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Postgrad students dominate mid-year graduation

While the Mother City prepares to welcome thousands of world cup soccer fans, UCT is gearing up for a mid-year celebration of its own. Some 1 638 candidates (including the Graduate School of Business) will graduate from its six academic faculties on 3 and 4 June, among them 673 postgraduate students. They will include 66 PhDs, 23 of whom will graduate from the science faculty.

The Faculty of Commerce will award 686 diplomas, certificates and degrees (2009: 632); the Faculty of Humanities 220 (2009: 209); the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment 101 (2009: 135); the

Faculty of Science 92 (2009: 106); the Faculty of Health Sciences 100 (2009: 109); and the Faculty of Law 71 (2009: 87).

UCT will also award five honorary doctorates and various institutional awards (see pages 2 and 4), including the 2009 UCT Book Award and the first UCT Creative Works Award. This recognises outstanding creative compositions, performances, or architectural designs produced by UCT staff within the past five years.

In what is believed to be a milestone for UCT, the first woman orator, Professor Alison Lewis, head of the Crystallisation and Precipitation

Research Unit in the Department of Chemical Engineering, will deliver the citations for the honorary doctoral candidates.

At 47, Lewis is probably among the youngest – if not the youngest – of the university's recent orators. Succeeding Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson, it's thought that Lewis is the first woman to be formally appointed to the position. (Although registrar Hugh Amoore reports that women have donned the gown on ad hoc occasions.)

And although she will not preside at this year's June ceremonies, UCT will also celebrate Graça Machel's re-

appointment as chancellor. In March, Machel, listed in the annual *Time* 100 issue (Time May 10, 2010) as one of the world's most influential people, was elected unopposed as chancellor of UCT for a second term. 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. UCT's first chancellor, Edward, Prince of Wales, later to be Edward VIII and the Duke of Windsor, took office from 1918 until his accession. He

was succeeded by General Jan Smuts, who was chancellor until his death in 1950. The next chancellor, who held office until 1967, was Chief Justice of South Africa Albert van der Sandt Centlivres. He was succeeded by Harry Oppenheimer.

Until Oppenheimer decided to retire after 29 years in office, the chancellor held office for life. At that stage a change was made to the statute; a chancellor could be elected for a 10-year, renewable term of office, and by an electoral college rather than by a vote in Convocation. Machel was the first to be elected under the new dispensation.

Consolidate Afropolitanism in teaching and learning – Nhlapo

Support from the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund will underpin strategic academic and research exchanges with African universities, said deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo at the culmination of the Celebrating Africa programme of lectures, exhibitions and seminars, held from 18 to 29 May in partnership with Iziko Museums of Cape Town.

At the heart of the programme was Africa Day on 25 May. And while the campus presented a full suite of events, so too did Iziko, having enlisted UCT researchers such as Associate Professor Fritha Langerman and Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan.

On International Museum Day, 18 May, Langerman delivered a talk on display and perception in museums of natural history. Chinsamy-Turan opened the African Dinosaur Exhibition on 29 May.

But four major events at UCT on Africa Day underscored what the university means by internationalisation with an Afropolitan niche, Nhlapo said.

"Afropolitanism is about UCT taking advantage of its geographical location to excel in Africa-generated knowledge, a process that works better in collaboration with others who share the same passion. Nowhere was this more evident than during the lunchtime panel discussion, where several speakers examined the state of democracy in Africa through different lenses. At the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture the personable Dr Marta Lahr took us through humankind's exciting history. All this happened against a



Lens on Africa: DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo at the UCT Connections exhibition.

backdrop of a wide-ranging exhibition of the work of UCT scholars across African borders."

Nhlapo said he saw his role in promoting Afropolitanism as lying not so much in the signing of memoranda of understanding, but in helping those at UCT who have already forged African links to improve, deepen and expand these collaborations.

"An audit of existing links and a reliable database is an obvious way to go. So was a strong showing on Africa Day, unapologetically trumpeting our Africa-facing intentions with an expanded range of events and wider publicity.

"I believe we achieved this in 2010, with the collaboration with Iziko Museums of Cape Town, another sym-

bolic link that widens our repertoire."

He added: "More difficult will be putting in place measures that will generate movement in those aspects of Afropolitanism that relate to teaching and learning. The buy-ins of deans, heads of department and academics will be crucial here.

"It is hoped that when the traffic between UCT and other continental

institutions is fully on the go, there will be no shortage of continental expertise to strengthen our own offering. The vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, has given the lead here by putting up a strategic fund to support such exchanges."

(See pages 5 and 6 for coverage of Celebrating Africa and Africa Day events.)



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

Five honorary doctorates to be awarded at mid-year grad

A paediatrician, an educator, a photographer, a human rights jurist and former reserve Bank governor – all of whom have garnered international renown – will receive honorary doctorates from UCT at the mid-year graduation ceremonies on 3 and 4 June.

Former Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni will be awarded an honorary DEconSc on 3 June. Professor Jerry Coovadia will be awarded the degree of DSc (Med) (honoris causa) on 4 June. At the same graduation ceremony, photographer Peter Magubane will receive a DLitt (honoris causa), and educator Victor Ritchie an honorary DEd degree. Later that day, unionist, academic and competition law specialist David Lewis will be awarded the degree of DEconSc (honoris causa).

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said UCT's honorary degrees recognise outstanding contributions by extraordinary people.

"The nominees have made an impact far larger than most in their fields, going beyond the call of duty, affecting the lives of others, impacting society and providing a heritage that will stand for generations to come. We are proud to honour them in this way."



Tito Mboweni was born in 1959 and raised in Tzaneen. He enrolled for a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of the North in 1979, but went into exile in Lesotho in 1980. There he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science from the National University of Lesotho, in 1985. Two years later he qualified with a Master of Arts degree in Development Economics from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom.

A strong ANC activist and leader, Mboweni served as the deputy head of the Department of Economic Policy in the ANC. He was chairperson of the National Executive Committee's Economic Transformation Committee, which

co-ordinated the development of the ANC's economic policies. In 1997, Mboweni was made head of the ANC's Policy Department, which was responsible for managing ANC policy processes.

In May 1994 he was appointed the Minister of Labour in President Mandela's cabinet, a position he held until July 1998.

Upon joining the South African Reserve Bank as Advisor to the Governor in 1998, he resigned all of his elected and appointed positions in the ANC. Mboweni served as Governor of the South African Reserve Bank from 1999 to 2009.

He has contributed to ensuring stability in the transition to democracy and bringing about the prosperity we now experience.



Professor Jerry Coovadia is a world-renowned leader in child health and disease, and a leader in the struggle for a democratic South Africa. He is both a national and an international figure in paediatric medicine, and a world authority in the field of HIV/AIDS.

He obtained his MBBS from the University of Bombay in 1965, followed by the College of Medicine examination in 1971 (FCP), an MSc from the University of Birmingham in 1974, and an MD from the former University of Natal in 1978.

Coovadia was previously the head of the department of paediatrics and child health at the former University of Natal until 2000, then held the Victor Daitz Professorship for HIV/AIDS research. He is currently emeritus professor of paediatrics and child health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and recently joined the University of the Witwatersrand (in their Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health unit) as a director of HIV management.

He is internationally recognised for his revolutionary research in HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to child, particularly through breastfeeding.

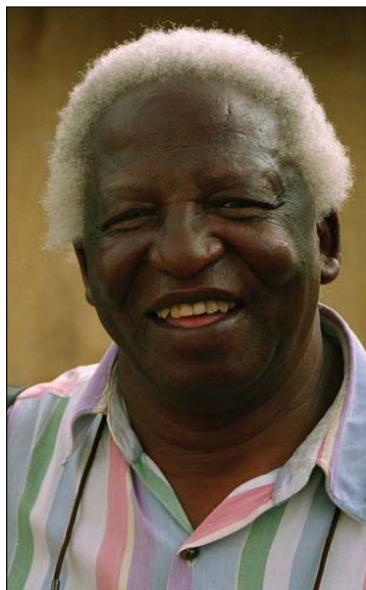
He has dedicated himself to the development of research by supervising over 40 postgraduate students,

as well as teaching in the medical, nursing and allied health professions for over 20 years.

He chaired the 13th International Conference on AIDS held in Durban in 2000, and took a principled stand in challenging the Mbeki government's policy on AIDS.

Professor Coovadia received the Star of South Africa from former President Nelson Mandela for his contribution to democracy in South Africa. In 1999, he netted the Medical Research Council's Silver Medal for his achievements in the field of medical research.

In 2004 Professor Coovadia received the Science for Society Gold Medal of the Academy of Science of South Africa for his achievements in the field of medical science, and he has been appointed a commissioner in the newly-formed National Planning Commission in the Presidency.



Peter Magubane photographed the unfolding story of South Africa's liberation over 50 years. His work has appeared in newspapers and books, and has been exhibited globally.

Magubane grew up in Sophiatown, taking his first photographs with a Brownie camera as a schoolboy. He started working at Drum magazine as a driver and messenger, but was trained as a darkroom assistant and later assigned to cover the 1955 ANC convention in Bloemfontein. He went on to cover many important political events of the 1950s, including the treason trials and demonstrations against the pass laws.

Magubane joined the Rand Daily Mail in 1967 and was arrested two years later while photographing protestors outside Winnie Mandela's jail cell. He was later banned from taking any photographs for five years. In March 1971 he was arrested again, and spent 98 days in solitary confinement, followed by a regular jail term of six months. When the banning order was lifted he resumed work for the Rand Daily Mail, documenting the Soweto student uprisings from June to August of 1976 and being arrested again shortly thereafter.

Coverage of the uprisings earned

him worldwide acclaim and led to international photographic and journalistic awards, one of which was the American National Professional Photographers Association Humanistic Award in 1986, in recognition of one of several incidents in which he put his camera aside and intervened to prevent people from being killed. He also received the Martin Luther King Luthuli Award, the Mother Jones – Leica Lifetime Achievement Award and the Order for Meritorious Service from former President Nelson Mandela. He was awarded honorary fellowship by the Royal Photographic Society.

Magubane now documents surviving traditional communities in post-apartheid South Africa.



Victor Ritchie played a principled role as an educator and leader who successfully resisted the imposition of racially segregated and inferior education during the apartheid era.

Born in Kimberley in 1930, he attended UCT, where he obtained his BSc degree majoring in maths, chemistry and physics in 1950, and a Secondary Teaching Certificate in 1951.

