934871

**Car:** Toyota Conquest 1300, 186000km, Turquoise, in daily use. R19000neg. Contact: 0216861608 or 0825934871

**Washing Machine:** Speed Queen, top loader, 7.5kg R7900. Hardly used. Contact: 0823506227 or 0216502569 or email: [karin001@gmail.com](mailto:karin001@gmail.com)

**Tumble Dryer:** Speed Queen 7.5kg R4900. Hardly used. Contact: 0823506227 or 0216502569 or email: [karin001@gmail.com](mailto:karin001@gmail.com)

**Car:** 2001 Metallic Green Citi Golf 1.3 - 153000kms. 5 Speed. Fuel injection, alarm and central locking. R37000. Contact: [candice.king@uct.ac.za](mailto:candice.king@uct.ac.za).

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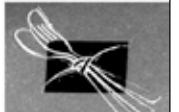
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# Blind soccer takes to the pitch



Blind side: Maximilian Huber of the SHAWCO team tries to stop Jongikhaya Guzana of the LoFoB team, while blindfolded Lisa Wallace (SHAWCO) and Stanley Rhodes (at back) try to keep track of the game.

With a morning of blind soccer (aka futsal) on Saturday 1 May, UCT Disability Services made a bid to champion disability sport once more, highlighting the role that it plays in the lives of people with disabilities at UCT.

For this occasion, Disability Services teamed up with Sport & Recreation, the Students' Representative Council and the League of Friends of the Blind (LoFoB), a Cape Town-based community organisation. In addition, the likes of the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) and Graça Machel Hall fielded teams on the day.

"The aim was to create awareness around disability issues generally, but also to focus on bringing disability sports into the mainstream of the sporting environment, especially at a place like UCT that's so involved in sports," said Nafisa Mayat, disability advocacy co-ordinator at Disability Services. "And we wanted to create awareness that people with disabilities

are involved in sport, and that they're out there playing these sports."

The event also allowed a few UCT students to get a sense of what it means to be blind, donning sleeping masks to level the playing fields, as it were. The game, normally played indoors, was even trickier on this occasion, as players struggled to hear the ball – fitted with a bell – on the soft Kopano turf.

"It was a strange experience, and I was quite lost at times," said SHAWCO player Maximilian Huber.

For the likes of Jongikhaya Guzana and Sirjel January of the LoFoB team – both competitive soccer players until they lost their sight – it was fun to be back on a pitch.

"I used to wonder how I was going to play football again, and this has given me the chance to do so," said Guzana.

"It's more fun to play now, because it's not so competitive," added January. <sup>MP</sup>

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

# Ultimate's ambitions thrown for a loop

UCT's first team had high hopes for their campaign at the National Ultimate Championships, held at Bergvliet High over the weekend of 1 and 2 May. (See <http://www.uct.ac.za/dailynews/archives/?id=7341> for our previous article on the sport and UCT's new-found club.) In the end, though, the side had to settle for a disappointing seventh place. UCT won

four out of its five pool games, losing only to the Wynberg-based Chilli, the 2008, 2009 and eventual 2010 champions. Along the way, however, Jon Luries, one of UCT's on-field captains and key to the team's offensive plays, had to bow out after suffering a fractured finger. His omission may have cost UCT dearly as they lost their quarter-final match to Uganda by 8-10. A win

and a defeat in their two subsequent play-off games earned them a final seeding of seven, well short of their semi-final ambitions. More pleased with the outcome of their tournament was the UCT B squad who, despite one player breaking a collar bone, finished a satisfying 10th out of the competition's 12 teams. <sup>MP</sup>  
Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

# Students in dirty water

Workers' Day on 1 May saw no relaxation for members of the UCT Underwater Club, with hard graft of a different sort.

Around 40 participants spent the morning cleaning out garbage from the seafloor at the False Bay Yacht Club in Simon's Town. Named cleanDIVER, part of the Underwater Club's DIVER outreach brand, the event aimed to create awareness about marine pollution, and to remove some of that pollution.

The club also promoted and raised funds for its principal beneficiary, the Save our Seas Shark Centre, which is based in Kalk Bay ([www.saveourseas.com/sossc-za](http://www.saveourseas.com/sossc-za)).

The rubbish collected, which is still being audited before being sent to recyclers, included mountains of booze bottles, plastic wrappers, an entire crockery and tea set, a boat pump, a windshield and lots of rope.

Students even extracted an old



The deep end: UCT students did their best to curb water pollution by cleaning up the seafloor at the False Bay Yacht Club. (Picture courtesy of Sophia van Coller.)

canoe, which SANParks marine enforcers had to fetch with their boat due to its weight.

Event organiser Raymond Siebrits summed up the atmosphere

in thanking the students with a stern statement: "You are the future of environmental protection, the future of advocacy and the fight against apathy." <sup>MP</sup>

# Trying times for hockey

It's been a yo-yo season for UCT's women's hockey A team.

Two wins and two defeats – the latest a 0-1 loss to Central on 1 May – in their first four games in the Western Province Hockey Union's Ladies Grand Challenge (LGC) has lifted the side to fourth spot, but with a couple of teams still with games in hand, they could drop down a few spots still.

(The UCT B team, in the meantime, is anchored at the bottom of the log with three defeats in their three games. They've also conceded 20 goals and have yet to net one of their own.)

And with the youthful UCT A in rebuilding mode, it's unlikely that 2010 will see them return to the heights achieved not too long ago, when they were consistently the second-best side in the LGC, only playing second fiddle to a Stellenbosch outfit brimming with national players. For now, the team is made up mostly of first-years – such as SA under-19 player Amy Freakes – and second-years, with only one or two senior players around.

"It's a young side," says the squad's coach, Matthew McConkey. "There's lots of talent there, but it all just needs

to come together, and we need to start performing."

This year may be a tricky time to do that. Those Stellenbosch players have now been distributed among some of the other LGC sides, which may have weakened the Maties but has invigorated the likes of log leaders Western Province Cricket Club A, Somerset West and Pinelands.

But McConkey still has a spot in the top four in mind for his young players.

For now. <sup>MP</sup>  
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