In 1952 he began a teaching career of 33 years at Harold Cressy High School. Despite the basic physical facilities, Ritchie and his colleagues – working closely with parents and students – promoted principles, values and educational practices that were critical in establishing the school as a 'professional learning centre'. These included cultivating a culture of teaching and learning in the school, while strenuously rejecting racism, sexism, social inequalities and individualism.

He was formally appointed principal in 1969.

Under his leadership, Harold Cressy High School became a premier high school for people of colour, and an outstanding school overall. It also became one of the most important feeder schools to UCT, and more deliberately so when the University of the Western Cape was established as a university for people classified as coloured. He ensured his pupils received the very best education, so that they weren't

destined for institutions constructed according to race.

The school was faced with the threat of closure through the Group Areas Act. It was due to his leadership that the school resisted its removal from District Six, and today stands as a landmark and reminder of what was lost with the destruction of the area.

In 1985, during one of many student uprisings spanning its history, Harold Cressy High took a principled stand that formal lessons be replaced by political-awareness classes. The chairperson of the Parent, Teachers' and Students' Association and two teachers were jailed, while Ritchie and six senior teachers were suspended without pay. The school body decided unanimously not to write the final exams but to repeat the academic year in 1986.

Ritchie retired as principal in 1991, but shortly thereafter continued his teaching activity through a series of community-service initiatives, including a mathematics school for under-achieving matrics.

David Lewis, unionist and academic, graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand with a BCom in 1970 before enrolling at UCT, where he graduated with a BA (Hons) in economics in 1972 and an MA in economics in 1974.

His life's work has focused on serving to uplift the poor and marginalised, addressing social issues and broad-based economic development.

Lewis served as general secretary of the General Workers Union between 1975 and 1985, and then as national organiser of the goods transport section of the Transport and General Workers Union until 1990.

He worked as an academic at UCT from 1990 to 2000, teaching and publishing with distinction. He was a founder and director of the Development Policy Research Unit – a major research unit still in existence at UCT – and a director of the Industrial Strategy Project – one of the largest research endeavours housed at UCT, and with great influence on government policy post-1994.

Lewis was adviser to then-Minister of Labour Tito Mboweni from 1994 to 1996; an adviser to the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC); a National Research Foundation board member from 1999 to 2002; co-chair of the Presidential Commission of Enquiry into Labour Market Policy; and board member of the Industrial Development Corporation from 1995 to 2009.

He was also a member of the World Trade Organisation working group on the interaction between trade and competitions policy, and vice-chair and chairperson of the steering group of the International Competition Network. Lewis also serves on the boards of the Johannesburg Development Agency and South African Airways. **MP**

Kids have a mountain to climb in Lavender Hill

Over the 10 years that she's worked in Lavender Hill, Dr Roshan Galvaan has learnt a thing or two about the kinds of choices made by children in this southern Cape Flats suburb, ill-reputed for its crime, gangsterism and unemployment.

"Some of the children were sometimes described in pathological terms, but it wasn't that – it was just that they didn't know a different way of being. So while they were behaving in ways that looked maladaptive, they were actually just trying to cope with the environment they were confronted with," Galvaan said back in 2003, four years into Facing Up: Creating Opportunities, a programme set up and run by her and other occupational therapists and students to help troubled school learners in Lavender Hill.

This week, Galvaan graduates with a doctoral degree from the Division of Occupational Therapy, work in which she has explored not just the children's behaviour and choices, but also how and why they're made. In this ethnographic study she tracked seven primary-school children – aged around 11 when the work started – and their activities for two years, spending as much time as she could with them, their families and peers.

Just before this, she ran a youth risk-behaviour survey that, yes, confirmed everybody's worst assumptions about life in Lavender Hill. Poverty

and unemployment? Check. Smoking and drug abuse? Check. Violence? Check.

"So the picture that one has of Lavender Hill was confirmed," Galvaan says.

Her study filled in the missing parts of that picture, in more ways than one. Other than just following them around, she also handed the kids disposable cameras, asked them to take snaps of themselves and their peers, and then had them speak to those shots (A technique that's much better, she found, then just bombarding them with questions in an interview.)

She learned that the children's decisions were influenced by their peers. That families often abdicated responsibility to those peer groups. That, though they attached themselves to taxi drivers, they generally avoided the company of 'judgemental' adults. That spending hours wandering from house to house deciding how to spend their time was in itself a treasured activity. That they self-fulfilled their low expectations of themselves. But also that they were innovative, intelligent and street-smart, whether it's making a few rand, getting together ingredients for potjiekos, or hustling a lift to the nearby Muizenberg beach.

The main influence on the children's lives, though, was Lavender Hill, says Galvaan. That includes eve-



Downtown: In trying to understand children's behaviour in Lavender Hill, Dr Roshan Galvaan got to grips with their contexts.

rything from the school system, their family structures, their peer groups and the subcultures they are part of.

"If you want to understand the children's choices, you have to find

out more about the context they're in."

That context is something that Galvaan believes occupational therapy can have a hand in shaping. One way would be to appoint specialist oc-

cupational therapists to schools, she suggests.

But that, she admits, could take even more time.

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Balancing act: Dr Majedah Ismail will graduate this week after completing her MFamMed degree. She was photographed with her son, Maahir, and husband, Dr Moegamad Shukri Raban.

Ismail juggles motherhood, master's and medicine

A full-time medical master's is a time-consuming enough – but Dr Majedah Ismail somehow also managed to squeeze in getting married, having a baby, and starting work on the second while completing her MFamMed.

And with all this added to her work-load as a full-time doctor and managing an antiretroviral clinic, it's no surprise that Ismail's road to her master's was more challenging than most.

"It was difficult at times," admits Ismail. "I had to juggle work, getting married to a doctor who was also studying at the time – he qualified as a paediatrician in September 2009 – and having a baby on 17 December 2008. So yes, my hands have been full."

Ismail's master's on how patients with HIV manage neuropathic pain – an extreme leg pain common in pa-

tients with HIV – is another achievement in her diverse range of skills, which includes a diploma on HIV and a course on travel medicine.

"I would not have made it this far without the support of my family, my colleagues, as well as my supervisors, Dr Beverley Schweitzer and Dr Jeanine Heckmann, who have been a real inspiration to me and pushed me to go forward when I lacked the energy and motivation to do so."

Now, with her second child expected to arrive sometime this week, Ismail expects her studies to take a back seat – at least for a short while.

"As for future plans, having a baby is priority number one for now," says Ismail. "But then I'm also thinking of what I could study next! Although I did say, 'not again' at the time."

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When work is a pain in the neck

The clothing manufacturing industry is a stressful working environment, a snarl of long hours, uncomfortable working quarters and the ever-looming threat of retrenchments possibly behind the industry's notoriously high absenteeism.

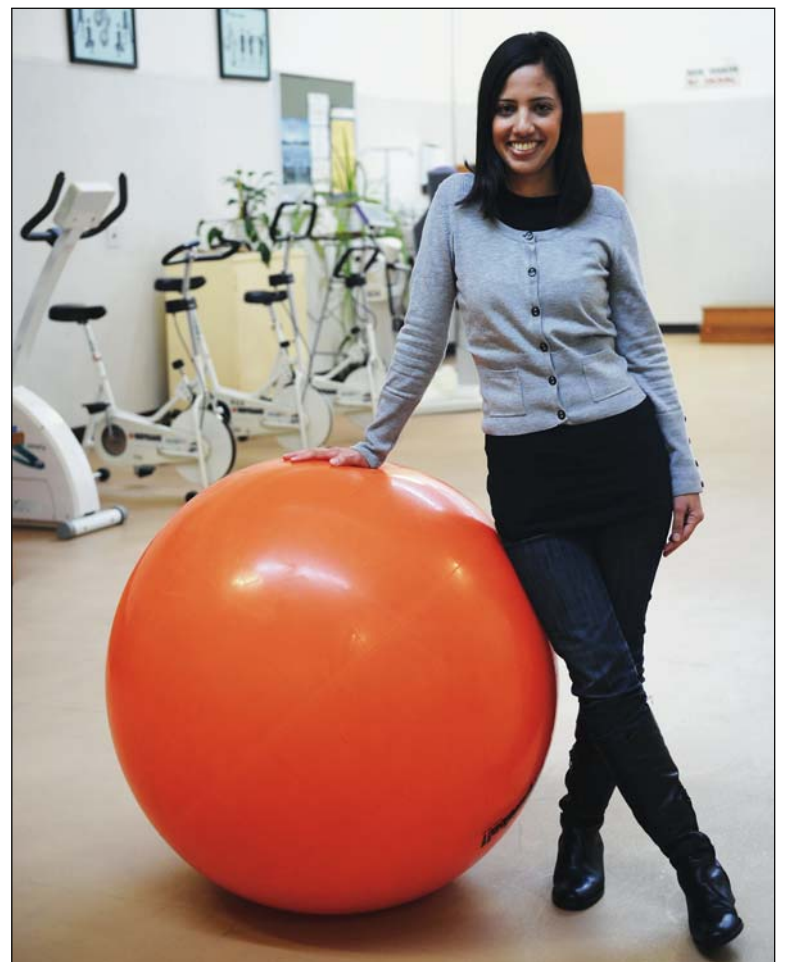
In addition, the repetitive nature of the work triggers a clutch of chronic musculoskeletal ills, from lower-back pain to sore necks and shoulder aches. And while standard physiotherapeutic interventions are common, they are often of the curative kind that tackle the symptoms but not the causes.

Naila Edries, who graduates with a master's degree from the Division of Physiotherapy this week, wanted to see if a new kind of intervention could make a difference. Opting for a more preventative approach, she applied what's known in physiotherapy as cognitive behavioural therapy, in which patients are encouraged to identify problems and change their thinking and health-risk behaviour.

For her study she randomly divided 80 workers from three clothing factories in the Cape Town metropole into two groups; a control group of 41 who were invited to a once-off health promotion session, and an experimental group of 39 with whom she spent one hour a week for six weeks. Each hour would include an information session in which she discussed topics such as health risks, goal setting, ways to start and sustain an exercise programme and the like, as well as a 30-minute aerobic and stretching exercise session.

Edries didn't expect so many significant improvements over a programme of just six weeks, so she was pleasantly surprised by the outcome.

"Overall, the implementation of the Employee Wellness Programme, based on the principles of cognitive behaviour



Hard worker: Naila Edries wanted to see if she could improve health and wellbeing among clothing workers.

therapy, was beneficial in improving the employees' perceived health-related quality of life, the amount of exercise the participants were engaging in, perceived stress levels and a significant reduction in body mass index," says Edries.

Although the experimental group fared better in all areas than those in the control group, there was also an overall reduction in absenteeism over the study period.

These results may well be a case of the programme being much more than just the sum of its parts.

"Because the study was implemented during a period of considerable tension amongst the employees of the clothing industry," says Edries, "the workers thought it was encouraging and motivating that the employers allowed the study to take place and approved the time off for it."

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Art on disease a winner for Langerman

The classification of disease and the representation of speciation are the themes of the first exhibition to win the new UCT Creative Works Award.

Renowned artist and lecturer at UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art, Associate Professor Fritha Langerman, is the creator behind *Subtle Thresholds*, now on exhibition at the South African Museum in Cape Town until 1 August.

"This project includes all of my research interests," says Langerman, whose visual research centres around taxonomies of knowledge, the representation of the biomedical body and curation.

Part of Langerman's PhD research, *Subtle Thresholds* is a curated mixed-media work with objects from the collections of the South African Museum and the University of the Witwatersrand's Adler Museum. The exhibition presents an exploded view of the bio-medical world and works with conceptual and material layering. It includes "viral light boxes" constructed from pharmacological labware, laser-cut metal discs,



Visual research: Assoc Prof Fritha Langerman is the winner of the first UCT Creative Works Award, which will be awarded at the mid-year graduation ceremonies this week.

both chromed and rusted, electron microscope images of animal faeces, autoclaves and sterilisers tethered to medical cabinets, and cabinets

of animal specimens collapsed with medical instruments.

"*Subtle Thresholds* draws attention to debates surrounding biomed-

ical visual and material culture, and presents a complex visual network of the inter-relationships between zoological, human and microbial

worlds," explains Langerman. "It also aims to expose some of the cultural and historical mythologies that have contributed to the location of disease as a state of otherness and separation."

Partially funded by UCT's Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts and the National Research Foundation, *Subtle Thresholds* has received polarised reactions.

"Visitor response has been either extremely positive, in that people have appreciated the presence of the exhibition within the context of the South African Museum, or extremely hostile, in that viewer expectation within the natural history environment has been ruptured," observes Langerman.

The UCT Creative Works Award was established to recognise major creative works, including art works, performances, productions, compositions and architectural designs produced by UCT staff within the past five years.

A catalogue for *Subtle Thresholds* will be available shortly.

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Lost in translation



Communication gaps: Family physician Dr Vanessa Perrott will receive her master's degree for her mini-dissertation, *The Language of Risk and the Risk of Language*. She was photographed with sons Jono (left) and Timothy.

Managing a career as a medical professional, a parent and a student, Dr Vanessa Perrott doesn't have too much time on her hands. She will claim her hard-won master's at this week's mid-year graduation for her mini-dissertation, *The Language of Risk and the Risk of Language*.

Could you sum up your thesis in a paragraph?

It's about how the risk of having a baby with Down's Syndrome and the risks of testing by amniocentesis are communicated to and interpreted by pregnant women. I was particularly interested in how people with different languages manage to discuss such complex issues, and how patients use their understanding of the risks to decide if they wish to have an amniocentesis. It involved performing qualitative research on a small sample of 12 patients representing the isiXhosa, English and

Afrikaans language groups. **It sounds time-consuming.**

Extremely! As well as the thesis research I was also doing two courses each semester while ploughing on with my own research – and my job – and still trying to see my husband and children.

How did you cope?

One of our saving graces is that we don't have a TV – so once the children (Jono, 6, and Timmy, 4) were asleep, I would just work. The other saving grace is that my husband works from home and has some flexibility about when he works, so he was an absolute star in helping out with the children and keeping me plied with food – and the odd alcoholic beverage when the research wasn't going well!

Why did you do the MA?

It's a long story – too long for the Monday Paper! But the very encouraging and helpful head of

linguistics, Professor Raj Mesthrie, was the biggest catalyst. He was also able to offer me a full bursary through the National Research Foundation, which was a massive help.

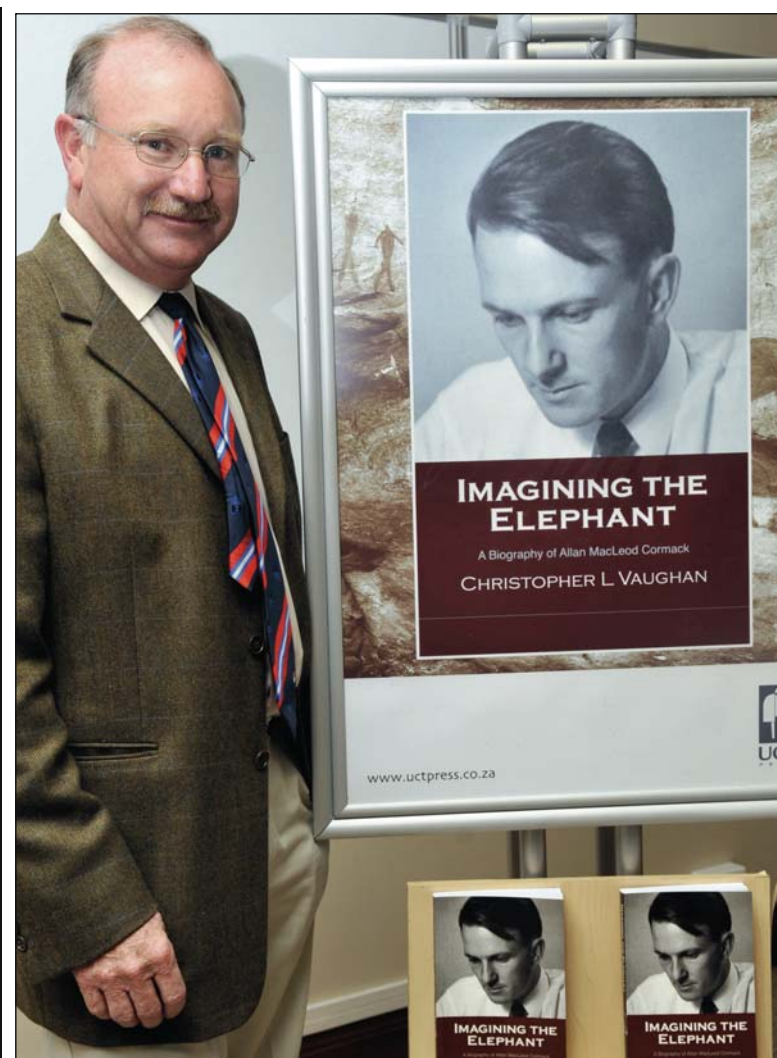
How does language relate to your work?

As a family physician, many of my consultations require a great deal more communication skills than actual clinical expertise. I wondered how communication gaps in South Africa are bridged – if at all! The research had practical applications – several of which have already been implemented by the Genetics Department – which is very exciting.

Do you plan continue to a PhD in this field?

Perhaps. But at the moment I'm just revelling in the glory of achieving the master's!

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Emer Prof Kit Vaughan will receive the UCT Book Award at this week's graduation for his work *Imagining the Elephant: A Biography of Allan MacLeod Cormack*.

Book Prize will be awarded at grad

At this week's graduation, Kit Vaughan, emeritus professor of biomedical engineering and director of UCT spin-off company CapeRay, will receive the UCT Book Award for 2010 for *Imagining the Elephant: a Biography of Allan MacLeod Cormack*, his tribute to the South African-born Nobel laureate.

A physicist, Cormack was co-winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his computer-assisted tomography (CAT) scanner. His

work also inspired a new generation of medical scientists – including Vaughan, who established a medical imaging research group at UCT in 2000, just two years after Cormack's death, in the latter's honour.

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

UCT has Africa links across the board

Those passing through the foyer of the Leslie Social Building on UCT's upper campus last week would probably have stopped and inspected the sizeable exhibition set up there to showcase UCT's academic ties with the rest of Africa.

Dubbed *UCT Connections* by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, the exhibition (now disassembled) formed part of *Celebrating Africa*, a weeklong programme run in collaboration with Iziko Museums to coincide with Africa Day on 25 May. And as the title suggests, the exhibit set out to draw attention to the many collaborations, research ties and projects that UCT academics play a part in across the continent.

Exhibitors included DataFirst, co-operating with a number of statistical offices around Africa under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; the African Cultural Heritage Sites and Landscapes Project, run by Professor Heinz Rütger; the Occupational Therapy Africa Regional Group; the Centre for Contemporary Islam, whose Professor Abdulkader Tayob recently

took part in a workshop in Kenya to discuss the role of Kadhis' Courts there; and the Africa Earth Observatory Network.

"There are so many different and good, solid linkages that UCT academics have," says Nan Warner, manager of the Africa Academic Links initiative in the International Academic Programmes Office and the person responsible for the exhibit, with help from Norbert Musekiwa, a fellow of the UCT-run University, Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) project, and master's student Thando Vilakazi.

Warner is setting up another project to bring more academics from other African countries to UCT, in a project funded under the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Initiatives. And, working under the oversight of deputy vice-chancellor Professor Jo Beall, she is developing an international partnerships database that will keep track of UCT's African and other international ties.

UCT has always had strong links with institutions, groups and individual academics in Africa, said Nhlapo at a recent *Celebrating*



Taking focus: Guests visit *UCT Connections*, an exhibition that celebrated the university's academic links to the rest of Africa.

Africa event. In keeping with its new Afropolitan strategic goal, the university will simply invest more resources to cement and grow such relationships, he added.

"In simple terms, Afropolitanism is leveraging – a bit more than we've done in the past – our geographical location in this beautiful corner of the continent, and striving

to make sure that we become excellent at generating knowledge, with other Africans, from the continent for everybody else," noted Nhlapo. *Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za*

Genetic lineage makes people react differently to drugs

Genetically speaking, all human beings on the planet are 99% related to one another, but all have different predispositions to disease, and different groups of people may respond differently to therapeutic drugs.

This was emphasised recently by Professor Raj Ramesar (head of the Division of Human Genetics at UCT) at a public lecture, *Exploring Ancient History Using DNA*. The lecture formed part of *Celebrating Africa*, a partnership between UCT and Iziko Museum.

Despite the close relationships between humans, there are remarkable genetic differences between, say, Chinese and Japanese, or between Caucasians and indigenous African populations, even though all human beings originated from Central or East Africa. Despite its importance in health care, there is little data available on the differences in how indigenous Africans process drugs biologically. This is particularly relevant when one takes into account that most clinically applicable drugs have been designed and trialled elsewhere, and on other populations.

Also relevant to how well people respond to drugs is the understanding that the primary causes of a disease may be different between different individuals, families and ethnic lineages.

"This is a good reason why we should be doing research to understand why disorders to which we are predisposed are different from disorders [people are] predisposed to elsewhere in the world," Ramesar explained.

A Southern African study is being conducted in which genetic analysis is being done on individuals from the Xhosa, Zulu, and Sotho/Tswana populations, as well as the San and



Family issues: Human beings are all related, but react differently to drugs, said Prof Raj Ramesar (right), seen here with DVC Prof Danie Visser.

Herero populations from Namibia. The intention is to understand the phylogeny (evolutionary line) and the genomic structure of each of these indigenous populations. "This attempt to understand the genetic structure of our populations is extremely important when we want to understand how these may differ between individuals who are affected by a disease, and those who are not."

Understandably, this will also be applicable in understanding response to drugs, and even in designing the next generation of drugs that will be much more accurately targeted at the disease mechanism – and also tuned to an individual's (drug) metabolic capacity – than those being used currently.

In the study, researchers will look at the burden of disease in Africa, the drugs used to treat these diseases, and the genetic variations known to affect drug metabolism.

"Knowing what the variations are in those genes, it makes sense that in this population group there is a slight difference in how individuals react to certain drugs compared to those in other populations." *MP*

Uganda free but human rights still violated

Human rights activists in Uganda have made significant strides in making "oppressive" legal processes more human rights-friendly, but a lot more still needs to be done.

So said Livingstone Sewanyana, a UCT doctoral student in public law, at a seminar on the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, a civic organisation (of which he is the executive director) advocating human rights in Uganda. The seminar was hosted by the Faculty of Law as part of *Celebrating Africa* week.]

For instance, said Sewanyana, a campaign against the country's death penalty has succeeded in parts. Although execution remains constitutional, the Supreme Court outlawed mandatory death sentences, meaning all laws providing for mandatory sentences must be repealed. As a result, some prisoners awaiting execu-

tion had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, or as little as a two-year sentence, while others were even released.

Sewanyana noted that the Ugandan government has recently introduced "draconian bills" such as the Anti-Homosexual Bill, the Interception of Communication Bill and the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2005.

"These are very oppressive and erode the civil liberties contained in the 1995 Uganda Constitution. We are working around the clock to ensure that these provisions are modified to meet the rights requirements of society."

Lack of independence in the judiciary system and weakness and division among the opposition parties are key factors to a continuous abuse of human rights in Uganda, he added. *MP*



Human rights defender: UCT student Livingstone Sewanyana believes a concerted effort is required to combat human-rights abuses in Uganda.

Africa Day jols spread to far corners of campus

Africa Day celebrations on 25 May resounded even in the more remote corners of the university.

Determined to play their part, the Properties & Services team at Shell Court, including managers Chris Briers, Mohamed Omar and Fahmza Jaffar, turned up for duty in their finest African threads.

Organiser Terisa Brandt said their off-campus location in Mowbray means they miss out on many of the activities on upper campus. But on this occasion they pulled out the stops, with African delicacies from the far south: milk tart, samoosas and even boerie (boerewors) rolls, cooked up by Justin de Klerk.

"We had dancing, and some of the ladies showed off their traditional dress," reported Brandt.



"We are a diverse department and this created an opportunity to learn something new about each other's culture – and build team spirit. It's also prompted us to plan our next event on Heritage Day."

Sadly, not one of the nattily attired staffers entered the university-wide best-dressed competition.

"The excitement [here] was overwhelming, and we forgot about the competition!" said Brandt. *MP*

Humans so much alike, yet so different

In delivering the latest in the year's series of UCT Vice-Chancellor's Open Lectures on 25 May, Dr Marta Lahr (reader in human evolutionary biology and director of the Duckworth Collection at the University of Cambridge) had set herself the ambitious task of explaining the African origins of modern humans – Homo sapiens – and the evolutionary processes that drove human diversity from there onwards.

Pooling genetic, archaeological and fossil evidence, Lahr began her lecture – suitably titled *African Origins and the Evolution of Diversity* – with the fossils of two of the earliest members of the species, both found in Ethiopia. These are the Homo sapiens idaltu fossil, which dates back to around 160 000 years ago, and a second fossil found in Omo Kibish that is said to be around 195 000 years old. They both boasted anatomical features – a vertical forehead, a prominent chin

– that are unique to modern humans.

These fossils – not conclusive on their own, but taken together with genetic and other evidence – clearly indicate that humans originated somewhere in Africa, said Lahr. "They're the closest things in the fossil records to modern humans."

Africa is also the cradle for human diversity, explained Lahr. While there is very little diversity among humans as a species – when compared to apes, for example – it makes sense that, if humans originated and then split up here, most human diversity would be found on this continent; and this is what genetic testing has shown.

But why so little diversity for the species overall? The only explanation is that there must have been a moment of near extinction – what is called a population or genetic bottleneck – when most humans died out. (It's calculated that humans would have numbered around 10 000 in total at



Out of Africa: Dr Marta Lahr explained humankind's African origins and the triggers for our diversity.

such a point, reported Lahr.)

Yet, for all that there is a relatively small amount of diversity, humans are remarkably different. These differences, explained Lahr, are driven by a

jumble of four processes – geographical dispersal, Darwinian adaptation, cultural adaptation and extinction.

"We have reshuffled the little diversity that we have on a scale that few

other species have," she said.

To listen to the full lecture, go to www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/

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Many democracies in many Africas

Democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the other forms.

So quipped Professor Robert Mattes, director of UCT's Democracy in Africa Research Unit at an Africa Day panel discussion titled *The State of Democracy in Africa: Advance or Retreat?* on 25 May.

Chaired by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, the Celebrating Africa week event also included political analyst Professor Joel Barkan of the University of Iowa in the US, Professor Kwesi Prah, director of the Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society, and Dr Somadoda Fikeni of the Walter Sisulu University.

The co-founder of the Afrobarometer, a regular survey of public opinion in 18 African countries, Mattes noted: "Africans won't tell you what they think – especially in non-democratic countries, where there is not enough of a culture of challenge."



Mattes described support for democracy in Africa as "thin – but wide". According to surveys, South Africans show surprisingly low support for democracy, with only about 50% believing that it is the best option.

Barkan argued that there is no single Africa, in terms of democracy. Rather, the continent is divisible into four groups covering an extremely wide spectrum of qualities of democracy.

A problem group was countries such as Zimbabwe, which have a system of democracy, but have little prospect of a change in power. This lack of movement, according to Barkan, is found across all forms of

African democracies.

Fikeni addressed issues facing the continent in its second wave of democratisation after the fall of colonialism. Democracy in Africa, he argued, is "elusive in terms of how people understand it".

Speaking of South Africa's democracy with one overwhelmingly large party, Fikeni commented: "But who needs an official opposition when you provide your own?"

Prah examined the cultural issues surrounding democracy, noting that political concepts have been affected by fashionable ideas, such as socialism and postmodernism.

"Development is a cultural phenomenon, and at the centre of culture is language," said Prah.

"We are talkative animals – so without a handle on the central question of language, we're not going anywhere."

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Commerce faculty drums it up

The Faculty of Commerce celebrated Africa Day on 25 May in style, when about 100 staff members – from cleaners to professors – donned colourful traditional attire and played drums with verve and energy.

Drummers, led by UCT alumnus Zenze Ngwenya, led the celebration as they guided staffers in singing, dancing and drumming lessons.

The occasion also allowed the faculty to showcase their involvement with the continent through the work of units such as DataFirst, volunteer work by the Department of Information Systems in Addis Ababa, and a co-operative PhD housed in the School of Economics.

For incoming dean Professor Don Ross, the connection with Africa resonates deeply. "The green fields for South African business are in Africa," he said. "At least, they are as long as we take care to understand Africa better than our competitors from other continents. If we focus inward instead, then we're just a small country that's very far from markets."



Winning ways: Chanelle Appollis, and Gaontebale Nodoba, won the prize for best outfits at the Faculty of Commerce's Africa Day celebration.

Staff were encouraged to dress in traditional African attire, and Chanelle Appollis, secretary in the Department of Accounting, won the award for the best outfit. **MP**

New unit will track and study hospital-based infections

Hospital-based infections took centre stage at the launch of the new Unit for Molecular Epidemiology in UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) on Africa Day, 25 May.

The unit, which will focus on outbreaks of hospital-based infections, is a collaboration between UCT and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) in the US.

Speaking at the a mini symposium preceding the launch, Professors Mark Nicol, of the Division of Medical Microbiology, and Annalise Williamson, of the Division of Medical Virology, said investigations of outbreaks of hospital-based infections would focus on the coastal regions of South Africa.

In collaboration with the NICD, the unit will work to improve understanding of the local epidemiology of multi-resistant bacterial pathogens. As part of a national collaborative network the unit will also identify and track emerging pathogens in the coastal region and manage the activities of the World Health Organisation's human papilloma virus (HPV) Labnet laboratory for the Africa region.

"We are very excited to have the first NICD unit outside of Johannesburg," said Williamson. "The unit will create a better understanding of the molecular epidemiology of infectious disease in the Eastern and Western Cape."

"Hospital-based infections are a problem worldwide, and they need to be monitored in all hospitals to ensure that infection control is being implemented effectively. We will initially start with infections in our region, and once the unit is operating successfully we will continue expanding the studies to other re-

gions."

At the symposium, Dr Diana Hardie of the Division of Clinical Virology shared her experiences of hospital-based infections in her presentation, *Lessons Learnt from a Respiratory Virus Season*.

Other speakers included Melissa Jansen van Rensburg, who spoke on the transmission of methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* in Cape Town hospitals, Zizipho Mbulawa, who discussed the impact of HIV on the transmission of the human papilloma virus in heterosexual couples, and Dr Andrew Whitelaw, whose topic was *Multi-resistant Organisms at Red Cross Hospital: Death by admission*.

Proving that the simplest solution is often the best, Whitelaw said good hand hygiene is paramount in hospitals. Medical staff tend to clean their hands after touching a patient and not before, which could result in infections and viruses spreading. **MP**

Guidelines for staff during the soccer world cup



Hired a TV set for the quiet corner of the laboratory to catch the soccer world cup from 11 June to 11 July? UCT has put in place a set of workplace guidelines for staff over this period, designed to strike a balance between meeting the university's operational requirements and being part of a vibrant, once-in-a-lifetime event. Details are available via line managers or the HR website.

These guidelines are valid from 11 June to 11 July and should be read in conjunction with other staff policies and procedures.

Staff concerned that the park-and-ride facility will interfere with

campus traffic and parking should note that only one of the eight games Cape Town will host will be played at lunchtime, 13h30, on 21 June. The remaining seven games are all scheduled for a 20h30 kick-off.

While only eight games will be hosted in the Mother City, the remaining 56 games will attract staff attention (10 games altogether will be played during office hours); it is intended that the viewing arrangements and related activities within the university will encourage staff to come to work over this period. Games can be viewed at the UCT Club at the Sports Centre, and at the Graça Machel residence where there will be a big screen and a pub.

Though the university will be officially closed for students during this period (except for the undergraduate winter term) postgraduates will continue with their usual regime.

Staff members who have been appointed by FIFA or Host City Volunteers will be given special leave with rights, out are required to provide proof of an official FIFA letter of appointment as a volunteer. **MP**

Farewell to Geoff Hansford

UCT is sad to report the death of Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Hansford (71) on 16 May. A UCT alumnus, Hansford was an early stalwart of bioprocess engineering.

The son of a Cape Times journalist, Hansford was raised in Camps Bay. He graduated in chemical engineering with first-class honours followed by a master's degree at UCT (one of the last theses to be handwritten!), and a PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, US. He returned to the chemical engineering department at UCT in 1969, filling the roles of senior lecturer, professor, head of department, deputy dean and emeritus professor for close to 40 years - a UCT man all the way.

Initially Hansford's research focused on fermentation and water treatment but from the late 1970s, he and a group of South Africans were pioneers of biohydrometallurgy, using micro-organisms in bioleaching of metals from sulfide minerals and treating sulfate-containing acidic wastewaters. He focused on the mechanism and kinetics, particularly of the microbial ferrous-iron



oxidation sub-process. Hansford's contributions to biohydrometallurgy are internationally recognised, evidenced by the many tributes from the international community over the past week.

He was a strong proponent of scholarship in research and teaching, always challenging his colleagues to raise their game. His life was full, illustrated by his passion for research, and his passion for fishing. In the past few years, he moved happily from the position of world-class scientist to world-class grandfather. He is remembered for his formidable intellect, his compassion and his "larger than life" personality. **MP**



In translation: Attending the opening of the humanities' language lab are (from left) Gloria Robinson, architect and project manager; Prof Paula Ensor, dean of humanities; Puleng Makhoalibe, IT manager; and Assoc Prof Sally Swartz.

Hi-tech language labs launched

New computers, a video projector, DSTV and a recording studio are some of the features of the new Faculty of Humanities state-of-the-art language laboratories, a resource centre and a recording studio.

Speaking at the official opening on 27 May, deputy dean of humanities Associate Professor Sally Swartz said that the language laboratory had been in the planning for a long time, and marked a

turning point in how languages would be taught at UCT.

"Initially there was a reluctance to make the jump into the technological age – but things have certainly changed."

Swartz noted that engagement with technology is a new trend – not only in humanities but in education as a whole.

"UCT is now aware how central

technology is to higher education," she said. "Technology opens spaces for new development, and has changed the pace of both teaching and research."

Swartz thanked the Humanities Central Technology Unit for building the new facilities under budget, and the School of Languages and Literatures staff, who, she says, were "on our case" for the new equipment.

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Put your information under lock and key

In the same way that you protect your possessions, your identity and your personal information, you also need to protect the information that you work with every day. ICTS's Steff Hughes says that the following hints and tips will help you to prevent the theft of information.

Be aware of phishing attempts

The greatest danger posed by phishing attempts is that they look so legitimate. Fraudsters pretend to represent a company, such as a bank, by using the bank's own logo and branding. The email looks so convincing that many people willingly hand over their information. If you receive a 'phishy' email, just ignore it or delete it. It is important to remember that no company will ask you to provide them with your bank account number and PIN, or your network username and password – especially not via an email, webpage or a phone call.

Create strong passwords

Don't be the weakest link! The most secure protection for your information is to create strong passwords that are not written down and cannot be guessed. Don't use words or dates that are linked to your name, birth date, physical address or age. Strong passwords include a mixture of upper and lower case letters, numbers and punctuation marks, e.g. :()~!/?<>*_ . At UCT your password must be at least six characters in length and must



be changed every 90 days – or sooner, if you suspect that it has been compromised. A great way to manage your password is by activating your profile on Password Self-Service, which allows you to reset your password yourself whenever you need to.

When you change your network password, remember that you will need to update all saved versions of your password as well. This includes your ISA password (for Internet browsing), your GroupWise Caching password and your Windows Workstation password. As soon as you access any one of these services after having changed your network password, you will be prompted to enter the new password.

Lock your Workstation

If you sit in an open plan office, you may want to make sure that no-one can access your information when you're away from your desk. Before you leave your desk, lock your workstation by pressing CTRL + ALT + Delete simultaneously, then select "Lock Workstation". When you return to your desk, just type in your network password and continue working.

For more hints and tips, read our *Managing your Password* article on the ICTS website. (www.icts.uct.ac.za | Identity and Access Management | Passwords | Managing your Password). **MP**

UCT presents at Africa's largest IT conference

Andrew Lewis of UCT's ICTS department presented a paper titled *Development of a sustainable e-infrastructure for academic research support at the University of Cape Town* at the recent IST-Africa 2010 conference in Durban.

The paper, co-written with Dr Bruce Becker from the Meraka Institute, discussed the issues surrounding user engagement during the devel-

opment of e-infrastructures in Southern Africa.

IST-Africa 2010, the largest IT conference in Africa, was hosted by the Department of Science and Technology and technically co-sponsored by IEEE and the Computer Society of South Africa. The focus was on *The Role of ICT for Africa's Development*, and specifically on applied ICT research in the areas of e-Health, Technology Enhanced Learning and ICT Skills,

Digital Libraries, Technology Transfer, Open Source Software, ICT for e-Inclusion and e-Accessibility, e-Infrastructures, RFID and ICT for Networked Enterprise, e-Government and e-Democracy

The conference attracted delegates and IT portfolio ministers from African and European countries, including the director-general of the Department of Science and Technology and the

European Commission's director-general for Information Society and Media. Naledi Pandor, South Africa's Minister of Science and Technology, delivered one of the keynote addresses.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for UCT's IT staff to engage with other IT experts and share their views on the challenges and opportunities presented by large scale e-Infrastructure," said ICTS's Steff Hughes. **MP**

UCT duo for National Planning Commission

The South African government's new National Planning Commission, which has been tasked to produce a national development plan and vision statement for the country, includes two UCT academics: Associate Professor Vivienne Taylor, head of the Department of Social Development, and Professor Anton Eberhard of the Graduate School of Business.

Taylor's national and international development experience spans over 30 years, including working with the United Nations on a global Commission on Human Security, with governments, in the non-governmental sector, and in academia.

The principal author and researcher of South Africa's first two

Human Development Reports, Taylor has completed a 50-country study for the African Union on social protection, and has over 60 publications under her belt.

Eberhard's work focuses on the restructuring and regulation of infrastructure sectors such as electricity, water, transport and telecommunications, related investment challenges, and linkages to sustainable development. He has worked in the energy sector for nearly 30 years and was the founding Director of the Energy and Development Research Centre at UCT.

Speaking on the announcement of the commissioners, President Jacob Zuma outlined the need for the new commission.

"Last year we announced that the new administration would do things differently, and would work consistently to change the way government works, in order to improve service delivery. A key aspect of this exercise was to introduce effective planning as well as monitoring and evaluation capacity in the Presidency, to guide these functions in government."

Chaired by minister in the presidency Trevor Manuel, and with deputy chair Cyril Ramaphosa, the commission will produce reports on issues impacting long-term development, including water, food and energy security, climate change, infrastructure planning, human resource development, defence and



National service: Assoc Prof Vivienne Taylor and Prof Anton Eberhard have been appointed to the government's new National Planning Commission, led by Minister Trevor Manuel.

security matters, the structure of the economy, and spatial planning and

demographic trends.

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Law's Kramer Building saves big by going green

Over R60 000 in energy costs have been saved and 112 tonnes of CO2 emissions eliminated annually in the Kramer Building on UCT's middle campus – thanks to a green-friendly project jointly funded by UCT's Faculty of Law and the Properties and Services Department.

The Sustainable Kramer programme, which has just completed its second phase, has shown a return of as much as 580% over a five-year period – R303 000 for a total investment of R46 000, according to the faculty's recently-released second report.

These results follow the first Sustainable Kramer Project Report in 2008, which identified changes that could be made in energy consumption, water use and waste.

The second phase followed through on these recommendations, including retro-fitting over 500 fluorescent lights in public areas with more energy-efficient systems, and installing 12 motion sensors in classrooms to prevent lights being on while unoccupied.

Further green-conscious measures addressed waste and water consumption.



Greenies: Sakina Grimwood and Tom Herbstein produced the second report of the Sustainable Kramer project, which outlines its savings and benefits.

Two custom-built recycling depots were installed, and printer and fax cartridges were collected for recycling. To save water, aerators were fitted on toilet taps and waterless urinals were introduced.

To encourage participation and support, the project was backed by a solid awareness campaign. With every change made in Kramer building, a poster was put up to inform users. Newsletters were sent out regularly to Kramer staff, and several seminars were held.

"The Sustainable Kramer project

has enabled many positive interventions," says Tom Herbstein, who produced the second report with Sakina Grimwood.

"It has allowed space for trial and error, yet it has been a great success. By adapting the building to become more sustainable, both environmentally and economically, the project proves that a faculty at UCT can proactively address its own contribution to the sustainability crises on campus. Going green isn't just a job for the engineers, but can be done by us all."

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Vice-Chancellor's Medal for Nobel Laureate



High honour: VC Dr Max Price (left) awards the Vice-Chancellor's Medal to Nobel Laureate Sir Aaron Klug, outgoing chair of the University of Cape Town Trust in the UK.

The Vice-Chancellor's Medal has been awarded to Sir Aaron Klug, OM, FRS, Nobel Laureate, and outgoing chair of the University of Cape Town Trust in the UK. VC Dr Max Price presented the medal during his visit to the country last week.

Price paid tribute to Sir Aaron's "enormous contribution" to UCT over the years. Sir Aaron was one of the founding Trustees of the UCT Trust and held the position of chair from 1993 until this year. During his time, over £17 million was raised for projects at UCT.

Price said Sir Aaron had brought the full weight of his scholarship, distinction and ethical reputation to the trust, and had always been available to give advice and guidance. His wife,

Liebe, had also played a guiding role behind the scenes.

After receiving his BSc degree at Wits, Sir Aaron studied crystallography under Professor Reginald William (RW) James at UCT, and obtained an MSc degree. His PhD followed at Trinity College, Cambridge in 1953. In 1982 he became Nobel Laureate in chemistry, was knighted by the Queen in 1988, held the position of President of the Royal Society from 1995-2000, and became OM in 1995. He was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe (Gold) by the South African president in 2005.

This is Sir Aaron's fourth UCT award. Apart from the President of Convocation Medal, he has been a recipient of the Chancellor's Gold Medal of Merit (1982) and an honorary doctorate (1997). **MP**

Africans must focus on growth – Mbele

Africans should stop living in the past and embrace the opportunities of the modern Africa, a modern Africa that comes with strong industrial drives, entrepreneur support and megacities, according to UCT alumnus and television anchor Lerato Mbele.

During her talk, *Raising the Bar on Africa*, delivered at the UCT Alumni Leadership Forum in Durban recently, Mbele claimed that foreigners still see Africa as the "sun, sea and safari continent" because of its natural beauty, climate and affordability. "However, the situation for people in Africa is far from rosy, and the reality is that the

people of the continent suffer at the hands of unscrupulous governments and foreign agencies."

Mbele suggested that South Africa should concentrate on education and skills development, local investment, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and creating a supportive infrastructure.

"The benchmark should be the world, but focus should stay on Africa."

Mbele called on the media to assist people to understand the continent better by telling the African story in well-written and well-researched journalism. **MP**

Alumni asked to invest in UCT's future

In May 2009, UCT embarked on a bequest programme in which alumni were invited to consider the university as a beneficiary in their wills. This year sees the rollout of this initiative with a series of events, the first of which – a lunch – was hosted by the Development and Alumni Department (DAD) at the Hyatt Regency in Rosebank in April. DAD senior manager Lungile Jacobs and individual-giving officer Jasmine Erasmus addressed alumni regarding UCT's needs, and how projects such as the bequest programme ensure support for deserving students, and for the teaching and research work of academic staff. (And judging by the response received by the Individual Giving Office to date,



Contact: Among those at a DAD event in April were (back, from left) Mary Ann King, Prof Michael Case, UCT's Jasmine Erasmus and Richard Hulse, and (seated) Prof Keith Beavon.

the message definitely had the desired effect, reports DAD.) With the business part of the event out of the way,

the occasion turned into the inevitable reminiscing over the 'good old days'.

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Indigenous Africans had mining technologies – Chirikure

Most modern mines are located in spots that were first mined in pre-colonial times, demonstrating that indigenous prospectors had knowledge of the geology and resources around them, according to UCT's Dr Shadreck Chirikure.

In his book, *Indigenous Mining and Metallurgy in Africa*, Chirikure (of the Department of Archaeology) says this was particularly the case with iron, copper and gold mines.

He states that although the socio-political and economic landscape has changed since the 19th century, Africans then had knowledge systems that must be studied, documented and preserved.

"These indigenous knowledge systems help to define the identity of the continent and its heritage," he notes.

The 96-page book is designed for

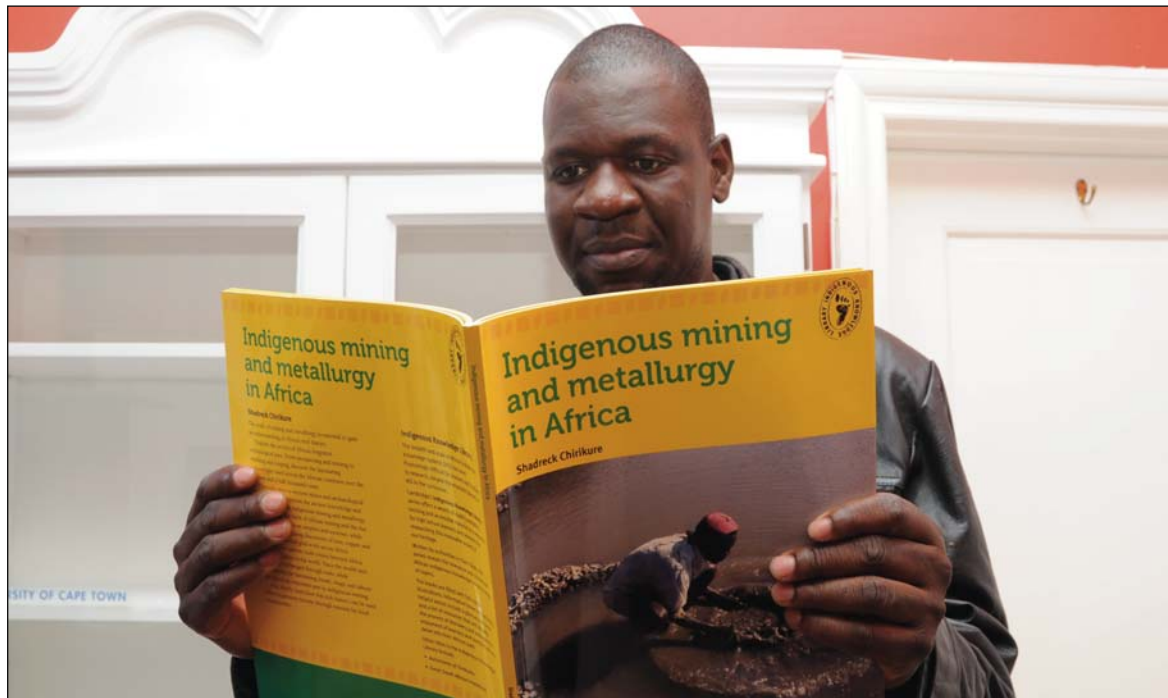
high school learners, undergraduates and the general public. It was commissioned by Cambridge University Press in 2008 in its Indigenous Knowledge Library Series.

Chirikure says he realised that people often think that almost all technologies began with industrialisation, which was introduced during colonialism.

"Indigenous people had their own technologies, such as mining and metalworking, and these at some point produced better products than those in Europe," he claims.

"For example, missionary David Livingstone was surprised by the high quality of iron produced by the Tonga of modern-day Zambia and Zimbabwe in the 19th century."

Some ideas from the book are to be used for the forthcoming documentary on mining in South Africa. **MP**



Ostrich eggshell markings hint at 'explosion' of human innovation



Patterns and symbols: The carvings on these ostrich eggshells, found by Prof John Parkington and colleagues, display behaviour that sets modern humans apart.

About 300 bits and pieces of ostrich eggshells, engraved with repeated patterns and thought to be around 65 000 years old, could well be the latest landmark for symbolic thought among modern humans.

So argued a group of international scientists, including UCT's Professor John Parkington, in an article published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) earlier this year. The shell fragments were unearthed over some 10 years by Parkington, of UCT's Department of Archaeology, and colleague Cedric Poggenpoel at the

Diepkloof Rock Shelter, a rock cave near Elands Bay on the Western Cape's west coast. The two have been excavating the site since the early 1970s – when they first happened across the shells – and in collaboration with the Institute of Prehistory and Quaternary Geology at the University of Bordeaux since 1999.

(They initially turned a blind eye to the shells, as they were more interested in the cave's archaeological finds of the more recent Stone Age of between 10 000 and 20 000 years ago.)

The eggshell fragments were

dated using a technique called luminescence dating, ideal for sediments. The shells themselves are too old for radiocarbon dating, so the scientists base the age of the shells on the age of the earth they were found in.

What makes the shells even more intriguing is that they predate any such marked objects found in Europe, for example, by a good 20 000 years and more.

"These markings are extremely early for anything of their kind," says Parkington.

That also pushes back the timeline for symbolic thought, which many believe is unique to modern humans. The shells are engraved with a series of patterns and symbols, the most common one being two parallel lines and cross-lines linking them, a bit like a drawing of a railway line.

Because they appear on so many shells, scientists are concluding that the designs are intentional and not just some chance, impulsive doodling.

But they're not the result of mere copycat drawings, either.

Rather, Parkington believes that the designs – and their variations – have a common meaning among members of the society the 'designers' belonged to, something akin to but not yet a written language. Some of the ostrich shells, for example, were probably used as water containers, and the designs could well be how the individual owners marked their shells for the benefit of others. (Or even how they indicated what was in the eggs.)

The repetitive use of the patterns suggests a clear tradition of graphic marking, says Parkington. And a form of communication that sets modern humans apart from their predecessors.

"We're dealing here with an early example of, if you like, symbolic messaging," Parkington adds.

"It's generally felt that with modern humans would come an explosion of innovative behaviour. And these eggs are really one of several examples of that innovative behaviour."

Shell findings at other sites, he notes, could tell how widely that innovation spread.

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Safe water: Dyllon Randall has adapted a technology to treat waste-water streams from mines.

Water treatment research lands top prize

Dyllon Randall's doctoral work on eutectic freeze crystallisation has netted the prestigious Industrial Water Division of the Water Institute of South Africa/South African Industrial Water Association Biennial Award for his outstanding contribution to industrial water technology.

His research is also likely to contribute to making the mining industry – a key player in the South African economy – not just more profitable, but also more environmentally friendly.

The technology being researched is used to treat mine-water waste, specifically that coming from waste water in the coal mining industry. It involves taking waste water and cooling it down until ice and salt

form at the same time.

"The technology shows that we can reduce the amount of waste by up to 97%, and produce potable water (that can be sold to the nearby communities), pure calcium sulphate and pure sodium sulphate," explains Randall, a researcher in the Crystallisation & Precipitation Unit.

"This may not be the cheapest treatment method at the moment, but it is definitely a sustainable one. It solves the problem of waste water generation now, rather than leaving it for future generations to solve."

A pilot plant is being designed, and it is planned to be up and running some time next year.

Last year Randall won the prize for best student paper at the International Mine Water Conference.

French knighthood for Everson



High honours: Dr Vanessa Everson received the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques award from French consul Antoine Michon.

The French government honoured Dr Vanessa Everson of the French Section in UCT's School of Languages and Literatures with the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques award, at a function on 18 May.

Founded in 1808 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques (knight of academic palms) is an order of knighthood bestowed on those who make major contributions to French education and culture.

Everson's research areas – such as teaching French as a foreign language, translation and modern language methodology – have transformed the teaching of French at UCT. After modernising the syllabus and retraining and mentoring the teachers, Everson designed courses on French and the media, on the prac-

tice of translation, and redesigned the Business French course. Everson also pioneered the honours and master's qualifications in teaching French as a foreign language – the first of their kind in South Africa.

Speaking at the award function, Everson said her work stems from her belief in responding to the regional needs of students, and a need for the shared construction of knowledge and skills transfer.

"French is my passion," said Everson, "and fortunately, I haven't worked in isolation."

Everson thanked her family, friends, colleagues and students.

"The students I've had the privilege of teaching have inspired me, and continue to inspire me in everything I do."

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Impact of FIFA's legacies questionable



Now mere weeks away, the FIFA World Cup is expected to have a far-reaching impact on South Africa, including stimulating job creation, and increases in tourism and nation-building. But will these projections become a reality? And what impact will the World Cup have on human rights and governance structures?

This was the key question in a seminar held on 20 May on the aftermath of the World Cup for the country, and the footprint FIFA will leave in its wake.

Professor Richard Calland, director of UCT's Democratic Governance and Rights Unit (DGRU), stressed the enormity of the event that will be watched by about two-thirds of the world's population. "The World Cup is one of the only things that can stop people from fighting and fornicating for long enough to be peaceful for two hours – or two and a half, if there's extra time," he said.

DGRU research associate Chris Oxtoby examined the legal status of FIFA (aka the International Federation of Association Football), noting that it is neither a company nor a multinational organisation. Instead, it is a voluntary organisation, registered in terms of the Swiss civil code, which means that if their turnover exceeds a certain amount, it is required to be audited – although this process will remain private.

For this World Cup, FIFA operates through SAFA, the South African football governing body, and its Local Organising Committee (LOC). As the LOC is registered as a non-profit organisation, there are transparency and responsibility issues, said Oxtoby.

"You could sue FIFA; but if you won, the money would come out of the host country's pockets, not FIFA's."

Professor Ian Glenn, director of UCT's Centre for Film and Media Studies, said that FIFA is a product of major global trends that are much big-

ger than FIFA itself.

"There are draconian regulations preventing negative publicity about the World Cup, but this is a well-known phenomenon in sports journalism," he said. "FIFA extends the notion that sports journalism is a lifestyle or sunshine journalism."

Sophie Nakueira, PhD researcher at UCT's Centre for Criminology, said that mega-events such as the Olympic Games and the FIFA World Cup are funded mainly by the host country's tax-payers' money.

"Costs are usually underestimated, because bid committees want to present a winning bid that they can sell to a sometimes sceptical public."

Nakueira also noted that host countries must meet FIFA's conditions to host the event. These include exemption from certain duties and taxes, and priority treatment of permit and visa applications.

To meet these requirements, the South African government had to pass new legislation regarding safety and security, and amend some laws to guarantee FIFA's property rights and prevent ambush marketing.

Host cities also had to agree to pass bylaws in compliance with FIFA's city beautification requirements, as well as observing FIFA's guidelines regarding moral behaviour in public spaces, such as the prohibition of swimming, begging, camping and residing – and even swearing – in public spaces.

"South Africa has an obligation to adhere to human rights standards," said Nakueira. "However, these new laws can impact on South African civil liberties and human rights."

Nakueira concluded: "Given the way FIFA governs, and considering South Africa's obligation to FIFA, will the country be able to honour its obligation to its people during the World Cup? That's the legacy that remains to be seen."

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Past and present: VC Dr Max Price and Dr Reno Morar, deputy dean for health sciences, joined UCT alumnus Prof Mary Robertson (middle) at a cocktail function with former and current medical students who have benefited from her awards and scholarships.

Robertson entertains her doctors

Building inspirations and aspirations were key objectives when eminent neuropsychiatrist and UCT alumnus Professor Mary Robertson welcomed recipients of her awards and scholarship – all but one, UCT graduates – to an "educative and bonding" weekend.

Robertson, an eleventh-generation South African who was the fourth generation of her family to graduate from UCT, jetted in from the UK recently to meet with the eight.

They were doctors Chwayita Luwaca, Sibsi Mondlana and Azwe Takalani, all winners of the Professor Mary Robertson Progress Prize for a graduated female medical student who made the most progress over the

six years of study; Drs Jacquie Citrota, Nevadna Singh, Tricia Pickard and Debbie Rencken, the recipients of the Professor Mary Robertson Prize for Excellence for a top female medical graduate; as well as Gabaza Machele, a 4th year medical student, who was awarded the Professor Mary Robertson Scholarship, a full-cost bursary for a historically disadvantaged female medical student from second to final year.

Robertson graduated from UCT in 1971 and received a Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1983. She was the first woman to receive a Doctor of Science in Medicine (DSC [Med]) from UCT, in 2006, and only the ninth recipient ever.

She instituted her suite of awards

and scholarship in recognition of her DSc [Med] and her family's enduring relationship with UCT.

"I was so excited about it [the DSc] that I decided to plough something back," she explained. The DSc [Med] is the Faculty of Health Sciences' most senior doctorate, rarely awarded and only to persons of "exceptional academic merit" on the basis of original published work.

At a cocktail function held in the faculty's MAC Club, UCT vice-chancellor Dr Max Price presented Robertson with a gold pin in recognition of her "generous" donations as a member of the Chancellor's Circle, a society of donors who have each given R50 000 or more to the university.

Ode to the unknown footballer

As the World Cup kicks off on 11 June, a new exhibition on the world's most popular sport opens at UCT's Michaelis Art Gallery.

Forsaking the 'football' moniker, *Soccer Kultcha* is an exhibition of street photography that explores footballers and their followers far beyond the glory of the main stadiums, where players use any field they can find, often using home-made balls and goalposts.

Curated by Paul Weinberg, Warren Nelson and Leanne Barling, in collaboration with the Michaelis Art Gallery, the exhibition features the work of street photographers and their insights into a form of football that is off the radar and the big screens, but on the South African cultural map.



The street photographers challenge official representations, focusing on outsiders who imagine the lives of others, highlighting how people photograph themselves, as seen through the lens of football. The viewer is invited to rediscover the game, and the lives and passions

of ordinary people who play and celebrate it.

Soccer Kultcha is funded by the Embassy of Sweden and will exhibit until 10 July. For more information contact Nadja Daehnke at telephone 021 480 7170, cell 082 316 5272 or email nadja.daehnke@uct.ac.za.

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Student Googles her way to award

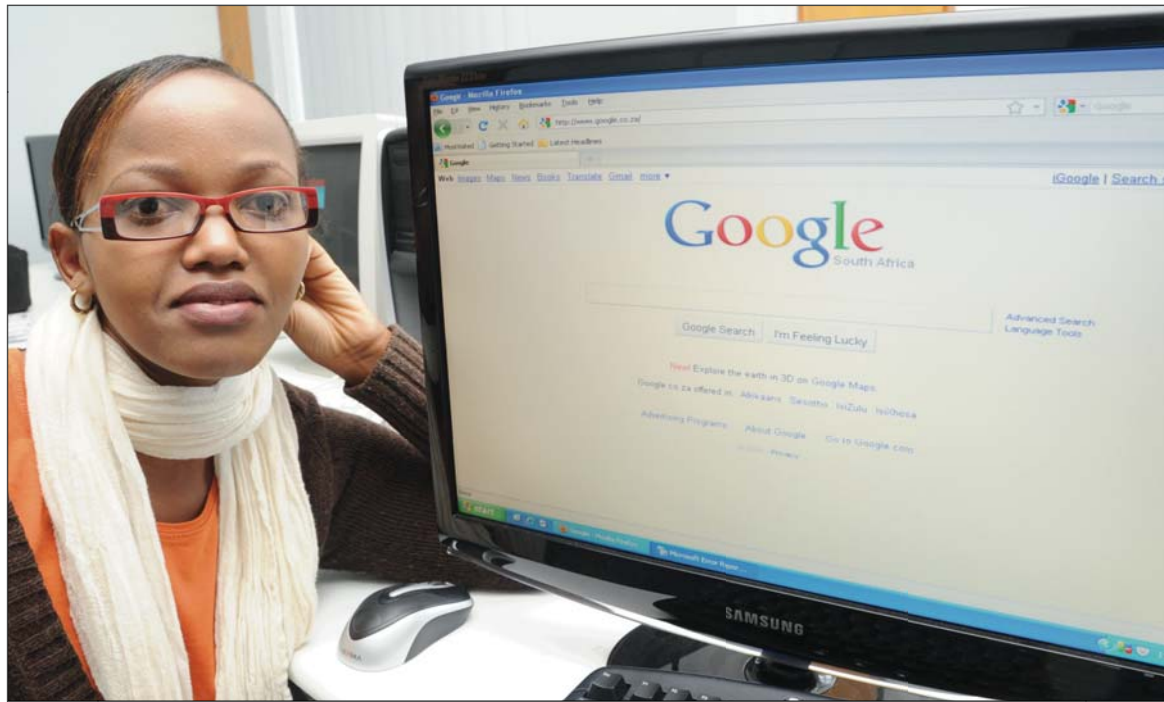
Shikoh Gitau, a PhD student in the Department of Computer Science, has bagged the prestigious Google Anita Borg Memorial Award for 2010, the first recipient from sub-Saharan Africa.

The award is given to female students who show exceptional academic and leadership skills in computing and technology. The award carries a cash prize and a visit to Google's Engineering Centre in Zurich for a networking retreat.

After obtaining a computer science degree in Kenya, Gitau wondered how her qualification could help millions of poverty-stricken Kenyans. Then she learnt of UCT's Information Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) Centre.

Based in the Department of Computer Science, the centre looks at how information technologies can be designed and implemented to tackle socio-economic problems in developing countries.

Gitau's award-winning proposal recommends M-Ganga (Mobile-Healer), a mobile phone-based application



Life applications: Shikoh Gitau, a PhD student in the Department of Computer Science, has bagged the prestigious Google Anita Borg Memorial Award for 2010 for information technology solutions to socio-economic problems.

that will record, catalogue and map traditional medicine knowledge both for archival purposes and to be passed on to the next generation.

Gitau said that the doctor-to-patient ratio in many African countries is as high as 1:50 000, compared to traditional medicine, for which there

is at least one traditional healer in every village.

"This raises an opportunity for a more proactive ways to provide

healthcare through this traditional means, which can be optimised through technology."

Her proposed system includes a web-based application that will capture and disseminate traditional healing sessions through a cell phone. The system records the sessions in both audio and video, and stores them in an online database. It will also show where the medicinal plants are available, how they should be used, and whether they are endangered or not.

Gitau is also involved in a study on the use of mobile internet. This examines the challenges faced by people whose only access to the internet is via cell phone. She is now designing a service that allows poor people in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, to find employment and upgrade their skills at minimal cost, through the mobile internet.

"My motivation is beyond a degree, and my biggest fulfilment is to see people's lives change for the better. It will be pointless if my PhD in computer science is not relevant in addressing people's real-life problems." **MP**

UCT welcomes new USHEPiA Fellows

A new cohort of six USHEPiA (University Science, Engineering, Law and Humanities Partnerships in Africa) Fellows received their awards in late 2009, and will spend time at UCT on their way to completing their PhDs.

- Ruby Magosvongwe of the University of Zimbabwe: PhD in African languages, supervised by Dr Abner Nyamende;
- Juliana Masabo of the University of Dar es Salaam in Ethiopia: PhD in labour law, super-

vised by Professor Evance Kalula;

- Peggoty Mutai of the University of Nairobi in Kenya: PhD in Chemistry, supervised by Professor Kelly Chibale;
- Maurice Mutowo of the University of Zimbabwe: PhD in business management, supervised by Professor Kurt April;
- Vincent Nyau of the University of Zambia: PhD in molecular and cell biology, supervised by Professor Wolf Brandt; and

- Amani Lusekelo of the University of Dar es Salaam: PhD in African Languages, supervised by Professor Herman Batibo of the University of Botswana. Lusekelo is the first Fellow to be registered at a partner university other than UCT.

Through offering full-degree, split-site postgraduate fellowships, USHEPiA promotes collaboration between African researchers, and builds institutional and human capacity in cash-

strapped African universities. Its ultimate goal is to develop a network of African researchers capable of addressing the developmental requirements of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Since USHEPiA's inception in 1996, 47 degrees (40 PhDs and seven master's) have been awarded. Not one graduate has left the continent to work at other universities abroad, and most have returned to their home universities.

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Mitas shines in opera competition



Super soprano: Friedel Mitas has won the Olitalia/Rialto Bursary Competition.

The musical and emotional intensity of soprano Friedel Mitas' performance was a key factor in her win at the fiercely-contested inaugural Olitalia/Rialto Bursary Competition.

Mitas, a final-year voice student at UCT's South African College of Music (SACM), beat eight other hopefuls to clinch the R50 000 first

prize. The runners-up were Nonkululeko Mkwinti, a first-year mezzo-soprano studying with Patrick Tikolo, and Makudupanyane Senaoana, a first-year tenor studying with Mitas' teacher, Professor Virginia Davids. Both were described by judges as having displayed "exceptional vocal talent allied with a singularly powerful stage presence".

The competition was the UCT Opera School's acknowledgement of sponsors Olitalia and Rialto, and was open to undergraduate and postgraduate opera students who are returning to study opera at UCT in 2011. The final round took place on 24 May when nine students had to prepare two contrasting operatic arias, at least one of which had to be in Italian. **MP**



New appointment

On 3 May, Joann Julius started work as the new communications coordinator in the Training & Communications team at Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS). She will assist in managing and writing content for the ICTS website, marketing ICTS services to campus, and drafting end-user documentation and communications that emanate from ICTS. In her personal capacity, Joann is the IABC Cape Town Chapter president and IMPACT Desk Leader at Hillsong Church, Cape Town. She recently got married, and enjoys reading and writing, watching movies, drawing, hiking and photography in her spare time. **MP**

Young director premieres award-winning play

Twenty-two-year-old UCT graduate Amy Jephtha is the first recipient of the recently-created Emerging Theatre Director's Bursary, which allowed her to produce, direct and extend *Kitchen*, an original student work, into a full-length play.

Funded by the Theatre Arts Admin Collective (TAAC) in partnership with the Baxter Theatre Centre and Gordon Institute of Performing and Creative Arts, the new bursary enables emerging theatre directors to keep working and develop their craft.

"The bursary was created in response to the lack of opportunities theatre directors face, and to empower them while offering them an entry into professional theatre," said direc-

tor of TAAC Caroline Calburn.

The bursary is also aimed at affirming directing as a prospective career choice and creating a space for emerging directors to work with a mentor.

"The mentorship programme connects emergent and established directors to each other, ensuring a transfer and exchange of knowledge and skills," explains Calburn.

Jephtha was awarded the UCT drama school's theatre-maker of the year class medal in 2009, and received the Artscape High School Drama Award for Best Script, the Mary Livingstone Short Story Award, the PANSA 48-Hour Festival Award for Best Script, and the Woodwees Drukkoker award

for best short Afrikaans play.

Structured as a series of three short playlets, each with its own title, *Kitchen* explores the ways in which silence manipulates, tortures and drives human beings to the brink.

"We say the most when we aren't speaking," says Jephtha. "In the silences between words we are at our most vulnerable and we reveal our most naked selves. It is in the pauses that we really exist."

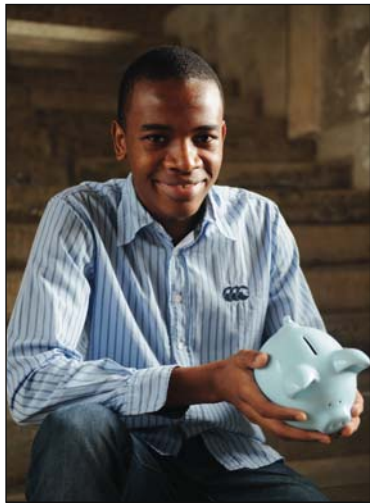
Kitchen runs at Theatre Arts Admin Collective in Observatory for one week only, from 18 to 22 May. To book, call Nokulunga Mateta on telephone 021 447 3683, or email artsadmin@mweb.co.za.

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Up and coming: Graduate Amy Jephtha.

Money management for poor students



Penny pinching: Second-year student Tsepo Serakalala is the brains behind InvestSoc's *Managing Your Money* project.

Second-year chemical engineering student Tsepo Serakalala has his sights set on more than the laboratory. An entrepreneur in the making, he is the brains behind *Managing Your Money*, a new project by InvestSoc aimed at educating students about personal finance and budgeting.

The project was motivated by Serakalala's recent survey among InvestSoc members, which revealed that students don't save, don't budget and have little knowledge of money

management.

"Many students just scrape through every month, without even thinking about money management," says Serakalala. After his appointment to InvestSoc's executive committee, Serakalala put his plan into action.

With support and sponsorship from Nedbank, Serakalala organised a series of two-day interactive seminars presented by Nedbank's financial planners, offering students practical advice and answering questions on topics such as monthly money management, credit records and even planning for retirement.

Seminars were split into those catering for first- and second-year students, which addressed more immediate issues such as managing bursary money, and those catering for third- and fourth-year students, which dealt with the financial challenges many will face in the not-too-distant future.

Notoriously cash-strapped senior undergraduates learnt about salary management, investing and buying a car and real estate.

"It's never too early to start building your Trump fortune," quips Serakalala.

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Soccer fever strikes health sciences

Laboratories at the medical school tussled with one another recently – thankfully, not in the lab, but on the field of play, when the Faculty of Health Sciences' Postgraduate Students' Association (PGSA) hosted its annual mini-soccer tournament.

The four-a-side competition saw 12 teams (representing different laboratories) bring students, supervisors and administrative staff together on social terms.

"People often interact with one another only at an academic level, and we wanted to use this event to bridge that communication gap," explains Alexis Bick, a PGSA committee member.

The event was also a fundraising initiative for the student body (each team paid a R40 affiliation fee), and



Battling it out: Teams from different laboratories at the Medical School competed against one another in the annual PGSA mini-soccer tournament.

a celebration of the upcoming soccer world cup. The team from the Human Genetics Laboratory won the tournament, taking away a floating trophy similar to the world cup (if perhaps a more cut-price version), medals, and the spirit prize for having the best supporters. **MP**

First High Table dinner for Leo Marquard



Residence celebration: Photographed at the Leo Marquard High Table dinner were (from left) head student Siya Nyezi, deputy vice-chancellor Prof Crain Soudien, deputy warden Khwezi Bonani, warden Daniel Munene, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price (wearing a Leo Marquard T-shirt), and deputy head student Mduduzi Mhlongo.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price was the guest speaker at Leo Marquard residence's first High Table dinner, held on 7 May.

Price spoke on issues of leadership; contrasting different styles of leadership, and illustrating how each is appropriate in different situations.

Price said that in crisis situations, leadership is often of the kind of an army general whose authority is unquestioned, and consultation is minimised. In university leadership, which is a non-hierarchical, collegial system among academics, a different style is required, he said. This relies heavily on persuading people with ideas; strong, rational argument; and inspiring people with a vision. In some situations, one leads from behind, he said, in a highly consultative mode that empowers individuals to achieve. In other contexts, one leads from the front, taking risks where others might not.

Underpinning all styles of leadership should be certain values, Price

added. A leader – a role model in word and deed – should display integrity, instil trust, and also be able to recognise and accept that he or she may make mistakes at times, and should be open to correcting these.

As an example, Price said he felt he had erred in a recent public speech when he used a particular turn of phrase, referring to "showing the middle finger" to the government if they did not address crime appropriately. He said that the reference to showing the middle finger, if used in isolation, would not be an appropriate discourse or style for a vice-chancellor.

"I regretted it afterwards, although at the time I had used it to make a connection with the arrest the previous week of a young student for showing a middle finger at Zuma's convoy, which suggested police abusing power instead of fighting crime."

It was a group of UCT students that had questioned the appropriateness of the phrase, and Price said he

acknowledged the validity of their view and appreciated their desire to hold their vice-chancellor accountable. Accountability was a vital facet of leadership, he added.

The High Table was also attended by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, students, old Marquardians and residence wardens.

Price finished by encouraging the residence's house committee and residents to adhere to their vision for the residence, and to achieve the goals they had set.

Head student Siya Nyezi said the event had been held to foster academic excellence and to inspire Marquardians to succeed.

"The best way to do this is to invite people who have succeeded in their respective fields to address us."

He commended Price and Soudien for their relaxed interaction with the students.

"They felt they could relate to what the keynote speaker, Dr Price, was saying." **MP**